

FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO



Arthur Anderson



Ezra Stone



George Ansbro



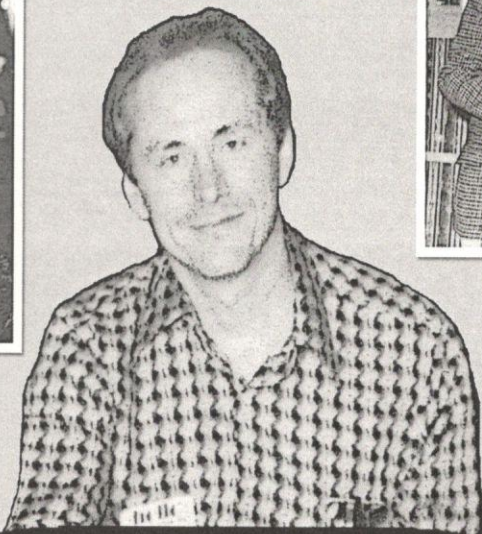
Carlton E. Morse



Peg Lynch



Jackson Beck



30 YEARS OF MEMORIES
1976-2005

Editor's Note

Welcome to the 30th Annual Friends of Old Time Radio Convention. When our founder and chairman Jay Hickerson launched FOTR in 1976 I'm sure he could only dream that the convention would grow to become the largest, best-attended fan convention for old time radio in the world and would still be under his direction three decades later.

By most reckonings, this convention has lasted longer than the actual Golden Age of Radio it celebrates, although as two of my favorite shows are *The Jack Benny Program* (debut in 1932) and *Suspense* (last show in 1962), I count it a tie until we make it back here next year.

We succeed for two reasons—special guests who can thrill in each and every performance using only their voices and who are unfailingly generous with their time and the dedication of Jay Hickerson and the Planning Committee.

FOTR Planning Committee members pay the same door charge as any guests and donate their time and skills. Jay pulls the pieces together each fall, we put on another show and keep dramatic radio's memory alive for another year.

These pages are graced with the personal recollections of long-time attendees—including renowned radio scholars Jack French and Martin Grams, Jr.—a salute to each and every special guest through this year, and brief biographies of our Allen Rockford Award winners who are honored each year for their contributions to the hobby. It includes histories of the two audio drama troupes founded to perform at this convention, the Gotham Radio Players and the Dave Warren Players, with pictures going back to the earliest days.

I've been the publicist for FOTR for the past 10 years after discovering the convention in 1994. Attending my first FOTR convention was a life-changing event, exposing me to the broader hobby when I had only been aware of the commercial dealers before. I've met many great friends here based on our shared love of audio drama.

Thanks for the FOTR memories Jay. This one's for you.

Sean Dougherty
Editor

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Twenty-Nine Weekends More Fun Than Christmas

By Gary Yoggy

As I took pen in hand to set down my memories of twenty-nine Friends of Old Time Radio Conventions, I knew it would be a formidable task. How does one summarize — in a coherent fashion — so many wonderful and moving events? Please note: this article does not pretend to be a complete history of FOTR conventions, just an incomplete personal memoir.

I guess the place to begin is the beginning. I began collecting recordings of old time radio programs in 1970 and subscribing to *Hello Again* shortly thereafter. It was through Jay Hickerson's fascinating and informative publication that I learned of that first 1976 convention in Meriden, CT.

I talked my first wife into going with me, (she spent the weekend shopping in Hartford), took a personal day off from teaching and set out on what was to become the first of twenty-nine weekends more fun than Christmas. For it was here that I got the opportunity to meet many of the voices that had become so much a part of my life — first, during childhood — and later when my hobby began to blossom. I also made a number of life-long friends who shared my interest and enthusiasm for this delightful hobby. Most important of all, I met the wonderful young woman who would become my second (and life-long) wife!! The many hundreds of dollars worth of OTR memorabilia I purchased each year was like trimming on the Christmas tree.



Dwight Weist

What I remember most about that first convention was the awe and wonder I felt, as I sat (with my mouth ajar most of the time), and watched my "heroes" — like the Green Hornet (Jack McCarthy) and the host of *Inner Sanctum* (Raymond Edward Johnson — in a wheelchair). There was also a special unscheduled appearance by radio's Mike Hammer (and TV's Stu Bergman), Larry Haines, and a mesmerizing sound effects demonstration by Bob and Pete Prescott.

The years seemed to fly by after that first taste of OTR's enchantment — but I do remember vividly a few conventions later, a surprise appearance by Kenny Delmar (Senator Claghorn), who fell desperately ill after speaking for a few minutes and had to be rushed to the hospital.

Every new star I met was a joy — Ezra Stone (Henry Aldrich), Bob Hastings (Archie Andrews), Parley Baer (Chester), Lon Clark (Nick Carter), Jackson Beck (the narrator on *Superman*), Fred Foy (the announcer on *The Lone Ranger*), to mention a few of the earlier, more memorable guests. At first, I

was afraid to even ask for autographs, I held them in such reverence. Gradually, I overcame my shyness and found these stars, without exception, to be down-to-earth folks.

As far as OTR celebrities are concerned, there are several incidents that stand out in my memory. When radio's poet laureate, Norman Corwin, came to direct "The Plot to Overthrow Christmas," Anthony Tollin (who coordinated all the re-creations at that time) not only asked me to escort Burgess Meredith, the special guest star, to and from rehearsals, but to actually sit in and read the part of Simon Legree during the initial read-through when Bob Hastings (who was to play that role) was busy at another rehearsal. I also remember that during the performance Burgess dropped his script and Ezra Stone who was playing Santa Claus calmly handed Burgess his script, while picking up and reorganizing Burgess's script. They hardly missed a beat.



L to R: Betty Jane Rhodes, Gwen Davies, Sybil Trent

Other guests who made lasting impressions on me: Will Hutchins, who never appeared on radio during its golden age, but has become a regular participant in OTR re-creations all across the country, showing great versatility — he was a natural as Dagwood in *Blondie*, and truly inspired as the agent in *My Client, Curly*; Barney Beck, the grandest of many grand sound effects artists who have attended FOTR Conventions, with his droll sense of humor and his ingenious mastery of every conceivable sound; Hal Stone (Jughead), who can out ad lib anybody; Florence Williams (from *Front Page Farrell*), the sweetest, most considerate actress anyone ever worked with — for whom the FOTR annual professional award is named; Arthur Anderson, of *Let's Pretend*, an excellent character actor, who can direct, as well as act, and generously shares his vast knowledge with any and all who ask; George Ansbro (ABC announcer), who is the gentlest gentleman of all — a quintessential professional with a voice as smooth as silk; Arthur Tracy ("The Street Singer") who sang "Marta," year after year, well into his nineties; the distinctive voice — and humor — of Frank Nelson as he related his marvelous Jack Benny anecdotes.

Of course, the highlight of every convention has been for me its re-creations. A few stand out prominently in my memory: the fiftieth anniversary re-creation of *The Lone Ranger* with Mrs. Brace Beemer as special guest; the *Superman* episodes carried over three evenings in 1998 featuring the original

Atom Man, Mason Adams; the “Miracle for Christmas” episode of *Grand Central Station*, featuring Ken Roberts; the *Shadow* episode starring John Archer, one of radio’s original Shadows; the updated “War of the Worlds” re-creation on its fiftieth anniversary and, of course, the aforementioned “Plot to Overthrow Christmas” (which we will re-create again on stage at this year’s convention).

After attending a dozen or so conventions, I joined the planning committee. When Anthony Tollin decided he no longer could direct all of the re-creations, I volunteered to do one. I’ll never forget that first one — an episode of *The Great Gildersleeve* with Willard Waterman, Shirley Mitchell and Louise Erickson in their original roles.



Bob Hastings

Other re-creations I especially enjoyed directing include *Dragnet* with Peggy Webber, Herb Ellis, and Harry Bartell, all of whom worked with Jack Webb on the show; an episode of *Jack Benny* I wrote, incorporating excerpts from four different shows so I could use as many different characters as possible, featuring Joan Benny, Jack’s daughter, playing her mother, Mary Livingston, and impressionist Will Jordan as Jack; an episode of *I Remember Mama* starring lovely Rosemary Rice as Katryn, the role she played on radio and television, and the marvel-

ous Abby Lewis and Ted Reid as Mama and Papa with Dick Van Patten as Nels; an episode of *Archie Andrews* with three of the original cast members, Bob Hastings, Rosemary Rice and Hal Stone as Archie, Betty and Jughead, and my all time, number one favorite, *My Little Margie* with the incomparable Gale Storm in her original role as Margie and Gil Stratton re-creating the role of her boyfriend.

Gale Storm is, in fact, my favorite (of many favorites) FOTR convention guest star. To paraphrase newspaper columnist Nancy MacCaig, Gale personifies the words “star” and “lady,” two roles in life that are not always synonymous. Her glitter, glamour and beauty reflect her star quality, while her sweet, intelligent, and respectful demeanor show her to be the quintessential lady. As Nancy wrote in the *Old Time Radio Digest* several years ago, “Gale has the rare ability of making new acquaintances feel as if they are close, lifetime friends. She has the gift of turning negatives into positives, tense moments into humorous incidents, and a forever young-at-heart approach to life.” Gale was twice a FOTR guest — in 1995 when she appeared as “Margie” and five years later when she was a member of the singers’ panel.

In addition to the fun of meeting the stars and seeing re-creations, there is much to be learned at panels and other special fan presentations. Among the

many such presentations that I have enjoyed over the years were Bill Nadel’s interview of Edith Meisner (author of most *Sherlock Holmes* radio scripts); Don Aston’s detailed analysis of the *Gunsmoke* radio series; Anthony Tollin’s talk/slide presentation with Walter Gibson (the *Shadow*’s creator), explaining the history of the *Shadow* shortly after the publication of their book, *The Shadow Scrapbook*; Fran Striker, Jr. discussing his father’s legacy in creating *The Lone Ranger*, and much more recently Jack French’s presentation on radio’s female detectives taken from his award-winning book.

I also have many pleasant memories of the presentations that I have coordinated/delivered at various FOTR conventions. The first one is still among my favorites — I brought my ventriloquist dolls of Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd, Christmas gifts from my wife, and gave a detailed account of Edgar Bergen’s incredible career. Later this became the featured story in the second issue of Bob Burchett’s new publication, the *Old Time Radio Digest*, with Dave Warren’s delightful drawing of the dolls on the cover and later reproduced on a coffee mug which I prize to this day. The year that I directed the *Dragnet* re-creation, I chaired a panel on Jack Webb with three of his closest friends: Peggy Webber, Harry Bartell and Herb Ellis. Another personal highlight of my presentations involved Presidential election campaigns on the radio, focusing on FDR’s unprecedented 1944 all-star election-eve special. Then there were the annual, for a while, “best” lists: Christmas shows, comedy shows, detective shows, etc. and even a “worst” OTR shows of all time list — which certainly stirred up a lot of controversy!



