

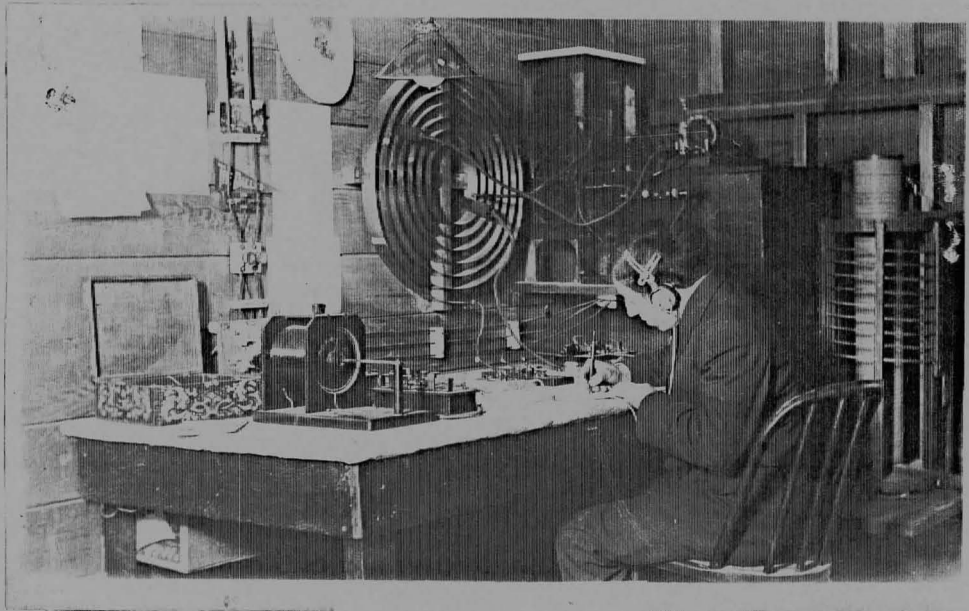


# CALL LETTER

VOLUME 18

SEPTEMBER 1992

NUMBER 9



# 7FM

# CALL LETTER

## The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 NWVRS has been dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Antique Radio & Wireless apparatus.

The CALL LETTER was founded in 1974 by Harley Perkins (our first President). Editors have served as follows: 1975/77 Bob Bilbie, 1977/78 Bob Hay, 1978/79 Tom James, 1980 Bill DeVey, 1981/83 Jim Mason, 1983/87 Richard Karman & 1987/92 Edwin Buhite.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society meets at the Northwest Vintage Radio Museum 7675 SW Capitol Highway (at 32nd St.) Portland, Oregon (Museum Phone (503) 246/3400.)

Business Meetings are held at 10:00 AM (Noon in December) on the second Saturday of each month except for summer vacation in August. The meetings are an opportunity to exchange information and advice. The July Swap is at Speed's in Keizer, Oregon. All Swap Meets begin at 8:00 AM.

Annual Dues: \$15-- Renewals are due January 1st

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*****		

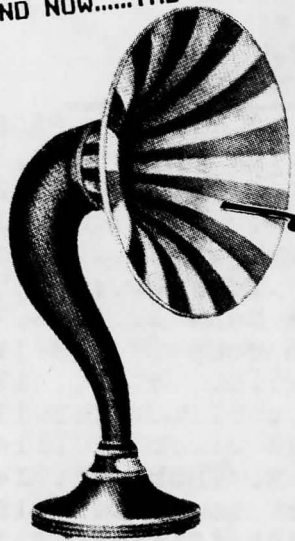
The CALL LETTER and The HORN OF PLENTY are published monthly as the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society and the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. The Call Letter and the Horn Of Plenty are available only as part of the NWVRS/PSARA memberships. NWVRS/PSARA are not responsible for any buying / selling transactions incurred, or for any other use of the contents of this publication. All transactions are on an "as is" basis with the new owner assuming all responsibility.

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ON THE COVER: Fred Mayer & his 7FM Spark Station in The Dalles. Fred Mayer is the inventor of the Viewmaster.

