# AID GIECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

#### SHOWCASE II - ANOTHER GREAT TIME!

The REPS Radio Showcase II was another tremendous time for those in attendance. Guests and attendees were glowing in their comments. You'll find the convention story and lots of photos throughout this issue!



The special guests who made the weekend so memorable. Back row, left to right: Lon Clark, Bill Murtough, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Ray Erlenborn, Stewart Conway, John Archer, Dick Beals, Katrina Baxter Hodiak, Doug Young, John Rayburn, Rhoda Williams, Norma Jean Nilsson, Esher Geddes, David Ossman. Front row, left to right: Jack Kruschen, Willard Waterman, Merrill Mael, Paul Masterson, Gale Storm Masterson, Tyler McVey, Sam Edwards. Not pictured: Frank Buxton.

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#### **REPS MEMBERSHIP**

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

Membership 1st year Renewal Regular \$ 22 \$18 Student \$ 13 \$ 9 Vision impaired \$ 13 \$ 9

Executive \$100

Executive memberships are good for 2 years. Executive members receive a limited edition Shadow script, personally autographed to them by an authentic Lamont Cranston/ Shadow, honorary member and friend John Archer, plus tapes. How about a personal visit with him too? That's part of the deal. If you're out of town, John will do it by telephone.

#### MEETING SCHEDULE

September 10 - RECREATION - Our REPS Radio Readers will entertain us with another fun presentation. They continue to invite members to be a part of the group. Call Joy Jackson (632-1653).

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October 1 - MANY WAYS TO COLLECT - Frank Denton will coordinate a diverse panel of collectors on how they collect, tape, store, catalog, trade etc. Everyone should learn something at this one.

November 5 - SPECIAL OTR GUEST - We are inviting a special performer from the early days of radio to make a special trip to Seattle to spend an extended afternoon with us. You'll hear more about this as the day draws near.

December 3 - GARY LITWIN - A program is taking shape in Gary's fertile brain. More details later.



#### CASSETTE LIBRARY AND ITS KEEPERS

Our library would be of little use if there were no one to do all the work associated with serving the membership. REPS has two folks who knock themselves out for all of us.

Vi and Andy Anderson, (membership #3) have given much of themselves to help REPS in many ways. Turning over one room of their house to the cassette library is certainly one of the biggest. Day after day they receive and ship orders, going back and forth to the post office, providing excellent service to us all.

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#### LLOYD JONES DIES

The E in REPS stands for enthusiasts. No one exemplified enthusiasm more than Lloyd Jones, who passed away on July 16.

"How I wish everyone had the same upbeat perspective on REPS and on life in general," reflected Mike Sprague. "I will sorely miss the warm, bouncy telephone calls when Lloyd had discovered someone or some group that might have a connection with the club. Or maybe it was a new idea. He was a special guy."

As most members know, Lloyd set up our whole registration system for the Radio Showcase conventions, and he did it so well. He almost never missed a meeting, and he did a great session on Bob and Ray for a general meeting. "There's certainly a giant hole in the REPS family," said Sprague, "but our prayers and concern go out for Margo and for their sons."

## Radio Programs WHAT'S ON AIR



### RADIO SHOWCASE III IS ON THE AIR!

On July 9th the Board met with the volunteers who worked on Showcase II. "After all," commented Vice President Mark Skullerud, "these are the only ones who should really have a say in the future plans to have or not have another Showcase."

The gathering took place at the home of Vi and Andy Anderson, and was built around a pot luck picnic. The group reviewed the entire flow of Showcase II, from early planning meetings, right on up to the weekend of June 24-25. Said chair Mike Sprague, "Though we've been blessed with two exceptional showcase experiences, we believe in continuous improvement. We can and will get better!"

Despite the fact that we had to turn people

away this year, the entire crew agreed to do it again and set the weekend of June 23-24, 1995 as the date for Showcase III. No major discussion of content was held, but KIXI radio would like to repeat the Big Dance event, with a live broadcast to be part of the program.

The site will again be the Overlake Hospital conference Center, since we are now familiar with the facility, and since the good people there helped create a positive working environment for us.



#### FEATURE ARTICLE: REPS RADIO SHOWCASE II

by Frank Denton

## RADIO SHOWCASE II DANCES WITH TUXEDO JUNCTION

On June 24th, a Friday evening, the strains of Glen Miller's "String of Pearls" and other big band hits ushered in REPS Radio Showcase II. In the beautiful ballroom on the third floor of the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle, Showcase members and their special guests listened and danced to the music of the big band, Tuxedo Junction. The dance and big band were presented by radio station KIXI. Mike Webb, station manager of KIXI, had not only provided radio spots advertising REPS' radio convention, but had made arrangements for members of Showcase II and guests to attend the monthly Tuxedo Junction dance as the opening event of the Showcase.

During the first intermission, Mike Webb explained to the other dancers the presence of The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound and their special guests. He then turned the microphone over to Merrill Mael, who introduced Gale Storm Masterson. Gale gave a gracious and sincere response, telling the audience how pleased the guests were to have been invited to Seattle and how much they looked forward to the coming events of the following day.



Mike Webb, KIXI Program Director, is a big fan of Gale Storm.

Merrill Mael then passed the mike on to John Rayburn, an announcer from Denver and well-traveled on the OTR convention circuit. John moved smoothly among the invited guests, doing a splendid job of introducing each of them and eliciting a line or two that readily identified them to OTR devotees.

During the second intermission Willard Waterman, Lon Clark

and Doug Young did a short excerpt from a "Great Gildersleeve" script. It was just like the old days, right down to one of the actors blowing a line.

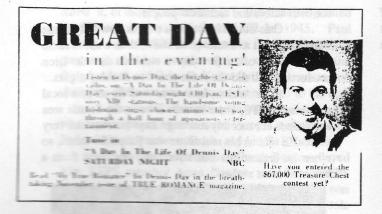
All in all, the big band music, the dance, the introduction of REPS' many guests and the brief radio recreation provided a splendid opening for REPS Radio Showcase II.



