

SPERDVAC

RADIOGRAM



Board of Directors election ballots are enclosed in the newsletters of paid members. Please vote today and send in your ballot. We always appreciate members' input!

Volume 19, No. 2 The Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy February 1993

New additions to SPERDVAC tape libraries available

Sixty-six hours of radio history are represented by the General Library catalog page enclosed with this issue of the *Radiogram*. This month we are making available two dozen more adventures with **The Couple Next Door** and 60 broadcasts of **The Great Gildersleeve** with Willard Waterman.

Also available are recordings of interviews with Warren Lewis, Charles Michelson, Wendell Seward, Ed Jaeger, Ray Kemper and William Alland. And members may check out recordings of the 1991 SPERDVAC convention.

News broadcast fans will want to hear the H. V. Kaltenborn programs on tapes 1406 and 1409.

Next month we will release an additional Archives Library catalog

page. Some of the shows are already recorded and available from the Archives librarians.

Archives tapes 1563-1565 are **People Are Funny** shows and tapes 1569-1578 have ten programs from the first season of **Mayor of the Town** starring Lionel Barrymore with Agnes Moorehead. They include the first four shows, which aired on NBC before the series moved to CBS.

Tape 1566 has a WW II era **Hello Mom** show and **Music With Wings**. On tape 1567 are **Rogue's Gallery** (6-29-47) and **Let George Do It** (10-3-47). A special program promoting donations to the Canadian Red Cross (with plenty of big-name performers), is on tape 1568.

Three programs for housewives

are on tape 1579. They are **Mid-Morning Matinee** (5-31-39), **Edith Adams' Future** (7-25-41) and **We Are Always Young** (also 7-25-41). Tape 1580 has the **Screen Guild Theater** stories "Shopworn Angel" (10-2-44) and "A Letter to Three Wives" (11-3-49).

We will also have shows from **I Want a Divorce** and **Dangerously Yours** next month.

CART produces 'Arsenic and Old Lace' at March benefit

The California Artists' Radio Theater will perform "Arsenic and Old Lace" at a benefit production in the San Fernando Valley next month.

Jeanette Nolan and Kathleen Freeman will star as the two crazy, elderly sisters who believe they must poison lonely men.

CART, under the direction of Peggy Webber, will present the story March 21 at Temple Judea, 5429 Lindley Ave., Tarzana. The show begins at 3 p.m. and lasts 90 minutes.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Valley Mayors' Fund for the Homeless, a charitable group established nine years ago by the elected and honorary mayors of the San Fernando Valley community.

The performance will be followed by a buffet meal. Tickets, which are tax-deductible, range in price from \$25 to \$75.

Additional information is available at (818) 753-4357.

John Guedel guests at Feb. 13 meeting

When John Guedel was SPERDVAC's guest at a 1988 meeting, he said he had a lot more recollections to share with us. This month Mr. Guedel will pay us a second visit, to continue where he last left off.

Guedel's appearance at the SPERDVAC meeting promises plenty of laughs. He is well-known for his humorous presentation of anecdotes from his days in early radio.

Our guest created and produced **People Are Funny** and **House**

Party, both with Art Linkletter. And he gave America **You Bet Your Life**, the comedy-quiz show featuring Groucho Marx.

The SPERDVAC meeting is Saturday, Feb. 13 at 12 noon. We will meet at St. Andrew's Luthern Church, 15520 Sherman Way, Van Nuys. (It's just east of the 405 freeway.) Because of other events taking place at the church earlier that day, we request attendees avoid arriving prior to 11 a.m.

SPERDVAC's meetings are open free to the general public.

MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

SPERDVAC has heard from several individuals searching for programs and information. Actor Tony Randall would like to hear John Barrymore's performance of a scene from *Hamlet* on Hall of Fame in 1934. Collector James Albert is assisting a screen writer who is seeking information on Black performers in early radio. He's especially interested in articles, publications and books on the topic. Can you help?

SPERDVAC has learned the unfortunate news of the passing of collector Ray Stanich. Ray searched records at libraries, CBS and NBC to assemble very helpful logs of various radio series. At the time of his death he was completing work on a book about American

entertainers and their radio work. He died Dec. 24.

Welcome aboard to new librarian Jim Allen. He'll send out General Library open reels 501+. (See the directory on page 5.) We're also working to arrange a new librarian for General Library cassettes 1001+. Stay tuned!

