

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER • 1998

REPS TAPE LIBRARY COLLECTION REACHES 3,000 MARK



Truly one of the remarkable stories of REPS has been the resurrection and re-establishment of our Old Time Radio Tape Library. From a near disastrous fire of two years ago, at the home of Darrell and Vi Anderson, to the establishment of a new high in tape holdings is an incredible story. Unquestionably the total loss of their home and many personal possessions would have been reason enough for the Andersons to abandon their role as Tape Library custodians but when the ashes were settled Vi and Andy's response was, "Give us a chance to rebuild our home and we will find a place and the time to continue the Library". At the time of the loss REPS had just passed the 2,000 program level and Chairman Joy Jackson was getting concerned about finding new material that the club could afford. On top of this problem the fire destroyed about half of our collection. The one saving grace was Joy's farsightedness in maintaining a master file of each tape at her home. David Speelman stepped into the breach and offered to main-



Top left:
Darrell Anderson;

Top right:
Vi Anderson;

Bottom, l to r:
Michael Comstock,
Glenn Sisson,
Chairman Joy Jackson
and Cliff Glaspey

tain the Library until the Anderson's home was restored; Michael Comstock and Cliff Glaspey assisted Joy in restoration; and, new member Glenn Sisson led an aggressive campaign to add new material to the Library. Two years later the Andersons are not only "back in business" but are supporting an increase in holdings of 50%. REPS Library is not known just for its quantity but also its quality. If you haven't checked it out lately maybe now is the time. A hearty "well done" to Joy, Vi, Darrell and all of their volunteers!

See related story on page 3.

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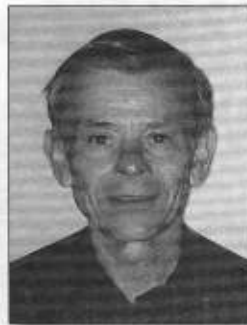


REPS MEMBERSHIP

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!



FROM THE EDITORS DESK...

In this Issue we are featuring our Tape Library with its fantastic growth and the effort by its volunteers. See the article by Joy Jackson in this issue regarding the new Library

Supplement which should be included in this mailout.

Mike Sprague is off and running with Showcase VII and Janet Conrad has a great idea. See Mike's article and start making plans for next June.

December is our *Annual Meeting, Election of Officers* and our *First Annual Christmas & Holiday Party*. The Radio Readers are hard at work and the Marines will be here to pick up Toys for Tots and there will be games and surprises. Don't miss this meeting. Look for the ballot and vote for our outstanding *Officer Candidates for 1999*.

Member Larry Siskind documents his search for *THE ETERNAL LIGHT*. Can anyone help Larry in his quest?

Have you heard member Larry Albert on Jim French's Sherlock Holmes stories on the *KIRO Mystery Theater*? Great stories, great acting.

For those of you who missed some of our programs Bill Parker and Joy Jackson provide write-ups on recent meetings.

Finally, we frequently get comments on the high quality of the Air Check printing but the responses from this years Showcase edition were just overwhelming. Our thanks to Jay Secord and his daughter Keri and Brenda Ellenberg for their absolutely superior effort. If you have any printing requirements you absolutely can't do better than Secord Printing.

Terry

Terry Mahony
Air Check Editor



NEW ADDITIONS TO REPS TAPE LIBRARY ENHANCE OUR GROWING COLLECTION

BY JOY JACKSON

With the September supplement, the REPS library now stands at 3017.

Major donors for this addition have been Glenn Sisson and Frank Rosin. Michael Comstock did his usual stellar job at making circulation copies.

Highlights of the September supplement: Barry Craig (action/adventure/mystery), Bing Crosby/Philco Radio, Black Museum (Orson Welles—true crime), Counterspy, Crime Classics, Crime Club, Horatio Hornblower, Jungle Jim, Lux Radio Theatre (Bogart) and Tarzan.

I listened to Lux Radio Theatre's rendition of "To Have and Have Not". It was easy to see that it was the genesis for Bold Venture. Both starred Bogie and Bacall.

Also added was a selection of soap operas: Brighter Day, Guiding Light, Just Plain Bill, Lorenzo Jones, Ma Perkins, Our Gal Sal, Right to Happiness, Romance of Helen Trent, Stella Dallas and Young Dr. Malone.

Revisit Showcase V, with Sitting Around and Visiting. Check out a meeting: Collectors and Jo Anna March.

My favorite among this bunch are 2 tapes entitled "Fighting Air Force". These are actual transmissions from onboard B29s flying over Japan, or interviews at Air Force bases. One of the interviews was with the crew of the Enola Gay. The transmissions were generally done by broadcasters, with the exception of one who had to be a pilot. His voice was fairly flat in its delivery. But you could tell when he got excited.

