

SPERDVAC RADIOGRAM



Vol. XVII, No. 10

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

OCTOBER 1991

Third radio show recreation set for SPERDVAC convention

Actor Herb Ellis is arranging a radio show recreation to be performed on Saturday afternoon during SPERDVAC's Nov. 8-10 convention. With the addition of this program, there will be three radio show recreations at this year's convention.

The two evening banquets will each include a recreation of a popular radio show. Bob Hastings will star in **The Adventures of Archie Andrews** and Lon Clark will play the lead in **Nick Carter, Master Detective**.

One of the convention presentations Saturday afternoon will be a panel on radio's audience participation shows. Featured will be Irvin Atkins, producer and later director of Art Linkletter's **People Are Funny**. Bob Dwan, long associated with **You Bet Your Life**, is another panelist.

Sunday's breakfast presentation will feature the Abbott and Costello family members. Joining us at 9:30 am are Chris Costello, Patty Costello Humphries, Vicky Abbott Wheeler and Bud Abbott Jr. They will present audio and visual material, including items never before displayed. (They will also be available in the collectors' room Saturday with Abbott and Costello memorabilia and information on the Abbott & Costello Fan Club.)

SPERDVAC's 1991 Old Time Radio Convention is set for November 8, 9 and 10 at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 5985 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Radio musician Bernard Katz will demonstrate his work on network radio shows and his KHJ show **Katz on the Keys**. Saturday's daytime events will include a panel of three of Spike Jones' *City Slickers*. They are Joe Siracusa, Earl Bennett and Eddie Brandt.

There is no Saturday lunch planned as part of the convention package. However, we have allotted the 11:30 am to 1:00 pm slot for lunch. The Holiday Inn is offering a no host buffet luncheon at their *Strings* restaurant if SPERDVAC can guarantee a minimum of fifty for that meal. The cost is \$7.95 and must be paid separately from the convention costs. There is a place to indicate your lunch reservation on the registration form.

Admission to the complete convention is \$90; the price increases to \$95 at the door. For the benefit of those unable to attend the entire weekend, we are offering rates for specific events. They are indicated on the registration form. Registration packets will be distributed at the door. Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.

The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza has accommodations available for those who wish to stay overnight. The special SPERDVAC convention rate is \$73.13 per room per night, including 12.5% bed tax. To take advantage of these rates contact the hotel directly and specify you are attending the SPERDVAC convention. Their number is (213) 642-7500.

Additional details of our convention plans are included on the convention flier with this issue of the *Radiogram*. For up-to-date details, call SPERDVAC during business hours at (213) 947-9800.

CORRECTION: *The convention flier distributed with last month's Radiogram accidentally omitted the price for Saturday's daytime activities. The price is \$15 for those who choose the Saturday daytime option.*

John Dunning plans new OTR book

Radio historian John Dunning is working on an expanded, corrected edition of his 1976 book *Tune in Yesterday*. The new book will be published by Oxford University Press, probably in 1994.

"I'm well aware of the first book's shortcoming," Dunning recently told SPERDVAC. "I'm having a group of friends, all well-steeped in radio history, read the manuscript as I write it.

"And I'm asking for suggestions and corrections from the people who worked in radio—members of SPERDVAC, of Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters and of other radio clubs," he reports. "If there's something about that first edition that has always rankled you, now's the time to dump it on the author and get the record straight once and for all."

Dunning asks that those with corrections, improvements, additions, etc. contact him now, even if they have sent him similar comments in the past. His address is P.O. Box 18514, Denver, CO 80218.

Announcer Andre Baruch dies

Long-time radio announcer Andre Baruch died Sept. 15. He was 83. Mr. Baruch was associated with some of radio's top shows, including **Your Hit Parade**, **Myrt and Marge**, **FBI in Peace and War**, **Just Plain Bill**, **Kate Smith Show**, and **The Shadow**. He was also an announcer for the Brooklyn Dodgers. He and his wife, singer Bea Wain, conducted their own radio show in Florida in the seventies and earlier, at WMCA, New York, they hosted radio's first husband-wife DJ show. In 1980 they moved to Beverly Hills and began syndicating a new edition of **Your Hit Parade**. The program still airs on stations across the nation.



Radio announcer Andre Baruch in 1984.



MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

Enclosed with this issue of the *Radiogram* is General Library catalog page 171-172. This month we are releasing **Box 13** and **Damon Runyon Theatre** broadcasts, mostly from discs donated to SPERDVAC by Vern Carstensen. If your copy is missing, drop a note to Editor Dan and you'll get one quickly. . . If you notice earlier catalog pages got lost in the shuffle, send A SASE to Carolyn Rawski. Her address is in the SPERDVAC Directory.

