

# AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

Volume 13 Number 1

February 2003

## Radio and the Silver Screen Showcase XI June 26 - 29, 2003

Radio and the movies grew up in New York and moved to Hollywood where they shared the brightest stars, the best writers and technicians of the century. This year we explore their fascinating mutual admiration society of the 1930s and 1940s, which propelled Tinseltown stars and shows before radio microphones and took the leading comedians and dramatists of radio onto the movie screen. We will also peek into radio's past through that celluloid ribbon time machine we call movies. Our website ([www.repsonline.org](http://www.repsonline.org)) will be updated with more information as the time for Showcase draws closer.

Invited guests include – Harry Bartell, Dick Beals, Sam Edwards, Herb Ellis, French, Barbara Fuller, Phil Harper, Paul Herlinger, Norma Jean Nilsson, Elliot Jr., Ginny Tyler, Anne Williams and Douglas

Scheduled activities – vs. the Ants”), *Screen* (“Arsenic and Old Lace”), the Lake”), *Damon Runyon* and *Lux Radio Theater* are being considered for re-another episode of possibly an episode of *Mr. Panel discussions* are likely researching OTR and voice-movies. We are expanding **Thursday evening program** is back by popular



Showcase X Sunday Special featured – Front Row, Left to Right: Dick Beals & Ray Erlenborn. Middle Row: Gil Stratton, Jr., Esther Geddes McVey & Sam Edwards. Back Row: Hal Stone, Art Gilmore, Tyler McVey, Douglas Young & Alice Backes.

Photo courtesy of Christopher Conrad.

Larry Albert, Alice Backes, Bill Brooks, Frank Buxton, Ray Erlenborn, Jim & Pat Esther Geddes, Art Gilmore, Jo Anna March, Tyler McVey, Reid, Hal Stone, Gil Stratton, Whitfield Phillips, Rhoda Young.

*Suspense/Escape* (“Leiningen Director’s Playhouse *Our Miss Brooks* (“Lady of Theater (“Madame la Gimp”) (“Mother Was a Freshman”) creations. There will be *Imagination Theater* and *and Mrs. North* or *Cisco Kid*. to include topics as diverse as over acting for animated again this year to include a **reception** and our **Sunday demand**.

See page 9 for Showcase registration information.

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## 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 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 Dave Speelman, 417 N Bowdoin Pl, Seattle, WA, 98103. These are tax deductible and receipts will be sent to donors. If we left your name off, or misspelled your name, please let the editor know so that the information can be reflected correctly.

Larry Albert, Don Allen, Dave Amaral, Alice Backes, Dick Beals, Ken Bertrand, Boeing Gift Matching Program, Dick Bonesteel, Bill Buckley, Jean Rouverol Butler, Frank Buxton, Terry Campbell, Christopher & Janet Conrad, Alicia Davies, Bill Davies, Don Day, Frank & Anna Denton, Sean Dougherty, Sam & Beverly Edwards, Jane Webb & Jack Edwards, Ray & Meridy Erlenborn, Paul Feavel, Clifton & Joleen Ferguson, George Fowler, Robert Fudold, Cliff & Lynda Glaspey, Gary & Kathleen 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 & Shirley Lawson, Bob & Meredith Loudon, Rhea Lutton, Danean MacAndrew, B. Martin, Andrew McIver-Kitch, Microsoft Matching Gifts Program, Linda Moschell, Ken Musch, Norma Jean Nilsson, *One Man's Family* family, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Richard Porter, Tom & Elizabeth Roach, Robert Rohrer, Andrew & Marjorie Rosen, Art Scott, Sandra Scudder, Paul Secord, Sam Simone, David Speelman, Hal Stone, Gil & Dee Stratton, Jr., Patrick Turner, Janet Waldo, Helen C. Warburton, Julia Weeks, Jim Widner, Janet Wilt, Marilyn Wilt, Stewart Wright and Harlan Zinck.

### ERLENBORN SOUND EFFECTS PROJECT DONATORS

Once again our members have responded with astonishing generosity.

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## **Herman and Siskind Join Radio Entertainment Network**

by Larry Siskind

Bob Herman's *REPS Radio Hour* and Larry Siskind's *Radio Adventure Time* can once again be heard on cable TV, this time as part of the Radio Entertainment Network (REN). While Siskind emphasizes old time radio shows of the rarer type, Herman mixes them up and one never knows what to expect. For several years their programs were heard on the Separate Audio Program (SAP) of Channel 9. This ended in 2001 when Channel 9 abruptly dropped the Evergreen Radio Service programs.