\*\*\*\*\*





# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

## Song of the Grebe Synchronphase

I'm the ultimate in radio  
From the brains at Richmond Hill  
My dials are horizontal ones,  
A real ornamental fill.

My tuning gang is coupled by  
Real nickle-plated chain  
To simplify the dialing for  
Every Mary, Dick and Jane.

The coils are real "binoculars"  
Quite superior you'd agree  
They're designed to neutralize  
The strong R. F. you see.

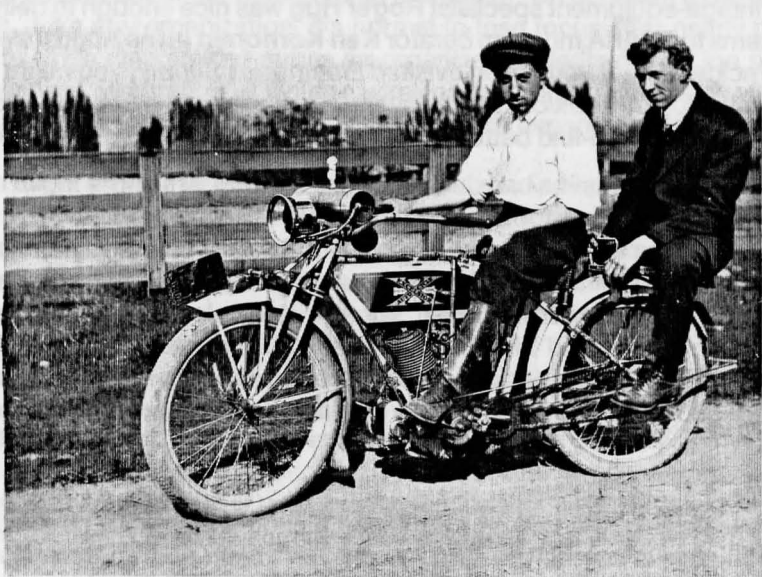
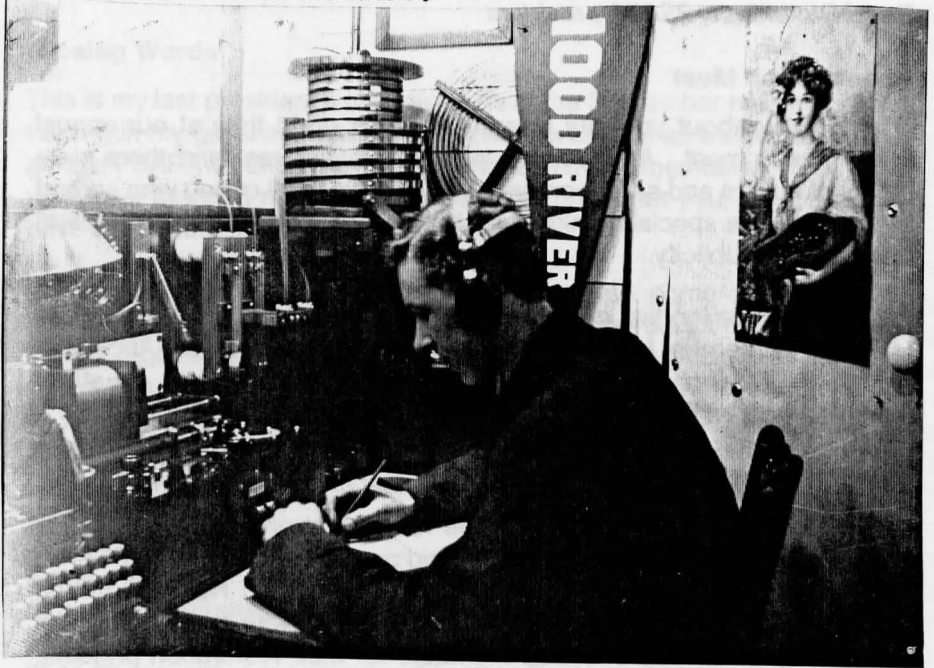
My tubes all wiggle-wobble for  
They're socketed on springs  
To minimize microphonics,  
And other shocking things.

I have a little fuse bulb in  
The wire that goes to "B".  
It's just a safety feature  
They incorporated free.

