



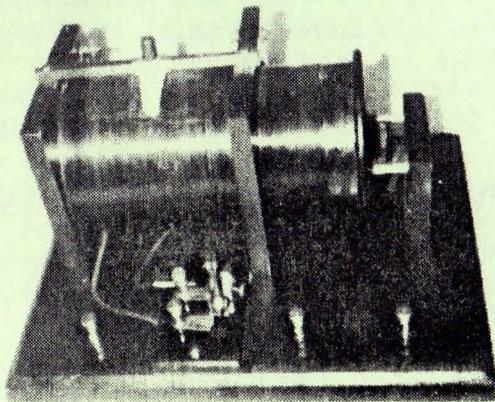
# CALL LETTERS

VOLUME 15

MAY 1989

NUMBER 5

## Myers Blackwell



Crystal Receiver

# 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

## 1989 NWVRS OFFICERS

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

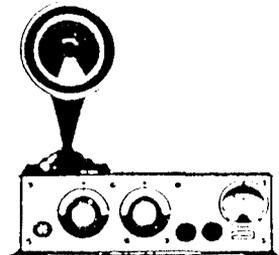
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

All Newsletter Business/Information:

Call Letter

4041 NE Wistaria Drive

Portland, Oregon 97212-2963



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# ATMOSPHERICA

By J

## Hot Merchandise

It was about a year ago,  
At a flea market down the pike  
Our hero had a happening  
Of which you've seldom heard  
the like.

He was in his easy chair  
Behind a multitude of stuff ;  
A radio was playing sweetly  
To our smiling antique Buff .

When a "mark" stepped up and asked  
About the radio on the right.  
"Does it work?" "Of course it does ,  
Watch how the tubes will light!"

Then all Hell broke loose,  
Two caps went up like rockets;  
Smoke poured out the speaker grill,  
And the cord burnt to the sockets!

The "mark" took off a-grinnin'--  
And is probably laughing yet,  
At the strange Vesuvian antics  
Of this lovely antique set!

"I guess I'll have to cut the price",  
Said our hero, tears a-glisten,  
"My dang fool console let me down---  
I'm putting "as-is" on this un!"



# COVER STORY

---

## TWO PORTLAND COMPANIES IN EARLY RADIO

I have in my collection two items made by Portland, Oregon firms in the early twenties: a loose coupler crystal set manufactured by Myers Blackwell Co., and a variable condenser made by Portland Electric Maintenance Co. Unable to find anyone who had heard of these companies, I checked Portland City Directories of that period.

In the 1921-22 Directory, I found Myers Blackwell Co. (F.P.Myers - H.A.Blackwell) Novelty Manufacturers, 462 Hawthorne Blvd. In 1923, a more detailed listing of Myers Blackwell Co. Inc. - F.P.Myers, Mgr. Complete Manufacturing Service, including Designing, Experimenting, Tooling, Production. 462 Hawthorne Blvd. The final entry was in 1924: Myers Blackwell Co., F.P.Myers, Mgr. Machinists, 55 Union Ave. As the label on the crystal set lists the company as Myers Blackwell Co. it appears that it was made in 1921 or 1922, before incorporation.

Only a single listing was found for Portland Electric Maintenance Co. This was in 1923, as follows: Portland Electric Maintenance Co., H.F.Holkenbrink, Mgr. Manufacturers Sheet Metal Goods and Electrical Specialties, Punch Press Work, Tool and Dies. We finance and assist in development of patents and saleable articles. 262 Madison.

Jim Mason

Jim Mason also provided the photo of his  
Myers Blackwell Crystal Set.



# Radio Waves

---

By Dick Karman

The **Oregonian** in 1923 offered radio enthusiasts a simple method for determining the polarity of the Output lead of a DC transformer:

"In charging a storage battery it is of utmost importance that the correct terminals of the DC line be connected to the battery. The positive side of the line must always be connected to the plus post of the battery and the negative line must be connected to the minus post. If these are reversed the battery will be ruined in a short time.

