



CALL LETTERS

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PowerTone



GALLER LETTER

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

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society meets at the Buena Vista Club House (Atkinson Park) 16th & Jackson Street, Oregon City, Oregon. (Note: take Washington St. to 15th, up 15th hill to Jackson, turn left to 16th).

Meetings are held at 10:00 AM on the Second Saturday of each month except for summer vacation in July and August.

The meetings are an opportunity to exchange information and advice.

Annual Dues:

Regular Membership \$15--

Associate Membership \$12--

Renewals are due on January First

1989 NWVRS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DAN HOWARD	503-761-7799
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NWVRS Mailing Addresses

Membership Applications & Renewals:

Northwest Vintage Radio Society

P.O. Box 82379

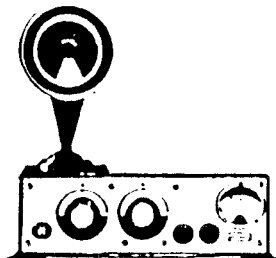
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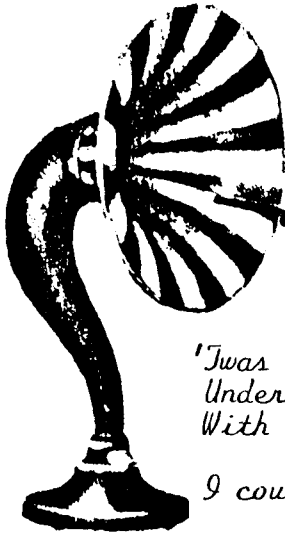


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ATMOSPHERICA

By J

The Saga of the Faded Fada

'Twas on a pile of debris, that I found her,
 Underneath an old mat made of straw;
 With the trash of the times scattered
 I found her.
 I could scarcely believe what I saw!

Her name-plate was blurred, I could see,
 But the class of her chassis was great.
 It was only a guess that she once was
 The best Neutrodyne in the state.

All six tubes in her sockets were taken,
 And the coils had been stolen away;
 All the finish on her cabinet forsaken,
 And the works saturated with clay.

I took her home to restore all the glory
 Of the twenties when she'd had her day,
 But alas the "finis" to the story,
 Was the check from the guy in L. A.!

** ** * ** *

That Browning Drake

Over the river and through the woods,
 To Grandmama's house we'll go.
 It's not to feast as some suppose,
 But to buy her rad-i-o.

** ** * ** *

Mamma Goose # 9

Jack Spratt loved R. C. A.,
 His doll loved only Sparton;
 And that's the reason,
 This, very reason,
 You've heard of Dolly partin'!



Radio Waves

By Dick Karman

The procession continues . . .

On July 4th **Vic Perrin** passed away. Without going into lengthy details, suffice it to say that he was a great radio actor. Where I remember him most was in the excellent productions that came out of the fifties like *Gunsmoke*, and *Yours Truly Johnny Dollar*. His credits also include *One Man's Family* by Carlton Morse, *Dragnet* and *Pete Kelly's Blues* by Jack Webb, *Suspense*, *Escape*, *The CBS Radio Theater*, and *Luke Slaughter*. (to borrow a line from another's remembrance:) We salute him for what he gave to radio . . . and left to us.

Only 2 days earlier on July 2nd an *English Gentleman*, **Ben Wright** died. Ben was responsible for many of the voice characterizations that you may have enjoyed and then overlooked in 40s and 50s radio. He studied in London but brought his talents to America right after World War II. Ben not only did his own British dialect, but also did many European accents (German, Swiss, etc.). It was recently called to my attention that Ben also did the introduction to the *Sherlock Holmes* series that was released on Cassette tape. They were originally aired on ABC in the 1949-50 season.

A Look at a Book --

A name that became famous during his journalistic coverage of World War II, much like Edward R Murrow, is brought to life in a new book. Ernie Pyle, a household name during WW II, did more than just report on a war that would eventually take his life. He gave us a vision of America in a series of dispatches from across the nation. This glimpse of Americana, spanning the years of 1935 through 1943, are remembered in *Ernie's America: The Best of Ernie Pyle's 1930's Travel Dispatches*. It is available through Random House for \$21.95.



Visiting the Wells Museum

by Dick Howard

On the morning of July 10, 1989, as my wife Doris and I were preparing to leave for the Portland Airport to head for a month in Europe, we received a call from the President - not George, but Dan, our son, the president of NWVRS. His message? "Bon Voyage?" Well, not exactly. It was more like "Don't forget to call Gerald Wells when you get to London!" First things first, after all.