My audio and fine bus-bar  
My beautiful walnut case  
The best dang 5 tube J.R.F.  
That you'll find anyplace!



HOOD RIVER'S FIRST RADIO STATION  
1913, 7GF, FLOYD GIBBS.  
EAST 4TH STREET.



FRED MAYER, INVENTOR OF THE THE  
VIEWMASTER. FLOYD GIBBS, THE  
PASSENGER.



# From the President's Desk

David Dintenfass, PSARA president

## August Swap Meet

I don't know about you, but I certainly had a good time at our annual August swap meet. Attendance was up from last year and there were plenty of buyers and sellers on hand. My thanks to all of you who spread the word, and a special thanks to **Walt Kiefner** for printing the flyers and handling the publicity.

The prize for the longest distance traveled to attend our swap meet goes to associate member **Ian Sangster**, who came all the way from Auckland, New Zealand! (Actually, Ian was in town on business, but still, his attendance was certainly impressive...)

## Donated Items

I'd like to thank two members of the local electronics community for donating a box of new, old-stock pots and power switches to the PSARA. **Don Milsted**, of *Electronics Supply Corporation* (250 NE 45th Street, Seattle 98105) has thoughtfully donated these items with the intention that we make them available to club members for their restoration projects. Local vintage-equipment specialist **Roger Hug** was nice enough to deliver these items to PSARA museum curator **Ken Korhonen** at the August swap meet. Incidentally, if you haven't visited *Electronics Supply*, you might do so sometime. In addition to an inventory of surplus parts, the store specializes in hard-to-find batteries and also stocks a variety of new parts.

## The Horn of Plenty

As you know, the PSARA *Horn of Plenty* is published every month along with the NWVRS *Call Letter*. The last issue was duplicated, collated, and distributed by member **Jon Winter**. Thank you, Jon! On odd-numbered months, our editing and distribution is handled by member **Ed Buhite**. Thank you, Ed! Please consider helping out Jon and Edwin – the editorial and production burdens for a monthly newsletter can be extremely taxing.

## Missing Stapler

Several years ago, the PSARA purchased a saddle-stapler to be used in the production of our newsletters. We haven't been able to track down this item. It's been quite a while since we produced the newsletter up in





Seattle, so I suspect the stapler is simply stashed away somewhere. Please look for it and let us know if you find it. Thanks...

## Closing Words

This is my last president's message. As of the September meeting, I'll be turning in my gavel and returning to the rank and file as we move into the annual PSARA elections. I'd like to thank all those members and officers who have assisted me during the past year. Without you, my job would have been much more difficult.

I hope by the time this reaches you that we have some candidates for PSARA president. Believe me, the job is not as hard as it seems, though it does require the ability to attend most meetings, a bit of free time, and dedication. One thing to consider is that the president may delegate tasks to other club members as the need arises—in retrospect, something I should have done more frequently. And for our newer members, don't be shy about running for president; I've only been a PSARA member for five years!

Some members have expressed concerns about the health of our club. Although membership is at record levels (with over 100 members in the PSARA) and our business meetings are well attended (with anywhere from 25 to 30 percent of our membership attending), we do seem to be drifting a bit. Like any organization, it's normal to lose focus after nearly twenty years. This club started out as an organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of vintage wireless and radio equipment. Should we renew our focus to this end, or is it time to expand our focus?

One might argue that in some ways, our club had advanced since the early days. For instance, the PSARA museum has progressed significantly, and curator **Ken Korhonen** and his volunteers continue to make improvements. Further, many members (and that includes me) have peripheral interests that are related to vintage radio, and often these topics are discussed as well. How do you feel about this? I'd like you to think about what the PSARA means to you, and what you'd like to see in the future.

Lastly, it's been difficult to encourage members to participate in our technical presentations, though I suspect that's not a recent phenomenon. As we move into another year, please think about what kinds of presentations you'd like to see—and what presentations you'd like to help with.

