

SPERDVAC

RADIOGRAM

Vol. XV, No. 1

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

January 1989

OTR CONVENTION SALUTES PERFORMERS

by John Gassman

The fifth annual SPERDVAC Convention has come and gone. To adequately tell all about it would take several pages and exhaust the eyes of most of you. So, we will briefly highlight some of the events and suggest that when the convention recordings become available, you order them and experience the entire wonderful weekend.

BOOKS SOLD BRISKLY

The Dealers' Room opened up on Friday, November 11th with radio memorabilia on display and for sale. Radio premiums, books and scripts were just a few items eagerly sought by convention attendees. Two of the books were snapped up immediately because they were autographed by their authors. The first was Mel Blanc's **THAT'S NOT ALL FOLKS**. We were also fortunate to have George Burns autograph his most recent book **GRACIE, A LOVE STORY**. Both books sold out almost immediately.

GUNSMOKE WAS A BANG

Our Friday night banquet featured the re-creation of a program which typified this year's theme, "*A Salute to CBS Radio*." Our magnificent **GUNSMOKE** radio cast included director William Froug, Michael Rye as Matt Dillan, U.S. Marshall, Parley Baer as Chester, Lillian Buyeff as Kitty and Tyler McVey as Doc. The script was written by actor Vic Perrin in 1961. Engineering was by Shelley Herman with sound patterns by Ray Erlenborn. Featured in the cast were Jeanne Bates, Herb Ellis, Vic Perrin and Ray Erlenborn. Rex Koury's original **GUNSMOKE** theme music was provided by Ken Greenwald and Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters. And, of course, what would **GUNSMOKE** be without our very fine announcer, George Walsh? Also, many thanks to sound man Ray Kemper who passed along greetings via taped phone conversation.

Shortly before our **GUNSMOKE** re-creation of "**Chester's Dilemma**" began, several **GUNSMOKE** regulars discussed the show and what made it so wonderful. Long-time head of CBS Business Affairs, Annie Nelson, remembered that John Meston, **GUNSMOKE**'s story editor and script writer for most of the broadcasts was, along with director Norman Macdonell, the backbone of **GUNSMOKE**. They set the tone for so many years. The actors were terrific. They loved the show, which was one of the reasons it



Paul Masterson and wife Gale Storm at SPERDVAC's 1988 Convention. (Jay Ranellucci photo)

was so successful. Meston and Macdonell respected each other; they were not trying to knife each other, and there weren't twenty-nine people trying to make decisions about the show. Perhaps television of today could learn a few things from radio of yesterday!

AUTHORS SPOKE

Saturday morning's activities included a panel of authors who have, or will soon have, radio books available at a bookstore near you. Carlton E. Morse spoke of **One Man's Family**, the show as well as the book. Noted film author and historian Anthony Slide currently has a newly reprinted book available titled *Great Radio Personalities and Historic Photographs*. Suzanne and Gabe Barabas talked about their new book on **GUNSMOKE** which will cover both the radio and television versions. Their book is due for release sometime in 1989. Antony Tollin discussed his work on *The Shadow Scrapbook* and new author Dave Holland told us about his book on the **LONE RANGER** due for release very soon. **AND THAT'S NOT ALL, FOLKS** thanks also to Mel Blanc for his generous stories and insights about his new book which he and his many voices recorded for SPERDVAC's use as a part of this hour. Thanks also to Chris Lembesis and Gary Yoggi who moderated the panel and contributed many excellent questions and comments.

SPERDVAC's Kate Smith panel, entitled "*Columbus of the Kilocycles*," was produced by Richard K. Hayes. Richard told stories and illustrated

Continued on page nine

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Larry Gassman

Happy Holidays to all from SPERDVAC. May 1989 be everything you wish it to be! Thanks to all who helped make our recent convention such a resounding success. It was perhaps the smoothest convention to date. And, our thanks to all the personalities from radio who participated with us, and to the many who came from out of state to take in a SPERDVAC convention.

Our crack registration chair, Chester Allen, passed on some interesting info. You would guess that the majority of those attending would be SPERDVAC members .. Although many were members, there was a very large percentage who were not. We especially thank those who learned about us recently and joined us for the first time. I am pleased to say that the convention was not only a big success but did very well financially, as well.

Duane and Jeane Harding remind us that renewals are now due for members whose membership number ends in -01. All catalogs have now been issued to new members who have joined. If you haven't received your catalog, please let us know.

Another big thank you to Chuck Schaden for his kind mention of SPERDVAC in his bi-monthly newsletter, *Nostalgia Digest*. We have had many letters and phone calls of inquiry as a result. For information, write to Chuck at Box 421, Morton Grove, Illinois 60053.

SPERDVAC is now looking for a printed materials librarian. If you have an interest in helping

SPERDVAC by taking the Printed Materials Librarian's job, please call Printed Acquisitions, Jerry Williams (his phone and address are in the SPERDVAC Directory).

