

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 2

SPRING • 2001



HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY!

Our January 2001 meeting was a celebration of 10 years of Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound.

Eight of the original 11 members were in attendance for this celebration. Other participants of the first meeting were Carol and Tara Pearce and Dale Gray (a friend of the Hermans).

The first meeting was at the Merchant's Café in November 1990 with 11 people in attendance. Misty Dawn Lane, who did not attend, had made up random OTR tapes for everyone who attended and this started the "door prize" tradition.

The December meeting was skipped, the second meeting was at the Queen Anne Library in January 1991 and 22 people came. Mark Skullerud came up with the name "Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound" (after Andy Anderson jokingly suggested that the organization should be called Society of the Glowing Dial) and others immediately liked it.

First Meeting

The first general meeting was in Feb 1991 at 10 am with *The Shadow*, John Archer, as the special guest. It was well advertised and very well attended; close to 100 people in the room and some outside. A short



▲ L to R: Frank Denton, Judy Herman, Bob Herman, Michael Jacobs, Andy Anderson, Mark Skullerud, Mike Sprague and Linda Sprague.

video clip of John Archer was shown. John was sharing that he had been a hard working actor in Hollywood, but couldn't break into movies. The front door to Hollywood was via New York with the back door being Hollywood.

The best publicity the club ever received locally was an article by Don Tewesbury in the PI. Don later retired and is now a regular member of REPS.

Executive Memberships and Honorary Memberships

For several years REPS offered an Executive Membership limited to 30 people. This was the number of *Shadow* programs on which John Archer worked. The cost was \$100 and included a numbered copy of a script personally autographed by John Archer to

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WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

◆ *It has been suggested to me that we have a classified ad section for our members. I think this is worth a try. Please submit all your ads to the Air Check editor.*

◆ *Hopefully, no one missed the March "Imagination Theatre" taping due to my error. It was on Monday, March 26th not the 25rd. The next one will be on Monday, June 18th as listed in the upcoming meetings and activities section.*

◆ *I found the article on the right in the Chattanooga Airwaves Newsletter and thought that it was worth passing on.*

◆ *I am looking forward to a great Showcase. Mike Sprague and Joy Jackson have already put hours into making this the best Showcase ever. I hope that many of you will be able to share this special time with our OTR friends.*

We can happily report that efforts are underway at the Library of Congress to restore its collection of old radio broadcast tapes, which is very extensive. The Library is allocating \$833,000 for the project. Also (former) President Clinton signed a law, which promises an additional \$250,000 a year to create a register of sound recordings already in the Library and to select outstanding ones for preservation. Early efforts will be in creating one analog and one digital copy of each recording. It's sure nice to know that our government recognizes the historical value of a form of media that captivated a country and the world during the 20's through the 50's.

REPS Classified Ads

Radio Shows Wanted:
Alias Jane Doe (1951);
Hallmark Playhouse
(1951); Sam Spade (1951);
Stars Over Hollywood
(1951); Theater Guild on
the Air: "The Thief"
(1-27-52); Theater Guild
on the Air: "Prologue to



Glory" (5-11-52); CBS Radio
Mystery Theater – complete
run (willing to borrow).

TV Shows Wanted:
1950's live TV dramas:
16mm or VHS. Ken Korhonen.
206-932-9362. E-mail:
kenny99@uswest.net

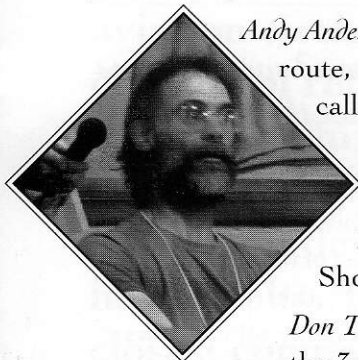
REPS 10TH ANNIVERSARY ...continued from page 1

the recipient, 2 tapes of shows with John in them, dues for two years and a one-on-one meeting with John. Larry Albert was the first executive member.

John Archer was the first Honorary Member. The most recent Honorary Member is True Boardman (#520).

What Brought You to REPS?

Michael Jacobs: Misty Dawn Lane called and suggested that he might want to attend. "If you ever want to see your dog again, show up at Pioneer Square."



▲ Tom Brandt

Andy Anderson: Misty used to live on his mail route, and they exchanged tapes. Skully called about the meeting.

Frank Denton: had a previous connection with Skully.

Tom Brandt: first attended the 1993 Showcase.

Don Tewkesbury: attended the 3rd or 4th Showcase and did an interview with

Parley Baer/Herb Ellis.

Dick and Phyllis Zornes: drawn in with Mike Sprague's



▲ Dick and Phyllis Zornes

interview with John Archer.

Gerry Hollinger: joined in 1997 after overhearing two ladies at work talking about it.

Gerry attended with one of them, who only came one more time.

What Meeting Stands Out?

Larry Albert: The Jim French interview with Norman Corwin, and interviews with Janet Waldo and Dick Beals.

Michael Jacobs: the Show and Tell meetings.

Others: interviews with Les Tremayne, Charlie Flynn, Sam Edwards and Pat Cashman.

Not only have we had interviews with actors and others, we've had presentations by many members on subjects ranging from *Rocky Jordan*, *Gunsmoke*, cowboy shows and ZBS to traitors in WWII to Louis L'amour

and *CBS Mystery Theatre*. A short clip of a *Gunsmoke* recreation from Showcase I was shown. It was pretty well done considering it was our first time doing such things.

Showcase Favorite Memories

Paul Secord: being able to get an autograph of Jeanette Nolan on a piece of music that had been in one of her films or an Art Gilmore signature on a copy of the Goble show.

Dick Bonesteel: *One Man's Family* reunion.

Liz Roach: Showcase IV where she was introduced to Barbara Schwarz and the Friends of *Vic and Sade*.

Lynda Glaspey: Janet Waldo.

