

# The *Call* Letter

February, 2009  
Vol. 35 — No. 2



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Almost **35** years in print!

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# The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379  
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

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 \$25.00 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 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 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).

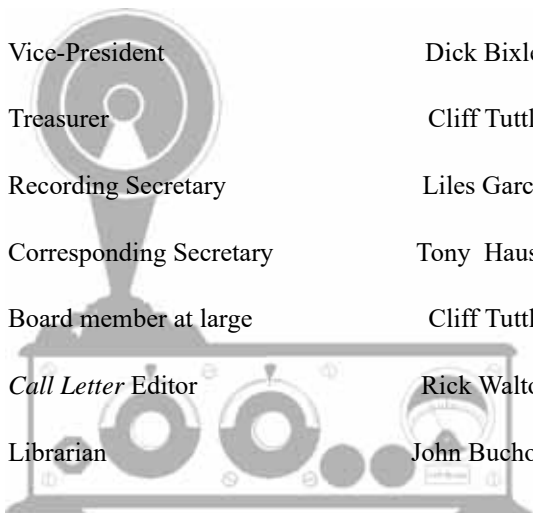
Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the *Call Letter* and are held in and around Portland.

With each issue of the *Call Letter*, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the *Call Letter*.



## Society Officers for 2008:

President	George Kirkwood	(503) 648-4809 <a href="mailto:radiogeo@hevanet.com">radiogeo@hevanet.com</a>
Vice-President	Dick Bixler	(503) 690-2557 <a href="mailto:rf2af@verizon.net">rf2af@verizon.net</a>
Treasurer	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 <a href="mailto:kiptuttle@comcast.net">kiptuttle@comcast.net</a>
Recording Secretary	Liles Garcia	(503) 649-9288 <a href="mailto:landn2@verizon.net">landn2@verizon.net</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Tony Hauser	(503) 397-0074 <a href="mailto:abhauser@aol.com">abhauser@aol.com</a>
Board member at large	Cliff Tuttle	(503) 666-7005 <a href="mailto:kiptuttle@comcast.net">kiptuttle@comcast.net</a>
<i>Call Letter</i> Editor	Rick Walton	(503) 656-4104 <a href="mailto:rwalton@easystreet.net">rwalton@easystreet.net</a>
Librarian	John Bucholtz	(360) 693-7135 <a href="mailto:Bucholtz3049@comcast.net">Bucholtz3049@comcast.net</a>



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# February 2009

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**On the cover:** “This month’s cover is a reprise, this time in color, of the February, 1999 *Call Letter* cover. Most appropriate for the month of February, it 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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**The next meeting is on February 14, 2009.**

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**February Feature: Vintage Tube-Era Test Equipment**

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

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**Next *Call Letter* Deadline: March 5, 2009.**

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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 or services 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

The club received an e-mail this past week from a fellow who is getting into collecting radios. He's been having his radios restored professionally, but wants to learn to do the restoration himself. He asked if we have members who would be willing to provide some training in the basic repair and restoration of vintage radios. I replied that the WRNO group in Vancouver could give him the kind of hands-on learning experience he's looking for. Don't miss the report on the WRNO group's latest activities. I also invited him to visit our next meeting and to consider joining the society. There's hardly a better way to enjoy this hobby.

Also in this issue we have what Mike Parker and I believe to be the last of his "In the Shack" articles. This reprint is one of those I'm calling "Mike's Choice." We'll have another one next month since Mike has already picked a gem from the archives.

Take note of the important messages from Cliff Tuttle, Treasurer, and John Bucholtz, Librarian; also note that the calendar is expanded to inform you of more radio events here in the Pacific Northwest.

# Sinatra, Bennett, Norah.

Portland's only station for classic American standards  
of yesterday and today. Sunny 1550 KKAD.

