

The

# Call Letter

of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Vol. 25

February 1999

No. 2

**New meeting location!  
See page 5 inside.**



In print since 1974

# 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 \$15.00 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 members of the *Call Letter* has continued to be a publication that both informs members of the society’s business and that has supported 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 Abernathy 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).

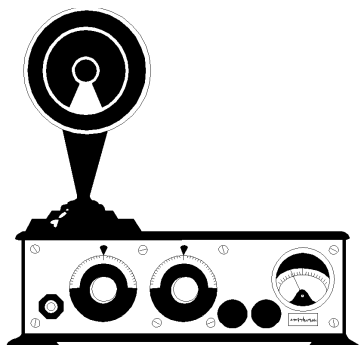
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio show, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

## Society Officers for 1999:

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	Tony Hauser	(503) 629-4836

The Society’s address is:

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



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# February 1999

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**On the cover:** This month's cover, most appropriate for the month of February, is the front of a piece of sheet music that came from Jim Mason's collection. It is an unabashed piece of advertising for the Velvetone "B" battery eliminator, copyrighted 1926 by the Velvetone Radio Corporation of America, Los Angeles, Calif.

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**Call Letter Deadline  
25th of the month  
prior to publication.**

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**Bring your novelty radios to the meeting on February 13  
at the Abernathy Grange Hall, 15745 S. Harley Ave.,  
Oregon City.**

**Visit the NWVRS web site at:  
<http://www.peak.org/~wren/nvrs.html>.**

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.

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# From the Editor

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by *Call Letter* Editor, Rick Walton

I had great fun finding the sheet music that graces our front cover this month. I'm no pianist, but I can pick out the notes well enough to tell you that there could be no doubt about the era it comes from, even if I'd not looked at the copyright date. The little logo at the right is on the back of the sheet music. It shows the product, and you can clearly see from the drawing that the power cord was intended to screw into a lamp socket. Some of the other things said about the Velvetone would lead you to believe that it was the job of the power supply to provide "a rich clarity of tone that will bring you more pleasure from your radio than you have ever before experienced."



The big news for the club this month is the change in meeting location. After many years of meeting in the Buena Vista Clubhouse, we're once again moving to a new location. Where we'll meet and how you get there are discussed in "New Meeting Location!" on page 5. The subject of why we're moving will be discussed, I'm sure, at the meeting on February 13.

Mike Parker is back "In the Shack" this month with a really nice piece about the Trego radio he bought at the Jim Mason auction, and about Nellie Trego, the plucky woman who led the company.

Again we have pictures from the last meeting, this time some of the radios that were our favorites from the Jim Mason auction. There's a list of all the exhibitors and the radios they brought to the meeting.

I've made an effort to lighten the pictures in this issue so that when the printing is done the objects and people in the pictures will still be recognizable. The pictures in last month's *Call Letter* were truly awful and members were justified in their complaints. I have not had the time in the last month to research other printing methods, but I expect to do so sometime in the month ahead. I will also be looking for software that will enable me to create masters for printing that will require no cutting or taping, and no second generation copying losses. I would hope that the same software would enable me to deliver a diskette to the printer instead of paper masters.

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# Meeting Minutes

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Liles Garcia, Secretary

President Charles Kent called the January 9, 1999 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society to order at approximately 10:00 AM. There were 37 members present. Members approved the December, 1998 meeting minutes. Members welcomed Bill Taylor, a former member who rejoined. Welcome back, Bill!!

## Good and Welfare

Our Treasurer, Ed Charman, had a by-pass operation on January 5, and he is recovering at home. Our club sent Ed a get-well basket of plants.

## Old Business

New Meeting Site—The meeting site that the Committee looked at is not as large as originally thought. The Committee will continue to look for good meeting places.

Swap Meet—Our Spring/Summer 1999 Swap Meet will be on June 12, 1999. This is the same day that the Portland Rose Festival Grand Floral Parade is on. We voted to have our Swap Meet on June 12 as planned. Many club members would like to have a smaller swap meet earlier than June. Jerry Talbott will look for a place to have this swap meet.

