

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

THE STORY OF LENORE CASE by Martin Grams

Secretary to Britt Reid at *The Daily Sentinel* office, Lenore Case ("Miss Case" to Reid and "Casey" to Axford,) shared her office with Mike Axford, who often found reasons to distract her while he was busy at his desk typing a story. If he wasn't messing with her ink bottle, he was spilling coffee on her letters. Lenore Case bore the responsibility of handling Reid's correspondence, including sending confidential reports to his father regarding day-to-day transactions. The character of Miss Case was featured as a female secretary in the first two episodes but never referred to by name and limited to a few brief lines. She was finally referred to by name as Miss Case by episode nine, but oddly, she was referred to as Miss Scott in episode 10, then changed back to Miss Case afterward. (Episode 12 listed her as Miss Scott, but Striker had penciled her name out and changed it to Miss Case.) It's unknown if he was dissatisfied with the name of Case and changed it to Scott for episode 10, then quickly changed his mind.

While most of the characters on *The Green Hornet* changed actors over the years, Lee Allman played the role of Lenore Case from the very first episode to the very last. "Jim said it wasn't much, probably just a one-shot deal," Allman recalled for Rik Viola of the *Courier Post*. "The one-shot lasted years." Allman was Jim Jewell's sister, and after Jewell's departure in the summer of 1938, Allman felt a bit of pressure from her brother for remaining at the WXYZ studios. Lee Allman was first employed at a weekly salary of \$25 per week and her employment contract stated her "presence and services" were required for an unlimited number of performances on radio programs originating from station WXYZ. By the summer of 1938, with *The Lone Ranger* transcriptions having begun, her talent contract was revised to stipulate that no further payment was due to the actors as a result of the transcriptions being

played over other radio stations across the country. This meant in 1940, when *The Green Hornet* began broadcast on more than a dozen radio stations across the country, her only salary was that for the initial performance. For anyone who feels her salary was too little for an unlimited number of radio performances, keep in mind that her fee times 52 weeks was equivalent to the cost of buying a house in those years.

Actors employed at WXYZ primarily consisted of men. Women were a minority, and Fran Striker wrote his scripts specifically to limit the number of female roles. Often times the same actress would play two different



Lenore Allman as Miss Case

Jim Irwin as Mike Axford

Al Hodge as Britt Reid

Showcase 2010 -- June 25, 26, 27, 2010

More on Pages 9, 10

roles, referred to as “doubling,” in the same broadcast — including Allman. Ruth Dean Rickaby and Beatrice Leiblee were notable for playing supporting roles because their voices were considerably different than Allman’s. Ruth Rickaby played older women such as the role of Mrs. Feeney for the broadcast of July 19, 1936. She had played the leading lady on the *Manhunters* series and was the first woman to play the recurring role of Mustang Mag on *The Lone Ranger*. She left WXYZ when she married stage and screen actor Robert Strange. Leiblee, wife of actor Malcolm McCoy (they married in 1937), played much younger roles, such as Millicent for *The Green Hornet* broadcast of July 19, 1936, and Polly for the broadcast of April 26, 1938. She was often heard as the wife of a victimized store owner when protection rackets were on the rampage, as in the broadcast of April 27, 1937. Her largest contribution was playing the recurring role of Maxine Markheim, an international spy posing as a reporter for *The Daily Sentinel*, for a three-episode story from August 23 to September 6, 1936.

Playing a recurring role on a program like *The Green Hornet* offered little opportunity for vacation time. When Lee Allman had to take off for maternity leave, the character of Miss Case went on vacation. Lenore’s aunt, Emma Lovejoy, was Reid’s substitute secretary at *The Daily Sentinel* starting with the broadcast of September 28, 1937. Allman, meanwhile, was home relaxing having given birth to her son Richard. Rickaby played the role of Emma for six consecutive broadcasts until Miss Case returned on October 19, 1937, whereupon Reid informed the well-rested Miss Case that “your Aunt Emma Lovejoy was quite satisfactory.” Emma Lovejoy paid a return visit for the broadcast of November 11, 1937.

