VOLUME 11 . NUMBER 4

SHOW(ASE IX + 2001



Young Widder Brown Cast: Front Row, Left to Right Tommy Cook, Dick Beals, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Ginny Tyler. Back Row, Left to Right: Paul Herlinger, Pat French, Dick Van Patten, Jo Anna March & Gil Stratton, Jr.



Vic & Sade Cast: Left to Right: Douglas Young, Joy Jackson, Art Gilmore, Anna Denton & Frank Buxton



Left to Right: Frank Buxton, Harry Bartell, Herb Ellis & Elliott Reid.



SHOWCASE IX JUNE 29 - 30, 2001

Another successful Showcase is history. Hopefully, you were able to share some of this time with REPS and the OTR Stars. There was something for everyone in this jam-packed day and a half. None of this would have been possible without the giving spirit of each of the participants, especially "our" OTR Stars. Did you take the time to extend to them your personal word of thanks when you saw them? What was your favorite? Is it possible to pick just one? Perhaps, it was one of the "Features" -Young Widder Brown, Frontier Gentleman, Vic & Sade, Let's Pretend, Escape, Adventures in Odyssey, or Silver Theatre. Maybe it was "In the-Mirror" featuring our first time guests, Elliott Reid, Dick Van Patten or True Boardman. Would your favorite be the "Cold Read" of Yours True, Johnny Dollar, the chance to mix and mingle during the "Social Hour", or the opportunity to just rub shoulders with all these fabulous OTR Stars? You might choose all the wonderful stories told during the "Focus" — Just Sittin' Around Visiting. But then your favorite could be one of the many other activities of the Showcase such as "Inside Story" - Imagination Theater, "Being There" - Live Big Band Remote, "Book Corner" - My Name's Friday, or the "Bonus Feature" - The Alan Young Show. What about the audience participation aspects of Showcase IX: "An Experience" - Game Show Time or "Musicale" - OTR Commercial Sing-Along? Are you one who likes surprises and would therefore select Fibber McGee and Molly or The Bickersons as your favorite? Who would not be excited about having so much "star" power all in one spot as the OTR Stars gather for "Fond Farewells" with a group photo? Did you have your camera ready?



Frontier Gentleman Cast: Left to Right: Harry Bartell, Norma Jean Nilsson, Sam Edwards, Arthur Anderson Douglas Young, Art Gilmore, Jo Anna March, Rhoda Williams, Elliott Reid & Herb Ellis.



Let's Pretend Cast: Left to Right: Jo Anna March, Arthur Anderson, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Dick Beals, Dick Van Patten, Norma Jean Nilsson, Ginny Tyler, Rhoda Williams & True Boardman.



Adventures in Odyssey Cast: Left to Right: Douglas Young, Peggy Jordan, Paul Herlinger, Dick Beals, Gil Stratton, Jr., Art Gilmore, Ginny Tyler & Frank Buxton.



Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar Cast: Left to Right: Herb Ellis, Gil Stratton, Jr., Harry Bartell, llong Herlinger, Paul Herlinger & Sam Edwards.



Fibber McGee and Molly Cast: Peggy Jordan & Arthur Anderson



Rickersons Cost Rhoda Williams & Gil Stratton, Jr.

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Thank you to everyone who helped me do this Showcase issue. I could not have done it without your

help. Frank Denton, Bill Parker and Stewart Wright wrote the articles. Joy Jackson shared her thoughts and helped to make sure that all the actors, sound people and musicians were credited for their hard work. (If I failed to give someone credit, I apologize.) Mike Sprague read and re-read all the proofs – as well as correcting my many punctuation errors. Several OTR Stars and panelists helped "enhance" the stories by checking the accuracy and filling in missing pieces: Harry Bartell, Michael Hayde, Paul Herlinger and Elliott Reid. David Van Meter and Michael Comstock took all the wonderful pictures that you see. Last, but definitely not least, Secord Printing again did a wonderful job of making it look great.



Every year we step back after a Showcase and remember the impressive number of volunteers who helped make the event what it was. This year is no exception. About 40 people took some responsibility for some piece of the Showase, causing people to say that this was "The best one yet!"

You are a special group of people, and we hope that you'll accept our deep and sincere "THANKS!" for your work be it long, long hours as invested by many, or be it a smaller contribution of time, still important in the big picture.

Volunteers from this year will get at least one insider preview before the rest of the world. You're great, and if you want to reinforce that, read the comment section in this Air Check.

SHOWCASE IX



HIGHLIGHTS

Inside Story: Lyiagination Theater

Friday Afternoon

In The Mirror: Flliott
"Ted" Reid

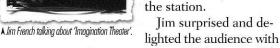
by Stewart Wright

Showcase IX started with the panel Inside Story - *Imagination Theater* with Jim French. Seattle actor, *Imagination Theater* performer, and REPS member Larry Albert who is also the Operations Manager for Jim French Productions moderated it.

Jim has been writing and producing radio dramas in Seattle since 1972. Many of his shows are broadcast through the syndicated *Imagination Theater* on over 120 radio stations in the U.S. and Canada and to most of the world via the Internet and satellite.

Jim played several sample clips from his shows including a *Crisis* episode, The Loophole, which

starred Hans Conried.
Hans later starred in a
Harry Nile episode, Favor
For A Friend, that was
scheduled to be broadcast
in June, 1978 on KVI, but
was not aired until December, 1990 on KIRO
because of a sudden
change in personnel at



a quite good impersonation of Hal Peary's Gildersleeve.

Many of his early shows had their locales in Southern California, Jim's native state. Joe Abel, a former station manager at KIRO encouraged Jim to "move" detective Harry Nile from California to Seattle.

Jim's latest series, *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, in which Larry co-stars as Dr. Watson, was also discussed. While the episodes are new stories, Jim attempts to stay as close as possible to the way that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote the characters.

If you have questions regarding Jim's shows you can contact him at: jrfproductions@yahoo.com

First time attendee Elliott Reid was interviewed by Bill Brooks. The acting bug bit him early — at the age of ten, when he played Scrooge in A Christmas Carol at Siwanoy School in Pelham, NY. He felt the warmth of stage lights, got some good laughs...and...decided he would like to do more of it; so he become an actor. His parents, who also liked his performance as Scrooge, were very supportive. By the time he was thirteen he was on the Horn and Hardart Children's Hour, doing stand-up comedy using material written by his mother.

