

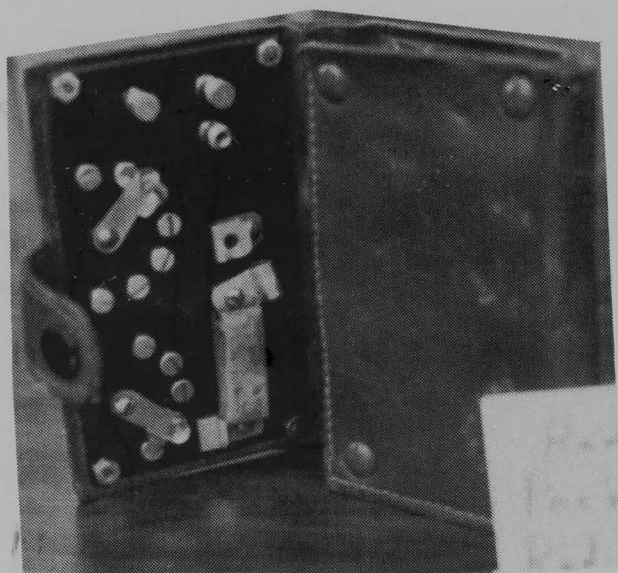


CALL LETTER

VOLUME 16

JANUARY 1990

NUMBER 1



Radio-Ette

wallet radio

CALL 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

1990 NWVRS OFFICERS

President	Dick Karman	503-288-1285
Vice President	Art Redman	503-774-9913
Treasurer	Ed Charman	503-654-7387
Secretary	Greg Morse	503-626-9783
Librarian	Norris Jackson	503-642-5625

NWVRS Mailing Addresses

Membership Applications & Renewals:

Northwest Vintage Radio Society

P.O. Box 82379

Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

Newsletter Business/Information:

The Call Letter

4041 NE Wistaria Drive

Portland, OR 97212-2963



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On the cover is Steve Von Targe's
1922 Radio-Ette Wallet Radio





ATMOSPHERICA

By *TJ*

The Foible of the Philco---

*The ad was in the Daily Blurb:
"An antique radio set",
Mrs. Hortense Martin-Glover,
At twenty three North Willamette.*

*He got up at seven thirty,
He was an early riser--
And scooted up to that address,
And boy, did he surprise 'er.*

*He paid the hundred fifty clams
For that cathedral, spiffy.
But when he went to fire it up,
His wisdom seemed more iffy.*

*With sweat and time and expertise
Spent on this stubborn actor,
It growled once and spat some tar,
Then bit it's benefactor!*

*He dimly saw a vision of
That sweet conniving granny,
He cursed the day he bought her set,
Then-----got up off his fanny !!*

** ** * ** * ** *

Old Proverb:

*It is said that those whose speakers are the loudest,
may have much distortion in their amplifiers .*



**RADIO AGE GUIDE
BY U.S. PATENT NUMBER**

(at the beginning of the listed year)

1900 660,000	1924 1,500,000
1902 720,000	1926 1,580,000
1904 770,000	1928 1,660,000
1906 830,000	1930 1,760,000
1908 890,000	1932 1,850,000
1910 950,000	1934 1,940,000
1912 1,020,000	1936 2,010,000
1914 1,080,000	1938 2,100,000
1916 1,150,000	1940 2,180,000
1918 1,240,000	1942 2,270,000
1920 1,320,000	1946 2,390,000
1922 1,410,000	1948 2,430,000

TUBES AS INDICATORS OF AGE

(first used)

up to 1925	00, 01A, WD11, WD12, 99
1926	112, 120
1927	26, 27
1929	24, 24A
1932	6 - 7 pins
1935	Octals & Metal types
1941	Loctal

**OTHER AGE
INDICATORS**

seldom used before:

- 1927 AC Console
- 1929 Cathedral
- 1933 Airplane Dial
- 1937 Plastic
- 1939 Push-button
& Slide-rule Dial
- 1939 cloth covered
portable
- 1941 FM 42 - 50 MC
- 1946
FM 88 - 108 MC
- 1946
Plastic Portable
Radio

