

# The *Call Letter*

February, 2010  
Vol. 36 — No. 2



Celebrating **35** years in print!

# The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage radio" and wireless equipment.

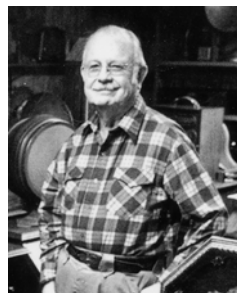
Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are \$25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The *Call Letter* has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 10 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the *Call Letter*.



## Society Officers for 2010:

President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 <a href="mailto:rf2af@comcast.net">rf2af@comcast.net</a>
Vice-President	Tony Hauser	(503)397-0074 <a href="mailto:abhauser@aol.com">abhauser@aol.com</a>
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 <a href="mailto:kiptuttle@comcast.net">kiptuttle@comcast.net</a>
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 <a href="mailto:landn2@verizon.net">landn2@verizon.net</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Mike McCrow	(503)730-4639 <a href="mailto:tranny53@comcast.net">tranny53@comcast.net</a>
Board member at large	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 <a href="mailto:radiogeo@hevanet.com">radiogeo@hevanet.com</a>
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 <a href="mailto:rwalton@easystreet.net">rwalton@easystreet.net</a>
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 <a href="mailto:Bucholtz3049@comcast.net">Bucholtz3049@comcast.net</a>



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# February 2010

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**On the cover:** “These Crosley radios were displayed at the May, 1999 meeting. Your editor took the photos to print in the June *Call Letter*. The Crosley poster has been in the electronic archives at least that long.

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**The next meeting is February 13, 2010.**

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**February Monthly Feature:  
Crosley Radios**

Visit our web site at <http://nwvrs.org>.

**As of January 31, our treasurer has received annual dues  
for 2010 from 74 members.**

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**Next *Call Letter* Deadline: March 4, 2010.**

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The *Call Letter* is the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Circulation is limited to the membership and guests of the Society. The Society is not responsible for the material contributed for publication, nor the quality, timeliness, or accuracy of the items or services offered for sale in the SWAP SHOP. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

# From the Editor

by Call Letter Editor, Rick Walton

This month is about Crosley. At our last meeting we decided that the monthly feature for February would be Crosley radios. I checked in my *Call Letter* archives and discovered that we last featured Crosley almost eleven years ago, May 1999 to be exact. I had pictures in the issue that followed, but they were in black and white. Ten years ago, we didn't print in color except on VERY special occasions. So I dug through a box of pictures from that time and found color prints of photos that I took. That was before I had a digital camera – had to use film, had to have it developed at the 1-hour, had to scan the prints. So I scanned the photos, worked a little Photoshop magic on them, and this month's cover is the result.

The cover isn't all that's Crosley, though. Without knowing the feature selection, Mike Parker sent me another new *In the Shack* article - about Crosley, of course. It is a continuation of "Crazily over Crosley" that Mike began back in November.

A new offering this month, "NWVRS Radio Archives," comes from Mark Moore, our newly appointed historian. He plans to make this a regular feature, but to do so, he'll need your help with providing photos that illuminate our society's history.

I will not be attending the February meeting because I will be in Egypt attending my son's graduation from American University in Cairo. I plan to monitor e-mail while I'm gone, and maybe even work on the March issue a little, but don't count on it. Don't hesitate to send your submissions.

## Always sunny & warm.

*For a refreshing change,  
check it out!*



# Sunny 1550 KKAD

	Herb Alpert - Tony Bennett - Michael Buble - Carpenters
	Nat King Cole - Perry Como - Neil Diamond - Diana Krall
	Barry Manilow - Johnny Mathis - Platters - Carly Simon
	Elvis - Frank Sinatra - Babara Streisand - Andy Williams

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# NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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submitted by Liles Garcia, Recording Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the January 9, 2010 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:50 AM. George welcomed everyone to the meeting. This meeting is our annual meeting as noted in our Society's Bylaws. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the November meeting and they were approved as published in the December Call Letter. Just a reminder, there was no December meeting because of weather conditions. Cliff Tuttle gave the Treasurer's Report, and his report was approved as provided by Cliff. Cliff also discussed the 2010 budget for our Society. John Bucholtz said that the library is doing well. Fellow Society member Brian Nies recently passed away. Jennifer and Amanda Fielding attended today as guests. Joe Burchyski also attended today as a guest and joined our Society. Members gave our guests and new member a round of applause. There were 56 people at our meeting today.