Listen online at: [www.sunny1550kkad.com](http://www.sunny1550kkad.com)



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# NWVRS Meeting Minutes

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## Liles Garcia, NWVRS Secretary

President George Kirkwood called the January 10, 2009 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 10:00 AM. Liles Garcia read the minutes of the December meeting; the minutes were then approved as published in the January Call Letter. Cliff Tuttle gave the Treasurer's report; and the report was approved as provided by Cliff. The Society reimbursed George \$149.00 for Christmas party supplies. There were 53 people at our meeting today. These people attended as guests: Harold Baesler, Robert Johnson, Patrick Garcia, Marla and Mira Walker, and Gwen Kaphart. George complimented Rick Walton on the color pictures in the Call Letter; members gave Rick a round of applause. Vice President Dick Bixler is recovering from a recent surgery. Don Copeland's wife, Sandy, is recovering from a broken leg.

## **Old Business**

Society Dues--Cliff discussed our budget for Year 2009. Our Society carried approximately \$750.00 over to this year. Members asked several questions about our dues and expenses. Our Swap Meets usually make us enough money to cover expenses. Our Jim Mason Fund now has additional dividend money in the account. Rick Walton explained that the Call Letter is currently budgeted for color photos and a color cover.

## **New Business**

Library--John Bucholtz reported that our library is doing well. George asked if the library needed any new books. A member recommended one of the radio trouble-shooting books by Alfred Ghirardi. Blake Dietz will donate one of these books to our library. Many thanks to Blake!

## **Leads and Needs**

Dave Wise needs a 1500V CT at 30 ma power transformer. He would also like to borrow an accurate power meter. Jay Johnson is looking for a Philco 90 in good condition. Damon Vandehey needs a 33, 45, 78 RPM record changer with an AM/FM radio. He also has a Philco 46-250 for sale or trade. Ed Montgomery needs an isolation transformer. Robert Johnson is looking for a battery set power supply.

## **Program Topic**

The program topic today is “Tube Televisions.” Members showed and discussed the radios that they brought. The program topic for the February meeting is “Vintage Tube-Era Test Equipment.”

The meeting was adjourned.

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## **NWVRS Dues Are Due**

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### Cliff Tuttle - Treasurer

This is a reminder that 2009 dues for NWVRS (\$25) are now due. We planning to edit a new roster in the next 60 days, so if you have not already done so, please send them in soon. To date, 79 members have paid out of the expected 105.

An easy way to pay them is to write out a check to NWVRS and send it to our post office box at:

NWVRS  
P.O. Box 82379  
Portland, OR 97282-0379

I will mail you a receipt and membership card.

An alternative would be to pay the dues at the February or March meetings (saves stamps for both of us). Any members paying after the March meeting will likely not show up in this year’s roster.

There is a chance that work may keep me away from the February meeting. If so, I will arrange to have someone else pick up the dues, and I will mail your receipt and membership card when I get back.

Thanks for your help.

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## **From the Librarian...**

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### John

At the last meeting (Jan. 09) one of the books in our library walked out of the building without signing out. That book is “Machine Age To Jet Age.” If anyone finds it wondering the streets, send it home.

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# WRNO, Vancouver

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Contributed by Blake Dietze

## February, 2009

Happy New Year from the WRNO gang! Since Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fell on Wednesdays, there was no column last month. Last month we continued working on radio phonographs, making some headway, but not completing all of them.

The Zenith was finished and will be proudly spinning 78's for Jerry Hertel in the very near future. This tabletop unit is a simple All American Five radio with a 78 RPM phonograph on top. There were two issues that cropped up on this particular project that are worth mentioning: a product called "Lubriplate" and the Crystal Cartridge.

The first issue that we experienced was with the phonograph mechanism and the lubrication that was used. There is a popular product called Lubriplate (GC Electronics), sold in a tube and intended to be used a general purpose phonograph lubricant. Over time this product will dry out and harden, seizing many of the moving surfaces on which it was applied. Lubriplate is easy to spot; with age, it will be off-white in color and will invite dust and dirt onto the surfaces with it. The lubricant has typically become hard and has cracks present as well. The only sure way to free up these mechanical surfaces is to disassemble and clean all of the surfaces with tuner cleaner, mineral spirits, or Naphtha (I use the latter). Use a silicon based or poly-synthetic grease as a suitable replacement once the surfaces are clean.

The second common issue found on these older phonographs is the cartridge. The output of the crystal cartridge will be weak or not present at all. My recommendation is to utilize the services of a company called: West Tech Services. They will rebuild the crystal cartridge and return it to you post paid for around \$35.00. NOS crystal cartridges rarely work any better, age just takes its toll.