Well, we did just that and spent an afternoon in one of the finest museums east of Jim Mason's house.

Since Robert Hawes has so aptly described it, I will let him do just that. (pages 7, 8, 9, & 10 are reprinted by permission of Gerald Wells and the BVWS.)

Obviously the article has only touched on the highlights of this fine display. If there is sufficient interest, I will be glad to make a slide presentation of this collection and an equally choice Swedish radio museum at an early date

The radio on this months cover is a Powertone Superselective 5 Deluxe from London England. When closed this portable battery set looks like a portable typewriter.

First Annual Backyard Swap a Success

The weather cooperated to provide a warm, but not unpleasant, setting for the Society's first annual backyard swap. Over fifteen club members showed up during the course of the Friday evening meet, many with items to sell. One of the highlights of the evening was the arrival of a non-member with a hatch-back full of 1930's A.C. sets in fine condition. As we watched, he completely sold out his inventory before any of the sets could be set on the ground. Although the sale was canceled for Saturday due to rainy weather and other circumstances, all-in-all the first annual backyard swap can be aptly termed a success.



The Vintage Wireless Museum

Story: Robert Hawes

Photography: Jonathan Hill



Gerald Wells

Certainly the largest in the UK, if not in Europe, is the Vintage Wireless Museum in Dulwich, within easy access of central London. More importantly, it is a unique example of a living and ever-developing museum, unlike those dead, stagnant, musty repositories which deserve the name of mausoleum rather than museum. It is, in fact, the ideal in museums. Just as a nature-lover prefers an aviary to a case of stuffed birds, a wireless enthusiast must surely prefer working sets he can handle to petrified remains in a display-case.

The Vintage Wireless Museum, at 23, Rosendale Road, West Dulwich, is the ever-expanding private collection of Gerald Wells, who also runs the "Vintage Wireless company". But so close are his friendly links with the British Vintage Wireless Society and so many of its members that Gerald's museum, workshop and even his home have become over the years a kind of unofficial "clubhouse". This is especially so on Friday evenings which have become a sort of tradition there of gatherings of enthusiasts. At almost any time of the day, and sometimes well into the night, visitors may find enthusiasts with their noses actually inside sets in the museum; others busy soldering or french-polishing in the workshops; some seeking data in the library- and still more exchanging yarns over endless cups of tea in the kitchen. Visitors come from near and very far - some even with their sleeping-bags to camp out in his sitting-room.

It is an establishment which answers many an enthusiast's prayers: whether they are seeking to acquire anything wireless from a nut-and-bolt to a complete set; whether seeking information, advice or practical help or an expert full-restoration; or simply seeking a pleasant and educative evening among friends.

continued on next page

Gerald's large Victorian house and the series of outbuildings he has designed and constructed in a style he waggishly refers to as "Welsh Chapel", is by choice museum first and home second. That it is surrounded by a sort of "ether" is scarcely surprising, since the house seems steeped in wireless history. Born in the house, Gerald received his introduction to electricity at the age of two: a shock from the nursery wall-socket, which seems to have galvanised him into a kind of "Wireless-itis" which has lasted to this day. Perhaps the "spirit" of the house has been his guide through an industrious life during which he has acquired a remarkably varied knowledge and experience, to say nothing of a wealth of anecdotal wireless and related information encompassing wit as well as wisdom. His spectral mentor may possibly be the ghost of a certain Mr. A. Rickard-Taylor, former occupant of the house, who seems to haunt it benevolently still. A science-master at the nearby Dulwich College, he was an early wireless amateur who set up his own transmitter 2AF and broadcast on 350 metres from there until 1914. The old enthusiast makes his presence felt occasionally by obligingly making lost components materialise just as Gerald has given up looking. And whenever Gerald goes digging in the garden, bits of the old boffin's transmitting aerial and earth systems come to light. By the age of twelve, Gerald had built his first radio-an "F.J. Camm short-wave Two" and he couldn't be kept out of the family radiogram, which he took over and has maintained ever since. On his thirteenth birthday he got an Avo as a present and began making service calls on his bicycle in an ever-widening area around his home. He resigned from his first ten-bob-a-week job to build his own workshop and start out on his own. The business grew steadily and after the war he even went into manufacturing, producing TRF's at £4 a time for a hungry market which had not seen "new" sets since 1939 - except for the wartime "utility" ones. He also began making amplifiers and founded the "Wadar" company to undertake public-address installations for conferences and outdoor meetings as well as cinema work. By 1951, business had boomed modestly, so Gerald invested in a £10 Austin Seven. Having phased out his bike, he had to work harder to earn money to fuel the new Wellsmobile at the rate of two-and-sixpence (12½p) a gallon. Although a lot of radio work was still around in 1948, television work was beginning to form a major part of Gerald's business, and by that time, he has acquired training and experience at EMI which enabled him to develop still further. But now the pendulum is swinging back again, for he is phasing out television (he prefers valves and wires to chips and printed circuits) and finds he is in great demand for the kind of work which was his hobby as a boy: repairing and restoring equipment which has now become "vintage".

