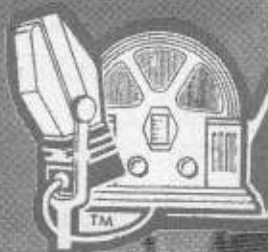


MEMBERSHIP OVERWHELMINGLY REJECTS RECALL EFFORT • NEW CATALOG PAGES



sperdvac

RADIOGRAM

Vol. 33 • No. 11

August 2008

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by the



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NIGHT
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RADIOGRAM

Volume 33 • Number 11 • August 2008



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'A Little Dab'll Do Ya!'

30 Minutes to Curtain Set for 25th Anniversary

This column will deal with catch-ups, thank yous, and farewells.

In response to my question, Have you ever been influenced by an OTR commercial enough to rush out and purchase the product? Ron Sayles writes:

"Several years ago I was in need of some hair preparation. Just at that time I heard a Brylcreem commercial, can't remember the program, but what got me was the refrain, 'A Little Dab'll Do Ya!' Who could resist that, not me certainly. So I rushed out to my local Walgreens to pick up a tube. Well, that was a mistake. When I got home I was anxious to rub some in my hair, while I still had it. The first thing I did was proceed to

drop the tube. On its way to the bathroom basin it hit the faucet tearing open a hole near the end. Have you ever tried to squeeze anything out of a tube with holes on both ends? After I repaired the most recent hole with a band aid, I swear that's the truth, I rubbed some on my hair. Talk about greasy kid stuff, I could have lubricated my car with this stuff. Well, I paid good money for it so I used it all up; heck, I would have used it all up if I had spent bad money for it.

"So in answer to your question, yes I have been influenced enough to by a product advertised on OTR, to disastrous results. I hope that you had better luck with your Oxydol."

And Nick Nardella says he still buys Coca Cola because of *The Coca Cola Spotlight Band* shows broadcast during the war years.

Member Eugene McMillin writes that he enjoyed Martin Grams' article "Stairway to the Sun" (May 2008 *Radiogram*): "I was immediately transferred back to the early thirties at my grandmother's house in San Francisco where the Carleton E. Morse production of *One Man's Family* was a must listen event. It was here I became a life long fan of Jack, Doc and Reggie. I followed the *I Love a Mystery* series for many years."

Eugene also asks where he might obtain copies of *Jack Armstrong, Air Adventures of Jimmy Allen* and *Little Orphan Annie*. You need look no further than your SPERDVAC catalog, Eugene. *Jack Armstrong* programs can be found in SPERDVAC's General Library on tape numbers 1167-1174, 2276, 2277, and

on Archives tapes 326 and 1532, *Jimmy Allen* shows on tape numbers 161, 162 and 459, and one *Little Orphan Annie* show is on Archives tape 94. Don't be surprised if more Annie's are added soon, after noting this deficiency.

30 Minutes to Curtain, the radio drama repertory group, first went on the air on August 31, 1983, regularly producing new radio dramas until the show was canceled in 2001. Since then, the group performs re-creations, and an occasional new drama, on stage and on radio guest spots. August marks our 25th anniversary and we would like to invite any one who

has performed with us over the years to attend our anniversary party, to be held sometime in September. For time and location, please contact me at P.O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031, kinseyfan@hotmail.com, or call 323-256-5879.

The special election is over and members have made their decisions, as reported elsewhere in this issue. One last comment needs to be made before we put this behind us. When putting the petition together we were not aware of another problem with those four candidates' statements. Not until I received a letter from member Jimmie Hicks saying that the reason he voted the way that he did was that he had interpreted the statements to infer that Don Aston was unlawfully taking SPERDVAC materials and selling them. He said he has not seen any denial of that. I offered Don an opportunity to respond, since he could not do so previously because of the election rules:

"I and a few friends, that still meet together, furnished the funding so SPERDVAC could acquire its first major collection: *The Red Skelton Show*. But I have been accused of running for the Board of Directors so I could acquire more shows to sell. I have not used the SPERDVAC collection to acquire shows to sell. I do not need to do this.

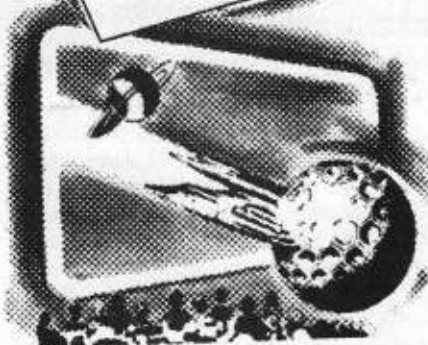
"At a BOD meeting it was proposed by the acquisitions chairman to acquire the Sherlock Holmes programs with Basil Rathbone



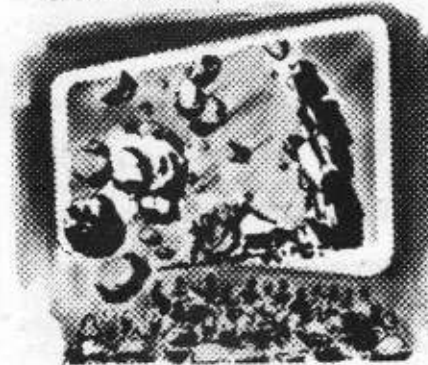
Barbara J. Watkins

Continued Page 14

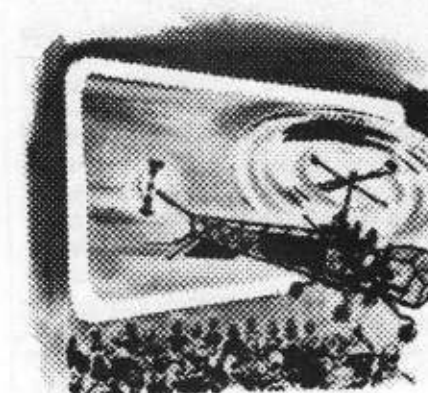
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Major Nostalgia Convention Set for September 18-20 in Maryland

