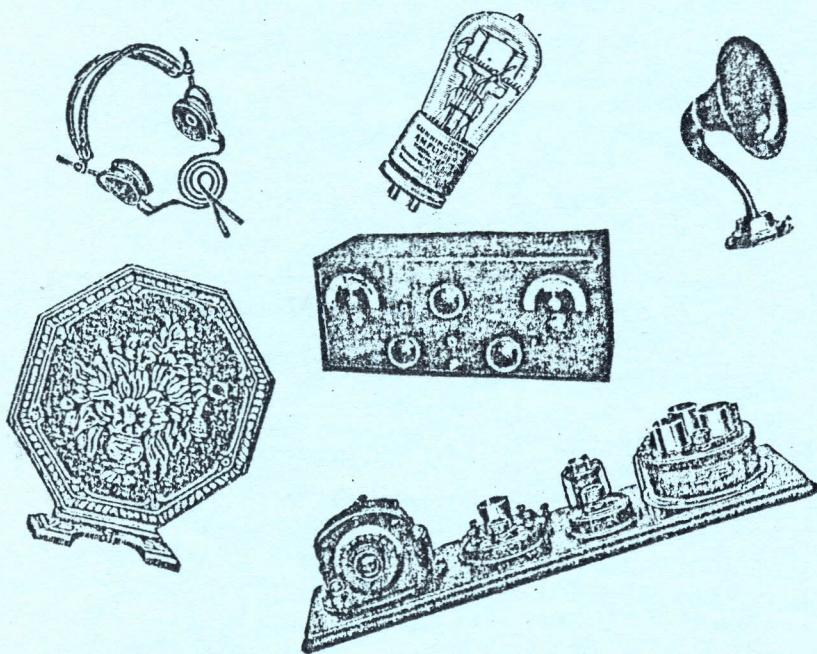


Vol. 5  
No. 11



Nov.  
1979

# CALL LETTERS



*At this month's meet at Oregon City we will not have the usual gab-fest feature after the business session but will instead have the Fall Swap-Meet. This should take care of all the excess "gab" left, or at least furnish some amusement to all.*



Our recent 9 day show at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry was a success from the standpoint of layout and "viewability". The 3' x 5' cases with locks and internal lighting, were the display sites for all the old table radios and speakers, with old vintage radio parts accenting the layouts. One complete case was the display of Don Iverson's vintage tubes, a worthy collection; another case devoted to old short wave sets of early design. Dick Howard set up his old time police gear in one case as did Frank Plaisted with his specialty collection of Hallicrafter receivers. Strangely, most of the viewing public stopped most often in front of the two or three Cathedrals that were displayed. Of course these were not the "old timers" of radio who were attracted to these Caths, but mostly the middle aged crowd. And the kids---- well if they showed any interest at all, it was usually a console with a husky looking speaker.

The efforts of those few who "baby-sat" the display is appreciated by the membership, and to those who brought sets and other related vintage items to the display, we thank you much.

## CALL LETTER

The Call Letter is a monthly publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, a non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of Oregon. Meetings of the Society are held on the second Saturday of each month, normally, at the Buena Vista clubhouse located at 16th and Jackson Streets, Oregon City, Oregon. Meetings convene at 10 o'clock A.M.

Editor-in-Chief..... Tom James  
Feature articles by members are indicated under various by-lines

Advertising Mgr.

Bob Hay

Ad inquiries addressed to 5225 S.E. Brookside Drive, Portland, Or. 97206. Phone 659-8566

Call letter address: P.O. box # 02379 Portland Or., 97202. Phone 235-0581



# OUR PEOPLE

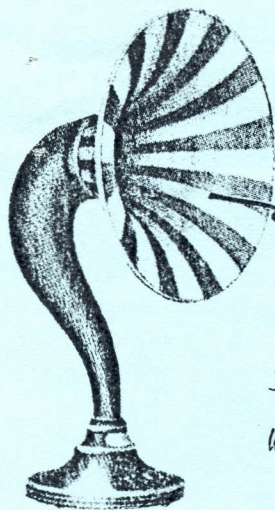
by Hugh Ranken

The big event coming for November is the fall Swap Meet. We urge all who have spare parts, extra tubes, radio magazines or related literature (or even some nice cathedrals, tombstones or consoles) to bring them out. The time - November 10th, right after the regular meeting, at the clubhouse. It was agreed at the October meeting that a donation to the club of \$2.00 for each participating seller would be in order. The ladies have agreed to provide a tasty lunch, as they have in the past.

