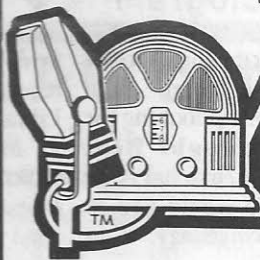


General Library  
catalog pages  
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Editor Dan!



# SPERDVAC

# RADIOGRAM

Volume 19, No. 10 The Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy October 1993

## More radio performers added to SPERDVAC convention plans

Entertainers Morey Amsterdam and Don Knotts have been added to the growing list of personalities who will join us at the SPERDVAC old-timeradio convention Nov. 12-14.

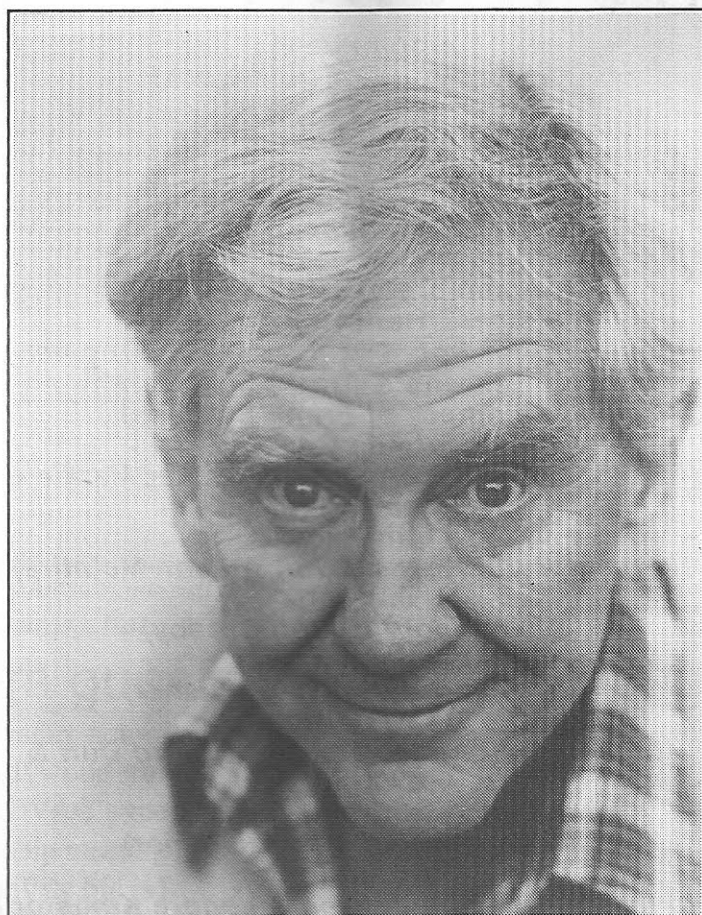
Knotts and Ivan Cury, who both performed on the **Bobby Benson and the B-Bar-B Riders** series, and Charles Flynn will appear as part of a panel saluting kids' shows on early radio. Their Saturday afternoon presentation will include a re-creation of **Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy** starring Charles Flynn.

Also on Saturday afternoon Morey Amsterdam will discuss the radio portion of his career. His work included writing for the **Good News** variety series on NBC in the late thirties and for the **Al Pierce Show**. He was also a writer for Will Rogers, Bob Burns, Red Skelton and Milton Berle.

Himan Brown will direct a production of his upcoming radio series **We, the Living** Saturday evening, Nov. 13. Jeanett Nolan and Burgess Meredith will star with Elliott Reid in the story "Madeleine and Harry's Story."

Joan Banks, Shirley Mitchell and Barbara Fuller will perform the same roles in which they were originally cast for a **Night Beat** program SPERDVAC is presenting Friday, Nov. 12. Veteran actor Frank Maxwell will star as Randy Stone and his wife, actress Rita Lynn plus Alice Backes will also perform roles on the radio show re-creation. Actor Herb Ellis will direct the production for SPERDVAC. We have selected an episode highlighting the work of radio's female performers.

Academy Award-winning song writers Jay Livingston and Ray Evens



*Burgess Meredith will join Jeanette Nolan and Elliott Reid in a radio production directed by Himan Brown at the SPERDVAC convention Saturday, Nov. 13.*

will present many of their popular tunes—and stories behind their creations and performances — during our Friday evening banquet.

