

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

THE EDGE IMPROV

www.theedgeimprov.com

Ken Ballenger - Our fearless leader founded The Edge and as such books improv gigs all over the Northwest. he is frequently seen in films and industrials and national commercials in addition to his endurance in insurance.

Frank Buxton - Frank has spent all his life in the entertainment business in one way or another. He has appeared in feature films, TV series and movies and here at The Bainbridge Island Playhouse in *Noises Off*, *Our Town*, *Music Man*, *My Fair Lady*, *You Can't Take it With You*, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and *Inspecting Carol*.

John Ellis - John has appeared on stage in *Noises Off*, *Annie*, *Born Yesterday*, and *Guys and Dolls* at the Playhouse. He has been acting since grade school. In high school his drama teacher assigned improv exercises as a punishment for tardiness, of all things. He was frequently late. John co-wrote (with Andrew Shields) the popular melodrama, *Harry Tracy*.

Cynthia Lair - Cynthia has worked as an actress in commercials, film, radio, and stage in New York and Seattle since it was cool for guys to wear

gold chains. She has a double life as a nutrition teacher at Bastyr University and is the author of two cookbooks. Actually she has a triple life thanks to her beautiful daughter, Grace, and her kind husband, Michael.

Susan MacPherson - Susan is a long time member of The Edge and can always be counted on to contribute laughs and a semblance of reality to our scenes. She's the proud mother of her daughter, Carson, and has been performing improv in the Northwest for more years than she cares to count.



September 1, 2007 Regular Meeting, Norse Home. 2:00 pm. Ed Bolton on Amos n Andy, Nominations 2008 Board, ByLaw Change Board Meeting Sep 1, 2007 11:00 am Norse Home Board Room

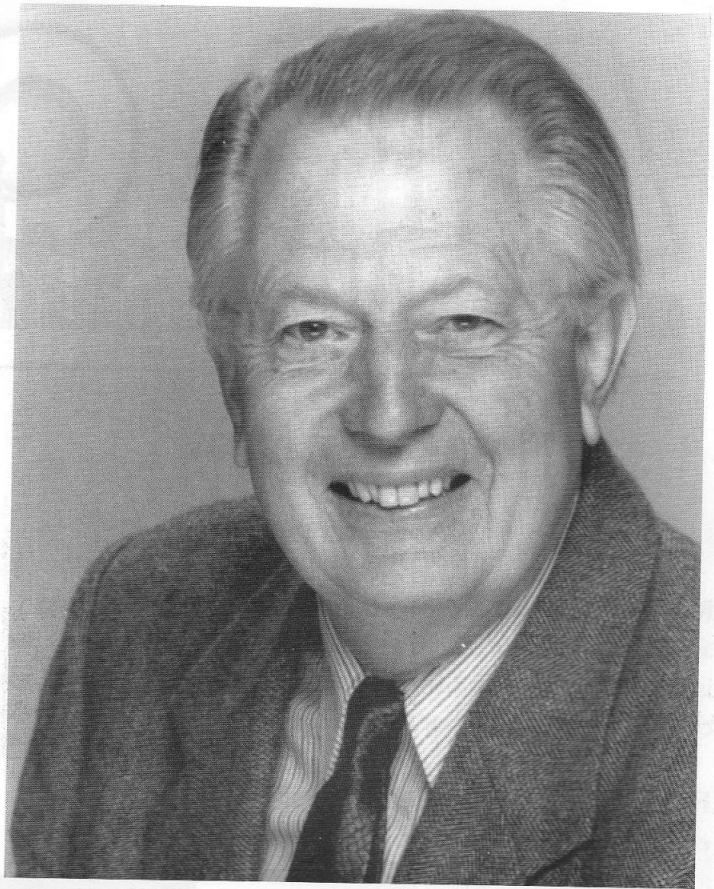
SHOWCASE 2007

Orla McGovern - A native of the Emerald Isle, and we don't mean Vashon, Orla comes to us via several improv groups including *Girl on Girl*. In addition she does voice-overs, commercials and film work. Busy, busy, busy.

Bhama Roget - Bhama came to the Northwest from Texas a few years ago and has made her mark as a performer in improv and on the Seattle stage. Local productions include *Under the Gaslight*, *References to Salvador Dali Makes Me Hot*, and *Vera Wilde* at the Empty Space, *Go Dog Go* at Seattle Children's Theatre, and *Expressions of the Spirit* with the UMO ensemble, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* among many others. Lately, her talents have been seen at Seattle REP in *Noises Off*, *The Constant Wife*, and *Restoration Comedy*. At the Fifth Avenue she was featured in *Wonderful Town*.

Andrew Shields - Andrew is, in fact, a medical doctor. But he has a more important talent than saving lives. he can play the piano! He wrote the score for a musical version of *Reefer Madness* and was seen on the stage in the title role of *The Music Man*. he recently was the music director for Scott Warrender's *Happy Pants* and co-wrote (with John Ellis) and composed the music and lyrics for *Harry Tracy* at the BPA.

Matt Whitman - A Seattle native, Matt has been performing here for over 14 years at such venues as The Annex, Alice B and the Rebar, By day, comedy writer for seatellite radio. By night, a madman of improv.