Roving interviewer John Rayburn shares a funny moment with Jack Kruschen at the Big Band dance.



The Gildersleeve skit at the dance featured Willard Waterman, Lon Clark and Doug Young.



#### SATURDAY MORNING SOCIAL

The morning of Saturday, June 25th, dawned sunny, the sort of day many Seattleites would spend out-of-doors. But it was bright and sunny success well at the Conference Center of Overlake sunny in Bellevue. Members of Showcase II arrived to a social half-hour. The smell of freshly brewed to the and muffins permeated the lobby.

John Archer was seen surrounded by attograph seekers. John Buxton was seen bussing REPS Second Vice-President and Program Chairperson Joy Jackson, and REPS member Gary Litwin was deep in conversation with Rhoda Williams. Conversation abounded, even at that early hour.



Willard, Gale, Norma Jean and Tyler "just sittin' around and visiting."

As near to 8:30 as possible REPS president Mike Sprague herded the attending guests into chairs at the front of the 200-seat auditorium. The lineup was impressive and this was the first opportunity for some

attendees to identify the convention's guests. Two guests immediately stood out for their quickness of wit and tongue; Ray Erlenborn, premier sound effects creator, and radio and movie actor Jack Kruschen.

Some of the guests had not seen one another in many years. As various guests left their places to cross the stage and hug an old friend, Ray Erlenborn noted, "By now you know that actors are very kissy huggy."

Rhoda Williams and Norma Jean Nilsson, who had played sisters on "Father Knows Best," had not seen each other in forty years. Norma Jean quipped, "My first thought was that Rhoda and I are the same height." When they were on the show together, Rhoda was nineteen and Norma Jean fourteen; one nearly an adult, and the other only in her second tempestuous teen year.

Esther Geddes, wife of Tyler McVey, and a talented keyboard player, noted that after the Friday night dance, she had come to the conference center to practice on the Wurlitzer organ which had been lent to REPS for the day by the Baldwin Company. Later in the day we were to hear Esther's musical accompaniment during the recreations. It added immeasurably to the radio shows.

Ray Erlenborn claimed that he awoke with four feet of water in his room, but later said that it only came up to his ankles. We never did get the entire story.

Jack Kruschen was one of the triumvirate who greeted the Martians in "The War of the Worlds." He hailed them with "Welcome to California." He also claimed that he and Gale Storm have the same hair stylist.

Bill Murtough, an engineer, told us that he was Lowell Thomas's engineer, and that he especially liked doing the engineering for many big band remotes. He spends his winters in Palm Springs and his summers in Catalina. What a lucky guy!

Lon Clark, well-known for his portrayal of "Nick Carter, Master Detective," was one of several announcers on "The Kate Smith Hour." He also first introduced Doris Day to radio audiences on WOW in Cincinnati. He also had his own orchestra in the Minneapolis area at one time.

Sam Edwards talked about his family, all of whom were in show business, touring the Texas area and having their own show on local radio in Texas. Jack Kruschen quipped that the Edwards family was "happy, happy, happy."

Frank Buxton was introduced as the author of The Big Broadcast, an important book in OTR circles. Merrill Mael and John Archer, both members of REPS who now live in the Seattle area, were also introduced.

Introductions over, Mike Sprague tossed out the question asking each guest to describe how they got into radio, or their first show. Rhoda Williams told about "This Is My Story," a show she did for Wildroot Cream Oil, a hair dressing, promoting the March of Dimes. It was about a polio victim. President Roosevelt intended to listen to a transcription of that show on the weekend he died.



Enjoying each others' company: Anne Whitfield Phillips, Norma Jean Nilsson, Jack Kruschen and Sam Edwards.

Jack Kruschen told about making a friend while waiting in the NBC lobby for auditions. Jack was just back from the war. Paul Dubov introduced Jack to people in casting. Jack exclaimed, "He was as close to a brother as I ever had."

Doug Young's first break came while he was awaiting casting calls in the CBS lobby in Hollywood. He landed a role in "Stars Over Hollywood" with Nina Foch.

Norma Jean Nilsson's first role came in 1943, during the war. She appeared in "Arch Oboler's Free World Theater," along with a young Dinah Shore and Fred MacMurray. She was five years old and remembers only, "Mommy, I want a drink."

Willard Waterman first appeared in "Chandu the Magician" in Chicago. His character died at the end of the script. He told an amazing story about studying lines in order not to repeat another actor's spoonerism, turning "legal loophole" into "loogle leaphole." The studying didn't work. He repeated the error.

Merrill Mael first appeared on The Jack Carson Show. This was in Chicago.

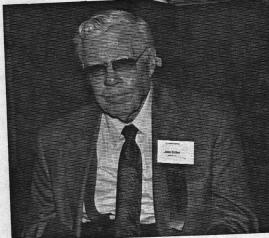
Lon Clark also worked in Chicago. Years later he was directed by Clarence Menser in an episode for The Catholic Hour. He played a war hero who had written a letter to his two-year-old son, explaining why he was fighting. Menser did not remember that he had fired Clark ten years earlier.

Ray Erlenborn was the first to mention the organization of AFRA, American Federation of Radio Actors. This set off a number of stories of the early days of union organization and the gains in salary and working conditions that the federation brought about

for both actors and technical people.

Gale Storm Masterson told us how "My Litt Margie" began as a television show, then went to rad as well. She worked five days a week on the television production and did the radio show on Sunday nights.

John Archer, known so well to us as a loc member of REPS, since he now lives in the Seattle ar and attends our monthly meetings, kept his remarks ve short. He told us his real name was Ralph Bowman, when he created his name for radio "he went from bowman to an archer."



REPS member #1, John Archer, pauses while leafing through a script.

Sam Edwards elaborated on how much Almeant to the early radio actors. One never knew much one would earn for a show; it might be \$1 or There was no pay for an audition. Actors struggling, his family was pooling resources. He la a role in "John Barrymore Summer Shakespeare Seand was paid \$50, a handsome sum. His first should have a sum of the struggling of the struggling."