In those pre-AFRA days, the children were paid nothing, only — occasionally — a cake (supposedly for the child who got the most letters of praise). This was still the depression, and every penny helped, so Elliott began to try and get work on radio shows that *paid* the performer, and, bit-by-bit, he got results. His first paid performance, at the age of fourteen, was on a program called *The American School of the Air*, playing Huck Finn, on CBS.

More and more radio came his way until

to this day.



A Elliott Reid got bit by the acting bug at the age of 10.

– finally – he was employed steadily on a very prestigious program: *The March of Time*. Another actor on that show was twenty two year old Orson Welles, who came to seventeen year old Reid during one of *The March of Time* rehearsals, and told him he was going to start a new repertory company, called the Mercury Theatre, and would Elliott be interested in joining it? So finally, and that easily, Elliott got his Equity card, and was in a Broadway show that, quite literally, made theatrical history. The two youngest members of this company were Elliott, at seventeen, and (well known to REPS) Arthur Anderson, at fourteen. Logic demanded that the two youngest should share a dressing room. So Arthur and Elliott have known each other a long, long time! That formed a friendship, which continues

Many, many radio and TV programs, plays, musical revues and films have followed through the years, and *this* year — visiting REPS and re-creating, with Harry Bartell and Herb Ellis, Three Skeleton Key (directed by Frank Buxton) was "an especially delightful and unique experience" says our new Honorary member, Elliott Reid.

Elliott is known for his skill at mimicry and shared Andy Rooney with us. Elliott received an invitation to offer his impression of President Kennedy before the White House Press Correspondents' annual dinner, in Washington, D.C. He put his material together that very day, to perform that evening, from a big story in the NY Times, concerning U.S. Steel. The President enjoyed it so much, he invited Elliott to repeat the performance at his birthday party in Madison Square Garden...the famous party where Marilyn Monroe sang "Happy Birthday, Mr. President". Elliott was only too happy to oblige!



RADIO MIRROR:

Larry Albert read sections from 'Radio Mirror' throughout the Showcase. He did an excellent job of selecting articles, which were appropriate to the next activity.

In The Mirror: Dick Van Patten

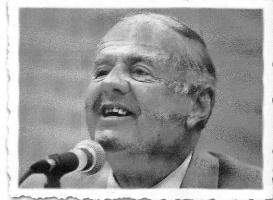
This was Dick Van Patten's first appearance at the REPS Showcase. His very good friend, Tommy Cook, interviewed him. Dick was born in Queens, New York and got his start as a child model at the age of 4 in the '30s with John Robert Powers. Dick said: "I owe everything to my mother". She was a stage mother who didn't push her son but saw

that he was presented with opportunities. He had to wait until the ripe old age of 7 before he could appear on Broadway, then he did 27 plays in a row even though he never

had any acting lessons. As a child, he played poker with the stagehands, which he still enjoys today. The role of Ensign Pulver opposite Henry Fonda in *Mister Roberts* is his favorite stage role.

His radio experience was all obtained while living in New York. At the age of 9, he was on the CBS show *Let's Pretend*.

"Radio was a pleasant way to make a living", Dick said. His series work included the roles of Mark on Young Widder Brown and Toby Smith on the Aldrich Family. He did Kiss & Tell with Shirley Tem-



A Dick Van Patten shares thoughts about working on radio— "It was a pleasant way to make a living."

ple on *Theater Guild on the Air*. By the way, Dick is the same age as: Mickey Mouse, Shirley Temple and the Academy Awards.

As a teenager, he and Robert Evans traded suits and the "women" were so impressed by their extensive wardrobes. Dick admitted that Robert was rather handsome and he (Dick) got the "left overs" where girls were concerned.

In 1949, Dick made the transition from stage and radio to television portraying Peggy Wood's son, Nels, in *I Remember Mama*. He did the pilot for both *Love Boat* and *Eight is Enough*. Since both series were picked up, the role of the doctor on the *Love Boat* went to Bernie Kopell. Dick has acted in every medium – movies, TV series, stage and radio – and said that he prefers TV. "*Eight is Enough* gave me name recognition", Dick commented.

He came to California in 1970 as a favor, to do a play for 8 weeks. Then he was offered a series and never returned to New York. When asked what his favorite memento from all his years in show business was, he responded: "I have a star! I was always fascinated by the Walk of Fame".

Today his passions include his family, tennis and horses.

Feature: Young had any acting le the stagebands of the stageband of the stagebands of the stageband of the stagebands of the stageband of the stageband

by Bill Parker

Young Widder Brown held sway over her Simpsonville teashop and 15 minutes of airtime on NBC for a "brief" 18 years, 1938 – 1956. Her heartache, and the fortune she made for Anne and Frank Hummert's soap empire, was built on her total failure to convince her children to let her marry rich, handsome Dr. Anthony Loring (described on air as: "the conflict between a mother's duty and a woman's heart").

Introduced by director Dick Beals, our re-creation began with a Phillips Milk of Magnesia commercial — "Buy it in the economical 50 cent size". A cast headed by Dick Van Patten as Dr. Loring are worried that something has happened to Ellen (Young Widder) Brown (Ginny Tyler). Conniving Madeline (Anne Whitfield Phillips) has urged Christopher (Tommy Cook) to kill Louise, and is surprised to find only a dummy in Louise's bed. Confrontations proliferate between Christopher, Madelyn, Policeman Tim (Paul Herlinger) and Dr. Loring, and multiple shots are fired. "But", says the



the rest of us are left hanging. A splendid cast, rounded out by Pat French and Jo Anna March, brought out all the emotion in this dramatic story with help

the emotion in this dramatic story with help from Jim Jansen on the keyboard and David Persson on sound effects.

dramatic

announcer

Jr.), "What

to Young

Widder

(Gil Stratton,

has happened

Brown?" Tune

in tomorrow

to find out -



A Lindsev Stewart shares her love of Alan Young.

Bonus Feature: THE LAN YOUNG Lindsey Stewart

is a huge Alan Young fan. During the dinner break, she shared a 50 year-old Kinescope of The Alan Young Show. When she first saw some of Alan's shows, she was hooked and almost called him to say: "I'm in love with your work". This episode featured Alan's antics after he was thrown in jail and put in a cell with two hardened criminals. It was amazing to watch the sets move when the actors jumped

too hard!

Friday Evening

by Frank Denton

"Herewith an Englishman's account of life and death in the west."

