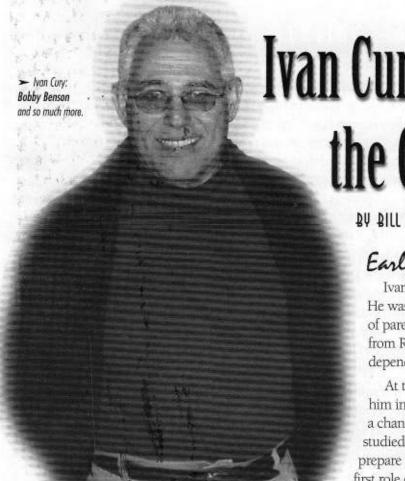
AID CHIECK NEWSTEITER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASIS OF PUCET SOUND (REPS) VOLUME 9 · NUMBER 4



Ivan Cury is our guest at the October meeting.

BA BILL burker and ion iacklon

Early Acting Interest

Ivan Cury wanted to be an actor from the word "go". He was born and raised on Manhattan's upper west side, of parents who immigrated to America. "My Dad came from Russia, my Mother from either Poland or Austria, depending on which army occupied the land".

At the age of 4, he tried to get a box office cashier to let him into a theatre. Six more years went by before he had a chance to try out for a show, but during those years he studied music, dancing, acting, anything he could to prepare himself. In 1948, at the age of 10-1/2, he won his first role on Let's Pretend. It would be 6 months before he got his next chance.

Continued on page 6

PEMCO/REPS RADIO SHOWCASE VIII UPDATES

There are a couple of significant update items as we continue to look forward to June 2000 and Showcase VIII.

"OTR Treasures", Our 2000 Theme

We'll be unlocking OTR Treasures together at Showcase VIII. How we've all enjoyed so many treasures from the Golden Age of Radio! As a result, that became our theme for Showcase VIII. Joy Jackson and Mike Sprague, Co-chairs, tell us that they're looking for many creative and meaningful ways to tie into the "OTR Treasures" theme.



Continued on page 8

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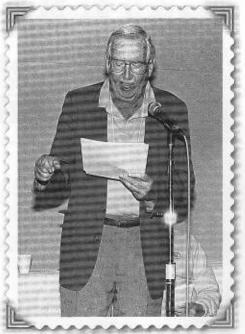
· VISIT US AT THE REDS WEBSITE!

http://welcome.to/reps

Honorary Member Charles Flynn Dies

REPS honorary member Charles Flynn passed away in September. He was a popular guest at Showcase VII in June, and had been with us for a regular monthly meeting three years ago. Here is some of the biographical information used at the Showcase.

Best known for his long running role as Jack Armstrong, The All American Boy, Charles did much other work in radio. Charles made his debut as radio actor at the age of 11 on WGN in Chicago playing the role of Chester Gump in the



A Charles Flynn was a hardworking and popular participant at Showcase VII. Here, he was once again Jack Armstrong.

15 minute, 5 day a week, late afternoon serial, The Gumps.

He played a boy detective in a series called *Ben Potter* and also appeared in a children's program, *Uncle Quin's Scalawags*. Bess Flynn, his mother, was a well-known and very successful writer of radio soap operas and Charles had featured roles in two of her series - *Bachelor's Children* and *We Are Four*. He also appeared in other network shows such as Myrt and Marge, *Tales of Uncle Remus*, *World's Great Novels*, *Those Sensational Years*, and *Space Adventures of Super Noodle*.

In the summer of 1939, he auditioned for and won the title role in one of the most popular of all children's adventure programs, Jack Armstrong, The All American Boy. He played Jack, with some time out while he was in the Navy during WWII, from September, 1939 until the show left the air as Armstrong of the Scientific Bureau of Investigation in 1951. Charles also appeared in many motion pictures including Penny Serenade, Has Anybody Seen My Gal, Father Was a Fullback, and

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Where The Sidewalk Ends. Some will remember Charles on TV where he did live commercials on Super Circus for three years.

Charles Flynn was a class person and though the REPS connections were limited, they were most enjoyable and memorable.