The slight rise in tone as he comments "Another one at 11 o'clock. One at 3 o'clock." His concern about the incoming Japanese fighters seeps out of his rock-steady voice. It made me feel like I was there. The broadcasts fade in and out at times, and I could hear navigation warnings from the flight deck. I am grateful for the opportunity to hear such a piece of actual history, rather than just reading about it.

Cliff Glaspey replaced all of the Damon Runyon Theatre tapes that had been missing/destroyed. Yeah, Cliff! We keep plugging away on those missing masters.

Tonight KIRO 9:00

"SUSPENSE"

Starring—
CHARLES LAUGHTON

PRESENTED BY



ROMA WINES

TONIGHT!

HOAGY CARMICHAEL

the MILLION DOLLAR SHOW
with **BARRY** America's No. 1 Network

NEW TIME
NEW STATION

INNER SANCTUM

TONIGHT



KIRO
8:30

CBS

A Service of Radio Corporation of America

AVAILABLE FROM JOY.

THE REPS CATALOG, ON DISKETTE, FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH A COMPUTER, AND MICROSOFT ACCESS SOFTWARE. IT CAN ALSO BE EXPORTED AS AN EXCEL FILE. THIS IS A FAST, INEXPENSIVE WAY TO GET THE WHOLE CATALOG. LEAVE ME A MESSAGE AT (206) 632-1632 WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND WHAT YOU WANT.



NOTICE!!! TO ALL MEMBERS AND HONORARY MEMBERS:

Silent Auction planned as Showcase Fundraiser

By Mike Sprague

Under the leadership of Janet Conrad, a Silent Auction is taking shape as a fundraiser for the PEMCO/REPS Radio Showcase VII in June 1999.

Janet says "Our hope is that members, including our wonderful Honorary Members, will donate items that others will want to have." Janet recently bought a *War of the Worlds* record album with a spectacular cover...just so she can donate it to the auction.



Ray Erlenbom, Dick Beals, Larry Dobkin and Harry Bartell

AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS SHOULD BE BIG

Remember the really special photos that were a part of the Showcase issue of Air Check? They were taken by Janet's husband (William Conrad's son) Christopher, in their studio.

The cover featured a group shot of Harry Bartell, Dick Beals, Larry Dobkin and Ray Erlenbom. Many have commented on the exceptional quality of that photo. All four actors have agreed to autograph a large print of it, and then Janet will have it framed for the Auction. They will do the same thing on their individual shots.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

If everyone digs deep, with high creativity, just think how much can be raised. ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO THE SHOWCASE GUEST FUND, which is dedicated to allowing us to be responsible in the expenses of OTR performer guests who come to Seattle.

One member, on hearing about the Auction, said "I've got an autographed copy of Eve Arden's biography. It's a great book, but I'll never read it again. You can have it for the Auction."

START NOW!

Please don't wait, thinking summer is a long way off. There will be much time needed to develop an informative flyer, with ample lead time before the Showcase. Even folks who can't attend will be able to bid if they wish.

DETAILS LATER

Exact details on the process and the items will be included in the next Air Check. Janet Conrad can be reached at 206-284-5663, 6530 47th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136.

Put This On Your Calendar...

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





COOKIES & COWBOYS

Cowboy shows could have been known as "Grains"— sponsored by either cereal companies or bread companies.

Bill Parker, Dave Selvig and Sam Simone ➤



The hero is always paired with a sidekick or a child, plus a favorite horse!

HERO	HORSE	SIDEKICK
Bobby Benson	Amigo	Windy Wales (Don Knotts)
Cisco Kid	Diablo	Pancho
Gene Autry	Champion	Pat Butrum
Hopalong Cassidy	Topper	California Carlson
Lone Ranger	Silver	Tonto
Red Ryder	Thunder	Little Beaver (and Buckskin)
Roy Rogers	Trigger (Dog=Bullet)	Dale Evans, Smiley Burnett
Straight Arrow	Fury	Packy
Tom Mix	Tony	Sherriff Mike Shaw



1951 GENE AUTRY COWBOY CODE (abridged)

1. Rever be unfair
2. Rever betray
3. Tell the truth
4. Be kind to children and women
5. Combat Racial prejudice
6. Be helpful
7. Be a good worker
8. Keep yourself and all of your stuff clean
9. Have respect for your elders and others
10. Have a patriotic attitude

ROY ROGERS *(Bill Parker presenter)*

"He came from nothing, and earned everything he ever had." (Leonard Maltin)

Born Leonard Sly, in Duckrun, Ohio.

Original singing group: Sons of the Pioneers (not old enough to be The Pioneers); provided background music for Gene Autry musicals.

Roy was plagued by mike fright.