Many of the episodes of this fine western radio drama, often overshadowed by Fort Laramie, Have Gun, Will Travel, and Gunsmoke, were serious stories, sometimes even grim. Not so with this episode entitled Belljov's Prisoner. J.B. Kendall was the Englishman, a reporter for the London Times. As he traveled throughout the west, he became more than a little involved in incidents upon which he was reporting. In this episode he is traveling by stagecoach, which stops for the night in a small town. Here the sheriff arrests him for no reason other than that he wants Kendall to teach his daughter to speak well and to have manners. And before long he expects Kendall to marry her.

Elliott Reid played the role of Kendall and Doug Young played the great fat sheriff, Belljoy. He calls Kendall a "pussy-footin' foreigner." Sound effects supplied by Ray Erlenborn and David Persson were excellent, especially when Belljoy crashes through the boardwalk.

C.B. Belljoy, the sheriff's son, was played by Sam Edwards, cow towing to his dad and occasionally trying to influence things. Norma Jean Nilsson played Mrs. Belljoy, hopeful of turning her daughter into something more than a frontier gal. Rhoda Williams had great fun with the role of the daughter, Mercy Day, using a high, girlish, unsophisticated voice. She tries to learn diction and manners and doesn't take long at all to fall in love with Kendall. Kendall makes the mistake of using "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." as a lesson in diction. One can imagine how Mercy Day receives that. Herb Ellis, Jo Anna March, Harry Bartell and Arthur Anderson took other key roles with

Art Gilmore in a very familiar role - the announcer. Mr. Bartell had worked on the original episode that was re-

created.

Herb Ellis directed and Jim French provided the music. Although the script was lighter and more humorous than one might expect, it was enjoyed greatly by the audience and allowed the players to go just a bit over the top.



as C.B. Belljoy cow towing to his dad, the sheriff.

A Norma Jean Nilsson wants her dauahter to he more than a frontier aal.

In The Mirror: True Boardman

Dick Beals interviewed True Boardman, one of radio's all time top writers. True was honored in the back-to-back radio seasons of 1938-39 and 1939-40 for creating some of radio's best dramas, as chief writer for Silver Theatre, a showcase for big name stars.

Dick introduced True as having "91 years in show business". Displaying a theater program from 1910, True said: "I did pick out a very wise city to be born in – Seattle". The program showed his father appearing

as the leading man in the play Heir to the

Hura, with his mother as the ingénue. True made his debut in the theater at the age of 8 weeks, but "I was fired for crying". At the age of 4,

he went on the road with his father to Hollywood to work for the popular Bronco Billy series. True's father died the following year, and True went on to appear with Charlie Chaplin in Shoulder Arms ("Unfortunately

my scenes were cut", said True, "but the British retained the outtakes") and with Mary Pickford and Helen Keller. At this time (about 1918), Helen Keller's story was be-



A True Boardman was fired for crying! He was only 8 weeks old.

ing filmed, and True learned how to communicate with Helen from her teacher, Anne Sullivan (the inspiration for The Miracle Worker).

Working in radio by the age of 12, True supported himself through Los Angeles City College by doing local radio shows, both as an actor and a writer. Radio scripts grew out of the stories he was writing and they helped launch the careers of Jeanette Nolan and Elliott Lewis. True describes Silver Theatre as "the half hour

"Hmm.

now how do I do

that?" asks David

Persson while doing sound

effects for 'Frontier Gentleman'.

Lux", and one of his fondest memories is writing and acting in Scheherazade with Marlene Dietrich. "I wrote the script while listening to Rimsky-

Korsakov's Scheherazade music, with a little help from Omar Khayyam". True says that in his best writing, the characters in the script began talking with him. "I called it 'when the little man on my shoulder started talking to me".

Friday Evening

Mike Sprague hosted this special segment of chatting with the OTR Stars. Rhoda Williams, Dick Beals, Elliott Reid, Ray Erlenborn, Jo Anna March, Gil Stratton, Jr., Arthur Anderson, Dick Van Patten, Tommy Cook, Sam Edwards, Harry Bartell, Herb Ellis, Art Gilmore, Norma Jean Nilsson and Anne Whitfield Phillips shared some of their memories from Old Time Radio.

There was so much



A Mike Sprague hosts the fast moving 'Just Sittin' Around Visiting'. Back row, left to right: Tommy Cook, Norma Jean Nilsson, Herb Ellis, Art Gilmore, Dick Van Patten, Rhoda Williams (back to camera). Front row, left to right: Mike Sprague and Anne Whitfield Phillips.

fast moving conversation and so many stories that this article will not try to capture them all. Members will want to borrow the tape from the library when it is added.

My Name's Friday, at this year's Showcase. Michael started his book in 1997, fifteen years after the death of Jack Webb, when it became evident that no one

Book Corner:

10,000.

Michael

signed

lots of

books

at the

Show-

case; in

fact, he

sold out

what he

brought.

order it.

This is his first book with a first run printing of

else was going to write one. He started in the library

by using magazines, newspapers and the Internet.

Harry Bartell, Sam

Edwards and Herb Ellis joined Michael Havde as he premiered his book,

A Herb Ellis, Harry Bartell and Sam Edwards talking with Michael Hayde about his book — My Name's Friday.

If you are still interested, you can get his book online

Michael found that most people said the same

things about Iack Webb: he was loval, a taskmaster.

and "Don't cross him: he'll kill you (figuratively, not

literally)." He was pretty much a no-nonsense man.

at Amazon.com or BN.com, or by checking your local bookstore. If it's not on the shelf, they'll special-

by Bill Parker

This regular Showcase feature was dedicated to our much loved Merrill Mael, who had played Uncle Fletcher in original broadcasts,

and at all our Showcases. Merrill died last year, and with his wife, Sandy, in the audience we listened to Merrill's voice

talking at Showcase III about Vic & Sade. "When Paul Rhymer wrote a line for a character,"

Merrill had said, "you could hardly read

it wrong, it was so perfect for the part. There were times when we went on the air, and he didn't have the script done vet. Rhymer could never

have thought that 50 years later people would be listening to this." But listen we did to this latest re-creation, with Douglas Young as Uncle Fletcher, whose landlady is away and he is compelled to find the meals she left for him all over the house. With Frank Buxton as

> Vic, Anna Denton as Sade, Joy Jackson as Rush and Art Gilmore as the announcer, it was another gem of a story. "Go down to the cellar,

Rush", says Uncle Fletcher. "Go down to the cellar, Vic". Of course, no one does. Frank Buxton directed this delightful re-creation.

