

SPERDVAC *RADIOGRAM*

Vol. XV, No.10 The Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy OCTOBER 1989



*Lionel Barrymore receives a piece of birthday cake from Bernard Katz musical director on **Mayor of the Town**.
See story on page 10.*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Larry Gassman

ARCHIVES LIBRARY

We now have three Archives Cassette librarians who will fill orders as you read this column. Our thanks to them for volunteering for SPERDVAC. You can obtain their names and addresses by carefully reading the directory which may be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

ELECTION CHAIR

For the third year in a row Catherine Pasarelli has volunteered to handle our elections. Anyone wishing information about running for the SPERDVAC board may call us at SPERDVAC and then write Catherine to declare candidacy.

Our board meetings are usually held after the monthly membership on Saturday afternoons. I have scoped the meetings down so that they should run no more than 90 minutes, two hours at the most. Hopefully, the later occurrence will be rare from now on. We welcome any member who wishes to get involved. Remember that all board members and committee chairs started in the same way. We all had an interest in SPERDVAC. We chose to take the initial step to become a part of the active membership. Believe me, it is painless and the many activities have their rewards. Not all of the perks are material in nature. The feeling of satisfaction in knowing that an activity like our conventions, monthly meetings, or just helping someone on the phone with an answer to a question can be a powerful stimulant. We are proud to be a part of the biggest and best OTR organization in the country and we want you to join us as we draw closer to 1990.

CONVENTION HELP NEEDED

If you can lend an hour or two of your time for the upcoming convention, we would be delighted to have you.

Richard Glasband needs assistance with registration.

We need about 10 or 11 people to give an hour each so that 3 or 4 regulars are not stuck there all day. They would like to see some of the convention as well.

Catherine Pasarelli would like help in the dealers' room. If you can help man or woman the SPERDVAC table, please call SPERDVAC at 213-947-9800.

Also, if you have door prizes, please feel free to call and ask for Larry Gassman. If you have any thoughts or ideas about the convention, we would love to hear from you.

Again this year we have invited all of our honorary members to join us at the convention.

We have many other Radiogram readers who worked in radio. The convention is open to everyone. We welcome your attendance. If your schedule permits, we would love to see you. You need not be a member to attend. Please see the enclosed registration form.

OTR NETWORK

Last month I wrote about a new concept known as the Old Time Radio Network. It will be made up of repre-

sentatives from the clubs and organizations in the hobby. We will discuss many issues including newsletter exchanges, the various procedures clubs follow when dealing with membership, libraries, etc. The issues which deal with how others do things will be most important. No matter how many years of involvement you have in this hobby, you're not too old to learn.

We will meet on Friday evening, October 20th in Newark. Jay Hickerson will have more details for those who will be attending the meeting. After all of these years its about time the various organizations got together to exchange ideas for the good of the hobby.

Remember that if you register for the SPERDVAC convention before November 1st you receive a price break. Please help us by registering early and by not waiting until the last minute. Again this year we have some surprises in store for you. Don't miss the convention. Register early.

Until next month, Keep in Touch.

SPERDVAC

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We are so grateful to the many Friends of SPERDVAC who have contributed \$50 or more to help defray costs of the society. The above members have donated funds during the past year.

SPERDVAC CONVENTION NOV. 10-11

November first is the deadline to register for SPERDVAC's 15th anniversary convention at the reduced \$70 rate. The price for the entire Nov. 10-11 gathering increases to \$75 after that date.

Our convention begins Friday, Nov. 10 with opening registration beginning at 2 PM. The Dealers' Room will be open 2 PM - 6 PM.

The first panel presentation of the day begins at 2:30 PM with a discussion by OTR rebroadcast program hosts. We would like to hear from individuals who host these programs and plan to attend the SPERDVAC convention. Chuck Cecil, host of the nationally syndicated "Swingin' Years," will participate.

At 4 PM Friday the "Meet the Authors" panel begins. Guests were not completely confirmed at press time. One panelist will be Robert Taylor, author of Fred Allen - His Life and Wit.

Cocktails will be available at 6:30 PM and the Friday evening banquet begins at 7:30 PM. The Friday banquet will feature a fog-covered journey to jolly old England and an adventure with **Sherlock Holmes**. Actor Dan O'Herlihy will portray the fictional detective.

The registration table reopens Saturday, Nov. 11, at 8:30 AM. The Dealers' Room will be open Saturday 9 AM - 6 PM.

Five panel presentations/workshops, each one hour in length, are planned for the morning and afternoon. Starting times are 9 AM, 10:30 AM, 1 PM, 2:30 PM and 4 PM.

Radio writers Lou Pelletier (**The FBI In Peace and War**) and Sheldon Stark (**Straight Arrow, Green Hornet, Sgt. Preston and Lone Ranger**) are confirmed participants on one panel. We are arranging an announcers' panel, including Vern Carstensen, announcer on **Box 13** and **Damon Runyon Theatre**. Another workshop will salute Big Band radio broadcasts. Participants will include singer Lina Romay, musician Frank DeVol and former remote program announcer Ray Briem. Mr. Briem is best known for his all night conversation program airing on KABC, Los Angeles.

Cocktails will be available Saturday at 6:30 PM and the concluding banquet begins at 7:30 PM. We will salute **Lux Radio Theatre** with a full hour recreation.

SPERDVAC still needs volunteers to assist us for an hour during the convention. Members willing to help should contact convention chair Larry Gassman at (213) 947-9800.

NEWMAN VS. NEUMAN - OCTOBER 14TH

Drama writers E. Jack Neuman and Walter Brown Newman will discuss their work in radio of the forties and fifties at SPERDVAC's October 14 meeting.

Both wrote for many of radio's popular dramatic series, including **Escape, Suspense, Mollie Mystery Theatre, Romance, and Columbia Workshop**.

The SPERDVAC meeting begins at 12 Noon. We will meet at Western Federal Savings & Loan, 12175 Ventura Blvd. in Studio City. SPERDVAC's monthly meetings are FREE and open to the public.

