

AIR CHECK

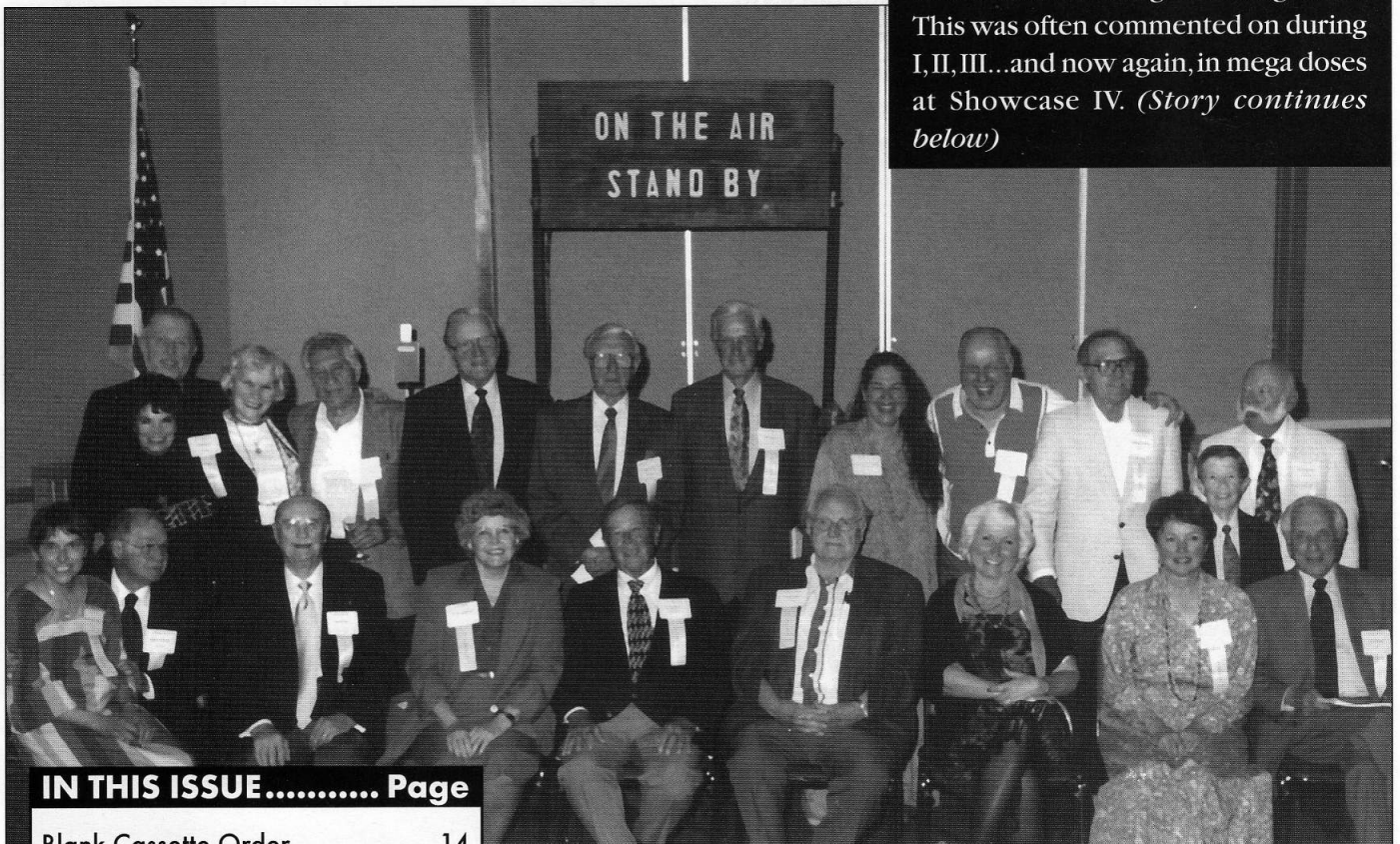
NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 3

AUGUST 1996

RADIO SHOWCASE IV IN SEATTLE A BIG JUNE "LOVE IN"

There is a special quality about Radio Showcases. It feels good being there. This was often commented on during I, II, III...and now again, in mega doses at Showcase IV. *(Story continues below)*



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A THE GREAT ONES! THE SHOWCASE GUESTS: L to R-front: Norma Jean Nilsson, Sam Edwards, Merrill Mael, Rhoda Williams, Gil Stratton, Jr., Parley Baer, Esther Geddes, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Harry Bartell. L to R-back: Ginny Tyler, Jim French, Pat French, Herb Ellis, Fred Foy, Tyler McVey, Art Gilmore, K. Baxter-Hodiak, Doug Young, Stewart Conway, Dick Beals, Ray Erlenborn (Not pictured: Frank Buxton, Colby Chester, Bill Murtough)

WHAT IS THE SECRET INGREDIENT?



Some of it may be the facility, close and intimate. Some of it may be the program itself. Mostly it is the people. It is the special guests above, who just

mingle and fit right in along with the warm, friendly REPS members and friends. Wow!

(Story continues on page 3)

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Open
see page 15 Help Wanted



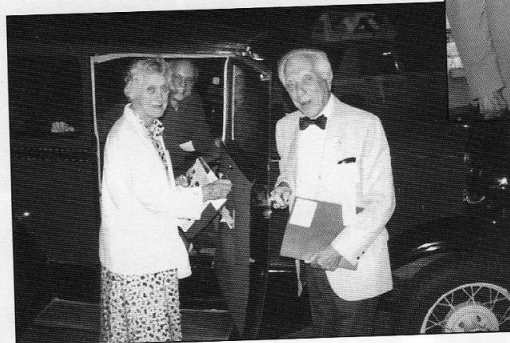
REPS MEMBERSHIP

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.

► A warm and pleasant moment during Showcase IV. L to R: Bill Murtough, Dick Beals, Herb Ellis, Ginny Tyler, Sam Edwards.



◀ Bev and Harry Bartell, along with other guests enjoy Frank Rosin's Model A shuttle service

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Aug. 3: X-MINUS ONE. "Countdown for blastoff." Countdown for entertainment, as we learn about this "science fiction" show, described by John Dunning as "some of the best drama of the mid-1950's." Bring your Showcase memories too.

Sept. 7: GINNY TYLER. From Dr. Doolittle's parrot to Pinocchio...Ginny was the voice of each and of many, many other Disney characters. She was in Mary Poppins, Mr. Ed and she worked with Spike Jones+++ . Ginny was also a head Mouseketeer, and she is really entertaining.

Oct. 5: SPECIAL GUEST. Details developing.

Nov. 2: NOT YET ARRANGED.

