

# AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 1

WINTER • 2002

*November 3rd, 2001*

## OTR STAR HAL STONE

Michael Comstock was the host for this delightful meeting with OTR Star Hal Stone who made his entrance as Jughead Jones, complete with crenellated beanie, and cracked voice. After finding that he wasn't at the Riverdale Early Pioneer Society, Jughead talked about his famous relatives: John Paul Jones, the infamous Seattle Ferry Boat Captain, who said: "Damn the whale pod, full speed ahead!" and, "Load the Cars when ready, Gridley"; Frank and Jesse Jones (they used James as an alias); and in the music field, Quincy and Tom Jones.



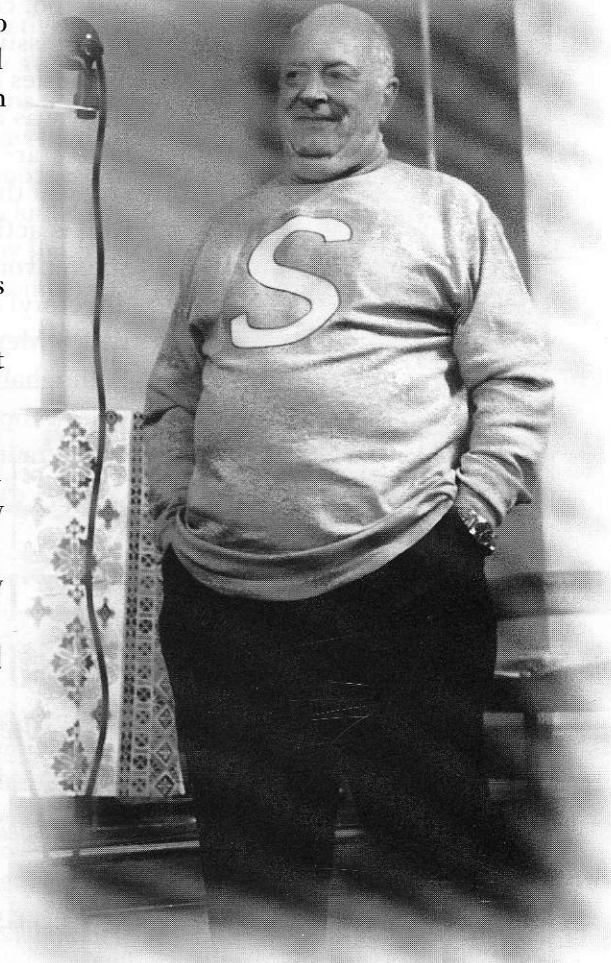
Archie Andrews, the show, was based on the popular comic book. Michael Comstock confided to Hal that he thought it sounded like *Henry Aldrich* on speed; Hal laughed, and agreed. It was focused on kids' aged 7 to early teens. The show started out as a studio show, without an audience, but with a live NBC orchestra. Gradually, it began having studio audiences, whose laughter can be heard on the recordings. Hal said the actors, late teens themselves, would do shameless things on stage to get the laughs — running around, making faces, and dropping pieces of apparel. So if there's laughing going on, and the dialog isn't funny, that's what's happening.

At 13 (based on his prior radio and theatrical experience), Hal was asked to audition for Anton Leader, the director, and was told to do a voice that didn't sound like Homer on *Henry Aldrich*. He won the part, and was Jughead for 9 of the 10 years that the show was on the air (1944-1954). He was pulled out to serve one year, stationed in Newfoundland, during the Korean Conflict. Archie moved from Saturday AM to Wednesday evening and then back again, and was top rated in its Saturday time slot.

Bob Hastings was the second Archie. He and Hal have remained friends over all these years. Hal even directed Bob in some commercials on the west coast later in their lives. Hal mentioned Bob has a large family, and even became a father while he was doing Archie. Hastings went on to notable roles in TV...*McHale's Navy* and *All in the Family* to name a few hit shows. He recently returned from the Newark convention, where he performs every year as Albert in Peg Lynch's *Ethel and Albert*.

### Early Years

Hal became a model at age 3 and



*A "Super" Hal Stone made some tough choices as casting director.*

was in ads that appeared in all the major periodicals of the period.

Hal auditioned for the play *Life with Father* on Broadway at the age of 7; however, his mother turned it down since he made more money as a model. After the play was a success,

*OTR STAR HAL STONE continues on page 10*

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## WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks go to the following people for their contributions to this issue: Bob Loudon enhanced the comments made about Big Band leaders; Joy Jackson took wonderful notes at all the meetings; Hal Stone verified the information regarding his many credits; Mike Sprague found and corrected many mistakes and Larry Siskind submitted another great quiz. I couldn't do this without help from these wonderful folks.

You, too, can contribute to Air Check. Share some of your radio reminiscences for future issues of Air Check. Here are some ideas: What are some of your favorite memories about radio? Was it goose bumps, laughter, premiums or...? What show was a "must" hear? Did you ever hear, meet or get an autograph from an OTR star? Would you like to learn more about a specific OTR star? Is there a star you think could contribute an interesting article? Do you know someone who is actively promoting Old Time Radio in his or her community? Please submit your entries and suggestions to Marilyn Wilt (address listed in the directory) or email ([wzoem@aol.com](mailto:wzoem@aol.com)).

REPS Member Donald Day is involved with the American Museum of Radio in Bellingham, WA and thought that their website might be of interest to others. Check them out at [www.antique-radio.org](http://www.antique-radio.org) where you will be able to view a few of the radios in their collection.

## Letter to the Editor

*We deeply appreciate the honor of being selected for the John Archer Volunteer of the Year Award. We derive a great deal of satisfaction from being members of REPS and being associated with the Golden Age of Radio. We belong to several organizations, but there is no organization like REPS. We are not aware of any other organization that has such a high percentage of its membership as volunteers. We thank REPS for this signal honor, but hasten to point out that there are many volunteers that are deserving of this award.*

Sincerely,  
Cliff & Lynda Glaspey





# REPS Annual Report for 2001

Currently REPS has 265 members, including 56 honorary members, compared to 249 at this time last year.

REPS celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2001.

The tape and script libraries continue to grow and Gerry Hollinger and Mary Fichtenberg volunteered to help with librarian duties.

Special guests at monthly programs included Bob Brooks, Ray Erlenborn, Patsy Britten, Bob Loudon and Hal Stone. Showcase IX was outstanding as always with first time guests Dick Van Patten, Elliott Reid, True Boardman and Terry McManus. Herb Ellis was presented with the Radio Achievement Award. Cliff and Lynda Glaspey were recognized as the John Archer Volunteers of the Year.

REPS continued its partnership with the Museum of Flight and KIXI Radio by recording and broadcasting *Captain Midnight*. KIXI also rebroadcast *War of the Worlds*. REPS presented two radio plays to the PEMCO Emeritus

Club – *Three Skeleton Key*, directed by Bill Brooks featuring Jim French and Larry Albert and *Captain Midnight* directed by Joy Jackson featuring Douglas Young, Anne Whitfield Phillips and Phil Harper. An original science fiction radio play *Incident at Scarlyn* was written by Joy Jackson and performed by the Radio Readers.