The OMSI display was a huge success, thanks to all who participated and to those who put in a lot of extra hours while the display was in progress. It seemed at first that the display might be rather sparse but when it was all together there were, I think, 17 display cases filled with old equipment, 2 grandfather clocks, a grandmother clock and a number of nifty consoles. Jim Mason's handsome occasional table with A-K radio was greatly admired by the visitors.

I was looking at a copy of Science & Invention Magazine for 1922 which contained the broadcast schedules for a number of Western stations. In this day of around the clock broadcasting it was amazing how little time most stations were on the air. KGW, which seemed to have a more consistent schedule than most, was on four to five hours daily, mostly afternoons and early evening. None seemed to run beyond 10 P.M.. Some of the long ago stations were KGG (Hallock & Watson), KGN (Northwestern Radio Mfg.) and KDYQ (Oregon Institute of Technology).

Remember - a piece or two of wood to help combat the chill in the old clubhouse at this time of year will be appreciated.



# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

*Cogitation on old sets*

*Suppose you took your Vintage sets  
And stepped back into time---  
Would they perform as well  
As when these sets were prime?*

*If you played your early Jada,  
With those already there---  
Do you really, truly, think  
That yours could quite compare?*

*Well, I've got news for you,  
You smug minded vintage cat;  
There's only one in dozens now,  
Could come even close to that.*

*Time and light and atmosphere,  
Have all been preying on  
The vitals of these Vintage sets,  
'Til some are nearly gone.*

*There is one consolation  
For you bunch of braggarts tho;  
The progress on a time machine  
Is going mighty slow!*

\*\* \*\* \* \*\* \*\*

## *The Disco Kid*

*Come look at Junior, mama said---  
He's teething on the platters,  
Chewed the Dickens from Little Jimmy,  
Now he's gumming up the "Hatters".*

*As she takes in this record feast,  
It's not her choice to care---  
It's always best, she's heard it said,  
To keep music in the heir!*



# POWER SUPPLY

REMEMBER THE SWAP MEET! Plan now for the fall Swap meet to be held after the November 10th meeting. The Ladies Auxiliary will be serving lunch for you hungry swappers and buyers. Coffee and pastry will be available as usual before the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

The next meeting of the Buena Vista Club will be Tuesday, November 20th at the clubhouse. The October meeting was a luncheon meeting at North's Chuck Wagon with all but four members present. Dorothy James brought along a guest, we hope she will become a member.

\* \* \* \* \*

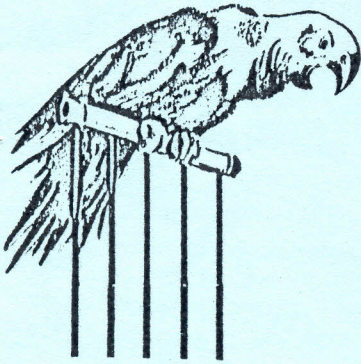
Here is a recipe for sweet potatoes that would be a good addition to the Thanksgiving dinner menu.

## DELICIOUS, MERINGUED SWEET POTATOES

Select medium size, well shaped sweet potatoes and scrub well. Bake 35 minutes in a hot oven. Cut in half lengthwise, scoop out pulp with teaspoon. Mash light with a little cream, butter, pepper, a little salt and the beaten yolk of an egg. Pile lightly back in shells of the sweet potatoes and cover each with a little of the egg white, beaten stiff with  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon of powdered sugar. Set in oven to get very hot and to lightly brown the meringue. This makes a very effective holiday vegetable dish.