SPERDVAC

Art Hern
(In memory of Ed Prentiss)
Harry Bartell
(In memory of Jack Johnstone)
Rita Perrin
(In memory of Vic Perrin)
Shirley Mitchell
(In memory of Howard Duff & Elliott Lewis)
True Boardman
(In memory of Bud Hiestand, Elliott Lewis & John McIntire)
Ezra Stone
(In memory of Sara Seegar Stone)
Cecelia Joy
(In memory of Dick Joy)
Lillian Buyeff
(In memory of Elliott Lewis & Jack Johnstone)
Bea Wain
(In memory of Andre Baruch)
Elliott Reid
(In memory of Howard Duff & John McIntire)
Veola Vonn
(In memory of Hanley Stafford & Frank Nelson)
Jerry Burling
(In memory of Bob Jensen)
Audrey Marsh
(In memory of Meri Bell Sharbutt & Andre Baruch)
Frank Barton
(In memory of Bob Jensen & Dick Joy)
Dix Davis
(In memory of Verna Felton, Bea Benaderet and Frank Nelson)
Jeanette Nolan
(In memory of John McIntire, Elvia Allman, Howard Duff, Elliott Lewis & James McCallion)
Kay St. Germain
(In memory of Andre Baruch)
Estelle Oppenheimer
(In memory of Jess Oppenheimer)

FRIENDS

Parley Baer
(In memory of Mary Lansing & Howard McNear)
Phil Cohan
(In memory of Andre Baruch & Elvia Allman)
Naomi Lewis
(In memory of Dick Mack)
Tyler McVey
(In memory of Lou Krugman)
Dorothy Geiger
(In memory of Milton Geiger)
Herb Ellis
(In memory of Lou Krugman & Bob Sweeney)
Hy Averback
(In memory of Bob Sweeney)
Tim Behrens & Amzie Strickland
(In memory of Frank Behrens)
Norman Corwin
(In memory of Byron Kane, Fletcher Markle and John McIntire)
John Wrisley
Russell J. Folsom
John B. Daball
Lucille Meredith
Glenhall Taylor
Seaman Jacobs
June Foray
Chuck Benedict
Richard Murphy
Dennis Crow
Bob LeMond
Jack Younger
David Richardson
Walter Bunker
Bob Newhart
John Larch
Gary Papers
Alice Backes
Lucy Kibbee
Helen Kleebe
Sharon Douglas
Rosemary DeCamp
William Conrad
John Guedel
Walter Staves
Dr. R. S. Richards
Mary Jane Croft Lewis
Joan Banks Lovejoy
Willard & Mary Anna Waterman
Truda Marson & Richard Chandlee
Doris Singleton & Charlie Isaacs



SPERDVAC is very grateful to these individuals who have contributed \$50 or more to our organization during the past twelve months.

Radio in Review

And Now the News: The Story of Broadcast Journalism (Columbia University Press: New York, 1991) by Edward Bliss, Jr.

This is the most extensive history of radio and television news to date. Beginning with the invention of the telegraph in 1837, the book traces the development of broadcast journalism from the primitive broadcasts of early inventors through the rise of network news departments and current trends in cable and computers.

Bliss has written an exciting narrative that speedily moves from one major news event to another, carrying the reader through the evolution of news practices, styles,

and technology. Interlaced within the history are brief biographies of famous reporters and commentators, such as H. V. Kaltenborn and Edward R. Murrow, giving a human dimension to what could have been dry material.

Almost half of this nearly 600-page volume is devoted to radio's part in news development, going as far as the 1970's and the origination of National Public Radio. An especially informative chapter is on radio's war with newspaper presses in the 1920s and 30s over the right to disseminate information. Of special interest to radio theater enthusiasts is Bliss's two brief discussions of news recreation programs: **The March of Time** and **CBS is There**.

Bliss's description of U.S. news broadcasting in Europe during World War II is particularly memorable. Censorship, beach landings,

makeshift radio shacks are described in several riveting chapters. Unfortunately, Bliss barely discusses the other parts of the world that were gripped by the war, especially the Pacific Islands, although radio news certainly played its part there as well.

While most of the information in the first half of *Now the News* has been printed in other books already, Bliss has done an excellent job of weaving isolated threads from various broadcasting histories into a unified text. What is new are short, colorful testimonies from people who worked in radio as interviewed by the author. Radio fans unfamiliar with the story of the journalistic aspects of the medium will find this part of the book useful and enjoyable reading. If you intend to purchase the book, a cheaper paperback copy has recently been released.

