



# CALL LETTER

VOLUME 15

FEBRUARY 1989

NUMBER 2

## Porta-Pac



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191 PARK STREET · PORTLAND, OREGON

# **GALL 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 & STAFF \*\*\*\*\*  
PRESIDENT.....DAN HOWARD.....503-761-7799  
VICE PRESIDENT....DOUG DAVEE.....503-752-1648  
TREASURER.....ED CHARMAN.....503-654-7387  
SECRETARY.....NORRIS JACKSON.503-642-5625

## \*\*\*\*\* NWVRS MAILING ADDRESSES \*\*\*\*\*

### **Membership Applications & Renewals:**

Northwest Vintage Radio Society

P.O. Box 82379

Portland, Oregon

97282-0379

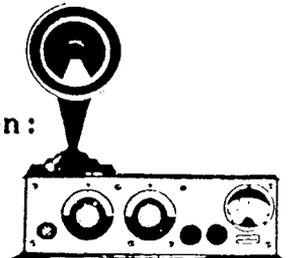
### **All Newsletter Business/Information:**

Call Letter

4041 NE Wistaria Drive

Portland, Oregon

97212-2963



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The CALL LETTER and The HORN OF PLENTY are published monthly as the official publication of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society and the Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. The Call Letter and The Horn Of Plenty are available only as part of the NWVRS/PSARA memberships. NWVRS/PSARA are not responsible for any buying /selling transactions incurred, or for any other use of the contents of this publication.

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# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

*Mythological Logic*

There once was a goddess, named Phoebe,  
Who treasured her Syncrophase Grebe,  
But a hellion, her son,  
Took a miniature gun  
And blasted each bulb with a BB!

When he spotted the look in her eye,  
He knew 'twas now leave or die;  
So fast was the flash  
Of his headlong dash,  
He radiated right into the sky!

There are those who are highly emphatic,  
About that juveniles trip, radiatic,  
And continue to say  
To this very day,  
"It's that common phenomenon, 'Static' "!

\*\* \*\*

*Scotch Tape*

Donald McDonald, of Shedd,  
Made his antenna of thread.  
We laughed 'til we cried,  
But auld Donald replied,  
"I dinna hae the lightning tae dread!"

\*\* \*\*

Radio commercial: No matter how small the trouble with your set, You can count on Blank's Radio Service to do a major repair!



# MERCURY THEATRE

---

By Hugh Miller

A couple of items of interest abstracted from a special feature on Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater, broadcast on NPR network's "Weekend Edition", Nov. 12, 1988. The report noted the passing of Welles' estranged former partner, Jack Houseman, a week before.

Welles had stored the acetate disk recordings of Mercury Theater plays in Houseman's garage. Houseman had refused to allow the recordings to be re-recorded for listeners today, but finally he was convinced with the argument that old disks held great historical importance. The recordings were by no means "Hi-Fi", as they had been recorded off the air or over telephone lines, and some had been well worn by Welles' repeated playings. A San Francisco firm, No Noise, was hired to process the recordings with its proprietary digital noise-removing technique, with the result that very listenable recordings of the plays are now available.

One of Mercury Theater's radio actresses recalled this anecdote about Welles: One day Welles enthused to Houseman about a great idea he had in mind for the next broadcast. In fact, Welles was so determined to see his splendid idea thru, that he alone would craft the script. A day or so later, Houseman asked Welles how the writing was going. Welles responded that it was moving along fine. Couple days later, and a somewhat concerned Houseman again inquired as to the progress of the script. Welles angrily rebuffed him, maintaining that this project was his and his alone, and he was well along with it. The Saturday of the broadcast rolled around, and surprise, still no completed script! What Welles did have were some various unconnected pages. These were hurriedly patched together for a last-minute workable script, and the show went on the air. Unfortunately the play as scripted ended 22 minutes before the show's allotted radio time was up. Now what to do? Welles grabbed a book of collected stories; telling his listeners that if they tuned in to the next season's Mercury Teater, they could hear such fine stories as ..... and he began reading dramatically from the book. After several minutes he passed the book to Houseman, who in turn read from it. Taking turns reading, they managed to fill the 22 minute gap.