## New Business

“Sounds of Nostalgia” Show—The “Sounds of Nostalgia” Show will be at the Salem Fairgrounds on February 14, 1999. Speed Feldschau announced that our club will have two tables at this show. He asked for other club members to sign up for tables.

Call Letter Pictures—We briefly discussed the pictures in our recent Call Letters. Club members voted for Rick Walton to spend more money if necessary for a printing company that can print better quality pictures.

### Leads and Needs

Sonny Clutter needs chassis shields for a Radiola 44 or a Radiola 46. He will take a parts chassis if necessary.

Scott Hoke needs some schematics and some eye tubes.

Mike Nastari needs the bandswitch knob for an Aircastle 14-136EA Receiver.

Dan Howard needs a five lamp chandelier for a display that he is working on.

## Program for February

Our program item for the February meeting will be novelty radios. Both tube and transistor radios can be displayed.

Members showed and discussed their favorite acquisition from the Jim Mason estate auction.

The meeting was adjourned.

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## NWVRS 1999 Calendar of Events

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**February 13** 10:00 am Regular meeting at the new meeting location, Abernathy Grange Hall, 15745 S. Harley Ave., Oregon City.

**February 20** Salem Hamfair at the Polk County Fairgrounds in Rickreall, OR. Doors open at 9:00 AM. Admission \$7.00. Web page information: <http://www.sra.gold-com.com>. This is the largest amateur radio swapmeet in Oregon.

**March 6** Mike and Key ARC Electronics Show and Fleamarket at the Western Washington Fairgrounds at Puyallup, WA. Doors open at 9:00 AM. Admission \$5.00. E-mail information: [mwdink@eskimo.com](mailto:mwdink@eskimo.com). This is the largest amateur radio swapmeet in Washington.

**March 13** 10:00 am Regular meeting.

**April 3** NWVRS Swap Meet at Oak Hills Rec. Center. 9:00 am to Noon. Contact Myron White for table information.

**April 10** 10:00 am Regular meeting.

**May 8** 10:00 am Regular meeting.

**June 12** Spring Swap Meet with Oregon Triode Society.

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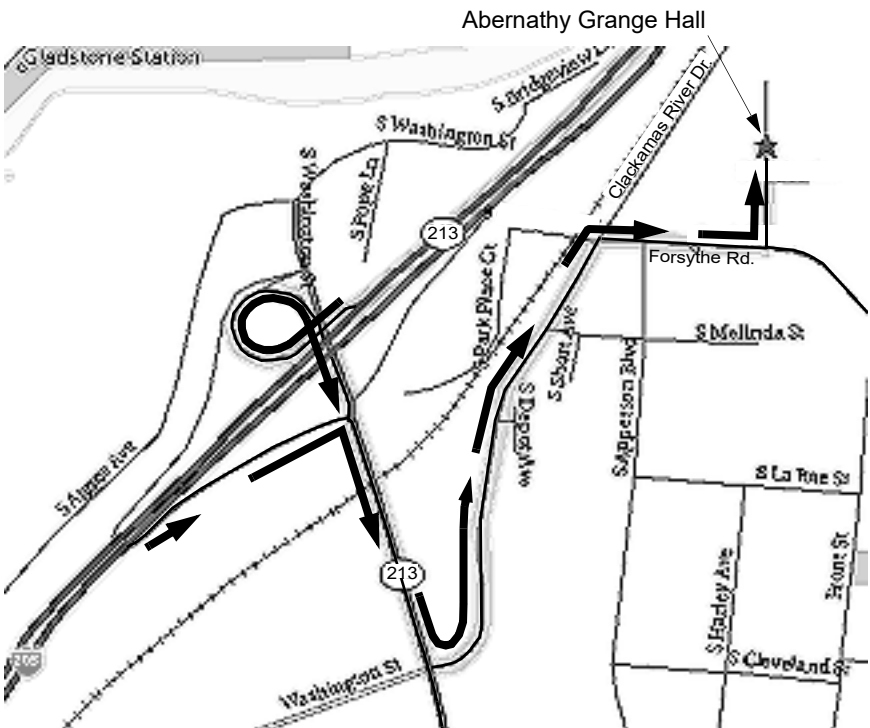
# New Meeting Location!