SPERDVAC DIRECTORY

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AUDIO SPERDVAC CATALOGS: Contact Bob Herman, 1640 S.W. Old Clifton Rd., Port Orchard, WA 98366 (206) 876-4809

MEMBERSHIP BADGES: Send \$5.00 each to Don Keith, Box 5861, Glendale, CA 91202

ACQUISITIONS: (Discs and Tapes): John Gassman, Box 1163, Whittier, CA 90604, (213) 947-9800 for both the General and Archives Libraries.

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WAKE UP AMERICA! Information PLEASE by Barbara J. Watkins

Honorary SPERDVAC member Willard Waterman (the Great Gildersleeve) has had quite a year so far. In April he was the guest of honor at the old time radio convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, and in August he was the guest of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado and was present at the opening ceremonies of the Gildersleeve restaurant in Pueblo, Colorado. Most recently, he was honored by his peers at the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters luncheon on September 15 when he was awarded the prestigious Diamond Circle Award for his many years of excellence in radio and television. Congratulations, Gildy!

Anthony Tollin reports the latest plans for recreations at the 1989 Friends of Old Time Radio Convention coming up this month on the 19th through the 21st in Newark, New Jersey. (See last month's Radiogram for flyer with the details.) On Friday evening Lon Clark and Charlotte Manson will once again be Nick Carter and Patsy Bowen in **NICK CARTER, MASTER DETECTIVE**. On Saturday afternoon **ARCHIE ANDREWS** will be recreated with two original Archies on hand: Charlie Mullin and Bob Hastings. The cast will also include Arnold Stang. Then **MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN** starring Raymond Edward Johnson will once again return to thrill the audience. The Saturday evening re-creation will be **THE MARCH OF TIME** featuring a star-studded cast including Jackson Beck, Lon Clark, Arnold Moss and Dwight Weist. If you have never attended one of these FOTR con-



Willard Waterman, center, joined in the ribbon cutting ceremonies at the Grand Opening of Gildersleeve's restaurant in Pueblo, Colorado.

ventions, this would be a great way to start! For further information, call Jay Hickerson at (203)248-2887 or Anthony Tollin at (210)575-6849.

Member Richard Bauman has been looking forward to the appearance of new **I LOVE A MYSTERY** programs into circulation. He writes that there is a rumor that there is a rich Texan who has all of the shows and is going to donate them to some "institution" somewhere, or sell them so someone can market them. He asks "How long, oh Lord, how long?" Over the years there have been many stories about the existence of transcriptions from this series here or there but the thousands of fans who have been waiting patiently for some to appear have so far been frustrated, Richard. The same stories have been heard regarding another well-remembered series - **LATITUDE ZERO**. Episode one has been in circulation for quite a few years and has only served to make even more of us want to hear what appears to be a fascinating storyline. Only time will tell, unless one of you may know the answer. If so, PLEASE get in touch with SPERDVAC, (213)947-9800.

Some of you have written asking for information on other radio clubs that may have circulating tape libraries. In next month's column we will tell you about some of these and also some of the independent radio publications available in our hobby. Send your information for this column to INFORMATION PLEASE, Barbara J. Watkins, P.O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031. Until next time, spaceman's luck!

MORE ON THE MUSIC OF THE LONE RANGER

By Larry Gassman

You may have seen the ad concerning the album "The Music of the Lone Ranger" in a recent SPERDVAC newsletter. This double album was produced by Jim King of King Enterprises.

I do not pretend to be an authority on the Music of Republic. But I have been around music and have sung in barbershop choruses, quartets and other musical groups long enough to know a class act when I hear one.

One album contains reenacted musical bridges played by a modern orchestra. The bridges are from the Republic music used on many Lone Ranger programs. In some instances the temp is a bit slower than the original but the end result is superb. It is a very enjoyable album to listen to with the benefit of headphones. I missed several phone calls while listening to the album. Thank God for answering machines.

The second record in this fine package is the original musical bridges mastered from disc to tape from the Lone Ranger series. The master discs were well-preserved and are more than listenable today, thanks to Fran Striker Jr., Reg Jones, Jim King, and to Chris Lembesis, who helped with the transfer.

Thanks to these gentlemen you can not only listen to the original music but you can now recreate your own Lone Ranger radio shows for your own personal enjoyment with the help of these musical bridges. The album set is well worth it.

Radio in Review



By Chris Lembesis

Welcome once again! This month announcements share the spotlight along with a book re-reviewed, a new volume of radios of the past, a revised edition of a classic work, and a radio book guide.

For those who live in the LA area and are regular listeners to KRLA, a new work has been written showcasing its 30 year history. Entitled DREAM-HOUSE, it is written by KRLA Historian Bill Earl and sells for \$12.95 softbound.

Only a few copies remain. For more information, write to: Research Archives, 633 North Taylor Avenue #18, Montebello, CA 90640.

Last month's announcement by Honorary Member Bill Idelson of his new book WRITING FOR DOUGH, failed to indicate where to send your order. Order from: Author's Unlimited, 3330 Barham Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90068. The \$12.75 price includes postage.

Member Owens Pomeroy is putting the finishing touches to another book on Old Time Radio. In 1986 he wrote a work titled THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MICROPHONE. His latest one, THE SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY: THE MAGIC AND POWER OF RADIO, with a forward by Ezra Stone, should be a fine work to add to your OTR library. This column will keep you posted on its release date.

MASS MEDIA: A CHRONOLOGICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TELEVISION, RADIO, MOTION PICTURES, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS, AND BOOKS IN THE UNITED STATES. By Robert Hudson. Garland Publishing, Inc. 1987, \$41.95, Hardbound. (136 Madison Avenue., New York, NY 10016).

This is a fascinating look at the growth of media in America, as it happened, from its earliest times to the present day. We find that developments in broadcasting started at the turn of the century and this volume indicates its high points in scientific and artistic achievements. Though it lacks photographs in showing any of the various media developments, as indicated in its title, it is still an extremely well researched work. The book is divided into ten year increments, which allows the author to concentrate on specific eras, shows. Looking at developments in 20th century media, radio can be proud of its accomplishments, even if it was for only a short time. Thanks to Vance Allen of Garland Publishing for a unique look at radio's past.

