

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

Volume 15, Number 7

Showcase 2005

The Good Ol' Days

June 24 & 25, 2005



Seated, left to right: Pat French, Rosemary Rice, Donald Buka, Alice Backes, Ray Erlenborn and Bill Idelson
Standing, left to right: Jim French, Dick Beals, Bob Hastings, Gil Stratton, Jr. Larry Albert, Frank Buxton, Hal Stone and Esther McVey
Missing: Annie Whitfield Phillips

This was the friendliest and best-organized convention that I can remember, and I have been to many over the past 15 or so years. And, our *Archie* cast was the best I have ever worked with, with the results speaking for themselves. Jack and I have had a wonderful time and hope to be with you again. Rosemary Rice

It was such a wonderful weekend. I've been treated so nicely by everyone and it makes me feel so loved. I'm going to wear my new REPS jacket everywhere and tell people about all of you. Thanks to everyone. Alice Backes

Silent Auction

by Terry Campbell, Auction Chairman

Thanks to generous donors and bidders, the Silent Auction raised \$1,500 at **The Good Ol' Days** Showcase, June 24-25 at the Seattle Center.

Out of some 70 items arrayed on tables in the Mingling Room, top money went to a framed animation cell for "Roger Ramjet" from 1965. David Speelman paid \$125 for the cell, donated and signed by Dick Beals, who created the voices for Yank, Doodle and Dee, shown in the scene with Dan, listening to Roger. The Dick Beals signature proved good on two "fantasy" Alka-Seltzer bottles celebrating his first half-century as the voice of Speedy, claimed by Don Lacky and Ginger Malmer.

The signatures of Bob Hastings, Hal Stone and Rosemary Rice, stars of *Archie Andrews*, turned four items into fundraising gold. Hal Stone and Neal Shulman took ownership of framed transcription discs of an *Archie Andrews* episode with a healthy contribution to the Guest Travel Fund. Two more signed and framed discs are expected to be in the 2006 auction. The trio also penned their names on two *Archie Andrews* commemorative T-shirts donated by Jerry and Barbara Williams. One went home with Don Lacky and, the other, with Kim Bragg.

Barbara Schwarz of the *Friends of Vic & Sade* and William "Bill" Idelson, the voice of Rush, also executed a one-two punch to raise funds. Barbara donated the book, *Vic and Sade, the Best Radio Plays of Paul Rhymer* and Bill signed it. Don Lacky was the winning bidder. Likewise, a photo of the *Vic and Sade* cast, donated by Frank Rosin and signed by Bill, went to Gary Hagan.

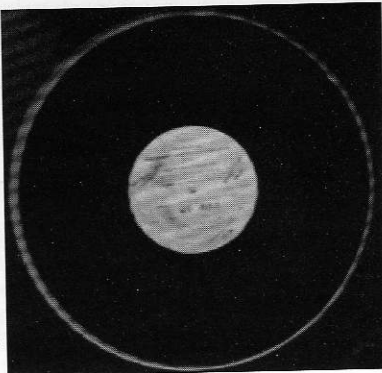
Among other books in the auction: *Great American Broadcast*, signed and donated by author Leonard Maltin; Ray & Meridy Erlenborn con-

tributed a number of books to the auction, including Norm Goldstein's *The History of Television* and *Sound Effects* and Eric Rhoads' *A Pictorial History of Radio's First 75 Years* was donated by Dan Wiggen.

Nostalgia drew lively bidding: *Some Good Ol' Days at REPS*, video highlights from previous club meetings and Showcases; two DVDs signed by guest Donald Buka (the film noir *The Street With No Name* and a *Let's Pretend* reunion show); First Generation Radio Archives packages were *Jeff Regan, Investigator*, *Milton Berle Show*, *Dr. Christian* and *The Planet Man Volumes 1 and 2*. All types of recordings of old-time radio sparked spirited bidding, including: a Kellogg's promotion set of *Superman Volumes 1 - 4*, still sealed, donated by Frank Rosin; a 20-cassette set, *60 Greatest Old Time Radio Shows of the 20th*



Century, contributed by Liz Roach; Don Estep's 10-CD set, *The Bob Hope Show*, was claimed by Steven Lewis and his 10-cassette set, *Legends of Comedy*, changed hands to Shaun Clary. A four-record, 78 rpm album of *Fibber McGee and Molly*, featuring photos and other Fibber memorabilia, donated by Don Allen, ended up with Brent Martin and Charlotte Jensen claimed Duane White's five-CD set of *The Big Show*.



Some of the photos up for bid: circa 1935 shot of Hal Peary; circa 1940 shot of the *Shirley Temple* Time star at the microphone; photo of Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll (*Amos 'n' Andy*) with Fred Allen, in May 1941 and circa 1940 shot of Chet Lauck and Norris Goff as Lum & Abner

Fred Schacht swept up all three scripts for *I Love a Mystery* by Carlton E Morse, donated by Millie
continued on next page

Morse: "Murder on February Island," "You'll Be Dead in a Week" and "The Cobra King Strikes Back Vol. 1 and 2." Phil Hughes prevailed over other bidders on an AKAI GX-210D reel-to-reel tape recorder/player donated by Andy & Vi Anderson. A GE Superadio III, contributed by Frank and Anna Denton, left Showcase with John Jensen.

Over at the REPS Store, Showcase attendees bought 105 of the MP3 discs being sold on con-

signment from theRadioLady.com. As a result, \$210 of the proceeds stayed with REPS to help defray Showcase costs.

Neal Shulman served as the go-to guy for auction donations. Mary Fichtenberg and Liz Roach helped out on the auction and handled REPS Store sales throughout Showcase. They were joined by Anna Denton to wrap up the auction, total up bids and get the items to their new owners.

A big thank you goes to **donors** of Silent Auction items: Don Allen, Andy & Vi Anderson, Dick Beals, Donald Buka, Terry Campbell, Frank & Anna Denton, Ray & Meridy Erlenborn, Don Estep, First Generation Radio Archives, Walden Hughes, John Jensen, Esther McVey, Millie Morse, REPS, Frank Rosin, Liz Roach, Barbara Schwarz, Sam Simone, Duane White, Dan Wigger, Jerry & Barbara Williams and Harlan Zinck.

