

947 9800

SPERDVAC



Vol. XIV, No. 7

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

July 1988

From the President

NEW LIBRARIAN AT WORK

Reels 500 and up for the General Cassette Library are now in the capable hands of John Madigan. John volunteered at a recent meeting in Buena Park. His address is Box 3777, La Habra, CA 90632-3777. He begins operation August 1 but will accept orders now. Roberta Goldberg is still in charge of reels 1 through 499 but hopes that this will be on a temporary basis. Job commitments have made it necessary for her to give up the library. Roberta is one of the most thorough people we have encountered at SPERDVAC. It will be difficult, if not impossible, to duplicate her efforts. We need a volunteer to take charge of the first half of the General Cassette Library. We have had numerous volunteers wanting to help in any way they can. Now is the time to come forward.

We also need a tape coordinator for the General Library plus a volunteer coordinator. For information about these positions, please call (213) 947-9800. Prior experience is not necessary.

THANK YOU TALK RADIO

SPERDVAC wishes to thank Ray Briem and Talk Radio for the wonderful time we had on Saturday, June 25th. Along with the fine writer for Jack Benny, George Balzer, we had the chance to promote both SPERDVAC and the radio collecting hobby. We thank KABC in Los Angeles for their hospitality.

NEW INDEXES ON THE HORIZON

Next month we will tell you more about how you can obtain an index of SPERDVAC's libraries. They will be available in three formats and will be for sale. They will be more thorough and complete than anything we have issued in the past. We will issue periodic supplements as well. A big thank you to Chester Allen for his invaluable help.

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS NEEDED

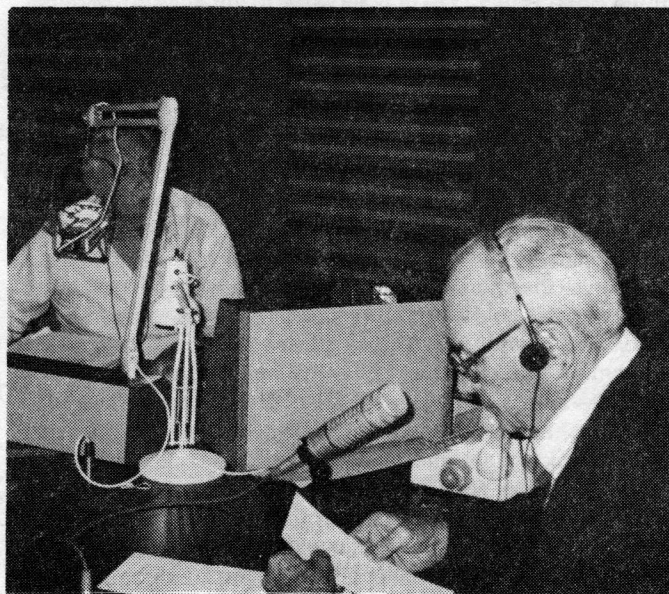
Recently SPERDVAC obtained through donation a control board console, speakers, and a disc cutter. If you own electronic equipment such as tape recorders, speakers, equalizers, etc., and don't know what to do with them, please think about donating them to SPERDVAC. Your donation will be tax deductible and will benefit SPERDVAC. Our libraries are growing and so is the demand for "more tapes." We need more good equipment to dub these shows. If you have such equipment, please call John Gassman at (213) 947-9800.

CONVENTION UPDATE

Each month we will provide updates concerning the "Salute to CBS Radio" Convention. If you look elsewhere in this issue, you will find our registration sheet. If you have any questions, please call the number indicated on the sheet.

After our Friday evening dinner, Olan Soule has offered to do a **First Nighter** show for us. Mr. Soule has spoken to SPERDVAC in the past but has never before recreated a radio show for us. Please stay tuned. We will have more information about Saturday's events when the plans are confirmed.