"If the owner of a homemade charging outfit is uncertain as to the correct polarity of the leads a simple test may be applied to determine which is positive and which is negative. This may be done by inserting the two leads into a glass filled with salted water. In a moment or two bubbles will be seen around on the leads. This is caused by the hydrogen gas liberated by the chemical action of the electrical current flowing between the terminals in the solution. The bubbles form around the negative lead."

So much for simplified radio tips from the past.

## Stan Freberg remembers Stan Freberg

For those of you who followed the slow demise of network radio shows in the 50s, a book is now on the market which will make you chuckle. **It Only Hurts When I Laugh** is an autobiographical work by Stan Freberg.

Stan and his irreverent troupe of satirists stirred the fire hoping to keep radio (as it was meant to be) alive in the late 50s. His wonderful radio show ran only for 15 weeks (T.V. you know) but the excerpts from it released on Capitol records won a Grammy award.

The book, allows you to see Radio through the eyes Stan Freberg. A perspective that I enjoy. I recommend it highly to young and old alike. Freberg is hardly a name to be placed on the shelf. Freberg Limited, but not very, (his advertising company) has continued to entertain you for the last 30 years. From as far back as the Butternut coffee commercials (the longest recorded commercial ever to be played on radio) to more recent Jenó's Pizza spots seen on T.V., Freberg is out there. Invite him in. Set him on your coffee table, pick him up and read his mind. It's delightful!



# Part of Radio Passing Away

---

## Lucille Ball

In the hours of radio and television special which dealt with the recent passing of Lucille Ball little if any time was given to the radio career of this star. My limited knowledge cannot do justice to her credits but I can cite the notable accomplishments and acknowledge her contribution to radio.

Radio show aficionados quickly remember Lucy's first regular radio show, **My Favorite Husband**. It aired for the first time in July of 1948, and co-starred Lee Bowman as husband, George. The Coopers were living at 321 Bundy Drive in Sheridan Falls (no one knows what state it was in but most of us remember a state of confusion), in that year when Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated, the Long Play phonograph record was first released and the transistor was invented.

Lucy had been in radio before 1948. She was a panelist on **Leave it to the Girls** in 1945, and guest spots on **The March of Time**. Also to her credit are several appearances on **Suspense**, and **Screen Director's Playhouse**.

In 1950 the show **My Favorite Husband** was the inspiration behind Granby's Green Acres. Yes, it was exactly the scenario that was carried over to television with Zsa Zsa Gabor and Eddie Albert. The dingy wife on radio's "Green Acres", although it was not Lucy, in many ways laid the ground work for the part that Lucille Ball would eventually perfect in **I Love Lucy**.

**I Love Lucy** was on CBS radio in 1952 sponsored by Phillip Morris cigarettes. It had the same cast and the same scenario as the television version, with Lucy, Ricky, Ethyl and Fred. It did well on radio, but better on Television. so, when all the other shows moved away from radio so did Lucy.

As it has been said before, "we'll miss her." She has become a part of Americana and that part can not pass away even though another part of Radio is Passing away.



# PSARA MEETING MINUTES

Seattle, Washington  
Sunday April 16, 1989

Due to the absence of the secretary, Matt Thornton stepped in to take his place and report these minutes. The meeting was attended by 23 Members and 3 Guests:

Mr Jim Glanacos, Mr Bill Herbert and Mr Al Lemke.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Circulated draft update of PSARA Constitution and bylaws for consideration next meeting. Ed Buhite was voted as Editor of Horn Of Plenty. A volunteer is wanted to serve as Associate Editor of Horn Of Plenty. Approved sending roster diskette to Ed Buhite.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Approved sending letter to ARC accepting offer to exchange Washington mailing list and PSARA roster. Circulated order blank for Volumes 1 & 2 of Radio Manu facturers of the 1920s. Members are urged to put in fair contribution for coffee and cookies. Steve Von Talge moved, Jerry Cappoen seconded to reimburse President for current coffee and cookie expenses. Carried. Bert Whitaker moved that future coffee expense overruns be reimbursed. Seconded by Frank Banks. Carried.

