

VOL. 8
NO. 1



JAN.
1982

CALL LETTER BROADCAST WEEKLY

MAY 13th to 19th



MINETTA ELLEN, who portrays the role of "Mother Barbour" in "One Man's Family," over NBC network, Friday nights.

10¢

LEADING RADIO PROGRAM OF THE PACIFIC COAST

65 70 75

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CALL LETTERS

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.

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Feature articles are contributed by members under various by-lines. Please send all contributions to the editor.

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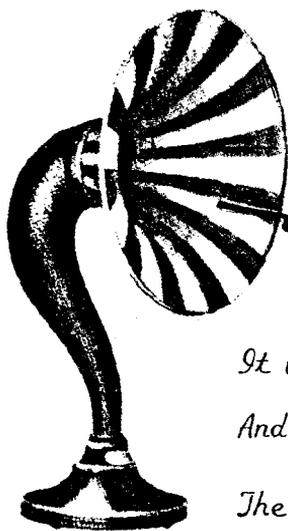
POWER SUPPLY

Since we were not permitted to have our Christmas party this year, the Power Supply will furnish free home-baked goodies and coffee at the January meeting.

BK



Received a note from member Bob Becker of Kent, Washington enclosing a clipping of a review of a book entitled "Puget Sounds: A Nostalgic Review of Radio and TV in the Great Northwest". Written by David Richardson, and published by Superior Publishers, Seattle. According to the reviewer, John Ross, the focus of the book is on broadcasting in Western Washington, with the strongest part of the book covering the era before World War II. "From that point onward, the subtitle might better have been 'A nostalgic review of the radio and TV stations where the author used to work'". The book is full of marvelous old publicity photos of studios, talent, and equipment. No price is given.



ATMOSPHERICA

By J

Tempus Fidgets

*It was New Year in the valley
For the Okanogan folk,
And from the chimneys on the houses,
The wind was wafting smoke.*

*The roast goose bones were all picked clear,
The relatives long departed
From the last feast of the season ;
Another year had started.*

*The skies were grey and ominous,
(Nothing new this time of year),
A blizzard in the offing was
The warning, loud and clear !*

*Three days of isolation then,
As we waited out the blow;
We would catch up on our reading
Or play with the radio.*

*It was a lucky winter, Joe --
With my Ultra Reinartz Three,
I logged that ultimate station,
That elusive K Y Z !*

*And so I tell my grand kids--
But their response is scorny.
They think that grandad's childhood
Was nothing short of corry !*

** ** * ** *

*Lucy Wyre says that New Year's to her
is just one big headache !*

DISPLA news

Happy New Year

As was discussed at the December meeting, the Displays Committee is looking for new members. There is by no means any membership requirements except a little enthusiasm (afterall- look at me ?). If you're interested, give me a call or speak up at the January meeting.

- * The Radios which are now on display at the G-P museum will be removed on January 8th as planned. All the radios will be at the January meeting. If you have radios among them, plan to pick them up there. If you can't make it give me a call and I'll plan to bring them to your door.

Georgia-Pacific Historical Museum has been an especially rewarding display and I hope that others have enjoyed it as much as I have.

- * New displays will hopefully be arranged for in the new year. We still need your suggestions. A small display (as few as 10 radios) will still be an asset to the club if there is somewhere that secure and in the public eye. Please send us your suggestions.

Lastly- the display proposal for the OMSI display will be available at the February meeting for anyone who is interested in looking at it.

SEE YOU JANUARY 9th IN OREGON CITY.

(home phone 288-1285)

OUR PEOPLE

The open house, hosted by the Georgia-Pacific Museum and preceding the meeting of December 12, was most enjoyable - an excellent opportunity to view the display in a private showing. Most members brought guests. Our thanks to Georgia-Pacific, Museum director Richard Thompson and Dick Karman.

