

SPERDVAC RADIOGRAM

Have you registered yet for the convention? The prices increase at the door. Registration form enclosed.

Vol. 21, No. 10 The Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy October 1995

Steve Allen, Stan Freberg guests at SPERDVAC convention

SPERDVAC's 1995 Old-Time Radio convention will feature entertainer Steve Allen and satirist Stan Freberg.

Steve Allen will host SPERDVAC's evening banquet Saturday, Nov. 4. He will present one of his popular comedy monologues, including a visit to the piano and conversations with audience members.

The Saturday night show will also feature a re-creation of **The Alan Young Show** with Mr. Young and Jean Gillespie performing the roles they had on the original broadcast. Actors Parley Baer and Tyler McVey will also appear in the show.

Veteran actor Les Tremayne will perform Milton Geiger's one-man story "Strike the Tent" during the Saturday evening presentation.

Esther Geddes McVey will appear at the keyboard during Tremayne's performance.

Stan Freberg returns to SPERDVAC's microphone Sunday,

Nov. 5 during our brunch. Following the 9 a.m. meal, Freberg will entertain the SPERDVAC audience with his trademark satire and memories of his radio career.

Fans of the CBS series **Escape** will be treated to a rare double feature when SPERDVAC opens its convention Friday, Nov. 3. Following the opening of registration at 4 p.m., the amateur

group "Thirty Minutes to Curtain" will perform the popular "Three Skeleton Key" at 4:30. During the Friday evening banquet, Parley Baer

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Jim Backus, Jean Gillespie and Alan Young on the **Alan Young Show** in 1947.

SPERDVAC purchases storage facility

A long-running goal was achieved Sept. 21 when escrow closed on a building SPERDVAC purchased to store our radio memorabilia collection.

SPERDVAC's Board of Directors voted in August to make a bid on a property in Hawthorne, Calif. The BOD authorized Bruce Miller to bid \$135,000 for a building with 1500 square feet of office and storage space.

Working with SPERDVAC

President Don McCroskey and treasurer Chester Allen, Miller orchestrated the purchase of a facility which will house a collection of transcription discs, scripts, sound effects equipment and other relics from early radio.

Some repairs are being made in the building. Before SPERDVAC moves its material, shelving units suitable for safe storage of transcriptions must be built. Member Jerry Williams has volunteered to

travel from his Northern California home to assist with the work.

SPERDVAC's goal is to move all of its material into the new facility by Dec. 31. To achieve that goal, SPERDVAC needs volunteers to help pack and move our possessions. The work will likely be done over several weekends. Members able to assist us with this important project are invited to call Richard Glasband at (310) 692-3999.

MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

Maybe it's getting tiresome to read our regular pleas for volunteers. But SPERDVAC has NO paid employees and operates solely through the efforts of a small group of volunteers. As explained on page one, we will soon need help from members able to assist when we move material to our new storage facility. Nobody likes moving, but if we have several members

volunteer a few hours during one of the next few weekends, we can accomplish that goal much quicker, and concentrate more of our efforts on other membership services. Will you help?

Jerry Williams has been preparing tapes for SPERDVAC's Video Library. If you've never been able to attend a SPERDVAC meeting, you can see what it's like via video! To

obtain a list of available meeting and convention tapes, send Jerry a SASE at 381 Table Mountain, Oroville, CA 95965.

At press deadline we learned that John M. Kennedy will join us at the convention to discuss **Lux Radio Theatre**. Barbara Fuller will perform in the **Alan Young Show** recreation.

The California Artists' Radio Theatre is presenting "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"

Oct. 11 and 14 at the Radisson Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. Performances are at 1:30 p.m., with an additional 11 a.m. production on Oct. 14. The show stars David Warner and William Windom with Elliott Reid, Jeanette Nolan and Parley Baer. Tickets prices are reduced for SPERDVAC members. For reservations, call (213) 683-3422.