Joy Jackson: recreation of *Gunsmoke* in Showcase I. "Not only did we do a good job, but we recreated the entire feeling of the show, both in rehearsals and performance."

Others: Alan Young, Showcase VI; Parley Baer in *Ethel/Albert* where a standing ovation was given at the end of the performance. (This was Parley's last performance before his stroke.)

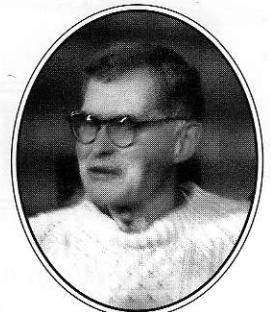
Other Memories

Hospitality has always been a big part of the meetings, with members providing coffee, cookies and other goodies.

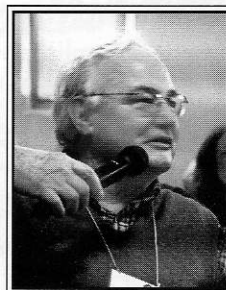
Door prize tapes have been given in every meeting but one over the ten years due to the generosity of donated tapes from members. A grab bag was used for the one meeting where no donations were received.

REPS had a tradition of Listening Parties in the early days where groups of people gathered at someone's home to listen to and discuss favorite OTR shows. The most recent one was at the Dentons with the *Cinnamon Bear*.

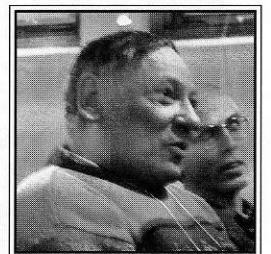
Meetings tended to end with members sharing information or desires. Typical was Frank Denton's call for any tapes of *Shafter Parker and His Circus*.



▲ Dick Bonesteel



▲ Don Tewkesbury



▲ Larry Siskind





SHOWCASE IX ♦ SILENT AUCTION NEWS

by Janet Conrad

With the generosity of so many people, we again have a number of unique and special items up for auction. There are too many to list here, and also there are more on their way.

Here is a taste of what will be available.

♦ A "Speedy Alka Seltzer" t-shirt. Autographed by Speedy Alka Seltzer himself. It's a light blue, child's size 10 – 12. Really nice!

♦ A "KNX 10.70 News Radio" jacket, autographed by Gil Stratton Jr. It has "Gil" and "KNX 10.70 News staff" on the front, and the radio call letters with "News Radio" embroidered below it on the back. Gil was and is a world-class sports announcer. This jacket has been to some major events.

♦ Every year, Cliff Glaspey donates two reel-to-reel recorders. This year is no exception. Thank you Cliff! Again, one will have speakers, the other will not. At this time I do not know the makes or models of them, but rest assured, they are always in great working order.

♦ "Jack Benny: an Intimate Biography" by Irving A. Fein, Benny's personal manager and friend, with the introduction written by George Burns. "A warm and intimate portrait of the quintessential humorist of an age..."

♦ "CBS – Reflections in a Bloodshot Eye" written by Robert Metz, who "...takes the reader on an intimate tour - personal and historical - of one of the most glamorous and influential corporations on earth..." It's a very interesting book of facts and stories.

♦ "The Shadow Chronicles" a "Limited Edition-Collector's Set" includes: Eight Original Radio Broadcasts (on cassette) plus a 60 Minute Audio visit with the people who brought *The Shadow* to life and a 56 page book: "The Shadow – The Making of a Legend".

♦ Record album – "That Brewster Boy", starring Eddie Firestone Jr. The description on the back written by Jim Harmon, in part reads, "That Brewster Boy was one of

the legion of teen-agers whose problems were agonizing to themselves, but laughable to the rest of the world... Eddie Firestone portrayed Joey Brewster... (he) was an accomplished radio actor, heard on many other shows originating in Chicago, such as *First Nighter*, *Jack Armstrong*, and *Ma Perkins*." There is an autograph on the front cover by Jane Webb, written over a photo of her as "Minerva".

At last year's auction we were so fortunate to receive many historical photographs! The ones that weren't bid on will circulate into future auctions. So you have another chance! This time around we have a few from Janet Waldo. (And more at next years showcase!)

♦ Photograph of Janet Waldo with Lucille Ball and Richard Crenna in a scene from an *I Love Lucy* show. Autographed by Waldo and Crenna.

♦ Photograph of Janet Waldo, in the studio, with a CBS microphone behind her. (autographed)

♦ A drawing of Judy Jetson, autographed by Janet Waldo.

♦ To round out this list, is a "Radio Spirits" Maltese Falcon statue.

That gives you insight into some of the items up for auction. The rules will be the same as it has been. Short and sweet... There will be a minimum bid posted for each item. Your registration number is your bidding number. Bidding closes during dinner on Saturday. (The time will be announced.) You don't have to be there at the end. We will contact you. Bid often and have fun! That's it. Simple. See you at the convention!

A Captain Midnight Perspective

by Stephen A. Kallis, Jr.



Captain Midnight was one of the truly memorable radio shows of the Old-Time Radio era. Even today, in aviation circles, there will be an occasional reference to the good Captain. While he was an aviator, he certainly wasn't the only one with a program devoted to his exploits. The two closest competitors in OTR aviation were Sky King and Hop Harrigan.

America's Favorite Flying Cowboy

Sky King, a relative latecomer in the radio landscape, was a former Naval Aviator who went back to ranching, but who had an aircraft or two at his disposal. His real name was Schyler King, so, "Sky" was a nickname, not a title. His show revealed him to be an expert aviator, but not an outstanding one. In half-hour format, his exploits often mirrored the aviation feats mentioned in the news. It was one of the OTR shows that passed seamlessly to television, where it flourished for years. On radio he was billed as "America's Favorite Flying Cowboy", a title so specialized that I don't think anyone else in OTR who flew would dream of challenging it.