* * *

More of the Ted Husing story. Early in his career Husing signed on with WHN as a disc jockey, a job that paid well but seemed to offer little opportunity. He still maintained an abiding interest in sports and sports reporting and a primary objective was to outdo McNamee in that area. His chance came in the fall of 1928. Major Andrew White, chief sports reporter for CBS, was scheduled to do an important football game in Michigan but, taken suddenly ill, he was unable to complete his assignment. Husing saw this as a golden opportunity and immediately set out to convince CBS that he was the "right man" to replace White. Reluctant as they were to trust an important sports event to an untried reporter, they finally agreed --- no one else was available. Husing went and was a sensation - his diction, smooth voice and knowledge of the game brought extravagant praises from listeners.

Ted desperately wanted to do a New Year's Day bowl game broadcast, for he considered it to be the ultimate in sports reporting. He eyed the Rose Bowl with envy, but NBC, with Graham McNamee, already had this firmly secured. 1935 saw the start of the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, but NBC took that as well. Down Miami way, starting in 1933, there was a post season game held in conjunction

with an event called the Palm Festival. Some local business men hit upon this as an opportunity to promote the area, and thus came into being yet another New Year's Day game, the Orange Bowl. In 1936 the committee talked CBS and Husing into broadcasting their New Year's Day game, at the same time conveniently failing to mention how primitive were their facilities for such an event. Husing hadn't been to Miami and didn't know about the makeshift arrangement that passed for a stadium - mostly temporary bleacher seats and an almost non-existent radio booth. Thru the fall of 1936 Husing had given glowing build-ups about the upcoming Orange Bowl. When he arrived in Miami he immediately wanted to see the stadium and the radio booth. The committee realized that if he saw their primitive set up he would most likely refuse to do the broadcast. So, they kept him so busy with pre-game details that he didn't see the "stadium" till the day of the game. The radio booth was a converted chicken coop and one had actually to climb a ladder to reach it. By then it was too late to back out -- this after he had told the country what a great event it was.

Did this inauspicious beginning discourage him? Not at all - over the years he helped promote the Orange Bowl into the major sports event it is today -- Husing had his own bowl game at last.

* * *

Events scheduled for January: Election of officers for 1982. This ordinarily would take place in December but a quorum was not present at that meeting, necessitating the hold over. Also, home built radios will be judged at this time. Let's have a good attendance.

S E R V I C E H I N T S

AK 80. When volume controls become noisy raise the end of the contact with long-nosed pliers and bend in toward the winding slightly, then clean the strip with alcohol.—Radio Retailing

AK 83, 85. Poor tone, low volume and little response with tone control turned to bass. Look for open R.F. choke in pentode control grid circuit. Analyzers miss this one.—Radio Retailing

AK 85. Unusually sharp volume control cut-off in model 85 can generally be remedied by trying several 24's in the AVC socket. No detector plate voltage on the 37 is most frequently caused by shorting of the plate to ground by-pass condenser and not burnt out series resistor or transformer primary. "Choppy" reception in model 38 is commonly traceable to shorting of the audio output condenser. Unsolder green wire with yellow tracer from bottom terminal strip and connect a new condenser in series. Noisy volume control operation in the same model is often due to a broken lead of the R.F. coil primary near the lug.—Radio Retailing

AK 85. A great improvement may be had in the operation of the volume control by making a careful selection of tubes to be used in the AVC socket. With some tubes the control is critical, the volume falling to nothing within a fraction of a turn of the knob.—Bill Lewandowski, Box 208 Lakeview, Mich.

AK 89. If glow in neon tuning light gradually disappears while set is tuned to a local station, remove first I. F. shield and carefully scrape away the black sealing compound between the plate and grid I. F. coil. Scrape compound clear down to the cardboard tube on which I. F. coils are wound.—George Mason, Santa Ana, Calif.

AK 99. High potential on one control grid cap. Remove I.F. cans, insulate resistors which touch coil forms. Trouble causes neon light to be inoperative and kills all signals.—Radio Retailing

AK 627. On several of these sets I have found the low frequency end of the dial to be "dead." The trouble is not as one would suppose, shorted tuning condenser plates, but is to be found inside the oscillator coil can. The 1,450 m.m.f. condenser located at the side of the coil is grounded with two small rivets which have loosened. Oscillation and inaccurate dial settings are indicative of this fault. The best remedy is to run a special lead, (grounded) to mounting of this condenser unless the condenser either leaks or is open.—Clyde P. Carter, Canistota, N. Y.

