

# AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 9 • NUMBER 2

SPRING • 1999



*Stewart Conway*



*Jo Anna March*



*Sam Edwards*



*Esther Goddes*

## The Stars Are Back

for

## Showcase VII!

*"We're in great shape to have another wonderful OTR experience in June!"*

Words to this effect have been bouncing around between various volunteers, particularly Joy Jackson and Mike Sprague, co-chairs of the event to be held at Seattle Center on June 25th & 26th.

See "Showcase VII Update" on pages 6 - 7



*Art Gilmore*



*Sandra Gould*



*Merrill Muel*



*Anne Whitfield Shill*

# REPS DIRECTORY

## • PRESIDENT •

Bill Parker  
1566 29th W  
Seattle, WA 98199  
206-283-7939

## • PRESIDENT ELECT •

David Selvig  
7604 SE 41st St.  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
425-232-8576

## • VICE PRESIDENT/PUBLICITY •

Sam Simone  
10446 67th S  
Seattle, WA 98178  
206-722-5868

## • TREASURER •

Janet Conrad  
6530 47th Ave. SW  
Seattle, WA 98136  
206-284-5663

## • SECRETARY/AQUISITIONS •

Joy Jackson  
3663 Carr Pl. N  
Seattle, WA 98103  
206-632-1653

## • SHOWCASE CHAIRMAN •

Mike Sprague  
9936 NE 197th St.  
Bothell, WA 98011  
425-488-9518

## • MEMBERSHIP •

Gary & Kathy Hagen  
2017 SW 2nd Court  
Gresham, OR 97080  
503-665-5418

## • TAPE LIBRARIANS •

Vi & Andy Anderson  
17254 Lake Desire Drive N  
Renton, WA 98058  
425-226-7005

## • PRINTED MATERIALS •

John Hura  
33328 177th Place SE  
Auburn, WA 98002  
206-939-2493

## • AIR CHECK EDITOR •

Terry Mahony  
4514 NE 92nd  
Seattle, WA 98115  
206-524-3050

## • VISIT US AT THE REPS WEBSITE! •

<http://welcome.to/reps>



## FROM THE EDITORS DESK...

Excitement and anticipation reign supreme as REPS members prepare for our annual Showcase Convention. Mike Sprague and Joy Jackson are busy once again putting together another superior program. We are truly fortunate to have these talented people to head our annual showpiece.

Our family was visiting for Easter and we checked out the movie 'Horse Whisperer' as a suitable family venue. To my surprise Jeannette Nolan played the role of Robert Redford's mother in the movie. What a nice experience to relate having met this wonderful woman before her passing last year. Just another example of what REPS and the Annual Convention provide.

### *REPS readers perform at PEMCO*

On Thursday March 11 Bill Brooks produced a terrific show by the REPS Radio Readers for the PEMCO Emeritus Club. PEMCO officers have noted that the REPS annual event (3rd presentation) has become one of Emeritus's most popular offerings and it certainly goes a long way in helping secure our PEMCO annual donation.

### *What is it with KIRO?*

I am taking this opportunity to get on my soapbox and express my dismay with the two KIRO radio stations over recent programming actions. We were all disappointed when Jim French's Mystery Theatre was moved to KNWX, although in retrospect this may be a somewhat of a blessing do to fewer interruptions from their sports programming. Jim is not only a big supporter of REPS but also a northwest icon and a national treasure who deserves better treatment. Now we have the firings of the respected Dave Dolacky and Pat Cashman, the morning host for KIRO-FM. Those of you who attended the REPS meeting featuring Pat will recall what a genuinely talented, interesting and funny personality he is. He too will land on his feet but under these stations' "bottom line" management we would never have had a CBS Radio Workshop, Mercury Theater, or Norman Corwin. Truly there are no William Paley's at these stations.

### *Tape Library Rentals*

We are pleased to learn that our tape library continues to receive high usage. This service, provided by Vi and Darrell Anderson, is greatly appreciated and is a significant part of our club. Reluctantly the Board of Directors has had to establish a policy limiting the number of rental tapes to 10 tapes per order. For a myriad of reasons it is just not feasible to combine multiple orders into a single order.