And to the **buyers**: Ken Bertrand, Kim Bragg, Bill Buckley, Terry Campbell, Ron Carlson, Shaun Clary, Michael & Linda Comstock, Diane Estep, Mary Fichtenberg, Bruce Forsberg, Al Gil, Gary Hagan, Phil Hughes, Charlotte Jensen, John Jensen, Ken Korhonen, Don Lacky, Louis Legg, Steven Lewis, Rhea Lutton, Ginger Malmer, Brent Martin, Sharon Richards, Fred Schacht, Joan Selvig, Neal Shulman, Mark Skullerud, David Speelman, Hal Stone, Ivan Walsh, John Warmington, John Watkins, Ivan Watson and Duane White.

How Many Times and How Many Ways Can We Say Thanks?

by Mike Sprague, Showcase Chairman

It will never be enough! We set out to enjoy **The Good Ol' Days** with some Good Ol' friends doing some Good Ol' shows. We also were determined to revisit the Showcase philosophy laid out back at Showcase #1: if the honorary members are treated well and if they have a good time ... so will everyone else.

With some really nice things being said by the professionals and not having received one negative piece of feedback from the convention goers, it would seem that it all came together the way it should.

Thanks, Honorary Members!

You do honor us with your presence, your talent and your willingness to pitch in and do darned near anything. We stand in awe of what you can do and are sincerely thankful that you came, you performed, and you conquered.

This hobby would be enjoyable if all we had was

a bunch of cassettes or cd's to listen to. But, it is so much richer and more alive because you are willing to share with us — in person.

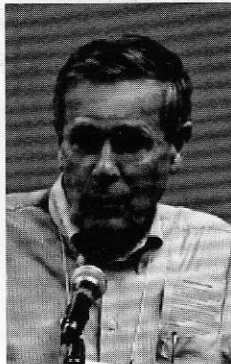
Please remember, whenever you put on your Honorary member jacket, all of us at REPS are putting our arms around you for one more hug! You're really special to us.

Thanks, Volunteers!

We're told, and believe, that there is no OTR gathering anywhere with as many volunteers taking part of the load as we have.

And, it is not just the work-load, it is the spirit of the volunteers. Everyone feels it and it makes such a difference. That is evidenced by the many comments we receive.

There were lots of stressful moments along the road to Showcase as well as during and following the gathering. What grace and class you showed as these were dealt with. Thanks to each of you, stars in your own right.



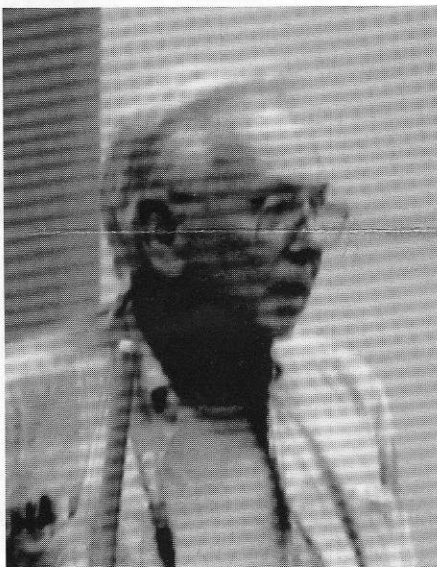
Volunteers The following people gave of their time to make Showcase a success.

Larry Albert, Andy Anderson, Dick Beals, Bob Blume, Bill Brooks, Bob Cardenas, Terry Campbell, Terrence Chriest, Michael Comstock, Archie Cress, Bill Davies, Anna Denton, Frank Denton, Jim Dolan, Mary Fichtenberg, Pat Garner, Cheri & Bryan Haigood, Richard Haviland, Gerry Hollinger, Walden Hughes, Jim Jansen, John Jensen, Ken Korhonen, Rhea Lutton, Terry Mahoney, Bill Parker, David Persson, Sharon Richards, Elizabeth Roach, Frank Rosin, Paul Secord, David Selvig, Glenn Sisson, Neal Shulman, Mark Skullerud, Dave Speelman, Mike Sprague and Bob Walker.

There are so many doing so much. It is possible that you volunteered and we have omitted your name. Sure hope not, but if so, please forgive us.

Volunteer of the Year ... Frank Rosin

“It is unlikely that anyone really knows everything that Frank Rosin has done for the club during this past year. It is almost unbelievable.” These were a few of the words offered by President Dick Beals at the time of the award during Showcase 2005.



Here are some of the many duties taken on by this tireless worker: **Treasurer, Registration Table Coordinator, CD/tape producer** during script preparation time, **Archie Andrews CD set originator and overseer, site investigator, transportation provider, sound effects coordinator/transporter/artist.**

Commented Showcase Chair Mike Sprague: “I’ve been in the club since before it was a club. Never have I seen anyone take on so many really important tasks and do them so well and so harmoniously.”

From all of us, Frank THANK YOU!

The entire program was terrific, but the menu and quality of the food at the Saturday night dinner can only be described as absolutely GREAT! Neal Shulman

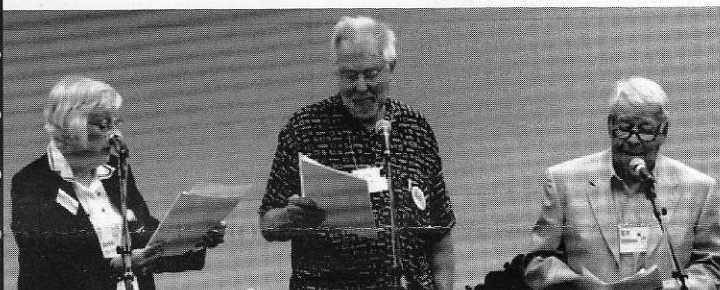
Editor’s Note Thank you to each one who contributed to this issue. Most of the pictures were taken by Frank Rosin and Bob Walker. Six disposable cameras were also used ... thanks Penny, Millie, Gerry, Brent, Sean and Liz. Bill Parker, Barbara Schwarz and Dave Selvig greatly enhanced the information on several of the activities. Thanks for your input. Many of you sent your comments and impressions of Showcase to me. I also took comments from the OTR Digest. Each contribution is greatly appreciated.

