

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 3

SHOWCASE • 1998

Radio Family Portrait

FROM SEATTLE

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GENERAL PHOTO BY CHRIS CORNAD

▲ "A GATHERING OF THE PROFESSIONALS"

Ray Erlenborn, Dick Boals, Larry Dobkin and Harry Bartell
at the PEMCO/REPS Radio Showcase VI.



The theme of the PEMCO/REPS Radio Showcase VI was "Radio Families." The tone and relationship of all of our special guests was "Radio Families." As reported in this Air Check, the OTR convention held on June 19-20 had re-creations that focused on many different radio families. But, just maybe, it was the love and affection of these performers for one another that best connected with the theme. Overheard from more than one fan: "They really do like each other." And, the professionals themselves often refer to the affection and cooperation that existed in radio. They sure demonstrated it in Seattle. ★ Story begins on page 3.

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REPS MEMBERSHIP

REPS welcomes into membership those who have an interest in Old Time Radio and/or current radio drama, variety, comedy, etc. There are three membership categories.

MEMBERSHIP	1ST YEAR	RENEWAL
Regular	\$22	\$18
Student	\$13	\$9
Vision impaired	\$13	\$9

Consider giving gift memberships for any occasion!



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR...

Once again we have completed another successful Showcase Convention, and those of us who attended can only echo the words of Dick Beals: "Better than ever". Our hats are off to Mike Sprague and Joy Jackson for another superlative job. Considering our change of venue, caterers, hotel, dates, etc it was truly a magnificent effort. One thing that particularly struck me this year was the "professionalism" that they bring to the Convention, not only this year but every year. Their ability to put together a group of volunteers who respond to the needs of such an undertaking is incredible. I am astounded at the depth of detail and planning that goes into this effort every year. We are extremely fortunate at REPS to have such planners and organizers representing us. THANKS ONCE AGAIN MIKE AND JOY FROM THE REPS MEMBERSHIP.

Normally, the Air Check Showcase issue cover features a wonderful group photo of all the guests at the convention. That significant photo can be found on page 3 and it is still truly special.

The cover photo was taken during a fun shoot at the studio of Christopher Conrad. Chris and Janet Conrad are active members of REPS; he is the son of William Conrad; and he is obviously quite a photographer. We are truly indebted to Chris for this significant contribution.

sprinkled throughout this edition you will also find the usual outstanding Convention collection from Mark Skullerud, with some by Christopher Macl, Joy Jackson and Mike Sprague.



ANOTHER MEMORABLE SHOWCASE

BY BILL PARKER

The PEMCO/REPS Radio Showcase VI got off to an early start Friday afternoon, June 19th. We were blessed with a beautiful early summer day, which fit perfectly with our new location at the Seattle Center. We were also pleased to be joined by PEMCO Financial Services in presenting this years programs which was planned around the theme "Radio Families".

We were fortunate to be joined again by many of those radio professionals who have made our other showcases so memorable: Harry Bartell, Gil Stratton Jr., Dick Beals and Larry Dobkin. Rhoda Williams, Norma Jean Nilsson and Anne Whitfield Phillips. Tyler McVey and Esther Geddes. Art Gilmore, Sam Edwards and Page Gilman. Sandra Gould, Ginny Tyler, Douglas Young and Merrill Mael. And, Ray Erlenborn and Stewart Conway on sound effects.



OUR RADIO FAMILY AFTER A WEEKEND OF DOING "RADIO FAMILIES."

First row l-r: Tyler McVey, Esther Geddes, Merrill Mael, Larry Dobkin, Rhoda Williams, Sharon Douglas, Jo Anna March. Second row l-r: Dick Beals, Janet Waldo, Barbara Fuller, Harry Bartell, Norma Jean Nilsson, Stewart Conway, Sandra Gould. Third row l-r: Anne Whitfield Phillips, Art Gilmore, Sam Edwards, Ray Erlenborn, Gil Stratton, Jr.

We also welcomed Janet Waldo and JoAnna March, who had been our guests at special REPS monthly meetings. And to top it off we had Barbara Fuller and Sharon Douglas with us for the first time.

