

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 3

SHOWCASE • 2002

June 28-30, 2002

RADIO REUNIONS • SHOWCASE X

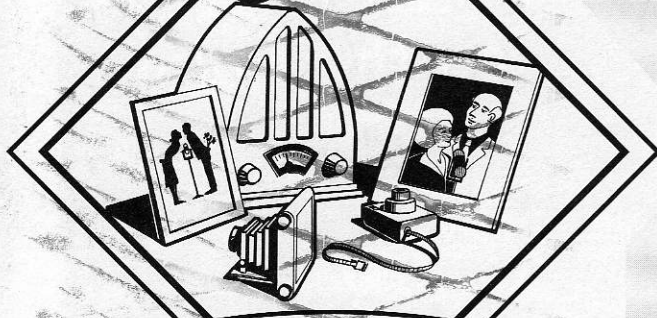
It was so much fun to “peek” in on some of the reunions taking place at this year’s Showcase. The Showcase started with a reunion of two sports announcers. *One Man’s Family* aficionados staged their own reunion with a box lunch social. Many actors were reunited with shows they had performed on at various points in their careers. The final reunion occurred when these talented people gathered for a picture.

What fond memories did these Radio Reunions spark for you?

➤ Front Row, left to right: Rhoda Williams, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Jo Anna March, Sam Edwards, Ray Erlenborn, Hal Stone and Ginny Tyler. Middle Row, left to right: Dick Beals, Gil Stratton, Jr., Alice Backes, Norma Jean Nilsson, Jean Rouverol Butler, Esther Geddes, and Barbara Fuller. Back Row, left to right: Bill Brooks, Art Gilmore, Jim French, Frank Buxton, Phil Harper, George Pirrone, Douglas Young, Tyler McVey and Larry Albert.



Radio Reunions



SHOWCASE • X

JUNE 28 - 30, 2002

“Wow! What a Blast from the Past! That was a most thoroughly enjoyable REPS (convention) and *One Man’s Family* Reunion. Thanks for a wonderful weekend. It met my every expectation,”

Ronn King

“I know I say it every year, but it is true. This was the best convention ever. The people, the shows and the whole climate. REPS just has a way of making us all feel really good and then doing our best. It seemed like everyone was up and enthusiastic. Thanks for doing it again!”

Norma Jean (Nilsson)

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◆ PRESIDENTS POINTS ◆

This is an important election year for REPS. On December 7, 2002 we will elect President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The term of office is two years except for one year for President-Elect. Officers can serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same office. Joy Jackson and Janet Conrad are completing their second term as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. John Jensen is completing his first term as Vice President. David Selvig will complete his second term as President in 2003. The officer positions, based on the bylaws, are summarized below. The nominating committee consists of past REPS presidents Mike Sprague, Terry Mahony and Bill Parker. If you would like to recommend someone to be considered as a REPS officer please contact the nominating committee.

President-Elect

The President-Elect shall, in the absence or disability of the President, exercise all functions of the President. After serving one year in the position, the President-Elect will run for election as President, for a two-year term.

Vice President

The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President and President-Elect, exercise all functions of the President. The President-Elect and the Vice President shall have powers and perform duties as assigned from time to time by the REPS board.

Secretary

The Secretary shall issue notices for all meetings, keep minutes of all meetings, take charge of all correspondence, and make and receive reports from officers and committees of REPS.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys and securities of REPS and shall keep books of account. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of REPS in payment of the just demands against REPS and shall provide an account of all transactions and the financial condition of REPS.

◆ Announcing REPS ^{SECOND} ~~first~~ mp3 cd project! ◆

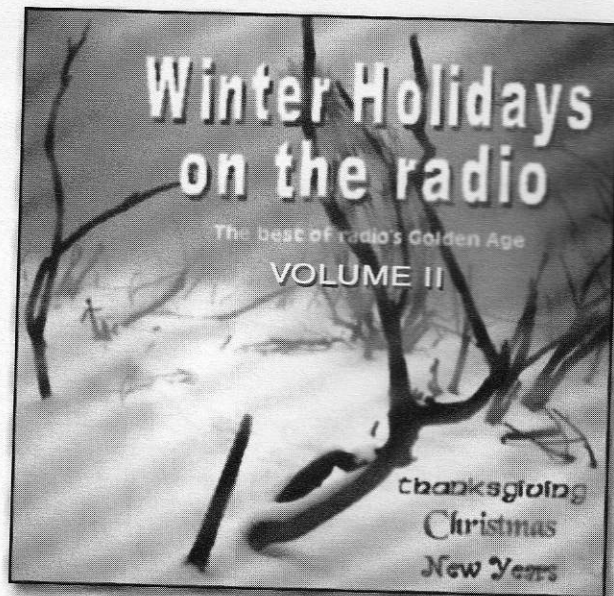
Share the gift of old-time radio this holiday season with copies of this REPS-produced cd containing nearly 100 hours of classic entertainment selected by club members.

Along with Golden Age favorites, you'll find rare uncirculated shows, a new production from the REPS Radio Readers, and other treats to be announced. It's a great way to spread the love of OTR!

Only a limited number will be produced and available at the November and December REPS meetings or by mail from Joy Jackson, 3663 Carr Place North, Seattle, WA 98103. (Add \$5 shipping per mail order of one or multiple cds.) These discs are available ONLY to REPS members for personal use or to share.

Winter Holidays will be available for \$10. To encourage spreading OTR to your holiday gift list, multiple copies will be available at 3 for \$25, 7 for \$50, or 15 for \$100.

These discs are playable on Windows, Macintosh & Linux PCs, mp3-enabled cd & dvd players, and personal mp3 players.



RADIO SPORTS STORY REUNION

by Sean Dougherty



Long time REPS fan favorite Gil Stratton, Jr., who is known for both his love of baseball and his acting role on such programs as *My Little Margie*, was paired with REPS rookie Dave Niehaus, Seattle Mariners play-by-play man for twenty-five years. These two old friends started off the Showcase with an hour of stories about sports and sports casting.

After a recap of the current Mariners season and prospects

— and Niehaus sharing of his signature ‘Grand Salami’ home run call — the two men turned to the history of radio sports casting. Playing to the crowd, the Mariners’ last original employee offered,



▲ Top: Gil Stratton, Jr. comments about being an umpire while interviewing his friend, Dave Niehaus.

Bottom: Dave Niehaus makes his first appearance at a REPS Showcase.

“Baseball is a radio game. I’m one of the last sportscasters trained in radio only. Television is going to be the death of great sports casting. Nobody uses the medium to tell a story any longer”. Modern announcers, he observed, “Tell statistics, not stories. They miss the romance. This is nearly a 200-game season and you need to be able to fill in during the dog games”.

Stratton spent most of the hour setting up Niehaus with softballs, but he did get off a great observation about umpiring. When asked if he held a grudge against players and managers who got in his face during games he worked as a Pacific Coast League umpire (a job Stratton held during his acting off-season and prior to getting work as a sports announcer), he offered, “Not the next day”. He added, “It’s the .250 hitters who drive

you crazy complaining about calls. They never took a strike in their lives. The great hitters just go about their business”.

They shared reminiscences about former radio singer and Anaheim Angels owner Gene Autry who drank heavily during his team’s games. Autry persuaded “David” to get him a vodka and water. “I went and found him the biggest glass of straight vodka I could. When I got it to him, he drank it like I’d drink water, turned around and smiled and said something like, ‘thanks kid, you’re okay.’”

And that was a sentiment surely shared by the REPS fans that let Niehaus run to get ready for that night’s Mariners game.



REUNION WITH THE PAST

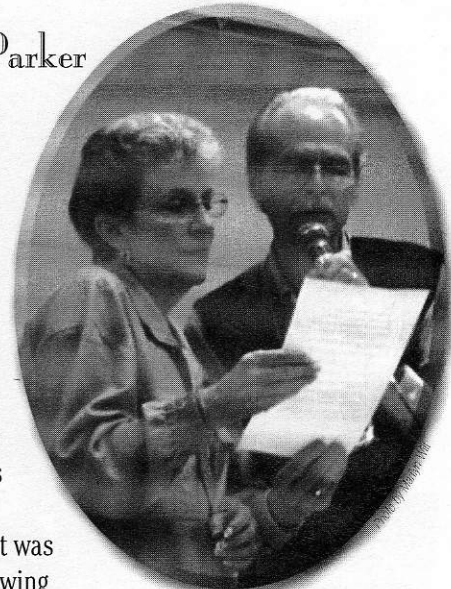
by Bill Parker

Bob and Meredith Louden presented a grand, and fast-moving overview of radio from the 1930s, ‘40s and into the ‘50s. Bob, who has done two presentations for REPS monthly meetings on Big Bands, focused this time on a sweep of comedy, variety, crime, westerns, soaps, kids programs, family, quiz shows and news.

The voice of Jimmy Stewart was heard reminiscing about growing up with radio in his hometown of Indiana, Pennsylvania and hearing the early broadcasts of pioneering station KDKA from Pittsburgh. The Loudens again included a segment on big bands: Artie Shaw “from the ballroom of the Hotel Lincoln in New York” and Les Brown “from Sunset and Vine in Hollywood”.

When he came to Glenn Miller, Bob asked if anyone in the audience had heard Miller in person. REPS member Gerry Hollinger had seen him in person at the Rainbow Pier in Long Beach, California in the early 1940s. She had gone with some teenage girlfriends.

Several people were the lucky recipients of some of Bob’s wonderful door prizes.



▲ Bob and Meredith Louden share their fast-moving overview of radio.

REAL RADIO FAMILIES

“Art and I were high school sweethearts”, said Grace Gilmore, “of course, I was 12!” They have been happily married for 64 years and have lived in the same house for 62 years. Art was always the optimistic one (and was never without work) while Grace worried that the shows would be cancelled. The family went to the Mutual Broadcasting Company to watch Art on *Red Ryder* where Ray Erlenborn did the sound effects. “Life has been very normal . . . I was a stay at home mom”. Art made sure that the summers were available for spending time with his family.