Aside from all the wonderful panels and recreations at Showcase 2005, my fondest memory is the two hours my friend Sean and I spent Saturday morning chatting with Bill Idelson. The one thing I've treasured most about all the OTR conventions I've gone to is the chance to actually see some of my favorite voices of the golden age of radio perform their signature roles in person. So to see Bill Idelson recreate his role of "Rush" was wonderful. But to then spend two hours sitting and talking with the man about his life, his work, and his experiences with such people as Paul Rhymer and Carlton E. Morse ... that, by itself, would have made the trip to Seattle from New Jersey worthwhile. Steve Lewis

They say that laughter is good for the soul. The best thing about Showcase 2005 was that it gave me many opportunities to laugh because there was plenty of comedy and humor throughout the weekend. I have never laughed so hard as I did when Bill Idelson as Rush Gook was explaining to his mother Sade how to order underwear by mail. Dave (Selvig)

Vic and Sade

With REPS being quite honored, the only Rush ever, **Bill Idelson**, headed the two *Vic and Sade* shows. He was joined by Anna Denton as Sade and the truly incomparable **Frank Buxton** as Vic. In show number one on Friday, Mr. Idelson had pulled together segments of several very early shows that told the story of how Rush was adopted into the Gook family. Many tears in the room and on the stage. Then, on Saturday, the family had one of those routine days. Rush brought home a dog, which he named Mr. Albert R. Johnson. There wasn't anything usual about this dog – couldn't even wag his tail. David Selvig was the announcer. In a surprise to all on Saturday night, **Bill Idelson** and his wife Seema brought down the house with one more two-minute piece from the show.



Anna Denton, Frank Buxton and Bill Idelson in *Vic & Sade*

Up Close with ... Bill Idelson

Barbara Schwarz opened the session by informing the audience of Bill Idelson's career from his beginnings on radio in Chicago in 1931 through his many radio performances in other radio programs and his progression into television as a performer as well as a writer and producer.

With Bill's help we talked about the fact that the program was on so early in the day that NBC really didn't know if any one was listening to this sustaining program in the very early days. However, a trial sponsorship by a margarine company had to be withdrawn after 8 weeks ...



Barbara Schwarz, president of Friends of Vic and Sade

the audience response was so great the manufacturer had to withdraw because they could not keep up with the demand for their product.

Bill chose the script for Saturday afternoon in which he introduced a very early "character" that Paul Rhymer used in early scripts, "Mr. Johnson". It was obvious that Bill had very fond memories for this event.

Bill shared some memories of Bernardine Flynn, Art Van Harvey, Clarence Hartzell, and Paul Rhymer. His memories were warm and gave the audience a number of reasons to laugh.

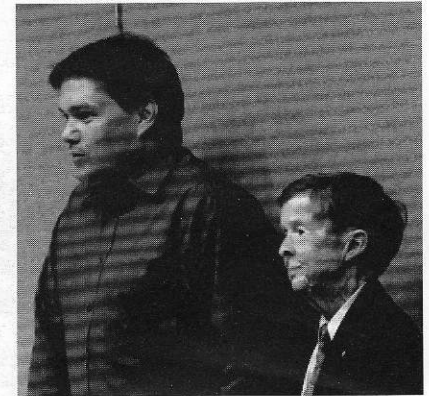
The Adventures of Frank Race

"The Pharaoh's Staff." Finding themselves in Egypt, Race (**Donald Buka**) and sidekick Mark Donovan (**Gil Stratton, Jr.**) solve the mystery — as always. The cast was such a good one, with **Bill Idelson**, **Dick Beals**, **Esther McVey**, Bryan Haigood and well known Seattle television personality, Susan Hutchison. And, original announcer **Art Gilmore** phoned in his announcing chores from his home in California. The music was a challenge and Jim Jansen was up to it for sure. Sound effects were produced by David Persson and Bryan Haigood, with direction coming from **Dick Beals**.



Donald Buka, Susan Hutchinson and Esther McVey

Billy Idelson was a great addition, a talented, extremely personable and humble man who has accomplished much after his Vic and Sade days. Donald Buka was another interesting guy, with some real high points in his movie career, especially Watch On The Rhine, and Let's Pretend, too. Of course. Jim and Pat French did their usual great job and Larry Albert had a few tricks up his sleeve. Stan Claussen



Bryan Haigood, left, and Dick Beals take in the action

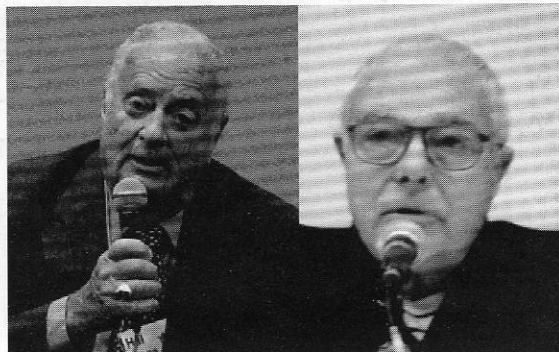
What a warm and friendly bunch of people. I've had a superb time and truly hope to be invited back again. I feel like I've missed much by not having come before. And, your organization is most impressive. Thanks for having me! Donald Buka

Up Close with ... Donald Buka

Host Hal Stone described Donald Buka as "one of the premiere radio actors I've ever had the pleasure of working with". It all began, Donald told us, when at the age of ten his parents gave him two alternatives: "dancing school or elocution school. Elocution sounded exciting."

This led to an audition with Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontaine, resulting in "two imaginative, creative years with them," and a role in Robert Sherwood's play There Shall Be No Night.

After that, Donald says, "Hunger came ... I then tried to get into radio in New York, but



Hal Stone (left) interviewed Don Buka

for a while nothing happened." Then a call came from Charles Warburton at the Blue Network. Through Warburton, Donald learned radio technique and won a role at Let's Pretend at the relatively late age of 17.

We had a chance to see a video of Donald's stirring finale scene with Miss Davis in Watch on the Rhine, as well as a clip from The Street with No Name, where Donald, playing a hoodlum, crashes through a window and is gunned down by the police. "Actually they filmed me moving up to the window, and a stunt man went through it."