RADIO MANUFACTURERS OF THE 1920's - VOLUME 2. By Alan Douglas. The Vestal Press, Ltd. 1989, \$39.95 hardbound or \$24.95 Softbound. (Post Office Box 97, Vestal, NY 13851-0097). Add \$3 for shipping.

An earlier column reviewed the first volume in this series of three works of radio manufacturers. Volume 2

has just been released, and it continues the high quality of research and attention to detail that Volume 1 presented. Continuing alphabetically, the author proceeds to describe radios in the 1920's, made by Freed-Eismann to Priess, a range of thirty-one manufacturers.

This is not just an overview of the above, but a complete historical look at its operations along with a look at its chief personnel. Photographs, advertisements, charges and tables are shown to help readers understand more about that manufacturer and its place in the development of a new industry that boomed in the 1920's.

This is a carefully prepared work, right down to the strict chronological order of each manufacturer's released receivers. The photographs are sharp and superbly presented. There has been a small price increase between Volumes 1 & 2, but then Volume 2 has 40 more pages of fascinating reading. The author spent five years in his research and preparation. This is a work highly recommended.

BROADCASTING: AND THE ALLIED AREAS OF PROPAGANDA, ADVERTISING, AND MASS MEDIA. Compiled by Thomas Dady. Thomas Dady, Ltd. 1989, \$3 Spiralbound. (2223 Sixth St., N.E., Minneapolis, MN 55418).

Those who enjoy collecting books of radio's past may encounter problems locating that elusive title. Because rare book stores cover a vast array of other subjects, they might not be able to help. Referring to lists in publications, unless specialized in radio history, may not be of much help either.

Because of the importance of this work, it merits a review, even though it is a catalog instead of a traditional book. For the first time, we have an extremely detailed work of 3136 entries, on 273 pages, of radio and TV-related books. A majority of the books listed are from radio, and even the TV section includes radio items, especially if the program or artist traversed both mediums.

Each book is accurately and honestly described. The book and dust jacket are rated separately. If the title indicates no dust jacket, that does not mean it did not have one at one time, only that this copy is available without one. Studies, autobiographies, program histories, and more, are offered. The compiler, Mr. Dady, is thoroughly knowledgeable on OTR, which is an advantage if you need to inquire about a title or its availability in the future.

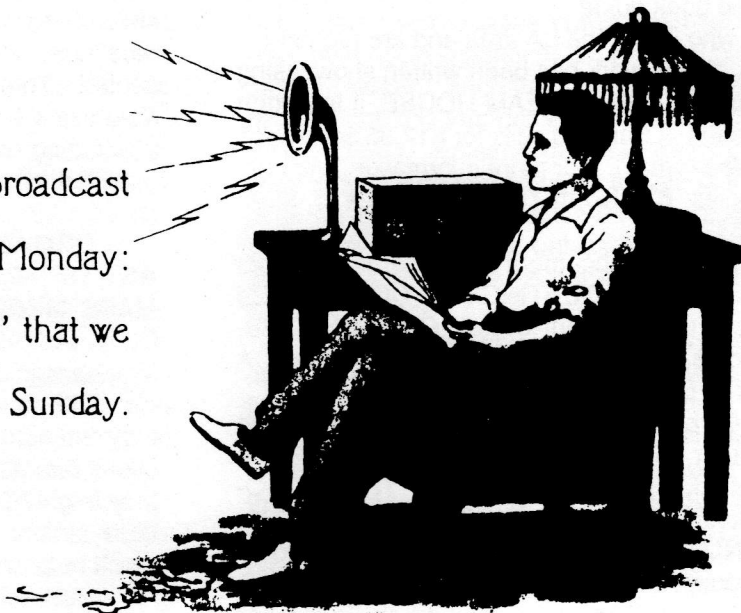
This reviewer had a few titles sent. It is interesting to note that no matter what condition the book is, it is carefully wrapped before being sent. For SPERDVAC members, a 15% discount is offered on each and every title, and with a toll free number, you can ask about that book before you request it sent. Concerning his prices, some titles are higher than one might think they should be, yet many are reasonable. Consider the scarcity of some books. Since Mr. Dady offers to return book(s) if not satisfied, this is extremely fair.

What is interesting about this catalog is that it makes good reading even for those not interested in purchasing books at this time. Mr. Dady has offered a needed reference source, and we commend him for his efforts.

Continued on Page 7 . . .

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We hastened to broadcast
this message on Monday:
We'll "tell the world" that we
missed you last Sunday.



CATALOGUE NO. 1

BROADCASTING: AND THE ALLIED AREAS OF PROPAGANDA ADVERTISING AND MASS MEDIA.

Debbie and I are pleased to announce this 273 page, spiral-bound catalogue, containing over 3,000 out-of-print books on radio and television. To obtain a copy, costing \$3.00, which is refundable with any purchase, just call our toll free number at 1-800-525-2047. ALL members of SPERDVAC will receive a FULL 15% discount on ALL purchases. To place an order, use the 800 number. In addition, our 800 number is available to consult about specific titles, general areas of interest, or collection development.

GIVE US A CALL

Radio in Review cont. . .

RADIO - A BLAST FROM THE PAST. By H.G. Wolff & I Jacobson. Sound of Music, 1989, \$25.00, Softbound. (P.O. Box 221, Stillwater, NJ 07875).

Look familiar? Last month's review of this work indicated some defects in its publication. Some points should be brought out to correctly revise this review. First off, this work has close to 2,000 photographs, not the 1,000 previously indicated.

The authors feel about 100 of the photos are not up to top quality due to the source materials they had to work with, which were old issues of *Radio Retailing* and *Radio Jobber* magazines. And the price for this work is \$25.00. For those who have ordered this book, the authors are holding checks until the balance is received. As mentioned last month, this is a fine overview of radios manufactured between 1927 thru 1942. The sepia tone gives it an antique look, and the title is clever and catchy. The authors spent four years putting it together and plan on going into a second printing. My apologies and I hope that these corrections will clarify this book and its contents for readers. Well recommended.

STAY TUNED: A CONCISE HISTORY OF AMERICAN BROADCASTING. By Dr. Christopher sterling & Dr. John Kittross. Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1989, \$38.00, Hardbound. (10 Davis Drive, Belmont, CA 94002).

