

AIR CHECK

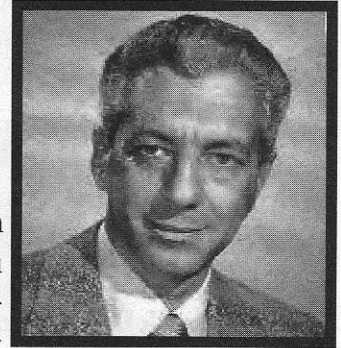
NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

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May 2004

HARRY BARTELL: A Good Friend to REPS

by Stewart Wright



On Friday, February 27, 2004 REPS received the following message from Judie and Will Bartell, "It is with sadness and respect that we inform you that our father, Harry, played his last scene and passed away yesterday afternoon, February 26, 2004." He was born in New Orleans, LA on November 29, 1913.

Harry Bartell graced nine *Showcases*. His skills were always in demand whether he was acting or announcing in a recreation, moderating a panel, or serving as a panelist. He always underplayed his *Showcase* contributions, but these contributions did not go unnoticed. He was a recipient of the REPS Radio Achievement Award. No matter how busy he was, Harry always seemed to have time to spend with individual *Showcase* attendees and to each of those attendees their time with Harry was always very special and memorable.

RADIO WORK

Harry's radio credentials are impressive to say the least. He has more than 10,000 performances on radio that included appearances in at least 182 series. He got his start in radio in Houston in the early 1930's appearing in local radio show condensations of motion pictures. His pay: two 25 cent movie tickets.

In 1937, Harry moved to the West Coast working as a DJ, doing commercials, and performing at the Pasadena Playhouse. In his first role on network radio, in *Raffles*, Harry played a Hindu. It was the first of many dialect and accent roles he did, including many Spanish roles on *Romance Of The Rancho*, *Dragnet*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, and *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*.

Pick a drama or light comedy series and there's a good chance that Harry was on it. All of the following series and over a hundred more had appearances by Harry Bartell: *A Date With Judy*, *Adventures By Morse*, *Amos and Andy*, *Broadway Is My Beat*, *Cavalcade Of America*, *CBS Radio Workshop*, *Columbia Presents Corwin*, *Crime Classics*, *Defense Attorney*, *Dr. Christian*, *Eddie Cantor Show*, *Frontier Gentleman*, *I Love A Mystery*, *Let George Do It*, *Lux Radio Theater*, *My Favorite Husband*, *Nightbeat*, *On Stage*, *Red Ryder*, *The Saint*, *Suspense*, and *This Is Your FBI*.

Harry also had many starring and featured roles. Harry played Captain Meriwether Lewis in *Horizons West*, a very fine Armed Forces Radio documentary drama series on the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He also had starring or feature roles in *Adventures Of Nero Wolfe* as Archie Goodwin, *Fort Laramie* as Lt. Siberts, *The Charlotte Greenwood Show* as Tommy Brooks, and *Rogers Of The Gazette* as Officer Ed Miller.

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The President Microphone

by Neal Shulman



Our first meeting in REPS new location, the Norse Home across from Woodland Park, was an outstanding success. The day was sunny, the room was bright and cheery and, not only was the program outstanding, but we had the further pleasure of introducing the residents of the Norse Home to our club.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of our number one sound specialist, Donald Zongker, all systems worked wonderfully and enabled Marilyn Wilt to present a fascinating program on audience participation shows, complete with prizes. As always at our monthly meetings Marge and Rhea Lutton provided their usual array of outstanding snacks.

Cliff and Lynda Glaspey kicked off what we hope will be a regular event at REPS meetings — an auction. The Glaspeys donated two sealed sets of old time radio broadcasts on long play records that were put on the auction block, raising nearly \$50 for the club's Guest Fund. In order to continue this event members are urged to donate quality items for future auctions. It was a great meeting and a great way to inaugurate our new quarters.