X Minus One “The Lifeboat Mutiny.” **Bob Hastings** and **Donald Buka** both did many of the *X Minus One* shows when it was on the air. And, they did a great job on this one, as did director **Dick Beals** when he became the robotic voice of the space lifeboat. It was jokingly observed that the audience should have been more participative, eating some of the well described Drone food “**geisel**” and in joining in on the Drone national anthem. There was more ad-libbing in this show than in any other in memory and it added to the fun flavor. Sound effects came from Frank Rosin and Bryan Haigood with music at the Drone keyboard, provided by **Esther McVey**.



Randy McMillan shows Esther McVey how to play the Drone keyboard!



The audience thoroughly enjoys the action

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 The REPS convention was the BEST. Other conventions have been good, but this was the very best! Thanks for all the hard work. It was well-organized, and ran like "clockwork." I always enjoy seeing my friends, and making new ones — and the REPS group is warm and friendly. Thank you for a wonderful weekend.  
 Catherine Passarelli

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 Great convention ... I have never been to a bad one ... I went to all of the sessions and recreations ... loved them all. Great work by the volunteers Special thanks to Dick Beals and Mike Sprague for their personal sacrifices and leadership.
 Bill Buckley

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 Showcase was much more relaxed and slower paced than previously. No one (except maybe Mike Sprague) seemed to be frantically running around. Even things at the registration table seemed less hectic. A comfortable atmosphere.  
 Mary (Fichtenberg)

It was, as always, a pleasure to attend the 2005 Showcase and see so many of my REPS friends and associates. This year, it was particularly nice to meet and, briefly, work with some of the radio veterans who gave so generously of their time and talents to make the event a resounding success. In particular, I felt privileged to meet Donald Buka and Bob Hastings ... As a long-time fan of *Vic & Sade*, it was also a pleasure to meet Bill Idelson ... Likewise, it was a delight to chat once again with Hal Stone and be directed by the multi-talented Dick Beals, whom I hope one day to work with again,

The **Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound** continues to be a class act ... This Showcase demonstrated once again their dedication to not only the art and era of old time radio, but also their desire to bring the best of the best to all of the radio enthusiasts who religiously attend each and every Showcase.

Many thanks -- and high hopes for many more delightful Showcases in the years to come!  
 Harlan Zinck, First Generation Radio Archives

## Archie Andrews

this show was a major hit. **Pat French, Jim French, Annie Whitfield Phillips, Frank Buxton** and **Larry Albert** rounded out the cast in this hilarious episode. The floorwalker, who couldn't possibly keep the confusing situation straight, announced with glee that it was 5:00 and the store was closing! The cast did a great job of talking all at the same time in the big wrap-up. **Randy & Chris McMillan** provided music while **Ray Erlenborn** and **David Persson** attended to the sound effects.

The original stars made generous comments afterward, stating "This is the best cast and the best production of Archie we have ever done, on the air or at a convention!" High praise for all.



I had a fun time, and again, thoroughly enjoyed working with some great pros. My thanks to all my former *Archie* program cohorts (Bob and Rosemary) for making our production of *Archie* go so smoothly. But special thanks to some other really top notch talent to round out the cast: like Jim & Pat French (a great Mr. & Mrs. Andrews), Frank Buxton, who stole the show as the Department store "Floorwalker", and Annie Whitfield was great as "Veronica". And lest we forget, the beautifully rendered theme music and bridges by Randy and Chris McMillan. Rounding out this stellar cast, we had my bud Larry Albert as the Announcer. They all made my directing that epic like a stroll in the park.

Hal (Harlan) Stone, "Jughead"

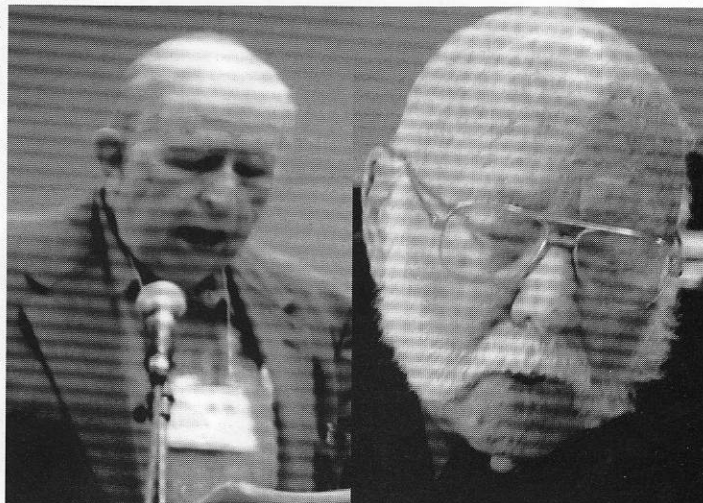


REPS is the first OTR gathering I have ever attended. As a person nervous about clubs and assemblages of any sort, I was suspicious of the great times reported by attendees of various gatherings of this sort. I was wrong. REPS was an extraordinary experience. Great actors (who are also great people), great entertainment, a great learning experience -- all that and a lot more.

I had the opportunity to meet several of the actors and to visit with them: Hal Stone, Donald Buka, Esther McVey, Gil Stratton, Jr. and others. Yes, kind, thoughtful people. Oh, yes, to answer a question, he (Hal) can still do the Jughead voice

Still in awe, John Warmington

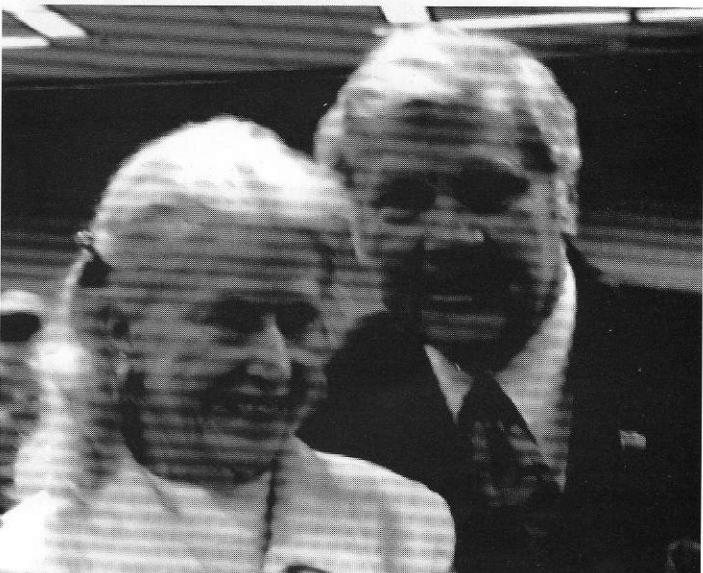
"Christmas Shopping." Starring original cast members **Hal Stone** (who also directed), **Rosemary Rice** and **Bob Hastings**,