1948
TV ch 2-13, (ch
1 eliminated)

1953 UHF TV



SONNY'S TECH TIPS

STOP!!! DON'T PLUG THAT RADIO IN!!!

by Sonny Clutter

Don't plug that old set in until some important precautions are considered. Chances are that neat old radio you just acquired has not been turned on for 30 or 40 years! If you just plug it in and turn it on you may cause serious damage. (I'm referring mainly to radios that are of power transformer design.) The most likely time of failure is the moment power is first applied. How many times have you had a light bulb burn out while you are sitting comfortably in your chair reading? It doesn't happen that way, the bulb burns out the moment you flip the switch!

Well here's what can happen when you flip the switch of that beautiful old "PHILCO" that you just hauled home. If you are lucky nothing will happen, if you're really lucky it might even play. Chances are if it doesn't go up in smoke right away, it will develop a loud hum and if you leave it on the hum will get louder and then go up in smoke. The point is, that old radio hasn't just been sitting around for the last several decades gathering dust. There's an excellent chance that the electrolytic's (filter capacitors) have deteriorated to the point they are shorted or leaky. A shorted filter capacitor combined with a good rectifier tube can be deadly to a power transformer and once the smoke rolls from that transformer you can just forget restoring that set until you've located another transformer.

Here's how you can make a couple of quick checks without destroying your radio's power transformer. First make yourself a simple test fixture (see diagram) with a light socket, AC cord and an AC plug receptacle. Mount them on a board and wire it so the lamp socket is in series with the AC receptacle. Choose the size of the bulb according to the chart following the diagram.

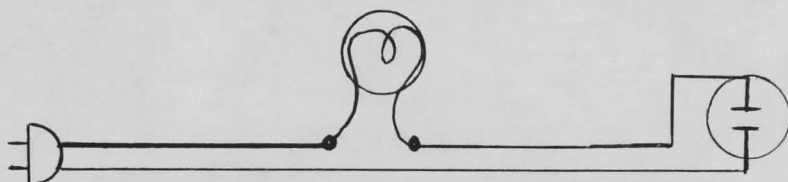
Now for the test, after choosing the bulb size remove the rectifier tube (usually an 80, 5Y3, 5V4 or some number beginning with "5"). Now plug the set in and turn it on, the bulb should not glow or glow very dim. If the bulb glows very bright at this point, you have a shorted power transformer, a short in the filament wiring to the other tubes in the set or the wrong size bulb in your test socket. Now carefully install the rectifier tube, the bulb should brighten some. If the bulb glows very bright (near full intensity) try another rectifier tube, if it still glows bright then you have a power supply short that may destroy the power transformer.

Troubleshooting the power supply will be covered in the next Call Letter good luck, I hope this helps some of you just learning to restore your old radios.

ac plug

bulb

ac socket



Bulb size should be determined by the power consumption of the radio and is usually stated on the model number label, for a set rated at 75 watts, use a 75 watt bulb. If power rating is unavailable, use the following chart:

NUMBER OF TUBES:

BULB SIZE (watts)

