

# AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 9 • NUMBER 2

SHOWCASE VII • 1999

## *There is no mystery...*



▲ The Showcase Stars. L to R Front: Merril Moel, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Norma Jean Nilsson, Jo Anna March, Tyler McVey, Esther Geddes McVey, Art Gilmore, Gil Stratton, Jr., Dick Beals. Back: Stewart Conway, Ginny Tyler, Harry Bartell, Rhoda Williams, Douglas Young, Alan Young, Herb Ellis, Sam Edwards, Frank Buxton, Charles Flynn, Tommy Cook, Ray Erlenborn. Missing: Larry Dobkin

## *...why we love these folks so much!*

With our Showcase theme *Mystery at the Mike*, they came and did just what most of them did in the Golden Age and all do so well today. They're a gracious lot and are people we feel so privileged to have been with—and we always look forward to being with again.



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## Sandra Gould Dies

REPS members were saddened to learn of the death of Sandra Gould following heart surgery.

She was with the club at a regular monthly meeting and at two Radio Showcases. This year Sandy had to cancel Seattle because she was doing a movie on the east coast. Anyone who saw her in action knows her energy and her desire to have some fun.

Probably all of the news stories reporting her death will focus on her portrayal of Mrs. Kravitz in the popular TV show *Bewitched*. And, she was good there. But, radio fans old and young will likely first think of the brassy portrayal she did as Miss Duffy on *Duffy's Tavern*. And, Sandy did so many other shows such as *A Date With Judy*, *The Jack Benny Show*, *Life With Luigi*, *Let's Pretend*, and *The Sad Sack*. She did drama as well on *Johnny Dollar*, *The Saint*, *Suspense* and others.

A fixture at many OTR gatherings over the years, Sandra Gould will be missed by fans everywhere, and most certainly by the folks of REPS.



▲ Honorary member Sandra Gould as she acted at the last Showcase. Sandra passed away recently.

## NEXT ISSUE OF AIR CHECK?

After much dedicated service, Terry Mahony stepped aside as editor of *Air Check*. No replacement is in place yet. Normally the next issue of the newsletter would be scheduled for about October 1.

If that happens, it may be a reduced version just to help in communications with everyone. As always, with a volunteer crowd, we're duty bound to be patient until a replacement steps forward.

## The 'One Man's Family' Family

Founded by REPS' own Mike Sprague and Gary Polich, this small group is doing quite well. Mike states "We've connected with most of the surviving former cast members and many of them are regularly involved with us."

He adds that since *Air Check* last mentioned OMFF, the club has established a rapidly growing cassette library on this classic Carlton E. Morse show. "We'll soon have a collection of everything that is in circulation, and we're still working hard to obtain access that *One Man's Family* material in the Library of Congress."

The club also has videos of the first three *One Man's Family* Reunions, featuring former cast members. And, there is a quarterly newsletter, *Family Ties*. Annual dues are \$12. OMFF can be reached at Box 723, Bothell, WA 98041

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# SHOWCASE VII

## Highlights

BY BILL PARKER (WITH INPUT FROM JOY JACKSON AND MIKE SPRAGUE)

*As always, there is more information than space. Lets take a walk through the Showcase, with brief narrative stops and plenty of photos to help attendees remember and others to enjoy.*

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON

#### Missing Mysteries

Friday afternoon began on a high note with lots of people in attendance as Bill Brooks hosted Sam Edwards and Herb Ellis in the first of three panels. Their's was "How Did These Mysteries Miss The Program?" It was a light-hearted time.

In particular, fun was had around a corny episode of *The Whisperer* in which Herb worked. And, they talked about Herb's show *Jason and the Golden Fleece* which featured MacDonald Carey and William Conrad. Herb stated "Bill Brooks has 3 of the 2 available tapes of the show."

Sam reflected on the absolute enjoyment he had working with Conrad on *Gunsmoke*, and added "All through the years of the show, Bill kept demanding a raise and the network kept meeting it. Finally, I guess he asked for too much."

#### Whatever Happened to...?

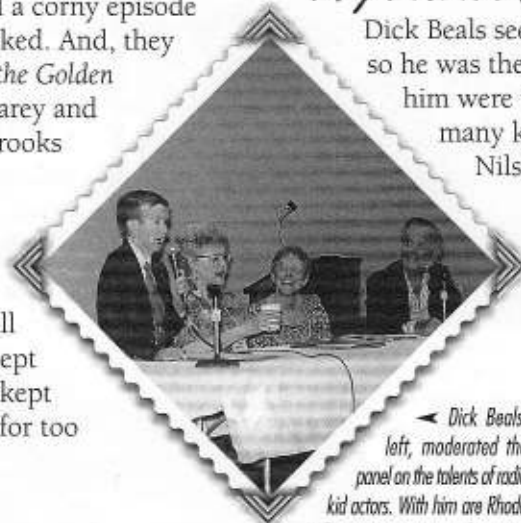
Okay, so maybe it seemed a little morbid when Harry Bartell and Gil Stratton, Jr. kept sounding like Uncle Fletcher of *Vic & Sade*, when he often said "And later died."

But, with moderator Larry Albert, these fine actors added insight for the audience on such diverse folks such as Bob Bailey of *Johnny Dollar* fame, George

(*Superman*) Reeves, Victor Mature and others. On Mature, Harry told about going to church with him when Mature took his dog. An usher said "You can't take that dog in here." Victor replied "This is a Catholic dog!" The dog behaved perfectly throughout the service.

#### Why Were Kids So Darned Good on Radio?

Dick Beals seemed to put a lot of kids out of work, so he was the host of the panel-just for fun. Joining him were three high energy adults who played many kids roles: Tommy Cook, Norma Jean Nilsson and Rhoda Williams.



← Dick Beals, left, moderated the panel on the talents of radio kid actors. With him are Rhoda Williams, Norma Jean Nilsson and Tommy Cook.