SPERDVAC FRIENDS

Bob & Ginnie Newhart

(In memory of Bill Quinn)

Walter Bunker

(In memory of Garry Moore & Pat Buttram)

Millie Morse

(In memory of Carlton E. Morse)

June Foray

(In memory of Hobart Donovan)

Naomi Lewis

(In memory of Dick Mack)

Dorothy Geiger

(In memory of Milton Geiger)

Shepard Menken

(In memory of Elliott Lewis & Jesse Goldstein)

Tippy Conrad

(In memory of William Conrad)

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(In memory of Nora Marlowe & James McCallion)

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(In memory of Garry Moore & Jimmy Durante)

Betty Lackow

(Matching fund in memory of Irene Tedrow)

Parley Baer

(In memory of William Conrad, Howard McNear & Frank Thomas Sr.)

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(In memory of Brace Beemer)

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(In memory of Margery Wright Scott)

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(In memory of Jimmy Lyons & Vincent Pelletier)

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Gil Stratton

Gary Floyd

Forest Owen

John Wrisley

Dick Richardson

Walter Staves

Doris Singleton

Garry Papers

Russell J. Folsom

Bob LeMond

SPERDVAC is very grateful to these individuals who have contributed \$50 or more to our organization during the past twelve months. Tax-deductible donations, payable to SPERDVAC, should be mailed to Carolyn Rawski. (See SPERDVAC Directory.)

Tune in yesteryear

Maplewood Farm has a nostalgic atmosphere — and OTR every night

by *Walter J. Beaupre*

When an old friend who had spent most of his career in radio and TV sent me a brief newspaper account of a country inn which featured nightly broadcasts of shows from the 30s and 40s, I was intrigued. Fortunately the inn is in Hillsborough, New Hampshire, just a “core’s throw”

from where my wife and I planned to pick MacIntosh apples in September. I contacted a Hillsborough native (she was my favorite teacher in junior high school 55 years ago) and asked her to do some “scouting” for me. She sent me brochures of the inn at Maplewood Farm which served to arouse my curiosity even further.

So on a glorious mid-September day — which also was my wife Kathryn’s birthday — we took to the hills, picked more apples than we could possibly eat in this millennium, then drove on to Hillsborough. Maplewood Farm is situated on one of those curvy country roads which requires complete sobriety and total concentration to maneuver. We passed some very prosperous looking farms en route until we saw an imposing white “manse” at the top of the next hill. It looked like the picture in the brochure. We had arrived!

The man of the house, Jayme Simoes, met us at the front door, and in no time we had toted luggage to our suite on the second floor. The main bedroom/sitting room was sun-drenched and sported an imposing queen-sized bed, collectibles furniture, and many subtle touches which set the rooms acres apart from the typical hotel/motel decor. I spotted a small pair of steel-rimmed reading glasses on the massive highboy, school books held together with a leather strap on the desk, and a 1948 Farnsworth table model radio on a wrought iron night stand next to the bed. No TV set!

A second bedroom led Pullman style to a bath in the back. Our private quarters had obviously been decorated with both skill and ingenuity as well as taste. However, one must be candid. The ancient floor boards were warped and painted a deep blue, posing a constant visual hazard for Kathryn. Nor is the inn “accessible to the handicapped” unless one chooses a room on the

Continued on page 7



Jayme Simoes tunes in OTR programs nightly on his 1936 Philco. Visitors to his Maplewood Farm Inn are treated to nostalgia and old radio broadcasts.

Black-oriented programs**Radio Smithsonian seeks recordings for special series**

Radio Smithsonian is planning a 13-part radio series reviewing African-American contributions to American radio. Lou Rawls will host **Black Radio: Telling It Like It Was**, which Public Radio International will distribute beginning in January.

"The series will explore the role of radio during the great migration of Blacks from the South, trail-blazing Black disc jockeys and stations, Black radio during the Civil Rights movement, religious broadcasting to the African-American community, and the state of Black radio today in relationship to its history," producer Jacquie Gales Webb said.