Veteran radio sound effects experts Ross Murray and Ray Erlenborn will be on hand during our re-creations. Both men

*Continued on page 3*

## MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

Congratulations to Jay Hickerson on the occasion of his upcoming 18th annual Friends of Old Time Radio Convention. A *Doc Savagere*-creation has just been added to the Oct. 21-23 gathering in Newark, NJ. See "Information, Please" column on page 4 for more details.

Paul Weston and Jo Stafford will guest on KABC's Ray Briem Show late Friday (really Saturday after the midnight news), Oct. 15. Briem will also interview Himan Brown late Thursday, Nov. 11 (again following the midnight news).

NPR's Harriet Baskas has produced a show for the *Horizons* series about radio's funny ladies. It includes interviews with Penny Singleton, Anne Sothern and Shirley Mitchell plus OTR clips. NPR stations will carry it the week of Oct. 15. KPCC-FM,

Pasadena will air the show Oct. at 4 a.m. and Nov. at 5 p.m.

SPERDVAC is looking for the writer of the *Night Beat* script we will use at our convention. We would like to contact Irwin Ashkenazy. Can you help?

Many thanks to actress Sharon Douglas for her recent donation of a transcription of the *Bill Thompson Show* plus several home recordings of radio broadcasts. Our gratitude also to Bev Sweeney for her donation of transcriptions of *Sweeney*

and *March Show* broadcasts recently added to our Archives Library.

Member Steve Hiss tells us radio actress Florence Williams Marshall had surgery Aug. 12 "and would love to hear from her fans in SPERDVAC." Her address is Box 307, Rockport, Maine 04856.



# SPERDVAC FRIENDS

Naomi Lewis

*(In memory of Dick Mack)*

Dorothy Geiger

*(In memory of Milton Geiger)*

Hy Averback

*(In memory of Bob Sweeney and Jerry Hausner)*

Tyler McVey

*(In memory of Lou Krugman)*

Herb Ellis

*(In memory of Bob Sweeney & Lou Krugman)*

Tim Behrens & Amzie Strickland

*(In memory of Frank Behrens)*

Norman Corwin

*(In memory of Byron Kane, Fletcher Markle & John McIntire)*

Elliott Reid

*(In memory of Howard Duff & John McIntire)*

Bill Cook

*(In memory of Bob Crosby)*

Glenhall Taylor

*(In memory of Jerry Hausner)*

Jean Gillespie

*(In memory of Byron Kane, Howard Duff & Jerry Hausner)*

Joe Thompson

*(In memory of Jerry Hausner)*

Barbara Fuller

*(In memory of Bob Jensen & Lenore Kingston)*

Bill Lally

*(In memory of Lenore Kingston, Jerry Hausner & Lou Krugman)*

Veola Vonn

*(In memory of Hanley Stafford & Frank Nelson)*

Jeanette Nolan

*(In memory of Jerry Hausner and Carlton E. Morse)*

Bill Stulla

*(In memory of J. C. Lewis)*

Mary Jane Croft

*(In memory of Elliott Lewis, Howard Duff, John McIntire & Jerry Hausner)*

Lillian Buyeff

*(In memory of Lou Krugman and John Dehner)*

Elizabeth Miller

*(In memory of Marvin Miller)*

Lew Lauria & Betty Lou Gerson

*(In memory of Lenore Kingston)*

Ace Bryson

*(In memory of Lenore Kingston)*

Mickey Smith

*(In memory of Richard "Peavey" LeGrand)*

Tony Randall

*(In memory of Charlie Warburton)*

Russell J. Folsom

John H. Bunker

Gary Papers

Alice Backes

Lucy Kibbee

William Conrad

John Guedel

Casey Kasem

Walt Staves

Dr. R. S. Richards

Gerold Clemons

Sharon Douglas

Helen Garrison

Jack Brown

Lucia Silvestri

Bob Hite

Seaman Jacobs

John Wisley

June Foray

David Richardson

Tom Seslar

Bob LeMond

Ivan Cury

Betsy Weinberg

Jonathon Hole

Dick Murphy

Gil Stratton Jr.

Mary Jane Croft Lewis

*SPERDVAC is very grateful to these individuals who have contributed \$50 or more to our organization during the past twelve months. Donations, made payable to SPERDVAC, should be mailed to membership chair Carolyn Rawski. (See SPERDVAC Directory.)*



## SPERDVAC convention plans *from page one*

worked at CBS radio in Hollywood.