All three had early experiences with Arch Oboler, with both Tommy and Norma Jean doing their first radio work for him. Tommy said "It was so easy to do a script written by Arch Oboler. It was like something you would say naturally yourself."

Rhoda remembered doing an audition for the part of a Filipino child for Oboler. "He liked my accent, and had all the other kids talk the same way."

Norma Jean summarized her view of the theme. "Why were those kids so darned good? One word- FEAR. Fear of not being called back again."

SHOWCASE VII *Highlights*...continue on page 4



## FRIDAY EVENING

### *Vic & Sade*

After a break for dinner, the crowd returned to a fully packed evening program, beginning with *Vic & Sade* in 'How Does Your Garden Grow?' It was outside of the mystery theme, but who cared? It was a really good show.

The cast featured Esther Geddes doing the music, Art Gilmore announcing, with Merrill Mael as Uncle Fletcher. Anna Denton along side as Sade, Joy Jackson was Rush and by golly Alan Young was a superb Vic. Alan was a big fan of the show and delighted to do it. He also does a mean Uncle Fletcher, by the way.

### *The Adventures of Nero Wolfe*

As the program said, what a cast! Three former Archie Goodwins worked: Herb Ellis directed and took another role too; Larry Dobkin was a wonderful Nero and Harry Bartell did Archie as he had in the original airing of this episode.

They were aided by Charles Flynn, Merrill Mael, JoAnna March, Tyler McVey (who previously worked the

show) and Norma Jean Nilsson. Esther Geddes again did music, with Ray Erlenborn and Stew Conway on sound effects.

### *Just Sittin' Around and Visiting Part I*

After seeking input from the Stars, we tried a new approach of doing one half of the group on Friday night and the rest on Saturday.

This informal conversation time, was moderated by Mike Sprague, with active participation by Dick Beals, Charles Flynn, Ray Erlenborn, Larry Dobkin, Rhoda Williams, Gil Stratton, Jr., Sam Edwards, Anne Whitfield Phillips and Herb Ellis.

One item from each, just so the reader can remember or get a flavor:

**Herb**—"Wouldn't it be great if television was going out and radio was just coming in?"

**Dick**—"There really wasn't a caste system in radio."

**Sam**—on an unusual experience: "Completely forgetting my 'Corlisssss, oh Corlisssss' opening line. I only did that once."

**Larry**—on a best friend Bill Conrad line to him: "What takes you so long, when you settle for so little?"

**Annie**—when the group was talking about parts for women: "On *Suspense*, there was often only one role for a woman or a child."

**Charles**—concerning close friends in radio: "Dick York who played Billy in Jack Armstrong."

**Gil**—on the same question: "Parley and Ernie Baer. We had a mutual love of the circus."

*By the way, nearly every actor mentioned their love and admiration for Parley.*

**Rhoda** mentioned how much she like Bill Baldwin, Edgar Bergen's announcer.

**Ray** remembered fondly Glenhall Taylor and True Boardman.

▼ Herb Ellis, left, directing Charles Flynn and JoAnna March in 'The Adventures of Nero Wolfe'.



▲ Three of the best actors anywhere, anytime: Larry Dobkin, seated, Harry Bartell and Herb Ellis. All played Archie Goodwin on "Nero Wolfe", and all worked in the recreation of that show.

## 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.

**Consider Giving Gift Memberships For Any Occasion!**

Membership	1st Year	Renewal
Regular	\$22	\$18
Student	\$15	\$9
Vision impaired	\$15	\$9



## SATURDAY MORNING & AFTERNOON

*Following the continental breakfast time, we jumped into the first part of a spectacular day.*

### *Jack Armstrong, The All American Boy*

Naturally, Charles Flynn took the lead since he WAS Jack Armstrong, and he also directed this really good re-creation. The cast included Dick Beals, Sam Edwards, Ginny Tyler and Gil Stratton, Jr. The action packed show, with its mystery ingredients, was greatly supplemented by the quartet Harmonious Accord. They had practiced and practiced and it showed.



← Charles Flynn, working as Jack Armstrong, just fit right in.



▲ "Have you tried Wheaties?" Can't you just hear the Harmonious Accord quartet as they work on "Jack Armstrong"?

### *Just Sittin' Around and Visiting Part II*

This group was hosted by Harry Bartell. Again, some flavor from individual highlight comments from stars Alan Young, Ginny Tyler, Frank Buxton, Tyler McVey, Art Gilmore, Tommy Cook, Merrill Mael, JoAnna March, and Doug Young:

**Merrill**—can't get away from mattress comments due to his frequently heard spots on local radio.

**Doug**—is always grateful to his close friend Daws Butler for key job leads.

**Frank**—wrote *The Big Broadcast* because "It was the opposite of climbing Mt. Everest. It wasn't there."

**Alan**—on getting into acting. "Poverty did it. My dad, with great timing, started in the munitions business just after the war. Dad told me 'Stick with the radio business, because lips don't sweat.'"

**Tyler**—In Hollywood, "*Jerry and the Circus* was my first show. I got \$2.50 for each show."

**Art**—started to work for KVI in Tacoma for nothing. He was



▲ Art Gilmore is flanked by Frank Buxton and Tyler McVey in "Just Sittin' Around and Visiting."

then given "the princely sum of \$15.00 per month."

**Harry**—commented on how well Leonard Maltin's book captures the feel of old time radio. That's quite a comment from such a veteran.

**Tommy**—joined the discussion in progress and told how Arthur Lake on *Blondie* was just like the character.

**Ginny**—"I started as a parrot on NBC, and became known as the bird lady."

**Jo Anna**—The only east coast actress in the group, mentioned Dwight Weist and other favorites.

### *Broadway is My Beat—Cold Read*

This feature was introduced three years ago and is an audience favorite. Larry Dobkin took a large cast, gave them their scripts and the actors started "marking" them. Larry set the stage with some background information as the cast prepared.