Tyler McVey came from Bay City, Mich He played on "Glamour Manor" with Cliff Arquette also did 67 shows of "Lux Radio Theater." His firs "Stage Door" with Ginger Rogers in 1939.

Time was up all too soon, but the audience met all of the guests and had been regaled with stortheir earliest experiences in radio.

#### VIC AND SADE RECREATION

The audience moved to another room actors in one of three recreations could rehearse. a short coffee break Frank Buxton made an exintroduction to "Vic and Sade." He then mention when originally aired, the listening audience experienced one of three reactions: they "either leavest and the same are the sa

hated it, or didn't understand it." The show originated in Chicago and played from 1932 to 1945. Paul Rhymer wrote 3500 scripts, most for fifteen-minute programs. He has been compared with Mark Twain, Ring Lardner, and Garrison Keilor for his characters and dialogue. The cast was the same from 1943 to the end.

Vic and Sade was a down home program, whose principal characters were Victor Gook, his wife, Sade, their adopted son, Rush, and Uncle Fletcher.

In an excellent recreation Frank Buxton played Vic, REPS member Anna Denton was Sade, REPS member Brian Haigood was Rush, and Merrill Mael was Uncle Fletcher. Mr. Mael, by the way, did play the role of Uncle Fletcher for a short time. Doug Young was the announcer. Vic tries desperately to explain to Sade why he and some lodge brothers must go to Dismal Seepage, Ohio, while Uncle Fletcher grouses about the Little Tiny Petite Pheasant Feathered Tea Shoppe. He was down to the last bite of his third weinie sandwich before he realized that the condiments were not on the table. Uncle Fletcher wants to sue.

The audience was treated to fine portrayals and laughed appreciatively throughout.



#### INTERVIEWS WITH WILLARD WATERMAN, SAM EDWARDS, AND TYLER MCVEY

Frank Buxton continued in the role of moderator to interview Willard Waterman, Sam Edwards and Tyler McVey. He first asked Willard Waterman about the origin of "The Great Gildersleeve." Gildersleeve, as we all know, was a character on the "Fibber McGee and Molly Show." The character was interesting enough and garnered such a following that

Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve was given his own show. Harold Peary was the original Gildy. When he decided to quit the role after thirteen years, Willard stepped in. His voice was so similar to Peary's that they lost no audience. Willard Waterman continued in the role from 1950 to 1958.

Willard said that when he was on radio in Chicago he sometimes played roles on all three networks. He once did three roles on three networks in a 45-minute period.

Buxton asked the question about how these individuals got started in radio. Sam Edwards said that he started with his family in Texas. He played in "The Adventures of Sam and Buddy" on a San Antonio station, a show written and produced by his parents. When the family came to Hollywood he first appeared in "Thrills" and "Calling All Cars."

Tyler McVey lived in Bay City, Michigan. He had acted in the senior class play, but thought he wanted to study structural engineering. He joined the Bay City Players, a traveling production company, and was on the road for two or three years. He eventually directed some of those productions. Winding up broke and back in Bay City, he left for California. He got into radio through Lou Merrill and the "Lux Radio Theater." He mentioned that "Vic and Sade" was very popular with show business people.

Tyler also spoke about there being no agents for radio actors. Stage, television and movie actors had agents, but radio actors did not. They went to the advertising agencies whose clients sponsored the shows, and signed a sheet each week which notified the agencies of their availability.

Asked if any of their offspring had become actors, the answer was generally negative. Tyler said that his three daughters would occasionally come on the set, but didn't want to be in show business. Sam Edwards said that an agent wanted to sign his daughter, but she chose to finish school. A son plays ragtime piano, professionally but also for fun, and is a computer expert.

Willard Waterman reminisced a bit about the role of Gildersleeve. Waterman did not do the Peary high-low laugh, since he felt that it was truly Peary's property. Gildy was very much a lady's man, and over the course of the show dated more than a few ladies. He spoke about the Jolly Boys and the song of the Jolly Boys in which he had to carry the melody line, since Hal Peary had done so previously. Throckmorton dated, but always ran away from serious relationships and never married. He was busy enough keeping up with Marjorie, Leroy and Birdie. Towards the end, "The Great Gildersleeve" went to fifteen-minute episodes in a desperate attempt to maintain their audience. He also spoke warmly of the supporting characters of Peavey,

Number 4

Judge Hooker, and Floyd, the barber.

Tyler McVey spoke about the end of his radio days. He recalls that it was in 1955 or 1956 with the "Lux Radio Theater." In the 70s he played on "Sears Radio Theater," doing five one-hour shows a week. Sam Edwards says that the last shows he did were "Gunsmoke" and "Fort Laramie" in 1958 or '59. Willard Waterman said that the last show of "The Great Gildersleeve" was in 1959, and he then went with the National Company production of "How To Success in Business Without Even Trying."

Speaking about mistakes on mike, Tyler McVey recalled working with Cliff Arquette on "Glamor Manor." Cliff Arquette played three different characters on the show, including Mrs. Wilson. One time on the air McVey almost called him Mr. Arquette. Sam Edwards recalled doing the call which ushered in "Corliss Archer" by doing the adolescent voice from the wings, so to speak. Once he became so absorbed in the scene being performed that he blew his next cue. Willard Waterman modestly said that he tried hard not to make mistakes.

The audience gave a rousing round of applause for Mr. Waterman, Mr. McVey and Mr. Edwards, as well as for the excellent moderating done by Frank

#### RAY ERLENBORN

The afternoon opened with a wonderful session with Ray Erlenborn, master of sound effects. In 1937 he was asked to do sound effects demonstrations for visitors who were touring the studio. In the earliest days of television, he did sound effects while on camera with "The Art Linkletter Show" and "The Jack Benny Show." Ray has compiled a videotape of these shows which he showed to the audience. It opened with the logo of MGM, the lion in the circle being replaced by the head of a roaring Ray Erlenborn. It brought down the house. What was most comical were those typical Jack Benny looks as he played off of Ray.

