

# SPERDVAC

# RADIOGRAM

Vol. XV, No. 5 The Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy MAY 1989

## Bob LeMond Recalls Radio Career



Bob LeMond

Bob LeMond's voice has been in millions of American homes via radio and television since the 1930's. His first air job was at Los Angeles station KEHE, about 1936, where he played records and did commercials for a half hour daily for about \$20 per week. Later he was the announcer/director/sound effects man/occasional actor on the KEHE soap opera *The Story of a Modern Girl's Romance*. LeMond was also a newscaster and publicity man at the independent radio station.

In 1938 Earle C. Anthony, owner of Los Angeles NBC affiliates KFI and KECA, bought KEHE and the station left the air. LeMond then won an audition at CBS, where he

remained for many years.

One of his recollections of his CBS radio days is a conversation with newsman Chet Huntley the evening prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Sitting at the bar at Brittingham's, Restaurant, Huntley told him, "I think we're going to have a war and I think very soon. . . Anytime. .tomorrow!"

LeMond noted that Huntley "was not a news reader. He wrote everything he read (on the air) and researched everything he said." He felt Huntley's prediction was based on more than mere speculation.

On Dec. 7, LeMond was the announcer on Bill Henry's segment of *The World Today*, a popular news program featuring Edward R. Murrow, John Daly, Bob Trout and William L. Shirer. "The program opened with a minute of dead air so each local station throughout the country could put in a local commercial. We were sponsored (in Los Angeles) by Golden Eagle Gasoline. . . I was in a studio on the second floor of Columbia Square waiting for Bill Henry to come in and Bill came walking in about 15 seconds before air time. . . He walked by me, headed for his microphone, and handed me a piece of paper off the (newswire) ticker. It said, 'Report that Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.' I got the cue from the engineer to start doing my commercial. . . I started doing the commercial and in the earphones they were saying the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor."

In October 1942, LeMond joined the armed forces, leaving behind many CBS announcing jobs, including *Lights Out*. LeMond explained to the *SPERDVAC* audience at last month's meeting that he worked for the Armed Forces Radio Service during World War II.

Following WWII, LeMond's network radio announcing work included *My Favorite Husband*, *Meet Millie*, *Life with Luigi* and *The Harold Peary Show*.

His unforgettably favorite compliment was from a 16 year old radio actress. "I saw your TV show last night and you were the, the most unobjectionable." Mr. LeMond, "The best compliment I ever got." Having worked at KNX, LeMond remembers LA early being pronounced Lohss Anggheles, then Lohss Anjeles, finally Lahss Anjeles."

LeMond type radio bloopers: Reading a Jello ad, ". . . pink tinted dessert. . ." He left out the "n" in the second word.

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Larry Gassman

**SPERDVAC** is looking for a new printed materials librarian. Until we find one, the library will remain closed. We thank Duane Harding for his hard work in maintaining this library. At this point the library is small and would not take up as much space as an open-reel or cassette library. If you are interested, please give us a call and we'll talk about it.

## Al Cate

Thanks to Al Cate who has housed the open-reel masters for the General Library for over 10 years. Due to space problems he has had to give up the library. The Board has elected to split up the library into quarters so that it will be a bit more manageable. Any member wishing to house the library must be willing to do a certain amount of dubbing from reel to cassette. We would like to keep the library in the immediate Southern California area. Again thank you Al Cate for a fine and thorough job.

## A New Newsletter Editor Needed

Marty Kallenberger has indicated that he will relinquish his duties as our newsletter editor in November of 1989. Marty is now retired and finds life busier now than when he was an employed school teacher. We have a few months to go with Marty, but we need to hear from any interested candidates now. You need not be a resident of California.

We are especially interested in anyone who has a computer and the facility for desktop publishing. We will not limit our candidates to this mode of editor. If you have an interest, please call us at: (213)947-9800.

## Archival By Law is Pending

One of the more controversial policies of **SPERDVAC** is its stand on restricted material. We contend that if material is given to us with donor restrictions attached then the donor's wishes must be honored. We would rather preserve the material by putting it on the shelf than turn down the acquisition and take the chance that it may be destroyed. In October of 1986, we agreed that any future donations with donor restrictions would be filed away and preserved until such restrictions would be lifted.

In order to protect against past restrictions already present in the Archives Library, the board instituted a policy which protected the restricted shows from being sold, traded, etc. As it stands now there is a blanket restriction on tapes in the Archives Library. Because we agreed to no longer put restricted material in the library we need to add an amendment which would stop any future archives material from being labeled restricted.

If approved, the by-law would be amended as follows: "The requirements of Section 5 will not apply to any materials loaned or donated to **SPERDVAC** after the date of approval of this amendment." Barbara Watkins moved that **SPERDVAC** amend Article 6 section 5, which deals with permanent protections of established archival agreements adding a paragraph c., "Requirements of 5 a will not

apply to any materials loaned or donated to **SPERDVAC** after the date of approval of this amendment." This bylaw will be voted upon at the June 10th Board Meeting of **SPERDVAC**. This board meeting will be held at American Federal Savings - 12185 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, after our monthly meeting at approximately 2:30 PM. If you have reactions to this suggested amendment, please have your letters to us by no later than June 9th. Please send them to **SPERDVAC** at Box 1587, Hollywood, CA 90078.

## SPERDVAC's Sixth Convention Coming Up

The Board voted that the theme for this year's convention should be **SPERDVAC's** 15th Anniversary. The convention will be held at the Viscount Hotel on Friday afternoon November 10th through Saturday evening November 11th. Prices for the two day affair have not yet been established. Workshops will begin this year early Friday afternoon. We have plans for at least two recreations and perhaps a read around.

Anyone wishing to help should call convention chair Larry Gassman at: (213)947-9800. We need more help this year with on-site registration. Those wishing to have dealers' tables should get in touch with us now and reserve a spot.

The board again voted to invite **SPERDVAC's** honorary members to join us as a part of the convention. They will be notified as to the specifics in the near future.