Lum & Abner

We have also completed recording a set of previously uncirculated 1947 **Lum and Abner** shows. They will appear on the NEXT General Library catalog page, but are available for rental now. See page 6 for a partial listing.

Let's rideshare

Have you considered **RIDESHARING** to the SPERDVAC convention? Let's face it. Maneuvering through the L.A. freeway system is tough on the nerves and some members aren't too inclined to drive at night. We'd like to hear from members—including honorary members—who would like to attend SPERDVAC's

Nov. 8-10 OTR salute but find transportation a problem. Also, we would be pleased to hear from members willing to shuttle attendees from the L.A.-Orange Co. areas who are unable to drive. Call SPERDVAC at (213) 947-9800 if you can help.

Need new blood

SPERDVAC needs an infusion of fresh, new blood. We would like to keep our long-time volunteers who help keep the organization going. But over time their interests, priorities and available time can change. Is there a job within SPERDVAC you'd like to help us with? We wouldn't be offended if some members offered to be—to steal a show biz term—an *understudy* for a volunteer's job. There's plenty of room for others to learn a SPERDVAC volunteer job now, and possibly take it over at a later date. Or, if we have the luxury of two doing the work of one, it lightens the load considerably. We invite more members to join us in keeping SPERDVAC moving forward.

The deadline to declare candidacy for the SPERDVAC Board of Directors is the January 1992 meeting. The BOD meets every other

month following the membership meeting. They are the ones who do the decision making for SPERDVAC. We encourage members able to donate a few hours per month to consider becoming a part of the decision making process.

Name change

The Museum of Broadcasting has changed both its name and location. It is now known as the Television and Radio Museum. They are located at 25 West 52nd St., New York City, NY 10019. Their phone number is (212) 621-6600. They currently have a special exhibit on Jack Benny, which runs through April 5, 1992.

Freberg special

When Stan Freberg returns to radio next month it will be an international affair. He has recorded an hour-long special set to air Thanksgiving Day on National Public Radio and via the BBC. In Southern California it will air on KPCC, Pasadena (89.3 FM). The program will reair Dec. 1 as part of John and Larry Gassman's *Same Time, Same Station*. (KPCC, 5pm)

Freberg will also be interviewed by NPR's Susan Stamberg. Most stations will run the interview in conjunction with the radio special. Remember his CBS comedy series that aired in the summer of 1957?

Dan Cubberly ill

SPERDVAC has received the unhappy news that former CBS announcer Dan Cubberly has suffered a serious stroke. Former colleagues and fans who wish to send him greetings may write him c/o Sandy Musard, 1434 Calle Pimento, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360.

Convention plans

A reminder to those planning to spend one or more nights at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel during our convention: reservations are highly recommended. SPERDVAC pays for each meeting room we use during the convention, but the charge is adjusted based on the number of sleeping rooms rented by our conventioners. So, naturally, we *enthusiastically* welcome your decision to avoid the traffic and late-night travels. Their number is (213) 642-7500.

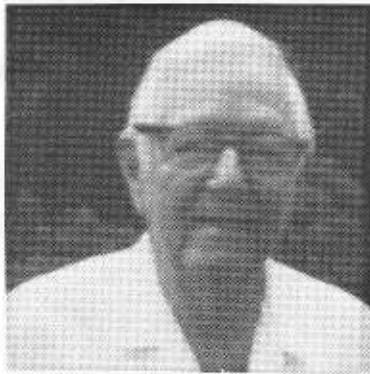
Lacey's '81 special

Jay Lacey is looking for a recording of "Classic Clowns of Comedy," a 24 hour special he aired on KCRW-FM, Santa Monica around 1981. If you've got it, please call SPERDVAC.

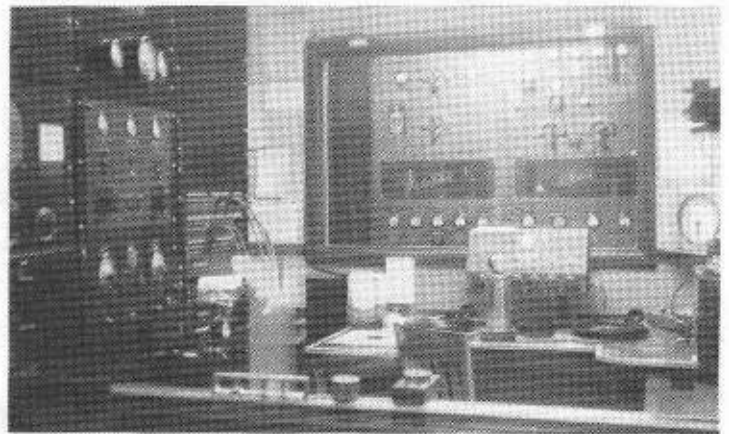
Film cowboy book

We're looking for a copy of the book *Heroes, Heavs and Sagebrush*. It's to give to a pal in return for some major, big-time favors provided to SPERDVAC.

