

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

Old Time Radio is Alive and Well in the Puget Sound Area

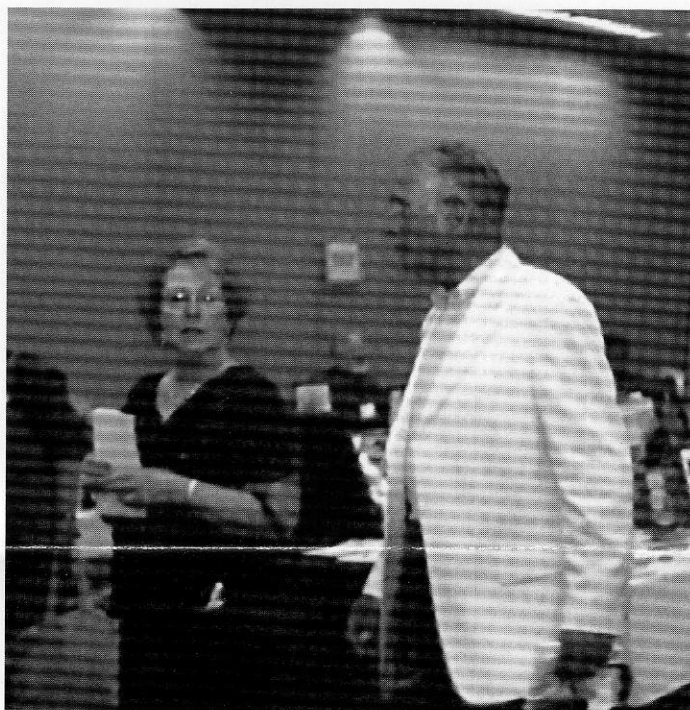
The voices of old time radio are being heard in senior centers, retirement facilities, clubs and other organizations throughout the Puget Sound area as a result of a community outreach program sponsored by REPS, the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound.

The program is offered to groups and organizations through the area at no cost.

The One hour program, presented live, focuses on a series of recorded cuts from some of the most remembered programming from the golden Age of Radio. From after school serials, daytime soaps, mystery, comedy and adventure shows, to big bans, news and sports, there is something for everybody. The recorded cuts are interspersed with lively banter, historical notes about the programming, radio trivia, and the opportunity for questions and comments from the audience.

The program, presented by Neal Shulman, a retired attorney and past REPS President, and his co-presenter, Linda Schulman, is seen and heard by up to four different groups or organizations each month. "The reward," says Shulman, "is the smiles on the faces of the audience as they fondly recall times past when radio played a major role in family life and was the center for entertainment, sports, and news."

Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound, REPS, is a non profit club made up of individuals interested in sharing, preserving, and re-creating programs from the golden



Age of Radio. The club meets at 2 PM on the first Saturday of each month (except July) at the Norse Home on Phinney Avenue North, across from Woodland Park in Seattle. By bus, it is Metro route #5 Phinney.

For more information about REPS and their community outreach programs, check out the web site at --> www.repsonline.org <--. If you would like to schedule a program for a senior center, retirement facility, club, or other organization, please contact Neal Shulman directly by phone at 425-488-9010 or by e-mail at --> JNJShulman@aol.com <--.

It's fun, and it's FREE.

Look for the Showcase 2006 issue of Aircheck in the next issue toward the end of August 2006.

1 Neal Shulman, Radio is Alive
2 Playing My Song
3 President's Message

4 Playing My Song continued
5-6-7-8 CD Library
9 REPS Picnic August 19

10 CD Library News
11 Rumble Seat, Cartoon
12 Contacts, Coming Events

Playing My Song

Two summers ago I took a trip from Bellingham to Juneau via the Alaska Marine Highway, a series of ferries that travel along Alaska's Inside Passage. The voyage is through hundreds of miles of islands and fjords and it's some of the most glorious country on God's deep green earth, but entertainment options are mostly limited to whatever books you've brought in your luggage.

Except for the pianos.

Decades ago a musically-minded booster donated several pianos to the state of Alaska so that each ferry could have its own piano bar. Usually these beauties sit untouched, dust-covered and forlorn. But on the second night out of Bellingham, I'd no sooner ordered



a drink from the bar when into the room came an older but vibrant gentleman who proceeded to launch into a medley of "Indigo Blue," "Stardust," and "Harbor Lights."