## Old Business

Swap Meet — Brian Toon said that swap meet tables are selling well. Contact Brian if you would like to get a Swap Meet table.

## New Business

Election of Officers — Liles read the list of members that were nominated at our November meeting for Society officers for 2010. The following members were nominated:

- President-Dick Bixler
- Vice President-Tony Hauser
- Recording Secretary-Liles Garcia
- Corresponding Secretary-Mike McCrow
- Treasurer-Cliff Tuttle

There were no additional nominations from the members present. Sonny Clutter moved that the nominees be elected unanimously; and his motion was seconded. The motion passed by a show of hands.

E-mail Lists — Members discussed the two e-mail lists that Society members are using. The Googlegroups List is accessed from our Society's website, and is available to everybody. This List can be used by anyone to communicate to our Society's members. The Yahoogroups List can be accessed and used by Society members only. Both e-mail groups have a definite purpose.

Library Update — After the meeting John Bucholtz provided the following information about our library:

- There are 126 items that we can check out.
- There are approximately 100 books and other printed materials which represent 89 different titles.
- There are approximately 26 other items such as tapes, CD's, DVD's, and film.
- There are 25 lbs. of assorted club history and miscellaneous club items.
- Three books are missing: *Zenith*, *The Glory Years 1936-1945*, *Radio Theory & Operation*, and *Hallicrafters Company 1932-1972*.

During last year, over 9 meetings, 60 items were checked out. There is a set of tapes that was checked out in April, 2009.

### Leads and Needs

Joe Fielding needs four 5 pin subminiature tube sockets. Craig Parker needs the knobs for a Philco Tropic Model 42-400. Pat Kagi has a lead on a Zenith 12S370. Barbara Dickson has a Philco Radio Bar for sale. Contact her at (503)807-3307.

### Program Topic

The program topic today is "Pre-1934 Superhet Radios". Members showed and discussed the 8 radios that they brought. The program topic for February will be "Crosley Radios".

The meeting was adjourned.

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## NWVRS Calendar of Events

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Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from: PNW Hamfair web page at [www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm](http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm)

**February 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

**February 20** Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, Oregon at the Polk County Fairgrounds. [www.w7sra.com](http://www.w7sra.com).

**March 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

**March 6** Mike & Key Electronics Show and Fleamarket. Western Washington fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. Contact [mwdink@eskimo.com](mailto:mwdink@eskimo.com). [www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm](http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm).

**April 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

**May 8** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.

**June 4-6** Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. [ai9q@arrl.net](mailto:ai9q@arrl.net) [www.seapac.org/](http://www.seapac.org/)

**June 11-13** 41st Annual Wenatchee Hamfest. Apple City ARC. Dryden Gun Club. Dryden, WA. Contact Jim, W7JBP at [shultzjims@aol.com](mailto:shultzjims@aol.com) or Judy, at [ka7zna@msn.com](mailto:ka7zna@msn.com) for information. [www.qsl.net/w7td/](http://www.qsl.net/w7td/).

**June 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

- June 12** Port Ludlow ARC tailgate swap meet. Port Ludlow, WA. [www.n7pl.org/](http://www.n7pl.org/)
- July 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 2010** Chehalis Valley ARS 11th Annual Hamfair. Lewis County Fairgrounds. Contact John Ellingson, K7OSK. johnk7osk@boatanchor.com. [www.cvars.org/](http://www.cvars.org/)
- July 17** Coos County Radio Club Hamfest and Swapmeet. North Bend Middle School, North Bend, OR. Contact Marilyn Mansker, ke7oam@yahoo.com or Dave Granicy k7nbo@charter.net. [www.coosradioclub.net/](http://www.coosradioclub.net/).
- August 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- August 15** Antique Radio Swap Meet. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. Shoreline museum parking lot. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle. One block west of Aurora Avenue - one mile west of I-5, exit 176. Free admission. [www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html](http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html) (Always the 3rd Sunday in August)
- August 2010** Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest. [www.w7dk.org/](http://www.w7dk.org/)
- September 11** The 4th Annual Clark County ARC Tail-Gate Swapmeet. Vancouver, WA. [www.w7aia.org/](http://www.w7aia.org/) Rob, K7JAO at k7jao@arrl.net
- September 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 2010** Spokane Hamfest. University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley WA 99216. For information contact Betsy, N7WRQ n7wrq@aol.com.
- October 9** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October 23?** Swaptoberfest. Mid-Valley ARES. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. Contact: Chris Portal, W7CLP (503)559-7837. w7clp@arrl.net 520 South Pacific Highway. [www.swaptoberfest.net](http://www.swaptoberfest.net)
- November 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2011.
- December 11** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2011.