Denver radio/tv personality John Reyburn will review news and sports broadcasts — and bloopers — on Saturday morning.

June Foray, Don Messick and Richard Beals, three of the top voices from radio and cartoons, will join us Sunday morning for "Voices Over Brunch." The meal begins at 9 a.m. and the convention concludes about 11:30 that morning.

Friday evening's banquet will feature Chicken Quatro Frommaggio and spinach with egg fettuccine. Saturday night's dinner will include Sliced Pink Peppercorn Roasted Sirloin with light garlic and chanterelle cream, baked potatoes and vegetables.

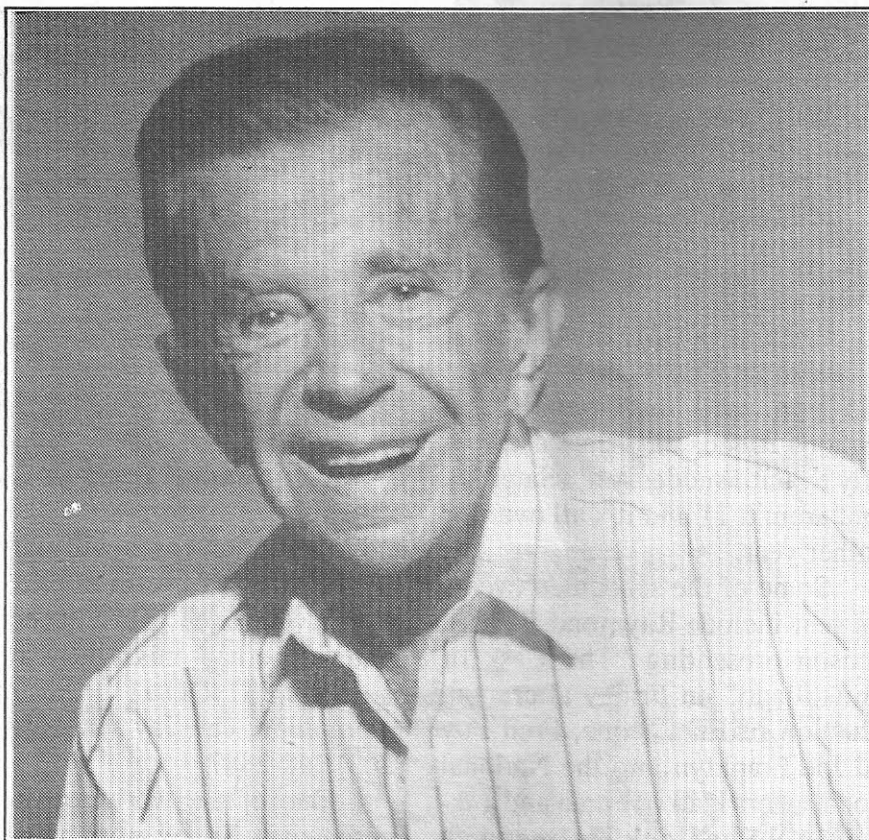
Workshops and panel discussions are also being arranged for SPERDVAC's convention. We will also provide a dealers' room for those who wish to sell radio-related items.

The convention begins Friday, Nov. 12. It is set for the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 5985 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles. Free shuttle service is available to the Holiday

Inn from Los Angeles International Airport.

A convention flier, specifying times and prices, is enclosed with this issue of the *Radiogram*. We

encourage early registration for those planning to attend. SPERDVAC cannot guarantee seating and meal availability for those who choose to pay at the door.



*Actor-writer Morey Amsterdam will appear at SPERDVAC's convention on the afternoon of Saturday, Nov. 13.*

### Ken Peters guests at Oct. 9 meeting

Ken Peters, radio actor and announcer in Hollywood for 30 years, will be SPERDVAC's guest at our Oct. 9 membership meeting.

Peters, who in private life is Rev. Ken Fagerline, will discuss his memories of radio when he tuned in on programs by using a crystal set he made out of a cigar box. He will also tell the unusual story of radio shows he was involved with in the nation's iron ore mining country — and the long-lasting relationship he had with his listeners.

Our guest was a radio character actor. His credits include **Halls of Ivy, Suspense** and **Escape**.

He was also Dan Murray on **One Man's Family**.

For examples of his work as an announcer, listen to the **Hollywood Star Theater** program on Archives tape 1625 or the **Hoagy Carmichael Show** on Archives tape 1633.