For over 10 years this work has been a standard text for radio & TV majors and has also found favor amongst fans and collectors. The authors have retained the content of the original while updating some needed information. A new chapter 10 brings us up to date with developments of the last decade, and chapter 11 presents a new conclusion. All appendix material has been updated, which includes the glossary, statistics, and bibliography. One section covers the radio collectors groups, including SPERDVAC.

Thanks to those who requested books from SPERDVAC. We have some remaining titles that will make a valuable addition to your library. Please include \$2 for shipping and handling. Here are the remaining titles:

1. **DORFSMAN & CBS.** This excellent oversize coffee table hardbound work showcases the career of Lou Dorfsman who created the promo packages for CBS Radio & TV shows from 1946 until his recent retirement. Black & white and color photos. Reduced from \$50 to \$25!
2. **FRED ALLEN - HIS LIFE AND WIT.** The Definite biography. \$15.
3. **NEWS FOR EVERYMAN.** A look at six radio commentators: Boake Carter, H.V. Kaltenborn, Raymond Gram Swing, Elmer Davis, Edward R. Murrow, and Fulton Lewis, Jr. Long out of print, we have the last ones. \$25.
4. **THE ONE MAN'S FAMILY ALBUM.** Morse's look back, some autographs! \$9.

Until next time, as always, Good luck and Good Reading!



Gildy Meets Gildy. Willard Waterman, left, gets a light from Hal Peary. The two radio actors met in Chicago in 1965 when Waterman was on the road with "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." (Photo courtesy Bob Burchett)

GILDERSLEEVE'S OLD FASHIONED DINER

Can you imagine anyone wanting to devote an entire restaurant solely to one radio character who left the air thirty years ago! Fantasy has become reality for Mike Fields and his family as they welcomed the many patrons to Gildersleeve's in Pueblo, Colorado. "This has been a dream of ours for several years," said Fields recently at the official opening of the eatery. "I've been a collector of old radio programs for over ten years now and we've been in restaurant management all over the country. We tried to come up with a way to combine the two and this has finally been the culmination of that dream."

The Fields family flew actor Willard Waterman and his wife to Denver for the grand opening. "To get Willard Waterman himself here has just been quite a thrill for all of us," Fields added. Willard signed autographs, spoke several times on radio and to those present. He participated in two recreations of *The First Nighter* as the Denver-based Radio Historical Association of Colorado joined in presenting these programs from radio's golden age.

The restaurant is filled with radio memorabilia, including pictures, posters and radios from the thirties and forties. Each table has a replica of an old radio which plays the original programs of the **Great Gildersleeve**.

The use of the Gildersleeve character as an anchor for a restaurant is a novel concept. Willard Waterman commented that he was pleased with the idea. He noted that, "I am of the opinion that its going to be a very identifying thing for this restaurant to associate old time radio and with Gildersleeve and the other elements featured in the restaurant."

The next time you find yourself in Pueblo on North Elizabeth drop into Gildersleeve's and tell Mike Fields you heard about it through SPERDVAC.

*"The Columbia Broadcasting System Presents
The Mercury Theatre On The Air!"*

"Besides me stood Phileas Poff. His face was white and drawn. The French servant had vanished. (Music up and then down.) The doors of the pagoda had been opened. An intense light came from the inside. We could see the victim all lighted up, being dragged by the two priests to the outside. She seemed to be drugged. In Phileas Poff's hand I saw the glint of an open knife. The crowd began to move toward the river. There stood the funeral pyre with the rajah's body. In the half light, we could see the victim motionless, stretched beside her husband's corpse. Torch was brought. Then there took place a most extraordinary occurrence (Sudden loud and then fading gasp from the crowd.) The dead rajahs moved! He was seen suddenly raising upright, like phantom, raising the young woman in his arms. Descending from the pyre mist clouds of smoke, he advanced rapidly towards us between the lines of people groveling on the ground in terror. Now he was only a few yards off!"

Certainly the name Phileas Poff is an indicator to "Around The World In 80 Days." The voice was that of Ray Collins, who Orson Welles once called the greatest of all radio actors, playing the part of Fix, the Scotland Yard detective with his sharp, quick 1870's British style. And there was Phileas Poff as interpreted by Welles, producing a high-pitched, condescending nasal tone to his commanding quips.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the star and director of **The Mercury Theatre**, Orson Welles," proclaimed Dan Seymour, **Theatre's** first announcer.

On October 23, 1938 we were treated to a trip around the world, through Europe, Morocco, Bombay and on into India where the railroad suddenly ended and the journey continued on a purchased elephant until a stoppage for a possession. Included was a princess on her way to be sacrificed and the adventure of rescue. The story was Jules Verne but the words we heard were created by Howard Koch and Orson Welles.

The **Mercury Theatre On The Air** was preceded by Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" in one-half segments from July 23 through September 3, 1937. Most of the words spoken during that seven part serial were those of Welles. He molded and formed the characters vocally for the ear until he felt secure the utterances we heard were those of the characters. Listen to Welles when he is in the courtroom reviewing his life, while another man is accused of being him. Welles ascends with gathering emotion until he can no longer contain himself and wanting to see the innocent man freed, finally bursts out "I AM JEAN VALJEAN!!" Outstanding!

"The makers of Campbell Soups present...**The Campbell Playhouse**. Orson Welles, producer." Ernest Chappell, the **Playhouse** announcer, March 17, 1939.

SPERDVAC MEETING

Saturday
October 14
12 Noon

**NEWMAN &
NEUMAN**

**Western Federal, 12175 Ventura Blvd.
Studio City**

"That was the last time they heard him speak. They saw him ride towards the fort, picking his way among the dead Arabs. They saw him stop under the wall of the fort. They saw him look up at the dead faces of the men on the wall. They saw him climb up on his horse's saddle and hoist himself up. Then he disappeared. A little before the fifteen minutes were over, they saw a small dark cloud in the blue sky over the fort. At first, it seemed like dust. As it grew heavier and started to swell, they saw that it was smoke. Just before the fort burst into flame, they thought they heard the sound of a bugle playing a strange call. (A quiet, mournful taps in the background.) That man, the trumpeter, was my brother. There were three of us and I'm the only one alive. My name is John Geste. Here is our story." The voice you heard was that of Sir Laurence Olivier.