Regards,  
Dave Dintenfass



## KQP

KOIN WAS BORN IN A CHICKEN COOP

by F.W.Sloat W7AHK

Pre world war #1 several amateur radio stations were operating in The Dalles and Hood River, Oregon. 7FM in The Dalles was owned by Fred Mayer. Fred's hobby was also photography and later in life he was very successful with his invention of the Viewmaster which was later marketed by the Sawyer Company of Portland, Oregon. 7GF was owned by Floyd Gibbs of Hood River. Two others in the Group were the Simson brothers Gael and Lloyd. Gael became widely known in the radio world by his work in developing two-way radios for the United States Forest Service. He was in charge of the national laboratory in Portland, Oregon. Lloyd went to sea as a wireless operator and then joined the Navy. He left as chief warrant officer, his last duty being code instructor at the Bremerton Navy Yards.

Early in 1922 Lloyd came to Hood River and stayed with his old friend 7GF. Probably feeling like a duck out of water, he purchased the parts for a broadcast transmitter from the Leo Meyberg Company of San Francisco. They were operating KDN, a pioneer station in the Fairmont Hotel.

The set was constructed and installed in 7GF's radio shack at the Gibbs residence on East 4th St. The little structure had been a chicken coop several blocks away and was moved to serve as the radio shack. The transmitter was issued a license on April 12, 1922, the licensee being the Blue Diamond Electric Company owned by Gibbs. This was the first station in the state of Oregon, outside Portland.

The writer's knowledge and memory of the station can be explained by the fact that Gibbs was a kin, and the installation was adjacent to my home, the antenna in fact was partly over our property. It started this teen ager in radio.





For the technically inclined, the transmitter used the Colpitts oscillator with two UV202 tubes modulated by another pair of 202's with the Heising system. Power came from an Esco motor-generator and batteries. A flat top antenna and a counterpoise added to the scenery. A Kellogg single button microphone which could be hung in the phonograph horn completed the installation. The daily 7:00 P.M. news read from a newspaper, was very popular with the mid-Columbia listeners who were fast increasing in numbers. Cards and letters were received from many distant listeners. Simson must have been still connected with the Navy as in 1923 he was directed to report to San Francisco to be chief operator on the ship which was to return president Warren Harding to Washington D.C. The president died in that city.

Simson sold the station to Hugh Ball, editor and part owner of the Hood River News. It was moved to the editor's home on East 13th Street where the scheduled programs of news and music continued. Lloyd Simson left Hood River and became the principal of the Oregon Institute of Technology in Portland where he taught commercial radio operating. Both he and his brother Gael were later appointed to IRAC, the president's committee on frequency allocation.

Since the sale of the station, the licensed engineer was Harry B. Read who had moved to Hood River from Seattle and was operating a radio shop in the same building with Gibbs. The latter had changed the name of his company to Gibbs Battery Station, had the Atwater Kent agency, and was selling Atwater Kents to the fast increasing number of listeners.

Hugh Ball was tired of the station. It was a chore to keep on schedule night after night and there was no remuneration. It was strictly a hobby. A group of fans organized the Apple City



Radio Club and took over the station. It was moved to Read's Radio Shop of Hood River.

This was an old two story building known as the Argo Hotel. A quite elaborate studio was constructed, with plenty of monk's cloth draped about. This was a coarse woven fabric supposed to dampen the echoes. Live broadcasting began here with the Hood River Mandolin Club and the Saxophone Quartet, both consisting of local musicians, furnished the music. Upstairs the occupants were not appreciative and did much hammering on the floor during the broadcasts, at one time causing the musicians to hastily cover their instruments when a deluge of water came through the flimsy ceiling. The club broke up and Read took over the station. The old call books show four different licenses in those years. All of this was strictly non-commercial, with no paid advertising.

The writer was working for Read, installing antennas and keeping house when he was away. I had no inkling of what was about to happen. I had graduated from high school that spring and was picking up a few dollars wherever I could. Times were tough. It was the fall of 1925 when Read advised me he was going to Portland for a few days and left me to take care of the shop. When he returned he startled me by saying, "I am moving the station to Portland and going commercial. I want you to begin building the transmitter right away, make a large rack for a 1000 watt transmitter. Unhook everything and pile it up on the floor where a truck can pick it up." With this he left again.