Dec. 7: ONE MAN'S FAMILY. Keep an open mind. This really isn't a "soap" but rather a classic in radio history. You'll love it. Presented by Mike Sprague and Gary Polich, founders of The "One Man's Family" Family OTR club.

SPECIAL ISSUE OF AIR CHECK...As has become our custom, REPS delayed the publication of Air Check so that it could contain all of the Showcase pictures and stories. Normally, July 1 would be the proper date. And, because of the convention emphasis, other club news and regular features are both briefer than usual. Regular, non-Showcase news begins on page 13. The next issue will be mailed in early October. Photos from the Showcase were taken by Mark Skullerud, Jack Taylor and Marti Lewis. Reporting by Frank Denton, Bill Parker and Mike Sprague.



SHOWCASE IV: A BIG LOVE IN

(Continued from page 1)

"AMAZING!"

The cover picture offers a quick reference point concerning the huge amount of talent on hand. Showcase co-chair Mike Sprague was heard commenting "I still can't believe that all of these great actors would show up in Seattle and do what they do each year. It's amazing."

"THE BEST EVER"

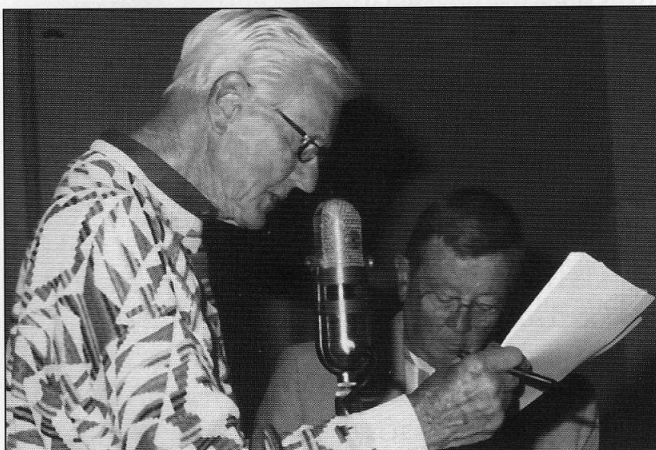
The following comments are not meant to glorify REPS at all, but rather to enjoy. Our objective is to see that our special guests have a good time. These suggest that we're on the right track...Dick Beals has been at all four Showcases. His wrap up observation: "This has to be the best one ever."

"This is the best one." from Harry Bartell, our friend, a veteran actor and three time Showcase attendee. "I have never met a warmer, more generous or appreciative group of people..."

Rhoda Williams and husband David Van Meter continued the stream of positives with words like "It just seems to get better."

"ASK ME BACK"

First time guest Art Gilmore sent a wonderful note in which he said "Each day that passes I remember vividly last weekend's wonderful stay in Seattle REPS is a great organization and the way you and all your fellow enthusiasts handled that whole operation leaves me breathless." Art went on, and his conclusion stated "I hope to return for more of the same next year."



▲ Art Gilmore reads gripping narration in *Suspense*, as Gil Stratton, Jr. waits to continue.

Gil Stratton, Jr. was at his first Showcase too. As things were wrapping up on Saturday evening, he made it clear that he would be "delighted to come back." And this after we worked him so darn hard Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

And, Lone Ranger narrator/announcer, Fred Foy echoed similar feelings about his willingness to come cross-country again to be with REPS. Fred said "I had a really good time with so many really nice people."

"I need to express my gratitude for the red carpet treatment we both experienced, and for the presentation of the '2-timer' remembrance." We appreciate these comments from Ray Erlenborn, and his conclusion "I'm looking forward to the opportunity of becoming a '3-timer.'"



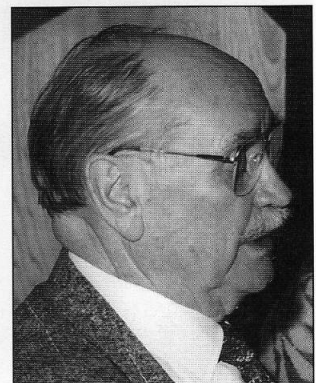
▲ Parley Baer, Anne Whitfield Phillips and Rhoda Williams connect for a few moments.

MISSING IN ACTION

For all of the good times, there were some serious reflections as we recognized the absences of John Archer and Peter Leeds, both of whom had planned to attend. Health issues kept each away, and they were missed. Sports caster Wayne Cody was also quite ill and forced to skip the Showcase.

Leonard Maltin, a long scheduled guest, accepted a paying assignment in the East and sent his regrets.

► Merrill Mael adds so much positive to everything.





IT BEGAN ON THURSDAY

Once again, REPS was fortunate to partner up with Jim French and his KIRO Mystery Playhouse. On Thursday night attendees witnessed three excellent shows, done primarily by the Showcase Golden Age performers.

This is new radio drama, written by Jim French for these superb actors. The shows will be aired in Seattle on the Mystery Playhouse and nationally on Imagination Theater.

Working this night were Parley Baer, Harry Bartell, Herb Ellis, Ray Erlenborn, Fred Foy, Tyler McVey, Art Gilmore, Merrill Mael, Gil Stratton, Jr. and Rhoda Williams.

The performances were taped at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle, requiring some shuttle efforts by various drivers, including Frank Denton in the rented van.

This nice facility seats under 400 people, in chairs. But when you also stand them all around the room and seat bunches up front on the floor, it must be 500 or so fans.

It seems probable that there may be no other city in the country with as much new radio drama being done. If there is, it likely won't match the quality. And if does, it won't have such an experienced and talented cast. What an evening!

FRIDAY EVENING

JUST SITTING AROUND & VISITING – PART I

Because of its popularity, this segment was extended and broken into two pieces, the first of which led off the evening on Friday. With most of the Golden Age performers present and up front, the topic focused on the Showcase theme of "Twisting the Dial in 1946."



Before launching into the question and answer time, there was a fast moving round robin of famous lines and commercials that were on the air in 1946. Without rehearsal, the assembled dignitaries pulled it off in a resounding success.

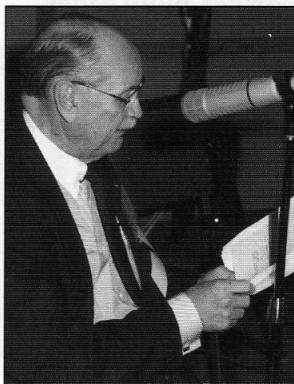
◀ Tyler McVey shares a story during JSAaV time.

As we have observed in the past three years, each of the sessions takes on a special flavor that is distinct from any other. The special guests talked about where they were and what they were doing in 1946...but soon branched off into other topics and years.