December 4... Annual Christmas Party

Festive, fun, friendly, fast moving...Here's the basic plan:

[1] IF YOU CAN, PLEASE BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY
FOR THE "TOYS FOR TOTS" PROGRAM. A Marine will
be standing by to collect them. [2] Everyone brings a
wrapped OTR cassette for an exchange gift. [3] We'll
be playing some segments of famous Christmas radio
shows. [4] There will be nice food (bring some along

with you, if possible) and nice mingling.

January 8... Old-Time Radio Through The Ears Of A New Kid

President Elect (by then President) Dave Selvig and his grandson, Nick Kummert, will reflect on their favorite OTR and current radio shows that they listen to separately and together. A special guest will also join us. Actor Paul Herlinger, who plays the lead role of "Whit" in the kid series Adventures in Odyssey, will be with us to talk about behind the scenes stuff. Honorary members Parley Baer, Dick Beals and Alan Young have also worked on Odyssey.

February S... "The Skyway To Hell"

The Reps Radio Readers will present an original one hour radio play by Joy Jackson.

We hope that a couple of our professional, honorary members will be taking on key roles.

March 4...Bob Mott, Sound Effects Artist

A sound effects artist from radio days, a popular convention guest and a very clever author, Bob will be a guest no member will want to miss. There are some plans for audience involvement too.

April 1...Live From The Rainbow Room
Anchored by REPS member Biyan Swanson and the

Anchored by REPS member Biyan Swanson and the 88th Street Orchestra, this meeting will take us into the era of Big Bands, and Big Band remotes. There are some fascinating stories as well as great music.

HEED TON HEW EDITOR

REPS still awaits the emergence of a new editor for Air Check. This smaller sized issue was done to help keep us all in touch. Is that new editor you? Let president Bill Parker know if so, and/or if you want some additional information.



Cliff & Lynda Glaspey New Membership Chairs

The Board was delighted when Cliff and Lynda Glaspey agreed to take on this important role when Gary and Kathie Hagan had to step down for personal reasons.

The Glaspeys are two of the most committed and dependable members you'll find anywhere and already have begun thinking of ways to be effective in this assignment. They have served on everything from Showcase transportation and silent auction to transcribing scripts and other tasks. Thanks to you both!

And, thanks to Gary and Kathie who would have liked to have served longer if at all possible.

THE PARLEY PARTY Some time back, we had decided that, some time back

Some time back, we had decided that, now and then, our monthly meetings would feature video of favorite people from previous gatherings. It happened in September, though it hadn't been the plan.

When our special guest cancelled fairly late in the process, Mike Sprague and Joy Jackson thought "This must be one of those meetings!" What better to do than to spend some time talking about our friend Parley Baer? Most readers know that he has been sidelined for a while due to a stroke. And he has been much missed.

Video Moments

We watched two segments of video to contrast the talents of Parley. The first was a hilarious Ethel & Albert skit done with Peg Lynch at Showcase V. If you haven't seen them do "Two Times Nothing" you've missed out on comedy at its best.

The second piece of video was done later in the meeting and it was "One-Eighth Apache" from Escape. This was taped at the SPERDVAC convention in Los Angeles a few years ago, and co-starred Parley and honorary members Larry Dobkin and Peter Leeds. In this intense western drama, Parley was a vengeful sheriff.

Some Personal Tidbits

Bill Brooks joined Mike Sprague at the microphone after the first video segment, and Bill led the audience through some points of personal information about Mr. Baer. It's probable that many of Parley's fans don't know all of the items that we touched upon:

- Parley was born in Salt Lake City, 1914.
- He met Bill Conrad while they were taking navigation and flight instruction.
- Ernestine "Ernie" Clark and Parley met in New York. She was a bareback rider and also did trapeze work in Ringling Brothers. Parley worked as ringmaster. They got married at the Little Church Around the Corner.

Some Career Tidbits

- Parley did his first radio job in 1933 for KSL, Salt Lake City and his first network radio show was The Whistler.
- •Too many radio shows to list, but here are a few...Chester on Gunsmoke, Escape, Suspense, Honest Harold, LUX Radio Theatre, The Railroad Hour, Tales of the Texas Rangers and on and on.

Parley in his best Showcase form.

Y Parley, Anne Whitfield Phillips and Rhoda Williams connect at Showcase IV in June 1996.