One time on the ham bands, I overheard one ham tell another that KQP was built from apple boxes. This makes a good story but we did have other materials in Hood River. The panels were from 1/4" plywood and the rack from 1X2 & 2X2. It was neatly put together with metal gussets on the



corners and with several coats of black enamel, it could have passed for bakelite. The Pacific Power & Light Co. had given Read some large panel meters and with these on the panels it appeared quite impressive. The remainder was constructed in Portland.

Read had purchased a small parcel of land on Sylvan Heights where we planted a tall fir pole from which hung 16 wires. A vertical antenna, the counterpoise was a radial type with number 8 gauge copper wire. This was a new innovation for Portland radio which was still using flat top antennas. Also new was the large bank of storage batteries for the plate supply. There were lots of problems but at least there was no hum from a generator.

The new KQP went on the air November 9, 1925 with a program originating in the Portland Hotel. I believe this was the first completely remote controlled broadcaster on the Pacific coast. If not the first it certainly was one of the first. The writer left Read and went back to Hood River. Later the station was obtained by the Portland News and became KOIN "Portland's Independent Newspaper."

While reminiscing with Seattle broadcast pioneer Vincent Kraft, the founder of KJR, he remarked, "Harry Read was a most resourceful engineer, he gave me his circuits for controlling remote amplifiers with the use of polar relays and also devised the time signal arrangement we used at KJR, KEX, KGA and KYA."

We cannot leave Read at this point. He built a new transmitter and installed it in the Mallory Hotel in downtown Portland. When advised by the government of his newly assigned call letters he was very happy. Showing the writer the notification he exclaimed, "KXL, isn't that pretty!"



# *Old!* (acquisitions)

## *Klaus Beckmann*

1938 Zenith 7-S-258 console

1932 RCA R-8 tombstone

## *C.E. Clutter*

Neon WSAZ Huntington, W.VA. advertising clock

1940 Belknap of Louisville, KY deco plastic set

1950 Emerson 744B deco plastic table set

## *R.A. Dielschneider*

Airline 93WG-1001A Drum dial console

Airline 14WG-1202B console

Airline 62-1100 chassis 83WG-401D

Bendix 0526A Plastic table set

Coronado 816B console

Ecophone EC-113 table set

G.E. F-65 console

G.E. H-87 console

1937 Grunow 1081 console

Packard Bell 35 table set

Philco 46-1209 radio/phono

R.C.A. K-80 console

Silvertone 4586 console

Stewart Warner 11-8F7-Z console

Western Air Patrol 276

1933 Zenith 440 console

1933 Zenith 770 console

1937 Zenith 10-S-153 consoles (two!)

1937 Zenith 10-S-155 console

1940 Zenith 1005 console

1941 Zenith 8-S-531 table set

1941 Zenith 7402 console

1942 Zenith 10-S-669 consoles (two!)

1942 Zenith 12-H-670 console

## *Scott MacGregor*

1939 Zenith 6D311 deco bakelite table set

## *Ian Sangster*

1934 Zenith 805 cathedral

1932 Majestic Treasure Chest



## SWAP SHOP WANTED

Chassis and Speaker for Philco 90. Vince  
Creisler (206) 630/4735

SAMS 400 to 499 Gordon Phillips 610 NE Royal  
Ct. Portland OR 97232 (503) 234/3517

RCA 621 TV Barry Dalton 196 Kilborn Dr.  
Grants Pass OR 97526

## FOR SALE

1929 Stewart Warner 950 series console.  
refinished and in perfect order \$45. 1929 Atwater  
Kent 55C Kiel table. Refinished and chassis looks  
as new, \$350. 1941 GE LFC 1228 console powerful  
11 tube AM/SW/OLD FM/Phono. A hot Short wave  
performer. Padded sound chamber, crystal clear  
fidelity, \$45. Pete Young 5906 SE Lloyd St.  
Milwaukie OR 97222 (503) 659/7735.