Aunt Emma also substituted for two consecutive episodes starting July 5, 1938. Lenore Case took a total of three vacations during *The Green Hornet* span, two of which was for Allman’s maternity leave. When Miss Case went on vacation in “Bait for a Two-Timer” (June 27, 1939), recurring character Clicker Binney filled in.

In the spring of 1940, Fran Striker incorporated Lee Allman’s name in three of the radio scripts, a tip-of-the-hat to the actress. In “The Trapped Witness” (February 26, 1940), a small-time crook named Allman is set up as an intended murder victim. In “Racketeers Go To The Dogs” (April 1, 1940), *The Green Hornet* smashes a crooked pet shop that sells “lost” dogs. The crooked officeholder who

made money on the dog licenses was named Allman. In “Measure For Measure” (May 1, 1940), Mr. Allman of the Bureau of Weights and Measures is shaking down small shopkeepers by claiming their scales are offset... unless they pay his price.

In May 1942, Britt Reid’s *Sentinel* staff gained one extra blonde. Her name was Gail Manning and she wanted to be a reporter. Reid gave her the job, but only grudgingly. The three-episode story began with “Washington Underground” (May 2, 1942) and concluded with “Murder in Washington” (May 16, 1942). The closing chapter to the Gail Manning saga leaves behind a mystery for radio fans. Because Britt Reid was in Washington during these three episodes, Miss Case was not featured in the dramas. Back in Michigan, actress Lee Allman was off for maternity leave and before the third broadcast of the trilogy, gave birth to a baby girl, Carol, the second of her two children. One ponders whether or not Gail Manning would have been introduced to the series at all if it hadn’t been for the birth of Allman’s daughter.

By the mid-1940s, Lenore Case was actively seeking a chance to be a reporter. Reid hesitated numerous times, suggesting her talents were best suited at the desk, but he eventually relented. When Axford leaves Reid’s office in “Girl in Peril” (December 9, 1947), Miss Case finally gets her wish. In “Perfect Alibi” (January 13, 1948), she received a second chance to prove her worth to her employer. Miss Case got more than expected when, in early 1948, Reid exposed his secret identity to her and, knowing *The Green Hornet* was not the criminal his newspaper made him out to be, she agreed to help him on a number of adventures.

Careful scrutiny of Trendle-produced radio broadcasts reveal Allman in the lead of Judy Medwick, Ned Nordan’s secretary, on New Jordan, Secret Agent from November 26, 1938 to October 28, 1943. Allman also supplied numerous supporting roles on *The Lone Ranger*, and as the character of Miss Case grew on *The Green Hornet*, she was heard less frequently on *Ranger*.

Martin Grams is the author of *The Twilight Zone: Unlocking the Door to a Television Classic* (OTR Publishing, 2008) which was the 2008 Rondo Award winner for “Best Book of the Year” and co-author of *The Green Hornet: A History of Radio, Motion Pictures, Comics and Television* (OTR Publishing, 2010).

FUN TIMES ARE HERE. BE PREPARED TO HAVE A GREAT TIME WITH REPS...



And what to our wondering ears should spring forth and appear, but Larry Albert and the sounds of old time radio trivia that we hold near and dear. The much anticipated question and answer program conducted by Larry Albert is what the REPS Meeting on March 6th was all about. The day was filled with Larry asking the questions and the members, if possible, providing the answers. This year the questions were a bit more difficult than in the past but everybody had a great deal of fun. Of course, what makes the event so enjoyable and entertaining is the banter and ad libs that Larry adds in. The members ate it up. It is truly one event you had to be there to enjoy.

The first half of the day was audience participation. If you knew or thought you knew the answer, you raised your hand and Larry would call on you. A few of the questions were,

“Name the radio station Doris Day, Rosemary Clooney, Norman Corwin and Len Clark all worked, the answer “WLW in Cincinnati”

“Danny Thomas first job was on the Lone Ranger and what did he do?” the answer was “he made the sound of galloping horses by beating on his chest”.