Grace Matthews

One convention activity that has remained constant, year after year, has been my rush to the dealers’ room the moment after I have checked in. It was here that I poured over the many wonders to be found, checked my monetary reserves and credit card balances and purchased my treasures. My history of collecting is similar to many other “old timers” — first, reel-to-reel programs, records (78s and 33^{1/3}s) and cassettes and later CDs and now MP3s. There were also books, photos, posters, premiums, VHS and much later DVDs to be had.

Over the years, there were many dealers that I looked forward to seeing and purchasing from — a few of whom still make their annual pilgrimages to Newark. Among the earlier ones, Ron Barnett, Don Aston, Carl Amari and Terry Salomonson stand out. Later came Gary Kramer, Barry Hill and Ted Davenport; and more recently Martin Grams, Jr., also an author whose meticulously researched, prolifically written books are a tremendous asset to the hobby; and Fred Berney, whose DVD offerings are second to none!

BUT the greatest legacy of my twenty-nine weekends of FOTR conventions has been the friends that I have made. (How about that — the first word in FOTR is Friends!) The late Dave Warren, founder of the Dave Warren Players amateur audio drama troupe, is in a category by himself. For over twenty years he was my closest friend in old time radio.



Les Tremayne

Fran Striker, Jr. was one of a number of professionals whom I enticed to come to Elmira, NY and participate in our local theater group, Elmira Little Theatre's annual Visit to the Golden Age of Radio — a weekend of OTR recreations I've directed every Spring since 1988. Others have included Ezra Stone, Willard Waterman, Lon Clark, Bob Hastings, Fred Foy, Will Hutchins, Rosemary Rice, Arthur Anderson and the wonderful Gale Storm, who spent her 80th birthday in Elmira.

And now, before I close this nostalgic trip down memory lane, a very personal recollection — how I met my beautiful, patient, forbearing, understanding, industrious wife, Anna Jean Smith. In 1981 Anthony Tollin introduced us at the convention and invited me to have dinner with her at his table. Recently divorced, I quickly discovered that she already knew who I was, having heard me on a local radio station, and only lived about fifty miles away. Our first date was a Sunday afternoon dinner at her house. I fell in love with her mother's cooking — that's a joke, son! We were married about a week before the next FOTR convention (1982). At last I had a soul mate with a common interest in old time radio! The rest, as they say, is history. We merged our collections, attend conventions together (except when our cats are sick and need her tender loving care) and recently celebrated our 23rd anniversary.

Well, there you have it — just a few of the many reasons why I've never missed an FOTR convention and to this day consider it "a weekend that's more fun than Christmas!"

Others, in no particular order, include Jay Hickerson, who will always be Mr. Old Time Radio to me, Anthony Tollin, Bob Burchett, Don Ramlow, Bill Nadel, Fran Striker, Jr. and in more recent years, Derek Tague. (I'm sure I've left out some; please don't be offended — just chalk it up to senility!) Then there are my two close friends from home (the Southern Tier of upstate New York) who I finally dragged to Newark 10 or 15 years ago (and now wouldn't miss an FOTR convention), Ed Clute and Bart Curtis.

What Is Old Time Radio Today?

by Martin Grams Jr.

The year was 1975. The Milwaukee Area Radio Enthusiasts (MARE) was created. A 12 year-old Carl Amari discovered old time radio, not yet knowing that years later he would mass-market the same programs he enjoyed listening to. And in Connecticut, that same year, the Friends of Old Time Radio premiered the first of what would be 30 years of an annual nostalgia convention.

Celebrating 30 years of hotel room parties, amateur and professional radio re-creations, celebrity autographs and panel discussions (not to mention the evening dinners), we have one hell of an extraordinary event. People fly from California, Seattle, England and Canada to gather for this weekend, mingling with a crowd that shares the same passion of listening to radio broadcasts.

I have friends in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh who ask me every year on the phone how the convention was. And every year I give the same old grind. "It was a blast. I met friends I see once or twice a year, I bought a few new things I am eager to listen to, and there was a neat little re-creation one afternoon . . ." But it is not the same. Regardless of the technology, phone or Internet, my friends cannot imagine how much fun the convention is until they check it out for themselves. Well, I can say for certain that this year things have changed. I (and probably a few other friends), convinced them to attend. After all, it's a 30th Anniversary! Who wants to miss that? But you know what? I will still go home and listen to someone over the phone — someone who couldn't make it to the convention — ask me how it was and I'll still give the same old grind.



Arnold Moss and Florence Williams

I remember a few months ago someone asked me exactly what makes old time radio conventions so special. Well, I am sure you have heard it all before, but here is a little OTR 101 for you. "Old time radio" is a term or slang popularly used today, referring to radio broadcasts and dramas from the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, and as often debated, the 1960s and 1970s. Since television was

still in its infancy at the time, radio was one of only two mediums that entertained Americans during World War II and the era before and after. Therefore, the art of emoting sound and verbal skills was perfected and practiced daily. Radio helped define popular music. Radio gave listeners front row seats to ball games, boxing and other sporting events — though some would consider radio the medium that took baseball and boxing to a new front and made them popular beyond anyone's expectations at the time. Radio shaped the way people thought and acted with lectures and panel discussions exposing listeners to other people's opinions. Heck, I'll bet radio was influential in making Americans decide who to vote for during the Presidential elections.

The Internet is often looked at the same way. It has influenced Americans in making decisions, helped shape the way we listen to music (and radio broadcasts), learn who won the Oscar minutes before the awards are telecast and even keep up to date with the election results. Today we have more than the

Internet to thank for communication. We have the nostalgia recordings of the '30s, '40s and '50's courtesy of dealers who spend hundreds of thousands of dollars and hours to transfer radio programs from transcription discs to the medium you listen to today (whatever format



Adele Ronson, Ken Roberts, Gilbert Mack

that may be — it all originated from the hard-working dealers). But what exactly is old time radio today? Simply put, it is a hobby.

Hobbies are made up of various factors and some so minor it would take an encyclopedia to put it all down in words. But to keep it short and sweet, I feel the hobby of old time radio can be divided into four factors.

1. The Recordings. Without these, there can be no enjoyment of the hobby whatsoever.

2. The Books and Magazines. Without publications, most of us would be oblivious to what was broadcast that is not known to exist today in recorded form. We wouldn't be able to assign a date and catalog our recordings properly. Most importantly, we wouldn't have anything to read — and we all know if we didn't read, we would all be sitting on our sofas watching TV instead.

3. The Fans. So many people across the world love to listen to the radio broadcasts of the past and without them . . . well, you can use your imagination.

4. The Conventions. That's where this article comes in.

There are a handful of conventions held each year. The Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention in Cincinnati, OH held every April; Radio Classics Live

in Brockton, MA every May; The Annual Lum and Abner Society Convention held on occasion in June in Mena, AR; R.E.P.S. Showcase held every year in Seattle, Washington in June; The Annual Friends of Old Time Radio Convention in Newark, NJ every October; and SPERDVAC in California on occasion in November.

There are a few conventions held every year that occasionally feature a radio re-creation and/or radio theme. The Memphis Film Festival (June); The Williamsburg Film Festival (March); Pulpcon (July); and The Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention (September) to name a few.

If these conventions were to fold up and cease being, part of the hobby goes along with them. It doesn't matter how easy it is for people to communicate by phone or the Internet these days — there's no beating talking to friends face to face, or putting a face to the e-mails for that matter. Without conventions, publishing companies could not sell or promote their latest books. Dealers wouldn't be able to sell old time radio shows. Radio producers would not be able to sell their new radio dramas. Nostalgic radio collectables and premiums would be an eBay item of today, rather than a nostalgic look at the past.

So now we're back to the subject at hand, and now you know why the Friends of Old Time Radio is so important. It's not just another late-night hotel room party swapping dirty jokes. It's not the new audio cassettes, CDs, or MP3s we take home with us. It's the fact that we still migrate to Newark, New Jersey every year to enjoy a few panels, a few musicians, talented people who perform some magic up there on that well-lit stage, and the knowledge that we will all be back in this same hotel next year and the year after.

Congratulations to all who help make this weekend a special one. Remember, without annual conventions, the hobby would be a little smaller — your role is more important than you think, but deeply appreciated.



Mason Adams

Presentations in FOTR's Past

By Jack French

Shortly after the FOTR convention moved from Connecticut to Newark, NJ, I started attending. My first one was in 1982. At that time, the official program was tiny, just two 8 x 10 pages, folded in half. There were at least two, and sometimes three, presentations going on at the same time, one each in Dresden/Lenox, Ballroom, and Sutton/Ascot.

During the 1984 convention Don Aston and Gary Yoggy gave a presentation on "Western OTR" and I was disappointed that the *Tom Mix* show only got about five minutes. I talked to Don after and he said that next year he would do an entire one on *Tom Mix* if I would help. I agreed.

By 1985 (the 10th annual convention) Don had located a video of Curley Bradley doing a *Tom Mix* re-creation which Jim Harmon had arranged. I had typed out a script based on the May 2, 1945 episode of *Tom Mix*, which I intended to cast and perform as another section of our presentation. At FOTR, I cast Dave Zwengler as "Tom," Dave Warren as "Mike Shaw," Lora Palmer as "Drusilla," Jim Snyder as the villain, "K-12," Bob Burchett as the announcer, and Joe Webb doubling as "Mr. Moonlight" and a Chinese houseboy. As director, I was also in charge of sound effects. I used an electric razor for the airplane engine, an incongruity that Jim Snyder still teases me about today.

Dave Warren had so much fun doing this that the next year he founded the Dave Warren Players with Burchett, Zwengler, and others in his repertory company. They would go on to perform many re-creations at FOTR conventions.

In the following years, I gave presentations on lady detectives, FBI radio shows, and comic book characters that came to radio. For the 16th annual convention in 1991 I led a panel on Radio Traitors with script writer Margaret Blair discussing Axis Sally and historian Russell Warren Howe talking about Tokyo Rose. Both of them were new to OTR and quite amazed at the number of dedicated fans in our hobby.

The following year Clive Rice, radio's last and longest Bobby Benson, and I detailed the juvenile western shows, concentrating on the kids programs. During 1993 and 1994 I gave a history of RCMP heroes on both U.S. and Canadian networks and Radio's Aviators.

By the 1990s, the number of presentations had dropped from two or three per time slot to only one, nearly always held in the ballroom. The remainder of the rooms were used for readings and rehearsals of the re-creations, which had increased over the years. Likewise, the tiny convention program, folded in half, which had been less than eight pages in the 1980s, had expanded to 30 full-sized pages with a card stock cover.

For the 20th annual FOTR convention in 1995, I brought in three key

players from the *Bobby Benson B-Bar-B* program to discuss the series in detail. In addition to Clive Rice I had Ivan Cury (Mutual's first Cowboy Kid) and Mary Jane Mastapeter, the on-tour chaperone for all of the three kids who played Bobby Benson at WOR.