America's Ace of the Airways

Hop Harrigan, billed as "America's Ace of the Airways", was another matter. I don't know whether he had enough confirmed kills to qualify as an Ace, and he could handle an aircraft like many other servicemen could. He had a

partner, a mechanic, Tank Tinker, who was devoted to him, but was a bit slow in the thought processes. Their adventures were interesting, but not much more. The program is nearly forgotten today, save for people who heard it when broadcast, and those with recordings of some of the surviving shows.

Rigorous Attention Paid to Flying

When Captain Midnight first aired, he was an inspired pilot, but something of a loner.

Accompanying him was his ward, Chuck Ramsay, as well as a friend of the family, a young girl about Chuck's age. While he fought a masterly villain, Ivan Shark, his basic actions were simply an individual reaction against sinister plans. However, there were two significant differences between the Captain Midnight show and most other aviation-related OTR shows.

First, the aviation was exact. The sponsor, Skelly Oil, owned Spartan Aircraft and the Spartan School of Aeronautics: the show paid rigorous attention to it's flying. In some of the shows, flying information was included, such as the correct way to execute an inside loop, and how to make short-

field landings successfully. Second, probably

because a lot of grownups also listened to the show, the vocabulary and concepts were more adult than in most shows nominally directed at children.

Secret Squadron and Code-O-Meter

In the fall of 1940, Ovaltine assumed sponsorship of the show, and with that, provided Captain Midnight both with an origin story, and a clandestine organization to head, the Secret Squadron. Some months after the Secret Squadron got organized, it got its most important piece of equipment: the Code-O-Graph. According to the story, agents of Ivan Shark had invaded a newly established



BOB BROOKS SHARES HIS LOVE OF RADIO WITH US

◆ February 3, 2001 ◆

by Joy Jackson

Bob Brooks is the programming director at KIXI, as well as an on-the-air host from 10-3, M-F. His dad was an electrical engineer, and brought home a radio antenna kit for Bob to build. He built several and would pretend to be a radio station in his home town in the suburbs of Baltimore.



▲ John Jensen talks with Bob Brooks.

Bob went to the University of Maryland, and graduated with a degree in biology. After being a lifeguard at a public swimming pool, he got another part-time job on the local public radio station. He was asked for his audition tape, which he didn't have, so he read the back of a record jacket into a microphone. However the job advertised had been filled. Two weeks later, he was called back, since the other guy didn't work out. It was a union setup: you sit in the booth and play classical music. "They pay you to do this?" After doing this for three years, he decided he wanted to make radio his career, much to his parents' chagrin.

This is Commercial Radio?

After the public radio station, he wanted to get into commercial radio, and was hired at a small station in Milford, Delaware. He was music director, and everything else. Each day's schedule included "feed the horse and burn the trash".

In 1982, Bob was working for Metromedia Broadcasting, out of Baltimore. He was brought out to Seattle to work at KJR for one year – and never went back. On-the-air radio personalities in Seattle, contrary to popular opinion, are laid-off just like everyone else in radio; but they have the ability to go to another station without leaving town.

Bob has spent 30 years in radio. He has been awarded

the Music Director of the Year for 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1999.

Mental Picture

The only money coming into the radio station comes from advertisers, who look at audience numbers. Arbitron hires people for \$5 a week to keep ratings diaries in 15-minute increments. One time when a listener was asked which station she was listening to, she

responded: "I dunno, it's the second button from the left".

When he is broadcasting, he is mentally picturing one guy that he is talking to. John Jensen mentioned that when he was with a radio station in LA, he always pictured talking to a family at dinner. As programming director, Bob is concerned with the presentation between songs so that it is fresh and contemporary. He has added contests. The presentation is the glue for the songs, and the only reason that listeners continue to listening. His philosophy for KIXI: "We don't play it because it's old, we play it because it's good".

KIXI Programming

The call-in shows record the phone calls on a PC computer, edit them, add the song and then broadcast it. The call-ins have more leeway than the rest of the shows. Since most listeners only listen up to 30 minutes, that is the window of programming time, not 24 hours or 8 hours. Sunday morning has jobbed in infomercial programming. Special programming of local events occurs on "Saturday Night Spotlight".

In March 2000, Bob took a chance with an unknown writer and her performers because the radio play hit all the right frequencies – Glenn Miller music, nostalgia, World War II and a performance at the Museum of Flight. (This is our own "Skyway to Hell".) Due to the quality of that production, he repeated the connection with "War of the Worlds" in October. In December, KIXI broadcast

DIDJA KNOW?

© Radio (and vaudeville and motion picture) star Eddie Cantor wrote the song "The Merry-go-Round Broke Down", which is the Warner Bros. Cartoons' theme?

© Of the 927 shows of the 'Lux Radio Theater' (1934-1955), only about 450 are in circulation among collectors? Anybody know where the other 477 are?

© Commercial television was all set to roll in 1939, with its introduction at the New York World's Fair, but was put on hold by the advent of World War II (about the only "good" thing to come out of World War II)?

© That there's a whole MUSEUM devoted to "celebrating great moments of radio and television" in Chicago, which includes a lending library?

(This information came from
Air Check, Volume 1, Number 1.)



BOB BROOKS...continued from page 6

a new radio play performed at the Museum of History and Industry.

KIXI has a CD library in case the computer crashes; but all of their music is primarily computer generated. Emergencies are provided for with a CD player and one turntable.

Future of Radio

Bob commented that canned radio could be the death of radio. Sirius Radio uses satellite, digital technology and costs the listener \$25-\$30/month (think cable TV) but it has 500 radio signals. Satellite radio will need terrestrial repeaters or L-band (UHF frequencies).

KIXI reaches 350,000 people on the air but only 150 – 200 hook up online. Internet is a growing concern, especially since there's been a court judgment that if a station is streaming audio on the internet, they are required to pay, retroactively to the first day of streaming, royalties for broadcasting over the 'net on top of the regular broadcast royalties. This judgment is currently in appeal.

During the day, KIXI broadcasts at 50,000 watts. At night, the FCC mandates the switch to 10,000 watts to prevent the signal from skipping. This generally happens at 4:15 or 8:45 depending on winter or summer.



A CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT PERSPECTIVE...continued from page 5

base and captured the Secret Squadron's Code Book, which was used for secure communications between bases. Chuck Ramsey and Captain Midnight discussed developing something that agents could use for secret communications, and the mechanic, Ichabod Mudd, was assigned to develop the gadget.

The Secret Squadron had been formed as a clandestine, paramilitary aviation-oriented organization with the mission to fight espionage and sabotage in the days of American neutrality before the country entered World War II. With the addition of the Code-O-Graph and leadership of the Secret Squadron, Captain Midnight reached a stature that set him apart. His adventures took him and his team of Chuck Ramsey, Joyce Ryan and Ichabod Mudd to strange

and exotic places throughout the world.

There was complete continuity between the Skelly Oil and Ovaltine 15-minute episodes. In fact, Senor Pareda, from the Skelly Oil show, reappeared in South America when Captain Midnight's team contended with Senor Schrecker.

It is now more than 50 years since the last Captain Midnight serial was aired. But like fine wine, age just improves the programs we can still hear these days.

(Stephen Kallis, Jr. has written a book on Captain Midnight and submitted this article when Joy Jackson contacted him with the information that the REP readers were going to do Captain Midnight.)



REPS Radio Showcase IX



Radio Mirror Theme Brings A Gleam

Anticipation in Abundance

After 8 previous Showcases, one would think that Joy Jackson and Mike Sprague would be hardened veterans of planning these gatherings. Not so!

Mike was explaining that "Every year has it's own personality and the plans come together just a little bit differently. But each one has been a total delight. Joy and I really do have a good time in the planning stages and all the way through."

He went on to exude "There is just a special feeling about this year's Showcase. Most of our performer good friends are returning...we have some great new guests...the program jelled early, with some wonderful re-creations and breakout sessions. It goes on and on."

Sprague added "There are always adjustments and changes necessary, but we can tell everyone that the foundation is laid for another 'Best Ever' time together."

The Theme

Each Showcase has had a theme around which some of the programming has been done. This

year, REPS selected Radio Mirror for that theme. We'll be featuring information from the well-known magazine of that name. It allows us to reflect on the talent and entertainment of the past as we enjoy them today.

The logo for Showcase IX was designed and drawn by honorary member Doug Young.



The Guests

Obvious perhaps, but the stars are always the cornerstone of Showcase warmth and success. REPS is so delighted to welcome back the following members of what has affectionately been

called "The Company."

Arthur Anderson, Harry Bartell, Dick Beals, Frank Buxton, Tommy Cook, Sam Edwards, Herb Ellis, Ray Erlenborn, Jim French, Esther Geddes and Tyler McVey, Art Gilmore, Paul Herlinger, Jo Anna March, Norma Jean Nilsson, Gil Stratton, Jr., Ginny Tyler, Janet Waldo, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Rhoda Williams, Alan Young, and Douglas Young.

What an array of talent and kindness! We will never be able to

properly express our thanks to so many in this group. If we listed their exhaustive bios here, you'd be exhausted reading them! Plus, you know them so well from previous Showcases.

And, new for the first time at a Showcase are three more bright spots we're so glad to welcome...

◆ **Dick Van Patten** whose radio work includes *Young Widder Brown* and *Let's Pretend*. On TV, *I Remember Mama*, *Eight is Enough*, and film in abundance too.

◆ **True Boardman** did it all. He was major writer on shows like *Silver Theater*, *Skippy Hollywood Theater* and many more. He acted and directed a well.

◆ **Elliott Reid** was an incredibly busy, highly talented actor. Shows he did included *The Mercury Theater of the Air*, *Adventures of Sam Spade*, and *Theater Five*.

Additionally, Terry McManus is an active Seattle actor and a superb impersonator of Jimmy Stewart. That's what he'll be doing with us.

The delightful talents of Esther Geddes, Randy & Chris McMillan and The 88th Street Orchestra will again provide live music.

Sound effects artist Ray Erlenbor



UPDATES – June 29-30

will be our anchor on these essential elements, with Cheryl Jacobs and David Persson contributing too.

The Program

You might say, "How are they going to pack all of that in?" If you listen carefully, you may hear the wheels grinding in the heads of Joy and Mike as they seek to make that very thing happen.

Re-creations

Shows are always selected to have some positive connection to as many of our guests as possible, and for the entertainment value. Here are the 2001 shows, as scheduled at press time:

On Friday, the stars will be doing *Young Widder Brown*, starring Dick Van Patten. That is followed by a hilarious episode of *Frontier Gentleman* with a large cast.

On Saturday, a jam-packed day, starting with *Vic and Sade*, includes a tribute to our departed friend Merrill Mael. *Johnny Dollar* will be experienced in our popular Cold Read segment. The actors see the script for the first time and start to work on it, just like they did "back then." Then along comes the classic *Let's Pretend*, with Pretenders Arthur Anderson and Dick Van Patten leading the way, followed by *Adventures in Odyssey*. This

episode of a hugely popular show of today will have original stars Alan Young, Janet Waldo, Dick Beals and on-going lead, Paul Herlinger as Whit. The day will conclude with True Boardman directing one of his own shows from *Silver Theater*, "Child Save My Fireman."

Just added to an already jam packed program, *Escape...* "Three Skeleton Key". This is a classic, and it starred Elliott Reid and Harry Bartell who will both be with us.

Break-out Sessions and More

"Let's get ready to..." soak up so much radio history, news and fun. Here are some more key pieces.

In the Mirror. Brief, but fun interviews with first time Showcase guests True Boardman, Elliott Reid and Dick Van Patten. What experiences these folks have to share!

Just Sittin' Around and Visiting. Half of the special guests will do this on Friday evening and the other half on Saturday morning. Always a highly entertaining part of the Showcase.