# 10% DISCOUNT

To all members in good standing of the  
**Northwest Vintage Radio Society**  
for any purchase from



Please show your current  
NWWRS membership card  
to receive discount.

BEAVERTON (503) 644-1025  
7940 SW Nimbus Ave.

SALEM (503) 583-9810  
1545 Commercial St. NE

EUGENE (541) 345-2904  
960 Conger St.

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## Roster Correction & Additions

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by Rick Walton

Thanks to all who updated their roster information at the January meeting.

### Updates

Address change:

Roy, Michael  
P.O. Box 855  
Ocean Park, Wa 98640

R

Phone, e-mail address, or interest correction:

Carpenter, Warren  
[warrenandnancy@comcast.net](mailto:warrenandnancy@comcast.net)

Mendoza, Esteban  
360-258-0887

Harper, James  
503-538-8738  
[jharperclan@aol.com](mailto:jharperclan@aol.com)  
Vintage audio

McCrow, Michael  
[tranny53@comcast.net](mailto:tranny53@comcast.net)

Meyers, Robert KA7UMR  
[ka7umr@hotmail.com](mailto:ka7umr@hotmail.com)

Haugen, Gordon  
[gmathaugen@aol.com](mailto:gmathaugen@aol.com)

Pittaway, Edwin  
[epittaway@aol.com](mailto:epittaway@aol.com)

Hauser, Tony  
503-438-0297 (cell phone)  
Plastic radios of the 30's to 50's, Northwest  
Radio Manufacturers, Early Radio 20's-30's

Richardson, Mark WA7ZK  
[mhr@westsky.net](mailto:mhr@westsky.net)

Ybarra, Ray  
[rt.ybarra@att.net](mailto:rt.ybarra@att.net)



## Additions

New and returning members:



**Burchyski, Joe**  
14890 S. Leland Rd.  
Beavercreek, Or 97004-9618  
503 919 3236  
Boat anchor shortwave radios.  
[joe\\_b@bctonline.com](mailto:joe_b@bctonline.com)

R



**Harris, Kelly**  
5724 SW 48th  
Portland, Or 97221  
503-477-7638  
Table Top 40's-60's  
Kellyfrank5668@yahoo.com



**Saul, Sid**  
P.O. Box 40621  
Portland, Or 97240-0621

R

Photo added:



**Blessing, Bill WA7RC5**  
751 Gore Rd.  
Kalama, WA 98625-9710  
(360) 673-3893  
Old cars, ham radio, and radio repair  
[judyblessing45@yahoo.com](mailto:judyblessing45@yahoo.com)

R



**Karman, Dick**  
2515 N.E. 37th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97212-2916  
503-288-8800  
Advertising, early juke boxes  
[dick@karmans.net](mailto:dick@karmans.net)

R



**Parker, Craig**  
1496 Court St NE  
Salem, Or 97301  
503-990-8778  
[parker3836@comcast.net](mailto:parker3836@comcast.net)  
Interest - Philco, Transoceanic

R

# Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Photos of early superhet radios (pre-1934) shown at the January meeting.



