

The *Call Letter*

December 2000
Vol. 26 — No. 12



Celebrating **25** years in print!

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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 \$20.00 (beginning January 2001) 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 (except July and August) 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 show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

Society Officers for 2000:

President	Charles Kent	(503) 281-9335
Vice-President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809
Treasurer	Ed Charman	(503) 654-7387
Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288
Board member at large	Dave Rutland	(541) 929-4498
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 284-5648
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135

The Society's address is:

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society
Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379



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On the cover: Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer decorates this little radio belonging to Wendy Johnson-Kent. This picture was taken by your editor at last year’s December meeting.

**Call Letter Deadline: 10 days prior
to meeting day.**

**The next meeting is on December 9.
The monthly feature is:
A radio or radio-related item that you know nothing
about!
Tailgate swap meet starts at 8:30!**

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

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 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.

Your Letters:

Mike Parker
Portland, OR.

Dear Editor,

I am glad Ludwell Sibley enjoyed my article "IN THE SHACK" (Call Letter, Oct. 2000) about re-filling dial marks on 1920's battery radios. I found his further notes interesting. However, I thought his statement, "Believe it or not, the original filling was pure white", to be rather broad-brushed. The white paint pigment he has may have been used on Adams- Morgan radios, but what about the hundreds of other set makes then in use? I have a very hard time with the fact that they were all "pure white" when they were brand new. How would you know, unless you saw every one of them new, out of the box.? I am just not convinced that all the major dial makers such as Kurz-Kasch, Na-ald, Shaw, Amsco, Pilot and a host of others didn't use perhaps an off-white or cream colored pigment right from the start. Some radio manufacturers made their own dial knobs and some may have been pure white but I just can't apply that statement to all of them. Atwater Kent certainly did use other colors for marking, a gold tint readily comes to mind on the open face dial they used for years.

Mr. Sibley is certainly correct in saying that a short amount of use would have discolored the white markings anyway, by human hands, household smoke from stoves, cooking, and tobacco. I also respect his statement saying that "there is no single right tint" because of the afore mentioned conditions. It is simply a matter of personal choice, as it should be. Furthermore, I am a little biased because one time I bought a battery set with pure white restored knob marks, brought it up in the shack and it stood out so much beside my other battery sets, with off white markings, factory or otherwise, that it actually scared me!

I thank Mr. Sibley for his letter and I enjoy any kind of feedback on any article I have written, it is what keeps the hobby interesting.

Thank You,
Mike Parker

From the Editor

by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

This month's meeting promises to be a short one so that we can launch into the annual Christmas party. The members of the planning committee hope that you will be there, especially if it has been a while since you last attended a meeting, and they hope that you'll bring your spouse and other family members. There will be door prizes, an auction, and of course, good food. The entrees are provided, and members are requested to bring their favorite salad or dessert.

In addition to the usual meeting minutes and photos, this issue has a couple of interesting historical articles submitted by Art Redman that I've grouped under the heading "Looking Back." And don't overlook the information about the Scratch Fix felt-tip pens for furniture. I'm sorry that I'm not able to print the Call Letter cover in color this Christmas, but those of you who can view the *Call Letter* on the NWVRS e-groups site will be able to see it in all its glory. Perhaps by next year we will have fattened the treasury enough to feel able to splurge on the cover at Christmas (I've got a good one picked out already).

I was saddened to hear of the death in November of veteran newscaster Robert Trout. In the past couple of years he has given most interesting reports on NPR, usually dealing with some historical event in which he was involved. His career, mostly with CBS, spanned over fifty years and included some pioneering work as an anchor for world-wide remote reports.

NWVRS 2000 Calendar of Events

December 9 Regular monthly meeting, and annual Christmas Party, with door prizes and auction. Bring family members to join in the fun.