He played with more feeling than precision, but seeing as my own piano ability reached a high-water mark in fifth grade with "Mr. Frog Is Full of Hops," it was good enough for me. Afterwards he announced to the half-filled bar, "any requests?"

"Blue Skies!" I suggested. He launched into it with a comfortable familiarity.

"Any more requests?"

"Ain't Misbehavin'!" I volunteered. He did even better with this, then repeated his question to the bar, but no one else answered.

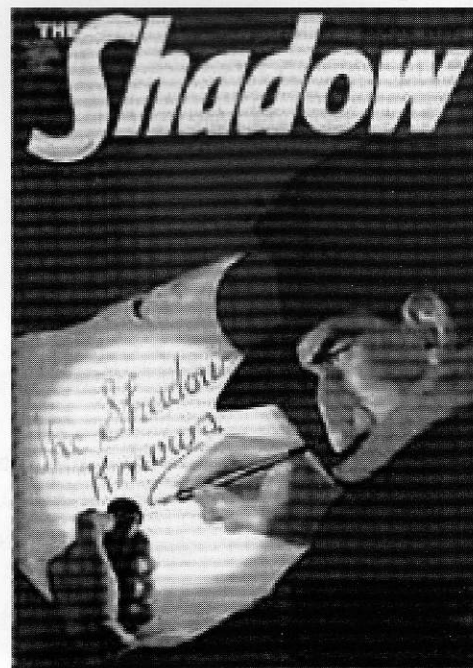
"Quarter to Three! 'I'll Be Seeing You!' 'Indian Love Call!'" I volunteered. He turned and looked at me. His eyes narrowed suspiciously. Then he barked, "How old are you?"

"39," I answered. He stared for a moment.

He shook his head. "Huh." Then, puzzled but only briefly affronted at my relative youth, he began sounding out "Quarter to Three."

My popular tastes are about sixty years out of date. Not just music from the '30s and '40s, but comedians, movie stars, even politicians from the period are often more familiar to me than those that surround me now. Thanks to my obsession with Old Time Radio, I live out of my own generation.

When I was a kid, my Mom used to be slightly creeped out by my ability to recite commercials she only dimly remembered from her own youth. I'd walk through the living room, proclaiming "LSMFT! Lucky Strike Means Fine Tobacco!" like some sort of eerie Audrey-Rose-like reincarnate. I listened to every OTR album my local library had, and one Christmas my parents got me a grab-bag box from Radio Spirits, which included "Escape," "The Shadow," "Jack Benny," "The Green Hornet," and "the Fred Allen Show." I'd lie in bed, listening to them over and over on my cheap cassette player, enthralled. For me the shows weren't from another time, only another place, one I could almost touch through the static.



Goto page 4

President's Word

Dick Beals

With the laughter and the applause still ringing in our ears, your Officers and Directors are already making plans for the stars and re-creations and fun 'n games for June, 2007.

The Coast Bellevue Hotel awaits you, your favorite stars and out of town guests. It's beautiful and spacious guest rooms are just a few steps from the meeting rooms and the new "Show of Shows". Of course, there is plenty of free parking at The Coast Bellevue.

Now it's your turn. We want your ideas. Do you have a favorite western show such as *Gunsmoke*, *The*

was a Quiz Show, featuring the Stars vs. Members with Larry Albert as the Quiz Master.

Did we forget anything? Give us a jingle or drop us a note. Your every wish is our command.

Thanks again for supporting Showcase '06. Believe us when we say.....2007 will top them all. Stay tuned.



Lone Ranger, *Wild Bill Hickok*, *Cisco Kid*, or *Six Shooter*?

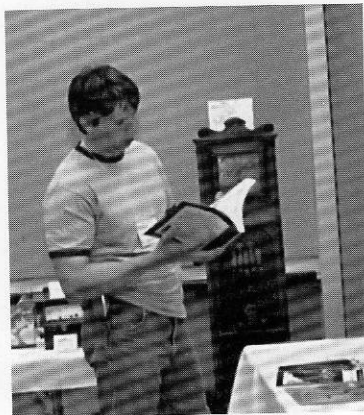
How about comedy with *Jack Benny*, *Fibber McGee and Molly*, *The Great Gildersleeve*, *Our Miss Brooks*, or *Meet Corliss Archer*? What ever you like we have the scripts.