The Smithsonian is seeking collectors with recordings of programs and air personalities which they might use as part of the series. The material they are seeking includes:

1. Oscar Brown's **The New Negro Front**, aired in Chicago in the 1950s.
2. Gatemouth Moore from Birmingham, AL, 1952.
3. Al Bell (Isbell), Little Rock, AR 1954-57.
4. Radio coverage of the Martin Luther King assassination, including the aftermath.
5. WBBQ, Augusta coverage of the 1968 riots.
6. James Brown's public service announcements to calm citizens aired on WLIB, WOL and WOOK.
7. Georgie Woods airchecks, especially those related to the Civil Rights movement.
8. **The Negro Hour** and **The Missing Persons Program** with Jack Cooper from Chicago.
9. Franklin Brown on **Romance of Helen Trent** and **Our Gal Sunday**.
10. Broadcasts featuring Paul Robeson, including his portrayal of an African Chief on **Shell Chateau**.
11. **King Biscuit Flour Hour** or **King Biscuit Time**, KWEN, West Memphis circa late 40s-early 50s.
12. Black-oriented national commercials for cosmetics, cigarettes, beer and food.

Individuals with access to this material should contact Ms. Webb at:

Radio Smithsonian
American History Building
12th and Constitution Ave., Room BB40, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20560.

Her office phone number is (202) 357-4627, ext. 882.

SPERDVAC Directory

All articles and artwork © 1995 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 91409-7177. (310) 947-9800.

MEMBERSHIP AND RADIOGRAM SUBSCRIPTIONS: Carrolyn Rawski, P. O. Box 2236, Chino Valley, AZ 86323-2236.

RADIOGRAM EDITOR: Dan Haefele, 13720 Jefferson Ave., Hawthorne, CA 90250-7210 (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: Peggy DeShazo, 1804 N. 39th St., San Diego, CA 92105

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

GENERAL LIBRARY - Open reels 1-500:

CLOSED BY EARTHQUAKE

GENERAL LIBRARY - Open reels 501 - 1500: Robert Meeker, 2861 Main Way Dr., Rossmoor, CA 90720

GENERAL LIBRARY - Open reels 1501+: Richard Novak, P. O. Box 33048, Riverside, CA 92519-0048

ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Cassettes 1-500: Vahan Ouzoonian, 1565 E. Highland Ave., Redlands, CA 92374

ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Cassettes 501-1000: **CLOSED**

ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Cassettes 1001-1483: Dan Lippiatt, P. O. Box 3514, Simi Valley, CA 93093-3514

ARCHIVES LIBRARY - Cassettes 1484+: 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 Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278-5219.

PRINTED MATERIALS LIBRARY: Tom Brown, 1402 S. Kahuna Dr., Spokane, WA 99212.

VIDEO LIBRARY: Jerry Williams, 381 Table Mountain, Oroville, CA 95965.

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: Bob Herman, 1329 Garrison Ave., Port Orchard, WA 98366-3321 (Blind 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.

CATALOGS: Ted Theodore, 1175 Brockton St., El Cajon, CA 92020-1706.

Radio Hall of Fame induction ceremonies air Oct. 29

Listeners across the nation will be able to hear the Radio Hall of Fame induction ceremonies Oct. 29. The two hour program will air live from Chicago, 7-9 pm Central Time.

Broadcast pioneers being honored include satirist/humorist Stan Freberg and long-time baseball announcer Jack Buck. The network newscast **CBS World News Roundup** will also be inducted.

Additionally, honors will go to Bob Steele, morning personality at WTIC, Hartford, CT and Herb Kent, the radio executive credited for aiding the careers of Paul Harvey, Rush Limbaugh and Dr. Dean Edell.

The Radio Hall of Fame will honor five African-American broadcast pioneers. They include Jesse B. Blayton, Sr., owner of the

nation's first black-owned radio station (WERD, Atlanta) and Yvonne Daniels, the sultry voice of the "smooth jazz" format.