### *Thanks for your support*

Sadly this will be my last issue as Editor of Aircheck. I have enjoyed my one and a half year stint but am unable to continue in this role do to other commitments. I want to thank the many contributors who have provided articles and information for your enjoyment. Once again I want to single out the magnificent support we receive from REPS member Jay Secord and staff Keri Secord and graphic layout designer Brenda Ellenberg. Believe me folks, without them there are no Airchecks. I plan to continue to be an active member of REPS so you will still see me around.

Terry Mahony, Air Check Editor



# JEANNE BATES ENTERTAINS REPS AUDIENCE

At our March gathering actress Jeanne Bates was hosted by member John Jensen in a highly entertaining two-hour meeting. Jeanne proved to be a thoroughly charming and fun guest with a wide background in the entertainment industry. Jeanne began radio acting after high school in Burlingame, California. While in college she won an audition for a soap opera

by Joy Jackson & Terry Mahony



▲ REPS President Bill Parker welcomes Jeanne Bates.



◀ John Jensen interviews Jeanne at March meeting.

in San Francisco but was let go after a week do to inadequate reading skills. To get herself prepared for radio she began reading out-loud at home, into a lamp (mike), *True Confessions* magazines. She chose *True Confessions* because they were written in the first person and gave her "script" practice. To this day she continues to read word-for-word so reading a book is a slow go. Jeanne's early radio shows included *Highway Patrol* and *Night Editor* and she moved with these shows from San Francisco to Los Angeles. She met her husband Lou in LA. Lou was a dialect coach for radio actors and helped Jeanne with dialects and develop-

ing her favorite characters (little old ladies as opposed to ingenues). She was an early member of



◀ Jeanne & 'friend'

AFRA and suffered some of the intimidation that existed in those days toward union members.

Jeanne's radio shows included *Blue Monday Jamboree* (where she met and became friends with Bea Benaderet); *One Man's Family* (where she was cast as Teddy Barbour and wife of Elwood Giddings, played by Tyler McVey who hung a lifelong nickname of "wifey" on her); *I Love a Mystery* (where she was cast as Jack, Doc, and Reggie's secretary - the cutest secretary in Hollywood); *Murder Will Out*; *Lux Radio Theater*; *The Whistler*; *Nero Wolf*; *Stars Over Hollywood*; *Gunsmoke* (she loved the cast and did the last radio show); *Cisco Kid* and numerous other shows. Jeanne moved seamlessly into a TV and Movie career with five years as the Nurse in *Ben Casey*; *Day's of our Lives*; *Gunsmoke*; *Wings*; *Sister, Sister*; and *Commish*. Her movie credits features 22 films at Columbia as a contract player with several Westerns and many first run movies such as *Mr Blandings Builds his Dream House* where she became friends with Cary Grant. She has done such recent films as *Grand Canyon* and *Eraserhead*.

continued on page 4





# JEANNE BATES

...continued from page 3

When asked about her favorite people in show business it is clear that Jeanne never met a person she didn't like. She did single out Jack Kirkwood, Sidney Greenstreet, Wally Maher, Gale Gordon, Anne Miller, the director Von Stroheim, John Payne (who was the most accident prone person she ever met), Norman McDonald, Virginia Gregg, and Bill Conrad as people who were real professionals and nice people. When asked about her favorite entertainment venue she unhesitatingly said "live theater" - particularly musicals. Her theater credits include *Funny Girl*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Dog Music*, *Cabaret*, and *No No Nanette*.

Jeanne left us with the following pearls of wisdom. "You must keep up your memorization skills." She memorizes Shakespeare sonnets while she exercises on a Nordic Track. "When doing westerns don't wear cotton underwear while riding a horse. They bunch and-develop blisters. Always wear silk." And finally,



"I didn't do a lot of comedy but I can be funny." We look forward to Jeanne's return and watch for her next performance.



← Jeanne Bates and cowboy hero Charles Starret.