Some of the activities we've engaged in this month include cleaning house, test equipment usage, and restoration of higher tube count radios. WRNO cleaned house, including some donated cabinets full of parts. Tom Hoskins and Robbie Robinson can be seen looking for treasures while Pat Kagi (and his 38 Philco) and Ed Montgomery (with a Zenith 7F02) are finishing up their projects on the bench. Several WRNO regulars received new pieces of test equipment for Christmas, which has

lead to practical usage discussions this month. AF and RF signal generators have been the main topic during the past two Wednesdays along with conversations round the differences between isolation transformers and variacs. That's it for this month.





# Photo Display

Photos by Rick Walton

Tube televisions, etc., displayed at the January meeting.



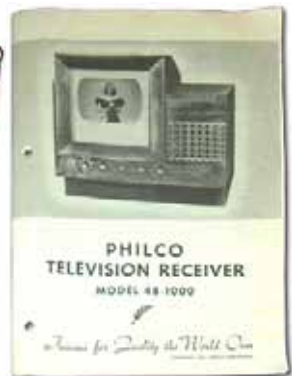
Above: 1957 Admiral



Right: RCA rabbit ears and 1947 Pilot  
Sony Clutter



Above: 1948 Philco  
Right: Sony Walkman  
and Philco manual  
John Aiken



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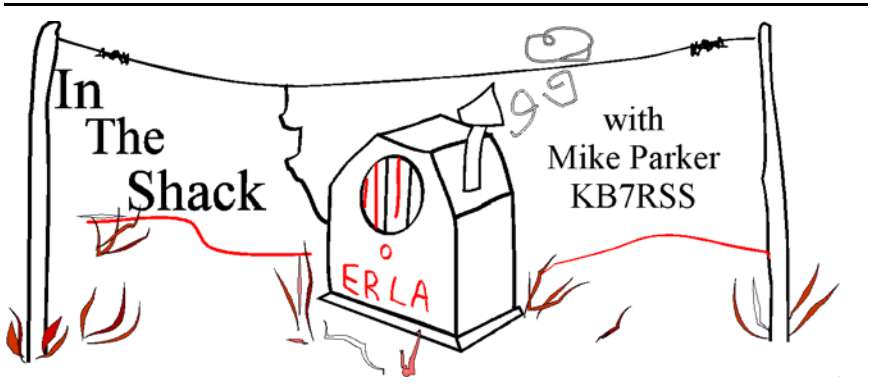
## NWVRS Calendar of Events

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Most of the hamfest and ham swap meet information comes from:  
PNW Hamfair web page at [www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm](http://www.n7cfo.com/amradio/hf/hf.htm)

- February 14** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- February 14** Salem Hamfair & Computer/Electronics Swapmeet. Rickreall, Oregon at the Polk County Fairgrounds. <http://www.w7sra.com>.
- March 7** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- March 7** Mike & Key Swap Meet. Puyallup fairgrounds exhibition hall, Puyallup, WA. Contact [mwdink@eskimo.com](mailto:mwdink@eskimo.com). <http://www.mikeandkey.org/flea.htm>.
- April 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- April 11** Yakima Hamfest. Selah Civic Center, 216 South 1st Street, Selah, WA. <http://w7aq.org/> Flyer in PDF.
- April 24-26** Idaho State Convention. Voice of Idaho ARC. Idaho's FIRST Section Convention! This is an ARRL Sanctioned event. <http://www.voiceofidaho.org/>
- May 9** NWVRS Spring Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.
- May 9** Stanwood Camano Amateur Radio Club (SCARC) Hamfest, Stanwood Middle School, Stanwood, WA. Always the second Saturday in May. Contact Vic, N7KRE (360)387-7705). [nwecop@tgi.net](mailto:nwecop@tgi.net)
- June 5-7** Sea-Pac Hamfest. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. This is an ARRL sanctioned event. [ai9q@arrl.net](mailto:ai9q@arrl.net) [www.seapac.org/](http://www.seapac.org/)
- June 13** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 11** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- July 18** Coos County Radio Club Hamfest and Swapmeet. North Bend Middle School, North Bend, OR. Contact Marilyn Mansker, [ke7oam@yahoo.com](mailto:ke7oam@yahoo.com) or Dave Granicy [k7nbo@charter.net](mailto:k7nbo@charter.net). [www.coosradioclub.net/](http://www.coosradioclub.net/).
- August 8** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.

