# AID GUEGK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 4

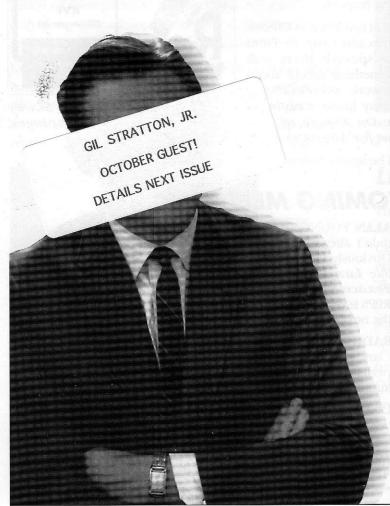
OCTOBER 1996

# SHOWCASE: MAJOR CHANGES FOR 1997

# RELUCTANT DECISION

With reluctance, the REPS Board of Directors approved a proposal from several members of the Showcase committee to reduce the scope of the 1997 Showcase. Says president Terry Mahony, "the event will be called the Radio Rally to distinguish it from a full blown Radio Showcase." The Board and the Committee expect to returning to a full Showcase format in 1998.

Continued on page 3



# AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR PROFESSIONAL FRIENDS WHO HAVE MADE THE RADIO SHOWCASE WHAT IT IS

Dear Friends,

To tell you the truth, we feel kind of low as this Air Check announces the reduced Showcase plans for next year. It has not been an easy decision for any of us.

Mostly, we will miss, next year, the wonderful opportunities to hang out with you and to see you work in ways that thrill us all. This is a major loss. But, it is not forever since we intend to return to a full Showcase format in 1998.

As we have enjoyed you and what you do, we are pleased to sense from your feedback that you have had fun too. That has been the major underlying goal at each showcase. You are special to us and we want you to know that always.

so, a small pause in the often frantic pace of showcase planning and activity. You can bet that we'll keep each of you fully posted on developments as we go.

As we have stated previously, "Thank you" just doesn't do the job of expressing all that we feel for you. But, that's what we're stuck with for now.

Terry Mahony

Ps. We're counting on you in 98!? And, Mike Sprague has told me that he would welcome any calls, questions, etc. (206-488-9518) about this year's decsion.

 ✓ Well known actor Alan Young to be a guest at the October REPS meeting. Details next issue.

FLASH!! NORMAN CORWIN COMING TO SEATTLE!! See page 2



# REPS DIRECTORY

# President

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

## Vice President and Acquisitions

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

### Vice President

Bill Brooks 3061 NE 92nd Seattle, WA 98115 206-524-0918

### Treasurer

Richard Haviland 6538 42nd Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98115 206-526-1066

### Secretary/Air Check Reporter

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

### Membership

Bill Davies 14911 Linden N. Seattle, WA 98133 206-365-2856

### Interim Tape Librarian

Dave Speelman 417 N. Bowdoin Pl. Seattle, WA 98103 206-634-2077

### **Printed Materials**

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

### Publicity

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

# Air Check Editor Open

Air Check Assistant Editor
Jack Taylor
228 NW 104th St.
Seattle, WA 98119
206-783-3734

# **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 three membership categories.

100	MEMBERSHIP	1ST YEAR	RENEWAL	
	Regular	\$22	\$18	
	Student	\$13	\$ 9	
	Vision impaired	\$13	\$ 9	

# NORMAN CORWIN COMING IN FEBRUARY

Some fans may wonder "Just what show was he in?" Whether you're one of those, or someone who knows the brilliance of Mr. Corwin, don't miss this meeting! Everyone who was in the business could tell you about Norman Corwin...and they'd to it with real respect.

The "poet in residence" at CBS, his writing was, and is, superb. From series to specials there was always something special about Corwin's work. A few examples

Tonight KIRO 9:00 Covering the World for the West LOWELL **THOMAS** Starring-Tonight CHARLES 9:30 LAUGHTON and every night Monday through Friday PRESENTED TUNE IN **KVI** 570—on your dial STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

readers may know: Columbia Presents Corwin; Twenty Six by Corwin; On A Note of Triumph; The Pursuit of Happiness; Passport for Adams +++.

This will be another very significant meeting for REPS.