Old-time radio sparks a return to Aberdeen, MD for the third annual Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention September 18-20. The three-day event offers attendees an opportunity to pose for photographs with their favorite actors of Hollywood and Broadway. The stars also sign autographs. This will be the third year for this convention, which has been growing steady since the first offering in September of 2006. According to Martin Grams Jr., the event's coordinator of M.A.N.C., the pre-registration is the largest to date. This will probably be the final year the Clarion Hotel in

Aberdeen will be host to the event, to make room for a larger hotel to handle the growing crowd.

Celebrities this year include Jon Provost (Timmy on *Lassie*), Edd Byrnes (Kookie from *77 Sunset Strip*), Patty McCormack (Academy Award nominee of *The Bad Seed*), Larry Storch (*F-Troop* and *Car 54, Where Are You?*), Kathleen Hughes (*It Came From Outer Space* and *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*), Mickey Freeman (*Sergeant Bilko* and *The Phil Silvers Show*) and Margaret Kerry who modeled for Disney artists for Tinkerbell, and is one of the few remaining cast members of *Our Gang / Little Rascals* shorts.

Old-Time Radio related events include a recreation of a 1937 "lost" *Lights Out!* radio broadcast titled "The Pyramid," directed by Don Ramlow. Neal Ellis will be broadcasting live from the event over the Yesterday USA Network.

Presentations include: "A History of Sgt. Preston" by Terry Salomonson of Audio Classics who will also present an uncirculated episode of the radio program for attendees. Neal Ellis will present rare audio clips of Edward R. Murrow. Michael Hayde will discuss the genius of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis on radio and in movies. Author/publisher Ben Ohmart will host a panel about voice actors such as Paul Frees and Mel Blanc. Paul Adomites, au-

thor of the wonderful McFarland book about baseball broadcasts, will offer a fascinating panel about baseball during the golden age of radio. A panel presentation with film clips of spoofs related to the "War of the Worlds," in recognition to the 70th Anniversary of Welles' panic broadcast. Saturday morning will offer a presentation about MP3s —how the technology works, and how old-time radio shows are being brought to the digital age.

Other attendees include old-time radio authors Jack French (the award-winning *Private Eyelashes*), Martin



Jon Provost, *Lassie's* Timmy, will be guest at Mid-Atlantic nostalgia convention, September 18-20, in Maryland.

Grams Jr. (*The Radio Adventures of Sam Spade*), Derek Tague (contributor for *Let's Pretend*) and Ben Ohmart of BearManor Media, the largest publishing company to offer books about old-time radio shows. Mr. Ohmart will also be accepting submissions from anyone with a book proposal.

The movie room operates 24 hours a day for three-and-a-half days. Old-Time Radio related films include the "War of the Worlds" panic broadcast spoof titled *Hullabaloo* (1940), the 1952 CBS TV special marking the opening of "Television City" in Hollywood with Jack Benny, Rochester, Eves Arden as Miss Brooks, and the cast of *Amos n' Andy*, *My Friend Irma* and *Life with Luigi*. Groucho Marx bloopers from *You Bet Your Life*. The "lost" 1934 movie *Gift of Gab* about a radio announcer who gets himself into a high adventure is also being presented. An episode of television's *Dragnet*, never-before-seen since its initial telecast and an episode of *The Cavalcade of America* with weekend guest Patty McCormack are among the many offerings.

Vendors selling old-time radio shows and other merchandise such as t-shirts, movie posters, lobby cards, DVDs, magazines and comic books.

A drive-in movie theater is being set up

Continued Page 14

Landslide Results**Membership Overwhelmingly
Rejects Recall of Board Members**

SPERDVAC president Bob Steinmetz retains seat on Board of Directors after membership rejects recall effort.

SPERDVAC membership overwhelmingly rejected a recall effort of four board members in voting results presented at the July 12 special meeting at the Hawthorne Library in Hawthorne, CA.

Dan Haeefe, Bob Steinmetz, Dave Struthers and Ken Greenwald will retain their seats on the Board of Directors. The recall effort failed with 220 votes against and 131 votes for the recall resulting in a 63% margin, considered a "landslide" in election results.

Similarly, membership overwhelmingly approved by a 299 to 51 margin with five abstentions the election reform proposal that stated: To compel reform of the election rules so that if any charges of misconduct by other candidates are implied, those persons have an opportunity to answer or rebut those charges before the candidates' statements are mailed to the members.

Of the 1067 ballots mailed 356 were returned showing a 33% voter turnout.

Elections chair Catherine Passarelli was called out of retirement to lead Joe Bine and Patricia Mueller in tallying the ballots.