On a personal note, John and I would like to thank the many who have written and called expressing their condolences at the unexpected passing of our mother on November 25th. We thank you all for your good wishes. Those handful of SPERDVAC members who are blind know how difficult it is to get materials read in a hurry. Our mother did much of the reading concerning SPERDVAC, including the audio catalogs and some of the SPERDVAC *RADIOGRAMS*. Therefore, it is especially pleasing to us to have Carol Pearce and her daughter Petra volunteer their time.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our January 14th meeting in Thousand Oaks. Until then, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

SPERDVAC DIRECTORY

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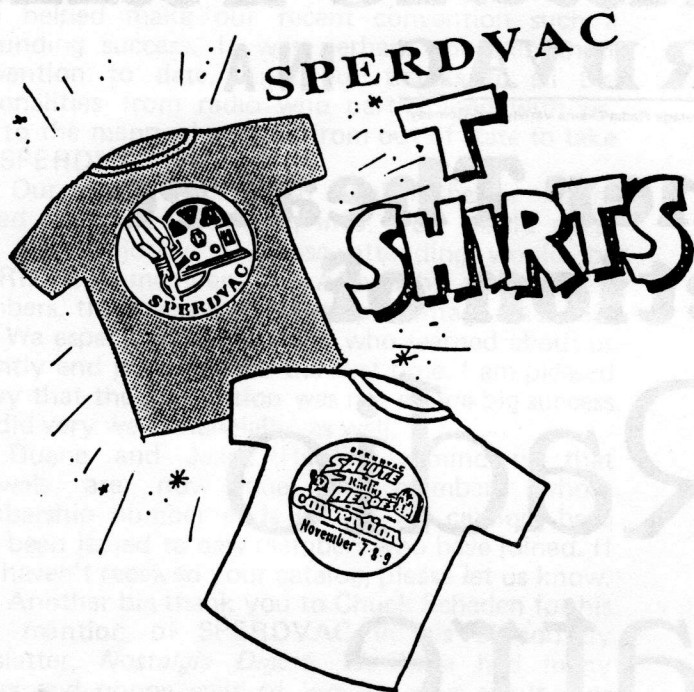
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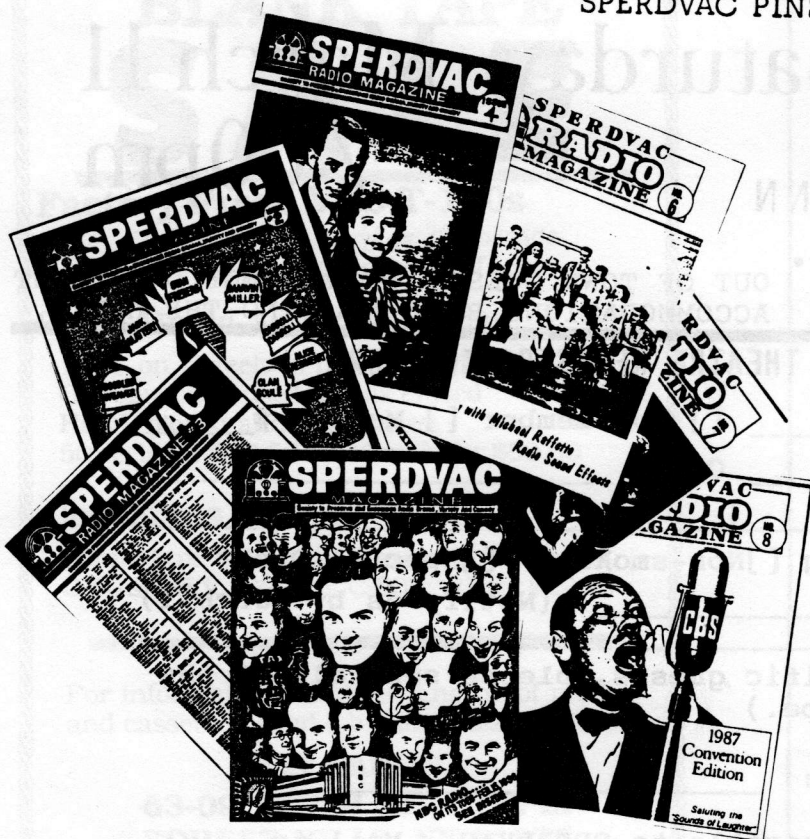
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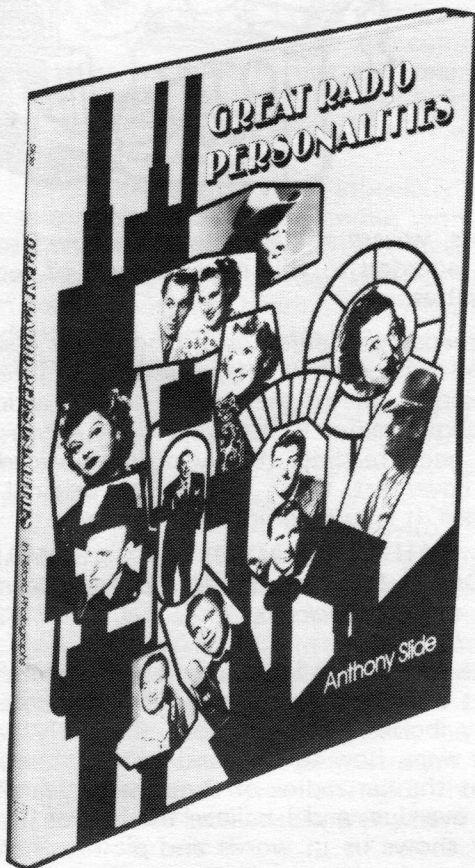
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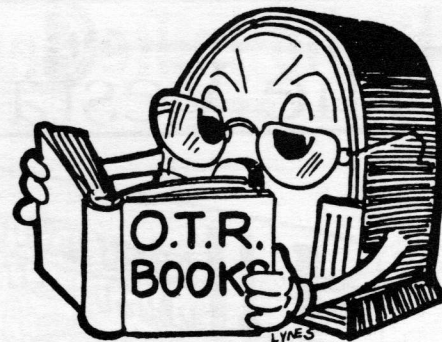
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RADIO IN REVIEW