## APRIL MEETING *by Joy Jackson*

### *Bill Brooks* Summary

*presented Quiet Please: "The Thing on the Fourbel Board" and "Sunbonnet Sal", written by Bob Mott. In the cast for the two recreations were Larry Albert, Bill Brooks, Peggy Jordan, John Jensen, Dave Selvig, Jack Betz, sound by John Kirkland, music by Randy McMillan. For "Sunbonnet Sal", Lynda Glaspey auditioned and won the part of the "cuckoo". Engineering was by Donald Zongker.*

*The second part of the meeting was a "Getting To Know You" session. One by one, each person in attendance introduced his or herself, mentioned their past (or present) occupation, and either what kind of radio shows they collected or the kinds of shows they liked to listen to. This was so well received that we will have to do it again sometime.*

*See the club bio's on the next page!*

## R E P S M E M B E R S H I P

*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	\$13	\$9
Vision impaired	\$13	\$9



# REPS MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES

NAME	OCCUPATION	COLLECTS	LIKES
Larry Alberi	Actor	20 years, Lux	Hot Like, Mystery Traveler, Withes Tale
Don Allen	2nd-hand store in Yacoma	Science Fiction, Fantasy	
Tom Brandt	Albin Trust		Gangbusters
Hill Brooks	City of Seattle, ret.	Johnny Dollar	
Ron Carlson	Boeing engineer, ret.		mystery, kids shows
Terrence Christ	Service engineer, ret.	Sherlock Holmes	Abbott & Costello, I Love a Mystery
Michael Comstock	school teacher, Federal Way	eclectic, comedians, Lux, drama, mystery	
Rubin Frouman	WW		Lux, drama, detectives
Cliff Glaspey	Federal, ret.	15,000 programs, 200 radios	I Love a Mystery, Fibber McGee
Lynda Glaspey	Federal (Dept. of Labor)	wife of collector	comedy
John Hara	Environmental Lab (25 years)	books on radio	
Joy Jackson	librarian, writer	Vic & Sade, modern radio shows, Louis L'Amour	science fiction, mystery
John Jensen	World Vision (ir. of Comm, ex radio jock)	variety shows, Bing Crosby, Rudy Vallee	
Idelle Lohman	legal secretary, ret.		Jack Benny, mystery
Marge Lutton	home schooler (teacher #1251)		mystery, childrens shows, Let's Pretend
Rhea Lutton	credit manager, refrigeration		mystery, drama
Randy McMillan	musician, sportscaster		Johnny Dollar, suspense
Pat McElly	scheduler, Seattle City Light (ex radio guy)		everything
Tom Roach	social worker, ret. (family court)	antique cars, railroads, 1000 tapes since 60's	CBS Mystery Theatre, I Love Adventure
Liz Roach	Reference Librarian, BCLS, ret.	Vic & Sade	comedy, Lum & Abner, Our Miss Brooks
Jay Secord	Owner, Secord Printing	comedy: Firesign Theatre, Stan Freberg	
Paul Secord	Sales Mgr., Boise Cascade (42 years)	comedy: Jack Benny, The Dickersons	
Ilave Selvig	Boeing engineer mgr. (15 years)	Fibber McGee, Tom Mix	
Glenn Sisson	USAF, ret.	mystery for 31 years	
Arlene Watkins	Boeing draftsman, ret.		soaps
Les Westrum	WW Professor of Medicine (15 years)		Inner Sanctum, Mercury Theatre, Our Miss Brooks, Fred Allen
Han Wiggin	Americus, ESL (twice ret. schoolteacher)	Inner Sanctum, The Shadow, The Saint	
Monty Williams	technician, ret.		
Priscilla Williams	homemaker		suspense
Donald Zangher	WW computers (30 years)	Prairie Home Companion	modern radio shows



# SHOW U p s

## *24 Marvelously Talented and Friendly Performers will be on hand for our seventh annual Showcase event to be held June 25th - 26th at Seattle Center!*

Sort of like the country boy gone to the big city, neck cranked back, eyes bugged out at the tall buildings, exclaiming— "Golllllly!"