Only a few seemed to be surprised about the few memories Herb Ellis had from 1946 because, he told the assembled crowd, "I was born that year." This humorous reference point came up several times.

On a serious note, we realized that many of the guests had served in the W.W.II and 1946 represented a return to civilian life. Host Mike Sprague led the audience in rousing applause and thank you's for their service to the country and to each of us.

This time is so fascinating as we listen to stories and memories that haven't been shared for a long time. And, each item triggers someone else to take the story just a bit further; or to add a special personal tidbit about the topic, person, show or place.



◀ Now the news from 1946, with Merrill Mael.

SUSPENSE- "THE GAME"

In a great recreation, Sam Edwards and Gil Stratton, Jr. reprised their original roles in this episode of Suspense.

Both agreed that the original

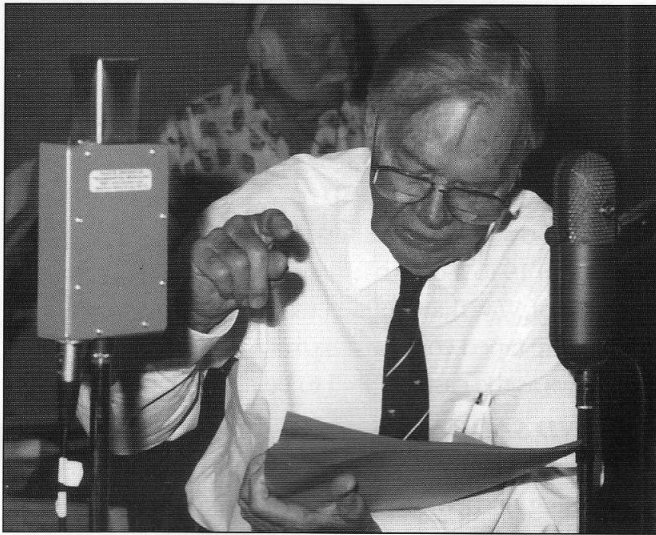
had been one of the best performances of their lives. And they did themselves proud at the Showcase too.

Your program committee decided to step outside of 1946, since this program was aired in 1955. Everyone agreed that this was a good decision.

The story is a tense one, in which two teen age boys play a game of Russian Roulette. This recreation kept the audience on the edge of their seats.

It was directed by Herb Ellis as Art Gilmore did a gripping job in the critical role of narrator and Esther Geddes provided the music. Stewart Conway and Ray Erlenborn produced sound effects. At the conclusion the audience learned that, in the original, the director had Gil and Sam work with a revolver on a table between them. As the story unfolded and each had his turn at "the game", he would be required to pick up the gun. This added to the personal "Suspense."

(Pictures on page 5)



▲ Sam Edwards is seriously into "The Game".

SATURDAY MORNING

JUST SITTING AROUND & VISITING – PART II

This day began with another Merrill Mael newscast. One item *"To relieve the severe shortage of fresh meat, reindeer meat has been flown in from Alaska."* Just the night before, concerning the government's need for surplus fat, he had read *"Ladies, Uncle Sam needs your excess fat."*

Stories flew thick and fast...How Gil Stratton has never forgotten Elizabeth Taylor's violet eyes at age 17...Rhoda, Norma Jean and Annie *"Children were expected to be miniature adults..."* *"When working with Jimmy Stewart,"* Harry Bartell told us, *"the trick was to wait until he stops..."* Harry also answered Chris Conrad in the audience by talking about Bill Conrad's biggest disappointment when the radio

cast of Gunsmoke didn't move to TV...

There was so much more in another rich time as we eavesdropped a bit and participated a bit with our friends at the front of the auditorium.

◀ Rhoda Williams and Norma Jean Nilsson with a rousing finish to an impromptu song – JSaA V II.



SPORTS & MUCH MORE FROM THE PAST

Without the ill Seattle sports caster Wayne Cody, Gil Stratton, Jr. and Dick Beals pulled off a very entertaining time on the "sports" panel. As expected, some other topics popped up too.

Both shared stories about how they broke into radio and of how much they wanted to be sports announcers.

Gil began by selling advertising spots and covering Valley high school sports. When announcing horse races and interviewing jockeys, Gil found that they were more open with him, possibly due to the fact that he didn't tower over them.

Once he did a spot in which he rode a horse breaking from the starting gate. *"One old timer at the track told me to lean backwards as the horse broke. A moment later, an experienced jockey told me just the opposite. I didn't know which to do."* Result: one broken wrist.



◀ Anne Whitfield Phillips just before the whole group assembled up front in the auditorium.

► Gil Stratton Jr. and Dick Beals have fun during the sports look back time.



Dick Beals, who currently does play-by-play in the California League, once interviewed Marcus Allen when Allen was ten years old. He was encouraged in announcing and given a booth in which to hone this talent by tape recording games.

Many have read of Dick's childhood dream of doing sports. (SPORTS – continued on page 6)



SPORTS (continued from page 5)

It was described very nicely in his book "Think Big."

Stratton also told of umpiring, and he made it all the way to the Pacific Coast League. Told he was too small for the majors, Gil turned to broadcasting sports. He is a very familiar voice in Southern California today where he is still active.

Humor abounded as Dick and Gil bounced from story to story.

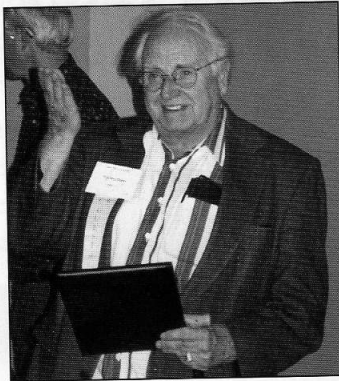
GEORGE BURNS – VAUDEVILLE TO GOD

The always entertaining Gassman brothers, John and Larry did it again. Replete with many song clips, they went from Burns' singing harmony at a candy factory while making syrup through twenty years of failure in vaudeville, including his early teaming with Gracie Allen.

In 1930, they decided to try radio. "In vaudeville," Geo. said, "you did the same thing every week. In radio you had to do something different every time."

When their ratings dropped, they decided that "our jokes are too young for us."

Many stories from George's later years were included as well in this very well researched, presented and received workshop.



◀ One darn nice man – Parley Baer. REPS, and the rest of the universe, love him.

NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN

Some of the family members present were mentioned as part of the Home Front panel (Sylvia Ellis, Bev Edwards, Bev Bartell and Ernie Baer.)

Also present and adding to our collective enjoyment: Eileene Young (Doug), Frances Whitfield, John Phillips, Allison Phillips, Evan Schiller (Anne), David Van Meter (Rhoda), Sandy Mael (Merrill), Dee Stratton (Gil), Meridy Erlenborn (Ray), Kathy, Emily, Adrienne Barnett (Herb).