# **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Oct. 5 ALAN YOUNG. It would be pretty amazing if everyone present didn't already know Alan Young from his work with *Mr. Ed.*Obviously a very funny man. Alan also worked in radio on shows like *Lux Radio Theatre*, *Screen Directors Playhouse*, *Texaco Star Theatre*, and of course *The Alan Young Show*. REPS is very fortunate to have him come to visit. Details will be in the next issue.
- Nov. 2 RADIO ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK. Jim Dolan and Kevin Clark will take us behind the scenes. What are the joys and the perils of starting a very unusual radio network? It's a highly interesting story.
- Dec. 7 ONE MAN'S FAMILY. Keep an open mind! This really isn't a "soap" but rather a classic in radio history with 27 years on the air. You'll love it. Presented by Mike Sprague and Gary Polich, founders of *The "One Man's Family" Family OTR Club*. They will just have spent time at a Family Reunion of the actors from OMF.



# **SHOWCASE CHANGES**

(continued from page one)

### RADIO RALLY

Mahony speculated "In all probability, we will have only 4-5 out of town guests compared to a much larger number in all four previous Showcases."

The plans tentatively call for a Friday program with Jim French. Saturday's program will begin at 10:30 AM and go until 5 or 6 PM, with no banquet.

It is anticipated that there will be two re-creations, along with two panels and one other activity. All performances, rehearsals and panels will be done in the Auditorium, making the engineering work load considerably less.

### "PAINFUL"

Showcase co-chairs Mike Sprague and Joy Jackson began discussing the matter weeks before Showcase IV. According to Sprague, "This is one of the most painful club decisions in which I've been involved in the whole lifetime of REPS." He continued "We have been incredibly blessed by so many OTR performers who have given so much of themselves to be here. Their kindness is the only thing that allowed us to have a Showcase at all-both financially and performance wise."

Joy Jackson observed that "Showcase IV found us doing twice the hours of re-creations as in previous gatherings. This means more hours of tape transcription to produce scripts; more pages of scripts; more sound effects and music; more hours of rehearsal. The list goes on."



▼ Do Mike Sprague and Larry Albert look tired as the Showcase wrapped up?

### MANY VOLUNTEERS, BUT ...

Mike Sprague was complimentary in his feelings for the large number of Showcase volunteers, "We had 34 people who took a piece of the Showcase workload. That's really special." Balancing that, he added "Unfortunately, there are some tasks that just can't be effectively done by a

group and several of the volunteers face huge Showcase assignments that disrupt their personal lives for weeks, even months. This was a driving force in our decision."

One of those volunteers is Dave Dintenfass, who, along with Donald Zongker and others, shouldered the engineering work. Dave said "I, too, will miss the full Showcase, but this change of pace gives us a little room, and the opportunity to experience the Radio Rally at less than supersonic speed."

## **BAD NEWS/GOOD NEWS**

Clearly, the reduction in scope is bad news for just about everyone, even those volunteers who bear the biggest brunt of the crushing work load.

BUT, there will be a gathering with OTR performers and REPS will continue to work hard to preserve and protect the best of the Golden Age of Radio.



▲ Total professionals Herb Ellis, Art Gilmore, Gil Stratton, Jr. and Sam Edwards as they rehearsed for "The Game."

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following is excerpted from a recent letter in which Jack French responded to comments reported in Air Check about the May meeting. Reference was made to errors contained in the book "Same Time, Same Station." This is the only additional comment we will publish on this topic, not wishing to get into one of the battles that seem to run on and on in OTR publications.

"We have an otherwise fine OTR reference book, marred by unacceptable errors. Bottom line: is this a book the OTR fan should buy? Absolutely! At least 98% of the text is accurate and it has superb photographs, many of them previously unpublished. This is the only OTR reference book that includes substantial biographical data on hundreds of OTR personalities."



# REPS DIRECTORY

### President

Terry Mahony 4514 NE 92nd Seattle, WA 98115 4206-524-3050

### Vice President and Acquisitions

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

### Vice President

Bill Brooks 3061 NE 92nd Seattle, WA 98115 206-524-0918

### Treasurer

Richard Haviland 6538 42nd Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98115 206-526-1066

# Secretary/Air Check Reporter

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

### Membership

Bill Davies 14911 Linden N. Seattle, WA 98133 206-365-2856

### Interim Tape Librarian

Dave Speelman 417 N. Bowdoin Pl. Seattle, WA 98103 206-634-2077

## **Printed Materials**

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

### Publicity

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

Air Check Editor
Open

### Air Check Assistant Editor

Jack Taylor 228 NW 104th St. Seattle, WA 98119 206-783-3734

# REPS MEMBERSHIP

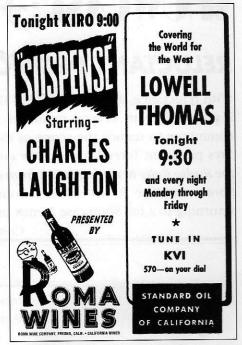
REPS welcomes into membership those who have an interest in Old Time Radio and/or current radio drama, variety, comedy, etc. There are three membership categories.