REPS has a reputation for bringing its membership outstanding programs, at the regular monthly meetings, at Showcase, and at other times and places throughout the year. But to maintain that kind of positive momentum requires work and dedication. Fortunately, in the past we have had members step up to the plate and volunteer their services. However, it has generally been the same members each time who are willing and able to assist in maintaining the quality and standards of REPS activities. Frankly, many of these hardworking members are being stretched too thin. They find it hard to say "No" when there is a new idea or new activity that is proposed. So what is the solution? How do we continue to put forth the kind of programs and activities for which we are best known? It's really very easy. We need you to become more involved with our monthly program planning, with Showcase, with our publications like AirCheck, with our tape and script libraries, with our website, and with virtually all the activities that have given REPS the reputation of being the outstanding old-time radio club in the country. Your club needs YOU to maintain and build on the foundation of outstanding programs and activities that have become the hallmark of REPS. By volunteering a few hours each month, in an area that best utilizes your expertise, you can help assure the continuing success of REPS.

So get in touch with me, or any member of the REPS Board, and let us know about your area of interest. You'll be glad you did and REPS will be stronger for your help.

REPS Board

Officers:

President - Neal Shulman
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*While Vi and Andy Anderson are the tape librarians, Marge Lutton represents them at the Board meetings. By the way, Board meetings are open to all members.

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His acting abilities made Harry a favorite with many of the best directors in Hollywood including Jack Webb (*Dragnet*, *Pete Kelly's Blues*, *Johnny Modero - Pier 23*), Norman Macdonnell (*Romance*, *The New Adventures Of Philip Marlowe*, *Escape*, *Have Gun Will Travel*), and Jack Johnstone (*Yours Truly*, *Johnny Dollar*, *The Man Called X*, *The Six Shooter*, *Hollywood Star Playhouse*). He was a member of both Macdonnell's and Webb's stock companies. Harry appeared in both the first and last episodes of *Gunsmoke* and 180 more. Two of Harry's finest performance can be heard in the episodes of this series, "Cain" and "Blood Money." There were advantages to having a regular ensemble of actors on a series. Harry told me, "One of the major benefits was that you had great trust in the other actor. You knew if for some reason you got off-track or you made a mistake, they were going to cover for you. And you would cover for them. As a result, there was an ensemble feeling that was very different than if you had a different cast on the show every day."

One of Harry's favorite series was *Escape*; he made over 56 appearances on that series. Harry originated the role of Auguste in the *Escape* classic "Three Skeleton Key" and starred in one of the productions of "A Shipment of Mute Fate" on that series. Both were recreated at past *Showcases*. Harry's personal favorite *Escape* performance was as the lead in "An Occurrence At Owl Creek Bridge."

In an interview Harry shared his feelings about *Escape*, "The scripts were wonderful, many of them were based on Classics that stood the test of time. They offered me, as an actor, parts that I never would have gotten on any other program. They were exciting, fun to do, and very rewarding from a performance standpoint."

In addition to acting, Harry also worked as an announcer. "I announced *Silver Theatre*, *Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Casebook Of Gregory Hood*. I never considered myself an announcer; I sort of played an announcer as an actor."

A CAREER IN THE NEW MILLENIUM

Coming to REPS *Showcases* not only gave Harry the opportunity to perform in recreations, but also in the contemporary radio dramas of Jim French. Just last year Harry guest starred in *The Further Adventures Of Sherlock Holmes* episode "The Adventure Of The Great American."

TELEVISION WORK

According to Harry's show logs, he performed on at least 77 television series. These included performances on series such as *Branded*, *Dragnet*, *Dragnet 1967*, *Get Smart*, *Gunsmoke*, *I Love Lucy*, *Laramie*, *Perry Mason*, *Peter Gunn*, *The Rebel*, *Richard Diamond Private Detective*, *The Twilight Zone*, *The Untouchables*, *The Veil*, and *The Wild, Wild West*.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Harry co-wrote two *GUNSMOKE* scripts with fellow actor and close friend, Vic Perrin: "Chester's Inheritance" and "Father And Son."

During times when acting roles were scarce Harry worked as a professional photographer. He took photographs during show rehearsals and many of these photos have appeared in several Old-Time Radio books.

Starting in the Fall of 2002, Harry wrote a series of fifteen essays on his radio experiences, "Struts and Frets," for the Internet OTR Digest. They were a delight to read and each new essay was eagerly anticipated by Digest subscribers.

DREAM MEDIUM

Harry was justly proud of his work as a radio actor. He told John Dunning that, "Radio was a dream medium, every day or twice a day was like a first night. There was always a freshness, a challenge. Radio offered an actor or actress opportunities to play roles they couldn't obtain anywhere else."