5 - 6

50 - 75

7 - 8

75 - 100

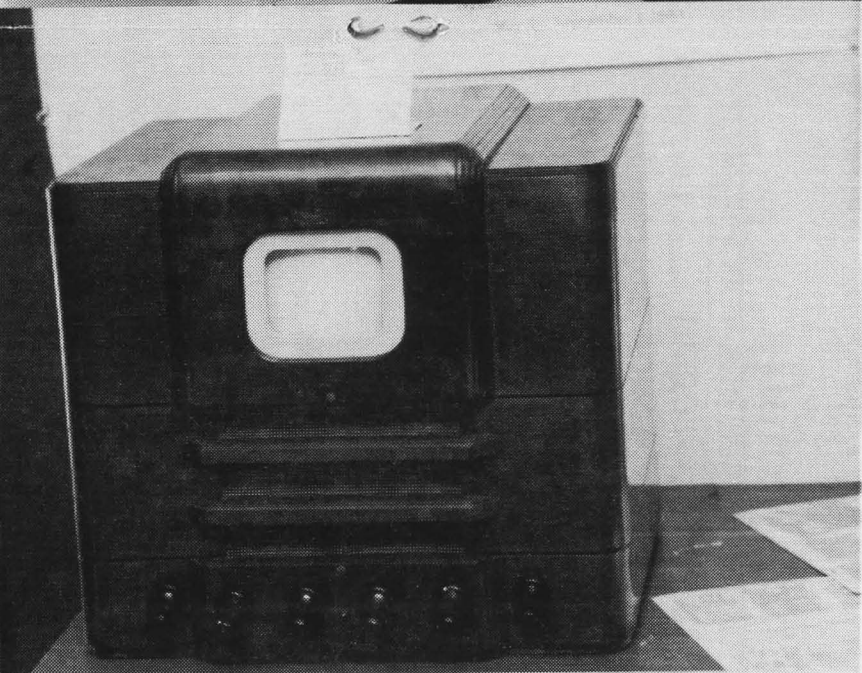
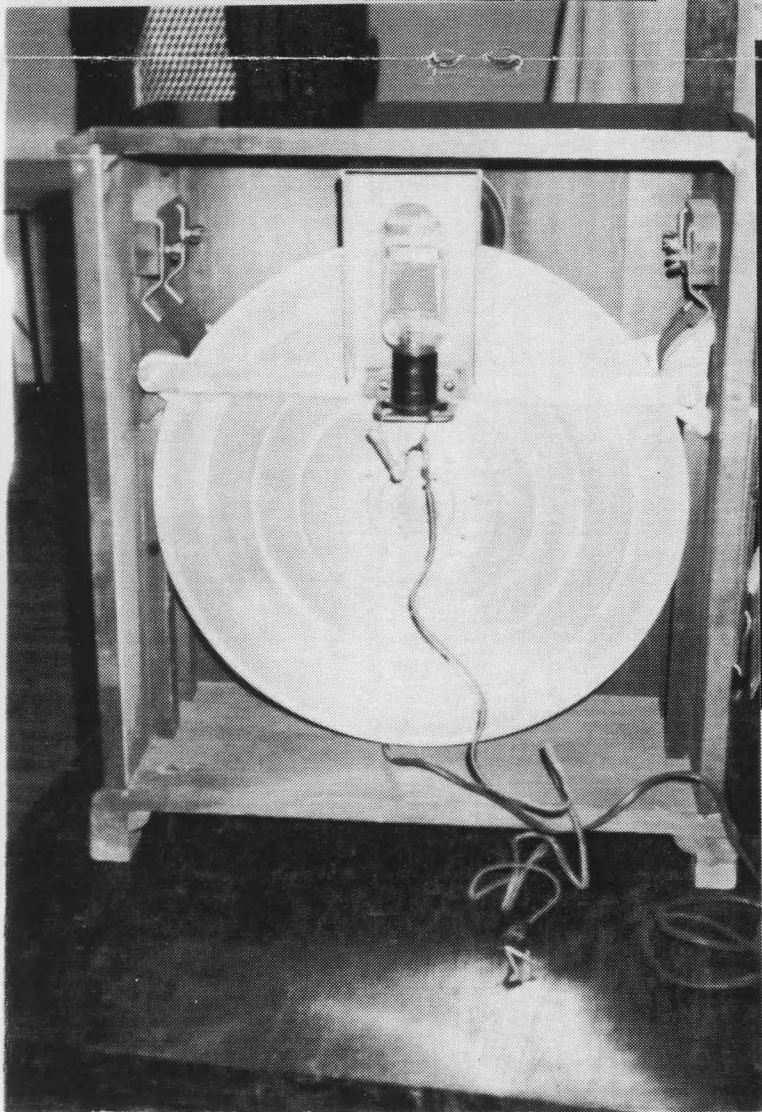
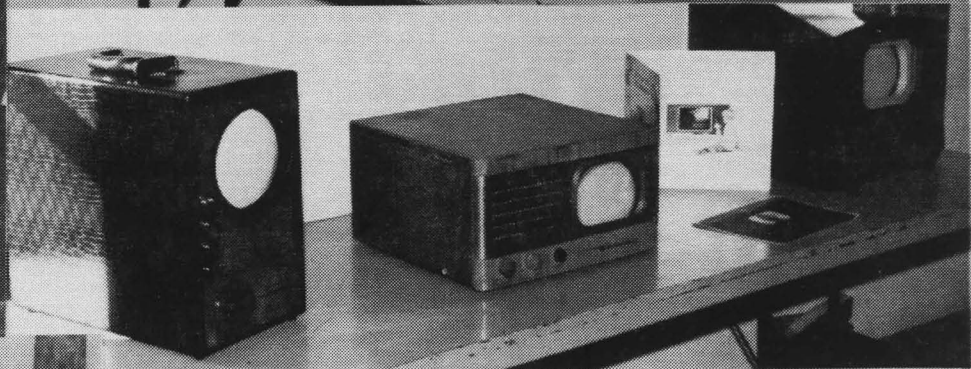
9 - 10