- August 8** Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest. Spanaway, WA. <http://www.w7dk.org/Hamfest@W7DK.org>
- August 16** Antique Radio Swap Meet. Puget Sound Antique Radio Association. 9 AM to 1 PM. N. 175th & Linden, Avenue, North Seattle. <http://www.eskimo.com/~hhagen/psara/swap.html>
- September 12** NWVRS monthly meeting 10 am; tailgate swap 8:30.
- September 12** The 3rd Annual Clark County ARC Tail-Gate Swapmeet. Vancouver, WA. <http://www.w7aia.org/Rob,K7JAO> at [k7jao@arrl.net](mailto:k7jao@arrl.net)
- October 10** NWVRS Fall Swap/Sale at Aurora American Legion Hall, Aurora, Oregon.



*Editor's note: This "In The Shack" article is "Mike's Choice" from the September, 2001, Call Letter!*

## The Dump

This story goes way back to when I was a little kid... probably about 7 or 8 years old. I have had quite a time trying to remember some of the finer details of this but I think that now is going to be "as good as it gets!"

The year had to be around 1948 or 49 and we lived in Oak Grove, Oregon, a suburban area south of Milwaukee and Portland. Now days, that area is very well developed, perhaps even over-developed. But at that time there weren't so many houses. Lots of vacant land here and there with woods. Fir, maple and oak trees with lots of underbrush and the dreaded poison oak abounded anywhere there wasn't a house. We would go off and play in the woods, down at the river, or



anywhere our parents told us not to go. It seems that compared to today's youth, we just were not watched very close all of the time. It was OK as long as we came home when our parents told us to (sometimes NOT), and since dad was a builder, he always had a piece of lath handy for *that* painful occasion!

My uncle's mother had a quaint little white bungalow, maybe larger than that, on the bluff, with a fantastic view to the West that looked out over the Willamette River and the railroad trestle and bridge between there and the town of (Lake) Oswego. One day, we went to visit her for a bit and played around in her yard. Then we went down to the train track below her place and played on the railroad trestle. We would walk the wooden planks, high up between the trestle timbers and climb down the big ladder to the beach on the river. Steam engines would clunk by above us and drip scalding water down through the timbers. Once, my sister got burned somewhat badly on the arm and we had to take her home, but that's another story. Those places were all on our parents no-no list, remember! Anyway, that day we walked back off of the trestle toward Aunt Marie's place again but before we got there, we were walking the rails and a man shouted at us to get off the track. We were not too good at telling the bums from the railroad workers, since they both seemed to wear shabby clothes, so we ran into the bushes. We stumbled right into a hobo camp. Now we were really scared! But they seemed friendly to us and struck up a conversation. The usual questions were asked, you know, "Where do you kids live? What are you doing down here?" Basically, we asked them why they lived like that and if they liked it. One by one they told us stories about why they lived that way and how they got there. I guess we had enough and told them we had to go but we didn't want to take the tracks because of the man that had shouted to us. We headed straight into the brush toward Aunt Marie's road, climbed over a small hill into a clearing and sat down to talk over our recent adventure.