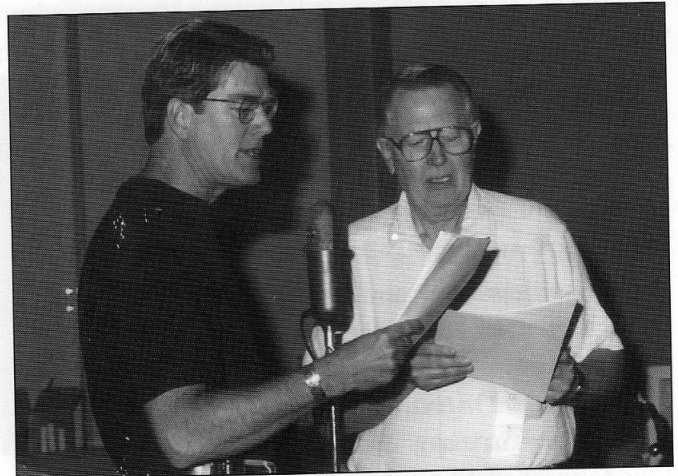
SATURDAY AFTERNOON

TWISTING THE DIAL/THREE IN A ROW

In keeping with the Showcase theme, we twisted the dial to receive three shows in a row. An outstanding performance was turned in by the cast that moved from show to show. Here and elsewhere, Merrill Mael provided news from 1946. Some of the briefs were quite serious, aftermaths of W.W.II, and others were quite humorous. There were taped commercials from 1946 played between the shows as the cast adjusted to be ready for the next one.

VIC AND SADE

In the first show, Uncle Fletcher seeks advice from Vic concerning a scheme to become a salesman in a Vic and Sade episode called "Peddling Hyena Grease." Roy Dejectedly (a friend of Fletcher's) has put together a remarkable concoction that will blacken boots in a wondrous fashion.



▲ Colby Chester and Frank Burton – three in a row.

Merrill Mael, who played Uncle Fletcher when the show moved to the west coast, did it again! Frank Buxton, who directed all three of the afternoon shows, was Victor Gook, with Anna Denton as Sade and Joy Jackson was Rush. Colby Chester did the announcing.

THE RIGHT TO HAPPINESS

From late 1945, this soap opera was recreated by Dick Beals, Parley Baer, Ginny Tyler, Esther Geddes (who also did the keyboard work), Colby Chester and Herb Ellis. Sound effects were created by the team of Erlenborn and Conway.

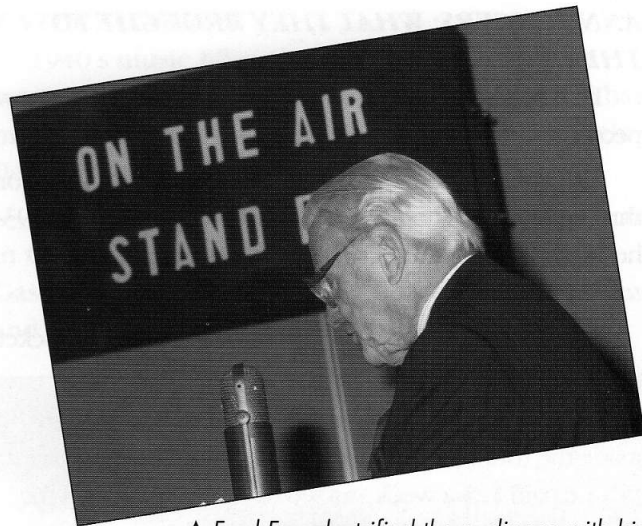
There is an undercurrent of mystery as nurse applies for a job with Dr. Wheaton, who desperately needs assistance. Herb Ellis was as sugary and syrupy as the original announcer could ever have hoped to have been, and the cast was so good. (TWISTING - continued on page 7)



TWISTING (continued from page 6)



◀ Esther Geddes, acting/playing on the electronic piano provided by Carillon Music, Ltd.



▲ Fred Foy electrified the audience with his legendary narration from *The Lone Ranger*.

THE LONE RANGER

The third show in the trilogy was a full length episode of The Lone Ranger entitled "Fear".

Is there anyone besides Fred Foy who should do the narrating/announcing "*From out of the past...*"? Nope. He was delightful, and if anyone was without goose bumps or misty eyes, something was wrong with them.

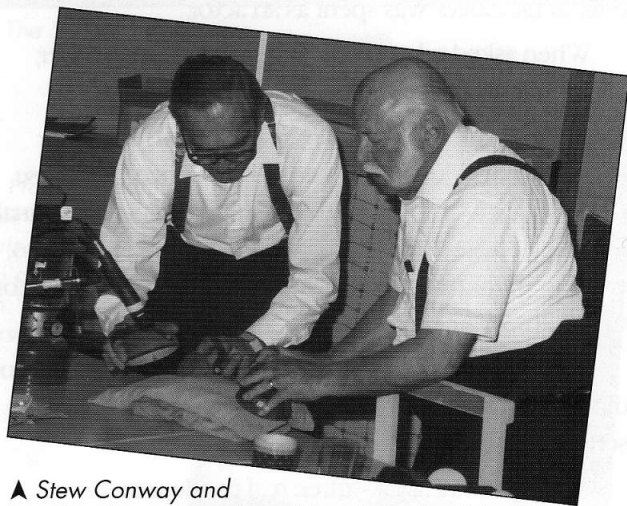
Herb Ellis played the Lone Ranger and Frank Buxton was his faithful Indian companion, Tonto. Also in the cast were Parley Baer, Harry Bartell, Dick Beals, Bill Brooks, Colby Chester, Sam Edwards, Esther Geddes (who again added music), and Merrill Mael. The somewhat demanding sound effects came from Stew and Ray.

The seemingly weak, bug collecting brother of a murdered sheriff needed the Lone Ranger's assistance to find



▲ "Hi Yo Silver!" Herb Ellis, the Lone Ranger, with Fred Foy waiting to do narration.

the courage to arrest the offender. Who was that masked man, anyway?



▲ Stew Conway and Roy Erienborn make those "thundering hoof beats".



▲ Was it the clam chowder the night before, or the gunshot in the script? Parley Baer is suffering.



ANNOUNCERS: WHAT THEY BROUGHT TO THE PARTY

Three very different stories from three very different people.

Art Gilmore grew up in Tacoma and sold insurance for three years in the depths of the Great Depression. In 1934 he went to Seattle station KVI, telling management, "I'll work for nothing."

He later wound up in California with \$40 in his pocket, got hired at KFWB and built from there.