—Warren Bareiss

RADIO MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE

And its Appearances in Film, Television and Other Media
by Jim Harmon

The exciting history of the most popular heroes the world has ever known. "The Shadow," "Tom Mix," "The Lone Ranger," "I Love a Mystery" with Jack, Doc and Reggie, "Captain Midnight," "Dick Tracy," "Jimmie Allen," "Green Hornet," "Orphan Annie," "Sherlock Holmes," "Sky King," "Superman," "Sergeant Preston." These are long entries, with more detail than ever before revealed, some 30 pages or more. Background on characters, plot summaries, script excerpts, cast members, writers, directors, etc. Lists of all premiums of each show, movies, TV shows, comics, novels, magazines, etc. SPERDVAC credited. Nearly fifty pages of photos. Over 300 pages, hardbound, autographed. \$42.50 postpaid.

FROM THE AUTHOR of "THE GREAT RADIO HEROES," "THE GREAT RADIO COMEDIANS," "NOSTALGIA CATALOGUE," and others (no longer available). Jim Harmon was one of the earliest radio historians, the writer-producer-co-star of the 1980s radio drama revival of "Tom Mix," soon director of newly produced, newly cast CDs of "Lost Episodes" from "I Love a Mystery."

Jim Harmon

634 So. Orchard, Burbank CA 91506 - - (818) 843-5274

Writer searching for info on Powell, Sheridan

Writer Margie Schultz has contacted SPERDVAC in search of details about the radio work of Eleanor Powell and Ann Sheridan. Here are her lists of known radio work. Readers with additional details about these broadcasts and/or programs omitted from the lists are invited to contact her at 3308 Royal Place, Cincinnati, OH 45208.

Eleanor Powell Radio Credits

Leo is on the Air 8-30-35 MGM transcription
Shell Chateau 10-5-35 NBC
The Flying Red Horse Tavern 10-25-35 WABC
Kraft Music Hall 10-31-35 NBC
The Magic Key 11-3-35 NBC
The Flying Red Horse Tavern 11-15-35 WABC
The Flying Red Horse Tavern 12-6-35 WABC
The Flying Red Horse Tavern 12-13-35 WABC
Christmas at the Flying Red Horse Tavern 12-20-35 WABC
New Year's Celebration at the Flying Red Horse Tavern 12-27-35 WABC
The Flying Red Horse Tavern 1-3-36 WABC
At Home Abroad 1-5-36 CBS
The Flying Red Horse Tavern 1-10-36 WABC
The Flying Red Horse Tavern 1-18-36 WABC
Leo is on the Air 1936 MGM transcription
Hollywood Hotel 11-13-36 CBS
Hollywood Hotel 7-16-37 CBS
Leo is on the Air 8-1937 MGM transcription
Leo is on the Air 1-1938 MGM transcription
Good News of 1939 2-9-39 NBC
Footnotes on Famous Feet NBC Date may be 3-12-39
Leo is on the Air 1939 MGM transcription
Leo is on the Air 8-5-41 MGM transcription
Leo is on the Air 5-1-42 MGM transcription
Erskine Johnson Show 1948 (need exact date, topics)
Joe Dosh Show 1948 (need exact date, topics)
London Interview about 1948-49 (need exact date, topics)
Jack Cullen Show 2-11-64
Music You Can't Forget Program #62 (need exact date, topics)
Recollections at Thirty Program #12 (need exact date, topics)

Ann Sheridan Radio Credits

Gulf Screen Guild Show 5-28-39 CBS
Gulf Screen Guild Show "Elmer the Great" 4-14-40
Mail Call 8-27-42 (AFRS #3) What did she perform?
Lady Esther Screen Guild Show "Love is News" 6-14-43 CBS
Command Performance 1-1944 (AFRS #155) What did she perform?
Mail Call 1944 (AFRS) [Sheridan was mistress of ceremonies; need date and info on guests]
Eddie Cantor Show 6-20-45 NBC
Bill Stern Sports Newsreel 10-13-50 NBC
The Big Show 11-11-51 What did she perform?
Stars in the Air "Good Sam" 3-13-52 CBS
Dean Martin-Jerry Lewis Show NBC Appeared once in "Just Plain Bedlam" sketch. May have appeared twice. Need broadcast date(s).
 Also, there is a picture of Sheridan with Bob Hope at an AFRS microphone in *Screen Stars Magazine* April 1945. Need details on what show this might be.