How about you taking part in an "Up Close and Personal" show"?



Who would you pick for your favorite star? And speaking of stars, tell us who your favorite guests of honor were this last Showcase.

Some of you have requested that songs from Broadway musicals be featured. Others asked for a series of comedy routines. Another idea



AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

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

Volume 16, Number 1

July 2006



from page 3

It's not that I thought these old radio shows were "better than TV." I consumed cartoons, sit-coms, and prime-time trash like "Fantasy Island" with the same indiscriminate palate as my friends. And to be honest, the writing and acting on the old shows was as likely to be as slipshod and second-rate as most TV fare. (I never understood, for example, why the invisible Shadow always just stood there taunting his enemies, instead of shooting them or at least tying their shoelaces together).



But while it wasn't always better, radio was magnificently different from the predictability of our 14 inch color



Quasar. No matter what the special effects budget was for "Battlestar Galactica," my imagination outspent it. The voracious rats climbing up the lighthouse of "Three Skeleton

Key;" Jack Benny's treasured Maxwell (voiced by Mel Blanc), outsped by pedestrians and shedding parts with every cough and wheeze; TV just couldn't match them.

And as tight as Wilma Deering's jumpsuit was on TV's "Buck Rogers," when her radio counterpart's voice would drop an octave during an intimate scene, my pre-adolescent libido would leap like a trout.



So, alone among my same-age friends, I know all of the inhabitants of Allen's Alley, from Titus Mooney to Senator Claghorn. I know

that the Green Hornet, Britt Reid, is the grandson of Dan Reid, the Lone Ranger's sidekick. And I have followed Jack, Doc, and Reggie, heroes of Carleton E. Morse's legendary "I Love A Mystery," through probably every static-filled episode that still survives on tape.

But at times I've worried that OTR is an entertainment on the verge of extinction. My generation is more excited



by websites and DVD extras than the archaic pleasures of a half hour of radio. What can these old shows offer today's teenagers, for example?

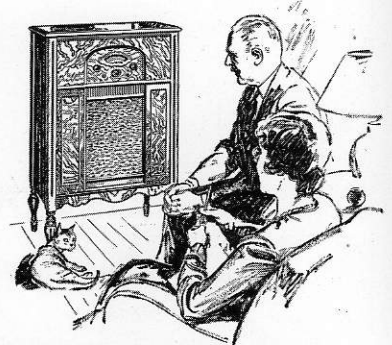
Two Christmases ago I found out. After dinner, my 15-year-old niece Jane pulled me into

her room to share one of her favorite presents, a collection of OTR Comedy tapes. She sat me on the bed and had me listen to a Baby Snooks show, where the world's most precocious tot goes on another doomed expedition with her Dad. Snooks (played by Vaudeville legend Fanny Brice) delivered a pause that Jack Benny would envy, and Jane fell back on her bed, laughing hysterically. "You hear that? That pause? THAT's comedy!" she said.

ATWATER KENT RADIO

with the GOLDEN VOICE

Looking at my niece I realized: despite being generations removed from these shows, they still spoke to her, moved her, made her laugh. Old Time Radio is playing her song. I needn't worry about the future of OTR. It will always be enjoyed and appreciated by a special, select audience. And I'm proud to be part of that audience, no matter what their age.