by Chris Lembesis



Welcome once again! For those of you who attended our recent **SALUTE TO CBS RADIO** Convention, it was a weekend of enjoyment with events to suit everyone's interest. Maning the book table gave me the opportunity to meet many of you and I appreciated your thoughts about my column and your own interests in collecting. And, before I forget, a special note of thanks to Dan Pollard, who donated some rare and interesting titles for our library.

For a recap, I wish to thank those who participated in my *Meet The Authors* panel, and to those of you who attended. To Dr. Gabe & Susanne Barabas, who are putting the finishing touches to their eagerly awaited work: **GUNSMOKE - THE COMPLETE HISTORY AND ANALYSIS OF A RADIO & TV LEGEND**. They joined us from Longbranch (really!) New Jersey.

Well, Santa was especially nice to SPERDVAC this year, and I can see by the packages he left, that it is time for another visit to the OTR Bookshelf. We lead off 1989 with:

GRACIE - A LOVE STORY. By George Burns. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016, 1988, \$16.95, Clothbound.

Burns & Allen. Its same evokes memories of a time when they were America's most popular comedy team. Headliners in all fields of entertainment, from vaudeville to films to radio and television, here is the story of Gracie Allen as told to us by the only one who should, George Burns. This is a wonderful memoir and, as George explains "This book is about Gracie and my forty years with her."

And it is. Full of warm anicdotes and brimming with hilarious incidents from their public and private lives, it is a work I highly recommend. With a fond nod to radio, you will find out what made this team click with the listener with some interesting behind-the-scenes stories ... and they're great.

George pays warm tributes to his supporting cast from his radio days: Bill Goodwin, Meridith Willson, Mel Blanc and others, and presents highlights from his funniest scripts. Completing this work are numerous photos of the Burns in both publicity and personal family pictures. The book has just climbed to Number One on the best seller list! We congratulate George Burns on this achievement.

FLYWHEEL, SHYSTER, AND FLYWHEEL. Edited by Michael Barson, Pantheon Books, 201 East 50th St., New York, NY 10022, 1988. \$9.95 Softbound.

The Marx Brothers have been favorites of many and have evoked a unique cult following that continues to this day. In a treasured find for Marx Brothers fans, twenty-five scripts from their first radio series have been found. This series was considered lost, as no recordings existed. But, with 4 -- SPERDVAC RADIOGRAM/JANUARY 1989

these scripts, we are at least able to see how Groucho and Chico adapted to this new medium of radio in their first series.

The reader will enjoy an introductory essay on the state of radio at that time, a fascinating interview with Nat Perrin, one of the writers, and an article by Groucho about radio, written in 1934. All in all, it makes for good reading, it is affordably priced, and has good cover art. Now, if only the original discs could surface, it would complete the story.

THE AUTO RADIO: A ROMANTIC GENEALOGY. By Donald Matteson, Thornridge Publishing, Box 11, Jackson, MI 49204, 1988. \$34.95 Clothbound.

At the convention I had a review copy of a work that caught the attention of many of you. There have been many books written about the early radios. What they were, how to find and restore them. But, what about the car radios of those early years? In a work long overdue, and I believe the first of its type, the author shows us in words and pictures how the auto radio was developed.

It has hundreds of photos, including the original ads and a text that simultaneously shows the growth of radio programs and the auto radio make for fascinating reading - highly recommended. The author chose to self publish, which explains its price. It is an oversize volume and the photos are sharp, and printed on glossy stock. Get it!