A new REPS website was launched under the leadership of Paul Feavel. REPS supported Woodinville Repertory Theatre with the production of two radio comedies for their dinner theater. John Jensen began preparing a one-hour interactive presentation on REPS and old time radio that will be available for retirement communities, civic organizations and community centers.

Paul Feavel led an effort to produce a Winter Holiday CD to promote old time radio and as a REPS fund-raiser. The CD includes 100 old radio shows plus two new shows produced by Jim French. More than 300 copies were sold to REPS members.



Hal Stone  
#551 (Honorary)  
Sedona, AZ

Brad Roberts  
#553  
Seattle, WA

Anne Hockens  
#554  
Seattle, WA

Eric Hunting  
#555  
Seattle, WA

Robert & Joanna Reagan  
#557  
Vallecito, CA

Ken Bennett  
#560  
Bainbridge Island, WA

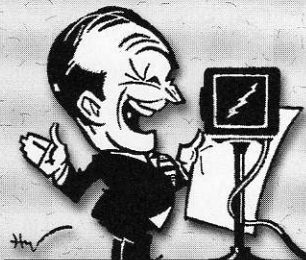
Jennifer Pope  
#561  
Seattle, WA

WELCOME  
TO OUR  
NEW REPS  
MEMBERS!

## ENTER THE NEW WORLD OF CONTEMPORARY RADIO DRAMA

Since 1972 Jim French has been writing, directing and producing radio adventures in the tradition of the best of America's giants of the "Golden Age", but with a strictly modern flavor. His private investigator series, *The Adventures of Harry Nile*, has become a national favorite, and many devotees recognize *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* as a more than welcome addition to the Holmesian universe.

However, it is Jim's non-series tales that have brought the best of his imagination and skills before the public. Stories of the old west, of deepest space and the innermost depths of the mind have all been brought into our homes through these exciting audio dramas. And now for the first time ever Jim has decided to make twelve of his best "stand-alone" plays available to the public, more than four and a half hours of exciting and original *MOVIES FOR YOUR MIND*.



For only \$22.95, this includes shipping and handling, you'll get: *The Loophole* starring Hans Conreid, *Nathan's Hands* with Richard Sanders of *WKRP in Cincinnati* and *The Flaw* with *Hogan's Heroes* star Bob Crane. All these and the award winning sci-fi thriller *The Bouganville Giant* along with eight more tales of mystery and suspense, in a handsome six cassette album.

Just send \$22.95, by check or money order, to: Tapes, PO Box 2001, Issaquah, WA, 98027 and we will send you hours of pure entertainment, that will keep you enthralled and on the edge of your seat. Stories in the style of yesteryear but as contemporary as tomorrow. The best of Jim French's *MOVIES FOR YOUR MIND*.



# TOUGH AND EASY

Old Time Radio Quiz by Larry Siskind

## 1 Match the Crime Fighter to his title:

David Harding	Man Called X
Brad Runyon	Saint
Michael Waring	Falcon
Mr. Keen	Fat Man
Simon Templar	Thin Man
Nick Charles	Counterspy
Ken Thurston	Tracer of Lost Persons
Lamont Cranston	Shadow

## 2 Match the Crime Fighter to his sidekick:

Mr. District Attorney	Mike Clancy
Man Called X	Margo
Mr. Keen	Peters
Shadow	Mary Wesley
Counterspy	Kato
Boston Blackie	Len Harrington
Green Hornet	Pigon Zeldschmidt

## 3 Match the Crime Fighter to his slogan:

Boston Blackie	"He hunts the biggest of all game, public enemies who try to destroy our America."
Mr. District Attorney	"... especially appointed to investigate and combat our enemies, both at home and abroad."
Green Hornet	"Where there is mystery, intrigue and romance, there you will find..."
Man Called X	"Champion of the people, guardian of our fundamental right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."
Counterspy	"The Robin Hood of modern crime."
Saint	"... enemy to those who make him an enemy, friend to those who have no friends."

## 4 Match the Crime Fighter to the actor:

Fat Man	Vincent Price
Man Called X	Les Tremayne
Counterspy	Bill Johnstone
Thin Man	Don MacLaughlin
Shadow	Bennet Kilpack
Saint	J. Scott Smart
Mr. Keen	Herbert Marshall

## 5 Mr. District Attorney was inspired by the exploits of...

Thomas Dewey	Felix Frankfurter
Robert A. Taft	Earl Warren
Clarence Darrow	Alfred E. Smith

## 6 The Mayor of what city read the comics each week over the radio?

Boston	Detroit
New York	San Francisco
Philadelphia	Chicago

## ANSWERS:

<b>6) Mayor read comics:</b> New York	Mr. Keen.....Bennet Kilpack
<b>5) Mr. District Attorney inspired by exploits of:</b> Thomas Dewey	Saint.....Vincent Price
	Shadow.....Bill Johnstone
	Thin Man.....Les Tremayne
	Counterspy.....Don MacLaughlin
	Man Called X.....Herbert Marshall
	Fat Man.....J. Scott Smart
	<b>4) Crime Fighter to actor:</b>
	Saint....."The Robin Hood of modern crime,"
	Counterspy....."... especially appointed to investigate and combat our enemies, find..."
	Man Called X....."Where there is mystery, intrigue and romance, there you will destroy our America."
	Green Hornet....."He hunts the biggest of all game, public enemies who try to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."
	Mr. District Attorney....."Champion of the people, guardian of our fundamental right to who have no friends."
	Boston Blackie....."... enemy to those who make him an enemy, friend to those
	<b>3) Crime Fighter to slogan</b>
	Lamont Cranston.....Shadow
	Ken Thurston.....Man Called X
	Nick Charles.....Thin Man
	Simon Templar.....Saint
	Mr. Keen.....Tracer of Lost Persons
	Michael Waring.....Falcon
	Brad Runyon.....Fat Man
	David Harding.....Counterspy
	<b>1) Crime Fighter to title:</b>
	Mr. District Attorney.....Len Harrington
	Man Called X.....Pigon Zeldschmidt
	Mr. Keen.....Mike Clancy
	Shadow.....Margo Lane
	Counterspy.....Peters
	Boston Blackie.....Mary Wesley
	Green Hornet.....Kato
	<b>2) Crime Fighter to sidekick</b>

## ANSWERS:

# SCORING



Give yourself 17 points for each correct answer.