Old-time radio tales from engineer Wendell Seward



Radio engineer Wendell Seward told SPERDVAC about his adventures in early radio at last month's meeting. He had lots of humorous stories to tell about keeping those shows on the air. We will add our recording of Sept. meeting to our tape library.



The KJBS, San Francisco studios circa 1937. The transmitter, visible through the glass, caught fire if an announcer overmodulated his delivery.

These radio pioneers have accepted our invitation to SPERDVAC's 1991 convention

Lew Lauria	Don Stanley
Betty Lou Gerson	Amzie Strickland
Richard Chandlee	Hal Kanter
Truda Marson	Lon Clark
Richard Beals	Bob Hastings
Howard Caine	Herb Ellis
Vern Carstensen	Boris Aplon
June Foray	Dresser Dahlstead
Art Gilmore	Marty Halprin
Art Hannes	Arthur Peterson
Bernard Katz	Norma Ransom
Tyler McVey	Elliott Reid
Charles Michaelson	Jack Brown
Jay Ranellucci	Frank Coghlin
Kay St. Germain	George Perroni
Eddy King	Veola Vonn

Oct. 12 meeting features broadcaster Ed Jaeger

Ed Jaeger's name isn't known to the average radio fan. But he's a man who is both knowledgeable in the medium's history and quite experienced in several aspects of broadcasting.

Mr. Jaeger will be SPERDVAC's guest when we meet Saturday, Oct. 12. The meeting will be at the Buena Park Public Library, 7150 La Palma, in Buena Park. It begins at 12 noon and is open free to the public.

Jaeger obtained an engineer's license in 1938. During World War II he switched to radio production work when many in that field were called into the services. He also did announcing, news broadcasts and commercials.

Highlights of his career include work at eight Mid-western radio stations, many of them network affiliates. He has stories to tell about his interview with Jesse Owens and the time he was fired for doing Paul Harvey's newscast in the Paul Harvey delivery style.

On Southern California radio

Two new-time radio programs planned for Oct. 27

The next KMPC Radio Theatre production will be "Mandate for Mayheim." It is a sequel to last year's comedy-detective story "Ducking the Rain" with Colby Chester.

He will reprise the gumshoe character Austin Healy in the Oct. 27 radio show. KMPC (710 AM) will present the show at 5 pm for a studio audience only and a live airing with another studio audience at 7 pm.

Tickets for the production are \$10 for SPERDVAC members, \$15 for the general public. The radio play will be staged at the Wells Fargo Theatre in the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum. To reserve tickets, phone the museum at (213) 667-2000.

The California Artists' Radio Theatre performance of *MacBeth* is tentatively scheduled for broadcast Oct. 27

on KPCC-FM, Pasadena (89.3 FM). The ninety minute production was recorded earlier this month. It is CART's tribute to the late Richard Wilson, who was associate producer with Orson Welles on the film version. The radio show was produced, directed and adapted by Peggy Webber.

The cast includes well-known Shakespearean performer David Warner with Lou Krugman, Jeanette Nolan, Parley Baer, William Woodson, Elliot Reid, Richard Erdman, Sean McClory, John Bliss, Thomas MacGreevey, James Lancaster, Kaye Kuter, Bairbre Dowling, Peggy Webber, Ian Whitcomb and Kathleen Freeman.

Ray Erlenborn is the sound effects artist and John Harlan will serve as the program announcer. Marty Halprin will engineer the show. It airs beginning at 5 pm.



By Barbara J. Watkins

Member Joe Wilson sent in his recent experience with getting his reel-to-reel recorders repaired. He said he has two SONY decks from the 1960's. He called a SONY repair service (factory) in Burbank and they gave him two names, one in Pasadena and the other was Marconi Radio in Glendale, where he took both of his decks. He reports that both decks are working great now.

