

The **Call**
Letter

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DECEMBER 1924 25 CENTS
Wireless Age *
The Radio Magazine



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
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On the cover: Our Christmas issue cover is from the December, 1924, issue of *Wireless Age*. The artist is Revere F. Wistehuff. He has created a puzzling image -- is the young lady pondering why this thing is so difficult to wrap? Or is she trying to figure out what this strange gift is?

The next meeting is December 10, 2011.

**Election of 2012 Officers &
Annual Holiday Party**

January Monthly Feature: Component Restoration

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

Next Call Letter deadline: January 5, 2012.

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

Here it is, my last time to opine in this space as your editor. I want you to know that it has been great. I've loved every minute of it because editing the *Call Letter* has allowed me to get to know more of you than I possibly could have any other way. I've learned an awful lot about our Society and our hobby, probably in ways I couldn't have in any other position. So thanks to each of you for allowing me this opportunity. Now I plan to spend a lot more time actually engaging in our hobby, actually restoring all – well, as many as I can – of the radios I've been collecting and storing away. I'm pleased now to turn this job over to Tony Hauser's capable hands. I trust that you will afford him the same patience and support that you have afforded me over the past fifteen years.

As I believe you are aware, we elect our officers for the coming year at the December meeting. This year we actually have some voting to do beyond the perfunctory approval of the slate of nominees before we proceed with our annual Holiday party. You should have received a party announcement, so you should know this is a semi-potluck affair. Past parties predict that we'll have a feast.

In this issue, Sid Saul recalls his attraction as a youth to Alfred Morgan's radio books. Mark Moore recounts the life of Bill Hayes, trolley and radio enthusiast. Art Redman describes the third and final Portland Radio Exposition of 1927. And Dave Wise restores a Philco radio that takes him back to his childhood. All in all, a fine showing of the talents of our members. Somehow it all fit!

Oh yeah, don't forget — it's time to turn in your annual dues and renew your membership. Merry Christmas, y'all!

from the Pres....

by Dick Bixler, NWVRS President

This is my last "OFFICIAL" communication as president and as such I would like to thank the many members who contributed to the growth and continuing excellence of our Society. I'm particularly delighted by the increased activity of some of our newer members and the renewed activity level of all the old timers like me. As a group, we enter 2012 stronger in numbers and continuing strong financially. Our Call Letter continues as a welcome and colorful addition and the increased acceptance of "on line" delivery saves us money and time. Special thanks for this excellence must go to our retiring Editor, Rick Walton, who has ushered us into the 21st century in fine and admirable style. A warm and grateful thanks to you Rick, from the entire membership.

Thanks to Brian Toon, our Sale/Show/Swap manger for making our twice a year events the successes that they are.

I'm saddened by the loss of four of our old and loyal members in the last 2 years.

I'm grateful most of all to the society's Board of Directors under whose guidance and counsel our group stands as foremost in the Pacific Northwest. I'll see you all at our Holiday function and every month, on the second Saturday.

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

President Dick Bixler called the November 12, 2011 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. He asked all veterans to stand, and members gave the veterans a round of applause. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the September meeting; they were approved as published in the October Call Letter. Cliff Tuttle did not attend today's meeting; but he reported that our Treasury has had no changes. Rob Rothengass attended today as a visitor; welcome Rob! Joe Naemura recently joined our Society; welcome Joe! There were 61 people at our meeting today.

Updates

Mike McCrow said that he got our Swap Meet listed in the Antique Radio Classified magazine.

Vice-President Tony Hauser will be our new Call Letter Editor.

Brian Toon said that he heard mixed reports about our Swap Meet. He is planning to re-arrange the top floor for our May Swap Meet. Almost all of the tables on the top floor are sold.

John Bucholtz told the group that the library is doing well.

Robbie Robinson will be our new Librarian starting in January.

Mark Moore told the group that he recently acquired some historical information. He got publications on trolleys, old radio, and other topics. He will donate a scrapbook to our Society; many thanks to Mark!