“I just knew him as papa,” said Christopher Conrad. His dad, William Conrad, was throwing away boxes of reel-to-reel tapes to make room for a remodeling of the sunroom. Chris was excited about getting some “cool” music; what he got instead were radio episodes. This was the first time “I was really aware of his radio career” and the first time he had heard any of his dad’s shows. His dad welcomed radio fans but wasn’t all that crazy about the TV fans. One of his dad’s first

professional “gigs” was singing in a funeral home and many years later he started singing again. “You know him as Sam Edwards,” said Beverly Edwards, “but I know him ‘Saint Sam’ because he



Photo by Paul Farnet

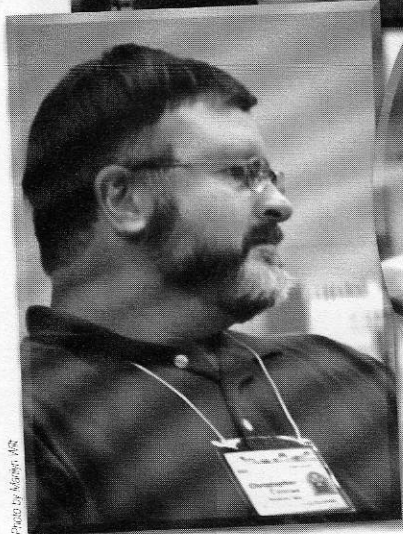


Photo by Megan AK



Photo by Wendy Pitt

▲ “I know him as Saint Sam”, remarked Beverly Edwards.

▲ Top: “I was a stay at home mom”, said Grace Gilmore.
Bottom Left: “I just knew him as papa”, said Christopher Conrad.

took me and three children 33 years ago. And it couldn’t be better.” Beverly met him after his radio years and had no idea who he was! The grandchildren love seeing grandpa in his “nerdy” role of Chuck Ramsey on *Captain Midnight*. Every day life was just like it was in any other home—went to school programs, taught children to drive, “he’s willing to help, but in the kitchen he’s kind of helpless”, empties the trash, shovels the driveway and even does the maintenance on everything.

ONE MAN’S FAMILY A TOUCH OF CHRISTMAS

12/18/49

by Frank Denton

This program was a joy to hear recreated. I have fond memories of my mom and dad listening every Sunday evening to this show. The large cast put a number of our guests to work in various roles. After all, the Barbour family was large and sprawling.

George Pirrone in the role of Father Barbour carried the episode. To begin, Mother Barbour played by Jean Rouverol Butler has sensed some friction between son, Clifford, played by Sam Edwards, and Father Barbour. She encourages them to talk but the conversation goes nowhere. It appears that Paul won’t be home, he’s having dinner with Christine Abbott. Father Barbour does not approve.

Daughter Hazel, played by Anne Whitfield Phillips, comes in to find Father Barbour ‘gedunking’ cookies. He reveals that he has bought a plastic Christmas wreath from a boy who is attending university at Berkeley. Apparently it could be described as ugly.

Before the episodes’ end we discover that this same young man has been using this ploy to sell wreaths for many Christmases.

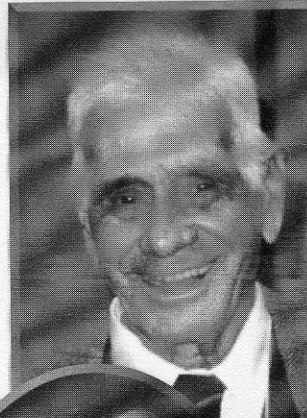


Photo by David



Photo by David Van Meter

▲ Top: George Pirrone as Father Barbour kept trying to give away a Christmas wreath.

Bottom: Jean Rouverol Butler tries to ease the tensions between father and son in her role of Mother Barbour.

◇ FRIDAY AFTERNOON ◇

ONE MAN'S FAMILY *continued from page 4*



Photo by Sharon Voss

▲ Claudia Barbour (Barbara Fuller) is walking on air after her phone call from Nicky.

➤ Jim Jansen shared his musical talent again this year.

Claudia, played by Barbara Fuller, enters very happy. She has had a phone call from Nicky in London. Father tries to give Claudia the wreath, but she won't accept. Jack, played by Tyler McVey, is on the phone. Alice Backes played Nicolette, the family

Photo by David Van Meter



friend, seeming romantic interest for Paul and helper with Jack's children. Father Barbour tries to give the wreath to Jack but he wiggles his way out of accepting. It seems that Father

Barbour is the only one in the family who sees any aesthetic value in the wreath.

In another scene Paul (Art Gilmore), with ring in pocket, proposes to Mrs. Chris Abbott (Norma Jean Nilsson) who accepts.

Gil Stratton, Jr. was the announcer. Larry Albert directed. Music was by Jim Jansen and Cheryl Jacobs accomplished the sound effects.

One can see that the show was an ongoing continuous story of the life of one rather large, but close, family. In this episode the Christmas wreath held the story together. But with sons and daughters, marriage partners and others, the cast was fairly large and threads of plot might take weeks to unwind.

George Pirrone said elsewhere that he was only a lad when he appeared on the show. In this recreation as Father Barbour one wouldn't know that he hadn't always played the role. Paterfamilias, perhaps, but always a bit bemused by the lives around him.

"Thank you so much. The Parkers and everyone else up there are just wonderful and so gracious. I really enjoyed being there, admired the total job that you all did. There are so many nice people in REPS." *Barbara Fuller*

JUST SITTING AROUND VISITING, PART I

This is an opportunity to hear the actors share some of their stories. Mike Sprague was the moderator for this session. The actors had a chance to talk about why they live where they do, some of their favorite non-radio experiences, awful radio and television shows and other topics. Here is a sample of their comments. (Check the tape out of the REPS library to hear all the wonderful stories.)

Jean Rouverol Butler's mother followed Alice Brady in the role of Meg in the first stage production of *Little Women*.

"I hated that show," commented Sam Edwards about *Full Circle*. "I couldn't wait for the contract to be up."

Norma Jean Nilsson worked with Jack Carson and was madly in love with him and determined to marry him . . . "but then I was 8 years old!"

In one day Tyler McVey worked on three shows: *Glamour Manor*, *Lux Radio Theater* and *Cavalcade of America*.

"I kissed Mr. Boyer!" gushed Barbara Fuller who played opposite him on *Four Star Theater*.

George Pirrone went to Don Quinn with a character idea, Georgie Nothing, for *Fibber McGee and Molly*. The character was used once and never came back.

Anne Frank was Anne Whitfield Phillips' favorite dramatic role and still brings an emotional response from her.

"First of all, let me tell you I had a perfectly marvelous time. I'd had no idea how much fun it would be. I also discovered, after these some 50-odd years, that I still enjoyed radio acting!! I thought that the events - at least those I was present at - went off like clockwork, which is a real tribute to the organization of the event. (It) couldn't have been more fun." *Jean Rouverol Butler*

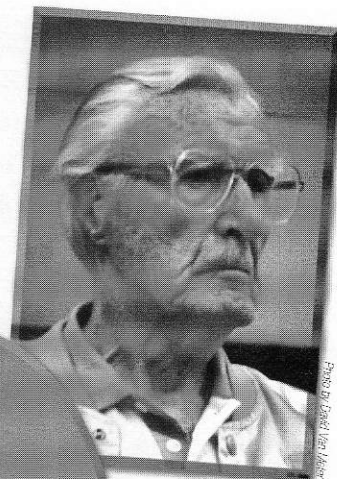


Photo by Frank Van Meter

▲ Tyler McVey worked on three shows in one day!

◀ Anne Whitfield Phillips talks about her favorite dramatic role.



Photo by Paul Fossel

RADIO REUNIONS SURPRISE: ALLEN'S ALLEY REVISITED by Stewart Wright

In recent years, the REPS Showcase has become widely known for the high quality of its surprise recreations. The Friday night surprise, *Allen's Alley Revisited*, was no exception and treated both local and out-of-town Showcase attendees to marvelous performances by some of the Seattle area's finest acting and sound effects talent. The audience was swept along with Larry Albert's uncanny portrayal of Fred Allen as he walked down that famous imaginary side street to visit some of the funniest characters from radio's Golden Age.

The jokes flew fast and furious as Allen used a conversation with Portland Hoffa, played by Peggy Jordan, to renew his famous feud with Jack Benny and poke fun at a new safety plan.

As he progressed on his evening constitutional, Fred asked A QUESTION OF THE DAY – "How do you feel about a possible raise in the income tax?"

– to the various residents of the Alley. Senator Claghorn played by Doug Young, Mrs. Nussbaum by Peggy Jordan and dour New Englander Titus Moody by REPS Radio Achievement Award winner Jim French responded to Allen's Question as only those wonderfully eccentric personalities could. Bill Brooks provided the direction and Cheryl Jacobs the sound effects for this hilarious recreation.

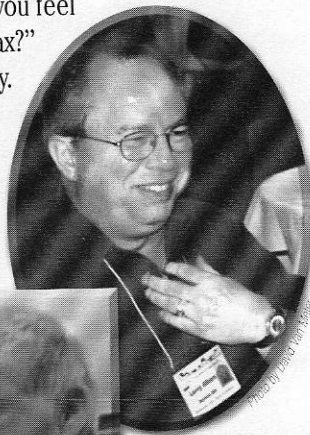
On Saturday morning I got a professional's opinion on this recreation. I drove soundman extraordinaire, Ray Erlenborn, to the Showcase and he told me how much he enjoyed the recreation and the excellent performances of all those involved.

In addition to their appearance at Showcase X, Allen and the residents of the *Alley* have paid visits in two Jim French radio dramas: an episode of *The Adventures of Harry Nile* – Finding Portland and an episode of *Kincaid, the Strange-Seeker* – The Star Channel.



▲ Larry Albert walked down the famous imaginary side street of Allen's Alley.

◀ Peggy Jordan as Mrs. Nussbaum answers Fred Allen's question of the day.