Throughout this Showcase, we saw and heard these artists blend their talents into our theme of "Radio Families". Friday was kicked off with a discussion, led by Members of the Vic and Sade Club, of "radio's homefolks, Vic and Sade", followed on Saturday by a recreation of an actual Vic and Sade show. Stories about families were at the heart of old time radio, both comedy and drama. Our "Life of Riley" story had Chester getting into plenty of trouble on a boat to Catalina, and the recreation featured no less than seven actors who had appeared on the show. Sharon Douglas had played Chester's daughter Babs for several years.

We were taken back again to "The Aldrich Family", as our special guests were augmented by our friends from SPERDVAC, Stuart Lubin, Bob Lynnes and Barbara Watkins, in lead roles in this popular comedy. No matter what the problem Henry and

Homer always found a way to be part of it. And if that wasn't enough trouble we were able to join "Meet Corliss Archer" as Janet Waldo and Sam Edwards once more flawlessly recreated their famous roles as Corliss and Dexter.

Tyler and Esther did a beautiful job of recreating "Ethel and Albert", which we remember so well when it was introduced last year by Peg Lynch and Parley Baer. And on Saturday some of us sat around at lunch to talk

with Norma Jean and Rhoda about "Father Knows Best", whose star and their friend Robert Young died on 21 July. Paul Secord led a panel of opinions on 'the best Radio Family Shows ("Father Knows Best" and "The Life of Riley" were right up there among the best of course). Bob Herman then took us with his panel on a review of some of the worst family radio shows, including the famous Cary Grant being unhappy about his radio version of "Mr Blandings Builds His Dream House". Bob, with the help of Sharon Douglas and Dick Beals, managed to pour cold coffee on a couple of other shows, none of which REPS will ever recreate!

But then of course there were the dramas about family life on radio. The leading prime time drama was always Carlton Morse's "One Man's Family". Using themes from the original shows, Ed Titus and Mike Sprague created a script of the Barbour family in 1998, looking back on their lives together and where they were today. It was a superb show. Barbara Fuller had been Claudia from 1945 on and Page Gilman was Jack throughout the shows

story continues on page 4



ANOTHER MEMORABLE SHOWCASE... *continued from page 3*

27 year run. The recreation was followed by discussion with cast members. Anne Whitfield (Penny) said "Penny was sort of a snob". "She was a headache" echoed Barbara Fuller. Several actors described how their characters were killed off on the show — a technique Morse used to move the plot ahead and introduce new characters. Sam Edwards (Tracy) was killed in the war. Morse rewarded Sam with roles in some of his other dramatic shows. Janet Waldo (Irene) came home one night to find her father distraught and informed her "You've been killed!" Sharon Douglas was married to two different characters on the show (Hank and Pinky). Barbara Fuller told us that we should all read "Killer at the Wheel" — "a fascinating book by Carlton Morse. Millie Morse, Carleton's widow, was with us again for the showcase.

Then there were the daytime soaps that some of us remember fondly when we were sick and home from school. The last show of "The Second Mrs Burton" was recreated for us, with Sharon Douglas, who originated the title role in 1946, and JoAnna March who was in the cast during its last five years starring in the show.

For the "cold read" this year, Mike and Joy selected an Ellery Queen story, "The Adventure of the Blind Bullet". Larry Dobkin, who had starred as Ellery Queen on radio, directed, and once again we had a chance to see what professionals can do after only a few minutes to look over a script and mark their lines. That dramatization was a stretch of the Radio Family theme, as was the Saturday evening recreation of an "Escape", a spooky story of people trapped in a department store after hours. Harry Bartell did the title role which he had played in the original 1949 broadcast. Gil Stratton directed.

Then, of course, there was the ever popular "Just sittin' around and visitin'" hosted by Mike Sprague. Mike chose the opportunity to ask people about their memories of working with

Gale Gordon. Sharon Douglas had her first radio role opposite Gale on "The Second Mrs Burton" and enjoyed working with him. Harry Bartell pointed out that Gale was a fine dramatic actor as well as a comedian. Dick Beals remembered being in the hospital with Dick Crenna after an appendectomy and laughing so hard at Gale saying "tether the elephants" on the "Our Miss Brooks" show that they both popped their stitches. The panel also shared many memories with us of working with Virginia Gregg.