And Walter J. Beaupre shares this with us: "Fans of 'Stormin' Norman' of *Operation Desert Storm* fame will get a surprise when they listen to the GANGBUSTERS radio show of June 9, 1944 (SPERDVAC G-384). During the "Case of the Unknown Killer" Inspector Charles N. Stillson (retired) of the New York City Police Department is interviewed by none other than Colonel H. Norman Schwarzkopf of the United States Army! One wonders how the Colonel managed to take time out from WWII to appear on the program. That might make an interesting bit of history. And to those who believed that General Schwarzkopf came on like Gangbusters during his Persian Gulf interviews - now it can be told!"

Actually, Colonel Schwarzkopf was a regular on GANGBUSTERS for several years. Does anyone have any information on when he started and when he left the series?

CALLING ALL CLUBS

The Cinnamon Bear Brigade is preparing its fifth annual issue of "Bear Facts." They are soliciting listener anecdotes regarding special memories of this famous children's serial. If any of you remember THE CINNAMON BEAR and wouldn't mind having your comments published, they'd be most grateful to have your contribution. Send your input to: The Cinnamon Bear Brigade, c/o Carolyn Breen Kolibaba, 10419 N.E. Knott, Portland, OR 97220.

The *Friends of Old Time Radio* convention is the highlight of October in the world of OTR. This is the granddaddy of all the conventions; this year's is the 16th one. Details were included on the flyer in last month's *Radiogram* which we won't repeat here, except to say that the dates are October 24, 25, 26, and the location is the Holiday Inn North, Newark, New Jersey. The good news is that airline fares are perhaps the lowest for this convention that they've been in a long time! Some airlines, for example, are offering a round trip from the Los Angeles area for about \$198 per person. And if you fly on the *official* airline for the convention, Continental, you can save an additional 5% on the group rate, no matter from what part of the country you depart. To take advantage of this special fare, call 1-800-468-7022 and give the person that

Continued on page 5 . . .



Send your wants in OTR-related material to McGee's Closet, % Barbara J. Watkins, PO Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031

WANTED: Would like to hear from other OTR fans in the Modesto, CA and surrounding area. Contact: Walt Patterson, 661 Geer Ct., Modesto, CA 95454, (209) 576-7198.

WANTED: I am looking for the following COLUMBIA WORKSHOP broadcasts: "National Headliners" (7-16-38), "Orphan Ego" (1-5-39), "Laughter for the Leader" (8-3-42), "The Music of Mountains" (8-10-42), and "He Doubles in Pipes" (9-22-38). I'm looking for other COLUMBIA WORKSHOP shows as well as REPORT TO THE NATION programs. Please send lists before sending shows. Contact: Patrick King, Rt. 6, Box 477, Waco, TX 76706.

WANTED: Information about DIMENSION X, X MINUS ONE or other science fiction programs for book on best science fiction of 40's and 50's. Scripts (or broadcasts) welcomed. Correspondence with DX and/or X-1 principals invaluable. Also interested in trading copies of less well known series (BEYOND TOMORROW, TALES OF TOMORROW, EXPLORING TOMOR-

ROW, 2000 PLUS and others) All letters answered. Contact: Dixon Chandler, 6358 Brixton Rd. #6, Maumee, OH 43537.

WANTED: Any information on any existing FRED ALLEN fan clubs. Also, I am looking for any of the five-minute sketches from the FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY Monitor series. Does anyone have a BREAKFAST CLUB membership card they'd like to sell or trade? Contact: Jason Edward Beard, 615 James Street #507, Syracuse, NY 13203.

WANTED: Can anyone help me out on a recent Canadian series called NIGHTFALL? If possible, I would like to obtain a broadcast log and arrange a trade for the many shows I need. I have approximately 20,000 shows, most in excellent sound. Also, regarding the show QUIET PLEASE, does anyone know the present whereabouts of Mrs. Wyllis Cooper (Emily) or Mrs. Ernest Chappell? Contact: Randy Eidemiller, 7700 Lampson #37, Garden Grove, CA 91641, (714) 894-2490.

FOR SALE: 1) Broadcast (modern state of art) Technics SP 10 MKU turntable, has 5.2 lbs. of torque for instant start, 33 $\frac{1}{3}$, 45 & 78 RPM Speeds with 16" Reckocut tone arm, for 16" discs, two mount shells for trying different carts. Preamp to line amp available, no base, needs to be custom mounted. 2) 10-band mono graphic equalizer with large API VU meter, Soundcraftsman, 600 ohms in/out. 3) NAB cart player, 100 SFX carts. 4) Altec 639 ribbon cardioid microphone, as mentioned in "Broadcasting the Dance Bands" in August 1991 *Radiogram*.. 5) Ampex 351 track reel to reel, excellent condition. Contact: Les Beigel, P.O. Box 85042, Hollywood, CA 90072, (213)466-3596.