Over 90 ..... You have white hair and a great memory

70 - 90 ..... Good

50 - 70 ..... Fair

20 - 50 ..... Poor

Under 20 ..... You are too young to remember





# CORNER

*This important section is here to recognize and thank donors. It might 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. Our goal is to leave this recognition in place for four issues of Air Check. So, it may be many, it may be few, but thanks to those who have given. All of your generosity has made a real difference. Current donations may be sent to REPS, c/o Janet Conrad, Treasurer, 6550 47th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136. These are tax deductible and receipts will be sent to donors.*

# SS SS FF NN DD NN II KK

*Don Allen, Darrell & Vi Anderson, Alice Backes, Lynn Barker, Harriet Baskas, Richard Beals, Berry Entertainment/KLKI, Kenneth Bertrand, Edward Blanchard, Richard Bonesteel, Thomas Brandt, Jim & Drucilla Briggs, Bill Brooks, Keith Brown, William Buckley, Frank Buxton, Terry Campbell, Roland & Martha Carlson, Terrance Chriest, Alan Cohen, Michael Comstock, Christopher & Janet Conrad, Tommy & Fern Cook, Gerald & Doris Covey, Don Day, Frank & Anna Denton, Sam Edwards, Ray Erlenborn, Paul Feavel, Clifton & Joleen Ferguson, Michael Gilberg, Art Gilmore, Cliff Glaspey, Bill Grandey, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Gregersen, Gary & Kathleen Hagan, Bryan & Carole Haigood, Ron Hauser, Richard Haviland, Diane Hensel, John Hura, Jim French Productions, Inc., TJ Kohler, George Korn, Donald Lacky, Keith & Lisa Leopard, Adele Lohman, Robert & Meredith Loudon, Sandy Mael, Terry & Bev Mahony, Andrew McIver-Kitch, Jerauld Miller, Kathy Morby, Millie Morse, Norma Jean Nilsson, John Norton, David & Bernice Palmer, Bill & Kathy Parker, Sue Partridge, Brent Pellegrini, Florence Poth, Richard Porter, The Rich McCoy Company, Inc., Thomas & Elizabeth Roach, Robert Rohrer, Richard & Margaret Schacht, Arthur Scott, Paul Secord, David & Joan Selvig, Joel & Carolyn Senter, Neal Shulman, Sam Simone, Glenn Sisson, David Spielman, Mike & Linda Sprague, Lindsey & Doug Stewart, Gil & Dee Stratton Jr., Brian Swanson, David Taylor, Don & Patricia Tewkesbery, John Theodore, Ray Tweatt, Janet Waldo, Jane Webb-Edwards, Les Westrum, Stewart Wright and Douglas & Eileene Young*

*A special thanks is extended to George Fowler who has just made a major donation of Old Time Radio material on 1800 reels of tape. These are loaded with wonderful stuff and REPS members will be enjoying George's donation as it is transferred into the library over a period of time.*

# October 6th, 2001 ONE MORE TIME

Big Bands expert, Bob Loudon delighted us with his presentation on music from the Golden Age of Radio. He stressed that the "Big Band Era" was a very short time in our history — from about 1935 to 1950. A few reasons for this were: World War II drafted most of the musicians, difficulty traveling due to gas and other shortages and James C. Petrillo's musicians union ban on recording of dance bands from 1942 to 1944. As a result, the vocalists took over the spotlight. During the 1930's and early 40's, the networks had dance bands on two or three hours every night, a large piece of "old-time radio," but "We tend to forget it", said Bob.

Bob packs so much into his program that it is difficult to take it all in. He has a great enthusiasm for this subject and gets the audience involved with lots of participation and fabulous door prizes...tapes, records and even books. Michael Comstock was the winner of the "Name the Artist" contest.

## *Temperamental Youngsters*

Even before the program started, we heard music from two of the big names in the Big Band era — Ray Anthony and Les Brown. Bob puts a great deal of effort into getting interviews with (or about) these wonderful bandleaders. Billy May was first up and noted that after the Charlie Barnet Music library burned up at the Palomar Ballroom in Los Angeles in 1941, he and Skippy Martin sat down and rewrote all the arrangements for the band. Billy responded, "Oh yeah, but we had plenty of whiskey," when Bob commented that they sure must have been tired from the big job. Billy also noted that he finished writing the arrangement for Charlie Barnet's Cherokee while in a taxicab on the way to the recording studio in 1939. Then he said, "It just happened to be the biggest of the Barnet hit records."

Benny Goodman was heard talking with Jackie Gleason about Jimmy Dorsey and their early New Year's Eve. In the early 1930's when Benny and Jimmy were rooming together, they both arrived home before midnight from dance jobs on New Year's Eve. Benny said, "We were both rather temperamental youngsters and were fired early in the evening."

## *Replacing Sinatra*

Bob asked Alvino Rey to talk about his early days as a bandleader and how he got started. Rey noted that Frank Sinatra was working as a waiter and sometime

singer at the Rustic Cabin roadhouse in New Jersey about 1938 for \$5.00 a night. Alvino said they decided to bring in name bands, so they fired Sinatra and brought in the Alvino Rey Orchestra.

Harry Babbitt, who demonstrated his Woody Woodpecker voice, was heard on Fred Hall's "The Swing Thing".

Jimmy Stewart talked about Glenn Miller after a snippet from Glenn Miller's final broadcast.

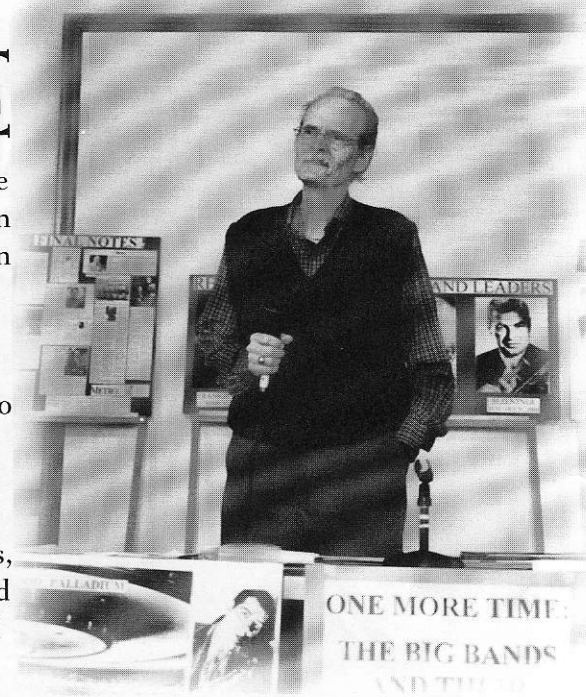
Bill Basie shared with Ralph Rowland on an Air Force program in 1957 how he got the name "Count". Basie said he was leading a small group in Kansas City about 1930 and the announcer suggested they dream up some kind of a catchy name for the group. He said "There's a King of Jazz (Paul Whiteman), a Duke of Ellington, an Earl of Hines, and a King of Swing (Benny Goodman)...so why don't we add you to the royal family and call you the Count of Basie," and it stuck.

Lionel Hampton talked of joining the Louis Armstrong Orchestra in 1935, then Benny Goodman in 1937. He called them "my idols and the real giants of jazz."