Erlenborn vocally did all of the animal sounds for the movie of Dr. Dolittle, working with Rex Harrison. He related that sound effects men were always looking for odd bits of junk which could be used in creating new sound effects. They shopped thrift stores a great deal, he said. With the advent of the McKenzie Machine, a tape loop machine, it became easy to capture real sounds and use them on cue. When asked what his toughest assignment was, Ray laughed. Script writers were always trying to stump the sound effects men. He recalled one script where he was asked to provide the sound of a match scratching on a cake of soap. It became a game between script writers and

sound effects men.

Ray Erlenborn, at age 80, is sharp, witty, engaging and a very funny man. And he can still do a pratfall. He made a terrific guest at our conference.

## NICK CARTER, MASTER DETECTIVE

Lon Clark reprised his role as Nick Carter in a wonderful recreation featuring many of our guests. It was a typical Nick Carter story with many twists and turns before Nick nails the culprit. It was great fun for REPS members to see our own John Archer turn out to be the villain. Our special guests in the cast included Anne Whitfield Phillips, Norma Jean Nilsson, Rhoda Williams, Gale Storm Masterson, Jack Kruschen and David Ossman.

Our own REPS members in the cast were Bill Brooks as Sgt. Mathison and John Archer as Arnold Vincent. A separate cast for the commercials included Marshall Oliphant, Michelle Trudeau, John Rayburn, and Ben Pederson.

Musical accompaniment was provided by Esther Geddes, and sound effects were by Ray David Ossman Erlenborn and Stewart Conway. directed.

#### DAVID OSSMAN'S PRESENTATION OF NEW PHILIP MARLOWE **PRODUCTION**

David Ossman was a member of the comedy group known as "The Firesign Theater." They made many successful recordings which are now hard to find and becoming more rare as time goes by. He also produced and directed 50th Anniversary productions of Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds" and Norman Corwin's "We Hold These Truths," based on The Bill of Rights. He also produced and directed the radio version of "Empire of the Air," the story of Howard Armstrong, "Empire" is a drama of inventor of FM radio. Armstrong's stormy relationship with Sarnoff of NBC.

Ossman is currently involved with Otherworld Productions in the production of new shows of Philip Marlowe, the detective created by Raymond Chandler Ossman talked about the use of DAT recording techniques and the capturing of live sound without masking the ambience of the scene.

Ossman then played a portion of his nev production of "Red Wind." Afterward he too comments from the audience. More accustomed to the ambience created in a studio, some of the audience reacted negatively and many neutrally to the sour Ossman has captured. Some commented that the pacing of the scene just heard was too slow, and that t younger generation wouldn't accept it. Ossman chuckled, and responded that it was younger people whom he had been working with, and that they had accepted that pacing.

Richard Fish from Bloomington, Indiana has been working with David Ossman on this project. Mr. Fish teaches sound recording techniques at Indiana University. The proof of the pudding of these new productions will be when we hear them on National Public Radio some time in the future. This writer's observation is that they will be well worth listening to, and that we may change our minds after hearing the full productions.

#### ANNE WHITFIELD (PHILLIPS), NORMA JEAN NILSSON, RHODA WILLIAMS



Three former child actresses together again and having a great time: Anne Whitfield Phillips, Norma Jean Nilsson and Rhoda Williams.

This panel of three women, all child actresses on radio, was interviewed by John Rayburn.

Anne Whitfield first acted on "The Phil Harris -Alice Faye Show." She was asked why Frank Remley didn't play his own role as the guitar player in Phil Harris's band. She said she didn't know, but suspected that he was shy or at least insecure in doing so. She remembered Elliot Lewis, who played Frankie's role, fondly, both as actor and director. Anne also played the role of Penelope Barber on "One Man's Family" from 1945 to 1957.

Norma Jean Nilsson acted in 222 shows by the time she was nine years old. This was tremendous pressure for a child. Her mother would tell her. "Be good or the directors won't call you back." She was on the "Jack Carson Show" for four years. There was no room for error. Later Norma Jean appeared as a regular cast member of "The Fanny Bryce Show." Working with Miss Bryce, who played a little girl after most of her successes were past, was not pleasant. The other cast members, she recalled, were wonderful.

Rhoda Williams, unlike the other two women, had no bad memories of being pushed by her mother. She had learned to read by the age of three. She had high self-esteem. Her mother may have been instrumental in her radio appearances, but she enjoyed herself immensely. She simply has no bad memories of being a child actress. She talked glowingly, as many other guests had done throughout the day, about the formation of AFRA and of her joining the organization.

Norma Jean recalled working on the "Lux Radio Theater" with her scripts on cardboard and hanging mikes. She would clutch the cardboard and her hands would shake. During the war, rehearsals were done before an audience of servicemen. During the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner it became customary for Cecile B. DeMille to hold Norma Jean's hand. When Mr. DeMille refused to pay an assessment to AFTRA, Norma Jean sent him a dollar to help make the payment. To Norman Jean Cecile B. DeMille was just an old man who was nice to her.

Rhoda Williams said that live theater or radio with a live audience is the best. When Rhoda was playing the part of Anne Frank she became very emotionally involved, but was able to leave the part at the studio and not take it home with her.

The discussion by these three women was a wide-open look at the life of a child actress, juggling the wants of mothers and director-producers, school life, and some sort of social life. Anne Whitfield now lives in Olympia, Washington. Norma Jean Nilsson lives in Canada and has pursued musicology as a career. She is married to an archaeologist. Rhoda Williams lives in Eugene, Oregon.



#### TUNE IN!

Radio Speaker JOHN C. STEVENSON

#### KOL

7:00 TO 7:15 P. M. NIGHTLY

Special Talk On OLD AGE COMPENSATION **Every Saturday Night** 

## DR. PAINLESS PARKER

1101', Broadway, Corner of 11th, Tacoma

Judge Hooker, and Floyd, the barber.