Frank Buxton - Frank has been attending REPS Showcases since the very beginning and has contributed acting and directing talent to innumerable re-creations. He is the co-author of the first history of old-time radio, *The Big Broadcast*, which is still in print after forty years. He has been a writer, producer, director, and actor for television and motion pictures and is a frequent performer on Jim French's syndicated radio show, *Imagination Theatre*.

Election Notice

Each year REPS elects 3 members of the Board to serve a one year term in Position 1, Position 2, and Position 3.

On odd number years REPS elects 1 member to serve as Vice President for a two year term and 1 member to serve as Secretary for a two year term.

The President and Treasurer serve two year terms. Those offices will be voted on in 2008.

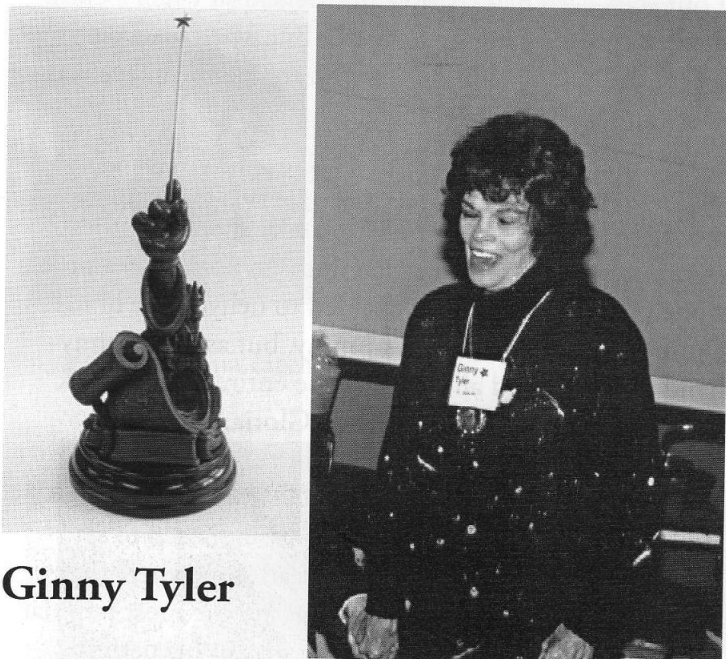
Nominations for the positions will be taken at the September 1, 2007 Regular Membership Meeting.

United States Post Office regulations for the type of mailing permit REPS holds and Washington State Law requires membership in the organization be under the direction of the Board of Directors. REPS Bylaws presently do not comply and requires a change in the Bylaws.

The Bylaw revisions will be explained during the September 1, 2007 Membership Meeting.

The Bylaw revision approval or denial and the ballot for the Board of Directors will be on the same ballot. Ballots may be returned at the December Meeting or mailed to the REPS Post Office Box.

Disney Legend Award



Ginny Tyler

Congratulations go out to Ginny Tyler for the *Disney Legend Award*.

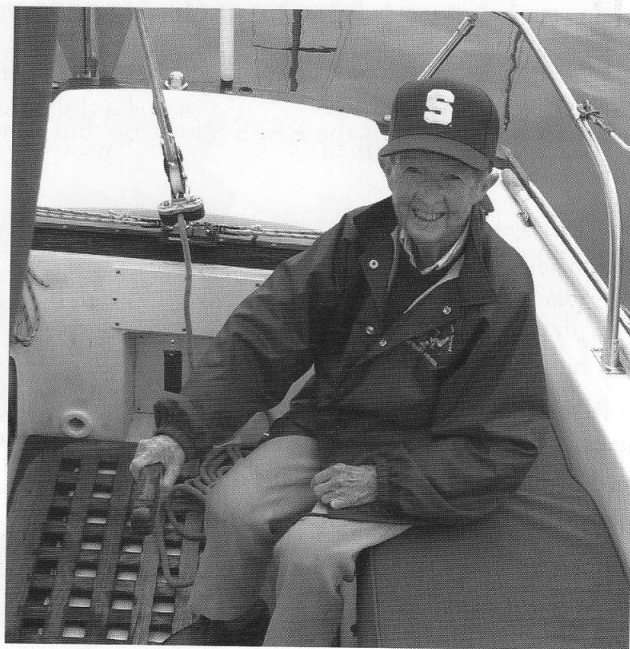
As a child Ginny had her own show on KJR and then KOL in Seattle called *Favorite Fairy Tales* where she did all the parts. She also did all the voices on *Mother Goose* on Seattle radio. Ginny tells us about doing voices on eight shows in one day on the old Don Lee network.

The Disney folks have been a big part in her life and career. She was one of the host Mousketeers at Disneyland and on the *Mickey Mouse Club*. She was the *Disneyland Storyteller* on their record label. She has done voice work for their animated feature films such as *Pinocchio* and *The Sword and the Stone*.

Besides Disney, Ginny has performed many voices in cartoon series such as *The Flintstones*, *Adventures of Gulliver*, *Space Ghost*, *The Gimby Show*, *Whimsey Works*, *Davey and Goliath*, and *Fantastic Four*.

On Television she stood in for Mel Blanc when he was ill as the wise-cracking parrot, Polly, on the *Jack Benny Show*. She worked on *Lassie* and *I Love Lucy*. A fun part she did was working with Alan Young on *Mr. Ed*.