That's how OTR fans feel when they realize that they have yet another opportunity to hang out with these old and new friends. How can we not have a super time?!

Is there anyone who doesn't know the cast?

### *First, the company of returning friends...*

Harry Bartell... Dick Beals... Frank Buxton... Stewart Conway... Larry Dobkin... Sam Edwards... Herb Ellis... Ray Erlenborn... Art Gilmore... Sandra Gould... Merrill Mael... JoAnna March... Tyler McVey... Norma J. Nilsson... Gil Stratton, Jr... Ginny Tyler... Anne Whitfield (Phillips)... Rhoda Williams... Douglas Young.

### *Then, new Showcase visitors to add so much to the mix...*

Tommy Cook... Charles Flynn... Alan Young.

### *And, doing live music again, with great talent and enthusiasm...*

Esther Geddes... Randy & Chris McMillan.

### *"Breathe on a mirror."*

One member was heard to say "If someone can't get excited about this assembly of such nice people with so much talent and history, they need to breathe on a mirror to be sure they're still living."

### *Nearly 40 Volunteers*

The Showcase has always been marked by a high level of volunteerism. This year almost 40 people are assuming part of the load, ranging from the highly technical, and time demanding engineering function to drivers to site coordination, registration, photography and much more. We can always use assistance so contact us if you can help out.

Ongoing thanks to every one of these dedicated folks!

### *The Program*

With the "Mystery at the Mike" theme, our co-chairs have added structure, but stayed flexible in adding other ingredients as the circumstances and/or tradition suggested. And, in keeping with history, each show has at least one person who worked in the original.

According to Mike Sprague "We've used the theme each year to provide a backdrop for all the activities. It's fun, but it's not binding."

There's ample evidence in the re-creation selections to support that statement. Naturally, a show like *Suspense* fits in, as does *The Adventures of Nero Wolfe*. *Broadway Is My Beat* also slides in comfortably.

Clearly westerns and kids' shows had mystery plots, as demonstrated by *Red Ryder* and *Jack Armstrong, All American Boy*.

Joy Jackson and Mike Sprague are not the least bit defensive about the mystery connection for *The Alan Young Show* and for *Vic & Sade*.

Mike states "Alan Young is a darned nice man that we've wanted to have come for a long time. It worked this year and we're extremely pleased. The episode we're doing is exceptionally funny, and Alan will work in another re-creation as well."

And Joy adds that "Vic & Sade has become a tradition, with one being done at each previous Showcase. Though Merrill Mael has so much diverse acting talent, it's such a delight to hear him do Uncle Fletcher again and again."

### *PEMCO does it again!*

Our friends at PEMCO Financial Services again made a generous donation that allowed us to be more financially responsible with the out of town performers. Be sure and visit the PEMCO booth in the Exhibitor Room. You'll like the people.

### *Exhibitor Room taking shape*

Under Janet Conrad's leadership, exhibitors are signing up to offer their wares to an appreciative group of attendees. Browse...buy.

### *Come and Enjoy!*

Each year, some of our performer friends will say "This was the best one ever!" We want them to feel that way again. If they have fun, so do we.

### *Don't forget to vote!*

Members are encouraged to vote for the REPS Radio Appreciation Award, as described in an insert with this Air Check. Ballots must be received by Mike Sprague by June 8th.







# SHOWCASE VII



## REPS SILENT AUCTION SHAPING UP

The Silent Auction REPS is having at this year's Showcase VII is coming together nicely. Janet Conrad and Cliff Glaspey are working on this and there are some very nice items thanks to the efforts of many contributors. Proceeds go to the Showcase Guest Fund for travel expenses at Showcase VIII in 2000. Below is a preview of the rules to participate and the items we have so far.

**AUCTION PROCEDURE...** Everyone is open to bid. Your bid number is the same as the number on your convention badge. So once you have checked in, you are free to start bidding. Bid sheets will be in the vendor room along side each item. Check periodically just in case someone has bid over you, so you can bid over them!