For the 1996 FOTR convention, my topic was Radio Premiums and I was fortunate to convince Don Maris of Dallas, TX to join me in Newark. Don runs the annual "Big-D Super Collectibles Show" twice a year in Dallas that has over 300 dealers' tables with nostalgia items for sale. His knowledge of radio premiums is extraordinary.



Veola Vonn, Frank Nelson, Vicki Vola

During the 1997-99 period I delivered presentations at three conventions: Asian Characters in OTR, the Marx Brothers on the Air, and Creatures and Critters who got their own radio series (including Lassie, Champion, Rin-Tin-Tin, and the Hartz Mountain Canaries). In all of these sessions, I discussed the history of each program and played excerpts from each one. Toni Gilman, who was our title lead in a *Candy Matson* re-creation in 1998, joined me in discussing the Marx Brothers, whom she worked with in film.

In 2000 I discussed several Hollywood gossips and their radio shows. This presentation would be repeated, with more details, in 2002 when Jay Hickerson located Hedda Hopper's nephew, Roland Furry, and he and I talked at length about her career in the movies and on radio.

Radio's Breakfast Couples were the subject of my presentation in 2001 and Barbara Watkins joined me on the stage for a re-creation of the Fred Allen/Tallulah Bankhead parody of that genre.

By 2003, my research on *Candy Matson* for my book, *Private Eyelashes; Radio's Lady Detectives* had resulted in the location of the sound man on her series, Jay Rendon, so he joined me on a panel discussing all of the San Francisco detectives. Backing us up on this seminar was Dave Amaral, a NBC West Coast engineer. Both of them would later be very helpful in compiling background information on the West Coast shows covered in my book.

FOTR Special Guests: A 30 Year Recap

by Sean Dougherty

Specials guests have been the highlights of every Friends of Old Time Radio Convention, from 1976 to this year's star-studded line-up.

Every first-time convention attendee gets the chills meeting and hearing their heroes from the radio. My first convention (in 1994) featured such unforgettable voices as Jackson Beck, Lon Clark, Fred Foy, George Ansbro, Jeannette Nolan, Raymond Edward Johnson, Dick Beals and Bob Hastings. I remember marveling at how Fred Foy could reel off that Lone Ranger introduction just like it was 1948 — and it is even more marvelous that he's still with us this year to do the same thing.

Long-time attendees have memories of such timeless voices as Willard Waterman, Frank Nelson, Kenny Delmar, Ezra Stone, Les Treymane, and more! They could hear from master writers of the medium like Norman Corwin (whose "Plot to Overthrow Christmas" is on this year's program) and Carlton E. Morse (whose widow Millie is also expected).



Ruth Franklin, Louise Erickson, Evie Juster

Just as exciting as seeing the special guests perform is meeting them in person and finding out how many wonderful people were involved in old radio and are willing to share their time to swap stories of favorite shows and actors. At my first convention I was blown away finding

myself at dinner with Rosemary Rice and Hal Stone. Years later, I had the thrill of introducing my parents to Dick Beals and Arthur Anderson.

In the late 1990s we were graced with the presence of Larry Stevens, the last major cast member of *The Jack Benny Program*, who sang beautifully even in his late 70s. A special convention memory for me will be Mr. Stevens taking the time to come to my table at dinner and sing "Happy Birthday" to my mother, which happened to be that night. However, no singer who attends the convention will ever match the 1994 performance of "Pennies from Heaven" by "Street Singer" Arthur Tracy, who was at that point was 94.

Of course, the performers themselves get a thrill from the fans as well.

When aging character actor Maurice Ellis attended his first convention in 1996 he was overcome with emotion when recognized by the crowd at dinner and was reduced to tears. When Parley Bear attended his first convention in 1983, he too couldn't believe the standing ovation when he walked into the Friday banquet was for him.

While the days may be past where we can re-create *The Great Gildersleeve* or *The Shadow* with a cast of original stars, there are still many fine radio character actors left who deliver great entertainment in re-creations and have recollections of the golden age of radio that you can't get anywhere else.



Alice Reinheart and Court Benson

We have Arthur Anderson to tell us just what it was like in the studio (and on Broadway!) with Orson Welles. There's Dave Parker and Elaine Hyman to share memories of WXYZ Detroit and all its great children's programming. Beverly Washburn was able to give us first-hand knowledge of what it was like to work with and be a friend of Jack Benny. Of course, there's the immortal Peg Lynch, to bring *Ethel and Albert* to life again.

Let's Pretend's all-child cast and east coast location has always made that show a favorite to re-create since so many of the original stars are still with us and in the area. Can anyone forget the "baby cry-off" between Miriam Wolff and Sybil Trent from 1997? Rosemary Rice, Cliff Carpenter, Don Buka, Dick Van Patten, Larry Robinson, Gwen Davies, Jack Grimes, Ruth Last and Arthur Anderson are just some of the members of that beloved program who have attended regularly.

Dick Beals's story of his first *Lone Ranger* broadcast, during which the stepstool he was using to get close enough to the microphone to say his lines was knocked over just prior to the opening theme, was a great highlight. How many other actors could deliver a dramatic scene held up by the armpits by his co-stars?

Just in the last year, our first special guest, Jackson Beck, breathed his last. The announcer/narrator on the *Adventures of Superman*, who burned the phrases "faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in single bound," into our collective memories, was FOTR's chief evangelist for many years. He brought many guests with him and exposed the convention to others. His performance as *The Cisco Kid* at his penultimate convention in 1997 could still make the young girls swoon as much as his narration in a five-chapter *Superman* serial in 1998 put you on the edge of your seat. A founder of the American Federation of Radio Artists (AFRA) whose

efforts helped bring fair pay and working conditions to actors in New York and around the country, Beck was an organizer at the Friends of Old Time Radio as well.

Many of the most beloved convention guests worked in the relatively anonymous world of soap operas during the golden age of radio and got to strut their stuff in a range of roles on stage in Connecticut and Newark. Our annual award for the performer who shows outstanding dedication to the convention is named for one such actress, Florence Williams of *Front Page Farrell*, who passed away in 1993. Others of our favorite soap stars are Toni Gilman, Pat Hosley and the great Abby Lewis.

Every year, the passage of time makes the list of great stars to meet shorter but somehow there is always a highlight. Whether it was watching Ben Cooper channel Digger O'Dell in a *Life of Riley* re-creation, seeing Johnny Western perform his theme song to *Have Gun Will Travel* or Will Hutchins annually making us wonder how a television actor learned to be so handy around a stand-up mike, our guests always make every performance something to appreciate.



Rosa Rio and Ted Malone



Lee Allman

This year, we're welcoming Simon Jones, "Arthur Dent" of the BBC's *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* for the first time — a reminder that only in the United States did network radio drama end in the 1960s.

It's hard not to get wistful as you turn the following pages and recognize how many great stars who have attended FOTR are no longer with us — but we salute their memories each fall in Newark, and each year has wonders of its own.

Remember your greatest convention memories in these next pages — and remember to add at least one more of your own today.

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Mason Adams	Pepper Young's Family, Superman, Suspense, Inner Sanctum	1987, 98
Lee Alan	WXYZ Disk Jockey and Announcer	1985
Lee Allman	The Green Hornet, The Lone Ranger, Sgt. Preston, Hermit's Cave	1978-83, 88
Arthur Anderson	Let's Pretend, Mercury Theater of the Air, Sherlock Holmes	1980-83, 85, 87-05
George Ansbro	Young Widow Brown, Ethel & Albert, When A Girl Marries	1978, 82-83, 85-87, 89-05
John Archer	The Shadow, Gateway to Hollywood	1987, 91, 94
Russell Arms	Your Hit Parade (TV)	2001
Eric Arthur	The Shadow (writer)	1987
Ira Ashley	Grand Central Station, The Second Mrs. Burton, Young Dr. Malone	1978-79, 81-82
Brad Ashton	Writer for British radio & TV	1992
Margot Avery	Daughter of Margot Stevenson, Prime of Miss Jean Brodie	1994, 01
Parley Baer	Gunsmoke, Granby's Green Acres, Suspense, Ozzie & Harriet	1983, 91
George Balzer	Writer, The Jack Benny Program	1994
Joan Bishop Barber	The Quiz Kids	1983
Harry Bartell	Gunsmoke, X Minus One, Dragnet, Nero Wolfe, Fort Laramie	1991-92
Jeanne Bates	One Man's Family, Shorty Bell	1997
Dick Beals	The Lone Ranger, Suspense, Fibber McGee & Molly, Gunsmoke	1992, 96, 98-01
Barney Beck	Bob and Ray	1987-91, 94-95, 97-98
Jackson Beck	Superman, Cisco Kid, Philo Vance, Man Behind the Gun, Mark Trail, Dimension X, Casey Crime Photographer	1976, 78-89, 91, 93-94, 96-98
Bob Bell	Director/Producer - Decision Now	1991
Ralph Bell	Big Sister, Dick Tracy, CBS Radio Mystery Theater	1979, 96
Shirley Bell	Little Orphan Annie	2005
Joan Benny	The Jack Benny Program, author of Sunday Nights at Seven	1990-91, 99
Court Benson	Big Sister, Tennessee Jed, Backstage Wife, Our Gal Sunday, Young Widder Brown, Aldrich Family, Big Town	1977-79, 81, 87-88
Frank Bingman	Straight Arrow, Mary Southern	1984
Jack Bivens	Captain Midnight, Sky King	2004

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Ed Blainey	Phillip Morris Playhouse, Gangbusters, Counterspy, The Fat Man, The Shadow, Hop Harrigan	1977-78
Vivian Block	Let's Pretend	1978, 91, 94, 97
Johnny Blowers	Bob Hope Show	2002
Ethel Blume		1998
Hendrik Booraem	Writer/director of March of Time	1990
Eddie Bracken	The Eddie Bracken Show	1997
Oscar Brand	Folksong Festival	1991
Frank Bresee	Red Ryder, Major Hoople, AFRS	2002
Phil Brito	Lyricist	1999
David Brown	Eddie Cantor	1999
Vanessa Brown	Quiz Kids	1992
Bob Bruce	Michael Shayne, Glamour Manor	1991
Warren Bryan	Stella Dallas, Orphans of Divorce	1986, 92, 94, 97-98
Ed Bryce	Tom Corbett	1993
Judith Bublick	Script writer, The Shadow, Charlie Chan	1987, 89
Donald Buka	Let's Pretend, Crime Does Not Pay	1982-83, 04-05
Frank Buxton	Radio Historian, actor	1997
Lillian Buyeff	Gunsmoke, Suspense	1991
Catherine Byers	CBS Radio Mystery Theater	1999
Ward Byron	Phil Harris & Alice Faye Show, Chesterfield Supper Club, Fitch Bandwagon	1979, 81, 83-84, 87,93
Jess Cain	The Couple Next Door	1999
Charlie Callas	TV Comedian	2003
Tony Caminita	Sound effects, WXYZ	1985
Fran Carlon	Big Town, Joyce Jordan, MD, Our Gal Sunday, Lorenzo Jones, Stella Dallas	1980-87, 89, 90-92
Paul Carnegie	The Lone Ranger, The Green Hornet	2003-04
Cliff Carpenter	Let's Pretend, Terry and the Pirates	1983, 01-05
Frances Chaney	Actress & widow of Ring Lardner, Jr.	1998
Vivian Della Chiesa	American Album of Familiar Music	1986
Eugene Clark	Engineer for Mutual	1995-97
Lon Clark	Nick Carter, Comic Weekly Man	1981, 86-87, 89-96
Robert Clary	Hogan's Heroes (TV)	2002
Mildred Clinton	Eternal Light, Vanity Fair, Faces of Love CBS Radio Mystery Theater, Cavalcade of America	1987, 99
Frank Coghlan	Movie Actor, "Dragnet"	1997
Jean Colbert	Mary Southern, Young Dr. Malone, Mercury Theatre	1980