Old-Time Radio Fans!

Join us for the **SPERDVAC**

- RECREATIONS
- BANQUET
- PANELS

- WORKSHOPS
- COLLECTORS ROOM



Convention

FRI. SAT. SUN.

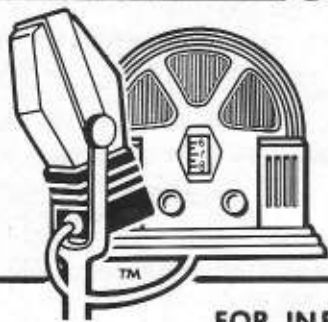
NOVEMBER 8 · 9 · 10

ADMISSION \$90 ALL 3 DAYS!

Holiday Inn
Crowne Plaza Hotel



5985 W. Century Blvd.
LAX



Nick Carter, Master Detective *starring Lon Clark*
Archie Andrews Show *starring Bob Hastings*
Spike Jones' City Slickers
with Eddie Brandt, Joe Siracusa & Earl Bennett

FOR INFORMATION WRITE:

SPERDVAC

P.O. BOX 7177 VAN NUYS 91409

(213) 947-9800

SPERDVAC 1991 Old Time Radio Convention Registration Form

Name _____ Non-member Member # _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Day phone _____ Night phone _____
Banquet meal seating: smoking non-smoking special diet _____

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

CONVENTION RATES:

1. Complete convention package (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) \$90.00 _____
 2. Friday dinner and program \$30.00 _____
 3. Saturday daytime activities (9 am to 6 pm) \$15.00 _____
 4. Saturday evening banquet and program \$35.00 _____
 5. Sunday brunch and program \$15.00 _____
- Total: _____

Check here if you wish to make a reservation for a buffet luncheon at the Strings Restaurant at the hotel Saturday, 11:30 am to 1 pm. The cost is \$7.95 per person and must be paid separately at the convention.

Check here if you worked in early radio.

Send checks or money orders, payable to SPERDVAC, to: SPERDVAC Convention, c/o Chester Allen, 13415 Egbert St., Sylmar, CA 91342. For additional details or to volunteer convention assistance, call Larry Gassman at (213) 947-9800.

Join us for the...

SPERDVAC 1991 OLD TIME RADIO CONVENTION

SPERDVAC's 1991 Old Time Radio Convention is set for November 8, 9 and 10. The new convention site is the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 5985 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Our convention will feature radio show recreations starring many of the professionals who helped make the medium's early days possible. Actor Lon Clark will reprise **Nick Carter, Master Detective** and Bob Hastings will be featured in a production of **The Adventures of Archie Andrews**. A Saturday afternoon drama is being arranged by Herb Ellis.

SPERDVAC is hosting workshops and panel discussions related to old time radio during the day on Saturday, Nov. 9. Radio musician Bernard Katz plans to be on hand to demonstrate his work on network radio shows and his KHJ program **Katz on the Keys**. Saturday's events will include a panel of three of Spike Jones' *City Slickers*. Friday and Saturday nights we will present banquets and program recreations. There will be a brunch and program Sunday morning to conclude our convention.

Registration begins at 5:30 pm Friday. The no host bar will open at 6:30 and the dinner and program begin at 7:30 pm. The Collectors' Room will be in operation Saturday from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. Our Saturday workshops and panel discussions run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. (There is no lunch planned as part of the convention package. However, we have allotted the 11:30 am to 1:00 pm slot for lunch. The hotel is offering an excellent no host buffet luncheon at their *Strings* restaurant if we can guarantee a minimum of fifty for that meal. The cost is \$7.95 and must be paid separately from the convention costs. There is a place to indicate your lunch reservation on the registration form.) The no host bar opens Saturday at 6:30 pm. Our Saturday evening banquet and show begin at 7:30 pm. We plan to conclude the Friday and Saturday night presentations at about 10:30 pm. Sunday's brunch and program will run from 9:30 am until 12 noon.

Admission to the complete convention is \$90; the price increases to \$95 at the door. For the benefit of those unable to attend the entire weekend, we are offering rates for specific events. They are indicated on the registration form. Registration packets will be distributed at the door. Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.

