

# AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

Volume 15, Number 6

June 2005

## SHOWCASE

### JUST WHAT ARE "GOOD OL' DAYS" ANYWAY?

There are two major focus points that provide the answer to this question.

**The Golden Age of Radio.** Most of what we'll do while we're together will focus on the programs and the people from this entertainment era that we enjoy so much, whether or not we lived through it.

**REPS as REPS.** Our club has a rich history of caring for our many honorary members and of demonstrating hospitality to other guests. It is our fondest hope that every attendee will again experience something special.

#### WHAT YOU WILL MISS ...

By now, every reader has seen descriptions of various program components. In this Air Check, you'll find a schedule that shows the flow of the weekend.

You know how much fun re-creations are, whether you close your eyes or not as they are being performed. You know the graciousness and the talent of the actors. Add to this climate, the fun of great interviews and presentations, connections with old friends and new who love OTR and some great nostalgia merchandise for sale and at auction.

We have 3 actors with primarily **New York** backgrounds, along with one each from **Chicago** and **Detroit**. The balance are West Coast folks.

What a great mix for us to experience!

#### SURPRISE FOR THE STARS

And, as a teaser for you, we have a very special surprise for our honorary members that you won't want to miss. It will happen after dinner on Saturday.

Remember these Golden Age network folks who are coming to do what they do so well ...

**Anne Whitfield Phillips, Hal Stone, Gil Stratton, Jr., Ray Erlenborn, Dick Beals, Alice Backes, Bill Idelson, Donald Buka, Bob Hastings, Rosemary Rice** — with **Art Gilmore** announcing a show by telephone. Right alongside of them will be **Larry Albert, Frank Buxton, Esther McVey, Jim & Pat French** and other talented folks from within the club.



Rosemary Rice

#### SAMPLER ANYONE?

It would be great if everyone could come for every minute. Because of personal plans or finances, that doesn't always work. Don't forget that there is a Sampler option for just about 4 hours on Friday afternoon.

Any questions at all? Let Mike Sprague know at 480-474-4480 or [hrrmikes@aol.com](mailto:hrrmikes@aol.com). And the website has current info too: [www.repsonline.org](http://www.repsonline.org).

## From the President - - -

The “show of shows” is all set, your favorite Hall of Fame radio stars are rarin’ to go, and the curtain is going up 10 AM, Friday morning, June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Seattle Center. I trust you have your tickets and are all set to settle down in your front row seat and re-live the very best of the Golden Age of Radio, June 24 and 25.

You will find a detailed schedule of events in this issue of Air Check. The “Good Ol’ Days” program opens with *Bob and Ray* re-visited by **Bob Hastings** and **Hal Stone**. From that point on, no matter where you turn that radio dial, it will just keep getting more exciting, with more laughs, and more opportunities to mingle with your favorite Golden Age of Radio stars.

In addition to four exciting shows, *Archie Andrews*, *Romance*, *The Adventures of Frank Race* (where **Ray Erlenborn** will make a surprise appearance), and *X-Minus-One*, there’s a blockbuster presentation of Twosomes on Radio.

It features comedy skits by *Ethel and Albert*,

*The Bickersons*, *Abbott and Costello* and *Dragnet*. *Dragnet*, as a comedy skit you ask? Well it is when **Esther McVey** and **Rosemary Rice** are the stars.