Individuals living in King County with cable TV service can now hear the shows Thursday mornings from 6:00 am to 7:00 am on Channel 77 in King County. Channel 77 is the community channel, which airs non-commercial, offbeat, amateur programs, including those of a religious and political nature. When REN is being heard, information concerning Channel 77 is visually shown. As before, the Herman and Siskind shows, which are just short of an hour in length, will alternate each week. Those persons with cable TV and a VHS can record the programs using a VHS timer for later listening or for copying to an audiotape.

*REPS Radio Hour* and *Radio Adventure Time* have been serving visually impaired listeners for seven years through the Evergreen Radio Service of Seattle. They are also heard through a special radio receiver issued free to persons visually handicapped. The signal is heard throughout the state of Washington. Previously *Radio Adventure Time* had been heard on stations KSER (Everett) and KBCS (Bellevue).

Jim Dolan and Kevin Clark founded REN which plays old time radio shows seven days a week on Channel 77 from 6:00 am to 8:00 am. Collectors can reap a rich harvest of vintage radio programs by regularly taping REN's shows. REN reaches many states and several foreign countries. Those with computers and Internet access can hear REN radio shows 24 hours a day by logging on to [acbradio.org](http://acbradio.org) and selecting Treasure Trove. Further information can be obtained from the REN website at [www.renonline.org](http://www.renonline.org) or by calling their 24 hour line at 206-689-1708.

## **REPS Launches OTR Outreach Program**

An OTR outreach program, produced by John Jensen and coordinated by Dave Selvig, was launched in early November. The program, presented at no cost to interested groups and organizations, is aimed at entertaining and, at the same time, informing the audience about REPS. Initially it was presented to a group of twenty senior citizens at the Kent Senior Center by Neal Shulman and Bob Cardenas. Segments of familiar OTR, combined with audience interaction and prizes, were exceptionally well received based on comments and feedback following the one-hour program.

The program was produced in a manner that allows it to be tailored to fit the time allotted by a hosting organization.

Other presentations are currently being booked with retirement homes, senior centers, civic organizations, and other clubs whose members may be interested in returning to "... those thrilling days of yesteryear ..." through the medium of OTR. REPS President, Dave Selvig, has turned over the reins for coordinating the program to Neal Shulman who is currently sending out flyers to various organizations throughout the Puget Sound area soliciting interest in future presentations.

With the holiday season behind us it is anticipated that many organizations may be actively looking for programs to fill their meeting agendas. As a result, Shulman is calling on REPS members to be active participants in this outreach program: first, by canvassing groups or individuals that may be interested in hosting the program and putting them in touch with him to schedule a date and time and, second, by contacting him yourself if you are interested in being a presenter. Both are vitally important to the long-range success of the program.

This is truly an opportunity to spread the word about our club, attract new members, and further the cause of Old Time Radio. So, if you learn of a club or organization that may be interested, and/or you are interested in participating as a presenter, please contact Neal Shulman by phone at (206) 528-5712, by E-mail at [NJShulman@aol.com](mailto:NJShulman@aol.com) or by Fax at (206) 528-8045.

# TOUGH AND EASY OLD-TIME RADIO QUIZ #9

by Larry Siskind

One of the most popular types of radio programs was the comedy show. How hard do you remember laughing? This quiz should answer that question.

I. Some of radio comedy's most loved supporting characters are listed below. Match them to their respective shows.

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Kitzel          | a. <i>Fibber McGee &amp; Molly</i> |
| 2. Pansy Nusbaum       | b. <i>Our Miss Brooks</i>          |
| 3. Clem Kadiddlehopper | c. <i>Eddie Cantor</i>             |
| 4. Abigail Uppington   | d. <i>Red Skelton</i>              |
| 5. Miss Spaulding      | e. <i>Jack Benny</i>               |
| 6. Harriet Conklin     | f. <i>Fred Allen</i>               |
| 7. Mad Russian         | g. <i>Life with Luigi</i>          |

II. Which comedy show is out of place?

- |                            |                       |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Dennis Day Show</i>     | <i>Date with Judy</i> | <i>Aldrich Family</i> |
| <i>Meet Corliss Archer</i> | <i>Archie Andrews</i> | <i>Junior Miss</i>    |

III. Match the comic to his or her sidekick.

- |                                             |                    |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Fred Allen                               | a. George Stevens  |
| 2. Archie Andrews                           | b. Frank Remley    |
| 3. Henry Aldrich                            | c. Dexter Franklin |
| 4. Andrew H. Brown ( <i>Amos and Andy</i> ) | d. Portland Hoffa  |
| 5. Phil Harris                              | e. Jughead Jones   |
| 6. Corliss Archer                           | f. Homer Brown     |

IV. Here is a toughie. Match the title character to the hometown.

- |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. <i>Archie Andrews</i>           | a. Summerfield   |
| 2. <i>Aldrich Family</i>           | b. Wistful Vista |
| 3. <i>Mayor of the Town</i>        | c. Weaverville   |
| 4. <i>Great Gildersleeve</i>       | d. Riverdale     |
| 5. <i>Fibber McGee &amp; Molly</i> | e. Centerville   |
| 6. <i>Dennis Day Show</i>          | f. Springdale    |

V. *The Great Gildersleeve* had many characters on his show with various occupations. Match the character to the occupation.