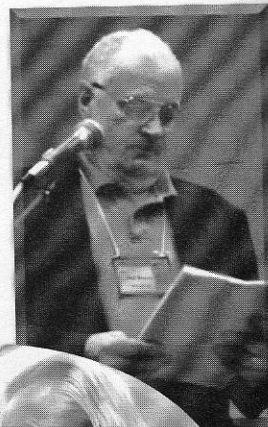


THE LONE RANGER: THE LONE RANGER DOES SURGERY 8/10/45 by Bill Parker

This recreation of the story, *The Lone Ranger Does Surgery*, was directed by former cast member Dick Beals, who also played Bobby. Hal Stone played hard and embittered rancher Judd Travers, whose dying wife Emma (Esther Geddes) urges him to remember: "Blessed are the meek". After Judd's men set fire to the barn at neighbor David Bell's sheep farm, Judd learns that his young son Bobby has been critically injured in a riding accident while attempting to conform to Judd's stern orders. The Lone Ranger (Frank Buxton) and Tonto (Doug Young) meanwhile arrive at the Bell farm, where they discover that Bell is a former brilliant surgeon whose hand has been paralyzed.

The Lone Ranger goes and tries to persuade Travers to stop persecuting Dr. Bell, and after a fierce fight Travers agrees to enlist Bell in trying to save the injured Bobby. Since Bell's paralysis prevents him from operating, the Lone Ranger says: "I have a steady hand doctor, use mine". The Lone Ranger performs the operation under Dr. Bell's instructions; the pressure on Bobby's brain is relieved, and he survives. Judd Travers remembers his wife's dying wish for him.

After this moving performance, Hal Stone asked: "Marilyn, did I see you wiping a tear from your eye?" Others in the cast were Phil Harper, Jo Anna March, Ginny Tyler and narrator Art Gilmore. Bob Cardenas had spent hours preparing the right *Lone Ranger* music and sound effects were by Ray Erlenborn and David Persson.



▲ Top: Hal Stone as Judd Travers remembers his wife's dying wish for him.

Middle: Doug Young and Frank Buxton were perfect as Tonto and the Lone Ranger, respectively.

Bottom: Ginny Tyler and Jo Anna were part of the wonderful cast of *The Lone Ranger* recreation.

◇ FRIDAY EVENING ◇

CORNUCOPIA CONCERT BAND

The Cornucopia Concert Band

wrapped up a very full day with some musical entertainment. In honor of *The Lone Ranger* recreation, they started their concert off with the "William Tell Overture".



Photo by Alan Peters

▲ The Cornucopia Concert Band playing the "William Tell Overture".

➤ Hal Stone and Alice Backes enjoy the music provided by the Cornucopia Concert Band.

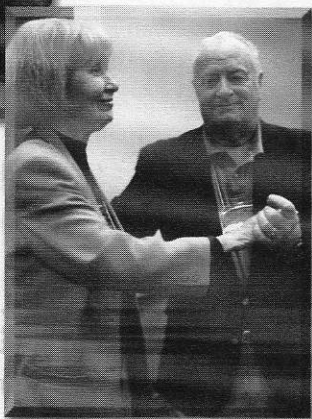


Photo by Allison Wall

Those lucky enough to be in that back of the room got a special treat from Alice Backes and Hal Stone. Ray Erlenborn added his own unique signature to the concert when he "jumped" on the stage to remind his wife that a good man was hard to find!

“Wow! It was sensational. It seems better every year! Great and oh so much fun. What a thrill to be amongst the best. The food was sensational in the Green Room! Beautifully and thoughtfully prepared and handled so well! The main dinner was excellent!

The whole program, re-creations outstanding! Soooo glad to be a part of it ... the other “nibbles” were so well handled, and I don’t remember audiences having as much fun as they responded this time. Raves! Applause! Your choices were bull’s eye! Thanks so much.”

Ginny (Tyler)

“You’ve done it again! I am in great awe of your skill to be harried and harried and harried at the same time. Many thanks for the opportunities you afford to all the grand people who have enriched our lives through their talent, art and skill. I know the radio veterans appreciate the chance to stand before the microphones once again. And I appreciate being included and being able to stretch my performing muscles. What a diverse bunch of characters I got to do! Thanks! Please convey my thanks to any and all that made this Showcase possible.

Onward!” Frank (Buxton)

From the Old Time Radio Digest on the Internet: “As a ‘First-timer’ to the REPS Convention in Seattle, I wasn’t quite sure how that club organized all the events...I particularly liked the ‘green room’ where the performers could get off for some quiet time, a bite to eat, mark their scripts and study their lines. To use a few key words to describe the entire set up, it would be ‘spacious, comfortable, clean, WELL ORGANIZED and very professional’...I had a blast. They sure kept me busy, appearing in three recreations, directing a fourth, with a panel discussion thrown in the mix. I met and worked with some incredibly talented local performers, (among them Jim French and Larry Albert) and the audio engineering staff was excellent. It was great fun seeing some of my actor buddies form the LA area as well (Gil Stratton, Art Gilmore, Dick Beals and many more). If you are into OTR recreations of some of your favorite programs, and like meeting and socializing with some of the talented performers of that era (as well as the new breed), the REPS Convention is a do-not-miss event...Dorothy and I wish to thank everyone who made our participation at the REPS Convention so enjoyable”.

Hal (Harlan) Stone “Jughead”

BLONDIE: BLONDIE MEETS BABY SNOOKS

— 10/8/44 by Frank Denton



Photo by Nelson Korb

'Cold Reads' are always fun. A 'cold read' is when the actors are handed the script, see it and read it through for the first time. At our convention the audience sits expectantly, wondering how the actors will approach the script. Dick Beals was the director who saw to it that the actors toed the line. All of them, except Ginny Tyler had worked on *Blondie*.

Gil Stratton, Jr. took the role played by Arthur Lake,



Photo by Fred Fisher

the original radio and movie Dagwood Bumstead. There was a suggestion prior to the reading that Arthur



Photo by Nelson Korb

Lake was a bit of a flake, not totally interested in his work. Norma Jean Nilsson said that she was one of several children who played Cookie. She was nine years old when she played the role. She also led the others in a rousing rendition of the jingle for Super Suds, the product that sponsored the show. This time around Norma Jean played Blondie. Ray Erlenborn was the announcer, Tyler McVey was Mr. Dithers, Dagwood's boss, and Dick Beals played Alexander. Ginny Tyler played the role of

Baby Snooks, who was a visiting character from her own show.

The plot revolved around Alexander seemingly in trouble at school, having lost interest. When Blondie quizzes him about some current events, however, Alexander knows much more than she does. Dagwood thinks that perhaps a bit of football with his son

will shake him up a bit. It's Dagwood who is shaken; Alexander takes him out. Dagwood thinks he's been blind-sided by a destroyer.

Ken Niles assists him into the house. There he cleverly segues from Dagwood's dirty shirt right into a commercial. At work Dagwood tells his boss about Alexander's problem. Mr. Dithers reminisces about Gwendolyn O'Toole when he was nine and she was eight.

Finally it turns out that Alexander's problem is that Toots Murphy has moved away. She played third base on his baseball team. Alexander is moping. But there's a new girl who has moved into the neighborhood, Baby Snooks. Snooks is a tough one and a bit of a brat. She doesn't like little boys and likes to throw eggs into electric fans. She brings Alexander out of his doldrums by program's end.

In a short question period following the show, Dick Beals asked the other cast members to give the favorite show each had acted on. Ray Erlenborn said his was *The Al Pearce Show*; Tyler McVey's was *Fibber McGee and Molly*; Norma Jean Nilsson said *Lux Radio Theater*, especially *A Portrait of Jenny*, Gil Stratton suggested *Lux* for drama and *Junior Miss* for comedy and Dick Beals said *Gunsmoke*.

This was a very entertaining cold read and the audience received a wonderful bonus with the answers to Dick Beals question about favorites.

From the Old Time Radio Digest on the Internet:

"Hello, I just returned from Seattle, WA after spending 2 days on board Amtrak's "Empire Builder" back to Chicago. Prior to my return, I spent 3 of the most pleasurable days of my life at the REPS Convention ...The other conventions (I've attended) are great in their own ways, but I felt more comfortable at REPS than at the others. Mike Sprague and company did a super job of making sure everyone knew what was going on where, when and how. Not a beat was missed during the whole 3 days...The actors and actresses that were there compiled hundreds of years of combined talent and I truly admire them for their persistence to this day. It was great chatting with them all...I could say more about the Convention, but believe me, if you did not attend; you missed the greatest Showcase to date. If you ever have the chance to attend, you will not be disappointed in any way. Thanks Mike and all the members of REPS in Seattle for not disappointing me in any way."

Fred Korb - Secretary (ORCATS), Old-time Radio Collectors and Traders Society

WARM-UPS AND LAUGHTER

by Bill Parker



▲ "No one heard the same joke twice", commented Art Gilmore.

➤ "Never step on a laugh", said Norma Jean Nilsson.



This was a panel discussion with Art Gilmore, Norma Jean Nilsson and Ray Erlenborn, hosted by Paul Feavel, on the subject of preparing radio audiences in advance of the shows. Norma Jean and Ray demonstrated how to warm up an audience: "with an H, with an H... Hollee-wood".

In 1937, Art auditioned as announcer for the *Dr. Christian* show, a job he held for 17 years. "I wouldn't have taken the job if I'd known it would be that short". In warm-ups before the show, he says he had to stay

awake, with 300 people in the audience. "Did you ever change the jokes you told?" Art was asked. "No, I just changed the audiences. No one heard the same joke twice!" Ray expressed the same sentiment.

Norma Jean talked about warm-ups for *Father Knows Best*. Robert Young did the warm-ups himself, introduced by Bill Foreman who also was the voice of *The Whistler*. As Robert Young asked a question of the audience, Norma Jean was planted in the seats to suddenly pop up as a little girl with an incredibly verbose answer.

Ray used his sound effects in the warm-ups and frequently did a pratfall off the back of his chair just as the show started. This way the show began with a laugh and listeners would say: "Oh ho, this is a comedy show. He once did a warm-up for Andre Kostelanetz on the *Union Oil Show*. "Don't know why he needed a warm-up", added Ray.