MEMBERSHIP	1ST YEAR	RENEWAL
Regular	\$22	\$18
Student	\$13	\$ 9
Vision impaired	\$13	\$ 9

# NORMAN CORWIN COMING IN FEBRUARY

Some fans may wonder "Just what show was he in?" Whether you're one of those, or someone who knows the brilliance of Mr. Corwin, don't miss this meeting! Everyone who was in the business could tell you about Norman Corwin...and they'd to it with real respect.

The "poet in residence" at CBS, his writing was, and is, superb. From series to specials there was always something special about Corwin's work. A few examples



readers may know: Columbia Presents Corwin; Twenty Six by Corwin; On A Note of Triumph; The Pursuit of Happiness; Passport for Adams +++.

This will be another very significant meeting for REPS.

# **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Oct. 5 ALAN YOUNG. It would be pretty amazing if everyone present didn't already know Alan Young from his work with *Mr. Ed.* Obviously a very funny man. Alan also worked in radio on shows like *Lux Radio Theatre, Screen Directors Playhouse, Texaco Star Theatre,* and of course *The Alan Young Show.* REPS is very fortunate to have him come to visit. Details will be in the next issue.
- Nov. 2 RADIO ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK. Jim Dolan and Kevin Clark will take us behind the scenes. What are the joys and the perils of starting a very unusual radio network? It's a highly interesting story.
- Dec. 7 ONE MAN'S FAMILY. Keep an open mind! This really isn't a "soap" but rather a classic in radio history with 27 years on the air. You'll love it. Presented by Mike Sprague and Gary Polich, founders of *The "One Man's Family" Family OTR Club*. They will just have spent time at a Family Reunion of the actors from OMF.



# **SHOWCASE CHANGES**

(continued from page one)

### RADIO RALLY

Mahony speculated "In all probability, we will have only 45 out of town guests compared to a much larger number in all four previous Showcases."

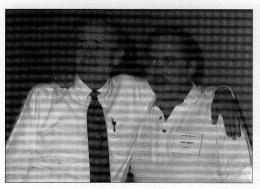
The plans tentatively call for a Friday program with Jim French. Saturday's program will begin at 10:30 AM and go until 5 or 6 PM, with no banquet.

It is anticipated that there will be two re-creations, along with two panels and one other activity. All performances, rehearsals and panels will be done in the Auditorium, making the engineering work load considerably less.

### "PAINFUL"

Showcase co-chairs Mike Sprague and Joy Jackson began discussing the matter weeks before Showcase IV. According to Sprague, "This is one of the most painful club decisions in which I've been involved in the whole lifetime of REPS." He continued "We have been incredibly blessed by so many OTR performers who have given so much of themselves to be here. Their kindness is the only thing that allowed us to have a Showcase at all-both financially and performance wise."

Joy Jackson observed that "Showcase IV found us doing twice the hours of re-creations as in previous gatherings. This means more hours of tape transcription to produce scripts; more pages of scripts; more sound effects and music; more hours of rehearsal. The list goes on."



✓ Do Mike Sprague and Larry Albert look tired as the Showcase wrapped up?

## MANY VOLUNTEERS, BUT ...

Mike Sprague was complimentary in his feelings for the large number of Showcase volunteers, "We had 34 people who took a piece of the Showcase workload. That's really special." Balancing that, he added "Unfortunately, there are some tasks that just can't be effectively done by a

group and several of the volunteers face huge Showcase assignments that disrupt their personal lives for weeks, even months. This was a driving force in our decision."

One of those volunteers is Dave Dintenfass, who, along with Donald Zongker and others, shouldered the engineering work. Dave said "I, too, will miss the full Showcase, but this change of pace gives us a little room, and the opportunity to experience the Radio Rally at less than supersonic speed."

### BAD NEWS/GOOD NEWS

Clearly, the reduction in scope is bad news for just about everyone, even those volunteers who bear the biggest brunt of the crushing work load.

BUT, there will be a gathering with OTR performers and REPS will continue to work hard to preserve and protect the best of the Golden Age of Radio.