Dick thanked Rick Walton for his excellent work as our Call Letter Editor. Members gave Rick a round of applause.

Dick thanked Pat Kagi for his excellent work as our Society's webmaster. Members gave Pat a round of applause.

Dick thanked Rudy Zvarich and Jeff LaDoe for their excellent work on setting up tables and chairs for our meetings. Members gave Rudy and Jeff a round of applause.

Dick thanked Liles Garcia for being our Recording Secretary. Members gave Liles a round of applause.

Old Business

Facebook Discussion – The group voted to have a committee investigate using Facebook within our Society. Members on the committee are: Brian Snawder, Bruce Baur, Dick Karman, Pat Kagi, Mark Moore, and George Kirkwood. Bruce Baur agreed to be the committee's chairman.

New Business

Christmas Party – We will have our Christmas Party at our December meeting. Our Society will provide some main dishes and punch; everybody please bring a side dish of your choice.

Nomination Of Officers – Dick read the duties of the Society's officers from the Bylaws. The following members were nominated for officers for Year 2012:

President – Mark Moore, Sid Saul

Vice President – Charlie Kent, Mike McCrow, Brian Snawder

Treasurer – Cliff Tuttle

Corresponding Secretary – Jim Harper

Recording Secretary – open

We will have elections at our December meeting. Members gave Dick a round of applause for his excellent service as our President during the past two years.

Tech Talk

Sid Saul gave a video presentation about Doc Herrold who started regular radio transmissions in 1909 in San Jose, California. Doc Herrold's station is credited with being the “World's First Regular Broadcasting Station “. Many thanks to Sid for his interesting presentation!

Leads and Needs

Gordon Phillips has a lead on a 1929 Brandes radio.

Damon Vandehey has a lead on some tubes for sale.

Sonny clutter has a lead on an RCA console radio and a Philco console radio.

Mike McCrow needs a tube shield for a Philco 71 cathedral.

Sonny needs a manual for a Hickock 191X tube tester.

Alan Shattuck needs a 1D5G tube and a 1G5G tube.

Program Topic

The Program Topic for today is “Your Oldest Or First Restoration”. Five members showed and discussed the eight radios that they brought.

The program topic for January will be “Component Restoration”. This program topic includes radio parts that have been rebuilt and/or restored to be a working part. For the Program Topic display, the component may be in a radio.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

December 10 NWVRS monthly meeting and annual Holiday Party 10 am. Election of officers for 2012.

2012

- January 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 18** Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, Oregon at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com>. Flyer: <http://www.w7sra.com/flyer/Flyer%202012%20Final%20-%202011-10-18b.pdf> (588K) or a low resolution flyer (142K)
- March 10** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 10** Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. For information, contact dmdink@yahoo.com or n7wa@arrl.net. <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>. Flyer in PDF. (298K)
- March 31** MicroHAMS Digital Conference. Redmond, WA. <http://www.microhams.com/softcontent.aspx?scId=58>
- April 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 14** Yakima Hamfest. Yakima, Washington. Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st Street, Selah, WA. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. For information, contact Lindsay Kooser (509)965-6612 n7rhwa@arrl.net. <http://w7aq.org/>
- April 14** Communications Academy. Seattle, WA. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. <http://www.commacademy.org>
- April 20-22** Idaho State Convention. Boise, ID, Voice of Idaho ARC. ARRL sanctioned. Info, Lynn Rasmussen, W7RAZ, (208)550-7710, w7raz24@gmail.com. <http://www.ida-hostateconvention.com/>
- May 12** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- May 2012** 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/>

New Caps & Shirts!

New caps and new shirts are available. Caps are \$10, and shirts are \$22 for M & L sizes, \$24 for XL. If anyone needs a hat or polo shirt, and would like to pick the items up at the July meeting, they should contact Tony Hauser at 503-438-0297 or e-mail their request to abhauser@aol.com so Tony can arrange for someone to take the items to the meeting.