Jim French as Mr. Andrews; Ray Erlenborn studying his script to prepare for his "magic" on sound effects



Annie Whitfield as Veronica; Larry Albert as the announcer

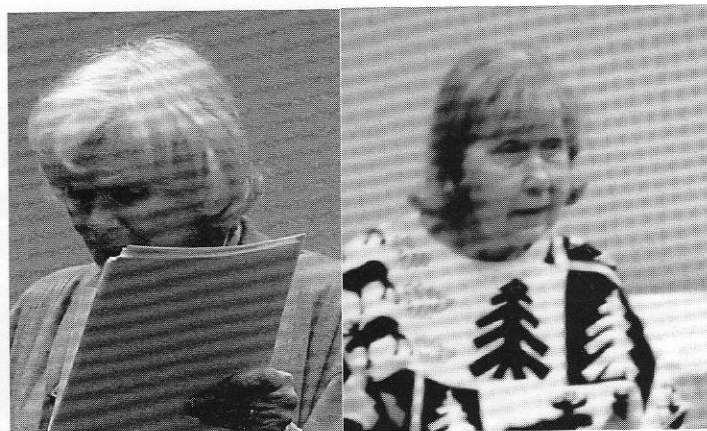


Original cast members: Rosemary Rice & Bob Hastings



## Imagination Theatre

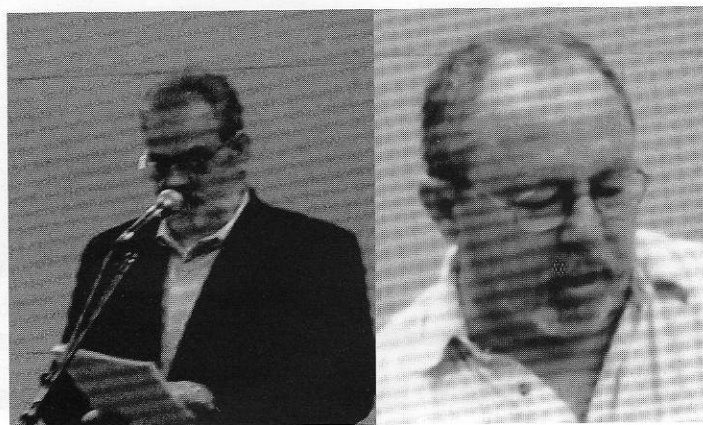
“A Bag of Money.” With Larry Albert in his role of Harry Nile, Mrs. Packard (**Alice Backes**) hires him to investigate the kidnapping of Sherwood, her nephew. Unfortunately, Harry’s fears turn out to be true – the kidnapping was a set-up by Carlos (Bill Brooks) and his lover (**Esther McVey**). **Pat French**, **Rosemary Rice** and **Dave Selvig** rounded out the cast with **Kate McNight** making her debut. **Neal Shulman** was the announcer, **David Persson** did his usual outstanding job on live sound effects and **Bob Cardenas** handled the recorded sound effects. Naturally, the highly creative **Jim French** oversaw the entire production. The studio version of this show will air in September on 130 syndicated stations.



Pat French, left, and Alice Backes in *Adventures of Harry Nile*



Kate McNight and David Persson



Carlos (Bill Brooks) sets up a kidnapping investigated by Harry Nile (Larry Albert)

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## Some Good Ol' Days at REPS

Paul Secord hosted a panel of several charter members of REPS: **Mike Sprague**, **Andy Anderson**, **Mark Skullerud** and **Frank Denton**. They were all there before REPS was REPS.

After a few minutes of reflection on those early days and events with the group, Paul shared some video clips which featured some of our OTR friends who aren't with us anymore. A little emotional were the glimpses of **John Archer**, **Parley Baer**, **Sam Edwards**, **Merrill Mael** and others.

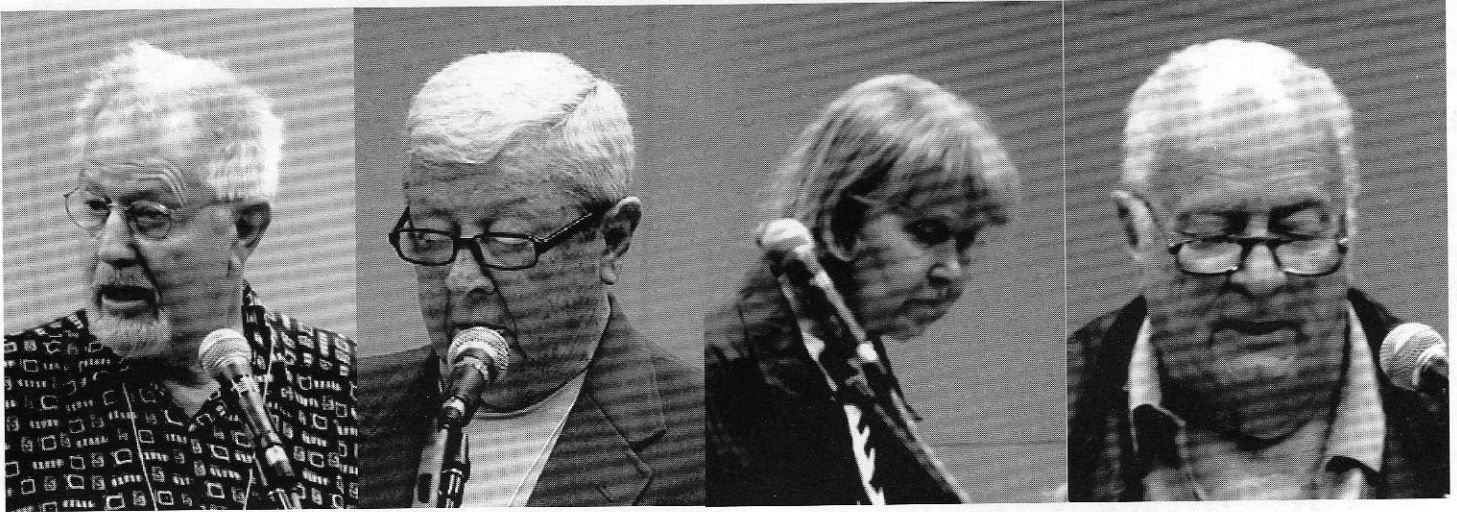
It is planned to use more of these in the future, given the very positive reactions and feedback.