Herb Kent, pioneer African-American DJ in Chicago, Hal Jackson, radio personality at WBLS, New York and Andrew Carter, pioneer broadcaster at KPRS and KPRT, Kansas City, MO will be honored during the ceremonies.

Tom Snyder will host the broadcast with Tom Joyner and Susan Stamberg. Don Pardo will serve as the program's announcer.

Program participants will include producer/director Himan Brown, Shirley Bell Cole (star of **Little Orphan Annie**), writer/producer Norman Corwin, boxing announcer Don Dunphy, Paul

Harvey, Casey Kasem, Larry King, Rush Limbaugh, J. P. McCarthy, Gary Owens, Wally Phillips, Chuck Schaden, Les Tremayne and broadcast legend Dr. Frank Stanton.

At a luncheon held Oct. 28 in Chicago, the Radio Hall of Fame will induct the pioneer programs **One Man's Family**, **Your Hit Parade** and **Bob and Ray** plus performers Eve Arden, Ralph Edwards and Les Tremayne.

The program will include Norman Corwin's re-creation of his comedy in rhyme, "The Undecided Molecule."

The Radio Hall of Fame was founded in 1988 by the Emerson Radio Corp. and was assumed by The Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago in 1991.



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, open reel or DAT).

WANTED: Any Xerox pictures, reprints or actual pictures of CBS Radio Studio One in New York. Contact: Randy George, 6020 E. 32nd St., Tulsa, OK 74135; (918) 627-5427.

WANTED: To buy: 7" reel-to-reel tape recorder in good operating condition. Contact: William Rice, 24532 Highpine Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630.

WANTED: A good condition copy of the book *Remember Radio* by Ron Lackmann. Will pay going rate. Contact: Joseph Culp, (310) 792-2430.

FOR SALE: 7" Wollensak reel-to-reel tape recorder, model T-1500. Tape reels missing, otherwise complete. Includes microphone, cord and owner's manual. Tube-type recorder, as-is S/B serviced. \$75 or best offer plus shipping. Contact: Harold Holmes, 6411 East Lake Dr., San Diego, CA 92119.

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Two week radio festival planned in NYC

The Museum of Television and Radio will stage a two week festival to celebrate radio's 75th anniversary. Their first annual salute to radio will run Oct. 23 to Nov. 3 in New York City.

Seminars planned include one on radio talk shows set for Oct. 24. The panelists will be Randall Bloomquist, News/Talk editor for *Radio & Records*; Barry Farber, program host; Michael Harrison, editor and publisher of *Talkers*; Andy Kohut, director of the Times Mirror Center for the People and the Press; Ed McLaughlin, Chairman/CEO of EFM Media Management, Inc. and Dr. Laura Schlessinger, program host.

Also on Oct. 24, the museum will present a seminar for Rush Limbaugh to discuss his career and the reasons for his success.

"Talk Radio and Politics" will be the topic for a seminar set for Oct. 25. Scheduled panelists are Charlie Brennan, program host at KMOX; Mario Cuomo, host at SW Networks; Lynn Samuels, host at WABC; Jay Severin, host WOR and Cliff Zukin, professor at the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

An additional talk-oriented seminar is planned for the evening of Oct. 26.

"Talk Radio's Other Voices" will feature Imhotep Gary Byrd, host at WLIB; Michael Delli Carpini, associate professor of political science at Barnard College; Ken Hamblin, host for Entertainment Radio Networks; Cathy Hughes, owner/host at WOL; Larry Josephson, host of "Bridges" and Ray Saurez, host of "Talk of the Nation" on National Public Radio.

Casey Kasem will discuss his work on local Top 40 radio in Cleveland and Los Angeles, plus his syndicated "American Top 40" and "Casey's Top 40." His appearance begins at 6 p.m. Oct. 30.

