

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 2

APRIL 1996

SANDRA GOULD COMES TO SEATTLE

Sandra Gould is very popular at March meeting. Story on page 5



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REPS RADIO SHOWCASE IV * JUNE 27-29 "TWISTING THE DIAL IN 1946"

Where else can you see and hear, all in one place...

- Two new radio dramas, featuring OTR stars?
- Original stars Gil Stratton, Jr. and Sam Edwards re-creating their roles from a gripping Suspense show, "The Game"?
- A trilogy of shows (Vic and Sade, Our Gal Sunday and The Lone Ranger), performed by the same cast?
- A 1946 Lux Radio Theatre hit, "The Clock"?
- 1946 newscasts and entertainment news throughout the day?
- Fred Foy thrilling the audience with his famous introduction "From out of the past come the thundering.." as The Lone Ranger is re-created?

Continued on page 14



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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 cover 2 years dues. These 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.



The "Dr. Christian" program, starring Jean Hersholt

Showcase Guest
Art Gilmore
announced
Dr. Christian
for 17 years.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 6- AMOS and ANDY, ANOTHER VIEW. Bob Herman will be listening back with us all to the humor of Amos and Andy. He will also be commenting on the social/cultural issues related to this hugely popular show.

May 4- FIND THE MISTAKE. The world famous team of Brooks and Albert will set up their own type of trivia event, searching through a badly done book on Old Time Radio.

June 1- "THE GOOD GUYS". Commentator Jeff Strickler, aided by a film, gives a fast, entertaining look at a part of radio that some remember fondly, and others don't. The world of gabby disk jockeys in the 50s and 60s.

July- NO MEETING. Due to the Radio Showcase, there will be no monthly meeting.

THE UNSEEN AUDIENCE





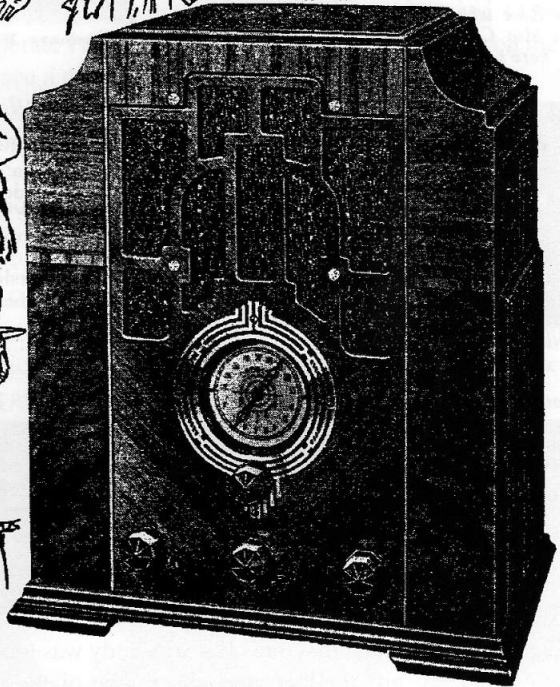
with a

CROSLEY

'ROUND THE WORLD RECEIVER

With the turn of a dial, you can bring right into your own home, stations from foreign countries—France, Germany, Spain, Italy, England, and other lands far flung over the surface of the globe. What a thrill! What glorious adventure! Listen to exciting tereadors at Madrid—jump from there to dear old London . . . or Paris . . . twist the dial and you're in Buenos Aires!

You can **DEPEND** on a Crosley, too . . . for every model uses the latest and most perfected refinements in its class. Each current model is the triumph of 13 years pioneering leadership in radio manufacture.



GOOD FOREIGN RECEPTION REQUIRES SIX TUBES

Prove it to you self by actual comparisons . . . that is the sure way to realize the accuracy of Crosley's discovery that at least **SIX** tubes are absolutely necessary for good foreign reception. It's that extra tube that counts in bringing in really enjoyable entertainment from stations around the world.

Above is illustrated the Crosley Sixty-One American-Foreign Receiver. With six tube superheterodyne chassis, illuminated airplane type dial, automatic volume control, and a luxurious cabinet, it is a typical example of Crosley's marvelous 1935 values. Only \$39.95 complete. Western price slightly higher.

**THERE'S A CROSLEY DEALER
NEAR YOU—ASK HIM FOR
A DEMONSTRATION**

THE CROSLEY RADIO CORPORATION

Pioneer manufacturers of radio receiving sets

Home of "the Nation's Station" WLW—500,000 watts—most powerful in the world—70 on your dial

Powel Crosley, Jr., President

CINCINNAT, OHIO

JANUARY, 1935



FOR YOUR INFORMATION—If there's something you want to know about radio, write to Information Booth, Radio Mirror, 205 E. 42nd St., N. Y. We'll answer if we can either in Information Booth or by mail—but be sure to sign full name and address, and attach this box to your letter.

ROSEMARY

4/48

Dear Editor:

I listen to Right to Happiness everyday. I like the program very much and I would like to see a picture of the girl who plays Susan Wakefield. How old is she, and where does she come from?

Miss J. C.

Coraopolis, Pa.

Susan is played by twenty-year-old Rosemary Rice who hails from Montclair, N. J. She's also Cathy in When a Girl Marries. And here's pretty Rosemary.



Rosemary Rice

VERSATILE ACTOR



Arthur Q. Bryon

Dear Editor:

Would you give me the name of the actor who plays Judge Hooker on the Gildersleeve program, and Mr. Anderson on the Dennis Day show? I believe they are played by the same person. Also, who plays Doc Gamble on Fibber McGee's show, and the barber on the Gildersleeve program? I believe their voices belong to the same person.

Miss M. M.

Los Angeles, California.

You're wrong on the first query, but right on the second. Earl Ross is Judge Hooker. and Dink Trout is Mr. Anderson on the Dennis Day show. Arthur Q. Bryon is Doc Gamble who flings those caustic remarks at Fibber McGee on Tuesdays; on Wednesdays, he's the garrulous barber on the Great Gildersleeve show.