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Gildersleeve  | a. Barber             |
| 2. Horace Hooker | b. Police Chief       |
| 3. Peavy         | c. School Principal   |
| 4. Floyd Munson  | d. Water Commissioner |
| 5. Gates         | e. Lawyer/Judge       |
| 6. Eve Goodwin   | f. Druggist           |

VI. Match the actress to her radio comedy role.

- |                        |                                            |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Penny Singleton     | a. Birdie ( <i>Great Gildersleeve</i> )    |
| 2. Fanny Brice         | b. Irma Peterson ( <i>My Friend Irma</i> ) |
| 3. Marie Wilson        | c. Baby Snooks                             |
| 4. Lillian Randolph    | d. Blondie                                 |
| 5. Benita Home Coleman | e. Peg Riley ( <i>Life of Riley</i> )      |
| 6. Paula Winslow       | f. Vicky Hall ( <i>Halls of Ivy</i> )      |

Answers on page 9.



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

We meet on the first Saturday of every month at the Queen Anne Library (400 W. Garfield, Seattle) from 2pm – 4pm. Directions to the library are on our website: [www.repsonline.org](http://www.repsonline.org).

**March 1, 2003: Update with Jim French.** Jim is one of the very few people who are producing radio drama today. Larry Albert, who portrays Dr. Watson on *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, will interview Jim.

**March 17, 2003: 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.

**April 5, 2003: Ray Erlenborn.** Ray is always a fascinating guest who shares his talents with us in many ways. His appearance in Seattle this time will also include several activities related to the donation of his sound effects to REPS.



**May 3, 2003 3pm – 5pm at Museum of History and Industry: Favorite Show.** John Jensen enjoys sharing his love of radio with everyone and this time he will be telling us about the *Bing Crosby Show*. *Please note the change in time and location.*

## REPS' ALLEY

**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; when returning tapes 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. Order forms can be obtained from the Andersons and catalogs are available on our website. If you notice something is wrong with a tape while listening to it, be sure to inform the librarians.

**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-for friend or relative?

**Door prizes.** Share a piece of your OTR collection as a door prize at the meetings. Each



meeting several lucky people are the “winners” of cassettes, CDs, mp3s or even books.

**Would you believe it?** Remember *Tom Mix and the Ralston Straight Shooters*? Tom Mix's picture is still being used today to market Ralston Hot Cereal.

**Amos and Andy on Short wave.** Ed Bolton, impressionist, recreates *Amos and Andy* nightly on the short-wave band. The programs air on WBCQ Monticello, Maine on 7.415 kHz at 8:00 pm Pacific Time. Ed does all the voices himself. He has already done over 900 programs and has a goal of re-creating all the programs from 1928 to 1939. He may be contacted at [wa3pun@ezonline.com](mailto:wa3pun@ezonline.com).

**REPS Honorary Member Ed Scott** recently informed us that he was inducted into the Broadcast Pioneers of Colorado Hall of Fame. Congratulations, Ed.

**Holiday History Market.** On Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>, REPS had the opportunity to participate in the Holiday History Market sponsored by the Museum of History and Industry. This was a good opportunity for REPS to interact with the Museum and to get us out in public. Available for sale at the REPS booth were cassettes of two of the Radio Readers re-creations, *Winter Holidays II*, and a gift box.

# TWO MORE FRIENDS OF

## No More "Baer" Hugs

How does one begin to describe the vast career of Parley Baer who died on November 22, 2002 at age 88 in Woodland Hills, California of complications from an earlier stroke? He was born and raised Salt Lake City where he developed an interest in acting while working as an usher in a local theater. He acquired a fascination with the circus as a result of interviewing many people for his radio job. Did you know that he even owned a circus for a while? After a stint in the Air Corps during World War II he married aerialist and bareback rider Ernestine Clarke in 1946 and later landed a job as ringmaster in the Barnum & Bailey Circus.

His movie career spanned 45 years with his first role as Boozer in 1950 in *Comanche Territory*. Parley's last movie role was Mr. Hollis in *The Last of the Dogmen* (1995). On television, Baer portrayed Darby on *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, Mayor Stoner on *The Andy Griffith Show* and Mr. Hamble on *The Double Life of Henry Phyfe*. Many will recognize his voice from commercials where he was the voice of the Keebler elf.

