

The *Call* *Letter*

April, 2011
Vol. 37 — No. 4



Celebrating over **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).

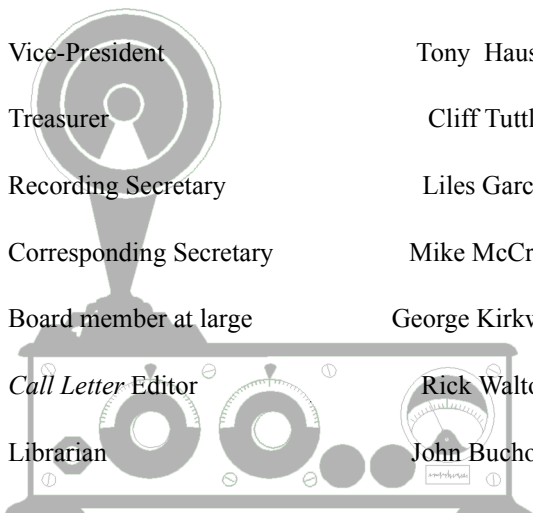
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

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 2011:

President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 rf2af@comcast.net
Vice-President	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074 abhauser@aol.com
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 kiptuttle@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Secretary	Mike McCrow	(503) 730-4639 tranny53@frontier.com
Board member at large	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 radiogeo@hevanet.com
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 701-3260 rewalton46@gmail.com
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 Bucholtz3049@comcast.net



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On the cover: What’s this!? Smoking on the job? In the workplace? This *Radio World* from January, 1936, would probably cause quite a stir these days.

The next meeting is April 9, 2011.

Monthly Feature: Annual Trash Bash!

Bring your trash, find a treasure!

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

Next Call Letter Deadline: May 5, 2011.

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

It's time for another Trash Bash! I hope I have time to gather up all the stuff that I need to bring.

After all the study and discussion, we finally have a new printer for publishing the *Call Letter*. It is a solid ink printer from Xerox that is large enough to get the job done, but small enough to fit in my apartment without raising the wife's hackles too much.

As exciting as it is to have a new printer, it is just as exciting to enjoy the success we are having at publishing the *Call Letter* electronically. My thanks to all who have responded to our initial offering via e-mail. Several of you have requested receiving the *Call Letter* by e-mail alone. We really appreciate that because it lowers the printing and mailing costs.

This has turned out to be a full issue. There are plenty pictures from last month's display of "unknown" radios, a reprint of an article about reforming plastic knobs, and an article from Mark Moore, our historian. One thing not in this issue is a roster update. That's because I'll be publishing a new picture roster around the middle of April. If I don't already have your picture (or you don't like the one I have) see me at the meeting on April 9. I'll have my camera.

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

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2011

Recorded by VP Tony Hauser for Secretary Liles Garcia

Board members not in attendance: President Dick Bixler, Recording Secretary Liles Garcia, Corresponding Secretary Mike McCrow.

Treasurer Cliff Tuttle called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Cliff presided over today's meeting to allow VP Tony Hauser to record the meeting minutes.

There were 47 members and no guests in attendance at today's meeting. The February meeting minutes were read by Tony and approved by the members as recorded in the March *Call Letter*. The Treasurer's report was submitted by Cliff and approved by the members. John Bucholtz gave the Librarian's report and noted that two books were overdue.

Rick Walton presented the Editor's report. He mentioned that e-mail distribution of the March *Call Letter* has been well received by the members. Currently about 150 hard copies of *The Call Letter* are mailed each month. There are 6 or 7 members who have currently requested electronic copies only of *The Call Letter* which saves the Society money for postage and printing supplies. Rick reported a new printer has been chosen and he is waiting for a final purchase price. He is hopeful that the final cost will be less than the \$1500 allotment. Rick asked that all members send their current e-mail addresses to his new e-mail address in order to bring his distribution list up to date. A discussion ensued concerning *The Call Letter* as a benefit of membership in the Society and the possible loss of control of distribution of *The Call Letter* to non-members by simply forwarding the file via e-mail.

Club Historian Mark Moore reported no new donations to the archives in the past month. He did, however, relay an e-mail request from Heather Bruner of the Oregon Jewish Museum for radio-related items for an upcoming exhibit at the museum about Mel Blanc. They are looking for radios, microphones, and related materials from the 1925-1935 era when Mel would have been working in local Portland radio. The items would be on loan to the museum from May 22 to September 11, 2011 in their SW Portland location. Contact Mark for more information.

Rick Walton gave the Swap Meet report in Brian Toon's absence. There are 4 tables still available downstairs for the May sale.