In the movies she had a starring role as Pollyanna in *Doctor Doolittle* with Rex Harrison.



“Thanks for the Memories “

Being invited to take part in the Showcase since Day One has always been an honor and a pleasure. This year it was the best ever.

Your Board of Directors began planning the 2007 Showcase during last year's Showcase, at the Seattle Center. Month by month all their research resulted in finding a new and improved site, receiving boisterous acceptance from the finest radio actors in the business and then acquiring the scripts that you and your fellow members asked us to stage..

You also asked the Board to have the original stars appear in these popular shows. And the Board heard you, the stars heard you and what a pleasant site it was to watch you chat with them after their magnificent performances. Believe me, after many rehearsals, and hearing music cues, sound effects and an involved “up close and personal” audience, it was a real pleasure to shake hands and chat with you after the show.

So, on behalf of your Board, and your many friends that helped with the sound effects,, the staging, the mikes, the music, the display tables, the Greeters, And your favorite stars.....we thank you for joining us at Showcase 2007. And we promise you.....it will be even better next year.

Dick Beals

How I Spent My Seattle Vacation

by Gregg Oppenheimer

This was my first time at the REPS Showcase, but it won't be my last.

I had the privilege of directing both of the Friday evening re-creations: "Pinocchio" (Lux Radio Theatre) and "The Fred Allen Show" (guest-starring Jack Benny). And what a cast I had!

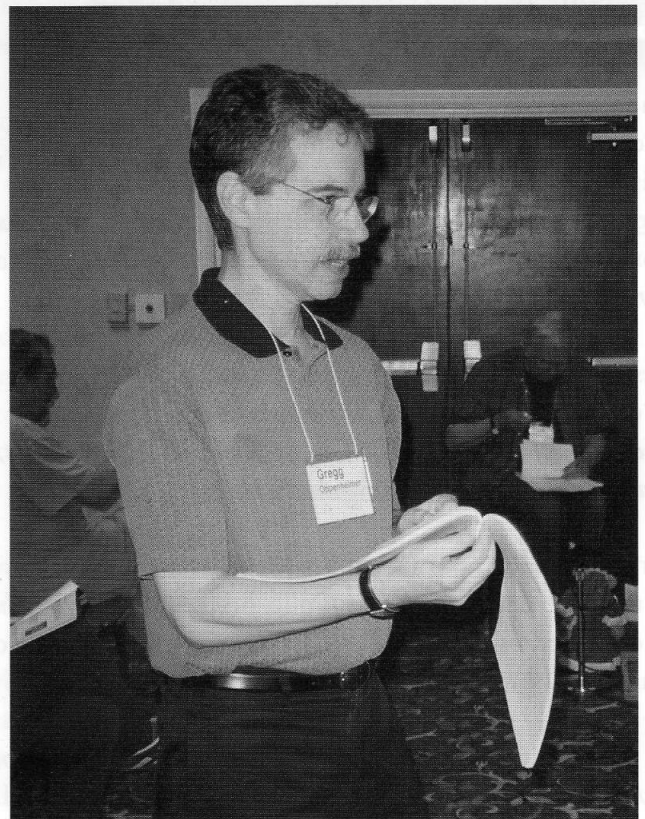
The only actor I'd actually worked with before was the wonderful Shirley Mitchell (who did a bang-up job as Portland Hoffa), but it was a thrill to direct such a wide array of amazing talents. I've been a fan of Frank Buxton since the 1960s, when he hosted "Discovery" and starred in Woody Allen's "What's Up Tiger Lilly?" and I was delighted to find that he does killer impressions of both Parker Fennelly and John Milton Kennedy. I was particularly impressed by Seattle's own Larry Albert, who captured not only the sound of Fred Allen's voice and his easy style of delivery, but also his quick wit and his ability to come up with well-placed ad-libs. My old friend Frank Bresee was pitch perfect as Cecil B. DeMille. Then there was Disney "Legend" Ginny Tyler, who, in addition to Pinocchio and Figaro the cat, mastered "Mrs. Nussbaum" on just a few days notice. Bob Hastings, of whom I've also long been a fan, was hilarious as Kenny Delmar and Senator Claghorn. Donald Buka, who threatened to come to the read-through in his pajamas after delays kept his plane from landing until 3am, stole every scene he was in -- whether as Falstaff Openshaw, Gepetto, or Stromboli. Elizabeth Ripley was a real trouper, singing beautifully as the Blue Fairy and stepping into several other roles on virtually no notice. Gloria McMillan was just right as the Hollywood starlet waxing rhapsodic about Lux Soap Flakes. And last but not least, the incomparable Eddie Carroll, who gave so generously of his talent throughout the weekend, and whom I got to direct both as Jiminy Cricket and as Jack Benny.

A few words about Pinocchio, which had the most disastrous rehearsal I've ever experienced. We had no read-through, and in our allotted two and a half hours we managed to get through the show a total of once. Everything that could go wrong, did. The actors somehow seemed to have three different versions of the scripts, with the same dialogue on different pages, and some with no page numbers at all. Sound effects - particularly those

involving a whale getting ready to sneeze - required some last-minute creative improvisation. Last minute cast switches were necessary because of schedule conflicts. One of our stars even had to leave mid-rehearsal when a close friend was rushed to the hospital. But when we went "on the air" a couple of hours later, the performance was practically flawless. Amazing.