Bidding starts at 3:00 p.m. Friday and ends Saturday one half hour after dinner. You do not need to be in attendance to win. Anyone absent that has the highest bid will be contacted the following day. If you are present on Saturday evening payment needs to be made then. Cash or check only please.

If you are not attending the showcase, you still can still participate. Send your bid to: Reps Silent Auction, 6530 47th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136. Nothing received later than Friday June 25th can be accepted. Just indicate which item you wish to bid on and your highest amount you are willing to pay. Make sure you include your name, address and a day time phone number.

All of the proceeds go to the guest fund for the convention. Bid generously so we can keep these fine actors coming each year! If you need any further information please contact Janet Conrad at 206-935-5905.

**A few notes on some of the items...** The framed photographs were taken during the 1998 Showcase by Christopher Conrad at his studio. They capture the charm and charisma of each of these fine men.

The Orson Welles **War of the Worlds** record album is "the actual broadcast by the Mercury Theatre on the Air as heard over the Columbia Broadcasting System, October 30 1938." The album cover alone may be worth the minimum bid, vividly illustrating the drama of this classic show and the reaction at the time. Memorable quotes really set the tone for fun listening.

What you will hear on **Radios Famous Theme Songs** include: "Thanks for the Memory" by Bob Hope; "Journey into Melody" from One Man's Family; The

"William Tell Overture" from the Lone Ranger; and "Love Nest" from Burns and Allen.

Eve Arden's book **Three Phases of Eve**: In a career spanning a half century, Eve Arden firmly established herself as one of America's best-loved and most admired actresses. Radio's Our Miss Brooks tells her story in the same rollicking style with which she acted and lived. Any fan would find value in this book autographed, "I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it! Love, Eve Arden"

### ITEMS TO BE AUCTIONED:

- 1) 1-8X10 Framed B/W autographed photo of Harry Bartell. Opening bid - \$30
- 2) 1-8X10 Framed B/W autographed photo of Richard Beale. Opening bid - \$30
- 3) 1-8X10 Framed B/W autographed photo of Larry Doble. Opening bid - \$30
- 4) 1-8X10 Framed B/W autographed photo of Ray Erleboren. Opening bid - \$30
- 5) 1-8X10 Framed B/W autographed photo of Harry Bartell, Richard Beale, Larry Doble, and Ray Erleboren. Opening bid - \$50
- 6) 1-Autographed copy of "Radio's Golden Years". Signed by Frank Breese & Bobb Lynas. Donated by Stewart Wright. Opening bid - \$30
- 7) 1-Reel to Reel Tape Machine with speakers SONY TC 377. Donated by Cliff Glaspey. Opening Bid - \$25
- 8) 1-Realistic 909 Tape Deck with Speakers. Opening bid - \$40
- 9) 1-Record album "The Lone Ranger" - beginning of series - autographed by announcer Fred Fay. Donated by Cliff and Linda Glaspey and Terry Mahony. Opening bid - \$30
- 10) 1-Record album "Orson Welles' War of the Worlds" Donated by Janet Conrad. Opening bid - \$20
- 11) 1-Record album "Bing Crosby - On the Air" Donated by Don Allen. Opening bid - \$20
- 12) 1-Record album "Radio's Famous Theme Songs" Donated by Don Allen. Opening bid - \$20
- 13) 1-"Lone Ranger" Coffee Mug. Donated by Glen Sisson. Opening bid - \$10
- 14) 2-"Red Ryder and Little Beaver" Coffee Mug. Donated by Glen Sisson. Opening bid - \$10 each
- 15) 1-Autographed copy of Eve Arden's Autobiography "Three Phases of Eve" Donated by Mike Sprague. Opening bid - \$40

(Items 1-5 donated by Christopher Conrad and of course the 4 gentlemen.)



# "WAY TO GO ANDY CASHMAN & FRIENDS!"

by: Joy Jackson

Date: January 2, 1999

Subject: Overlake Broadcasting

Presenters: Andy Cashman, now a senior at Overlake High School; Lora O'Neill, a junior; Michael Schneider, a newcomer to the school.