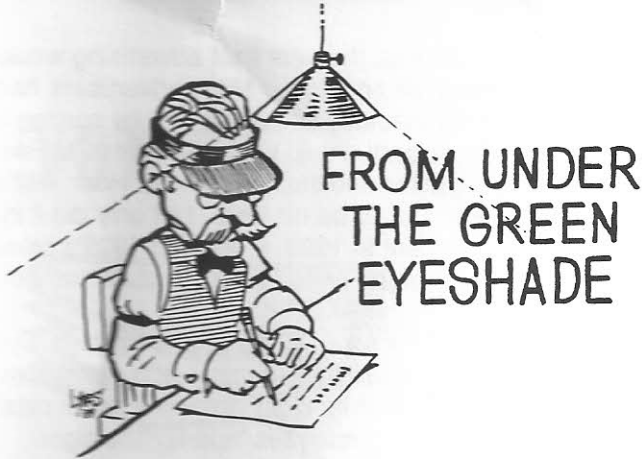
## Stuart Hamblen Dies

At a time when singing cowboys were few Hamblen, who passed 8 March at 80 in Santa Monica, CA, became a radio star of that genre. He may not have been the first of the breed, but he was certainly the most colorful. Known for his hard drinking and tall tales, he also wrote songs, some becoming hits. Rosemary Clooney recorded his "This Old House" which became a million seller for her.

Born in Kellyville, TX in 1908, he began his career in Dallas at 18, but landed in Camden, NJ, in 1926 where he recorded for Victor. In 1928 he came to Hollywood and for two decades rode the top of the country-western dial, first as "Cowboy Joe" then as a member of the original "Beverly Hillbillies", a cowboy singing group, and later as head of his "Stuart Hamblen and His Lucky Stars".

A reformed alcoholic, he became a strong voice for temperance after a Billy Graham tent-revival conversion in 1949. He ran for President as the CA Prohibition Party candidate in 1952. After this he retired from radio and toured the US with his wife.

In 1971, after some urging, he returned to the air over KLAC with the nationally syndicated "Cowboy Church of the Air", an hour long radio show of religious songs and stories. He was given his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1976.



This issue you will find for the first time, due to several requests, a complete rendering of the minutes of BOD planning and membership meetings. In the future, we'll print excerpts/digests.

For those of you who did not get a catalog page in your April 'Gram, please drop Circ. Mgr., Dan Haefele, a card requesting same.

See bob Nicholas' letter in Vox Pop this issue. He responds to Ed's remark that Clyde McCoy's Big Band music was "tinny". Love to get these differences of opinion going! But still think the flipside of Sugar Blues is tin-tin, others may be better.

Reminder: Please, borrowers, do NOT write on cassette tapes! Also, for locals, Peggy Webber's next production, **The Importance of Being Earnest** will emanate from KUSC (LA) 91.5 FM Sunday 28 May.

Latest on the "Orange & Green Networks" -- Orange did exist. It was a Hearst enterprise. Some stations along West Coast were KYA, San Francisco, and KEHE, Los Angeles on Vermont Avenue near the Palomar Ballroom. See Skip Schrammel's letter in Vox Pop.

Alvino Ray's "talking/singing guitar" was a fink!  
Read you, Ciao!

## York Acts for Life

Dick York, Honorary Sperd, and former star of the old TV series **Bewitched**, lies bedridden, broke and bereft of life's hope due to an old spine injury and emphysema caused by a multi-pack-a-day cigarette habit. Still, he is not sad nor inactive.

Tethered to an oxygen bottle, he spends much of his days on the phone contacting talk shows, bureaucrats, and various organizations about the plight of the homeless. He scrounges food, clothing, and bedding, especially items long stored in federal warehouses.

York has mastered the maze of government bureaucracies to obtain items. His greatest contribution, however, has been to make the nation aware of the problems of street people. People listen when he talks. Social workers respond.

Being a champion of the down-trodden comes naturally, since he, himself, is a child of the Great Depression. Chicago reared, he remembers raiding garbage cans for food, death in the family with no money for burial, and the struggle for lodging. Even so, he insists his childhood was a happy one.

Today in Rockford, MI, he heads a loose organization of volunteers called Acting for Life. It began after he read up on the McKinney Act that is supposed to set up federal give-away programs of surplus items but is underused because of red tape. Trading on his celebrity, York began badgering the bureaucrats. Soon a volunteer nucleus formed that became the nation-wide organization. The far-flung group is still small and can use more volunteers. Those wishing to help may write Acting for Life, P.O. Box 499, Rockford, MI 49341.

## ☆☆Acquisitions Update ☆☆

by John Gassman

Welcome to Glenda Kelley, SPERDVAC'S new General Library Coordinator. Glenda will soon be in touch with our list of dubbers, enabling SPERDVAC to record missing and damaged tapes.

I know it seems like centuries since the last SPERDVAC catalog page. However, coming soon to a General Library catalog page are such shows as Great Gildersleeve, Command Performance, Magnificent Montague, vastly upgraded Jack Armstrong programs, plus Fred Allen, The Adventures of Philip Marlowe, Richard Diamond, X Minus One, Dimension X and lots of Jack Benny programs. Just as soon as these catalog pages are typed up, they will be released.

Attention Classical Music Fans, SPERDVAC has just finished taping over seventy hours of classical music radio programs. Al Timpson donated these discs in exchange for cassette copies. If you love classical music radio shows and have equipment which will dub from open reel to cassette, please let me know. We would like to get cassette

tapes to AI as well as to the SPERDVAC library as soon as possible.

The Veterans Bedside Network is made up of lots of dedicated volunteers. They spend countless hours working with patients in veterans hospitals throughout the country. People like long-time radio actress Audrey Marsh work with veteran hospital patients to recreate radio shows. Audrey coaches them in acting and in other technical activities, but it is the patients who make up the cast and crew of the radio show. Radio work for all who are involved acts as wonderful therapy, especially for the patients who love every moment of the experience. Audrey Marsh works with the Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Hospital in Loma Linda, CA. If you live near the hospital and can volunteer your energies, or would like more information, please call Audrey at (619)321-2142. Audrey worked with the network in the New York area before moving to the Southern California Desert. She will also be a guest at one of our SPERDVAC meetings in the future.