## *Remotes and Memories*

Bob interspersed these interviews with some very fine music including: High Noon (Billy May), How High the Moon (Alvino Rey) and Cowboy Serenade (Glenn Miller). An episode from *The Jack Benny Show* (1938) featured Jack and cast discussing the music of the time. A reader from Canada wrote to *Radio Guide* (forerunner of *TV Guide*) expressing his displeasure with the fact that nothing but jazz was played on the radio.

A special treat was to hear CBS Network Radio War News (1940) from Edward R. Murrow and his war



▲ Bob Loudon shares his enthusiasm for big bands.



correspondents in London, Berlin and elsewhere as another dimension of old-time radio. Bob commented, "I guess it's just too easy to think of *Jack Benny*, *One Man's Family*, *I Love A Mystery*, etc., as being old-time radio and forget about the other aspects."

Since most of these bands were constantly on the road, we heard remote broadcast openings from 9 bands. Attendees had the opportunity to share their memories of seeing Big Band performances.

Bob Loudon is extremely active in promoting old time radio in the Eugene, OR area, frequently doing classes, workshops or performances. Recently honorary members Bob Sherry, former NBC staff announcer, Rhoda Williams of *Father Knows Best* and more, along with Rhoda's husband, David Van Meter, joined him at a full house session.

➤ Left to Right: Bob Loudon, Bob Sherry, Rhoda Williams and David Van Meter at a workshop hosted by Bob Loudon.



## Perspectives of a Current-Day Radio Actor AN INTERVIEW WITH LARRY ALBERT

**Larry, could you tell us a little about your acting background?**

I have been a working actor for 27 years, much of it on the stage... I was driving airport limos from midnight till 10:00 A.M. and then doing auditions for plays.

**How did you get into radio acting?**

I did my first dramatic radio show in 1980. We did two series—*The Adventures of Rodney Killcup* and *The Further Adventures of Rodney Killcup*. He was a Seattle private investigator who worked out of Pioneer Square, but he was a modern detective. We did seven episodes for the first series and five episodes for the second series. The series were 15-minute serials. The first time I played a best friend and in the second series I played the bad guy and got shot to death. It was the first time I died on the air...

**How long have you been performing on *Imagination Theater* and its predecessor, *KIRO Mystery Playhouse*?**

I did my first recording session with Jim French in December 1994. This was for the episode *Night Crew* which first aired on the *KIRO Mystery Playhouse*. I sent Jim an audition tape six months earlier. I got a call from Jim at three o'clock in the afternoon. This was back in my limo driving days and normally I would sleep through the phone. Luckily, I didn't this time.

Jim asked, "Larry, can you play an 18-year-old stock boy?" The guy who was supposed to do the role dropped out and Jim happened to have my tape on his desk. It was just one of those serendipitous things. (In) June 2001, I recorded my 107th show for him.

**On *Imagination Theater* you sometimes have multiple roles. How do you manage to keep the different characters straight?**

Experience. I have 27 years on the stage. I rarely use my own voice. I've always been playing characters; I've never crossed over. In one *Sherlock Holmes* production, *The Bishop's Ring*, Jim had me talking to myself. I have probably done 150 characters for Jim. Obviously, not all of them with a different voice. When I get the script, I read it once silently. I have to know who the character is ahead of time and prepare for how I want him sound. Then I go in the bathroom and read it out loud because the acoustics in there let me hear the voice that I want use.

I will not highlight the script until we are ready to record it. If there is a large gap of time between receipt of the script and the recording session, I read it again. Then I highlight just the name of my character. If I am doing two or three characters I use different colors for each character...one device I've found by being a voice actor on radio and for commercials is

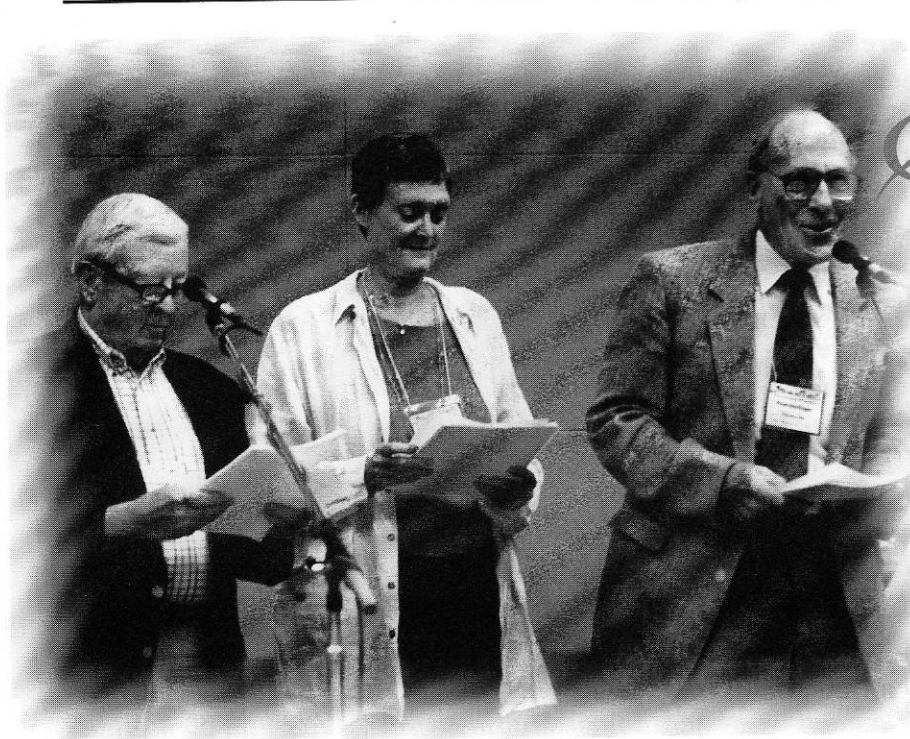
"physicality." Most people think that radio actors just stand and read into the "mike." If you watch radio actors perform, you notice they put themselves into the character. When I'm playing a character, I add a physical aspect to him. You can't just do the character with your voice.

The techniques that I...use are really not different from those used during the Golden Age of Radio. Nobody is teaching it. It is a blessing of having been a collector of radio shows since 1971; I listen to old-time radio every day in my car.

Because of this background I had an idea of what to do for *Night Crew*, the first show I did for Jim. We did it in one take. I knew that Jim said we could stop, but it didn't sink in. I treated it like a play. I thought you did them all like that.

Probably the most confusing show I did was the *Harry Nile* episode, *The Value of Details*. I played three roles: a mentally challenged young man, an old man, and a fire inspector with a high voice.

Actor Harry Bartell has been a sort of mentor for me. He's been guiding me in technique, every once in a while he will hear something that I did. He will call me and say, "You didn't wait long enough for the pause". Or "Don't be afraid of dead air". Translating stage technique to radio. Harry's been very helpful to



▲ Gil Stratton, Jr., Peggy Jordan, and Paul Herlinger, the real John Avery Whitaker, displayed their versatility in the *Adventures in Odyssey* re-creation at Showcase IX.