Harry Bartell did an intriguing interview with Barbara Fuller and Art Gilmore. Among Harry's favorite shows were the 50 episodes of "Escape" that he did - "the parts and writing were superb". Art Gilmore pointed out that while it was years before most actors names were mentioned in the credits, the announcers usually had a chance to give their names. "I always said 'this is Art Gilmore speaking'. Among Barbara Fuller's favorite people to work with were Charlie Chaplin, Ethyl Barrymore and Ingrid Bergman. Her favorite stage experience was in the play 'Winterset'.

Ray Erlenborn and Stewart Conway entertained us with stories and demonstrations from their years of creating sound effects. Ray said that many sounds needed to "be seen" by the audience to help the comedians get a good laugh so they were also actors as well as sound effects men. He talked about many visits to garage sales and flea markets in search of the unusual noise maker. Peach baskets were used for crunching noises, cellophane for crackling fires, and audio wires for Roy Rogers creaking saddle.

Friday was the Convention highlight as we gathered to pay acclaim to Parley Baer. John and Larry Gassman led the tribute to our dear friend Parley, which was videotaped and sent to Parley.

There are so many to thank for making Showcase VI a success, and we especially appreciate the work of Chris and Janet Conrad in organizing the excellent dealer room, and providing us with the helpful guide to nearby restaurants and waterin' holes. I hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Put This On Your Calendar...

SHOWCASE VII ♦ SEATTLE CENTER ♦ JUNE 25-26, 1999





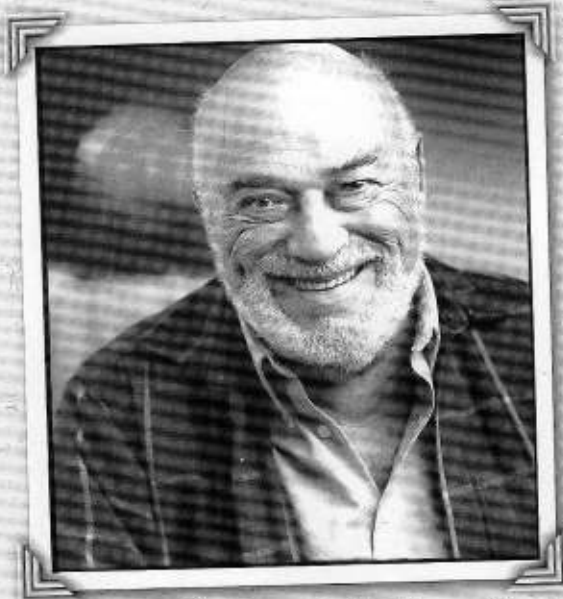
OUR SHOWCASE VI SCRAPBOOK



*Dick Beals directed Showcase
recreations...and the microphone!*



*Harcy Bartell and microphones
just go together so well!*



*Larry Dobkin, probably the world's
nicest "tough guy".*



*Ray Eitenboen: a fellow who
always has...and adds so much fun!*

ORIGINAL PHOTOS BY CHRIS CONRAD



Sandra Gould is really into her part!



Start Conway during "Just Sittin' Around and Visiting"



Gil Stratton, Jr. has fun and adds fun.



Art Gilmore announced, acted and made the Showcase nicer by being there.



'Volunteer of the Year' John Fluca (right) with R&E P&S president Terry Mahony.



Merritt Mael is ready to deliver another hilarious Uncle Fletcher line!



A light moment on the front row - l-r: Merrill Macl, Doug Young, Gil Stratton, Jr., Dick Deals, Ray Eitenborn and Stewart Conway. Behind them are Sharon Douglas, Larry Dobkin, Jo Anna March and Page Gilman.



Gil Stratton, Jr. is appreciated with the R&P Radio Appreciation Award presented by Mike Sprague.



Tyler McVey receiving the R&P Radio Achievement Award from Mike Sprague.



Doug Young really enjoying himself at the Showcase!