I should mention that the Pinocchio rehearsal was also one of the funniest afternoons I've ever spent (another reason it took so long). To give just two notable examples, at one point Eddie Carroll decided to deliver one of his "Jiminy Cricket" lines not as Jiminy, but as Jack Benny-hand on cheek and all--causing the entire cast to crack up for several minutes. And when Gloria, in the Lux commercial, asked announcer Frank Buxton how he could possibly have known that she had received nylons and lingerie for Christmas, Frank was supposed to say "Well, it's really not fair, Gloria. I read somewhere the other day that lingerie and stockings are the most popular Christmas gifts for women." But Frank, in his perfect John Milton Kennedy voice, instead deadpanned, "Well, Gloria, I have to get up pretty early in the morning to peek in your bedroom window."

By the time I managed to pick myself up off the floor, I knew that this wouldn't be my last REPS Showcase.

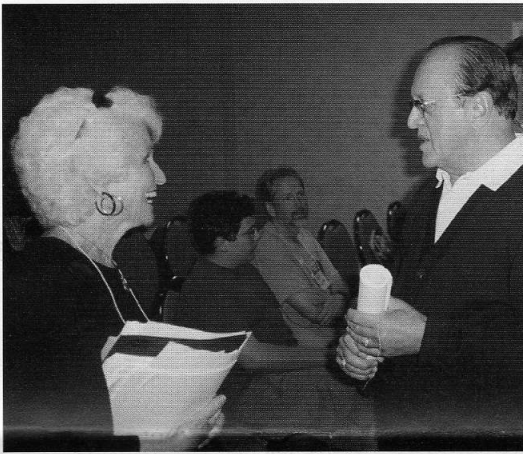




Paul and Ilona Herlinger



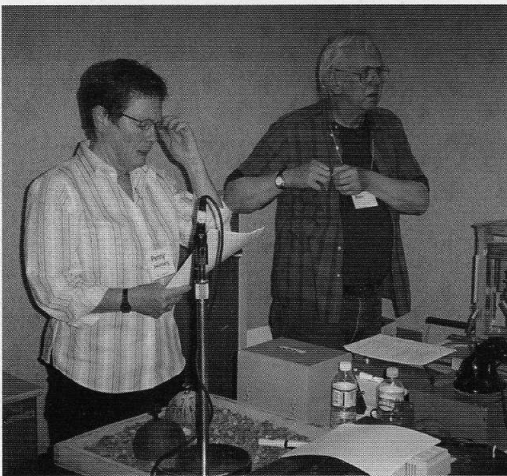
Elizabeth Ripley Ginny Tyler



Esther Geddes McVey Eddie Carroll



Chris Randy McMillan

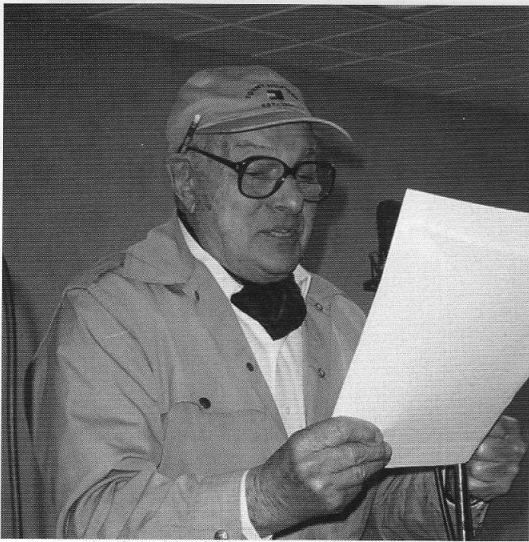


Penny Swanberg Frank Rosín



Audience

Photos Pages 1-2, Frank Buxton
Photos Page 3, Frank Rosín
Photos Pages 4-11, David Van Meter