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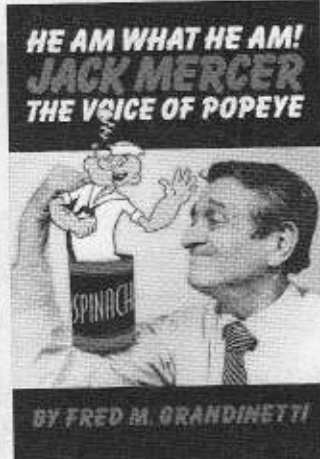
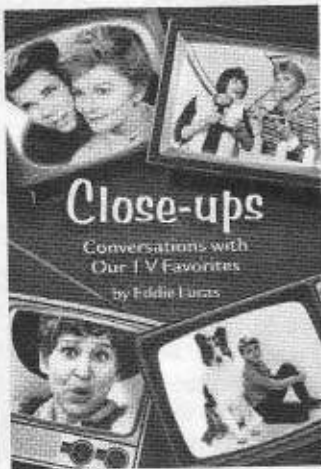
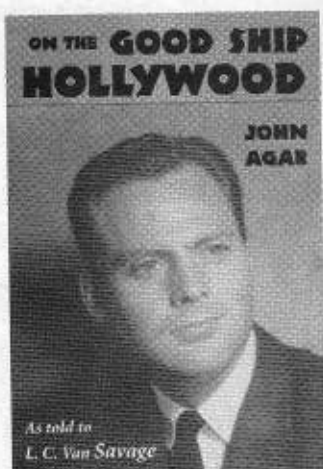
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A-2792 COMMAND PERFORMANCE USA

Fred Allen hosts. 3-22-1942 Program #4. Features Portland Hoffa, Kenny Baker, Henry Youngman, Gladys Swarthout, John Kieran and Madeleine Carroll. Music by Al Goodman's Orchestra. Harry Von Zell announces. From damaged glass transcriptions.

Gene Tierney hosts 4-12-1942 Program #7. Features Betty Hutton, Gary Cooper, Arthur Q. Bryan, The Andrews Sisters, Edgar Bergen, Ginny Simms and Bob Burns. Music by the Ray Noble Orchestra. Paul Douglas announces. From 16" vinyl transcriptions.

A-2793 COMMAND PERFORMANCE USA

Marlene Dietrich hosts. Recorded 6-5-1942. Program 15. Guests are Lt. Col. Eddie Peabody, Al Jolson, Mitzi Greene, Kenny Baker and Tommy Riggs. Jimmy Wallington announces.

Don Ameche hosts. Recorded 6-11-1942. Program 17. (Aired via short wave by KGEI on 6-20-1942 and three times on 6-21-1942.) Features Bing Crosby, Dinah Shore, Max Baer, The Merry Macs, George Givot, Hugh Herbert and Carole Landis. Paul Douglas announces.

A-2794 COMMAND PERFORMANCE USA

William Powell hosts. Program #18. Recorded 6-18-1942. Features Martha Tilton, George Jessel, Gene Autry and the Melody Ranch Boys, Judy Garland, Blanche Stewart and Elvia Allman (as Brenda and Cobina), Al Pearce and Joe Forte. Music by the Lou Bring Orchestra.

Edward Arnold hosts. Program #22. Features Jascha Heifetz (accompanied by Emanuel Bay), Jack Benny, Ethel Waters, Reginald Beane, Laura Vaughns, Ella Lashley, Constance Bakaleinikoff and the RKO Studio Orchestra and Richard Hyd. n.

A-2795 COMMAND PERFORMANCE USA

Bing Crosby hosts 8-30-1942 Program #31. Features Kay Kyser's Orchestra, Heddy Lamar, Connie Boswell, Bud Abbott and Lou Costello. Paul Douglas announces. Transcribed at the National Theater, Washington, D.C.

Don Ameche hosts 9-22-1942 Program #32. Features Vivian Blaine, Hanley Stafford, Fanny Brice, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Nelson Eddy, Edgar Bergen, Constance Bakaleinikoff and the RKO Studio Orchestra. Ken Carpenter announces.

A-2796 COMMAND PERFORMANCE USA

Bob Burns hosts. Program #33. Features bands of Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey, Lionel Hampton and Spike Jones plus vocals by Dinah Shore. Bob Burns makes a big blooper when introducing Count Basie. Ken Carpenter announces.

Jack Benny hosts. Program #41. Features Alice Faye, Cass Daley, Pianists Marlene Fingerle and Arthur Schutt with Alfred Newman and the 20th Century Fox Orchestra, Eddie Anderson (as Rochester), Eddie Marr and John Lake. Don Wilson announces.

A-2797 COMMAND PERFORMANCE USA

Hosted by Leopold Stokowski and the NBC Symphony Orchestra. Recorded 11-15-1942 in New York. Program #42. Features Dorothy Maynor and Mischa Elman. Paul Douglas announces. Dinah Shore hosts. Recorded 12-9-1942. Program #42a. (The program was misnumbered.) Guests are Ethel Waters, The Merry Macs, Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Count Basie Orchestra, Dorothy Lamour, Joe Lilly Orchestra, Harry James Orchestra and the Mills Brothers. Ken Carpenter announces.

A-2798 COMMAND PERFORMANCE

Joan Blondell hosts. Recorded 1-10-1943. Program #47. With Florence George, Joan Davis, Harry James Orchestra, Helen Forrest, Nelson Eddy, Lum & Abner, the Loumel Morgan Trio and Capt. Meredith Willson's Orchestra.

Jeanette MacDonald hosts. Recorded 1-16-1943. Program #48. Features Virginia O'Brien, Dale Evans, Eddie South Orchestra, The Mills Brothers and the Eddie Le Baron Orchestra.