Jackson Bell  
Peter Pan - Alan Shadduck



Goodyear -  
Bill Blessing



Clarion -  
Joe Beseda



Doc Heacock -  
Dan Howard



Emerson -  
Alan Shadduck



Atwater Kent  
Model 82 - Cliff Tuttle



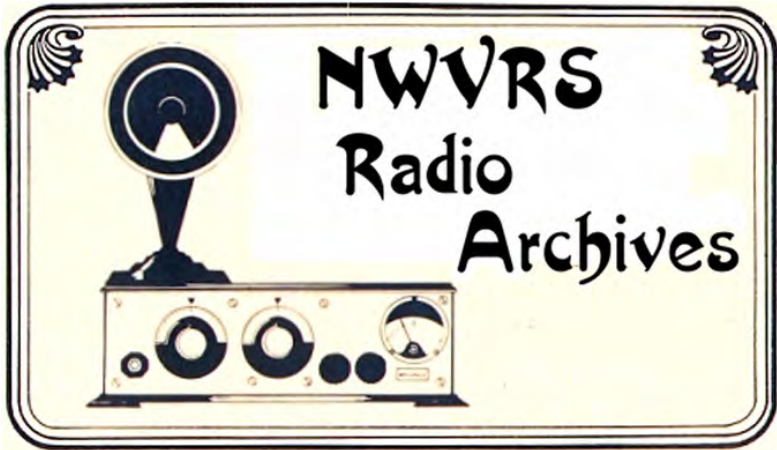
Philco  
Model 81 - Mike McCrow



Kit -  
8-tube -  
George Kirkwood



Ultradyne L2 - George Kirkwood



By Mark Moore

As the Northwest Vintage Radio Society celebrates 35 years, we look to our past, into the club's Archives, to trace our history and to share our heritage with our members. As most of you know, I was appointed historian for the NWVRS at our January meeting. I have begun receiving photos and items of historical significance to the NWVRS and to Northwest radio history.

We are so fortunate to live in a time when we can rescue lost history. Photos and ephemera have become an important link to our past. If you have photos of our members, please share them with us. You can bring them to a meeting or email scans to [mark@pdxhistory.com](mailto:mark@pdxhistory.com). Also, if you have ephemera relating to Northwest radio history, feel free to share it with us as well.



We will try to share historical items of interest with you each month. For our first installment, we are featuring a picture of past president Don Iverson.



### Crazily Over Crosley – II

In this article, I am starting off with some corrections for my previous Crosley article, “Crazily Over Crosley”, published in the Oct./Nov. 2009 CALL LETTER. I can only contribute that the reason for making these corrections is because the author failed to describe some events about Powel Crosley Jr. in the exact manner described in the research material and attempted to write his own version! He has no excuse except “CRS” (Can’t Remember Something, or that other more pungent definition!).

1. I stated on page 12, paragraph 3, that Powel Crosley had started in radio on Washington’s birthday, 1921 by taking his son out to buy him a crystal set.

**CORRECTION:** by taking his 9 year old son, Powel Crosley III out to buy him a promised radio outfit.

2. I stated that they looked at Precision’s line of ‘Ace’ radios but were absolutely stunned at the high prices.

**CORRECTION:** were absolutely stunned at the \$130 price of the “toy” they expected to buy.

3. I stated that in no time Crosley and his son, built a radio and were amazed to pick up broadcasts from 8 miles away.

**CORRECTION:** Crosley and his son, using the 25 cent book, *The ABC of Radio*, built a Crystal set and added an Audion tube detector for a total cost



The author’s 1924 Canadian DeForest-Crosley Trirdyn, with GGH horn speaker, photo taken before both were purchased.

of \$35. They were amazed to pick up a broadcast from 7 miles away. It was the Precision Equipment station 8XB.

4. On page 13, paragraph 2, I had previously stated that in order to build regenerative circuit radios, Crosley needed an Armstrong patent license, which he did not possess. So, to alleviate the situation, in very early 1922, he purchased the Precision, Equipment Co., lock stock and barrel,

**CORRECTION:** So, to alleviate the situation, in very early 1923, he purchased the Precision Equipment Co., lock stock and barrel

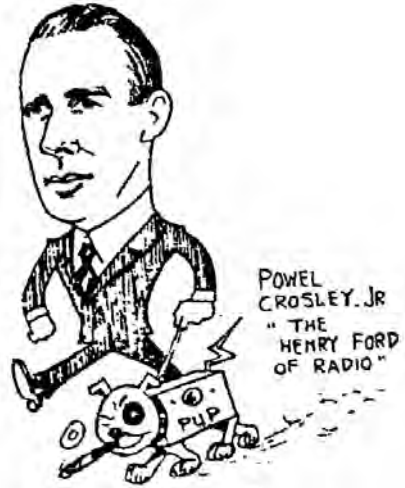
5. In the same paragraph, I mentioned that Crosley THEN hired a young electronics student, Dorman Isreal.

**CORRECTION:** Crosley HAD PREVIOUSLY hired a young electronics student Dorman Israel. (correction of name spelling and time hired).

Also in my previous CALL LETTER article, "Crazily Over Crosley", Oct./Nov. 2009, I mentioned that I was going to try out my 1924 DeForest-Crosley 'Trirdyn' radio while I still had the guest room in the house supplied with the means to connect up and try a battery operated set. I got around to it not long afterward, and the radio performed quite well. I will go into detail about that later in this article.

First, I must take issue with the name, Trirdyn. How is it actually pronounced? I look at it and usually call it a "treer-din" but that may not be correct. I have heard "tryer-dyne", "tryer-din" and "tri-ri-dyne". It may be "treer-ri-dyn" for all I know! I tend to want to pronounce the last part of it "din" instead of "dyne", simply because Crosley left the "e" off of the otherwise popular "dyne" tag for radio names. But what would you expect from a man who had one L left off of his first name?