Norma Jean says the two most important rules regarding laughter were: "Never milk a laugh, and never step on a laugh". Art worked for years with Red Skelton on TV. He remembers Skelton saying: "I hope the audience is gong to laugh tonight". Art says that was typical of comedians — they were always worried about whether their jokes would get laughs. Ray says the movie stars who guested for Skelton were petrified, because "Red came from vaudeville and he was constantly ad-libbing". Red would say things to foul up the other people on the show, to break them up and bring laughs.

Overall, this session was a fascinating picture of what it was like, from the audience standpoint, to get ready for a live radio show

"Many thanks to you (all) for a most enjoyable convention. You do so well at having things go smoothly — and on time. The programs were well planned, and a nice variety. I enjoyed every minute and I'm sure everyone else did too. The breakfast and program on Sunday was much fun — and Christopher's studio was worthwhile seeing. Thanks again." *Catherine Passarelli.*

"Rhoda and I both said that this definitely was the warmest, friendliest Showcase yet. We cannot thank each individual person enough. Everyone was nice, loving, caring and just so giving to Rhoda and myself. Thank you REPS. Your kind concern for Rhoda was especially terrific. Everyone from the ladies in the Green Room to everyone she met at every performance was so careful of her. Rhoda picked up energy from everyone, getting stronger and more animated as the hours went by. I told several of her nurses how good this weekend would be for her, but when Rhoda came striding out to greet her Home Health nurse, Sandy, she was impressed. Sandy gave Rhoda several movement tests and was surprised at how mobile and balanced she was compared to the last (test). Did you know that a REPS SHOWCASE could be healing? You should offer the Showcase as a Laugh Therapy Session worth thousands in doctors' fees...Thanks so much from a happier and healthier couple of old kids". *David and Rhoda*

◇ SATURDAY MORNING ◇

IMAGINATION THEATER – THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE STRANGE DEATH OF LADY SYLVIA EICHHORN by Stewart Wright

One of the hallmarks of the REPS Showcases are the special scripts written by radio dramatist Jim French. This year's Showcase attendees were present for a performance of a brand new episode of Jim's extremely popular series, *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. On the Friday morning of the Showcase, this 30th episode of the series was recorded at Jim's studio for later airing on the internationally syndicated *Imagination Theater* and featured several of our special guests. REPS' own Larry Albert plays the role of Dr. Watson in the series. Several members of the REPS "company" have appeared in previous episodes of this series including Peggy Jordan, Doug Young, Frank Buxton, Jim French, Paul Herlinger and Ilona Herlinger.

All the stories in the series are new cases from the imagination of Jim French, while the characters and the style of the stories are quite faithful to the original writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Larry Albert's Dr. Watson is as Conan Doyle wrote the character and not the buffoon of the Rathbone/Bruce radio dramas. He is an educated, courageous, faithful, considerate friend and associate to the world's first consulting detective.

In this episode Holmes and Watson are returning to England on a steamship from the United States after thwarting a terrorist attack on Washington D.C. when they encounter "Lady" Sylvia Eichhorn, an American cosmetic manufacturer play by Rhoda Williams. Her plans to expand her business to England are being sabotaged and she wants Holmes to

investigate. The next morning Lady Sylvia is found dead in her stateroom. Holmes vows to identify the guilty from a rather sizable list of suspects before the ship docks in England.

Co-starring in the Saturday morning Showcase presentation were Frank Buxton as Holmes and Larry Albert as Watson. Also appearing in the cast were Phil Harper as Lloyd Danfers, Jo Anna March as Catherine Danfers, Jean Rouverol Butler as Nancy Villiers, Barbara Fuller as Marion White, Sam Edwards as John White, Dick Beals as Tom the cabin steward and George Pirrone as Doctor Evans. Jim French directed the show and Bill Brooks was the announcer. Cheryl Jacobs and David Persson produced the sound effects. Bob Cardenas was the sound technician.



◀ Jim French introduces the cast of *The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

▼ Rhoda Williams and Larry Albert take a few moments to catch up with each other during a break in recording.



▲ Cheryl Jacobs, David Persson and Bob Cardenas displayed their numerous talents in many ways at Showcase X.

◇ SATURDAY AFTERNOON ◇

ONE MAN'S FAMILY – BOX LUNCH SOCIAL by Mike Sprague

Members of the *One Man's Family* family club, plus other interested attendees, were invited to have a very informal session with the *OMF* cast members who were not rehearsing. Twenty-five folks dropped in and sat around with box lunches on their laps and questions on their lips.

All were delighted with the involvement of several key cast members, also with box lunches on their laps. Barbara Fuller, Sam Edwards, George Pirrone, Jean Rouverol Butler and Anne Whitfield Phillips were all so gracious and cooperative. Many more insights on the *Family* came forth. Some of them had long stints on the show and others were there to do a specific non-recurring

character for a period of time.

Using the new "toy" available to REPS for this Showcase, a telephone call that all could hear, was made to Page Gilman. He was the only Jack Barbour ever on the show, starting at age 14 and growing up as people listened for years. His radio wife, Jean Rouverol, started the call.

Millie Morse, the widow of *OMF* creator Carlton E Morse, had discovered some treasures while packing for a recent move from California to Idaho. First, she unveiled a tablecloth from an *OMF* cast gathering in 1942. The actors and others associated with the show had all signed it and made notes on it. Talk about a piece of

JUST SITTING AROUND VISITING, PART II

by Sean Dougherty

A REPS tradition is to let the actors work without a script, just talking about their lives and work – and these informal sessions are often the most memorable of the convention. Hal Stone, Gil Stratton, Jr., Art Gilmore, Ray Erlenborn, Rhoda Williams, Jo Anna March and Dick Beals shared their experiences in a session moderated by Mike Sprague. Each had many stories to tell, but we only have room here for a few highlights. (Check the tape out of the REPS library to hear all the wonderful stories.)



▲ Jo Anna March talks about Mickey Mantle.

Gil Stratton, Jr. recalled a game that he was umpiring in the Pacific Coast League. He was absolutely sure of his call, but when he got back to the dressing room with the other umpires, they were forced to tell him he called the play backwards.

“Mickey Mantle made fun of how I looked when he met me as a young teen”, said Jo Anna March, “but later when he was a Yankee and met me again, he admitted I turned out pretty good.”

Dick Beals was presented with a custom stepping stool with the logo of his alma mater, Michigan State, as the result of an

incident that happened on one of his many appearances on *The Lone Ranger*.

“She was so gracious as an actress”, responded Rhoda Williams when an audience member asked for recollections of working with Virginia Gregg. “She helped me work through dialects”.

But ... Art Gilmore had the best Virginia Gregg story. When she was pregnant with her first child and working on *Dr. Christian*, her dress broke while she was on stage and Gilmore held it together for her throughout the performance.

Hal Stone admitted that his start in show business was “financially driven. My mother wanted me to be a priest, but by seven I was making a good living as a model and in commercials”.

Ray Erlenborn related some fascinating experiences about inventing sound effects ... a drumhead full of lead pellets was used to simulate an avalanche and parts of a large pipe organ were used to simulate WWI plane flights.



▲ “She was so gracious as an actress”, responded Rhoda Williams when asked for recollections of working with Virginia Gregg.



← Ray Erlenborn makes a point about sound effects.

BOX LUNCH SOCIAL *continued from page 12*

history! Millie also had an apron with many signatures and comments from that same era. Quiet, sweet and kind as she is, there is no way these items were going to escape Millie’s possession. But what a treat for fans of *One Man’s Family*, and others, to see them.

A segment of video from original home movies, showing Carlton and his wife, Patricia Morse, at the Montana ranch of Jeanette Nolan (Nicolette on *OMF*) and her husband, the great actor John McIntyre, was the next item. From chopping wood to playing around a stream, we sort of peeked into their personal lives for just a moment.

The casual nature of this lunchtime gathering, and the kindness of the actors all came together to create some special moments.



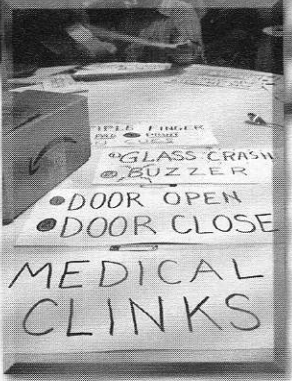
▲ Former *OMF* cast members, from left to right: Sam Edwards, Jean Rouverol Butler, Barbara Fuller, Anne Whitfield Phillips and George Pirrone once again demonstrated the kindness of OTR stars.

◇ GET-AWAY SUNDAY

DRAGNET: THE CASE OF THE WIFE MURDERER



▲ Left: "I really wanted to go over the top," said Joy Jackson.



Middle: "Now how do I make medical clinks," asked one volunteer?



Right: Tom Roach really got into his sound effect job.

The club's first Sunday brunch was an overwhelming success, providing a classy and relaxed goodbye to a weekend full of Showcase memories. About half of the weekend's network-era radio veterans joined club members for tasty and filling dishes, opportunities to chat one-on-one and perform a final Showcase X re-creation while raising funds for next year's guest fund.

"It was wonderful, just wonderful," said club host Joy Jackson. "I really wanted it to go over the top – to be more than anyone could possibly have imagined it could be ... and it was."

Guests arrived to discover Christopher Conrad's commercial photography studio decorated with fresh flowers and vintage radio sets, soft music, warm welcomes and a 20-foot tall slide show of memories from Friday and Saturday's Showcase programs and network radio's heyday.

Fresh from their stint hosting the performers' "Green Room" at Seattle Center, Marge and Rhea Lutton prepared everyone with plenty of fresh fruit, juice, coffee and muffins, but amazed the crowd with mini-quiches and other warm dishes served buffet style with real china and silverware. Joining the Luttons was Joy Jackson's sister, Jacki Wilburn, whose 'JLW's Sunday Surprise' recipe is printed at the end of this article.