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Beginning with February, we are meeting in a new location: 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 onto CLACKAMAS RIVER DR.
4. Turn RIGHT onto S FORSYTHE RD. (appears on the map to turn into PARK PLACE)
5. Turn LEFT onto S HARLEY AVE. The Abernathy Grange Hall is a little past S. Taylor Lane.

The written instructions and the map came from "Map Quest" on the Internet, with some additions and editing for the sake of clarity and purpose.

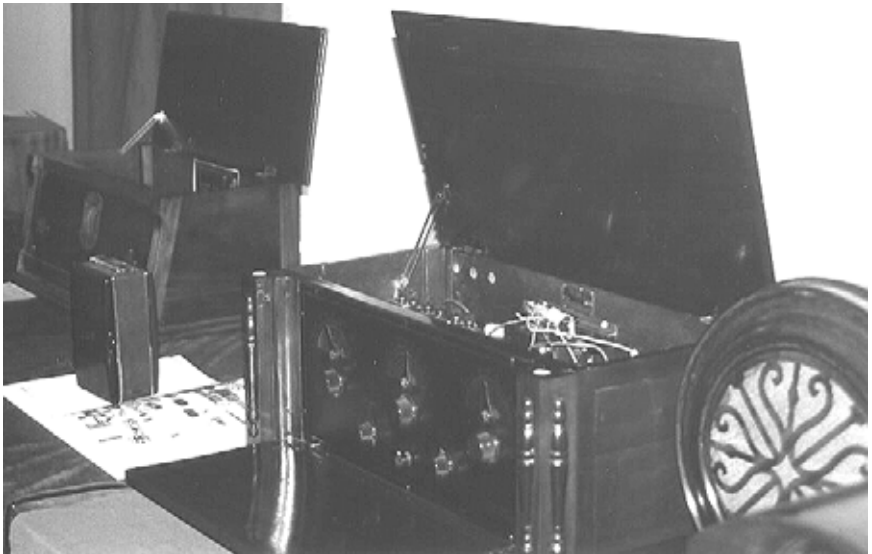


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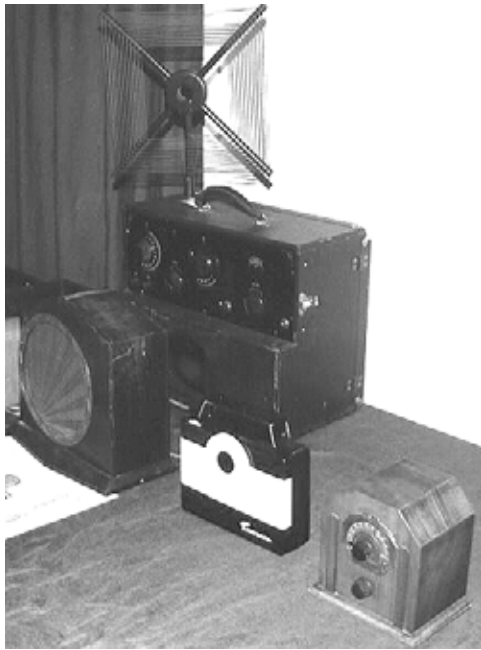
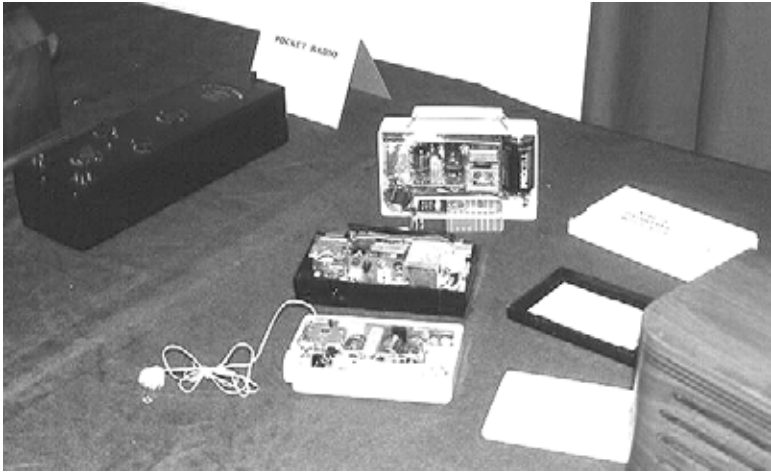
# January Meeting Radio Display