Roster Updates

Error correction (correct match of picture and name):



Weldon, Tom R
PO Box 933
Gresham, Or 97030
503 380 0082
Weldon255@comcast.net

Change of address:



Ewing, Robert R., Jr. R
28215 N. 165th St.
Scottsdale. AZ. 85262
503-349-8734
rrewing9@gmail.com

New member:

Peebles, Mike R
4416 N. E. 129th Ave
Vancouver, WA 98682
360-256-7616
peeblesoriginals@comcast.net
Interest: crystal sets

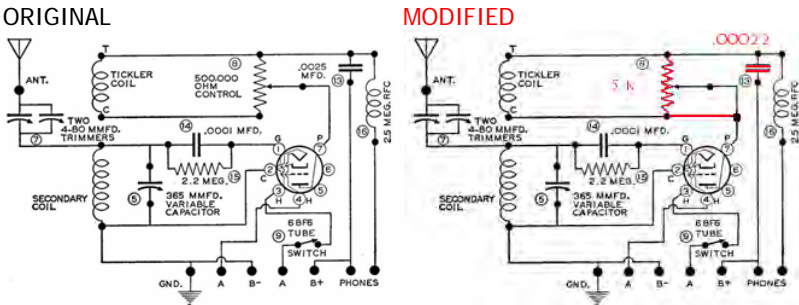
Alfred Morgan's 1-Tube Regenerative Control Mod

By Sid Saul

I was six years old in 1960, walking the twenty blocks each way to the neighborhood library. My sole thought – could I renew Alfred P Morgan's two books, *Boy's First* and *Second Books on Radio and Electronics*. His third and fourth books were not even published. Every page a masterpiece, at least to my eyes! Not that I understood anything of what I was looking at, just that there was something in those illustrations. I would put myself in place of the boys on the cover and dream.

Some fifty years have passed, yet I remember those Morgan books. My only wish is that I had someone explain theory to me at a tender age. My tender age today has another meaning altogether!

Not having a grasp for basic electronics until much later "if ever" has always been a handicap. As most of you can probably tell. I wonder how many others have become frustrated early on, dropping out of our ranks as radio enthusiasts. I have to look no further than the NWVRS membership to appreciate the talented mentorship and friends who have helped me along. For this I am ever grateful.



As you may know, there were rumors that Morgan's schematics had editing errors. One of which was his two-tube resistive-coupled amplifier omitting a resistor across its input. This must have discouraged many a builder on completion. In the above schematic, the infamous one-tube regenerative receiver, you will notice the RF choke labeled 2.5 MEG RFC, instead of 2.5 millihenry. Just to point out the editing error, and with no disrespect to the author. Please note the changes I have attempted in red. These were added to improve the regeneration control. The additional wire from the control to the plate prevents DC wiper noise in the original 500K potentiometer. This I replaced altogether with a 5K pot, and smaller capacitor to give finer control near the regeneration point. My copy of the book dated 1943 used a 30 detector tube. Then the 1H4, and finally the 6BF6 in later editions. I can only imagine why the changes. One guess, the supply of old tubes drying up? or maybe better performance. I would love to hear your adventures and ideas about this monumental classic. Maybe it's time we all revisit Morgan's inspirational books in search of our beginnings in radio. Thanks to Dick Bixler for graciously giving literature from his collection, and to Mike Peebles who kindly reviewed the schematics for this article.

Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

These are the radios exhibited as oldest or first restorations by members at the November meeting.



Dick Howard - RMC IP501A



Alan Shadduck - Philco 38-12C



George Kirkwood - Climax



George Kirkwood - Crosley



John Aiken - Angelus
(by Davison-Haynes)



Roger Brown - Philco PT 89



Bill Meloy - Unknown Cathedral



Bill Meloy - Troy 444

The 1927 Pacific NW Radio Expo

by Art Redman

The third annual Pacific Northwest Radio Exposition was held from September 14 to 18, 1927 at the old Portland Public Auditorium located at SW Third and Clay; the same site as the current civic auditorium, which dates from the 1960s. The shows sponsors were the Oregon Radio Trades Association headed by expo manager George Thompson, Jr., manager George L. Sammis and expo chairman Joseph Hallock. In all, there were more than 100 booths and exhibitors.