Sandrea Gould after the 'Ellery Queen' cold read, with Sam Edwards and Sharon Douglas alongside.



Gold read time - Ray Erlenborn, Tyler McVey, Merrill Macl, Sam Edwards and Doug Young.



R&P really appreciated the piano so kindly loaned by Evans Music Company in Bellevue...and the talented music who played it, Esther Geddes and Randy McMillan.



Some of the attendees, with the famous Space Needle looming in the background.



Sharon Douglas did Babs, Terri and Greta. You place the shows.



Barbara Fuller, Page Gilman and Annie Phillips with lots of microphones!



Special after dinner Mike and Val James



Anne Whitfield Phillips always does tremendous drama.



Norma Jean Nilsson is serious as she and Sandra Gould consider some of the best radio family shows.



Hardworking Sam Edwards was at the top of his game.



During 'The Aldrich Family', if you closed your eyes, you'd believe that Bobb Lynes and Stuart Lubin were Henry and Homee!



Music was provided by Randy McMillan.



Versatile Barbara Fuller at the mike.



From the lively 'Corliss Archer' to the deceased 'Irene Franklin', Janet Waldo was a Showcase hit!



Dr. Edwin Titus moderates the "One Man's Family" discussion.



Rhoda Williams during a relaxed moment.



John Okerman of DEEMCO Financial Services accepts R&D thanks and offers some nice comments.



27 years as 'Jack Barboué', Page Gilman added much to the Showcase.



ANNUAL AWARDS

REPS RADIO APPRECIATION AWARD

Gil Stratton, Jr.



REPS RADIO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Tyler McVey



REPS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

John Hura



SHOWCASE VI MEMORIES

Page Gilman Had a Good Time!

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank you and compliment you also. The entire event including using the nearby Inn (so close) ran smoothly and enjoyably with just the right amount of member participation and a great gang of performers.

Please pass along my compliments to Ed Titus also. He is so very knowledgeable about OMF and did a superb job of leading the questions to the cast. A hell of a job!

It's always a delight to visit with the Gassmans with their built-in data bank and with their friends, the Williamses who radiate so much enjoyment.

Once again, my gratitude for including me in a most memorable event.

Yours, Page

"Better than ever" (One more time) says Dick Deals

A quick word about your "better than ever" 6th show.

Why is the REPS gathering so much better than all others? Among other things, it is attention to detail. It is the friendly atmosphere. It is the way you bring your radio friends closer together with the members.

In your most effective way, you let the audience know we are just folks that made our living performing, because that was what we ended up doing. But we are not celebrities, we are not from Mars, just retired actors. Your "sittin' around" technique brings us all together... with laughter.

Your new location is airy, bright, sunny, clean with plenty of room to just sit down and chat a bit. Yet, your Green Room was there if needed.

So good job!

Dick

Harry and Bev Bartell Report In

Dear Mike,

As always, reunion time in Seattle was a world of fun and this time "Getting to Know You" took on a special meaning. Circumstances threw us into contact with people whom we had known forever but whom we had never really gotten to know well.

We have never been able to figure out exactly what makes the REPS group so outstanding, but there is no doubting that they are. If you represent Seattle as hosts you should be given billing above the city title.

We both want to thank you again for the warmth and attention you provided.

Please tell all those involved that we appreciate what they did. Our very best to you all.

Harry

Carlton's Widow, Millie Morse, Says Not Enough Time

Well, YOU DID IT. Of course, you (all) knew you could do it. The Convention was, without a doubt, wonderful. The only thing wrong - there just wasn't enough time for everything. It went by much too fast. Thank you for all your wonderful work.

Millie

From Larry Dobkin: "WOW!"

At the moment I write this, I'm realizing that the THANK YOU's really should go the other way... from me to you. The opportunity to re-live a happy time doesn't come easily or often. You and your devoted team have provided that for me. All I can say, sir, is that if you get to live as long as I already have, and someone does for you what you've done for me, you will re-define the word, "WOW!"

Sharon Douglas Had Fun Too

I so enjoyed participating in the activities of the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound. So many of you came up to me and expressed their appreciation. The choice of hotels was very convenient to everything and I have to compliment you all on how well organized your convention was. Thanks.