A LOOK AT OUR EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Larry Albert was the first one. His wife Jody was looking for a very special gift for this guy who is one of the most knowledgeable OTR fans in the country. REPS had just announced the availability of this Executive Membership packet and Jody really surprised him with it.

Gordon Gregersen is the most recent and he is number 17. Gordon and Mike Sprague met at the SPERDVAC convention in Los Angeles in November. True to his word there, Portland resident Gregersen joined REPS, and he did it in a big way.

SO WHAT'S AN EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIP?

The idea grew out of a discussion with Honorary Member John Archer, The Shadow and much more. John had a script from one of the 30 episodes in which he was Lamont Cranston. When asked, he was more than willing to autograph the script as requested.

Thus, an idea was birthed. REPS would offer a maximum of 30 (get it?) Executive memberships. For \$100, those purchasing this membership would get: *The autographed script, done in whatever way they requested it *A personal meeting with the very gracious Mr. Archer. John has always been willing to meet, or to be on the phone with out of town folks *Two cassettes full of history and two Shadow programs in which John appeared *Dues covered for two years.

Mike Sprague has been heard to say, "There will never be more than 30 such autographed scripts so there is a special feeling involved. Plus, the Executive Member is being generous to REPS and we really appreciate that." **WHO ARE THE OTHERS?**

There are three anonymous Executive Members. Others along the way have been Misty Dawn Lane, who was a major contributor of time and material as she built the first part of our cassette library in the early days; Ken Bertrand of Seattle; Lloyd Jones, "Mr. Enthusiasm", our friend and Showcase registrar, who passed away last year; Don Stribling, who lives and teaches in Iowa but summers in Washington state.

Then there was Dennis Crow, who is very involved in The Cinnamon Bear Brigade; John Doyle from way down South in Georgia where he is a television weather man; and Andy Cashman, whose Mom and Dad made this Membership a special Christmas present, one he decided to share with classmates by inviting Mr. Archer to come to his school.

Others came: Wayne Greenough of Bellingham who said "send one of those packets up my way."; Richard McCoy, he of Showcase Challenge fame as he put up \$1000 which the membership matched and surpassed; Fred Tutt, a Canadian with a Washington PO Box, and he still threatens to come down for a meeting; Donald Lackey of Tacoma; and # 16, Richard Schmidt, a patient sort of a Californian who waited as we managed to delay the shipment of his packet.

ARE YOU NEXT?

Even if you are a member presently, you can switch over to the Executive Membership easily. You'll receive everything mentioned above, and your dues will be extended by two years. Just send your check for \$100 to membership chairman, Bill Davies, 14911 Linden N., Seattle, WA 98133. You'll be doing a good thing for yourself and for REPS.

FOR EXCITING RADIO DRAMA

TUNE IN

"TRUE DETECTIVE MYSTERIES"

NOW . . . the same kind of thrilling stories of outstanding feats in crime detection that have made "True Detective" one of the most exciting magazines are brought to your radio. Every program based on fact—every program packed full of action! Listen to "True Detective Mysteries" this Sunday and every Sunday afternoon!

4:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time 2:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time
3:30 p.m. Central Daylight Time 1:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time

ON ALL MUTUAL NETWORK STATIONS

Consult your newspaper for exact time and station

Twisting the Dial in 1946



PAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY-REPS 5th BIRTHDAY PARTY

There will be minimal details in reporting this meeting. Outgoing president Mike Sprague orchestrated the meeting with video highlights from a number of meetings featuring guests ranging from Burl Ives to Charles Flynn to the first special guest John Archer.

The audience pitched in with memories galore as each reflected on some interesting connection point. Many commented on how they first heard of REPS. Quite a few of those reflections included the name of deceased member Lloyd Jones, our own Mr. Enthusiasm.

As usual, refreshments were great, highlighted by a cake ordered by Vi Anderson.



Mike Sprague with the gift radio

“THANKS FRIENDS...BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT!”

These were some of the feelings expressed by outgoing president Mike Sprague. The Board, on behalf of all members, thanked Mike for his five years of leadership of REPS by presenting him with a reproduction of a floor model radio. It was played during the break and everyone admired the sound quality as a Johnny Dollar tape was slipped into the cassette player hidden on the side.

Said charter member and former vice president Mark Skullerud, “There is no question. We just wouldn't be where we are without Mike being in the role he has been.”

FEBRUARY-“JINI WITH A J”, AND JIM

By Bill Parker

REPS members and friends were treated to a very funny performance of “Jini With a J”, a radio script by Tony Aries. The delightful cast, fresh from a recent taping for Jim French, included REPS Bill Brooks, and Andy Anderson in a hilarious

bit as an announcer stumbling through a tongue-twisting commercial.

Mr. Aries, who has written “10 to 15” scripts for French broadcasts over the years, was present at the meeting.

The story involves a family who finds an old bottle, and releases a genie. He has an English accent and insists on being called “Jini, with a ‘J’ please.” The problems this creates were sparkingly portrayed by the cast and sound effects people. Jim French himself was masterful on the keyboard.

JIM FRENCH REVISITED

The remainder of the program featured a fascinating interview with Jim French, hosted by Bill Brooks. They reflected back to his first radio opportunity at age 14, when a desperate Pasadena radio station manager put him on the air to replace a missing announcer.

We traced French's career from California to Hawaii to Washington. He described a 1950s interview he did with Frank Sinatra when the latter's career was at a low ebb. Jim considered it among the best interviews he ever did. When he tried to get a tape of it, he found that the station had erased it in an economy move.

For more of the meeting content and details on Mr. French's career, see the related story in this Air Check about the syndication of his work, and be sure to check out the tape from the cassette library.



Jim French at keyboard as cast performs

MARCH-SANDRA GOULD VISITS REPS

By Joy Jackson

Full of energy and stories, Sandra Gould was totally entertaining at the March meeting. She was hosted on stage by member Larry Albert.