Northwest Vintage Radio Society Meeting Minutes

President Charles Kent called the November 11, 2000 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:05 AM. There were 36 members present. Today was Veterans' Day, and members gave all veterans present a round of applause. Don Iverson's wife recently had surgery, and now is doing well.

Old Business

Swap Meet — Our club made a little money on our last swap meet. Dick Bixler is looking for ideas for publicizing our Spring swap meet. Members discussed ideas for publicizing the swap meet. George Kirkwood asked for ideas and comments about the last swap meet. We discussed the idea of having console radios on the first floor of the building. We will need some parking help to keep the tailgate area clear.

Call Letter — We had the choice of having a color cover for our December *Call Letter*. Members voted to retain the black-and-white cover for next month.

Library — John Bucholtz reported that our library is busy.

NorthWest Car Collectors' Show—Dan Howard showed a “Fourth of July on Main Street” theme at the October show. Dan showed the group some of the radios that he displayed. Many thanks to Dan for publicizing our club at this car show!!!

New Business

Club Officer Nominations — Our existing group of club officers was nominated for next year. Each officer agreed to serve another term if elected.

Club Christmas Party — Our Christmas party will be similar to our party last year. Spouses and families are especially invited to attend.

Leads and Needs

Glen Bricker needs a foil for an Arvin “Hopalong Cassidy” radio. He also needs some parts for an old oak wall telephone.

Dick Bixler needs a 700 Henry audio choke coil.

Larry Tobkin needs some knobs and station selector push buttons for a Crosley 03CB console.

David Wise needs station selector push-buttons for an Airline Model 04WG30 radio, and knobs for a Raytheon Model 8TP1.

Rudy Zvarich needs a chassis for a Philco PT Series Transitone radio.

Jeff Martin needs a chassis for a Crosley 1S4 cathedral radio.

Program

Today's program item was “your best bargain radio”. Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The following members won ribbons for their radios:

First place—Glen Bricker—Arvin A502 catalin radio with matching clock

Second place—Sonny Clutter—Sparton Cloisonne

Third place—Larry Tobkin—Airline Model 93BR-715A table top radio

The program topic for the December meeting will be “radios that you know nothing about”. There was an auction of miscellaneous radios and parts after the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.

Liles Garcia, Secretary

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 Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for recording the minutes of every business meeting and for receiving and preparing all of the society’s correspondence.

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.

Photo Display

Photography by Dave Brown

Photos of the members' "best deals" featured at the November meeting.



Glen Bricker – 1st place



Sonny Clutter – 2nd place



Larry Tobkin – 3rd place



Bob Campbell



Charlie Kent



Dave Brown



Ed Cook



George Kirkwood



Bill Meloy



Rudy Zvarich



Tony Hauser



Mark Richardson



Jeff Martin

Looking Back

Submitted by Art Redman

Lee de Forest In Lents 1911

By Judith Bunch

Historical Research by Joyce Gray

From *Good Neighbor News*, December 1999. Page 8.

Doctor Lee de Forest took his room key from C.H. Doane at the Bethel Hotel, 109 North Main (now SE 92nd Avenue) and shook his head.

A wireless station had been installed recently one half mile from the center of Lents, Oregon (now Southeast Portland beyond SE 82nd Avenue) and was capable of receiving messages from San Francisco. Director of the Paulson wireless system and employed by the independent Federal Telegraph Company, de Forest had come from California to see what was causing trolley lines at Lents to interfere with the messages.

“In all my experience with Wireless,” he told Mrs. Doane, “I have never encountered a condition like the one here.” DeForest figured the problem stemmed from the O.W.P. Cazadero Line and a nearby high-tension line of the local streetcar system. As cars came along the tracks at Lents, wheels attached to the trolley wires flashed sparks, thus interfering with the wireless waves. The only disturbance-free time was when the cars stopped running between three and four in the morning.

“It is as though the cars are trying to send indecipherable messages all on their own,” he muttered on his way upstairs.