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Nancy Coleman	Young Dr. Malone	1983, 86, 92
Fred Collins	Dimension X, X Minus One	1992, 96
Patrick Conlon	Quiz Kids	1983
Larry Conroy	Voiceover coach	2005
Tommy Cook	Red Ryder	2002
Ben Cooper	Red Ryder, Mark Trail	2001
Jill Corey	Your Hit Parade (TV)	1998, 04
Norman Corwin	On a Note of Triumph, Columbia Presents Corwin, Columbia Workshop	1990
Helen Coule	Hilltop House, Second Mrs. Burton	1983, 1984
Peter Cranford		1992
Phyllis Creore	The Canteen Girl	1990, 02
Kathryn Crosby	Movie actress	2003
Sonny Curtis	Singer, songwriter (TV)	2005
Ivan Cury	Bobby Benson	1995-96
Bill Daugherty	Cabaret singer	?
Jeff David	Theater 5	2004-05
Gwen Davies	Adventures of Helen and Mary, Let's Pretend, Coast-to-Coast on a Bus, Hilltop House	1980, 83, 94
Dix Davis	One Man's Family, A Date with Judy	1997
Gordon Davis	Husband of Toni Gilman	2000
Humphrey Davis	Life Can Be Beautiful, Light of the World, Nick Carter, Superman, The Shadow	1985-86, 1997
Dolly Dawn	Singer with George Hall and Dolly Dawn and the Dawn Patrol	
Carol Deis	Singer	1987
Alfred De La Fuente	You Are There, GE Theater	1986
Kenny Delmar	The Fred Allen Show	1981
Ann DeMarco	The Fred Allen Show	1999, 00
Joseph DeSantis	The Shadow, Mr. District Attorney, FBI in Peace and War, True Detective Mysteries	1984
Bob Diamond	Announcer for Joe Franklin	2005
Nat Dickerson	Arthur Godfrey	1989
Mary Diveny	Regional radio	1998-02
Bob Dixon	Life Can Be Beautiful, Perry Mason, Rosemary	1978-79
Tom Dougall	Writer, creator of Sgt. Preston, Lone Ranger, Buck Rogers	1985
Nancy Douglas	Brave Tomorrow, Ma Perkins, Portia Faces Life, Houseboat Hannah	1981, 83

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Margaret Draper	A Brighter Day	1984, 99
Bob Drew	Let's Pretend	1994
Bob Dryden	Couple Next Door, Suspense, I Love a Mystery, Big Town, CBS Radio Mystery Theater	1988-96
Dick Dudley	Archie Andrews	1994, 96, 98
Helene Dumas	Dot & Will, Easy Aces, Crime Club	1984
Sam Edwards	One Man's Family, Fort Laramie, Meet Corliss Archer, Gunsmoke, Dragnet	1991, 97, 00
Shirley Eggleston	Crime Letter From Dan Dodge	1998, 00, 04
Win Elliot	Sportscaster, NY Rangers, Boston Bruins	1992-93, 95
Herb Ellis	Gunsmoke, Dragnet, Suspense	1992
Maurice Ellis	X Minus One, Escape, Suspense, Hilltop House	1996
Elsbeth Eric	Superman, Front Page Farrell, Joyce Jordan, MD, Gangbusters	1981
Louise Erickson	A Date with Judy, Meet Corliss Archer, Life of Riley, Great Gildersleeve, Granby's Green Acres	1986, 89, 91, 96
Ray Erlenborn	Al Pearce, Gateway to Hollywood	1987-89, 91-98
Lee Erwin	Organist, Arthur Godfrey, Moon River	1989, 93-94
Paul Evans	Singer, 1950s pop music	1999
Lee Falk	KMOX Radio, cartoonist/writer, Phantom	1989
Barry Farber	Disk jockey, WOR	2000
Bill Farrell	Bob Hope Show (singer)	2002
Eileen Farrell	Opera Singer	2000
Ruth Duskin Feldman	Quiz Kids	1983
Peter Fernandez	Let's Pretend, The Adventures Of Superman, Gangbusters, The Shadow	1988
John Fiedler	Henry Aldrich	1986
Irving Fields	Pianist and composer	2005
Laurette Fillbrandt	One Man's Family, Lone Journey	1987
Harry Fleetwood	Music Through the Night	1991, 93-01
Jim Fletcher	WXYZ Actor/sound effects, The Lone Ranger	1985
Lucille Fletcher	Suspense	1985, 90
Fred Flowerday	Lone Ranger, Sgt. Preston, Green Hornet	1985
Fred Foy	The Lone Ranger	1977, 85, 93, 95-96, 00, 03, 05
Joe Franklin	Joe Franklin's Memory Lane	1989, 99, 04-05
Ruth Franklin	New York radio actress, AFTRA officer	1985-86, 89
Florence Freeman	Young Widow Brown, Wendy Warren	1998
Mickey Freeman	Phil Silvers Show (TV)	2005
Barbara Fuller	One Man's Family	1997
Maria Gambarelli	Roxy and His Gang	1987

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Beverly Garland	My Three Sons (TV), Bing Crosby Show	2002
Kathy Garver	Family Affair (TV)	2002
Esther Geddes	The Magic Garden	1991
Bernie George		1989
Earl George	Captain Midnight, Ma Perkins, Doc Savage, Superman	1987, 89, 90-91, 93-98
Walter Gibson	The Shadow	1980-83
Jean Gillespie	Alan Young Show, Aldrich Family	1989, 96
Toni Gilman	Life Begins, Young Widder Brown	1998-00
Art Gilmore	Dragnet, Dr. Christian	2000-01
Susan Gordon	Movie and television actress	2005
Gordon Gould	CBS Radio Mystery Theater	1993, 99
Gogi Grant	Singer	2002
Dori Anne Gray	Singer	2003
Martha Greenhouse	CBS Radio Mystery Theater	1995, 99
Bill Griffis	Cavalcade of America, Perry Mason, Ma Perkins, Superman, Suspense, Dimension X	1979
Jack Grimes	Let's Pretend, Dimension X, X Minus One	1982
Bob Guilbert	Don Winslow, Stepmother	1983
Michael Gwynne	Disc jockey	2005
Larry Haines	That Hammer Guy, Joyce Jordan, MD, Big Town, The Falcon, Rose Parade, The Shadow, Pepper Young's Family	1976
Art Hanna	Front Page Farrell, David Harum, Just Plain Bill, Lora Lawton, Ethel & Albert, Mr. Moto	1979, 81
Jeanne Harrison	Cisco Kid, Boston Blackie	1988
John Hart	The Lone Ranger (TV)	1996
Bob Hastings	X Minus One, Archie Andrews, Suspense	1988-92, 94-98, 00-04
Don Hastings	Theater Guild, Studio One, As the World Turns, Captain Video (TV)	1992
Bill Hayes	Woolworth Hour, Glenn Miller	2002
Susan Seaforth Hayes	Lux Radio Theater	2002
Clare Hazel	Bob Hope Show, Dr. Pepper Parade, Brother Rat	1978-79
Bill Hengserbeck	WXYZ sound effects artist	1985
Richard Herd	Theater Five	1999
Ed Herlihy	Inner Sanctum, Mr. District Attorney, Kraft Music Hall, The Big Show	1986, 88-89
Bill Herz	Mercury Theater, WXYZ	1990, 05

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Hildegarde	The Raleigh Room, Beat the Band	1988
Gladys Holland	The Whistler, Ma Perkins, Dragnet	1987, 93
Rupert Holmes	Writer, Remember WENN, Say Goodnight Gracie	2003
Russell Horton	Earplay, CBS Radio Mystery Theater	1999
Pat Hosley	A Brighter Day, Frank Merriwell	1983, 84, 87, 94, 1997-98, 00-04
Jack Houseknecht	Just Plain Bill, Stella Dallas, Pepper Young's Family, Young Widder Brown	1978-79
Don Hughes	Let's Pretend, Daddy & Rollo	1980, 82-83, 88
Will Hutchins	Blondie, Sugarfoot (TV)	1996, 98-05
Dick Hyman	Composer	1989
Elaine Hyman	The Lone Ranger, Sgt. Preston, The Green Hornet	1993, 96, 00, 03-05
Florence James	Casting Director	1993-95
Betty Johnson	The Breakfast Club	1997
Dora Johnson	Ma Perkins	1982, 84
Harold Johnson	Sound effects	2001
Raymond Edward Johnson	Inner Sanctum, Mandrake the Magician, Don Winsow of the Navy	1976-77, 79-82, 1984, 86, 88-91, 93-95, 97
Simon Jones	Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	2005
Ed Jordan	World of Modern Sound	1995
Will Jordan	Impressionist	1994, 97, 03
Evie Juster	Just Plain Bill, Big Sister, Our Gal Sunday, Pepper Young's Family, Right to Happiness	1976, 78-86
Kitty Kallen	Singer	1997
Joseph Kahn	Pianist: Information Please	1987
Joseph Nathan Kane	Writer: Break the Bank	1987
Hal Kanter	The Fred Allen Show	1999
Betty Tyler Karp	Mr. & Mrs. North, Land of the Lost, Let's Pretend, Myrt & Marge	1980-81
Teri Keane	Life Can Be Beautiful	1981, 89, 99, 02-03
Jackie Kelk	Superman, Henry Aldrich	1988
Ed Kemmer	Space Patrol	1994
Ray Kemper	Sound effects, many shows	1991
Elaine Kent	John's Other Wife, Little Women, Just Plain Bill	1987
Ernest Kinoy	X Minus One	1977