To his many REPS friends Harry Bartell really isn't gone, he has just moved on to another stage. He has been reunited with his fellow performers and his lovely wife Bev. Harry lives on in our minds and in those many fine performances that have been preserved for us to enjoy.

May REPS very good friend, Harry Bartell, Rest In Peace.

Kindness Corner

This important section is here to recognize and thank donors. It may be many, it may be few, thanks to those who have given. All of your generosity has made a real difference. **The Kindness Corner was last updated after Showcase XI which means that some of the donors are not listed. Please let the editor know who you are so that you can receive recognition in future issues.** Current donations may be sent to REPS, PO Box 15201, Seattle, WA 98115. These are tax deductible and receipts will be sent to donors.

Harry Bartell, Dick Beals, Ron Bowser, Bill Brooks, William Buckley, Jean Rouverol Butler, Frank Buxton, Terry Campbell, Michael Comstock, Janet & Christopher Conrad, Jim Cox, Bill Davies, Frank Denton, Sam & Bev Edwards, Ray & Meridy Erlenborn, Paul Feavel, Mary Fichtenberg, George Fowler, Robert Fuldold, Al Gil, Art Gilmore, Cliff Glaspey, Anne Hockens, Steve Holden, Joy Jackson, John Jensen, Don Lacky, Rhea Lutton, Danean MacAndrew, Terry Mahony, Brent Martin, Judy Miller, Jerry Miller, Kate Molling, Millie Morse, Bill Parker, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Andrew & Marjorie Rosen, Secord Printing, Joan Selvig, Neal Shulman, Sam Simone, David Speelman, Mike Sprague, Ray Thweatt, Carolyn Van Jepner, Janet Waldo, Janet Wilt, Marilyn Wilt, Stewart Wright and Harlan Zinck.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

We meet the first Saturday of the month at the Norse Home (5311 Phinney Ave N). There is no meeting in July. Please be sure to check the website (www.reponline.org) for updated information on meetings.

June 5, 2004: Tribute to Bob Hope. Museum of History & Industry. Leslie Townes Hope has been honored five times by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences as part of the more than 2000 awards and citations he has received. In October 1997, Bob was unanimously made an Honorary Veteran when Congress passed Resolution 75.

June 7, 2004: *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.

June 24 - 27, 2004: Showcase 12. Salute to Mutual Broadcasting System. The best old-time radio convention ... reasons why we think so: The embedded continuity of having an over-all theme; All of the actors are treated equally; Actors are accessible to the convention goers, because the convention isn't held in a hotel; We are presenting a scholarly, and educational component to the convention; We have a printed program, worthy of being a reference on old-time-radio; A hallmark of Showcase are the high quality, professional acting; Our encouragement of "modern audio drama" scripts; The Actors are given time to rehearse the recreations; Our directors of the recreations are professionals in the acting community; Listening in on the actors during "Just Sitting Around and Visiting"; This year, the first-ever acting workshop, with old-time-radio actors as mentors; Showcase's tradition of the "Cold Read" — watching actors read a script for the first time.

Showcase

June 24th - 27th, 2004

Mutual Broadcasting System

Spotlight on Sam Edwards. Showcase 2004 officially opens with the Thursday evening tribute to Sam Edwards at Kaspar's. Gil Stratton has agreed to serve as Master of Ceremonies. This promises to be just as special as last year's tribute to Harry Bartell.

Acting Workshop. This is a first-time event and serves as the "unofficial" opening of Showcase 2004 and is available, for a fee, to non-Showcase attendees. Dick Beals will preside over this opportunity to experience acting before a microphone in a radio show. The primary script will be *The Lone Ranger: Surgery*; others will be available if the number of participants warrants that. Sound effects will be both live and recorded. Instruction will start at 1 pm in the Lopez room with the on-mic performance taking place from 3-4 pm. There is a possibility that all performers will receive a tape of this edge-of-your-seat-first-number of Old-Time Radio actors time event after the Showcase. A Carpenter, Jean Rouverol Butler, (Tommy Cook, Esther Geddes, Cliff Ray Erlenborn, David Parker, and others) will be participating in this event.