**"We always
feel so sure of it"**

REPS PICNIC AUGUST 19, 2006

Potluck at 2:00 pm

Darrel and Vi Anderson's home

Arrive a bit early to help set up and chat

17232 174th SE
Renton WA 98058

You may want to bring a folding chair

425-226-7005

Some older addresses may say

17254 Lake Desire Drive SE
It is the same place, PO changed addressing

Take I 405 toward Renton

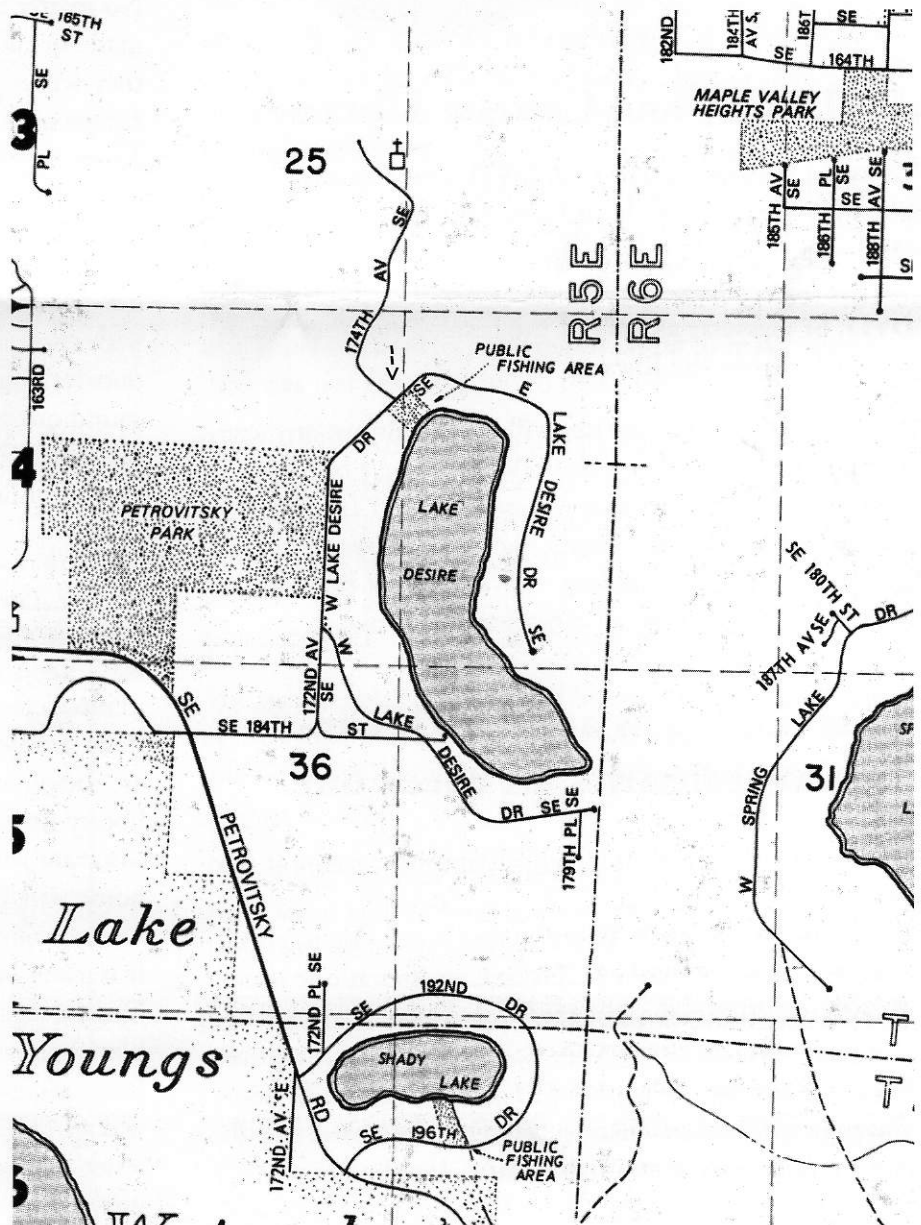
Turn East onto SE Maple Valley Hwy
(WA- 169)

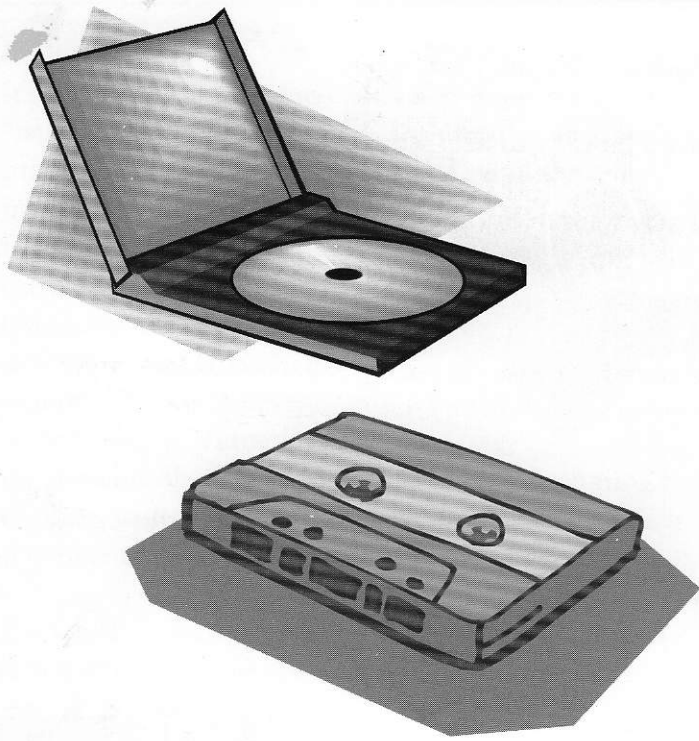
Turn right (south) onto 140th Way SE
(140th Way SE becomes 140th Ave SE)

