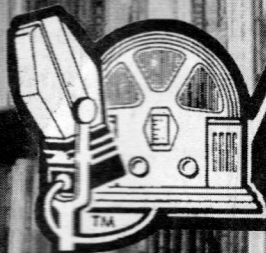


NEW CATALOG PAGES!

MIKE KACEY SET FOR MAY 12 MEETING • ELECTION RESULTS

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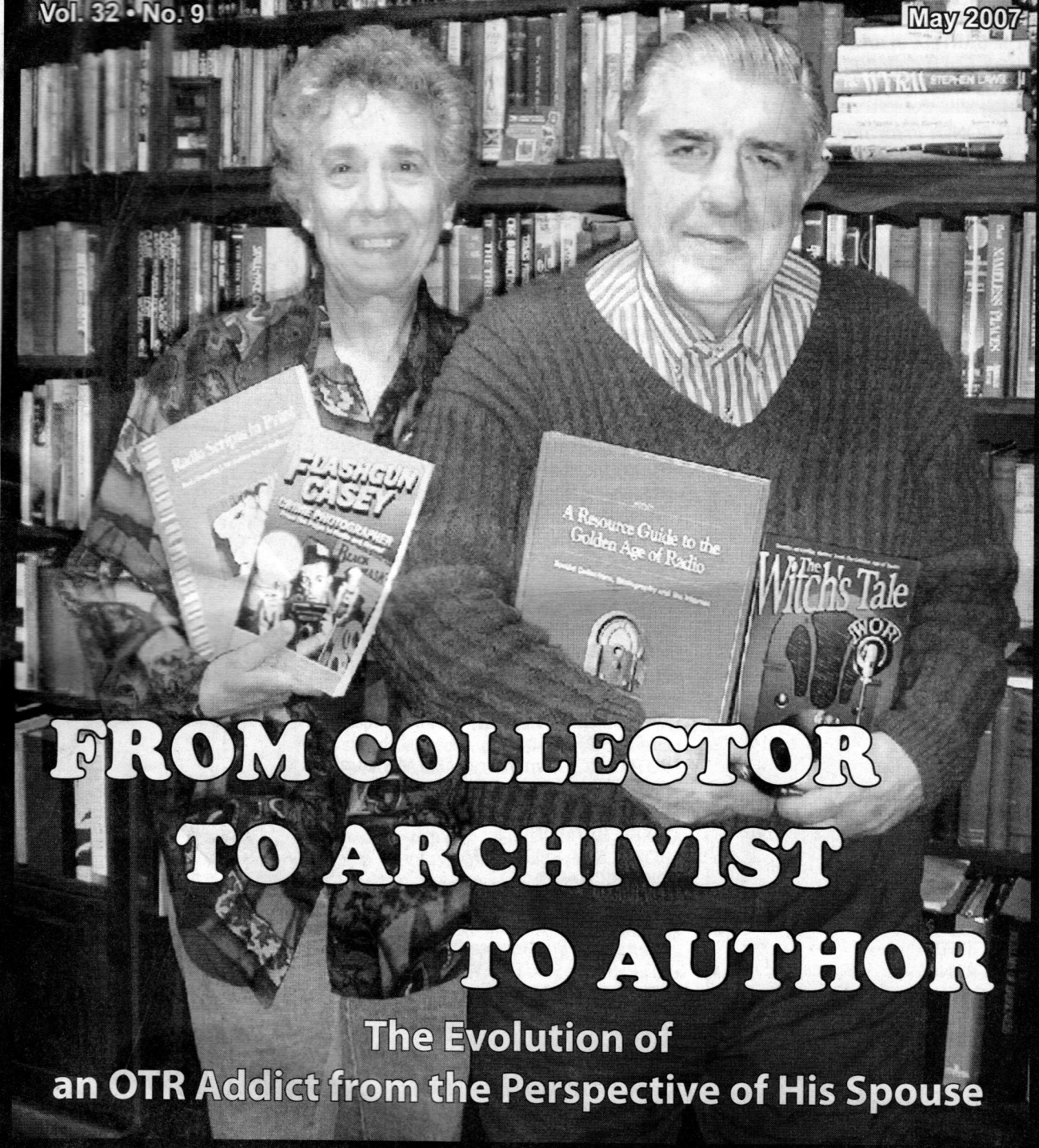
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RADIOGRAM

Vol. 32 • No. 9

May 2007



FROM COLLECTOR TO ARCHIVIST TO AUTHOR

The Evolution of
an OTR Addict from the Perspective of His Spouse



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- than Van Cleave, Lyn Murray and Jerry Devine*
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- JOAN L. TREMAYNE *in memory of Les Tremayne*
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Volume 32 • Number 8 • May 2007



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

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PATRICK LUCANIO

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ELECTION RESULTS

Cliffhanger Election Seats Seven Members to Board of Directors

For the first time in several years new faces appear in the portrait of the SPERDVAC board of directors with four individuals taking their seats along with three veterans in a cliff-hanging election that was not settled until the April 7 meeting.