Wireless Quote Of The Month

Since the early days of radio there has been a debate whether radio should be used primarily for entertainment or public service. General C. McK. Saltzman, chief signal officer of the U.S. Army, held the view that public service should be the main purpose of radio. The general told Radio News in 1926 that:

"The most urgent problem confronting radio today is happily not related to the technicalities of the art itself. It is the problem of determining those phases of radio enterprise that are worthy of continued existence, further development, and continued public support."

"The increasing use of radio as a means of international and domestic telegraph correspondence, as a aid to aeronautical and marine navigation, automatic train control and other vital services, has made it imperative, for the present at least, to restrict all radio activities within definite limits in the ether. That all services within those limits may be assured of unrestricted development and technique, it becomes apparent that an effort should be made to eliminate those features of service and faulty technique which tend to retard rather than contribute to service and development of the art."

"Our annual National Radio Conferences, at which representatives of every agency interested in, or affected by, radio have met, have resulted in consideration and constructive recommendations toward the solution of this and other radio problems. Those recommendations if given proper national, moral, and legal support, will be conducive to much improvement in radio."

From Radio News for March, 1926. Page 1361.

Contributed by Art Redman

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RCA Victor

for 1938!



FARM Radio

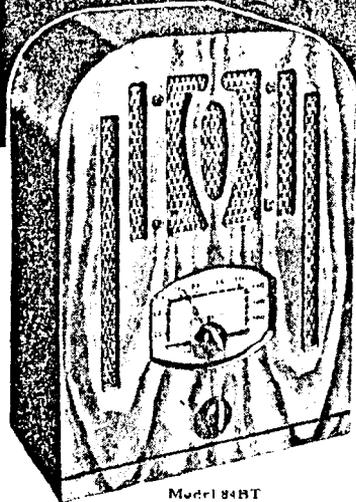
Get Stations You Never Heard Before!

AMAZING

Distance Booster

**BOOSTS YOUR
RADIO PLEASURE**

Low-priced 1938 RCA Victor
Farm Radios offer more stations,
greater power, finer tone!



Model 84BT

There are more than 60 outstanding performance features in the new RCA Victor 1938 farm radios! All mean extra quality for you—extra value!

Leader of these fine features is the thrilling new "Distance Booster," which enables you to tune in more stations than ever before... gives you greater distance, greater volume, finer tone! With this sensational new development, RCA Victor Battery Sets rival the performance of power line radio.

Not only do these beautiful new RCA Victor farm sets provide a new high in battery set performance—but they're amazingly low in cost, too. They work with either wind charger or gasoline motor generators... and greatly lowered battery drain makes them cost less to operate!

List Price Complete \$27.95

Old Time Radio

The Pacific Coast is "On the Air!"

by Wilbur Hall

Along comes radio. And I have made up my mind, since pursuing this elusive and mysterious subject for the kind editor of this publication, that inside of a year there will not be a person in the Pacific Coast states who will not have or be within easy reach of a receiving station that will give him the hot stuff just as it comes from the old griddle.

I mean that--no less.

Taking only the matter of our mines, oil fields and scattered ranches. Today, the men on some of these properties and places are about three weeks behind the rest of civilization--and in that length of time, as life moves today, you could kill off a couple of foreign potentates, divorce the country's best-known actress and marry her again, drive copper up to twelve cents, or wheat down to sixty, and develop nineteen brand new movie colony scandals in Hollywood. Tomorrow--or the next day, at latest--the mine owner can order a new tunnel driven or two hundred men fired in half an hour, from his city office or club; the petroleum operator can take options at the rate of one a minute or can receive hourly reports of progress on a deep hole; the commission man can buy eggs or barley or cotton at one and the same time in Astoria, the Walker Lake reservation in Nevada, or in the heart of the Colorado desert, and eat a sandwich at Fourth and Market streets, San Francisco, while he's so engaged.