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#### ANNE WHITFIELD (PHILLIPS), NORMA JEAN NILSSON, RHODA WILLIAMS



Three former child actresses together again and having a great time: Anne Whitfield Phillips, Norma Jean Nilsson and Rhoda Williams.

This panel of three women, all child actresses on radio, was interviewed by John Rayburn.

Anne Whitfield first acted on "The Phil Harris - Alice Faye Show." She was asked why Frank Remley didn't play his own role as the guitar player in Phil Harris's band. She said she didn't know, but suspected that he was shy or at least insecure in doing so. She remembered Elliot Lewis, who played Frankie's role, fondly, both as actor and director. Anne also played the role of Penelope Barber on "One Man's Family" from 1945 to 1957.

Norma Jean Nilsson acted in 222 shows by the time she was nine years old. This was tremendous pressure for a child. Her mother would tell her, "Be good or the directors won't call you back." She was on the "Jack Carson Show" for four years. There was no room for error. Later Norma Jean appeared as a regular

cast member of "The Fanny Bryce Show." Working with Miss Bryce, who played a little girl after most of her successes were past, was not pleasant. The other cast members, she recalled, were wonderful.

Rhoda Williams, unlike the other two women, had no bad memories of being pushed by her mother. She had learned to read by the age of three. She had high self-esteem. Her mother may have been instrumental in her radio appearances, but she enjoyed herself immensely. She simply has no bad memories of being a child actress. She talked glowingly, as many other guests had done throughout the day, about the formation of AFRA and of her joining the organization.

Norma Jean recalled working on the "Lux Radio Theater" with her scripts on cardboard and hanging mikes. She would clutch the cardboard and her hands would shake. During the war, rehearsals were done before an audience of servicemen. During the playing of the Star-Spangled Banner it became customary for Cecile B. DeMille to hold Norma Jean's hand. When Mr. DeMille refused to pay an assessment to AFTRA, Norma Jean sent him a dollar to help make the payment. To Norman Jean Cecile B. DeMille was just an old man who was nice to her.

Rhoda Williams said that live theater or radio with a live audience is the best. When Rhoda was playing the part of Anne Frank she became very emotionally involved, but was able to leave the part at the studio and not take it home with her.

The discussion by these three women was a wide-open look at the life of a child actress, juggling the wants of mothers and director-producers, school life, and some sort of social life. Anne Whitfield now lives in Olympia, Washington. Norma Jean Nilsson lives in Canada and has pursued musicology as a career. She is married to an archaeologist. Rhoda Williams lives in Eugene, Oregon.



#### TUNE IN!

Radio Speaker JOHN C. STEVENSON

#### KOL

7:00 TO 7:15 P. M. NIGHTLY

Special Talk On
OLD AGE COMPENSATION
Every Saturday Night

## DR. PAINLESS PARKER DENTIST

1101', Broadway, Corner of 11th, Tacoma

## THE GASSMAN BROTHERS, JOHN AND LARRY

Showcase II was once again graced with the presence of the twin brothers, John and Larry Gassman. (It occurs to me to put Larry's name first once in a while, since they seem always to be addressed as John and Larry.) Larry and John are the blind brothers, stalwarts of SPERDVAC, incredible collectors of taped shows and scripts, and veritable experts on old time radio. More than one of our guests gave thanks to John and Larry for finding and copying shows on which they had appeared, but of which they had no recordings.

John and Larry put on an audience participation show of radio's singing commercials. John did most of the talking, introducing each commercial. I was impressed, however, with Larry quietly getting in a zinger every once in a while. He cracked me up. Some of the commercials played were Jell-o, Wheaties, Colgate Tooth Paste, Pepsodent Tooth Paste. Supersuds (laundry detergent), Lucky Strike Cigarettes, Ajax (the foaming cleanser), Adler's Elevator Shoes, Wildroot Creme Oil (a hair dressing), Budweiser Beer and Ford. The audience sang along lustily (when they could remember all, or even some, of the words). Some even knew the line in the Jack Armstrong song that we could never understand as kids: "Ever shall our team be champions."

Showcase II was indebted to the Gassman Brothers for adding this half-hour of levity to the day's proceedings. Coming near the end of a long afternoon, it was a humorous and enjoyable interlude, and the best kind of activity just prior to the pre-dinner social hour.

REPS has many things to thank the Gassmans for. Their presence alone would have been enough. They have helped us many times over the several years of our existence, finding shows on tape, scripts, and being a part of our two conferences. Thank you, Larry. Thank you, John.

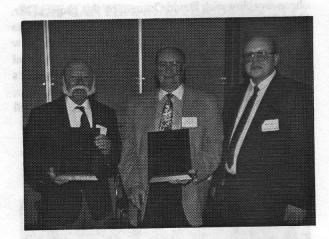
#### **BANQUET AND AWARDS**

REPS can even be proud of the catered banquet. This was no ordinary chicken and peas dinner. The entrees of salmon and chicken cordon bleu were wonderfully prepared, along with fresh asparagus and rice pilaf.

REPS First Vice-President Mark Skullerud acted as master of ceremonies, first calling out door prize numbers. Willard Waterman won a tape of himself in a "Great Gildersleeve" production, which gave everyone a good laugh.

Mark then introduced once again all of our guests for a warm round of applause. Certificates of

appreciation for their participation in this Radio Showcase conference were given to each of the guests.



Ray Erlenborn (left) was given the REPS Radio Achievement Award, and Merrill Mael (center), the REPS Radio Appreciation Award. They are shown here with REPS Vice President Mark Skullerud.

Finally it was time for REPS' two annual awards. The first award was the REPS Radio Appreciation Award. The award, voted on by the membership of REPS, was given to Merrill Mael. Mr. Mael, as one of our local members, has been very helpful to the club. As with last year's winner, John Archer, it was in a spirit of appreciation for all that he has done for the club that the award was given.