▲ Total professionals Herb Ellis, Art Gilmore, Gil Stratton, Jr. and Sam Edwards as they rehearsed for "The Game."

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following is excerpted from a recent letter in which Jack French responded to comments reported in Air Check about the May meeting. Reference was made to errors contained in the book "Same Time, Same Station." This is the only additional comment we will publish on this topic, not wishing to get into one of the battles that seem to run on and on in OTR publications.

"We have an otherwise fine OTR reference book, marred by unacceptable errors. Bottom line: is this a book the OTR fan should buy? Absolutely! At least 98% of the text is accurate and it has superb photographs, many of them previously unpublished. This is the only OTR reference book that includes substantial biographical data on hundreds of OTR personalities."



# **REMINISCING**

Back a ways, Air Check had an occasional column entitled "Reminiscing." In this space, we invited any and every member to reflect on some aspect of radio in their life.

These memories might have been from a 75 year old who struggled to pick up a not-too-distant station on a crystal set. Or, perhaps we heard from someone who actually gathered with the family to listen to the very shows we now call Old Time Radio...when they were new time radio. And, there are the younger folks who really don't remember radio back then, but who got hooked by some rebroadcast or a cassette tape.

# HOW ABOUT YOU?

Would you take some time to share your reminiscences with the membership? No matter your age, writing ability, shyness etc. We'll help assemble and finalize all the stories to share.

# STARTER QUESTIONS

Here are a few possible starting points, but you certainly are not limited to these.

• What is your first memory of listening to radio shows? This could have been 60 years ago, or it could have been a few weeks ago. (see next column)

- Who listened with you? What was it like "back then?" How often did you gather? What times of the day do you most remember?
- Was there one show you just wouldn't miss? How about others in your family?
- Do you listen today? Where...when...with whom?
- Did you ever order any of the premiums offered by sponsors? Were you thrilled when they arrived? Disappointed?
- What radio personalities made an impression on you, and how did they do that?
- If a favorite radio show of yours went to television, what was your reaction when you saw it there as compared to the image in your head?

# SO...REMINISCE ALREADY!

Go ahead and start right now while you're thinking of it. Stop as your read your Air Check and jot down some of the things that started running through your head. You will be a blessing to your fellow members when you do that and then mail it off to Air Check, 9936 NE 197th Street, Bothell, WA 98011. If you have questions, call Mike Sprague 206-488-9518.



▲ Reminiscence/Truth from "Gasoline Alley" 8-25-96

# KIRO MYSTERY PLAYHOUSE

The remaining 1996 dates for taping are: October 17, November 21 and December 19. Honorary member Jim French continues to write and produce excellent new radio drama. The shows are taped at the Museum of History and Industry, with tickets available by calling KIRO radio. Doors usually open about 7:15 PM and the taping starts at 7:30.

# **PAUL MASTERSON DIES**

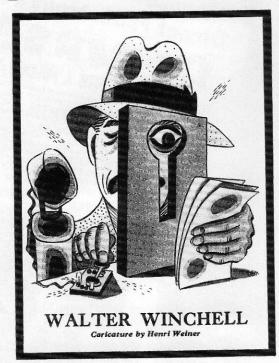
Showcase goers will be saddened to learn of the death of Paul Masterson. Paul passed away on May 10, but we didn't learn of it in time to include in the August Air Check. We apologize for the delay in sharing such important news. A former radio announcer and the husband of Gale Storm Masterson, Paul was with us for Showcase II. His kind and professional manner was so appreciated by everyone. REPS sends belated condolences to Gale, who was also such a delight to be with.





▲ It was June in 1951 — Jantzen Beach in Oregon. If you'd had a chance, you'd have gone, wouldn't you?

# RADIO Winchell



They say that Walter Winchell will tell anything about anybody-but he won't reveal the radio secrets of his friends in the broadcasting world. He's afraid they wouldn't like it. But neither Winchell nor his fellow radio stars can take offense at the amusing and intimate items presented here—the stories Winchell wouldn't tell about his friends I

# By NELSON BROWN

himself has been writing radio news since 1922 and his the of friends in the broadcasting world is almost as the columnist's. So, applying the Winchell technique unearthing hot stories, he called on fifty of his friends of for himself the radio secrets Winchell wouldn't tell Here is what he learned:

Your inspiration may be Greta Garbo, but Phil Parker) Lord's was his grandpop, who's the pattern program . . . Phil owns seventeen dozen shirts-but es suit. It always needs pressing . . . He likes to sleep the mornings . . . Eats every two hours when working minister's son . . . Married to Sophia Mecorney, and kids, Jean and Patricia.