First on radio at the age of 9, she was also the youngest spy in WWII. In fact, Sandra made the choice to come to Seattle instead of being honored at a dinner with the French ambassador on the same weekend. “After all” she said, “I told you first that I would be here. And, I'm really glad I came. You're all so friendly.”

Ms. Gould did 10 shows on Broadway and many movies, but most in the audience remember her best for two distinctive roles on radio and TV. She was one of the five Miss Duffys on “Duffy's Tavern” and she was Gladys Kravitz on “Bewitched.”

Continued on page 6



PAST MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

SANDRA GOULD (Continued from page 5)

Concerning the former, she stated "Following Duffy's Tavern, I was typecast as a ditzzy broad." It is clear that the show's creator Ed Gardner was not a favorite of hers, but Sandra wouldn't delve into the reasons why.

Her fame from Bewitched was helpful once when she foiled a burglary attempt in her neighborhood. Seeing someone carrying out items in midday, she questioned them, and finally shouted "You put that down!" One of the burglars replied "Oh, my God, it's Mrs. Kravitz!" All three of them fled without the goods.



Ms. Gould worked for years with Jack Benny, Red Skelton and Bob Hope, and she did countless other shows, including years on Date With Judy. She was certain that she had never done any Johnny Dollar shows, until Larry Albert played some found by Bill Brooks. Sandra was also given to Suspense shows she was on, and didn't remember.

There was an anecdote about Jack Benny, after Sandra commented on the fact that "Jack was one of the nicest people in the world." She told about Jack asking her to go to the Farmer's Market, "often several times a week." She said "There was a roundtable there in the market, with down-on-their-luck prize fighters, actors and others. Jack would start the day with a wad of money. He'd sidle up to one of them, ask how it was going and how much he needed."

The responses varied, but usually they needed something. Gould continued "Jack would peel a \$20 bill off his roll, give it to the needy person and around the table he would go."

The tape of this meeting will be a fun one for anyone to hear. Some tidbits to remind attendees and to tempt those who weren't at this gathering.

- Her friendship with Orson Welles
- Wrote scripts for several television shows

- Favorite actor-Spencer Tracy, who told her "Learn your lines, hit your marks, and do it."
- She "played every role except tall," and did that once to Mickey Rooney.
- Wrote sports columns and two books.
- Was the voice of Betty Rubble on The Flintstones.

The full house audience was laughing most of the time, and appreciative all of the time. This was a great meeting, and Larry Albert and president Terry Mahony welcomed Sandra Gould as an Honorary Member of REPS.

CALLING ALL OTR LISTENERS AND SANDRA GOULD HELPERS

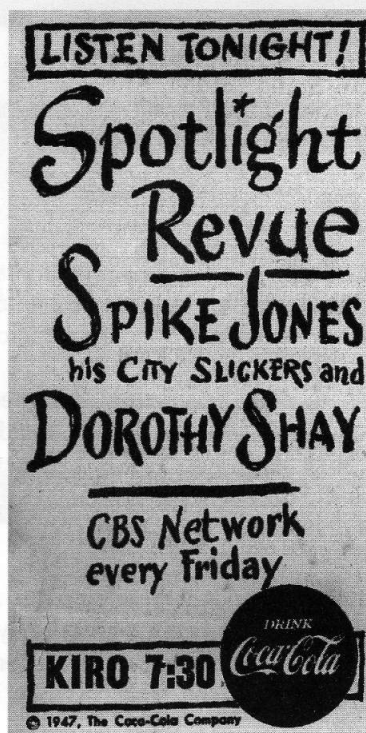
Sandra Gould has a need for some research. Everyone can help.

Ms. Gould has been unable to get her pension from AFTRA because there isn't a complete list of the radio shows on which she performed. We have a small start on the project with 31 shows on which Bill Brooks obtained information.

You need to know that all of her OTR memorabilia burned in one of the Bellair fires while stored in a friend's garage. She has no records to go to.

Some of the shows she was in: Jack Benny (NBC and CBS starting in 1945), the telephone operator; Duffy's Tavern, starting in 1946 for 6 years; Date with Judy-13 years; My Friend Irma; Bob Hope; Red Skelton; Life With Luigi +++ There are probably a large number of shows she did without credits being given.

So, keep a sharp ear...jot down anything you have with Sandra Gould. Then send it to Bill Brooks or Joy Jackson, whose addresses are in the Directory in this publication.





RADIO'S GOOD LUCK CHARM . . .

Radio people, like their co-workers on the stage and in movies, are more than a little superstitious. They put stock in signs, portents and omens. And in Hollywood there's a superstition that a new program is marked for success if it includes in its cast-list pretty, red-headed Lurene Tuttle.

Yet maybe it isn't fair to call this idea just a superstition. Lurene has such a reputation for skilled and steady radio performances that a good part of the success she brings to her programs is due to her talent. At any rate, she certainly is lucky. She was in the Dr. Christian show when it first auditioned, and a sponsor bought it. (She still plays Judy, the doctor's nurse.) She was in several Pacific Coast programs, did five or six different parts on a Freddie Martin audition for a cosmetic company, had a dramatic role in the first broadcast of Lionel Barrymore's current series . . . well, you get the idea.

All in all, it's no wonder that when the Great Gildersleeve program first went on the air more than a year ago, Lurene was the first actress the producers called for. She plays the part of Marjorie Forrester—and so convincingly that she's received half a dozen proposals of marriage from members of the listening audience. She turned all of 'em down, because she is happily married to Mel Ruick, formerly the announcer for Cecil B. DeMille's Lux Theater and now a Captain in the Army Air Force. The Ruicks have a nine-year-old daughter, Barbara Joan, who is intensely interested in both their careers and intends to be an actress herself when she grows up.

In addition to filling Hollywood's busiest radio schedule, Lurene manages the Ruicks' beautiful new modern home at Toluca Lake, makes countless dresses for Barbara Joan's collection of dolls, tends a victory garden, and keeps up a personal wardrobe that accords her the reputation of being Hollywood's best-dressed radio actress. "For exercise Mama cleans the swimming pool," is her daughter's tart comment on Lurene's boundless energy.