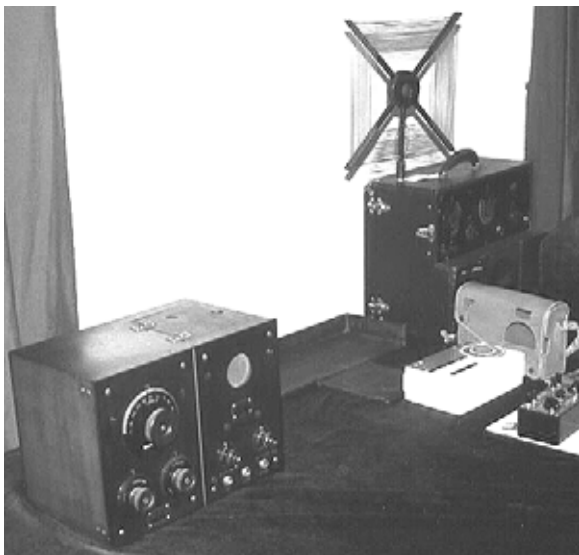
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Photos by Rick Walton









Rick Walton - Radiola IIIA console

Pat Kagi-Volumtone

Mark Richardson - Splitdorf Abbey, Majestic Speed Feldschau - Long Brothers

Ron Hershey - David Grimes, Utah speaker, Zenith portable

Mike Parker - Long Brothers

Bill Meloy - Packard-Bell MD15

Sonny Clutter - Pocket Radio

Scott Hoke - Emerson Portable

Art Redman - Daven

Myron White - TV Clock

Speed Feldschau - Long Brothers

Ron Hershey - David Grimes, Utah speaker, Zenith portable

Bill Taylor - RCA VP10

Jerry Talbott - Japanese Portable

Tony Hauser - "Shorty" SW converter

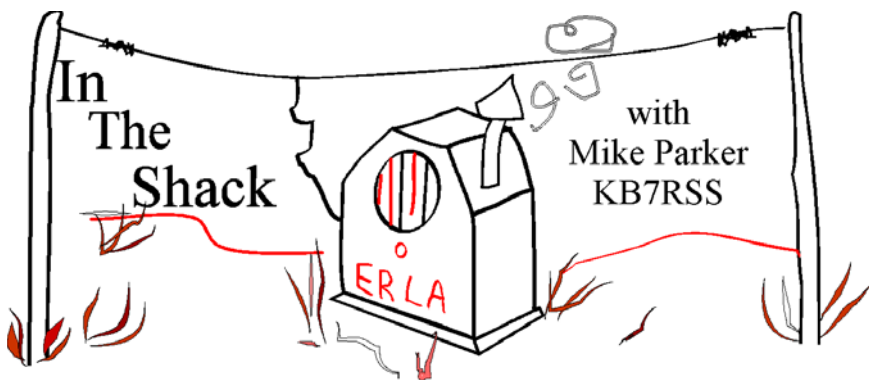
Brian Toon - Radiola 33 speaker, Heathkit Crystal,

KRL, Japanese tube portable

George Kirkwood - Westinghouse



Members in attendance at the January meeting.