A-2799 COMMAND PERFORMANCE

Ann Sheridan hosts. Recorded 4-24-1943. Program #63. Features Paul Whiteman, Gracie Allen, Jose Iturbi and Bonnie Baker. Kate Smith hosts. Recorded 5-1-1943. Program #64. Features John Charles Thomas, Cass Daley and Freddie Slack.

A-2800 COMMAND PERFORMANCE

Ronald Colman hosts. Program #85. Recorded 9-18-1943. Features Jascha Heifetz, Rise Stevens, Lena Horne, Robert Benchley, Walter Tetley and the 43rd Army Air Force Garner Field Band. Ken Carpenter announces.

Herbert Marshall hosts. Recorded 11-27-1943. Program #94. Features Bob Wills, Tommy Duncan, Anita Ellis, Edgar Bergen, Virginia O'Brien, Tommy Cook, Paul Douglas, Frances Langford, Six Hits and a Miss and Conrad Binyon. Harry Von Zell announces.

A-2801 COMMAND PERFORMANCE

Loretta Young is hostess 2-19-1944 Program #107. Guests are Frances Langford, Ginny Simms, Connie Boswell and Larry Adler. Kate Smith hosts 3-4-1944 Program #109. Features Randolph Scott, Joe De Rita, Billy Gilbert, Sandra Berkova, Jimmy Wakeley, Spade Cooley and Marvin Moazel.

The next seven programs come from 12" copy records lent to SPERDVAC by performer Stuffy Singer.

A-2802 MEMO FROM MOLLY

Selecting a boy of the month 7-1-1951. Stars Barbara Luddy and Olan Soule with Sarah Selby, Frank Nelson, Jess Kirkpatrick, Stuffy Singer and Sammy Ogg. Script by Dick Petaccunni. Produced and directed by Gordon T. Hughes. Middle commercial missing.

Molly wants Chris to do some household repairs 8-19-1951. Stars Olan Soule and Barbara Luddy with Sarah Selby, Jess Kirkpatrick and Stuffy Singer. Script by Dick Stanger. Produced and directed by Gordon T. Hughes. Commercials by Vincent Pelletier. Roy Rowan announces.

A-2803

Mr. and Mrs. Blandings Taking kids to Camp Otawannapotomie 6-23-1951 (NBC). Stars Cary Grant and Betsy Drake with Stuffy Singer. Written by Charles Stewart and Mort Lockman. Directed by Warren Lewis. Don Stanley announces. Middle commercial missing. KFI, Los Angeles aircheck of the final broadcast of the series.

Bob Hope Show African Queen parody 4-15-1952 (NBC). Broadcast from Nellis Air Force Base (near Las Vegas). Stars Bob Hope with Marilyn Maxwell, Hy Averbach, Stuffy Singer and Jerry Colonna. Written by Marvin Fisher, Norman Sullivan and Larry Kline.

A-2804 JACK BENNY SHOW

Jack and Mary take an Easter stroll 4-13-1952 (CBS). Stars Jack Benny with Mary Livingston, Phil Harris, Stuffy Singer, Arthur Q. Bryan, Artie Auerbach, Sheldon Leonard, Dennis Day and Don Wilson.

The Beverly Hills Beavers perform a Benny program parody 2-22-1953 (CBS). Stars Jack Benny with Mary Livingston, Eddie Anderson, Bob Crosby, Stuffy Singer and Don Wilson.

A-2805

Stars in the Air "On Borrowed Time" 4-13-1952. Stars Lionel Barrymore with Reed Hadley, Beulah Bondi, Stuffy Singer, Margaret Brayton, Myra Marsh, Griff Barnett, Norman Field and David Light. Adapted and directed by Harry Kronman. Hugh Douglas announces

Stars Over Hollywood "Grand Pause" 10-18-1952. Stars Cesar Romero with Lurene Tuttle, Eric Snowden, Noreen Gammile and Mary Lansing. Script by Virginia Safford Lynn. Music by Rex Koury. Directed by Don Clark. Art Ballenger announces.

These 60 minute Lux Radio Theatre broadcasts

feature host Cecil B. DeMille and announcer Melville Ruick.

A-2806 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" 12-26-1938. Stars Thelma Hubbard with James Eagles, Roy Atwell, Billy Gilbert, Rolfe Sedan, Jack Smart, Moroni Olsen, Stuart Buchanan, Paula Winslowe, Gloria Gordon, Eddie Davis, Louise Burnett, Marie Green, Lou Merrill and Ross Forrester. Walt Disney is the intermission guest. Unlike previous Lux broadcasts, this one employs recorded audience applause at the end of each act as there was no studio audience for this program.

A-2807 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"A Man's Castle" 3-27-1939. Stars Spencer Tracy and Loretta Young with Arthur Hohl, Martha Wentworth, Perry Ivins, Margaret Brayton, Paul Hinton, Frank Nelson, Lou Merrill, Sybil Harris and Ross Forrester. Commercials by John Lake, James Eagles and Walter White.

A-2808 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"The Awful Truth" 9-11-1939. Stars Claudette Colbert and Cary Grant with Phyllis Brooks, Lou Merrill, Gale Gordon, Ynez Seabury, Rolfe Sedan, John Fee, Verna Felton, Forrest Taylor, Mary McDonald, Ted Bliss, Lee Millar, Mary Jo Duncan, Anna Lisa, Ross Forrester and Gloria Gordon. Commercial voices are Grace Neilson, Jo Campbell and Vivian Edwards. First show of the new season.