Special door prizes of some of the work Merrill has done for REPS were given to five lucky winners and a gift of a tape went to Sandy.

Saturday Morning

Jack wanted the actors to get the job done and not be 'distracted' with emotions or memorizing lines, so he used a TelePrompTer for his TV shows.

For close-ups, actors would read their lines from the 'Prompter. A game developed among the actors regarding the amount of dialog they needed to memorize for master scenes of entering and leaving a room. "I never did guess right," said Harry Bartell.

Most of Jack's work was 'heavier' drama but he did a comedy series in 1946, "...just for something to do," according to Herb Ellis. Jack would do his Dragnet shows on radio and then later film them for TV. He once did a shoot in one day for the 'exorbitant' cost of \$12,500. Universal Studios didn't renew the copyright on the first 100 black and white episodes; they are currently not shown on TV in reruns.

When Jack Webb decided that he wanted to get into TV, he spent four weeks going to the studios to learn the business; then said: "Let's shoot." Sam Edwards, who was in the very first TV episode, told us it was directed by Raymond Burr. Sam also said that "Let's move in for a Jack Webb" became a phrase in Hollywood after Jack came up with the concept of getting head shots of the actors. Harry, Herb and

continued on next page

A Frank Buxton plays Vic in our Book Corner:

My

NAME'S

Sam all had the chance to question Michael as well as add their knowledge to the discussion since they all had connections to Jack Webb. Herb Ellis had known Jack since high school, and worked with him at KGO in San Francisco. Jack conceived *Dragnet* in the home of Herb and Sylvia Ellis. Harry Bartell got into television because he said "Sure!" when Jack asked him if he wanted to be on TV. Sam Edwards recalled that Jack once auditioned for the *Edwards Family Show* and didn't get the part. Nevertheless, Jack used Sam on many of his shows over the years. The panel lasted about 40 minutes and was not only informative but also full of high spirits and good humor.

Everyone who attended seemed to enjoy themselves immensely.

FRIDAY... CONTINUED Saturday Morning

YOURS TRULY TOHNNY DOLLAR

Have you ever wondered what goes on when the actors first receive a script? This cold read may have given you an indication. Director Herb Ellis gave out the scripts to the cast of Gil Stratton, Jr., Paul Herlinger, Harry Bartell, Ilona Herlinger and Sam Edwards who saw their scripts for the first time and started to mark their lines as the audience looked on and listened in.



A Gil Stratton, Jr. reminds us: "I'm still flying around up here." while portraying Johnny Dollar in 'Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar'.

Johnny goes to Seattle to catch a plane loaded with TNT that is headed for a remote mining town in Alaska. Their mission: nothing short of changing the flow of a glacier threatening the town. In flight, the pilot develops appendicitis, the plane develops control problems and the cast develops hilarious problems figuring out what page they're on -"This was not originally a comedy", said Herb. While they were trying to straighten this out, Gil

Stratton, Jr. in the role of Johnny Dollar informed us: "I'm still flying around up here".

Harry Bartell related the true incident that this episode was based on: "A United Airline plane approaching LAX couldn't get its landing gear down. The mechanics and engineers kept radioing suggestions to the pilot and finally, after the airplane jettisoned most of its fuel, they spread foam on the runway (a first) and the plane pancaked in safely. Jimmy Stewart, a brigadier general in the Air Force in WW2 was guest of honor at a banquet of the Airline Pilots Association. He got hold of the original tape of the conversation between the LAX tower and the airplane and Jack Johnstone converted the tape into a radio script. I played the LAX dispatcher. It was recorded and played for the banquet but never broadcast. Jack later pirated the material and used it, some of it verbatim, for Johnny Dollar". We changed the location to Seattle for our Cold Read.

by Frank Denton

One of the outstanding casting jobs of Showcase IX was *Let's Pretend*. The director was Arthur



Anderson, who appeared on the show beginning in his childhood and continuing for eighteen years. He began by telling us about the show and leading us in singing the sponsor's song, the Cream of Wheat Song. After the opening of the show Rhoda Williams and Norma Jean Nilsson sang the Cream of Wheat song, this time in harmony.

Everyone knows the story of Cinderella and the glass slipper. Ginny Tyler and Norma Jean Nilsson were at their nastiest as Cinderella's overbearing and tormenting stepsisters. Rhoda Williams was equally despicable as the stepmother, using a voice that would put anyone in his or her proper place.

Anne Whitfield Phillips was a wonderful Cinderella, begging her stepmother for a chance to go to the ball. Jo Anna March couldn't have been better as the fairy godmother, changing a pumpkin into a coach, mice to horses, and a rat to a coachman and lizards to footmen.

Ah, the footmen. Two persons had bid in an auction for the right to play the footmen, but before the production began the troupe had risen to six.

Tommy Cook led them in their lines, and both adults and kids were terrific. Kudos to Tommy Cook,

Mikhael Cook (Tommy's son), Kate McNight, Bill

Buckley, Chris Conrad, and Bill

Gerritsen.

Dick Beals played the page as the Prince, Dick Van Patten, searched for the woman with whom he had fallen in love and whose glass slipper was left behind. Arthur Anderson helped the prince as his coachman.

True Boardman played Uncle Bill Adams. The children (audience) were called upon to supply sound effects

during the commercials. "Buzz" like a bee. It was great fun for all. And although it was a children's show, this reviewer thinks it was one of the best re-creations of the convention.

Finally bows to Jim Jansen, who provided the music and to Ray Erlenborn and David Persson who provided the sound effects.













THE JOHN ARCHER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD The



A John Archer Volunteer of the Year winners: Cliff and Lynda Glaspey.

Volunteer of the Year Award is given to a REPS member(s) who generously give of their time and talent to REPS just as John Archer was always so willing to do. This year Cliff and Lynda Glaspey were honored for all the work they do to keep the membership rolls current. Cliff and Lynda were probably seen by most of you at the REPS table this year during the Showcase. They also give of their time to help with the Silent Auction. Lynda brings her computer to every meeting so that she can sign up new members right on the spot. Thank you, Cliff and Lynda, for your years of dedication to REPS. We are so glad that we could honor you in this small way.