Good & Welfare

Frank Olberding passed away last week at age 92. His funeral is today. Steve Berglund's father passed away. Dick Bixler is recovering from eye surgery earlier in the week.

Old Business

Pat Kagi reported that member Sid Saul has donated a copy of Dreamweaver software for use on the NWVRS website. Cliff Tuttle announced the Spring Trash Bash will be held at the April meeting. Cliff explained the origins of the Trash Bash for the benefit of the new members in attendance.

New Business

Pat Kagi asked for any interest in having a NWVRS display table at the Sounds of Nostalgia flea market at the State Fairgrounds. At this time, the date is still unknown, but is believed to be the third Sunday in April. The Society will pay the \$20 table fee for the display. Sonny Clutter has electronic files of the advertising flyer for the May sale and show in Aurora. Contact Sonny for copies of the files that members may print and begin distributing in April.

Leads & Needs

Damon Vandehey is looking for a working Sencore TV color bar generator. Charlie Kent is currently buying cathedral and tombstone radios.

Monthly Display

This month's display of "mystery" radios included 16 radios from 12 of our members. Sid Saul also demonstrated the electric tuning on his 1937 GE console. The next radio display will be at our June meeting (April is the Trash Bash and May is the swap meet in Aurora). The display topic for that meeting will be chosen at the April meeting.

Cliff gave a brief safety discussion on using electromagnets to magnetize other objects before adjourning the meeting at 11:10am.

FINAL Dues Reminder

This is your final reminder to pay your dues for 2011. Members not current will have a reminder on their printed *Call Letter*. If we haven't received your 2011 dues within a few days following the April 9 meeting, we won't be able to include you in the new society roster to be published and distributed later this month.

NWVRS Calendar of Events

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

- April 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; Trash Bash! Bring your trash, take home a treasure. 8:30.
- April 22-24** Idaho State Convention. Garden City, ID, Voice of Idaho ARC. ARRL sanctioned. Info, Lynn Rasmussen, W7RAZ, (208)550-7710, w7raz24@gmail.com. <http://www.idahostateconvention.com/>
- May 14** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- May 14** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Always the second Saturday in May. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360)387-7705) nwecop@tgi.net <http://www.scarcwa.org/>
- June 3-5** Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. ARRL sanctioned. ai9q@arrl.net www.seapac.org/
- June 10, 11, 12** Wenatchee Hamfest 2011. Apple City ARC. Dryden Gun Club. Dryden, WA. Contact Jim, W7JBP at shultzjims@aol.com or Judy, at ka7zna@msn.com for information. <http://www.qsl.net/w7td/>
- June** Port Ludlow ARC tailgate swap meet. Port Ludlow, WA. <http://www.n7pl.org/>
- June 11** KARS Hamfest. Kootenai Amateur Radio Society. American Legion Hall, 1138 E. Poleline, Post Falls, Idaho. Always the 2nd Sat in June. For information contact Jim, N7ESU at (208)755-2100 or email n7esu@arrl.net. <http://k7id.com/>
- June 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 9** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July** Coos County Radio Club Hamfest and Swapmeet, North Bend, Oregon. Info, contact Elise Ciralo, N7CIR, (541)267-4243, e.ciralo@verizon.net. <http://www.coos-radioclub.net>

- July** Chehalis Valley ARS 11th Annual Hamfair. Lewis County Fairgrounds. Contact John Ellingson, K7OSK. k7osk@boatanchor.com. <http://www.cvars.org/>
- July 15-17** Glacier Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest. This is an ARRL Sanctioned event. Glacier Meadows Campground, 13 miles west of East Glacier on MT Hwy 2. www.gwhamfest.org.
- August 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- August 12-14** 56th Annual Pacific Northwest DX Convention. Holiday Inn, Everett, WA. <http://www.wwdxc.org/>.
- August 20** 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. <http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html> (Always the 3rd Sunday in August)
- August** Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest. Bethel Jr. High in Spanaway WA. <http://www.w7dk.org/>
- September 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September** The 5th Annual Clark County ARC Tail-Gate Swapmeet. Vancouver, WA. <http://www.w7aia.org/> Rob, K7JAO at k7jao@arrl.net
- September** Spokane Hamfest. University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley WA 99216. For information contact Bob, AC7GP ac7gp@hotmail.com.
- October 8** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- October** Swaptoberfest. Mid-Valley ARES. Polk County Fairgrounds, Rickreall, OR. Contact: Chris Portal, W7CLP (503)559-7837. w7clp@arrl.net 520 South Pacific Highway. <http://www.swaptoberfest.net>
- November 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30. Nomination of officers for 2012.
- December 10** NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2012.