BORDER RADIO. By Gene Fowler and Bill Crawford, Texas Monthly Press, PO Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767-1569, 1988. \$18.95 Clothbound.

In our Constitution, the Bill of Rights gives us the right of free speech, perhaps our most cherished freedom. Take that freedom away from those who believe in it most and you would have a fight on your hands! This was the background that created one of the most extra-ordinary and fascinating periods in radio's past.

BORDER RADIO is the story of powerful 500,000 watt stations operating just across the Mexican Border from 1930 to 1960. It was a time when Mexican broadcasting laws were more lax than ours and allowed American wildcat owners to expound their sales pitches for everythings from cures for cancer, sexual rejuvenation, fortune telling, to outlawing rock and roll.

Told with keen insight, the authors present a fetching and colorful story of a time when these stations and their personalities influenced an entire generation. It was the Depression. Life was hard and people would listen to anything to improve their lot.

Radio In Review

It may have operated below the border, but it was American radio and there are those today who still cherish the memories of a time that is no more.

Border radio allowed up and coming singers an opportunity to perform live and reach the largest audience possible. As Webb Pierce reminisced ... "If it hadn't been for border radio, I don't know if country music would have survived."

What makes this work especially interesting is the soundsheet record that comes with the book. It gives the reader an opportunity to hear what border radio was all about. You may want to arrive at your own conclusions after hearing it. My thanks to Angela Medearis and Carolyn Chavana of Texas Monthly Press for bringing this work to our attention.

EVERYBODY'S GRANDPA - FIFTY YEARS BEHIND THE MIKE. By Louis "Grandpa" Jones with Charles Wolfe, The University of Tennessee Press, C/O Cup Services, Post Office Box 250, Ithaca, NY 14850, 1984. \$14.95 Clothbound.

Here is an interesting autobiography that one of our members has brought to my attention. For years, "Grandpa" Jones was a popular featured performer on TV's **HEE HAW**, but little did I realize that his career goes back to the early days of radio and to the roots of modern country music.

With a natural storytelling skill, the author takes us back to a time when it was a struggle to make it in show business, and when you did, the pay wasn't much to live on. Local radio was where you made it to establish yourself.

At one time, "Grandpa" worked with **LUM AND ABNER**. When the team was just starting to establish themselves. He worked local radio for years establishing his craft, and appearing on such long-forgotten shows as **SAGE BRUSH ROUND UP** and the **OLD FARM HOUR**. During WWII he performed for our troops and, afterwards, in occupied Germany. Upon his return home he auditioned, and won a part on **THE GRAND OLE OPRY**.

Recommended for a different side to radio work, this book is full of pictures covering "Grandpa's" radio and TV days. My thanks to Jennifer Siler of The University of Tennessee Press for this work which is still in print.

RADIO STATION TREASURY: 1900-1946. By Tom Kneitel, CRB Research, PO Box 56-NN, Commack, NY 11725, 1988. \$14.95 Softbound.

Here, in one easy-to-read volume, we follow the growth of wireless and radio stations as they evolved from the dawn of spark transmission through the post World War II period. Also included are bits of radio history, such as how radio stations got their call letters, and what they mean.

You have to approach this as a technical reference work. The categories are too numerous to mention here but, if, for example, you wanted to know if FM was broadcast in your city in 1940, you could find it here. Were there TV stations in your area in 1935? What were the schedules of Nazi

stations during the war? What seven broadcasters received broadcasting licenses prior to KDKA in 1920? As you can see, this work makes for a great conversation piece or trivia quiz amongst we radio buffs. Or, it can be a fine research tool or classroom aid.

The author chose to stop at 1946, and here is where I differ. Though that year is considered by many as the dawn of the television era, that does not mean that radio stopped production or that the erection of new stations or transmitters ceased. I would have continued it to at least the 1950's, or later.

Otherwise it is still a fun book to look at. It was a labor of love for the author, as this work is self-published.

THE FIRST 50 YEARS OF BROADCASTING.

Edited by the Editors of Broadcasting Magazine, Broadcasting - Book Division, 1705 DeSales Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, 1982. \$29.95 (California residents, \$31.75), Clothbound.

Broadcasting magazine has been the publication that has served the radio and TV industry for almost sixty years, reporting on the trends and changes that occur daily in this profession.

In 1982, in celebration of fifty years of service to the industry, *Broadcasting* published a Special Edition highlighting the role radio and, later TV played in the growth of the communications field. Each year is summarized and then a photomontage is shown of the major events of that year. This volume is the work of several hundred writers, editors, and photographers and was condensed to the 300 pages that make up this edition.