The next day, de Forest met with officials from Portland Railway, Light and Power Company out at the station to discuss grounding or fencing off waves. The first method involved placing two resistance coils one-quarter of a mile apart on the streetcar line near the station to ground the sparks. If that didn’t work, wires would be strung parallel with existing wires to catch the sparks and hold them prisoner.

In 1906, 33-year-old Dr. de Forest had invented the audion (later called the triode) making long range reception possible and providing the foundation for the modern electronics industry. Because of his invention, sometime in the future, voices would be sent through the air shrinking the globe and changing forever the lives of people living on our planet. It has not been revealed which method cleared up the airwave interference at Lents, but it does represent one of the steps that led to our modern conveniences: long distance telephone, radio, AM/FM bands, television and surround stereo.

Television Is Shown At Store Here

From *The Oregon Journal* July 13, 1931. Page 3.

Portland's first television demonstration was made this morning (July 13, 1931) before the newspaper in Lipmann Wolfe and Company radio department.

Operated by E.J. Rapp, radio department manager of the department store, a television and receiver were hooked up for the broadcast and the delegation saw two tiny figures roller-skating across a five inch lens on the receiver.

Insuline Corporation of America equipment was used, the apparatus being shipped from the radio manufacturers shown in Chicago. It arrived Sunday.

Rapp placed film in a projector a beam of light played on a scanning disc which broke it up into fine lines which in turn were projected on a photo electric cell.

In broadcast television this impulse as transformed by the photoelectric cell would be amplified and broadcast, but since there is no television broadcast license here Rapp connected the transmitter directly by wire to the receiver and the demonstration took the status of wired television. The demonstration was in progress against a red background. The dark picture flickered. There was no mistaking what was going on. A figure skated past lampposts for a minute or so, then joined another in doing stunts.

The words "Fannie Farmer falls fast and furious" were clear.

Rapp emphasizes that television in no way replaces the present radio receiver and that when it does arrive on a broadcast basis the pictures will be transmitted on short waves.

J.J. Becker of the Insuline Corporation accompanied the equipment here. Final adjustments have not been made and it is expected that as operators become familiar with the equipment demonstrations will improve. As far as it is known, the Lipmann Wolfe demonstration will be the first in the West.

According to the Radio Collectors Guide Insuline Corporation of America offered five television models for sale in 1931. Model 1254 sold for \$200.00 was one of two complete television receivers offered. Their model 1256 was a scanner and amplifier and sold for \$99.50. Model 1257 was television receiver only and sold assembled for \$69.50 or as a kit for \$59.50.

Scratch Fix Pens Available

After last months meeting, Sonny Clutter demonstrated several products for touching up problems in radio finishes. Gordon Phillips did some research on where to obtain a couple of those products and posted his results on the e-group e-mail list. Here's what he had to say:

Mar-A-Way can be obtained at Hoch and Selby Company at 809 NE 25th in Portland Oregon. (503) 234-6476. It comes in different colors.

Scratch Fix Felt-Tip Stain Pen For Wood can be obtained at Office Max in the office furniture department. They are located at 10546 SE Washington In Portland. (503) 254-2927. Or 10319 SE 82nd in Portland. (503) 788-9234. They Have Light Brown--Medium Brown--Black Brown and Red Brown.

The Company that makes them is The K J Miller Corporation in Elkhart, IN. 46516. Phone (800) 348-7584.

Then in a follow-on post, Gordon updated the information about the availability of Scratch Fix pens and made this offer:

Last week I wrote about getting Scratch Fix at Office Max. I found out that they didn't carry the Black Brown pens that most of us wanted. So I called the factory that distributes them and ordered several of them. I will have them at the Christmas party. If you need them sooner, Call me at (503) 234-3517. I ordered 10 pens at \$2.89 each. They also had a shipping and handling charge of \$5.00. This will be a total of \$3.39 each.