"This is why we do this. You don't think we come all this way to do radio, do you?" was the wryly-acerbic observations from a bemused Tyler McVey. Truly, members of "The Company" were enjoying themselves immensely and no one was in any rush to get away or get to a next rehearsal or a next performance. People were relaxed, and rested, and prepared to have fun.

There was one more performance coming. The day's centerpiece was a *Dragnet* re-creation directed by Dick Beals and with a cast composed of radio veterans and club member volunteers. One

table was miked, and everyone on that table did the so effects under Ray Erlenborn's direction. One table wa do vocal music, which was eventually picked up by every

"The Case of Hugh Taylor – Wife Murderer" must ha sounded different when Sam Edwards first appeared i episode #22 on October 27, 1949, but it's doubtful the r audience then had nearly as much fun as the live studi audience on Sunday morning.

In place of a table reading, this "cold read" occurred before the microphones and with inevitable little fluffs, delayed lines. Both audience and cast started enjoying rhythm of Jack Webb's inexorable deadpan show being s broken up and before the first commercial break what begun as a straight-forward reading had become a gen but growing parody and tribute. By the last act when sus Hugh Taylor was being fingerprinted, each finger rolle the inepad had the timbre and resonance of a small redy hitting the forest floor. By the tenth fingerprint, audier and cast were both holding their sides and trying not t on the floor laughing. And then there were the tap-dar cops, thanks to Tom Roach.

This memorable performance was captured in digit recordings and an audio cd mastered by Bob Cardenas being presented to each of the performers and key volun who helped make Sunday's show one to remember. Incl in the cast were Gil Stratton, Jr., Sam Edwards (who graci provided his original script to be reproduced for the c Art Gilmore, Christopher Conrad, Paul Feavel, Doug Yo

▼ Left: Ken Kerhonen is waiting for his cue as part of the volunteer sound effects team.

Right: Ray Erlenborn did a masterful job directing all these amateur volunteers.



Photo by Paul Feavel



Photo by Marilyn Witt

► Outer Left: Some of the spouses are enjoying the antics of their husbands... Esther Geddes



Photo by Marilyn Witt



Photo by Marilyn Witt

Inner Left: Dee Stratton

MORNING SPECIAL

OF HUGH TAYLOR

10/27/49 by Paul Feavel

Alice Backes, Tyler McVey, Frank Rosin, Nick Kummert and Liz Roach. The key sound effects personnel conducted by Ray Erlenborn and Bill Brooks included Tom Roach, Ken Kerhonen, Barbara Bowser and Ronald Bowser.

The magic of Sunday lingered in the studio air as Christopher Conrad captured 10 of "The Company" into a portrait photo and then offered guests the opportunity to have their photo taken sitting "listening" to a vintage beehive radio in foreground as half a dozen network-era radio performers stood ensemble behind half century-old studio microphones in background. Christopher then stunned the happy recipients by printing out high quality sepia tone 8-1/2 x 11 photo prints while they waited.

No one was prepared to leave and let the magic slip away for another year. Around the cavernous studio, people gathered in twos and threes and sixes to enthuse warmly over the day's program and the weekend events, and it was well over an hour after the scheduled activities ended before the last visitors went out into the afternoon sunshine.

"You know," said club VP John Jensen a week later, "I was picking up the Gilmores, the Edwards and the McVeys and took them to lunch afterward. All through lunch, all I heard was how wonderful it was."

"You really started something with that Sunday party. It really worked. The food was terrific. Uncle Ray brought the house down. The ad-libs during the show were priceless. Chris was

a good host. His facility was impressive and he had everything well organized. Never a glitch. The convention was the strongest ever. You gave your attendees the best programs ever. You have to be pleased with the energy the pros put into their craft. Thanks for including me ... It's a pleasure to be a part of the team." *Dick (Beals)*

"ONE STEP FOR MANKIND! ... I must say the Orchestra and Sound Effects volunteers threw themselves into their work with gratifying enthusiasm! ... They need to be congratulated for their excellent performance ... Needless to say my caregivers, Joy and Bill and that certain Persson, David were once again an undeniably irreplaceable asset during the three days of putting together all of the pieces needed to produce the desired effects." *The OTR "Old Timer" Ray (Erlenborn)*

JLW Sunday Surprise

2 boxes (6 each) frozen French toast
 1 pkg. of boiled ham
 1 can apple pie filling
 2 cups shredded premium cheddar cheese
 1 cup sour cream
 1/3 cup brown sugar
 Butter 13 x 9 oven dish.
 Place 6 French toast slices in single layer.
 Cover evenly with boiled ham.
 Spread 1-1.2 cups cheese evenly.
 Place remaining 6 slices of French toast on top.
 Spread apple pie filling evenly.
 Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.
 Take out, add remaining cheese and bake for 5 more minutes.
 Serve with sour cream and brown sugar mixture on the side.



Photo by Paul Feavel



Photo by Marilyn Witt



▲ Left: Frank Rosin was one of the REPS members who had the chance to be a part of the *Dragnet* cast.

Middle: Nick Kummert was the youngest member of this cast.

Right: Elizabeth Roach convinced the director to make a man's role into a woman's role.

▼ Left: Paul Feavel tries his hand at being a radio actor.

Right: "Now why did I agree to do this," questions Christopher Conrad.

← Inner Right: Beverly Edwards

Outer Right: Meridy Erlenborn



Photo by Marilyn Witt

Photo by Marilyn Witt



Photo by Marilyn Witt



Photo by Marilyn Witt

OTR TECHNOLOGY BASICS FOR DUMMIES — YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A TECHIE

by Sean Dougherty

“Embrace the digital”, says Feavel. In a program designed to counter widespread skepticism about the use of computers to store and trade Old-Time Radio programs, Paul Feavel’s “You Don’t Have to be a Techie” provided a non-technical introduction to the use of digital media to store Old-Time Radio programs.

Feavel addressed the biggest impediment to a large OTR collection — space. Open reels (the storage media of choice in the 1970s and prior) store 1/5 of a 30-minute program per cubic inch. Cassette tapes, the current reigning media, are not much better, storing 1/3 of a 30-minute program per cubic inch. A single compact disk with 32kbps/22kHz encoded digital files can store 67 shows per cubic inch. A hard drive can store 1,300 shows per cubic inch.

Much of the skepticism surrounding the use of digital storage comes from collectors who have acquired programs in digital format that have poor sound, incomplete programs, volume drops, surface noises and other variances in audio quality that could take away from your enjoyment in listening to Old-Time Radio’s all time greatest shows. These problems, Paul argued, are the result of sloppy transfer of quality programs to the digital format, as well as excellent transfer of programs that were poor sounding to start with.

Having spent the first half of his talk laying out the inevitability of mp3 becoming the OTR traders’ media of choice, he spent the second half talking about ways to listen to digital shows. There are a number of home and portable players on the market that will allow the same or superior convenience to the OTR fan as a standard cd player which won’t play a cd-ROM disk with 100 shows. Some of the choices are: mp3-enabled cd players, mp3 disk drive players and solid-state flash card players. Many current dvd players also play mp3 files.

At the tail end of his presentation, Feavel briefly addressed where to find digital OTR online. There are literally tens of thousands of shows available for collectors to download with the proper software. Links to that software, a variety of download sites, on-line OTR discussions groups, ‘how-to’ details and OTR articles are available through the club website at www.reponline.org. Follow the ‘More’ button from the home page to the button labeled ‘On the Internet’.

OTR SURVIVOR TRIVIA

Bob Herman was the “brains” behind this team effort where the Jack Benny Family Reunion was pitted against the Fred Allen Family Reunion. After establishing the ground rules, the questions began with “Who were Jim and Marion Jordan better known as?” Some of the questions were easy and some were very tough. Here is a sampling:

- Who was the only Dagwood on *Blondie*? Arthur Lake
- Who whistled the tune on *The Whistler*? Dorothy Roberts
- Who was the announcer on *Sky King*, and *Spike Jones*? Mike Wallace
- What show was Jim Amache on? *Jack Armstrong*
- What was Rochester’s (*Jack Benny Show*) last name? Van Jones
- Who sponsored *Dark Venture*? Wild Root Cream Oil for the Hair
- What radio station did *Hello, Sucker* originate from? WMAQ, Chicago
- Who was the bartender on *Casey Crime Photographer*? Ethelburt
- Name a program that moved from TV to radio. *Have Gun Will Travel*
- What program featured the character Louis Leach? *Meet the Meeks*

The Jack Benny Family Reunion was the “winner” of this team effort. Then everyone had the chance to stump the trivia master. Bob was a very good sport about this and admitted that he even learned a few things.

From the Old Time Radio Digest on the Internet:
“...with fine performances, hilarious and insightful unscripted sessions and one or two educational sessions on hot topics like mp3 collecting, REPS lived up to its reputation as the best kept secret in fandom. Highlights included Hal Stone playing a heartless villain in *The Lone Ranger* and making it look as effortless as his Jughead persona, and the chance to listen in on a phone call from Sam Edwards to Janet Waldo...Recreations of strong programs like *Cavalcade of America* and *Halls of Ivy* were entertaining, but just as entertaining was the cold read of a dreadful *Blondie* script — complete with actor memories of how they would step out into the hall during shows between scenes so they wouldn’t have to listen to the parts they weren’t performing in...In all, REPS was thrilling, enlightening, warm, friendly and fun. More of us Easterners should make the trip west for this great show.” Sean Dougherty

CAVALCADE OF AMERICA:

PETTICOAT JURY — 5/20/46 by Bob Loudon

The *Cavalcade of America* was one of the longest running and best of the historical drama programs to air on radio.