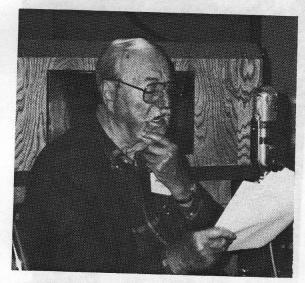
The second award, the REPS Radio Achievement Award, is voted on by a panel of several professionals and the REPS board of directors. It is awarded on the basis of a body of work in the radio industry. This year it was awarded to Ray Erlenborn, sound effects creator extraordinaire. Mr. Erlenborn was truly touched by this award, having to gather his composure during his acceptance speech. The dinner audience rose in honor of Mr. Erlenborn and his long career in the radio business.

John Rayburn, master of spoonerism, then took the podium to entertain us with Aesop's fable of "The Lion and the Mouse," (or rather "The Mion and the Louse?") in his expert spoonerism fashion. He had the audience in stitches.

He then continued with a piece written in spoonerism fashion especially for Radio Showcase II. In it he mentioned every guest, spoonering their names in shameless fashion, and eliciting loud guffaws from every corner of the room.

He ended with some stories of sound effects bloopers which were equally funny. John Rayburn had done yeoman work throughout the day, adding stories and moderating a panel, but he capped it all with this performance for the dinner audience.

#### THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE



Now how does that giggle go? Of Course, Willard Waterman (Gildy) had no such trouble.

After the banquet, the attendees gathered for a final time in the auditorium to watch and listen to a recreation of "The Great Gildersleeve." Throckmorton is surprised that, while he is burning some especially obnoxious smelling refuse in his back yard, his neighbor and nemesis, Bullard, is not disturbed. Gildy himself becomes anxious and upset when he discovers that he has not been paying enough attention to his lady friend, Kathryn, and that she has a date that very afternoon with said neighbor Bullard.

Willard Waterman reprised the role he played from 1950 to 1958. He was assisted by guests Dick Beals, Katrina Baxter-Hodiak, Gale Storm Masterson, Merrill Mael, Tyler McVey, Sam Edwards, and Doug Young. REPS own Marti Lewis played Marjorie. Once again Esther Geddes provided musical accompaniment on the Wurlitzer. The show was directed by REPS member Larry Albert, himself a professional actor/director. Larry also doubled as the announcer. Ray Erlenborn and Steward Conway provided sound effects for a second time.



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#### OTHER GUESTS

Several other people worth noting attended Radio Showcase II. While they did not actively participate in the programming, we were pleased that they attended. Chris Conrad, the son of William Conrad, was in the audience. Millie Morse, the widow of Carleton E. Morse, was a quiet attendee. Several members of REPS had the privilege of sitting with her during lunch, and hearing some stories about this giant in radio. And near the end of the day, we became aware of the presence of a princess in our midst. Veola Vonn, who played Princess Nadji in the 1948 revival of "Chandu the Magician," was also in attendance during the conference. REPS was pleased with their interest and attendance.



Sound effects artists, Ray Erlenborn and Stewart Conway conjured up all the sound effects you'll ever need to hear!



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#### VOLUNTEERS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Many REPS members volunteered to make this conference happen. Thanks go especially to our energetic president, Mike Sprague, who made many of the initial contacts with and invitations to our guests. Joy Jackson, Second Vice-President, was responsible for the program, found scripts for the recreations, and cast the guests for their roles in recreations. She did a terrific job, one which is often unsung.

Other REPS members who volunteered include Ron Aley, Bill Brooks, Anna Denton, Frank Denton, David Dintenfass, Pat Garner, Rich Garner, Lloyd Jones, Margo Jones, Marti Lewis, Gary Litwin, Terry Mahony, Bob Markovich, Marshall Oliphant, Bill Parker, Carol Pearce, Ben Pederson, Dick Shell, Mark Skullerud, Linda Sprague, Paul Stanbery, Jack Taylor, Bob Wallenberg, and Donald Zongker.

REPS Radio Showcase II could not have been successful in the least without the able technical assistance of Donald Zongker and his crew. Placing microphones, laying wire, placing control boards and recording equipment in two rooms was a mighty task. The payoff was excellent sound which everyone could hear and understand and recordings which will make their way into the REPS Cassette Library.



Without our engineering and technical crew we'd be sunk. To those shown here: Dave Dintenfass, Jay Wang and Donald Zongker, and those not shown: Ron Aley, Jack Taylor, Ben Pederson and Dick Shell, we extend a million thanks.

A special thanks go to those who stayed after the conference closed to help dismantle the elaborate sound equipment, assist in loading the organ, wind electrical cord, and make certain that the conference center was left clean. Thanks also goes to those who provided transportation for our guests, picking them up or delivering them to the airport, or to the Westin Hotel on Friday evening. We were told over and over that our guests appreciated these courtesies very much.

Thus ended REPS Radio Showcase II. All of the attendees will carry home warm memories of the event. The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound hope that all of our guests will also recollect the event fondly, and we hope that they will come back again and again.



Rhoda Williams and Tyler McVey brought down the house with their Bickersons skit.

#### SHOWCASE FEEDBACK

Showcase II wasn't even over when the feedback began to pour in. Here's just a brief sample of the feedback from the convention.

"This last weekend was really special for me. There is no explaining what it is like to see these old friends again... More and more of the 'old timers' would come up and say 'You know, this is the best convention we've ever been to.' And they mean it." Merrill Mael

"Mary Anna and I wanted you to know just how good a time we had. You all were wonderful, and the Parkers were so gracious on Sunday. Thank you." Willard Waterman

"Thank you for such a wonderful time. The people were all so kind and everything was done so well... Terry and Beverly (Mahony) were just great in taking care of us." Gale Storm Masterson

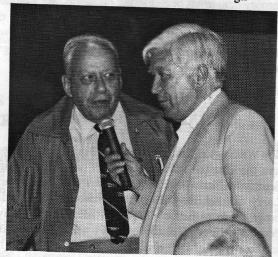
"The nostalgia and friendship and lover were all thick. You all conspired to give me a taste of the warmth you are known for... I truly enjoyed meeting you all and look forward to seeing you again." Jack Kruschen

"The REPS staff really knows how to put on a show. I was impressed with the entire 1994 program of events and the professional manner in which it was handled. I wish to thank everyone for taking care of Meridy and me during the convention." Ray Erlenborn

"We'd love to come back anytime. You are a very nice group of people and you sure put on a great convention. Besides that, our daughter lives in the area." Esther Geddes and Tyler McVey

"Thanks for doing what you guys do. It was great to be a part of it again." Doug Young

"Glad I made it. I'll be back." Bill Murtough



Long time engineer bill Murtough came all the way from Florida.