The meeting begins at 12 noon. It will be at the South Pasadena Public Library, 1115 El Centro, S. Pasadena.

### Catalog Indexes

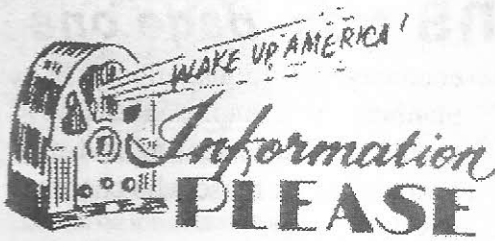
### Available

Locate shows in  
SPERDVAC's libraries

Send 98 cents in  
postage to

Carolyn Rawski

Her address is in the  
SPERDVAC Directory



by Barbara J. Watkins

This is the month many old-time radio fans look forward to each year. Why? Because it's time for the granddaddy of all radio conventions — the Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention at the Holiday Inn North at the Newark International Airport in New Jersey.

It begins Oct. 21. The first event is a talk about BBC science fiction at 1:45 p.m. and then panels, recreations, friends and meals just seem to fly by until suddenly it's Saturday night around 11 and it's all over for another year.

Some of the scheduled events this year include Raymond Edward Johnson presenting "The Cask of Amontillado" on Friday afternoon, induction of Ezra Stone, Fred Foy and Joe Franklyn into the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame and a re-creation of **Sherlock Holmes** with Frankie Thomas and Earl George Friday evening. Saturday afternoon there will be a re-creation of **Tom Corbett, Space Cadet** with the original cast and, in the evening, Bill Zuckert, Lon Clark, Jackson Beck

### Renewal Time?

*The final two numbers of your membership number on your address label indicates your membership renewal month*

If your number ends with -10 your membership expires this month. . . Look for a renewal notice from Carolyn Rawski!

## Newark OTR convention begins Oct. 20



Ezra Stone at a SPERDVAC meeting in 1977. PHOTO BY DICK PALMER

and Margot Stevenson will star in a **Mysterious Traveler** re-creation.

If you haven't already decided to attend, perhaps this is the year you should "JUST DO IT!" For more information, call Jay Hickerson at (203) 248-2887.

One of the workshops to be presented on Friday morning is Jack French talking about radio heroes from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Jack is looking for the following series:

**Red Trails**, a 1935 Blue Network show sponsored by the American Tobacco Co. with Victor McLaglen in the lead; **King of the Royal Mounties**, 1930s show with Richard Dix; **Renfrew of the Mounted**, 1936-40 on CBS (later on the Blue Network) with House Jameson in the lead; **The Silver Eagle**, 1951-55 ABC show broadcast from Chicago with Jim Ameche starring as Jim West.

Jack would appreciate hearing from any collectors who have episodes of any of these series and

can send them to him on cassette. He's willing to buy, trade or rent whatever you have, and pay postage both ways. You can contact him by writing or phoning Jack French, 5137 Richardson Dr., Fairfax, VA 22032, (703) 978-1236.

Send your comments, information 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!

## HELP!

SPERDVAC needs additional individuals to help us with some of the "behind the scenes" work that goes into our conventions.

One of our biggest needs is the assistance of five or six people who will help set up audio equipment in the early afternoon of Friday, Nov. 12 and/or take down the equipment around noon Sunday, Nov. 14.

With enough volunteers the work can be done quickly and easily. If you're attending the convention, why not jump in and give us a hand for about thirty minutes? It will help us provide a smoother running show.

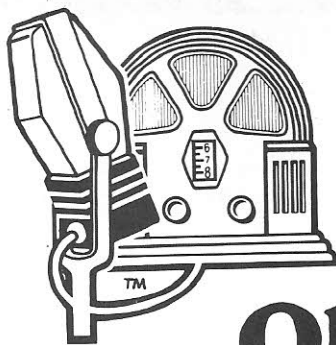
SPERDVAC also needs to expand the small convention committee which has assembled our yearly gatherings. Experience isn't necessary.

Our organization will benefit greatly if more members work with us and learn how our conventions are handled. We'll be glad to show volunteers our jobs — and help them ease slowly into the job later. If we don't have much help the quality of future conventions might decline.

Members willing to help are welcome to contact Larry Gassman at (310) 947-9800.



# Old Time Radio Fans!



Join us for the

# 1993

## SPERDVAC

### Old Time Radio

# Convention

FRI. SAT. SUN.