**June 30?**—Whoops! There must be a mistake. Nope. Maybe you haven't heard; a special Sunday morning session has been added. With so many out of town guests, this has been requested for some time. The site will be the commercial photography studio of Christopher Conrad, very close by to the Seattle Center meeting rooms. Attendance will be limited to the first 50 who sign up and the program will be an intimate and special one involving key OTR performers. **Performers**—Yep...a wonderful group of talented professionals are coming to share and to perform.

Check it out and try to imagine it being any better. We are so fortunate!

The "Company" – attending at least their third showcase (up to ten of ten!):

Douglas Young (*Cisco Kid*)...Rhoda Williams (*Father Knows Best*)...Anne Whitfield Phillips (*Phil Harris*)...Ginny Tyler (*Jack Benny*)...Gil Stratton, Jr. (*Halls of Ivy*)...Norma Jean Nilsson (*Jack Carson*)...Tyler McVey (*Glamour Manor*)...Jo Anna

◀ Pat French and Norma Jean Nilsson pay close attention to what is happening during the *Silver Theatre* re-creation rehearsal at Showcase IX.

# Showcase UPI

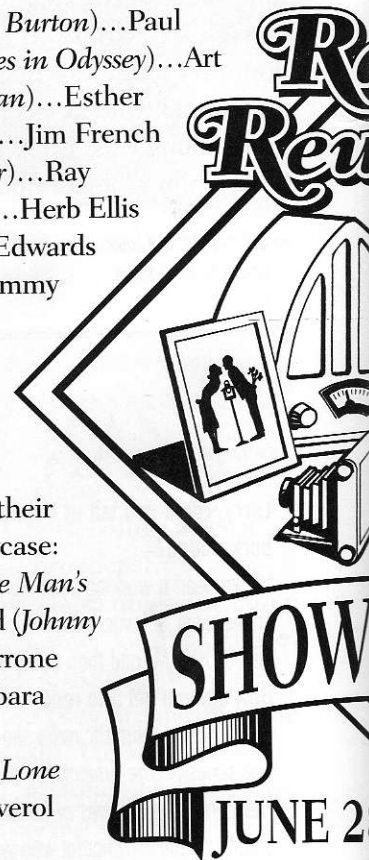
March (*Second Mrs. Burton*)...Paul Herlinger (*Adventures in Odyssey*)...Art Gilmore (*Dr. Christian*)...Esther Geddes (local radio)...Jim French (*Imagination Theater*)...Ray Erlenborn (*Blondie*)...Herb Ellis (*Gunsmoke*)...Sam Edwards (*Corliss Archer*)...Tommy Cook (*Red Ryder*)...

Frank Buxton (Author/actor)...

Dick Beals (*Have Gun, Will Travel*)

Coming to share at their first or second showcase:

Richard Svihus (*One Man's Family*)...Elliott Reid (*Johnny Dollar*)...George Pirrone (*Life of Riley*)...Barbara Fuller (*One Man's Family*)...Fred Foy (*Lone Ranger*)...Jean Rouverol Butler (*One Man's Family*)...Alice Bakes (*Great*





# R DATES

## Radio Reunions

## SHOWCASE X

30, 2002

*Gildersleeve*)...and remote by phone – Page Gilman (*One Man's Family*).

**Program**—Yep. It's taking shape too.

All of the OTR shows have some connection to our professional friends. A great episode of *The Halls of Ivy* is on tap, along with a really solid *Lone Ranger* (with live orchestra music).

We'll be visiting *Cavalcade of America* and experiencing a special treatment of *One Man's Family*. In addition to one more Golden Age recreation yet to be selected,

Jim French is writing a new show just for some of the great talent that will be with us. It will be aired later on *Imagination Theater*. Ideas for panels are being evaluated, with some very promising ones likely.

**Caterer News**—Nope. We won't be using the same one. It was embarrassing last year. The caterer didn't meet the standards; and they took no ownership. So, a crack team of REPS volunteers is finalizing the selection of a new caterer.

### Help

**Wanted**—Yep.

With almost 50 volunteers taking parts of the workload, there is one remaining need. We would love to

have a few more people to help out for a few hours staffing the registration table. Ideally, it might be a family member or friend who doesn't want to attend any of the program. Let Mike Sprague know at 425-488-9518.

**No Fund Raiser This Year**—Because of the current financial health of REPS, no fund raising letter was done this year as was done last year. So many were so generous that the Showcase should be in very solid shape, as is the club's general budget. If you do wish to give, donations can be sent to Treasurer Janet Conrad (address listed in the directory), and they are tax deductible.

▲ Tommy Cook and Sam Edwards review their scripts at Showcase IX.

▼ Dick Beals, Ginny Tyler and Jo Anna March in *Let's Pretend* at Showcase IX.



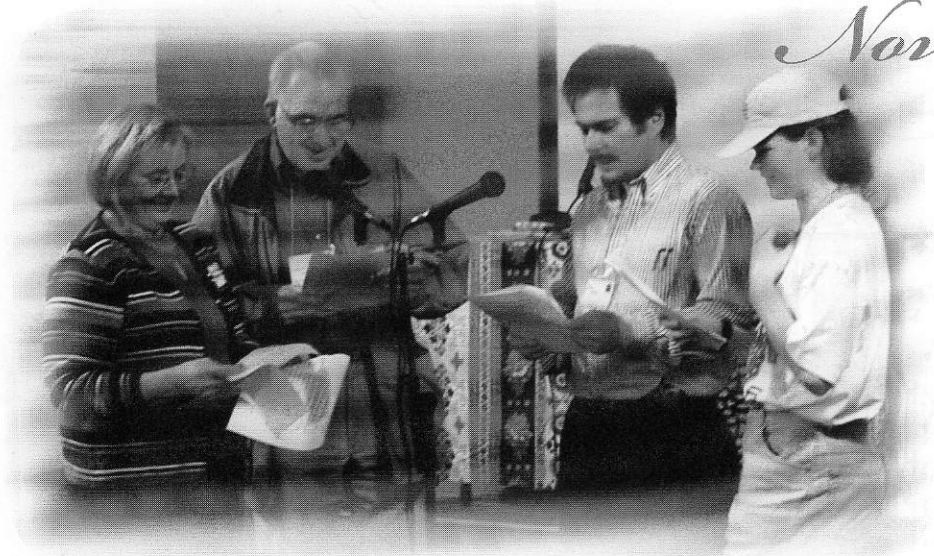
◀ Harry Bartell, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Dick Van Patten and Arthur Anderson reminiscence about their time on radio during *Just Sittin' Around and Visitin'* at Showcase IX.