Larry Gassman



George Balzer, right, writer for Jack Benny for twenty-five years, was a guest June 25 on the Talk Radio network Ray Briem Program. Mr. Briem, left, discussed the Benny series with honorary member Balzer and SPERDVAC's Larry and John Gassman. The Gassmans provided excerpts of Benny's radio shows. (Photo courtesy Jerry Williams)

SPERDVAC MEETING

At SPERDVAC's July 16 meeting we will feature announcer Del Sharbutt, his wife, singer Meri Bell and actress Mary Lee Robb. The gathering begins at the Buena Park Public Library, 7150 La Palma, in Buena Park. The library is located just a few blocks north of Knott's Berry Farm. As always, the meeting is free and open to the public.

Our August 13 meeting is slated for the Thousand Oaks Public library. The guest was not confirmed at press time.

We will return to the Buena Park Library for our September 17 meeting. On October 8 SPERDVAC will hold its membership meeting at the Encino Community Center.

Members traveling through the San Fernando Valley should remember that major freeway construction will have the 101 Freeway in the Encino area backed up until at least 11 AM on Saturdays. Those unable to avoid the construction area should allow sufficient traveling time.



by Barbara J. Watkins

If at first you do not succeed, try, try again. A number of months ago Jim Harmon asked if anyone could help in identifying the actor who portrayed Speed Robertson on **The Air Adventures of Jimmie Allen** series. We may be close to the answer! Member Jack Wilson writes the following:

"I see in the latest [May] SPERDVAC *Radiogram* that the search for Jimmie Allen's sidekick Speed Robertson goes on. When I was a boy in Youngstown, Ohio, I used to listen to **The Air Adventures of Jimmie Allen**. I think we used to receive it on either station WTAM, in Cleveland, or KDKA in Pittsburgh. It was sponsored by the High-Speed Gasoline company and by going to a High-Speed station you could pick up an application, and a questionnaire to join the club and receive your silver aviator wings. I think that there might have been an advanced course and a test to win your gold wings. I don't recall any of the plots, but one of the villains' names was "Digger Dawson." I still remember the way Jimmie would say, 'Gee, Speed!' whenever Speed Robertson would reiterate an axiom. I do not know the actor's name who played the character of Speed Robertson, but perhaps I can give you a clue which might lead to his identity. This same actor played a part on the 'Mary Marlin' program. The character's name was 'McKenna,' Mac McKenna? I used to go home to lunch when I was in grammar school, and my mother loved to listen to Mary Marlin. Whenever 'McKenna' appeared on the program my Mom and Dad and I would say simultaneously, 'That's Speed Robertson!' I believe Joan Blaine played the part of Mary Marlin, and Carlton Brickert played the part of David Post.

I would like to know what the theme song was to the **Jimmie Allen** show. I'd also like to know if there are any tapes available of **The Hermit's Cave** as presented by The Mummers and the Little Theatre of the Air. I am especially interested in an episode titled, 'The Eye of the Idol.' I believe this was broadcast from Detroit, and was sponsored by Olga Coal."

Thanks, Jack, for your letter and your memories. According to *The Big Broadcast* by Buxton and Owen, the part of Mac McKenna was played by John C. Daly on **The Story of Mary Marlin**. Whether other actors also played that role is not mentioned. Now it is time for our "voice experts" to listen and decide whether Speed is in fact John C. Daly. We will let you know the results.

Yes, tapes do exist of **The Hermit's Cave**, but I have not seen the particular title you mention listed anywhere. Perhaps our readers will let us know if they have "The Eye of the Idol."

As a fellow midwesterner, I too am aware of the series done in Detroit, on WJR. In fact, you can hear some voices that appeared on **The Lone Ranger** on the Detroit series. Another version was done in Los Angeles. Honorary SPERDVAC member John Dehner was the voice of the Hermit on KMPC! The Carter Coal Company, producer of Olga Coal, sponsored the Detroit series.

Members Sharon and Bruce Benefiel would like information on the cast of **Magic Island**. They are thinking of writing a book on a 1988 version of the series and would like to know if any of the people in the cast are still alive: Tommy Carr as Jerry Hall, Rosa Barcello as Joan Gregory, Sally Craton as Patricia Gregory and Perry Crandall who was G-47 and who wrote and produced the series. The Benefiels say that they have heard that Perry Crandall's daughter is still alive and living in the San Fernando

Valley. If you have information on her identity and whereabouts or any of the other members of the cast, please contact: Sharon and Bruce Benefiel, 803 E. Mobeck, Apt. D, West Covina, CA 91790.