Dealers' tables will be available, for \$30 each, for those who wish to sell radio-related items. (Unauthorized sales of unlicensed radio broadcasts is prohibited.) Dealers wishing to attend events outside the Collectors' Room must register for those events. To reserve a table in the Collectors' Room, contact Catherine Passarelli at 10615 Butterfield Road, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza has accommodations available for those who wish to stay overnight. The special SPERDVAC convention rate is \$73.13 per room per night, including 12.5% bed tax. To take advantage of these rates contact the hotel directly and specify you are attending the SPERDVAC convention. The hotel also offers a special \$5.50 per day parking rate for tickets validated by SPERDVAC. Campers, motor homes and trailers may park in the valet parking lot behind the hotel. Shuttle service from Los Angeles International Airport is available free by phoning the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza from the airport. Their number is (213) 642-7500. There is also a gift shop and a Budget Rent-a-Car counter in the hotel lobby.

Hugh's Hues

Cavalcade of America was our weekly history lesson

The Cavalcade of America began October 9, 1935, on CBS with the program "No Turning Back," starring Walter Hamden, the renowned Broadway actor. It was sponsored by DuPont through the entire eighteen years it was on radio. In 1939 it moved to NBC.

Cavalcade was our history. It had the best researchers and best writers to be certain every detail was historically correct. Top acting talent was employed from the stage, Hollywood and from radio. Donald Voorhees and later Robert Armbruster were the musical directors, both tops in their field. The producers were Homer Fickett, Roger Pryer, Paul Stewart and Jack Zoller. Bud (Superman) Collyer was the announcer in 1940 & 41.

Cavalcade was just that - stories of our history, events and our people, stories of heroism and daring-do, of love and kindness. Read with me some of the titles and briefs to savor the flavor of the productions. The premier program included two stories of determination: "Master Bradford" and "South Dakota Farmer." The first is about the Mayflower settlers who, after the first winter in America, decided to remain rather than return to England. The second concerns the farmers' plight against a hord of grasshoppers.

"Names on the Land" was broadcast on the first Christmas Eve after World War II. It is a delightful trip through the country with trainmaster Frank Morgan telling us in rhyme how towns from A to Z got their names.

Ray Collins is The Greatest Showman on Earth in "Story of P.T. Barnem." (Wallace Berry played the part

in the movies.) "Circus Days" is about sawdust, Cheyenne Charlie, the Midway and week's washing. Henry Fonda starred in "Bib Boy Blue" about Eugene Field, poet and journalist. Kenny Delmar is "Wild Bill Hickok."

Humphrey Bogart tells about the submarine U.S.S. Sea Wolf in "My Son John." Dane Clark became "The Voice of the Wizard" as Thomas Alva Edison. "The Night There Was No President" is an interesting story about the Teddy Roosevelt family. It stars Dean Stockwell. Richard Widmark rode the ferry during the Civil War in "Adventure on the Kentucky." Henry Fonda returns as Wyatt Earp in "Kansas Marshall."

"That Powell Girl" is about the first woman concert violin soloist; "Sixteen Sticks in a Bundle" is Ethel Waters' life; we hear about Zachary Taylor's daughter and Jefferson Davis in "Romance at Fort Crawford."

Irene Dunn becomes "Citizen Mama"; "Petticoat Jury" tells of womenfolk voting "out west"; Judith Anderson describes American women in the second part of Carl Sandburg's "Native Land", a highly acclaimed two-part production; Lucille Ball is a female hellcat and Civil War spy in "The Redemption of Lottie Moon"; and one of my favorites is "Breakfast at Nancy's" with Susan Hayward, a scrappy story of the legendary Nancy Hart, kin to Dan'l Boone.

"The Ship the Nazi's Had to Get" had a cargo of tanks badly needed in Egypt in World War II. It was the Sea Texas. That cargo of tanks allowed the British and Americans to turn the tide of the war against the Germans in North Africa.

Ida Lupino portrayed Miss Fanny Farmer who was to become the forerunner of today's home economists. Miss Farmer was paralyzed in an accident 1874. She went to cooking school to learn so she could, in turn, teach cooking. She is responsible for developing the "level spoonful" method of measuring in cooking. She wrote a cookbook, the first with recipes having "level" spoonfuls of measurement. She was the first to develop a nutritious diet and sugarless recipes for diabetics. She was our first "Kitchen Scientist."

There are stories of Horace Greeley, journalist, Horace Mann, educator, Automobile's Golden Anniversary, the first Museum of Natural History, the first mass-produced Harmonicas, Law coming to San Francisco during the gold rush, young Sam Clemons (Mark Twain), and the final program on March 31, 1953, Thomas Mitchel in "Time to Grow," the story of the Louisiana Purchase. All of these are a part of our history and a heritage we hope will grow for hundreds of years.