November 3rd, 2001

# OTR STAR HAL STONE

continued from page 1



◀ Left to Right: Lorinda Ridgeway, Richard Haviland, Paul Feavel and Jennifer Pope in a short scene from *Archie Andrews*.

he was asked again to join a touring company, this time for a more lucrative salary, playing the role of Harlan, the youngest son, opposite the legendary Lillian Gish. They got as far as Chicago, where they stayed for 16 months. He was also on stage in *Peter Pan*, *Watch on the Rhine*, *Star Spangled Family*, *This Rock* with Billy Burke, *Tomorrow the World* with Elissa Landi, and *Lady in the Dark* with Gertrude Lawrence.

At the age of 8, his first radio spot was *Nichols Family of Five*. From the age of 8 to age 23, during the '40s and '50s, he appeared in a number of shows on NBC, CBS and Mutual: *Let's Pretend*, *Dr. Christian*, *Bib Town*, *Death Valley Days*, *Henry Aldrich*, *US Steel Hour*, *Henry Morgan Show*, *Theater Guild of the Air*, *Maxie Rosenbloom Show*, *Jack Benny*, *Ethel Merman Show*, *My True Story*, *Road of Life*, *Right to Happiness*, *Portia Faces Life*, and many others.

Hal commented that in New York, none of the actors used agents, but in Hollywood you can't go anywhere without one. A lot of good shows also came out of Detroit and Chicago, and finally Hollywood decided that it could use radio to promote the films, using Hollywood's vast pool of actors.

### **Gung Ho about the Military**

Hal was stationed for a year in Newfoundland. He was very gung ho about the military, and seriously contemplated remaining in the Air Force. With the start of the Korean (Conflict) War, his National Guard unit was activated and sent to Newfoundland. He ended his tour as a ground safety inspector. He hadn't gone to college prior to his military service, and once out of uniform, he corrected that. He focused on speech, drama and television production and completed his college degree in 2-1/2

years. He gave up acting (didn't regret that) and took up directing.

Before that transition, Hal performed on TV when it was "live" (1955-1956): *Lanny Ross Show*, *George Putnam Show*, *Henry Aldrich*, *Robert Montgomery Presents*, and *Kraft TV Theater*. On the screen, he appeared in *Carnegie Hall*, *Whistling in Brooklyn* and Army Signal Corps documentaries.

### **Commercials and Production**

For 25 years, he was involved with directing commercials. He got one Clio award for a Marshall Field commercial, and many other nominations. He did many commercials for Goodyear, General Foods, automobile & cigarette companies. Hal mentioned that he enjoyed being able to employ people whom he had worked with in radio days. Some of his directorial projects starred Bob Hope and Jonathan Winters. His favorite commercial was having Don Drysdale on the baseball mound, and proving that his pitch couldn't be a grease ball because he used Vitalis. Another favorite was Jonathan Winters dressed up as George Washington at Valley Forge, writing a letter home to Martha with a Paper Mate™ pen.

Directors of radio programs seldom transitioned to television — the disciplines are too diverse. Usually it was the underlings of the radio production staffs that were adaptable and made television their own.

From 1963-1970, he pioneered in videotape production techniques with Videotape Center of NY. From 1970-1980, he was the principal director and Board Chairman of Centrex Production of NY.

### **Recent Activities**

Hal had started writing a book about the idiocy of commercials when Charlie Summers sidetracked him

OTR STAR HAL STONE continues top of next page



into writing a book about his radio days. There are high hopes for the book's completion by early next year.

He has a web site, [www.by-gone-days.com](http://www.by-gone-days.com), set up to sell books; one of which he is handling for Herb Holder, called *And Now the News - 1945*. Each page is set up as a daily newscast for each day in 1945. To purchase this book, contact the web site.

After the break, Hal had a treat in store for those in attendance: casting a short scene from *Archie Andrews*. The whole idea was to show the audition process, the marking of the script, and the presentation. Four people auditioned for each of the four lead characters (Archie, Jughead, Betty and Veronica). Jennifer Pope, who had given Showcase 9 an outstanding review in the OTR Digest and is a recent member, played Veronica; Richard Haviland, a major Archie and Jughead fan, got the nod as Jughead; Paul Feavel was Archie; Larry Albert was the announcer and first time visitor Lorinda Ridgway, was Betty.

Hal commented that he thought Michael Comstock was a great interviewer, and made a great "Straight Man". He also remarked that both he and his wife Dorothy (who accompanied him) wished the meeting lasted longer, because they were having such a great time with the membership.

Hal Stone was full of praise for all the members of REPS and sent the following letter to Mike Sprague. Since so many of you helped to create a great time for him, this is being passed on to you. Great job by all those involved.

*Hi Mike,*

*It's "we" who should be thanking you (and the rest of the gang) for your invitation to attend the meeting, the travel arrangements, accommodations, and the many nice memories that we brought home with us. It really is a swell group of OTR enthusiasts.*

*The REPS membership at large should know how much Dorothy and I appreciated meeting you all, and want to thank you for making us feel so welcome.*

*Thanks go to Dave Selvig for picking us up at the airport and delivering us to the hotel. I'm sorry he wasn't able to make the meeting, but understood his needing to keep a prior commitment.*

*We thoroughly enjoyed meeting, and spending time with you, Mike Comstock, Joy & Ron, Chris Conrad, Submarine Captain Terry Mahony and Bev, and Paul Feavel Friday evening.*

*I thought Mike Comstock did a wonderful job as Interviewer/facilitator at the meeting. We planned the opening bit we did together rather briefly. Mike makes a great "Straight man", and "Quick on the trigger". The time passed very quickly, and the audience seemed to be enjoying themselves. To me, that's all that counts.*

*Also, my thanks to all the members who were such good sports and participated in the Archie casting session... All in all, I wish there had been more time to personally meet the whole group. They seem like really nice folks, and great OTR fans.*

*Thanks again for inviting me to Seattle. I had always heard that REPS was a class organization... now I know that to be absolutely true.*

*Dorothy sends her regards, and her thanks, for being such excellent hosts.*

*Most Cordially, and with heartfelt appreciation,  
Hal Stone*

## AN INTERVIEW WITH LARRY ALBERT ...continued from page 7

me, I really appreciate it.

**On the series *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* you play Dr. Watson. Are there any particular challenges to playing a continuing character?**

Yes, I'm just not playing a continuing character, but a character that has been as badly abused and dismissed in the media over the centuries as Watson. It is a challenge to give him life... when I play Watson, I AM Watson!

Who is John H. Watson? First, of all he is a surgeon, so he is educated. A decorated combat veteran; he is courageous. In a dangerous situation, he's a man you want watching your back. From his own words, he's obviously a lady's man. He is courteous; he tends to treat people on an equal level, especially women.

Watson is a man who is warm, considerate, and very much a traditionalist; he's a very conservative man and a patriot.

What kind of a man would Sherlock Holmes tolerate as a companion and an associate? He would never tolerate a fool!... He is a young man in the prime of his life. If you read the Holmes Canon, you know that Watson acquires Holmes' abilities of observation. In *The Solitary Cyclist*, it is Watson who explains how Holmes knew she was a cyclist.