It serves as a reference tool to the broadcaster who can see the changes in his profession, and to you, the fan, who can see some of the background of your favorite performer or program. My favorites are from 1938, with the announcement of the opening of the new CBS facilities at Columbia Square and NBC's Hollywood Radio City, a 1951 piece on Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall signing with ZIV to do a new radio series called **BOLD VENTURE**, and a 1954 bit on the transfer of the Lone Ranger properties from George W. Trendle to Jack Wrather. And, to wrap up radio in a nice way, *Broadcasting* took the time in a 1960 article to note the demise of network dramatic programming with an article called *LIFE WILL HAVE TO GO ON WITHOUT MA PERKINS*, complete with Virginia Payne in costume having that last cup of tea. Oh, we miss those days!

This is one work you will be proud to have in your home. As a prelude to this book, an extensive interview was conducted with *Broadcasting* Chairman and Editor in Chief Sol Taishoff. Its title: "The First 50 Years Were the Hardest." In it, Mr. Taishoff tells what it was like starting this magazine and of the early pioneers he knew. Unfortunately, he passed away shortly after it was written, but his work is left for all of us to enjoy. My special thanks to David Dietz of *Broadcasting* for this work. And, by the way, even though it was published seven years ago, copies are still available for those who wish to add this to your collection.

Until next time, Good Luck, Good Reading ... and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hugh's Hues by Hugh Anderson

Welcome, everybody! Tonight your neighborhood Good Gulf Dealer joins the Gulf Companies in presenting a new program. So, welcome to all of you from the Good Gulf Dealers of America. Welcome to the motion picture stars' own radio program, **The Gulf Screen Guild Show**. With Jack Benny, Joan Crawford, Reginald Gardiner, Judy Garland, Oscar Bradley ... and Hollywood's favorite Master of Ceremony, George Murphy!"

So it was, fifty years ago. The first show of **THE SCREEN GUILD THEATRE** on January 8, 1939. The series ran thirteen years, until May 31, 1951 with Gulf, Lady Ester and Camels as sponsors. Roger Pryor came on as the host and Michael Roy became the announcer in October 1947. The variety shows were dropped and the drama/comedy programs became its staple. When CBS scheduled it with **LUX** on Mondays, CBS took the ratings far and away.

In addition to his chores as **SCREEN GUILD** announcer, John Conte announced John Nesbitt's **PASSING PARADE** and **SILVER THEATRE**, 1938. In 1939, Conte was cast in the role of an announcer in the motion picture **INVITATION TO HAPPINESS**. 1940 saw Conte as the announcer on **MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE TIME** with Fanny Brice, Frank Morgan, Hanley Stafford, et al. He was featured on **MY GOOD WIFE** with Arlene Francis.

ADVENTURE SERIES

Fifty years ago, **THE CIRCLE** began on January 16th on NBC, sponsored by Kellogg's Corn Flakes. It was round table type programming that did not last the season. Ronald Colman was the president and Carole Lombard was the secretary. Colman left after five weeks and the show disappeared shortly after

that. However, the next day, January 16th, on NBC-Pacific Coast, Fleischmann sponsored a new adventure serial that was to run into 1952. We all recall Jack, Doc and Reggie, the A-1 Detective Agency, and their world wide escapades. Of course, we speak of **I LOVE A MYSTERY**. How 'bout **BURY YOUR DEAD, ARIZONA, THE THING THAT CRIES IN THE NIGHT**, and my favorite, **TEMPLE OF THE VAMPIRES**. When ILAM went on hiatus, Carlton Morse immediately began working on a syndicated series, **ADVENTURES BY MORSE**, an ILAM look-alike with strong-voiced Captain Bart Friday and his texas-drawling sidekick Skip Turner. A perfect pair for such thrillers as "*Dead Men Prowl*," "*The Land of the Living Dead*," "*The City of the Dead*" and "*The Cobra King Strikes Back*." (These sound better than the Shadow titles!) [I have the full run, in VG sound, thanks to Jack Richards, Littleton, Colorado - if any of you want to trade.] Just think, the fella that wrote all that stuff way back yonder is still pumping out novels by the two's and three's.

HUES, HUES, HUES

One: I hope all of you read Jim Cooper's recounting of his getting Gene Kruppa's autograph. Pretty good, huh? I know I enjoyed it. I bet there are a lot of you out in SPERDVAC land that could give us remembrances of an experience tied to radio. Doesn't take long to put pen to paper. Follow Jim's lead and let us all hear about your experience.

Two: Have heard nary a peep out of anybody about having the Mercury Theatre added to the library - action is needed! While you are writing about radio, poke around in your reels and find a couple of Merc Theatres and let me know ... or the Librarian. Somebody's gotta have some stored away.

Here's the Third Hue, and it's serious: I am one of 1,134 Sperdvacians who did not vote last time. (Think for a moment ... 1,134 members did NOT vote!) I left the voting blank on my drafting board, staring right at me. Very simple to fill it out, put it in an envelope and drop it into a mail box. Why not do it? Lazy? Apathetic? I am usually pretty good at doing things. Just didn't take the time and pretty soon it was too late.