Unlike many of his contemporaries, who continually discarded their old sets in favour of newer models, Gerald retained what everyone else seemed to be throwing away - and kept it going too. But he began his collection proper in 1958, with a Philips 634A (the set in the "Ovaltine" TV advertisement). His notion to start a wireless museum occurred to him in 1964 during a visit to Lord Montagu's stately home at Beaulieu. "If he can do it with vintage cars, I can do it with vintage radios" he vowed. And so he did. He began rescuing old sets from rubbish dumps and even dustbins, carefully restoring them to health and beauty. Soon, he found that there were many people who had old equipment tucked away in lofts and cellars which they looked on in much the same way as people regard aged cats who have lost their usefulness: well-loved pets which can be parted with only if they can be promised "a good home" where they will continue to be cosseted. That home was, of course the museum, which still depends a lot upon donations, although they are entirely unsolicited, and receives no financial grants from any source. The collection is still growing, and through the years, Gerald has also purchased a great many sets and well as test and servicing equipment and a huge store of spares of all kinds and all vintages, including some 20,000 valves. Gerald sometimes sells or swaps items which are "doubled" in the collection and will supply a great many items from his stock, although some must be retained to maintain the museum specimens.

continued on next page



Below stairs:
Gerald Wells
in his "vintage"
cellar , where
the bottles are
20,000 valves.



A step into the past:
Gerald's sitting room
with its early TV sets



In a replica of a 1930 wireless shop,
a customer hands in an accumulator

Making reproductions is only one of Gerald's specialities- but he is careful to ensure that there is never any deception. He produces honest replicas of "Peter Pan" and " Snow White " sets, for instance, using original circuits and vintage components, making " rarities " available to collectors who might be unable to possess original examples.

If you would like to meet Gerald and see his museum and workshops, you will be assured of a warm welcome. He likes new visitors to be introduced by BVWS members he already knows. And please telephone him before calling. He could be out and about, maintaining the wireless-sets and television receivers which in many cases he has been keeping going for twenty or thirty years. Or like as not, he may be sleuthing in the dark of night , rummaging among the rich refuse of our microelectronic age.

Board Names Art Redman V.P.

By a unanimous decision of the board of directors, charter member Art Redman has been named to the position of Vice President of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society. Art has been active in the club from its inception, participating in the drafting of the Society's constitution. Of late, Art has been heading up the contest awards committee and has participated in the assembling and the mailing of the Call Letter. Art will be serving the remaining five month's of the year, filling the vacancy created by former Vice President Doug Davee's resignation.

PSARA Swap Meet One to Remember

Each year the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association's annual August swap meet just seems to keep getting bigger and better. Although we passed through a few cloud bursts on the trip up from Portland, the Seattle rain held off through the morning. The cool temperatures did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the buyers. By about 11:00 the parking lot was getting quite full with some sellers setting up as far back as the third and forth rows.

The Tacoma hamfest apparently was a conflict for several regulars but overall attendance was very good. I was pleasantly surprised to see the large variety of sets available. One could find everything from choice crystal sets and tubes, to "Sams" Photofacts and vintage TVs.

As has been his habit in the past, die-hard PSARA member Russ Anderson posted an overnight vigil to make sure that none of the goodies would get by him. This year his trailer was accompanied in the wee hours by Gene Bunnell's motor home. I hope that it was worth it, fellows.

Watching Walt Kiefner unload and unload and unload was a show in itself. I didn't realize that a fellow could cram so much good stuff into one van. Seeing the many out-of-town members and guests was a special treat. Among others, I had a chance to visit with Pat Stewart (in from Walla Walla) and Tex Sloat (up from Ridgefield), several collectors down from British Columbia, and many others from throughout Oregon and Washington.

Dan Howard



SWAP SHOP

WANTED

Amplion Horn Speakers: Dragon, Concert Dragon, Junior DeLuxe & New Junior DeLuxe. Grebe RORK Amplifier. Edwin Buhite 503-288-9727. 4041 NE Wistaria Dr. Portland, Oregon 97212.