*by Virginia R.*





# EDITORIAL

*Do the old auto buffs make do with the fabric tires supplied with their cars when new? Do they use the old Splitdorf plugs for ignition? Do they tolerate the rotting leather upholstery, or flapping tears of the old cloth tops? Is it possible that they leave the*

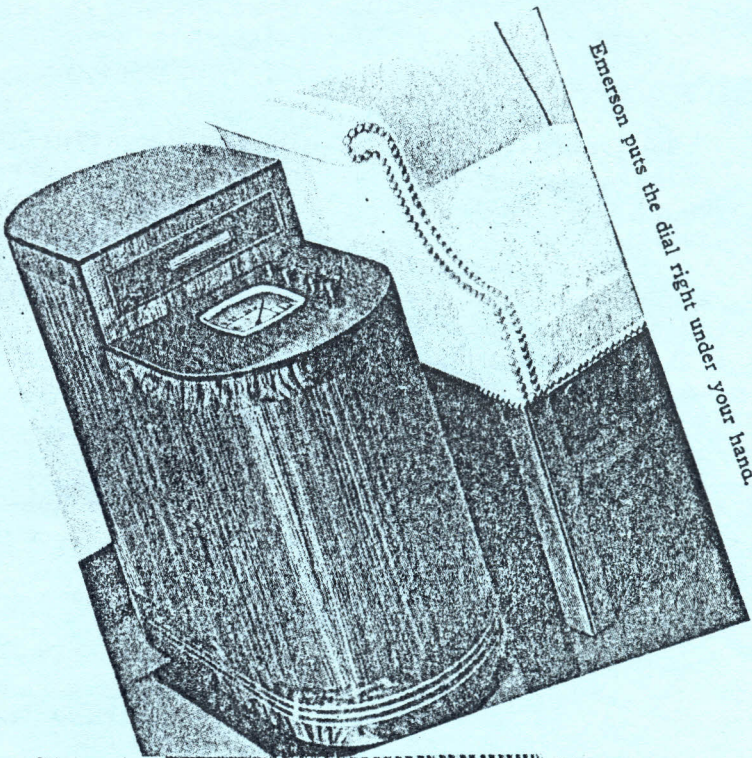
*old autos in the garage because there are no axles available made by the original manufacturer, or is it more to the point that they avail themselves of the products of a number of shops and factories catering to replacement vintage auto parts? What about the paint? Does the addition of substitute parts make the old Maxwell or Mercer any less desirable? As a matter of fact, many of the old time cars are a product of extensive restoration performed by professional shops. Now we pose the question: how far do you go with restoration before the item restored becomes an authentic copy of the original?*

*By the same token then what is the criterion for the restoration of the old radios? Do we leave the old finish on the cabinets, burned out tubes, defective capacitors, sour tuning mechanisms, crumbling insulation on wires, etc., etc., or do we take a carcass of an old radio and restore it to it's original likeness using modern parts, material, either new or used?*

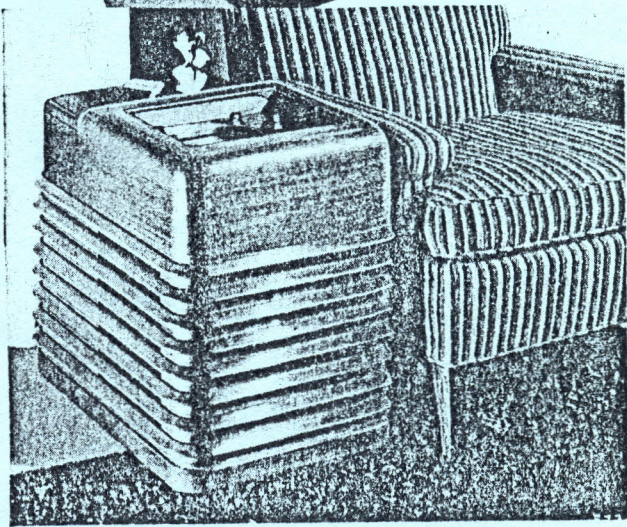
*Are we mainly interested in "working models" or Dummies, or both? I know for a fact that about 30% of the old horn and cone speakers are defective, as nearly the same percentage of old battery radios seem to be. It's true a hunk of pot metal molded in some odd shape or rubber shock mount can't be readily found, however a bit of Yankee ingenuity can usually make a substitute out of existing materials--i. e. if you can live with yourself for making a substitute, or non-standard item in an otherwise mint receiver!*