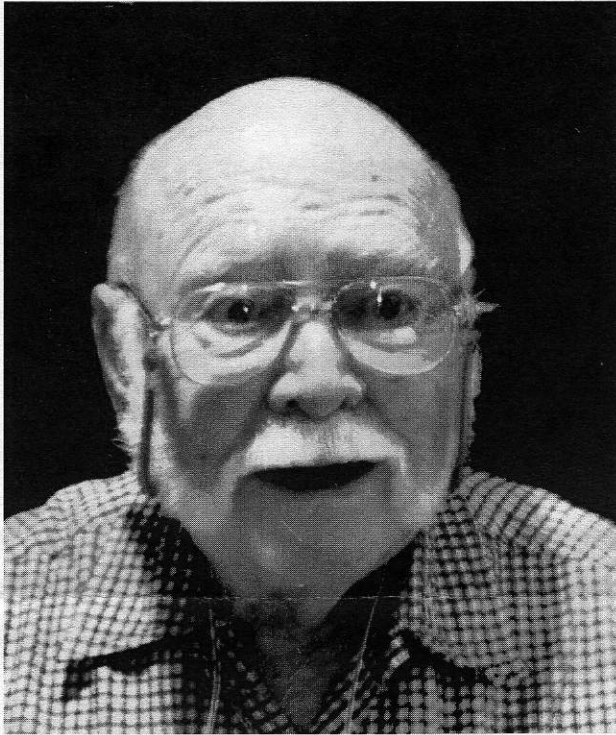
A person we have not mentioned before will be appearing. **Susan Hutchinson** from local television news and *Imagination Theatre* will be in *Frank Race*.

Then enjoy “up close and personal” interviews with **Bill Idelson**, veteran New York actor **Donald Buka**, **Rosemary Rice** and **Bob Hastings**.

And there’s more. You’ll find everything all spelled out on the Schedule in this issue, including a list of helpful folks you can call or e-mail if you have any questions. If the two day schedule is a bit too much, ask about our new time and cost saving Sampler program.

I’m looking forward to greeting you all at our “Good Ol’ Days” Showcase 2005.

**Dick Beals**



### Looking for photographers and writers ...

You can contribute to the Showcase Air Check by taking photographs or writing.

Writers will have two options: 1) submitting one or two paragraphs on a panel or re-creation with the key points/highlights for you making mention of the cast of characters and all others participating **OR** 2) submitting two or three paragraphs with your highlights/impressions of Showcase.

Photographers need to take lots of photos, especially close-ups. I will take pictures in almost any format ... black & white, digital or color. I will have several disposal cameras to hand out to attendees which I will collect at the end of showcase. **No flash photography will be allowed during re-creations this year.**

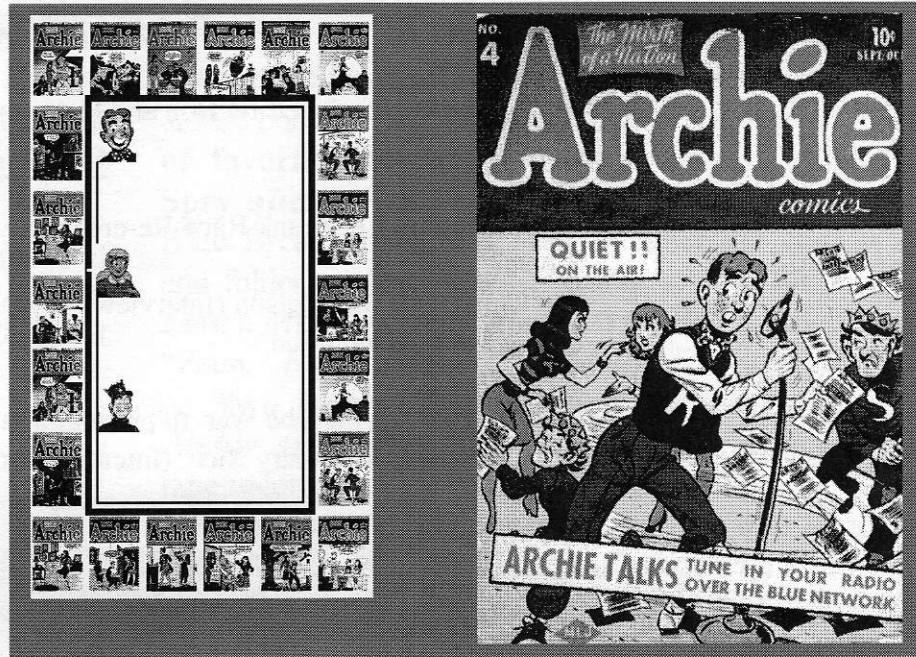
If you are willing to volunteer your services, please contact me at [wzoem@aol.com](mailto:wzoem@aol.com) or 206-365-4418.