Big Band Remote. You'll actually be right in the middle of a remote, as The 88th Street Orchestra and Big Band expert Bob Loudon surround us with information and music. A unique convention experience. The orchestra will later be the "studio orchestra" for *Silver Theater*.

Game Show Spoof. You've never

been spoofed unless it's been by master sound effects artist Ray Erlenborn. This is an original from his fertile mind.

Father Knows Best, A Communal Script Read Along. The enthusiastic "sisters" from FKB, Rhoda Williams and Norma Jean Nilsson, will have a brown bag session in which everyone can be involved.

"My Name's Friday". Author Michael Hayde will be with us to debut his new book on *Dagnet* and Jack Webb. Six of our stars are interviewed in the book.

Vendor Room. REPS is again pleased to have an intimate and chocked-full room of vendors, each with special items of memorabilia that we can't resist.

Dinner With the Stars. Each table has at least one of our special guests, so attendees are sure to get this additional small group time with our honored friends.

Group Photo. A distinctive Showcase tradition, we wrap up the event with all of the honored stars gathered in one group. Bring your cameras.

REGISTRATION IS NOW!
JOIN IN THE FUN,
EDUCATION, HISTORY
AND MORE.

MEMORIES OF BOSTON'S OLD-TIME-RADIO

◆ *by Larry Siskind* ◆

As we get older and years go by the memories fade. I am anxious to put into writing the last flickering remembrances of my boyhood radio experiences before they are gone forever. The period I remember with the greatest fondness is 1946 to 1950 or the time between World War II and the Korean War. Harry S Truman was President and radio was truly in its Golden Age, even as the menacing shadow of television approached. This was before cable, computers, calculators, the Internet, cellular telephones, word processors, freeways, digital watches and the numerous other gadgets we now take for granted. This was another time in another world.

Difficult Decisions

I lived in a tiny apartment with my mother and older brother in Boston's Brighton district, only about 2-1/2 miles from where Fred Allen was reared a generation earlier. We were poor and radio was our one great luxury. Our radio was a brown table model Philco Cathedral. The instrument, beloved as it was, often rebelled with loud static and extrinsic noises and from time to time had to be slapped into obedience. Vacuum tubes would frequently have to be replaced like bulbs in lamps. Radio repair shops in those days were as common as garages today. It was the only radio in our household until my brother reached 13. Until then we had to settle disputes concerning programs. My mother suggested that on certain days my brother would decide and on certain days I would decide. The problem was there were seven days in the week, an odd number. I wanted to be able to control 4 of the 7 days. My brother liked shows such as *Sam Spade*, which aired on Sunday. We finally agreed to let him choose any three days he wanted and I would get the rest of the week. He chose Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. That left me with Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Fortunately, most of the time we liked the same shows.

At that time Boston had over a dozen AM radio stations. Suburban stations were later added. The four network stations were WEEI (CBS), WBZ (NBC), WNAC (Mutual) and WCOP (ABC). Two

independent stations I recall were WMEX and WHDH. With the exception of the latter, I seldom listened to the independent stations because they played mostly music, and my young, immature mind had not yet developed a taste for this form of art.

Will They Win The World Series?

WHDH broadcast the Red Sox and the (now Atlanta) Braves home games. Later WNAC took over the Braves games with Jim Britt announcing. I was a baseball fan and spent many hours hovered around the radio rooting for the home teams. In 1946 with the likes of Ted Williams, Johnny Pesky and Bobby Doerr, the Red Sox won the American League pennant only to lose the World Series to the St. Louis Cardinals. I listened to most of the World Series games on our Philco. In 1948 Boston came within a hair of having a Subway World Series. The Braves won the National League pennant. The Red Sox finished in a tie with the Cleveland Indians only to lose in single post-season playoff game.

When a rainy afternoon washed out the local game, WHDH would broadcast a play by play telegraphic recreation of an out of town game. You could hear the ticker the announcer read describing the balls and strikes and all the action of the game.

The *Bob and Ray Show* was first broadcast on WHDH. It aired before the ball games and I would sometimes listen. At the time, I didn't like it. I thought

the show was silly and didn't appreciate the mocking of some of my favorite radio programs. Now I listen to Bob and Ray's old WHDH shows with sadness, especially when reference is made to Boston places and attractions such as Wonderland Dog Track or Maverick Square Station, which I remember fondly from my youth. One summer I worked at Wonderland selling hot dogs. The train, which I took to reach the track, stopped at Maverick Square Station.

Weatherbee or Old Salt

As a child my favorite season was winter and I loved the big snowstorms, which Boston sometimes endured. While others suffered, groaned and became stuck, I enjoyed a school free day with fun in the snow, and extra money shoveling off walks and cars. I also enjoyed the beauty of the freshly falling snow. Most of Boston's radio stations had their own weathermen, like TV shows today. I remember Weatherbee E.B. Rideout (WEEI) and the Old Salt (WCOP). They would discuss current weather conditions in Boston and around the country and mention locations of weather systems. Cities and towns with the most frigid temperatures would often be cited. Their attempts to predict the weather was primitive, at least by present day standards. They would get it right only about one half the time. I liked Old Salt the best because he was more likely to predict snow than the other weather forecasters. Unfortunately, he was more often wrong and the hoped for snowstorm frequently failed to materialize, much to my disappointment.

After school and just before supper, from 5 to 6 pm, came the children's shows. You could not listen to all of them because four were on at the same time, one on each network. At an early age, painful and difficult decisions had to be made. I chose *Superman*, *Terry and the Pirates*, *Hop Harrigan* and *Jack Armstrong*. The announcers would con us into buying those awful cereals such as Pep or Wheaties which when mixed with milk would deteriorate into a soft, unpleasant mush. Even so the cereal boxes often contained exciting premiums, or for a dime and a box top, one could send for pedometers, rings, whistles, secret

decoders or other goodies.

Can You Answer This Question?