Another oft-asked question finally has an answer, thanks to Chris Lembesis. The theme music for the multi-part **Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar** series was composed by Carl Fortina and is called, appropriately enough, "The Johnny Dollar Theme."

If you checked out **Our Miss Brooks** reels 470, 471, 473 or 475 from the General Library in the past and found them to be less than satisfactory, try again. They have been upgraded in sound quality.

Confused about what the new postage rates are for sending tapes? Here are the new rates:

SPECIAL FOURTH CLASS		LIBRARY RATE	
No. of lbs.	Cost	No. of lbs.	Cost
1	\$.90	1	\$.64
2	1.25	2	.87
3	1.60	3	1.10
4	1.95	4	1.33
5	2.30	5	1.56
6	2.65	6	1.79
7	3.00	7	2.02
(8 and over, add 20¢ for each additional pound)		(8 and over, add 12¢ for each additional pound)	

If you have any questions, answers, or information you would like to share, please write *Information Please*, Barbara J. Watkins, P.O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91030. Til next time, Spaceman's luck!

RADIOGRAM

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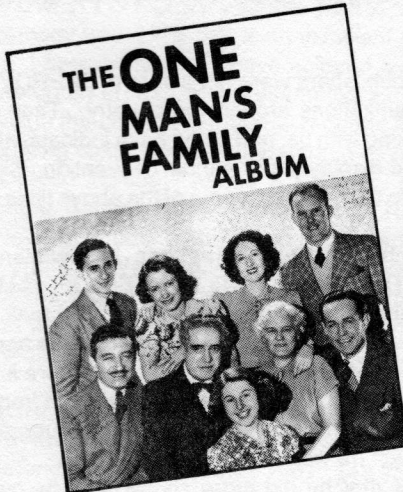
We are so grateful to the many Radiogram friends and supporters who have contributed \$50 or more to help defray costs of printing our monthly newsletter. The above members have donated funds during the past year.

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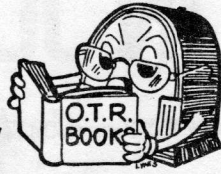
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Radio in Review



by Chris Lembesis

Welcome once again! Sorry I couldn't join you last month. After living in Long Beach, CA, almost all my life, I've moved, and trying to meet a deadline for this column was impossible.

Before I begin, some of you have asked how I go about putting together this column. To start off, to be aware of material that is of interest to us, I carefully review **SUBJECT GUIDE TO BOOKS IN PRINT**, published by R. R. Bowker. They also put out monthly supplements as the book business constantly changes. Being on the mailing list of the various publishers helps as it allows me to review what is upcoming. And because many of them have toll-free numbers to call, I can work with their Publicity Departments, informing them who we are and why their work will be of specific interest to us, while keeping my phone bill down.

Sometimes I follow up leads passed on via word of mouth. Besides new titles, many times publishers will have close-outs, and they contact us because we may be interested in these titles. I usually have a stack of something at every meeting. Take a look at our next gathering. I may have something you may be looking for.

It's always fun to find out what is coming out. And I think the best way is to attend the various book fairs and the biggest one you can go to is the annual ABA (American Booksellers Association) Convention. This year it was held in Anaheim, CA, on Memorial Day weekend, and I attended it.

You never know what to expect at this Convention. This event, which attracts upwards of 15,000 booksellers, publishers, literary agents, writers, the press and reviewers involved in the book world, is a fascinating experience.

Autograph sessions, readings and press conferences were part of the program. I thought about our hobby and how many works might come out this year. I have some good news! OTR is very much alive in literary circles. Between now and our convention this fall, the following titles have been or soon will be released:

1. **JOLSON—THE LEGEND COMES TO LIFE.** Herbert Goldman. Oxford University Press. An in-depth bio including his radio work.
2. **A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.** Max Paglin. Oxford University Press. Technical study.
3. **EDWARD R. MURROW—AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL.** Joseph Persico. McGraw Hill. Another bio of the famed radio-TV journalist.
4. **GRACIE: A LOVE LETTER.** George Burns. G. P. Putnam's Sons. An intimate look at Gracie's career and what she left us.
5. **IT ONLY HURTS WHEN I LAUGH.** Stan Freberg. Times Books. Our first Honorary Member has written his autobiography!
6. **FLYWHEEL, SHYSTER, AND FLYWHEEL.** Edited by Michael Barson. Pantheon Books. A collection of the Marx Brothers' earliest radio scripts.
7. **THAT'S NOT ALL FOLKS.** Mel Blanc with Philip Bashe. Warner Books. One of our favorite radio personalities tells his own story.
8. **THE "ONE MAN'S FAMILY" ALBUM.** Carlton Morse. Seven Stones Press. A look back at this series by its creator/producer.

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9. **THE WIDOW WITH THE AMPUTATION.** Carlton Morse. Seven Stones Press. The second in a new series of "I Love a Mystery" novels.

10. **FORGIVE US OUR DIGRESSIONS.** Jim & Henny Backus. St. Martin's Press. Their autobiography with a fond look back at radio.

11. **INVENTING AMERICAN BROADCASTING: 1899-1922.** Susan Douglas. The Johns Hopkins University Press. Radio's earliest days.

12. **THIS...IS CBS: A CHRONICLE OF 60 YEARS.** Robert Slater. Prentice Hall. Superb history and very deep in radio's years.

Many of the above publishers were not aware of SPERDVAC or the other OTR organizations around the country. They are looking forward to working with us, and some have indicated they would like to attend and display at our annual convention. Since our theme is a "Salute to CBS Radio," some of the above titles are timely, especially #12.

Honorary Member Tony Thomas has just written **A WONDERFUL LIFE—THE FILMS AND CAREER OF JAMES STEWART.** Though primarily a study of his films, Tony took the time to go into Mr. Stewart's radio work. **The Good News** series and **The Six Shooter** are discussed briefly. In fact, there is an interesting publicity picture of Stewart, in western garb, in front of the NBC microphone, to give the reader a feel of the other medium of entertainment in which he worked.

Stewart comments that he did more shows than he could remember. He regarded radio performing as an important adjunct to that of visual acting and regrets that so little of it is available to actors today. We wish author Tony Thomas all the success with this work.

We recently lost one of our outstanding radio journalists. In a wonderful book entitled **AMERICA INSIDE OUT**, the late David Schoenbrun tells us what it was like being an overseas radio correspondent. Starting his career at CBS during World War II, he was tapped by Edward R. Murrow in 1947 for the Paris assignment. He remained at his post for 15 years, observing history as it happened. His **OUR MAN IN PARIS** was a daily fixture for years. Though written four years ago, it may be still available from McGraw-Hill. If not, your local library should have a copy.

COMEDY ON RECORD. By Ronald Smith. Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988. \$55. Clothbound. (136 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016).

In the publishing world, compilations and discographies fill an important need, especially for the researcher or collector of a specific subject or theme. We have a winner in perhaps the best study I have seen on recorded comedy. This is not an easy subject to dissect because comedy is so vast.

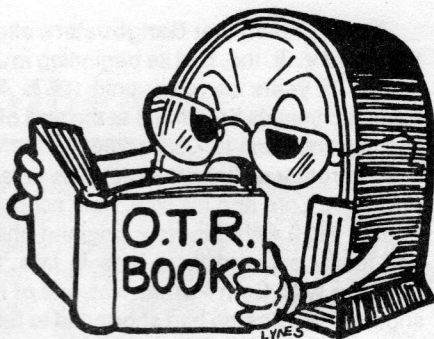
Comedians past and present, including standup and satirists, are covered. What amazes me is the amount of material available on LP of OTR comics and comedy teams. Smith covers the years 1957 to 1987, considered the Golden Years of Comedy on record.

The author says it's seven books in one, and I agree! It's a catalogue, encyclopedia, quick record guide, a critical record guide, a reference tool, price guide, and...a door stop! I see his point. At 700+ pages, it'll do the job.

Taking a closer look at those who did radio comedy, we are given the background of the comics, what programs were put on their air dates, samples of the humor from the LP in question, if the material is duplicated on another album, and something I really like: If the album is in bad sound quality, the author tells you so

(continued on pg. 5)

Radio In Review



(continued from pg. 4)

and why! For those of you who wish to pursue a collection of OTR comedy from LP's, this is an excellent guide to assist you.