100 - 150

11 - 15

150 - 200





NWVRS
December
1989



*Photos by
Ray Nelson and Sonny Clutter*

NWVRS Meeting Minutes

Oregon City, Oregon December 9, 1989

The December 9, 1989 meeting of the NWVRS was called to order at 10:10 AM by Vice president Art Redman. the treasurer's report was given and accepted with a current balance of \$1,895.48. Visitors and guests were welcomed. there were no reports of good and welfare.

OLD BUSINESS: No volunteers to accept the position of official club photographer. Any photographs of club activities are welcomed and encouraged to submit to the Call Letter and the club scrapbook.

NEW BUSINESS: The club newsletter will begin having two titles representing the PSARA and the NWVRS to save on mailing expense. Contact Sonny Clutter if anyone wishes to participate in the "Sounds of Nostalgia" flea market in Salem in February. A motion was made and carried to have a "swap and sell" hour from 9-10 every meeting. Members are reminded that dues are required for the new year. Jim Mason and Jerry Talbott have stepped down from the refreshment and set-up committee after providing two-years of "top-notch" hospitality during club meetings. Vacancies now exist for new volunteers.

NWVRS Election Results for 1990

President: Dick Karman

Vice-President: Art Redman

Treasurer: Ed Charman

Secretary: Greg Morse

Meeting Adjourned

Norris W. Jackson

Norris Jackson, NWVRS Secretary



The NWVRS President's Page

by Dick Karman

Since I have been elected your president for 1990, let me introduce myself: I have been a member of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society since 1980. My collection then and now consists of consoles and memorabilia from the 30's and 40's. I am assistant scout master for Boy Scout Troop #49. I run a small desktop publishing business out of my home. I act as state coordinator for the Oregon Christian Education Association Network. I and my family are members of Grace Fellowship Church of Portland. My other pet projects include a meager collection of audio tapes of radio shows, and a desire to help organizations like the NW Vintage Radio Society present a good image to the public.

I have been blessed with a family that enjoys my hobbies almost as much as I do. You will get to know them as they attend meetings and club functions with me.

In regard to the meetings, I want to do all I can to encourage attendance. (Mine has been non-existent over the last 15 months.) One thing that sometimes works is bribery. Not wanting to leave this method untried I will be offering a Philco 61 cathedral cabinet (sorry no chassis) at the January 13th meeting as a door prize.

On the closing note I hope to get a radio display into a store window in downtown Portland for the month of February. It will be a one month display of approximately 15 to 20 sets, but primarily it will get our society out into the daylight where others can hear about it.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the January meeting. "The Chair" would like to hear your suggestions for the 1990 calendar, and about some of the business of our society.