Then, in a crowded room with many invited audience members surrounding the table, the actors got into it. Commented one of the over-the-shoulder observers, "It was just fascinating to see how they adapted and played off of each other on a first read through."

SHOWCASE VII *Highlights*...continue on page 6



### Suspense-In Fear and Trembling

With some of the truly outstanding acting and directing, this show was a major hit with the audience. In the cast... Frank Buxton, Charles Flynn, Merrill Mael, Norma Jean Nilsson, Gil Stratton, Jr., Anne Whitfield Phillips and Rhoda Williams. Dick Beals was a well prepared and dedicated director and Randy McMillan did top drawer music.

Though we couldn't get them all in it, eleven Showcase guests had worked on *Suspense* back in the Golden Age.



◀ The "Suspense" re-creation was exceptional, due to the directing of Dick Beals on the left and the talents of folks like Frank Buxton, Norma Jean Nilsson, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Gil Stratton, Jr. and Merrill Mael.

### Getting to Know Alan Young

Honorary member Ginny Tyler did the honors as interviewer, and she was well prepared. Ginny had worked on *Mr. Ed* in the past, and she had done some research too.

A few of the interesting points from their discussion, included:

Alan came to Canada from Scotland as a child. When he made a bit of money doing a simple few lines—and his family was having a tough time financially—he had lots of support for an acting/comedy career.

"I wrote a lot of my own material on radio in Canada. Coming to New York, I was in awe of New York gag writers. The one character on my show that I actually wrote the script for was Hubert Updike 'the richest man in the world, who sold his cars because the ashtrays were full.' I felt comfortable with his character."

When radio was going out, Alan put on an act in Chicago, with *Liberace*.

"In those days, you couldn't do standup comedy and walk out. You had to have a 'walk-off.' I used a bagpipe for that."

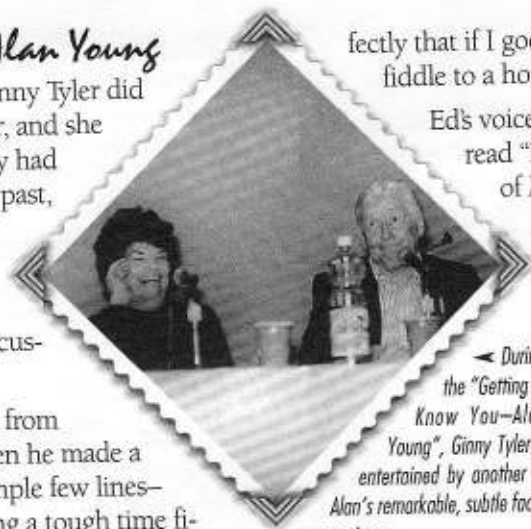
Concerning *Mr. Ed*, lots of interest in the audience. After success with *Francis the Talking Mule*, Arthur Lubin developed the idea for *Mr. Ed*. Alan said "George Burns tried it first, but it didn't go."

They found a horse called *Bamboo Harvester* and he became *Mr. Ed*. Alan commented that "Ed did things so per-

fectly that if I goofed, he thought he'd made a mistake." Second fiddle to a horse? "I loved it. He was so great to work with."

Ed's voice was that of Rocky Lane, unbilled. The TV credit read "Mr. Ed, played by himself." Alan added "The charm of *Mr. Ed* was, you believed that Ed was trying to talk himself. You could never get that response in today's 'stop action.'"

Of course there were stops to talk about Scrooge McDuck and some were interested in Alan's work on *Adventures in Odyssey*. Throughout this brief time, and the entire Showcase, the audience was captivated with Alan's pleasant charm and his ever present humor.



◀ During the "Getting to Know You—Alan Young", Ginny Tyler is entertained by another of Alan's remarkable, subtle facial expressions.

### The Adventures of Red Ryder

"*Border Line Bad Man*" was a fast moving, action packed show featuring original announcer Art Gilmore and Tommy Cook who had been *Little Beaver*. Tommy also did the directing.

The cast was so good, with Larry Dobkin, Sam Edwards, Herb Ellis (as Red), Charles Flynn, JoAnna March, Anne Whitfield Phillips and Doug Young

(both of the latter worked on *Red Ryder*.) Randy McMillan again provided the music.



▲ At the microphone in *Red Ryder*, left to right, Tommy Cook, Sam Edwards, Anne Whitfield Phillips and Doug Young.

### Social Hour and Dinner With the Stars

The mingling times are great at a Showcase, with the Stars being totally approachable and real. Following dinner, certificates were given each performer stating how "Tickled Pink" we all were to be able to spend time with these professionals that we admire so much.

### The 88th Street Orchestra

Five of their thirteen big band group could be accommodated in our space, along with vocalist Mike Rust. They did such a fine job on the after dinner music we've come to enjoy as we transition to our last re-creation/event of the Showcase. These guys were so flexible and so professional. The actors in the re-creation definitely appreciated them and so did the general audience.



▲ The 88th Street Orchestra did great after dinner music, and then turned into the studio orchestra for "The Alan Young Show."

### The Alan Young Show

Alan Young was Alan Young. Darned good and so funny! Director Frank Buxton, also in the cast, worked well with Harry Bartell, Ginny Tyler, Merrill Mael, Jo Anna March, Gil Stratton, Jr., Rhoda Williams and Doug Young. Just imagine Duffy's Tavern doing catering for a French dinner that is important to Alan. You get the idea.

This was REPS first time to try a "studio orchestra" and The 88th Street Orchestra was it. As mentioned earlier, they were quite a nice addition to the Showcase and added so much professional reality to this re-creation.

And, totally unplanned, Harry Bartell, with a recent loss of his hair due to a condition, brought down the house with a commercial...for Vitalis.