The DuPont commercials were all extremely informative, more so than the old Rexall commercials. One tells how rayon tire cord is made and woven into the tires and how they make stronger tires. One 1945 commercial says that we will soon be driving on 50,000 mile tires. Another tells of "Speedeasy" wall finish paint that thins with water and will cover almost any color in one coat. It comes in eleven pastel colors and costs less than \$3.00 to finish an entire room.

The real stars were the researchers and writers. There must have been many over the eighteen year period. A board of historical advisors was formed to authenticate all

Continued on page 6

Information Please Cont. . . .

answers a special "EZ" number: Z 10 AP 55 (read E Z ten AP 55). Hours to call Continental are 6 am to 12 midnight CST (Monday - Friday) and 8 am - 9 pm CST (Saturday and Sunday). Remember, advance dinner reservations MUST be made. Reservations are limited (Friday 300, Saturday 400). Mail your checks to Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514, (203) 248-2887. See ya there!

If you haven't attended a SPERDVAC convention in the past, this is the year for that, too. Although we don't have an official airline, rates are low, so act now. Make your flight reservations and come see what happens at the west coast convention. We look forward to meeting many of our members from all around the country.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

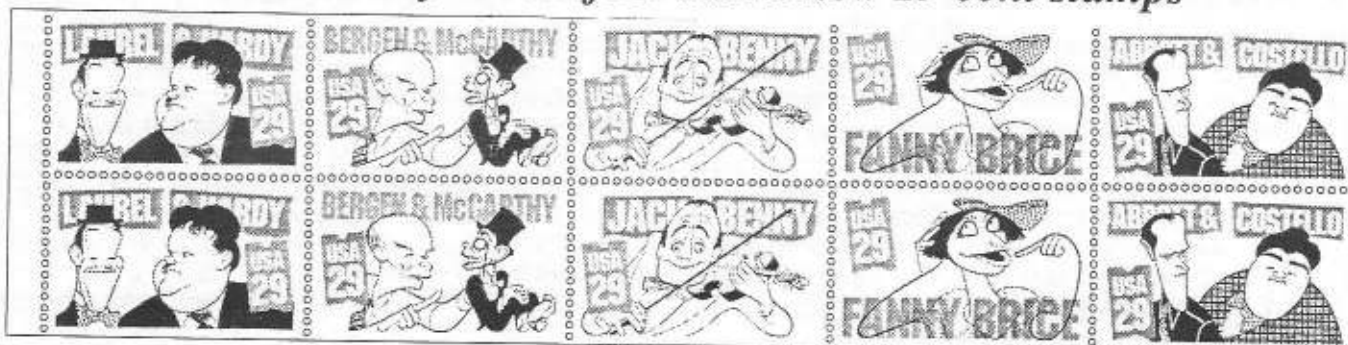
Honorary member Alan Young was called upon at the last minute to replace Van Johnson in the California Music Theatre production of "Showboat" at the Raymond Theatre in Pasadena, which runs through September 29. Reports are that unless you knew otherwise, you'd never know he wasn't the originally scheduled star.

Actually, we can answer the question about many of our honorary members' whereabouts this month in three words: Newark, New Jersey! At least sixteen are scheduled as guests for the FOTR convention.

Send your news, comments, and questions for this column to: Information Please, c/o Barbara J. Watkins, P.O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031. Til next time, spaceman's luck!

The new Stamp Act

American comedians by Hirschfeld adorn new 29 cent stamps



In ceremonies hosted by Johnny Grant, honorary mayor of Hollywood, a set of five postage stamps honoring American comedians was unveiled Aug. 29 in Hollywood. Honored were Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Edgar Bergan, Jack Benny, Fanny Brice, Bud

Abbott and Lou Costello. Members of their families spoke to the large audience that gathered for the event. The stamps are now available in booklets of twenty at postal stations across the nation. A limited number of the stamps have been printed.

Lum & Abner radio shows ready

This is a portion of the previously uncirculated 1947 Lum & Abner programs SPERDVAC recently purchased. Tapes 1325 - 1329 are now available from the General Library in both open reel and cassette formats.

The LUM AND ABNER programs on reels 1325 through 1329 were dubbed from copy discs. They contain no commercials and are approximately 12 minutes each. The cassette versions for each reel consist of first a C-90 and then two C-60's.