Some of you may have, by now, guessed that it is the story of Michael Geste, the famous French Foreign Legion and the Blue Water Sapphire...."Beau Geste."

Buxton and Owen note that the **Mercury Theatre** "was a pioneer program of quality drama and experimental radio presentations." John Dunning allows seven pages with excellent background. The few printed references that I have found written about **Mercury Theatre** all commend its greatness. To think that each week a complete classic was reduced to one hour and the story presented through sound! Inflection of words, tone of voice, the mental pictures they draw! Excellent diction and enough foreign accent to leave no doubt the nationality of the character but clear so all could understand. The story line was always smooth and kept readers' interest.

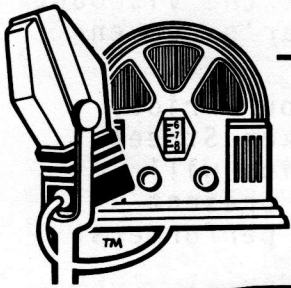
Here is a sampling of the plays: "Escape" - A comedy about a bright young man who has just left Sing-Sing prison; "The Magnificent Ambersons" - The rise, reign and decline of the Amersons of the mid-west. A great document to life in the mid-America; "Showboat" - With Captain Andy, Magnolia, Julie, Gaylord Ravenal and Windy. Tonight's program introduces Edna Ferber, the author of "Showboat", in her first acting role. "Come one, come all. It's the rage of the river, its the sensation of the century!" And there's "Treasure Island", "Our Town", "The Tale of Two Cities", "Victoria Regina", "Dracula", "Abraham Lincoln", etc., etc.

Mercury Theatre ran on CBS from July 11, 1938 to March 10, 1940. During 1939, guest stars appeared on many of the programs. Katherine Hepburn, Burgess Meredith, Helen Hayes, Sam Levene, Walter Huston, Paulette Goddard. But the real stars were the writers and those radio actors - Agnes Moorehead, Ray Collins, George Coulouris, Martin Gabel, Everett Sloane, Joseph Cotton, Arthur Anderson.

Hugh's Hues cont. on next page . . .

Old-Time Radio Fans!

JOIN US FOR THE 1989



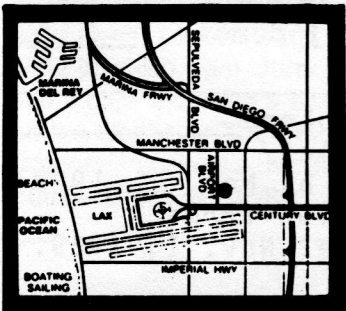
— SPERDVAC —

SOCIETY TO PRESERVE AND ENCOURAGE RADIO DRAMA VARIETY AND COMEDY

15th Anniversary Convention

FRIDAY - SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 10 -11



9750 Airport Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90045

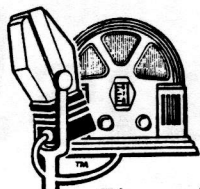
ADMISSION \$70

- RECREATIONS
- BANQUET
- WORKSHOPS
- PANELS
- COLLECTORS ROOM

FOR INFORMATION WRITE:

SPERDVAC, BOX 1587 HOLLYWOOD, CA. 90078

CALL (213) 947-9800



1989 SPERDVAC Convention

The sixth annual SPERDVAC Old Time Radio Convention will be held Friday, November 10 (Veteran's Day holiday) and Saturday, November 11 at the Viscount Hotel, located near Los Angeles Airport. The theme for this year's convention is "SPERDVAC's 15th Anniversary."

Again this year we will feature radio show recreations at our Friday and Saturday night banquets. Friday we will return to 221-B Baker Street and search for clues with Sherlock Holmes. Saturday our convention will conclude with a salute to Lux Radio Theatre. Both days we will present workshops and panel discussions featuring many of the era's top performers.

Admission to the complete two day convention is \$70 until Nov. 1, 1989. After that date admission to the complete convention will be available at the door for \$75. Registration and the Dealers' Room open at 2 pm Friday with a no-host bar beginning at 6:30 pm and the dinner/program at 7:30 pm. Friday's workshops begin at 2:30 pm. On Saturday, registration begins at 8:30 am. The Dealers' Room reopens at 9 am and the day's first workshop also begins then. The convention will conclude at about 10:30 pm Saturday.

These individual event rates have been established for those unable to attend the entire convention: Friday afternoon workshops and evening sit-down dinner and program: \$30; Saturday daytime workshops: \$10 (There will be no formal lunch served. Meals are available at the Viscount and at nearby restaurants.); Saturday evening banquet and program recreation: \$35.

Dealers' tables will be available for those who wish to sell radio-related items. (Unauthorized sales of radio broadcasts are prohibited.) Dealer tables are available for \$30 each. Dealers wishing to attend events outside the Dealers' Room must register for those events. To reserve a dealer table, contact Catherine Passarelli at 10615 Butterfield Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90064.

The Viscount has accommodations available for those who wish to stay overnight. The Special SPERDVAC Convention rate is \$66.08, including 12% bed tax, per room each night. The hotel also offers a special \$2 per day parking rate for tickets validated by SPERDVAC. Shuttle service from Los Angeles International Airport is available free by phoning the Viscount from the airport. To take advantage of these reduced rates, contact the Viscount Hotel directly and specify you are attending the SPERDVAC convention. Their address is 9750 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045. Phone: (213) 645-4600 and (800) 255-3050.

SPERDVAC 1989 OLD TIME RADIO CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ ☐ Non-member ☐ Member # _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Day phone _____ Night phone _____

Banquet meal seating: ☐ smoking ☐ non-smoking ☐ special diet
Diet restrictions: _____ (Notify us by Nov. 1, 1989)

If you wish seating with other guests, please send registration forms together. Include first & last names of all guests. Deadline: Nov. 1, 1989.