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## In the Shack

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### Nellie Trego's Radio

At the recent auction of the late James Mason's collection, I was a successful bidder on a rather interesting Battery Set. The radio is a TREGO, 3 tube regenerative set, circa 1923 or 24, made in Kansas City, MO.



I had never seen this radio during several of the times that I visited the wonderful Mr. Mason's Museum and if it was where I found it at the auction preview, it was on the floor, shoved under a table.

Not too long before that, I had been reading with fascination the story of Nellie Trego and her radio company, as outlined on page 195 of *Radio Manufacturers of the 1920's, Vol.3* by Alan Douglas. Trego Radio is mentioned in his section on TRI-CITY Radio Electric Supply Co. of Davenport. Iowa (TRESKO) because Trego was one of several companies that were using Tresco's Armstrong license for his patented regenerative radio circuit, which had been loaned illegally by Tresco. Douglas speculates that Westinghouse, that ubiquitous guardian of the "radio patents" during the '20's filed suit with Tresco to stop this illegal subcontracting in 1923. The ad for Trego shown on page 195 is in *Radio News*, dated April, 1923 and shows a 1 tube regenerative receiver using a WD-11 tube. Some photos of other Trego one tube sets are included, which all look very similar to the Tresco. The 3 tube set that I have, is not mentioned nor is it listed in McMahon's blue book, *RADIO COLLECTORS GUIDE*, who list Trego from 1923 and list only a 1-tube regen. that year and a 3-dial 5-tube TRF for '24, '25 and '26. McMahon's *VINTAGE RADIO* shows a picture of a Trego 3-dial set and I have seen one in a junk shop here in Oregon, in shabby condition and priced in

orbit! I can only guess that Trego made my set right around the time of the Tresco lawsuit and did not advertise it nationally, therefore not making McMahon's listing. So Trego had to switch to a common TRF circuit, which was better anyway and did not radiate signals, and Tresco, after getting fined by the folks at the "Patent Fort", kept on making regenerative sets such as the TRESCOLA, until they sold their license and name to Steinite, Atchison, KS. later on. TRI-CITY/TRESCO was also noted for making many radios for Montgomery Ward & Co. and were sold through their store and catalog.

The story of Nellie Trego is even more interesting and is also presented in Douglas Vol. 3, p.195. An article in the New York TELEGRAM, dated Aug. 20, 1927 is headlined; "Young Woman Heads Large Radio Company" and "Started on Credit-----Business Now Said to be Million Dollars Annually" and describes how Nellie started into the radio business....very unusual in those times of male dominated manufacturers. A photo of a rather determined Mrs. Trego, accompanies the article.

The article describes how Nellie was left a widow when her husband, a hardware dealer in Humboldt, Kansas, died in 1915. Nellie, packed up her young daughter and a few belongings and headed for Kansas City, the nearest metropolis. She went to business college for a few weeks and then obtained employment with a rubber and tire manufacturer. Starting as a stenographer, she rose to success in the company and purchased company stock along the way, when a collapse of the market brought the concern to bankruptcy, (apparently the 1921 crash).

She then mortgaged her small home for \$3000, spent \$2500 on advertising and with the remaining \$500, purchased equipment and started a small radio company on credit, using men as helpers, formerly with the tire company. The article states that the orders just kept rolling in and Nellie was now a well recognized Kansas City businesswoman with the plant covering an entire block and bringing in a "Million Dollars Annually", (I have trouble swallowing that last part!) No radio company, as small and Midwestern as hers, could have possibly pulled in that kind of money!

Nellie Trego, small in stature and weighing 110 pounds, who had denied many marriage proposals, is quoted as saying, "It is not necessary that one be a physical giant to be a success in business. One merely must be able to look ahead and willing to risk his or her own judgement. That is what I did when I foresaw the future of the radio business."

How true! I speculate that she was very lucky that she tried it in 1922 or 23 because by 1925 she would not have had a chance against the onslaught of new competition in THAT peak sales year. I also find it

curious that the New York Telegram article was in August, 1927, yet McMahon's guide shows Trego's last production year as 1926. Perhaps some 1927 models were made but I would guess the company quit production by not being ready to gear up for production of AC plug-in radio sets.