THE REPS RADIO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

"A body of work by an actor, director, producer or other individual whose work has contributed to the perpetuation and furtherance of radio theater, past or present". Presentation this year was by the previous recipients: Ray Erlenborn, as the second recipient walked over to Harry Bartell, who received the award the next year; then the two of them walked over to Art Gilmore, who joined the train over to Sam Edwards; they gathered Dick Beals on their way to this year's winner: Herb Ellis! The previous winners are part of the awards committee, which selects the new recipient, and wanted a direct touch in the delivery.

The REPS Radio Achievement Award recognizes

Herb is a very deserving recipient of this award. He helps to make each Showcase (the sixth for Herb and his wife, Sylvia) a great event by acting, directing, circulating and making people feel comfortable. He got into radio by being a disc jockey, doing news and announcing. In San Francisco, Herb started in radio acting with friends Jack Webb and Lee Marvin working on Box 13, Pat Novak for Hire, Yellow Cab Storyteller and Hawthorne House. One Out of Seven, a show based on top news stories of the week, gave him the chance to play a bunch of roles every week. Herb had regular roles on Rocky Fortune and Dangerous Assignment as well as appearing in a wide range of shows such as Broadway is My Beat, Dragnet, Dr. Christian, Escape, Frontier Gentleman, Gunsmoke, The Halls of Ivy, Horizon's West, The LineUp, Lux Radio Theater, Nightbeat,



A Herb Ellis receives the REPS Radio Achievement Award.

Richard Diamond, Screen Guild Theater, The Six Shooter, Suspense, Tales of the Texas Rangers, This is Your FBI and Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar. Herb had the title role in the KIRO Mystery Playhouse production of Rembrandt with several Showcase guests and past guest Parley Baer.

COMMENTS FROM THE STARS...AND FANS

FROM THE STARS AND FAMILIES-

Kevin O'Morrison - It was a greater pleasure to attend this year's convention than I had anticipated. I was enormously impressed with the dedication and interest of REPS members, and among other delights was reunion with Elliott ("Ted") Reid, whom I hadn't seen in 60 years.

Rhoda Williams and David Van Meter - This is a great big thank you! We always come away with the feeling that the last one we attended was just the best ever until we get to the next one and then it is the best ever! Rhoda and I both talked on the drive home about how good things went!!! Thank you REPS!! Your choice of shows and casting were sophisticated and just great! Please tell everyone how kind they were to all of us out-of-towners, your whole club deserves kudos and huzzahs. Thank them all.

Art Gilmore - Bless your heart - you did it again! I thought that this year was outstanding. It seemed to run smoothly and you (all) can take credit for that. Thanks again for a lovely experience!

Harry Bartell - There are many personal reasons to indicate that Showcase IX will have been my last, so I must take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful experiences you have provided for Bev and me. You have been most appreciative audiences, but much more importantly, you have been warm, gracious hosts who have gone to great trouble to make our stays in Seattle enjoyable. REPS is an unusual organization. Why don't you instruct the rest of the country on how to treat people the way you do? Cheers!

Gil and Dee Stratton - Arrived in Burbank this afternoon, and received your nice note upon checking our mail. I can only tell you that we really enjoyed every moment of this year's meetings and as usual you were brilliant! All we can say is, what time next year??????

Paul and Ilona Herlinger - Yes, it is WE who should be thanking YOU for what was indeed a whale of a weekend! The incredible team of volunteers brought it all off without a hitch. Congrats on such a well-organized and fun event. I'll be back in LA in a few weeks and will report on the success of the Odyssey venture. Cheers, and best wishes. Jo Anna March - I'm thankful to REPS... what a grand time we did have! It does get to be a family very quickly, doesn't it? Thank you ALL.

Sandy Mael - As always, you guys are wonderful! Thank you for the special memorial to Merrill. Although difficult

at first, because of what you did, I was able to move beyond seeing and hearing Merrill in the hospital to what and who he was before. What a precious gift!

Sylvia Ellis - To me, this was the best Showcase of all. Everything was just right.

True Boardman - We had a wonderful time, and were again impressed by the friendliness of everyone.

Tommy Cook - It was a wonderful weekend in Seattle with the radio-makers. An especially talented group of invited legends and a simply wonderful cast of volunteers. Thanks for it all. As always, wishing you and the gang continued success and enjoyment keeping alive the great medium of RADIO.

Dick Beals (the only out of town person to attend every Showcase) - "01" was the best ever! Thanks for letting me be a part of it all.

Elliott Reid - Thank you very much for making me an honorary member of REPS. In accepting this honor, I tried to express how very much I was impressed by all of the people that I had met and worked with in Seattle, and that was-indeed-from my heart. Along with warmest good wishes and thanks to all at REPS, I'll borrow a line from your letter: I do "hope that it will happen again".

-FROM THE FANS

Permit me to reiterate that I had a wonderful time at Showcase IX, and was knocked out by everyone's kindness and courtesy. Being brought from and to the airport was quite a stress-reducer; my sincere thanks to you and your volunteers for arranging it. Thank you for allowing me to contribute in a small, but fun, way.

Author Michael Hayde

-FROM THE FANS – WITHOUT NAMES-

What a wonderful job you both did. It always amazes others and me as to how each Showcase is better than the one before. Have you ever heard anyone say "Remember the one we did in 1996? Boy what a bomb!" Never. You have a special touch.

It seems like so much more than you could pack into just a day and a half — a great show with great talent. Cochairs Mike Sprague and Joy Jackson (and their forty volunteers) should be thrilled with the result.

All re-creations — NEED MORE!

First time and a marvelous time.

Very good time.

All of it! Just delightful. Many thanks for this wonderful

trent

True Boardman and his Silver Theatre — Super!
Let's Pretend and Adventures in Odyssey were the best items

The Cold Read or Let's Pretend.

Let's Pretend — Cinderella — one of the best castings ever. Each actor seemed to fit his or her role perfectly.

Escape: Three Skeleton Key — riveting.

Adventures in Odyssey — uplifting.

Escape and Odyssey very good.

Silver Theatre was excellent.

Three Skeleton Key!!! What a treasure.

Vic and Sade — Merrill would have been so pleased.

The Odyssey presentation.

Sing-along with Arthur Anderson — fun.

Really enjoyed mixing with the "stars" and talking with them.

Recognition of Herb Ellis.

The great time I had. The friendliness of the group.
Talking with Dick Beals, True Boardman & Herb Ellis.
Stars and audience and support staff all great and very friendly.