PSARA Meeting Minutes

Seattle, Washington
Sunday, Dec. 10, 1989

The meeting was attended by 33 members and 4 visitors, Vince Creisler, Kory Krohm, Tom Borud & Rich Clearman. Kory Krohm and Rich Clearman were voted in as members this month.

We were all saddened by the news about Bill Hebert having a heart attack. Best wishes to Bill for a good and speedy recovery.

Discussions on last months contest. Many different ideas came up how to change it and make it better.

Items were removed from the Museum by one of the members without the knowledge of the Museum Curator or members of the Club. All items removed were suppose to be the property of the member that removed them. NOTE: any member that owns an item or items in the museum submit a list of these items to Ken Korhonen for identification. Anything not identified will become part of club property. We are also looking for donations or items for display. It was voted and passed that Ken Korhonen purchase a rubber stamp with club logo to identify items with. It was also voted and passed to purchase one file cabinet and one book case for the museum from F. Banks.

Frank Banks, PSARA Secretary

PSARA COMING EVENTS

January 21, 1990: History of the
Neutrodyne by Warren Green. Bring
Your Neutrodyne for display.

February 18, 1990: Optical Audio
By David Dintenfass.

March 18, 1990: Annual Auction,
No business meeting

April 15, 1990: Annual regional A.W.A. meeting



Ole!

(acquisitions)

Art Corbus

8 Cathedrals, 4 Horn Speakers, 4 Grandfather Clocks, 3 Treasure Chest, 2 Bottle Radios.

Walt Kiefner

Zenith 5S128 table set, Sterling tube rejuvenator, Music Vendor coin op radio, Zenith 8G005T21 Transoceanic, Sonora RBU-176 deco bakelite, Majestic Zephyr (white plaskon), Hallicrafters SX-100, Hallicrafters R46B speaker, Airline 62-177 Tombstone.

Ken Korhonen

Red Cyarts lucite radio, Motorola small console 10" TV, Sentinel 7" TV, Airline 7" TV.

Dick Karman

A used gavel in the shape of a radio tube. Great gift idea. I will treat it well for 12 months.

Jim Mason

1920s Stiktape ribbon aerial, 1925 Supreme 3 Tube Crystal detector battery set, 1940 Sentinel PB table radio, 1943 PECO AC-DC radio (Spokane, WA), 1946 Emerson 587-A table set, 1947 Emerson Battery portable, 1947 Motorola AC-DC Battery portable, 1954 Packard Bell 532 clock radio.

Jerry Talbott

1927 Red Lion E-30 Desk for AK 33 or 35, 1939 Western Auto 558 white bakelite set, 1952 CBS 5156A.



Similar

"Say, about that digital voltmeter you sent me . . ."



"Nothing serious, lady—I'll be out of here in a jiffy."



Swap Shop

Wanted

HELP! Need Crosley 59 chassis! Pre 1950 TV sets, colored plastic, catalin, mirror & other interesting radios, Radio Retailing & Radio News magazines. **Ken Korhonen 206-932-9363**, 4022 41st Ave. S.W. Seattle WA 98116

RIDERS III, XVII up, Sams 1-7. **Jim Gianacos 206-228-9398, 206-784-9417**. 9110 122nd PL S.E. Renton WA 98056

RIDERS III & V, Sams AR4 & 5. **Al Lemke 206-868-8165**, 10004 206th Ave. N.E. Redmond WA 98053

RIDERS II. **Steve Berglund 206-246-8045**, 617 SW 146th Seattle WA 98166

RIDERS XVI thru XXII. **Speed Feldschau 503-390-3928**, 7455 O'Neil Rd. Keizer, OR 97303

COIN Box for Jetco hotel radio. **Art Redman 503-774-9913**, 6401 S.E. 89th Ave. Portland OR 97266

SCOTT Symphony radio (not chrome) 1929-30 by Scott Transformer Co. & also Crosley Pup. Will pay top dollar! Contact "The Scott radio collector" **Jim Clark. 517-349-2249**, 1292 Starboard Okemos, MI 48864.

