

HELLO AGAIN

VOL. 29 NO. 5

SEP - OCT 1998

A PERSONAL NOTE: Ken Borden, Roger Hill (Nothing's New) and Gary Papers were subjects of newspaper articles. If you would like a copy of one or more, please send me a SASE...As usual, the September issue is going out early so that convention updates will be received in time...On September 2nd., my son, Craig, and his wife, Kim, became parents of Angela Clair, my first granddaughter. My daughter, Robin, has 3 sons, Jacob, Lucas and Caleb. Some of you may remember Craig. He had a dealers table next to mine a few years ago with Superman memorabilia. He has a large collection.

REVISED ULTIMATE HISTORY: The first supplement to the Revised Ultimate History is available for \$5 plus \$1.50 P&H. The complete book plus the supplement is \$50 plus \$4 P&H.

CONVENTION 1998: The dates are October 22 - 24, 1998 at the Holiday Inn - North, Newark. Update and tentative schedule enclosed. If you wish to write a short article for the Convention Booklet, I will need it by October 1. If you wish to place an ad in the Convention Booklet, rates are in the first flyer.

Friends of Old-Time Radio Script Contest

The Fifth annual original script writing contest is now open. We would like an original 30 minute script which must be based on any of the great radio programs of the past, such as The Shadow, Jack Benny, etc. The script can have the characters originating in their original era and time or you can update the time to today. If you have entered before and you have not won in 2 years, please enter again.

The script must have all music and sound cues as well as all the spoken material. Try to arrange it in script form so it doesn't have to be retyped.

The prize for the best script will be \$150 and will have its live performance at our 1999 convention on Thursday evening after dinner. We would like you to attend our convention to participate but it is not mandatory. You can direct it if you wish. There will be some rehearsal time. Scripts must be submitted by **September 10, 1998**. Send to Dave Zwengler, 319 Plymouth Rd., North Brunswick, NJ 08902 (908) 940-7639. A distinguished panel of old-time radio buffs will pick the winning script. They must be very readable. All are eligible so please spread the word.

The winning script in our first contest was won by Michael Giorgio. The second was won by James Nixon. The third winner was Edgar Russell, Jr. The fourth winner is Donald Dortmund whose script will be performed at our 1998 convention. Joel Senter, a runner up will also have his script performed.

Will all clubs with newsletters print the above in order to give everyone a chance?

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: On the Air; Jul - Aug...Chattanooga Airwaves, Jul - Aug...Nostalgia Digest, Aug - Sep; articles about Henry Morgan; Women in Radio; Jerome Kern; Radio in the Early Thirties...NARA News, Summer; articles about Soap Opera Writers; The Packard Family; Lux Radio Theater. Many thanks to Jim Snyder for the complimentary article about me...Jot "Em Down Journal, Aug; articles about Kay Linaker; Frank Bresee; their 1998 convention...Tape Squeal, Jul - Aug; ; articles about Roy Rogers; Today's Children...Return With Us Now, Aug; article about duplicating OTR on a VCR...Radio Recall, Aug; articles about Duffy's Tavern; Walter Tetley...Tradition, Jul - Aug; articles about Jimmy Driftwood; Johnny Cash; Chet Atkins...The Times of Kate Smith, Summer; articles about Patti Page; recent Kate Smith Convention...Daily Sentinel, Sep - Oct; devoted to Amos 'n' Andy...Thrilling Days of Yesteryear, Sep - Oct; articles about Harry Bartell; microphones...Air Check, Vol 8 #3; Showcase 6 memories.

BOOKS: Greenwood Publishing Group (Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881) has published many bio-bibliographies in the performing arts. James Robert Parish is the series editor. 77 have been published. For a list or to order call 1-800-225-5800 or 1-203-226-3571...A recent Bio-Bibliography is one about Shirley Temple Black by Patsy Guy Hammontree; 1998; 275 pages.. It is mostly a biography with a filmography only. Cost is \$65. Radio's Golden Years by Frank Bresee and Bobb Lynes, 1998. Cost is \$20. For copies contact Frank Bresee Productions by FAX: (213) 656-7298. Each of the 254 pages is a de-

tailed page of art work by Bobb Lynes with information gathered by Frank Bresee. Each of the pages contains many drawings and much information... **Witch's Tale** by Alonzo Deen Cole; edited and complete log by David Siegel; The \$20 book just published contains 13 scripts by Cole, completely retyped by Susan Siegel. Write to Dunwich Press, Box 193, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 (914) 245-6608... **Raised on Radio** by Gerald Nachman; Pantheon Books (212) 572-2687; 1998; 500 pages; \$28. This is mostly an anecdotal book based on Nachman's experiences. It also contains much information gained from interviews.