Notes from the President

by Dick Bixler, NWVRS President

First ... I want to thank all my friends and fellow members of NWVRS for the calls, cards, and messages of concern regarding my eye surgery. I'm delighted to report that it was completely successful and I will, with glasses, have 20/20 vision in BOTH eyes now!

The May Show/Sale/Swap will be on us soon. Now is a good time to start getting those boat anchors, monster consoles, and others left after the Trash Bash April clean-out presentable for sale. Check with Brian Toon for table availability, or maybe you can share a table corner with a buddy.

I'm pleased to announce that we have a new printer and a very happy editor. We won't face the problems we did in the past.

I would call to your attention the listing of our event in *Electric Radio* thanks to the good efforts of Corresponding Secretary, Mike McCrow.

Finally, I might note that it's warming up and we can get outdoors and maybe get a better receiving antenna up. It works just like an extra stage of RF.

See you at the meeting, April 9.

E-mail Update!

by Rick Walton

Since I e-mailed the *Call Letter* last month, I've been working to make sure that I have current e-mail addresses for society members. Of the 110 addresses that I included in the Bcc for the mailing, 18 or 19 bounced. I've managed to fix about half of that number, but I still have non-working addresses for these members:

Joe Beseda

Bill Parks

Don Chamberlain

Harold Thoeny

Mel DeBoer

Myron White

Gordon Haugen

Don Hunker

Ed Montgomery

Please send (or e-mail) me your correct address so that I can include you in the e-mailing list for the *Call Letter* and, more importantly, so I can include the address in the new roster to be published later this month.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

“Radios unknown to the owner” was the March display theme. Here are the radios that members presented along with an “unknown” explanation.



Transoceanic Faceplates -
Myron White



Pierce-Simpson "Gladding"
Direction Finder -
Norm Trujillo



Crystal receiver - Belgian? -
George Kirkwood



German one-tube set -
George Kirkwood



Kilbourne & Clark chassis
in microscope case -
George Kirkwood



Abalone inlaid set -
John Bucholtz



New Zealand Zenith -
Dave Vrooman



Superola TRF - Bob Walters



Siemens - Jim Harper



Sportsman tweed portable -
John Cushing



Gilfillan? table set -
Alan Shaddock



American Leader Crystal Set - Kiduk Ki



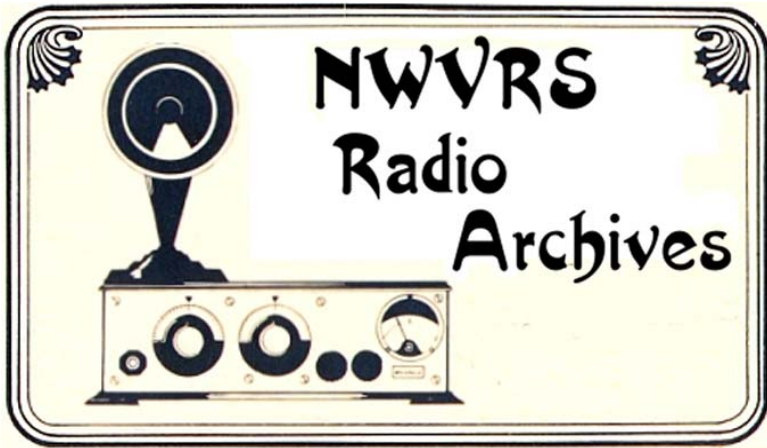
Long Bros. - unknown mfg. - Sony Clutter



Left - Steinite crystal set; Top right - Unknown crystal set; Bottom right - Crystal detector - Art Redman



13-tube General Electric console - Sid Saul



by Mark Moore, NWVRS Archivist



With assistance from Craig Adams, Heather Brunner of the Oregon Jewish Museum contacted me about helping put together an exhibit honoring Mel Blanc. Mel Blanc was the voice of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Woody Woodpecker, Barney Rubble and a host of other cartoon characters, but not too many people know that he got his start working in the early days of radio on the air at KGW and KEX.

Mel Blanc grew up in South Portland and after graduating from Lincoln High School, he began working at KGW on the Hoot Owls program in 1927. When The Oregonian, which owned KGW, bought KEX in 1933, Mel worked for both stations. In 1933, he began his own show on KEX called "Cobweb and Nuts". He stayed in Portland until 1935 when he moved to Los Angeles and became the most famous voice actor in American cinema.