# Hugh's Hues *by Hugh Anderson*

May brought to the listeners of America an opera singer who was to become "Mr. Radio." He moved to NYC when he was 19, studied singing and had his own concert at Aeolian hall. In May, 1923, at the age of 34, he auditioned at WEA, NYC, and started immediately as an announcer and baritone soloist. He was Graham McNamee.

He went on to broadcast almost every major event to occur as a news item or as a sporting event during his adult life. Here is a sampling; first presidential inauguration broadcast - Calvin Coolidge, 1924; NBC's first coast-to-coast broadcast - The Rose Bowl, 1927; the Dempsey-Tunney "Long Count" fight, Soldier Field, Chicago, Sept. 22, 1927; Lindbergh's return after his transatlantic solo flight; the return of the Byrd Expedition from Little America, March, 1930; Babe Ruth's called home run, 1932 World Series; announcer of the 11 August 1935 National Soap Box Derby, Akron, Ohio, where he was injured by an uncontrolled racer; announcer on "The Time of Your Life" & "Royal Crown Review", 1937, and so on. All America knew and loved him.

He made his last broadcast on 24 April 1942, as the announcer on "Elsa Maxwell's Party Line." Two months before his 53rd birthday, he passed away in May, 1942. "Mr. Radio", who gave us radio in its youth, was gone.

Didjaever hear of a fella named George Washington Hill? I guess a couple of you have. I hadn't until I read "One The Air." I bet most of you have heard of "LS/MFT" and "Lucky Strike Green has Gone to War." Well, Brother George was the flamboyant president of the American Tobacco Company and was known as "The single dominant figure in the development of broadcast advertising." Those slogans were his. He also conceived "Reach for a Lucky instead of a sweet" to entice women to smoke Lucky Strikes and keep slim in 1928.

That same year he began sponsoring the "Lucky Strike Hour" or "Lucky Strike Dance Hour." That show increased sales of Luckies by 47 percent and Hill increased his sponsorship in 1929.

The "Lucky Strike Hour" hired rapid-fire Walter Winchell to do a five minute news report each week in 1931. Winchell did so well he caused a slander suit to be filed against him and Luckies.

"Information Please," the brainchild of promoter Dan Goldenpaul, took on Lucky Strike as its sponsor in October, 1940. When "Lucky Strike green has gone to war" hit the airwaves in 1942, Goldenpaul, who had complete control of the show, objected to the slogan. George, a promoter himself, didn't cotton to Goldenpaul's resistance to his phrase and broke the contract with "Information Please" in February, 1943.

In December, 1937, "Your Hollywood Parade" began on NBC with a contract between Warner Brothers and Lucky Strike to provide any Warner's movie star for a broadcast. It was presided over entirely by Mr. Hill. It lasted one season. While it was alive, Bob Hope did a seven to ten minute monologue, mostly written by Hope and writer Wilkie Mahoney, from Dec., 1937, to March, 1938.

Hill felt that 1928 was the year that advertising would make its presence felt on radio. Most advertisers had learned by that time that they could sell best by naming a program after the product. Hence, the Clicquot club Eskimos, The A & P Gypsies and the Lucky Strike Hour. Hill's "sweet" slogan was said to be his best. Not only did it increase sales 47 percent in 1928, it doubled 1929's sales during the first six months of 1930 - a Great Depression year.

He was responsible for the Cremo cigar campaign "Spit is a horrid word". It implied that Cremo was the only company that machine sealed its cigar tips while other cigar manufacturers had their employees "spit-tip" the cigar.

The man was said to be vulgar, but he was a showman. He supposedly was the model for the character Even Llewellyn Evens in Frederic Wakeman's novel, "The Hucksters". Could Prof. Harold Hill in "The Music Man" . . . .

DIDJAKNOW. . . Ed Herlihy (announcer for America's Town Meeting, The Army Hour, The Big Show, Dick Tracy, The Falcon, Hearts in harmony, The Henry Morgan Show, The Horn and Hardart Children's Hour, Information Please, Inner Sanctum, Irene Rich Dramas, Just Plain Bill, Life Can Be Beautiful, Melody Puzzles, Mr. District Attorney, The O'Neils, Thanks for Tomorrow, The Thin Man, Truth or consequences, Vic & Sade) was a nephew of Fred Allen. . . .

On 5 May, 1949, Bert Parks debuted "Stop The Music" on TV. He began in 1931 as an announcer, record custodian and errand boy at the old age of 16 at WGST, Atlanta, where he was born. In 1936 he was a staff announcer at CBS, NYC. He announced Kate Smith's A & P Band Wagon, McCarry and His Mouse and Our Gal Sunday. In 1936, he would begin each "Renfrew of the Mounties" program by shouting the show's name. On the Eddie Cantor Show, he was employed as a singer-announcer. In 1942, he joined the Army and in 1943 went behind enemy lines in the Pacific Ocean area to set-up radio stations. . . .

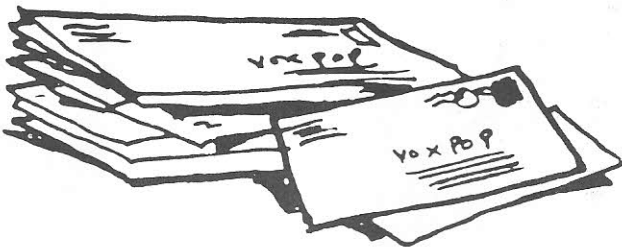
May, 1939, was when 18 year old Hugh Downs stopped by radio station WLOK, Lima, Ohio, to ask for a job on his way to fill a gallon milk jug for his mother. He was offered, and accepted, a part time announcing job and \$7.50 a week. . . .

Sportscaster Clem McCarthy organized Air-Sports Inc. of New York in May, 1935, to supply radio stations with a daily sports bulletin service. . . .

Fulton Lewis, Jr., the Mutual Broadcasting System news commentator, who organized the Radio Correspondents' Association, was largely responsible for gaining radio gallery privileges in both the U.S. House & Senate in May, 1939, for his association. . . . In May, 1948, ABC went public with an offering of half a million shares at \$9 each. Within two hours, it was completely sold. . . .