For the second half panels were selected-- ladies against the men. On the ladies panel were Anna Denton, Sharon Richards and Terry Campbell. For the men it was Bob Herman, David Perrson and Larry Siskind. Each had to signal they knew the answer by ringing the bell for the ladies and the very irritating buzzer for the men. A sampling of the questions were,

“Name the six delicious flavors” and the answer “strawberry, raspberry, cherry, orange, lemon and lime.” and “What was the name of Amos and Andy’s Taxi Cab Company?” And the answer the “Fresh Air Taxi Cab Company.”

The day was filled with banter back and forth between Larry and the audience with Bob Herman and Al

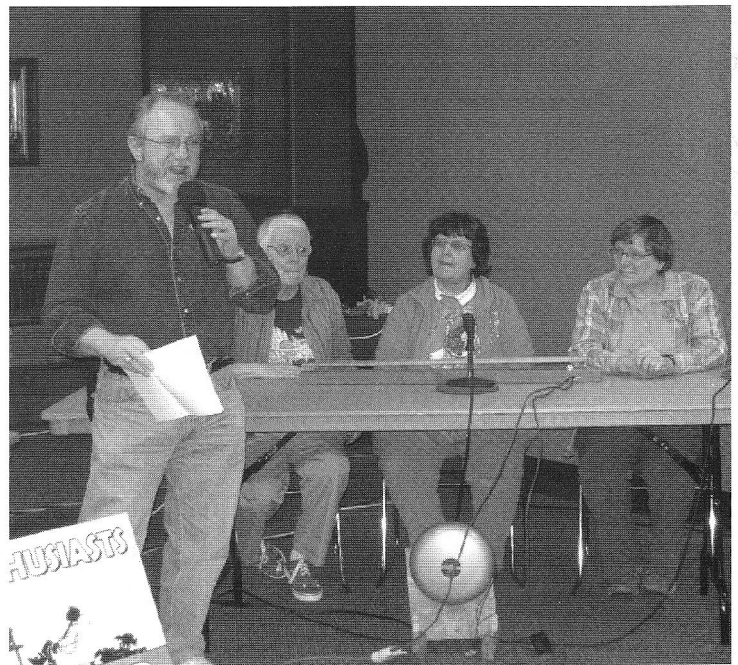
Gil being the most vociferous from the audience. The questions were so complete that Larry did not have to use the standard, “Who is buried in Grant’s tomb”?

The winners in the first half were Al Gil, Bob Herman, Michael Comstock, John Jensen and Larry Siskind. In the panel part the men scored more points than the ladies, but the women still won. The winners received a prize and we all received the best prize of a great day from Larry Albert. Larry, we all thank you very much. Larry agreed he will be back again next year with another trivia quiz day contest.

A special thanks to Sheila Espinoza for her production of The Pontiac Bay Old-time Radio Show which was held on March 12th at the Museum of History and Industry. The show included music from the big band era and performances that included REPS members Larry Albert and David Selvig in old time radio sketches, of Red Skelton’s, Junior the Mean Widdle Kid and Burns and Allen. The musical performances were very good as usual with the rendition of “Sing, Sing, Sing”, including a drum solo, was outstanding. The theater was pretty well packed and there were many REPS members in attendance. Sheila thanks you for your support.

REMEMBER, SHOWCASE IS JUNE 25th, 26th, & 27th. The Time to SIGN-up is NOW.

That’s all folks, see you next time, Paul K. Secord, President



New I Love a Mystery Productions

There have been a good number of requests asking the status of the New *I Love A Mystery* productions. In response, I provide the following.

By way of introduction my name is Tim Knofler. I am the President and Owner of Audio Cinema Entertainment Inc. (ACE).

Some of you may have heard our *Adventures of Captain Hudson* audio series (www.captainhudson.com).

For the past couple of years we have been working with the executor of the Carlton E. Morse Estate. In May of 2009 ACE entered into an agreement with Carlton's Estate to create new audio productions of *I Love a Mystery* from the original scripts. We were also given permission to produce live re-creations from a couple of chapters of Carlton's scripts. We received many kind comments about the recreations that were done at the SPERDVAC convention in May '09 and the REPS convention in June '09.