She was born at Pleasant Lake, Indiana, and acting is in her blood. Her father was an old time minstrel man and her grandfather taught dramatics in college and at one time managed the Opera House in Angola, Indiana. Lurene took "expression" lessons when she was ten, and made her stage debut at seventeen, with Ye Liberty Players in Pasadena, California. Several years of stage experience followed before she began devoting all her time to radio.

November 1944

**"IMAGINATION THEATRE"
NEW RADIO IN SYNDICATION**

Going "way back" to 1972, Jim French began writing and producing "new" radio drama on KVI radio in Seattle. In 1976, he broadcast a one hour show about a down and out private detective named Harry Nile. Good things were happening, then along came a station format change that killed the "Crisis" series and "Harry Nile."

Like the Phoenix rising from the ashes, these shows came back to life when French, now at KIRO radio, convinced the station to air the "old" shows again, beginning in 1990.

In June 1991, a new "Harry Nile" episode was broadcast. After that, new shows were taped before a live audience once a month, and were aired along with the other shows. Many well known personalities, both OTR and contemporary, occasionally joined the casts.

For almost 6 years, the Puget Sound area has been able to listen to the **ONLY NEW REGULARLY PRODUCED RADIO DRAMA AND COMEDY** in the country. Now, the rest of America will be able to share in our enjoyment.

Beginning in March well over 100 radio stations nationwide began carrying these Jim French creations. Normally to be aired at 9 PM on Sunday evenings, the shows will likely have a national sponsor, and will be called "Imagination Theatre."

Locally, nothing will change. We will still have "The KIRO Mystery Playhouse" on both Saturday and Sunday nights at 9:06 PM. If you live out of the local area and want a list of the nationwide list of stations involved, send a self addressed stamped envelope to REPS, 33061 NE 92nd St., Seattle, WA 98115

Continued thanks to Jim French for what he has meant to radio. New thanks to Dave Adams of Transmedia Syndicators.

**KIRO MYSTERY PLAYHOUSE
1996 TAPING SCHEDULE**

All tapings are on Thursdays. Audience admitted at 7 PM and taping begins at 7:30. It is requested that children younger than age 8 not attend.

April 18...May 16...June 27 (as a companion event to the Radio Showcase)...July 18...August 15...September 19...October 17...November 21...December 19

The location is the Museum of History and Industry, 2700 24th Avenue East in Seattle, near Husky Stadium.



