

HELLO AGAIN

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JAN - FEB, 2009

A PERSONAL NOTE:

If anyone wants information in HA, please e-mail me the exact wording if you can. I can then paste it right in the newsletter. Of course I will accept information in regular mail from everyone else.

THIRD REVISED ULTIMATE HISTORY: Just a reminder that this book was originally written in 1992 and is the first and original book listing Network radio programming and the shows that are in circulation.

The third Supplement to the third edition is off the press. Cost is \$5.00 plus \$1.50 P & H.

The 2005 "3rd Revised Ultimate History" is \$63 including P&H, which includes the First, Second and third Supplement. If you bought any of my earlier editions, the cost is \$53 including P&H. Please send new information when you can for the third supplement. I will need the information by October 1, 2009.

CONVENTION 2009: This is our 34th convention. Dates are Oct 22 - 25, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ. Our web site will keep you up to date. Note web site: <<http://www.fotr.net>>.

CONVENTION 2008: 2008 Convention booklets are available for \$2.50 including P&H. There are guests bios and pictures.

All of the sessions were video recorded by Satellite Media Production. You may order them as a complete set or by individual sessions. Please contact Fred Berney at Satellite Media Productions, P.O. Box 638, Walkersville, MD 21793-0638. Phone 800-747-0856. E-mail: fsberney@verizon.net.

Two years ago, Ellen and Fred Berney prepared 2 DVD's of the past 30 conventions. Cost is \$20 plus \$5.00 P&H. Send to Satellite Media Productions.

SCRIPT CONTEST:

For the F.O.T.R. script contest this year, the subject is "Sports." For instance, it could be a dramatized 1930's adventure whose hero is a player on a team, and include excerpts from a radio play-by-play (short) in which the team suffers a defeat, and another later on in which there's a great comeback, but these are not rigid requirements.

No more than 6 in the cast, please (bit parts could be doubled). Script should be a half-hour, and sponsor could be a laxative, a razor blade or some other product from the '30's (a short commercial, with just billboard opening and closing.) Please note: double spaced script, no smaller than 12 point, ready to produce.

First prize winner gets \$200 and will be performed the following year; Second prize is \$100.

Submit scripts to: Dave Zwengler, 318 Plymouth Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902. **Deadline is August 31st.**

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: A complete list of publications mentioned with addresses, contact people, etc. is one of the introductory pages in my current Ultimate History. It is also part of a small package mailed with your first Hello Again. If you don't have one, e-mail me for it and I will e-mail it to you. If you don't have e-mail, please send me a SASE for it; **Nostalgia Digest**, winter; articles about Les Paul and Mary Ford; Lux presents Oscar; Popeye; Fannie Brice; Abraham Lincoln on radio, in movies, etc.; 20 Questions; **Radio Recall**, December; articles about Frank Stanton; Bill Stern; the Cinnamon Bear; **The Illustrated Press**, December; articles about CBS Radio Mystery Theater; Abbott and Costello on Radio; January; article about The Railroad Hour; **RLL On the Air**, Winter; article about Dan Seymour; **Old Time Radio Digest**, Winter; article about Dr. Christian by Gary Yoggy

BOOKS: (Most books can also be purchased at <www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/books/>, <Amazon.com> or <Barnesandnoble.com>). **Greenwood Publishing Group** (Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881) has published many bio-bibliographies in the performing arts. James Robert Parish is the series editor. Over 80 have been published. For a list or to order call 1-800-225-5800 or 1-203-226-3571; Many books are from **McFarland**; 1-800-253-2187; Web (www.mcfarlandpub.com) and **Bear Manor Media**, Box 71426, Albany, GA 31708; 229-436-4265;

<Bearmanormedia.com> **Book Hunter Press**, Box 193, Yorktown Hts., NY 10598
(www.bookhunterpress.com/radio); **Martin Grams (OTR Publishing)**, Box 252, Churchville, MD. 21028;
(717) 456-6208 <www.martingrams.com>; **Scarecrow Press**; <scarecrowpress.com> 1-800-462-6420.