By now, I am sure you are asking what in the blankety-blank does this have to do with radio! Looking down on the ground, we found a bunch of black cylinder like things with writing on them and prongs sticking out. There were wires and weird looking metal plates sticking out of the opposite end of the cylinders through broken glass. None of us really knew what they were. We started digging into the ground and into the brush, finding more and more of them. We found balls of wire, and square metal things with holes punched in them and funny looking plates that moved into each other attached to the metal. We started reading the strange sounding names that were etched into the side of the black cylinder shaped things with the prongs on them. We threw all of the ones with the same names into our own little piles, to see who could get the most in a pile. I remember that my pile was "Cunningham" with that strange looking "C" and I must have had 25 or 30 of them! We saw Sylvania, Tung-Sol ("What does THAT mean?"), National Union, Silvertone, Arcturus, Crosley, Airline, RCA Radiotron, General Electric, Sonatron, Spartan, Zenith with the neat lightning bolt "Z", Philco, and many other names that I don't remember. Oddly, none of us knew what these things were! Some of them were not broken, but we took care of that, they made a neat popping noise when thrown against a rock. Finally, the fun was over and I stuffed one into my pocket and took it home to show dad. The conversation went something like this, "Dad! Look what I found in the woods up by Aunt Marie's. What is it?" I remember dad saying, "That is a radio tube. We have some of those already." And he pulled the family '42 Philco console out from the wall, which up to that time, I had never looked in the back of, and said, "There they are!" Standing tall above the lowly loctals were two Philco type 41's, just like the ones we had been playing with!

Perhaps that day was the one that changed my life forever and infected me with that lifelong disease... Radiomania!"

QSO you next time... IN THE SHACK

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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, 9770 S.E. Stanley Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222, (503) 513-0410

**FOR SALE:** I have 3 radios I am offering for sale. (1) Packard Bell 1939 Wood table radio that works great with tuning eye and bass and treble controls. (2) Setchell Carlson portable AC Radio that works great and (3) A Traveler bakelite that works, but needs filter caps. James Harper 503-432-0607

**FOR SALE:** Two marking crystals for a Precision signal generator. They are 2mc & 4.5 mc. \$5.00 for both. Contact Tony Ranft: [walterranft@hotmail.com](mailto:walterranft@hotmail.com)

**WANTED:** Chassis for a 1938 Sparton Model #1068, 1168, 1268 or 1568 to restore an unrestorable Sparton console I purchased from a club member at the last club show. Gary Marvin 541-515-5733

**WANTED:** Jay Johnston is seeking a brass horn speaker in good condition. A Kilbourne & Clark speaker of any material is desired as well. 503-226-4181 or [withat@msn.com](mailto:withat@msn.com).

## Radio Service

These members have indicated they are willing to perform radio repairs:

Roger Brown – (503) 693-6089

Blake Dietze – (360) 944-7172, [wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com](mailto:wb6jhj@ix.netcom.com)

Todd Olmert – (503) 246-4141

Tony Ranft – (360) 944-8489 or [walterranft@hotmail.com](mailto:walterranft@hotmail.com) – General repairs.

Dave Wise – (503) 648-0897, [david\\_wise@phoenix.com](mailto:david_wise@phoenix.com)

If you are willing to repair radios, give your name, phone and/or e-mail, and any comments to the *Call Letter* editor.

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is not responsible in any disputes arising from services provided by members listed here. By common agreement of the board of directors, the buyer assumes all responsibility for the satisfaction of any transaction.

## Leads and Needs

Questions about restoration of vintage radio? Visit radiolaguy's web site often for this information plus lots of other interesting displays, photo's, virtual museum plus lots of other information on vintage radio and television. Oh, yes, there are items for sale as well and NVRS members get a substantial discount on most of these items. Thank You, Sonny the Radiola Guy

Visit my vintage radio web site: <http://www.radiolaguy.com>

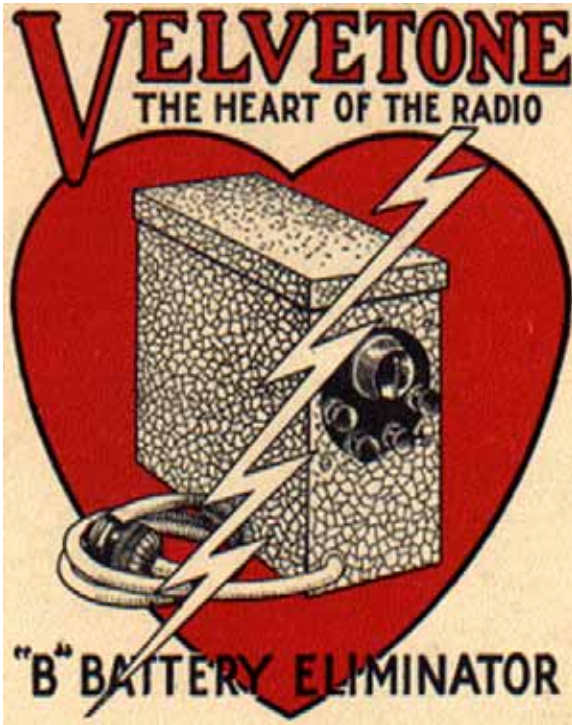
Bob Campbell sent in this lead: Beitman and Riders diagrams on DVD through Ebay. \$6 West Coast Manual Depot - ebay ID: geoffnmaria