Donald Buka



Mary Fichtenberg

Liz Roach



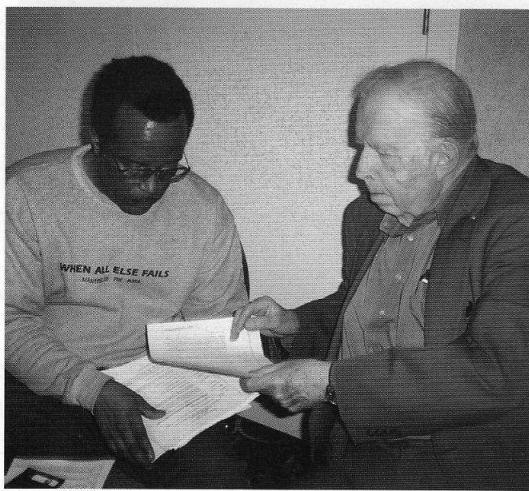
Bob Hastings

Rosemary Rice



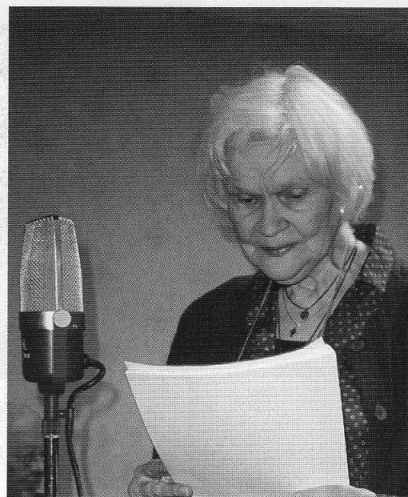
John Jensen

Kathryn Crosby

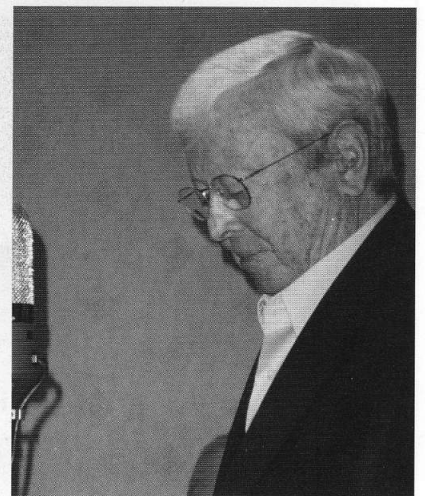


Bob Cardenas

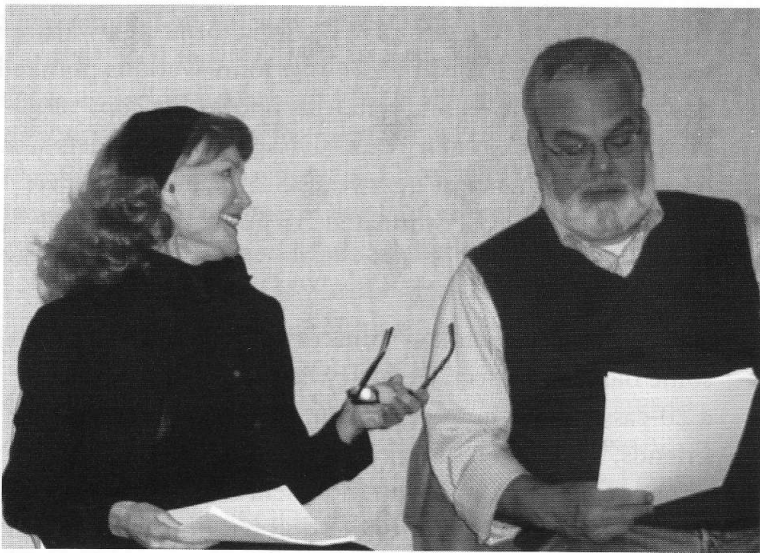
Jim French



Pat French



Gil Stratton Jr



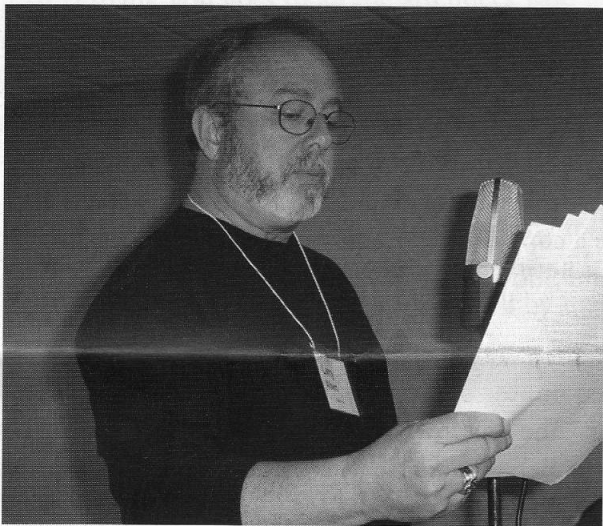
Kathryn Crosby

Bill Brooks



Gil Stratton Jr

Rosemary Rice



Larry Albert



Anna Denton

Ron Cocking

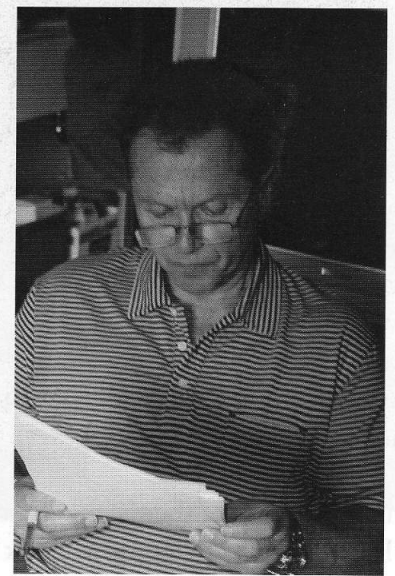
Esther McVey



Frank Bresse



Gloria McMillan



Stuffy Singer

Silent Auction and Sales

Terry Campbell

Thanks to generous donors, bidders and buyers, REPS fundraising efforts at Showcase 2007 brought in more than \$3,000.

Filled with items donated by REPS members, friends and Showcase guests, the Silent Auction drew a total of \$1,625; the raffle, more than \$150, and the REPS Outlet Store, nearly \$1,200. All proceeds go to defray the costs of staging Showcase.

Raffle winners were as follows:

- Framed transcription disc of half a “Jack Benny Show” broadcast on April 28, 1946: Bruce Forsberg.
- Three framed Bing Crosby recordings: Clif Ferguson.
- Showcase authors collection — Dick Beals’ “Think Big” and Frank Bresee’s “Radio’s Golden Years”: Terry Mahoney.
- Etcht-Kraft woodcut depiction of Amos ’n Andy: R.L. Kidd.