1955 Zenith Space Command 400 D3010E 21" Blond  
B&W TV console. Plays \$15/OBO Rudy Zvarich (503)  
255/2227

Philco Repro. Triangular rubber chassis mounts.  
Pack of 4 for \$8-- P&H included. Barry Dalton  
196 Kilbourn Dr. Grants Pass OR 97526

RCA 33 excellent set of legs \$40. Jerry Talbott  
1440 SW 239th Hillsboro OR 97123 (503) 649/6717

TUBES, Electronic Test equipment, Receivers,  
Parts. Bob Lee at R5-D3 Electronic Surplus.  
6111 SE 82nd Ave Portland OR 97266 (503) 774/6560

Various floor model radios. call for details.  
Scott MacGregor (503) 661/1294

## NWVRS Announcements

NWVRS coffee mugs will be available at  
September's meeting. \$4 each or 3 for \$10. Scott  
MacGregor. JOHNSON price guides are available -  
See Ed Charman.

Reminder: Bring your odds & ends to the pre-  
meeting swap. No Table Fee. Scott MacGregor

## OCTOBER 10 FALL SWAPS

NWVRS Fall Swapmeet 8AM at Rasada Radio Museum  
7675 SW Capitol Highway Portland, OR

North CHRS Redding CA 7AM Norman Braithwaite  
(916) 246/4209





# Vintage Ramblings

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By Dick Karman

Why are "certain sets" called *classics*? I own a Navy Super C-10. People call it a classic. I don't know why. Philco cathedrals are called classics. RCA microphones are called classics. It is the same with other hobbies. *Our Miss Brooks* is better remembered than *My Friend Irma*. It's more fashionable to own a '65 Mustang than to own an Edsel, to have a *Mark Trail* comic book instead of a *Spiderman*, to have a Little Orphan Annie Shake-Up mug over a Straight Arrow trading card? The list goes on.

Collectibles are collectible because they still hold memories of the past. My Philco 38-62 has memories. My Westinghouse RA-DA has memories. I even keep an odd console which is labeled "Beverly" around because it was the first radio I ever bought.

None of these will ever be called "classics." Few of them managed to make it to antique store shelves. Few of them will find their way into the history books.

The way I see it, classics are called classics because they are the nicest pieces that lived through the awkward transition between *household junk* and *priceless collectible*. Someday I might regret throwing away that Panasonic portable. You can never tell.

## EDITORIAL

By Edwin Buhite, Assistant editor

During the month of August we have been honored by the visits of several of our members from Canada and New Zealand. We highly value these members and always want them to feel welcome whenever it is possible for them to be with us.

One of our valued members related his experiences with the U.S. Border Guard. There seems to be an Anti Vintage Radio problem at the border on an ongoing basis.

Now is the time to ask our Politicians why our hobby has come under U.S. Government harassment. What action are they going to take to terminate the harassment? Any politician who fails to take action to correct this problem needs to be thrown out, regardless of his party affiliation! If the problem isn't resolved by election day in November, I trust that we'll all remember to take the appropriate action.



## TECHNICAL CLINIC, NEXT MEETING

A TECHNICAL CLINIC FOR BEGINNERS IS SCHEDULED FOR OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING.

BRING YOUR AC, BROAD-CAST BAND, NON FUNCTIONING SMALL TABLE RADIOS FOR TROUBLE-SHOOTING TIPS, DIAGNOSIS, ADVICE ON COMMON PROBLEMS & "QUICKIE" ALIGNMENT. SOME REPAIRS WILL BE MADE BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES! BE SURE YOUR SETS ARE COMPLETE AND REASONABLY CLEAN.

## MUSEUM UPDATE

AS OF 8-22-92 THE BASEMENT EXCAVATION AND BASIC CONSTRUCTION FOR SAME APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 90% COMPLETE. THERE WILL BE A NEED IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP COMPLETE THE PROJECT WHEN THE CONTRACTORS ARE THROUGH. WE HOPE TO BE USING THE NEW BASEMENT FACILITY BY WINTER.

## REMINDER!!!

PLEASE GET YOUR CALL LETTER INFO TO THE ASSISTANT EDITOR, SCOTT MacGREGOR (phone: 661-1294) IN TIME FOR HIM TO FORWARD IT TO THE EDITOR BY THE DEADLINE WHICH IS THE 25th EACH MONTH.

SONNY CLUTTER