Art Hickman, the killer, was a classmate of Goodman whom most fans address as Ace Goodman . . . He know why the "Goodman" was wished on him excess

it was his grandfather's first ... Once was a soda jerker bucks a wk... Always keeps on when broadcasting, a habit when a newspaper man (twell theatercolumning on the K. Dispatch) . . . He likes living to country. Wife Jane likes the city . . . They live in the

Whenever Jack White, the some Cowboy, broadcasts, his get cold . . . (So do Gracie al and her face gets hot, ton wouldn't it, with the things band, Geo. Burns says?) once sent Jack four lumps a gift for the horses belonging Lone Star Rangers Quartet months went by before he fi she was not quite compos = Jack never took a lesson in

. . Smokes O.P.B. only, and but can warble plenty . petually puzzled as to why most musicians wear funcclothes, as who isn't?

Rossaxophone Gorman once committed the unput sin. Having blown a sour note in a broadcast, he

RADIO

> A reprint article on Walter Winchell from the January 1935 volume of "RADIOLAND" magazine.

ALTER WINCHELL has probably been called more different things than any man in radio

The most accurate phrase used to describe him is "America's star reporter," for Winchell knows more things about more people, and prints or broadcasts them sooner than any other man in the world. They also call him "the man who will say anything about anybody." But that's not true at all. Walter Winchell doesn't talk about his friends.

If this statement surprises you, consider the experience of RADIOLAND's star interviewer who went down to get a story from this ace columnist to be called "Winchell's Lowdown on the Broadcasters." The interviewer dropped into the studio where Walter broadcasts on Sunday evenings, and when he had finished his radio stunt Winchell greeted the interviewer, an old friend of his, with reservations.

'You can have anything you want," he said, "except an interview."

"But an interview is just what we want. Just a little inti-

mate dope on the broadcasters from you—"
"Not a chance. These radio stars are all friends of mine and I wouldn't want to say anything to offend them. Not that there's anything I'd say against them. I'm sorry—but I won't talk about my friends."

Which seemed to end the matter, except that the interviewer suddenly remembered that Winchell had previously revealed his methods of obtaining news in an article for Radioland. The secret is simple: Winchell is liked by almost everybody. He likes to help people and they like to help him. Most of them help by sending him news. The interviewer Most of them help by sending him news.

Gracie Allen's face gets hot and her hands get cold when broadcasting



K

OBER 19

199

FRIENDS WHAT IT IS

is this Air for next year.

rful you work in t, it is not vcase format

we are we had fun t each ou to know

f showcase eep each of

iust doesn't But, that's

Mahony Sprague has ions, etc.

be a gues next issue

RWIN
See page 2

The op nearly lost him when a

JANUARY, 1935

[Continued on page 44]



# TOO MANY COOKS REPLACES LUX RADIO THEATRE (Photo on page 9)

(Photo on page 9 opposite)

We enjoyed a great re-creation of *Lux* in June at Showcase IV. Isn't it interesting to find three of the performers in our *Lux*, pictured in 1950 as they worked on the summer replacement for *Lux*? The program was called *Too Many Cooks*. Can you spot Gil Stratton, Jr., Rhoda Williams and Norma Jean Nilsson? Thanks to Norma Jean for finding the old photo and to David Van Meter for providing the copy.



DONALD VOORHEES -silver-haired conductor on NBC's Telephone Hour is known among the trade as a "musician" anulaician," and has attracted to his orchestra some of the finest instrumentalists in the country. His hobby is raising Scotch terriers, of which at one time he had 150; he often acts as judge at dog shows in New York City.





# MORE SHOWCASE THANK YOU'S

### STELLA DALLAS

Dear Editor:

I have been taking Radio Mirror for two years but so far I haven't been able to see a picture of the actress who plays the title role in Stella Dallas.



Anne Elstner

Dallas.

Mrs. C. P.
Farmington, Ky.

We've printed pictures of Anne Elstner (Stella Dallas) several times in past issues of Radio Mirror, but just in case you missed them, here's another one.

The Showcase issue of Air Check included a number of nice comments from our special guests. Here are a couple more that missed the print date. They continue to reflect the very reason why we exist.

From Sam and Beverly Edwards, "You did it again! You had a fantastic convention and made us feel like very special people. But it is all of your members who are special in keeping a wonderful part of our history alive. We enjoyed every minute of our visit."