Reel 1325 LUM AND ABNER

SIDE 1:

- Abner waits for present from Pearl 4-7-47
- Abner's present arrives, but what is it? 4-8-49
- Present is a shortwave receiver 4-9-47
- Ben Withers appointed constable of Pine Ridge 4-10-49
- Constable Withers buys new bloodhound 4-14-47
- Learning to use transceiver 4-15-47
- Lum appoints officers of new radio station VPR, the voice of Pine Ridge 4-21-47

SIDE 2:

- Lum gets to be president of VPR 4-22-47
- Cedric Weehunt learns to be announcer 4-23-47
- Lum & Abner surprised by Hollywood stars in middle of their show for their 16th anniversary 4-24-47
- Everyone sells same hour of advertising 4-28-47
- VPR broadcasts "Love Comes to Gilbert, the Boy Trapper" 4-29-47
- VPR presents information show 4-30-47
- "The Court of Human Beings" 5-1-47

Reel 1326 LUM AND ABNER

SIDE 1:

- A poll to find out VPR's ratings 5-7-47
- "Queen for an Hour"; Widder Abernathy wants Lum as her prize 5-8-47
- Lum tries to interest Ben in the Widder 5-12-47
- Lum finds two-week loophole in contract 5-13-47
- Sponsor Mose Moots wants wedding tomorrow 5-14-47
- "Peabody's Platter Parade" 5-15-47
- At rehearsal, Lum marries Cedric to Widder 5-19-47

SIDE 2:

- Widder hires lawyer to see if wedding is legal 5-21-47
- Keeping the lawyer from talking to Widder 5-22-47
- Lum decides to become a hypnotist 5-26-47
- Abner is hypnotized into doing work 5-27-47
- Squire and Cedric switch personalities 5-28-47
- Everyone in Pine Ridge is a Hempstead heir 7-14-47
- Lum thinks genealogist, Professor Crenshaw, should be run out of town 7-15-47

Cavalcade series continued

facets of the program. This was referenced on the first broadcast.

John Dunning notes that the board was headed by Dr. Frank Monaghan of Yale and included Carl Carmer, historical writer, and Marquis James, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winning biographer. (His name sounds like that's what he'd be.)

Special project writers included Stephen Vincent Benet, Maxwell Anderson, Carl Sandburg and Robert Sherwood. Frank Buxton and Bill Owen in *The Big Broadcast* list several writers: Virginia Radcliffe, Stuart Harkins, Ben Kagan, Peter Lyon, Arthur Miller, Paul Peters, Norman Rosten, Edith R. Sommer, Robert Tallman, Milton Wayne and Russ Hughes. They also credit sound effects: Bill Verdier, Jerry McGee and Al Scott. As organist, Rosa Rio.

I'm sure there were many more who contributed their talents to the excellent program. The dialog is clear and the story lines are concise and move quickly. They will hold your interest. We owe a debt to those who contributed to the series and to those who saved those original electrical transcriptions.

Cavalcade of America was a prestige show in the truest sense, carving out an area of expertise and competence that went unchallenged in all radio.

"I'm going back to the wagon, boys. These shoes are killin' me!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Next month Hugh Anderson brings us his final installment of *Hugh's Hues*. Hugh will devote his time to other projects, but has promised to review radio shows that appear on new catalog pages.

OCTOBER 1991

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MEMBERSHIP AND RADIOGRAM SUBSCRIPTIONS: Carrolyn Rawski, 7430 Gaviota Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406

RADIOGRAM EDITOR: Dan Haefele, 4366-D, 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250, (213)973-5060

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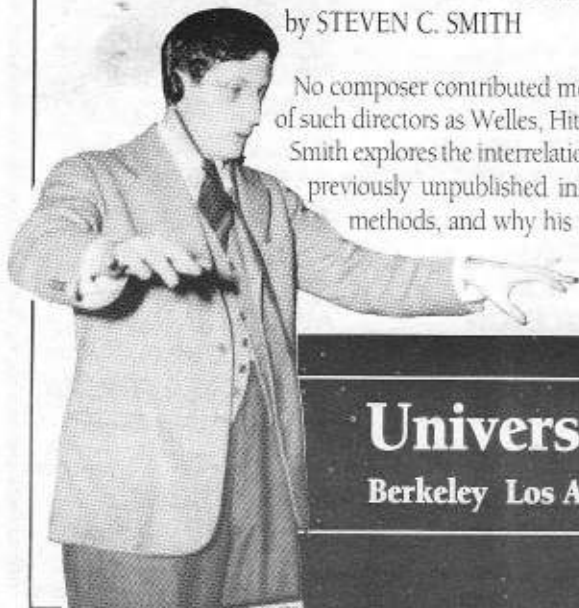
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