Former cast members of one of American radio's top children's show will gather Oct. 31 for "Let's Pretend: A Reunion." Arthur Anderson, performer on the program and author of *Let's Pretend: A History of Radio's Best Loved Children's Show* will be one of the panelists. Others there to discuss the series will be Daisy Aldan, Vivian Block, Donald Buka, Gwen Davies, Anne Francis, Jack Grimes, Lamont Johnson, Rita Lloyd, Rosemary Rice, Larry Robinson, Sybil Trent, Dick Van Patten, Miriam Wolfe and Anne Meara.

"Hot Formats in Contemporary

Radio" is planned for Nov. 1. The radio formats known as Urban Classics, Modern Rock, Adult Alternative and Seventies Rock Oldies will be examined. Participants scheduled are Craig Ashwood, program director at WARW-FM; Vinny Brown, program director at WRKS-FM; Tom Calderone, consultant for Jacobs Media and host of "Modern Rock Live"; David Dye, host of "World Cafe" on Public Radio International and Russ Mottla, modern rock programmer.

The festival's concluding seminar is "Legends of New York Top 40 AM Radio," set for Nov. 2. New York's rock 'n roll radio "wars" will be examined when panelists discuss the WABC All-Americans vs. WMCA Good Guys. Air personalities participating will include Dean Anthony of WHLI, Ed Baer from WHUD-FM, Harry Harrison of WCBS-FM, Jocko Henderson, formerly of WADO, Dan Ingram from WCBS-FM, Hal Jackson and Chuck Leonard of WBLS-FM plus Gary Stevens, formerly at WMCA.

The Museum of Television and Radio is located at 25 West 52nd Street, New York City, 10019-6101. The festival events hotline is (212) 621-6709.

Convention features Allen, Freberg conclusion

and Lawrence Dobkin will star in a re-creation of "One-Eighth Apache," one of the **Escape** broadcasts with no known available recording. Herb Ellis will direct the performance.

Patrollers Ed Kemmer and Norman Jolley will star in a Saturday afternoon re-creation of **Space Patrol**. Lou Huston has written a script for the occasion. He will join us for the show, as will announcers Dick Tufeld and Jack Narz plus host Tom Hatten.

Sound effects artists Bob Mott and Ray Erlenborn will assist us during the program re-creations.

SPERDVAC convention chair Larry Gassman is arranging Saturday workshops on the **Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show**, **Lux Radio Theatre**, radio announcers and on the radio work of Arch Oboler. The Oboler panel will

include Tommy Cook, plus recorded memories from True Boardman, who will be unable to attend the convention. Leonard Maltin of "Entertainment Tonight" will host the **Lux Radio Theatre** panel. Larry Gassman invites others who were connected with any of these programs to join us either in person or through recorded interviews. He is available via the SPERDVAC phone line, (310) 947-9800.

The SPERDVAC convention runs Nov. 3, 4 and 5 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5985 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles. There is free shuttle service available from Los Angeles International Airport to the hotel.

The "Social Time" on Friday and Saturday nights is 5:30 to 7 p.m. The banquets each evening will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude by 10:30. Saturday's

daytime activities will run from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the Sunday brunch will conclude by 11:30 a.m.

The complete convention package for SPERDVAC members and their guests is \$110. The rate for non-members not accompanied by SPERDVAC members is \$125.

The price increases to \$145 at the door. For those unable to attend the entire convention, SPERDVAC has established rates for portions of the convention. They are specified on the registration form enclosed with this edition of the *Radiogram*.

Because of the popularity of our guests and re-creations, we highly recommend advance reservations. SPERDVAC cannot guarantee seating availability for those who do not purchase tickets prior to the convention.

Tune in yesteryear at Maplewood Farm Inn *continued*

ground floor. The stairs are steep!

The grounds are straight out of illustrations from Currier & Ives prints: giant maple trees, split rail fences, a rusty old wagon wheel, pasture land within a few hundred feet of the house complete with lowing cattle sporting tinkling cowbells. It should be noted that when the wind is right, the atmosphere is pleasantly — but unmistakably — country.