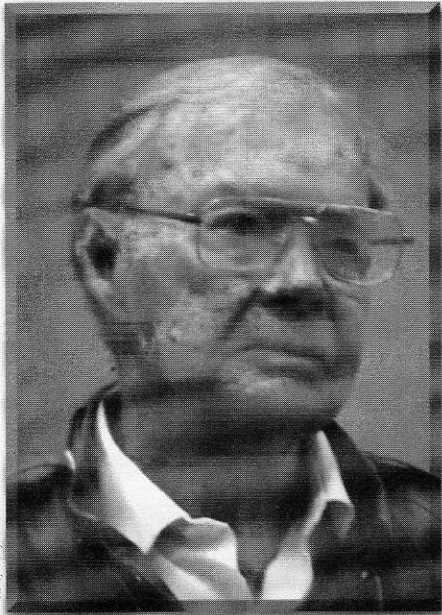


Photo by Allison MGR

▲ Sam Edwards reprised his role as a courageous judge in *Petticoat Jury*.

It debuted on CBS in 1935, and then became an NBC mainstay in 1939. It continued there until its 18-year run concluded in 1953.

DuPont was the sponsor for the entire run. Veteran director Jim French had his nearly dozen actors well rehearsed to bring us a moving drama, with some nice touches of humor along the way, in a program, which concerned a murder trial in the early west.

Art Gilmore's opening announcement as

announcer for DuPont... "better things for better living through chemistry"... was a memorable trademark for the series, which was well remembered. Art also played the role of Doc.

Like all *Cavalcade* programs, *Petticoat Jury* was based on fact. In this case it related to a judge, as played with conviction by Sam Edwards (as he had in the original airing), who had the courage to include women as members of his frontier jury.

We heard Anne Whitfield Phillips with a most believable job as the outspoken and very savvy young jurist Effie. Hollywood actress Jean Arthur in the original DuPont production performed that lead role for *Cavalcade* on May 5, 1946.

The judge, as well as Effie and the other female jurors took considerable verbal abuse from the local citizens of the small Western town, but the crusty old sheriff, as played with flair and fun by Doug Young, managed to keep the peace

throughout the trial.

The cast was uniformly strong, with a who's who of Showcase pedigree in each role... Dick Beals, Larry Albert, Barbara Fuller, Tyler McVey, Jean Rouverol Butler, George Pirrone... all turning in winning performances.

To illustrate how most of us are fascinated with the fact that old-time radio is such a mind-pleaser, many of the nearly 200 in the room closed their eyes to let their imagination watch the action. However, when David Persson and Cheryl Jacobs performed the sound effects of horses walking, a train chugging into town, its' whistle, doors opening and closing, cups rattling... eyes didn't hesitate to focus on that action. And Cheryl's "horse whinny" was a gem.

Having Esther Geddes at the organ added a nice bit of frosting to the delicious cake.

► Sheriff Doug Young managed to keep peace throughout the trial in this episode of *Cavalcade of America*.

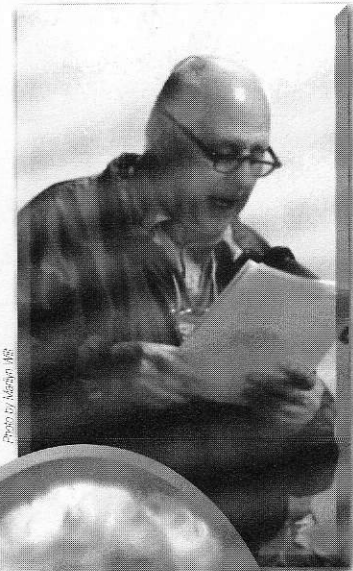


Photo by Allison MGR

► Esther Geddes adds frosting to the cake with her work at the organ.

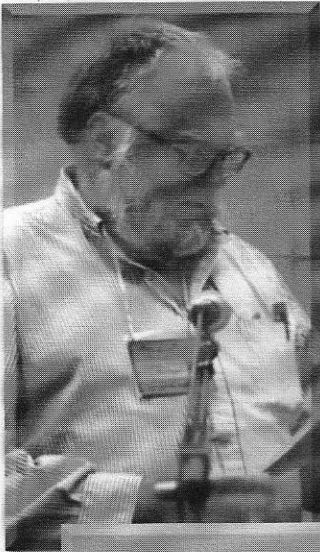


Photo by Allison MGR

LAST TANGO IN CUCAMONGA

The surprise this year was an original play, *Last Tango in Cucamonga*, written by Marshall Oliphant to incorporate the recreated voices of several specific greats of Old-Time radio. Phil Harper set the scene as Don Wilson. Director Frank Buxton as Jack Benny (who had some of his mannerisms down perfectly) tries to call Rochester and gets Jimmy Durante (Doug Young). Ginny Tyler as Benny's pet parrot, Sy, who is a great fan of *The Lone Ranger* had to be heard to be believed.

Photo by Marilyn Witt



Speedy (Dick Beals) who has moved into the Colmans' house since they "disappeared" came by looking for something for an upset stomach. Jack discovers that he has a water problem while trying to get some water for Speedy's Alka Seltzer. Speedy, Jack and Jimmy start off for the Public Works Department and meet Jughead (Hal Stone) on the way. Jughead is full of nothing but clichés as the world's oldest living teenager.

The threesome continues...in the wrong direction, of course. Bill

Brooks as the Tout provides them with odds of 5:1 of getting there faster by going the other way. Inside the Public Works Department, Fred Allen (Larry Albert) is the receptionist who now has to have a job that is demonstrably beneath him since his show was cancelled. Jim French, Water



Photo by David Van Meter

▲ Top: Phil Harper as Don Wilson sets the scene in this original recreation.

Bottom: Randy and Chris McMillan provided just the right musical touch to the *Last Tango in Cucamonga*.

Commissioner Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve, is forced to call in his engineer, Peavey (Tyler McVey), to help resolve Jack's water problem. It turns out that Benny hasn't paid his bill (\$39) for three months.

On the way home, Sy appears to inform them that the Colmans have returned and have vandalized Benny's place. Benny and gang sign off with: "Goodnight folks, I think we're a little late"; "By a mile bud, by a mile" (Tout); "Hi ho silver" (Sy); "Patience folks I know this isn't Rod Serling" (Fred); "Relax, everybody, relax" (Jughead); "Goodnight, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are" (Jimmy); "Oh what a relief it is, what a relief!" (Speedy) and "Well now, I wouldn't say that" (Peavey).

Randy McMillan provided the music and Joy Jackson did sound effects.



THE HALLS OF IVY: UNEXPECTED DINNER GUEST

by Bob Louden

(This show was dedicated to the memory of Beverly Bartell, loving wife of Harry Bartell. Christopher Conrad had prepared a picture of Bev and most of the cast signed it.)

What??? ... the Ronald Colman of *Lost Horizon*, *Random House* and Oscar winner for *A Double Life*, and actor with a flair for comedy on *The Halls of Ivy* radio program in the early 1950's??? And his wife, Benita Hume, former actress of London stage, was a strong partner in carrying the Schlitz Beer 30 minutes on NBC to nice heights in the ratings during their two-year run. No small measure of that success goes to Jack Benny for getting some wonderful comedic performances from the pair on many of his weekly programs during the 1940's.

Now, to business at hand ... Hal Stone, who is of course, right at home with comedy, directed seven of the REPS finest

Photo by David Van Meter



▲ Frank Buxton played William Todhunter Hall in this recreation dedicated to the late Beverly Bartell.

◇ SATURDAY EVENING ◇

THE HALLS OF IVY *continued from page 16*



▲ Alice Backes demonstrated her talents in this dizzy dame maid role.

in a humorous romp from 1951, in which the Colmans – William Todhunter Hall, president of Ivy College, and his lovely wife Vicky, are involved in a mixed up day in which the Halls must eat two dinners on the same evening.

Author, actor Frank Buxton did the polished Colman to a tee, and Norma Jean Nilsson was a sophisticated, and fun-filled choice as Mrs. Hall.

Alice Backes got her share of laughs as Louisa, the dizzy dame maid. And then there was Ivy board chairman Mr. Wellman in the normal blustery fashion along with Mrs. Wellman, who showed

up at the Halls on the wrong evening for dinner. Gil Stratton, Jr. pulled all the stops as Wellman ... and Rhoda Williams did her best to keep calm and cool as her husband plowed ahead in his usual style.

Phil Harper did a comfy job as the easy-going Charles Merriweather, who saved the day by getting a nice grant at another dinner party.

A highlight of the REPS re-creation was the singing of Harmonious Accord of the show's title song, "The Halls of Ivy". They sounded just like the chorale, which was always heard at the opening and close of the popular NBC comedy.

Art Gilmore as the announcer, made me want to run right out and find a bottle of Schlitz Beer. Randy McMillan performed his special mastery of the keyboard. Ray Erlenborn, the old master of the sound effects, once again came through with a sparkling performance.

▼ Harmonious Accord sounded just like the chorale that opened and closed *The Halls of Ivy*.



Photo by Ken Peck

"You have embarrassed me. I have run out of ways to say 'Thank You!' which means, of course that the picture of Bev arrived (this afternoon) with all the lovely notes. It occurred to me that Seattle has performed a very strange feat. In working at REPS with these actors and writers and sound persons I feel a much closer connection than I ever did in the studios in Hollywood. Somehow, you really have established a family. I don't know what it is or how you did it but it happened. I hope you realize that I have been given a great deal more by REPS than I was able to contribute and you have all done a wonderful thing at a time when I needed any wonderful thing available...I appreciate your thoughtfulness."

Harry (Bartell)

"Thank everyone there for a wonderful time (again)! Your choice of scripts and sensitive casting - you fixed me up just right! Everyone was so helpful with feeding us, and such good menu planners. And Darrell and Vi, picking me up and getting me back to the airport right on time - and they gave me a two-hour ride. Lovely people ALL! Thanks again. I loved being with you all." *Alice Backes*

AWARDS

REPS RADIO ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Past recipients are invited to participate in the selection of the new recipient. Award Chairman John Jensen, coordinates the review and communications and is always impressed with the seriousness of the panel.