You won't want to miss the exhibit at the Oregon Jewish Museum at 1553 NW Kearney Street in Portland which runs from May 22 through Sept. 11, 2011. Preliminary discussions have centered around a couple themes: a typical radio studio from 1925 to 1935 and a home interior showing a radio and several related items from the same period. They will need several microphones, a horn or two and a speaker, as well as a crystal set. I can help with most of the items, but I do not have a crystal set. They would like to borrow a KGW microphone from that era as well. Setup of the exhibit begins May 10. If you can help, let me know.



An Unusual Need

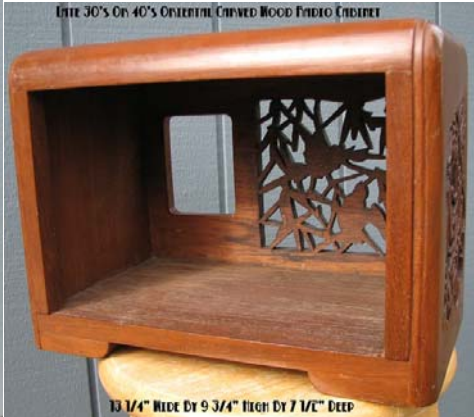
by Joe Faber

I am looking for a functioning chassis for a wood radio cabinet which I picked-up a few months ago. I have attached two photographs of the cabinet itself just in case. The dimensions of the cabinet are 13 1/4" wide across the front, by 9 3/4" tall, by 7 1/2" deep. It has been determined that this cabinet is probably a one-of-a-kind prototype that was too expensive to put into production due to the intricate hand-carved top, front, and sides.

I don't really care about the name brand of the chassis or whether it is an AA5 or not (although I would prefer an AA.5.) It should only have the single AM band, with two knobs (on/off and tuning). The dial should be square-ish and directly above the two knobs with the speaker to the left side. I am pretty certain that either a Philco or Emerson chassis would work, because, I will be reproducing my own dial scale.

Thank you,

Joseph Faber
173 Florentine Ave.
Florence, OR 97439
Home Email: rebaf5450@hotmail.com
Home Phone: 541-997-1601



Reforming Plastic Knobs

by David Rutland

Editor's note: This article first appeared in the July, 1993 Call Letter. David Rutland, who passed away in 2005, is author of Behind the Front Panel, a book about radios of the 1920's, and a former NWVRS president.

At the recent Show and Sale on May 8th, a friend of mine purchased an Airline Table Model 4465 at a fair price as a gift for his invalid father in Chicago. He was leaving for Chicago in about a week and wanted me to go through the set to make sure that all was in working order. One thing was readily apparent--the tuning knob would not move the tuning condenser.

So, I took it home, removed the knobs and chassis, and looked it over carefully. The cabinet was in very good condition and had been expertly refinished. The chassis electronics had also been attended to by a professional, and all of the three tuning bands were in working order. The only thing wrong was that the knobs all suffered from distortion and, in fact, two of the knobs were broken between the center hub and the set screw housing. One of them happened to be the tuning knob, and that was the reason for getting no action from the tuning condenser and pointer. Over the years, the pressure from the set screw against the shaft had caused the plastic to "flow" and two of the five knobs had actually distorted to the point where they had broken. The other three knobs were only elongated.

As the knobs were unique to the set and marked during the manufacturing process with wording appropriate to the control (Volume, Broad-Sharp, Tuning, etc.), I thought that the best thing to do was attempt to repair the originals, rather than try to find new or used replacement knobs. I was able to do so by the following method.

Thoroughly clean the inside of the knobs with dental picks, Q-tips and cleaner to remove all of the grime, dust and insect nests. Purchase a radiator hose clamp at the local auto supply house. Use a small one which adjusts from 5/8" to 1-1/4". Clamp it onto the broken knob such that the worm screw housing of the clamp is tangent to the set screw housing. (I found by trial and error that this caused the least distortion in the clamp when tightened on the knob.) Tighten the clamp just enough to exert pressure on the circumference of the knob. Position a 250 watt heat lamp approximately one foot above the clamp and knob. After the lamp has been on for about 10 minutes, you will detect some movement in the plastic. Gingerly tighten the clamp a little more and continue to monitor the plastic. After another five minutes, tighten the clamp again (just enough to let the plastic gently flow and reform.) Altogether, the process takes 30 minutes, and the knob will be as round as it was originally, with the broken ends together. Turn off the lamp and allow the plastic to cool. Keep the clamp on for at least an hour.