The main innovation in the collection achievements in the field of radio according to the Oregonian "is towards console models". This meant radios with built in speakers and adequate space for batteries or battery eliminators providing a complete electrification radio with loop aerial reception on the better models.

The six brands that got most publicity in the Oregonian were the Western Air Patrol Model VI, Atwater Kent Model 35, Fada Special Six console, Kolster Model 6-H with built in speaker, Stewart Warner Deluxe six-tube having single control, and the Grebe Syncrophase A-C Six.

The Howey Man hardware store displayed 5-, 6-, and 7-tube Erla radios. The Sherman-Clay Company hawked the Gilfillan Model 70 ac console, Radiola models 17, 32, 28, and the model 100-A speaker. The new Walker-Tolger radio store showed up displaying the new Infra Dyne and Kolster models. Meier and Frank showed the RCA models 16, 30A, and model 100A speaker. The Powers Furniture Company was there selling the Radiola 30A. Stewart Warner had the most models present including the table model 390, and console models 705, 520, 525, 710 and speakers models 420 and 425.

Separate booths were set up to market components like the Temple Drum speakers Models 65, 13, and 18 sold by the hardware firm Marshall Wells. Gem brand tubes were sold by the E.L. Knight Company "turning night into day"

which offered old battery tubes along with the all-new AC tubes. Eleven tube types were sold by the Pacific Electric Company.

Former manufacturer of radios Hallock and Watson marketed nostalgia as “Portland Radio Pioneers” as they tried to sell their surplus Halowat two-dial battery set “All Wave Five” along with Crosley radios. Their new marketing strategy was becoming authorized Fada dealers at their showroom at 190-192 Park Avenue (now the 900 block of SW Park Avenue and SW Salmon Street) selling Fadas, which sold from \$85 to \$420. The renamed Hallock and Watson Radio Service kept their downtown retail outlet open until 1931 as radio dealers while their repair service was moved in 1928 to 494 NE 12th Avenue. They retained their famous trademark until 1931 and used it in their repair business becoming the Halowat Radio Service.

The other Portland radio company at the expo was the Superior Radio Mfg. Company located at 5427 SE 72nd Avenue. Superior Radio, headed by W.J. Smith and E.C. Pierson, made Model 5, a five-tube trf receiver in early 1926. The company listed themselves as manufacturers at the expo and the installers of Fada radios. The firm went out of business in 1929.

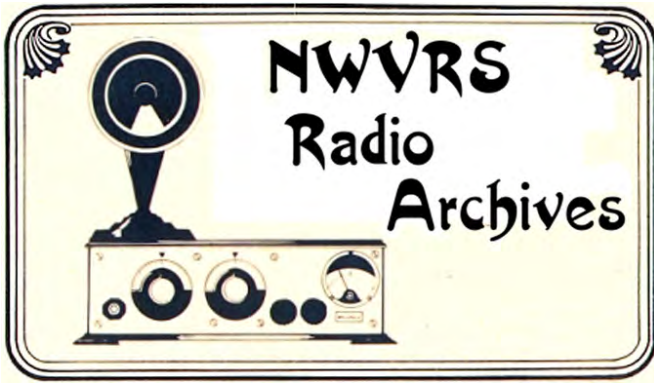


The Atwater Kent Orchestra and local Hoot Owls provided live music for on site broadcasting along with blues and vaudeville singers on stations KFJR, KGW, KOIN, and KTBR. There were multiple showings of the movie “Stars of Radioland” featuring Maurice Gunksky depicting scenes from a radio studio in a dramatic setting. In addition, there was a complete amateur radio station, which relayed expo patron’s messages around the world free of charge courtesy of the Oregon Technical Institute. Another main attraction was the driver less “phantom car” which was controlled by radio-operated relays from a control car that drove several feet ahead of the Chrysler phantom. Outside and above the auditorium there was a stunt airplane demonstration.