Veteran board members Bob Steinmetz, Dan Haeefe and Glenda Kelly retained their seats, and are now joined by regular SPERDVAC members Walden Hughes, Jim Harmon, and Don Aston with honorary member Frank Bresee to form a seven-member board.



At the March 10 elections meeting at the South Pasadena Community Room an eligibility question arose as to whether an honorary member, in this case Frank Bresee, can take a seat on the board if the individual is not also a dues-paying member since spervac bylaws state that only dues-paying members are eligible. It was suggested that the matter be submitted to the California Board of Non-Profits for a decision, but the current board agreed that until the situation is resolved the board would continue with a "new" board without Bresee, essentially creating a six-member board composed of Steinmetz, Haeefe, Kelly, Hughes, Harmon and Aston.

At the April 7 the eligibility issue was discussed and debated and the board agreed to seat Frank Bresee, thereby affirming a seven-member board of directors.

At the previous meeting Bob Steinmetz was re-elected president with Dan Haeefe re-elected as vice-president. The board unanimously rejected the resignation of treasurer Chester Allen, and he again serves as spervac's treasurer. Glenda Kelly agreed to serve as secretary.

The 2007 official board of directors consists of the following with the number of votes received: Bob Steinmetz (312), Walden Hughes (308), Dan Haeefe (305), Glenda Kelly (298), Frank Bresee (273), Jim Harmon (263) and Don Aston (240).

Others in the running were Dave Struthers (218), Rex Quinn (199) and Bruce Miller (154).

Among the write-in candidates, Bobb Lynes led with 14 followed by Barbara Watkins with six. Stuart Lubin received four votes.

Additional write-in votes were Roby McCone, Gregg Oppenheimer, Art Gilmore, Jack French, Jason Worman, Jerry Williams, Ron Sayles, Ken Greenwald and Glenn Mueller, all receiving one vote each.

There are seven board positions, but when not enough members the board has operated with as few as five members. This is the first board in several years that has reached the full seven members.

SPERDVAC membership at the time of the election totaled 1133, down by 103 members from last year. Of the ballots mailed 396 were received, making the 2007 election a 35% voter turnout, edging last year by two percent (33%).

The vote was tabulated at the annual meeting by elections chair Catherine Passarelli and elections committee members Barbara Williams and Joe Byne.

AT-A-GLANCE

2007 Official Election Results

Bob Steinmetz.....	312
Walden Hughes.....	308
Dan Haeefe.....	305
Glenda Kelly.....	298
Frank Bresee.....	273
Jim Harmon.....	263
Don Aston.....	240
Dave Struthers.....	218
Rex Quinn.....	199
Bruce Miller.....	154

Write-in Votes

Bobb Lynes.....	14
Barbara Watkins.....	6
Stuart Lubin.....	4
Roby McCone.....	1
Gregg Oppenheimer.....	1
Art Gilmore.....	1
Jack French.....	1
Jason Worman.....	1
Jerry Williams.....	1
Ron Sayles.....	1
Ken Greenwald.....	1
Glenn Mueller.....	1

Membership Tally

Membership.....	1133
Votes Cast.....	396
Turnout.....	35%

Eddie Carroll as Jack Benny will Highlight REPS OTR Convention June 22-23 in Seattle



Yes, time does fly! This June will mark the 15th time that the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound has rolled out the red carpet for our favorite radio personalities who will join us for the Seattle Old Time Radio Convention. We've shared weekends with some very special people and every year they have left us all with memories to treasure for a lifetime.

In years past the convention has had themes such as mysteries, radio families, radio and the movies and the shows and programs of the Mutual Broadcasting System. This year we are going all out with a salute to the Golden Age of Radio. With this more encompassing scope, REPS has an unlimited opportunity to showcase the greatest shows and talent from the Golden Age.

With Eddie Carroll along for the ride, Jack Benny will headline the weekend. Eddie Carroll's portrayal of Jack Benny is flawless and his superb one-man show *Jack Benny: Laughter in Bloom* performs to sold-out houses around the country which are brought down with gales of laughter. Eddie Carroll and a talented supporting cast will bring to the REPS Showcase stage *The Jack Benny Program*.

Kathryn Crosby, widow of the late Bing Crosby, will also join us with stories about Bing and his life in radio and entertainment at large. Kathryn appeared with Bing on radio and television and also appeared in an episode of the *Lux Radio Theater*.