A-2809 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Pygmalion" 11-27-1939. Stars Jean Arthur and Brian Aherne with Alan Napier, Jack Lewis, Eric Snowden, Mary Gordon, Evelyn Beresford, Mary Taylor, Thomas Freebairn-Smith, Lou Merrill, Margaret Brayton, Janet Young, Thomas Mills and Gloria Gordon. Commercials performed by Grace Neilson, Jo Campbell, Margaret Brayton and Vivian Edwards.

A-2810 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Four Daughters" 12-18-1939. Stars John Garfield, Priscilla Lane, Rosemary Lane, Leota Lane and Lola Lane with Wallis Clark, Clara Blandick, Hal K. Dawson, Lou Merrill and Harry Humphrey. Commercials voiced by Emma Redding Saunders, Eric Burtis Jr., Julie Bannon, Kathleen Fitz, Celeste Rush and Martha Wentworth.

A-2811 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Intermezzo" 1-29-1940. Stars Herbert Marshall, Ingrid Bergman and Gail Patrick with Vernon Steel, Douglas Scott, Ann Todd, Lou Merrill, Kenneth Lawton, Clara Blandick, Clarence Straight, Barry Stall and Rolfe Sedan. Julie Bannon, Ynez Seabury and Lois Collier appear on the Lux commercials.

A-2812 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"The Young in Heart" 2-5-1940. Stars Don Ameche, Ida Lupino and May Robson with Helen Wood, Eric Snowden, Fred Shields, Lelah Tyler, Thomas Mills, Phillips Tead and Lou Merrill. Commercials feature Julie Bannon, Lois Collier, Nancy Leach and James Eagles.

A-2813 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Swing High, Swing Low" 2-26-1940. Stars Rudy Vallee and Virginia Bruce with Una Merkel, Roscoe Karns, Martha Wentworth, Corinne Miller, Bill Wright, Harold Daniels, Lou Merrill, Walter White, Tristram Coffin, Ted Bliss, Frank Coghlin Jr., Edward Marr, Josephine McLean, Frank Martin, Enrico Ricardi and Marlene Schools. Commercials by Lois Collier, James Eagles, Julie Bannon.

A-2814 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Trade Winds" 3-4-1940. Stars Errol Flynn, Joan Bennett, Mary Astor and Ralph Bellamy with Lou Merrill, John Lake, Wally Maher, Earle Ross, Rosemary DeCamp, Eddie Marr, Nancy Leach, Earl Gunn, Stanley Whitman and Lois Collier. Julie Bannon is featured in one commercial.

A-2815 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Mama Loves Papa" 4-8-1940. Stars Fibber McGee and Molly (Jim and Marion Jordan) with Lou Merrill, Celeste Rush, Arthur Q. Bryan, Emory Parnell, Linda Douglas, Warren Ashe, Hal K. Dawson, Rolfe Sedan, Abe Reynolds, Victor Rodman, Edward Marr, John Fee, James Eagles, Kay Sutton, Barbara Jean Wong, Duane Thompson, Wally Maher and Phillips Tead.

A-2816 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"The Under-Pup" 4-15-1940. Stars Gloria Jean, Nan Grey, Robert Cummings, C. Aubrey Smith, Beulah Bondi, Barbara Jean Wong, Shirley Mills, Ann Gillis, Duane Thompson, Edward Marr, Lou Merrill, Emory Parnell, Wally Maher, Sherry Ardell, Priscilla Lyon, Ann Howard, Sharon Sedan and Naomi Stevens. Program directed by George Wells.

A-2817 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Abe Lincoln in Illinois" 4-22-1940. Stars Raymond Massey, Fay Bainter and Otto Kruger with Calvin Thomas, Ted Bliss, Lurene Tuttle, Cy Kendall, Warren Ashe, Forrest Taylor, Claire Vadera, Earle Ross, Lou Merrill, Verna Felton, Harry Humphrey and Marcella Powers. Sherry Ardell and Julie Bannon appear in the commercials.

A-2818 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Vigil in the Night" 5-27-1940. Stars Olivia de Havilland, Helen Chandler and Herbert Marshall with
8/08

Frederic Worlock, Ethel Griffies, Ynez Seabury, Eric Snowden, Martha Wentworth, Claire Vadera, Lou Merrill, Helena Grant, Gloria Gordon, Lee Congden, Thomas Mills, Dick Ryan, Douglas Scott, Joe Pennario, Paul Hilton and Barbara Jean Wong. Julie Bannon, Betty Jean Hainey, Lois Collier, Jane Morgan, Duane Thompson and Kathleen Fitz appear in the commercials.

A-2819 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"After the Thin Man" 6-17-1940. Stars William Powell and Myrna Loy with Julie Bannon, Fred MacKaye, Edward Marr, Mary Lou Simpson, Warren Ashe, Wally Maher, Arthur Q. Bryan, Ynez Seabury, Lou Merrill, Abe Reynolds, Walter White, Tristram Coffin, Eric Snowden, Russell Fillmore and Fred Shields. Thomas Freebairn-Smith, Kathleen Fitz, Duane Thompson and Lee Millar (who does the dog barks) appear in the Lux commercials. Mary Belle Porter is the intermission guest.

A-2820 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Show Boat" 6-24-1940. Stars Irene Dunne, Alan Jones and Charles Winninger with Verna Felton, Hal K. Dawson, Ynez Seabury, Tristram Coffin, Gloria Holden, Earle Ross, Edward Marr, Barbara Jean Wong, Arthur Q. Bryan, James Eagles and Sarah Selby. Commercials by Julie Bannon (as Sally), Gloria Gordon and Sarah Selby.