When a blackmailer impersonates a psychoanalyst to get victims in his power it's time for Mr. District Attorney, with his flair for clues, to solve "The Case of the Deadly Couch"—this evening, 9-30.

#### BIG STORY

7:00 P. M.

A woman dies from "accidental causes" — until reporter Perrins steps in to prove she has been murdered. A breathtaking dramatization of Glen Perrins' "Big Story."

6-10-51



#### RADIO TRADER

NEW CATALOG SUPPLEMENT - 100 new cassettes have been added to the library, including episodes of Adventures By Morse, Burns and Allen, Captain Midnight, Pat Novak for Hire and others. A new catalog supplement, listing these cassettes has been printed too. If you would like a copy of the supplement, please request it, and it will be sent to you free. Since many members do not use the cassette library, and to cut down on mailing costs, the supplement won't be sent unless requested.

NEW CATALOG - As you may all know, a new catalog is published each time we add new cassettes to the library. The entire catalog, featuring the new additions, is available for \$4.00. If you do not wish to purchase the entire catalog, you may simply request the supplement.

NEW PRINTED MATERIALS CATALOG - John Hura has been busily adding to the library. If you'd like the new printed materials catalog, please request it. Here's a list of some of the new additions:

Bill Brooks donated a "Suspense" log. Jeff Hagerty of Grant's Pass Oregon donated the November 1946 and January 1948 issues of Radio Mirror magazine, and also donated The Panic Broadcast. Andrew Steinberg gave us Good Evening Everybody, an autobiography of Lowell Thomas, and Norman Corwin and Radio: The Golden Years, a biography and social history of a time when radio was the centerpiece of family life. Frank Denton donated Gateway to Radio, written in 1934. The book covers all aspects of putting on a radio program. He also donated Radio Families-USA, from 1948. It is a manual breaking down the US into small geographical areas and illustrates radio ownership in those ares. It was designed for advertising and government agencies. Francis Rylance of Robins AFB, Georgia has given a good "Shadow" log and "X Minus One" and "Dimension X" logs. These are reprints from NBC promotional booklets. We've also purchased That's Not All Folks, by Mel Blanc; Border Radio, the story of stations just across the Mexican border from the 30's to the 60's; None of Your Business, the autobiography of writer Carroll Carroll, who wrote for most of the big radio stars. Other new titles include Radio Comedy, a well researched book on comedians from the 20's to the 40's; The Adventures of Amos and Andy, Tune in Yesterday, Say Goodnight Gracie and Are We On The Air? The latter two titles are about the early days of Television.

#### YA WANNA BUY A DUCK?

If you have something you want us to know, trade, buy, find etc., send it to the Air Check editor. Be sure to let us know when you have found your items so we can delete your ad in future issues.

Ads will normally run for two issues, but if you would like to have your ad run longer, or if your ad has been omitted and you would like it reinstated, just let us know.

Wanted: Any and all information concerning the radio serials The Shadow of Fu Manchu and Hop Harrigan. Would like scripts, newspaper clippings, magazine articles...anything! Copying costs and postage will gladly be paid. Jeff Hagerty 423 SE 6th St. Grants Pass, OR 97256.

Looking for name of a company or someone who can do or make small quantities of embroidery patches that say OLD TIME RADIO PROGRAMS COLLECTOR. Looking also for current radio advertising items with imprinted radio station name and logo. Am also looking for a source for audio cassette winders. Please contact Francis Rylance, 1088A Chiefs Dr. Robins AFB, GA 31098.

Needed: One or two more metal 7" reels, TDK or Maxell type. Contact Frank Rosin, 823-2812, 9811 NE 139th St. Kirkland, WA 98034-1806.

Looking for owner's manuals or photocopies for SONY TC-366; SONY TC-730 (Bidirectional/electro bilateral-6 head function); TEAC 2340 RS. Bob Wallenberg (206) 932-1021.

SONOVOX - Can someone help me recreate this sound effects piece of equipment? It was used on old Bromo-Seltzer commercials. Gene Larson, PO Box 1316, Miles City, MT 59301

Mountie Project - Seeking transcriptions on series called Red Trails, King of the Royal Mounties, Renfrew of the Mounted, The Silver Eagle. Buy, trade, rent. Jack French, 5137 Richardson Dr., Fairfax, VA 22032

Blackhawk radio program. Anyone have recordings or any information on the Blackhawk radio program that ran from September, 1950 - January, 1951? Please contact Larry Peasley, 1535 Shady Glen Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050

#### REPS FEEDING FRENZY

Though Joy Jackson has been coordinating most of the incredible food spreads at our meetings, you are welcome to help out. You can now impress fellow members with your baking prowess as well as with your radio knowledge! If you can't bake, store bought items will do just fine. No need to phone ahead, just bring your favorite snack along if the mood strikes you.

#### NEW RADIO SERIES ON KSER

It's not too often that a current radio series appears on the scene, but Willow Crossings, a folksy new recorded comedy drama, has begun airing on KSER, 90.7 FM on Sundays from 8:30 - 9:00. Each week the folks of Willow Crossings tell the story of life in a small town far off the main highway. Why not tune them in and get acquainted?

#### TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE LIBRARY'S OTR SERVICE

The Washington Talking Book and Braille Library now airs the Old Time Radio Hour at 9 pm on alternating Saturdays. Hosted by REPS members Bob Herman and Larry Siskind, the show features two half-hour radio programs from the Golden Age. Radio programs have been very popular with the service's listeners, and thanks to the efforts of Bob and Larry, listeners will now be able to experience many of the great shows that members of REPS have been enjoying.