May's Miraculous Facts: May 21, 1927-Lindbergh begins his transatlantic flight; the 1st transcontinental railroad was completed May 10, 1869; 1st Airmail service between North and South America begins May 14, 1929; and for those of you who love old movies, this is your chance! Listen up! On May 11, 1928, regular telecasting will begin.

# VOX POP



I do enjoy the Radiogram, having been a radio buff since 1928. I have a couple comments that may be of interest for the one wearing the "Green Eyeshade": As a collector of station library transcriptions, I have a number of selections recorded by Clyde McCoy for the Associated library. They do not sound "tinny" but have a great full orchestra sound. Of course, they were recorded by the Western Electric vertical process - the only "high fidelity" recordings made in the 1930's.

I was also an ardent DX-er on the AM band in the early 30's. I have a large collection of listener verifications. Enclosed is a copy of one I received from KNX in 1931 which will verify one of their studio locations. I have several from stations in this area.

Keep up the good work.

**Bob Nicholas**  
Lakewood, CA

February 27, 1931

Robert Nichols  
601 E. Monroe Ave.  
Kirkwood, Mo

Dear Radio Friend:

In behalf of the Management and Staff of Radio KNX, we wish to acknowledge receipt of your communication and also to verify your reception of our Station on the night of February 21st.

We are always happy to receive letters from our friends and trust that you will continue to listen in.

KNX is on the air every hour from 6:45 in the morning until 12 midnight and operates on 285.5 meters, 1050 kilocycles, which is a National Cleared Channel.

Appreciating your efforts in writing us, we are

Sincerely,

**Chas H. Gabriel, Jr.**  
Assist. General Manager,  
Radio KNX  
Los Angeles Evening Express

In the March issue, the Green Eye Shade writer asked whether Mr. Dahlstead's citing that the original colors of the NBC's networks were orange and green, later called RED and BLUE was correct.

The best reference is in Erik Barnouw's "A Tower In Babel", Oxford University Press, 1966. On Page 191, Footnote #5 states and I quote - the terms "Red" and "Blue" originated, according to RCA chief engineer Alfred N. Goldsmith, on the Congressional Limited en route to Washington, shortly before the formation of NBC. He was riding with Elam Miller, AT & T operations engineer. "We had some blank maps of the United States . . . We drew on these maps the networks that we hoped would come into existence in their entirety, based on WJZ and WEA. WEA stations and connections were drawn with a red pencil, those of WJZ, with a blue pencil".

Since NBC made its debut on Nov. 15, 1926, this above conversation also probably took place in 1926.

Bibliography - Goldsmith, Alfred N., Interview by William S. Hedges, 1964, Unpublished. Broadcast Pioneers History Project, New York.

The only reference to an Orange Network that I have found in my meager library is in John Dunning's "Tune In Yesterday" page 13 of the forward. ---- "At one time there was even an Orange Network for the Pacific Coast".

Hope this info helps. I remain.

**Skip Schrammel**

Ed.

As an honorary member of *SPERDVAC*, I enjoy reading the RADIOGRAM and news of my former colleagues in the business. The VOX POP column has discussed the first radio station on the air in America, the first disc-jockey and many other interesting "trivia" facts.

But, who knows of the first FM station to broadcast in America? Well, I can relate to that very well because I was a staff announcer at the very first FM station in the nation. It was W55M in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I believe there were less than 10 FM sets in the entire listening area.

Yet, we broadcast a full program schedule with some very fine radio talent. Our station break boasted: "This is W55M, the First FM Station in The Nation."

Later I came to Hollywood and joined the announcing staff at CBS. At that time not even KNX had an FM band.

Currently I am heard twice each day, Monday through Friday on satellite radio North America One on my own show "TALES OF THE OLD WEST."

It's been a long journey and I've covered every phase of broadcasting. I have been very fortunate to always work in the business which I love so dearly. But looking back, the good old days were at W55M, The First FM Station in The Nation.

**Bob Shannon**  
GOODTIME RADIO PRODUCTIONS  
Van Nuys, CA

## VOX POP Cont. - -

I was astounded to see among the new programs gathered by **SPERDVAC** some which originated in Salt Lake City in the late 1940's.

The names in the descriptions of reels 1198-91 brought a ton of memories, as I listened to many of those folks daily while working at my first radio job. I was still in high school when the manager of KEVY, the new Mutual-Intermountain station in my home town of Pocatello, Idaho, hired me as an announcer.

That spring and summer of 1947 were heaven. The magic stuck as I discovered musical gems in the station's world transcription library and heard some high quality shows on the network.

I don't believe much as been written about the group of regional networks attached to mutual at that time. A big one was the Yankee Network in New England. The Don Lee Network ran up and down the Pacific coast.

Many Yankee and Don Lee programs were carried nationwide by Mutual. They included Yankee's 'Jerry Sears and His Rhythmic Strings' and 'Cedric Foster and the News,' from Boston.

Fine shows like 'Family Theatre', 'Symphonies for Youth', and a host of Hollywood-based dramatic shows were Don Lee Productions carried by Mutual.

Fifty-thousand Watt WGN in Chicago was a regional net by itself. Many dramatic and musical shows carried by Mutual originated in the Tribune Tower. Tom Mix and Bobby Benson were excellent kids' shows. The music on the 'Chicago Theatre of the Air' was enjoyed by many who wilted when Chicago Tribune and WGN owner Col. Robert McCormick began his political talks.

Most of Mutual's Dramatic shows, like 'The Shadow', were produced at WOR in New York.

Intermountain, whose base station was Kall in Salt Lake City, originated programs, but I don't believe any were carried on Mutual. The first IMN system cue I recall was, 'This is the 14 Station Intermountain Network'. The number soon climbed to 17 as more stations were added in Utah, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, then 23 and 35 and so on.

Reels 1189-1191 contain six episodes of a show called 'Hall of Fantasy', not to be confused with a national network series of that name.

Until I hear the shows, I can only say that Richard Thorne also did news and announcing on the Intermountain Net. He had the most beautiful voice I had heard until then.

Another name in the credits is "Mel" Wyman. This should be Mal Wyman, who was also an excellent play-by-play sportscaster. For several years he did the University of Utah football and basketball games on IMN from wherever the Redskins played in the old Skyline Conference, forerunner of the Western Athletic Conference.