Gordon Phillips

FLERON RADIO SPECIALTIES



The Porcelain Sockets
Very carefully made. Brass parts (included). Black Glass. Two sizes. Standard Bulbs and U. V. 195.
Each socket in a carton.
35c. each.



The Vernier Adjuster
The best adjuster on the market. Spring holds head away from dial when not in use. With slight adjustment spring can be made to hold head against dial if desired. Patented. 50c.



The Phono Adapter
Fits through the hole of the receiver cap and then slides on the photograph tone arm. Fits Victor, Columbia, and others. Works perfectly. Only 35c. ea.



The Porcelain Insulators
Lowest power losses in the antenna. Dielectric absorption reduced to minimum because of very low phase difference of Ferris Porcelain. Very tough body. Self Black Glass. Seven sizes. 35c to \$1.00. Each insulator in a separate carton.



The Stand-Off Insulator
Fits the much-needed requirement for a good strong looking and practical stand off insulator. Meets every requirement of the Board of Fire Underwriters. \$1.25 each.

For Sale by all Good Jobbers and Dealers

M. M. FLERON & SON, Inc., 112 No. Broad St., Trenton, N. J.

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) 774-6560

BUY, SELL, & TRADE: Vintage Radio, Early Television and Hi-Fi.

Wanted: Tubes, Parts and whatever you might have related to early radio & TV. Visit my web-site at: < <http://www.radiolaguy.com> > or e-mail me at: < sonny@radiolaguy.com >

Thanks, Sonny Clutter, phone (360) 834-5741

WANTED: The Crystal Radio Guy wants crystal sets and toy germanium diode radios. Buy outright, or trade for other radios. Galen (503) 231-9708.

FOR SALE: Having restored most of my collection, I can now sell extra radio knobs, push-buttons, tubes & shields, dial bezels, etc. Bring your sample parts to the meetings each month. I will take them home and check to see if I have what you want. I don't want to be hauling my excess parts to each meeting to sell. No phone calls please. Thanks-Jerry Talbott

FOR SALE: *1925 Chelsea Super 5 console battery set. Complete but untested and has some water rings on lid. Best offer. Phone 245-1341

FOR SALE: *Freed-Eisemann FE-15 Battery radio, good condition - \$90.00.

Kellogg Wavemaster model unknown, fair condition - \$65.00.

Brandes composite horn speaker and driver, fair condition - \$65.00.

Sonora wood box speaker, good condition - \$65.00.

Zenith console 12-S-370, very nice original finish, plays good, you won't find a nicer one around here - \$1395.00.

Contact David Vaughn, 503-574-2825

FOR SALE: *Radios, portables, clock radios, test equipment, AK-60, Radiola 33, 100A speaker. Lots more. Send SASE for list. Bud Larson, 1325 Ridgeway, Medford, OR 97504, (541)773-5214, budedna@medford.net.

Leads and Needs

Radiolaguy's web page is full of lots of information on early radio, TV and also provides lots of links to other valuable info resources relating to the radio collecting hobby; it's not just a "for sale" site. Be sure and visit the site often. One of the services offered is pictures and information on the entire RCA "Radiola" line from 1921 to 1931 and my "show and tell" page.

Meeting Location!

Our monthly meetings are held in the Abernathy Grange Hall, located at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City. Here are instructions for getting there and a map.

1. Take the OR-213 exit, exit number 10, towards PARK PLACE/MOLALLA.
2. From the South, turn **RIGHT** onto SR-213, or from the North, keep **RIGHT** at the fork in the ramp and merge onto SR-213.
3. Turn **LEFT** at the first traffic light onto **CLACKAMAS RIVER DR.**
4. Turn **RIGHT** onto **S FORSYTHE RD.**
5. Turn **LEFT** onto **S HARLEY AVE.** The Abernathy Grange Hall is a little past S. Taylor Lane.

The written instructions came from “Map Quest” on the Internet; the map is scanned from a AAA map with much detail removed for the sake of clarity.