I personally would have enjoyed a center section of photos, preferably in color, of representative album covers. But when you weigh the amount of material required for this volume versus the printing costs, you can understand its price. Some of the artists covered include: Abbott & Costello, Fred Allen, Jack Benny, Edgar Bergen, Milton Berle, Bob & Ray, Burns & Allen, Stan Freberg, Groucho Marx, and Vic & Sade.

Thanks to Vance Allen, Publicity Director of Garland Publishing, for sharing this new work with us. And to author Ronald Smith, a job well done! As more comedy albums of OTR are released, perhaps we will see a supplement to this work.

DORFSMAN & CBS—A 40 Year Commitment to Excellence in Advertising and Design. By Dick Hess & Marion Muller. American Showcase, Inc., 1987. \$49.95. Clothbound. (724 Fifth Avenue, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10019).

There are many factors that make up a radio or TV program. Creativity, production and performance are just a few. But one area we must not overlook is promotion. Presenting a program or network in its best light is the subject of a long overdue biography of an individual who rewrote the book on creative advertising and design excellence in broadcasting. Lou Dorfsman may not be a household name, but you have all heard and seen his work.

For every show offered by CBS Radio & TV in the 1950's and 1960's, it produced comprehensive promotional kits to help sponsors and stations build local audiences. These kits contained background information about the show and stars, and proofs of network advertising in support of those shows.

As Vice President and Creative Director of Advertising and Design for CBS, he can look back on a career that began there in 1946. He worked hard, and he learned. He did the ads, promotional kits, brochures, and other assignments while moving up the corporate ladder. He became Art Director and moved from Art Director to Creative Director to Vice President for Advertising and Promotion for CBS Radio.

All this and more in a beautiful, oversize work that belongs in your library. It is written with insight and depth by two co-authors who know and have worked in the graphic arts and advertising profession. The authors present Lou Dorfsman in the best way: They let his work speak for itself.

Page after page, in black and white and beautiful color, you see how CBS was packaged and sold. The reader may wish there was more, especially of his radio work. But perhaps there may warrant a second volume.

Lou Dorfsman believed in dramatic radio then as we do now. A quote from page 136 best sums up his work in radio in the late 1950's. "With the advent of television as a communications medium, radio in the '50's was in danger of becoming the neglected stepchild of the broadcasting industry. In his position as Art Director of CBS Radio, Dorfsman pulled out all the stops to prove that it was still a dynamic selling force. He projected the vitality of radio in thoughtfully researched, imaginative and costly

looking promotional brochures."

Remember that during this time, CBS affiliates wanted to produce their own programming built around music and local features. Lou's press kits worked, for most CBS affiliates were still accepting dramatic programming along with their own formats as late as 1962.

Many thanks to Stephanie Whitney, Publicity Director, and Ann Middlebrook, Sales Manager of American Showcase, for offering this work of a true contributor to radio's history and growth.

In the remaining months prior to our convention, I hope to have an opportunity to review some or all of the above-mentioned titles.

Until next time, when we take another visit to the OTR Bookshelf...Good Luck and Good Reading!

DEADLINE

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JULY 22, 1988

SPERDVAC DIRECTORY

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Hugh's Hues

by Hugh Anderson

If my count is correct, 62 programs began in July over the years. 1931, '32, '34, '37, '40, '52 had none; 1947 had nine. 1943 and '45 had seven, 1948 had five, and 1939, '44, '50 each had four. A large percentage of these went on to become long-time network stalwarts: **Mercury Theatre on the Air**, **Jack Armstrong, All-American Boy**, **Escape**, **The Falcon**, **The Aldridge Family**, **The Sealtest Village Store**, **Detective Story Hour** (to become **The Shadow**), and **Vox Pop**.

July 4th brought a few shows: '39—**Alec Templeton Time**; '44—**Nitwit Court**; '45—**Curtain Time**; '47—**Young Love** and '51—**Pete Kelly's Blues**. The last one immediately says Jack Webb and that conjures up a whole passel of programs.