Phyllis Perry is credited with a part in one of the shows. She was the 'Story Princess' on Intermountain. Five afternoons a week she entertained the Moppets, originating from station KLO in Ogden.

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Another Utah show is on reel 1204, 'Labor Day 1946'. I believe the Al Collins is Al 'Jazzbo' Collins of later disk jockey fame. Earl Donaldson, who provided the music, was a well-known Salt Lake organist who played on many stations.

At KSL, a dramatic group was kept busy for a while with a continuing soap opera. One of its actors was Parley Baer. He went to Hollywood, became Chester on 'Gun-smoke', and has been busy since. Parley could tell more about Salt Lake radio drama in the 1940's.

I'd like to hear from others who remember the Intermountain Network of those days and its programs. IMN is still alive and well.

Bill Ryan, Dallas

To Chris of Radio in Review:

I don't agree with your opinion of the new Jolson book in your Radio in Review because if writer Goldman is as poorly informed on the other areas as he is on the Kraft Music Hall (with Oscar Levant) it is indeed an erroneous picture.

I wrote the Jolson-Levant shows with Mannie Manheim (who passed away a few months ago) and I know more about Jolson in that period than anyone alive - except Mrs. Erle Krasna, formerly Mrs. Jolson.

True, I'm biased because he included what I believe is material from a John Crosby review - negative to say the least. Though it's over forty years since the show folded, I think Goldman is wrong for summing up the two years with the opinion of the pseudo-intellectual of the day. I'm sorry I don't have the review of the show John Crosby tried to host and got ripped unmercifully by his peers. I have given my collections of letters from various stars to archives, but they included letters of praise from Levant, Mrs. Jolson, the very tough John Reber, head of J. Walter Thompson TV advertising at the time; also Variety review and other raves. I gave away stills containing Jolson's own compliments to us on the material - though like all comics I've worked for in "live" there'd be complaints until they heard the laughs.

Decca records must have had access to the transcriptions because they put out an album of what we called the "noodle" spots. Levant at the piano doing ad lib lead-ins to songs (Mannie's and my ad libs) which Jolson would sing accompanied by Levant only. We sued Decca for not giving us credit and for not paying us. They didn't put out another album. I've also heard that Armed Forces Radio got access to the shows. Kraft did a radio anniversary with excerpts for which the actors got some kind of money, but not us.

The quotes in Goldman's book mentioning me, he gleaned from Jolson articles I've had published, or newspaper columns quoting me over the years.

Anyway, Jolson was a great entertainer and we must have done something right because both Reber and Jolson asked us to start thinking about a TV show. I joined Durante about the time Jolson passed away.

**Charlie Isaacs**  
Los Angeles, CA

**DEADLINE**  
**JUNE ISSUE**  
 17 May 1989

## SPERDVAC DIRECTORY

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**CIRCULATION MGR:** Dan Haefele, 4366 D, 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250

### LIBRARIES:

**GENERAL LIBRARY - Cassettes 1 - 499:** Bob Steinmetz, PO Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
**GENERAL LIBRARY - Cassettes 500 and up:** John Madigan, Box 3777, La Habra, CA 90632-3777  
**GENERAL LIBRARY - Open Reels, No. 1 thru 499:** Don Keith, Box 5861, Glendale, CA 91221  
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**ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Cassettes:** Bruce Miller, 1616 Harper Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
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**HOLLYWOOD MUSEUM LIBRARY - Open Reels:** Barbara Watkins Box 628, South Pasadena, CA 91031  
**HOLLYWOOD MUSEUM LIBRARY - Cassettes:** Michael Plett, PO Box 3101, Van Nuys, CA 91407  
**PRINTED MATERIALS LIBRARY -**

**AUDIO RADIOGRAMS:** Send C-90 cassette in returnable mailer to Stuart Lubin, 627 N. Fuller Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036

**AUDIO SPERDVAC CATALOGS:** Contact Bob Herman, 437 Curtis St., NE Grand Rapids, MI 49505

**MEMBERSHIP BADGES:** Send \$5.00 each to Don Keith, Box 5861, Glendale, CA 91221

**ACQUISITIONS: (Discs and Tapes):** John Gassman, Box 1163, Whittier, CA 90604, (213)947-9800 for both the General and Archives Libraries.

**PRINTED MATERIALS ACQUISITIONS:** Jerry Williams, 13861 Rayen, Arleta, CA 91331, (818)892-1446

**SPERDVAC MEETING**

Saturday  
 13 May  
 12 Noon

**GEORGE PETRIE**  
 Radio actor

Western Federal S & L  
 12175 Ventura Blvd, Studio City

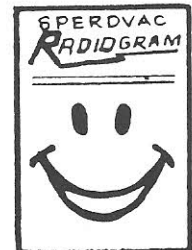
## SPERDVAC MEETING SCHEDULE

*Regular Meetings:* 12:00 NOON

13 May - Western Federal, Studio City  
 10 June - Western Federal, Studio City  
 15 July - Buena Park Library  
 12 Aug. - Thousand Oaks Library  
 16 Sept. - Buena Park Library  
 14 Oct. - Western Federal, Studio City  
 10 & 11 Nov. - Annual Convention at the Viscount Hotel, Los Angeles  
 No December meeting planned!

**SPERDVAC**

*Friends*



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*We are so grateful to the many Friends of SPERDVAC who have contributed \$50 or more to help defray costs of the society. The above members have donated funds during the past year.*

# RADIO IN REVIEW

by Chris Lembesis

Left out of the review for March was the 2nd half of the following. We now print it in its entirety.

**First You Dream, Then You Die.** Francis Nevens, Jr. The Mysterious Press, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103, 1988, \$19.95, Clothbound.

In our collection of *Suspense* programs, you might have a few titles written by that master of suspense, Cornell Woolrich. This is his biography, written by the legal and literary consultant of the Woolrich estate for the last twenty years, and best qualified to write about a man who perceived himself as a failure, yet is considered by many as the Poe of the 20th century. How fortunate we are that his work was superbly adapted to radio. *Deadline At Dawn, The Black Curtain, Three O'Clock* and other works are considered radio masterpieces. Between 1943 and 1950, 31 Woolrich stories were adapted for *Suspense*. He was William Spier's first choice.