I have named my Trego 3-tube set, "Nellie" after that very courageous young lady who had a vision and made a business out of it. Recently I have tried Nellie under D.C. power, using a 6 volt storage battery for the tube filaments and a 90 volt battery pack made out of series 9 volt batteries, with taps for 45 and 22.5 for the B+ for tube plate voltages. A 35 foot antenna, up here IN THE SHACK is connected to Ant. binding post on the front panel. The set has 2 dials, on the left, a variable condenser with a small knob in the center of the large knob turns a single blade on the rear of the condenser for fine tuning, causing the usual regenerative squealing. The right tuning knob controls a variometer with taps wired to a five point external tap switch below the tuning knobs. The far left point is KXL 750 all over most of the range. The tap switch is progressive up the AM dial with tap 4 swamped with blowtorch KEX 1190. So far, after a lot of careful tuning, I have logged 7 stations, mostly mixed with other stations in the background. With the bandwidth of the modern day mega-power AM stations, I can excuse Nellie for not being very selective. I hope all those regen. "bloopers" are not disturbing the neighbors! They are all FM heads anyway!

On the right side of the front panel is the audio section with a rheostat for each of the 3 stages and an output phone jack for each stage, like the Westinghouse RC. What really stands out are the 3 large peephole bezels with screens to view the tube filaments. They are trimmed with very nice silver escutcheons. The wiring inside is square busbar and the tube sockets and the very small sub-panel are screwed to a base board, like a home-brew set. the transformers are very crude and are open frame with the winding around the top side of the square lamination frame. A small factory tag is attached under the lid that simply says Trego Radio manufactured by Trego Radio Mfg. Co. Kansas City Mo. The lift top has hook and eye lid locks on each side of the cabinet, like a Grebe CR-9.

I can only describe this radio, old Nellie, as....primitive, both in appearance and in performance, which is exactly the way I want her! My future plans for the Trego are.....none at all! Since it works, I prefer to keep it the way Jim found it. By the way, if any of you know where in H....Jim found it, I would very much like to know. Maybe at a flea market in K.C.?

QSO you next time.....IN THE SHACK



# RADIO BUG

YOU PLAY THAT THING SO  
GOL DERNED LOUD  
YOU OUGHTA BE IN CHAINS!  
HERE'S HOPING YOU BLOW  
OUT YOUR TUBES  
AND THEN . . . BLOW  
OUT YOUR BRAINS!

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# Swap Shop

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*FOR SALE:* Thousands of tubes, hundreds of radio parts, panels, meters, surplus, etc. R5-D3 electronic surplus, Bob Lee, 6111 SE 82nd Ave., Portland, OR, (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](mailto: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:* Must reduce my radio collection. Need the room. What are you looking for? I can mail a list if you're interested. Jim Broeffle, 1138 SW Ballinger Dr., Grants Pass OR 97526 Call (541) 479-3607.

*FOR SALE:* \*Zenith console, AM/FM/RP Model 105599, clean and operating; cabinet needs some work, \$125.00; Vance Daberkow, 956 NW Anjni Circle, Corvallis, OR 97330, (541) 753-3356

*FOR SALE:* \*Post Auction Radio Sale (Or how to get rid of all those box lots I bought, etc.) Radiola 25 (1925) with antenna, 6-199 tubes, \$250; Crystal set, using rare "Carborundum" detector, home made, \$75; Large assortment of portables 1939-50's, from \$25-\$150; Plastic and bakelite sets (15), 1930-50's, from \$20-\$75.

**Novelty sets:** Dahlberg coin-op (no mech.) motel bed radio, white, \$150; Mitchell "lullaby" bed lamp radio, model 1250 brown bakelite, \$100; Guild "Town Crier" tube AM-FM, \$150; Globe Trotter, 1930's globe radio, \$300.