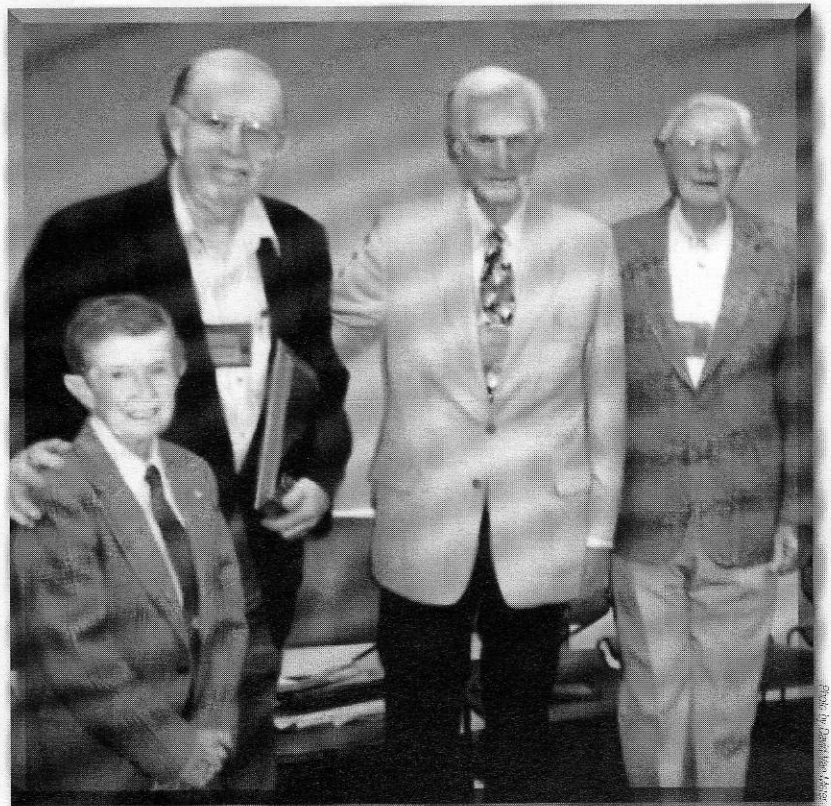
This award recognizes a “body of work by an actor, director, producer or other individual whose work has contributed to the perpetuation and furtherance of radio theater, past or present”. In the event of a tie, the Chair of the selection committee will vote to break the tie. The REPS Board then ratifies the selection.

Previous recipients of this award were total professionals: Parley Baer, Ray Erlenborn, Jeanette Nolan, Harry Bartell, Art Gilmore, Tyler McVey, Sam Edwards, Dick Beals and Herb Ellis.

This year our “walk of fame” included Sam Edwards, Dick Beals, Ray Erlenborn, Art Gilmore and Tyler McVey. They stopped at the table of this year’s winner – Jim French.

Jim has been a special guest at two REPS meetings and has written and directed several dramas for REPS including one for this year’s Showcase. During the *Imagination Theater* panel at Showcase IX, he did a great impersonation of Hal Peary’s Gildersleeve. Nearly half of this year’s Showcase guests have appeared in Jim French productions. When he was 14 years old, Jim got his first job in radio; a piano accompanist for a children’s talent program on KPAS in Pasadena. Jim announced at KPAS, wrote and produced shows for Armed Forces Radio Service, wrote Hollywood radio dramas during the late 1940’s and has been a disk jockey, talk show host and interviewer. He is also the author of three books and several screenplays. First and foremost, Jim French has been instrumental in keeping radio drama alive. With his series – *Tower Playhouse*,

Dameron, Crisis, The Adventures of Harry Nile, The KIRO Mystery Playhouse, Imagination Theater, Kincaid, The Strange Seeker and The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes – Jim’s written and/or produced over 500 radio plays. He has also narrated and acted in many of his shows. Jim once told a REPS audience that, “Radio is a way of telling a story, of painting pictures in people’s minds”. Previous Showcase guest, Paul Herlinger, enjoys his work with Jim and told a REPS monthly meeting audience that, “Jim has really been a voice in the wilderness as far as keeping good radio drama alive. It has been a pleasure to work with him, he’s a great talent. I hope he goes on forever.” So does REPS.



▲ Past winners Dick Beals, Art Gilmore and Tyler McVey surround this year’s winner, Jim French (second from left).

♦ A W A R D S ♦

THE JOHN ARCHER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award was re-named in 2000 to honor REPS member #1, John Archer, who passed away. John was always so willing to give of his time and talent.

REPS has been blessed with so many good candidates who are willing workers, it makes this award extremely difficult when one person or couple has to be selected.

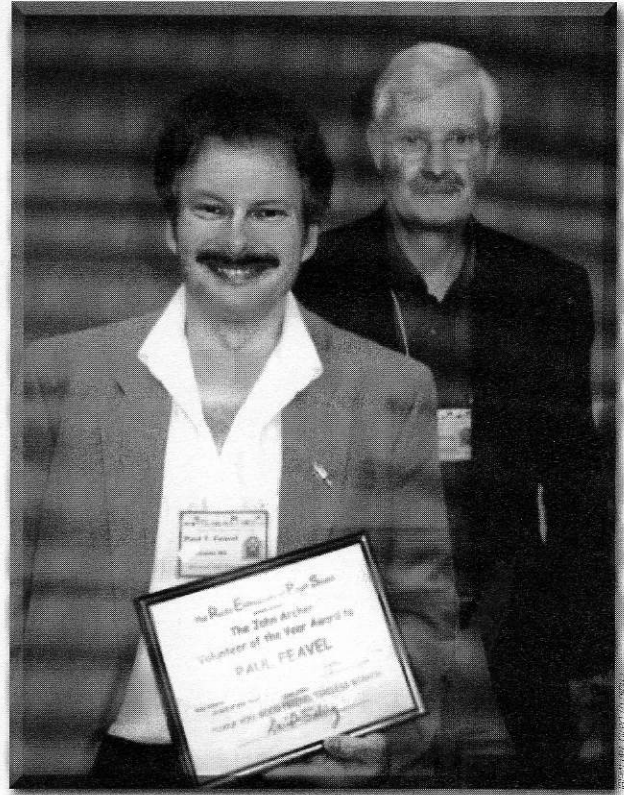
Previous recipients have been Joy Jackson, Donald Zongker, Bill Brooks, John Hura, Vi and Darrell Anderson, Mike Sprague and Cliff & Lynda Glaspey.

This year REPS chose to award two very special volunteers – Paul Feavel and David Selvig.

Paul is the driving force behind our website. He also spent many hours putting together the two-mp3 REPS cds. He is always full of ideas for future meetings, Showcases and mp3s.

Dave has been the president of REPS for the past several years. He does everything from leading the Board meetings to working on the Showcase committee to being the MC for monthly meetings.

Thank you volunteers for all the hours you so generously give to REPS. Your work is truly appreciated.



▲ REPS honors Paul Feavel and David Selvig for their many hours of volunteer work.

SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS...

The Showcase definitely would not be possible without the many many hours that are donated by friends and members of REPS. Thanks to each one of you for your contribution whether it be large or small. Each little bit helps.

Larry Albert, Ron Aley, Tom Brandt, Bill Brooks, Bob Cardenas, Christopher Conrad, Janet Conrad, Terry Campbell, Bill Davies, Frank Denton, Jim Dolan, Sean

Dougherty, Beverly Edwards, Paul Feavel, Mary Fichtenberg, Pat Garner, Cliff Glaspey, Grace Gilmore, Lynda Glaspey, Gary Hagan, Bob Herman, Joy Jackson, Cheryl Jacobs, Jim Jansen, John Jensen, Bob Loudon, Marge Lutton, Rhea Lutton, Bev Mahony, Terry Mahony, Ida McQueen, Marshall Oliphant, Kathy Parker, Bill Parker, David Persson, Jennifer Pope, Tom Roach, Elizabeth Roach, Paul Secord, David Selvig, Sam Simone, Jo Simone, Glenn Sisson, David Spielman, Linda Sprague, Mike Sprague, David Van Meter, Marilyn Wilt, Stewart Wright, Donald Zongker (and to anyone we missed, extra thanks for your work and forgiveness).



◆ KINDNESS 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 expense for out-of-town OTR folks. Maybe it is a donation or material or money toward acquisitions. Perhaps, you want to remember REPS in your will. And, if you donate and don't want your name listed, we'll respect that. 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, 6530 47th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98136. These gifts are tax deductible and receipts will be sent to donors.

Larry Albert, Don Allen, Dave Amaral, Alice Backes, Dick Beals, Ken Bertrand, Boeing Gift Matching Program, Dick Bonesteel, Jim Briggs, Keith Brown, Bill Buckley, Jean Rouverol Butler, Frank Buxton, Terry Campbell, Alan Cohen, Christopher Conrad, Alicia Davies, Bill Davies, Don Day, Frank Denton, Sean Dougherty, Sam Edwards, Jane Webb & Jack Edwards, Ray Erlenborn, Paul Feavel, Clifton Ferguson, Joleen Ferguson, George Fowler, Robert Fudold, Michael Gilberg, Cliff Glaspey, Gary Hagan, Ron Hauser, Richard Haviland, Diane Hensel, Bob Herman, Steve Holden, Joy Jackson, Cheryl Jacobs, John Jensen, Gloria Kidd, TJ Kohler, George Korn, Donald Lacky, Len Lawson, Shirley Lawson, Bob Loudon, Rhea Lutton, Danean MacAndrew, B. Martin, Andrew McIver-Kitch, Microsoft Matching Gifts Program, Linda Moschell, Ken Musch, Norma Jean Nilsson, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Richard Porter, Elizabeth Roach, Robert Rohrer, Andrew & Marjorie Rosen, Sandra Scudder, Sam Simone, Art Scott, Paul Secord, David Speelman, Hal Stone, Gil Stratton, Jr., Patrick Turner, Janet Waldo, Julia Weeks, Jim Widner, Janet Wilt, Marilyn Wilt, Stewart Wright and Harlan Zinck.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SILENT AUCTION

by Terry Campbell

The Guest Fund for Showcase XI was enriched by \$1,757 — thanks to the generosity of REPS members and friends. That's the sum raised by the sale of 64 items at the Showcase X Silent Auction that wrapped up shortly after the Saturday night banquet.