Unfortunately, only one chapter goes into Woolrich's radio work. But because it is so superbly written, and the closest work analyzing *Suspense's* mystique, I have decided to review it. Each story is reviewed in depth and why it was chosen to go on the air. Casting, sound, production values and more make this a thorough work to add to your collection. The appendix includes all of Woolrich's work on all the networks, and the information and dates are accurate. Besides *Suspense*, Woolrich adapted his works on: *Escape, The Hour of Mystery, Lux Radio Theater, Molle Mystery Theater, Murder by Experts*, and *The Screen Gull Players*.

Nevens has also written *The Sound of Detection - Ellery Queen's Adventures In Radio*, so he is no stranger to writing about radio. It is unfortunate that after his mother's death in 1957, Woolrich lived as a recluse until his death in 1968. Only five people attended his funeral, but his million dollar fortune was left to Columbia University to establish a scholarship fund.

Welcome once again! Before I begin, some interesting announcements to share. To start off, a project once planned by Stein & Day, has been revived, and I am happy to report that CITIZEN WELLES, has been published by Scribner & Sons. I have only glanced through it briefly, but am pleased to report that the radio work of Orson Welles is much more covered.

Last year *SPERDVAC* supplied over a dozen hours of radio material to author Charles Higham for a book he was preparing on the life of Cary Grant. Good news!



CARY GRANT - *THE LONELY HEART*, has been released by HBJ, and we have been acknowledged for our contributions. I have also glanced through this one, and Grant's radio work is covered in more detail than other books that have been released since his passing.

Greenwood Press has announced two titles previously reviewed here, and offered to *SPERDVAC* members at a 20% discount. They are: *AS GOOD AS ANY* and *MODERN STENTORS*. List priced at \$35, they are available for \$28 each, plus \$2 shipping for each book and \$.50 for each additional book. Send your order to Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881. My thanks to Mary Rose Denaro for passing along this announcement.

**PREDICTION OF THE LONG TERM STABILITY OF POLYESTER BASED RECORDING MEDIA**, L.E. Smith, D.W. Brown, R.E. Lowry, National Bureau of Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce. Available through the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA 22161. Use Order Number PB87-136651/LBR. 1986. \$21.95 + \$3 shipping & handling. Softbound.

Many of us are experiencing various degrees of tape squeal and just plain annoyance when recording or listening to our favorite shows. U.S. Department of Commerce has published a paper addressing this problem. As a policy, our government does not send out review copies of their publications, but I expressed the importance of this work as a point of reference and study. They consented and here it is.

Blank tapes were aged at several temperatures and relative humidities. Signals were recorded, read back after aging, and the inability to read such data was used to make a preliminary estimate of tape lifetime. Their conclusions estimate that a useful tape life of twenty years is possible at ambient conditions.

Humidity and temperature calculations enter the picture. Reading failures with rapidly aged tapes appear to be caused by exudation of material from the binder. This sticks on the playback heads and makes the tape stick to the transport and capstan. Three tests were performed to document the above findings.

Some faults with this report are: It is highly technical with corresponding graphs, charts, and figures. It is a technical report, of course, but to start off, it is not indicated if the test tapes were made from computer, logging, in-



# Radio--

strumentation tapes, or commercial blank open reels we use. Was it any of the above or all? I looked for the key words we are familiar with: squeak, squeal, distortion. They are not there.

True, tape lifetime can be limited by detachment of the binder from the supporting film. Since this is a preliminary report, and final one is due soon, I hold off for the final summation. In the meantime, we can see that science and technology is doing all it can to address the problem.

For more information, may I call to your attention to two fine articles that appeared in *High Fidelity* magazine. Robert Long's *Tape Tracks* column in the July and October 1988 issues make for fascinating reading. Your local library should have these available. My thanks to Dorothy MacEoin, Promotions Division, NTIS, U.S. Department of Commerce for making this report available for review.

**REFLECTIONS OF A STEREO PIONEER.** Arthur Keller, San Francisco Press, 1983, \$15, Hardbound. (Box 6800, San Francisco, CA 94101).

Here is the autobiography of the long time Bell Telephone Laboratory inventor. His career was highlighted in two areas: Switching technology and the development of high fidelity sound. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Keller and his staff at Bell Labs for the development of electrical recording. Though the actual invention and development of the 16" disc used in radio recording (originally intended for use in early sound films) was the work of Maxfield and Harrison, Dr. Keller did contribute to the refinement of this format, always striving for top sound quality. His work included 36 scientific papers, 40 patents, and many awards and achievements in the field of sound.

In 1957, Dr. Keller wrote an article for the *Encyclopedia Britannica* on the history of sound recording and reproduction. Reprinted in its entirety, it is an outstanding highlight to this book, and explains how the shows we hear were first recorded. Taking a back seat to his accomplishments, he pays tribute to his fellow scientists, engineers, and inventors, and their work. Arthur Keller has since passed on, but his work remains. This is a book I highly recommend.

**PUGET SOUNDS: A NOSTALGIC REVIEW OF RADIO AND TV IN THE GREAT NORTHWEST,** David Richardson, Superior Press, 1981, \$14.95 + \$2 shipping, (WA residents sales tax applicable.) Hardbound. (Box 104, Eastsound, WA, 98245.)

Here is a delightful look at the history of radio and TV in the Pacific Northwest. For you members who live in Oregon and Washington, this book should bring back some delightful memories. This is an excellent pictorial overview of the people and events that made broadcasting what it was back then.

Sir:

We continue to add World War II receivers aboard the Cutter (now some eight) and certainly could use your selected recordings of national broadcasts, announcements, even "run of the mill" shows that would be received along the East Coast or into the North Atlantic—perhaps; even B.B.C. announcements given at the earliest months and years of the war. We continue as a non-profit but would be willing to defray direct costs and give you recognition in our P.R.

**Charles M. Weymouth, AIA**

CUTTER MOHAWK

World War II North Atlantic Memorial

Christina River Waterfront

901 Washington Street

Wilmington, DE 19801

The author was a part of that era so is well qualified to write about it. Interestingly, the publisher went out of business shortly after the book came out. The author took over the stock and is selling it himself. I like the format, and the black and white and color photos are sharp. The author shares some interesting sidelights, and they are fun to read, such as the person who did a show standing on his head!