*I, for one, wouldn't care to put a transistor receiver in an old Bremer-Jully cabinet, and expect plaudits!*





Emerson puts the dial right under your hand. 1935



Zenith's streamlined idea of listening ease. 1935

Has anyone picked up a good  
"Chairside" lately? D.



## A PURPOSE OUT OF NOSTALGIA

Webster defines nostalgia as "A wistful or excessively sentimental yearning for return to or of some past period or irrecoverable condition." We are living in an era of nostalgia. It is the real reason for our club's existence. Some condemn nostalgia because you can't really bring back the good old days. They really weren't all that good anyway. Who would want the days before modern medical techniques and anesthetics? Does anybody really wish that we didn't have electricity or the internal combustion engine or a hundred other things brought about by these modern miracles? I don't think so. Today's nostalgia craze is mostly a desire to bring back the best parts of the "maybe not so good old days". My point here is to comment on some of these best parts.

Not all of the radio programming of the good old days was absolutely outstanding but, in my opinion, much of it was - outstanding that is.

As I write this I'm listening to John Sallsbury's "Memories From The Magic Box" on KXL. It sounds especially nostalgic coming over my 1937 G.E. table radio or my Atwater Kent console. Do any others of you have as deep a fondness for radio programming the way it used to be as I do? Something keeps telling me that we could be instrumental as an organization in influencing the return of wholesome humor and mystery to the air waves (RADIO that is!!!). If any of you have ideas about what might be effective in this matter, please let them be known. I have been surprised at the number of friends and acquaintances of mine who share this interest in bringing back the old time type of radio programming. By this I mean not only to limit programming to reruns of the old programs (although many of those are classics which could not be duplicated today) but to stimulate anew the elements of suspense, mystery, comedy, education and - if you will



forgive me - good music. It wouldn't bother me at all to see the era of the disk jockey and telephone talk show come to an end. The estate of radio, like all of our national resources, is far too valuable and full of potential not to be more effectively used than (in my opinion) it presently is. Please, let me have your ideas on this matter. If you feel as strongly about this matter of radio programming as I do, we ought to be able to do something about it.

B. De Vey

### JUS' CHEWIN' THE FAT

The other day I gave Ed Buhite a call. I hadn't met Ed before. We had a good chat that lasted the better part of two hours. The better part of that time Ed filled me in on much of the history of various radio stations in the Portland area.

Ed has had five old radios since he was about ten years old. Three years ago or so he wandered out thinking it might be nice to add a few more radios to his collection and soon got the message that old radios are a collectors item. About that time he also found out about our club and became a member.

Ed has in his collection a number of cathedrals including two A.K.s and a Philco 90, several tombstones and two clock radios. One of these is a Crosley which he had at O.M.S.I. last month and the other is a Philco.

Ed's preference in brands is for Crosleys, Grebes and Brunswicks although Ed is well aware that cost can be an effective barrier to attaining these favorites. He is especially looking for Crosley battery sets and a Magnavox horn speaker.

Ed was very apologetic about the relatively small size of his collection. He didn't feel that I should be writing about his collection when there are others with much more elegant collections. I told Ed that the size or elegance of collection is not the focus of this writing or a prerequisite to being an effective member of the N.W.V.R.S.