## NOVEMBER 12-13-14

- RECREATIONS • WORKSHOPS • BANQUET
- PANELS • COLLECTORS ROOM

### Himan Brown

(CBS Radio Mystery Theater)

### Burgess

### Meredith Nolan

### Jeanette

### "Jack Armstrong.....

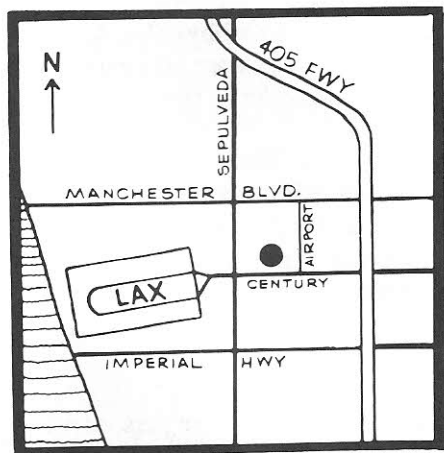
### the All-American Boy!"

re-creation stars Charles Flynn

### Night Beat re-creation

### Directed by Herb Ellis

Holiday Inn  
Crowne Plaza Hotel



5985 W. Century Blvd.  
LAX

# SPERDVAC

SOCIETY TO PRESERVE AND ENCOURAGE RADIO DRAMA VARIETY AND COMEDY

P.O. Box 7177, Van Nuys, CA 91409

(310) 947-9800



*McGee's Closet is a free service to our members and honorary members. Send your wants in OTR-related material to McGee's Closet, c/o Barbara J. Watkins, P.O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031. Please specify desired taping format (cassette or open reel).*

**WANTED:** Advice, ideas, tips on how to store a growing cassette collection. Any better idea than the 100-tape storage units? Not a handyman! Thanks for the help. All answered. Contact: Ray Smith, 2229 Bedford Ave. E, Regina, Canada, S4N 0M1.

**WANTED:** Trading partners interested in "contemporary"/post Golden Age radio. I have an extensive collection, including over 200 rare works by the Firesign Theatre, as well as The Credibility Gap, the Goon Show, Chicken Man, etc. Among my many current interests I'm looking for some of Eric Bauersfeld's 60s era works ("Istanbul Express" and "Tower of Tall Fang," to name two) and always seek to fill gaps in my collection. Contact: Michael Packer, P. O. Box 3540, Grand Rapids, MI 49501, (616) 363-8231.

**WANTED:** Instruction booklet or machine copy, for Sony reel-to-reel stereo tape deck, model TC-355. Also cassettes or reels of Steve Allen's **Smile Time** radio shows. Contact: C. Huck, 4 S. 230 River Road, Warrenville, IL 60555.

**WANTED:** I would like to get in contact with anyone who has additional **Space Patrol**, **Tom Corbett** or **Flash Gordon** shows. Prefer cassette, interested in video and memorabilia, too. Contact: Bill Otto, 510 Dowding Court, Bellevue, NE 68005, (402) 291-9269.

**WANTED:** Copies of "Talespinners for Children," a collection of fairy tales on record starring Maggie Smith, Jack Grimes, Corrine Orr and others. Each is accompanied by full classical orchestration. Willing to buy, trade or tape. Also looking for copies of **CBS Radio Mystery Theater** starring E. G. Marshall; a radio appearance by Agnes Moorehead, early 60's, don't know the name of the show but it was a dramatization of "A Turn of the Screw;" radio appearances by Bette Davis or Joan Crawford, including a video tape of the **Secret Storm** when Ms. Crawford substituted for her daughter. Contact: Roland Thompson, 2420 Riverside Place, Los Angeles, CA 90039, (213) 913-3843.

**WANTED:** 16" table mounting arm and turntable. Contact: Clyde Smith, 1-800-342-3748.

## SPERDVAC Directory

All articles and artwork © 1993 by SPERDVAC unless otherwise indicated. Published monthly except December by the **Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy**, a California non-profit public benefit corporation. Membership is open to all U.S. residents. Dues are \$25 for the first year and \$15 for renewals. Annual subscriptions to the **Radiogram** ONLY are \$15 in the U.S., Canada and Mexico and \$20 to other countries.

**SPERDVAC INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL BUSINESS:** P. O. Box 7177, Van Nuys, CA 91409-9712. (310) 947-9800.