CONVENTIONS:

23rd Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 22 - 24 at the Holiday Inn-North, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 <JayHick@aol.com>

15th Annual SPERDVAC Convention, Nov 13 - 15; Crowne Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles; Contact Larry Gassman (562) 947-9800.

3rd Annual Williamsburg Film Festival, Feb 25 - 27, Holiday Inn Patriot, Williamsburg, VA; Contact Cindy Peery (1-757-566-1855)

13th Annual Old Time Radio and Nostalgia Convention, Apr 23 - 24, 1999, Marriott Inn, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042 (606) 282-0333

Kate Smith Festival XII, May 21 - 23, 1999; Lake Placid Resort, Lake Placid, NY; contact Rev. Raymond Wood for information (Box 368, Jamesville, NY 13078)

***4th Old-time Music and Radio Conference**, 1999, Mt. Airy, North Carolina. Contact Surry Arts Council, Box 411, Mount Airy, NC 27030 (1-800-286-6193 or 336-786-7998)

PEMCO/REPS Radio Showcase VII of The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound, Jun 25 - 26, 1999, in Seattle, Washington. Contact Mike Sprague, Box 723, Bothell, WA 98041 (206) 488-9518

15th Annual Lum and Abner Society Convention, June 25 - 26, 1999, Mena, Arkansas; Contact Tim Hollis, 81 Sharon Blvd., Dora, AL (205) 648-6110.

24th Old-time Country Music Contest and Festival, Aug 30 - Sep 5, 1999 at Pottawattamie Country Fairgrounds in Avoca, Iowa. For information contact Bob Everhart at Box 438, Walnut, IA 51577.

ORGANIZATIONS: The Cranston and Spade Theater Co is performing the Adventures of Sam Spade and Murder At Midnight from Sep 9 - Oct 11 at the Martin Kaufman Theater, 534 West 42nd. St., New York City. For information and ticket prices call (212) 679-2138.

THE INTERNET: Many of my subscribers are on the Internet. A list was started in November of 1995. A complete alphabetical list can be obtained by sending me a SASE. If you want to get on the mailing list for the Old Time Radio Digest on the Internet, e-mail to this address: <old.time.radio-request@broadcast.airwaves.com>...New Members include: **James Burnette** <frogfarm@strato.net>...**James O'Neal** <Scm114@erols.com>...**Dick Kinney** <rckinney@sfsu.edu>...**Henry Hinkel** (Change) <Hinkel@telenet.net>...**Ivan Snell** <Snell@feist.com>

LOGS: More logs from Martin Grams that you can order from me: **The Paul Weston Show;** **Keep 'Em Rolling;** **We Take Your Word** (all are 50 cents each)

CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS: **McCoy's Recording** (Pat McCoy), Box 1069, Richland, WA 99352 has his 16th supplement of his reel catalog out; includes The Goldbergs; This is Your FBI; new Double Feature; John Barrymore Theater and A Date With Judy; also Magnificent Montague; Father Knows Best...**Jerry Haendiges** <JHaendiges@aol.com> has new Canticle for Liebowitz; Boston Blackie (6/23 and 6/30/44); 2 Edward Keating Tapes (BBC); 16 Democracy in America...**Roger Hill's** "Nothing's New - Vintage Media" is doing very well. Address is #23 Bayhill Shopping Center, San Bruno, CA 94066 (650) 871-6063. He has a wide selection of tapes, videos and memorabilia. His membership is close to 1100. Cost to be a member is \$10...**Adventures in Cassettes**, 5353 Nathan Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55442. 99th Catalog contains more Tarzan; Captain Midnight; Hop Harrigan; Mayor of the Town...**Vintage Broadcasts** (Andy Blatt), Box 50065, Staten Island, NY 10305 (1-800-418-1445); august supplement contains Tom Corbett, Couple Next Door, Chandu the Magician...**Radio Memories** (Ted Davenport), 1600 Wewoka St., North Little Rock, AR 72116 (501) 835-0465; latest supplement contains Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts; Command Performance; Academy Award Theater...**BRC Productions** (Bob Burnham), Box 510264, Livonia, MI 48151 (313) 277-3798; more Tangled Web Audio; 2 new Mr. District Attorney (11/1/53; 12/30/53); Danny Kaye; Railroad Hour

NEW ADDRESSES: Bill Coombs, 43B Rich St., Waltham, MA 02453...Nathan Sorensen, 100 Las Colinas Dr., Corralitos, CA 95076...Marshall Akers, 785 boulevard #3, Athens, GA 30601

NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: Don Berhent, 807 Glenhurst Rd., Willowick, OH 44095...Roy Gilbert, 4941 Hamden Way, Columbus, OH 43228...Philip Spivey, 515 West 59th St. #32N, New York, NY 10019 (212) 581-6495; FAX (212) 664-8803. Philip is seeking copy of radio program "City Hospital" on CBS in the 50's. Also would like to know the composer and/or name of the theme music for this program...Phil Gries (Gries Cinema Productions), 81 Wheatley Rd., Old Westbury, NY 11568...Tom Martin, 461 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Tom is a dealer with a large selection...Mark Roger, Abbott Assoc., 1099 Wall St. West, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071.. John Sauciuonas, 124 Price St., Kingston, PA 18704...Rick Hy, 94 Jenny Ln., Cheektowaga, NY 14225...Les Docks, 14602 Huebner, Ste 116-103, San Antonio, TX 78230...Peter Massaro, 1235 West Sixth St. #6G, Cleveland, OH 44113...Gary Smith, RR2 Box 930, Bangor, ME 04401; Laris Bullock, 9237 Davidson Hwy, Concord, NC 28027...Peter Fernandez, USEmb-Mexico, APHIS, Box 3087, Laredo, TX 78044...Steven Weinstein, 2265 Gerritsen Ave., #6-S, Brooklyn, NY 11229 ...Richard Herd (You have seen him in Seinfeld and T J Hooker), 4610 Wortser Ave., Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 is looking for scripts of the hour broadcast of Count of Monte Cristo on Mercury Theater of Lux and/or the script of the hour presentation of A Christmas Carol. Richard will be a future guest at our convention...Larry Harrington, 75 Belgrade Ave., Clifton, NJ 07013.

OLD FRIENDS: Bill. Hardin, 8218 Cyclamen Way, Buena Pk., CA 90620 has about 500 reels and cassettes he would like to sell inexpensively. Contact him if you are interested.

IN FOND MEMORY: Robert Young, Jul 21, 91 (Father Knows Best; Passport for Adams; Remember)...Don Dunphy, Jul 23; 91; sports broadcaster (Gillette Friday Night Fights) ...Kay Thomson, Jul 2, 93; Vocal Arranger; was on Chesterfield Show; Tune Up Time. Had own show 1941 - 42...Buffalo Bob Smith, Jul 30, 80; "Howdy Doody"...Binnie Barnes, Jul 27, 95; actress; with husband Mike Frankovich had a radio talk show on the west coast during 1946 And 1947. ...Jack Brickhouse, Aug 6, 82; Chicago sportscaster...Ralph Bell, Aug 2, 82; One of our fine radio actors; appeared at our convention...Sylvia Field (Truex), Jul 31; 97; actress (Lux Radio Theater; Texaco Star Theater)...E G Marshall, Aug 25; 84; Best known on radio as the announcer for CBS Radio Mystery Theater...Paul West, Jun 5; 86; writer (Billie Burke; Ozzie and Harriet)...Vivian Fridell, Aug 20; 85; Mary Noble on Backstage Wife...Felix Knight, Jun 18; 89; singer on many radio shows, movies (Schaefer Revue; American Album of Familiar Music)...Tommy Bartlett, Sep 6, 84 (Welcome Travelers)

Hello Again is \$15 a year and is published 6 times a year. The first issue appeared in April of 1970.

Write if you get work; and hang by your thumbs

JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514
(203) 248-2887; FAX (203) 281-1322
e-mail: JayHick@aol.com

Web site: <http://www.old-time.com/hickers.html>

FOTR Web site: <http://www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/fotr/> (all lower case)

What should we expect at SPERDVAC's 1998 convention?

- Radio program re-creations
- Guests from the 'Golden Age' of network radio
- Workshops and panel discussions
- Dealers' room
- The opportunity to meet the faces behind SPERDVAC and fellow radio fans from across the nation
- Great meals at our Friday and Saturday evening banquets

You can make your reservations right now! Seating at our evening banquets is based on the order in which reservations are received.

We'll gather at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5985 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles (near LAX). The hotel's convention rate is \$78 per night plus 14% bed tax. Their number is (888) 315-3700. Make your reservations right away!



ALL SMILES. Actress Barbara Fuller following a radio show re-creation at SPERDVAC's 1997 convention.

Sign up now for the . . .

1998 SPERDVAC Old-Time Radio Convention

Name _____ Non-member Member # _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Day phone _____ Evening phone _____

Special diet requirements: _____

NOTE: If you wish to be seated with your friends, please send all reservations in together.