Larry Albert, Seattle actor and star of the currently syndicated radio dramatic series *Imagination Theater*, will portray Fred Allen along with other roles and activities.

In one exciting weekend we'll travel down to Jack Benny's vault, visit 79 Wistful Vista with Fibber McGee and Molly and the hall closet, go back to school with *Our Miss Brooks*, laugh

with the Great Gildersleeve, fight evil-doers with *The Shadow*, go back to the wild west with *Red Ryder*, meet a very unhappy mailman with *George Burns and Gracie Allen*, be a contestant on *Truth or Consequences*, go behind the scenes with the radio *Sound Effects* man and more including interviews and panels.

Other Special Guests include: Bob Hastings (*Archie Andrews, McHale's Navy*), Dick Van Patten (*Young Widder Brown, Duffy's Tavern*), Rosemary Rice (*Archie Andrews, I Remember Mama*), Gloria McMillan (*Our Miss Brooks, Lux Radio Theater*), Donald Buka (*Cavalcade of America, Let's Pretend*), Gil Stratton, Jr. (*Fibber McGee and Molly, Great Gildersleeve*), Tommy Cook (*Red Ryder, Blondie*), Frank Bresee (*Red Ryder, Billie Burke Show*), Dick Beals (*Suspense, The Lone Ranger*), Grant Goodeve (*TVs Eight is Enough*), Jim French (Producer-Creator, Host of *Imagination Theater*), Pat French (*Imagination Theater*), Esther Geddes-McVey (*Talk of The Town*), Paul Herlinger (*Adventures in Odyssey*), Ginny Tyler (voice actress Disney productions), Frank Buxton (TV producer, co-author *The Big Broadcast*), radio historians Chuck Shaden, host of *When Radio Was*, and Laura Leff, president of the International Jack Benny fan club.

— Walden Hughes

YOUR HIT PARADE • 60 YEARS AGO

Here they are, the #1 hits of 1947 as determined by *Your Hit Parade* and the number of weeks they appeared on the program:

1. Peg O' My Heart 20
2. Old Buttermilk Sky 19
3. Linda 18
4. Anniversary Song 17
5. That's my Desire 15
6. Mam'selle 14
7. I Wish I Didn't Love You So 14
8. I Wonder, I Wonder, I Wonder 13
9. Heartaches 13
10. Near You 13

— Bob Loudon

Radio Entertainment Network Keeps OTR Alive

The Radio Entertainment Network (REN) launched its new season April 9 by broadcasting four hours per day, seven days per week, featuring new programming each day. Each weekday features a different theme: *Mystery Mondays*, *Detective Tuesdays*, *Western Wednesdays*, *Drama Thursdays* and *Comedy Fridays*. On Saturday and Sunday there is a variety of programs.

Current programming includes episodes of *Suspense*, *Tales of the Texas Rangers*, *Dragnet*, *The Whistler*, *Sherlock Holmes*, *Gunsmoke*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *Jack Benny*, *Johnny Dollar*, *Nightbeat*, *Phil Harris*, *Maisie*, *You Bet Your Life* among many others.

REN was founded by Jim Dolan, who has been in Seattle radio for over 20 years, and Kevin Clark, who with Jim have operated Creative Media Concepts, a recording studio specializing in radio production. REN, which receives support from the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound, specializes in radio drama, comedy and variety, and broadcast in a number of city's on public address television,

non-commercial FM radio stations, and on several internet sites.

The purpose behind REN is to provide free of charge a weekly schedule of old-time radio for the blind and physically handicapped to use as a source of audio entertainment that serves as a substitute for television, and REN'S been doing this since 1995.

Approximately 30 radio reading services use REN programming to provide audio only entertainment programming. Radio reading service stations are on the air to provide news and information and entertainment for people who are blind, visually impaired or have other difficulties reading. These radio reading service stations are on the air in most parts of the United States, and are typically broadcast on local public noncommercial FM and TV stations.

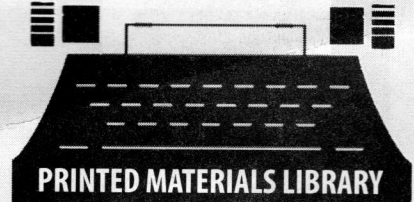
For more information and detailed programming schedule check REN's website at www.renonline.org. REN's *Storytime Radio Theater* is available at www.alltimeoldies.com by selecting the "Theater Channel" option.

SPERDVAC ANNUAL FISCAL REPORT

The Board shall cause an annual report to be sent to the members of the corporation not later than 120 days after the close of the corporation's fiscal year. The fiscal year begins on March 1 of each year.