Though primarily a look at local programming back then, I learned about what people heard and saw and how programming formats were catered to a particular audience. Recommended.

**HARD NEWS: WOMEN IN BROADCAST JOURNALISM,** David Hosley and Gayle Yamada, Greenwood Press, 1987, \$35 + \$2 shipping, Hardbound. (88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881)

Here is a very important work on the contributions of women in broadcast news history. Who were these female pioneers and what did they accomplish? This is an excellent historical overview of how women evolved in their work in radio and later TV.

Find out about Sigrid Schultz, the first female radio foreign correspondent; Helen Sioussat, the first female network news executive; Dorothy Thompson; Pauline Frederick; and others are spotlighted. Some interesting backgrounds on these ladies are brought up. Did you know that Helen Sioussat was hired by Phillips H. Lord in 1935 to manage his Washington office while doing her research on his series *G-MEN*? Later she was promoted to manager of all of Lord's productions, which included *SETH PARKER*, *GANGBUSTERS* and *MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY*. By the way, her duties expanded to researching shows, writing and rewriting scripts, casting, and directing rehearsals. As you can see, this a very enjoyable book, well researched. Recommended.

Time to close off for now, but we'll be getting together again before you know it. In the meantime, as always, Good Luck, and Good Reading!



Send your wants in  
O T R - r e l a t e d  
m a t e r i a l t o  
McGee's Closet, %  
Barbara J. Watkins,  
PO Box 561,  
South Pasadena,  
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**FOR SALE:** Pressure zone microphones, small-plate and/or lavalier models, with cables and phantom powering adaptors, six available at \$100.00 each or all six for \$550.00. KOSS ESP-10 electrostatic headphones, complete system includes powering module and two sets of headphones, \$225.00 complete. AKG model K-240 headphones, dynamic, circumaural phones with AKG's original "passive radiator" design; cable repaired but otherwise in like-new condition, \$40.00. Contact: Ron Streicher, 545 Clover leaf Way, Monrovia, CA 91016, (818) 359-8012, FAX (818) 357-0602.

**WANTED:** Radio show "Breakdown" with Joseph Cotten, story by Louis Pallack. Hitchcock made first TV show, with Cotten, of same title in 1950's. He got the idea after hearing radio version. Does anyone have a tape copy of the radio version? Buy or trade? Contact C. Huck, 4 S 230 River Road, Warrenville, IL 60555.

**WANTED:** As many programs of and any background information on THE SIXSHOOTER starring Jimmy Stewart and BIG JON AND SPARKIE with Jon Arthur Goerss as I can get. Would like to contact Eugene in Cincinnati who was Eukie Butcha, and writer Don Kortekamp, also in Cincinnati, but no addresses. Can anyone give me a lead, please? Contact: C. Alain Ladd, Apt. #19, 1535 East Canfield Lane, Anaheim, CA 92805-1036, (714)758-9924.

**WANTED:** I was named after a radio character on a show that my mother was listening to in Oakland, California. I was born in early October of 1951. She doesn't remember the show's name. Storyline concerned a girl named Luticia (my name) who rode a fine horse and who had the best of everything. As you can see, I was named after her for obvious reasons. For sentimental reasons, will pay respondent any price for identification of above alone or actual tape. Contact: L. Santipriya, Ph. D., Medical & Psychol. Research, 84-02 Roosevelt Avenue, Suite 16, Jackson Heights, NY 11372.

**WANTED:** Copies of any Ethel Merman and Spade Cooley. Will trade or furnish blank tape (open reel or cassette). Also looking for 1950's and 1960's rock and folk music on reel. Contact: Jim Watson, P.O. Box 104, Coarsegold, CA 93614, (209) 683-7260.

**WANTED:** Looking for excellent sounding copies of MR. KEEN, TRACER OF LOST PERSONS, on open reel only. Will exchange lists of MR. KEEN. Contact: Barbara J. Watkins, P.O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031.

## Mail and Hail . . .

"Thanks for your hardwork."

**Susan Crawford**, Fullerton, CA 92635

Thanks to you. Good to hear from you, ol'timer.

"Do you list radio stations that carry OTR and hours?"

**Peter C. Gardiner**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274

Yep, locally. Write Bob Lynes at SPERD address. Hope to get a national one printed up sometime.

"Why don't members get annual yearbooks?"

**Thos. K. Heathwood**, Chestnut Hill, MA 82167

Costs \$ to print em. We ain't got the mullah. However, a good idea. Write to Bob.

"Add current stuff and upgrade tape quality."

**Janice Jacobson**, Culber City, CA 90230

Fixin' to.

"Keep up the great work. Volunteers make an operation run successfully."

**Wm. Coombs**, Waltham, MA 02154

Yep, puff, puff! We need some, vols, that is.

"A great club with great service."

**Robert Dunn**, Rockland, MA 02370

Thanks, pal. We try. You Bay Staters are a discerning lot.

"The best thing that's ever happened to me AFTER my marriage and my career. Wonderful group. Anything I can do to help?"

**Dennis W. Crow**, Gresham, OR 97080

Lucky man. Howdja do it? See above; send resumé.

"Please try to publish the meeting schedule at least a month ahead."

**Henriette Klawans**, Chicago, IL 60613

We've done it!

"I'd like to help any way I can from here. I'm in LA 2 times a year."

**Joe Ledesma**, Hoguam, WA 98558

Come more often! Meantime write Pres. Gassman at SPERD address. He can put you to work. (The slave driver)

"My year on the board has made me realize first-hand what a top-notch group of volunteers we have. \*@#\$\$%! to any one who criticizes.

**Stuart Lubin**, Los Angeles, Ca 90036

A smiling face to you, Stu, from all us vols.

"Please see that we get the Radiogram before the meeting.