The
Radio
Enthusiasts
of
Puget Sound



In Living Portraits

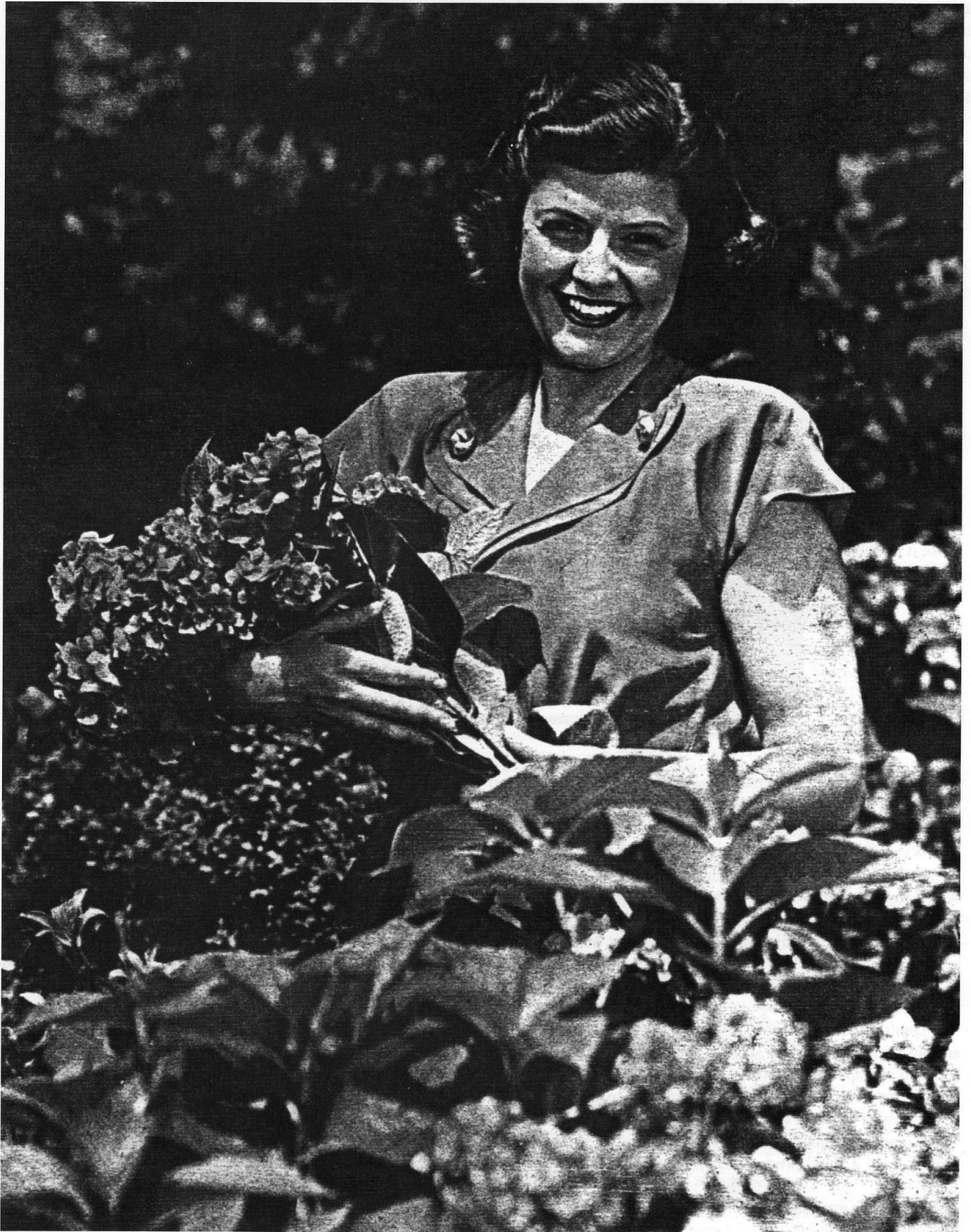
OUR GAL SUNDAY

**CBS's story of a woman
who believes that you
must work for happiness**

OUR GAL SUNDAY was named by the two old miners who found her—a little baby—on the doorstep of their cabin in Silver Creek, Colorado, years ago. Sunday's charm and loveliness captivated LORD HENRY BRINTHROPE, and they were married. As Lady Brinthrope, Sunday's courage and faith have been put to the test many times, for her circumstances now are far different from the conditions under which she was brought up. Lord Henry, a titled Englishman, is everything any woman could wish for in a husband. The years have proved that he and Sunday belong together in spite of the differences in their birth and upbringing, and for him the sun seems to rise and set on his beloved young wife.
(Vivian Smolen and Karl Swenson)

Produced by Frank and Anne Hummert, Our Gal Sunday is heard every Monday through Friday at 12:45 P.M., EST, over Columbia.

Twisting the Dial in 1946
Radio Mirror October





COMING YOUR WAY FROM ACQUISITIONS

Joy Jackson

The new Cassette Library Supplement is available. Included are: The Missing Masters Tape Set (one of a kind shows; Norma Jean Nilsson tapes (Mom saved them for her, and us); Jack Benny; The Great Gildersleeve; Bing Crosby (Philco); Fred Allen; Lum & Abner; The Shadow; Duffy's Tavern; Mercury Theatre of the Air (War of the Worlds and Dracula).

Many, many thanks to everyone who has helped with these!

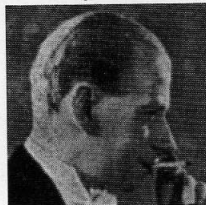
The Cassette Catalog has been revised. It will be about 135 pages long, and will include more information. It will be available by the Radio Showcase at the end of June. The price is estimated to be at least \$5.00, but we won't know until we get it printed. Postage will be a killer as well.

Shows that are being pursued: The Scarlett Pimpernel; Halls of Ivy; Chris Conrad's collection of his Poppa's (Bill Conrad) shows.

I would encourage anyone to take a look in their OTR collections, and see if you have something REPS doesn't have in the Library. These should have good sound quality. You can either make copies (we'll provide the tape or reimburse you or issue Library credit if you like) or loan them to us to have copied.

Thanks! This library is only as good as the people who make it possible.

April 19



RAY NOBLE
Burns & Allen Orchestra, Leader
Mon. 6:30 p.m. PST (7:30 MST)

FROM THE TAPE LIBRARIANS

Andy and Violet Anderson

Was it Ol' King Cole or Good King Wenceslas who said "Fear of the unknown is an unknown fear."? Regardless of which royal mouth said it, it kept sailors from sailing toward the horizon for fear of falling off the edge of the world. This situation delayed the discovery that earth was a sphere...by several days or more.

F.D.R. said it best when he told us "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

Don't let fear prevent YOU from ordering programs you are not familiar with. For example, "Whitehall 1212". This series of six tapes contain true cases from the files of Scotland Yard. The all British cast takes us step-by-step through each case history. Thrilling listening.

If you have enjoyed the "Black Museum" with Orson Welles (also a BBC production) you will enjoy "Whitehall 1212."

Try it. We guarantee that it will open a whole new horizon of radio enjoyment.

SUPER WRITING TEAM

Dear Editor:

Could you give me some information about Frank and Anne Hummert, as well as some of the radio programs they produce?

Miss N. A. T.
Milford, Mass.



Anne Hummert

Anne (née Ashen-hurst) and Frank Hummert originally started as a secretary-boss combination, but, as Frank will confide jokingly to friends, he married Anne because he had difficulty pronouncing her name. Together they have become radio's most outstanding writing and producing team. They write, produce and direct some sixteen radio scripts weekly for an audience estimated at 100,000,000 a week. To give you an idea of the variety of programs they have a hand in, here are a few: David Harum, Backstage Wife, Manhattan Merry-Go-Round, Lora Lawton, and Waltz Time.

THE "ONE MAN'S FAMILY" FAMILY UPDATE

The last issue of Air Check mentioned the beginning of The "One Man's Family" Family. Co-founders Gary Polich and Mike Sprague sent along a brief update on this special interest group.

"We're already up to 30 members from 18 different states" stated Polich, "and the word is just getting out." Sprague added that the stories from new members are fascinating, "The impact of the Barbour family on everyday American families was so tremendous. We'll be running various descriptions of this phenomenon in our Family Ties newsletter."

Millie Morse, widow of OMF creator Carlton E. Morse has membership number one. There are many actors around the country who were on the long running program and they have been contacted and asked to share their memories and stories. These will be published and shared along the way with the membership.

Though Polich and Sprague have been active in the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound, The "One Man's Family" Family is an entirely separate group. Dues are \$12 and members will receive a quarterly newsletter and linkage with other members, their stories and their collections in some cases. An annual Family Reunion is in the thinking stage right now.

To join, send \$12 to OMFF, PO Box 723, Bothell, WA 98041.



WHAT IS "THE LONGEST CONTINUOUS RUNNING RADIO DRAMA STILL ON THE AIR?"

If this was a quiz question, probably not many of our readers would get it right. And, there would probably be some arguments.

We refer to a program that isn't well known, and which didn't begin until 1950. Much of radio drama was going away at the time. Read the story below to get the answer to this question. The program described can be heard in the Puget Sound area on KCIS, AM 630 at 9:30 PM on Sunday nights. Air Check does not have out of town listings, but it is carried nationwide.