- On television, there was Parley being quite funny on The Andy Griffith Show as Mayor Stoner. To mention a few others: The Addams Family, Jake and the Fat Man, Ozzie and Harriet (as Darby), Star Trek, The Next Generation, Quantum Leap, and The Young and the Restless.
- Movies: He did more than 60 of them, including the memorable The Young Lions. He was a "happy-go-lucky Nazi".

Until Next Time

During the various times of audience input, it was obvious that Parley Baer has been missed. We know that this sentiment is held by OTR fans and friends everywhere. So, we settled for video until the next time when we can see Parley back in action.

IVAN CURY Continued from page 1 October 2nd

He then played the young Joseph Jefferson, opposite Walter Hampton's Abraham Lincoln, on Cavalcade of America. At this tender age he had to learn a lot about living. "Nothing you wouldn't have learned in 10 or 15 years," Ivan says.

For the REPS meeting, Ivan played cuts from this show, and The Electric Theatre, in which he played Helen

Hayes' son. Ivan's father had come in the studio, and was amazed to see the great actress off by herself working on her script. "How lucky I was to be there", Ivan told us.

Bobby Benson

Ivan, of course, is most asked about Bobby Benson. In 1949, producer Herb Rice wanted to resurrect this show, which had previously been broadcast from 1932 to 1936, and Ivan won the role of Bobby. Rice renamed the ranch "The B-Bar-B".



▲ Ivon Cury at the microphone flanked by Bill Davies on the left and REPS president Bill Parker on the right.

During the second year of this show, Ivan celebrated his Bar Mitzvah. Ivan recalled, "A cast member whispered 'B-Bar-Mitzvah' to me just before we went on the air, and I broke up laughing all through my on-air 'B-Bar-BEEE' lines."

Don Knotts (Windy Wales on the show) was the second youngest cast member to Ivan. Knotts was then in his 20's. Ivan, who grew up not eating shrimp, had his first one at the urging of Don Knotts. "I had another one with him recently."

Herb Rice always pushed the personal appearances of his young star, and Ivan appeared in parades, rodeos and festivals throughout the East Coast, riding horseback and wearing western garb. "As a New York boy, I learned about the West through Bobby Benson. I'll never forget riding a stallion behind a mare in heat."

A Touching Memory

He also will not forget visiting a boy in Poughkeepsie, New York, who had been told he was dying. As Bobby Benson, Ivan urged the boy to get out and start doing things, "like Bobby Benson does."

Some time later he visited the boy again, and found him sitting up in a wheelchair. As Ivan approached, the boy stood up and walked toward him, "It was like a miracle, some sign of God's intervention", Ivan says. Dad... Dietrich...Delight

Ivan was appearing in a show with Maria Riva, daughter of Marlene Dietrich, when his father came in and sat in the darkened client's booth. A woman came in and sat next to him, and they got to comparing notes about

> how they were both immigrants to America and how their children were both radio actors.

Ivan says his father nearly fainted when the lights went on and he saw he had been talking with Marlene Dietrich.

Good Story About The Greatest Story

Ivan had a part in The Greatest Story Ever Told, in which Joseph Wiseman played Christ. On the air, an actor failed to come in with his line because he was so enthralled with Wiseman's powerful

performance. So Wiseman, as Christ, picked up the line prefacing it by saying: "And you will say to Me....", and then read the actor's line with no gap in the dialogue.

"I Knew The Shadow!"

When he is asked: "Don't you feel you missed your childhood?", Ivan responds: "No, I knew the Shadow personally!!"

When it came to crime dramas, he also worked on The FBI in Peace and War with its well remembered L-A-V-A to the beat of a timpani. Ivan recalled, "It was my voice saying 'Gee Dad, where's the Lava Soap?' I was paid \$60.00 a show."

He also did Gangbusters ("The cast played poker every minute off mike.") and Official Detective ("Hold the phone, it's time for O'Henry, public energy number one.")

Television

With the coming of television, Ivan also won juvenile roles there, including Bobby Benson, while continuing in radio, working with such young actors as David Anderson, Butch Cavell, and Sal Mineo.

He worked with director Sidney Lumet in the teleplay Crime in the Streets, and feels that Lumet "changed my

Continued on page 6



IVAN CURY...continued from page 5

life" by showing him the method actor's way of finding the real emotions of the character he is playing.