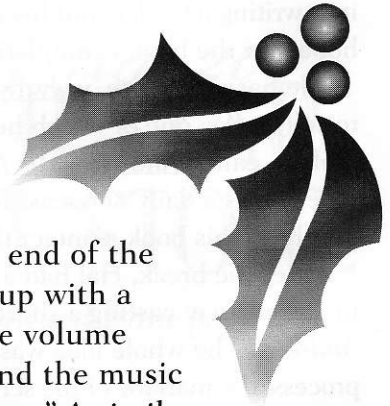
How do you play Watson? You play him honestly. I think when you are playing someone like Watson, you are taking a chance if you're not giving the audience Nigel Bruce because that's what most people know. Edward Hardwicke (Watson in the Granada videos) made my job easier. I am always trying to

bring that sense (that) Hardwicke and Michael Williams (in the BBC radio dramas) brought to Watson. That's why Watson's narration has become intimate to the listener. That was a conscious decision on my part and Jim liked it.

Watson is probably the hardest role I have ever done because I want so much to do it right! I sweat every time we go to do a new episode. I go over the script and over the word pronunciations. I don't sleep well the night before a recording session.

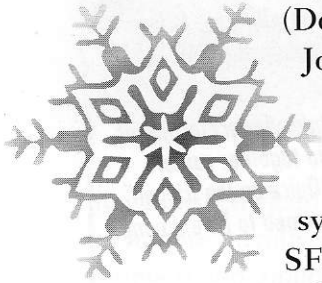
*(Interviewer's Note: Larry and I talked quite a bit more. This, as Dr. Watson might say, "I may tell you about at another time".)*

# December 1st, 2001 CHRISTMAS CHEER



We had a very full meeting planned for December. Sometimes, especially when doing recreations, hours of setup and preparation are necessary before the meeting begins. The day

began as the engineering crew (Donald Zongker, Bob Cardenas and Joy Jackson) stood in the rain, waiting for the Library to open at 10 am. It takes a long time to wire up 8-9 microphones, PA system, recording devices and the SFX devices, and have it all work without generating feedback.



The actors trickled in around 11:15 and the cast moved into "the closet" (the back hallway) to practice

without disturbing the tech crew, still setting up the microphones. When Bob and Donald were ready, *The Six Shooter* portion of the day went on mic for the technical rehearsal. The "tech" rehearsal is the first chance to see if

the sound effects setup will work in that configuration. The placement of individual effects for quick and easy usage is always a last-minute tweak. The mic rehearsal points out where all the rough spots are; and, hopefully, everyone makes the corrections in the final performance. Joy stated an example of this: "Every music cue that I was responsible for in *The Six Shooter* was too

late in starting. By the end of the rehearsal, I had come up with a technique for using the volume control on the mixer and the music on the minidisk machine." A similar procedure was followed for the run-through of *Our Miss Brooks*.

## ***Our Barrel Overfloweth***

The first item of business was the Toys for Tots donation. Terry Mahony introduced Captain Keith Weinsaft, US Marine Corp, who was there to pick up the donations. Everyone was very generous, and our barrel floweth over. As a personal thank you, Terry presented Captain Weinsaft with one of the Holiday CDs.



A Terry Mahony introduced Captain Keith Weinsaft, who accepted our contribution to Toys for Tots on behalf of the US Marine Corp.

This is also the time for our annual meeting and election. President Dave Selvig gave a brief overview of the activities of REPS during 2001. David Selvig was re-elected as President in a landslide vote with one write-in vote for Richard Nixon.

## ***The Story of Eben***

*The Six Shooter* episode was Britt Ponsett's Christmas Carol with Terry McManus in the Jimmy Stewart role of Britt Ponsett. (If a listener closed their eyes, it was easy to imagine that Jimmy Stewart was really in the room! Terry does a great impersonation.) John Jensen directed and was the announcer. David Selvig was Eben, Cheri



► *Cast of The Six Shooter* — Back Row, Left to Right: Les Westrum, Cheri Swenson, Anna Denton, Bryan Haigood, Dave Selvig, David Persson and Neal Shulman. Front Row, Left to Right: Terry McManus and John Jensen.



Brooks, with John Jensen as Mr. Conklin. Bryan Haigood was Walter, Cheri Swenson was Harriet, Les Westrum was Mr. Boynton, Joy Jackson

Swenson as Johnny, Bryan Haigood was the nephew, David Persson was Foreman Bob, Joy Jackson was Ghost 1, 2 & 3 and Marge Lutton was Aunt Nellie. Les Westrum, Neal Shulman and Anna Denton picked up the extra roles. John Jensen selected the music, which Joy played; Marge and Joy did the live sound effects with engineering by Donald Zongker and Bob Cardenas.

**Tape Exchange**

During the break, attendees participated in the tape exchange and had the opportunity to purchase a few more Holiday CDs. The leftover tapes were donated for the door-prize section. An additional special door prize was a cassette of the original performances that were being re-created at today's meeting by the REPS Radio Readers. Paul Feavel was on hand to talk about the popularity of the Holiday CD and Dave Selvig presented Paul with "a donation to the Fools Serious, in appreciation for his brilliant ideas and follow-through on the Holiday CD project." (Fools Serious is a group of people who are dedicated to the Seattle International Film Festival.)

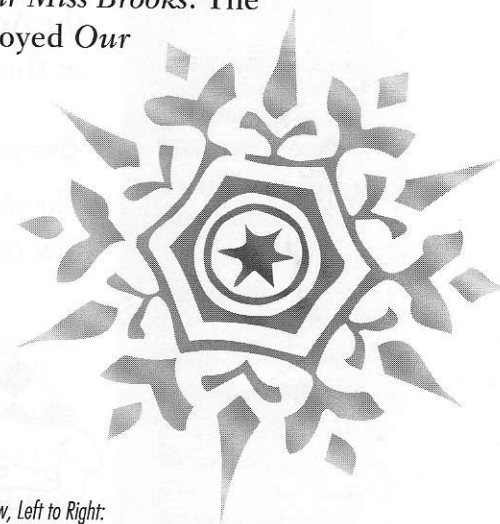
*Our Miss Brooks* wrapped up the meeting with Christmas Letter Contest

wherein Miss Brooks' letter to "Sandy Clawsss", written at age 7, mistakenly gets in with a batch of letters from the neighborhood kids, and wins the contest.