Another instance (out of hundreds) is that, potentially, of the man operating a mountain resort. At present he and his guests are at one end of a tenuous telephone or telegraph wire, and between them and civilization are mountains, deserts, gulches, wastes, and unmapped wilderness, with nothing but the wire to depend on, and no assurance that a hawk

pursuing a nimble English sparrow won't put that out of commission at any hour of the day, I make no doubt whatever that every resort and camp in the West will this summer be advertising daily news dispatches, concerts, fashion notes, and society items within an hour of the time that the man who stayed in the city gets them warm from the press. And the field is still left wide open for men who go into still more remote places, on business or pleasure, and who today might slip over a cliff or break a rib and lie for days, weeks, or months, as the case might or might not be, before any one found him--or his body.

For once I think we are safe in asserting that the wild and woolly West is at least up with, and perhaps something ahead of, the East. Conservative estimates put the number of receiving sets operating on the Pacific Coast and adjacent states at 25,000. The estimates run as high as 50,000 and, counting home-made sets which are increasing at an unbelievable rate, this is probably more nearly correct. Some of our lads out here are receiving messages daily and taking in concerts that are dispatched from points as far distant as Japan and the Atlantic Ocean, and the excellent and lively radio magazine now published here and already in (I believe) its fourth year has a couple of pages of "Calls Heard" reports that will make any Easterner sit up and tune up. They claim, I understand, that there is a scientific gentleman in Los Altos of Sunnyvale, just south of San Francisco, who has heard further than any man in America with his extensive and elaborate set, and he is engaged now in experiments on improved devices that, he and his company say, will multiply the practical usefulness of radio tenfold. And so on.

(to be continued)

From "RADIO BROADCAST", June, 1922

Olé! by T.J.

Our member Jerry Talbot has picked up so many sets lately that he intimates they may just have an auction of their livingroom furniture to accomodate the intrusion of radio consoles! Anyway here's a sample of his late acquisitions: Coronado # 578, '36, Airline # 62-465, '39, Arvin # 402, '40, 3 tube mini. Packard-Bell # 51, '41, a ten tube all wave job with wrap-around cabinet; chassis removed from bottom! Jada # 652, '46 with flashy gold and red trimmed plastic. Bendix # 526M, marble-like green plastic. Philco # 49-1401, '49 Radio-phono comb. deco style. Hallcrafters # J-54, Nine in. J V.

Art Redman sent in a different sort of OLE last month too late for deadline. Here's what he believes is a sort of non-olé that makes him feel relieved that he did not get. He went to a local antique auction where a Stromberg-Carlson mod. 601 was up for bid. The item was in good cond. externally, and had an instruction book and the tubes; but, the tuning mechanism was all "gone to pot" (almost all of these models have the same ailment, pot metal gears etc. all disintegrated) Art says hedropped the bid at \$88.00 to an antique dealer and feels no remorse. (I wonder if an antique dealer would buy the set with just cabinet and panel intact? ed.).

Bob Teague speared a nice Knight Cathedral for low bucks on his way to meeting which shows something or other. Also got a choice freeby, a Riders Vol. I!