Over in the Silent Auction, Lee Hewitt prevailed with a \$70 bid to buy the disc with the first half of the “Jack Benny Show.”

The hardware of the Golden Age of Radio — tube radios — proved to be a hot commodity in the auction.

REPS member Bill Buckley of Spokane brought over a carful of radios to donate. One, a reproduction, sold in the REPS Outlet Store for \$20. The others set off bidding blitzes in the Silent Auction. Ken Bertrand held off other contenders to take home a Westinghouse console model for \$95 and a General Electric tabletop radio for \$46. Ken Korhonen wrote in the 18th and final bid — \$135 — to own a Philco console radio.

For \$30, John Warmington snapped up a Zenith clock radio, donated by Inez Schaefer.

Many bidders set their sights on two genuine Red Ryder BB guns signed by Tommy Cook and Frank Bresee, who each played Little Beaver on the radio show, accompanied by a special REPS CD of the show. Don Lucky laid claim

with a \$100 bid to a gun paired with a print of a wartime season’s greeting signed by Tommy. John Watkins plunked down \$80 for the second gun, this one with a copy of Frank’s “Radio’s Golden Years.” Disappointed bidders will have another chance at next year’s Silent Auction, where two more of the REPS-donated BB guns will be on the table.

Another famous Frank — Sinatra — also commanded some bidding respect. At stake was a three-item package: a 20-cassette, 30-hour collection, “Frank Sinatra and Friends,” donated by Radio Spirits; a framed original photo of Frank from Linda Moschell; and bobby-sox style Barbie Loves Frankie collector’s doll set, donated by Terry Campbell. No swooning for Margarita Anorijic; she held her cool against other Frankie fans to plunk down the \$90 final bid.

Books were also big in the Silent Auction. Ray Erlenborn’s copy of “The Great American Broadcast,” inscribed to the premier sound-effects artist by author Leonard Maltin, went to Don Lucky for \$40. Clif Ferguson also paid \$40 to secure a copy of “My Last Years With Bing,” signed by author and Showcase guest Kathryn Crosby.

John Jensen’s perennial contribution to the Silent Auction — framed photos of old-time radio performers from John Archer as “The Shadow” to “Chase & Sanborn Hour” stars Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy — again proved popular. Nine photos sold for nearly \$150, with some left over for next year’s auction.

Ditto for framed signed photos of Tommy Cook and radio co-performers. Five brought in more than \$100, with more in store next year.

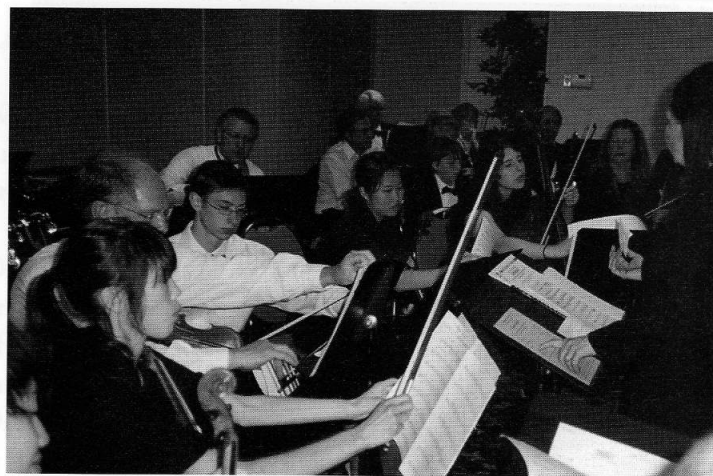
Thanks to the people who donated items for the Silent Auction and/or the REPS Outlet Store. They include Dick Beals, Frank Bresee, Bill Buckley, Terry Campbell, Michael Comstock, Tommy Cook, Kathryn Crosby, Frank and Anna Denton, Bev Edwards, Ray and Meridy Erlenborn, Ralph Estep, Cliff Glaspey, John Jensen, Keith Leopard, Millie Morse, Linda Moschell, Radio Spirits, REPS, Tex Ritter Fan Club/Sharon Richards, Ron Rosin, Inez Schaefer, Barbara Schwarz, Sam Simone, Don and Alex Strong, Duane White, Harlan Zinck and whoever crafted those crazy LSMFT shorts, modeled and signed by Eddie Carroll.

Successful Silent Auction bidders include Margarita Anorijic, Ken Bertrand, Frank Bresee, Bill Buckley, Ron Carlson, Jackie Cedarholm, Michael Comstock, Alicia Davies, Bill Davies, Clif Ferguson, Mary Fichtenberg, Mel Froli, Al Gil, Lee Hewitt, Carol Haigood, Joy Jackson, Ken Korhonen, Don Lacky, Brent Martin, Mike O'Reilly, Dave Palmer, Mark Skullerud, Herb Wallin, Byron Warmington, C. Warmington, John Warmington, John Watkins and Duane White.

Helping to close out the Silent Auction and get items to their new owners were Mary Fichtenberg, Liz Roach, John Jensen, Sharon Richards and Anna Denton. Frank Rosin cut dozens of CDs and DVDs of performances by Showcase guests to sell at the REPS tables.