◀ During "The Alan Young Show", we find left to right, Ginny Tyler, Alan Young, Rhoda Williams, Gil Stratton, Jr., with Merrill Mael in the foreground.

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▲ An ad that appeared in the February 16, 1940 issue of the magazine "Radio Guide".

### OTR Group Photo

Always a treasured closing event, the Stars all pose together for a photo. How nice it is to see all of our friends from this Showcase in one place.



# Showcase VII Awards

*Each year has brought the challenge, the joy and the pain as we presented awards. Just how do you pick someone out of such a great group? The fun of doing it with one of those great performers. The hurt of not being able to recognize each and every one.*

*This Showcase was no exception concerning these conflicting emotions. But, we did it. Here is the brief summary, along with the obvious observation that so many others are deserving too.*

## REPS Radio Appreciation Award STEWART CONWAY

This award is voted on by the general membership and the nominees almost always will come from the ranks of the professional guests at the REPS Radio Showcase. In most ways, this award represents a popular vote for a popular person who has demonstrated significant involvement with radio and with REPS. It goes to whomever the membership wishes it to and is a sign of our affection/appreciation. Previous recipients have been John Archer, Merrill Mael, Jim French, Herb Ellis, Dick Beals and, last year, Gil Stratton, Jr.

This year, it went to the ever dependable Stewart Conway. Stew has been at every Showcase, often collecting and building sound effects props weeks in advance. And, this year he was recovering from a quadruple bypass. Read some of the biographical information from this Showcase.

Stewart has lent his sound effects talents to each and every Showcase. He and Esther, his wife, can be seen hauling doors, etc. in and around during Showcases. Each year, he winds up building something new as he and Ray Erlenborn prepare for the performances. He got started in radio when



▲ The REPS Radio Appreciation Award was presented to Stewart Conway by Joy Jackson and Mike Sprague.

he was about 18; Stewart got a chance to work for KHJ, the Mutual-Don Lee station in Hollywood. At the time KHJ was also experimenting with a thing called television. He did sound effects for *Red Ryder* and *Sherlock Holmes* and enjoyed working with Nigel Bruce and Basil Rathbone. He was hired by the CBS West Coast flagship station, KNX, as a senior sound effects man at the ripe

old age of 19. At CBS he worked on *I Love A Mystery*, *Lights Out*, *The Judy Canova Show*, *The Whistler*, *I Was There*, and many CBS comedies. Stewart once told a REPS meeting audience that the distinctive thirteen note theme for *The Whistler* was done by a woman. She did it live every week, no recordings, and never made a mistake. Arch Oboler liked to use complex sound effect patterns, and Stewart impressed him with his sound effects abilities. According to Stewart the sound effects for a comedy were often harder to create and allowed the sound effects man to use his imagination. Stewart has also worked locally on the *KIRO Mystery Playhouse*. And he is always willing to help REPS.



◀ Missing from the fun. Everyone's favorite something, Parley Baer couldn't be at the Showcase.

## Most Accolades and Love for a Missing Actor - Parley Baer

Hi Parley! We sure hope you read this and realize how much you are missed and loved. Your name came up over and over...always with such respect and fondness. There are many who are praying for you and Ernie. Love from the whole gang at REPS and from all your OTR performer buddies.

*Photos...* As always, the Showcase issue of Air Check has many photos to capture the time together. Most of these were done by Michael Comstock, who worked actively during the convention and also spent hours in his personal darkroom developing everything. We had some volunteers with disposable cameras roaming around and Chuck Thompson and Mike Sprague contributed some shots.





## REPS Radio Achievement Award SAM EDWARDS

Past recipients are invited to participate in the selection the new recipient. Award Chairman John Jensen coordinates the review and communications and is always impressed with the seriousness of the panel.

This award recognizes a "body of work by an actor, director, producer or other individual whose work has contributed to the perpetuation and furtherance of radio theater, past or present." In the event of a tie, the Chair of the selection committee will vote to break the tie. The REPS Board then ratifies the selection.

Previous recipients of this award were total professionals: Parley Baer, Ray Erlenborn, Jeanette Nolan, Harry Bartell, Art Gilmore and, last year, Tyler McVey.

What audience support as the name of Sam Edwards was read by Joy Jackson. Here are the biographical



▲ A very popular recipient of the REPS Radio Achievement Award, Sam Edwards in the center, with Joy Jackson and Mike Sprague.

highlights used in the Showcase packet on this talented actor.

This will be the fourth Showcase for Sam and Beverly Edwards. Many of us know Sam for his roles as Dexter Franklin on *Meet Corliss Archer* or as Tracy Baker on *One Man's Family* – both shows were recreations at last year's Showcase. He can still get that teenage crackle in his voice as he does "Corrrr-lissss!" and in many other youthful roles. Sam can also play villains—he was killed off many times by Marshall Dillon on *Gunsmoke*. How about *Damon Runyon Theater* and *Speed Gibson*? Diverse. He also appeared on such Westerns as *The Cisco Kid*, *Red Ryder*, *Frontier Gentleman*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *The Six Shooter*, and *Fort Laramie*. Sam Edwards has also been a man of mystery; he is one of eleven of this year's

Showcase guests who appeared on *Suspense*. In a *Suspense* episode about two young boys playing Russian roulette, "The Game", writer/director Tony Ellis had Sam and co-star Gil Stratton Jr. actually put a gun to their heads. (This *Suspense/Escape* episode was recreated during Showcase IV.) His other mystery series credits include: *Broadway Is My Beat*, *Crime Classics*, *Deadline Mystery*, *Dragnet*, *Escape*, *Lux Radio Theater*, and *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*. One of Sam's most memorable shows is a *Romance* episode, "Between Gates" that he did with his brother, Jack Edwards. Ask Sam about Sonny and Buddy with Jack. This is one easy man to like.