Sharon

Gil Stratton, Jr. "Lost for Words"?

As you must know, I always enjoy myself at REPS and this year was no different. My heartfelt thanks for the Radio Appreciation Award which is now hanging proudly above this desk. I was sort of lost for words when you presented it to me.

Whatever you do is fine with me, as you have given me the chances to do stuff I would never have had a chance to do in a lifetime. Everyone is so cooperative, it is just plain pleasure for people like me to participate.

Give my sincere thanks to EVERYONE!

Gil

A member says Showcase exceeded expectations

I had high expectations and felt much excitement as the Showcase approached. But, this exceeded any of that. Thanks.

Mark Kirkland

Thanks to all from another member

Thanks to you all for your efforts, work and upbeat attitude during the Showcase. Obviously you put in tons of work, and it is very much appreciated by all.

Lynn Barker

Great Job

Great job on the Showcase, as always.

Dick Bonesteel





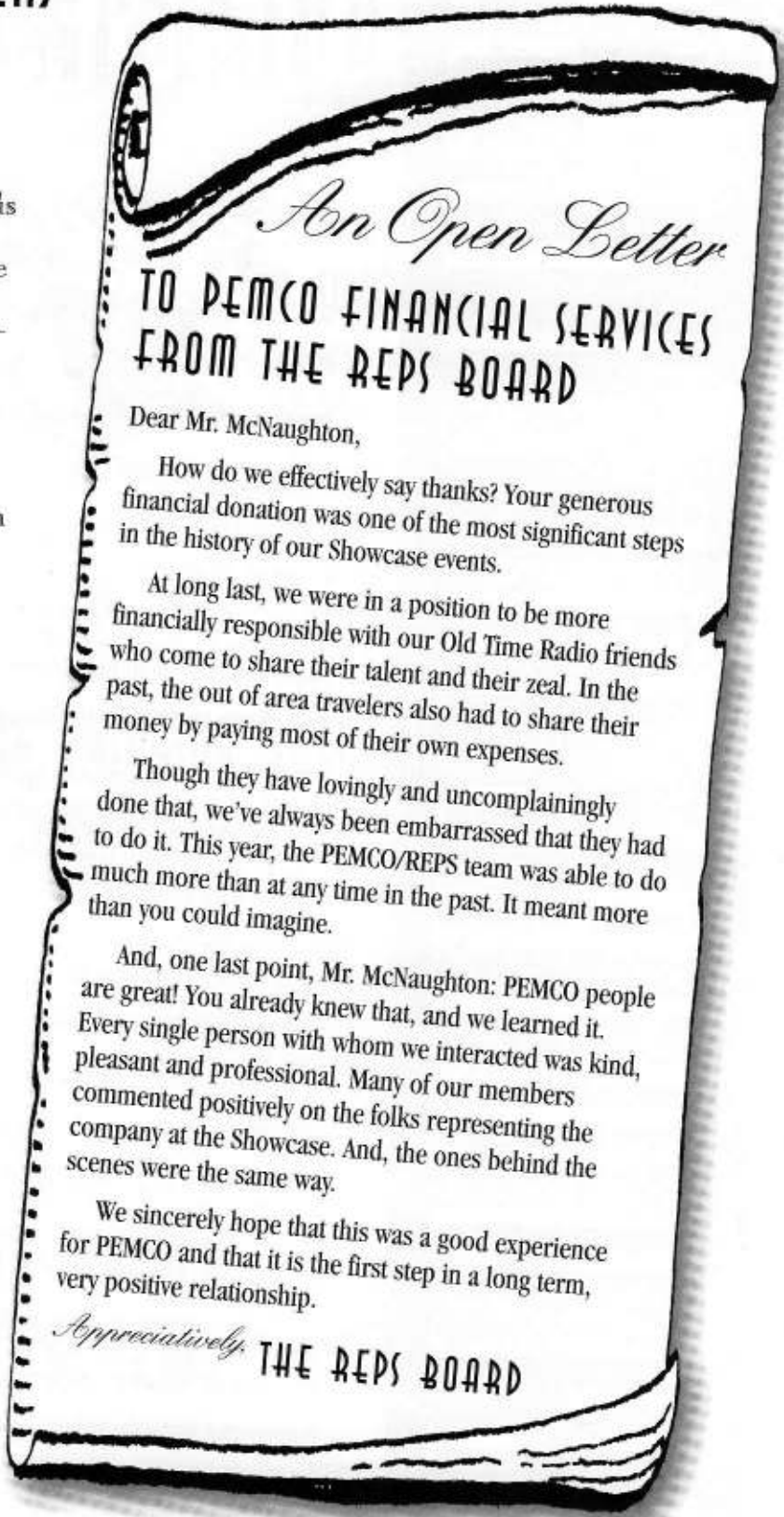
A WORD TO THE VOLUNTEERS FROM MIKE SPRAGUE