Checking	\$ 916.68
Savings	\$ 217,295.73
Total	\$ 218,212.41

SPERDVAC HAS
SCRIPTS &
TRANSCRIPTS
OF GREAT
RADIO SHOWS

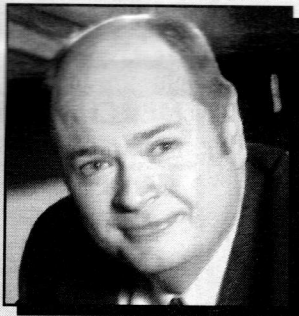


PRINTED MATERIALS LIBRARY

Bobb Lynes
P.O. Box 628
South Pasadena, CA 91031

OTR Filmmaker Set for May 12 Meeting in North Hills

Mike Kasey, producer of *The Poet Laureate of Radio*, the new documentary on the life and work of Norman Corwin, available on DVD, is SPERDVAC's guest at its May 12 meeting at the Mid-Valley library in North Hills. DVDs of this production will be available for purchase at the meeting.



Mike is also the producer of the forthcoming documentary on old-time radio titled *Radio Changed America*. He will show excerpts from this production.

"Mike didn't work in OTR," activities chair Bobb Lynes said, "but he is very passionate about it, and it shows in his work."

The meeting begins at 12-noon at Mid-Valley Library at 16244 Nordhoff St. in North Hills in San Fernando Valley). A SPERDVAC Board of Directors meeting follows this activity, which all members are invited to attend.

As always, SPERDVAC monthly meetings are free and open to the public.

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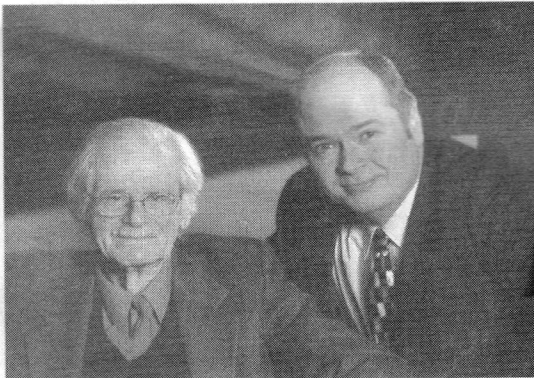
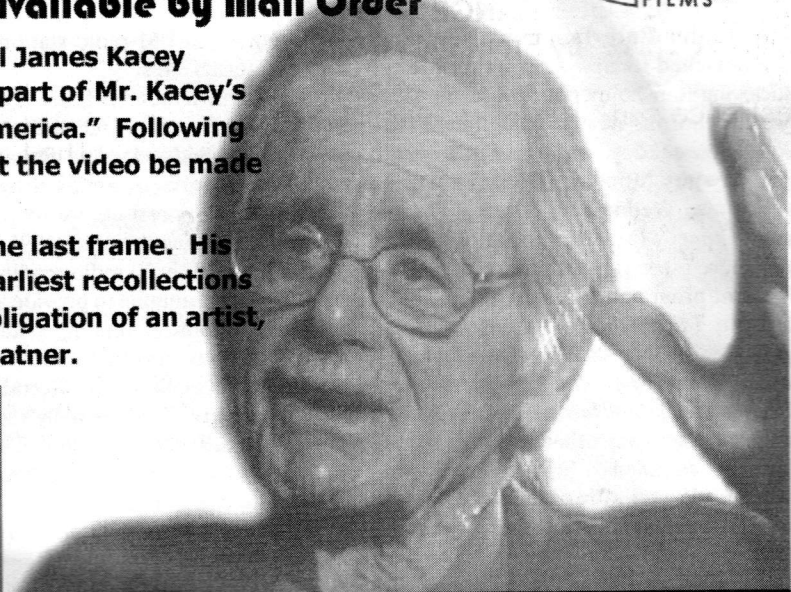
AUDIOPHONIC CORPORATION
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PRESIDENT

**"THE POET LAUREATE OF RADIO:
An Interview with Norman Corwin"
DVD is Now Available by Mail Order**



In December of 2004, filmmaker Michael James Kacey spoke at length with Norman Corwin as part of Mr. Kacey's documentary project "Radio Changed America." Following the interview, Mr. Corwin suggested that the video be made available to the public.

Mr. Corwin captivates from the first to the last frame. His insights and memories range from his earliest recollections of radio to topics such as fascism, the obligation of an artist, the art of directing, and even William Shatner.