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## Number Please

In addition to having **Art Gilmore** on the phone during the *Frank Race* re-creation, the club had arranged to call three honorary members who couldn't be with us: **Herb Ellis**, **Norma Jean Nilsson** & **Rhoda Williams**. These were brief but heartwarming. REPS later learned that some folks who heard us on Yesterday USA called up Herb to encourage him as he works to get stronger. That's special.

**Romance** "Bloodthirsty Kate." **Alice Backes** was in the title role and **Hal Stone** was her nemesis, with both being pirate captains. A most impressive cast, consisting of **Dick Beals, Rosemary Rice, Frank Buxton, Donald Buka** and **Gil Stratton, Jr.** made this a high energy and funny show. The sound effects crew of **Ray Erlenborn, David Persson** and **Frank Rosin** had a splendid opportunity to display their vast skills in this re-creation, with **John Jensen** doing the announcing. Dynamic nautical music came from **Randy & Chris McMillan**. Directed by **Larry Albert**.



Left to right: Frank Buxton, Gil Stratton, Jr., Alice Backes and Hal Stone

Just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed this year's festivities. We all had fun.  
Warm regards. Gil Stratton, Jr.

## Bob and Ray Re-Visited

**The Good Ol' Days** Showcase kicked off with **Bob Hastings** and **Hal Stone**, bringing us comedy by Bob and Ray. Radio favorites of the 50s and 60s, Bob Elliott and Ray Goulding presented their unique brand of comedy in a format perfectly tailored to radio, after the advent of television. Although Ray died in 1980, Bob is still living at the age of 81.

The **Messrs. Hastings and Stone** had great fun portraying these characters in some of their most hilarious roles. For example:

**Biff Burns** interviewing Big Steve, World's Champion Low Jumper. "I stand in high places and see how low I can jump. I jump mostly into concrete or asphalt. Grass is OK, as long as it hasn't been softened by moisture."

**Wally Ballou** interviews a small manufacturer of paper clips, all hand made. They sell for 19

cents a box. The average worker is paid 14 cents a week.

The Bob and Ray **Annoying Habit of the Month**. Entries guaranteed to attract attention at parties. "Like butting in to finish other people's sentences. Now I drown out others' conversations by flapping my arms and making bird calls." Send your entry to Bob and Ray, Constant Annoyance, New York.

**Neil Clunk**, editor of Wasting Time Magazine, interviews Mr. Biddle whose hobby is searching for ships lost by the U.S. Navy, using a metal detector. If he hears a loud clicking on the headset, he may be near a navy ship. He confirms this by looking up to see if he's near a big, gray-painted boat.

The is only a taste of the fun we had at **Bob and Hal's** presentation.



## Twosomes on Radio

This took the place of the popular cold read as the first activity of Saturday morning:

The timing of Larry Albert and Bill Brooks for "Who's on First?" by Abbot and Costello was incredible.

Was that **Bob Hastings** snoring in *The Bickersons* with **Rosemary Rice**?

**Esther McVey** and **Rosemary Rice** brought us the Copper Clapper Caper from *Dragnet*.

**Esther McVey** and **Gil Stratton, Jr.** completed this feature with *Ethel and Albert* discussing another of life's everyday events.



Gil Stratton, Jr. and Rosemary Rice

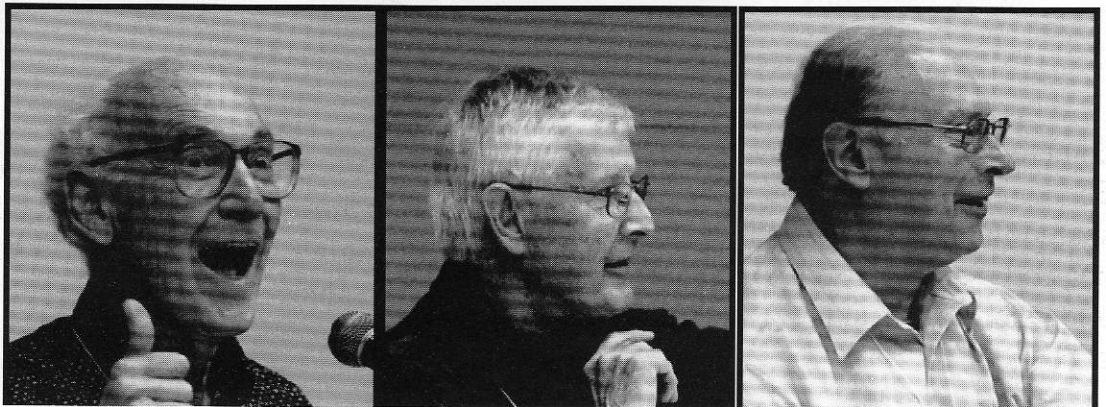
## Cowboys & Cookies

Do you remember coming home from school and listening to the COWBOY shows on the radio while having milk and COOKIES. Bill Parker, Bill Davies, and Dave Selvig shared their memories of the western adventures for kids including *The Lone Ranger*, *Bobby Benson* and the *B-Bar-B Riders*, *Roy Rogers*, *Red Ryder*, and *The Tom Mix Ralston Straightshooters*.

According to J. Fred MacDonald in his book Don't Touch That Dial, these shows were about a lot more than just western adventures and selling cereal.