Our genial host, now 27, says his interest in old-time radio began at age 13. After Saturday afternoon classes at the Chicago Art Institute he came home to listen to his grandmother's kitchen radio. Not a fan of rock 'n roll, he discovered a local Chicago program which featured the likes of **Duffy's Tavern** and **The Great Gildersleeve**. Fred Allen soon became a favorite, and Jayme (his name rhymes with chime) credits Allen's book *Much Ado About Me* with luring him to study at Boston University's School of Communications where he earned a degree in public relations and mass communication. He met his future wife Laura at B.U. After graduation Jayme worked in public relations for a time, but both he and Laura had their hearts set on a bed and breakfast establishment. They ruled out Laura's native haunts on tony Martha's Vineyard as being prohibitively expensive. In October of 1992 — soon after their marriage — they discovered Maplewood Farm, and in January 1993 they bought the house with 14 acres.



The house at Maplewood Farm was built in 1820. There are accommodations for up to 13 guests.

The land was originally settled by Fisher Gay of Attleboro, Mass. in 1793. He was a tanner by trade and was given the land to establish a tannery on the 200 acres. When Gay married in 1794 he built a home where the current house stands. A tavern was set up in what is now the gift shop. The main part of the present house wasn't built until 1820. Generations of Gays owned and worked Maplewood Farm until the 1940s. Besides serving as a tavern, Maplewood Farm was also a boarding house and the site of a famous apple orchard. Maple syrup was also a home industry. A 1928 book written by Lisabel Gay about Maplewood Farm was called *Legends of Center Folk*. Jayme and Laura are only the fifth owners in more than 200 years.

Laura Simoes is also a B. U. graduate in public relations, but her favorite occupation is cooking. Her breakfasts at the inn are justifiably famous.

By last April Jayme had realized his other dream: to broadcast old-time radio shows every evening for guests at the inn. A local electronics whiz, Chris Sieg, custom-built a broadcast transmitter made of copper and smaller than a box of kitchen matches. It plugs into Jayme's stereo rig and, in turn, activates antenna wires strung throughout the basement. Thus the taped programs reach each individual radio at 1000 on the dial.

Guests can gather in the parlor for communal listening between 8 and 10 p.m. or listen privately in their rooms. I must confess that I choose to get into bed, turn out the lights, and reach over to turn on the radio. In my honor Jayme had programmed some early **Amos 'n Andy** shows. The reproduction was that "soft" AM sound which almost eliminates the needle scratch and tape hiss I get at home on my state-of-the-art stereo.

Conclusion on page 8

Tune in yesteryear at Maplewood Farm Inn *conclusion*

Jayne and Laura have created the perfect atmosphere for true nostalgia buffs.

The collection of available radio shows at Maplewood Farm is not particularly exotic. Jayme has about a thousand shows: lots of Fred Allen, Jack Benny, **Lux Radio Theatre**, **Suspense**, **Lights Out**, **Inner Sanctum**, **The Shadow**, **Orphan Annie**, **Captain Midnight** — everybody's favorites.

His published schedule for the upcoming months will give an idea of his collection:

November: Great Children's Shows.
December: Top 20 Holiday Radio Shows.

January: Sherlock Holmes Meets The Shadow.

February: Love in Bloom — but NOT J.B.

March: I Love a Mystery.

In the gift shop Jayme has a good selection of commercially available programs on cassettes. He favors suppliers such as Metacom in Minnesota and Audiophile in Chicago. He also has old radios for sale. I think some of these come from Chris Sieg's collection of more than 150 in nearby Hillsboro. (Sieg's regular business is building specialized computers, but his hobby is collecting vintage radios.)

Jayne has the heart of his radio collection in the front parlor. He collects mostly Philcos.

The inn at Maplewood Farm accommodates a maximum of 13 guests at any one time. Hillsboro Center is less than a mile up the road from the inn and is a mecca for antique auction fans.