"To have this chronicle... is priceless"
-Leonard Maltin

"A Wonderful new treasure"
-Tom Heathwood, Heritage Radio Theatre

DVD ORDER FORM

Product No.	Product Title	Qty.	Unit Price	TOTAL
CORW060	POET LAUREATE OF RADIO		\$19.95	
Please make checks/money orders payable to: Anthracite Films, Inc Mail to: Anthracite Films, Inc 10736 Jefferson Blvd., #457 Culver City, CA 90230 Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.			MERCHANDISE SUB TOTAL:	
			CA RESIDENTS ADD 8.25% SALES TAX	
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FROM COLLECTOR TO ARCHIVIST TO AUTHOR

The Evolution of an OTR Addict from the Perspective of His Spouse

by Susan Siegel

I knew when I met David 20 years ago that he had an unusual hobby—collecting tapes of old time radio broadcasts. “You mean people really still listen to Jack Benny, Fred Allen and Fibber McGee and Molly?” I asked him. Not only do they, he told me, but there are actually annual conventions of old time radio enthusiasts—and he proceeded to take me to one. From my very first Friends of Old Time Radio convention, OTR became part of my life, in more ways than one. But that’s getting ahead of the story.

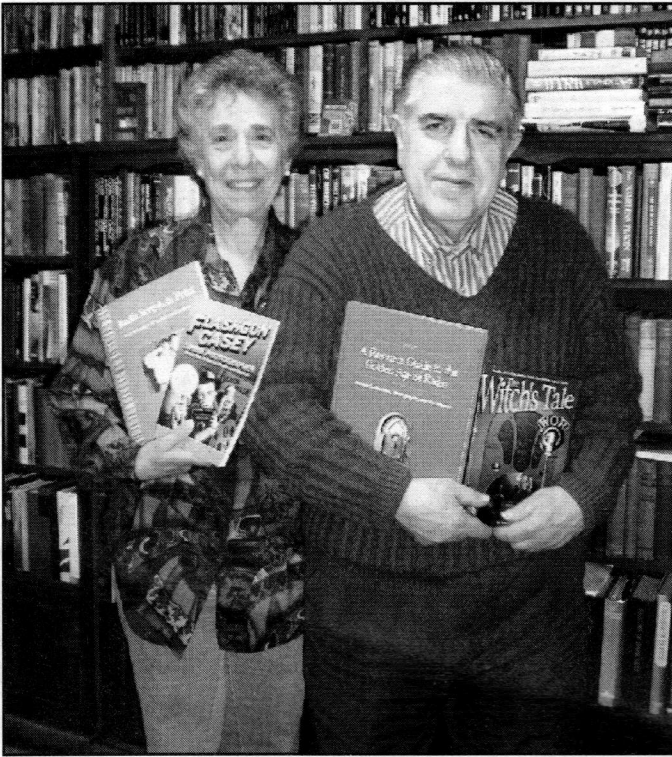
It didn’t take me long to realize that even though David had a large collection, very large, in the world of OTR, one’s collection was never complete. There were always more programs out there that could be acquired, and still more programs were constantly being discovered in attics, flea markets and other strange places. I learned that for the truly committed, collecting never stops. Like the Everready battery, it goes on and on. (There may be some truth in David’s frequent comment that he married me because I had a large house.)

David’s obsession with OTR started innocently enough sometime in the mid-1960s when he discovered a long playing record of old radio themes. An inveterate nostalgia buff, the record hooked him although I doubt that he quite knew it at the time. After buying a few cassettes of entire programs, and realizing that he would quickly go broke if he

were to buy all of the programs he wanted, he discovered that there were other eccentric people like him and that by trading programs with them he could build his collection, feed his children and enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded folks.

So began friendships and trading relationships with people like Ken Piletic, Don Aston, Frank Gillmore, John Edwards and a host of other collectors, many of whom are still involved in the hobby. One collector, the late Cortland Parent, Jr., actually loaned David several of his master tapes saying, “Return them when you’re finished copying them.” More than 40 years later, David still recalls Cortland’s generosity to a newcomer in the hobby.

One of the things that has always set David apart from other collectors has been his interest in acquiring virtually all types of programs. If a program fits into the general parameters of what he collects (U.S. programs broadcast through the late 1950s), then he wants it. He’s eclectic. He’s compulsive. And he recognizes that by collecting programs that aren’t necessarily of great interest to him, they still might be valuable for trades with other collectors. The more he has to offer, the more he can acquire. Trading is fun and a challenge. Thankful that his previous employment provided him with sufficient retirement funds to cover both his living and hobby expenses, he has never been tempted



Susan and David Siegel holding copies of their books with just a smattering of their opulent collection of "everything OTR" in the background.

to turn his hobby into a business.

Because David is a completist, and somewhat of a bibliomaniac, he has also accumulated a large collection of books about old-time radio as well as magazines, logs, scripts and other ephemera. Every time he acquires a new radio magazine, he photocopies the pages, front and back, and then adds them to the individual scrapbooks he keeps for personalities and programs.