Remove the clamp. The plastic will have rehardened, and the knob will remain round. With a sharp instrument thoroughly scratch and rough-up the inside webbing of the knob, shaft housing and set screw housing. Next, mix up a supply of good quality epoxy and daub it carefully into the spaces between the webbing and the outer housing of the knob. Remove all of the air bubbles in the epoxy. Be sure that the epoxy flows densely around the break area. Wipe off any excess epoxy and set the knob aside to dry. When dry, the knob can be tightened on the shaft and should be stronger than originally.

Special Note! Two things I found out during a trial and error process: 1) be sure to leave the set screw in its housing so that the heating process does not deform the threaded hole; and, 2) put a short length of 1/4" shaft into the center hub during the heating and forming process. Failure to do so causes the webbing to push against the hub and produces a square hole in the center.

Thanks, Blake!

by Pat Kagi

Thank you to Blake Dietze of WRNO who has provided me with an HP desk top computer, complete with monitor, mouse and keyboard. This PC also has a backup hard drive and came pre-loaded with the Windows XP operating system and other software to make help make radio dials. This PC is to replace my old PC that died and was used to maintain the club's website.

New Caps & Shirts!

New caps and new shirts are available. Caps are \$10, and shirts are \$22 for M & L sizes, \$24 for XL. Contact Tony Hauser for more information.



Swap Shop

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: *Del Dixon's son, also named Del, will consider offers on the remaining radios in his dad's collection. Among these items are several very nice Zenith Royal and "R" 7000 transoceanics and a variety of other radios. Keep in mind that Del is not very knowledgeable about radios; he won't be able to respond to technical details or know if they work or not. It would be best to make an appointment to visit with him. Contact Del by phone: (503) 839-9020.

WANTED: **Vintage test equipment in need of repair. I am bargain hunting and learning repair/calibration. Let me know what you are looking to unload. Robert robertwstephens@frontier.com or 503-626-3036

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

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

Jack Doyle – (503) 305-8097

Pat Hickman – (503) 887-9015 Web: www.classictubeaudio.com
Email: phickman@comcast.net

Todd Ommert – (503) 246-4141 Web: www.burlingame-radio.com
Email: burltv@msn.com

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

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, 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>

The Back Page

A promotional ad from *Radio Broadcast*, December, 1922.



—“he’s just like his father;

whatever he undertakes he finishes well. So thorough and dependable for a boy!”

Alas! It is not always so. It is so hard to fix a boy’s interest on anything *worth while*. Radio has been the solution for many a boy. Starting as a pastime it has given him valuable training in applied science, and above all in **working to a purpose**.

As for pleasure! Nothing except his set begins to give a boy so much fun as his monthly copy of



After Christmas, when most gifts have gone their way, he will still be enjoying his year’s subscription to RADIO BROADCAST.

Fill out the coupon below, attach check, mail, and that’s that! The recipient will be notified with an attractive card.

This coupon saves you time; tear it off

RADIO BROADCAST R.B. 12-22
Doubleday, Page & Company
Garden City, New York

Send RADIO BROADCAST for one year beginning with Christmas number

To

Address

and announce it as a Christmas gift from me by sending a suitable card to arrive Christmas morning. Enclosed find \$3.00 (personal check or money order).

From

Address

Your age

of keen delight and burning imagination may be past. But don't you still remember with a glow of affection the man who didn't chase you out of his orchard, the old lady who each year subscribed to "Young Folks" for you?

The modern boy is more sophisticated in his pleasures, but his feelings are just the same. To make one boy happy and to live in his affections is a priceless privilege. Seize it now!

Use the coupon for convenience

Member Information

We will update the membership roster and publish it in April. Just in case we don't have your most current member information, please take the time to send the information requested on this form by April 15.

The roster includes members' photos. If we don't have your photo, we can take it at the April meeting, or you can include a head-and-shoulders photo of yourself. A digital photo attached to an e-mail is just fine.

Name*:

Mailing Address*:

City, State, ZIP*:

Ham Call Sign:

E-mail:**

I would like to be added to the Yahoo and/or Google e-mail list.

I want to receive the *Call Letter* via e-mail and/or postal mail.

Phone:

Collecting Interest (e.g. Battery sets, consoles, clock radios, etc.):

*Information we must have to mail you the *Call Letter*. The rest is optional, but we hope you'll share it with other club members.

**We need your e-mail address if you choose to receive the *Call Letter* via e-mail.

Mail this sheet (or something like it) to Rick Walton at the society's mailing address:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379

Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

or e-mail the information to rewalton46@gmail.com.