Most Showcase photographs were taken by professional Tom McGinty. To order photos appearing in this issue, or to learn about the many others that wouldn't fit, you may contact him directly at 14635 NE 32nd Street, D-107, Bellevue, WA 98007-3632. Telephone: (206) 883-4234.

#### **COMING NEXT ISSUE:**

Sherlock Holmes on Radio, The Cinnamon Bear, plus lots more.



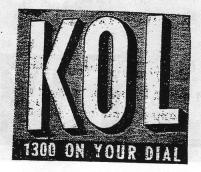




Esther Geddes at the Baldwin, along with Gale
Storm and David Ossman.

## KUDOS TO BALDWIN ORGAN AND TO ESTHER GEDDES

The picture alongside this brief article and the letter reproduced here give some flavor of the extreme appreciation we feel to the Baldwin people mentioned in the letter. Great as the Baldwin was, it was made even better by the talent and enthusiasm of Esther Geddes. By the way, she left the dance on Friday night, and returned to the Conference Center to practice until 12:30 am! She also practiced during lunch and through part of dinner on Saturday. Thanks Baldwin! Thanks Esther!



Radio Enthusiasts of Puget S

June 28, 1994

Henry Allain Western Regional Manager Church Organ Systems 7134 Westport Street Riverside, CA 92506

Duane Kuhn Vice President Church Organ Systems 422 Wards Corner Road Loveland, OH 45140

Roy Hepworth Carillon Music, Ltd. 7050 King George Hwy, Surry, BC V3W-4Z9 Canada

#### Gentlemen:

I hope that this effort to communicate with you collectively seems appropriate and proper to each of you.

## THERE IS NO WAY THAT WE CAN THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR YOUR EXTREME GENEROSITY AND COOPERATION.

The wonderful organ you made available for our Radio Showcase last weekend was truly one of the most distinctive things that has happened at any Old Time Radio convention in the country. We received positive comment after positive comment about this. And the keyboard artist (the wife of a star of the Golden Age of radio) was glowing in her praise.

As you may know, organs were a major part of the climate and mood of early radio shows. This week a reporter asked me "What type of radio shows are your favorites?" I told him the same thing I have told many other people over the years "Almost anything that has quality organ music associated with it." And I added "Baldwin Organ music."

We know that there were hours of set up time on Friday, and then, on Saturday, there was the Baldwin gang again, making adjustments on speakers etc. You truly are a quality collection of people with a quality product.

We will do everything we can to tell the world about your kindness, but it seems so little. Our next Air Check newsletter will also carry a large picture of Esther Geddes at the organ, and a copy of this letter.

If we find that any member of REPS buys an organ, it dam well had better be a Baldwin or we'll be depositing ice picks in that member's tires and wishing for them hours of listening to elevator music and TV soap operas.

Seriously, please accept the heartfelt thanks of a whole bunch of people who have become serious fans of the Baldwin organ and the folks like you all who made this one available to us.

For the membership,

Michael Sprague President

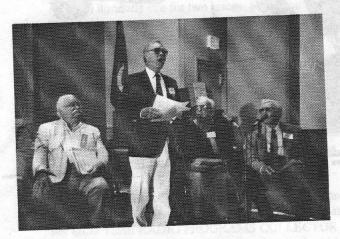
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#### MORE SHOWCASE PHOTOS!

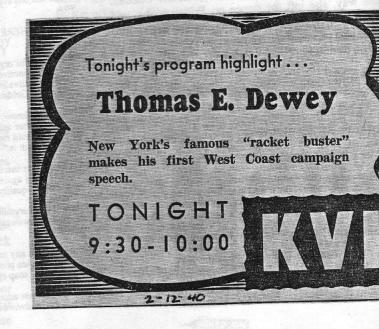


Can't you just hear Corrr-laiss!" as Sam Edwards does his famous Dexter call from Corliss Archer? Behind Sam are Jack Kruschen, Bill Murtough and John Archer.



Dick Beals was whisked up on Saturday in a complimentary limo provided by Silverline Limo.





RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND 9936 NE 197TH STREET BOTHELL, WA 98011

#### PUGET SOUND RADIO LISTINGS

Both Old Time Radio and current materials (Designated C) are on the air. To the best of out knowledge, this is when and where. If you know of others, please let Air Check know. Be sure to let the stations and sponsors know of your appreciation. \* Indicates schedule change or new program since last issue of Air Check.

Mystery Playhouse (C) KIRO 710 AM 9:06-10:00 PM Sunday When Radio Was KIRO 710 AM 10:00PM - 1:00 AM Saturday When Radio WAs KIRO 710 AM 10:00PM - 12:00 AM Sunday BBC O/C KSER 90.7FM 7:00PM - 8:00 PM Sunday \*Willow Crossings (C) KSER 90.7 FM 8:300PM - 9 00 PM Sunday \*OTR L. Siskind KSER 90.7FM 9:00PM - 10:00PM Sunday \*When Radio Was KLKI 1340 AM 6:00PM - 7:00 PM Weekdays OTR KWYZ 1230AM 7:15-7:45AM M-F KWYZ 1230AM 5:15-5:45PM M-F OTR OTR (Western) KBLV 1540 AM 12:00PM M-F Bellevue OTR (Western) KJUN 1450 AM 12:00PM M-F Tacoma OTR (Western) KTOL 1230 AM 12:00PM M-F Lacey OTR (Western) KENU 1330 AM 12:00PM M-F Enumclaw L.Lamour Theater (C) 570 AM 8:00AM Sunday Potluck (C) KUOW 94.9 FM 11:00-12:00AM Saturday OTR CFMS 98.5 FM 9:00-10:00PM Saturday Victoria OTR L. Sisskind KBCS 91.3 FM 11:30AM Friday Bellevue

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