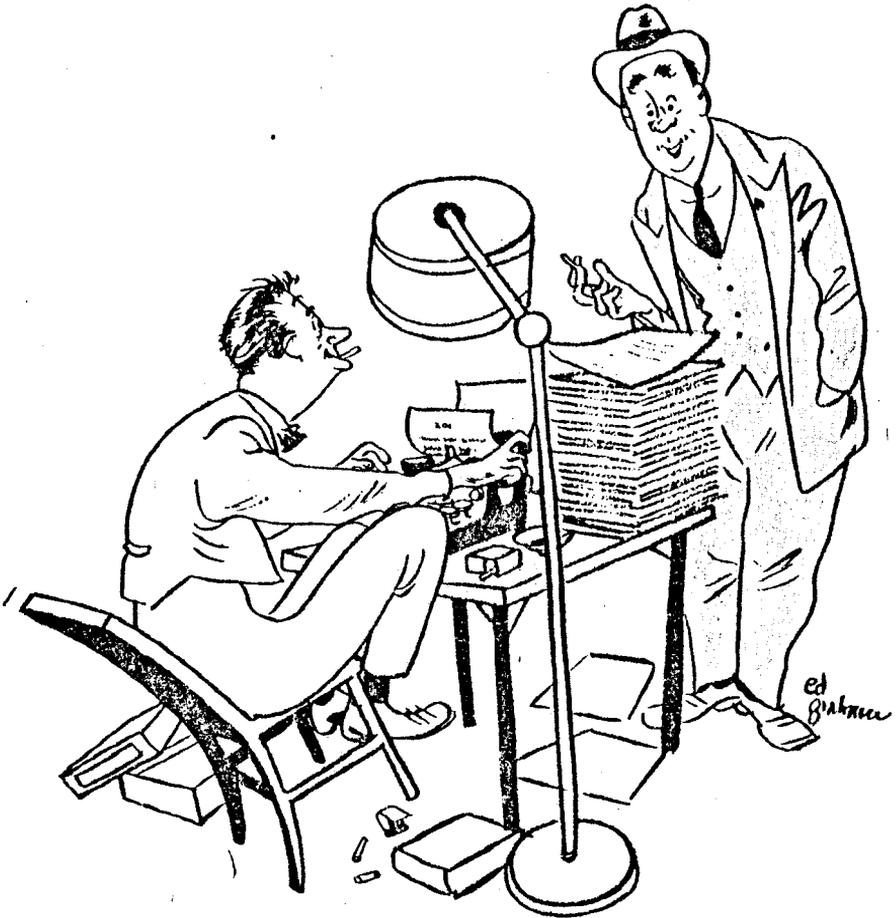
Our news editor Jim Mason got a lot of rain out his way-- also he picked up a rather rare three dial JRF set called a Marwol, 1925 vintage.

Hon. editor James got a bunch of old 51 mod (Crosley parts (in exchange for a 150 mil. power transformer,) and a few more old tubes.

So much for 1981--Happy New Year, Good hunting in

1982

CARTOON CLIPPINGS



"No, not a book. It's a radio commercial!"

Yesterday

Way back in 1919, the Signal Corps of the army try out airplane signals. Experts in the Corps began experiments with a recent invention which they believed would prove valuable in making the airplane a commercial utility. Described as an "audible beacon", the new contrivance was designed as a signal which will advise the aviator not only of his own position, regardless of weather conditions, but will serve as accurate marks for suitable landing sites.

"The beacon" was said to be a combination of the radio telephone and the ordinary phonograph. It's operation was more or less automatic and could repeat a word or signal designating it's position. For instance, one at Langley field, the interdepartmental aviation base, might send out the call "Langley" at stated intervals.

Officials working on the invention believed that the next step would be the adoption of the sound-ranging device, then used by the armies in connection with artillery fire, to enable aviators to determine without delay, the distance and directions of the call of any one of these sending stations.

** ** *

In 1943, one world war later, many in the club will remember the vast advances in communications, instrumentation, automation etc. that ensued during those years. I believe that no tool in history has had so profound an impact on the human race as electronic devices have during these years. As to the present writing, There is still great strides going on, but to my way of thinking, the step from nothing to something is greater than from something to more somethings. Remember that the electronic oven, organ, radar, voyages to outer space, etc. all are related to the mastery of radio waves. I hope the future holds as many surprises in this field as it did in 1900. Happy electronic New Year!

SWAP SHOP

- WANTED Philco model 91 cabinet. Bill De Vey. Ph. 635-6746
- FOR SALE OR SWAP Lots of 30's and 40's magazines. Bill De Vey
- FREE Zenith black dial console cabinet Fair condition. Bill De Vey.
- FOR SALE 1946 Westinghouse H-125 Jukebox mini-set. \$20
1941 Zenith portable, 6G501. \$15
1946 Zenith AM-FM. \$15
1938 Airline multiband. \$35
1946 Automatic, 616X. \$15
Will bring to the meeting on the 9th. Jerry Talbott. Ph. 649-6717.
- FOR SALE Old tubes, knobs and parts. Name what you need. Don Iverson, Ph. 286-1144.
- FOR SALE 1937 Philco All-wave console, model 37-10, \$75. Jim Mason, Ph. 644-2343.

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A reminder-- please bring a stick or two of firewood to the next meeting.