▲ REPS member Andy Cashman and classmates Lora O'Neill (left) and Michael Schneider (right) talk about Overlake High School's radio station.

school, and scrape around for funding. Broadcast Center NW installed and fine-tuned the equipment.

There were 15 kids to start with, now there are 25.

The shows are pre-recorded, and a computer loads them.

Andy saw a note from the seniors last year, which was a query about setting up a radio station. Although the idea petered out, it lit a fire in Andy over the summer, and he took charge of it. He came up with a cost and feasibility study. The FCC has a special category, Part 15, dealing with low-powered educational stations. The question was how to reach a large audience with a low powered signal.

There were three options: carrier current signal (good for 100 feet within a building), assisted listening (a band of an FM station), or over the Internet. They have a small 8-foot tall transmitter (tower); most of their equipment came from "The Electronic House of Bargains" – another classmate buys broken equipment at garage sales and fixes them up. Their studio is one-half of a supply room.

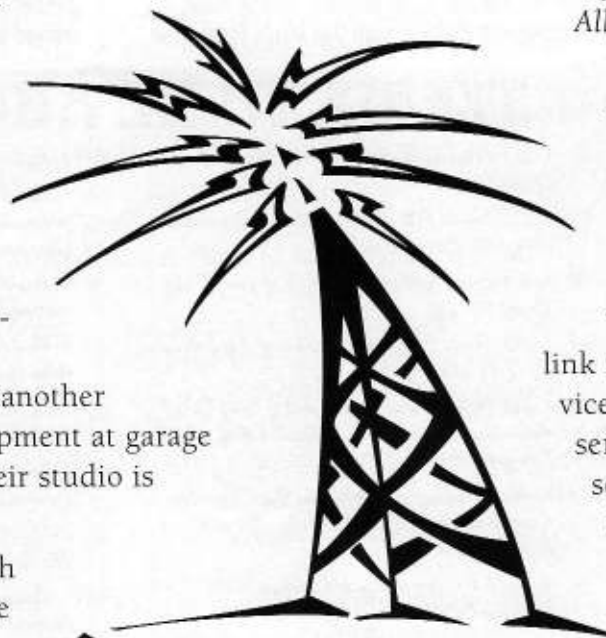
They had to come up with a formal presentation for the

The direct signal covers all the school buildings, and one mile outside. They have a live feed into the computer hookup in the auditorium.

They have a varied collection of individual shows, ranging from classical music to reading books, to rock and reggae. Andy's show is called *Theatre of the Mind*, and he uses his own OTR collection. His personal focus on OTR is comedy: *Fibber McGee, Burns & Allen, Life of Riley*.

They had some problems with reception, and Todd Clark, from KOMO AM 1000 helped them to increase the quality of their signal.

The REPS Internet site has a link to Overlake Broadcasting and vice versa. The internet web server has digital, realplayer software, and live feed. Andy's next project is getting the REPS catalog on-line.







# THE TACOMA NEWS TRIBUNE,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1939

## WHAT'S ON AIR

KILOCYCLES					
KVI	KIRO	KOMO	KJR	KOL	KMO
570	710	920	970	1270	1330

This summary is compiled from latest information furnished by stations, and the News Tribune is not responsible for last-minute program changes.

### THURSDAY 4 P. M.

4:00 KVI—The Crackerjacks  
KMO—Fulton Lewis Jr.  
KOMO—The Easy Aces  
KJR—Mister Nobody  
4:15 KMO—News Reporter  
KOMO—Mister Keen  
KJR—Rendezvous Orch.  
4:30 KVI—The Brazilians  
KMO—Havens of Rest  
KOMO—KSIP Presents  
KJR—Melody Rendezvous  
4:45 KMO—The Round Towner  
KOMO—Government Reports