"The story you are about to hear is true. The names have been changed to protect the innocent.... You're a detective sergeant. You're assigned to robbery detail. For a week you've been on a rolling stake-out, looking for a gang of thieves. There's no sign of them. On the way back to the office you get a 211 call. Your job—Investigate!"

We all know what program that was. It began on July 7, 1949 and ran thru 1956. Actually, the summer was good to Jack Webb. His first program beyond a local outlet was **One Out of Seven**, early 1946, ABC, San Francisco. Next was **Pat Novak, For Hire**, summer 1946, West Coast, ABC, out of San Francisco. This was a big west coast hit, and the Webb fans wanted him back. He had left the program for fortunes in Hollywood. The summer of '47 heard **Johnny Madero, Pier 23**, April 23 to September 4, 1947, Mutual, which was broadcast across the U.S. and brought the Novak style back to the airwaves. Next was **Jeff Regan, Investigator**, summer, 1948 on into 1949. Back to the popular **Pat Novak** in February 1949, ABC, to the end of the season when Webb leaves and starts one of the best-known police stories, **Dragnet** on July 7, 1949. This super-popular show ran thru the 1956 season. On July 4, 1951, **Pete Kelly's Blues**, NBC, began and ran the summer. Webb made a picture in 1955 of **Blues**. He appeared in numerous series such as **Escape** and **Dr. Kildare**.

Webb went over to TV in 1951 with **Dragnet**, and he stayed active until 1979. His TV endeavors included the following: Preview of **Dragnet**, December 16, 1951, on **Chesterfield Sound Off Time** with Webb in the lead and Raymond Burr playing Webb's superior on the program; **Dragnet**, January 3, 1952, NBC, starring Webb and directed by Webb. Barton Yarborough played Ben Romero in the preview as he did on radio. Yarborough's untimely death a few days after the preview brought Barney Phillips in as Friday's sidekick in the spring of '52, Herb Ellis in the fall of '52, and Ben Alexander as Frank Smith for the remaining seven-and-a-half years until 1960. The radio character was played in the same order. Harry Morgan played opposite Webb in the 1967-70 revival. From March '52 thru December '52, **Dragnet** alternated with **Gangbusters** on the tube; **Noah's Ark**, producer/director, September 18, 1956, NBC; **General Electric True**, host/narrator, September 30, 1962 to September 22, 1963, CBS; **77 Sunset Strip**, producer, last year 1966, ABC; **Adam 12**, producer, September 21, 1968 to August 26, 1975, NBC; **Emergency**, executive producer, January 22, 1972 to September 3, 1977, NBC; **Escape**, narrator, February to April 1973 and August to September 1973; **Mobile One**, executive producer, September 12 to December 29, 1975, NBC; **Project U.F.O.**, executive producer, February 1978 into 1979, NBC.

Above I noted that **Gangbusters** alternated with **Dragnet** in 1952 on TV. It, too, had its beginning in July—the 20th in 1935. It ran for 22 years on radio, until 1957. Thru 1943, the clues of wanted criminals broadcast at the end of each broadcast helped capture and bring to justice 286.

The creator of **Gangbusters** was an active guy as was Webb. Phillips H. Lord and his wife, both school teachers, went to New York in 1929 with this New England philosopher type story line and finally secured local time in late '29. By 1933, **Sunday Evening with Seth Parker** was one of NBC's top Sunday night shows, and its name had shortened to **Seth Parker**. Lord played the lead and his wife one of the parts. 1932 brought **The Country Doctor** on NBC Blue; it, too, being created by Lord with him playing the lead. **Gangbusters** was next, 1935, with Lord being the creator//producer/director/writer/first narrator. Following that effort, Lord gave his energies to these shows, three of which were to run a long duration: **We, The People**, 1936 to 1951, NBC-Blue, creator/producer; **Mr. District Attorney**, April 3, 1939 to 1951, NBC, producer; **By Kathleen Norris**, 1939, CBS, producer; **Sky Blazers**, December 9, 1939 to 1940, producer; **Treasury Agent**, producer (anybody know the dates); **Counterspy**, May 18, 1942 to 1957, creator/producer/writer.