For six years now, we have put together Showcases. The first one, and this most recent one, at a new location, were both filled with the potential for embarrassing holes of one sort or the other. But, they didn't occur.

Why is that? You know where I'm headed with this, don't you? Many of you have been a part of the volunteer team from the beginning all the way through. What a difference you make! Others have joined in along the way. What a difference you make!

So many willing volunteers doing so many varied tasks and doing them so conscientiously. The people of REPS make the Radio Showcase an event that is appreciated by the wonderful performers who share with us. As we have said for years, "If they have a good time, so will we all."

To each and every one of you, no matter your role, THANKS



An Open Letter TO PEMCO FINANCIAL SERVICES FROM THE REPS BOARD

Dear Mr. McNaughton,

How do we effectively say thanks? Your generous financial donation was one of the most significant steps in the history of our Showcase events.

At long last, we were in a position to be more financially responsible with our Old Time Radio friends who come to share their talent and their zeal. In the past, the out of area travelers also had to share their money by paying most of their own expenses.

Though they have lovingly and uncomplainingly done that, we've always been embarrassed that they had to do it. This year, the PEMCO/REPS team was able to do much more than at any time in the past. It meant more than you could imagine.

And, one last point, Mr. McNaughton: PEMCO people are great! You already knew that, and we learned it. Every single person with whom we interacted was kind, pleasant and professional. Many of our members commented positively on the folks representing the company at the Showcase. And, the ones behind the scenes were the same way.

We sincerely hope that this was a good experience for PEMCO and that it is the first step in a long term, very positive relationship.

Appreciatively, THE REPS BOARD



UPCOMING MEETINGS

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE
QUEEN ANNE LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

September 2:00 PM ♦ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH

(NOTE: THIS IS THE 2ND SATURDAY TO AVOID A CONFLICT WITH THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY)

REPS Members, also known as the "Three Caballeros," present "Cowboys and Cookies". Return with us now to those days of yesteryear when you rushed home to hear your favorite afternoon western cowboy program. Be prepared to share your own story about your beloved show or promotion.

October 2:00 PM ♦ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

KIRO Entertainment Editor and Program Director (and REPS supporter) Terry Rose says "I'm not old but I do like old time radio". Terry tells us how radio programs are put together, his interest in old time radio and his thoughts on the continuing development of radio drama.

November 2:00 PM ♦ SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

One of REPS all time popular favorites, Rhoda Williams, pays us a visit and remembers fondly Robert Young and her years on "Father knows best", Lux Radio Theater and others; and, maybe she'll tell us "What Cinderella was really up to that she never seem to make it home on time?" Don't miss this show.

December 2:00 PM ♦ SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

Our Annual Meeting, election of officers and "The First Annual REPS Christmas Party". The REPS Radio Readers recreate a Christmas classic. Bring a toy for our tree and an under-privileged youngster as REPS members participate in the "Toys for Tots" program.



OTHER REPS TIDBITS

GO EAST, YOUNG/OLD ~ MAN/WOMAN, GO EAST

The Friends of Old Time Radio group will do their 23rd OTR convention in Newark on October 22-24th. A very large gathering, sure to be fun for all. Contact Jay Hickerson at 203-248-2887, or Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 or JayHick@aol.com



LOS ANGELES OTR CONVENTION IN NOVEMBER

One of the major OTR events in the country will take place on November 13-15. That's when the SPERDVAC club hosts their 15th convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel near LAX. The event is big and it's good. Information can be obtained by calling Larry Gassman at 562-947-9800.