Fred Foy acted in high school plays in Detroit, then made the rounds of radio stations. His beginning job at WXYZ paid \$25 a week, but led to his being offered the narrator/ announcer job on The Lone Ranger in 1948.

Harry Bartell claimed "I'm on the panel under false pretenses." Although he had worked as an announcer, the bulk of his career was spent as an actor.

When asked what it was that made an announcer, Harry said "You had to be a lucky guy!"

Fred described a typical preparation for The Lone Ranger. Rehearse at 3 PM, parts are assigned. Rehearse General Mills commercials. More rehearsal 5-6 PM. Final rehearsal 6:15-7:00. 7:00, did broadcast feed to Chicago, without commercials for Western U.S. 7:30, did show for CBS with commercials for Eastern U.S.

From Art, hiccup stories to blue lights making the blue dittoed scripts go blank. And dreams of being given scripts in a foreign language.

Art, Fred and Harry - three real gentlemen.



▲ Fred Foy, Harry Bartell and Art Gilmore. Is there any doubt about the quality they brought?

THE HOME FRONT

Some behind the scenes fun with four wives of radio performers. They talked about what life was like for them

and their families.

Sylvia Ellis met Herb in high school, at age 15-16.

Bev Edwards met Sam as a reporter at a tennis match.

Ernie and Parley Baer first met in Salt Lake City in 1941, then not again until after the war. Ernie was a circus performer, doing bareback riding and trapeze.

Bev Bartell was acting at the Pasadena Playhouse when she met Harry.

Just a few more highlights and insights into the lives of our friends.

When dad Ellis was identified as an actor at a gathering, their daughter said "Mom, I could have died."

Ozzie and Harriett's son Ricky used to visit the Baer household. Their daughter lined up their friends and allowed them each "a few minutes with Ricky!"

The Edwards' son is a professional piano player.

Bev Bartell - there wasn't the backbiting and competition in radio that there was in films and TV. "It was a much nicer crowd."

Four genuinely interesting women, creating lives for themselves and their families in the midst of Hollywood. And they sure made successes of their marriages of 50+ years. We're so glad that they were with us again.



▲ The wives get their chance to speak: Ernie Baer, Bev Bartell, Bev Edwards and Sylvia Ellis.

SATURDAY EVENING DINNER TIME

AWARDS

Following another truly high quality ("hospital food") dinner, framed certificates were presented to new Honorary Members and to each of the other guests.

The 2-timer, 3-fer and 4-the-good-times awards



went to our special guests, relating to the number of times they had been a part of Showcases. Thank You certificates went to others who had joined us. Mike Sprague quipped that *"We trust these valuable awards will push something else off your crowded display area."*

REPS RADIO APPRECIATION AWARD

This was another highly popular winner in Herb Ellis. He has meant so much to all of us! Mark Skullerud, in presenting the award, commented *"Herb always seeks to divert attention from himself to others."* The award is selected by membership



ballot, to simply express our real appreciation to one of the Showcase guests. Previous recipients have been John Archer, Merrill Mael and Jim French.

◀ At the podium, Appreciation Award recipient Herb Ellis. A popular choice!

REPS RADIO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Following in the steps of Parley Baer, Ray Erlenborn and Jeanette Nolan could be a challenge, unless you're Harry Bartell with *"a body of work... that has contributed to the perpetuation and furtherance of radio theater, past or present."* Those are some of the guidelines for the professional panel that recommends a recipient to the Board. Harry's acceptance comments were brief, mentioning his appreciation for the REPS gang.

▶ Achievement Award recipient, Harry Bartell. A popular choice!



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Last year's winner, Joy Jackson, was up front with President Terry Mahony to present the 1996 award to Donald Zongker. Always behind the scenes, always coming early and staying late for meetings, always seeking ways to make our technical approaches better, always dependable... Donald certainly deserves the award.

ENTERTAINMENT

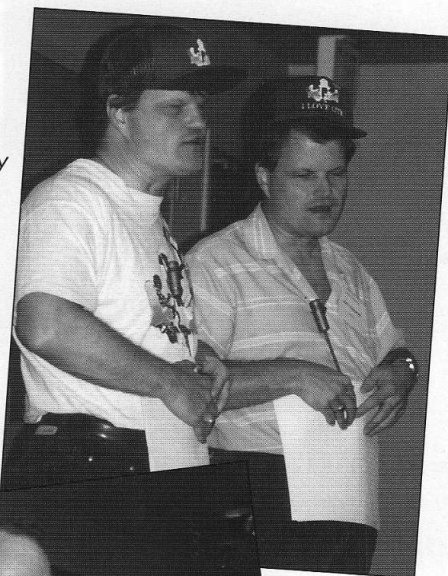
1940's music filled the room, provided by the women's acappella group, Swing Set. Their close harmony renditions of songs like Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy were well received.

Those highly entertaining twins from somewhere in California, calling themselves Larry and John Gassman, did a wonderful performance of Abbott and Costello's "Who's on First" skit.



▲ The Swing Set in action.

▶ Proudly wearing their REPS baseball hats, John and Larry do a smash-up job on "Who's on First?"



▲ Here's Donald Zonker!



SATURDAY NIGHT

LUX RADIO THEATRE – “THE CLOCK”.

WHAT A WAY TO FINISH!

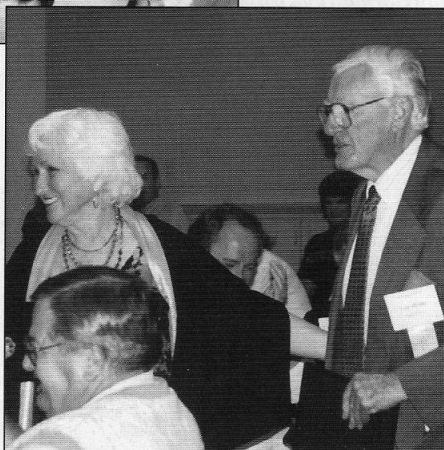
This final recreation of the Showcase was a 1946 production of Lux Radio Theatre. It featured a large cast with many complicated recorded sound effects.

Gil Stratton, Jr. performed the starring male role originally done by John Hodiak. In an interesting ar-



angement, Norma Jean Nilsson and Anne Whitfield Phillips shared the female lead (which had been Judy Garland), each for half the show. It worked just great.

▲ Art Gilmore worked in the original Lux version.



► And so did Tyler McVey, seen here with Esther at dinner.

Art Gilmore and Tyler McVey had appeared in the original broadcast, and worked hard in this one too.

Others in this Showcase cast were Harry Bartell, Rhoda Williams, Doug Young, Peggy Jordan, Ginny Tyler, K. Baxter-Hodiak, Jim French (many were heard to comment on Jim French’s keyboard talents as he created mood, transitions and more), Pat French, Bill Brooks and Marti Lewis. Larry Albert provided the direction and, naturally the sound effects were done by the hard working Ray Erlenborn and Stewart Conway.