The exposition ended on September 18th with a double radio wedding with Joseph Hallock escorting one the brides down the aisle. The Oregonian called it “the most successful of the radio industry ever staged in the Pacific Northwest”.

No radio exposition was held in 1928 or any year there after in Portland. The newspapers never stated why a Fourth Annual Expo would not be held. Possibly, radio became just another household appliance not warranting a separate expo with the advent of the plug in ac console with built in speaker requiring no aerial or ground.

If a 1928 Portland expo were held, it would stress all ac sets and the new screen grid tube and circuits. The best selling radio in 1928 was the Grigsby-Grunow Majestic brand, priced at \$128. These were radios with an electrodynamic speaker, which, according to radio historian Alan Douglas, “could blow them off the salesroom floor!” The radio editor of the Oregonian noticed this popular trend towards consoles and built-in speakers the year before at the 1927 Portland Expo, a trend that continued until the Great Depression when lower cost midget sets became by economic necessity the best sellers in 1930.



by Mark Moore, NWVRS Archivist

Some of you may have known Bill Hayes, who spent his life in the radio repair business in Portland. Though he was not a member of the NWVRS, he was a member of *Marconi's Cronies*, a loosely organized group of Portland radio pioneers who met monthly for lunch. Bill passed away in 2004 and in his basement he had amassed a treasure trove which had grown to include thousands of reel-to-reel tape recordings, 78 rpm records, and films on videotape, as well as many old radios, phonographs and trolley artifacts.

Bill's only son died not long after his father, so it was left to Bill's grandchildren to deal with his basement archive which was wallpapered with old photographs, sheet music and period signs. The archive held bookshelves that groaned with scores of scrapbook-style 3-ring binders in which he kept radio, automobile, theater, film and railroad memorabilia. With help from a friend of Bill's who died before anything was moved, I pursued part of this collection, but because I did not know Bill's granddaughter, I was one of the last to get a significant piece of the collection, his radio archive material. At the last meeting of the NWVRS, I donated Bill's scrapbook collection of radio related newspaper clippings and advertisements to the Archives that I recently purchased from Bill's granddaughter.



William Hayes was born in Galveston, Texas in 1913. His family moved around a lot, going to New Orleans, Chicago, San Francisco and New York. His parents divorced when he was 6 and he and his mother came to Portland in 1923 to live with relatives. Riding to school and getting around town on Portland's streetcars, Bill's lifelong love of trolleys began as he rode from one end of town to another and got to know the operators who even let him operate the cars at times. He also delivered newspapers and after graduating from 8th grade at Richmond School, they moved back to New York in 1926 to stay with more relatives.

For a budding transportation buff, he thought he had died and gone to heaven when he saw every imaginable type of transportation in 1920s New York City. He rode the trolleys and subways to the studios and watched live radio

broadcasts. Bill loved movies and he visited many movie theaters in his youth. The talkies didn't start until the late 1920s and Bill was able to see the first Vitaphone sound films.

There was always tension between his mom and her siblings that she lived with, so they never stayed in one place very long. Bill got his mother's permission to drop out of school so he could get a job to earn enough money for them to buy train tickets to return to Portland. He took a job with the Radio Salvage Corporation where he delivered radios via taxicab. Sometimes he would have to pack a huge console radio into the side compartment that taxis were equipped with in those days.

In 1930, they moved back to Portland where he would make his home base. He began working for the local distributor of General Motors house radios. With the worsening of the Great Depression, he had a hard time keeping employed after frequent layoffs. After hearing of a job with a steamship line, he made his way to San Francisco, but couldn't afford to buy the required uniform. He looked for enough work in Northern California to make his way back to Portland where he survived the Depression with various jobs.