Why did Powel Crosley Jr. use "Trirdyn"? Or was it he? Or did he hire someone to think up names. I seem to think it was he and that he had an obsession for dreaming up these cutesy trade names himself. Probably as a sales gimmick, knowing that people would remember these names rather than just a model number. I have been thinking of calling a well-known Crosley collector and researcher, Dave Crocker, in Massachusetts, and hear how HE pronounces Trirdyn. Of course, he wasn't there when Powel Crosley dreamed it up either! Besides, he may think that I am acting rather crazily.



Of all the radio manufacturers that existed in those days, Crosley takes the cake for the largest amount of odd names for radios! In fact, this is a subject I am planning a future article about. There are a lot of them! So stay tuned.

The Trirdyn was developed and in production for the 1924 season. The name was concocted because the set was a 3 tube (Tri) and since the circuit was a Reflex Regenerative, 3 tubes did the work of 4 tubes, therefore creating power (dyne). The reflex part of the circuit helped keep the cost of the set down and also the cost of tubes, which were very expensive then. The Trirdyn suited the Crosley Radio Corp. just fine since Powel Crosley Jr. was a master of low cost radios. In

fact, during this time he readily became known as the “Henry Ford Of Radio” (see the cartoon of Powel Crosley Jr., walking his ‘Pup’)! One of my favorites!

The year 1924 was a boom year for Powel Crosley, although his best business year was 1928. 1924 saw the creation of the new Crosley Radio Corp. and he bought a new factory, which was subsequently rebuilt to grand proportions complete with the final improved, remote control version of the 500,000- watt radio station WLW, the most powerful in the World.

Another major 1924 event for Crosley was the purchase of the Canadian plant and holdings of the De Forest Radio Corp. Ltd. The 1924 De Forest-Crosley sets were re-named Crosley U.S. models, but in mid-1925 they designed all new models exclusively for the Canadian market. My 1924 De Forest-Crosley Trirdyn is one of the renamed U.S. models for Canada. In fact, I bought the set in British Columbia, Canada, in the 1990’s. It is identical to the U.S. Trirdyn Special model, which is the standard Trirdyn 3R3 chassis installed in a larger, fancier cabinet with overhanging lid and ‘feet’ (see photo on page 10).

Powel and his brother Lewis were both instrumental in setting up the new Cincinnati radio plant in early 1924. The new radio factory was stepped up for full mass production and was producing around 1000 sets a day at the end of 1924, although it finally reached around 5000 sets a day in later years. In 1925, Crosley went even further in business ventures and purchased Amrad, an old line radio company in the Northeast, thus giving him a Neutrodyne radio circuit license.

In early 1927, Crosley offered a deal to supply capital to the ailing U.S. holdings of the DeForest Radio Co. in exchange for a majority of stock, once the company was back making money. Although Crosley was elected President, he stalled on the rest of the deal for a time. This earned him a lawsuit for breach of contract from the receiver holding DeForest Radio. DeForest held a large patent portfolio going back to when Dr. Lee DeForest was directly involved with the company. Rumor has it that Crosley used this acquisition to bolster his success in obtaining the much-coveted RCA patent license. It worked, after month long standoff. But in the end, the suit was settled amicably, after Crosley got his RCA license.

Powel Crosley Jr. was born with money, since his father, Powel Sr. was a wealthy, successful attorney. Powel Jr. always dreamed of being a millionaire. He lost money on several automobile related ventures. But he was a very innovative person. By 1915 he “wised up”, and made money, all his own. Since after several hard knocks when he was younger, he vowed to handle his own finances even if he had to run a “popcorn stand” as he put it. He had tried various projects before radio, mail order auto accessories, (successful) and one of the first of it’s kind, a



Promotional photo of Powel Crosley, Jr. with pup “Bonzo” listening to a Crosley Pup radio-1925.

wood working plant where he manufactured cabinets for phonographs, even production of baby toys! But radio was the real money-maker

Powel Crosley's success story was very indicative of the flamboyant 1920's. In the early 1930's Crosley became owner of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team. Today's Cincinnati Crosley Field was named after him. Powel, his wife and family had a mansion, Pinecroft, on the outskirts of Cincinnati, (under restoration) and a lavish summer retreat estate, Sea Gate, in Sarasota, FL. (now preserved and restored). He owned an island in the Carolinas, had several seaplanes and also built 5 airplanes. He was an avid sport fisherman and owned several yachts. Powel Crosley's dream of being a millionaire actually came true! He is remembered today as a famous Marketer and Industrialist. His Crosley compact auto (1939–1952) is well remembered by many people, including me, although it was introduced in the wrong period of time for it's kind. He is also remembered for the Crosley Refrigerator, after the factory branched out from radios in 1926, to include appliances. The "Icyball" a kerosene absorption refrigerator and the Crosley "Shelvadore" electric refrigerator with shelves built in the door, are the two famous ones.