CONVENTION RATES:

1. Complete convention package (Nov. 10 & 11): \$70.00.....
2. Friday workshops, recreation & dinner: \$30.00.....
3. Saturday daytime programs (9 am to 5 pm): \$10.00.....
4. Saturday evening banquet and recreation: \$35.00.....

Send checks or money orders, payable to SPERDVAC, to: SPERDVAC Convention, c/o Chester Allen, 13415 Egbert St., Sylmar, CA 91342. For additional details or to volunteer convention assistance call Larry Gassman: 213-947-9800.

☐ Check here if you worked in early radio



Send your wants in
O T R - related
material to
McGee's Closet, %
Barbara J. Watkins,
PO Box 561,
South Pasadena,
CA 91031

WANTED: Any radio shows with Bob Hope, including his own show, guest appearances, World War II shows, etc., on cassette. Contact: Jason Fine, 6329 Bothwell Road, Reseda, CA 91335.

FOR SALE: Two open reel solid state recorders:
1) Ampex 860, quarter-track, 3-speed, with optional Ampex speakers, two optimal Ampex 702 Dynamic mics, owners manual, new drive belts, one channel noisy. \$60.00; 2) Grundig TK-247, German, quarter-track, 3 3/4 & 7 1/2, with mic, plays well, clean, record unknown, \$40.00. Prices plus UPS. Will consider offers or trade for old radios. Contact: Jim Watson, P.O. Box 104, Coarsegold, CA 93614, (209)683-7260.

WANTED: Amos 'N' Andy radio shows. Contact: Charlie Salvato, 12119 Pompano, Houston, TX 77072.

WILL TRADE: The Shadow and Cape Cod Radio Mystery Theatre shows for any superhero shows or serials or very scary horror shows. Contact: Alex Adams, 1842 W. 43rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90062.

WANTED: Classical music lovers: FM transcriptions of "Pipedreams", and NPR radio syndicated program of organ music; a video tape of KCET's documentary of the old KFAC FM station's staff and operations. Contact: Robert Clifford, 3054 W. Avenue L, Lancaster, CA 93536, (805)943-6454 mornings.

WANTED: A copy of Allen Worlds from the SPERDVAC General Library reel 478, or any other episodes. Also looking for 1950s through 1980s rock and roll radio station tapes: WLS, WCFL, KLOS, KYA. Will buy or trade. Contact: Chris Andrews, 1305 River Road, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

WANTED: Mr. and Mrs. North shows with Betty Jane Tyler playing the role of Susan, the North's teen-aged niece. In particular, I am desirous of obtaining an episode in which Pam, Jerry and Detective Bill Weigand get into a case involving a flea circus. Any other information on the Norths or **The Thin Man** would be appreciated. Contact: William J. Kiddle, Jr., 315 Cherrywood Road, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089.

Renewal Time???

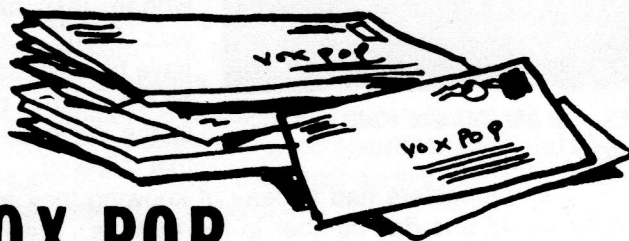
The last two digits of your membership number indicate your **Renewal Month**. Renewals are just \$15. See Directory for The Harding's Address.

Hugh's Hues cont. . .

I have 22 of the series with the 1st six in dated order, 12 of the 15 1/2 hour programs from 1946 and 3 1/2 hour "Les Miserables." These will be forwarded to SPERDVAC for inclusion in the general library. A few of these are not of the best sound quality, but considering the age and quality of the series, I sincerely hope SPERDVAC will accept all of them.

I make one last request: I ask all of you to review your own libraries to determine if you have any **Mercury** broadcasts to share. It would be quite a coup to have a complete run. Jack Palmer has helped and it would be nice if some of you could also. I hope I have sparked an interest so that once these programs are in the library, you will enjoy them as much as I do.

"Remember, 9:00 eastern daylight saving time next Monday night for **The Mercury Theatre on the Air** with 'The Tale of Two Cities' by Charles Dickens. On tonight's production, Bernard Hermann composed the original music and conducted and Davidson Taylor supervised for the Columbia Network. Dan Seymour speaking. This is the Columbia Broadcasting System."



VOX POP

Editor,

I have been a member of SPERDVAC for a little over ten years. In that time I have been what one may consider 'active' in all of the club's tape libraries. I have dealt with many librarians. Most have been very good, some have been good, none have been bad and one was a disaster. This person should never have been given a library.

However, there has only been one librarian that I would consider GREAT! Bruce Miller fits that description to a 'T'. Bruce is what every librarian should aspire to be. He took a library that was in a shambles, literally, and he made it hum. He did this by a lot of dedicated hard work and a lot of time spent. He did this without pay, what a true volunteer does. A true volunteer does not ask or expect to get paid for his or her services. In fact, true volunteers often use their own resources with no expectation of being reimbursed.

This is in no way intended to put all of the other librarians down. As noted except for the one glaring exception, all the librarians have been good. Bruce is just a cut above.

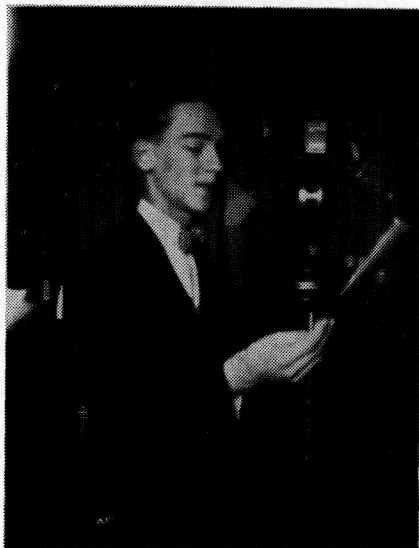
Ron Sayles, Milwaukee, WI

Editor's Note: The Radiogram also received a very nice letter from Michael Sommer of N. Miami Beach, FL. He says "The service I've received from Bruce is nothing short of SUPER, and I want to publicly state my gratitude."