Thank you. Marilyn Wilt, Editor.



## Archie Andrews CD Sets

The 15 new uncirculated *Archie Andrews* and 1 *Aldrich Family* episodes are being sold at Showcase this June. They are on 8 CDs in two cases, 4 per case. This is the cover for Case Number One of the set. It can't be seen here but it is brightly colored in blue, yellow and red. The Archie Andrews Comic covers © Archie Publications are ones printed during the time the *Archie Andrews* program was on the air. Comic issue #4 announces that you can hear Archie on the radio now. These drawings by Montana, the creator of Archie, are slightly different than the more modern Archie that is still appearing in comics today.



The cover for the other half of the set has the cover for comic #8. It shows Betty with a watering can sprinkling a sunflower made up of Archie's face. There is a place on the cover for everyone to obtain the signatures of the three original cast members. They will be circulating around the Showcase so you will have ample opportunity to get their signatures. We have a special Showcase special price of \$39.99. After the Showcase we are going to sell the sets for \$50.00.

A bit of trivia. What was the actual name of the *Archie Andrews* program? If we go to the original ET disks we do not get the answer. Some of the ET disks are marked *Archie Andrews* and some of them are marked *Adventures of Archie Andrews*.



## June 4 Membership Meeting

REPS members had a treat at the meeting in a presentation by member, Bob Loudon. Swing era music was a big part of the vintage radio we all know through the years 1935 to 1946. We heard clips from the Manhattan Room of the Hotel New Yorker where Benny Goodman started it all to the Grill Room of the Lexington with Bob Crosby and his dixieland Bob Cats. During the energetic presentation, Bob stopped from time to time to give away some books from his personal collection. If you had a birthday nearest to the center, middle, or end of a month, the book was yours. Thanks Bob, we hope you can come again.

## Showcase Schedule Friday

| Time        | Program  | Room    |
|-------------|--|---------|
| 10:00-10:45 | Bob and Ray Re-visited-by Bob and Hal                    | Olympic |
| 10:45-11:30 | Radio in the Movies                                      | Olympic |
| 11:30-11:45 | Break  |         |
| 11:45-12:30 | The Adventures of Frank Race-Re-creation                 | Lopez   |
| 12:30-1:30  | Lunch  |         |
| 1:30-2:15   | Up Close with Bill Idelson (Interview)                   | Olympic |
| 2:15-2:30   | Vic & Sade-Re-creation                                   | Olympic |
| 2:30-2:45   | Break  |         |
| 2:45-3:30   | Bing & Bob During The War (a presentation)               | Olympic |
| 3:30-4:15   | Up Close with Rosemary Rice (Interview)                  | Olympic |
| 4:15-4:30   | Break  |         |
| 4:30-5:15   | X Minus One-Re-creation                                  | Lopez   |
| 5:15-6:00   | Cowboys and Cookies (a presentation)                     | Olympic |
| 6:00—7:15   | Dinner   |         |
| 7:15-7:45   | Radio Potpourri  | Lopez   |
| 7:45-8:15   | Number Please. (Calls to non-attending honorary members) | Lopez   |
| 8:15-9:00   | Archie Andrews-Re-creation                               | Lopez   |
| 9:00        | Adjourn  |         |