## Volunteers of the Year VIOLET & DARRELL ANDERSON

Each year the REPS Board reviews the activities of the club and carefully selects someone who has made a real difference and who sets a standard for other volunteers in a club known for volunteer excellence.

This year it was Violet and Darrell Anderson (Vi & Andy—sort of sounds like a radio show doesn't it?). Charter members in REPS and ready volunteers for whatever needed to be done over the years, they stepped into the cassette librarian role several years ago. They have done an ongoing, upbeat job.

Some will remember when their house totally burned down. They were concerned about the library, along with all of their belongings. For a while, the library was being rebuilt and handled by others, but back came Vi and Andy full speed.

These are good people, real people. REPS is very fortunate that they do what they do so well in serving the membership. Thanks Andersons. You mean a lot to us all, and not just for the library.



▲ What deserving winners! The Andersons, Violet and Darrell on the right, accept their Volunteers of the Year Award from Bill Parker.



# The Stars Loved



◀ Dick Beals accepts congratulations. What a worker he is.

**Dick Beals:** "No. 7 was the best ever. It had everything...the folks from SPEBSQUA, the band, Alan Young, super scripts, lunches, dinner, The Inn, the book signing party, and a new star...Janet Conrad. She is something special. Thanks for a super weekend."



◀ Mr. Calm and Professional, Art Gilmore.

**Art Gilmore:** "Arrived home last night (Tuesday) and thought you should know how much I enjoyed the week-end. The shows went swimmingly and the thought and the reaction told me (and you all) that was top notch. On the way home in the plane I finished reading the book by Dick Beals. What a revelation. I have known him for many years but had no idea what a fascinating life he has had. Thanks to all of you for all your plans and courtesies—it's a pleasure to see all of you—any time!"



◀ The energy, talent and humor of Doug Young are always so valuable at the Showcase.

**Doug & Eileen Young:** "It was the best one, as far as we were concerned. Keep it up!"



➤ Sitting outside in a relaxed moment is Tommy Cook.

**Tommy Cook:** "Thanks for an enchanting weekend of nostalgia, creativity, camaraderie, warmth and everything else that's good. Congrats to you and your associates and volunteers for a superb convention. Every aspect was handled in a professional and gracious way. And I love Seattle—so clean and crisp, stress-free and friendly. Do you get the idea I enjoyed myself?"

# Showcase VII!



➤ She darn near always beams like this, does Norma Jean Nilsson.

*Norma Jean Nilsson: "Fantastic! Each year it gets better. I just can't tell you how much it means to me. Thanks to everyone."*



➤ Gil Stratton, Jr. does so many different things so well.

*Gil Stratton, Jr.: "As usual you DID it again, topping yourself with another outstanding REPS Weekend. I hope the others had as much fun as I did, which was considerable, that is, once we GOT there! Art and I had the trip from hell coming up, but it was all worth it once we were in your hands."*

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➤ He's a doctor in *Suspense* this time, but Merrill Mael can do anything.

*Merrill Mael: "I'm here with... Oh, no, that's another gig! (NOTE: We added that, not Merrill) It was another excellent time. Probably the best of all. Thanks to everyone."*

➤ Ray and Meridy Erlenborn, with Ray's daughter Valerie Phinister on the left and Darrell Anderson on the right.



*Ray & Meridy Erlenborn: "A great big thank you to all of you great Seattle people who were so wonderful and helpful at the 99 convention. Ray & I hope we can continue to be a part of REPS for many years to come. (Some pretty fancy wishing, huh?)" NOTE: Fancy wishing—and expectation—in which the REPS folks are actively participating!"*



# Candid Moments...



▲ Harry Bartell and Larry Dobkin have stood together at so many microphones. What a privilege to have them do it with us! Harry introduced the "new look" Harry. His health is fine, just lost the hair.



▲ Stewart Conway has had a tough go physically, but he hung in there.



➤ Mr. Nice Guy, Herb Ellis who adds so much class to the Showcase.

▼ Talented veterans for sure, Tyler McVey and Sam Edwards.



◀ Roy Erlenbarn was on top of his game, and that's saying something!





# & Memories...



▲ JoAnna March and Harry Bartell doing a commercial together.



▲ The delightful Rhoda Williams gives a hug to REPS president Bill Parker.



► We finally kept Ginny Tyler busy, and she sure was good.

▼ Jo Anna March has her second Showcase "thank you" certificate.



▼ Everyone told us that Alan Young is truly a nice man... and they were right. Here, he accepts his Honorary membership in REPS from Dave Selvig.





# From Showcase VII



▲ Statwart friends, these four have worked at all seven Showcases. Left to right, Doug Young, Dick Beals, Stewart Canway and Merrill Mael.



▲ "Hey, what's going on here!?" This could be the caption for Tylor McVey on the left as wife Esther Geddes plants a kiss on Mike Sprague. Mike seems to be enjoying it.



► The McVey's, Tyler and Esther, are such big Showcase hits.



◀ Randy McMillan has fun as he and wife Chris provide the music.

▼ Taking the microphone is the incomparable Larry Dobkin. To the right of him are Roy Erlenborn and Charles Flynn.





▲ PEMCO Financial Services representative Don Murray shares some positive moments with the audience.