A-2821 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Love is News" 9-16-1940. Stars Bob Hope, Madeleine Carroll and Ralph Bellamy with Lou Merrill, Ann Tobin, Eddie Waller, Stuart Buchannon, Charles Seel, Fred MacKaye, Barbara Moyer, Ray Montgomery, Noreen Gammill, Wally Maher, Earl Gunn, Sally Payne, James Eagles, Jack Bruskoff, Russell Williams and Harold Daniels. Lux commercials performed by Jo Campbell, Kathleen Fitz and Julie Bannon.

A-2822 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"The Westerner" 9-23-1940. Stars Gary Cooper, Walter Brennan and Doris Davenport with Lou Merrill, Fred Shields, Harry Humphrey, Donald Curtis, John Deering, Brooks Benedict, Jay Michael, Ted Arthurs, Hal K. Dawson, Forrest Taylor and Gloria Holden. Julie Bannon appears as Sally on a Lux commercial. Photographer's model Vera Gilmer appears in one of the commercials, also.

A-2823 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"A Little Bit of Heaven" 12-30-1940. Stars Gloria Jean and C. Aubrey Smith with Helen Parish, Frank Albertson, Lou Merrill, Arthur Q. Bryan, Verna Felton, Charles Seel, Alan Reed, Edwin Max, Tristram Coffin, Bobby Winkler, Stanley Farrar, Rolfe

Sedan, Warren Ashe and Duane Thompson. Commercial voices are Julie Bannon, Jane Morgan, Lois Collier and Celeste Rush.

A-2824 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"The Cowboy and the Lady" 1-20-1941. Stars Merle Oberon and Gene Autry with Eddie Waller, Lou Merrill, Gloria Blondell, Fred MacKaye, Verna Felton, Arthur Q. Bryan, Janet Waldo, Rolfe Sedan, Julie Bannon, Charles Seel, Joe DuVal and Stanley Farrar. Dick Reinhart is the whistler accompanying Gene Autry's singing. On the Lux commercials, Kathleen Fitz appears (as Libby Collins) along with Margaret McKay and Lois Collier.

A-2825 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Captain January" 1-27-1941. Stars Shirley Temple, Charles Winninger and Gene Lockart with Duane Thompson, Verna Felton, Griff Barnett, Bobby Winkler, Earle Ross, Lou Merrill, Charles Seel, and Bob Burlison. Sarah Selby, Lois Collier, Nancy Leach and Julie Bannon appear on the commercials.

A-2826 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"The Whole Town's Talking" 2-24-1941. Stars Fibber McGee and Molly (Jim and Marion Jordan) with Paul Guilfoyle, Arthur Q. Bryan, Dewey Robinson, Edwin Max, Rolfe Sedan, Lee Millar, Jeff Corey, Ann Tobin, Dick Ryan, Don Brodie, Ted Bliss and Gloria Blondell. Commercials voiced by Julie Bannon, Lois Collier, Jane Morgan, Duane Thompson and Fred Shields.

A-2827 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Virginia City" 5-26-1941. Stars Errol Flynn and Martha Scott with Warren Ashe, Frank McGlynn, Gale Gordon, Griff Barnett, Edwin Max, Lou Merrill, Ted Von Eltz, Forrest Taylor, Charles Seel, Stan Farrar, Edward Arnold Jr., James Eagles and Mildred Carroll. Commercials by Julie Bannon, Duane Thompson and Lois Collier.

A-2828 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Buck Privates" 10-13-1941. Stars Bud Abbott and Lou Costello with Benny Rubin, Lynne Carver, Gene O'Donnell, Fred MacKaye, Warren Ashe, Wally Maher, Frank Penny, Edwin Max, Howard McNear, Boyd Davis, Griff Barnett, Harry Lang, Eddie Marr and Ann Tobin. Commercial performers are Jo Campbell, Sally Mueller and Sally Bannon.

A-2829 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Her First Beau" 10-27-1941. Stars Jane Withers and Jackie Cooper with Edith Fellows, Duane Thompson, Sidney Miller, Charles Peck, Virginia Sale, Boyd Davis, Betty Jean Hailey, Charles Seel,

Betty Ventura, Ann Tobin and Herb Vigran. Commercials delivered by Lois Collier, Virginia Gordon, Julie Bannon and Stanley Farrar.

A-2830 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"The Bride Came C.O.D." 12-29-1941. Stars Bob Hope and Hedy Lamarr with Gene O'Donnell, Wally Maher, Ferdinand Munier, Eddie Marr, Warren Ashe, Torey Carleton, Edwin Max, Griff Barnett and Felix Vallee. Kathleen Kitz appears on a Lux commercial.

A-2831 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Here Comes Mr. Jordan" 1-26-1942. Stars Cary Grant, Claude Rains, Evelyn Keyes and James Gleason with Howard McNear, Bernard Zaneville, Torey Carleton, Thomas Mills, Edward Marr, Charles Seel, Warren Ashe and Eugene Forsyth. Commercials by Kathleen Fitz, Jane Morgan, Betty Jean Hailey, Julie Bannon and Bill Felton.

A-2832 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Northwest Mounted Police" 4-13-1942. Stars Gary Cooper, Preston Foster and Paulette Goddard with Bea Benaderet, Fred MacKaye, Cy Kendall, Pedro deCordoba, Vernon Steele, Harold Huber, Verna Felton, Dix Davis, Noreen Gammill, Leo Cleary, Victor Rodman, Tyler McVey, Jack Mather, Warren Ashe, Howard McNear, Stanley Farrar and Bruce Payne. Commercials by Duane Thompson, Jeanne Darrell and Paul Norby (sound effects assistant).