B. De Vey



Notes and dissertations from Salem---

Many collectors feel that they can't be bothered with console radios, but from the prices that I saw at the auction this past week, they seem to be in demand. One fetched a couple of hundred clams, the other two topped at \$75.00. I'm positive that none were in playing order at all. Maybe we should revise our thinking of these "grand old ladies" who graced nearly every living room in the country from the late 1920s to the 1940s or so. What do I offer for old consoles----rarely over \$40.00. This from a practical standpoint.

In reading thru a book by Lowell Thomas, called *Magic Dials*, I was much taken by it, for it is an exceptional piece of work. Every collector should have it on his shelf, for most of us remember Thomas as a great newscaster and reporter for NBC. The book was printed in 1939 and is full of pictures and laughs. Following are a few of his interesting remarks:

"A good announcer never uses hifalutin words".  
His comments on copyrights which all radio stations had to be so careful in checking before airing music or printed material. The song "Happy Birthday" was copyrighted by some mid-west schoolteachers and led to many hefty law-suits. In another amusing incident regarding a song copyright, the old song *Schnitzelbank* had to be cleared by the widow of the author by phone before being used for broadcast.

Your friend in Salem,  
Joey

\*\* \*\* \* \* \* \* \*

Lucy Wyre said that the reason Mr. Hanks could pick up those distant stations better than she could, was because his Bremer Tully had binocular coils!

\*\* \*\* \* \* \* \* \*

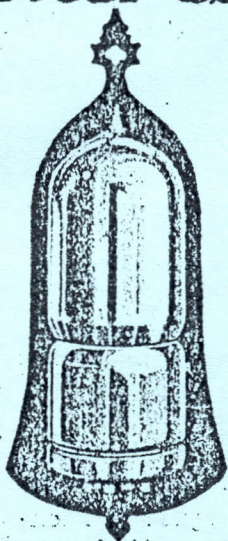
I just heard a commercial on the radio, offering a 1935 Ford five window coupe for \$925.00. Immediately my ears pricked up, but then I remembered, it's a 1935 Zenith, so of course the offer was dated!



# Clear as a Silver Bell

O-T SILVERTONE TUBES

(Registered)



The O-T is the only genuine Silvertone Tube.  
Fully guaranteed.  
Beware of imitations.

**In your radio set assure—**

sharp, clear, mellow tones—  
music with its delightful and thrilling modulations—  
speeches without distortion, audible down to a whisper—  
and all the other joys of Radio at their best

### Three Models

- O. T. 1A—2 to 4 volts,  
Battery Draw .15 amps. Price, \$6.00
- O. T. 9—2 to 4 volts,  
Battery Draw .06 amps. Price, \$6.50
- O. T. Power Tube—5 volts,  
Battery Draw .25 to .35 amps. Price, \$7.50

At your dealer or direct by mail.  
Write for complete literature.

Manufactured by DeForest Tel. & Tel. Co.

Exclusively for the

**O. & T. Electric Corporation**  
1819 Broadway, New York  
High class representatives wanted.

## The MU-RAD AUDIPHONE

**WITH** one daring stroke of genius, the MU-RAD AUDIPHONE transcends all previous conceptions of radio sound amplification. Modelled upon the principles of the human vocal organ. The super-sensitive mica diaphragm is actuated by an armature which expands and contracts just like the larynx in the throat. Hence, the MU-RAD AUDIPHONE responds in perfect harmony to all voice and music vibration ranges. Extremely fine, easily operated, exterior adjustment of diaphragm eliminates distortion.

No Extra Battery Connections—PRICE **\$25**

WRITE FOR BOOKLET AND NAME OF THE NEAREST MU-RAD DEALER!

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## The Tube's the Thing!

Get Radio Reception Without Noise

# MYERS RADIO VACUUM TUBES

PRACTICALLY UNBREAKABLE

Concerts, Speeches, stories—hear them without noise or tube hiss with Myers Tubes. They give much greater amplification, are perfect Detectors and Oscillators. They add 50 per cent to the efficiency of your set.