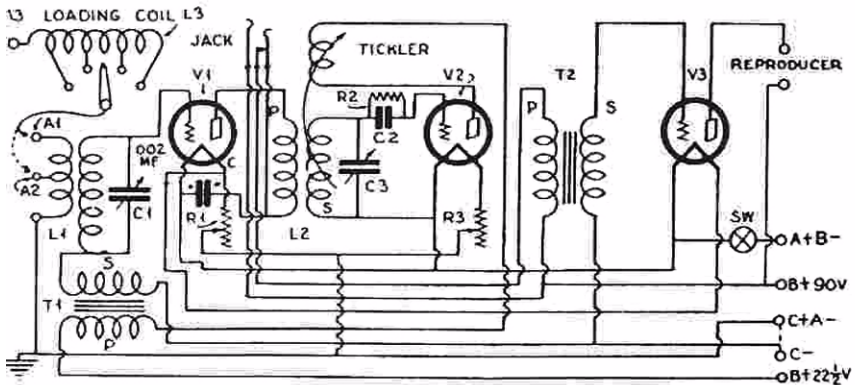
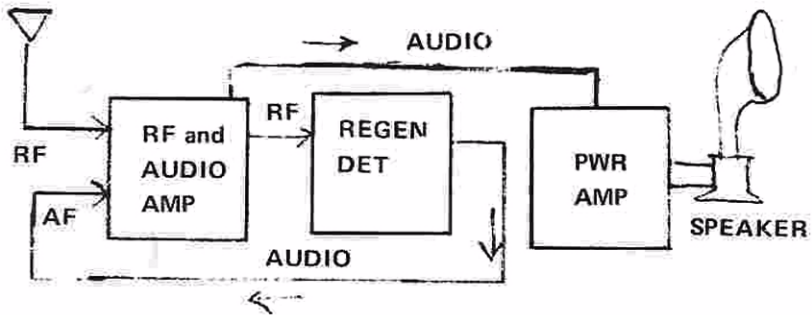
Getting back to the Trirdyn, I noticed that although Crosley's life was flamboyant, he was frugal when it came to radio designing. The 1924 and some 1925 model Trirdyns used many parts carried over from the Crosley small box radios. Visible are the same tuning and control knobs, spider web coils, sliding regeneration control, binding posts, rheostats, grid leak and transformers but not the famous 'book' condenser. The two tuning condensers are the familiar rotating plate types. There is plenty of room in the Trirdyn Special cabinet since the chassis takes up less than half of the depth of it. Obviously the extra space is meant for batteries. This model Trirdyn looks odd because the front panel is just screw attached to the outside of the wooden front panel and the panel size is smaller than the cabinet size.

Looking at the Trirdyn circuit (see schematic), the set employs a loading coil in the antenna circuit, which is a familiar flat Crosley spider web wound coil with knob and taps mounted on the left inside wall of the cabinet. This takes the place of an ordinary tap switch, which was formerly on the front panel of earlier sets. Mounting it under the lid merely provided a convenient hiding place for this apparatus. The RF coil is mounted on the sub panel near the left side of the radio and is the typical flat spider web type used on previous Crosley radios.

Tuning across the dials at night for various distance stations yielded Sacramento and San Francisco stations, Tillamook, Medford and Eugene OR., Spokane and Seattle-Tacoma Wa. and Salt Lake City, Utah. With the exception of Tillamook, these were received on a 'skip', which varied in volume with the atmospheric conditions in the usual manner. The Trirdyn performed well, considering that my available B+ battery voltage was only 52 volts instead of the usual 90 volts. The above mentioned station frequencies covered a wide enough range of the AM dial, however the stations were crowded in to a smaller portion of the tuning dials range. I attribute this to the use of Straight Line Capacity rotating disk, tuning condensers, where the rotor and the stator are identical and fully mesh with each other. I can excuse Crosley for this for a couple of reasons.