Ginny Tyler, she of the many voices demonstrated at our September meeting, contributed the following: "Psst. I'm very slow at writing letters...words and sentences take even longer. It was superb, impressive, warm and very special? Having done a national convention once long ago, I know the unexpected problems, challenges, coordination of details that are constantly needed." Ginny concluded, "Congratulations on a task superbly done. Thank you so much for everything and the honor to participate. Loved it all!"

# REPS DOES IT AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR

Since this issue covers the status of the Radio Showcase when so many wonderful radio professionals have come to be with us, here is a related matter.

For at least two general meetings per year we invite, from out of town, Golden Age radio personalities to come and share with us. The Board decided that this is one of the best ways for REPS to get acquainted with these talented people.

"We are committed to doing this" says president Terry Mahony, "and we all look forward to these sessions. The meeting room is almost always packed out." There is a voluntary collection taken at these meetings to offset the extra expense involved, and everyone gets into the spirit of it all.

### IN THE PAST

Look at the list of special OTR guests we have had at general meetings, both local and from out of town: John Archer, Harry Bartell, Stewart Conway, Sam Edwards, Herb Ellis, Charles Flynn, Sandra Gould, Merrill Mael, Les Tremayne, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Douglas Young.

# THE FUTURE

Alan Young made it to our October meeting, and the details will be in the next Air Check. The brilliant Norman Corwin plans to be here in February of 1997. There are so many others we want to have come. Who

would you like to see and hear? Let Bill Brooks or Terry Mahony know. Hang on members, and we'll try to get them.





COLUMBIA SQUARE PLAYHOUSE
SUNSEL BOULEVARD — HOLLYWOOD

CIUDIO

CBS

C B S presents
A NEW COMEDY SHOW
'TOO MANY COOKS"
STARRING

1950 6-6:30 p.m. Doors Close at 5:45 p.m.

HAL MARCH

CHILDREN UNDER TWEEVE WILL NOT BE ADMITTED



"Too Many Cooks," domestic comedy by Frank Fox, will make its bow over CBS next Monday evening from Hollywood as the summer replacement for the first half of the Lux Radio Theatre. "Granby's Green Acres," another new show, will fill the second half.

Hal March and Mary Jane Croft star in "Cooks," The children are played by Gil Stratton, Rhoda Williams, Mary Lou Harrington, John McGovern, Alan Reed, Jr., Tommy Silver, Donna Jo Boyca and Stuffy Silver, Donna Jo Boyca and Stuffy Singer. Other players include Bob Sweeney, George Fenneman, Willard Waterman and Jerry Hausner. Show is produced and directed by Gordon T. Hughes. It was created by Frank Fox and is written by Fox with Robert Porter and Lou Armbrecht. Music is by Marlin Skiles. Rou Rowan announces.

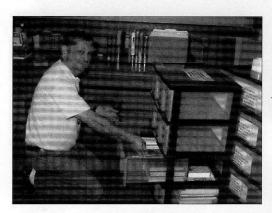
"Acres" was conceived by Jay Sommers, who will write, produce and direct. Cast includes Gale Gordon, Bea Benaderet, Shirley Mitchell, Parley Baer. Ople Cates handles the music, with Bob LeMond announcing.



# PRINTED MATERIALS LIBRARY

For those who don't get to make it to meetings, you're missing something really nice. But, you can access it from the privacy of your own home.

John Hura, printed materials librarian, displays a full table of material from our library so members can check it out right there. Between meetings, most of the items are stored at the Queen Anne Library where REPS meets. John rotates inventory on a regular basis.



✓ Librarian
John Hura
unloads books
and more.

If you ever have a chance to talk with John, you'll be impressed with his quiet enthusiasm for what he does for REPS. He loves browsing collectibles shows, antique stores and other places where old publications can be found. And, he finds incredible bargains. For example, some readers know that John Dunning's "Tune In Yesterday" is sold for as much as \$150 in various places. John found a copy in excellent condition for \$8.00!

This is a fellow who enjoys volunteering to help REPS and each of us. If you haven't explored this part of the club, you're shortchanging yourself.

Thanks John!

# REMINDER – ANDERSON TRUST FUND

As member's know, tape librarians Vi and Andy Anderson lost their entire home to fire. There is a large gap between their loss and insurance coverage. If you wish to contribute to the trust fund for them, it is #513303122-9 at Washington Mutual, 17314 140th Ave. SE, Renton, WA 98058-1093.