As the 1930s wore on, Bill got a job selling radios door-to-door. He worked out of the back of the Walnut Park Hardware in North Portland. During these years he also found work repairing automobile radios at a gas station on Powell Boulevard. By the late 1930s Bill was finally a small businessman. He and partner Buss Stubblefield went into the radio business for themselves. They operated the Portland Radio Clinic out of a storefront near NW 23rd Avenue selling refurbished radios that had been exchanged for new ones at Meier & Frank. They bought these radios by the truckload, making clandestine deals with M&F employees who stuck good quality table radios inside old consoles so that they would end up with something saleable. Bill bought Art's Radio and Electric in 1953 and, for a time operated two businesses.

Bill's love of entertainment, combined with his avocation, resulted in many nights spent with several drinking buddies in the broadcasting world. One night he was hoisting a few down at station KWJJ on Oaks Park and the DJ allowed him to read a commercial over the air. It was fun, until the irate station manager called and demanded to know who it was. It seems Bill had let slip an inappropriate word or two.

In the 1960s, Bill went into a new venture, forming a partnership with a friend's widow (Mrs. Kellogg) to manage the Acme Sound Company. Acme set up public address and sound systems in auditoriums, churches and stadiums. Bill told many stories about his days with Acme Sound, setting up for various celebrities. Gene Autry angered Bill when he assumed he was a stagehand and swore at him when he declined to do some menial task. Bill thought Elvis Presley had made off with an expensive microphone, but Elvis had dropped it beneath a portable stage at Civic Stadium while making a quick get-away from the crowds.

Bill "retired" for the first time in 1963, going into yet another partnership, this time with Charlie Norris, to run a second hand and antiques store at 80th and NE Glisan called *The Traders*. In the 1977 Bill joined the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society where he and our own Rudy Zvarich showed 16mm traffic control films featuring Portland trolleys and autos of the 1930s. Bill passed away just three months shy of reaching 92 years of age on October 25, 2004.

Play it again, Sam!

by Dave Wise

Philco 48-461

November 2011 — I got this radio a few years ago, and it's been on the shelf since. This is one of the models that got me started in vintage radio. My parents had one of these when I was a boy of nine. It stopped working, and I industriously set out to fix it. Since I knew nothing of electronics, I quickly became snarled, and in a moment of despair, I took the poor thing apart. Nowadays, I could have made quick work of it, but that set is long gone. But I can at least fix one of the same model.

The 48-461 looks identical to the 46-421, but it's a completely different radio inside. The tube lineup is 14AF7, 7B7, 7B7, 7C6, 50A5, 35Y4. This is an unusual AA6, with two IF amplifier stages but only two IF transformers - the two 7B7's are resistance-coupled - and a dual-triode converter instead of the usual pentagrid tube. One triode is the oscillator, the other the mixer. The oscillator output is injected from the oscillator's cathode to the mixer's cathode. Partial AGC is applied to the mixer grid, giving extra control. The oscillator arrangement might throw you if you aren't observant; the usual grid resistor and capacitor go to ground. How on earth does it develop bias? Same as usual, except the cathode is the electrode swinging up and down instead of the grid.



The set has a standard slide-rule dial, with an illuminated white backdrop. It squeaked. I've only heard this once before - on my parents' 48-461. Must be genetic. I cured it with a tiny bit of lithium grease, applied to the "axles" on the end of a toothpick. The pointer also went backwards, but it was a simple matter to re-string it right-way-around. It's a nice lighted dial but not spectacular like the 46-420 or 51-932.

Then I discovered that two people worked on this radio before me, and one was a nine-year-old. The other guy replaced the electrolytic filter caps, wiring them in without benefit of terminals and wrapping the result in electrician's tape. He did not replace any of the paper caps, including the must-do coupling cap between first audio and output. I did them, but first the nine-year-old.