Vote even if it is for the same people. The faithful 166 who took fifteen minutes to vote, voted for all of us who sat back. The faithful 166 gave us two new board members and proved that Larry Gassman is a popular guy. To the faithful 166, I am ashamed that I did not vote. I wish I were one of you. To the other 1,133 non-voters, let's ALL VOTE THIS YEAR!

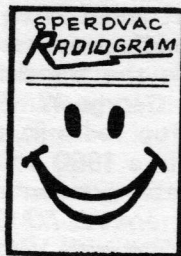
FACT OF FAME

January's Famous Fact: A stand-up comedian in Chicago expanded into the entire midwestern vaudeville circuit and made enough money to form his own company, employing at one point, Edgar Bergan & Charlie. He hit the RKO vaudeville circuit in New York and finally on to radio. He began on a program premiering on NBC-Blue with James Melton, Jane Froman and the Al Goodman Bromo Seltzer Orchestra called "*The Intimate Review*" on January 4, 1935. He was Bob Hope.

Once again, "*I'm going back to the wagon, Boys. These shoes are killin' me!*"

RADIOGRAM

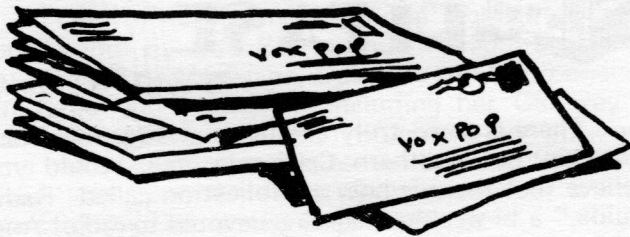
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We are so grateful to the many RADIOGRAM friends and supporters who have contributed \$50 or more to help defray costs of printing our monthly newsletter. The above members have donated funds during the past year.

VOX POP



Dear Ed.,

I believe it is better late than never to submit an interesting story for the *RADIOGRAM*. I would like to share with my fellow SPERDVAC members a very touching story that was told to me by Mary Lee Robb Cline as she was leaving our July 88 SPERDVAC meeting. I asked Ms. Cline if she could take on more minute of her time and talk to me about any one of the other cast members of the *Gildersleeve* show and describe how he or she was personally, as opposed to professionally. Ms. Cline kindly stayed a few more minutes to answer my question, and recount a wonderful story.

She remembered one particular afternoon, in between the East Coast and West Coast broadcasts of the show, that Walter Tetley, his mother, and herself decided to pass the time by taking a walk along Hollywood Boulevard and do some window shopping. They passed a jewelry store and Tetley noticed a particular pair of earrings in the window. He said to Mary Lee, "You know, I think those earrings would look very nice on you. Let me buy them for you." Ms. Cline said thank you, but just the thought was enough. However, Tetley insisted because that is the kind of generous and caring man that he was.

Mary Lee Robb Cline was wearing those earrings at the July '88 SPERDVAC meeting. It was a modest way of paying tribute to a friend; a friend who gave the world so much, both as a talented radio actor and as a very wonderful and caring human being.

Mark Tufano - Irvine, California

Ed.,

I am writing in regards to former stage and radio actress Kathleen Fitz Hartsough. She is now in a rest home in Alexandria, Virginia and has a disease of the spine and has often suffered broken bones.

She played with Eddie Albert on Broadway in *Brother Rat*. Also, she played in *Three Men On a Horse* and *Boy Meets Girl* in New York and Chicago. In Hollywood, she was heard on *One Man's Family*, *Brent House*, *Lux Radio Theatre*, *I Love a Mystery*, *I Want a Divorce*, and many other shows.

She would probably enjoy hearing from many of her fellow actors and friends from those days in the 30's and 40's. Write her a note: Kathleen Fitz Hartsough, 920 Emerald St., Alexandria, VA 22308.

Lloyd Burnett

BARBARA WATKINS RECEIVES ALLAN ROCKFORD AWARD

I was very surprised upon arriving at the recent **FRIENDS OF OTR Convention** in Newark, New Jersey. Jay Hickerson asked if I would be able to present one of the two Allan Rockford awards at the Saturday dinner - to Barbara Watkins!

For those of you not in the know - Allan Rockford was one of the earliest pioneers in the OTR hobby and championed the preservation of radio shows by airing re-broadcasts on the East Coast. Plus, he helped further the collecting of OTR by helping others get started in the hobby we all love. Allan passed away in his thirties.

When the friends of OTR chose to honor Allan's memory, they decided to name a yearly award in his honor. The Rockford Award has become the equivalent of sort of an Oscar/Emmy/Peabody Award for OTR Hobbyists. Past winners include Frank Bresee, Dick Osgood, Max Schmid (of WBAI) and others - given for their activities in keeping our hobby going. I am sure you will agree that Barbara certainly deserves the Rockford Award for all she has done for the OTR hobby, for SPERDVAC, and above all - for the goodwill she has (and continues) to spread between all the varied factions of collectors of OTR. She has built many bridges of communications for all of us.