His radio credits are extensive ... so here are just a few ... *The First Nighter*, *Doorway to Life*, *June is My Girl*, *The NBC University Theatre*, *Rocky Jordan*, *Granby's Green Acres*, *Tales of the Texas Rangers*, *Nightbeat*, *The Harold Peary Show*, *The Roy Rogers Show*, *Let George Do It*, *Rogers of the Gazette*, *Fibber McGee and Molly* and *Gunsmoke*.



Parley Baer at Showcase V where he recreated Albert.

Photo courtesy of REPS' archives.

## Memories ...

I never really got to know Parley as I've found some of the others on this (OTR) digest did. But I did get to work with him on one of his last appearances as a radio actor. It was in an episode of the Jim French series *The Adventures of Harry Nile* that was recorded in conjunction with the REPS convention. I was asked to step in for Peter Leeds who was unable to attend the session due to illness. The show was recorded in front of a live audience, and Parley played them like a fine violinist. By the time we started the actual recording I was willing to bet everyone in that audience was in love with him. For anyone keeping score, Parley recorded five shows (for) Jim in the Nineties ... I was lucky enough to receive one of the "Baer" hugs from this gracious man. Larry Albert

My personal memories of Parley are filled with loving laughter, especially when he did such things as re-creating *Ethel and Albert* with Peg Lynch. He always had a smile and his congeniality was contagious. He will be thought of often by everyone who shared his joyful presence. Frank (Buxton)

While I am saddened to hear the news about Parley, I do have a very fond, recent memory of him ... I was seated at the same table as Parley. When Parley was introduced as an honorary member of SPERDVAC, the Convention attendees applauded loudly. I could tell this pleased Parley. The applause continued and everyone rose to give him a standing ovation. This outpouring of affection visibly moved Parley; I saw a tear run down his cheek ... I am so glad that I had a chance to meet this wonderful actor and that Parley had one last chance to be with so many people who admired his talents and loved him. Stewart Wright

He attended the Friday night dinner and show at SPERDVAC and I had a wonderful moment when he spotted me and signaled me over to his chair, and proceeded to give me a big kiss. What a great final memory of one the true greats of this business. Gil (Stratton, Jr.)

I worked with Parley many many times and it was always a pleasure to be with him. Tyler (McVey)

I'm not going to write a tribute to Parley. I'm just going to relate a couple of personal incidents that occurred when I was with Parley and his wife Ernestine ("Call me Ernie").

I first met Parley and Ernie the day before REPS Radio Showcase I. I was helping Jim French organize his taping of the KIRO Mystery Playhouse. After chatting with Parley for a few minutes, I realized that I was with someone pretty special. Herb (Ellis), Parley and I were in the Green Room prior to the show. The door opened and in walks ... Harry Bartell. As these three icons visited, I realized that Parley always had good things to say about his colleagues and his comments were invariably very funny. We were going to re-create the first *Gunsmoke* show and I had been given one word to say in the show ... "Yeah." I was nervous. At dinner before the show, I was seated with the Baers and others. Ernie kept teasing me about "Blowing my lines." Remember, I didn't know them well at this point. Parley asked, "What is your line?" and I replied "Yeah." In true Baer style, he looked very stern and waved his dinner fork at me saying "Good Lord, man, you NEVER memorize your lines in a radio show. You READ THEM!" Now mortified and increasingly nervous, I asked, "How can I not memorize "Yeah?" After a long pause, Parley slowly began to grin, and then he winked at me. Score... Parley 1, Me 0!

We had frequent contact after this episode and on one occasion when I was with them, I needed to call my Dad on his birthday. Parley had met him one time, only briefly. During my call Parley asked for the phone and talked to Dad for ten minutes like they were old buddies. While he was that way with everyone, it was so genuine with Parley and people knew that.

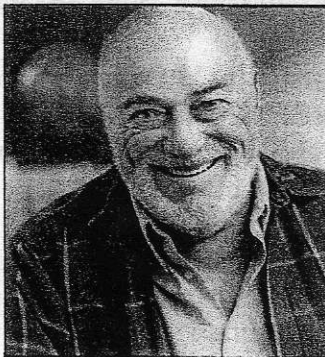
I loved Parley and I'll always, always treasure the special times I got to spend with him. I have never heard any negative word spoken about him. He could tease without hurting and was always funny as he did, with an elf-like twinkle in his eye. I'm so honored to have had a friendship with him. All of our lives are richer for any contact with Parley Baer.