Both wrote when Bruce was giving up his librarian position. We have since split the Archives Cassette Library into 3 parts. Bruce is serving as librarian for one portion.

BERNARD KATZ REMEMBERS RADIO . . . By Dan Haefele

One summer day in 1923, 14 year old Bernie Katz and his 15 year old cousin Mel decided to visit a theatre in San Francisco to watch Al Jolson perform. "We stood in line about two hours," Katz recalls. "Mel insisted on staying for three shows. I had 'Sonny Boy' coming out both ears. I said to Mel, after we came out into the lobby, 'I've



15 year old Bernard Katz at KJBS radio

had enough of 'Sonny Boy' for the rest of my life," he added.

Cousin Mel, who visited the Katz family each summer, had tears running down both cheeks. "Someday I'd like to entertain 3000 or 4000 people, just like he does," he told Bernie. Mel, whose last name was Blanc, would have his wish granted many times over in the six decades that followed.

The youngsters had no way of knowing their audiences would one day number in the millions. But Katz soon found himself before an audience.

Two weeks after the Jolson incident, young Bernie Katz, already a skilled pianist, was tapped to fill in for Jolson's ailing accompanist. Jolson went to the stand-in, who never had the chance to rehearse with the famed singer, to ask, "You won't be nervous, will you?" No, Katz explained, he had played along with Jolson's records and felt he wouldn't be nervous. "I might be," Jolson retorted.

Jolson changed the "Sonny Boy" lyrics to fit the occasion:

*Climb upon my knee, Sonny Boy.
The piano is too loud, Sonny Boy.
Play it a little softer
And I'll feel better, Sonny Boy.*

Soon afterwards, Katz began a series of concert piano music programs on KJBS, San Francisco, a new station owned by Julius Brunton. The young musician doubled as his own announcer on the Sunday evening broadcasts after the original announcer was dismissed for mangling the names of famous classical composers Chopin and Bach.

About 1932 Katz became a pianist for the NBC Orchestra in his native San Francisco.

At the same time he did some musical arranging. But he aspired to be a musical conductor. "I used to tell my dear wife, 'Honey, maybe some day we can go to Hollywood and I can take a chance at conducting.' She said, 'If you want to do that, my dear, I think you can.'"

In 1937, the Katz family of three moved to Hollywood, where Mel Blanc and his wife Estelle had also

moved several months earlier. The two cousins met at Hollywood and Vine, planning a day of job searching. "I would start up the left side of the boulevard and he'd start on the right, going to the various agencies that employed actors," he explained. "And I went to the agencies that employed musicians. I walked into one agency and the man sitting there said, 'What can I do for you?' I said, 'I want to be a conductor.' He said, 'Santa Fe or Pacific?'"

The musician spent 1937 and 1938 at KHJ, Hollywood's Mutual outlet. There he was on duty to play fill music when technical problems interrupted a network broadcast. He also starred on **Katz on the Keys**, a 15 minute feature aired by Mutual three times a week.

Point Sublime was his first job as a radio musical director. The comedy program starred Cliff Arquette as Charlie Weaver and Mel Blanc as August Moon.

Few recall today that Bernard Katz wrote the **Point Sublime** theme music. "I enjoyed writing that very much, even if I did take some of the melody from Chopin," he commented at SPERDVAC's September meeting. All of his transcriptions of the series have deteriorated and broken. Our guest brought SPERDVAC a recording of himself playing the theme music on his home piano.

During a **Point Sublime** rehearsal, Lionel Barrymore came in to ask Katz if he could sight read music. "I've been doing it all my life," he told the famed actor. "I want you on my show," Barrymore replied. "I'll advise the agency."

Barrymore wrote the first few bars of the theme for **Mayor of the Town**. "Bernie, I can't seem to finish this thing," Barrymore said. "I want you to finish it."

The day before the new season began, Mr. Katz played the newly composed theme for Mr. Barrymore. "You don't have an ending to it," the program's star complained. "Mr. Barrymore, I'd like this thing to go on perpetually. Then it would be a steady job for me."

Cont. page 13 . . .



Bernard Katz, Agnes Moorehead and Lionel Barrymore prior to a broadcast of **Mayor of the Town**.

THERE'S NO PLAYS LIKE HOLMES

By John Gassman

Most of us are familiar with the adventures of that detective genius Sherlock Holmes. Books, radio and television have been vehicles for this world famous character of fiction for over a century.

However, the latest and maybe most convenient way to enjoy these timeless adventures is through Books on Cassette.

Now if you have visited your local Walton or B. Dalton bookstore recently, then you've probably seen the cassettes and perhaps have purchased many of them.

Buy how did this project get started? And who is responsible? Fortunately two of the leading figures behind this Holmesathon release are SPERDVAC members Dick Mullins and Ken Greenwald. In the words of Dick Mullins, "Several years ago, we heard about a series of transcription discs that were about to be sold to the Library of Congress. Our concern was that the discs would end up languishing on a shelf gathering dust and that no one would ever be able to hear these shows. Our company, 221-A Baker Street Associates, bought the discs.

"In the collection we found fifty-two half-hour **Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** radio shows from the 1944-45 season featuring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce." Mullins continued, "Following many discussions with networks, writers and all of the involved principals we received permission to release these shows on record and cassette."

In 1987 the first two stories were released on a gold limited edition record which also marked the 100th anniversary of Sherlock Holmes. "Based on the success of that venture, our attorney took the record to all of the audio publishers," he explained. "Simon and Schuster became very interested in the project and we eventually became the first company to sell old radio broadcasts to a major publisher in the Book on Cassette business." Simon and Schuster bought the entire series of twenty-six

cassettes and 52 stories in May of 1988.

"We were told that the cassettes have made, on a regular basis, the B. Dalton Best seller list for books on cassettes," he added. In addition to hearing the actual Holmes radio shows in the finest sound quality possible, each cassette will have introductions with people who actually appeared or were involved with the original series," Mullins continued. "In this way people would also learn something about Sherlock Holmes and dramatic radio. Some cassettes will also contain introductions with Sherlockian characters as performed by the original actors and sound effects men, discussing Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson."