The story concerned the meeting of a girl with a broken shoe heel and a young soldier on leave in New York City. There follows a whirlwind romance and a frantic search to observe the legalities in order to be married before the soldier is sent overseas.

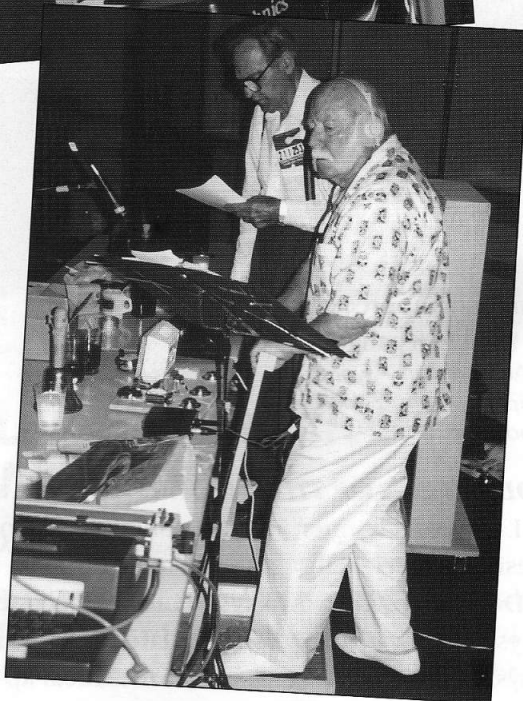
There were actually tear dabbing handkerchiefs seen in use in the audience.

Our first (and probably last) one hour recreation (because of the demand on everyone) was so good. Lot’s of work and talent involved to make it so.

GROUP PHOTO

The tradition continued, with the concluding group photo, primarily of our Golden Age guests. This is a treasure for all in attendance.

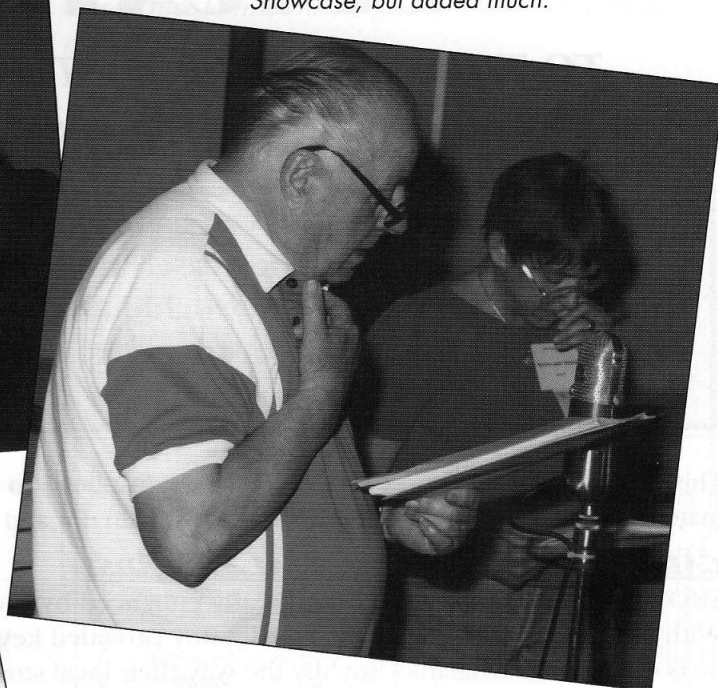
▼ Jim French, keyboard artist, and our Wm. Keighly.



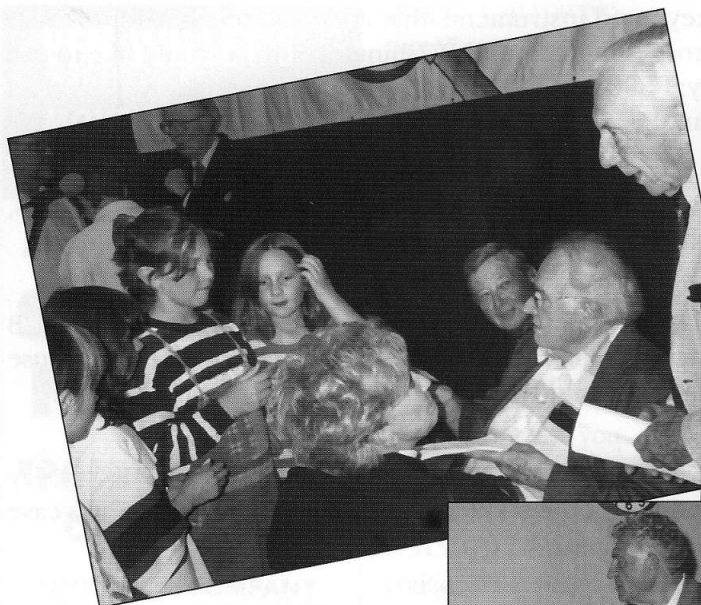
▲ No matter when you looked, these sound effects fanatics were working! Ray and Stewart.



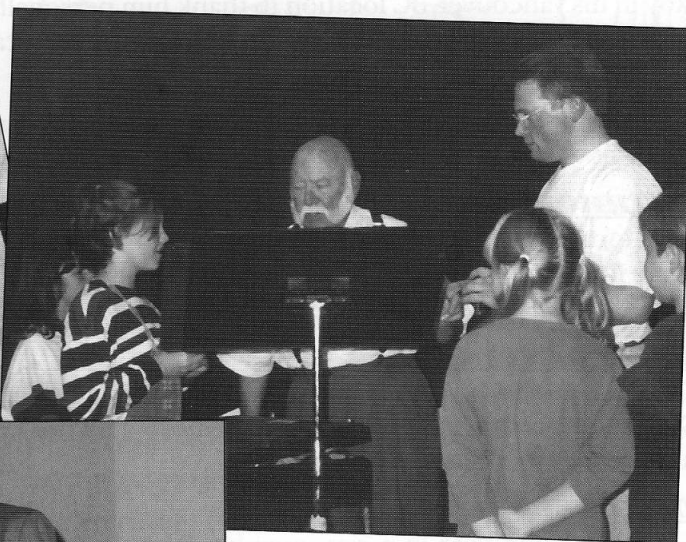
▲ Pat French joined us for Lux and for Thursday night. Here rehearsing with Fibber and Molly's granddaughter, good actress, Peggy Jordan.