**Wood Table sets:** Colonial 658, 6 tube set, 1930's, \$35; RCA 55X 1940 twin speaker, \$50; Angelus large cathedral, \$150; Rola Model 80 (1929) small console, \$125.

**Metal set:** Philco Model 511 and matching speaker (their first AC set) \$100 for both.

**TV:** Philco S.S. projection mini portable "Safari". No hood, plays. Their first S.S. set, \$200; Setchell-Carlson 17" Model P61 portable, 1955 with "unitized" chassis, \$25.

**Assorted** early radio magazines. QST's: 1920's \$10 ea., 1930's \$5 ea., 1960-70's \$3 ea. For more details or complete list call Jerry Talbott (503-649-6717)

*WANTED:* Cabinet and Speaker for Philco Model 90. Also Remote Speaker and Lid for Philco Model 65. Jim Barratt, 26313 SE Leonard Road, Camas, WA 98607 Call (360) 834-4429.

*WANTED:* Silvertone, model 8021 AM/FM bakelite table model from 1949.

*WANTED:* \*Zenith Royal 7000Y or similar hi-end analog (!)portable. Vance Daberkow, 956 NW Anjni Circle, Corvallis, OR 97330, (541) 753-3356

*WANTED:* \*Looking for affordable: 6G5G, 6AD6G, UX-280 (1), UX245 (1), UX224 (2)

Looking for schematics and service data on the following Radios: Ward's Model# 62-476, Zenith Model# 6D525, Colonial Model# 655, Silvertone Model# 1291, Crosley Model# F5TWE, Emerson Model# BA-199, Granco Model# TU160U (?). Contact: Scott Hoke, e-mail: desk.jet@mci2000.com home phone: (503) 646-9392



# HALLOCK and WATSON RADIO SERVICE

192 Park Street

Portland, Oregon

Main 5677

PRICE BULLETIN No. 1



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# Roster Corrections

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Chamberlain, Don<sup>\*</sup>

18914 129th Place, SE

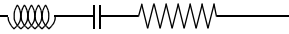
Renton, WA 98058

(425) 228-5568 chambe99@idt.net

Fax: (425) 228-9096

Old radios, battery portables, especially Zenith

Transoceanic tube types.



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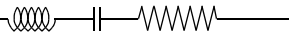
Du Fresne, Earle<sup>†</sup>

6120 SW 124th Avenue, #124

Beaverton, OR 97008

(503) 641-1770

General Interest



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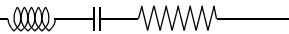
Hood, Howard WA7QQI<sup>‡</sup>

5670 SW 44th St.

Port Orchard, WA 98367

(360) 674-2179

Early A.C. sets



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\* Phone number correction: area code change and fax addition.

† Change of address.

‡ Zip code correction.

Portland, Oregon, Friday, March 23, 1923

## PROGRAM

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

11:00 A. M. to 12:00 M.—Meier & Frank, KFEC; Children's hour.

Noon—KFEC (485 m.); Weather report.

3:30-4 P. M. — Oregonian KGW (400 m.); Children's program.—Talk by a boy movie star, Wesley Barry.

4:00-5:00 P. M.—Meier & Frank, KFEC; Musical concert and features.

5:00-6:00 P. M.—Hallock & Watson KGG; Vocal and instrumental music, ball scores, sporting news.

6:30 P. M.—KFEC (485 m.); U. S. Weather Bureau reports.

6:00-7:00 P. M.—Stubbs Electric Co., KQY; Musical entertainment.

7:00-7:30 P. M. — Northwestern Radio Co., KGN; Music.

7:30-8:00 P. M.—Hallock & Watson, KGG; General news, market news, police reports.

8:00-9:00 P. M.—Hallock & Watson, KGG; question box.

9:00-10:00 P. M.—Quiet period.

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# Time to Renew Your Membership

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## All Memberships Expired in December

Send the information requested below with a check for \$15 to the  
Treasurer  
Ed Charman, P.O. Box 82379, Portland, OR 97282.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ways you'd like to help. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_