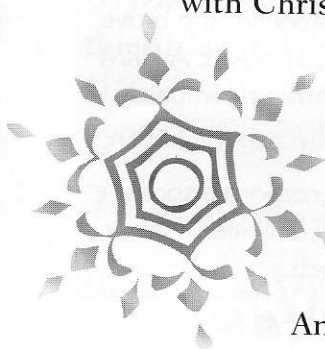
Anna Denton was Miss

was Miss Enright, Marge Lutton was Mrs. Davis and Dave Selvig was Bush of Bush's Department Store. Neal Shulman was the announcer and helped Marge and Joy with the live sound effects. Bob Cardenas did the recorded sound. David Persson directed *Our Miss Brooks*. The audience really enjoyed *Our Miss Brooks*.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



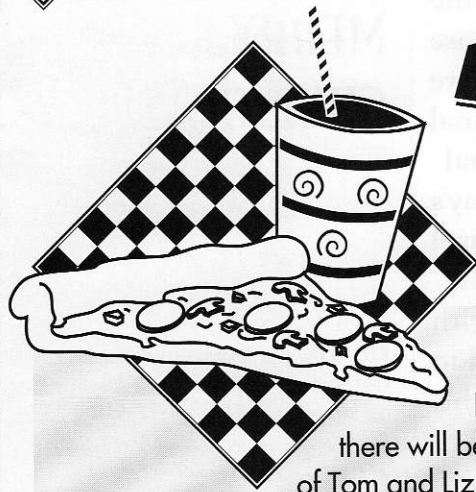
Y *Cast of Our Miss Brooks* — Front Row, Left to Right: Cheri Swenson, David Persson, Anna Denton, Joy Jackson, and John Jensen. Back Row, Left to Right: Neal Shulman, Bryan Haigood, Les Westrum and Dave Selvig.



**Membership.** The cost is \$18.00 for the year. Members may take advantage of the libraries – tape, book and script. The script library catalog is in the process of being added to our website. Be sure to check it out.

**Door Prizes.** Share your tapes as door prizes at the meetings. 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: [www.repsonline.org](http://www.repsonline.org)



## **PIZZA & POP WITH DICK!**

**APRIL 10, 2002  
LIMITED SPACE!**

Our very involved honorary member Dick Beals will be coming to town on REPS business in April and there will be a special, informal meeting at the Magnolia home of Tom and Liz Roach with Pizza and Pop and good ol' Dick Beals. This is a flashback to some of the Listening Parties from REPS early days, and will be on Wednesday evening, April 10th from 7-8:30 +.

Because this gathering is in a home, space is definitely a factor. The Roaches are brave and feel that they can accommodate up to 30 people. **SO, YOU MUST MAKE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO BE THERE** by calling the hosts to reserve a spot. Their number is 206-282-2544.

Dick will also be doing a performance on our behalf for Showcase corporate sponsor PEMCO Financial Services and meeting with the Showcase Steering Committee. Finally, there is the taping of a show written by honorary member Jim French.

**BE SURE AND JOIN IN IF YOU CAN!**





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

400 West Garfield · Seattle  
Directions to the library are on our website

**Saturday, March 2, 2002: Dal McKennon.** A major voice talent in cartoons (almost all the Walter Lantz, Gumby, Disney and much more). A fellow who did radio, local and network (*Dragnet*, *Fibber McGee* and other shows) and stage work with our friend Tyler McVey. Dal will be a fascinating guest.

**Monday, March 25, 2002: Imagination Theater recording session at the Kirkland Performance Center.** Doors open at 7:00 pm, program starts at 7:30. Call the Kirkland Performance Center Box Office for tickets...425-893-9900. Tickets: Adults - \$7.00, children under 12 - \$5.00.



**Saturday, March 30, 2002: An Inside Look at Variety Shows.** Member John Jensen delves into one of his favorite types of shows. Drawing on this love and his own radio background, John will take us inside everything from *The Bing Crosby Show* to...?

**Saturday, May 4, 2002: OTR Community Presentation Preview.** One more time with John Jensen, this time sharing with members the custom program that is being developed to allow members to do presentations on OTR to clubs, churches, retirement homes and more. Clips of shows, pieces of history, a quiz and other items are to be built in.

**Saturday, May 11, 2002: Lindbergh play at Museum of Flight.**

**Saturday, June 1, 2002: Special OTR Guest.** To be announced.

**Monday, June 10, 2002: Imagination Theater recording session at the Kirkland Performance Center.** Doors open at 7:00 pm, program starts at 7:30. Call the Kirkland Performance Center Box Office for tickets...425-893-9900. Tickets: Adults - \$7.00, children under 12 - \$5.00.

**June 28-30, 2002: Showcase X**

◆ VISIT US AT THE REPS WEBSITE! ◆

[www.repsonline.org](http://www.repsonline.org)

REPS ONLINE MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



REPS

9936 NE 197TH STREET  
BOTHELL, WA 98011



Tom Brown  
1402 S. Kahuna Dr.  
Spokane WA 99212



## 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. 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.

OTR	CFMI	FM 101.1	Vancouver, BC	10:00 pm - 12:00 am	Sunday
REN	Cable 77/29	Public Access	Seattle/King Co., WA	6:00 am - 8:00 am	Sun - Sat
REN	YesterdayUSA.com	Streaming Audio on Web		6:00 am - 4:00 pm	Sunday
REN	YesterdayUSA.com	Streaming Audio on Web		7:30 pm - 5:30 am	Sunday
REN	ERRS	FM SCA KUOW	Seattle, WA	11:00 pm - 1:00 am	Mon - Fri
REN	ERRS	FM SCA KUOW	Seattle, WA	2:00 am - 10:00 am	Sunday
Odyssey (C)	KCIS	AM 630	Seattle, WA	7:30 am - 8:00 am	Saturday
Odyssey (C)	KCIS	AM 630	Seattle, WA	7:30 pm - 8:00 pm	Mon - Fri
Unshackled (C)	KCIS	AM 630	Seattle, WA	10:30 pm - 11:00 pm	Sunday
Radio Super Heroes	KLAY	AM 1180	Lakewood, WA	4:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Sunday
Nostalgia Radio	KLAY	AM 1180	Lakewood, WA	4:00 pm - 12:00 am	Saturday
Radio Movie Classics	KLAY	AM 1180	Lakewood, WA	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Sunday
Big Band Swing	KLKI	AM 1340	Anacortes, WA	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Saturday
When Radio Was	KLKI	AM 1340	Anacortes, WA	10:00 pm - 12:00 am	Saturday
When Radio Was	KLKI	AM 1340	Anacortes, WA	6:00 pm - 11:00 pm	Sunday
Imagination Theater (C)	KNWX	AM 770	Seattle, WA	9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Saturday
When Radio Was	KNWX	AM 770	Seattle, WA	10:00 pm - 2:00 am	Saturday
Imagination Theater (C)	KNWX	AM 770	Seattle, WA	9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sunday
When Radio Was	KNWX	AM 770	Seattle, WA	10:00 pm - 12:00 am	Sunday
Classic Radio	CKNW	AM 980	Vancouver, BC	12:05 am - 2:00 am	Sun - Fri
When Radio Was	KTCR	AM 1340	Kennewick, WA	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Saturday
Imagination Theater (C)	KTCR	AM 1340	Kennewick, WA	9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Saturday
When Radio Was	KTCR	AM 1340	Kennewick, WA	7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Sunday



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