Do yourself a favor and check out tapes of his work on radio. Try to get a tape from the REPS library of Parley and Peg Lynch doing *Ethel and Albert* at a Showcase. It is an absolute classic. Bill Brooks



# REPS HAVE PASSED AWAY

## A Marvelous Talent



This remarkable photo of Larry Dobkin was taken during one of his Showcase appearances.  
Photo courtesy of Christopher Conrad.

Larry Dobkin, television director and character actor whose acting credits spanned stage, radio, TV and films over seven decades, died of heart failure October 28, 2002 at his home in Los Angeles. Larry was 83.

Dobkin's acting career began on Broadway in his mid-teens. After receiving an M.A. from Yale University's School of Drama, Larry plunged into radio in the late '40s and early 50s. J. David Goldin's RadioGOLDIndex lists 776 shows! A partial list would include: *Have Gun Will Travel*; *Yours Truly*, *Johnny Dollar*; *Suspense*; *Frontier Gentleman*; *Fort Laramie*; *The CBS Radio Workshop*; *NBC Radio Theatre*; *You Were There*; *The Whistler*; *Family Theatre*; *Lux Radio Theatre*; *Barrie Craig, Confidential Investigator*; *Escape*; *Wild Bill Hickok*; *Rogers of the Gazette*; *Space Patrol*; *Broadway is My Beat*; *Nightbeat*; *Stars Over Hollywood*; *Let George Do It*; *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe*; *Rocky Jordan*; *The Adventures of the Saint*; *The New Adventures of Nero Wolfe*; *Richard Diamond, Private Detective*; *Dr. Christian*; *Screen Director's Playhouse*; *The Green Lama*; *Chandu, the Magician* and *The Alan Young Show*. From 1947-1948, Dobkin played the title role of the suave, deductive genius in *The Adventures of Ellery Queen*. Many of these shows featured OTR stars who are familiar to REPS members ...

William Conrad, Parley Baer, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Sam Edwards, Harry Bartell, Norman Corwin, Hans Conried, Art Gilmore and Alan Young.

According to REPS member Stewart Wright, three particularly good episodes are *Gunsmoke*, "Cavalcade" (1/31/53 & 11/8/59); *Escape*, "The Man from Tomorrow" (8/23/53); and *Escape*, "Wild Jack Rhett" (2/15/53). Larry was at three REPS Showcases (V, VI and VII). At Showcase VI, he was magnificent in the re-creation of "Wild Jack Rhett". He also portrayed Digger O'Dell in *The Life of Riley*. Larry almost always played heavies and bad guys, so Digger was completely different. He had so much fun with the role; he could barely get the words "I'll go ... shoveling off" out.

His television credits include appearances on *Playhouse 90*; *The Colgate Comedy Hour*; *The Rifleman*; *Burns and Allen*; *77 Sunset Strip*; *NYPD Blue*; *The Untouchables*; *Star Trek, the Next Generation*; *Mod Squad*; *Melrose Place*; *Judging Amy* and *I Love Lucy*. Dobkin received an Emmy nomination for his supporting role in the 1967 CBS Playhouse production of "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night". Directing credits span 25 years and more than 200 hours of prime time including *The Donna Reed Show*; *Dr. Kildare*; *The Waltons*; *Barnaby Jones*; *Charlie's Angels*; *Dallas*; *The Fall Guy*; *Emergency* and *The Streets of San Francisco*. He wrote the 1976 film *The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams*.

*The Ten Commandments*; *Julius Caesar*; *The Defiant Ones*; *Angels in the Outfield*; *North by Northwest*; *12 O'Clock High* and *Patton* are some of Mr. Dobkin's feature film credits. Larry is in every scene of *Patton*, doing something, somewhere in the background. George C. Scott's wife wouldn't let George do the film unless Larry Dobkin was there to keep George sober. For five months of shooting—all over the world.

## Memories ...

Larry ... made me feel privileged. He would spend time talking to just me. Joy Jackson

When Howard Culver and I were expecting our first "baby", the baby unexpectedly arrived 2 1/2 months early and was two, instead of one. Howard mentioned at a rehearsal that we were not quite ready for such an event and didn't even have a sleeping place for one baby, let alone two. The next day, here came Parley Baer and Larry Dobkin, both with bassinets, which had just been outgrown by their little daughters! So sad that both Larry and Parley are no longer here. Lois Culver (Widow of Howard Culver, actor)

Over the years, REPS folks have been very fortunate to develop close relationships with the actors and other professionals who "were" radio. Their names roll off our lips ... we can recognize their voices when listening to old shows ... we get to see many of them each June. One of those folks was Larry Dobkin. I don't profess to know him anything like as well as his many acting buddies, but we did talk on the phone from time to time, particularly as his health was declining. It always has seemed to me that, yes, he was the epitome of "tough guy" and that he kind of liked being that. I saw and experienced a surprising tender side to Larry that he expressed more privately. I'm guessing that those closest to him would be able to verify that.