Stars at dinner table also great.

Jim French segment very good — also Dick Van Patton interview.

Elliott Reid was excellent.

The Elliott Reid interview Friday afternoon — he was absolutely fantastic. He's a most gracious gentleman (and then his performances were extraordinary).

Tommy Cook and Dick Van Patten interview was a highlight.

The Big Band "concert" was GREAT.

There was no performance, which wasn't a thrill to watch. Many thanks to you all for a super REPS convention. It was well planned and went so smoothly - I enjoyed every program. And, you had the best talent ever. I'll look forward to being with you again next year.

There were many nice comments on the Internet from people who attended, which we will not list here.

NOTE: There were also a few really kind suggestions for improvements, ranging from very correct comments on some of the food at the dinner to specific scheduling matters. The volunteer committee factored all of these into the review meeting that evaluated Showcase IX and looked forward to Showcase X.

Feature: ESCAPE

by Stewart Wright
Take a classic story and

superlative acting. Add great sound effects and music. Mix with skillful direction and engineering. Magic happens! The power of "The Theater of the Mind" was never more evident than during the Showcase IX re-creation of the radio classic Three Skeleton Key. In a REPS survey taken last year, this particular *Escape* episode was listed as one of the "Top Radio Treasures of All Time."

year, Showcase attendees not only had the opportunity to see and hear this classic tale, about the occupants of a lighthouse being attacked by hoards of ravenous rats, but it was performed by two of the three actors who appeared in the original *Escape* airing on November 15, 1949.

Harry Bartell and Elliott Reid brought down the house with tour de force performances of their original roles, Auguste and Jean respectively. Herb Ellis who played the head lighthouse keeper, Louis, and also doubled

as the announcer masterfully joined them. REPS

member Christopher Conrad, son of actor William Conrad, who originated the role of Louis adeptly performed the Voice of *Escape*. The drama was heightened by the compelling music played by Randy McMillan, and fantastic sound effects created by Cheryl Jacobs and Bruce Pair. Rats recorded by Ray Erlenborn and played by Joy Jackson. Deftly orchestrating this fine performance was director Frank Buxton. An incredible job by one and all!

The audience responded with a prolonged and well-deserved standing ovation. Somehow, the performers had transported them back in time over 50 years into a broadcast studio during the Golden Age of

Radio. Radio drama doesn't get any better than this!! Game Show So-o-o-o Time

you want to be a mockingbird? Ever try to do a cat, dog, chicken or elephant? Maybe some of us wished we never had! But such people as Bill Davies, Bob Herman, Jay Secord, Terence Chriest, Chris Conrad, Bill Parker, Stewart Wright and Doug Stewart were guinea pigs for Ray Erlenborn's sound effects school, his tribute to the game shows of old radio. The incredible, amazing sounds pro-



A Ray Erlenborn shares his sound effects expertise.

duced brought out two boys from the studio audience (ages 9 and 10), to do a dog and a chicken. Talk about breaking down our natural reserve — Ray accomplished that in spades! And say, fellows and girls, do we ever have a new appreciation for Ray's ability to produce those sounds for the radio.

Each contestant was "rewarded" with a million dollar counterfeit check! WOW! How lucky can a person be?

Saturday Afternoon

Live Big Band Remote

With Bob Loudon as our host, we were treated to a program of vintage music by member Brian Swanson's 88th

Street Or-

A Harry Bartell

recreates his role in

Three Skeketon Key

➤ Cheryl Jacobs and Bruce

Pair bring sound effects to life.



A 88th Street Orchestra entertains with that Big Band sound.

chestra. Their goal was to create the split feeling of listening on the air and being on site with the band. Bob included sound bites of his interview with bandleader Les Brown, Tex Beneke talking with Skitch Henderson and Art Gilmore talking about announcing for Big Band remotes. The orchestra delighted us with many old favorites, with Mike Rust doing the vocals, Jim Cutler the conducting and many great solos by band members.

REPS were given very unusual permission to re-create this show by

to re-create this show by
Focus on the Family. In
fact, they even rewrote
the show from the
aired version
(October 19,
1997) to accommodate some key points for

been nicer.

REPS is thankful to radio stations KCIS/KCMS for publicizing the *Odyssey* part of the Showcase. The phone didn't stop ringing and the station was asked to pull the spot they were running. Even so, many disappointed callers had to be told that there just continued on next page

REPS. They couldn't have



Feature:

ADVENTURES

IN ODYSSEY

... CONTINUED

wasn't space. This is such a hugely popular show. There is no real way to do the measurement, but it appears that more people hear *Odyssey* each week than any program during The Golden Age. It runs multiple times a week

on the same stations...and it is heard on the Internet as well...and there are millions of cassettes/cd's/videos in circulation.

Paul Herlinger plays John Avery Whitaker (Whit) on this show and had a chance to answer some very good questions from his fans after the re-creation. He explained that they record all the actors in Burbank – five or six shows done over three days; then the shows are sent to Colorado Springs to have everything else added. The actors receive their scripts at the time of the recording session and usually take a few minutes to mark their lines. Then they immediately go "on mike" and, with the help of the director who is often also the writer, they work through each scene, perfect it, and record it. Depending on the availability of the busy LA actors, the scenes may be recorded out of order, which is always a challenge to the cast members. After the question and answer time, Paul Herlinger was joined by many of the fans in a separate room for additional discussion plus many photos and autographs from the fans of "Whit".

The Painting is a lesson in forgiveness when Jack and Joanne Allen receive a donation of items for their antique shop from their friend "Whit". One of the items turns out to be a valuable old painting. Douglas Young in an incredible and moving performance portraved G. Winston Smith, the donator of the painting. When he is unwilling to have his name mentioned as the generous contributor of this painting, the Allens become suspicious and research reveals the Nazis had stolen the painting from the Jews during World War II. Through further investigation, the rightful owner of the painting, a Jewish Rabbi (Frank Buxton) is found, and the work is offered back to him. But the Rabbi tells the Allens to keep the painting on display in their shop as a measure of forgiveness and a reminder of the damage caused by prejudice.

Alan Young and Janet Waldo, Honorary REPS members, who were unable to be with us at this Showcase, normally play the roles of Jack and Joanne Allen. However, Gil Stratton, Jr. and Peggy Jordan filled in admirably in their absence. Dick Beals, who was in many of the early *Odyssey* shows, did double duty as director and Nicholas. Ginny Tyler and Art Gilmore rounded out this remarkable cast. Randy McMillan added his musical talents on the keyboard while Cheryl Jacobs and Pat McNally did another great job with the sound effects.