In 1923-24 when the Trirdyn was designed, I don't believe the improved Straight Line Wavelength and Straight line Frequency types were designed yet or at least, in general use. They were designed to alleviate the shortcomings of the Straight Line Capacity type that tended to crowd the stations between 0 and 50 on the dial. Another reason is that I think the Trirdyn employed the first use by Crosley of any type of tuning condenser other than the "book" type but am not 100% sure.

### CROSLY TRIRDYNE BLOCK DIAGRAM AND SCHEMATIC



The Reflex aspect of the Trirdyn circuit is well explained in the schematic block diagram, which shows the first or RF tube doing double duty as an RF and audio amplifier. These sets had a certain popularity in the 1923 to 1925 era. In addition to the Trirdyn's popularity, the 4 tube RCA Regenflex was also somewhat popular. Other companies such as ERLA and DeForest used this circuit extensively in non-regenerative sets. As tubes became more plentiful and the price of them went down, the Reflex circuit more or less took a back seat to the newly popular 5 tube Neutrodyne and Tuned Radio Frequency radio receivers. The Trirdyn and the Regenflex were probably the best of the reflexes, others I have heard in action tended to mix stations easily. But they were not regenerative reflexes.



Crosley introduced the first Trirdyn (3R3) in the spring of 1924. It had a plain wooden cabinet with no overhangs and was not much bigger than the panel, similar to an Atwater Kent 20 Compact. In June 1924, the Trirdyn Special was introduced which was the same panel in a big box cabinet with an overhang lid and feet. (same as my Trirdyn). Late in 1924 the Trirdyn Newport was introduced which had the panel slanted in the top front of a very nice looking table top cabinet. A Trirdyn Biltmore was made and also a lone console, the Trirdyn Deluxe. The 1924 Trirdyns and the De Forest Crosley Trirdyn (mentioned earlier) sold well through the 1924-25 season. Early in 1925 Crosley kept the same models but re-designed the knob arrangement on the Trirdyn panel for some reason. All the knobs were now placed in a straight line across the panel including the 2 tuning dials. This made for (what I think) is an ugly arrangement.

The last model Trirdyns, introduced in the Fall of 1925 for the 1925-26 season, were the Super Trirdyn Regular and Super Trirdyn Special in a plain cabinet and overhang lid slant front cabinet respectively. They returned to the 3 triangulated center knobs and the Super Trirdyn can be identified by the new tuning dials, a fixed bright metal crescent with the numerals and a pointer similar to a clock hand. An all new DeForest-Crosley 4 tube regen-reflex Super Trirdyn model was made for the 1925-26 Canadian season, this being the last of the Trirdyns in production.

Maybe I should conduct an NVRS 'reader poll'! If you so desire, you can e-mail me at our group e-mail site, [nwvrs@yahoogroups.com](mailto:nwvrs@yahoogroups.com), and tell me your best phonic pronunciation of Trirdyn. But, I still won't know if it is right but will accept the largest duplication of one pronunciation! None of us will ever know just how that crazily Mr. Crosley called it, back when it was new. Who knows? Maybe there is a promotional phonograph record out there with Powel himself announcing the introduction of the new Trirdyn radio. Something like this may well have been done by the ever innovative Powel Crosley Jr.!

73 and QSO you next time.....IN THE SHACK.

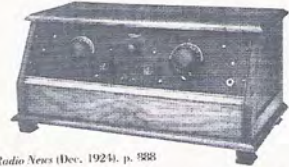
Acknowledgements:

*Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's*, Book, 1988, Alan Douglas, Pocasset, MA., Vestal Press. Vestal, NY.

*Fixing Up Nice Old Radios*, Book, 1990, Ed Romney, Emlenton, PA., Romney Press.



Radio News (Dec. 1924), p. 889  
Trirdyn 3R3 Special June 1924 \$75



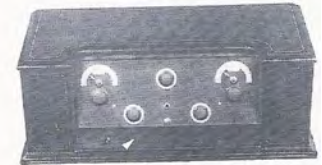
Radio News (Dec. 1924), p. 928  
Trirdyn Newport Dec. 1924 \$100



New England Wireless & Steam Museum  
Trirdyn Special Jan. 1925 \$60



Radio News (Apr. 1925), p. 1835  
Trirdyn Special Apr. 1925 \$60



Ralph & Elinor Williams  
Super Trirdyn Special Sept. 1925 \$60

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## Swap Shop

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*FOR SALE:* Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503) 513-0410

*FOR SALE:* 1939 Zenith console radio, model 12S370, with a Robot dial.  
Contact David Wolski at (503) 230-2741.