A-2833 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Test Pilot" 5-25-1942. Stars Robert Taylor, Rita Hayworth and Robert Preston with Cy Kendall, Fred MacKaye, Bea Benaderet, Verna Felton, Charles Seel, Howard McNear, Tris Coffin, Tudor Williams, Warren Ashe and Bobby Larson. Sandra Coles and Lois Collier appear in the commercials.

A-2834 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Ball of Fire" 6-1-1942. Stars Barbara Stanwyck and Fred MacMurray with Felix Vallee, Griff Barnett, Leo Cleary, Norman Field, Bruce Payne, Warren Ashe, Verna Felton, Edwin Max, Frank Penny, Arthur Q. Bryan, Charlie Peck, Tyler McVey and Lynne Martin. Doris Singleton (as the voice of Madeleine Carroll), Janet Russell, Janet Waldo and Fred MacKaye appear in the commercials.

A-2835 LUX RADIO THEATRE

"Arise, My Love" 6-8-1942. Stars Loretta Young and Ray Milland with Cy Kendall, Tris Coffin, John Kennedy (future announcer on the show), Howard McNear, Fred MacKaye, Jose Perez, Leo Cleary, Tony Martelli, Charles Seel, Jack Mather and Torey Carleton. Commercial performers are Janet Waldo, Janet Russell, Art Gillmore and Lois Collier.

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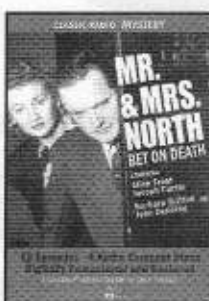


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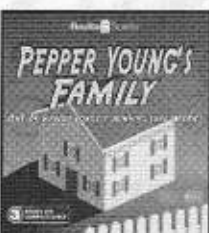
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The Night
Charlie McCarthy
Was Kidnapped



spendvac

by FRANK BRESEE



During the late 1930s Edgar Bergen with his dummy Charlie McCarthy was an important radio star. His program, the Sunday night *Chase and Sanborn Hour* was at the top, and featured in the top ten of all radio shows. The program also featured Don Ameche, Dorothy Lamour and W.C. Fields.

The program originated at the new NBC studios at Sunset and Vine in Hollywood, but for a few weeks in 1938 Bergen moved to New York for a few broadcasts, several personal appearances and a holiday.

The New York World-Telegram, New York's leading newspaper, assigned its amusement editor to cover Bergen and to do an in-depth story about his career. The amusement editor, Alton Cook, was very thorough in his background research, and found out, quite by accident, that there was only one Charlie McCarthy dummy. He also learned that Charlie cost \$125 to make and was not insured.

Therefore, if he pulled a publicity stunt he couldn't be prosecuted for grand larceny or become involved with an insurance company in the event of a problem.

Mr. Cook also found out that while Bergen was away from his hotel, Charlie was "put to bed" in a special designed suitcase and kept in a closet in his hotel room.

While Bergen was in New York he stayed at the prestigious Waldorf-Astoria hotel, and the enterprising Mr. Cook found out Bergen's room number.

The next step was to learn Bergen's schedule for the evening in order to pull off the heist.

The enterprising Mr. Cook then registered as E. Bergen at the Belmont Plaza hotel, which is across the street from the Waldorf-Astoria.

The offender who actually snatched the world famous dummy was Frank Farrell, columnist for *The New York World-Telegram*, who worked for Alton Cook. Farrell had been a newspaperman for four years, and feeling that he wanted to make a quick name for himself was happy to go along with the spectacular stunt.

About eight o'clock in the evening Farrell had the Belmont hotel telephone place a call to the Waldorf. Of course, the operator

at the Belmont referred to the caller as Mr. Bergen.

The Waldorf switchboard operator was very respectful, while Farrell, posing as Bergen, explained to the operator that he was across the street at the Belmont Plaza and that some friends had prevailed upon him to do an impromptu bit with Charlie. Would the clerk be so kind as to enter his room, locate Charlie in his special suitcase and have him ready for pickup by the Belmont Plaza bellhop? Of course, the clerk would be most happy to oblige.

Here's what happened next, in Farrell's own words:

"I met the bellhop in front of the Belmont Plaza as he crossed the street from the Waldorf, carrying the million-dollar dummy in his suitcase. I took the case from him, told him I was playing a joke on Edgar Bergen and I would get his picture in the papers and earn him an extra ten dollars if he would help me, provided of course, he played dumb when questioned by the police.

"The bellhop was game. We got into a cab and I told the driver to head for the west side, pick a dark, deserted street, and douse his lights. I then let the bellhop out of the cab, bound and gagged.

"The cab driver was also willing to go alone when I explained it was 'just a gag' and promised him an extra ten bucks for his trouble.

"A few minutes later the bellhop was picked up by the police. He played his part to perfection—and even when they located Bergen that evening he swore over and over again that he had no knowledge of the abduction."


Nonetheless, Bergen became almost hysterical at the thought of losing Charlie—after all, he was one of a kind, and that piece of carved wood was earning him over a half million dollars a year.

In the meantime, Farrell had taken Char-

lie—suitcase and all—to an office he shared. He planned to keep Charlie for a few days, taking pictures of him bound and gagged, with a ransom demand.