At present we are working on the second phase of the production contract and hope to have it signed off soon. Our goal is to produce a superior quality product for today's audience. We have already secured agreements with top, well-recognized voice actors to participate in the upcoming productions. We are currently exploring several distribution opportunities for the series but have made no commitments yet. Distribution may include, but is

not limited to, downloads, retail, as well as broadcasting selected chapters from the series.

We are aware *I Love a Mystery* fans want to know "who is in the show and when will it be released?" Answers to these questions will be provided at the earliest possible time. It must, of course, be after all contract elements are completed. We have reserved www.newiloveamystery.com. The site is under construction and will be the primary point for all information regarding the show.

I will make sure its launch is posted here.

Other updates will be made during interviews with Walden Hughes on the Friday Night Show on www.yesterdayusa.com (dates to be announced).

We appreciate your patience and support of this much beloved Audio Series. Please know, as much as we would like to get the show to market as soon as possible, getting it done right, with the best quality possible, is our first priority. In the meantime, we welcome your comments and suggestions. More updates will follow.

I would like to thank all of you for your continued interest.



**Warning!! DO NOT FAIL
TO LISTEN TO THE EXCITING PROGRAM
"I LOVE A MYSTERY"
CARLTON MORSE'S HAIR-RAISING, TEETH-CHATTERING
THRILLERS THAT HAVE ALL AMERICA
ON THE EDGE OF ITS CHAIR !!!**

**MONDAYS, 8:30 P. M. PST, KJR and other stations of the Blue Network
Presented by FLEISCHMANN'S FRESH YEAST**

timk@audiocei.com

Tim Knofler

President

Audio Cinema Entertainment Inc.

Mission Viejo, CA


WWW.RADIOENT.COM
YOUR HOME FOR CLASSIC
AUDIO DRAMA

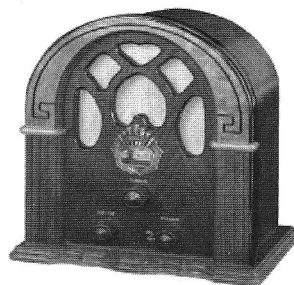

YESTERDAY USA
SUPERSTATION
Online


**SECORD
PRINTING**
INCORPORATED
425-883-2182 Kirkland

Jay Secord
11332 120th Ave NE #119
Kirkland WA 98033
<http://secordprinting.com>

Showcase XVII 2010

June 25, 26, 27, 2010



Hi everybody,

REPS is working on it Showcase on Friday June 25, Saturday June 26, and Sunday June 27, and is very pleased to announce that Lenoard Smith who was Stretch on *Our Miss Brooks* will be making his first Old Time Radio convention in Seattle this year. Lenoard will join Gloria McMillan, and Robert Easton in a recreation of *Our Miss Brooks* on Friday night. All three had roles in that show that ran on CBS radio for Nine Years.

Shirley Mitchell will be Leila in a 1946 *Great Gildersleeve* show on Saturday night.

Rosemary Rice will be repriving her role and directing in a *Studio One* version of "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn."

Chuck McCann will be starring in a *Six Shooter*.