I asked our host what sort of person stays at the inn. After all, it is — as we say in New Hampshire — “out in the sticks.” His guests, he said, are people like us who love old-

time radio. They are also the couple we met at breakfast who were visiting old friends in the area. Still others are antique buffs, consultants to the nearby electronics plant, cross-country skiers, salesmen who are sick to death of the Motel 6/Holiday Inn circuit. I suspect that many guests don't even bother to turn on the radio. Too bad — but that is their privilege.

Discreetly hidden behind the center panels under the radio collection in the parlor is a TV and a VCR for those who must watch “The Young and the Restless” or “Monday Night Football.” No one gets the least upset if guests completely ignore the radio in their room.

Jayne and Laura are the ideal inn keepers: friendly, but only in the quiet way that makes one feel much more at home. We were given a room key when we arrived, but we felt almost guilty closing the door — much less locking it.

On the desk in our bed/sitting room was a handsome book. The pages were blank except for those paragraphs written by guests who

had shared the space before us. Some people were back for a third or fourth visit and loved the place. Children were awed with the early morning serenade by the cows. Still others marveled at the gourmet breakfasts. I wrote something to the effect that I saw a bright future for these two most talented youngsters. (As soon as we got home my wife Kathryn promptly recommended it highly to friends who have two small children.)

What a pleasure it was to share a home where the lovable **Amos 'n Andy** and our mutual friends in Allen's Alley could be openly and enthusiastically celebrated as superb works of American artistry without having to be concerned about what may be “politically correct” this week.

I think we endanger our birthright when we let others dictate what we should or should not revere. If you've lost faith in your ability to recognize the validity of personal preferences, you'd better make a pilgrimage to the inn at Maplewood Farm — and find it again.



The author, his wife Kathryn and Barbara Murphy, the author's favorite school teacher 55 years ago. They tuned in a Philco Transitone in the parlor.



At NBC, Chicago about 1937 are Arthur and Ruth Peterson, left, with their actor son Arthur Jr. in the center with his wife, actress Norma Ransom. The man at right is Norma's radio actor brother, Glenn Ransom. Next month's *Radiogram* will feature details of Glenn Ransom's radio career.

PHOTO COURTESY GLENN RANSOM

Bob Easton guests Oct. 14

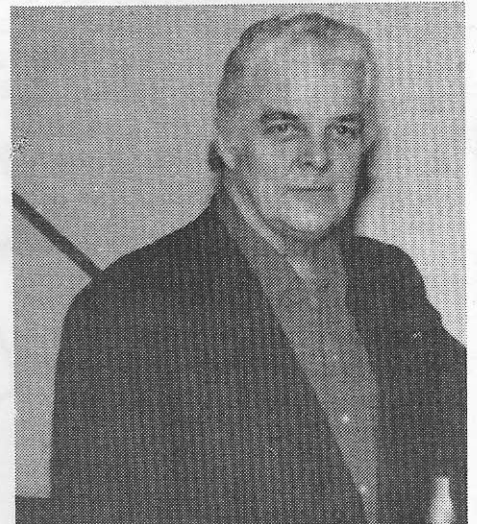
Dialect expert Bob Easton will guest at SPERDVAC's Oct. 14 meeting. The meeting begins at 12 noon at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, 15520 Sherman Way, Van Nuys.

Easton was a panelist on **Quiz Kids** and later appeared as an actor on network radio programs, including **The Halls of Ivy** and **Lady Esther Screen Guild Theatre**.

His also appeared on **A Date**

With Judy, Our Miss Brooks, Family Theatre and **Honest Harold**. He portrayed characters with Texas accents on such programs as **Cisco Kid**. On **Gunsmoke** he played the part of Chester's brother.

The public is invited to SPERDVAC's meetings. The church is located one block each of the Sherman Way offramp of the 405 freeway. There is no admission charge.



Ken McManus, associate director on numerous CBS dramas including **Suspense**, died in December. SPERDVAC first met him in 1982 when he performed A.D. duties during the re-creation of the **Suspense** story "A World of Darkness."

SPERDVAC

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