Associated Press

As members of the night's 'Unshackled' cast await their turn, Ron Mighell tells his story of finding Christ for another edition of the longest continuous-running radio show.

Radio drama offers hope

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — On this cold, windy day, Pacific Garden Mission is home to more than the homeless.

Tourists and radio buffs join them to pack an auditorium along a part of South State Street known as "Tramp's Trail" to hear program No. 2357 of "Unshackled," billed as the longest continuous-running radio drama still on the air.

The program was first broadcast Sept. 23, 1950, with the story of the life and conversion of evangelist Billy Sunday. Forty-five years later, it still re-enacts true-life stories of people who through Christianity have overcome hardships from alcoholism to promiscuity.

Standing before a microphone and a huge sign declaring, "He (Christ) made peace through the blood of his cross. Col. 1:20," the radio announcer reads from his script.

"The scene is the same all over the world, whether in small town or big city, young people and some not so young drawn to the local hangout," announcer Bob O'Donnell says. "They drink and joke and go home empty-hearted, each one looking for something, someone, some answer to their loneliness. This is what Sheila Harris found and how she was 'Unshackled!'"

The 30-minute program is recorded before a live audience every Saturday at Pacific Garden Mission, a

homeless shelter. More than 1,000 stations broadcast it to listeners in six continents.

A committee verifies facts of stories offered by listeners by contacting references such as preachers and relatives.

The production is a scene from the past. A sound-effects man re-creates the sounds of a bar with clinking glasses, of children catching tadpoles by splashing water in a bucket. An organist provides scene transitions, sometimes with a soft melody, sometimes a crescendo of ominous chords.

Stories on abuse now common

The program originally focused on alcoholism and drugs, but problems like child and spousal abuse and meaningless lives are now common. "We're not restricted to Skid Row stories," says O'Donnell, wearing a gold unshackled handcuff pin on his lapel.

This program, to be broadcast in February, focuses on a woman whose life was marred by booze, beatings and the wrong man — until she met the right man who led her to Christ.

The story tells how this woman, portrayed by Judith Easton, searched for love "in all the wrong places."

"She found what she was seeking," the announcer says, "when her mind and heart and life were unshackled."

Easton is among about 150 actors

who perform for "Unshackled." Some, but not all, are religious. Earlier this year, she portrayed herself, a woman who had fought addictions to alcohol, drugs and sex.

"God was not a big part of my upbringing," she says. "I had a perception that only stupid and weak people believed in Jesus Christ."

She was starting to get her life under control when she went to work for "Unshackled." But it was only a job, and she resisted the mission's Gospel message. Then a medical problem left her face half-paralyzed, and increasingly that message and the "Unshackled" stories touched her. In 1993, she was baptized at a Mennonite church.

Michael Kinard, a small, unshaven man who like hundreds of other homeless people is spending this frigid night at the mission, joins the program's audience. "The actors ... let me know that there is hope and God is real," says Kinard, who attends the mission's Bible classes.

David Sonear, the mission superintendent, agrees.

"Giving soup every day or a sandwich every day is nice, but you don't give the people any direction off this homeless merry-go-round," he says.

Spiritual help, he believes, provides that direction.

"We try to reach people when they are in the depths of their despair," Sonear says.



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO LISTENING PARTIES?

Once upon a time, there were parties where REPS members gathered at someone's home to listen to favorite shows and/or stars. These parties have dropped out of existence it seems.

An idea has blossomed in the ever fertile brain of Joy Jackson. We have the meeting room of the Queen Anne Library all day on the first Saturday of the month. Why couldn't interested members come early and have a listening party right there?

Donald Zongker, techie extraordinaire, was concerned and elated about the idea. Concerned that on those days when we have a special guest or a performance to be video taped, he starts his tech set up at 10 AM. Elated, that perhaps some of the early arriving attendees would be able to give him a hand in set-up.

WHO WILL ORGANIZE IT?

Someone needs to head it up. You would need to find the topics; be sure a tape player is on hand; get tapes ready, from collections or the library.

It wouldn't take much time. This might just be the right place for you to volunteer. And, no cleaning the house or polishing the silver. Please consider it carefully and enthusiastically, and call Terry Mahony (see Directory.)

HISTORIC RADIO STATIONS OF THE PAST

By Andy Anderson

Second of a series about stations that contributed greatly in developing radio communications in the early years. Old Time Radio, as we look back on it today, would have been impossible where it not for these wireless pioneers.

MARCONI WIRELESS ON CAPE COD

Guglielmo Marconi was to become known as "the wizard of wireless." By the time he came to America from his native Italy, he had already transmitted across the English Channel and was the rage of all Europe at age 25.

He set up a station at South Wellfleet, Massachusetts in 1901. The next year saw another at Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. In 1903 a message was sent to His Majesty, Edward VII of England, from Theodore Roosevelt. It was the first trans-Atlantic message.

Today, all is quiet here except for the sounds of wind and waves. Some cables and bricks remain scattered about – a reminder of yesterday's triumphs. A bronze bust of Marconi looks over the site. He seems pleased, as he should, for history was made here.

As one author wrote in 1968, "If you pick up the right sea shell, you will even hear the sound and fury kicked up by the old spark transmitter."

Next issue: Radio's First Voice and The Man Who Proved Marconi Wrong

RADIO ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK

REPS members are working hard to keep good Old Time Radio on the air. In addition to the programming done by members Bob Herman and Larry Siskind, 1995 marked the beginning of the Radio Entertainment Network (REN). It is all done by member Jim Dolan and Kevin Clark. REN is growing and is now on stations all over the country

To receive REN on Evergreen: *Tune your stereo TV or VCR to KCTS, Channel 9. *Find the switch on the TV/VCR for the SAP Audio Channel. *Push the button. The prompt on the equipment should switch from Main or Stereo to SAP. Or Second Audio or b-audio should light up. *The sound from the SAP channel will not match the picture on Channel 9. To go back to the sound that goes with the picture, push the SAP button- the Main prompt to come on, or the SAP light to go off.