A 1954 AFTRA guide, donated and autographed by Ray Erlenborn, attracted the most money among the auction goods. Stewart Wright paid \$200 for the photo directory of actors, actresses and other performers that listed their credits and specialties.

Stewart Wright had himself contributed an item that generated lively bidding: a copy of John Dunning's book, *On the Air: The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio*, which held a rare inscription and verse from the author. Many bidders had their eyes on a 1940s Packard-Bell bakelite AM radio with the call letters of stations marked at their positions on the dial. Art Scott took home the radio, contributed by Elizabeth Roach, for \$115. Donald Lacky was a very busy bidder. He paid \$170 to take home an LA Rams binocular radio donated by Gil Stratton, Jr.

The new mp3 technology also drew a lot of action. Four collections from Paul Feavel that represented hundreds of episodes of *Guns, Smoke, Fibber McGee and Molly*, *Our Miss Brooks* and *Amos and Andy* brought in a total of nearly \$200. Winning bidders were: Shirley Lawson, Jim Briggs (twice), and Bob Herman.

Frank Buxton added to the auction wares four original scripts that had been used during the broadcasts by Billy Gould. Paul Feavel bought a 1955 *Our Miss Brooks* script and a 1950 *Leave It to Joan* script, while Ken Bertrand picked up a *Ozzie and Harriet* episode and B. Martin got a 1946 script from *The Jack Carson Show*, newly autographed by Norma Jean Nilsson, a frequent performer on the show.

A number of books Frank Buxton donated from his radio reference

library sold well. Fans of his *The Big Broadcast*, co-written by Bill Owen, can look in the Showcase XI auction for a bookplate signed by both authors.

Anne Phillips' radio memorabilia earned good money ... among the items were a script page from the Lux production of *Madame Curie*, autographed by actor Walter Pigeon; and a photograph of the young actress with actor Roddy McDowall and author James Hilton with a letter from the author to her mother. Donald Lacky and Clifton Ferguson submitted the winning bids on these items.

Some of the other items were: a 1939 edition of the *Better Little Book Radio Patrol*, bought by Christopher Conrad; a premium model of the Big 20 Mule Team Kit from Death Valley Days that went home with Cheryl Jacobs; a hand-painted "Holy Cow" shirt — contributed by the actor, Sam Edwards, who made the expression famous, to David Speelman; Alicia Davies picked up a photograph autographed by Archie, Jughead, Betty and Veronica donated by Harlan (Hal) Stone, who played Jughead Jones on the show; and a doubly autographed photograph of Janet Waldo and Dick Crenna, donated by the actress, went to Donald Lacky.

Our gratitude goes to everyone who donated or purchased items. You made this the most successful auction yet. Your names are listed in the Kindness Corner.

I want to thank Janet Conrad, who coached me through my first year as auction coordinator; Cliff and Lynda Glaspey, who helped monitor the auction and tally up at auction's end; and Christopher Conrad, Paul Feavel and Marilyn Wilt, who pitched in to close out the event.

If you have items to donate to next year's auction, please write me, Terry Campbell, at 710 S Fifth Ave, Yakima, WA 98902 or e-mail me at tcampbell@yakima-herald.com or call me at (509) 457-5351.

Membership is \$18.00 for the year. Members may take advantage of the libraries—tape, book and script. The catalogs are frequently updated on our website. Wouldn't a gift membership make a great present for that hard-to-buy friend or relative?

Door prizes. Share your tapes, cd's or mp3's as door prizes at the meetings. Each meeting several lucky people are the "winners" of these prizes.

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 numbers; when returning tapes include your name and phone numbers. This saves a lot of extra work for the 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 notice something is wrong with a tape while listening to it, be sure to inform the librarians as they do not have time to listen to every tape when it comes back. Order forms can be obtained from the Andersons and catalogs are available on our website...www.repsonline.org.

◆—————◆

RAY ERLENBORN GIVES HISTORIC SOUND EFFECTS COLLECTION TO CLUB...

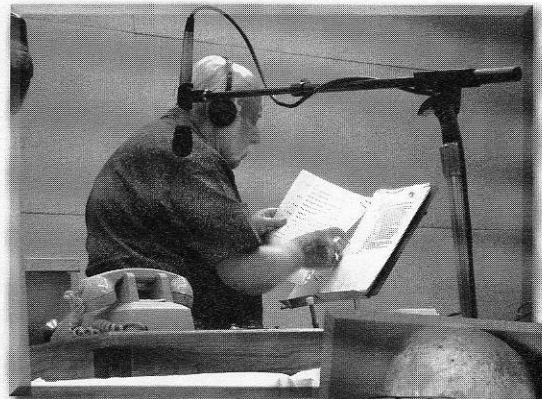
Ray Erlenborn is giving his sound effects collection to REPS – all the gear that made Gracie Allen's footsteps, Jack Benny's vault door creak, Charlie McCarthy's face slap, the Fresh Air taxi, the Jot 'em Down Store's cash register, and so on for these and other shows such as *Big Town*, *I Was There*, *Calling All Cars* and *The Bickersons*.

With REPS, Ray knows his equipment will be kept together, maintained and used to re-create old shows, to build new shows and to keep his craft alive for new generations to discover. To accept Ray's gift, we need to load it up in California and bring it to Seattle. This isn't a couple of boxes of material; it's a truckful! We are sending two strong volunteers to California to load a rental truck and drive it to Seattle.

This isn't cheap of course, and while the Showcase auction set a new record and Sunday's benefit program brought in new money, we still lost money putting on Showcase. So we are running a mini-fundraising effort among the regular club members. Not only are Ray and Meridy giving Ray's wonderful collection, but they also wrote a personal check to help us with the transportation. An 'Honor Roll' of those giving or pledging will be posted and read at September's monthly meeting and will also be printed in the next Air Check. At next year's Showcase, those who help will be recognized as Sponsors of the Ray Erlenborn Collection.

This coming Spring we will host Ray and Meridy for a meeting and workshop at which Ray will demonstrate how to use pieces of his collection. The Sponsors will also be invited to a no-host dinner or a reception with Ray.

For next year's Showcase, we can all look forward to some amazing sound effects. Thank you Ray!





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: www.repsonline.org

September 7, 2002: Children's Shows and Child Actors. Marge Lutton is very enthusiastic about this subject and she will be our presenter. It's hard to imagine just how she'll fit it all in. Will your favorites make it?

September 23, 2002: Imagination Theater recording session at the Kirkland Performance Center. Doors open at 7:00pm, 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

October 5, 2002: Frank Bresee – Remote Hookup. Well known OTR performer and radio host Frank Bresee will be our guest by remote hook-up. Using the technology unveiled at the Showcase, REPS folks will be able to interact with this veteran of Red Ryder, Armed Forces Radio and much more. Other club matters and discussions will be as normal.

October 24-27, 2002: Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention in Newark, NJ. Contact Jay Hickerson for more information. Box 4321, Hamden CT 06514; 203-248-2887; e-mail: JayHick@aol.com.

November 1-3, 2002: SPERDVAC Old-Time Radio Convention in El Segundo, CA. Contact spervac@aol.com for more information.

November 2, 2002: Original Radio Play. The multi-talented John Jensen will bring his radio story to the club, with a cast of folks who really love doing this kind of thing.

November 25, 2002: Imagination Theater recording session at the Kirkland Performance Center. Doors open at 7:00pm, 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

December 7, 2002: Christmas Again! From food to Toys for Tots, the REPS gang enjoys this meeting. The very brief annual meeting will be held and a surprise guest will be with us as a present to attendees.

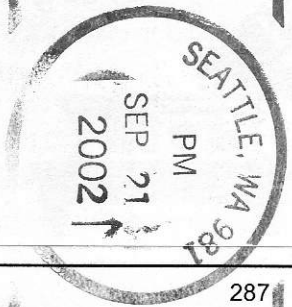
June 27-29, 2003: Showcase XI. As has been the case in all but one Showcase, it will again be on the last weekend in June. The program committee is already doing planning on guests and content, and those details will be posted when they are a bit more firm.

REPS ONLINE MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES



REPS

9930 NE 197TH STREET
BOTHELL, WA 98011



Tom Brown
1402 S. Kahuna Dr.
Spokane WA 99212

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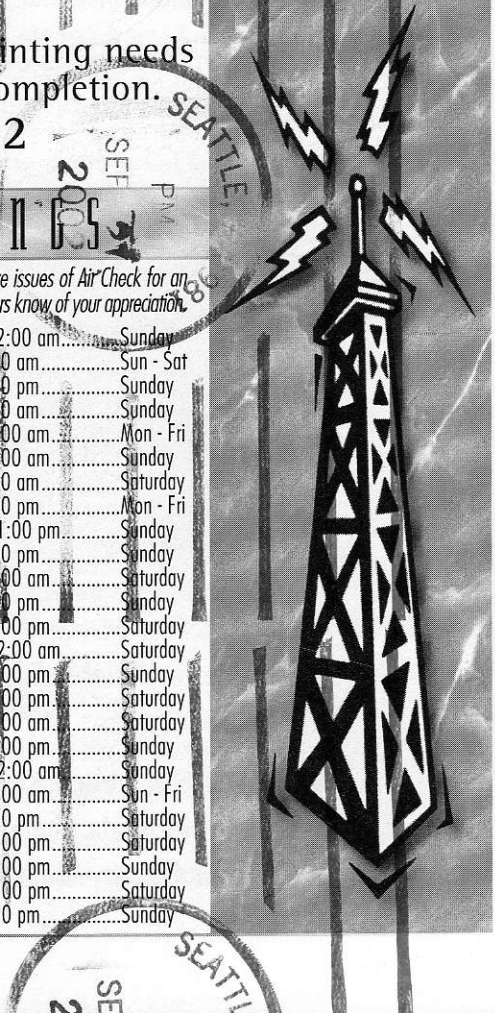


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PUGET SOUND RADIO LISTINGS

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.

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
Family Theater (C)	KCIS	AM 630	Seattle, WA	9:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Saturday
Family Theater (C)	KCIS	AM 630	Seattle, WA	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Sunday



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