They stood for values of honesty, fairness, goodness, and compassion. An example of this was Gene Autry's Cowboy Code that he composed in 1951.

The Showcase audience listened to opening themes from some of the shows, heard about favorite shows, and participated in a trivia quiz to name the cowboy star's horse and sidekick.



Left to right: Bill Parker, Dave Selvig and Bill Davies

## Radio Potpourri

Jim Dolan, (**Radio Entertainment Network**), Walden Hughes, (**Yesterday USA**) and Harlan Zinck (**First Generation Radio Archives**) were given the opportunity to briefly share about what they are doing in the Old-Time Radio community. Dave Selvig spoke about some REPS activities: "REPS Presents ..." on the REN network and REPS program for churches, nursing homes and clubs. Mike Sprague acknowledged all the different clubs represented.

## Musical Entertainment



Randy & Chris McMillan showed another side of their personalities with their singing abilities as they contributed to the theme with music from **The Good Ol' Days**. And, maybe for the first time in Showcase history, there were some jitterbugging folks in the back of the room.

We did not capture a photo of the highly talented musician Jim Jansen who has become a regular part of REPS events.

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### Up Close with ... Bob Hastings.



Walden Hughes, Yesterday USA stalwart, asked Bob about his days on radio and television.

Bob stated that when he was discharged from the armed forces suits were hard to get due to the vast number of men needing them so he went to the audition for *Archie Andrews* in his uniform.

When asked about working on television, Bob said that he thought Phil Silvers could never be replaced and that as second banana to Joe Flynn (*McHale's Navy*) you "don't break up" no matter what is happening.

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### Improv Radio

Frank Buxton and members of "The Edge" delighted the audience with everything from the made-up radio soap opera Gum on the Bedpost to the musical Utah. Never heard of these programs? Well, see what you missed!! It is doubtful that there has ever been so much prolonged laughter at any REPS gathering, with audience members holding on to their sides, their chairs or both. *The group is available for professional engagements.*

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When Hal talks about the *Archie* recreation at the REPS Showcase this year he leaves out the important part regarding just how much fun it was to watch the interaction between himself, Rosemary Rice and Bob Hastings. To me it seemed as if they'd never been apart and that the show was still on the air. What made that recreation especially enjoyable was the fact that every part in the program was played by an experienced professional and to my ear the quality of the performances was of broadcast level. How I did as the announcer is open to debate, but I know I was loud. Boy was I loud!

I give kudos to my friend Hal for his fine work in the *Romance* recreation under some adverse conditions. If anyone ever tells you that radio

acting is static then they didn't see Hal buckle his swash as Long John Silver type pirate. The fact that he wasn't completely exhausted after that is amazing.

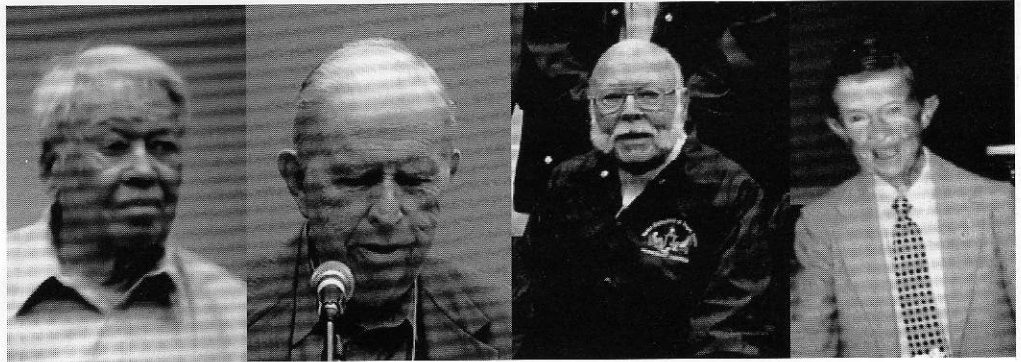
We had Rosemary and Alice Backes come out to our studio early in the morning on the first day and record an episode of *Harry Nile* with us. They were both a joy to work with, and turned in fine work.

If any of you out there attend the conventions in the east and Donald Buka is going to be there don't miss a chance to talk to him. He was always ready and willing to discuss his career in films, stage and radio. A most affable man.

Larry Albert



## Just Sittin' Around and Visiting



Left to right: Bill Idelson, Jim French, Ray Erlenborn and Dick Beals

This is a chance for the Old-Time Radio Stars to answer questions. Mike Sprague started it off with a question for each of the participants ... **Hal Stone, Dick Beals, Gil Stratton, Jr., Donald Buka, Alice Backes, Ray Erlenborn, Jim French, Bill Idelson and Rosemary Rice.** Now it was time for the audience ... anything you ever wanted to ask these stars ... oops – you missed your chance.

*Showcase this year was both relaxing and loads of fun - and after finally getting to meet Hal Stone face-to-face, I've decided that it is entirely appropriate to name my next kid after him. :-)* What Larry Albert failed to mention about Hal's amazing swashbuckling was that immediately before that performance, he was giving dance demonstrations in the back of the room for a goodly amount of time, and after that sprinting across the room to hug sweet little old ladies! And I thought my goats had energy! Don Strong

I had a wonderful time last week end at REPS' convention. This makes 21 times I been to an OTR convention and the first time for REPS. The club lives up to their high standard of being a warm and friendly group. Mike is a wonderful chairman and all the volunteers do a great job. Mike and the board allowed **Yesterday USA** to broadcast many of the events live.

I received wonderful responses from listeners and the REPS web site received an increased number of hits over the week end. The memories I will carry with me are: *Archie Andrew* re-creation with Hal Stone, Bob Hastings, Rosemary Rice, and Annie Whitfield and Dick Beals directing; *Frank Race* re-creation and having Art Gilmore do his part over the telephone because he could not make the convention this year ... Billy Idelson hosting a look back of *Vic and Sade*; and Hal hosting the Donald Buka interview and Donald



Kim Bragg & Walden Hughes

crying after seeing some of his past movie highlights.

I enjoyed the chance of interviewing Bob Hastings for REPS. Mike did a wonderful job of hosting the Just Sitting Around and Visiting. Dick Beals

told a great story about his memories of Margaret Truman on the *Railroad Hour* and sharing that her password for her two body guard was "I Like Ike." These are just some of my memories.