For a complete schedule and/or to get more instructions, send a self addressed stamped envelope to: REN, PO Box 51161, Seattle, WA 98115, or call REN 206-689-1708.

REN will have a booth at the Radio Showcase in June. Be sure and stop by, visit and collect details. Their air times are listed on page 14.



<p>WIRELESS APPARATUS <i>Aboard This Vessel</i> Renders instantaneous communication with your friends or business associates ashore.</p> <p>MARCONIGRAMS For immediate transmission to any part of the world accepted at any time during the voyage. Direct wire connections with the telegraph and cable companies are maintained at each Marconi Shore Station, insuring prompt delivery of messages.</p> <p>OCEAN LETTERS <i>The "Wireless Mail"</i> Thirty words, \$1.32. Additional words 2c each. The wireless operator will explain how to mail your letters in mid-ocean.</p>	<p>WORLD WIDE WIRELESS Fast Accurate Day Service Night Letters Week-end Letters Accepted at any Western Union office</p> <p style="text-align: center;">REDUCED RATES</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">HONOLULU OFFICE 925 FORT STREET TELEPHONE 4900</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Rapid, reliable service to the mainland. Full information, as to rates and other details, may be obtained from the ship operator.</p>
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Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America

PACIFIC COAST DIVISION
MERCHANTS EXCHANGE BUILDING, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



Right – Author Andy Anderson at the Marconi Wireless site



NOTICES

*The cassette catalog is available on audio tape from Bob Herman, 1329 Garrison Ave., Pt. Orchard, WA 98366

*Board meetings are held at the RAM restaurant, 7 PM the Monday before REPS meetings. These are open to all members. Call Terry Mahony for details.

YA WANNA BUY A DUCK?

H. T. Webster interview done on radio-Wanted. The only one, but I have no date or details. Frank Rosin, 9811 139th St., Kirkland, WA 98034 206-823-2812.

Wanted. James Dean on radio and television; early television on 16 mm, Kinescope or VHS; radio on disc, reel or cassette (Sam Spade, Hallmark Theater, Stars Over Hollywood, Alias Jane Doe, Theater Guild On the Air + Ken Korhonen 206-932-9363

One Man's Family. Building a complete collection for launch of a special interest group to be called The One Man's Family Family. We have quite a bit now, but there are holes and quality gaps. Mike Sprague 206-488-9518 Gary Polich 206-365-7131

Scott Radio for sale or trade. 26 tube, flawless chrome beauty. Jerry Fleming 509-662-0908

OTR SOURCE LIST AVAILABLE

From time to time, various members ask about other clubs or about dealers of OTR tapes etc. The North American Radio Archives has produced a list of over 100 sources of tapes, publications and more. It includes postal and e-mail addresses. Remit \$3, \$2 for NARA members, in cash or stamps (they say "no checks"?)) to Jack French, 5137 Richardson Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032.

REPS RADIO READERS-AND YOU?

By Joy Jackson

The Readers are members who (1) get together to socialize and read scripts (2) perform some of the better shows for the membership.

In the past we've done The Ghost of Benjamin Sweet, Ellery Queen, The Shadow, Gastropod and others. We seldom get around to performing more than one a year.

Those of us who read scripts together meet at Anna and Frank Denton's in Burien on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 PM. This group includes, but isn't limited to: Marshall Oliphant, Bob Markovich, Gina Markovich, Anna Denton, Brian Haigood, Gary Litwin and myself.

When we perform, the group enlarges to include professional actors, John Archer, Merrill Mael, Doug Young and Larry Albert. The first three were radio performers during the Golden Age.

We haven't been very successful in interesting other people to join in the fun. If performance isn't your bag, the reading sessions aren't charged with serious professionalism. We just give it a good try and have fun. No one has to perform on stage.

Are you even a little bit interested? Call me at 632-1653 for details and/or encouragement, or call Anna, 243-7367, for directions.

CBS	THE COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM	RADIO THEATRE NO. 2	GOOD ONLY Tuesday Midnight FEBRUARY	987
	251 WEST 45th STREET, NEW YORK CITY (West of Broadway)			
FEBRUARY	COLGATE		23	
23	presents	AL JOLSON		
TUESDAY MIDNIGHT	12 MIDNIGHT • DOORS CLOSE AT 11.45 PM.		1943	

JOLSON TICKET

Jolson fan and REPS member Dick Bonesteel sent along the copy of the ticket above.

Dick commented, "I think it is interesting because it is at 12 midnight, New York. This is for the second show, the first being 3 hours earlier. Before the days they could be transcribed, they had to broadcast each show twice."

NEWSLETTER EDITOR STILL NEEDED

Please don't hold back if this type of effort is part of your skill and motivational package.

There is a need for your talent and time. Contact Mike Sprague (206-488-9518) to discuss and/or get more details.

THANKS REPS MEMBERS FOR

BEING SO WILLING TO

VOLUNTEER ON SO MANY

THINGS.

AN AMAZING NUMBER OF YOU

ARE DOING SOMETHING TO

SERVE THE REST OF THE

MEMBERSHIP.

THE REPS BOARD



SHOWCASE CHALLENGE #2

NEWS FLASH! \$300 CHALLENGE ISSUED!

One of our special OTR Showcase guests has told us that they wish to donate the \$300 of expense money we were going to send to them for the Radio Showcase. This person is challenging the group to match this money. REPS members and friends now need to hit or exceed the \$300.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SHOWCASE GUEST FUND

As mentioned elsewhere in material with this Air Check, REPS needs to be a fund raising group, so we can continue to have Showcase events and also do responsible things on the expenses of our special guests. Any money received will go directly into the Guest Fund for this purpose.

AUTOGRAPHS FROM EVERY SHOWCASE PERFORMER

Once the dust has settled, two donors to this Challenge will receive the complete biography section of the Showcase program, with autographs by every professional performer attendee. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win.