Musicale: OTR Commercial Sing-Along

by Bill Parker

Randy McMillan accompanied as Arthur Anderson led us on a delightful romp through wellremembered radio commercial jingles. What would we have done without "We're Billy Jones and Ernie

Hare, We're the Interwoven Pair", or "You owe your crowning glory to...a Lustre Crème Shampoo", or "Use Ajax (Boom, Boom), the foaming cleanser (Boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom)".

When we got to Eddie Cantor's "I love to spend this hour with you", one audience member strongly contended it should be "...EACH hour with you", while

Arthur held out for "...THIS hour". (In the original movie from which the song came, it was "...ONE hour with you", not THIS or EACH. What about that?)

To highlight the commercial performers who were attending this Showcase, Arthur performed his song as the Lucky Charms Leprechaun (29 years) and Dick Beals sang the Speedy Alka-Seltzer song (49 years).



A Arthur Anderson leads a sing-along of radio commercials.

✓ Dick Beals sings the 'Speedy Alka-Seltzer' commercial

Saturday Evening

FIBRER MCGEE & MOLLY, THE BICKERSONS



A Rhoda Williams as Blanche is very unhappy with her sleeping arrangements on their cruise.

Each year we try to add some special surprises to our schedule.

This year we had Peggy Jordan (granddaughter of Jim and Marion Jordan, Fibber McGee and Molly) and Arthur Anderson share an episode of Fibber McGee and Molly, with Peggy playing Teenie. Fibber and Teenie are trying to read the funny papers through a microscope. Peggy shared how delighted she is when people tell her how much they enjoyed her grandparent's show.

Then Rhoda Williams and Gil Stratton, Jr. appeared as John and Blanche Bickerson. John and Blanche are on a "cruise" and Blanche is unhappy with the sleeping

accommodations, especially since she is sleeping with a fish. When John finds that Blanche put his bourbon out the porthole, he decides to take things into his own hands and go fishing for his bourbon.

by Bill Parker

Child, Save my Fireman, originally broadcast on January 5, 1941, is one of writer/director True Boardman's all-time comedy favorites. Sound effects artist Ray Erlenborn worked on the original show. Starring in the original cast were James Stewart as Jimmy Morgan and Marsha Hunt as Molly Valentine with Conrad Nagel as the host. It was and is a very funny show.

The re-creation, directed by True Boardman, was done as if it were 1941, with Jimmy Stewart in the lead. Actor Terry McManus gave a simply remarkable impression of Stewart's voice and mannerisms, and he is about the age Stewart was at the time. Most of our OTR guests took part in the cast, with Dick Van Patten as Conrad Nagel and Anne Whitfield Phillips as Molly Valentine. Jimmy Morgan (Stewart) is a volunteer fireman, who is continually having to respond to fire alarms that interfere with his regular job.

Feature: SILVER THEATRE



A Clockwise from upper left: [1] Terry McManus does a remarkable impression of Jimmy Stewart; [2] Anne Whitfield Phillips makes an excellent conniving Molly; [3] Randy McMillan with help from his wife, Chris, adds just the right note.

Apparently doomed to marry Helen (Ilona Herlinger), a girl he doesn't love,

his wedding is interrupted by a false alarm turned in by Molly. Then a real fire breaks out, and following a strategy provided by Molly, Jimmy creates a fire break and heroically saves a factory.

Rounding out the splendid cast were Norma Jean Nilsson, Elliott Reid, Arthur Anderson, Sam Edwards, Tommy Cook, Jim French, Pat French, Bill Brooks and Larry Albert,

with David Persson assisting on sound effects and Randy McMillan doing the music.

The Silver Theatre re-creation contained the original 1847 Rogers Brothers Silver Plate commercials, and ended with Conrad Nagel's closing interview with the stars. Stewart talked about how as a kid he went to fires with his father, who was a volunteer fireman.

Saturday Evening

Farewells...OTR Stars Shine Bright



A Front row, left to right: Harry Bartell, Norma Jean Nilsson, Rhoda Williams, Ginny Tyler and Gil Stratton, Jr.
Middle row, left to right: Dick Beals, Sam Edwards, Ray Erlenborn, Tormmy Cook, Anne Whitfield Phillips and Jo Anna March.
Back row, left to right: Art Gilmore, Herb Ellis, Dick Van Patten, Arthur Anderson, True Boardman, Kevin O'Morrison, and Elliott Reid.
Missing: Frank Buxton and Douglas Young.

Our OTR Stars generated so much electricity as they were all gathered in one spot that the lights went out . . . just as all the cameras were ready to click!

When that situation was quickly remedied, Showcase attendees were given the opportunity to take a group picture. This is always a highlight of our time together.

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CORNER

This important section is here 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

Sound Effects:

Gong and stand - Sue Partridge.

Silent Auction Donors:

Richard Beals, Terry Campbell, Gil Stratton Jr., Cliff Glaspey, Sam Simone, Stewart Wright, Janet Waldo, Sam Edwards, Millie Morse, David Speelman, Jane Webb-Edwards and Ray Erlenborn.

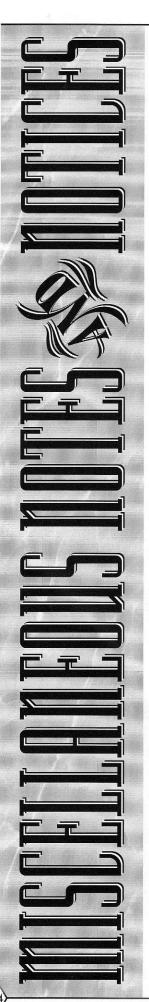
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If your name has been overlooked, please let the editor know so we can properly reflect everyone's kindness. We're all volunteers and it is possible for us to miss some very important details. Thanks.



Membership. The cost is \$18.00 for the year and members may take advantage of the libraries – tape and book.

Door Prizes. Share your tapes as door prizes at the meetings so that we may continue a tradition, which has not been broken since REPS started. Each meeting several lucky people are the winners of these tapes.

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. Phone orders are not accepted except in dire need so mail your order to Darrell Anderson (address listed in the directory). All tape orders must be by tape number not name of show as the librarians do not have the time to look up titles to get numbers. If you do not have an order form, call the Andersons; if you do not have a catalog, contact one of the officers listed in the Air Check or go to our Website.