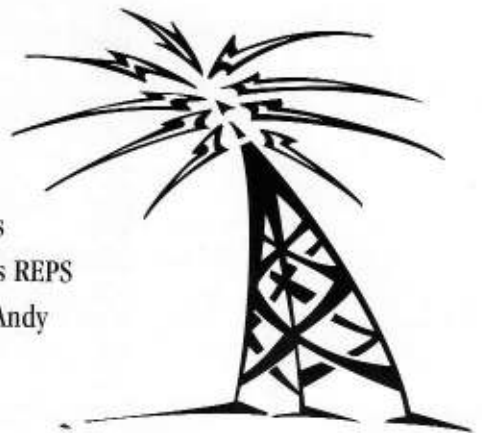
WE ARE BRINGING BACK THE DUCK

For those of you who miss the old Air Check Feature "Wanna Buy a Duck?" we are restarting the series on a trial basis to see if there is any interest. If you have any old time radio item to buy, sell, or trade or want some information drop me a line or give me a call and we will include your article. Here is an example:

"Does anyone have the address of the nice lady from the show "Let's Pretend" who, if you wrote her a letter, would return items to you from the "Land of the Lost"? I lost my keys again Louise, plus she still owes me a pocket knife from 1942."

REPS MEMBER STARTS RADIO STATION AND REPS WEB SITE

REPS member Andy Cashman and group of his Overlake high school classmates have started a radio station at their school and have incorporated Frank Rosin's REPS web page into their format. You can access this site at <http://welcome.to/reps>. Andy has promised to bring his friends over to a meeting after the first of the year.



SECOND PRINTING - GOOD PEOPLE!

OUR NEWSLETTER IS DISTINCTIVE. DON'T YOU THINK? WE CONTINUE TO THANK JAY SECOND OF SECOND PRINTING FOR MAKING IT SO. HIS KINDNESS IN DONATING SO MUCH TOWARD THIS EFFORT IS SUPER. AND HIS DAUGHTER HEAR, ALONG WITH BRENDA ELLENBERG, THE GRAPHICS/LAYOUT STAR, BOTH TAKE A REAL INTEREST IN AIR CHECK. YOU COULD SAY THANKS BY SENDING SOME PRINTING WORK THEIR WAY. 425-883-2182

PUGET SOUND RADIO LISTINGS

Both Old Time Radio and current materials (designated C) are on the air. To the best of our knowledge, this is when and where. THE ONLY WAY WE WILL BE ABLE TO CORRECT THIS LIST IS WHEN WE RECEIVE NOTES AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. If you know of others, or if any of these need correction, please let Air Check know. One such change is Jim Dolan's Radio Entertainment Network, now each weekday instead of Sunday. Please let the stations and sponsors (if any) know of your appreciation.

Mystery Playhouse (C)	KIRO	710 AM	9:06-10PM	Saturday
Mystery Playhouse (C)	KIRO	710 AM	9:06-10PM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KIRO	710 AM	10PM-1AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KIRO	710 AM	10PM-12AM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KLKI	1340 AM	6PM-7PM	M-F (Anacortes)
OTR	KKOL	1300 AM	10-12PM	Monday - Saturday
OTR	CFMS	98.5 FM	9-10PM	Saturday (Victoria)
OTR Siskind/Herman	ERRS	SAP FM	8-9PM	Saturday
OTR Dolan	ERRS	SAP FM	11PM-2AM	M-F (note change)
Odyssey/children (C)	KCIS	630 AM	7:30AM	Saturday
Odyssey/children (C)	KCIS	630 AM	7:30PM	M-F
Ruby In'galac. Gumshoe (C)	KUOW	94.9 FM	10:30PM	M-F
Unshackled (C)	KCIS	630 AM	9:30PM	Sunday
OTR	CFMI	101.1 FM	10PM	Sunday (Vancouver)
Radio Replays	CKNW	980 AM	11:10 PM	M-F (Vancouver)