When Gene Autry went on strike for more money, Republic substituted Roy for him in the movie "Under Western Skies". Studio ran him as a competing series. His first "A" western, with John Wayne and Walter Pigeon in 1940.

A very religious Christian.

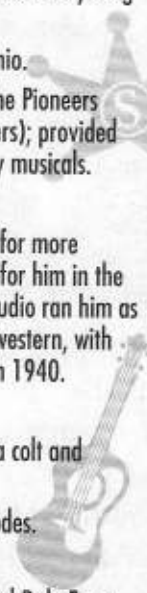
Co-star was Trigger; raised from a colt and taught lots of tricks.

No one ever died during his episodes.

Always had a grizzled side kick.

After his first wife died, he married Dale Evans in 1947.

Roy died in August 1998.



RED RYDER *(Sam Simone presenter)*

Ran complete episodes, 7:30 pm on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

Phrases: "You betcha, Red Ryder", "Gitt'em up, papoose" by Little Beaver

Short stories written by Fred Harmon

Broadcast on the Blue Network (west coast); Mutual had the Lone Ranger on the East coast.

TOM MIX *(Dave Selvig)*

Sponsored by Ralston

Tom was from Dobie Texas.

It was a western detective program, using contemporary stories, focusing on realism and real characters.

5 times a week for 15 minutes; 1949 moved to 3 times a week, 30 minute complete episodes.

Top premium givers.

From the book "Don't touch that dial"

1. Representative of civilization—pitted against anarchy; fostering patriots
2. Champions of the oppressed
3. Communicators of morality (working hard, father/son relationships, honesty, fairness)





BOB BLACKBURN RECREATES FOR REPS



Bob Blackburn, the popular "voice of the Sonics", entertained a packed house at our June Meeting at the Queen Anne Library Auditorium.

Bob's announcing days began in the early 1940's as a teenager in Southern California and evolved over the years as he moved from Los Angeles to Portland and finally Seattle. Bob highlighted his early days in radio and how he went from announcing to becoming a disc jockey and, finally, broadcasting sporting events and event recreations.



Terry Mahony and Bob Blackburn at our June meeting

REPS members were fascinated with the realism that Bob could produce with a few letters on a "ticker tape" for a "script", some personal sound effects and, most importantly, a good imagination. Working in innumerable foul balls, arguments, and incredible game delays, while telegraph communications were lost was just one of the tests that Bob faced in recreating sports. So realistic was his work that Bob submitted tapes of recreations for job applications and the station managers reviewing the programs thought that they were listening to live broadcasts. Besides baseball Bob did LA Rams football, ice hockey and the 1952 Republican Convention.

A fun sidelight was developed when REPS favorite Ginny Tyler and Bob related some

practical jokes that they help set up when they were doing back-to-back shows at KEX in Portland. Over the years Bob developed many friendships in the sports and entertainment world.

In developing our program the recurring theme was, as expressed by a former baseball umpire and acquaintance, Gil Stratton, "Bob is a really good guy." We would all agree with that, and particularly our friends at the Evergreen Radio Reading Service for the blind who received a generous donation from Bob after the meeting. Members are awaiting a return performance and "Bob, we won't wait too long."



1999 ELECTION OF REPS OFFICERS

OFFICIAL BALLOT

VICE PRESIDENT

Sam Simone ✦ Sam has served on the board for two years and with wife Jo has done an outstanding job in promoting our Showcases and other club activities.

Write In Candidate _____

TREASURER

Janet Conrad ✦ Janet has become an active member and with husband Chris have been big contributors to a variety of REPS programs.

Write In Candidate _____

SECRETARY

Joy Jackson ✦ Joy continues to be the backbone of the club supporting REPS in a myriad of activities ranging from Radio Readers to managing the Tape Program.

Write In Candidate _____

Fill out ballot, cut out and mail to Mike Sprague at 9936 NE 197th Street ✦ Bothell, Washington 98011 or turn in to Mike or Frank Denton at December meeting.



I have been collecting old-time radio shows for about 30 years. In that time there was one program that I especially wanted, *The Eternal Light*. Fifty years ago as a child I remember listening to this program and being moved by its powerful dramas. Unlike real life, in the show Right always triumphed in the end, although sometimes at a terrible price.

The Eternal Light reached the peak of its popularity in the late 1940's and early 1950's. The format of the show was fairly standard. It opened with a Hebrew chant, followed by "The Lord spake unto Moses saying command the children of Israel, that they bring unto thee pure oil olive, beaten for the lights to cause the lamps to burn continually in the tabernacle of the congregation, and it will be a statute forever in your generation ... THE ETERNAL LIGHT!" Thereafter followed the drama. The show ended with a guest speaker who would briefly discuss the theme of the story. The show had no sponsor and free time was made available by the National Broadcasting Company. Some of the biggest and best known performers appeared in the dramas, including Sam Edwards, Edward G. Robinson, Jeff Chandler, and numerous others.