Needless to say, by the time I met David in the late 1980s, his collection had become a true archive of the golden age of radio material. Indeed, it was not unusual for him to receive calls from the Museum of Television and Radio in New York asking if he had information about specific programs or performers. He also became a source of both print and audio material for researchers, documentary filmmakers and individuals trying to track down programs on which their relatives had appeared.

Our life changed in 1992 when David retired after a 40-year career in education, the last 21 years of which were as a superintendent of schools. But for David, retirement didn't mean golf or gin rummy. No sooner did he pack away his suits and ties then we embarked on a new career: We decided it would be fun to work as a team writing guidebooks to

used bookstores. For years we had spent our weekends and vacations visiting used bookstores in search of books about old-time radio, as well as books dealing with horror, mystery, humor and other subjects that interested him.

Back then, people often asked us why we decided to publish the guidebooks ourselves rather than just write them. Our answer was simple. To paraphrase the bank robber Willie Sutton: "Because that's where the money is." So Book Hunter Press was born, and what started out as a fun retirement project turned into a

series of seven regional guidebooks to used bookstores in the United States and Canada, 13 different editions, and sales of more than 50,000 volumes.

Of course, one of the side benefits of visiting bookstores for our guidebooks was that it gave David a chance to buy more radio books and magazines. To this day, he cherishes the bound copy of *Baby Snooks* scripts he found in a store along the Oregon Coast and a two box set of scripts for CBS radio adaptations of Shakespeare's plays that he found in Vermont. Our bookstore travels also enabled David to actually meet some of the people he had been trading with, many for more than 30 years. Before we set out on our travels, he methodically prepared an index card with the names, addresses and phone numbers of collectors in the states we would be traveling to. As we got close to that city (our schedule was made up as we went along), we'd give the person a call and when we got into town meet for dinner.

Fast forward to 1998. I'm busy handling the business end of Book Hunter Press and preparing our newest guidebook for the printer, and David is busy adding to his tape collection. We met the OTR syndicator Charles Michaelson at an FOTR convention and learned that he had access to all of the scripts

for *The Witch's Tale*, one of David's favorite series. One thing led to another, and by the following year, we published *The Witch's Tale*, an anthology of 13 scripts with a complete log of the program, a biographical sketch of Alonzo Deen Cole, the program's creator, as well as a Prologue and Epilogue written by Miriam Wolff who played Nancy the witch. Having already successfully published seven other books, it was natural that we'd publish this new one ourselves, although we did it under the imprint Dunwich Press, and fans of H.P. Lovecraft will recognize the significance of the name.

Little did we know in 1999 that *The Witch's Tale* would be only the beginning of our OTR literary efforts. One of the perks of being retired is the freedom and flexibility to do whatever we want, whenever we want. We also discovered that we enjoyed working together, at least most of the time. So in 2004 when David got the idea of doing a book about *Flashgun Casey* with an old friend, J. Randolph (Randy) Cox, I agreed to help out by editing the book and handling the publishing. In 2005, when I got the idea for doing a reference book that would help OTR researchers locate radio related archival materials, David worked with me to isolate the names of radio personalities as I weeded through long alphabetical lists of special collections in hundreds of repositories. We worked together again in 2006 on *Radio Scripts in Print*, a guide to already published books that contained scripts, many of which were already in David's collection. Our current literary project, *Radio and the Jews: How Jews Were Portrayed on Network Radio, 1920s-1950s*, scheduled for publication later this year, is also a joint venture.

I'll be the first to admit that working with one's spouse does have its difficult moments, and I certainly don't recommend it for everyone. Over the years we've had our share of arguments and tense moments, but by the end of the day, thankfully, we were always still on speaking terms. And the fact is, neither of us would have, or could have, written the books alone. By pooling our expertise and skills, we enriched not only our own lives and marriage, but we hope the lives of other OTR enthusiasts who enjoy books about their favorite programs and/or performers.

Back to collecting. One of David's biggest challenges, and one which I suspect he shares with many "old timers" in the hobby, is how to accommodate his trading routine to the ever changing technology of the 21st

KOObDOOGA!

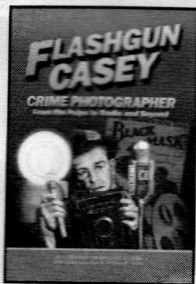
Book Hunter Press Offers Good Reading

In keeping with our "time for a good book" theme from last issue, we offer a listing below of the otr books available from David and Susan Siegel's Bear Hunter Press. Ol' Ed found *Radio Scripts* to be a valuable research tool.