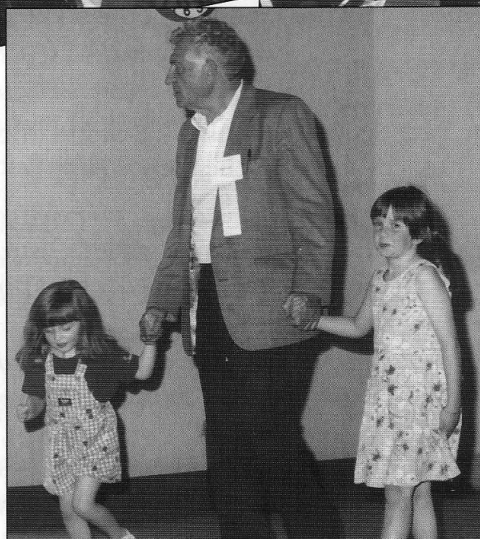
▼ Doug Young could make only a part of the Showcase, but added much.



▲ It was thrilling to see the young people flocking for autographs at the Thursday night event. Gil Stratton, Parley Baer and Harry Bartell are swamped.



▲ Ray Erlenborn answers questions from young fans at Thursday's new radio program.



◀ Herb Ellis and his Godchildren, Adrienne and Emily.



"BROUGHT TO YOU BY..." THIS PAGE IS A REPRINT OF THE DEDICATION PAGE OF THE SHOWCASE PACKAGE.

DEDICATION PAGE

TO THOSE WHO MADE THIS SHOWCASE A REALITY

HONORED GUESTS...

Perhaps it is too obvious. If you hadn't worked as you did to create radio as it was, we would have nothing to "Showcase." If you weren't so willing to give of yourselves to come and share with us, we would have but little for which to gather. If you weren't who you are, we might not even want to gather. So, special honored ones, you're what it is all about. Thank you so much!

This truly is one of the most challenging tasks. Just how do we remember everyone who contributed time, energy, materials etc.? We would prefer to try to do that than not, and seek understanding from anyone we inadvertently omit.

CARILLON MUSIC, LTD. - REAL FRIENDS!

SHOWCASES II and III were both greatly enhanced by the generosity of Roy Hepworth of Carillon Music, Ltd. With considerable challenge logistically, Roy provided keyboard instruments that added so much. And this year he is doing it again. Thanks Roy! By the way, their local store is in Redmond, Washington. If you would like to call Roy in his Vancouver, BC location to thank him personally: 1-800-668-4177. If you are in the market for a keyboard instrument, please consider Carillon to see what they can do.

SOUND EFFECTS EQUIPMENT

This is the fourth straight year that Stewart Conway has provided a large assortment of sound effects devices, many of which he has built himself. After a tough year physically, here he is again. Thanks again Stewart.

BATHHOUSE THEATRE

This local theater company has been kind to us in the past, and they're at it again. The risers used in rooms A/B were loaned to us by Bathhouse Theatre. We all can see the performers better, and we can see why the Bathhouse Theatre is so popular as they cooperate with others in the community.

EQUIPMENT LOANS

Once again, various pieces of engineering equipment have been loaned to REPS by: Dave Dintenfass, Al Ross, Jay Wang and Donald Zongker. Invisible to most of us, this kindness both enhances the quality of the entire Showcase and it saves us all lots of money.

OFFICE SUPPLIES

For the second year in a row, member Paul Secord, of Boise Cascade Office Products, has donated all of the folders, paper, envelopes, name badges/holders and the other office supplies used for the Showcase.

THE VOLUNTEERS

As mentioned above, there is a large risk of missing someone, but let's list the many volunteers, members and otherwise, who made this Showcase happen. Clearly, some invested lots of hours and some were able to give just a little. But, the sum of their efforts is so good!

Larry Albert, Ron Aley, Brad Baugh, Karyl Baugh, Katrina Baxter-Hodiak, Bill Brooks, Archie Cress, Anna Denton, Frank Denton, Bill Davies, David Dintenfass, Jim Dolan, Pat Garner, Lynda Glaspey, Gary Hagan, Richard Haviland, Bob Herman, Joy Jackson, John Jensen, Peggy Jordan, Marti Lewis, Matt Lutthans, Bev Mabony, Terry Mabony, Bob Markovich, Pat Miller, Bill Parker, Frank Rosin, David Selvig, Dick Shell, Sam Simone, Mark Skullerud, David Speelman, Linda Sprague, Mike Sprague, Jack Taylor, Bob Wallenberg, Jay Wang, Jacki Wilburn, Donald Zongker (and to anyone we missed, extra thanks for your work and forgiveness.).



BENEFIT FOR THE ANDERSONS

If you've been around REPS for any period of time, you know of Vi and Andy Anderson...charter members and cassette librarians. You may not know that their home was destroyed by fire on April 22.

REPS member, and fellow band member with Andy, Butch Gibson put together a benefit, along with his wife Shirley and an assortment of accomplices. It was held at the Buckley Eagles Club on June 9, with a wide variety of country-western singers and bands performing.

John Archer had been scheduled to appear as well, but that proved to be impossible because of his health problems that developed the day before.

Donations, cake walks, raffles, spaghetti dinners, a bail out jail and lots of country music. By the end of the evening a nice amount of money had been raised to add to the trust fund that has been established. There were many special gifts as well. The tremendous support of their friends has meant a great deal to these special

people. Can you picture Vi speechless?

Construction has started on their house, as Vi and Andy live on the property in their trailer. It will probably be November when they can move in.

Insurance will not cover everything, by quite a margin. If you would like to contribute to the trust fund (#513303122-9), you can contact Washington Mutual, 17314 140th Ave. SE, Renton, WA 98058-1093.

BEN WILLET'S
MOVED!



Now on
SUNDAY NIGHTS
"POINT SUBLIME"
CBS 9:30 P.M.
Sponsored by
UNION OIL COMPANY

A 7/28/43

WHITE ROCK TALE TELLERS SOCIETY

A Canadian group formed in 1985 following a couple of years of evening radio drama workshops, the Tale Tellers seem to be having fun.

They produce radio drama, record it and sell the tapes to the public. This allows them to be self supporting.

If you're looking for something different and new, contact them for more information: Keith Busby, 1385 162A St., Surrey, B.C. V4A 4Y3, Canada.

OLD FRIENDS WRITE

Included in a note from Sandra Gould, following her Seattle visit "I still think so fondly of the great gang that was so nice to me, and do give everyone my very warm thanks."

And, with a change of address from Lon Clark "Tell Sandra Gould how pleased I was to see her always lovely and warm-hearted face on the last cover. Wish her well for me - an unforgettable darling." Lon signed off "With nostalgic memories of my fine time with you all."