### 5 P. M.

5:00 KVI—Dick Aurandt's Orch.  
KMO—Footnotes  
KOMO—Don't Forget  
KJR—Frank Watanabe  
KIRO—Father Goose  
5:15 KMO—Wandering Cowboy  
KJR—Tom Mix  
5:30 KVI—Tor Torlund's Log  
KMO—Jack Armstrong  
KOMO—U. S. Army Band  
KJR—The Show Case  
5:45 KVI—Garred Reporting  
KMO—Little Orphan Annie  
KOMO—Autumn Serenade  
KJR—Scandinavian Report'r

### 6 P. M.

6:00 KVI—Major Bowes' Hour  
KMO—Sons of Pioneers  
KOMO—Good News of 1940  
KJR—Beyond Reason, Doubt  
6:15 KJR—News Reporter  
6:30 KMO—John B. Hughes  
KJR—America's Town Meet.  
6:45 KMO—Sinfonietta

### 7 P. M.

7:00 KVI—Columbia Workshop  
KMO—News Reporter  
KOMO—Bing Crosby Hour  
7:15 KMO—Sports Slants  
7:30 KVI—The Sports Huddle  
KMO—The Green Hornet  
KJR—Gallechio's Orch.  
7:45 KVI—Ross and Yeo

### 8 P. M.

8:00 KVI—Amos 'n' Andy  
KMO—Henry Weber Concert  
KOMO—Fred Waring Orch.  
KJR—Youth in Review  
8:15 KOMO—I Love a Mystery  
8:30 KVI—The Ask-It Basket  
KMO—Hal Grayson's Orch.  
KOMO—Symphony Hour  
8:45 KMO—Twilight Trails  
KJR—Hotel Penn Orch.

### 9 P. M.

9:00 KVI—Strange As It Seems  
KMO—News Reporter  
KJR—Until Tomorrow  
9:15 KMO—Skinnay Ennis Orch.  
9:30 KOMO—Those We Love  
KJR—News Reporter  
9:45 KMO—Fulton Lewis Jr.  
KJR—Between Rounds

### 10 P. M.

10:00 KVI—Sullivan Reviews News  
KMO—Phil Harris' Orch.  
KOMO—News Reporter  
KJR—Chuck Foster's Or.  
10:15 KVI—News, Lorand's Orch.  
KOMO—Beverly-Wilshire O.  
10:30 KMO—Lean Mojica's Orch.  
KOMO—Carl Ravazza's Or.  
KJR—Gary Nottingham's Or.  
10:45 KVI—Nightcap Yarns

### 11 P. M.

11:00 KVI—Organ Concert  
KMO—Jim Walsh's Orch.  
KOMO—Freddy Martin's Or.  
KJR—This Moving World  
11:15 KVI—Dot Cordray, Songs  
KJR—Fishing News  
11:30 KVI—Archie Bleyer's Orch.  
KMO—The Rhythm Rascals  
KOMO—Bill Robert's Orch.  
KJR—Organ Concert

### Midnight

12:00 KIRO—The Concert Hour

### 1 A. M.

1:00 KIRO—The Night Owls

# OLD TIME RADIO

## Web Sites

Just a few of the many World Wide Web Sites for you old time radio enthusiasts! Some of these sites let you download programs for listening and/or to record to a cassette tape. Others will provide lists of the programs they have for sale. Some do both. Many are unique.

- 1 <http://welcome.to/reps>
- 2 <http://www.aic-radio.com>
- 3 <http://www.old-time.com>
- 4 <http://www.city-net.com/abbottandcastellofe>
- 5 <http://www.shadowradio.org>
- 6 <http://www.cowboypal.com/Ingr.html>
- 7 <http://broadcast.airwaves.com/vintage>
- 8 <http://www.otsite.comm/radiolog/index.html>

### THERE ARE OTHER WEB SITES OF INTEREST!

I would like to know how you succeeded.

Contact me by e-mail at:

**Dwigen@juno.com**

Please let me know if you find better sites.