## Saturday

|             |   |         |
|-------------|---|---------|
| 10:00-10:45 | Twosomes on Radio<br>A quick entry into Saturday as we spend a few minutes each with Ethel & Albert...as portrayed by Esther McVey and Gil Stratton, Jr. The Bickersons...starring Bob Hastings and Rosemary Rice Abbott & Costello...Larry Albert and Bill Brooks doing the honors. Dragnet...Really? Yes, with Esther McVey and Rosemary Rice | Olympic |
| 10:45-11:30 | Up Close with Donald Buka (Interview)   | Olympic |
| 11:30-11:45 | Break   |         |
| 11:45-12:30 | Imagination Theater-Re-creation   | Lopez   |
| 12:30-1:30  | Lunch   |         |
| 1:30-2:00   | Improv Radio  | Lopez   |
| 2:00-2:15   | Vic & Sade-Re-creation  | Lopez   |
| 2:15-2:30   | Break   |         |
| 2:30-3:15   | Up Close with Bob Hastings (interview)  | Olympic |
| 3:15-4:00   | Some Good Ol Days at REPS   | Olympic |
| 4:00-4:15   | Break   |         |
| 4:15-5:05   | Just Sittin Around and Visiting   | Lopez   |
| 5:05-6:00   | Social and Mingling Time  |         |
| 6:00-7:20   | Dinner with the Stars + Awards  | Olympic |
| 7:30-8:00   | Musical Entertainment   | Lopez   |
| 8:00-8:45   | Romance (the show)-Re-creation  | Lopez   |
| 8:45-9:00   | Group Photo -All of the honorary members coming together  | Lopez   |
| 9:00        | Adjourn   |         |



## Silent Auction Update

**A GE Superadio III, wired to tune into the reading service for the blind ... A little-if-ever played, five-record set, "The Best of the Telephone Hour" ... A copy of The Great American Broadcast.**

You can take home these items and more, if you're the successful bidder at the Silent Auction at "Good Ol' Days" Showcase, June 24-25 at the Seattle Center.

REPS members, friends and guests have again donated all kinds of items to gladden the heart of the OTR fan: scripts, books, photographs, shows, whether they are recorded on transcription disc, vinyl, reel-to-reel, cassette, CD or MP3. Each item will be sold to the highest bidder with proceeds going to the guest travel fund.

All this and more will be going on in the **Mingling Room** at Showcase. ("Mingling" means "Fidalgo" in Freedomian.) The same room will be home to Showcase registration and vendors offering OTR wares and memorabilia. More about that later.

A minimum opening bid will be on the bid form for each item. Once someone enters this bid sum, anyone can up the ante with a higher bid. The auction will close about 5:15 p.m. Saturday. Attendees emerging from the last program of the afternoon will have several minutes to make final bids before the countdown to auction's end. Once the auction closes, everyone will be asked to clear the area so auction personnel can tally the bids and ready the items for their new owners. Bidders may check back in just before dinner or after dinner to pick up and pay for their items. If you have any questions about auction procedure, seek out auction coordinator **Terry Campbell**.

A sampling of more items in the Silent Auction

includes:

**A tin containing Silvertone recording wire ... A rare book of Paul Rhymer scripts ... A booklet of favorite recipes from Aunt Jenny, still Spry after all these years ... A Don McNeill Blue Breakfast Club charter membership card and folder ... Carleton E. Morse scripts for *I Love a Mystery* ... Recordings of the Benny/Allen "Feud," *Fibber McGee and Molly*, *The Shadow* ... Two framed transcription discs for the *Archie Andrews* show ... An AKAI reel-to-reel tape recorder and player ... and more.**

Also in the **Mingling Room** is the first stop for Showcase attendees ... the Registration Table ... to pick up their packets.

And vendors:

**The Collector's Nook:** The north annex of Don Allen's popular Tacoma collectibles shop. He's bringing all things radio-related, from premiums to records and advertising to old paper goods.

**Jim French Productions** with recordings of his top-notch radio dramas, including *The Adventures of Harry Nile* and *The*

*Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and an array of new books on old-time radio shows and topics.

**Yesterday USA:** Walden Hughes and Kim Bragg, who are using the Internet to broadcast the classic shows of radio.

**The REPS Table:** hundreds of hours of shows on cassettes; special CD collection of *Archie Andrews* episodes; MP3s from the *Radio Lady*; donated books and REPS memberships.

**So, during breaks between "The Good Ol' Days" programs, congregate in the Mingling Room. Bid high and often on the Silent Auction. And browse the vendor's tables for OTR mementos and shows.**





**REPS**

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**June 2005**

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**See you at Good Ol' Days Showcase!!!**  
**June 24 & 25, 2005. Seattle Center.**

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