The end of the Welles-Houseman Partnership was later to be irrevocably sealed at an unpleasant incident at a dinner at which Welles, depending on whose account is told, either threw dishes or upended the table. Years later, mutual friends tried for a reconciliation by inviting both to dinner. Both accepted, but unfortunately a heated argument flared up from some trivial remark, with Welles hurling wild accusations at Houseman. The dinner party ended in an uproar, the former partners leaving more angry and alienated than ever.



# POWELL

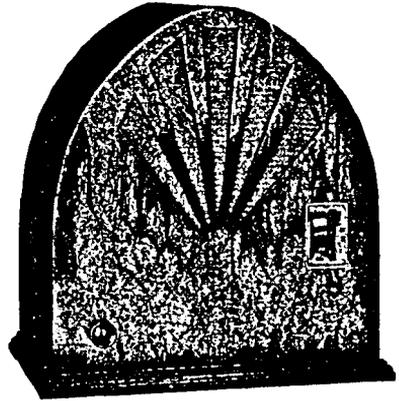
*The NEW POWELL RADIO Presents*

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Steel Chassis  
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Drum Dial  
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Selective—Sensitive—Powerful



We have been licensed under the R.C.A., LaTour and Hazeltine Patents and are now able to afford our dealers full patent protection.

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**\$59<sup>50</sup>**  
Complete  
with Tubes

Go to your nearest dealer for a demonstration.

Dealers—write or phone for our proposition.

## **Powell Manufacturing Co.**

HARRY B. COOPER, Factory Branch Manager

909 Pike Street

SEneca 1309

Seattle, Wash.

# Radio Waves at Reading Material

---

By Dick Karman

Wouldn't it be nice to know what the calls letters of the station in your grandmothers town was when she was a girl? What was the television station in your town in 1935? (Was there one?)

There's a book available to tell you these and other facts about radio stations. Written by Tom Kneitel, and published by CRB Research, P.O. Box 56-NN, Commack, New York 11725, the **The Radio Station Treasury: 1900-1946** will provide hours of everything from serious research to pleasant trivia. It may appear that your reporter is a little behind the times because the book was published early last year, but it is still an authoritative walk down memory lane and it covers the years that radio collectors (at least 'round these parts) like the best.

In an independent review it was found to be both accurate and entertaining. It can be ordered soft cover for \$14.95 from the publisher.

**The Auto Radio: A Romantic Genealogy** was released last year by Thornridge Publishing, Box 11 Jackson, Mississippi 49204. Author Donald Matteson does a splendid job of tracing the birth and growth of the automobile radio. More than just a chronology, Matteson includes hundreds of photographs, anecdotes, and copies of the original advertisements.

If auto radios are your love, this clothbound work, available for \$34.95, may seem a little expensive but worth every penny.

Special thanks to **SPERDVAC**, the Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy, 443 Appletree Court, Camarillo, California 93010, for providing this information via their newsletter, the *RadioGram*.



# PSARA MEETING MINUTES

Seattle, Washington

Sunday Jan. 15, 1989

The Business Meeting was attended by thirty-two Members plus five Guests, four of which were voted in as new members. (See: "New Members").

**OLD BUSINESS:** It was resolved and voted in by majority that cross membership between P.S.A.R.A. of Seattle, Wa. and N.W.V.R.S. of Portland, Or. will be valid for all members of both clubs except those in "Associate Member" status. Frank Banks distributed copies of the P.S.A.R.A. Constitution to all members present; there are a number of extras for all who wish to pick up a copy. John Aiken mentioned that items for the March 19 Auction will be accepted starting at 10:00 AM. A motion to limit Auction participation to club members only, was defeated by a majority vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Errata for last months "New Business": existing By-Laws state that Members have 90 days (end of March) to pay up their dues before being dropped; NOT February as published previously. Due to some missing material from the club library, a need for a Librarian / Museum Curator was pointed out; more security was deemed necessary; a vote concerning this matter will be taken during the February meet.

## MEETING ADJOURNED.



Max A. Kaplan,

Secretary PSARA

## MISSING CLUB PROPERTY:

Rider, Vols. I-V, Abridged.