He attempted to remove the chassis without noticing the loop antenna connections, and ripped out part of the antenna. In an effort to recover from this gaffe, he inexpertly twisted what was left of the wire ends around all visible terminals. He did not scrape off the insulation. Then, for good measure, he added a foot of picture-hanger wire, and twisted it around everything too. Finally he glopped on a foot of electrician's tape. There! Good as new, nobody will notice. I can almost see him wiping sweat off his brow in relief. I sympathise.

Straightening this out got the set working well enough to start aligning it, but after a few minutes the sound became distorted. I'm embarrassed to say that it

took me half an hour to check the output tube bias. After all, I'd put in a new cap. The grid was about 10V positive! Double-checking the cap proved it was okay, so I replaced the tube. Same thing. I put in a second spare. Same thing. My last spare worked. That's a total of three bad 50A5's. Hating to go from three spares to none, I tried to rehabilitate them. I forcibly grounded the grid (through a microammeter) so the tube couldn't run away, and waited. A half-hour later the current had fallen from a hundred microamps to tens of microamps, but that is still way too much. I concluded that this tube was beyond help. The other spare was about the same.

This made me curious about my 50L6 spares. The 50L6 and 50A5 are supposed to be the same tube, just a different base. Out of a dozen spares, I discovered several that would have run away in a radio. However, most of these were acceptable after a few hours of grounded operation. I don't know why, but the 50L6 seems less susceptible than the 50A5. I've never had a 35L6 run away; with less power heating the cathode, I figure the control grid runs cooler.

I learned that testing for grid current is a slow process. It doesn't show up on a tester until the tube has been hot for at least five minutes. I tested one of the bad tubes on my Hickok 600A, which has a "gas" test that shows any kind of grid current, by adding resistance in the grid circuit. The Hickok is just sensitive enough to catch this problem, if you do it right. I found that the manual's gas procedure is not optimal. To get the best reading, turn English to 0, and set Bias so the meter is around 2500 on the 3000 scale when Gas 1 is pressed. Watch the pointer when you add Gas 2. If it moves, the tube is suspect. If it moves 500 points, the tube is unusable. Remember to let the tube "cook" for at least five minutes first; it only shows trouble when it's thoroughly hot.

The Sencore MU-150 "Continental II" is too sensitive. It rejects several 50L6's that have a small-but-acceptable grid current and run fine for days in another radio. The optimistic view of this is that a "good" tube is really good.

Back to alignment. It turned out that the loop antenna tracked okay as-is, so the kid only pulled out the several turns of "primary" that is used with an external antenna. Not all 48-461's have this. My parents' set was from the first production run, called "code 121". It uses a conventional antenna transformer, with the secondary in series with the loop. When you hook an external wire to the primary, the resulting voltage is coupled to the mixer. Later, they realized that they could do away with the separate transformer by winding a few extra turns next to the loop, turning the loop itself into a transformer. They called this "code 122" and that's my set.



Whoever designed the 48-461 dial was a bit dim. The upper-end spacing is consistent until you get to 1600, which is spaced disproportionately to the right compared to, say, the 1400-1500 gap, because it coincides with the minimum-capacitance point of the tuning cap. This makes it a touchy adjustment and one not likely to hold well. They should have used a bit less inductance in the antenna and oscillator coils, and meshed the cap a little more. If you have a 48-461 or -460 (same radio with brown trim around the dial and speaker), I'd like to compare it with mine.

So forty-three years later, I finally fixed *my parents'* radio. It feels good.

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

WANTED: *I am searching for the “cat-whisker” part of a Westinghouse crystal detector as used in the DB Detector or the Aeriola Jr. Crystal set.
Thanks in advance.
Dick Howard, 9999 S. E. French Acres Drive, Portland 503-775-6697

WANTED: *I need one wooden, band-change knob for a Zenith model 635. Dick Bixler 503-690-2557

WANTED: **One Heathkit W-5M amp with a Peerless 16309 output transformer. Transformer needs to be functional, but amp does not have to work. Or, if you have just a working Peerless 16309 output transformer, I would be interested in buying that. Let me know item condition and your asking price. Also, let me know if you would be interested in doing a trade -- your Heathkit item for a couple of my old radios and/or some tubes. Contact me via email (blueshound7189@comcast.net) or phone (541-747-2477 --> please leave msg). Thank you! -- Phil Rickel of Springfield OR