# THANK YOU PEMCO!

*Here are some excerpts from a letter REPS sent to PEMCO Financial Services.*

*The Board of REPS fully recognizes and appreciates the value of our relationship with PEMCO. And, it isn't all just financial. The character and caliber of the company and its people makes it all just that much better.*

*"It was the best one ever!!!"*

*This is from the everyday fan on the street, and most importantly, from the actors who made it happen. And we all know that it wouldn't have been that way without the kindness of PEMCO. You just can't know how important your financial involvement is to our little club of Enthusiasts and Old Time Radio professionals.*

*As always, we heard nothing but good things about the PEMCO staff on hand at the booth. Personable, professional and easy to be around...some of the words used to describe your folks. We have also been aware of some people who made a PEMCO insurance buying decision because of their warm feelings about the company's involvement in the Showcase.*

*So, we're still flying high. Will you please pass on our heartfelt thanks to those who helped make your gift possible? We've already begun to make some preliminary plans for next year, with the fondest of hopes that PEMCO will be alongside and we'll keep you posted.*

*Cordially and appreciatively,  
The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound*

### **Here's How To Contact PEMCO**

Evergreen Bank, PEMCO Insurance Companies  
& Washington School Employees Credit Union  
1-800-552-7430 or [www.pemco.com](http://www.pemco.com)

## SILENT AUCTION A MAJOR SUCCESS *by Janet Conrad*

Thank you to everyone that participated in this years Showcase VII Silent Auction. By all accounts it was a great success. The many items brought in a total of over \$1000. That's big in the REPS scheme of things!

Being the first time we have attempted something like this I think it went very well, with only a few glitches to speak of. Having to move everything twice was an unexpected challenge. But all in all we're very pleased with the results.

Cliff and Lynda Glaspey were a big part in putting this together and I want to thank them again.

Without the number of people who donated items it obviously would not have been possible...

A Big Thank You to...Don Allen, Harry Bartell, Richard Beals, Christopher Conrad, Larry Dobkin, Ray Erlenborn,

Cliff Glaspey, Glen Sisson, Sam Simone, Mike Sprague, and Stewart Wright. I apologize if I have forgotten anyone.

Of course the many people who won the items need to be thanked as well. Your generosity is greatly appreciated...William Buckley, Terrance Christ, Peggy DeShazo, Clif Ferguson, Cliff Glaspey, Bob Hensel, Ken Korhonen, Donald Lacky, Brent Martin, Randy McMillan, Jerry Miller, Bill Parker, Max Schmid, Paul Secord, Les Westrum, and Stewart Wright. THANK YOU!

Any suggestions or comments on this years auction would be appreciated as I suspect we'll be trying to make this a regular showcase event. So, we'll see you next year!!

(NOTE: We all owe Janet a gigantic thanks. She organized and managed this event in with exceptional skill and commitment.)



## FROM THE FANS

*Most of these comments were submitted by attendees, using the Memory Sheets that were in the Showcase packets. Thanks to those folks who did these. These match up nicely with verbal comments made by those who didn't submit written sheets. We love knowing that the chemistry and programming seem to please so many. And, we take seriously the suggestions for improvement.*

- ◆ Recreations (especially Suspense) very good. Better than previous years.
- ◆ I liked the smaller groups for "Just Sittin' Around and Visiting."
- ◆ Great Showcase (lousy hotel.) Can we find a cheaper and cleaner place? (See this page for related article)
- ◆ It has been great as usual!
- ◆ The Just Sittin' sessions are always great, as is the Dinner With The Stars.
- ◆ I liked seeing how much fun the professionals seemed to be having.
- ◆ Everyone was so open and friendly.
- ◆ The great variety of entertainment was wonderful.
- ◆ Keep up all the good work—and thanks a million!
- ◆ Great Showcase—everyone friendly, good food.
- ◆ I really enjoyed Alan Young, Tommy Cook and Charles Flynn being part of the Showcase.
- ◆ The memories of the actors are incredible as they recall so much for us.
- ◆ The 2 segment Just Sittin' is great. Please continue this format.
- ◆ It has impressed me about the amount of time the performers have been willing to spend in conversations with me. They are so friendly and gracious.
- ◆ This has been a wonderful Showcase.
- ◆ Suspense was one of my favorite radio programs and it was very special to see it performed by a fabulous cast of actors.
- ◆ It was a wonderful surprise to see Alan Young in person. What a sense of humor he possesses.
- ◆ The recreations made the shows come alive again, and the interviews helped us get to know the actors.
- ◆ Sound effects people great.
- ◆ We really liked how smoothly everything went.
- ◆ Many thanks for a fine REPS convention—I enjoyed the programs so much...and all the special guests are great people.
- ◆ You had things so well organized...you had a time schedule...and you kept to it. Great!

(NOTE: There were a few suggestions for improvements and also ideas to future Showcases. These will be actively considered by the Showcase Committee in planning for Showcase VIII. See this page for related article.)

## Showcase Committee Review Meeting—July 11

A tradition developed early on, and it's been a good, fun and fruitful one. Within two weeks of a Showcase concluding, all volunteers and other members are invited to a potluck picnic at Vi and Darrell Anderson's beautiful place. This year, that occurred on July 11

Following a check list, this highly involved cross section of attendees seeks to identify the things that went well, and the things that need improvement. In addition to having the fun time, and reliving the high points of the Showcase, very practical items become part of our improvement plan for next year.

*Just a couple of examples from this year's review.*

◆ **SITE** Can we afford to stay at the Seattle Center? While the input has been quite positive about many things concerning the site after our second year, the financial issues are major to our little group. Our projected costs there for next year, would be approximately \$1300 more than our first year, and \$600 more than this year. Scarey!

◆ **HOTEL** Finding a hotel alternative to the Inn At Queen Anne—if we continue at the Seattle Center. This isn't as easy as it sounds (cost, location, logistics etc.), but we are going to explore that vigorously.

### Volunteers Needed for Site & Hotel Evaluation Team

We need a three people team who would take on the task of again researching every reasonable option concerning alternative sites. This needs to be done very quickly, so please call Mike Sprague (425-488-9518) to express interest and/or ask questions.

### Other Clubs Represented

This can be hard to calculate, because so many OTR fans belong to multiple clubs/groups. We know that we recognized the following. SPERDVAC, NARA, RHAC, Friends of Vic & Sade and The One Man's Family Family. We also know that we didn't do so for Dick and Arlene Olday, representing The Old Time Radio Club in Lancaster, N. Y. Apologies.