Also, a thank you goes to all the attendees who bought raffle tickets, purchased items at the REPS Outlet Store and from vendors Jim French Productions, the International Jack Benny Society, Radio Spirits, Tex Ritter Fan Club and Glenn Sissom.

Items for the 2008 Silent Auction are already rolling in. If you have material to donate, please bring it to a REPS meeting or contact Terry Campbell by mail at 710 S. Fifth Ave., Yakima, WA 98902, by e-mail at tcampbell@yakimaherald.com or by phone at (509) 457-5351.



Pontiac Bay Symphony



Midnight Mystery Players



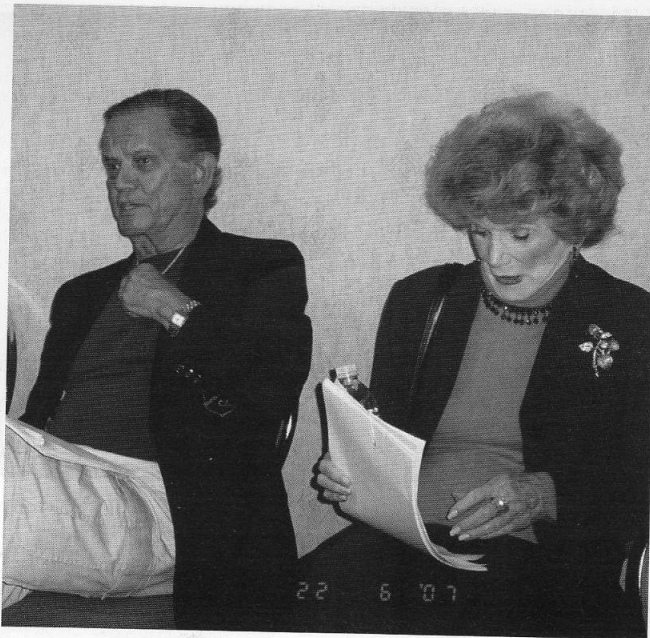
Terry Campbell Volunteer of the Year 2007



David Persson

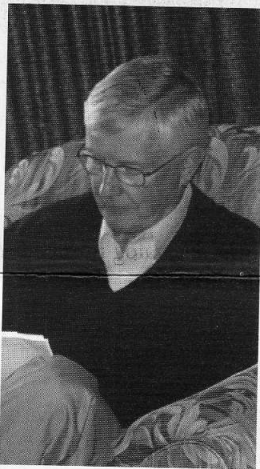


Ellyana Muller

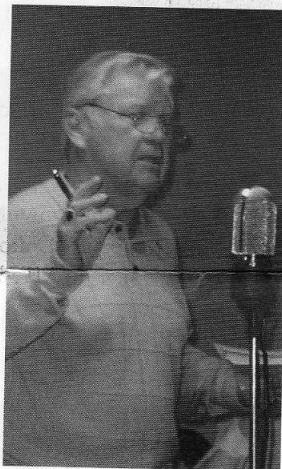


Tommy Cook

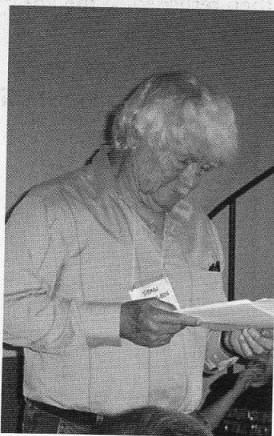
Shirley Mitchell



Dave Selvig



Bob Hastings



Stan Claussen



Laura Leff

Walden Hughes

I had another great time at this year's Showcase. I was blessed to attend the last three, and the people are so warm. This is one of the great qualities of the REPS events. Kim Bragg was not able to attend this year. She felt very bad as the experience is like attending a family reunion and you get to see your Aunts and Uncles.

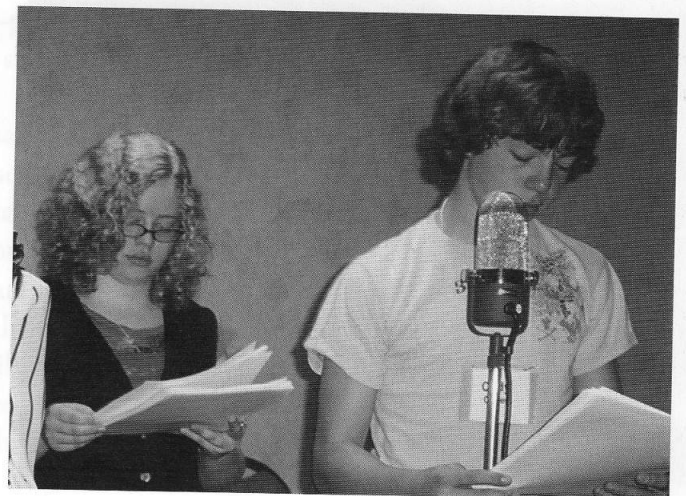
I hope the leadership at REPS decides to host another one in 2008.

If you had a great time at Showcase you might want to consider some of the other big events that are happening in the hobby in September, October, and November this year.

Martin Grams is hosting a Nostalgia convention in Maryland during the week of 9-13-07. You can give Martin a call at (717) 456-6208.