He also hated flying. His agreeing to come to Seattle was a major deal ... Larry had so much talent as everyone knows. As a layman, a non-actor, I was always impressed with the intensity and energy that Larry brought to a role. I noticed this before ever meeting him, but then as we watched him work, you could feel it in the room. We're a fortunate group to have hung out with and to have experienced his talent first hand.

Mike Sprague

It isn't easy to say goodbye to over a hundred years of friendship, but Larry and Parley are gone. It is difficult to imagine two actors with tremendous ability so different in personality: Parley, outgoing, smiling, hugging; Larry, reserved, cautious, inward looking. Each was possessed of great humor; each was a wonderful storyteller. The stories were different, though, reflecting the teller. They were a joy to work with. Because they were so dependable, it allowed the actor across the microphone to relax and communicate. Although I remember both from hundreds of different performances, it was *Gunsmoke* where everything came together. Now they've left Dodge City for good. Harry Bartell

## The Erlenborn Project Report

by Joy Jackson

The Erlenborn project was born at Showcase X, June 28, 2002. Meridy, wife of Ray Erlenborn, told me they were going to move to the Motion Picture Home, and there was no storage for Ray's sound effects. There were a couple of collectors in Los Angeles that would take them, but Ray didn't want his "stuff" just collecting dust in someone's basement. Ray wanted his "children" to be used. Ray and Meridy wanted them to go to REPS, but we'd have to go get them.

Meridy and I worked out the details during July and August, after getting the Board's approval. Details like arranging for a truck, arranging for a storage locker, booking airplane tickets, and arranging for pick-up of the drivers at the airport. Paul Feavel developed a fund-raising appeal to REPS members, to support this effort. Over 100 members (114) contributed \$6,224, and the two drivers donated all their expenses during the trip.

### The plans:

**Part I** involved flying two volunteers (Christopher Conrad and Terrence Chriest) to California, Ray and Meridy picking them up at the airport, loading up the truck and driving it to Seattle. Getting storage locker, getting shelves and doing inventory.

**Part II** consists of bringing Ray and Meridy to

Seattle in April, when Ray will give a sound effects demonstration at the April meeting, conduct a "master-class" on sound effects, hold a reception for the donors and an intimate dinner for the largest (over \$100) donors. Then at Showcase, Ray will do another demonstration of sound effects. Also installing brass plaques "Ray Erlenborn collection—REPS" on those pieces where applicable, and spiffing up the collection and the McKenzie machines.

**Part III** is to produce a CD that contains Ray's demonstrations and the master-class, a re-creation (probably from Showcase 2003) using those sound effects, and other Ray things (like photographs). This will be a multimedia CD, and proceeds of its sale will help offset the storage of the collection.

**Part IV** is to devise a rental checkout procedure, so that the collection will pay towards its upkeep, and a volunteer to take care of the collection.

My thanks to the many donors who made this project possible, and the folks that gave of their time and expertise: Terrence Chriest, Christopher Conrad, Paul Feavel, Mary Fichtenberg, Emil Oana, Dave Selvig, and a special thank you to Meridy and Ray Erlenborn. Without all of you, this project wouldn't have been such a success.

## REPS Annual Report for 2002

by Dave Selvig

Currently REPS has 261 members, including 54 honorary members, compared to 260 at this time last year. Special guests at REPS programs included Dal McKennon, Harlan Zinck, Dick Beals, Frank Bresee (by phone), and Jim & Pat French.

REPS continued its partnership with the Museum of Flight and KIXI Radio by recording and broadcasting "Spirit; the Story of the Spirit of St. Louis", an original radio play written by Joy Jackson to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic flight. REPS launched a community outreach program bringing the story of Old Time Radio and REPS to retirement communities, civic organizations and community centers. George Fowler and Steve Holden generously donated their extensive OTR tape collections to REPS. These collections total approximately 1600 reel-to-reel tapes. REPS is grateful to Ray Erlenborn for donating his entire collection of sound effects equipment and related material to REPS. Contributions to support the transportation, storage, and maintenance of this equipment plus a workshop on its use by Ray have reached over \$6000.