I was thrilled and honored to award the 1988 Allan Rockford Award to my friend - Barbara Watkins! Congratulations, kid!! by Bobb Lynes

From Under the Green Eyeshade

Please note that the January 1989 meeting will be held at the Thousand Oaks Library. We hope most "northerners" and many "southerners" will attend.

The convention went well - guests were great, attendance was good, sales were brisk.

All of us on the 'gram extend condolences to the Gassmans on the loss of their mother on November 25th. Also, thanks to Vicki, our printer, for her slaving for us in 88. Thanks, too, to Dan Haeefe for his continued help. Again, note the ads, and buy from our advertisers!

Contributors need to once again be reminded that it is necessary to give credit to primary authors or, if quoting, to first seek written permission.

Bob Lynes' nomination resulted in a nice award for Barbara Watkins (see article). Lynes may be heard in OTR over KCRW.

At the convention, ye Ed apologized to Janet Waldo for failing to get her name under her pic on the front page of the November issue. She forgave us in her most charming manner.

Don't forget to send in your dues AND don't overlook the BOD ballot - mark it and send it in when the time comes.

Read you, ciao. RMK.



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

WANTED: I am looking for a tape of the complete interview Howard Hughes gave on 1/7/72 to radio and press journalists refuting the fake autobiography written by Clifford Irving. I will trade other "Hughes" recordings or any OTR shows from my large collection. Contact: G. Seltzer, R.F.D. 2, Richmond, NH 03470.

FOR SALE: Philco, Model 44, 1934 floor model radio. The radio has four different frequency bands and operates great. It is in original condition with only a few minor scuffs. It really looks great. It is available for \$200.00 plus freight. Contact: Jim Watson, PO Box 104, Coarsegold, CA 93614 - (209) 683-7442 days.

WANTED: Would like to correspond with, and trade tapes with, **A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION** collectors. Contact: Don Schubert, 22935 Fonthill Avenue, Torrance, CA 90505.

WANTED: I store my 7" tape reels in white plastic boxes originally intended for the storage of 8 mm. home-movie reels. Now I am running out of those, need at least 100 more, and the company that made mine has gone out of business. Can anybody out there tell me where I might find a replacement source? Contact: Gary Jennings, PO Box 1371, Lexington, VA 24450.

WANTED: NERO WOLFE radio, TV, and films. Also, the two Warner cassettes: "*Fer-de-Lance*." Contact: Kayleen Sybrandt, 3333 Morningside Road, Wilmington, DE 19810.

WANTED: THE ADVENTURES OF DOC SAVAGE; "Fear Cay" and "The Thousand-headed Man." Contact: D. Peter Ogden, 8001 Fernview Lane, Tampa, FL 33615.

WANTED: Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band radio programs. Contact: Mike Hylton, PO Box 30263, Indianapolis, IN 46230 - (317) 257-2756.

WANTED: Anything on **TOM MIX** Ralston radio show, **LUX RADIO THEATRE**, **RED SKELTON**, **LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE**, **LUM AND ABNER**. Will trade. Contact: J. Cooper, RR 1, Box 371, Clarksburg, WV 26301.

WANTED: 1) RCA microphone Type 44 BX; 2) Transcriptions of the Puroil and General Motors broadcasts of the Edwin Franico Soloman Band (circa 1928) on the NBC Radio Network. Contact: Edward A. Greene, 100 Garden City, NY 15530.

WANTED: I would like to find a copy of *The Little House Halfway Up in the Next Block*, a collection of **VIC AND SADE** scripts by Paul Rhymer, edited by Mrs. Rhymer. Can you suggest a source for buying or borrowing this book? Contact: Howard E. Lester, 3419 Clover Street, Pittsford, NY 14534 - (716) 586-1171.

Commercial ads should be sent directly to **SPERDVAC** at PO Box 1587, Hollywood, CA 90078.

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by Barbara J. Watkins

There is some truly exciting news for radio fans living in the Southern California area. Would you believe that there is now a publication called "**Radio Guide**," a bi-weekly magazine devoted to radio! And, that's not all, folks - it's free! Check your local newsstand. If you have any difficulty in locating the guide, call them at (818) 349-5767. Subscriptions are also available for \$25 per year (26 issues). If you would like the convenience of receiving your copies by mail. Write to: **RADIO GUIDE MAGAZINE**, PO Box 1139, Venice, CA 90294. Tell 'em you heard about it here.