Lord preceded Webb roughly by 15 years. Both were self-driven, hard-working men. Both gave us a great amount of programming if we wished to avail ourselves of it. I would think it safe to say that Phillips H. Lord is no longer household and that the Jack Webb name is alive so long as the Webb/Morgan **Dragnet** reruns are on the tube. It's a shame that time absorbs creators and producers in any field or profession as these two. Won't be much longer 'til people will say, "Who's Jack Webb?"

The top 15 programs (according to the Hooper Rating Service) for the 1945-1946 season were **Fibber McGee and Molly**; **Bob Hope**; **Lux Radio Theatre**; **Edgar Bergen** and **Charlie McCarthy**; **Red Skelton**; **Jack Benny**; the **Screen Guild Players**; **Fred Allen**; **Mr. District Attorney**; **Walter Winchell**; **Great Gildersleeve**; **Eddie Cantor**; **Jack Haley** and **Eve Arden**; and **Burns and Allen**. In early November, 1946, I had the delight of being in the audience for **The Sealtest Village Store**. It was the first radio program I had seen even though I had grown up listening to radio. I was on my way to China and had a weekend pass which I spent in Los Angeles. I had seen Ms. Arden in some of the terrific "B" movies you may remember that enhanced the silver screen and thought she was quite a gal. So when the opportunity was presented to visit the big-time west coast radio studios, I went. Jack Haley was established as a comedian and Eve Arden was really coming into her own. There were other performers whom I can't remember now, but I still recall Haley's smiling, innocent look and Arden's long pause and a stare out into the audience a la Jack Benny, waiting for the laugh to come. Or better, helping it along.

I remember her as slightly taller than Haley, thin and with the pseudo-indignant pose that went so well with her asking stare. After 42 years, it's still a clear memory. Watching the entire program was quite an experience for me...being seated in the studio, the ushers, the "ON THE AIR" sign, the announcer, the orchestra, the performers, men with earphones and wires leading off to somewhere, the control booth, really a busy place.

What brought all this to mind was noting that **Our Miss Brooks** debuted on July 19, 1948. It was over a year before I was able to hear the show and then was addicted. I have about 40 of her shows and listen to them every so often. I enjoy them and think that we miss so much of the comedy that abounded in those days. Al Lewis, with the help from Arthur Alsburg, was responsible for much of the dialog, but the super cast assembled put life into the program. Miss Brooks taught school at Madison High for nine

MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

SPERDVAC needs a Southern California member to take on the responsibilities of General Library Tape Coordinator. Members who have used the General Library recently know that many tapes are damaged or missing. The Tape Coordinator will be in charge of overseeing the repair and re-recording of General Library cassettes and open reels. The Coordinator will obtain the master tapes (on open reel) from member Al Cate in La Canada and distribute materials to volunteers who redub tapes for SPERDVAC. Then, the new tapes will be sent to the appropriate librarian. The longer we have to wait for someone to step forward, the farther behind the General Library will be in filling orders. We who are already volunteering for SPERDVAC look forward to working with new volunteers.

Many thanks to member Kent Crosser. Kent has volunteered to serve as our Archives Library Tape Coordinator. He will help us maintain and improve our Archives collection.

The Friends of Old Time Radio will hold their annual convention October 21 and 22. East Coasters in the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut area who would like to help should contact Jay Hickerson at Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514.

Anthony Tollin is searching for radio actresses Elsie and Gertrude Hitz. They worked on such programs as The Magic

Voice. Members with leads should contact Anthony at 47 Riveredge Dr., Fairfield, NJ 07006.

Sight impaired members may receive their Radiograms on tape. Send a good quality C-90 cassette in a two-way returnable mailer to Barbara Watkins, Box 561, S. Pasadena, CA 91030.

Also, blind members may obtain an audio version of the SPERDVAC library catalogs by contacting Bob Herman at 437 Curtis, NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49588-0311.

SPERDVAC has learned recently that actress Leslie Woods is recovering from open heart surgery. She says that she is doing well and should be in fine shape soon. The radio actress played Margo Lane in the **Shadow** recreation at SPERDVAC's 1986 convention.