Eric Lofquist moved, Frank Banks seconded prepaying hall rent through December 1989. Carried. Eric Lofquist moved, Steve Von Talge seconded that Bert Whitaker be designated host for FCC employee who wishes to sell at PSARA Swap Meets but is not allowed by FCC regulations to join club. Carried.

Meeting Adjourned



# PSARA Welcomes Members

---

Martin Bunis	James Coleman	Doug Klopfenstein
Steve Neal	Bob Phelps	Eugene Pupo
Bob Rettmer	Jerry Riley	Ian Sangster
Pat Stewart	Cory Wallace	

## PSARA COMING EVENTS

Shoreline Museum Seattle, Washington

May 21, 1989

11:00 AM Swap Meet

1:00 PM Business Meeting

Presentation: open

Show & Tell: open.

June 18, 1989 open, July 16, 1989 Museum open.

A plea to all members: We presently have no one scheduled for our monthly Presentations or Show & Tells. If you have any interests or subjects you wouldn't mind sharing with members after the Business meetings, please step forward now and let Jerry Brannon (206-854-4234) know about it. For show & Tell just bring in your favorite item and tell a little about it. Thank You.

For additional PSARA information contact:

Max Kaplan 206-851-4187

14902 84th Ave. Ct. NW.

Gig Harbor, Washington 98335





# PSARA 1989 Annual Contest



Photos  
provided by  
WALT KIEFNER

# NWVRS PRESIDENT'S PAGE

---

by President Dan Howard

With the tax season about over, my face should again become a familiar sight at club activities. I thank Doug Davee, our Vice President, for seeing us through a couple of important business meetings.

Our editor still needs assistance with the preparation of the Call Letter. In order to continue to produce high quality newsletters, Ed needs people who are willing to contribute news items and articles, as well as a steady stream of classifieds. Don't be shy about taking advantage of your privilege of placing free "wanted" and "for sale" ads in the Call Letter each month. Also, Ed can use articles or notes about interesting radios, radio manufacturers, restorations, etc..

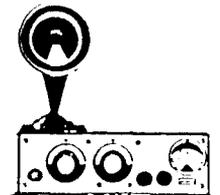
May and June should be busy months for the club. May 13th, the annual May swap meet will take place. If weather permits, we can expand to the lawn out front, so bring as much as you like (table space should not be a problem). As in March, the advertised start and ending times will be 8:30 and 12:00. If we make an effort to adhere to these times, it will make the event more enjoyable for all and will do much to improve the image of the club.

June 3-4, the Seaside ham convention. NVRS was approached again this year about putting on a display. I will be coordinating a display of ham gear and distributing membership information. Please contact me if you would like to participate. I also have flea market and advance registration information.

June 10, the June business meeting will feature a display of radio-related books, magazines, and other paper. Please plan to bring a few items to show.

I am at home most evenings. Please call or drop me a line if you would like to make comment or suggestions regarding club business or activities, or if you would just like to chat. I should be at the May swap meet (providing that my boss cooperates). I look forward to seeing you there.

Dan Howard



# N W V R S MEETING MINUTES

---

## Oregon City, Oregon

April 8, 1989

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Doug Davee at 10:08. The Treasurer's report was read and approved and a welcome was given to two visitors, Tom Johnson and Scott McGregor.

### OLD BUSINESS

The purchase of Club business cards was discussed. A motion was made and carried to strike the purchase from the agenda.

Doug Davee forwarded Mrs. Callahan's appreciation to the members for attending her radio sale. There are more items available and will appear at future swap meets.

There was a discussion concerning last month's swap meet about how it can be made more enjoyable. There was much discussion, but no concern was expressed about having hard and fast rules and regulations.

### NEW BUSINESS

We were reminded that there is a swap meet next month and hope to have more participation.