Convention rates: (First prices are for members, spouses, member's guests)

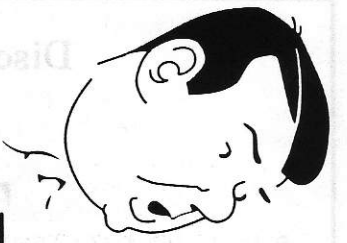
1. Complete convention package (Friday-Sunday) \$110/ \$125 preregistered non-members . . . _____
2. Friday dinner & program \$35/ \$40 preregistered non-members _____
3. Saturday daytime activities (9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) \$15/ \$20 preregistered non-members. _____
4. Saturday evening banquet & program \$50/ \$55 preregistered non-members _____
5. Sunday brunch & program (9 to 11:30 a.m.) \$15/ \$20 preregistered non-members _____

(There is no charge for the Friday afternoon activities.) TOTAL: _____

Check here if you were a professional in early radio.

Cancellation deadline is November 9, 1998

Send checks or money orders, made payable to SPERDVAC, to: SPERDVAC Convention, c/o Chester Allen, 13415 Egbert St., Sylmar, CA 91342. **For additional details or to volunteer convention assistance, call Larry Gassman at (562) 947-9800.** Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt. Requests for refunds will be honored until Nov. 4, 1997. Convention rates will increase to \$145 for the entire convention package for members and non-members who arrive without prior registration. Walk-up rates for individual convention events will be \$5 above the non-member rates indicated above. Walk-up rates apply to members and non-members.



HEY ABBOTT!!!

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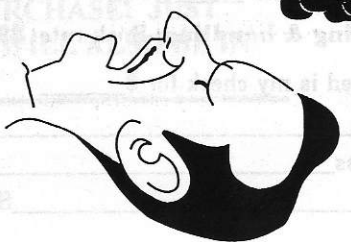
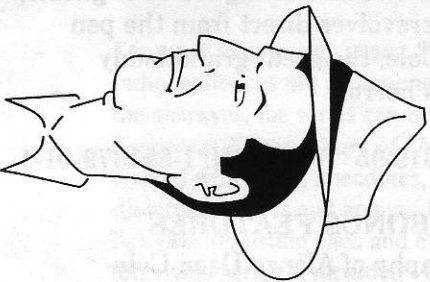
This heartwarming documentary explores the lives of both Bud and Lou. It contains a generous sampling of background information, film clips, anecdotes, long lost archive photos, private collection photos and never before seen footage of the only Abbott and Costello Convention. You'll meet the family members, Chris Costello, Paddy Costello and Bud Abbott Jr. See recreations of Bud & Lou's early Burlesque routines.

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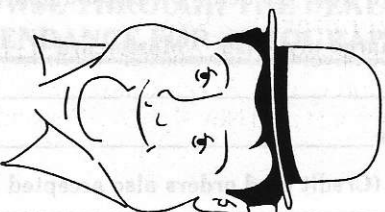
New Jersey residents please add 6% sales tax.

My payment of \$ ___ is enclosed.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

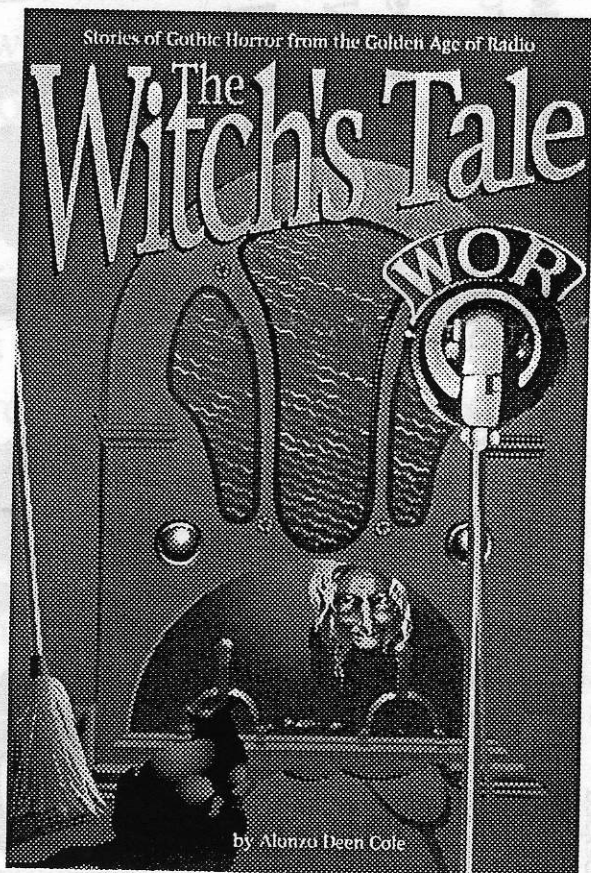


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Written by Martin Grams, Jr.