Western Electric type 212 transmitting tube. Will trade W.E. model 217. Dick Howard 503-775-6697. 9999 S.E. Frenchacres Dr. Portland Oregon 97266

Small metal Arvin and Silvertone radios. Coin-operated radios. Pilot kit radios, tubes, and parts. Dan Howard 503-761-7799. 2940 S.E. 118th Ave. Portland Oregon 97266-1602

Atwater Kent model 30, 32, or 33 batter set. Jerry Talbott 503-649-6717. 1440 S.W. 239th Hillsboro OR 97123

Collins KW-1 AM Transmitter. Byron Kretzman 206-487-0287. 5220 217th SE Woodinville, Washington 98072

European made radios and associated equipment, parts, tubes and literature - pre WWII to 1948. Max Kaplan 206-851-4187. 14902 84th Ave Ct NW Gig Harbor, Washington 98335

Grunow 801A radio. Want 7189 and 7591 type tubes. Darrell Forsberg 206-363-0754.

English Valves: PM2, PM4 or PM6 (three of one type); good C299; Speaker with or without cabinet and receiver cabinet for AK43. Bert Whitaker 206-244-2833. 2917 S 146th Seattle, Washington 98168.

Early TV and related items Pre-1950. Kilbourne & Clark receivers and parts. C.E. "Sonny Clutter" 503-254-9296. 14407 NE Fremont St. Portland, Oregon 97230

WWII German, Japanese, Italian radio equipment or parts, any condition. Also mobile communications equipment of U.S. Military, Forest Service, Aviation or shipping industries equip pre-1946. Almost any paper item relating to military or commercial mobile radio pre-1946. Electronic Industries, FM-TV and Communications magazines. Hugh Miller 206-487-3047 Mornings & Weekends. 6400 Maltby Rd. Woodinville, Washington 98072-8375



SWAPSHOP

FOR SALE

1946 E.H. Scott "Loreate" model 600 18 tube blond oak console. Plays.
Best offer. Jerry Talbott (see want ad)

Seven UX299 tubes \$50.00. Darrell Forsberg (see want ad)

Antique Radio Tubes: List available. Bob Meisenholder 206-747-
2573. 13900 SE 44th Place Bellvue, Washington 98006

LEAD

Audio Transformer Rewinding, Tex Sloat 206-263-2690. 30808 NE
Timmen Ridgefield, Washington 98642

N W V R S Annual Auction

Saturday September 9, 1989 10 AM

P S A R A Annual Election

Sunday September 17, 1989 1 PM



Ole!

(acquisitions)

Edwin Buhite

Scott 333-B, 13 Tubes

Sonny Clutter

1925 Radio 28 with Antenna

1933 Colonial New World Globe Radio

1930's Large Pepsi Bottle Radio

Dick Howard

George Becker spark transformer and gap

De Forest DV6A

1948 Scott 800B6 in Chippendale Cabinet

Nornan Longwave/Medium wave radio

Minimax Advertising radio

Ray Nelson

Emerson 520 black and yellow catalin

1948 Admiral 7" TV

Leon Schimmel

1925 Tobe loop antenna

Zenith 12S232 Tombstone

Howard 436A communications receiver

Jerry Talbott

1934 Electric Specialty model 45

1949 Crosley 10" TV in bakelit cabinet

1950 Sylvania 7" scope model 132Z



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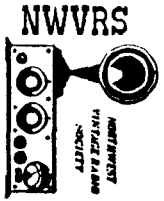
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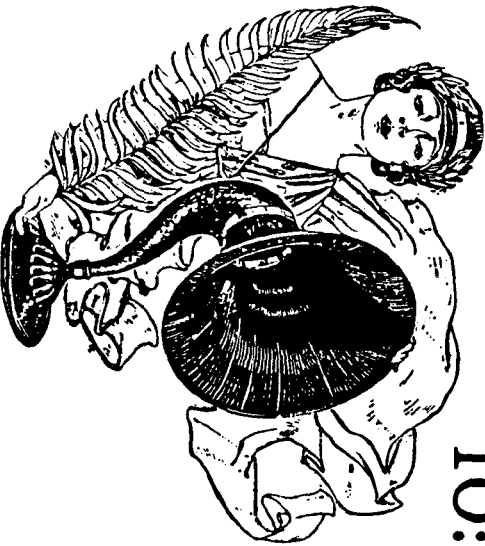
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