It was a lot of fun for me to meet many of the members of REPS, sharing good times with Hal Stone, and Bob Hastings. I am very glad my friend Bryan Haigood wanted me to come.

I will be at FOTR this year in October. Jay and the gang do a great job back in NJ. This should be a fun convention because the group will be celebrating 30 years.

Take care, Walden Hughes



## INSIDE REPS

Your Board of Directors has been busy since Showcase 2005 last month. The response to Showcase was overwhelming and at the first Board Meeting after Showcase a decision was made to reserve the Seattle Center Rooms for 2006. We were assured the buildings will still be there at least for 2006. Depending on the pending-nonpending monorail project, 2006 may be the last one at the Seattle Center. We will know more about 2007 next year. **Set your stopwatches for June 23 and 24, 2006 when we will do Showcase 2006.**

This August issue of *Aircheck* is always a little larger because of Showcase. Next month we will be getting back to our regular size and monthly

schedule of 10 issues a year. Normally we skip the issues in July and December.

There is no insert of the latest additions to the Cassette and CD Library in this issue. That doesn't mean the library has been idle. More episodes of *Weird Circle* have been added to the CD Library as well as 90 episodes of *Tales of the Texas Rangers*. In the works being duplicated as fast as we can are more *Suspense*, *Gunsmoke*, and *Dangerous Assignment*. Check the REPS web page for the latest. [www.repsonline.org](http://www.repsonline.org)

Sep 3, 05 Membership Meeting, Norse Home  
 Sep 17, 05 Picnic, Anderson's (see next page)  
 Oct 1, 05 Membership Meeting, Norse Home



# REPS PICNIC

VI AND DARRELL ANDERSON'S HOME

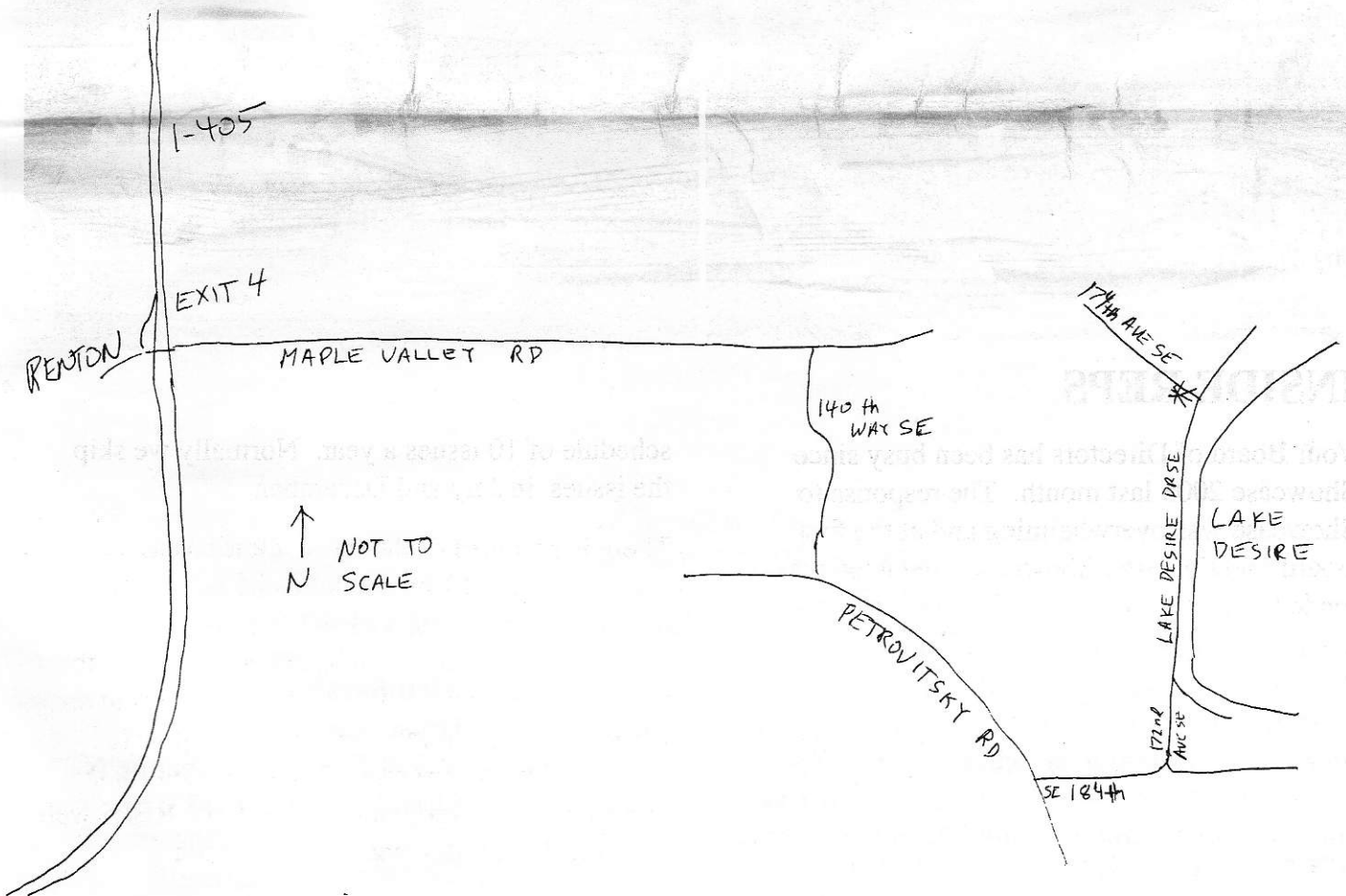
SEPTEMBER 17, 2005, SATURDAY

NOON POTLUCK PICNIC LUNCH

17232 174TH AVE SE  
RENTON WA 98058  
425-226-7005

Please call ahead to let Anderson's know you are coming and to coordinate lunch items.

A CD of 2 uncirculated programs from the REPS Archives for every family that attends. Calling ahead will let us know how many CDs to prepare.





**REPS**

**Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound**  
9811 NE 139th St, Kirkland WA 98034-1806

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

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