Video Tapes: "THE RADIO COLLECTOR".

Please return as soon as possible.



# PSARA Coming Events

Shoreline Museum Seattle Washington

February 19, 1989

11:00 AM Swap Meet

1:00 PM Business Meeting

Presentation: John Schneider on  
Refinishing Radio Cabinets.

Show and Tell: open.

March 19, 1989

11:00 AM Swap Meet

Annual PSARA Auction.

Times to be announced later.

April 16, 1989

11:00 AM Swap Meet

1:00 PM Business Meeting

Presentation: open

Show & Tell: open.

For additional PSARA information contact:

Max Kaplan 206-851-4187.

14902 84th Ave. Ct. NW.

Gig Harbor, Washington 98335

## WELCOME

\*\*\*\*\* P S A R A WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS \*\*\*\*\*

Lee Egnew

2413 NW 62nd Apt. B-1

Seattle, Wa. 98107

206-789-4221

John Hirsch

103 Garfield St.

Seattle, Wa. 98109

206-282-4089

Greg Izzi

7645 Merastone Ln. NE #202

Bremerton, Wa 98310

206-692-7075

Bob Korpi

1262 SW Orchard

Seattle, Wa. 98106

206-763-2515



# PSARA

DUES DEADLINE EXTENDED. In the December PSARA meeting a motion was passed to close the grace period for payment of dues at the end of February. This was reported in the January Horn of Plenty. However, according to the PSARA bylaws, the grace period should run till the end of March. Consequently, dues will be accepted without reinstatement through March. This will delay updating the roster as planned. Payment as early as possible will be appreciated.

M. Thornton, Treasurer

*Old!*

(acquisitions)

Jerry Cappoen

Kadett Model A or B, Marbelized Plastic.

Sonny Clutter

1938 "Baird" Electronic Television  
fully restored.

Ed Curry

Majestic Melody Cruiser Ship Radio  
Philco 70 Cathedral

Jim Mason

Scott AM-FM Tuner with matching Amplifier.  
(this is THE ONE which outperforms the  
McIntosh!).

Stromberg Carlson 7 tube large brown bakelite  
featuring dial with FM Channels 200 - 300  
(instead of freq. 88 - 108) & AM.

John Schneider

RCA model 5T table set.

Jerry Talbott

1935 Zenith 666 Car radio  
1939 Emerson white bakelite BL200  
1946 RCA Ryder Chanalyst test unit.  
Langhorn interstage Transformer, Northwestern  
radio mfg. knobs mfg in Portland, Ore.

Steve Von Talge

Kilbourne & Clark Radio



NORTHWEST VINTAGE RADIO SOCIETY

1988 INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME:

Dues.....	\$ 1,337.00
Advertising.....	60.00
Swap Meets.....	87.00
Auctions.....	51.25
Donations.....	30.00
Collins' Book Sales.....	285.00

TOTAL INCOME...\$ 1,850.25

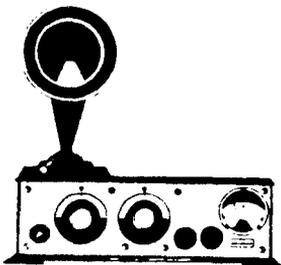
EXPENSES:

CALL LETTER (incl.postage)...	\$ 682.21
Clubhouse Rent.....	100.00
P.O.Box Rent.....	22.00
State Corporation Fee.....	5.00
Swap Meet Publicity.....	64.00
Dues Rebate.....	15.20
Roster Printing.....	10.00
Postage for Treasurer.....	11.00
Cards and Flowers.....	37.50
Hospitality.....	26.46
Purchase of Collins' Books...	284.55

TOTAL EXPENSES..\$ 1,257.92

Abstracted and summarized from  
the General Ledger on 1/24/89.

*Charles E. Charman*  
Charles E. Charman  
Treasurer



# N W V R S MEETING MINUTES

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Oregon City, Oregon

January 14, 1989

The January 14, 1989 meeting of the NWVRS was called to order at 10:06 AM by Vice President Doug Davee.