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
David Kogan	WOR Writer, Mysterious Traveler, The Shadow, Nick Carter	1996
Rex Koury	Gunsmoke	1994, 97
Mandel Kramer	Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar, The Shadow, Counterspy, Backstage Wife, Mr. & Mrs. North	1977, 79
Ron Lackmann	AFRS, Host: Education in Action	1998, 00, 05
Ruth Last	Let's Pretend, Quiet Please	1991-93, 95-05
Jim Lawrence	Silver Eagle, Challenge of the Yukon, Green Hornet	1982
Eddie Layton	Organist	1984
Robert E. Lee	Comic Weekly Man	1988-91
George Lefferts	X Minus One	1996
Abby Lewis	House in the Country, Road of Life, Theater Five	1982, 90-91, 93, 95-98
Bill Lipton	Mary Marlin, Buck Rogers, Let's Pretend, Dr. Christian, Counterspy	1980-83
Rita Lloyd	Let's Pretend	1980, 88, 94, 00
Ann Loring	"Many Shows"	1981-86, 88-89
Bob Luban		1986
Jimmy Lydon	Let's Pretend, Young Love	2003-05
Peg Lynch	Ethyl & Albert, Couple Next Door, Little Things in Life	1979, 80, 86, 88, 90-92, 98-00, 05
Gilbert Mack	CBS Radio Mystery Theater, Chick Carter, Dick Tracy	1986-89, 91, 99
Don MacLaughlin	Chaplain Jim, Counterspy, Romance of Helen Trent, Ethel & Albert, Gangbusters	1976, 79
Ted Mallie	The Shadow	1979-80, 87, 94
Ted Malone	Musician	1983, 86
James Maloney	Aldrich Family, Columbia School of the Air, Aunt Jenny, It Pays to be Ignorant	1976-77
Leonard Maltin	Radio historian, television movie critic	1997
Betty Mandeville	Take It or Leave It, FBI in Peace and War	1990
Charlotte Manson	Backstage Wife, Guiding Light, Nick Carter, Road of Life	1981, 85, 89-91, 93-94
Al Markim	Tom Corbett	1993, 05
Audrey Marsh	Harve & Esther	1980-83, 85
Sanford Marshall	Exploring Tomorrow	1988
Ian Martin	Big Sister, Chandu the Magician, CBS Radio Mystery Theater	1979-80
Ross Martindale	Front Page Farrell, Sound effects	1989
Maxine Marx	Casting director	1993
Lucile Mason	Casting director	1993

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Mary J. Mastapeter	Bobby Benson	1995-96
Paul Masterson	Ellery Queen, AFRS	1995
Grace Matthews	Big Sister, The Shadow, Hilltop House, Road of Life, Ellery Queen, Aunt Jenny	1977-79, 81, 87
Jack McCarthy	The Green Hornet, Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street	1976
Tyler McVey	One Man's Family, Gene Autry	1991, 97
Edith Meiser	Writer/director/producer of Sherlock Holmes, The Shadow, Nick Carter	1984
Burgess Meredith	CBS Radio Workshop	1987, 90
Jay Meredith	My T Fine Circus, Our Gal Sunday, Terry and the Pirates, Nick Carter, The Brighter Day	1987,99
Jan Merlin	Tom Corbett	1993
Ashley Miller	Organist, Radio City Music Mall	1985
Jan Miner	Casey, Crime Photographer, X Minus One, Perry Mason, Boston Blackie	1988
Shirley Mitchell	Great Gildersleeve, McGarry & His Mouse	1986, 91
James Monks	Cavalcade of America, Theater Guild of the Air, Grand Central Station, Perry Mason, Mr. Moto	1977, 86
John Moore	Hilltop House, Life Can Be Beautiful, Mrs. Miniver, Terry and the Pirates	1981
Elizabeth Morgan	Stella Dallas, Campbell Playhouse	1982
Carlton E. Morse	I Love a Mystery, One Man's Family, Adventures by Morse	1988
Arnold Moss	Grand Central Station, Guiding Light, Story of Mary Marlin	1981, 83-84, 87-89
Bob Mott	Sound effects	1990-92, 96-98, 00-03
Charles Mullen	Archie Andrews	1989
Bill Murtough	Engineer, Amos 'n Andy	1987, 91-98, 00
John Nanovic	Shadow (magazine editor)	1983
Noel Neill	Superman (TV)	2005
Frank Nelson	The Jack Benny Program	1984-85
Jeanette Nolan	Gunsmoke, Suspense, One Man's Family	1994, 97
Louise O'Brien	Mitch Miller Show	2004
Hamilton O'Hara	The Shadow, Grand Central Station, Gunsmoke, Inner Sanctum	1976,79
Paul O'Keefe	As the World Turns, Patty Duke Show (TV)	2005
Kevin O'Morrison	Charlie Wild	2001
Corinne Orr	Theater Five, CBS Radio Mystery Theater	1992, 99, 03, 05

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Charles Osgood	Newscaster	1993
Dick Osgood	Writer/producer/director/actor at WXYZ	1982-85, 88,92
Bill Owen	Author, <i>The Big Broadcast</i> and announcer	1981-83, 86, 89, 91-92, 95-03, 05
Betsy Palmer	CBS Radio Mystery Theater	2003
Frank Papp	Right to Happiness	1982
Dave Parker	The Lone Ranger	2005
Les Paul	The Arthur Godfrey Show	1994
Patricia Peardon	Life Begins, Let's Pretend	1982, 83
Cynthia Pepper	My Three Sons (TV)	2002-03, 05
Paul Petersen	Donna Reed Show (TV)	2004
Arthur Peterson	Bachelor's Children, Silver Eagle, The Guiding Light	1984
George Petrie	The Falcon, The Shadow, Gangbusters	1991
Eleanor Phelps	Light of the World, Life and Love of Dr. Susan	1992
Stu Phillips	Arranger, composer (TV)	2003
George Pirrone	One Man's Family	1997
Beatrice Pons	Dick Tracy	1984
Pete Prescott	TV sound effects man	1979-81
Bob Prescott Jr.	TV sound effects man	1978-81
Bob Prescott Sr.	Jack Benny Show, Fibber McGee & Molly, Eddie Cantor Show, Orson Welles	1978-80
Jon Provost	Lassie (TV)	2005
Carmel Quinn	The Arthur Godfrey Show	1993, 98
Bobby Ramsen	Let's Pretend	2003-05
Joyce Randolph	The Honeymooners (TV)	1987, 03
Peter Rankin	Buster Brown, The Shadow	1996-97
Gene Rayburn	Night Shift with Rayburn and Flinch	1996
Elliott Reid	Billy and Betty, March of Time, Lorenzo Jones	1990, 96-98, 01, 04-05
Alice Reinheart	Casey Crime Photographer, John's Other Wife, Gangbusters, Life Can Be Beautiful	1978, 80, 85-86, 88
Diane Renay	1950s pop singer	2003
Jay Rendon	Candy Matson	2003
Stella Reynolds	Writer, John's Other Wife, Aunt Jenny	1983-84, 88-89, 91
Ernest Ricca	Eveyln Winters, Lorenzo Jones	1983-85
Clive Rice	Bobby Benson	1992, 94-96
Rosemary Rice	Archie Andrews, Let's Pretend	1990, 94-98, 00-05
Rosa Rio	The Shadow, Between the Bookends, Ethel & Albert, Front Page Farrell,	1977-81, 83, 86, 94, 00
Ken Roberts	The Fred Allen Show, The Shadow	1983-87, 89-90, 92, 96, 98, 00

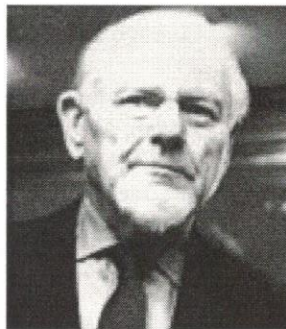
Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Larry Robinson	Let's Pretend	1983, 88, 00, 03-05
William N. Robson	Producer/director for Suspense, Calling All Cars, Big Town, CBS Radio Workshop	1985
Lynne Rogers	Light of the World, The Guiding Light	1985-86, 00-01, 03-05
Adele Ronson	Buck Rogers, John's Other Wife	1984, 86-99
Ken Ross		1984-85, 88
Terry Ross	Greatest Story Ever Told	1982-96
Jean Rouverol	One Man's Family	1997, 04-05
Ruth Russell	Just Plain Bill	1982, 86
Soupy Sales	Disc jockey	2002, 04-05
Anne Sargent	Curtain Time, Right to Happiness	1992
Al Schaffer	WOR Sound Effects Man, The Shadow	2000
Sara Seegar	Dennis the Menace (TV)	1986
Sy Shaffer	Musician: Arthur Godfrey	1993
Robert L. Shayon	You Are There	2004
Joan Shea	Superman	1988, 94
Ira Skutch	Television producer	2003
Sidney Slon	Abbott Mysteries, Bright Horizon, Dick Tracy (writer)	1981, 83-87, 89, 91-92
Mary Small	Rudy Vallee	1999
Warren Sommerville	When a Girl Marries	1977
Herb Squire	WOR Engineer	2000
Arnold Stang	Archie Andrews	1979
Lee Stanley	Jack Armstrong, Lux Radio Theater, Archie Andrews	1976-78
Bob Steel	The Shadow, Ellery Queen, Big Town, Aunt Jenny	1987-89
Larry Stevens	The Jack Benny Show	1998-99
Margot Stevenson	The Shadow	1983-85, 87, 90-94, 96, 00-01, 05
Ezra Stone	Henry Aldrich	1982, 86-93
Hal Stone	Archie Andrews	1992, 94, 02-05
Gale Storm	My Little Margie, Gateway to Hollywood	1995, 00
Gil Stratton, Jr.	My Little Margie	1995, 01
Marlin Swing	Arthur Godfrey	1998
Frank Thomas	Tom Corbett, Sherlock Holmes, Shadow	1993, 05
Arthur Tracy	The Street Singer	1981-84, 86-88, 90-95
Les Tremayne	First Nighter	1987

Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Sybil Trent	Let's Pretend	1979-80, 83, 88-91, 93-94, 96-97
Joan Mayno Valenti		1981
Robert VanDeventer	20 Questions	1987
Dick Van Patten	Let's Pretend, Aldrich Family, Duffy's Tavern	1995
Joyce Van Patten	Television and movie actress	2004
Elena Verdugo	Meet Millie (TV), Marcus Welby, MD (TV)	2004
Whit Vernon	Gunsmoke, Lone Ranger	1985, 92, 95
Vicki Vola	Brenda Curtis, The Man I Married, Road of Life, My True Story, Mr. District Attorney	1977, 79, 82, 84
Frances von Bernhardt	Casting Director	1991, 93, 95, 97
Veola Vonn	Eddie Cantor	1984, 87
Bea Wain	Singer	2002
Blair Walliser	Backstage Wife, Chandu, The Magician, Front Page Farrell, Just Plain Bill	1977-78, 81, 86
George Ward	Daddy & Rollo, Romance of Helen Trent, Jack Benny	1989
Jane (Colleen) Ward	Lorenzo Jones, Second Husband	1982-83, 85, 87, 94
Gertrude Warner	The Shadow, Ellery Queen, Joyce Jordan, MD, Against the Storm	1983
Mike Warren	CT TV and radio personality	1981
Beverly Washburn	The Jack Benny Program, Dragnet	1999, 01, 03, 05
Willard Waterman	Great Gildersleeve	1986, 91
Jean Francis Webb	Nick Carter	1987
Peggy Webber	Dragnet	1992
Karl Weber	Evelyn Winters, 2nd Mrs. Burton	1983
Fred Weihe	Director for Backstage Wife, Lora Lawton, Dimension X, X Minus One	1985
Liz Weiss	WXYZ Actress, Helen Trent, Our Gal Sunday	1985
Rube Weiss	The Lone Ranger	1985
Dwight Weist	We the People, Big Town	1982-90
Johnny Western	Gene Autry, Have Gun Will Travel (TV)	2000
Larry White	The Clock, Charlie Wild--Private Detective, producer	1976
Robert White	Coast-to-Coast on a Bus, Fred Allen Show, The Helen Hayes Show, Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts	1999, 01
Sam White		1989
Margaret Whiting	The Fred Allen Show	1989