HERE'S THE DEAL

- REPS need to raise \$300 to match this donation/challenge.
- A special convention biography section will be completely autographed by every one of our special guests.
- For each \$10 you donate, your name will be entered in the drawing, to be held at dinner at the Showcase on Saturday, June 29. For example, if Elmo Goodweather donated \$50, his name would be entered 5 times. If Alf Landon donated \$20, he would be entered twice.
- You will be sent a receipt for tax purposes.
- **Please give your donations to Mike Sprague, or mail them to him at 9936 NE 197th St., Bothell, WA 98011. JUST MARK IT CHALLENGE #2.**

THANKS IN ADVANCE FRIENDS! YOU ALWAYS COME THROUGH.

Thanks Donald Zongker

Membership Chairman, Bill Davies asked if he could send along a large "Thank You" to Donald Zongker. According to Bill, "Donald has spent many, many hours helping me get the membership list set up on my computer." Those who know him, know that Donald really does give of himself. REPS is better because of him.

Thanks to Carillon Music, Ltd.

Once again, Roy Hepworth of this fine company has indicated that he will loan to us a keyboard instrument for re-creations and other activities. In 1994, Roy brought in a wonderful Baldwin organ that added so much.

Last year, it was a digital piano. We enjoyed Esther Geddes as she performed on it, and, of course, Jay Livingston wowed the audience with a look back at his incredible songwriting career. Remember hearing "Silver Bells" and "Tammy" and "Mona Lisa" and "Buttons and Bows" and...?

If you are in the market for a keyboard instrument, why not check out Roy's Redmond store, or call him in Vancouver, B.C. at 1-800-668-4177.



your official ballot

REPS Radio Appreciation Award

"We appreciate you!"

This is really the heartfelt intent of the **REPS Radio Appreciation Award**, given each year at the Radio Showcase. It is our chance to recognize one of our special guests for what they mean to us. It is so hard, since we appreciate them all so much.

This is different than the REPS Radio Achievement Award, presented for professional accomplishments, and done by a professional panel, with final approval by the REPS Board of Directors.

Previous recipients are John Archer, Merrill Mael and Jim French. Those who are eligible this year are listed below. **CIRCLE THE NAMES OF THREE CHOICES.** We'll tally up your votes and announce the winner at the Showcase.

Parley Baer Harry Bartell Dick Beals Frank Buxton Stewart Conway
 Sam Edwards Herb Ellis Ray Erlenborn Fred Foy Esther Geddes
 Art Gilmore Peter Leeds Leonard Maltin Tyler McVey
 Bill Murtough Norma Jean Nilsson Anne Whitfield Phillips
 Gil Stratton, Jr. Rhoda Williams Doug Young

Your ballot must reach Bob Herman by May 4 (mail or in person) to be counted.

BOB HERMAN, 1329 Garrison St., Pt. Orchard, WA 98366

CUT HERE...CUT HERE...CUT HERE...CUT HERE...CUT HERE...CUT HERE...CUT HERE...CUT HERE...
 OR, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO CUT UP YOUR AIR CHECK WRITE OUT YOUR CHOICES AND SUBMIT

SWAP MEET SET

We're really going to do it, just a bit later than we first thought.

IT WILL BE IN AUGUST AT THE MIDWAY DRIVE-IN

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE RADIO SHOWCASE GUEST FUND

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

It is part of REPS commitment to year-round fund raising for the Radio Showcase. Proceeds will go directly to the expense incurred by our special OTR guests who come to share their experiences and talents with us.

YOUR PART?

Gather up your stuff and get in touch with Dave Speelman, the event Chairman. His address is 417 N. Bowdoin Pl., Seattle, WA 98103 and his phone is 206-643-2077.

Tools, Camping/Fishing gear, Sporting goods, Sewing supplies, Kitchen items, Collectibles, Toys... and anything else you can think of. When in doubt, call Dave. For pick up, call Dave.

YOUR ACTION PLAN

- Start looking for great things to donate, and set them aside – NOW.
- Those that attend meetings bring their "stuff" and Dave takes it away to store - now. If you have questions in advance, call Dave at 206-634-2077.
- Those that don't attend meetings can call Dave and he will arrange to pick up your donation - now. (Out-of-towners...you might even ship something in this direction.)
- We will ask for volunteers, depending on the amount of material and the space we will need at Midway.

THANKS FOR BEING A SERIOUS PART OF THIS IMPORTANT FUND RAISER!

REPS

9936 NE 197th Street

Bothell, WA 98011

SHOWCASE IV (Continued from page 1)

These and other features are racing our way as we prepare for the fourth great gathering of OTR stars and others. The guest list is contained on the insert. It is most impressive. The program is ambitious. The setting is intimate. The price is right.

Each Showcase has had its own character and memory points. This one will be no exception. Your Showcase committee is already pumping adrenaline with anticipation. And, there is the familiar warning from Co-chair Mike Sprague, "We've been full in the past and we expect even more favorable publicity on this Showcase. Members always get the early notice and have the first chance to reserve space. Those who don't really face the possibility of being left outside."

SECORD PRINTING DID IT! — the quality printing of Air Check at a greatly reduced price. Member Jay Secord can be contacted at 9215 151st Ave. NE, Redmond, WA 98052 206-883-2182. Let him know your appreciation with a call, a note OR a printing job.

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. If you know of others, or if any of these need correction, please let Air Check know. And, let the stations and sponsors (if any) know of your appreciation.

Mystery Playhouse (C)	KIRO	710 AM	9:06-10PM	Saturday
Mystery Playhouse (C)	KIRO	710 AM	9:06-10PM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KIRO	710 AM	10PM-1AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KIRO	710 AM	10PM-12AM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KLKI	1340 AM	6PM-7PM	M-F (Anacortes)
Potluck (C)	KUOW	94.9 FM	11-12AM	Saturday
OTR	CFMS	98.5 FM	9-10PM	Saturday (Victoria)
OTR Siskind/Herman	ERRS	SAP FM	8-9PM	Saturday
OTR Dolan	ERRS	SAP FM	2-10AM	Sunday
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	11:10PM	M-F (Vancouver)