No More Professional Acting

Ivan's professional acting career came to an end when he started college, but he continued behind the television cameras, first as a make-up man and then into producing and directing, which he still does.

Leaving New York, where he had spent his entire acting career, Ivan moved to California in the 1970's, where he has taught Communication Studies at UCLA, and now as an Associate Professor at California State, Los Angeles. He produces the TV commercials for Men's Wearhouse, and has written a textbook on television production, used in many colleges.

It was great fun to have Ivan and Barbara Cury with us at the October meeting.





▲ From the January 5, 1949 issue of the New York Herald Tribune

Ma Perkir

Ma Perkins' was one of Raid and ran from 1933 to 190

At various times from 1933 to 1938, there were concurrent broadcasts on Mutual, CBS, and the NBC Blue network. The program reached a peak audience of 18 million.

Ma was played by ...

Virginia Payne played the part of Ma Perkins for the entire run of the show and as far as is known, she never missed a performance. Payne was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on June 19, 1910.

For many years the true identity of Ma Perkins remained an industry secret. In response to her fans' demands, CBS reluctantly put the young blond actress in a gray wig, steel rimmed glasses, low heeled oxfords and dowdy dresses and sent her out to make public appearances. In the photo accompanying this article you see her in this costume.

Payne also appeared on First Nighter from 1936 to 1938, and the The Carters of Elm Street in 1939 and 1940, and A Brighter Day in 1952.

More about Virginia Payne

Virginia Payne and 15 others founded the union that became known as the American Federation of Radio





is... One Grand Lady by CLIFF GLASPEV

Tio's longest running serials 10, for a total of 27 years.

legitimate theater including a Broadway musical debut in Fade Out Fade In with Carol Burnett.

After a long career of being a radio and theater actress, Virginia Payne passed away on February 10,

1977 in her hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio.

A Glaspey glimpse back

Whenever I hear Ma Perkins it always brings back a flood of nostalgic memories. My hardworking grandmother always took an afternoon radio break. Her break started at 1 o'clock with her favorite *Ma Perkins* and ended with Lorenzo Jones and his wife Belle at about 3:00 p.m. This was just in time to get dinner ready for the mob that was coming home from school and work.

The character of Ma Perkins was a widow who ran a lumberyard and my grandmother could identify with that because she spent a little time being a widow herself. As she was an immigrant from Romania and her English was not the best, listening to soaps helped her a great deal. (Editor's note: Isn't it good that she didn't learn from Lum and Abner or Amos and Andy?)

When I was a child in the early 40's there were a lot of immigrants around and I wonder how many of these people were helped by radio to polish their English and get the pronunciation correct and maybe to follow along and get a better understanding of America. Radio did more than just entertain.



▲ Virginia Payne as the wonderful Ma Perkins.

Artists. She became a member of the National Board of AFRA in 1940, and she also took part in renegotiating contracts with networks to encompass television performances as well as radio artists.

For the last 16 years of her life she performed in

PEMCO/REPS RADIO SHOWCASE VIII UPDATES

Continued from page 1 -

Confirmed Guests

As regulars know, we are blessed with a regular group of returning professional friends we lovingly call "The Company." Most of these folks have been with us through thick and thin and we appreciate them so much.

This year we have a confirmed "yes" (or high hopes of a "yes") from Harry Bartell,
Dick Beals, Frank Buxton, Stewart
Conway, Larry Dobkin, Sam Edwards,
Herb Ellis, Ray Erlenborn, Art Gilmore, Merrill

Mael, Jo Anna March, Tyler and Esther

Geddes McVey, Norma Jean Nilsson,

Gil Stratton, Jr., Ginny Tyler,
Janet Waldo, Anne Whitfield
Phillips, Rhoda Williams,
Alan Young, and Doug
Young.

There have been other great guests at other Show-cases, and our fond hope is that we will be able to again spend time with them in the near future. In addition to

Norman Corwin coming to his first Showcase (see story next page), there will be

two additional first time Guests who will be known very shortly.