**Cal Witt**, Lancaster, CA 93534

We're tryin', boss. How 'bout you helping out? You're invited to the folding-mailing party. RSVP Dan Haefele.



by Barbara J. Watkins

In this world of rising costs, there is actually one good thing that has come down in price! You can now purchase RADIO GUIDE for the Los Angeles area at your local newsstands for 35 cents. Each issue now covers three weeks of programming. One-year subscriptions (17 issues) are \$16.00. You can receive a sample copy by calling (213) 828-2268. Their new address is Radio Guide, 3307-A Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405. Tell 'em you read about it here.

Member Connie Billips, 5111 Palmetto Lane, Fayetteville, NC 28304, is searching for copies of radio shows in which Maureen O'Sullivan appeared. She says that she is aware of several that she does not have, from LUX RADIO THEATER: "Captain Applejack" (1936), "How Green Was My Valley" (1947), and "The Big Clock." If you have any of these or others that she might not already have, she would be pleased to hear from you. She is writing a bibliography on Miss O'Sullivan.

Thanks to member C. Alain Ladd for sending information about AMOS 'N' ANDY. In February a federal appeals court in New York granted the right to produce a musical based on the radio show. The court determined that the pre-1948 shows (before CBS acquired the rights) were in public domain. The proposed musical "Fresh Air Taxi" was written by Steven Silverman and depicts fictional actors portraying roles in an "Amos 'n' Andy" movie in the 1940's.

My memories of the AMOS 'N' ANDY radio show are basically colorless. Rather than "stereotypical" blacks, I saw people. I never gave a thought to what color they were. I knew kids that resembled each of the characters in my all-white grade school. To me the radio show was a very funny and warm exaggeration of traits intrinsic to people in general, no matter what their race or origin. Of course, as a kid I never gave any thought to any of this and simply enjoyed the show. As an adult, this is still how I view AMOS 'N' ANDY. My view is not colored (no pun intended) by the television show, since I only saw one, and that was just a few years ago. I'd like to see someone take an old radio script and produce it as a bunch of white people, with no hint of racism. I still believe that the humor in the show applies to the traits of us all, no matter what our color may be. What do you think?

Member Charles Ordowski sends the sad news that April 6th marked the passing of another person responsible for some of our childhood heroes. The final director of THE LONE RANGER radio show, Fred Flowerday, died at

the age of 73. Mr. Flowerday joined Detroit's WXYZ in 1933 at age 18. Among his many duties there, he provided sound effects for many shows, including THE GREEN HORNET. Old time radio fans had a rare opportunity in October 1985 to watch Mr. Flowerday direct a recreation of THE LONE RANGER at the Friends of Old time Radio convention in Newark, New Jersey. One of the highlights of this recreation was watching the readthroughs and rehearsals. Unlike other directors of radio recreations today,

he granted permission to the fans to sit quietly and watch how the show was put together. This was a fascinating afternoon, and made the actual performance that evening even more enjoyable. Fred Flowerday's work will live after him, and so will the pleasant memories of the fans who shared that afternoon with him.

Send your information, questions and comments for this column to: Barbara J. Watkins, P.O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031. Till next time, spaceman's luck!

## ARCHIVES OFFERS NEW SHOWS

Last month and again this month, *SPERDVAC* released Archives Library pages filled with new shows never before available to collectors. We hope many members will take advantage of our latest offerings and borrow many from the Archives library.

Here are some examples of vintage broadcasts now available:

**Tell it Again.** This is a Saturday morning retelling of children's classics. It aired on CBS just before **Let's Pretend**. The late Marvin Miller is the program announcer and takes an acting role in each show, too.

**Crime Classics.** Morton Fine and David Friedkin adapted true crimes - usually murder - for CBS listeners of 1953. Four of the five shows included in the enclosed Archives page are from the series' earliest days, when it was a summer **Suspense** replacement. Radio great Elliott Lewis served as director.

**Lux Radio Theatre.** Last month, Joe Monte of KPCC-FM, Pasadena contacted us after he reached actor John Reynolds, grandson of Zazu Pitts. Mr. Reynolds kindly lent *SPERDVAC* transcriptions of four radio programs on which his grandmother appeared. One is a 1935 **Lux**, which originated from New York during the show's second season. This is the earliest known **Lux** program extant. It is an interesting example of mid 1930's radio comedy/dramas, and seems odd to the modern listener because there is no studio audience.

Another significant show featuring Zazu Pitts is the **Quaker Party**. It's Tommy Riggs' first, following his lengthy stint on the **Rudy Vallee Show**. Curiously, there are almost no Tommy Riggs programs currently available. The other two shows from this collection are a **Gulf Screen Guild Theatre** and a **Bakers' Broadcast** featuring Ozzie Nelson and Harriet Hilliard.

There are some offerings this month for American history buffs. Some presidential speeches have been added, along with Gen. Douglas McArthur's famous "Old soldier" speech. *Go to next page*

RADIOGRAM PAGE ELEVEN

# SPERDVAC

The Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy

SPERDVAC RADIOGRAM



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Please help in the preservation of old time radio by supporting legitimate organizations who strive to preserve and restore the programs and related information.

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**RON BARON**  
63-09 108TH ST., APT. 2P  
FOREST HILLS, NY 11375

## ARCHIVES OFFERS NEW SHOWS

diers never die" speech before Congress, a documentary aired at the end of World War II and a 1953 documentary surveying the Roosevelt-Truman Eras.

**Romance of the Ranchos** aired on a regional CBS hook-up, broadcasting historical perspectives of selected locations in Southern California. The Los Angeles County Board of Education gave **SPERDVAC** copy discs of the complete first season. The program's cast is not identified, but we recognize the voices of Pat McGeehan, Bea Benaderet and Howard McNear. Listen closely to the story "Aguaje de la Centinela", reel 1223, and you will hear Howard Duff playing several parts.

Mickey Rooney's short-lived 1948 series **Shorty Bell** is represented by three shows donated by Walter Brown Newman. The radio script man also donated transcriptions of two **Romance**, one **Suspense**, a **Columbia Workshop** and one **Molle' Mystery Theatre** program.

We hope that members will look over the enclosed additions to our General and Archives libraries and select some programs. When ordering, please refer to the "SPERDVAC Library Users' Guide", months ago.

ENCLOSED WITH YOUR RADIOGRAM:  
GENERAL LIBRARY PAGES 159-160  
ARCHIVES LIBRARY PAGES 109-110