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For more than twenty years, *Suspense* brought thrills and chills to radio audiences old and young alike. Now, after thirty-five years off the airwaves, the series can be revisited with the new publication, *Suspense: Twenty Years of Thrills and Chills*. Over 460 pages jam-packed with trivia, anecdotes, recollections from sound effects men, directors, writers and actors. Besides a history of the program, a detailed log listing each and every episode from the radio and television series is included - episode number, title, broadcast date, supporting actors and guest stars, writers, producers, directors, sponsors, pitchmen, musicians, and a detailed plot-line of each and every broadcast is listed. But that's not all!


A detailed listing of each and every movie that was adapted from a *Suspense* script is included. A detailed listing of each and every comic book, mystery magazine, and *Suspense* novel is also included, not just with pictures, but with all of the stories and the history behind those as well!

Order your copy of the book Jay Hickerson called "the Ultimate book on *Suspense*" now and within a few days, you'll know too!

The cost is \$29.95 for each book (sorry, no hardbacks), plus \$3.00 for postage and handling. Each book will be mailed out 2-day priority mail. Visa and Mastercard is accepted. Send checks or money orders payable to Martin Grams, Jr., Po Box 189, Delta, PA 17314.

FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO CONVENTION IN OCTOBER, YOU CAN SAVE THE EXPENSE OF PAYING POSTAGE - COPIES OF THE *SUSPENSE* BOOKS WILL ON HAND, AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE! JUST BROWSE THROUGH THE DEALER'S ROOMS! THE AUTHOR WILL ALSO BE IN ATTENDANCE FOR AUTOGRAPHS (Thursday and Friday only)!

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'SUSPENSE'
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Discover the thrills and chills that frightened listeners during radio's Golden Age.

THE CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER: AN EPISODE GUIDE AND HANDBOOK TO NINE YEARS OF BROADCASTING, 1974 - 1982

Written by Gordon Payton and Martin Grams, Jr.

McFarland Publishing Company proudly presents the announcement of the year. A new book is to premiere in the coming weeks, long awaited and long-overdue. Two experts of the field, Gordon Payton, a.k.a. "The Sci-Fi Guy" and Martin Grams, Jr., author of the highly-acclaimed *Suspense: Twenty Years of Thrills and Chills*, have combined evil forces to bring you the first and only book you will ever need on this popular radio program. *

Covering 320 pages thick, this library-bound book covers the entire history of the program, from its origin to its demise. A detailed broadcast log of each and every 2,900+ episodes is included, giving the exact episode number, title, broadcast date, cast list (including the names of the fictional characters they portrayed), writers, plot descriptions, and trivia regarding special sound effects and behind-the-scenes anecdotes.

Memories and recollections from Larry Haines, Rosemary Rice, Ralph Bell, Arnold Moss, Ian Martin, Mercedes McCambridge, Marian Seldes, E.G. Marshall, Lois Nettleton, Kim Hunter, Elliott Reid, Tony Roberts, and Himan Brown, the creator/director of the program!



CBS RADIO
**myStery
theater**

The *Mystery Theater* book also features an example of what it was like behind the microphone during rehearsals. An index listing every title, writer and actor in alphabetical order for easy reference. The material came directly from actual CBS Press Information Department releases to insure complete accuracy. Personal interviews, newspaper articles, magazine articles and magazine advertisements have also been referenced. Learn how the sound effects men managed to make the lead actor shrink down to spider size and talk from inside a glass bottle! Find out what awards *Mystery Theater* won during its nine years on the air! Learn how *Mystery Theater* even made an appearance over CBS television!

This book spells about 320 pages and is available in hardcover only (sorry, no paperbacks). The release date is still tentative, but is scheduled for release in late October / early November. The cost of the book is \$48.50. ISBN number 0-7864-0559-7. Shipping and handling is \$4 for the first book, .75 thereafter. Canada: \$6 for first, 1.50 thereafter, please pay in U.S. funds. North Carolina customers must add 6% sales tax. Check or Money Order is accepted, as well as American Express, Discover, Visa and/or Mastercard. Copies of the book may also be available from the authors, prices may vary, please call for availability.

McFarland & Company, Inc. Po Box 611 [960 Highway 88W], Jefferson, North Carolina 28640-0611.
For more info call (336) 246-4460. For orders only: 1-800-253-2187

* Keep an eye out for the authors, both who whom will be attending the FOTR convention this October!

Please send me

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