TWO TYPES. Myers Dry Battery Tube  $2\frac{1}{2}$  Vplts— $\frac{1}{4}$  Ampere Myers Universal operates on either 3 Dry Cells or storage batteries. Ready for mounting. No sockets or extra equipment needed. See that you get the New Improved Myers Tubes. You will know them by the Silver Coating. Others are not guaranteed.

\$ 5<sup>00</sup>  
Each

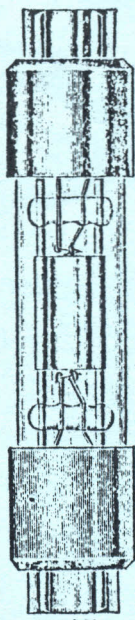
At Your Dealer, otherwise send purchase price and you will be supplied Postpaid.

# F. B. Myers Co. Ltd.

Radio Vacuum Tubes

240 Craig Street W.,

Montreal, Canada



Actual Size

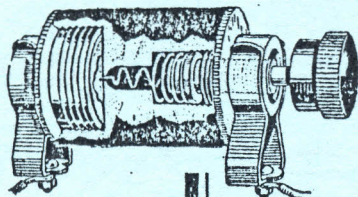
## Unbroken Reception

WITH a crystal detector, perfect reception is possible only when there is perfect control of tension on crystal. The DE-TEC-TONE gives you this—and more. It gives you a range of volume not possible with the ordinary detector.

The secret lies in the full micrometer adjustment that stays put with each adjustment. No jar can change it. Insures finer tuning, greater distance, unbroken reception.

Mounts in clips like a cartridge fuse, instantly adjustable, reloadable, detachable. Unequaled for reflex circuits.

Wherever a crystal is used, DE-TEC-TONE will give better results. If your dealer hasn't it, send \$1.50 to Pyramid Products Co., 117 No. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.



## DE-TEC-TONE

CRYSTAL DETECTOR



# Oh!

No one came up with a very outstanding bunch of goodies this time, that is, no dozen WD-11s in original cartons, nor any A. Kent, model 5s, However it hasn't been an entirely dry month for a few of us.

Our choice for the freeby-of-the-month should go to Dick Howard for his Stromberg-Carlson, Neutrodyne, model 1A. He got this one in Memphis, Tenn., of all things. I guess it pays to travel, eh?

Another in the freeby column, is Jim Mason's Sparton console, a sizeable 15 tube, 1937 model, which by Jim's own assessment is a bit hefty.

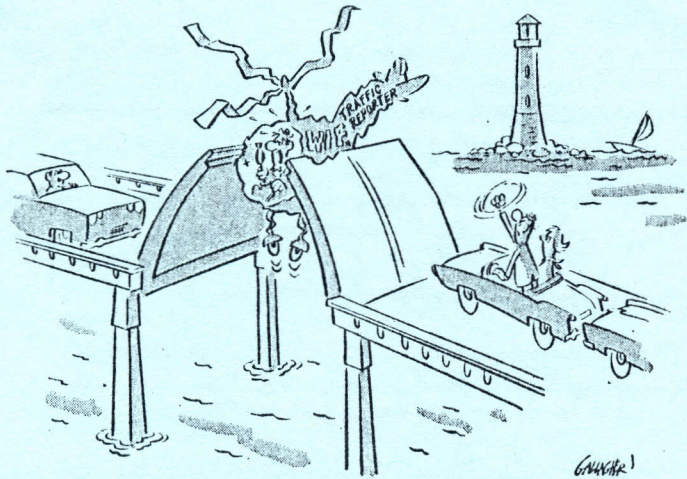
Dick Howard also found a Pilot catalogue, circa 1929, as well as a bunch of QST magazines dated '24, '25, not too bad as such collectibles go.