Invited Guests. Larry Albert, Alice Backes, Jean Bates, Dick Beals, Jean Rouverol Butler, Frank Buxton, Tommy Cook, Ben Cooper, Jack Edwards, Sam Edwards, Herb Ellis, Ray Erlenborn, Jim & Pat French, Barbara Fuller, Esther Geddes, Art Gilmore, Phil Harper, Paul Herlinger, Jimmy Lydon, Jo Anna March, Elliot Reid, Ed Scott, Hal Stone, Gil Stratton, Ginny Tyler, and Doug Young. **New Guests:** Cliff Carpenter (*Terry and the Pirates*), Bill Edwards (pianist), Martin Grams, Jr. (OTR historian), David Parker (*Lone Ranger*), Donnie Pitchford (National Lum & Abner Society), and Charlie Summers (OTR Digest).

Panels. Alternatives to Listening to OTR on Tape; Cleaning Sound; Carlton Morse; History of Mutual Broadcasting; Unusual Recording Devices, Mysteries on Mutual and Adventure Shows on Mutual. As always, we will feature interviews with some of our new guests and the ever-popular Just Sitting Around and Visiting. You need to get up early as Friday and Saturday will start at 9 am!

Recreations. *Green Hornet, Adventures by Morse, Let George Do It, Imagination Theater, Quiet Please, and The Shadow.*

Banquet. The Saturday night banquet will be at Kaspar's (19 W Harrison) with several special features:

Bob and Ray (Hal Stone and Ben Cooper)

Lum and Abner (Donnie Pitchford)

Live Auction (signed copy of printed program — last year's went for \$250.00)

and ... Sam Edwards singing for his supper!!!

This will be a spectacular conclusion to the core program of Showcase 2004.

Sunday Brunch. Once again, this portion of Showcase will be at Christopher Conrad's Studio. Two recreations are scheduled: *Lone Ranger* and *Gangbusters*. Although these are not cold reads, they are unrehearsed. Audience participation will allow for doing sound effects or portraying some of the roles.

American Museum of Radio and Electricity. Just when you thought you were done, it's time to board the bus for the AMRE in Bellingham. This promises to be even better than the visit last year. There is so much to see and don't forget to try your hand on the Theremin. Before leaving, we will have one last recreation, *Jack Benny*.

For more information, check our website www.repsonline.org or contact Joy Jackson at JJLjackson@aol.com.



The 2004 Showcase will once again have RADIO memorabilia items for the discerning collector at both the live and silent auctions. Some of the items which can expect a more intense bidding: One Man's Family, a paper back detailing some incidents and family material from the first true evening soap opera, donated by Ray Erlenborn; Mini lunch box, with the slogan, "Buy War Bonds"; Framed picture of Carlton E. Morse, with signature; John Dunning's reference books, signed by the author, offered as a set, Encyclopedia of OTR and Tune In Yesterday; 1936 Lum & Abner family almanac, donated by Joy Jackson. Perhaps the issue of Radio Mirror, signed and donated by Jack Edwards will bring a handsome figure. These are just some of the highlights. It is likely that just about everything in the auction will be in high demand. A notebook of scripts with signatures of some, but not all, of the actors from Showcase 2004 will be part of the live auction. All the money received from the auctions goes towards the Guest Fund which enables REPS to bring all these wonderful actors to each Showcase; so come prepared to bid!

Cavalcade of America and the World War II War Effort

by Howard Blue

It was the early dark days of World War II. The Allies had suffered a string of defeats. The Thomas family was huddled under the kitchen table in their apartment in Queens, in New York City. They had been living with the war for a year and a half. As it has intensified, so too did the air raid drills. They usually took place as soon as it got dark enough, which meant there could be no lights anywhere. This night, as they often did, they had gathered around the radio in the kitchen to listen to their favorite radio program, one of the weekly highlights of their lives.

Suddenly, an air radio drill began. Mrs. Thomas, her daughter Barbara and her son Mark, of course, had quickly turned out the lights, drew the curtains and blinds and then returned to the radio. A few minutes later, much to everybody's surprise, the warden yelled out "Lights out on the 4th floor apartment." They all realized that it was the radio; it was powered by lighted tubes. They were loath to turn it off but had no choice. They certainly did not want to see the city go up in flames from the bombers honing in to the radio's light. But Mrs. Thomas suddenly solved the problem by covering the kitchen table with blankets that went to the floor. They all crawled into the makeshift dark room and finished listening to the program without uttering a sound.