We have received an inquiry from Barbara Quinlan, who in searching for scripts of radio shows such as **Easy Aces, Myrt and Marge, Vic and Sade, The Bickersons**, etc. The scripts are needed for use in non-profit productions by an active seniors group. Members able to assist may contact her at 59 S. Lazona, #11, Mesa, AZ 85204.

SPERDVAC congratulates Richard Crenna, who received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on May 23. Mr. Crenna was a radio regular on **Our Miss Brooks** and **The Great Gildersleeve** for several years.

SPERDVAC wishes to thank singer Andy Russell for his recent \$100 donation to our organization. Andy and radio veteran George Fenneman appeared about a month ago for Home Savings at a concert in Newhall, CA.

Hugh's Hues (continued from pg. 6)

years. My many, many thanks to those who saved the recordings of these shows and all the others we have. I just received my June *Radiogram* today (as I type these last words) and read where you had Mr. Ackerman as a guest for your May meeting. I would have liked to have heard him. He would know better than anybody about Connie and her friends. I've got to rent the May meeting tape so I can hear what he had to say.

So much for this month. Remember, the first automatic parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on July 16th, 1935, and the automobile manufacturers said good-bye to running boards in 1941. After that, those Gangbuster Guys had to climb inside to "follow that car!" "I'm goin' back to the wagon, boys. These shoes are killin' me!"

IN MEMORY

Dennis Day

singer/entertainer

Jack Leonard

big band singer

Evie Juster

radio actress

Tom Lewis

*Director,
Armed Forces Radio Service*



Singer Kay St. Germain entertained SPERDVAC's audience with many delightful memories of her show business career when she spoke at our last membership meeting. For the benefit of members unable to attend the meeting, we have a follow-up article and pictures for publication in the Radiogram. Because of space limitations, we are delaying the feature until next month. Later, SPERDVAC will include a recording of the meeting in the General Library.

SPERDVAC



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

SPERDVAC RADIOGRAM

c/o Dan Haefele
4366-D 136th St.
Hawthorne, CA 90250

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Tune In To Yesterday - Dunning

MORE MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

Jack French is searching for information on radio's female private eyes. He is especially interested in knowing more about **Carolyn Day, Detective** (a five minute weekday show, network, air dates and performers unknown) and **The Affairs of Ann Scotland** (ABC, 1946-47, with Ken Niles announcing). Members with useful details and/or recordings of these or other female detective shows to share (not including ladies who were part of a team, i.e. **The Thin Man**) should contact Jack at 5137 Richardson Dr., Fairfax, VA 22032.

Enclosed with this issue are General Library catalog pages 151-154. Please make sure you have the correct pages before adding them to your catalog. If those pages were omitted accidentally from your *Radiogram*, please notify editor Dan Haefele.

Next month Marty Kallenberger will begin serving as your *Radiogram* editor. However, he will be unable to do the September issue so Dan Haefele will again inflict himself upon the readership. To avoid confusion and loss of material, please send all contributions for the August and September *Radiograms* to Dan Haefele (see SPERDVAC Directory). We will print Marty's mailing address in September.

Many thanks to Bob and Susan Tribotti for providing typesetting of this *Radiogram*. Last month's typesetting (and a little of this month's) was done by your outgoing editor. Can you tell the difference?

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Send your wants in OTR-related material to McGee's Closet, % Barbara J. Watkins, PO Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91030

WANTED: The **Shadow** books, **Lum and Abner** memorabilia, **Our Miss Brooks** programs (radio or TV) and **Guiding Light** episodes, especially the conclusion of Meta's murder trial. Contact: Sue Marlow, 901 A South Drew St., St. Albans, WV 25177, (304) 727-1169 weekends and evenings before 9:00 p.m.

FOR TRADE: Interested in **Sherlock Holmes**? To trade audio, video, scripts, etc., please contact: Mel Ruiz, P.O. Box 21376, Concord, CA 94521.

FOR TRADE: I have 50 or so discs and looking for more for purchase or if anybody has discs and wants them put on cassettes or reel to reel, I can do so. I also am looking for needles for the old GE-VR11's. I also have many radio programs for trade. Send lists to Wally Stall, Box 22141, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, (405) 721-6408. All letters will be answered.