A Resource Guide to the Golden Age of Radio: Special Collections, Bibliography and the Internet By Susan and David S. Siegel ISBN: 978-1-891379-04-8 Hardcover, 8.5 x 11, 215 pp., \$48.00. The first ever guide to 3,800 primary and secondary sources about radio's Golden Age, 1920s-1960s. Includes descriptions of 2,300 Special Collections, 1,400 bibliographic citations grouped into 54 subject categories, 100+ research oriented Internet sites, and an integrated Index that can be searched by person, program or subject.



Radio Scripts In Print: Book Featuring 1,700 Golden Age of Radio Scripts By Susan and David S. Siegel ISBN: 978-1-891379-07-9 Softcover, 8.5 x 11, 109 pp., \$16.95. An easy and affordable resource for locating hard-to-find scripts for popular series as well as one time only specials. Includes scripts for many programs not available in audio or other print formats.



Flashgun Casey, Crime Photographer: From the Pulp to Radio and Beyond By J. Randolph Cox and David S. Siegel ISBN: 978-1-891379-05-5 Softcover, 205 pp., \$18.95. All there is to know about Flashgun Casey, from his debut in the 1930s Black Mask pulp magazine to his 10 year stint on radio, his short lived television career,

plus his exploits in the movies, novels, comic books and a play.

The Witch's Tale By Alonzo Deen Cole. Edited by David S. Siegel ISBN: 978-1-891379-01-7 Softcover, 253 pp., \$9.95. Thirteen original scripts, plus a biographical sketch of Alonzo Deen Cole, the program's creator and granddaddy of modern media horror, a complete program log, cast photos and a Prologue and Epilogue by Miriam Wolff.



And coming in Fall 2007...

Radio and the Jews: How Jews Were Portrayed on Network Radio, 1920s-1950s By David S. Siegel and Susan Siegel ISBN: 978-1-891379-08-6. The first ever comprehensive look at how Jews were portrayed on mainstream radio, from entertainment programs to programs dealing with anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry. This book will be available in the fall.

All Book Hunter Press books can be ordered online or by contacting Book Hunter Press directly at www.bookhunterpress.com/radio and through e-mail at bookhunterpress@verizon.net. Books can also be ordered by mail by sending payment to Book Hunter Press, PO Box 193, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 or call the press at (914) 245-6608, or Fax the press at (914) 245-2630.

century. While he still collects and formats many of his programs on open reel, with the help and encouragement of his good friend and long time collector Jerry Haendiges, he has managed to add several thousand CDs to his collection. Although the number of programs he has on open reel is too great to transfer to CDs at this stage in his life, at least he is now able to trade in open reel, cassette and CDs. As for MP3s, he's still reluctant to get involved with that format.

As for his catalog, I confess that I took

a stab at computerizing his 3x5 index cards about a year ago but gave up. The cards were too full of personal notations to make sense to anyone other than David, not even a spouse with some knowledge of OTR. I also realized that it would be impossible to create a google-like database that could be searched by keyword without listening to every program.

What's next? For David, the answer is simple. As soon as he finishes *Radio and the Jews*, he'll get back to his real love, full time trading. As for me, well, it will be my respon-

SPERDVAC
MEETING SCHEDULE
2007

THE 2007 SPERDVAC MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

ALL DATES ARE CONFIRMED

May 12
MIKE KACEY
Mid-Valley Library
North Hills

•
June 9
South Pasadena
Community Room

•
July and August
No Meeting

•
September 8
Mid-Valley Library
North Hills

•
October 13
South Pasadena
Community Room

•
November 10
To Be Announced

•
December
No Meeting

FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION AND DETAILS ON OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS PLEASE CALL OUR TOLL FREE NUMBER

877-251-5771
SPERDVAC

NOTICE OF MEETING

SPERDVAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy will hold meetings on the following dates:

MAY 12, 2007
12-noon • Mid-Valley Library
North Hills

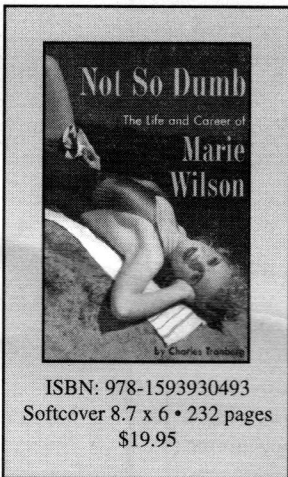
•
JULY 7, 2007
Time and Location TBA

BOOKMARKS

Miss Wilson Gave Depth to Irma; Book Needs Depth for Miss Wilson

by Rodney Bowcock

If you're like me, you probably know of Marie Wilson from her long running, and popular radio show *My Friend Irma*. Irma was the epitome of the stereotypical late 1940s and early 1950s dumb blonde, and she spent most of her time getting into trouble, and taking her level headed friend Jane Stacey, mostly played by Cathy Lewis, with her. What set Irma apart, however, was that she was extremely sweet and warm-hearted. She had a depth to her personality that many other similar characters just didn't have. Marie Wilson is to thank for that depth.