Morale-Boosting Radio Dramas

To several generations during its Golden Age, in the 1930s and 1940s, radio often seemed to serve as the focal point of family life. This was especially so during World War II when families relied on it for the latest news about the war and for instant and regular entertainment. One unique aspect of this phenomenon was the radio play. During the war era, the networks, the government, unions, advertising agencies and a variety of private organizations collaborated to produce a wide variety of morale-boosting radio dramas. In some cases, such as that of *Cavalcade of America*, already existing dramatic programs were frequently utilized to produce these shows.

NBC first began to air *Cavalcade of America* in 1935 after the advertising agency, Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborne, (BBD&O) began to produce it for the Du Pont company. Du Pont's goal was to improve its image by its association with a show that dramatized positive features of American history. Initially the series featured broadcasts such as the two part "The Spirit of Competition" which presented one segment about the Oklahoma land rush and a second about a Mississippi steamer race. Later came biographical sketches of people such as Samuel Morse, Daniel Boone, John Paul Jones and Charles Goodyear, inventor of vulcanized rubber. Even the *Cavalcade's* war-related broadcasts stuck to established ways of saying things and avoided focusing on ideas or on clarifying problems and issues.

Taboos and Prejudices

The series was noted for several prejudices. For years it generally steered clear of historical events beyond the 1890s, avoided black related themes and refused to employ black actors or handle scripts that criticized the rich.

It also sought to avoid any "heavies." The joke at BBD&O, according to Bob Foreman, a retired agency executive, was that the one exception was King George III who could be bad mouthed in shows that dealt with the American Revolution. But saying anything negative about Hitler, Franco, or Mussolini was taboo.

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To be fair to Du Pont, however, this taboo was quite widespread in the immediate years preceding the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. For example, in 1935, after radio personality Alexander Woollcott continued to blast away at Nazism and Fascism on his weekly program, *The Town Crier*, Cream of Wheat, his sponsor, fearing that German-Americans might be offended, threw down the gauntlet: "Either drop all matters of a controversial nature or leave the show." Woollcott quit, walking away from a contract that was paying him \$80,000 a year

Somewhat similarly in 1939, after broadcaster H.V. Kaltenborn strongly denounced Nazi propaganda, and some listeners complained, General Mills, his sponsor, dropped his program.

By the end of the decade, the company's expansion into textiles and plastics, reports of various breakthroughs in its laboratories and the *Cavalcade's* adroit projection of the company's image, resulted in an improved public perception of it. Then, with America's entry into the war in 1941, the producers finally altered their view of history.

Now it came more and more to include what had happened a few months ago on the African front or in Burma. In dealing with major themes such as freedom of religion, for example, instead of the often told story of Roger Williams, the *Cavalcade* presented Arthur Miller's "Listen to the Sound of Wings," a show about the German Protestant Pastor, Martin Niemoller. This broadcast described how Niemoller stood firm on his religious beliefs, defied Hitler and then suffered eight years of imprisonment.

Wrapped in Tissue

By early 1943, *Cavalcade* broadcasts dealt regularly with war related themes. Still Du Pont zealously watched for anything in *Cavalcade* scripts that might tarnish the company's image. In two instances, this involved petty censorship. The July 1943 broadcast of Stephen Vincent Benét's "Listen to the People," contains a soliloquy by a "totalitarian voice." "We can give you your own Hess, your own Himmler, your own Goering," he says at one point. The play's original text continues with the words "all home grown and wrapped in cellophane." But cellophane was a Du Pont product protected by a trademark. Apparently nervous at having listeners envision a Nazi leader wrapped in a Du Pont product, the producers substituted the word "tissue" for "cellophane" when the play was broadcast.

Arthur Miller encountered an even pettier instance of censorship. In 1944 BBD&O asked him to write a script about the army's canine corps. Miller wrote a humorous script. Early in his story when Joe, the story's canine protagonist, is still privately owned, his owner refers to times when Joe bit salesmen who dared to ring his doorbell. "We'd like you to delete the reference to his biting," Miller was told. "Why," he asked incredulously. "Well, you know," he was told, "many Du Pont products are sold door-to-door by salesmen and we don't want them to be disturbed by reference to a dog biting a salesman." Miller offered to change the doorbell ringer's identity and his suggestion was kicked upstairs to the agency honchos. After some discussion, they decided to convert the salesman to a government employee, a postman.