### Thanks Again Volunteers!

There are 47 names listed below!! And, we've no doubt forgotten someone who will be in the business of forgiving us.

Larry Albert, Ron Aley, Darrell Anderson, Vi Anderson, Kyle Anderson, Tom Brandt, Bill Brooks, Michael Comstock, Chris Conrad, Janet Conrad, Anna Denton, Frank Denton, Bill Davies, Jim Dolan, Cliff Glaspey, Lynda Glaspey, Gary Hagan, Bryan Haigood, Richard Haviland, Joy Jackson, John Jensen, Pat Jones, Marge Lutton, Rhea Lutton, Shirley Markus, Jody McCoy, Randy McMillan, Chris McMillan, Karen McNally, Pat McNally, Kate Mollina, Bill Parker, Tom Roach, Elizabeth Roach, Frank Rosin, Ray Rudolph, Paul Secord, David Selvig, Dick Shell, Sam Simone, Glenn Sisson, Mike Sprague, Cheri Swanson, David Van Meter, Stewart Wright, Donald Zongker.

Also, there were 6 men in The 88th Street Orchestra, including member Brian Swanson, and 4 in the Harmonious Accord Quartet. That's 57 people that we can identify. THANKS TO EACH OF YOU—and to anyone we overlooked!





THE UNSEEN AUDIENCE By Webster

A From a 1945 issue of  
The New York Tribune



### Arthur Godfrey Research

Lee Munsick is working on a book about Arthur Godfrey—and he seeks input from anyone. He is open to ideas,

comments, audio and video

recordings, films,

photos, sheet

music etc. If you

can help, Lee can

be reached at 20

Harriet Drive,

Whippany, NJ,

07981-1906



Like Old Time Radio Conventions?  
Don't miss these upcoming  
conventions:

**Friends of Old Time Radio Convention**  
October 21-24 in Newark, New Jersey.  
Large and with a definite East Coast flavor.  
Contact Jay Hickerson at PO Box 4321,  
Hamden, Connecticut 06514  
Telephone: 203-248-2887  
e-mail: JayHick@aol.com

**SPERDVAC OTR Convention**  
November 12-14 in Los Angeles.  
See many of our REPS Honorary Members.  
Contact Larry Gassman at PO Box 1163,  
Whittier, California 90603  
Telephone: 562-947-9800  
e-mail: lgassman@earthlink.net



## CORNER

This little section is going to be in Air Check to recognize and thank donors. This may be in remembrance of someone who has passed on. It might be a gift for the Showcase Guest Fund to cover travel expenses for out-of-town OTR folks. Maybe it is a donation of material, or money toward acquisitions. And, if you donate and don't want your name listed, we'll respect that wish. So, it may be many, it may be few, but thanks to those who have given in the past six months. In case you don't know, donations to REPS are tax deductible and givers will receive a receipt. All gifts, with an indication of the purpose, should be sent to REPS c/o Janet Conrad, Treasurer, 6550 47th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98156

KINDNESS

### SHOWCASE

- Merrill & Sandy Mael
  - Norma Jean Nilsson
  - Bill Buckley
  - Dick Bonesteel
  - Arthur Scott
  - Our Showcase OTR friends who paid parts of their own expenses
  - PEMCO, of course
  - Anonymous, \$1000
- IN MEMORY OF  
Sandra Gould,  
from Bill Brooks



### May Meeting with Stan Boreson

A local legend came to the May meeting, and he was a very, very nice man. Stan Boreson (and his accordion) was REPS' guest, a man who began his radio career by sending in penny postcards to a contest a winning. His many fans from radio and television are glad he won.

At age 12, Stan's mother wanted him to play the guitar, but he chose accordion. "Once Elvis Presley hit, you couldn't give away accordions."

Growing up on radio, his favorite shows were *I Love a Mystery* along with *Lawrence Welk* and *Sammy Kaye*. At the University of Washington, Stan majored in Personnel Management and minored in Accounting. He quipped "I haven't found any personnel to manage, and I haven't accounted for anything."

Perhaps best known for his many years on local television (18 years at KING) where a basset hound called No Motion provided the theme from week to week. "She'd wag her tail, if I helped." In the days of live shows, he had a bulldog that grabbed a poodle by the neck and he had to separate them on camera.

Stan totally entertained the REPS audience with stories of his famous character Uncle Thorvald and the highly popular songs "I Yust Go Nuts at Christmas", "Walkin' in My Vinter Undervear" and "It's Christmas in Seattle".

Now Stan and his wife Barbara operate a tour company and he's still in big demand for many gatherings in the area.

Many thanks to Bill Davies, for his excellent job as host for Stan. It's obvious that Bill loves the Boreson humor and that he put a lot into getting ready for this meeting.

### June Meeting - A Relaxed Affair

The June gathering of REPS was somewhat eclectic and relaxed. First, Bill Parker talked about the upcoming Showcase, with input from Joy Jackson and Mike Sprague. Then Bill played portions of a tape featuring the work of about-to-be Showcase guest Tommy Cook.

Tommy was 11 years old at the time and was the moderator/interlocutor on a major national broadcast dealing with The March of Dimes. Many stars were linked together on this event and Tommy was superb in his role, so polished and believable.

Joy Jackson then took some time to talk about other OTR clubs, mostly SPERDVAC (The Society for the Preservation and Enjoyment of Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy.) From the beginning this large club in Los Angeles has been like a big brother to REPS. This is especially true of brothers John and Larry Gassman who have been helpful beyond description. They are the only non-professional folks selected by REPS to be honorary members. Joy described the SPERDVAC newsletter, their various libraries and more.



### Upcoming Meetings

SEPTEMBER 4 - Our special guest had to cancel, but a fun meeting is in the offing.....OCTOBER 2 - Ivan Curry of *Bobby Benson* and the *B-Bar-B Riders*, *Let's Pretend* and many more shows will be our guest.