*FOR SALE:* Rider's *Perpetual Troubleshooter* manuals, Vols. 1-22 with indexes, \$200. Contact Damon Vandehey, 503-459-1777.

*WANTED:* \*Speaker for a Philco Model 70 or 90. It must have a good field coil. Other parts damaged OK. Contact Gordon Phillips, 503-234-3517, [gdnphi@comcast.net](mailto:gdnphi@comcast.net)

## Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Bruce Baur - (503)-708-4537, [brucebaur@comcast.net](mailto:brucebaur@comcast.net)

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, [wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com)

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

Pat Hickman – (503) 887-9015 web site: [www.classictubeaudio.com](http://www.classictubeaudio.com)

Email: [phickman@comcast.net](mailto:phickman@comcast.net)

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or [walterranft@hotmail.com](mailto:walterranft@hotmail.com) – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, [david\\_wise@phoenix.com](mailto:david_wise@phoenix.com)

If you are willing to repair radios, give your name, phone and/or e-mail, and any comments to the *Call Letter* editor.

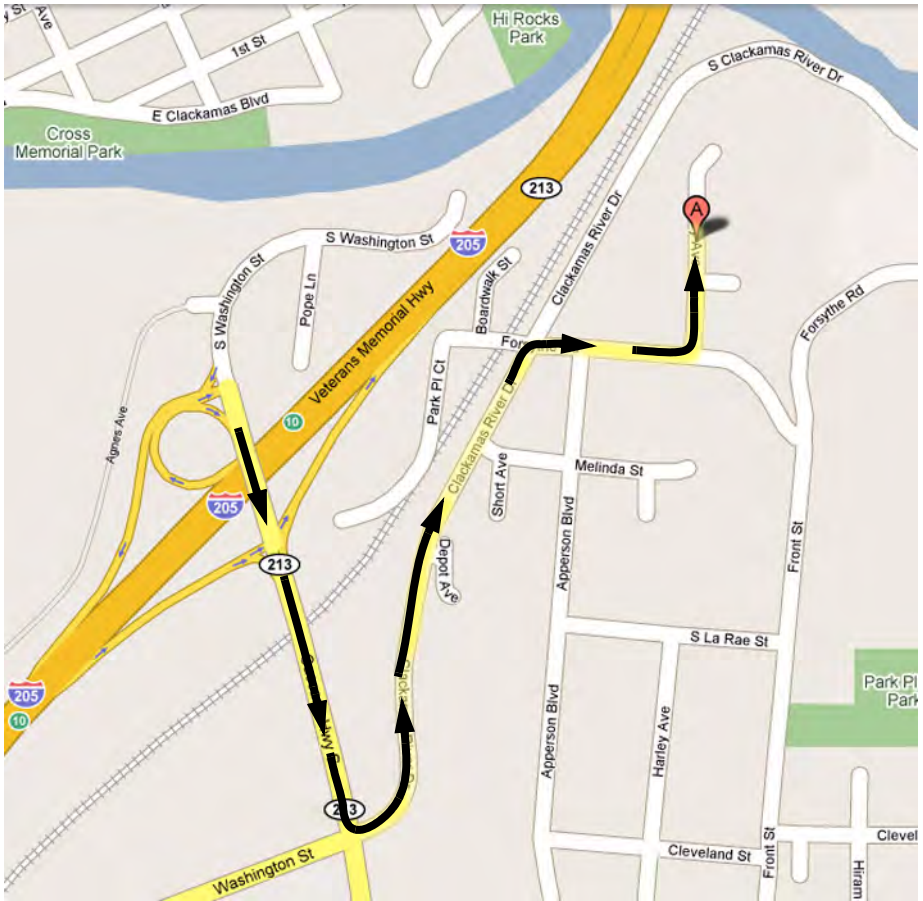
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

## Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit Radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photos, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy  
Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

# Meeting Location

Here is a map (thanks to Google Maps) to the Abernethy Grange Hall (the pointer marked "A"), where the Northwest Vintage Society meets the second Saturday of each month. Just follow the arrows on the map.



To get to the Abernethy Grange Hall:

1. Exit I-205 at SR-213 (Exit 10 to Molalla) and head south on 213.
2. At the first intersection (the traffic light), turn left onto Clackamas River Dr.
3. Turn right at Forsythe Rd.
4. Turn left onto Harley Ave. The Grange Hall is on the left about a block and a half.