**MEMBERSHIP AND RADIOGRAM SUBSCRIPTIONS, CATALOG PAGES AND LIBRARY ORDER FORMS:** Carolyn Rawski, 7430 Gaviota Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406-3041.

**RADIOGRAM EDITOR:** Dan Haefele, 4366-D 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250-7108 (310) 973-5060.

### LIBRARIES:

**GENERAL LIBRARY - Cassettes 1-500:** Bob Steinmetz, P. O. Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-0669.

**GENERAL LIBRARY - Cassettes 501-1000:** Gene Ward, Box 635, Tujunga, CA 91043-0635.

**GENERAL LIBRARY - Cassettes 1001+:** George Lovas, P. O. Box 3757, Crestline, CA 92325-3757

**GENERAL LIBRARY - Open reels 1-500:** Don Keith, Box 5861, Glendale, CA 91221-5861.

**GENERAL LIBRARY - Open reels 501 +:** Jim Allen, Box 500, N. Hollywood, CA 91603-0500.

**ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Cassettes 1-500:** Richard Karman, 2515 NE 37th Ave., Portland, OR 97212-2916.

**ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Cassettes 501-1000:** Gary Mollica, 135 N. Meredith Ave., Pasadena, CA 91106-2207.

**ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Cassettes 1001-1500:** Bruce Miller, 1616 Harper Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278-2725.

**ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Cassettes 1501+:** Bruce Miller, 1616 Harper Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278-2725.

**ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Open reels 1-1000:** CLOSED

**ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Open reels 1001+:** Barbara Watkins, Box 628, S. Pasadena, CA 91031-0628.

**HOLLYWOOD MUSEUM LIBRARY - Cassettes only:** Glenda Kelly, 2323 Ralston Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278-5219.

**PRINTED MATERIALS LIBRARY:** Jon Hughes, 7119 Owensmouth Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91303-2094.

**AUDIO RADIOGRAM:** Send C-90 cassette in returnable mailer to Stuart Lubin, 627 N. Fuller Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036. (213) 653-2548. (For blind members only.)

**AUDIO SPERDVAC CATALOGS:** Contact Bob Herman, 1329 Garrison Ave., Port Orchard, WA 98366-3321 (206) 876-5850. (For blind members only.)

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

**ACQUISITIONS: (Discs, tapes & printed materials):** John Gassman, Box 1163, Whittier, CA 90603. (310) 947-9800 for both General and Archives Libraries.



# Library brings you Lois and Clark

SPERDVAC's volunteer dubbers have been working overtime to bring members a large quantity of **Superman** radio shows. They've been so productive we have two General Library catalog pages ready for inclusion with this edition of the *Radiogram*.

At press time we were still in the process of making a number of extra loan copies of each tape. Since we can't guarantee we will be completely finished with the dubbing work when this edition reaches members' homes, we ask library patrons to be patient with us for a few more days. Not all tapes may be ready for distribution immediately.

When placing orders, we suggest

members indicate whether they are checking out **Superman** tapes to listen to them in chronological order or are recording them for later listening. This will give librarians additional options when filling orders for some members.

Many thanks to Acquisitions chair John Gassman for donating these recordings from his personal collection. SPERDVAC is also grateful to Al Cate, Bruce Miller and Bud Schwab for duplicating copies.

There are additional **Superman** shows being recorded for inclusion in the next catalog page. The last tape currently available concludes midway through a story line and will continue on the next tape.

These two **Superman** tapes are

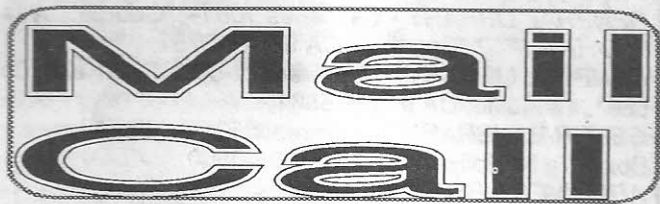
also completed and available:

## Tape 1547 **SUPERMAN**

"Mystery of the Jade Teeth" Prog. 928 3-20-1946; Prog. 929 3-21-1946; Prog. 930 3-22-1946; Prog. 931 3-25-1946; Prog. 932 3-26-1946; Prog. 933 3-27-1946; "Story of the Century" Prog. 934 3-28-1946; (Prog. 935 is missing.) Prog. 936 4-1-1946; Prog. 937 4-2-1946; Prog. 938 4-3-1946; Prog. 939 4-4-1946; Prog. 940 4-5-1946.