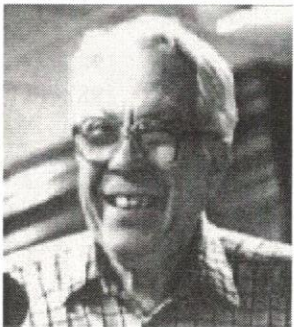
Guest	Major Radio Credits	Years Attended
Florence Williams	Front Page Farrell, Barry Cameron	1982-93
Rhoda Williams	Father Knows Best	2000
Richard Wilson	Mercury Theater	1988, 90
Betty Winkler	Pepper Young's Family, The Aldrich Family, Joyce Jordan, MD, Betty and Bob, Just Plain Bill, Don Winslow of the Navy	1990, 93
Ernie Winstanley	The Lone Ranger, The Green Hornet	1985, 87
Miriam Wolff	Let's Pretend, The Witch's Tale, Suspense, Popeye	1983, 85, 88, 97
Charles Woods	Green Hornet, Lone Ranger, Moon River	1989
Betty Wragge	Pepper Young's Family, Red Davis	1978, 86, 1989-92, 95-96
Michael Wright	Impressionist, singer	2002, 04
Alice Yourman	Archie Andrews, Right to Happiness	1982, 86
Bill Zuckert	The Shadow, Gangbusters, Mysterious Traveler, Official Detective, Bobby Benson	1987, 93



Margot Stevenson



Dick Osgood



Barney Beck



Ralph Bell

The Dave Warren Players: Their History and Highlights

By Gary Yoggy

Dave Warren, the founder, director, producer and often participating actor of the Dave Warren Players, was a large, friendly, lumbering man with a mellow southern accent and a deep, resonate, cheerful voice. At one of the earliest FOTR conventions, held in Bridgeport, CT, he attended a workshop on radio acting, and, shortly thereafter, with the encouragement and support of OTR enthusiasts Jack French and Bob Burchett, established what was likely the first entirely fan based repertory radio acting company in the country.

Dave's first production was a classic episode of the *Tom Mix Ralston Straight Shooters Show* entitled "Secret Mission" which had originally been broadcast on D-Day. From this modest, but highly acclaimed beginning, there followed, for more than a decade, annual (then, less frequent) productions by the Dave Warren Players. Dave's avowed purpose was to "keep the art of radio drama" alive by re-creating programs from the past as realistically as possible using primarily amateur actors and actresses. Dave felt this would provide an additional source of entertainment for fans as well as an opportunity for those so inclined to showcase their thespian talents!



(L-R). Dave Davies, Joel Senter (back), Barbara Watkins*, Dave Warren* (back), Dave Zwengler*, Bobb Lynes*, Joan Hoover and Gary Yoggy* (front).

* Rockford Award Winners

In addition to being a superb character actor (in such roles as Senator Claghorn in "Allen's Alley," Doc Long in *I Love A Mystery* and Sheriff Mike Shaw in *Tom Mix*), Dave had a real knack for casting the right voice in the right role. Soon there were well over 40 players in Dave's company. Dave considered you a member of his acting group if you made a single appearance in one of his re-creations. These included Bob Burchett, Dave Zwengler, Barbara Watkins, Bobb Lynes, Joel and Carolyn Senter, Don Ramlow, Bill Nadel, Ron Lackmann, Charlie Stumpf, Kathy O'Connell, Maggie Thompson, Suzanne Barabas, John Rayburn, Mia and Marilyn Filippetti, Barry Hill, yours truly and many others. Several alumni of the Dave Warren Players have gone on to become outstanding directors of old time radio re-creations themselves.

Although Dave had a preference for comedy, he was not afraid to tackle all types of radio shows. Some were even repeated in subsequent years with different scripts. Among the most popular and memorable were Allen's Alley (variations on the *Fred Allen Show* featuring Dave Zwengler as Fred, Dave himself as Claghorn and Bob Burchett as Titus Moody which was repeated more than any other re-creation by the Dave Warren Players; *Duffy's Tavern* (with Zwengler as Archie and Dave as Finnegan), also repeated numerous times; *Let's Pretend* ("The Brave Little Tailor"); *Tom Mix* and *I Love a Mystery*, both repeated several times; *It Pays to Be Ignorant* (one of Dave's personal favorites); *The Maltese Falcon*; *Casablanca*; *Suspense* ("On a Country Road"); and *Mr. Keen Tracer of Lost Persons* (with Charlie Stumpf as Mr. Keen and yours truly as Clancy).

Dave rarely used professionals in his re-creations, preferring to let fans (IF they fit the role) have the fun of performing. He did make a few exceptions when he could get an actor who had originally appeared in a broadcast version of the show such as Willard Waterman in "The Green Man" episode of *Tom Mix* and Adele Ronson as Wilma Deering in *Buck Rogers*.

The re-creation of which Dave was most proud was the Dave Warren Players only hour-long production — Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" in which Ron Lackmann played Scrooge with Carl Amari (of Radio Spirits fame) as Cratchet and yours truly as the narrator. (Dave himself played the Ghost of Christmas Present). In addition to being his longest production, "Christmas Carol" utilized the largest Players cast ever—18. Music from the original radio production was dubbed in and Dave actually wrote an original version of the script partially based on the Barrymore radio production and partially based on his favorite film version — a unique approach with the accent on humor. The show, which was recorded, was acclaimed by professionals as well as fans, and is still broadcast over a number of local stations every Christmas.

Last, but certainly not least, was Dave's labor of love — *Amos and Andy* (featuring John Rayburn as Andy and Dave as the Kingfish). Dave appreciated

the basic goodness and gentle humor of these classic radio characters. Unfortunately because of its controversial nature, it was only presented once in Newark, but was performed several times in Cincinnati. Dave was especially pleased when he was invited by SPERDVAC to do an *Amos and Andy* re-creation in Los Angeles. He was greatly moved when Nick Stewart, the actor who played "Lightning" in the television version, came up to him after the show, put his arms around Dave and told him, "that's just the way it sounded."

The long range consequences of the Dave Warren Players productions have been highly gratifying for all involved and have led to various other repertory radio acting groups springing up all over the country. Here in Newark, the Gotham Players re-creations have become an eagerly anticipated annual part of our convention for many years. The Those Were the Days Radio Players from Chicago have appeared with very entertaining re-creations the past several years. Some (like the Gotham Players) perform at various public venues all year long and now the radio re-creation bug has even spread to some area high schools, thus ensuring that the younger generation will keep alive the fine art of radio drama. The Dave Warren Players stay alive at the FOTR conventions every year. I directed an "Allen's Alley," two years ago and a *Baby Snooks* last year. This year Barbara Watkins is directing an episode of *A Date With Judy*.

It's hard to believe that Dave has been gone for almost five years, having passed away in March of 2002. However, his contributions to the preservation of radio drama live on. An award in his honor is presented annually at the Cincinnati Convention.

Yes, somewhere Dave Warren must be looking down and smiling.

Note: My thanks go to Bob Burchett for providing me with some of the information for this article — and to Dave Warren for making such detailed cast listings on the cassette covers he made for recordings of some of our performances.

Growing Up With the Friends of Old Time Radio

By John M. Eccles, Jr.

Cynics may claim there are no such things as miracles. I would have to offer my experiences at the Friends of Old Time Radio Convention as proof to the contrary. It may sound strange for someone who is 38 years old to say he grew up with old time radio, but that is precisely what happened.

After being introduced to it by my father I spent much of my grade school years listening and reveling in the great shows of radio's golden age. Programs like *Suspense*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Inner Sanctum Mysteries* and *The Jack Benny Show* were an important part of my formative years. Then the miracle happened. In 1981, as a boy of 14, I attended my first FOTR convention, having accidentally learned of its existence due to an off-hand comment, made during a visit to an OTR museum by Art Schreiber, the museum's curator. I was welcomed with open arms by all of the invited guests and fellow OTR fans. Imagine the excitement I felt after spending my childhood listening to these programs and then having the opportunity to actually see many of the actors, actresses, writers, and directors who were responsible for them.



Ernie Winstanley

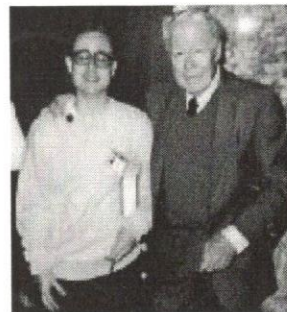


Gale Storm

Not only was I able to see them, but they were all so generous and giving of their time that I was able to meet and talk with them about many of their experiences during radio's golden age. I am so grateful to these talented men and women for giving me a treasured glimpse into their world. Arthur Anderson generously shared memories of his days as a child actor with Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater and Nila Mack. Ernie Winstanley, veteran WXYZ actor, recounted hilarious tales of John Todd, and poignant memories of Earle Graser and Brace Beemer. Raymond "Your Host" Edward Johnson related tales of Boris Karloff and how a group of youngsters from a local orphanage sat terrified during a live broadcast of *Inner Sanctum*.

Arnold Moss held me spellbound as he regaled me with memories of his

film work opposite luminaries such as Paul Lukas and Errol Flynn, and of his days at MGM with George Murphy and Alfonso Bedoya. Richard Wilson, one of the last surviving members of the Mercury Theater, was kind enough to share his memories of what really happened during that infamous night of October 30, 1938, when Earth was invaded by Martians. Lucille Fletcher, the author of "Sorry, Wrong Number" and "The Hitchhiker," told how these "tales well calculated to keep you in Suspense" came to be written, and of how Orson Welles, one of radio's great actors, held her work in such esteem that he made only ONE change to her script for "The Hitchhiker."



John Archer



Teri Keane

My mother, who graciously came along with my dad and me for the ride, has often told me there is a book hiding in that brain of mine that should be let out. Perhaps when I have sufficient time away from my law practice I will take her advice.



Beverly Washburn

The above are but a few of the treasured memories the FOTR convention has given me. I am eternally grateful to Jay Hickerson and all of the Convention staff and volunteers who made the miracle possible.

A History of the Gotham Radio Players

By Steven M. Lewis, Director, Gotham Radio Players

The Gotham Radio Players first came together in 1991 as an offshoot from the Manhattan Radio Club, when founding producer David Zwengler recruited MRC members to bring readings of old time radio scripts to local nursing homes and community centers. They came together as an informal group of amateur performers who shared a common love of old time radio.