A team of eleven writers, among them some of the best in radio, worked for the *Cavalcade*. Besides Benét and Miller, there was Morton Wishengrad, one of radio's finest writers of drama; Miller's friend, poet Norman Rosten (a protégé of Benét) and broadcast historian and NBC script editor Erik

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Barnouw. The series also featured a fairly regular acting troupe which included Wally Maher and Will Geer, the latter famous in later years for his role as "Grandpa" on the television show *The Waltons*.

The U.S. armed forces were the subject of a number of shows on the *Cavalcade of America*. Three titles that were typical of *Cavalcade* shows dealing with the military are "Take Her Down," "Sky Nursemaid," a show about the Army Evacuation Service, and "The Sailor Takes a Wife." "Take Her Down," features Clark Gable who shortly before had served in the Air Force as a gunner and photographer in air raids over Europe. He had attained the rank of major and earned an Air Medal. This, his first radio appearance since his release from active duty, was announced beforehand and there was a scramble for tickets. But the folks who received them were quite disappointed.

Gable was playing the role of a submarine captain who sacrificed his life to save his crew. The roles that he and eight other actors were playing required the sounds of men in a submarine. To achieve this, they spent most of the performance speaking from offstage in a 10 by 12 isolation booth. An actor who worked on the show remembered the broadcast clearly. For all his fame, Gable was not particularly good at his craft, and on radio he had a special problem. Live radio broadcasts petrified him and he read his lines too slowly. On top of this, one of the actors in the booth passed wind during the performance. But they could not open the door until the end of the broadcast. Somehow the group managed to suppress their laughter and complete the show without cracking up on air.

Civilian Navy

"The Sailor Takes a Wife," written by Allan Sloane concerns the Merchant Marines, the "stepchild" of the World War II military. The Merchant Marines were under the supervision of the United States Maritime Commission, established in 1936 to develop a fleet capable of serving as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war. A part of its responsibility was to train personnel to operate merchant vessels. As we learn from the broadcast, in the first year of the war, the Merchant Marines experienced a greater percentage of casualties than any other branch of the armed forces. In the story, Barry Arthur (played by Dick Powell) is a 4F newspaperman who tries first to volunteer for the service. He wishes to impress a certain young woman who is accusing him of being a "shirker." After he is rejected, he successfully joins the merchant marine, the "civilian navy." The first time Barry ships out, a Japanese submarine sinks his ship. The portrayal of the sinking, with scarce detail concerning injuries and deaths of the men on board the ship, is interesting in how it typifies much of radio drama of the war era.

In the scene after the sinking, the young woman whose criticism drove him to join the service, comes to interview him in the hospital — and they declare their love for each other. But Barry is not coming back to the newsroom right away. He is going back to sea, this time for the "right reason." "I am going back ... this time," he says, "because there's fighting going on and there's all those guys over there who need this stuff ..."

Cavalcade of America continued its run way beyond the war era, into the middle of June 1957. Not surprisingly considering the high quality of its writers, radio aficionados continue to hold the show in their highest esteem.

This article is adapted from *WORDS AT WAR* (Scarecrow Press, Dec. 2002) by Howard Blue, and reprinted with permission from *Nostalgia Digest*. For additional information, including below retail purchase instructions, see www.HowardBlue.com or send a check for \$25 to the author at 1951 Valentines Road, Westbury, New York 11590.

A Salute to Bob Hope on his 101st Birthday at MOHAI in June

At 2 PM on Saturday, June 5, the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound (REPS) and the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) will present a special program on the life and times of comedian Bob Hope, one of America's most treasured entertainers.

The program will be hosted by John Jensen and consist of telling about his life and career and showing clips from his early years in film as well as playing excerpts from some of his great moments on radio. In addition, there will be a look at his years of entertaining the troops during his many trips overseas.