CONVENTIONS:

Cincinnati's 23rd Old Time Radio and Nostalgia Convention, April 24 – 25, 2009; Cincinnati North Hotel; Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042 (888-477-9112) <haradio@hotmail.com>
SPERDVAC Convention, May 1 – 3, 2009 at Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn, North Hollywood, CA;
many OTR events and guests. for information contact Jerry Williams at <mrj1313@sbcglobal.net>.

20th Annual Radio Classics Live! Sat, May 2, 2009, Buckley Performing Arts Center, Massasoit Community College, Brockton, MA. Contact Bob Bowers (508-758-4865, bobowers@verizon.net) or Alan Chapman (508-459-1864, otrghost@gmail.com)

REPS Showcase XVII, June 26 – 27, 2009; Seattle Hotel, WA; Contact 206-542-6231 for questions and details or go to <www.repsonline.org>

4th Annual Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention, August 27 – 29, 2009. The Clarion Hotel, Aberdeen, Maryland. Old-Time Radio, movie and TV events and guests. Contact Martin or Michelle Grams, Jr at 443-286-6821, or <http://www.midatlanticnostalgiaconvention.com>

34th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 22 – 25, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, 27436 Desert Rose Ct, Leesburg, FL 34748 (352) 727-6731 <JayHick@aol.com> or check our web site: <http://www.footr.net>

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL

Teaneck troupe does classic radio

Sunday, December 7, 2008

By JIM BECKERMAN

"PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" COLUMNIST

"I consider myself an old soul, of sorts, someone who identifies with things from bygone eras," says Jeffrey Muller, 42. The Hackensack resident is producing tonight's WFDU-FM (89.1) broadcast of "On a Country Road," a 1950 episode of the classic radio series "Suspense," performed by members of Teaneck New Theatre. The radio drama, which begins at 8:30 p.m., can also be heard on wfdu.fm.

By "old soul," Muller means a fan of Sinatra, big band, silent movies — all the lost arts of a more innocent age. Old radio may be the most fun of all.

"This is the theater of imagination," Muller says. "The picture is in your mind. The characters are the way you picture them. It's totally different than the way another person listening to the same show would picture it."

Muller, a member of Teaneck New Theatre since 1994, has been nudging the 22-year-old company toward yearly broadcasts of the great radio dramas and comedies, with WFDU as coconspirator.

They launched the joint project, in 2006, with an episode of "Suspense"; the following year came an installment of the comedy series "The Great Gildersleeve."

By now, the whole company, which consists of members from Bergen and Passaic counties, can't wait for their yearly turn at the microphones.

"Radio is very different," says Carol Campione, a Teaneck resident who is a longtime member and current trustee of the company.

In "On a Country Road," she plays the pivotal role of a hitchhiker — one that husband and wife motorists (played by real-life husband and wife Ed and Diana Gross of Teaneck) begin to suspect is a serial killer.

"On radio, you can play roles that you could never play on stage," Campione says.

"I could never be cast on stage [in this role] because I would never fit the physical description of the character. I'm a small person, and this character is a big, strong, hefty woman. You have to convey everything through your voice."

"Suspense," which ran on CBS radio from 1942 to 1962, is one of the best-remembered classic radio dramas. Its format anticipated TV's "Alfred Hitchcock Presents"; its tag line "Tales well calculated to keep you in ... suspense!" was twisted into Mad magazine's signature phrase, "Tales calculated to drive you ... Mad."

Its most famous episode, "Sorry, Wrong Number," starring Agnes Moorehead as a bedridden neurotic who overhears her own murder being plotted on the phone, became an Oscar-nominated movie (best actress for Barbara Stanwyck in Moorehead's role), and the generally acknowledged zenith of on-air theater.

"I think the stories on 'Suspense' seem to hold up in time," Muller says. "In this show ['On a Lonely Road'], if you can get past the fact that there are old references and an old type of car, the story could take place today."

Muller has worn multiple hats — actor, trustee, producer, lighting operator — for Teaneck New Theater, founded in 1986 and headquartered for the last two years at the Hackensack Cultural Arts Center.

Though the group has staged everything from "The Glass Menagerie" to "Man of La Mancha" in its four-

show seasons, it's also experimental enough to go out on a limb with an offbeat project like tonight's broadcast.

"It's a smaller group, and with less bureaucracy, you can take these chances," Muller says.
True, radio drama may not be everybody's cup of tea.