Turn left (east) onto SE Petrovitsky RD

Turn left off SE Petrovitsky RD and

Follow map to Anderson's





DVD, CD, and Cassette Libraries

To avoid confusion, the CD, DVD, and Cassette libraries are completely independent of one another. A catalog number in one of them has no relationship to something in the other library. Be sure to indicate, CD, DVD, or Cassette as part of the catalog number when you order from the library.

Although CDs and Cassettes will play in almost any age or brand model of player, the DVDs can be a bit fussy. There are some players that will not play our DVDs. If you experience this, we would like to know the brand and model with the problem. We know that some of our DVDs will not play on an older Panasonic player.

Something new at the CD, and Cassette Libraries for check out.

Requests have been made to check out more items at one time.

A decision of the REPS Board makes it possible to check out double the amount of CDs or Cassettes at one time. Fill out two library request cards for double the amount of material and a check for \$12. The double request will be filled at one time.

You may continue to check out the regular amount with one request card for \$6 if you desire.

CD Library News

We have about 1500 CDs in the CD library now representing 3000 episodes of programs. Almost every CD in our library has been remastered and is in better sound quality than we probably heard when the program was on the air all those years ago.

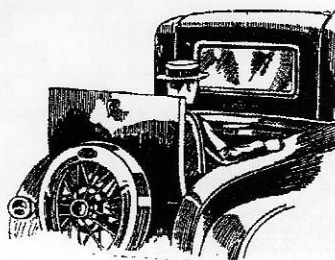
We have tried to put in larger runs or complete runs of each series if they have been available. Some of the series with long runs such as *Suspense*, *Gunsmoke* or the *Whistler* are in segments because they have not all been done up at once to be ready for the library. We will continue to include these episodes as they are made ready.

With a few exceptions there are some episodes that are not good sound quality. There are a few episodes of *Escape* that are simply not available in good quality sound. No matter what kind of attention to those episodes is made in computers and sound enhancement algorithms, they will never be good quality. The few poor episodes of *Escape* were included in the CD library to complete the *Escape* series which is a favorite of most people.

There are enough remastered CDs to include in the next few issues of Aircheck; it takes about 100 CDs to fill the 4 catalog pages. After that, we simply cannot keep up with enough remastered CDs. We will have to begin to transfer episodes from the reels of tape we have *as they are* sound quality wise to keep up. We will never knowingly put lesser quality on CDs without an explanation or an indication in the catalog however.

Series that will be coming from tape are *Gildersleeve*, *Red Skelton*, *Lux*, *Fibber McGee*, *Dennis Day*, *Mel Blanc*, and others as time permits them to be put onto CDs.

There were 108 episodes of *Halls of Ivy*. About 90 of them are available at the present time. Half of these 90 are the remastered quality of the CDs that are in the library now. The other half of the 90 are not remastered, some are very good, some listenable, and some from home wire recordings. These wire recordings cannot be made good but we would like to have them all available. It is a well written series by Don Quinn who helped the Jordans create *Fibber McGee and Molly*. He wrote word play that exists no where else. And how can you beat Ronald Coleman and Benita Hume as the stars. Those will all be going into the CD library, the good and the lesser listenable quality, with the lesser quality episodes marked.



Rumble Seat

Franz

Last month we gave the wrong date for Showcase 2007. The correct date will be June 22 and June 23, 2007. That is the Friday and Saturday of the third week of June. The Coast Hotel is a class facility and there is lots of free parking. As more details are formulated we will be giving updates here. The Coast Hotel is on a Metro Bus route and that map will be printed when we get closer to the date should you desire to go by bus.