Bob Hope's career was an amazing one. He starred in over 60 movies; has been honored by the Motion Picture Academy

yet never won an Oscar (he actually won four honorary Oscars, plus the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award) in addition to more than 2000 medals, awards, and citations (a Guinness world record!). Although not known as a vocalist, he introduced more than thirty popular songs to the public, including his theme songs, "Thanks for the Memory" and the now classic, "Buttons and Bows."

He held close to 50 honorary doctorates, wrote thirteen books, but never finished

high school.

He triumphed in all five major show business media-vaudeville, stage, motion pictures, radio and television. However what Bob Hope may best be remembered for was his entertaining of the American troops overseas from the start of World War II in 1942 to the completion of Operation Desert Storm in 1992. During that time over two million soldiers saw him perform. He was known for sharing their concerns and K-rations, fears and fox-



holes and mostly just making them laugh at a time when there was little to laugh about. In the entire history of show business, no individual had traveled so far, so often, to entertain so many.

The fifth of seven sons, he

was born Leslie Townes Hope in Eltham, England on May 29, 1903. His father was a stonemason and his Welsh mother was an aspiring concert singer. In 1907 the family moved to Cleveland, Ohio. In 1920, Bob Hope became an American citizen.

As a youth he was a constant entrant in amateur shows. His idol was Charlie Chaplin and he would walk up and down the street imitating him.

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After high school, Bob took dancing lessons and worked briefly as a newspaper reporter and tried amateur boxing under the name of Packy East.

At 19, Bob persuaded his girlfriend to become his dance partner in a local vaudeville act. They worked their way up to \$8 per week before her mother saw the act and immediately stopped it. Later he teamed with a friend and was eventually billed with Fatty Arbuckle. Through that connection they got work in New York. Bob was asked to act as emcee for one of the performances and that began his career as a comic. From there he garnered rolls in several Broadway musicals and finally got his first major recognition in 1933 for his role as Huckleberry Haines in the highly successful musical "Roberta." It was also during that time he met his future wife, vocalist, Dolores Reade. They were married in 1934.

He next appeared in Broadway's "Zeigfeld Follies," and "Red Hot and Blue" which led to Hollywood beckoning and he appeared in his first motion picture "The Big Broadcast of 1938."

In May of 1937, he signed a twenty-six week contract for Woodbury Soap which was broadcast from NBC in New York. In 1938, he signed with Pepsodent and within two years had edged out his competition - Jack Benny, Fred Allen and Edgar Bergen, as the top comedian in the

country.

Bob's success in radio prompted his popularity in films and the co-stars of his movies became the guest stars of his radio shows. One such guest-star was Bing Crosby where their quick-witted repartee remains some of the best exchanges ever heard. This quickly led to their series of "road" pictures which continued the same easy-going, semi-insulting, give and take rapport.



In 1941, Bob and a group of performers went to March Field, California to do a radio show for airmen stationed there. It was the beginning of an unwavering commitment to America's servicemen and women that would last 50 years. Eventually he would visit soldiers on every major continent in the world.

Radio and movies made Bob a star but it was tele-

vision that made him a super-star and a welcomed guest in every living room in America. Bob made his formal debut on NBC television on Easter Sunday of 1950. For the next four decades he would be a fixture in American homes.

He has been honored by presidents, kings and queens; by the press and his peers; by organizations and groups of every shape and size. He said the greatest honor he ever received was "the laughs I heard, the smiling faces I saw, from the audiences I entertained."

Last July 27, two months after turning 100, Bob Hope quietly slipped away.



REPS

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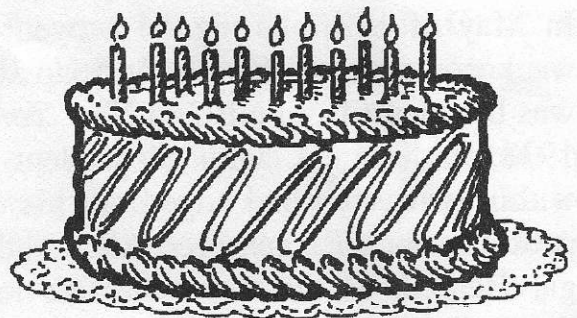
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*Join us as we
celebrate Bob Hope's
101st birthday on
Saturday, June 5th
at MOHAI.*

*Happy birthday to you...
happy birthday to you*



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