Steve Lewis*

One of the members of the Manhattan Radio Club was Max Schmid. Max was then and is now a producer at WBAI-FM, the New York outlet of the Pacifica network of radio stations, and for more than 20 years he has hosted *The Golden Age of Radio*, a weekly program featuring re-broadcasts of old time radio shows. WBAI had planned a full day of live programming direct from the Nuyorican Poet's Café and Max's show was in danger of being preempted since it didn't fit the live format. So Max gave the Gotham Radio Players an irresistible offer: Come on his show and do a re-creation of a classic old time radio script broadcast live, just like they used to do it in the 1940s.

In my 20s at the time, I was one of the handful of "kids" who belonged to the Manhattan Radio Club, a group mainly made up of people who remembered hearing what we think of as old time radio when the shows were originally on the air. For their upcoming radio debut, the Gotham Radio Players needed someone who could play the part of a teenager, and they recruited me to join the group as an actor.

We were performing a courtroom drama written by New York radio writers Judith and David Bublick called "The Strange Case of Richard Bard." I can remember stepping onto that postage-stamp sized stage in front of the live audience and realizing that the colored gels in the stage lighting were causing the yellow highlighting on my script to vanish. Then, suddenly, there it was, the familiar theme music for *The Golden Age of Radio*. Max introduced the group, director Anthony Tollin pointed his finger at us, and we were on the air!

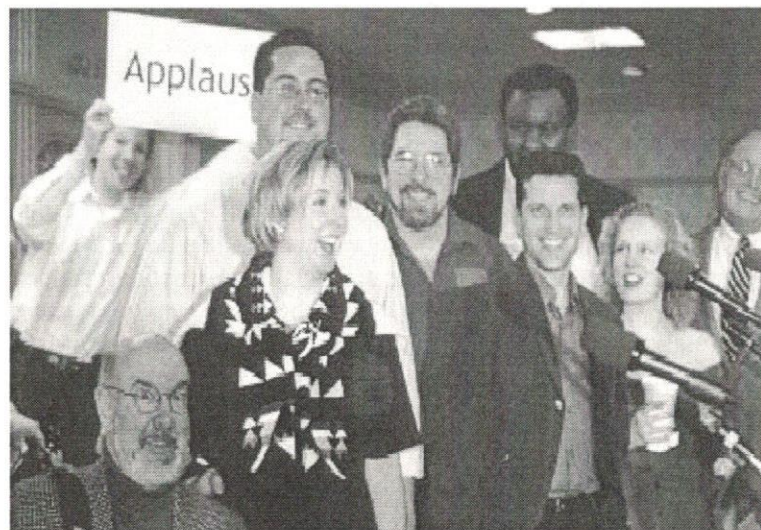
I don't really remember a whole lot about how the performance went, but it couldn't have been too bad because Max invited us to return to his show six months later, this time for an in-studio re-creation of an episode of *Boston*

* Rockward Award Winner

Blackie. Ever since then, WBAI's *Golden Age of Radio* has been our home base, with Max generously giving us access to his airwaves to perform shows as often as we're able.

In 1993, our then-director Bill Nadel decided to step down. Now, although in my professional life I work with computers, I had long been heavily involved in stage theatre as both a director and stage manager. This seemed the perfect opportunity to combine my interests in old time radio with my love of theatre, so I volunteered to take over as director of the Gotham Radio Players.

In choosing the re-creations to do with Gotham, I try to choose scripts of episodes that are "lost," shows that don't exist in recorded form today. After all, why reinvent something that already exists and which can easily be pulled off the shelf? It is much more interesting to perform a show that hasn't been heard in 50 years, allowing our audience to discover something new, rather than giving them something they have probably heard before. I also try to avoid doing shows that were built around the talents and personality of a specific star, in particular comedy shows. No matter how good a job we might do, there's no way we could even approximate the well-remembered comedic talents of such personalities as Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Judy Canova, and their peers.



(L-R) Leslie Feagan (seated), Paul Curtis (with sign), Jim Jockle (rear), Mary Ellen Jockle (front), Ted Ferber, Jim Mundy (front), Paul Beckton (back), Melissa Kalt, Ron Weitz.

In preparing a re-creation I never try to do a strict imitation of the original show. I try to capture the spirit of the series I'm working on but otherwise I try to approach every script as though it were brand new, giving us free rein to use our imaginations and vocal talents to bring the characters and story to life.

In 1994 we performed our first on-stage re-creation at the Friends of Old Time Radio convention. The show we performed that year is still one of my favorites, a horrific *Lights Out* episode called "The Bark of a Dead Dog." In the years that followed I have tried to present a variety of programs here in Newark, everything from the detective adventures of *Sam Spade*, *Dick Tracy*, and *The Green Lama*, to romantic comedy from the *First Nighter Program*, high adventure from *Escape*, human drama from *The Eternal Light*, and the well-remembered but until now lost horror classic "Chicken Heart." In 2001 we had the great pleasure of working with special guest star Dick Beals, as he re-created his original role of a 10 year-old boy who finds a flying saucer in the *Suspense* episode "Heavens to Betsy."

In the years since I've taken over the group, I've expanded our repertory company to include performers who don't necessarily have any prior knowledge of old time radio or even of audio drama. These actors are excited to explore what is, to them, an exciting new medium that allows them to play characters far removed from their usual performance types.

We have also moved beyond just doing re-creations of old time radio shows and have also started performing newly written scripts by some emerging audio dramatists. It's a thrill for us to work on something brand new that has never been heard before, and to help let the world discover the talents of some incredibly talented authors. No, we're never going to abandon our old time radio roots, but eventually I'd like to see us do a balanced mix of both OTR re-creations and premiere productions.

Over the past 15 years I have been privileged to direct more than 35 shows for Gotham. It's a huge labor of love for all of us involved, but one that has returned many rewards. I am proud to say that the Gotham Radio Players now enjoy a widespread reputation for presenting quality productions. Aside from our live, on-air performances at WBAI, our shows are now rebroadcast on other radio stations across the country and have been distributed worldwide as part of "The Radio Works" series. This past summer we had the great honor of being invited to perform two re-creations as part of Lincoln Center's annual "Out of Doors" festival.

On behalf of Max and all the members of the Gotham Radio Players, I wish to thank the Friends of Old Time Radio for allowing us to share our work with you. We also offer our congratulations to FOTR for 30 wonderful years in celebration of the golden age of radio drama!

The Allen Rockford Awards

By Derek Tague

The Friends of Old Time Radio convention makes annual awards named for certain individuals who have greatly furthered the OTR hobby. The "Florence Williams Award," presented to OTR-era performers who graciously lend the FOTR convention their time and talents year after year. This award was named for OTR actor Florence Williams, best known for her work on such radio shows as *Front Page Farrell* and *Barry Cameron*. An award presented to authors of OTR-related books is the Ray Stanich Award, a diligent OTR researcher who pioneered the radio broadcast episode log.

In contrast, Allen Rockford Award winners may not be celebrities or published authors but each winner has, in his or her own unique way and over a period of years, made valuable contributions to the hobby of OTR. But who exactly was Allen Rockford?



Allen Rockford (April 20, 1943–March 29, 1979) was primarily an on-air personality by profession, specializing in the playing of classical music. Stations in central New York State where he plied his trade included WCNY-FM/Syracuse, WRVO-FM/Oswego, and WONO/Syracuse. He also was an early champion of old time radio in the early days of OTR fandom. Allen and his business partner Don

Richardson were early OTR dealers and traders whose Double-R- Radio company led to the founding of *Nostalgia Radio News*, a fantastic early fan publication, and the radio show *Sounds of Yesterday*, which began its 12 year run on June 30, 1973, over public radio station WCNY-FM in the Syracuse area. In addition to playing OTR tapes, *Sounds of Yesterday* also provided a forum for OTR-radio music as exemplified in its 30-minute segment "From Horn and Mike," hosted by 78 rpm collector/historian Walter Mitchell, and produced by Mary Lou Wallace.

According to colleagues, Allen was "almost evangelical" in converting folks to the wonders of OTR and was always happy to help answer questions about OTR posed by newcomers. Allen Rockford died of heart failure in March 1979, three weeks shy of his 36th birthday.

Later that year, Friends of Old Time Radio established the Allen Rockford award in his honor in hopes of recognizing those who have kept alive Rockford's spirit of the celebration and furtherance of OTR. Nominations are usually made by FOTR committee members and are voted on during the mid-winter planning

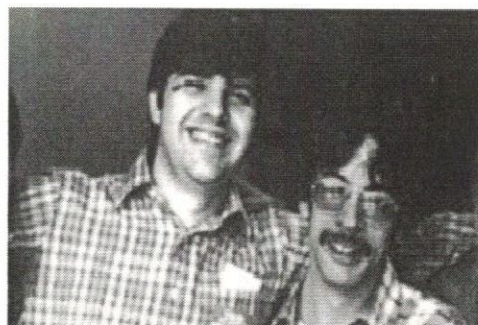
meeting. Generally, recipients do not know about the honor until the time of presentation during the Saturday banquet festivities.

Here is a run-down of past winners along with their accomplishments in support of the hobby. Because of space limitations the list is by no means comprehensive.

- 1979 **Ken Piletic.** Began recording shows off the radio at the age of 11 in the late 1940s; early tape trader; avid ham radio operator; co-founder of ORCATS, the Old Time Radio Collectors and Traders Society.
- 1980 **Charles Ingersoll.** Editor of an early OTR newsletter.
- 1980 **John Dunning.** Antiquarian book dealer, mystery novelist, and author of the invaluable reference work *Tune In Yesterday*, and its update, *On the Air: The Encyclopedia of Old Time Radio*.
- 1981 **Charles Stumpf.** Early clippings-folder archivist; professional actor who has appeared on several re-creations staged by the Dave Warren Players; author of several books including *Heavenly Days: The Story of Fibber McGee and Molly* (with Tom Price).
- 1982 **Roger Hill.** Co-founder of NARA, the North American Radio Archives; one-time editor of *NARA News*; proprietor of Nothing's New, a California store dedicated to OTR and nostalgia
- 1983 **Ray Stanich.** Archivist; generally recognized as the originator of the concept of the OTR broadcast log.
- 1984 **Jim Snyder.** OTR archivist known for his work with NARA.
- 1984 **Bob Burnham.** OTR dealer, archivist, and historian known for his company BRC Productions.
- 1985 **Dick Osgood.** OTR-era actor and announcer whose experiences formed the basis for his book, *Wyxie Wonderland: An Unauthorized Fifty Year Diary of WXYZ Detroit*.