RADIOLA IIIA audio input transformer, Schematic for Minerva Minx 56W & Schematic for Simpson tube tester # 333. **Erik Lofquist 206-546-2675**, 1820 N.W. 195th St. Seattle WA 98177

MAJESTIC Chassis & Speaker (working or not) for Grandfather clock - not 15 (much larger), has 2 1/2 volt & B+ transformers. Philco 90 Cathedral cabinet. **Art Corbus 206-783-6151**, 5704 11th Ave. N.W. Seattle WA 98107

ADVENT FM table radio (with or without speaker). **Dave Dintenfass 206-784-4803**, 7901 8th Ave. NW Seattle WA 98117

KNOBS and speaker jacks for Radiola 18. Also Radiola 100A speaker. **Ken Lamond 206-833-1141**, 1902 R St Auburn, WA 98002



SPECIAL tool for tightening knurled nuts on small toggle switches. **Harold Hagen. 206-634-1155, 4334 Evanston N. Seattle, WA 98103**

ZENITH push on / push off AC switch and tone control assembly for chairside model. **Jerry Cappoen 206-874-5490, 32904 13th Ave S. Federal Way, WA 98023**

DELCO Auto radios late 50s early 60s esp. "wonder bars", also '41'48 Buick, info & lit. (Birtman guides, Photofacts etc.). **Vince Creisler 206-630-4735, 13241 SE 261st Kent WA 98042**

FOOT for radiola 60 cabinet, remote control unit for GM 160 radio, crank phonos & parts, 78 records, Edison cylinders, picture disc records. **Frank Banks 206-941-2965, 28232 27th Ave S. Federal Way, WA 98003**

For Sale

CROSLEY console with record recorder, Zenith console with record player and doors, SX-28 with speaker. **Jerry Cappoen (see wants above).**

GMC Pickup radio 19481953 **Jerry Brannon 206-854-4234 22324 100th Ave S. Kent, WA 98031**

CLOCK assembly for '38 Sparton Selectime \$10--, Crosley 148 chassis & sp. \$15--, dud O1As \$1-- **Jerry Talbott 503-649-6717, 1440 SW 239th Hillsboro, OR 97123**

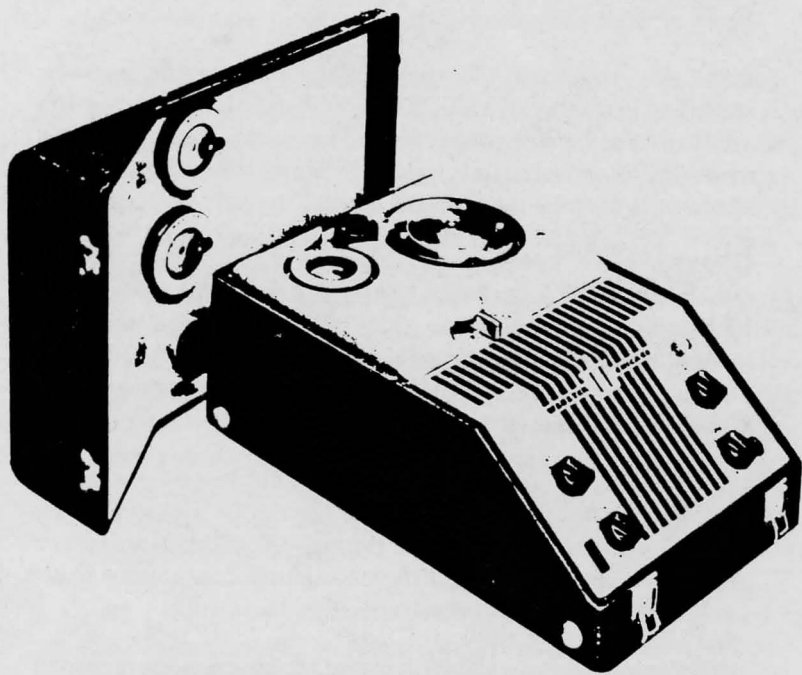
TUBES Over 3000 old & new in stock. Good prices. **Zobrist Electronics 206-624-2424, 1214 1st Ave. Seattle WA 98101**

SWAP

EMERSON 1949 Projection + \$ or ? for a yellow Cyarts lucite radio. **Ken Korhonen (see wants above)**



Sound Recording on Magnetic Wire: A Selected Chronology



A special supplement to *The Horn of Plenty* (Puget Sound Antique Radio Association) and *The Call Letter* (Northwest Vintage Radio Society).