## Tape 1548 **SUPERMAN**

"Mystery of the Jade Teeth" Prog. 941 4-8-1946; Prog. 942 4-9-1946; Prog. 943 4-10-1946; Prog. 944 4-11-1946; Prog. 945 4-12-1946; Prog. 946 4-15-1946. "The Hate Mongers" Prog. 947 4-16-1946; Prog. 948 4-17-1946; Prog. 949 4-18-1946; Prog. 950 4-19-1946; Prog. 953 4-24-1946; Prog. 954 4-25-1946.



Editor,

I noticed you gave me credit for writing a Frank Morgan **Fabulous Dr. Tweedy** show. I did write for Frank Morgan on my first radio job, the **Jack Haley Show**, but I did not write the Tweedy material. I hope the actual writer hasn't already sent a hit man after me. Writers are emotional, you know.

I hope you'll retract the credit in another issue. I have never accepted credit for something I didn't write and have often declined credit for something I *did* write. I especially haven't accepted credit for a single Academy Award-winning movie that I didn't write.

Charles Isaacs  
Los Angeles

*We were in error. Mr. Isaacs' wife, actress Doris Singleton, appeared on that show, and we failed to mention that, too.*

Editor,

What a fine issue the August one was, with the fine coverage of Page Gilman, his career and the great photos. He sounds like such an interesting person. I hope you will be able to publish some more about him, with pictures.

I was very interested to read that Himan Brown will be at the convention. I was fortunate enough to be in the control room for a **CBS Radio Mystery Theatre** show. Watching him work was unbelievable — from the "read through," dress rehearsal and show. He was very helpful to a new actress, and

the cast walked out with their checks before lunch!

Geoff Oates  
Stawell, Vic., Australia

*Here's another photo from **Memory Lane** (NBC, 1928). Gilman, then using the stage name Billy Page, is with George Rand and actress Bobby Dean. So many members enjoyed reading our article about Page Gilman that we had more requests for extra newsletters than we could fill.*





*Recognize these ladies? They are Maureen O'Hara and Kitty Kallen. This photo was taken during the World War II era.*

PHOTO COURTESY ARMED FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE



**SPERDVAC**

Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy

SPERDVAC RADIOGRAM

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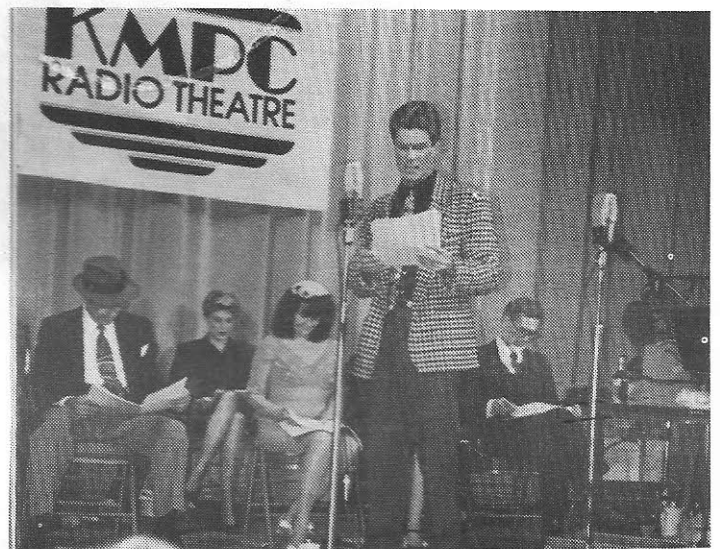
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Colby Chester (standing) as detective Austin Healey during a 1990 broadcast on KMPC. The comic character returns to Los Angeles radio Halloween Night on KLIT-FM.

**Austin Healey returns Oct. 31**

The K-LITE Radio Theater airs its next production Oct. 31 at 8 p.m. "Trouble in a Timber Town" was written by Colby Chester. It's a continuation of the comedy-drama stories featuring gumshoe Austin Healey which originated at KMPC, Los Angeles three years ago.

The radio plays, produced and directed by Rosemary and Newell Alexander, will air on KLIT-FM.

There will be two performances recorded before a live audience Oct. 23 (at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.) at the Wells Fargo Theatre in the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum. The museum, located adjacent to Griffith Park in Los Angeles, will take ticket reservations at (213) 667-2000. There is a charge for the tickets.