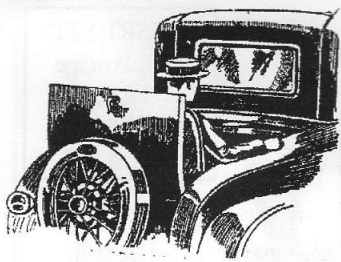
Between October 18th and the 21st the *Friends of Old Time Radio* is producing a convention in Newark NJ. You can read all about it at www.fotr.net.

SPERDVAC is hosting a luncheon at the Sportmen's Lodge on November 10th to celebrate the 75 birthday of the Jack Benny radio show with Eddie Carroll, Shirley Mitchell, Stuffie singer, Gloria McMillan, and so many more. You can read more about the event by going to www.sperdvac.org.



Kate McKnight

Cody Chriest



Rumble Seat

Franz

Well, our Showcase for 2007 is a month behind us. We probably say it every year because each Showcase has been better than the one held the year before, it couldn't be beat. But it will. Each one of them have been great events and like the others the one this year was one great Showcase! We had good scripts to work with and great people to work on them.

The change in location had some advantages the former location did not have like parking and on site rooms but it also had some disadvantages. Very early plans are in the works for Showcase 2008. It may be at the Coast Hotel once again. They have the last weekend in June available for us and we will have to decide soon. Other locations are still being examined however.

Of course we made some mistakes this time, those will be corrected, only to make other, different, mistakes next time.

Health and schedule permitting, many of our 2007 guests will be back for 2008. Is there anyone that you as a REPS member would like to particularly have come back? Is there anyone we have not invited before you would like to have us try to get here?

Please let any of the Board members hear of any comments you may care to make or suggestions for next year. This is your organization, we will be doing what you want.

We don't know what it might be yet but *Pinocchio* as a musical recreation for the first time at REPS, was in our opinion, one of our best ever performances. A musical is difficult to do but we are looking into doing another musical in 2008.

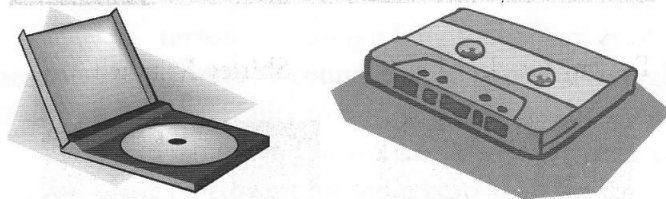
New Format for REN Storytime Radio.

Mystery Mondays, Detective Tuesdays, Western Wednesdays, Drama Thursdays, Comedy Fridays, Check www.repsonline.org or www.alltimeoldies.com.

Library News ... We found some Errors

We get the CDs for our library from several different sources. Most of them are from remasters taken from the original ET disks or original tapes.

One of our sources for CDs apparently had a faulty preference file in their computer. Although the content of the CDs in our library is correct, some of the CDs have incorrect titles inside the CD. For example, a *Richard Diamond* CD has the correct *Richard Diamond* episodes as written on the CD but the title when you put the CD in a computer might say *Sam Spade*. In any case the CD is correct for content and catalog number. It may take us awhile to find the ones that have errors on the inside titles.



How to use the Cassette, CD, DVD Libraries.

First of all each library is distinct. Catalog numbers in one library will have a completely different content than another. It is necessary to identify CD, Cassette, or DVD along with the catalog number. At the present time there are no MP3s in the library.

REPS Members may check out 10 CDs or 10 Cassettes or 10 DVDs for \$6.00. It is also possible to check out a double order 20 CDs or 20 Cassettes for \$12.00. This covers the cost of mailing and maintaining the library. You may mix Cassettes, CDs, and DVDs in the order.

At most of the meetings a few *grab bags* of 10 Cassettes or CDs are available for checkout from the library. Sometimes new members are confused, these are for checkout and then returned to the library after use. The *grab bags* are not for sale.

Checkout forms are available at the meetings, by request in the mail, on the web site, and a new form included with each library checkout. The library may also be used with the internet using PayPal.

Instructions for that use are on the web site.

Contact:

Darrell Anderson, REPS Librarian, 17232 174th SE,
Renton WA 98058.
425-226-7005, woods_inn@aol.com

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.

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Aug 2007

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Shoreline WA 98133
206-542-6231 bryanH362@aol.com

Scheduled Events

- Sept 1, 2007** Board Meeting, Norse Home, 11 am
- Sept 1, 2007** Regular Meeting, Norse Home, 2 pm
Nominations for Board Members for 2008
Ed Bolton on Amos 'n' Andy
- Oct 6, 2007** Board Meeting, Norse Home, 11 am
- Oct 6, 2007** Regular Meeting, Norse Home, 2 pm
- Nov 3, 2007** Board Meeting, Norse Home, 11 am
- Nov 3, 2007** Regular Meeting, Norse Home, 2 pm
- Dec 1, 2007** Board Meeting, Norse Home 11 am
- Dec 1, 2007** Regular Meeting, Norse Home 2 pm
Ballots due at the beginning of the meeting

Unless specified otherwise, Board Meetings are held in the Norse Home Board Room, Seattle, and start at 11:00 am. Regular Membership Meetings are held at the Norse Home, Seattle, and start at 2:00 pm. They are both on the first Saturday of each Month.

Darrell Anderson, Librarian

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