WANTED: **like to fill some gaps in my collection:
Antique Radio Classified 1986-1987, 2008 & newer
Mid Atlantic prior to 1987
Old Timers Bulletin (AWA) prior to 1970
QST prior to 1920
Radio Design (any)
Dick Howard (503) 775-6697

WANTED: **Working Speaker or field coil or chassis for an Edison 7R Console or an Edison 8P Power supply (circa 1930 9 tube console radio with sliding doors and separate power supply) or something close or what parts you might have...Thanks 73 de Bruce Russell call collect 403-627-4764 or email russellradio@jrtwave.com

WANTED: **Joseph Faber is looking for a good chassis for a ca. 1933 Emerson Radio, Model 250. Original knobs would also be nice. Call 541-997-1601.

FOR SALE: *I have this wonderful 1940s Zenith 12S471 console radio for sale. It has been electronically restored and is in excellent working condition. The cabinet is sound and is in very nice original condition, with no veneer damage or broken parts. However, it does have some scratches and bumps around the base and areas on top where the finish shows roughness due to potted plants, but not bad? I'm asking \$1,000.00 cash or as close to that amount as possible. The radio is located, for pick up, in So. Seattle Wa. My phone number is 206-244-6428 or you can e-mail me at radiosbergie@q.com if your interested. I have over 600 radios in my collection, who knows, I might have something else that interests you, if not this great old Zenith?



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>

NEED: Cabinet for my slant front HALOWAT All wave 5. Panel 7inches high X 21" long. The panel height is the one that I must match...the 21"length can be worked out by fancy extensions on each end if needed and the panel must slant back, the usual amount. Dick Bixler 503-690-2557.

NEED: I'm looking for some knobs for a Crosley model 175. Thank you, Robbie Robinson.

LEAD: I have a "Majestic", Grigsby-Grunow Co., Model 90-B, Serial #9B-627575 that I'm trying to find a good home for. I cut the electrical cord on it years ago as it was pretty frayed. It has a complete set of new replacement tubes. Contact John Ekberg, Corbett, Oregon. Phone is 503-695-5547 and the e-mail is friedafolks@yahoo.com.

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.

Officer's Roles

The President

The President shall preside at all regular and special meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President shall set the time and the place of Board of Directors' Meetings. The President has the power to appoint members of committees as appropriate to enhance the activities of the society.

The Vice President

The Vice President shall be responsible for planning and arranging technical and entertaining activities associated with the society's meetings. He serves as chairman of the program committee if such a committee is appointed. He acts as presiding officer at meetings if the President is unavailable.

The Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting.

The Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for all of the society's networking and correspondence tasks.

The Treasurer

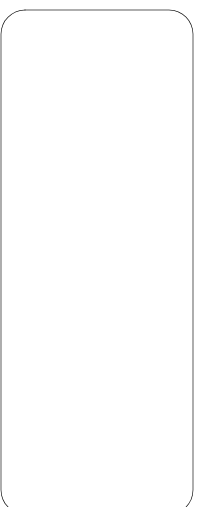
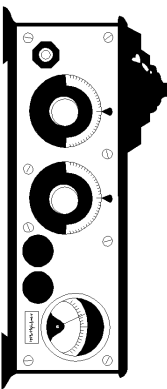
The Treasurer shall be accountable for all funds received and disbursed by the society and shall report all monetary transactions and treasury balance at each regular meeting of the society. The Treasurer shall prepare a list of members in good standing for distribution at the next regular meeting following the annual meeting of the society.

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the current elected officers of the society plus the immediate past president of the society. The Board of Directors shall direct the care and expenditure of the funds of the society. The Board shall determine a suitable time and place for regular society business meetings.



NW Vintage Radio Society
P.O. Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



FIRST CLASS MAIL