Boston had a surprising number of local shows. I remember *Teletest*. This was heard on WNAC weekdays, once in the morning and once in the evening. The host would select numbers at random from the telephone book and then phone the contestants. If he or she answered the phone an opportunity was given to win a monetary prize by correctly answering a question. Each time a question was answered wrong or no one answered the phone, \$5 was added to the pot. The pots were larger in the morning than evening. Some morning pots grew to \$700 or \$800, a fortune for that time. One question I remember was: "What state has as its motto — if you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you?"

Another local show that comes to mind was *Quiz of Two Cities*. The two cities were Boston and Providence. This show was aired simultaneously on WNAC, Boston and WEAN, Providence. At that time WNAC was located near Kenmore Square. One day with some friends, I rode the Commonwealth Avenue trolley to Kenmore and took in the show. We received free toothpaste courtesy of the sponsor. The participants had already been selected before the show and the prizes were modest. The audience was made up mostly of teenagers and we were admonished not to yell anything vulgar or inappropriate into the live audience microphone. We were told to cheer even for the Providence team since the Providence studio and audience were very small.

Trusty Friend

When I had colds, flu or other childhood illnesses and could not go to school, I would be home alone since my mother had to work. Well, I wasn't quite alone, for there was that trusty radio, my friend, and the same radio that brought me information, entertainment and good cheer. I look back with fondness at the world of 50 years ago, a world that is gone forever — but not from my heart and not yet from my memory.



Quiz Question of the Month

by Andy Anderson

**What John Archer film
was nominated for an
Academy Award?**

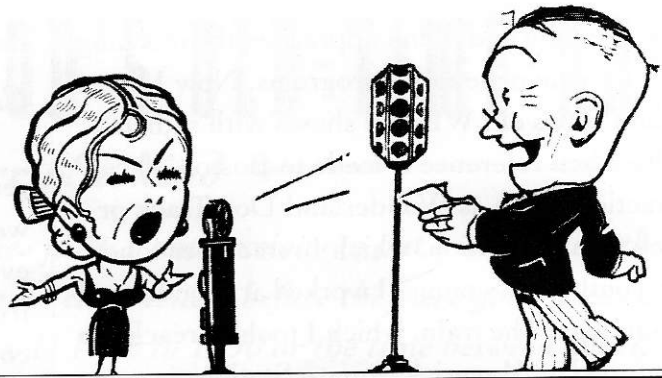
(Larry Albert is not eligible to participate in this quiz.)
ANSWER IN NEXT ISSUE. (Hint Below)

John Archer movies: as Ralph Bowman

Flaming Frontiers (Universal serial, 1938)
Letter of Introduction (Universal, 1938)
Overland Stage Raiders (Republic, 1938)
Dick Tracy Returns (Republic serial, 1938)
Spring Madness (MGM, 1938)
Barnyard Follies (Republic, 1940)
Cheers for Miss Bishop (United Artists, 1941)

As John Archer

Career (RKO, 1939)
Curtain Call (RKO, 1940)
City of Missing Girls (Select, 1941)
Mountain Moonlight (Republic, 1941)
King of the Zombies (Monogram, 1941)
Scattergood Baines (RKO, 1941)
Paper Bullets (Gangs Incorporated) (PRC, 1941)
Highway West (Warner Bros., 1941)
Sucker List (MGM short, 1941)
Hi, Neighbor (Republic, 1942)
Bowery at Midnight (Monogram, 1942)
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch (Paramount, 1942)
Scattergood Survives a Murder (RKO, 1942)
Police Bullets (Monogram, 1942)
Shantytown (Republic, 1943)
The Purple V (Republic, 1943)
Crash Dive (20th Century-Fox, 1943)
Guadalcanal Diary (20th Century-Fox, 1943)
Hello Frisco, Hello (20th Century-Fox, 1943)
Sherlock Holmes in Washington (Universal, 1943)
The Eve of St. Mark (20th Century-Fox, 1944)
Roger Touhy, Gangster (20th Century-Fox, 1944)
No Exceptions (20th Century-Fox/Office of War Information short, 1944)
I'll Remember April (Universal, 1945)
The Lost Moment (Universal, 1947)
Colorado Territory (Warner Bros., 1949)
White Heat (Warner Bros., 1949)
Destination Moon (Eagle-Lion, 1950)
The Great Jewel Robber (Warner Bros., 1950)
High Lonesome (Eagle-Lion, 1950)
My Favorite Spy (Paramount, 1951)
Best of the Badmen (RKO, 1951)
Santa Fe (Columbia, 1951)
Rodeo (Monogram, 1951)
The Big Trees (Warner Bros., 1952)
Sea Tiger (Monogram, 1952)
A Yank in Indo-China (Columbia, 1952)
Sound Off (Columbia, 1952)
The Stars Are Singing (Paramount, 1953)
Dragon's Gold (United Artists, 1954)
No Man's Woman (Republic, 1955)
Emergency Hospital (United Artists, 1956)
Rock Around the Clock (Columbia, 1956)
Three Brave Men (20th Century-Fox, 1957)
Affair in Reno (Republic, 1957)
She Devil (20th Century-Fox, 1957)
Decision at Sundown (Columbia, 1957)
Ten Thousand Bedrooms (MGM, 1957)
City of Fear (Columbia, 1959)
Blue Hawaii (Paramount, 1961)
Apache Rifles (20th Century-Fox, 1964)
I Saw What You Did (Universal, 1965)
How to Frame a Figg (Universal, 1971)



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES & NOTICES

Membership is \$18.00 for the year. Members may take advantage of the libraries — tape and book.

Door prizes. Share your tapes as door prizes at the meetings. Each meeting several lucky people are the 'winners' of tapes.

Website. We are currently revising and upgrading our website. However, we can still be reached at www.repsonline.org. It is likely that we'll get the first official look at the new REPS website after it is converted from the present one.