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## The Back Page

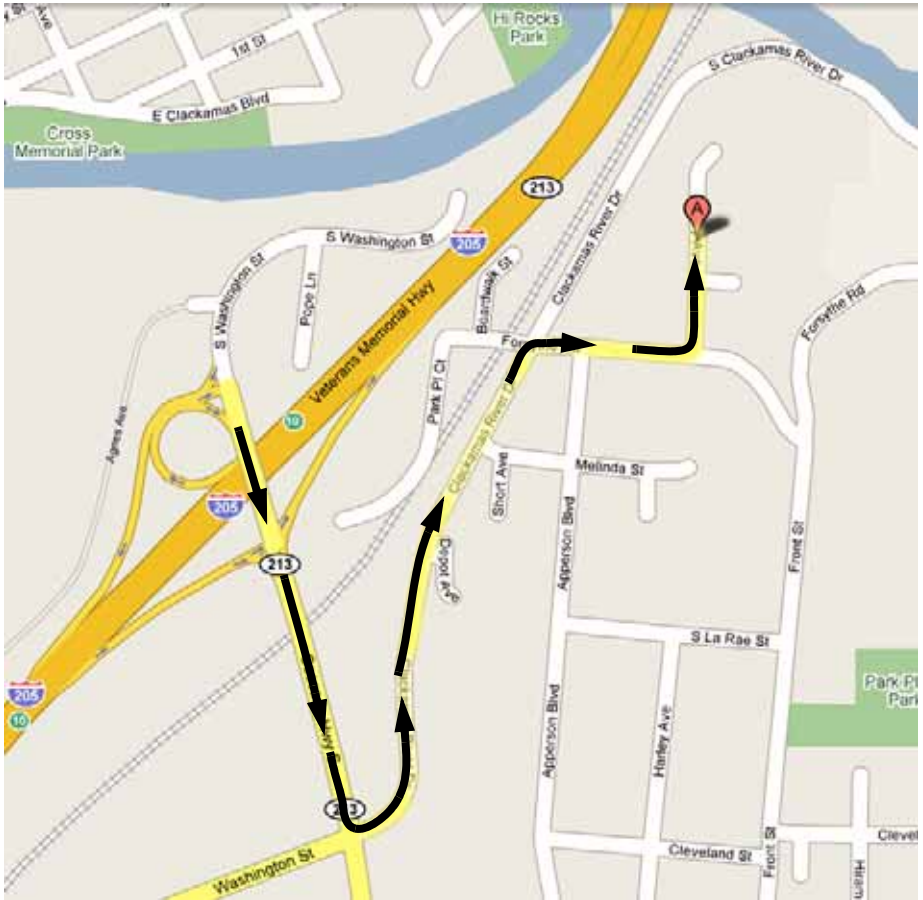
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On the cover of this issue is the front page of the sheet music for the “Velvetone” song. Here on “The Back Page” is the artwork from the back page of the sheet music. This appeared in smaller format in the February, 1999 *Call Letter* as an inset for the “From the Editor” column.



# Meeting Location

Here is a map (thanks to Google Maps) to the Abernethy Grange Hall (the pointer marked “A”), where the Northwest Vintage Society meets the second Saturday of each month. Just follow the arrows on the map.



To get to the Abernethy Grange Hall:

1. Exit I-205 at SR-213 (Exit 10 to Molalla) and head south on 213.
2. At the first intersection (the traffic light), turn left onto Clackamas River Dr.
3. Turn right at Forsythe Rd.
4. Turn left onto Harley Ave. The Grange Hall is on the left about a block and a half.