The June meeting display topic is to again be paper products, since this month's display was provided by only one person, Doug Davee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 and a talk about conserving paper products was given by Doug Davee.

*CR Kibler*  
C. R. Kibler



# N W V R S Welcomes

New Members and Reinstatements

Norman Braithwaite

Joseph Breivogel

Martin Bunis

Lou Evans

Tom Johnson

Chris Kaptur

Scott MacGregor

Greg Morse

David & J.D. Williams



S  
W  
A  
P  
M  
E  
E  
T

Location: Buena Vista Club House  
16th and Jackson  
Oregon City, Oregon

When: Saturday, May 13, 1989  
from 8:30 A.M. to Noon. Note: The  
Swap Meet will be interrupted by  
a brief business meeting.



# Ole!

(acquisitions)

Jerry Cappoen

Shirley Temple Teledial console

C.E. "Sonny" Clutter

Wireless Specialty IP-500 W/audio control box.

Silvertone 1589 Cathedral

Meteor 3 tube battery set by "The Radio Shop" of Sunnyvale, California.

Max Kaplan

A-K 20 (7570) & Speaker.

Walt Kiefner

Gloritone Cathedral

Philco Tombstone 37-610

Ken Korhonen

Emerson 564 Catalin

G.E. L-622 "Jewel Box" Catalin

RCA 66X8 Catalin

Philco 49-702 7" TV

RCA 8T243 TV

Teletone 7" TV

Dumont RA-113 TV

5BP4 pre-war CRT

U.S. Radio Tombstone

Jerry Talbott

Late 30s Phillips large bakelite Multiband made in Australia.

1948 Olympic TV922 10" Television.

1955 Stromberg Carlson AWP8 Multiband port.





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

1937 RCA 15U, 150KC to 60MC, Very unique turn-  
table, \$225--. Jerry Brannon 206-854-4234

22324 100th Ave. S.E. Kent, Washington 98031  
Dumont Oscilloscope, works good. \$10--

Cory Wallace 206-364-5142

1644 N.E.169th St. Seattle, Washington 98155

\*\*\* SELL / SWAP \*\*\*\*\*

Audio Transformers, All Tested, \$15-- each:

Pilot 391, 3 to 1; Jefferson "Star", 5 to 1;

Karas Harmonik. RF Transformers: Federal 31

with mounting bracket, 500 to 1000M; Federal

35 with mounting bracket, 220 to 550M; De

Forest "Reflex", 250 to 600M. Carborundum

Detector, washed out label, untested. Eimac

4-125A, new, make offer.

Norman Braithwaite (see want ad)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Radio Wave Quiz answers from the April Issue:

William Tell Overture	The Lone Ranger
Flight of the Bumble Bee	The Green Hornet
Back In the Saddle Again	Gene Autry
Happy Trails	Roy Rogers
Love Nest	The Burns and Allen Show
Love In Bloom	Jack Benny
My Time is Your Time	Rudy Vallee
Polly Wolly Doodle	Just Plain Bill
Red River Valley	Our Gal Sunday
Moonlight Serenade	The Glen Miller Orchestra
Rhapsody In Blue	The Paul Whiteman Orchestra
Inka Dinka Doo	Jimmy Durante



# May 1989

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 OREGON CITY NWURS SWAP MEET 8:30 AM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 SCARS TORRANCE CA 7AM SWAP 11AM BUSINESS R-BO AUCTION
21 SEATTLE WASHINGTON PSARA 11:00 AM Swap Meet 1:00 PM Business	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## CHRS

May 13, 1989 Foothill College  
8:00 AM Swap, 10:AM Business  
Paul Bourbin 415-648-8489 for information

## Yesterday USA

Bill Bragg from The National Museum OF  
Communications broadcasts vintage Radio  
programs and vintage music. Yesterday  
USA Superstation is located on Satcom  
F4, Tr.15, Audio 6.2.



# JA MAC PRODUCTS

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