Tape library and grab bags. Members can rent tapes for \$6.00 (10 cassettes for 30 days). Grab bags can be rented at each meeting for \$5.00. All tape orders must have name and phone number. On returning tapes you must include your name and phone number. This saves a lot of extra work for the tape librarians. There is a fine for tapes held over two months. Mail tape orders to: DARRELL ANDERSON, 17232 174th SE, RENTON, WA 98058. Phone orders are not accepted except in dire need. All tape orders must be by tape number — not name of show as the librarians do not have time to look up titles to get numbers. Be sure that tapes are in the correct box, as this is not always the case.

If you do not have an order blank, please call Darrell or Vi at 425-226-7005. If you do not have a catalog, contact one of the officers listed in the Air Check.



We meet on the first Saturday of every month at the Queen Anne Library from 2pm to 4pm

400 West Garfield • Seattle

April 7th: Captain Midnight. Not only a historical look-back at this favorite memory of many, with taped excerpts and many details, but a live re-creation of the show will be done as well.

April 14th: Captain Midnight. 2pm at the Museum of Flight.

May 5th: Radio on the Internet & REPS Website. Whether or not you're out there surfing, this will be a fascinating meeting. You'll see and hear what is available, where it is going. There is so much radio available, it's hard to believe. But, legal challenges are surfacing. You'll like this. This meeting will be led by extraordinarily knowledgeable REPS member Paul Feavel.

June 2nd: Patsy Britton. From early radio days in Seattle to Laurel and Hardy connections and more, our special guest brings enthusiasm and a great memory. Members who know her promise a fun and informative time.

June 18th: Imagination Theatre. Kirkland Performance Center.

No July Meeting

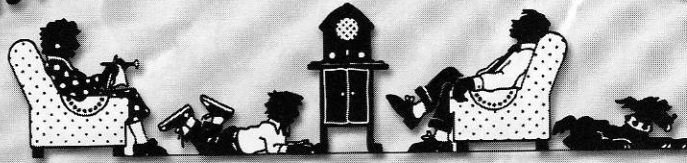
August 4th: 'The Incident at Scarlyn' and 'Vic & Sade'. An original show and a classic — both to be performed by the REPS Radio Readers. Not many places in the country where this kind of action is occurring.

—◆ VISIT US AT THE REPS WEBSITE! ◆—

www.repsonline.org

REPS ONLINE MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

If You Live In The Puget Sound Area



The Best Old-Time-Radio Is On Your TV Now

If you have: • A stereo TV or VCR • Cable TV and live in King County • Real Audio player with Internet access
 You can listen to hours of the best old time radio every week provided by the Radio Entertainment Network.

How to listen:

Channel 9 Select the SAP audio option on your stereo TV or VCR. (See manual for more information.)

Monday thru Friday 12 midnight till 2 am

Sunday 2 am till 10 am

Holidays 12 noon till 8 pm

Channel 77/29

Everyday 6 am till 8 am

yesterdayusa.com

Sunday 6 am till 4 pm with a repeat approximately 2 hours later.

Schedule

Monday	<i>Suspense</i> <i>The Great Gildersleeve</i> <i>REN Radio Playhouse</i> "cont"
Tuesday	<i>Gangbusters</i> <i>Fibber McGee and Molly</i> <i>Crime Files</i> "cont"
Wednesday	<i>Shadow</i> <i>Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar</i> <i>Lum & Abner</i> <i>Dragnet</i>
Thursday	<i>Radio Remembered</i> "cont" <i>Escape</i> <i>Gunsmoke</i>

Friday

REN Radio Classics

"cont"

After School/Soaptime

Jack Benny

Saturday

Channel 9 *Off the air*

Channel 77/29 *Best of REN*

Sunday

Channel 9 *Repeats the first 8 hours, 2 am till 10 am*

Channel 77/29 *Best of REN*

yesterdayusa.com 6 am till 4:30 pm, then repeats approximately 2 hours later

Please help keep old time radio on the air. Let these broadcasters know that you enjoy their programming.

Channel 9

Evergreen Radio Reading Service

Phone: 206-515-0400

E-mail: wtbbl@wtbbl.org

Channel 77/29

SCAN Public Access Network

Phone: 206-522-4758

E-mail: scandir@home.com

yesterdayusa.com

Yesterday USA Radio Networks

E-mail: bill@yesterdayusa.com

For comments or for further information contact REN at 206-689-1708.

REPS RADIO READERS...

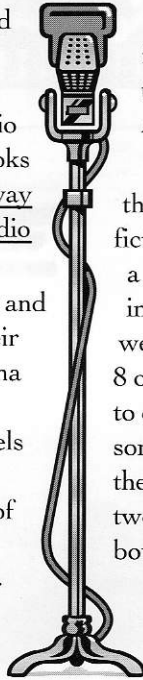
Announcing a new project for REPS and the Radio Readers!!

When the sponsors of *Vic and Sade* smashed the stored recordings of the show, in their haste to get onto newer things, a large percentage of the recordings were lost forever. Paul Rhymer still retained the scripts, but the audio recordings were now gone. Paul's wife published two books of his best scripts in the early 1970s: Small House Halfway Up in the Next Block (1972) and Vic and Sade: Best Radio Plays of Paul Rymer (1976).

Barbara Schwarz, Exultant One of the Friends of Vic and Sade, asked our help in covering the missing gaps in their audio collection. REPS have a great Gook family in Anna Denton, Dave Selvig and Joy Jackson. If you had the opportunity to hear them last September doing "Caramels on a Hot Day", you'd agree. Case in point, that episode was our first of the project — there isn't an audio copy of that in existence.

It was unfortunate that this idea took shape after our Uncle Fletcher moved onto other things.

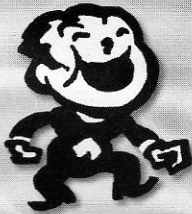
Most of the scripts selected for the two books do



not have audio portions, so we've got our work cut out for us. At the Showcase, the *Vic and Sade* will be one of those for the project, and we plan to do two more at the August meeting. Stay tuned.