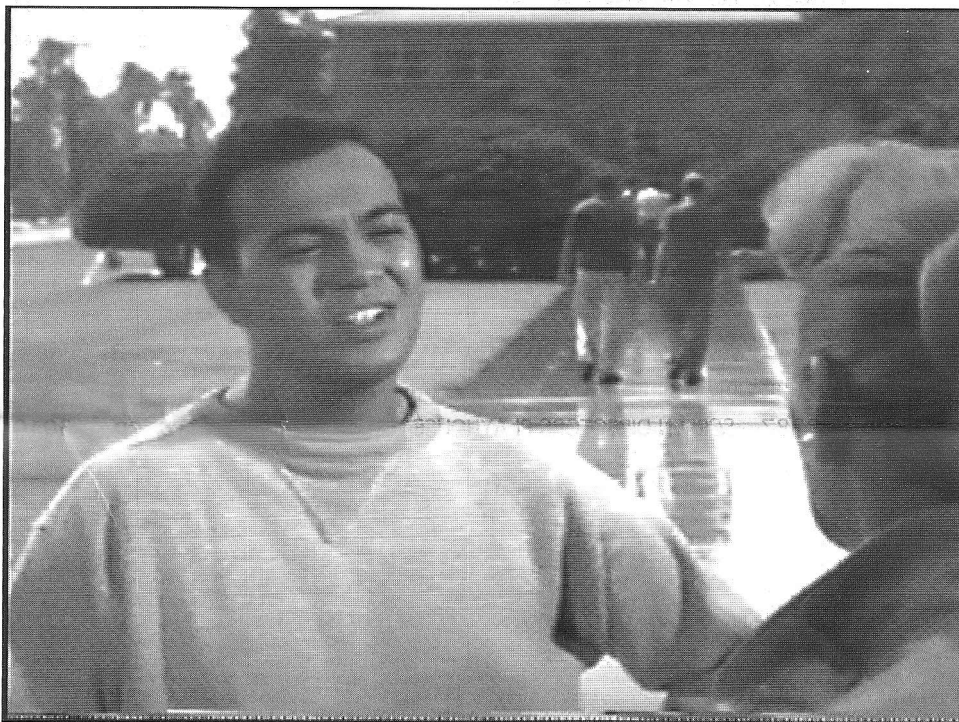
Other OTR friends such as Bob Hastings, Stuffy Singer, Jan Merlin, Dick Beals, and Dave Parker will be there too.

REPS will have more shows and guest to announce soon.

REPS is adding a Sunday morning Brunch this year. You can check for more info by going to:
www.repsshowcase.com

Take care,

Walden Hughes



Leonard Smith and Eve Arden

Still from the 1956 movie, *Our Miss Brooks*.

REPS SHOWCASE XVII June 25-26-27, 2010

Coast Hotel, 625 116th Avenue NE, Bellevue WA 98004
425-455-9444 or 800-663-1144 www.coasthotels.com

There is a convention discount for flying to Seattle on Alaska Airlines
The Convention Code is (*) for a 7% discount on Alaska Air

www.repsshowcase.com
www.reponline.org

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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.

Friday and Saturday Before Apr 30. \$119 per person No of People _____ Total _____

Fri - Sat - Sun Before Apr 30.....\$145 per person No of People _____ Total _____

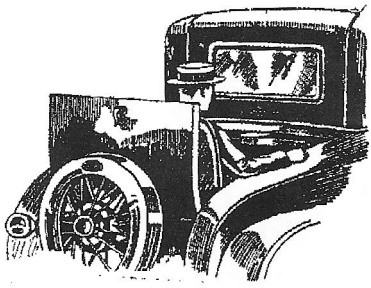
Saturday includes a banquet dinner. Please choose a menu item for dinner. When multiple names are on the registration please indicate the name of the person for each selection if selections differ.

New York Steak _____ Grilled Salmon _____ Stuffed Boneless Chicken _____ Vegetarian Lasagna _____

Sunday Breakfast/Brunch will be from 10 to 12, similar to the Lunch at Radio Memories last November.

Mail to: REPS SHOWCASE, 17334 Densmore Ave N, Shoreline WA 98133

(*) See www.repsshowcase.com for the discount code.



Rumble Seat

Franz

The Amazing Mr. Tut

In the summer of 1948, the *Lux Radio Theatre* took an eight week vacation off the air. CBS had the hour slot to fill for those eight weeks.

Several things were in the works at that time, one being a relaxation of the no recorded program policy. Another in the works was the CBS 'raid' of NBC talent.

At that time also CBS began to produce its own programs. Up until that time almost all programs were produced by the advertising agencies and sold to the network. Three of these CBS produced programs were *Life with Luigi*, *My Friend Irma*, and *Our Miss Brooks*.