Some have classified *The Eternal Light* as a religious program, similar to *Unshackled* and *Family Theater*. The show was produced by the Jewish Theological Seminary and its dramas stressed Jewish life and moral values. References to Biblical stories were frequent; however, no effort was made to indoctrinate its listeners with religious doctrines as in *Unshackled*, or to get them to pray as in *Family Theater*. The moral values stressed were diversity and toleration, not conformity. Bigotry, narrowness and hate sold under

the guise of religion were frequently exposed. In the program titled "Ghosts Who Sit in Parliament," (broadcast January 11, 1953) Ezekial Hart, a Jew, was elected to the Canadian Parliament in 1808 and traveled to Quebec, then Canada's capital. In order for him to be seated it was necessary for him to take an oath. The clerk insisted that he take

the oath on the New Testament and "as the true faith of a Christian." Hart refused. He would take the oath only on the Books of Moses, and not on a Bible representing someone else's religion. The oath was not administered. A hostile Parliament, believing there could be only one true religion—that accepted by the majority of people living in Quebec—refused to seat him. It later passed a motion refusing to seat any Jew at any time regardless of the fact that the person had been lawfully elected from his district. In 1831 a more liberal Parliament reversed the motion and granted full civil rights to all. Hart's stubborn fight against religious bigotry was vindicated.

In 30 years I have never heard *The Eternal Light* played on any old-time radio show. I have never seen it in any collectors' list. I repeatedly placed ads in old-time radio publications asking about the show and never received a response.

Even searches on the Internet were not productive. *The Eternal Light* seemed to be one of the rarest, extant shows ever. Well, no more! I have obtained a small number of these shows in excellent sound quality. Some are complete and some are chopped toward the end. I hope to obtain additional shows in the future. *The Eternal Light* will again be on the air waves, and first on my show (Grieve, Bob Herman). Copies will then be dubbed for the REPS library so all can hear this fine example of old-time radio.

The Eternal Light



By Larry Siskind



Interested in corresponding with an old time radio buff (and maybe setting up a visit)? Just respond to the following request received by Mike Sprague:

Greetings from Australia!

Date: Wednesday, August 26, 1998
3:51:44 AM

From: markg@picknowl.com.au

Subj: Person interested in
corresponding with Aussie OTR buff.

To: HRRMIKES@aol.com



Hi Mike! I have just discovered the wonderful material about America's Golden Days of radio including your organization. Being a baby boomer who grew up during those great days I am excited to find so many others who have a love for all those programs both in the U.S. and Australia. I contact you to enquire whether there may be someone within your group of members who may like to correspond with me as a pen friend to share both our love of countries and this interest. I set out my name and address below* with the hope that there may be someone who would like to correspond. I will write the introductory letter as soon as you supply a name and address.



Regards

Richard Maetze

*Contact Mike Sprague for Richard's address if you wish to contact him.



DIRECTIONS FOR RECEIVING EVERGREEN RADIO SHOWS

Several people have requested instructions on how to receive the Evergreen programs featuring members Bob Herman, Larry Siskind and Jim Dolan on their stereo TV or VCR:

- ① TUNE TO CHANNEL 9 [ACTS SEATTLE].
- ② SELECT SAP UNDER THE MENU FOR AUDIO OPTIONS [CONSULT OWNERS MANUAL FOR DIRECTIONS].

TO RETURN THE TELEVISION OR VCR TO NORMAL STEREO, REVERSE STEP 2.

For complete schedule information call Evergreen Radio Reading Service at (206)464-6930 or toll free at 1-800-542-0866.

For a schedule of programs from the Radio Entertainment Network send a self addressed stamped envelope to:

REN ♦ P.O. BOX 51161 ♦ SEATTLE WA 98115





OTHER REPS TIDBITS

REPS MEMBER STARTS RADIO STATION AND REPS WEB SITE SET TO PRESENT JANUARY PROGRAM

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.



Marge and John discuss John's latest Book Library find.



Rhea overlooks the wonderful monthly spread of goodies she provides for each meeting.

9936 NE 197th Street
Bothell, WA 98011

SECORD PRINTING ■ GOOD PEOPLE!

Our newsletter is distinctive, don't you think? We continue to thank Jay Secord of Secord Printing for making it so. His kindness in donating so much toward this effort is super. And his daughter Keri, 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	1AM-4AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KIRO	710 AM	10PM-12AM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KLKI	1340 AM	6PM-7PM	M-F (Anacortes)
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)
Golden Age of Radio Theater	KLAY		6PM-12PM	Saturday
Golden Age of Radio Theater	KLAY		3PM-6PM	Sunday