Original Science Fiction Play On August 4th, the REPS Radio Readers will present an original science fiction play, "Incident at Scarlyn". This play is a segment of a longer project, the conversion of a science fiction novel into a series of radio plays, which can be listened to as if it were a book-on-tape. "Incident at Scarlyn" is Chapter 7 and 8 of the yet unfinished novel by Joy Jackson. The play has to do with the importance of Law and the courage to defend someone not of your own kind. The action takes place on the planet Tir, a "Beirut" of the space-lanes, fought over every twenty years, and left broken and ignored in-between the bouts of war.

To sweeten the dose of science fiction, the Readers will also perform two episodes of *Vic and Sade* to round out the meeting.



CORNER

This little section is going to be in Air Check to recognize and thank donors. This may be in remembrance of someone who has passed on. It might be a gift for the Showcase Guest Fund to cover travel expenses for out-of-town OTR folks. Maybe it is a donation of material, or money toward acquisitions. And, if you donate and don't want your name listed, we'll respect that wish. So, it may be many, it may be few, but thanks to those who have given in the past. In case you don't know, donations to REPS are tax deductible and givers will receive a receipt. All gifts, with an indication of the purpose, should be sent to REPS c/o Janet Conrad, Treasurer, 6530 47th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136

KINDNESS

In Memory Of Merrill Mael:

Mike & Linda Sprague, Tyler & Esther McVey, Harry & Bev Bartell, Douglas & Eileen Young, Ray & Meridy Erlenborn, Lawrence & Gweneth Bliss and William Buckley

Showcase:

Merrill & Sandy Mael, Art Scott, Richard Bonesteel, Terry Campbell, Jay Secord, Paul Secord, Bill Buckley, Jim & Pat French, PEMCO, Our OTR Treasures who paid parts of their own expenses

Other Gifts:

Stewart Conway — Sound effects equipment
Jay Secord — Air Check printing
Paul Secord — Showcase supplies

REPS Showcase Guest Fund:

Thanks to all for an incredible response to the appeal letter. This Showcase is virtually guaranteed to at least break even, even with our doing more than ever before. Many thanks to: Lynn Barker, Mike & Linda Sprague, Brent Pellegrini, Harriet Baskas, Richard Bonesteel, Terrance Christ, Jerauld Miller, Neal Shulman, David Taylor, Gary & Kathleen Hagan, Kenneth Bertrand, Adele Lohman, Robert & Meredith Loudon, Les Westrum, Paul Feavel, David & Joan Selvig, Joel & Carolyn Senter, Jim French Productions, Inc., The Rich McCoy Company, Inc., John Theodore, Ray Tweatt, Thomas & Elizabeth Roach, Don & Patricia Tewkesbery, Gil & Dee Stratton, John Norton, Edward Blanchard, Frank Buxton, Diane Hensel, Bill Brooks, Art Gilmore, Sam Simone, John Hura, Jim & Drucilla Briggs, Bill & Kathy Parker, Tommy & Fern Cook, Bryan & Carole Haigood, George Korn, Darrell & Vi Anderson, Florence Path, Frank & Anna Denton, David & Bernice Palmer, Clifton & Joleen Ferguson, Thomas Brandt, Keith & Lisa Leopard, Terry Campbell, Marilyn Wilt, Ron Hauser, Christopher & Janet Conrad, William Buckley, Donald Lackey, Paul Secord, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Gregersen, Arthur Scott, Richard & Margaret Schacht, Bill Grandey & Kathy Morby, Berry Entertainment/KLKI, Millie Morse.

Silent Auction Donators:

Tyler & Esther McVey, Ray & Meridy Erlenborn, Gil Stratton Jr., Anne Whitfield Phillips, Janet Waldo, Sam & Beverly Edwards, Jack Edwards & Jane Webb, Stewart Wright, Sam Simone, John Jensen, Cliff Glaspey and Don Allen

In Memory Of Sandra Gould:

Norma Jean Nilsson

If your name has been overlooked, please let the editor know so we can properly reflect everyone's kindness. We're all volunteers and it is possible for us to miss some very important details. Thanks.



REPS

9926 NE 197TH STREET
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Tom Brown
1402 S. Kahuna Dr
Spokane WA 99212

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Showcase IX...
Will it be "The best ever?"
Come and see!

SECORD PRINTING...THEY REALLY DO A GREAT JOB!

People continue to say things like "Your newsletter is the nicest, most professional looking one I've seen." Guess why? It's because Jay Secord, his daughter Keri, and graphic designer Brenda Ellenberg really care. Almost everything is donated and we feel quite indebted when each issue comes out so special. We encourage you to call Secord Printing at 425-883-2182 for all your printing needs.



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. Please let the stations and sponsors (if any) know of your appreciation.

Imagination Theatre (C)	KNWX	770 AM	9:06-10PM	Saturday
Imagination Theatre (C)	KNWX	770 AM	9:06-10PM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KNWX	770 AM	10PM-1AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KNWX	770 AM	1AM-4AM	Saturday
When Radio Was	KNWX	770 AM	10PM-12AM	Sunday
When Radio Was	KLKI	1340 AM	6PM-7PM	M-F (Angcortes)
OTR	CFMS	98.5 FM	9-10PM	Saturday (Victoria)
OTR Siskind/Herman	ERRS	SAP FM	8-9PM	Saturday
REN	ERRS	SAP FM	11PM-2AM	M-F (note change)
Odyssey/children (C)	KCIS	630 AM	7:30AM	Saturday
Odyssey/children (C)	KCIS	630 AM	7:30PM	M-F
Ruby In'galac. Gumshoe (C)	KUOW	94.9 FM	10:30PM	M-F
Unshackled (C)	KCIS	630 AM	9:30PM	Sunday
OTR	CFMI	101.1 FM	10PM	Sunday (Vancouver)
Radio Replays	CKNW	980 AM	11:10 PM	M-F (Vancouver)
Golden Age of Radio Theater	KLAY		6PM-12PM	Saturday
Golden Age of Radio Theater	KLAY		3PM-6PM	Sunday



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