The whole thing unraveled when one of the other newspapermen found out about the "kidnapping" and exposed it.

In an interview I did with Mr. Bergen in 1974, he revealed to me, "If I wasn't such a tightwad I would have written a check for \$10,000 for all the free publicity. It really put Charlie and me on the map."♣



MEETING SCHEDULE

2008

THE 2008 SPERDVAC

MONTHLY MEETING

SCHEDULE

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September 13
South Pasadena Community Room

October 11
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November 8
TO BE ANNOUNCED

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SPERDVAC

Information Please

and Nigel Bruce. The price was \$2000. I then said, why buy the material, I had it and could give it to SPERDVAC at no charge. I was ignored and the BOD voted to spend the \$2000. Because of political reasons, the acquisitions chairman had to request the return of the \$2000 as the person that offered the shows did not send them as agreed. I have not made my offer again and I will not.

"Over the years, I have given SPERDVAC some programs, but I am accused of using my election to the SPERDVAC board of directors to acquire programs from the storage facility to sell. This is absolutely untrue and those that are continuing to spread this tale are 'Liars'."

Here are some more interesting websites you may enjoy visiting.

<http://www.jjonz.us/RadioLogs/> This one is JJ's Newspaper Radio Logs. It contains over 45,000 newspaper radio logs compiled from the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Chicago Daily Tribune*, and *Los Angeles Times*, spanning the years from 1930 through 1960.

<http://www.wrisley.com/otr.htm> This is Betsy W's Old Time Radio page in which she spotlights the career of a different old time radio actor which changes every two weeks. There is also a contest in which the lucky winner receives a CD for being the first with the correct answer.

<http://www.radiooutofthepast.org/> There are many interesting things to listen to on this site and also it is of particular interest to the sight-impaired old-time radio fan.

A big thank you to those who offered to help put the Archives Catalog into electronic form. The project is now completed, thanks to the efforts of Fred Hillman, Randy Sammons, Warren Beaulieu, Alex Guilbert, and

especially to Roger Rittner. All that remains to be done is to proofread it and format it. Hopefully we might see it on our website someday soon.

Another big thank you to our editor Patrick Lucanio, who with little notice, has managed to fill "my" space when circumstances required.

And thank you to all who have over the years sent in information, questions, comments, and compliments.

I believe that Information Please has outlived its usefulness in this modern world of computers with the world's information at our fingertips. If you have a question about old-time radio, you need only wait a day, not a month or two, for your answers, by subscribing to the Old Time Radio Digest, delivered to your inbox daily. And it's FREE! To subscribe, send an email to old.time.radio-request@oldradio.net and write SUBSCRIBE in the subject line or see <http://lists.oldradio.net/>

So after some 28 years it's time to say goodbye and spaceman's luck!♦

After 28 years at the keyboard Barbara has decided to move on, leaving one giant hole to fill in Radiogram. Ol' ed wishes to thank Barbara for not just filling space so ol' ed can sleep better, but to thank her for submitting interesting commentaries about the world of OTR, especially her round-up of radio related happenings across the country. Barbara's columns have always been, as the title indicates, informative, and Radiogram will be less complete without her comprehensive coverage of all the OTR news that's fit to print. Thanks, Barbara, for 28 years, and now relax. There's no deadline staring you down.

In The Mail

Board Members Express Thanks

We want to thank the SPERDVAC members who took the time to vote for us in the recent recall election. Your support is greatly appreciated and we interpret the landslide victory for recall opponents as support for our work on SPERDVAC's behalf.

It is a shame that about \$800 was spent on this recall election (we do not yet know the exact figure). That money could have been more wisely spent adding additional programs to our libraries.

We are disappointed there is yet another sour grapes attack upon us in the Information, Please column. While we could fill the *Radiogram* columns with our responses, we feel strongly that the members will benefit more if we devote our time and energy to the work of preserving radio broadcast recordings.

That's exactly what we are doing. Enjoy the shows added this month to our Archives Library. And look for another large dose of OTR next month, too.

Bob Steinmetz
Dan Haelele
Dave Struthers
Ken Greenwald



McGee's Closet is a free service to our members and honorary members. Send your wants in OTR-related material to spervac.org (the preferred method) or write to McGee's Closet, P.O. Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-0669. Please specify desired taping format (cassette, open reel, recordable CD, or DAT). Also, please include your membership number with your advertisement.

Nostalgia Convention

outside the hotel on Thursday evening. The film showing will be *It Came From Outer Space*, the 1953 3-D classic with weekend guest Kathleen Hughes introducing the film. Attendees are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or park their vehicle and tune to a specific FM radio station.

A charity auction will be held Friday evening. Money raised will benefit the Johns Hopkins Comprehensive Cancer Center. Many of the items available for bidding have been donated by Hollywood celebrities. Anyone wanting to donate items can send them to MANC, P.O. Box 189, Delta, PA 17314. Tax-deductible receipts will be mailed out to all donors.

A dinner banquet with live stage performances will begin Saturday evening a 6. Tickets for the dinner banquet are sold at the door, but sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Among the performances is an old-time radio creation of *Suspense*, with Patty McCormack reprising her 1956 radio debut.

The Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention is open to the general public, but visitors have come from as far north as Canada, as far south as Florida, and as far west as California. Held at The Clarion Hotel in Aberdeen, Maryland, Exit 85 off I-95. For more information, phone 443-286-6821 or visit the website www.midatlanticnostalgiaconvention.com

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