Muller himself didn't know quite what to make of it when he first came upon it, by accident. In 1981, he says, he was doing some dial-twisting when he came upon a rebroadcast of an old episode of "The Life of Riley."

Since that radio sitcom, starring William Bendix, later became the basis for a TV sitcom of the same name, also starring William Bendix and still in reruns, Muller came to the only reasonable conclusion.

"I thought, 'Why is the TV coming through my radio?'" he says.

Teaneck New Theatre's next stage production will be A.R. Gurney's "Love Letters," Feb. 6-15.

THE INTERNET: Many of my subscribers are on the Internet. If you want to get on the mailing list for the Old Time Radio Digest (Round table) on the Internet, e-mail to this address: <old.time.radio-request@oldradio.net>...

WEB SITES: Various OTR Web sites will be posted. Most begin with <www.> Let me know what yours is: **Lou Genco** (many collectors have their sites here including Vintage Broadcasts; Ted Davenport; Ed Carr; Fred Berney; Pat McCoy) <old-time.com> **Jim Widner** <otr.com> (**Radio Days**); **Chuck Schaden** <nostalgia Digest.com> **BRC (Bob Burnham)** <brcradio.com/> **Ted Kneebone** <geocities.com/tkneebone1> **Jerry Haendiges** <otrsite.com/radiolog/index.html> **Australian Film and Sound** <Screensound.gov.au> **Owens Pomeroy (Golden Radio Buffs) (not www)** <members.aol.com/grbmd> **OTR Digest** <www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/books/> **Jack Benny Fan Club** <Jackbenny.org> **Radio Broadcast Chronicles** <gna.net/tia> **Tom Heathwood** <HeritageRadio.com> **First Generation Archives** <radioarchives.org> (Free subscription) <http://www.radioarchives.org/newsletter.asp> **Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound** <repsonline.org> **Terry Salomonson** <audio-classic.com> <digitalotr.com> The **OTR Club** now has a web page at <http://www2.pcom.net/robmcd/otrbuffalo/> **Doug Kosmonek** <http://members.shaw.ca/douglkosmonek> new e-mail is <douglkosmonek@shaw.ca> **Radio Spirits** <radiospirits.com> **The MWOTRC** web site is now operational and can be accessed either by www.mwotrc.com or www.readiorecall.com **Radio Memories (NEW)** www.radiomemories.com... **Ivan G. Shreve, Jr. (Thrilling Days of Yesteryear)** <http://blogs.salon.com/0003139/> **Bear Manor Media**, a publishing company (run by Ben Ohmart. Send for their catalog... They have published many OTR books in the last few years. <http://www.bearmanormedia.com> **RHAC** web site is <www.rhac.org> **Radio Days** is celebrating its 10th year on the web at <http://www.otr.com> **Ron Sayles (births, deaths)** http://mywebpage.netscape.com/bogusotr/instant/taz.html. (also) <http://otrbirths.blogspot.com/>; **Eddie Cantor** <eddiecantor.com>

CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS (All addresses first): **McCoy's Recording** (Pat McCoy), Box 1069, Richland, WA 99352 (509) 627-4039; <www.old-time.com/mccoy.html> **Jerry Haendiges**, 13808 Sunset Dr., Whittier, CA 90602 <JHaendiges@aol.com> **Radio Memories (Ted Davenport)**, Box 94548, North Little Rock, AR 72190 (888) 357-2346 <tedotr@sbcglobal.net> **Vintage Broadcasts** (Andy Blatt), Box 3257, Milford, CT 06460 (203-783-1923); also 1-866-783-1923; <asajb2000@yahoo.com>; **Great American Radio (GAR)** (Gary Kramer), Box 401, Clio, MI 48420 <ga@radio.fm>; **Bequaert Old Books**, Box 775, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447 (603) 585-3448 <www.beqbooks.com>; send 2 34-cents stamps for a catalog of books and magazines on OTR **AVPRO** (Don Aston), Box 1392, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531 (1-888-3328776) **Redmond Nostalgia Co.** (David Kiner), Box 82, Redmond, WA 98073 **SPERDVAC Library** (Box 7177, Van Nuys, CA 91409) **John Barber**, Box 72273., New Orleans, LA 70112 (504) 586-1931 <jbarber@gno.lib.la.us>. **Vintage Audio** (Tom Martin), 461 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (518) 584-1112 <Thomasmartin245@aol.com> **Satellite Video Production (Fred Berney)** Box 638, Walkersville, MD 21793 (1-800-747-0856) <Berney@fred.net> **BRC Productions** (Bob Burnham), Box 158, Dearborn, MI 48127 <bob@brcbroadcast.com> <www.brcradio.com> **Hello Again Radio** (Bob Burchett), 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042 **Audio Classics Archive (Terry Salomonson)**, Box 347, Howell, MI 48844; 1-877-653-8963 (for orders only) <audio-classic.com> **Lodestone** (Richard Fish), 611 Empire Mill Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401; 1-800-411-6463 <lodestone-media.com> (Deals in New Audio Theater **Ed Carr**, 216 Shaner St., Boyertown, PA 19512 <edcarr@enter.net> **Dan Riedstra**, 2830 North Rockwell St., Chicago, IL 60618 <daniel.riedstra@wcom.com>. **Max Schmid**, Box 3449, Astoria, NY 11103 <mschmid@rcn.com> <www.oldtimeradio.com> **Henry Hinkel**, 254 Florida Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010 <www.crabapplesound.com> **Danean MacAndrew**, P. O. Box 793, Lake Forest, CA, 92609 <www.theradiolady.com> **Heritage Radio Classics**; Tom Heathwood, Box 16, Boston, MA 02467 <www.heritageradio.com> Listen to the Heritage Radio Theatre every Sunday for one week streaming audio: <www.vintageRadioPlace.com/broadcast>

All listings below list sampling of shows.

NEW FRIENDS: For DVD's of vintage movies, mostly never released, check **Kit Parker's** web site: **www.kitparker.com**. **Philips H. Lord** Feature films available on DVD for the first time. "Forgotten Noir Volume 3," contains Mr. District Attorney (1947), David Harding, Counterspy and 8 crime dramas. Counterspy

Meets Scotland Yard and Mr. District Attorney (1941,) first time shown since 1946, and 8 additional crime dramas make up "Forgotten Noir Volume 4." All are transferred from the original 35 mm negatives. Questions or to order from VCI Entertainment 800-331-4077 www.vcient.com, or through www.amazon.com.

OLD FRIENDS: (From Ken Piletic) The ORCATS are still active on 7.238 MHz every Sunday at 8 pm Eastern Time. All ham radio operators who are interested in OTR are invited to join in. ORCATS stand for Old-time Radio Collectors and Traders Society.

NEW FRIENDS: Roger Hackett, 54 Autumn Cir., Yonkers, NY 10703; -Jack Coupal, 329 Melbourne Way, Lexington, KY 40502; Jack is looking for a complete Log of "Let's Pretend." I know that Arthur Anderson's book has an alphabetical list of all Nila Mack Let's Pretends aired; -Michael Adams, 6411 Wallace Rd., Richmond, IN 47374; -Mike Parise, 725 Struthers Liberty Rd., Campbell, OH 44405; Mike is looking for more Green Hornets; -Ric Ross, 18425 Burbank Rd. Ste 515, Tarzana, CA 91356

IN FOND MEMORY: Odetta, Dec 2, 77; Folk singer and Civil Rights Activist (Voices of Vista); -Nina Foch, Dec 5; 84; Actress (Lux; Suspense, others); -Van Johnson, Dec 12, 92; actor (Lux, Suspense, many others); -Page Cavanaugh, Dec 19, 86; Jazz pianist and singer (Frank Sinatra, Jack Parr radio shows); -Eartha Kitt, Dec 25, 81; singer (Guest Star, Here's to Veterans); -Ricardo Montalban, Jan 14, 88; actor (Lux; Family Theater); -John Mortimer, Jan 16; 85; barrister and creator of Rumpole of the Bailey

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

I hope everyone had a happy holiday season. Many thanks for the holiday cards.

Write if you get work; and hang by your thumbs

Jay Hickerson, 27436 Desert Rose Ct., Leesburg, FL 34748;
Phone: 352-728-6731; FAX: 352-728-2405
e-mail: JayHick@aol.com

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

FOTR Web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

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