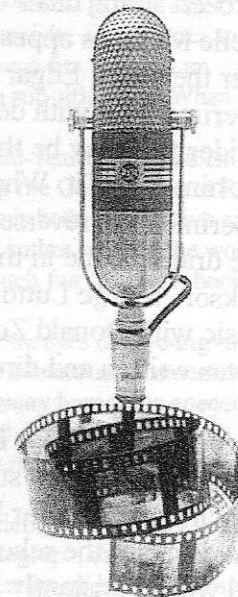
An original radio play "Don't Mind Me", in the tradition of *Suspense*, was written by John Jensen and performed by the Radio Readers. Paul Feavel led an effort to produce a second "Winter Holidays on the Radio" CD, following the highly successful first CD last year. The CD included 100 old radio shows plus two new shows produced by Jim French.

Finally, we were saddened this year by the loss of Bev Bartell, Larry Dobkin, and Parley Baer, but we are grateful for their relationship with REPS and they will be fondly remembered.



# REPS Radio Showcase Registration Reminders

- ❖ Register early (by March 31) for significant savings!
- ❖ You won't want to miss any portion of the Main Program on Friday and Saturday. The price covering both days is:
  - Members \$98 thru March 31st (\$125 after March 31st)
  - Non-members \$118 thru March 31st (\$145 after March 31st)
  - Non-members can join REPS for \$18 and register for Showcase at member prices.
- ❖ If you can only attend Showcase on either Friday or Saturday the prices are:
  - **Friday**  
Members \$35 thru March 31st (\$45 after March 31st)  
Non-members \$40 thru March 31st (\$50 after March 31st)
  - **Saturday (including banquet)**  
Members \$80 thru March 31st (\$100 after March 31st)  
Non-members \$90 thru March 31st (\$110 after March 31st)
  - **Saturday Day Only**  
Members \$40 thru March 31st (\$50 after March 31st)  
Non-members \$45 thru March 31st (\$55 after March 31st)
  - **Saturday Eve (including banquet)**  
Members \$40 thru March 31st (\$50 after March 31st)  
Non-members \$45 thru March 31st (\$55 after March 31st)
- ❖ Members can register their non-member guests at member prices.
- ❖ Special premium events include a Thursday evening reception and a repeat of last year's popular Sunday brunch program. Seating for both of these events will be limited so register early!
- ❖ Consider registering as a Producing Partner (\$250), which includes Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, copies of scripts, choice of banquet seating, and other benefits. This is limited to 10 participants and several have already been sold!
- ❖ We have again reserved hotel space at Comfort Suites for a discount rate of \$79 per night. Make reservations by May 26th by calling 1-800-228-5150.
- ❖ For more information check our web site at [www.repsonline.org](http://www.repsonline.org) or E-mail us at [REPSShowcase@aol.com](mailto:REPSShowcase@aol.com) or write to REPS Showcase 2003, c/o Mary Fichtenberg, 109 NW 83rd, Seattle, WA 98117.



## ANSWERS TO TOUGH AND EASY

- I. e., f., d., a., g., b., c.
- II. *Dennis Day Show* – all of the other shows dealt with adolescence and the growing pains of teenagers.
- III. d., e., f., a., b., c.
- IV. d., e., f., a., b., c.
- V. d., e., f., a., b., c.
- VI. d., c., b., a., f., e.

To determine how hard you used to laugh, score 3 points for each part of a question answered correctly.

91 or above	You are a laughing hyena!
71 to 90	Good
51 to 70	Fair
25 to 50	Poor
24 or lower	You are a sad sack!

## MEETINGS

### November 2, 2003 - Original Play "Don't Mind Me"

Edgar Sloan (Larry Albert) has been passed over many times for promotion at Briargate College where he has been acting chair of the Mathematics Department. However, now this position seems threatened. Dean Adelle Medows appears to be favoring Richard for the post.

Over the years, Edgar and his younger brother, Henry, now an eminent neurosurgeon, have been experimenting with devices that can be implanted in the brain to improve memory. To save his job, Edgar decides this may be the time to try the experiment on himself. Susan, Edgar's long-suffering wife, tries to talk him out of it. When she is unsuccessful in doing so, the audience is left wondering ... can the experiment be reversed? Is it reversed?

The drama, done in the style of a *Suspense* episode, starred Paul Feavel, Pat Garner, Bryan Haigood, Joy Jackson, Marge Lutton, Pat McNally, and Cheri Swenson. Bob Cardenas provided the recorded sound and music with Donald Zongker handling the engineering. Sound effects were by Joy Jackson and Marge Lutton. It was written and directed by John Jensen.

### December 7 2003 - Holiday Cheer

Jim and Pat French stepped into the roles of Ethel and Albert in an episode titled "Christmas" written by Peg Lynch especially for REPS Showcase V. Albert is trying to get the Christmas tree up and Ethel is "helping". She discusses the school's Christmas pageant, Christmas shopping lists and the tale of the Little Match-Stick girl while constantly accusing Albert of never listening to her. In the midst of this conversation, Albert is also reading the Christmas cards and mistakenly hears that a co-worker has a girl friend.