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 6/0 Janet Conrad, Treasurer, 6530 47th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136

SHOM(USE

- · Merrill es Sandy Mael
- Norma Jean Nilsson
 - Bill Buckley
 - * Dick Bonesteel
 - . Arthur Scott
- The many Jonors of items to the Silent Auction, including Ray Erlenborn for his scrapbook
- Our Showcase OTR friends who paid parts of their own expenses
 - * PEMCO, of course
 - * Anonymous, \$1000
 - Glenn Sisson Tapes es

 Printed Materials

IN MEMORY OF Charles Flynn

Program, Site and Hotel

The program considerations are being made at the present time and will be announced in January. The site remains The Seattle Center but the hotel has changed. Due to serious difficulties with our previous hotel, we have selected The Comfort Suites Hotel, just 4/10ths of a mile away. It isn't quite as convenient and it costs more, but it was clearly the best choice.



Norman Corwin to be at Showcase VIII Directing One of His Own Works

This is really good news. Norman was one of the most fascinating guests we've had at a regular monthly meeting, and he is so admired by those who worked with and for him.

One person has said about Norman Corwin "I know him as a

friend but think of him also as the brightest light of a surprising period, the final climactic decade of pre-television network radio."

The front cover of a very informative book, "Norman Carwin and Radio: The Golden Years"



Norman does stand out as a bright, creative giant, and he will be directing one of his works from "back then." We suspect that it will be My Client "Curly" but that isn't finally decided.



BY R LERGY BANNERMAN FOREWORD BY ERIC BANNOW

▲ WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS. Corwin rehearses Cpl. Jimmy Stewart, his narrator, for one of America's most significant broadcasts

REPS welcomes into membership those who have an interest Membership Lot Year Renewal in Old Time Radio and/or current radio drama, variety, Regular \$18 \$22 comedy, etc. There are three membership categories. Student \$13 \$9 Consider Giving Gift Memberships For Any Occasion! \$13 Vision impaired \$9

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT!

Attendees at Showcase VII will remember the great talent of the 88th Street Band and, particularly, the highly professional way that they became the studio orchestra for 'The Alan Young Show'.

Well, they have been working for some time on a special stage program that is strongly connected to Old Time Radio. We would encourage members and friends to actively consider attending. It's bound to be good.

REPS member, and Band member, Brian Swanson told us "We're doing it a lot more visually than Jim French does his shows. For example, our sound effects guy does his effects almost as much for visual amusement, ala Ray Erlenborn." Brian added, "And with a full 13 piece orchestra and hot new tap dancing trio "The Rythmateers' -they're only 17!- it should be fun!"



▲ The 88th Street Orchestra were very well received at Showcase VII.

THE BIG BAND COMEDY BROADCAST A LIVE RADIO SHOW RECORDED IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE

December 3rd e3 4th ~ 8:00 pm at the Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center ~ 17th and Yesler

Starring THE RAIN (ITV RADIO PLAVERS

THE 88TH STREET OR (HESTRA featuring vocalist Mike Rust

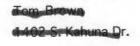
and special guests ~ tap dancing sensations THE AUTHMATEERS

Come join us for an evening of radio comedy, big band music, and tap dancing as this 90 minute variety show is recorded for later broadcast on KSER 90.7 fm Tickets are available by calling the Langston Hughes Cultural Arts Center at 206-684-4757 \$12.00 adults ~ \$6.00 children under 10 ~ Help support radio!



A An ad that appeared in the June 22, 1946 issue of Collier's magazine

9936 NE 197TH STREET BOTHELL, WA 98011



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 R&PS members is one little job—Air Check. Jay Secord is extremely generous to the club, and what they do then brings rave notices from all over the country. Jay, Keri & Brenda: we don't ever take for granted all tha you do to make this happen. Thank You! Need printing? Call them at 425-883-2182

DUGET 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 when 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 Dolaris Radio Entertainment Network, now each weekday instead of Sunday. Please let the stations and sponsors (if any) know of your appreciation.

Mystery Playhouse (C)	KNWX	770 AM	9:06-10PM	Saturday
Mystery Playhouse (C)	KNWX	770 AM	9:06-10PM	Sunday #
When Radio Was	KNWX	770 AM	10PM-1AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KNWX	770 AM	1AM-4AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KNWX	770 AM	10PM-12AM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KLKI	1340 AM	6PM-7PM	M-F (Anacortes)
OTR	CFM5	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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