Charles Tranberg has put together a very nice book about Marie Wilson, titled *Not So Dumb: The Life and Career of Marie Wilson*. You see, Marie wasn't much like Irma at all, even though she spent most of her career playing beautiful but dumb women. She was a determined professional who knew from a very young age that she wanted to be an actress, and that she was. Tranberg focuses on every aspect of Wilson's career relying heavily on press clippings from magazines such as *Variety* and *Life*. Whenever possible, he uses first hand accounts and quotes from interviews, but as seems to be happening so much in the 21st Century with actors of the status as Wilson, these are rare and in many cases non-existent.

In addition to a biography spanning Marie's early days working for Warner Brothers through her death, this book also contains a fine photo section featuring snapshots from various points in her career. These are not printed on glossy paper, nor are they high resolution as they may be in a book at a higher price point, but they are attractive and are a nice touch. Marie was truly a beautiful woman, and it's fitting for there to be photos showing her at her best included.

There is also a log of the *My Friend Irma* radio program. This does not include full cast lists for episodes, and plot descriptions for episodes range from several lines to often one line or less. A few entries are missing, and that is understandable since the Thousand

Oaks library is missing some of the scripts that were used in compiling this log. I do wish that it had more details overall, though. The list of Wilson's movie appearances is very nice and useful, as is the list of TV appearances, though I do wish that more of an effort was made to present a log of the *My Friend Irma* TV program. I understand that episodes are rare today, but I'd hoped to learn more about it than what was presented here.

Tranberg's book isn't perfect, but it's an enjoyable read and something that would be welcomed by casual fans of Wilson, and those who are interested in a serious study of radio comedy and vaudeville since Wilson was a regular in Ken Murray's *Blackouts*.

The book is available from the fine BearManor Media at \$19.95 plus shipping and handling charges. BearManor can be reached at P.O. Box 71426 Albany, GA 31708 abd (229)-436-4265 or through the publisher's website at www.bearmanormedia.com.

Collector to Author

sibility to market the new book, our other books, and continue updating our online database of used bookstores. Also, this spring, we'll be on a panel with Chuck Howell, Curator of the Library of American Broadcasting, discussing the relationship between private collectors and archivists at a meeting of the New York City Metropolitan Area Archivists organization. And in October, we'll be offering a workshop for fellow OTR enthusiasts interested writing books.

As I said when I started this article, OTR has certainly changed my life—for the better.



McGee's Closet is a free service to our members and honorary members. Send your wants in OTR-related material to kinseyfan@hotmail.com (the preferred method) or write to McGee's Closet, c/o Barbara J. Watkins, P.O. Box 628, South Pasadena, California 91031. Please specify desired taping format (cassette, open reel, recordable CD, or DAT). Also, please include your membership number with your advertisement.

WANTED

WANTED. The following songs for a Research Pop Project: 1945 Remember When by Russ Morgan; 1945 And There You Are by Kate Smith; 1949 And it Still Goes by Vaughn Monroe; 1943 A Harbor of Dreamboats by Peter Piper or Song Spinners. Contact Martin Plascak mnplascak@msn.com.

WANTED. I am interested in procuring a tape, cassette, or CD of the "Stairway to the Stars" (not sure of the name) from the I Love a Mystery series. In this I Love a Mystery serial Jack Packard and Doc were in South America and they encountered prehistoric dinosaurs on their trek to the top of the Andes. Kenneth Ryan, 14538 Cortina Drive, La Mirada, CA 90638

ALICE BACKES

MAY 17, 1923 • MARCH 15, 2007



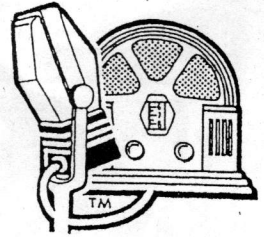
At press time we learned of the death of SPERDVAC honorary member Alice Backes, who succumbed in Virginia Beach, VA of undisclosed causes March 15. She was 84. Ms. Backes had appeared in radio, film and television, including countless appearances in television series such as *Dragnet*, *Barney Miller*, *Adam-12*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Andy Griffith*, and *Gunsmoke*.

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(310) 973-5060, DanHaefele@aol.com for General and Archives Libraries.

CATALOGS

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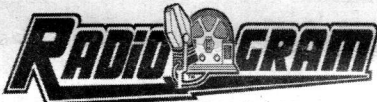
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