Your editor came up with a Freed-Eisemann, NR-8 neutrodyne, with all tubes and an instruction manual. A home brew 1922 regenerator with a good WD-11 and phones. A beautiful Zenith mod. 5521 table set in near perfect condition. An old Crosley mod. 30-31 with chassis a bit sour on the tuning dial, but none-the-less restorable, with all good tubes. A National Battery Co. "B" eliminator. A Westinghouse 6volt trickle charger. A box of vintage tuning capacitors, tube sockets, and best of all some good rheostats. Oh yes I nearly forgot, there were three hundred and fifty "mid-vintage radio tubes in the deal too. All of this for a fifty buck donation!

If the past travels of Jim Mason and Dick Howard are of any omen, then Doug Eggert, who is way off in the Bahamas as this is being written, should find at the very least, one of those Bahamian Bloopers that are as rare in this area, as associate members correspondence. Anyway, we wish Doug and his wife much fun, even if he draws a blank on radio stuff.



# CARTOON CLIPPINGS



*"Traffic is encountering a somewhat unusual delay on the Northern Boulevard-Bridge."*



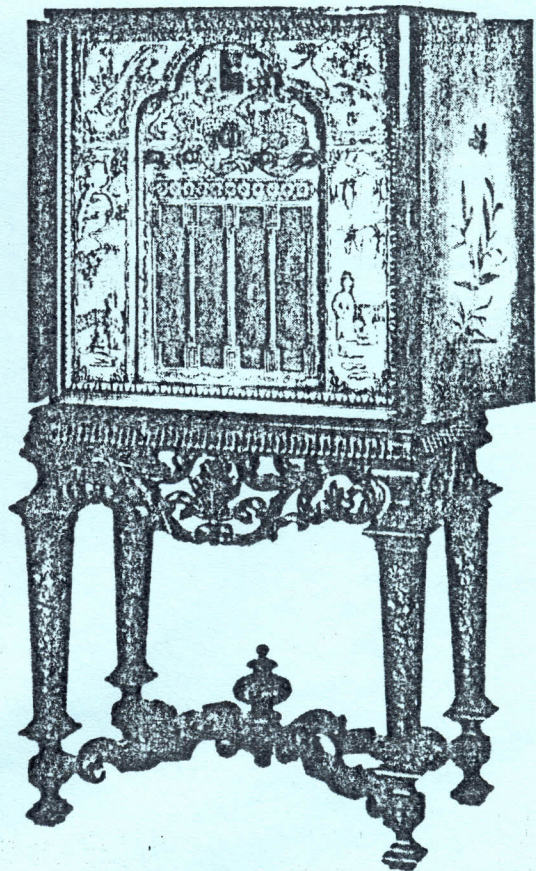
*"But you said you could fix shorts!"*



# The I.Q. trimmer

by the Prof.

If you can get the year and make of this one without the aid of the old magazines you'll be doing quite well!



The answers for last month's "trimmer" are as follows:  
1. Emile Berliner (who also invented the carbon mike)  
2. false. 3. Heising. 4 true (June, 1929)

Does anyone ever read this stuff? ed.



# SWAP SHOP

- WANTED:** Cabinet for GE 11 tube, power driven chassis.  
2 WD 11 tubes - good or bad. Must be tall type. Will trade good WD 11-199 size for the larger ones.  
Joe Tompkins Ph: 362-8071  
3796 Hulsey St., S.E.  
Salem, Or. 97302
- WANTED:** Short wave set 1 to 6 tube, kit or commercial, before 1935. Short wave craft magazines, any year, or other short wave magazines. Plug-in coils and forms. Will trade 01's, 27's, 24's, etc.  
R. C. Campbell Ph: 648-7331  
2175 S.E. Pine  
Hillsboro, Or. 97123
- WANTED:** Old tubes, crystal radios, unusual components.  
Don Iverson Ph: 286-1144  
10115 N. W. St. Helens Rd.  
Portland, Or. 97231
- WANTED:** Beaded chain, or source thereof, for tuning gang of Grebe Mu-1.  
Tom James Ph: 235-0581  
5024 N. E. Clay  
Portland, Or. 97215

*Oh but you guys are holding back the stuff for the swap meet in Nov. — J.*