THE UNSEEN AUDIENCE By Webster 12/23/43

REPS IN THE MUD IN ISSAQUAH

Several members and family braved uncertain weather to be visible at the Issaquah Heritage Festival. They were there to promote the wonders of Old Time Radio. And, the weather for this event, loaded with nostalgia, actually wasn't so uncertain.

Joy Jackson described it this way: "Light rain alternated with sun breaks until early afternoon, when the monsoon descended. Gusts of 25 knots made tents fly and the rain pound sidewise. From our location, we could see the baseball pitcher's mound gradually become an island, surrounded by a new lake."

Thanks to this dedicated group there on behalf of us all.



REGULAR REPS AND OTHER NEWS

PAST REPS MEETINGS

APRIL: BOB HERMAN ON AMOS 'N ANDY

Charter member Bob Herman has done other presentations, but in tackling the Amos 'n Andy Show he saw the necessity to discuss the reactions to the show over several decades.

It's clear that the responses to this show, and other portrayals of black people in various places, have gone through a gamut of social and emotional change since Amos 'n Andy first appeared in 1929.

Bob did a thorough job of providing the history of Freeman Gosden (Andy) and Charles Correll (Amos) beginning with their first meeting in 1920 in Durham, North Carolina.

They were Sam 'n Henry, but on moving to Chicago, they learned that they could not use those names. So the new names Amos (Biblical) and Andy, put them with the A's at the alphabetical top of the radio listings.

Bob covered the immense popularity of the show. Everyone listened. Movie theaters stopped the projectors and broadcast the show.

Later, when ratings dropped in 1943, they switched from the 15 minute format to the half hour broadcasts that lasted until 1954.

Bob speculated that it was in this period that the objections began. It was then that they developed the George "Kingfish" Stevens character, along with his wife and mother-in-law.

During the 1930's there had been no complaints. Black listeners seemed to be as captivated as whites. But the times were changing. Bob described how Gosden and Correll made efforts to reach out to the black community. But, the political sensitivity to their "stereotyped characterizations" could not be mollified.

A discussion followed where Bob asked the audience for their thoughts on Amos 'n Andy, Beulah and the portrayal of African Americans on vintage radio and television.

He concluded with a speculation that fifty years from now, as attitudes change, it's possible that Amos 'n Andy might again be viewed with some of the same affection it

enjoyed in the 1930's. Thanks, Bob, for a thoughtful, interesting program.

< 12/18/43



MAY: TRIVIA WITH BILL AND LARRY

At the May meeting, Bill Brooks and Larry Albert entertained us with a well produced quiz show from the 1930's, "Guess What?" They then proceeded to challenge our collective knowledge of OTR trivia.

The final round focused on the book "Same Time, Same Station." which Larry urged us not to buy.

The book provided seemingly unlimited errors for OTR experts in the group to identify in the white light of a REPS trivia session.

JUNE: N.Y. D.J.'s - 60'S - REPS

In a real change of pace meeting, Ben Peterson brought

his high school teacher, Jeff Strickland. As a high school student himself in the 1960's Strickland had done a film on NY top 40 station WMCA.

The result was a well made documentary, shot over a two month period. It covered many aspects of the lives and work of the station's top DJ's.

By the way, Ben is off to college this fall on a music scholarship. Best wishes!

< 10/5/43



BLANK CASSETTE ORDER BEING ASSEMBLED

Member Michael Comstock will be coordinating a bulk, group purchase of blank, new C-64 cassettes and soft cases. The cost is \$.45 for cassettes and \$.13 for cases.

Here are the rules of participation:

1. You must order in lots of 100 of either item.
2. The money must reach Michael by Sep. 7.
3. Your order must be picked up at the meeting on Oct. 5.

There can be no exceptions to these points. We have had logistical nightmares in the past when we took other approaches. Your total for 100 cassettes, including sales tax, will be \$48.69 and for 100 cases, \$14.06.

The Comstock address is 31003 49th Pl. SW, Federal Way, WA 98023. Questions? 206-838-5873.



REGULAR REPS AND OTHER NEWS

SWAP MEET SWAP MEET SWAP MEET SWAP MEET

SATURDAY AUGUST 17

This is a fund raiser for the REPS Radio Showcase Guest Fund. Success here allows us to do more and better things for our special OTR guests who come to share with us.

Such activity is an important part of life at REPS. Please be a part of it. If you have any items that you feel would be appropriate...

CALL DAVE SPEELMAN 206-634-2077

He will know exactly what sells and what doesn't. Work out the pick up/ delivery details. You will be given a tax deductible receipt.

SWAP MEET SWAP MEET SWAP MEET SWAP MEET

HELP WANTED

EDITOR, WHERE ARE YOU?

One volunteer has stepped forward, offering to help on Air Check. We still need an in-charge editor. Is that you?

If you have interest, willingness and a computer, let's talk. You don't have to be in Seattle to do this and we have lots of filler materials. Stories and articles will be sent your way, to go with whatever other features you would like to develop.

Contact Mike Sprague 206-488-9518.

OTR CONVENTIONS

In October the Friends of Old Time Radio host their annual convention in Newark. For information, contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514.

On November 8-10 SPERDVAC will host their convention in Los Angeles. Always a positive time with lots of OTR stars. To get details, contact them at PO Box 7177, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7177 or call 310-947-9800.

UPDATE: CASSETTE LIBRARY

Still in business – despite the fire

On page 13 there is a story about the fire at Vi and Andy Andersons. That did create quite a problem since our REPS cassette library was there.

Joy Jackson, Acquisitions Chair tells Air Check and the membership:

1. 30% were destroyed. 20% were in circulation. The rest are being examined for condition. More word later. It will take a while.
2. For damaged tapes, we did have masters on most.
3. Volunteers are rapidly duplicating replacement tapes.
4. You can still order, only they go to Dave Speelman, 417 N. Bowdoin Pl., Seattle, WA 98103. There will probably be lots of substitutions. Kind of like a grab-bag. Discover lots of new shows you wouldn't have ordered normally.
5. Please return tapes promptly. Fewer tapes in circulation can be a problem.

Dave sends along his thanks for the patience everyone has shown. We say thanks to Dave for stepping in as interim Cassette Librarian.

NEW CATALOG AVAILABLE FOR \$7

Though it will be a while before all the cassettes are back in circulation, you can order a complete catalog for \$7. Write Joy Jackson, 3663 Carr Pl. N, Seattle, WA 98103 / 206-632-1653.

ANOTHER "THANK YOU" Just before printing, we received a nice note from Peggy Jordan. In part, she says "Thank you so much for another extraordinary REPS convention. It makes my heart dance to be around so many people who allow me to remember my childhood with joy. You all have given me so much."

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)
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	11:10 PM	M-F (Vancouver)