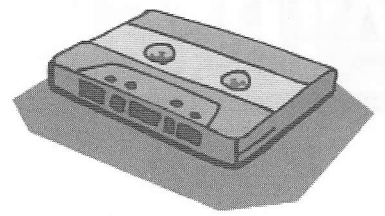
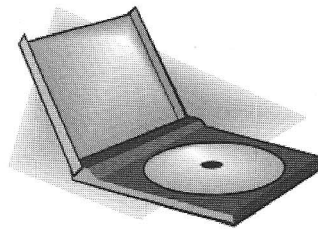
To fill the Lux time slot, two half hour programs were chosen, *My Favorite Husband* and *The Amazing Mr. Tut*.

CBS knew it had a hit with *My Favorite Husband* and after only two weeks moved it to its own time slot on Thursday evenings. It was replaced by *Our Miss Brooks* for the remaining six weeks and by the end of the six weeks Brooks became the number one show on radio.

The Amazing Mr. Tut filled out the eight week run and then disappeared from the air forever when Lux went back on the air after the summer vacation. It is a shame too because it was a pretty good program starring Wil Wright. Two of the six episodes still exist, the first and the last. They are both on CD 3166 in the REPS CD Library.

Mr. Tut was an elderly and friendly, but very firm lawyer in the Perry Mason line. More about Mr. Tut next month.

By the time the 1949 season was under way, *The Fred Allen Show* was off the air. For many years NBC had dominated the Sunday evening lineup of shows. After CBS completed the talent raid on NBC by getting *Jack Benny*, *Amos & Andy*, *Red Skelton*, *Edgar Bergan*, adding *My Favorite Husband*, and *Our Miss Brooks*, all NBC had left on their Sunday evening lineup was *Phil Harris and Alice Fay*.



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, OMF, or DVD along with the catalog number. The OMF Library is CD only. At the present time there is no plan to have MP3's 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 your order.

At some of the meetings a few *grab bags* of 10 Cassettes or CDs are available for checkout from the library. New members may be 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.

We get the CDs for our library from several different sources. Most of them are remasters taken from the original ET disks or original tapes. We try to have the best available sound on the CDs. Any lesser quality is indicated on the catalog pages. On some popular series there are a few episodes that have never surfaced in quality sound. These poorer quality sounding episodes are included to fill out the series. The cassette library was aquired over many years in the past and often from lesser quality copies of copies. While most of the cassettes are fine, you will find a few that aren't. Check for a CD if a cassette comes up short of expectations.

Although the content of the CDs in our library is correct, a few of the CDs will show an incorrect title in a computer. In any case that CD is correct for content and catalog number. Even though there are not very many of those, it may take us awhile to find the ones that have errors.

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.

AIR CHECK

NEWSLETTER OF THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND (REPS)

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

9811 NE 139th St
Kirkland WA 98034-1806

April 2010

Address Service Requested

JIM BESHIRE
123 DAVIDSON AVE
SAVANNAH GA 31419-3013

REPS Board

President 2009-2010

Paul Secord
7633 NE 123rd Street
Kirkland WA 98034-2401
425-823-2547
pauksecord@gmail.com

Vice President 2010 -2011 Membership

Bryan Haigood
17334 Densmore Ave N
Shoreline WA 98133
206-542-6231
bryanH362@aol.com

Secretary 2010-2011

Mike Toennesen
2174 n 128th St
Seattle WA 98133
(206) 364-3932

At Large (1) 2010

Shaun Clancy
18261 73rd Ave NE #A105
Kenmore WA 98028
206-510-5787

At Large (2) 2010

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

At Large (3) 2010

Al Gil
12307B Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle WA 98125
206-306-9435 acgil@comcast.net

Treasurer 2009-2010

Mary Fichtenberg
109 NW 83rd St
Seattle WA 98117
206-789-2319
fichtenberg2319@msn.com

Scheduled Events

- Apr 3, 2010 Regular and Board Meeting
Telephone Interview
- May 1, 2010 Regular and Board Meeting
- Jun 5, 2010 Regular and Board Meeting
- Jul 3, 2010 No July Meeting

*June 25-26-27, 2010 Showcase 2010 Bellevue Coast
Hotel*

Darrell Anderson, Librarian

17232 174th SE
Renton WA 98058
425-226-7005 woods_inn@msn.com

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.