Holiday CD. Paul Feavel has suggested doing a CD for the holidays as a fundraiser, and a way to share the hobby. If you have a favorite episode(s) that you would like to have included on the disc, please contact Joy Jackson via mail (3663 Carr Place

N, Seattle, WA 98103) or via e-mail JJLjackson@aol.com. Please let Joy know whether or not you have a copy of this episode in case we don't have it in our vast library.



Another Successful Silent Auction!

by Janet Conrad

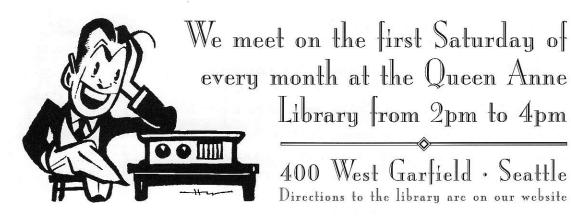
Donators were again very generous: \$1326.00 was raised for the out-of-town expenses for next years showcase performers!

Thank you to all who participated! Starting with the people who won items...Christopher Conrad, Ken Bertrand, William Buckley, Michael Comstock, Shelley

Dodge, Paul Feavel, Clif Ferguson, Cheryl Jacobs, Jim Jensvold, Ken Korhonen, Donald Lacky, Adele Lohman, Brent Martin, Marjorie Rosen, Paul Secord, Elizabeth Roach, Les Westrum and Stewart Wright. Thank you of course to those who bid but did not win! You gave it a good effort! Hope to see you next year.

And without the unsolicited, generosity of the people donating the items, well...this all couldn't happen. Each year I have yet to ask anyone for an auction item. They just show up from members, and nonmembers, who just want to do a nice thing. Thank You! Richard Beals, Terry Campbell, Gil Stratton Jr., Cliff Glaspey, Sam Simone, Stewart Wright, Janet Waldo, Sam Edwards, Millie Morse, David Speelman, Jane Webb-Edwards and Ray Erlenborn.

See you next year!



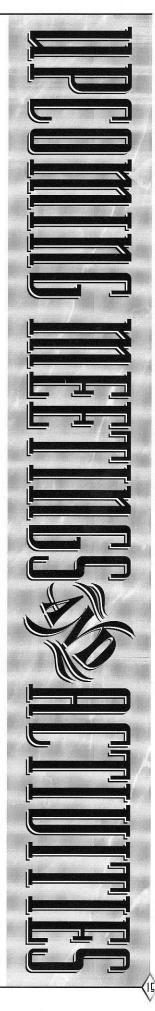
September 1st: Every Member an Actor. With scripts in hand, all around the room we have some fun pretending that we're actors. There will be absolutely no pressure on anyone to perform. Our hope is to have professional Honorary members on hand to coach small groups in scenes from famous radio shows, and to have a little competition.

October 6th: One More Time. By popular demand, the energetic, enthusiastic expert on Big Bands, Bob Loudon, is coming back up from Oregon. He has a tightly packaged, fast moving wrap up to the fun program he did for us last year. Don't miss the new mini-recording and the fabulous door prizes Bob distributes.

November 3rd: Hal "Harlan" Stone. Hal's career as a radio performer began at age 8 and lasted until age 23, at which time he began appearing on some of the live network television programs of the early 1950's. In the mid 50's, he made the transition from actor to TV director and eventually formed his own production company in 1970. Hal's radio credits include Let's Pretend, Dr. Christian, Big Town, Theater Guild of the Air and Death Valley Days. At age 13, Hal won the role of Jughead on the NBC program The Adventures of Archie Andrews and played that role for the entire run of the show, except for a one-year absence when he was serving in the Korean War. Hal is now "retired" and living in Sedona, AZ where he creates sculptures and paintings.

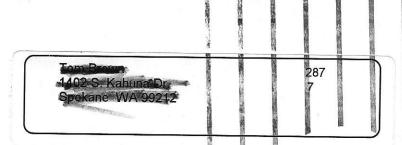
December 1st: Christmas Cheer. As usual, this program will include food, cassette exchange and Toys for Tots. The REPS Radio Readers will be doing one or two Christmas shows.

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PUGET SOUND RADIO LISTINGS

Both Old Time Radio and current materials (designated C) are on the air. This list is currently being revised. Be sure to check future issues of Air Check for an up-to-date listing. If you know of others, or if any of these need correction, please let the Air Check editor know. Let the stations and sponsors know of your appreciation.

IK	CFMI	101.1 FM	Vancouver, BC	10:00 pm - 12:00 am	Sunday
N	ERRS	SAP FM	Seattle, WA	11:00 pm - 2:00 am	Monday-Frida
dyssey (C)	KCIS	630 AM	Seattle, WA	7:30 am - 8:00 am	Saturday
dyssey (C)	KCIS	630 AM	Seattle, WA	7:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Monday-Frida
nshackled (C)	KCIS	630 AM	Seattle, WA	10:30 pm - 11:00 pm	Sunday
adio Super Heroes	KLAY	1180 AM	Lakewood, WA	4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Sunday
				4:00 pm - 12:00 am	
				3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	
g Band Swing	KLKI	1340 AM	Anacortes, WA	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Saturday
hen Radio Was	KLKI	1340 AM	Anacortes, WA	10:00 pm - 12:00 am	Saturday
hen Radio Was	KLKI	1340 AM	Anacortes, WA	6:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Sunday
nagination Theater (C)	KNWX	770 AM	Seattle, WA	9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Saturday
hen Radio Was	KNWX	770 AM	Seattle, WA	10:00 pm - 2:00 am	Saturday
				9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	
hen Radio Was	KNWX	770 AM	Seattle, WA	10:00 pm - 12:00 am	Sunday
assic Radio	CKNW	980 AM	Vancouver, BC	12:05 am - 2:00 am	Sunday-Friday
hen Radio Was	KIRO	710 AM	Seattle, WA	1:00 am - 4:00 am	Saturday
hen Radio Was	KIRO	710 AM	Seattle, WA	1:00 am - 3:00 am	Sunday
hen Radio Was	KTCR	1340 AM	Kennewick, WA	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Saturday
nagination Theater (C)	KTCR	1340 AM	Kennewick, WA	9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Saturday
hen Radio Was	KTCR	1340 AM	Kennewick, WA	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sunday



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