McGee's Closet

Send your wants in OTR-related items to McGee's Closet c/o Barbara Watkins, P. O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031. Please specify desired recording format.

FOR SALE: Have mint condition big paperbound book *Jack Benny - The Radio and Television Work* put out by Museum of Broadcasting in New York with pictures of the radio and TV shows. Has chronologies, logs, etc. Will take best offer. Contact: Greg Seltzer, R.F.D. 2, Richmond, NH 03470.

WANTED: Cassette copies of MR. AND MRS. NORTH, THE THIN MAN, LET GEORGE DO IT or similar style programs. Haven't much to trade, but willing to buy. Contact: Keith Voyles, 725 San Juan Rd. #303, Sacramento, CA 95834, (916) 927-0813.

WANTED: On cassette or reel to reel, Buddy Clark appearances on YOUR HIT PARADE in the 1930's. Am building up my Buddy Clark collection. Contact: Doug Cramer, Box 75872, Los Angeles, CA 90075, (213) 387-4708.

An evening with Alice Faye

It was an Alice Faye Film Festival, but Alice Faye, radio star, was as much a part of a wonderful night as Alice Faye, actress.

The Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto, CA is a David Packard Project, an ongoing gift to anyone who loves old movies, shown from the best prints, in this beautiful old theatre which he rescued from extinction and brought back to life a few years ago. Any night of the week you can slide your five dollars under the glass and ease into a comfortable seat for an evening of entertainment from the greatest motion pictures ever made.

The Stanford Theatre often has weeks in which they honor a star or a director and feature their films exclusively, and when he can, Mr. Packard talks the stars into attending. He interviews them on stage between features, and they take questions from the audience.

Friday night, Oct. 10, as part of the Alice Faye Festival, the star herself was there with us . . . a sold out, knocked out audience of 1250. "Tin Pan Alley" was shown first, and then she walked in to take a seat with us to watch "Alexander's Rag Time Band." What a unique feeling to be a part of an audience watching a film with the star seated there with you . . . knowing that when we applauded at the end of one of her songs we weren't just applauding the image on the screen but the real person too.

She looks sensational, the figure, just the same, the warm smile, those beautiful eyes . . . just not a lot different in person from what we had seen on screen . . . and as Mr. Packard pointed out, the last time "Alexander's Rag Time Band" had played the Stanford was in 1938!

But I was there not particularly as a fan of the actress but as a fan of the radio star . . . born a little late to have really appreciated her films, but intrigued by that image I had formed over those years of hearing her on the **Phil Harris/Alice Faye Show**, and David Packard — maybe he is of the same era — absolutely recognized that a lot of people were there because they got to know her on radio. After talking with her about movies for a while, he started talking about her radio days, and surprised her with a recording of her singing on **The Fleischmann Hour**. The song was "Mimi" . . . and she sang along for a while.

Her voice is exactly the same. The voice from the screen, the voice I remember from the radio, and the voice coming live from the stage that night, no difference. Then Mr. Packard played an excerpt from a **Phil Harris/Alice Faye Show**, including a complete Rexall commercial. It was one of those shows in which Phil is worried about the sponsor being unhappy with him. He asks their daughters who the greatest entertainer on radio is and of course they answer "Mommy."

In the conversation that followed we found out that their real daughters have made it possible for Phil and Alice to become great grandparents, that they have been married for 51 years, and that they got to know each other when their Dobermans had a fight.

The Stanford has an organ which rises out of the pit, used for intermissions and for accompanying silent movies, and a vocalist had come out of the pit during intermission to sing some of Alice Faye's hits. Miss Faye said that she enjoyed that so much she would be back to sing . . . under one condition: that when she did she would be allowed to stand by the organist and rise from the pit too!

SPERDVAC Directory

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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.

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

GENERAL LIBRARY - Cassettes 1001+:

TEMPORARILY CLOSED

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

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

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

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

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

ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Open reels 1-1000: CLOSED

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

HOLLYWOOD MUSEUM LIBRARY - Cassettes only:

Glenda Kelly, 2323 Ralston, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

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

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, Port Orchard, WA 98366 (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.

CATALOG PAGE & LIBRARY ORDER FORMS:

Carrolyn Rawski, 7430 Gaviota Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406.

SPERDVAC

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