The **TREASURER'S REPORT** was given and accepted with a current balance of \$1717.60. Welcomed visitors to today's meeting were radio enthusiasts Ken and Kathy Smith of Lake Oswego and old radio man Rudy Watsig from Portland. Member Frank Rasada from Los Angeles was also in attendance.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Doug Davee shared with the membership his experience along-side Glenn Bricker from participating in a radio talk show about vintage radios in Cottage Grove. A motion was made to increase advertising rates to \$120-- a year for a full page (\$60-- for half page). Motion was passed by unanimous vote. The club radio project is near completion. The cabinet needs to be modified and a horn speaker is needed. Name tag prices have increased to \$4-- (cash in advance) and a fee will be charged for mailing.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Vice President Doug Davee reviewed the club activity schedule for 1989. The schedule may be found on page 18 of the January 1989 Call Letter. Doug would appreciate activity suggestions for the June 10 meeting. "70 Years of Radio" by Alan Douglas will be added to the club library. Norris Jackson has agreed to become the new club librarian. The club discussed a need for a combined meet of west coast clubs. No immediate action on this issue to report. The club is pursuing the purchase of business cards for members. Details will be worked out in the coming month. Sonny Clutter is looking for volunteers to participate in forming a display at the Salem Flea market on Feb. 12. He would also like to hear your display ideas.

**LEADS AND NEEDS:** Were given and the meeting adjourned at 11:20.

*Norris Jackson*

Norris W. Jackson, NWVRS Secretary



# NWVRS Coming Events

February 11, 1989

10:00 AM Business Meeting & Contest  
Radios-Parts-Accessories  
Manufactured by Northwest Companies

March 11, 1989

8:30 AM Swap Meet & Business Meeting  
Noon: Swap Meet ends.

April 8, 1989

10:00 AM Business Meeting & Display-Talk  
Documentation: Collecting & Preservation

May 13, 1989

8:30 AM Swap Meet & Business Meeting  
Noon: Swap Meet ends.

June 10, 1989

10:00 AM Business Meeting

July.....Summer Vacation

August.....Summer Vacation

Sept 9, 1989

10:00 AM Business Meeting & Annual Auction

October 14, 1989

10:00 AM Business Meeting & Annual Contest

November 11, 1989

8:30 AM Swap Meet & Business Meeting

December 9, 1989

10:00 AM Business Meeting & Annual Election  
of Officers.

\*\*\* NWVRS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*

February's Contest will feature Radios and Accessories made in the Pacific Northwest. Please bring as many entries as you like (no limit). I hope that together we can capture some of the history of Radio Manufacture in the Northwest by bringing together a wide variety of samples of local Craftsmanship.

Dan Howard

\*\*\* JANUARY CONTEST RESULTS \*\*\*\*\*

Pre-1940 Set Restoration:

1st: RC #2271 Sonny Clutter

2nd: Crosley 51 Doug Davee

3rd: Zenith Transoceanic Gerhard Watzig







# WANTED\*\*\*\*\*

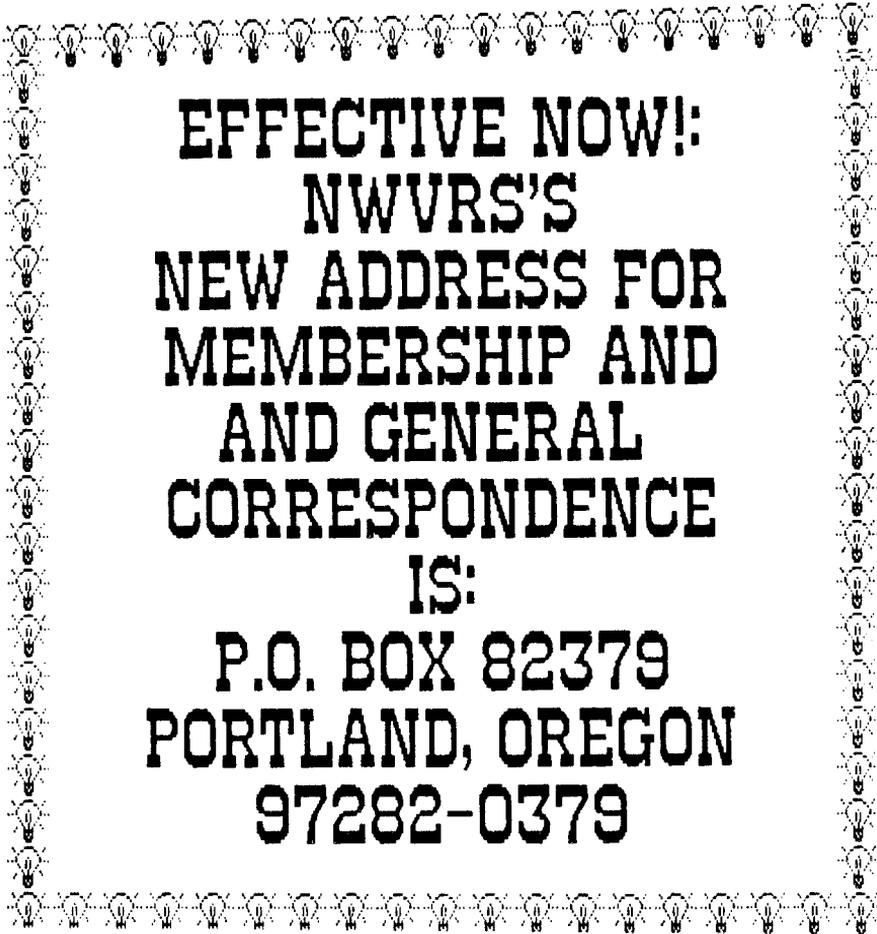
Original literature of the EH Scott and/or the Scott Transformer Co. especially the Scott News. Pictures of Moorhead (San Francisco) radio sets, circa 1916-1917. I will reimburse you for your expenses. Thanks for your help.  
Jim Clark 517-349-2249  
1292 Starboard Okemos, Mi 48864

# Swap\*\*\*\*\*

Emerson 60A Projection TV. (See above want ad.)  
Ken Korhonen

# FOR SALE\*\*\*\*\*

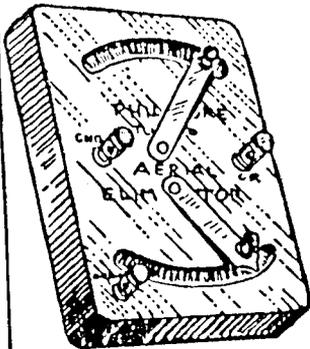
Philco Serviceman seven copies of pre-war news-letter \$5-- ppd. Hugh Miller (see want ad)



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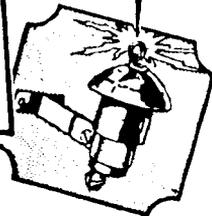
## Tuned Aerial Eliminator



This Eliminator does away with the out-door aerial. It gives clearer reception and overcomes danger from lightning. More selectivity is obtainable because sliders can be adjusted to a position where best reception is obtainable by matching the impedance of the pickup to that of the particular set.

List Price  
\$1.00 ea.

# Save Your Set From Lightning



You never know what lightning will do and any radio set which is without the protection of a lightning arrester is at the mercy of a storm. The National Board of Fire Underwriters specify that an approved Radio Lightning Arrester must be used with all out-door aerial installations.



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- 1 coil 7-26-75 ft. stranded copper aerial wire
- 1 Coil 25 ft. rubber covered lead-in wire
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- 2 Nail-it knobs
- 1 Instruction sheet

List Price  
75c ea.

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Greatly improves reception and tone quality of any receiver. Reduces line and static noises to an absolute minimum. Compact in size and very simple to install. Operates on either A.C. or D.C. currents. Complete with bakelite knobs or fahnestock clips. Available in two models.



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SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 OREGON CITY NWRS 10:00 AM Northwest Radios
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 SEATTLE WASHINGTON PSARA 11:00 AM Swap Meet 1:00 PM Meeting	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	February 1989			



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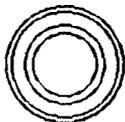
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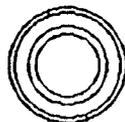
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