× 4/8/41

# Boys, Girls--Here İs Sad News The Lone Ranger Is Dead!

FARMINGTON, Mich. — Earl Grasser, 32, the "lone ranger" of the radio series, was killed Tuesday in an automobile accident near his home.

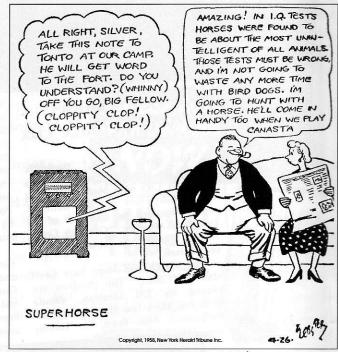
Grasser's car struck the rear of a parked truck. Sheriff's officers believed he may have fallen asleep while driving home.

Officials of radio station WXYZ in Detroit, where the Lone Ranger series originates, said Brace Beemer, the original "ranger" and present narrator of the stories, would take Grasser's place.

The Lone Ranger has been running for nine years, and Grasser held the title role for eight. He was married and the father of a one-year-old girl.

# SOME LONE RANGER CONNECTIONS

Having had such a splendid time with Fred Foy at the Radio Showcase, here's an article (above) and cartoon (below) that Don Allen came across recently.



THE UNSEEN AUDIENCE By Webster 4/26/50



# PAST REPS MEETINGS

AUGUST: X MINUS ONE/DIMENSION X
Bill Brooks Reporter-Bill Parker

Bill Brooks led a discussion of the two sci-fi radio series that are favorites with many REPS members. "After 25 years of radio drama," Bill told us, "the first adult science fiction programs: 2000 Plus, Beyond Tomorrow and Dimension X, appeared almost simultaneously" in the early 1950's. Up until that time, sci-fi had been aimed almost entirely at the kids, with shows such as Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon.

**Dimension X on** NBC radio was in existence a total of 77 weeks. It operated with a small budget of \$800-2000 per show, and it was severely hampered by many changes in broadcast times. "Seemingly NBC killed **Dimension** X with time changes," Bill told the audience.

**X Minus One premiered** on NBC on April 22, 1955. Many of the first stories were taken from **Dimension X**, but **X Minus One moved on** to achieve its own high level of creativity and production. But, time changes by NBC also plagued **X Minus One**, and its last broadcast was in January, 1958. It was revived as part of NBC's **Monitor** broadcasts in the 1970's

Thanks to Bill Brooks for this intriguing presentation, documented with various tape clips from the shows.

# SEPTEMBER: GINNY TYLER ENTERTAINS

There they were up front, voice queen Ginny Tyler and our friend Peggy Jordan. Ginny was there to share from her experiences and Peggy was there to facilitate the process. Both were very good.



▲ Ginny Tyler working at the 1995 Showcase.

Ginny got her start on radio in Washington, first in Bellingham and then in Seattle. She was actually fired while on the air by the infamous Archie Taff.

The opening was a video from **TV Practical Jokes and Bloopers**, in which actress Shirley Jones was put on the spot. Ginny was the voice of a parrot, being miked into a

cage in the room where Jones and others were.

Speaking of parrots; Ginny shared quite a lot about her experiences on **Dr. Doolittle**, where she again was a parrot. Most readers will remember that fine effort.

Star Rex Harrison "didn't really care that much for animals," particularly the pig that "puddled" all over the place.

You want parrots? On the **Jack Benny Show**, when Mel Blanc was ill, she was a parrot, to Benny's delight.

Sheep, babies, dogs, cats, seals... A whole bunch of critters showed up at the Queen Anne library, all in this one little person. She even got several "volunteers" up front to assist in some demonstrations.

The audience enjoyed a film clip from **The Sword and The Stone**, where Ginny did the voices for the two female squirrels. The last scene of the sad little girl squirrel darn near brought tears.

This is the lady who did voice after voice on Disney records. She was **Bambi** and **Pinnochio** and so many others. On the Sony Superscope materials, Ginny was again just about everything.

And, of course, Ginny was a mouseketeer on **The Mickey Mouse Club** with Jimmy, Annette, Roy and the gang.

Such talent. We're glad she's a part of REPS!

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Terry Mahony

Let's hope that you have had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to a rewarding fall. As usual, we are indebted to many club members for their outstanding support. Just to mention a few: One more time – **The Showcase volunteer crew.** "Best ever" was the operative phrase.