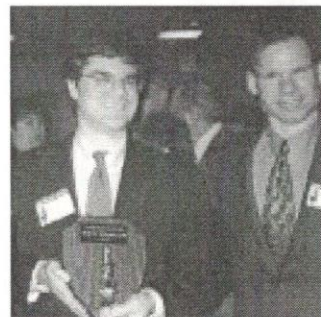


Anthony Tollin

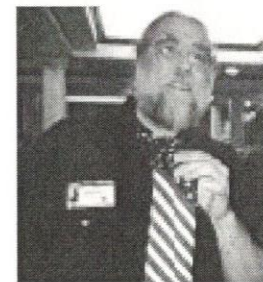


Joe Webb and Bob Burnham

- 1986 **Frank Bresee.** Host of radio programs celebrating OTR since the 1940s including a two-decade run of *The Golden Days of Radio*; co-author (with Bobb Lynes) of *Radio's Golden Years*.
- 1987: **SPERDVAC.** The Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy, a West Coast-based OTR organization which stages OTR conventions, mostly on an annual basis, maintains a large mail-order lending library of radio shows, publishes the newsletter *The SPERDVAC RadioGram*, and provides many other services.
- 1988 **Barbara Watkins.** Since 1980 host/producer of OTR radio program *Don't Touch That Dial* plus others; co-founder/actor/director/producer of radio drama group 30 Minutes to Curtain, founded in 1983; SPERDVAC librarian, columnist and former Director; actor, Dave Warren Players.
- 1988 **Barry Hill.** Leading OTR archivist and dealer until his untimely death in 2004.
- 1989 **Bob Burchett.** Founder *Hello Again Radio*; publisher/editor of the print *Old Time Radio Digest*; founder and organizer of the annual Cincinnati Old Time Radio & Nostalgia Convention; actor, the Dave Warren Players.
- 1989 **Terry Salomonson.** OTR archivist, restorer, dealer, and historian; undisputed authority on *The Lone Ranger*.



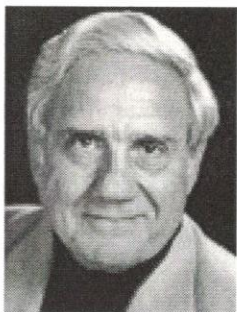
Sean Dougherty (L) and
Michael Henry



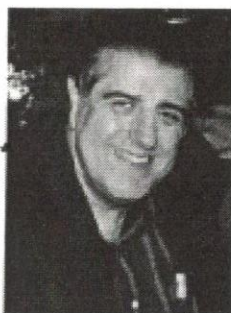
Max Schmid

- 1990 **Don Aston.** Founder of AVPRO Productions, which retails OTR programs; producer for many years of the FOTR video and audio packages.
- 1990 **Dave Warren.** Founder of the first OTR fan-based re-creation group, the Dave Warren Players, designed specifically to stage re-creations at OTR conventions; artist for several FOTR souvenir programs; died, 2002.
- 1991 **Tom Monroe.** Archivist/tape dealer of Radio Memories (with Ted Dav-enport).

- 1991 **Anthony Tollin.** World's leading authority/expert/archivist of *The Shadow*; author of many OTR books including (with Walter Gibson) *The Shadow Scrapbook*; OTR convention re-creation director; the only person to win all three of FOTR's major awards (Rockford, Williams, Stanich).
- 1992 **Max Schmid.** Host for more than a quarter-century of *The Golden Age of Radio*, heard in NYC over WBAI-FM and worldwide at www.wbai.org; leading authority on the radio work of Jean Shepherd; producer with the Gotham Radio Players.
- 1992 **Gary Yoggy.** OTR historian, re-creation director, and panel host; has attended all 30 FOTR conventions; author of several books and papers including *Riding the Video Range*; hosts OTR programming in Elmira/Corning, NY area.
- 1993 **Jack French.** OTR historian known for his recent Agatha award winning book, *Private Eyelashes*, as well as his work as editor of both *NARA News* and *Radio Recall*; considered by many to be the dean of the Washington DC-area OTR scene thanks to his work with the Metro-Washington OTR Club; OTR panel host and re-creation director.



Jack French



David Siegel

- 1993 **Larry and John Gassman.** Twin brothers known for their encyclopedic memory for all things OTR; administrators with SPERDVAC; co-hosts of various OTR-themed radio shows.
- 1994 **Bill Bragg.** Founder/programmer of YUSA, an early satellite-radio station dedicated to the airing of OTR.
1994. **David Siegel.** OTR collector/archivist for more than five decades who has one of the largest private collections known to the hobby; editor of the OTR script-book *The Witch's Tale* and co-author of *Flashgun Casey*, *Crime Photographer: From the Pulp to Radio and Beyond*.
- 1995 **Joe Webb.** Early OTR collector/dealer and one-time publisher of newsletter *Collectors Corner*; co-chairman (along with Jay Hickerson and Stuart Weiss) of earliest FOTR conventions; helped conceive the idea for the Allen Rockford Award.

- 1995 **Art Schreiber.** Founder of the Freehold, NJ-based National Broadcasters Hall of Fame (administered by Fred Shay).
- 1995 **Bobb Lynes.** Host of many OTR-themed radio programs in Los Angeles area since 1975 including *Don't Touch That Dial* currently heard over KPFK-FM and *Radio: Then & Now* heard over the Los Angeles Radio Readers Service; co-author (with Frank Bresee) of *Radio's Golden Years*; administrator with SPERDVAC (including stints as president); commercial artist; actor, 30 Minutes to Curtain, Dave Warren Players.
- 1996 **William "Bill" Nadel.** Leading OTR historian known for his proficiency and accuracy in identifying uncredited OTR voice-actors; member of Sherlock Holmes society, The Baker Street Irregulars; OTR re-creation director and actor in The Gotham Radio Players.
- 1996 **Don Ramlow.** OTR re-creation director for FOTR in Newark, the Cincinnati OTR & Nostalgia Convention, and the Memphis Film Festival; directs OTR for various community and regional theatres in Kalamazoo, MI area; produced FOTR convention videos.
- 1997 **Edward Clute.** Music director and keyboard accompanist for OTR re-creations for FOTR, SPERDVAC, and Cincinnati.
- 1998 **Chuck Schaden.** Producer/host of OTR showcase *Those Were The Days*, heard over several Chicago-area radio stations since 1970; founder of OTR re-creation group Those Were the Days Radio Players; one-time proprietor of Chicago-area nostalgia shop Metro Golden Memories.
- 1999 **Charlie Summers.** Publisher of the daily on-line *The Old Time Radio Digest*; maintains the *Nostalgia Pages* website which helps to publicize FOTR; FOTR videographer.
- 2000 **Nana Clute.** Assistant to her husband Ed Clute during his OTR re-creation musical performances; died 2005.
- 2000 **Mary Ramlow.** Known for her tireless dedication as the chief camera operator for FOTR's panels and re-creations; wife of previous winner Don Ramlow.
- 2000 **Steve Hiss.** Publisher of *N.O.T.R.E News*, the newsletter for The National Old Time Radio Enthusiasts; has been known to rent a car and drive to Massachusetts in order to bring FOTR regular Peg Lynch to her fans; known for hosting his notorious after-hours margarita parties.
- 2001 **Steve Lewis.** Director and driving force behind OTR re-creation group the Gotham Radio Players whose specialty is re-creating "lost" shows based upon scripts of programs that aired, but recordings of which have not yet been found. Performs annually at FOTR as well as regular appearances on Max Schmid's *Golden Age of Radio* program.

- 2001 **Stuart Weiss.** Co-chairman of FOTR convention in its early years; nostalgia radio host of *The Pop Shoppe*; co-founder (with Michael Henry) and co-host of FOTR's most popular panel, the Saturday afternoon Singers' Panel; has attended all thirty FOTR conventions.
- 2001 **Michael Henry.** Administrator of the Library of American Broadcasting based at the University of Maryland in College Park; co-founder (with Stu Weiss) of popular FOTR Singers' Panel.
- 2001 **Derek Tague.** OTR researcher; FOTR panel host; co-founder of popular "Funny Friday" comedy panel; received award on the day of his actual "Jack Benny" 39th birthday.
- 2002 **Mitchell Weisberg.** FOTR panel host known for bringing in new celebrity guests and for his multi-year run as quizmaster-host of "Who Wants to Be an OTR Millionaire?"
- 2002 **Art Pierce.** OTR book dealer; host of several OTR-themed shows over WRVO in upstate New York; co-author of *Lux Radio Theatre*.
- 2003 **Dave Zwengler.** FOTR re-creation actor and director known for his impeccable Fred Allen impersonation; founder and administrator of FOTR's annual script-wring contest.
- 2003 **Lora Palmer.** Has attended all thirty FOTR conventions; takes on thankless jobs such as helping out with the registration table; works professionally as a teacher for the blind and puts this vocation to good use as she gladly assists visually impaired conventioners maneuver through the dealers' rooms.
- 2003 **Sean Dougherty.** Publicist for FOTR conventions since 1995; editor of 30th Annual Convention Commemorative Program.
- 2004 **Brian Gari.** Broadway composer; leading authority and archivist on his grandfather Eddie Cantor; co-host of FOTR's annual Saturday afternoon Singers' Panel; has brought many new guests to FOTR conventions.
- 2004 **Alice Anderson.** Runs the FOTR registration table and other thankless behind-the-scenes duties; wife of FOTR fan favorite Arthur Anderson.
- 2004 **Fred and Ellen Berney.** OTR audio and video dealers; known for exemplary camera work during FOTR panels and re-creations and the successful marketing of convention videos and DVDs.

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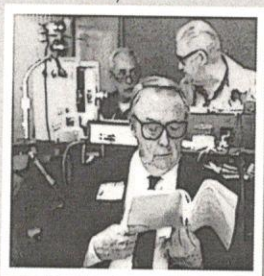
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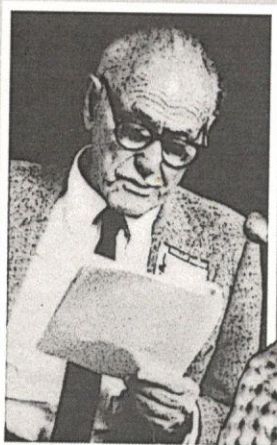
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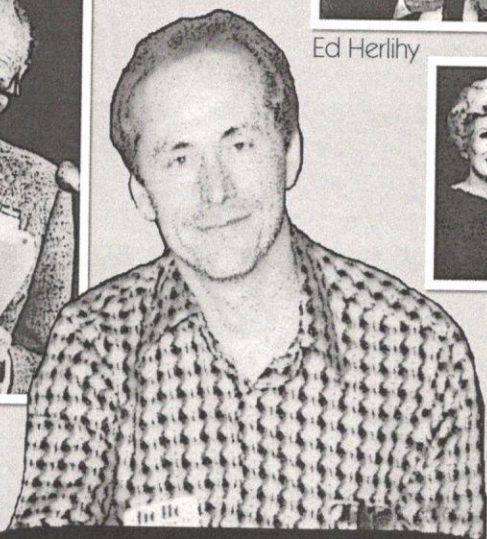
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30 YEARS OF MEMORIES
1976-2005