After the break, President Dave Selvig gave the annual report and then *Vic and Sade* took center stage with an episode titled "Vic is Manhandled at Yamilton's". It's three weeks before Christmas and Sade (Anna Denton) has asked Vic (Dave Selvig) to get a few things for her at Yamilton's. Vic returns home with none of the purchases and an incredible tale of woe. Rush (Joy Jackson) is totally ignored as he attempts to insert his two cents worth while Vic is explaining his lack of purchases at the perfume counter and all the other counters he visited while being manhandled at Yamilton's. John Jensen did the announcing and Bob Cardenas played the music.

The Marine Corp Reserves' Toys for Tots program was the recipient once again of REPS generosity. The Marines left with two barrels of toys.

### January 4, 2003 - Favorite Shows

2003 started off the same way as 2002 ... with an opportunity for members to play snippets of some of their favorite shows. This meeting gives a chance to peek at the diversity of interests among our members. Some of the chosen episodes were: "Who's on First", *Abbott and Costello*; Jack Benny on *The Fred Allen Show*, "King for a Day"; and "The Destroyer", *The Shadow*. Mortimer Snerd and Miss Brooks were also selected as favorites. The most unusual might have been from a 1934 or 1935 series called *The Origins of Superstitions*. This episode explained the derivation of the black cat superstition. And who could forget how *HMS Pinafore* was slaughtered on *The Fred Allen Show*?

## Welcome - New Members

#573 - Douglas Hildie, Seattle WA  
#575 - Al & Connie Gil, Seattle WA  
#577 - Ken Piletic, Streamwood IL  
#579 - Paul Wilt, Santa Barbara CA  
#581 - Samuel Dillon Conrad, Seattle WA  
#583 - Charles Huck, Warrenville IL

#574 - Wayne Morris, Tacoma WA  
#576 - Danean MacAndrew, Mission Viejo CA  
#578 - Bryan Hendrickson, Seattle WA  
#580 - Dave Amaral, La Crescenta CA  
#582 - Diane Maki, Grays River WA  
#584 - EJ Kienzler, II, Springfield IL

#585 - Cornelius Schmitt, Las Vegas NV

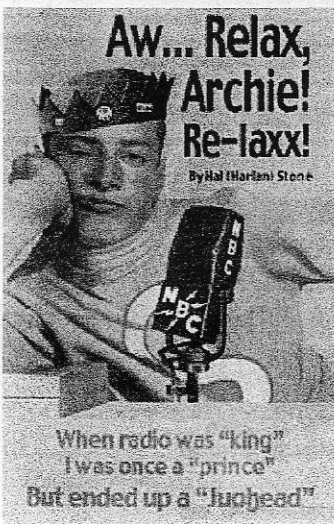


# Aw... Relax, Archie! Re-laxx!

By Hal (Harlan) Stone

Review by Stewart Wright

2002 has been a pretty good year for books about Old-Time Radio with several that have found favor with OTR fans. Most have dealt with various specific aspects of Radio's Golden Age. One book, however, is a personal reminiscence by a performer and it is a joy to read. The book is Aw... Relax, Archie! Re-laxx! by Hal (Harlan) Stone. This book is far too much fun to call it an autobiography. Have you ever heard of was 'king,' I was once a 'prince', but Hal's book provides an always-model, stage performer, and radio actor He has written his book in a lively, entertaining. It's the only book I have me. (Maybe, that's because I have met ages.



The reader gets the opportunity to view who grew up in it. Interspersed vignettes about the people with whom and stories about his professional and behind-the-scenes look at a long-running could only be told by his radio persona, Many books claim to be "profusely 250 of them. Well over half of the pages some other sort of illustration. Hal, who The pictures, drawings and other allow readers to associate faces with many familiar radio actors from the Golden Age.

Show Business through the eyes of a young man throughout the book are numerous, wonderful Hal worked. There are many humorous anecdotes personal life. Hal gives the reader an in-depth, radio series *The Adventures of Archie Andrews* as Jughead Jones. illustrated." Hal's book definitely is; there are nearly contain at least one photograph, cartoon, drawing or is also an accomplished artist, did several drawings. illustrations add so much to the book. Many of them

Aw... Relax, Archie! Re-laxx! is a wonderful recounting of a performer's early life and a valuable addition to the body of Old-Time Radio literature. Thanks, Hal for sharing your experiences and memories with us.

Use the order form below to get your copy of Aw ... Relax, Archie! Re-laxx!

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# Radio and the Silver Screen

Showcase XI June 26 – 29, 2003

Check our website for more information

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

## Welcome - New Members



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