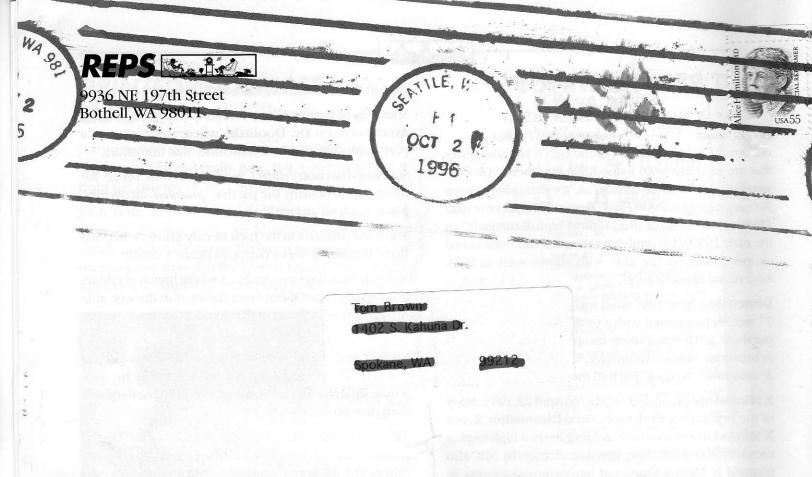
**David Speelman,** organizer of our first Swap Meet, netting the Guest Fund about \$500. **Those who donated material.** (And, you can obtain a tax receipt from Richard Haviland.)

David also is the interim cassette librarian.

Joy et. al. on the rebuilding of the library. (see insert)

**Bill Brooks**, for the tough job of putting together programs for meetings, month in and month out.

The Board needs your ideas on membership, meetings, fund raisers etc. And, Board meetings are open. If you'd like to attend, call me at 206-543-5437 for details.



CONTINUED THANKS TO SECORD PRINTING FOR 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. THE ONLY WAY WE WILL BE ABLE TO CORRECT THIS LIST IS WHEN WE RECEIVE NOTES AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS. If you know of others, or if any of these need correction, please let Air Check know. One such change is Jim Dolan's Radio Entertainment Network, now each weekday instead of Sunday. Please let the stations and sponsors (if any) know of your appreciation.

Mystery Playhouse (C)	KIRO	710AM	9:06-10PM	Saturday
Mystery Playhouse (C)	KIRO	710AM	9:06-10PM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KIRO	710AM	10PM-1AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KIRO	710AM	10PM-12AM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KLKI	1340AM	6PM-7PM	M-F (Anacortes)
OTR	CFMS	98.5 FM	9-10PM	Saturday (Victoria)
OTR Siskind/Herman	ERRS	SAP FM	8-9PM	Saturday -
OTR Dolan	ERRS	SAP FM	11PM-2AM	M-F (note change)
Odyssey/children (C)	KCIS	630AM	7:30AM	Saturday
Odyssey/children (C)	KCIS	630AM	7:30PM	M-F
Ruby In'galac. Gumshoe (C)	KUOW	94.9 FM	10:30PM	M-F
Unshackled (C)	KCIS	630AM	9:30PM	Sunday
OTR	CFMI	101.1 FM	10PM	Sunday (Vancouver)
Radio Replays	CKNW	980AM	11:10 PM	M-F (Vancouver)

Coming Next Month



THAT seal at the head of the column is there to remind you that it's not all over yet! You've voted, this month, for your favorite radio personalities; next month comes your chance to vote for your favorite programs. Don't lie down on the job of telling radio what you think of it—it's important to the industry to know what you expect of it, and it's vital to you if you want to get real entertainment from your radio set! As soon as you get your December Radio Mirror, fill in that ballot, cut it out, and send it in.

If you're a Duffy's Tavern customer—as who isn't—there's a big surprise waiting for you when we visit Ed Gardner. The man who holds down the Tavern has a family life of his own that you'd never expect. From the beautiful color portraits of his French wife and his two delightful sons right down to the stories of the dogs in his life, this visit with Ed Gardner is one you'll never forget.

To Candy Bergen, who's very, very young. Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd are dear old friends. That's all very well for now, but—as you'll learn from Frances (Mrs. Edgar) Bergen's lively story about "EB and the Boys," there's a problem coming up. What are they going to tell Candy when she gets a little older and wants to know why her playmates have wooden heads? In fact, Frances herself is sometimes a little confused—but not too confused to realize that never was a family more fun than the one that came with Edgar.

▲ From Radio Mirror 1948