*New member and "Shadow" freak,  
Dan Wiggen*



▲ A clipping from *The Tacoma News Tribune*,  
dated Thursday, October 19, 1939



# The Great Big Band Era

(Fifth in a series)

## 1943

### Background:

Things were changing in favor of the Allies in World War II as the Germans were driven out of North Africa. Troops from the U.S., Canada and France went storming into Sicily and this led to the resignation of Mussolini as Italian premier. General Eisenhower was named Supreme Commander of Allied forces in December. In spite of the improving news, there were some additions to our ration list in this country - meat, fats, cheese and canned goods were included. Supreme Court Justice James F. Byrnes was appointed head of the Office of War Mobilization, created to coordinate activities of government agencies involved in civilian supply production and/or distribution. It became possible to produce penicillin on a large scale after discovery of a mold on a cantaloupe in Peoria, Illinois. The New York Yankees beat the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series and the Chicago Bears took the NFL championship by beating the Washington Redskins. Count Fleet won the Triple Crown of horseracing after no one would buy him, even for \$4,500, and he was turned out for racing. The shortage of tin for cans forced Campbell Soups to stop sponsoring *Amos 'n' Andy* - the show was canceled after 4,000 performances. Fortunately, the show was reorganized into a half-hour program in the fall, when it was sponsored by Rinso.

### Music of the Times

It appeared that a lot of Americans were yearning for a sentimental, nostalgic glimpse of an era in which life was more direct, less complicated than in the war-torn period. Therefore, a Broadway musical became one of the biggest hits ever when it portrayed a vanished state-of-mind. *Oklahoma!* was the first collaboration of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, and it set a new mark for a long-run musical. The hit songs were the title song, along with *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning*, *The Surrey With the Fringe on Top*, *People Will Say We're in Love* and *Out of My Dreams*.

Insofar as big bands were concerned, times they were still a-changing. Citizens still wanted more and more light, escapist entertainment.

The shortage of tires and gasoline made one-night stands well nigh impossible.

During the final months of 1942, the musicians' union ban on recordings wasn't noticed much because there was a big backlog of tunes to be released. But, the ban dragged on into '43 and the effects became more evident. A lot of vocal groups were called into action to provide humming or other rhythmic supporting sounds and this continued until the ban finally ended in the fall of the year. One of my favorite recordings of that genre is by Dick Haymes - *You'll Never Know* - with The Song Spinners. At least the head of the AFM, James C. Petrillo, sanctioned V-Discs to help keep up morale of overseas service personnel. These had some unique, non-commercial recordings and were supposed to be destroyed after serving their purpose. Thank goodness, they were not!

This was part of one of the most musically productive periods in history. One big hit was *Taking a Chance on Love*, which Ethel Waters sang in the musical *Cabin in the Sky*. She did not like a lullaby she was supposed to sing and asked for something else. Vernon Duke dug into his trunk for this tune as a replacement.

*There Are Such Things* was on *The Hit Parade* the first 14 weeks of the year and it was either first or second for eight of those weeks.

The top 10 bands, according to a *Billboard* college survey were: (1) Harry James, (2) Tommy Dorsey, (3) Glenn Miller, (4) Benny Goodman, (5) Jimmy Dorsey, (6) Kay Kyser, (7) Charlie Spivak, (8) Fred Waring, (9) Sammy Kaye and (10) Vaughn Monroe. The runaway winner as top vocalist was, just as you'd suspect, Frank Sinatra. G-I's were dismayed when their favorite pin-up girl, Betty Grable, got married, but they were able to take it because she married their favorite band leader, Harry James.

Next issue: **1944**

× × × × ×

**Thrilling Days of Yesteryear**

(An Old Time Radio Newsletter)

Editor: **John Rayburn**

P. O. Box 36106

Denver, CO 80236

Fax: (303) 978-9215

Email: **JRayb71827@aol.com**

Until next time, may all your tomorrows be filled with the warm memories of yesterday.

▲ A reprint article from the July-August, 1998 newsletter "Thrilling Days of Yesteryear"





▲ Janet Waldo on the cover of 'Radio Mirror'

# 'RADIO MIRROR'



## Memories



▲ Sandra Gould as 'Miss Duffy' from Duffy's Tavern ▼



▲ Peg Lynch as 'Ethel Arbuckle' from The Private Lives of Ethel & Albert





## 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)	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