REQUEST HELP ON REQUESTS

We have recently received several requests for information. If anyone can help in either or both searches, please contact the respective party directly. Your aid will be greatly appreciated. First, WSWP-TV is producing a documentary on Pearl S. Buck and they are trying to locate any film or tape footage of her. They are looking, in particular, for anything on her receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1938. If you can recommend a source, or have something of possible interest to them, please contact Billy Joe Peyton, Research Historian, WSWP-TV, PO Box AH, Beckley, WV 25802-2831 - (304) 255-1501.

REMEMBER PEGGY LLOYD?

Does anyone remember a Peggy Lloyd on the radio in the thirties? This is the only clue to the identity of a person whose real name was Elizabeth "Betts" Chamitou or Chaminto. Any information about the woman or her radio show is what Karl P. Stofko, DDS, 79 Orchard Road No. 4, East Haddam, CT 06423 is searching for. Dr. Stofko is gathering information for a book on architect Lavirus Fillmore (1765-1850) and the lady in question is one of his descendants. I have not found anything on either of her names, but "Peggy Lloyd" seems to ring a bell. Perhaps she was a character on a soap opera. If you have any information, please contact Dr. Stofko. And, if you know where there was a character named Peggy Lloyd, please drop me a note.

Please send any questions, or information you would like to share, to **INFORMATION PLEASE**, Barbara J. Watkins, PO Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91030. "Til next time, spaceman's luck!"

**SPERDVAC
MEETING**

**SATURDAY,
JANUARY 14,
12 NOON**

**Thousand Oaks Public Library
1401 E. Janss Rd., Thousand Oaks**

SPERDVAC Salutes CBS

them with numerous examples from Kate Smith's radio work.

GALE STORM APPEARED

One of the many afternoon highlights was an appearance by Gale Storm and her radio announcer husband, Paul Masterson. Gale told of her experiences in radio and television, including her **Gateway to Hollywood** performance in which she not only won the name Gale Storm, but her leading man Lee Bonell who later saw to it that Gale underwent another name change for almost forty years.

Husband Paul Masterson talked about his experiences at ABC as well as at AFRTS. Paul retired from ABC in 1984. He is currently involved with the Permanent Charities Committee of the entertainment industry. The industry supports the organization and, in turn, that money is made available to needy causes in Southern California. It was a pleasure to spend part of an afternoon with Paul Masterson and Gale Storm.

COLUMBIA SQUARE PANEL FEATURED

SPERDVAC's "Salute to Columbia Square" panel featured Art Gilmore, Harfield Weedon, Allen Botzer and current KNX employee in promotions, Bill Wolff. Thanks also to the one and only Dick Joy who participated via tape. SPERDVAC also presented KNX Radio with a special award based on their dedication to the playing of Old Time Radio Shows as a part of the KNX Drama Hour. Our panelists told wonderful stories about their days at CBS and working in radio in general.

Our final panel of the day featured radio performers Marvin Kaplan, John Stephenson and Gladys Holland Zuckert. Space prevents an indepth discussion of that wonderful hour. Make sure you order the tapes when they become available.

CORWIN PRODUCTION FEATURED

Following the introduction of our radio guests, William Alland briefly spoke of his experiences with Orson Welles. Mr. Alland will return to a SPERDVAC microphone at a later time for a much more lengthy discussion of his career.

The main Saturday evening event was Norman Corwin's radio re-creation of "The Undecided Molecule." Just before the program began, actors Dwight Weist and Arnold Moss, plus radio writer/director William N. Robson and long time writer and friend Ray Bradbury communicated greetings to Norman Corwin via tape recording.

The original radio play of **The Undecided Molecule** was done in rhyme. The show now has the distinction of being the first SPERDVAC re-creation to also have been presented in rhyme. The audience loved it. You might also be interested to know that it was also presented like a stage play, with the actors placed in a courtroom setting and Mr. Corwin in his judge's robes. The very talented cast included Mr. Corwin as director and judge, plus Stanley Waxman, Lou Krugman, Howard Caine, Fletcher Markle, Jerry Hausner, Steve Franken, Janet Waldo, audio mixer Marty Halperin, engineer Shelley Herman, sound man Ray Erlenborn and Assistant Producer Nancy



John Porter presented an award to radio actor Les Tremayne. Wife Joan accepted for her ailing husband, Kaufman.

One of the certainties of every convention is that which takes months to adequately prepare, takes two days to start and finish. We are already beginning to look forward to Convention 1989. We hope you will join us November 10th and 11th at the Viscount Hotel. Their hospitality made this year's Convention run smooth and efficient.

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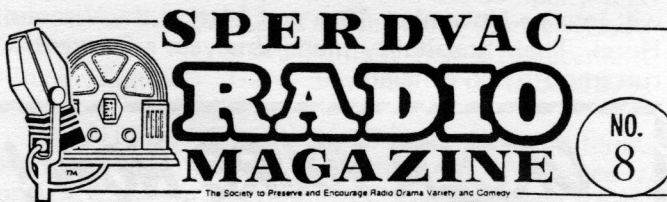


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