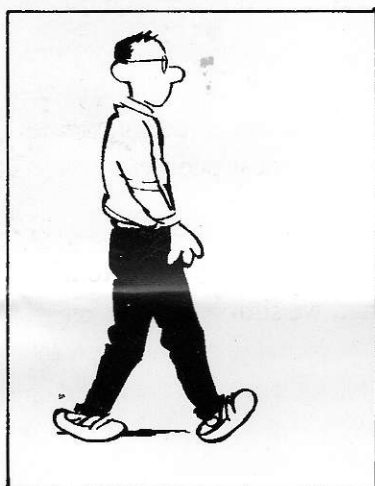
We have almost finished making backup CDs for our library. When that task is finished we will be able to offer a copy service for CDs in the library. Rather than check out a CD from the library we will make a copy on a blank CD for you to keep. The board has not made up a form for requests nor has it determined the costs. We will be letting you know how this will work toward the end of this summer. Of course, you may continue to use the library to check out CDs exactly as in the past. This does not apply to cassettes, we are not going to make copies of cassettes nor are we going to make CDs from cassettes.

The next issue of *Aircheck* will be our Showcase 2006 issue. David Van Meter and Michael Comstock took hundreds of photos for us to cover Showcase. It is going to be difficult to choose the ones to use. We put a sampling of photos of Showcase 2006 that Paul Secord took to illustrate Dick Beal's article in this issue on page 3.

The next regular meeting will be August 5, 2006 at 2 pm at the Norse Home Meeting Room. The board meeting will be at 6:30 pm at the Comfort Suits Board Room on August 4, 2006.

Remember the REPS Potluck Picnic on August 19, 2006 and Darrel and Vi Anderson's home near Lake Desire. Everyone is invited to come. Time, 2:00 pm.

Aircheck is created on a Mac G4 computer with *Adobe Indesign CS* and *Adobe Photoshop CS*. Most of the text is *Adobe Garamond Pro* at 12 points with the headlines at 12, 14 and 18 points bold. If you would like a copy on a CD, write to Frank Rosin, 9811 NE 139th St, Kirkland WA 98034.



AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bothell WA
Permit 227

9811 NE 139th St
Kirkland WA 98034

July 2006

Address Service Requested



Tom Brown
1402 S. Kahuna Dr
Spokane WA 99212-3258

President 2005-2006

Dick Beals
1741 David Drive
Escondido CA 92026-1616
760-747-2727 rbeals@cox.net

At Large 2006

Liz Roach
3536 43rd Ave W
Seattle WA 981/9-1804
206-282-2544 tneroach@juno.com

Vice President 2006-2007

Michael Comstock
31003 49th Place SW
Federal Way WA 98023-2004
253-838-5873
mvcom446@comcsast.net

At Large 2006 & Librarian

Vi Anderson
17232 174th SE
Renton WA 98058
425-226-7005

Treasurer 2005-2006

Frank Rosin
9811 NE 139th St
Kirkland WA 98034-1806
425-823-2812 frankr@eskimo.com

At Large 2006

Paul Secord
7633 NE 123rd Street
Kirkland WA 98034-2401
425-823-2547 pauks@earthlink.net

Schedule

August 4, 2006 Board Meeting, Comfort Suits,
6:30 pm

August 5, 2006 Regular Meeting, Norse Home
2:00 pm

August 19, 2006 Potluck Picnic at Anderson's,
2:00 pm, Directions on Page 9

Unless specified otherwise, Board Meetings are held in the Board Room of the Comfort Inn/Suits, Seattle, and start at 6:30 pm. Regular Membership Meetings are held at the Norse Home, Seattle, and start at 2:00 pm. That is the first Saturday of each Month.

This file including all text and images are from scans of a private personal collection and have been scanned for archival and research purposes. This file may be freely distributed, but not sold on ebay or on any commercial sites, catalogs, booths or kiosks, either as reprints or by electronic methods. This file may be downloaded without charge from the Radio Researchers Group website at <http://www.otrr.org/>

Please help in the preservation of old time radio by supporting legitimate organizations who strive to preserve and restore the programs and related information.