NOVEMBER 6 - LUM & ABNER LISTENING PARTY. In the early days of REPS, we often had gatherings in homes around a show that several members really liked. Others would join in to learn more and/or to contribute. Mike Sprague and Darrell Anderson are going to create that same feeling at this meeting at the Library. They will have some favorite segments of the show, a pop quiz and other membership involvement.

DECEMBER 4 - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY, with details to be announced. Along with having a festive time, we'll listen to some segments from classic Christmas radio shows. Besides *Amos & Andy*, any suggestions?



▲ For years and years, a Seattle radio and TV fixture, Stan Boreson was very funny at the May meeting.



# HE THOUGHT HE WAS LICKED— THEN A TIP GOT BILL A GOOD JOB!



## Find out today how I Train You at Home to BE A RADIO TECHNICIAN

Many Make \$30, \$40, \$50 a Week

J. E. SMITH, President  
National Radio Institute  
Established 25 Years

Radio is a young, growing field with a future. It offers you many good pay spare time and full time job opportunities. And you don't have to give up your present job, go away from home, or spend a lot of money to become a Radio Technician. I train you right at home in your spare time.

**Jobs Like These Go to Men Who Know Radio**  
Radio broadcasting stations employ engineers, operators, technicians and pay well for trained men. Radio manufacturers employ testers, inspectors, foremen, servicemen in good-pay jobs with opportunities for advancement. Radio jobbers and dealers employ installation and servicemen. Many Radio Technicians open their own Radio sales and repair businesses and make \$30, \$40, \$50 a week. Others hold their regular jobs and make \$5 to \$10 a week fixing Radios in spare time. Automobile, police, aviation, commercial Radio; loud-speaker systems, electronic devices, are newer fields offering good opportunities to qualified men. And my Course includes Television, which promises to open many good jobs soon.

### Why Many Radio Technicians Make \$30, \$40, \$50 a Week

Radio is already one of the country's large industries even though it is still young and growing. The arrival of Television, the use of Radio principles in industry, are but a few of many recent Radio developments. More than 28,000,000 homes have one or more Radios. There are more Radios than telephones. Every year millions more need new tubes, repairs, etc. Over two billion auto radios are in use and thousands more are being sold every day. In every branch Radio is offering more opportunities—opportunities for which I give you the required knowledge of Radio at home

In your spare time. Yes, the few hundred \$30, \$40, \$50 a week jobs of 20 years ago have grown to thousands

### Many Make \$5 to \$10 a Week Extra in Spare Time While Learning

The day you enroll, in addition to my regular course, I start sending you Extra Money Job Sheets which start showing you how to do actual Radio repair jobs. Throughout your course, I send plans and directions which have helped many make from \$30 to \$50 a year in spare time while learning.



### You Get Practical Experience While Learning

I send you special Radio equipment; show you how to conduct experiments, build circuits illustrating important principles used in modern Radio and Television receivers, broadcasting stations and loudspeaker installations. My 30-50 method of training gives you both planned instruction and actual work with Radio parts—makes learning at home interesting, fascinating, practical. I ALSO GIVE YOU A MODERN PROFESSIONAL ALL-WAVE RADIO SET SERVICING INSTRUMENT to help you make more money fixing Radio Sets while learning and to equip you with a professional instrument for full time work after you graduate.

### Find Out What Radio Offers You

Act today. Mail coupon for my 64-page book, "Rich Rewards in Radio." It points out Radio's spare time and full time opportunities and shows you how in Television; tells about my course in Radio and Television; shows many letters from men I trained, telling what they are doing and earning. Read my money back agreement. Find out what Radio offers you. Mail coupon in envelope or paste on a penny postcard—NOW.

J. E. SMITH, President, National Radio Institute  
Dept. OAT6A, Washington, D. C.

### \$630 a Year in Spare Time



"I repair Radios in spare time and get it mostly in a profitable business. In the last 12 months I've earned nearly \$600. I started working away at the 20th Street, I've had many job offers from 1414 Kansas Ave., Washington, D.C."

### \$200 to \$300 a Month in Own Business



"For the last two years I have been in business for myself. I've earned between \$200 and \$300 a month. I've had many job offers from 1414 Kansas Ave., Washington, D.C."

### Chief Operator Broadcasting Station



"When I completed 25 lessons, I started my Radio Broadcasting Station at home and immediately earned \$100 a week. I am now Chief Operator. 1414 Kansas Ave., Washington, D.C."



### MAIL THIS NOW Get 64 Page Book Free

J. E. Smith, President, Dept. OAT6A, National Radio Institute, Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Smith: Send me FREE, without obligation, your 64-page book "Rich Rewards in Radio" which points out spare time and full time opportunities in Radio, those coming in Television, and explains your 30-50 method of training men at home in spare time to be Radio Technicians. (Write plainly).

Age.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
City..... State.....



An ad that appeared in the January 26, 1940 issue of "Radio Guide" magazine.

REPS 

9936 NE 197TH STREET  
BOTHELL, WA 98011



Tom Brown  
402 S. Kahuna Dr.  
Spokane, WA 99212



## CONTINUED THANKS TO SECORD PRINTING

*The years roll by, and the presses keep rolling at Secord Printing. Near and dear to the hearts of REPS members is one little job—Air Check. Jay Secord is extremely generous to the club, and what they do there brings rave notices from all over the country. Jay, Kerri & Brenda: we don't ever take for granted all that you do to make this happen. Thank You! Need printing? Call them at 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)	KNXW	770 AM	9:06-10PM	Saturday
Mystery Playhouse (C)	KNXW	770 AM	9:06-10PM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KNXW	770 AM	10PM-1AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KNXW	770 AM	1AM-4AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KNXW	770 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



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