Note: To reduce mailing costs, this supplement was published in two parts. Part One contains the inside section (pages ii - v) and appeared in the November 1988 issue of both newsletters. This is Part Two—the outside section (cover, page i, vi, and vii). Please combine the two parts to form the complete booklet.

Sound Recording on Magnetic Wire: A Selected Chronology

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1888 An American, Oberlin Smith, first suggests magnetic recording in an article in *The Electrical World*. He describes how a cotton thread, impregnated with iron particles, could serve as a media for recording sound. But Smith has no laboratory and does not make a working model of his device.

1893 Valdemar Poulsen, then a Danish engineering student at the University of Copenhagen, proposes a device to record sound by magnetizing piano wire. Until this time, most scientists thought a magnetic impulse would flow along the length of a wire and disappear. In fact, a wire (or a bar of steel) can be magnetized at discrete intervals.

1894 Poulsen and fellow student Peder Oluf Pedersen produce a working model of a wire recorder. The device uses steel piano wire. Record and playback are through telephone transmitters and receivers, respectively. Progress continues for several years, but the young inventors do not announce their work.

1898 Poulsen receives a Danish patent for his magnetic recorder. He calls it a "Telegraphone." Eventually, Poulsen will be acknowledged as the "father of magnetic recording"—not only does he build the first actual recorder, but historians will later agree that Poulsen had not heard of Oberlin Smith's published theory and therefore discovered magnetic recording independently.

1900 Poulsen demonstrates his device at the Paris Exposition of 1900. It creates a sensation. In fact, Poulsen wins the *Gran Prix* (grand prize). Emperor Franz Josef, head of the Austro-Hun-

The Model 50 recorder is manufactured by the Utah Radio Company of Chicago.

1944 Armour research develops a battery-operated, self-contained pocket-size recorder.

1945 Wire recorders for home use go on sale. The very first is the Peirce model 55B, based on the Model 50 design. The company targets the product for dictation applications.

1946 The Magnecord Company of Chicago introduces their SD-1, the finest wire recorder of the day. It has a capstan drive and eventually boasts a frequency response of 35 to 15,000 Hz with less than 0.1% flutter. This machine is patterned after Armour Research's famed "Master Recorder." The SD-1 is sold until 1948, when Magnecord introduces their PT6-A tape recorder.

1947 The Webster Chicago Model 80 becomes the most popular of all wire recorders. This machine is inexpensive, portable, and of relative high quality. Another popular recorder is the Silver-tone, which combines a 78 r.p.m. turntable and radio in the same assembly—Colonial Radio Corporation of Buffalo, New York manufactures the device for Sears Roebuck. Both machines record at 2 feet/second, and use identical wire (0.004" stainless) and an identical wire spool (donut-shaped, with a two-inch diameter center hole).

1948 This is probably the peak year for the wire recorder. Prominent manufacturers listed in the June 1948 "Buyer's Guide" issue of *Electronics* include Air King, Brush, Colonial Radio, Lear, Magnecord, Majestic, Meissner, Peirce, RCA, Sonora, and Webster-Chicago.

1950s By the mid 1950s, the wire recorder is all but dead for home and professional use. Wire recorders for dictation purposes linger a bit longer. Curiously, the longest-lived wire recording application will be cockpit-voice recorders, since wire is more durable than magnetic tape.

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Illustrations:

Webster-Chicago Model 80 wire recorder, circa 1947 (cover).

Detail of wire-splicing procedure, as shown in Webster-Chicago operating manual (below).