A few of the people who have participated in the cassette openings include Holmes director Glenhall Taylor, Peggy Webber (who was Mrs. Hudson on the show), Harry Bartell, the longtime announcer on the series and the late Ben Wright, who was the last actor to play Sherlock Holmes on the American radio series. Also involved are Phyllis White, who was the wife of the program's writer Anthony Boucher, and also Mrs. Mary Green who wrote many of the shows with her husband, writer/actor Denis Green.

"Our idea for the future is to establish that radio is a viable medium", he told SPERDVAC. "We're dealing with audio cassettes, but taking this idea one step further. Commercial radio networks, we hope, will realize that there is a demand for good entertainment. And if we are successful with our cassettes we will have opened up another avenue for radio drama."

ANNOUNCER JAY STEWART DIES

Radio-television announcer Jay Stewart died September 17. The 71 year old Stewart, whose real name was Jay Fix, died outside his Hollywood home of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Stewart's first radio job was at WBOW in Terra Haute, IN. Later at WLW in Cincinnati, he worked as an announcer and program emcee.

Beginning in 1943, he worked on a number of radio shows at CBS-owned KNX, Los Angeles and on the CBS network. His CBS radio announcing credits include **Take It or Leave It**, **That's a Good Idea**, **Meet the Missus** (carried by CBS on the West Coast in the late forties) and **You're In the Act**. He also announced **The Open House**, a program created by his first wife, Beverly Barnes. At NBC he was an announcer on **Truth or Consequences** and **The Great Gildersleeve**.

Jay Stewart was the emcee on **What's Doin', Ladies?**, **Answer Auction** and **Surprise Package**.

He is a past president of Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters, a Hollywood-based organization of long-time radio and television professionals.

Mr. Stewart is best known for his work on the TV game show "Let's Make a Deal". His announcing work on the program included regular on-camera work with host Monty Hall.

Stewart is survived by his wife, Phyllis, and two daughters.



Announcer Jay Stewart as he appeared at a SPERDVAC meeting in 1981.

Bill Idelson Reveals Trade Secrets in *Writing For Dough*

Writing For Dough is a witty, insightful, inside look at the business of professional script writing, by a man who has spent a lifetime in every aspect of the business.

Bill Idelson had a script in his hand almost as soon as he learned to read; his childhood was spent in front of a microphone as a young actor during the Golden Age of radio. As both he and the media grew up, he made the natural segue into television, appearing as a recurring character on such classic shows as "The Dick Van Dyke Show", "M.A.S.H." and "The Odd Couple." He began a writing career in 1960 with an award-winning script for "The Twilight Zone".

This illustrious writing career was to include scripts for virtually all the major comedy shows from 1960 on: "The Dick Van Dyke Show", "Andy Griffith", "Gomer Pyle", "Bewitched", "Get Smart", "Love American Style", "The Allan Sherman Special", and many more. Bill Idelson was story editor for such shows as "The Odd Couple" and "Happy Days", wrote numerous pilots, including "Barefoot in the Park", and "Anna and the King", based on "The King and I". He has worn the producer's hat for the "Bob Newhart Show" among others. In the midst of this frenzy of activity, he also wrote a sci-fi horror film that grossed a fortune for its studio. He is the recipient of two prestigious Writers' Guild Awards for his scripts, both of which are included in this book.

Writing For Dough is a lively view of life as a writer during the decades of TV's Golden Age. Through invaluable technical information interwoven with personal experiences, Bill Idelson generously shares the real *how to* info that he learned through over 20 years of professional writing. **Covered are such topics as: getting a break, writing with a partner, how deals are made, organizing a script outline, pitching ideas, plotting, and much more.** Three award winning scripts are included, so that the reader can see exactly how it is done.

The author pulls no punches. *Writing For Dough* is written with clarity, humor and above all, honesty; an amazing amount of practical information is packed into its pages. There is not another like it in the field; it is a must-read for anyone interested in professional script writing, television, comedy, or simply the story of a fascinating career.

Currently Bill Idelson is writing screenplays and teaching TV series and comedy writing at USC where he is an adjunct professor.



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ISBN # 1-55666-036-7

LOC # 89-80414



Bernard Katz, for several years a SPERDVAC member, received an honorary membership certificate from Vice President, Michael Plett.

When the Novacord became available, Katz began using the musical instrument on the air. "It was the first electronic instrument," he explained. It had the sound of strings. It was a very good imitation of the orchestra.

"I worked on it diligently for a week before I dared go on the air with it," he continued. "Some of the orchestral directors in different studios heard it and were very thrilled with it. For that reason, I was engaged to play in some of the movie studios, along with the regular orchestra." When studios discovered Katz and the Novacord could be used in place of several musicians, Musicians' Local 47 had a few harsh words to say.

The instrument had over 130 tubes in it. If one tube went out, the instrument went silent, making it chancy for use on live radio. Once, Mr. Katz recalled, the Novacord failed him during a **Point Sublime** broadcast. "There was a noticeable gap," he reported.

On **This Is My Best** with Orson Welles, there was once an occasion when Katz noticed during a seven second musical bridge that Welles had accidentally turned two pages of his script and was temporarily lost. Breaking with his usual practice, Katz had written a much longer bridge for that portion of the radio play and, seeing Welles' dilemma, signaled his musicians to continue. The musical bridge was expanded to about thirty seconds before Welles recovered. "Thanks for the concert," the famous actor said after the show.

Mr. Katz, who Radio Life magazine once dubbed a "builder of musical bridges," reports that only a few of his radio transcriptions still survive. He has donated them to SPERDVAC. Those programs, and a recording of his appearance at last month's meeting, will soon be available to members through our tape libraries.

ARCHIVES CASSETTE LIBRARY UPDATE

SPERDVAC's Archives cassette libraries are now in full operation. We have divided it into three parts, reducing voluntary librarian workloads.

Cassettes 1-500 are now handled by Barbara Cowin, 866 W. 4th St., Ontario, CA 91762.

Gary Mollica is our newest librarian. Members may order Archives cassettes 501-1000 from him at 135 N. Meredith Ave., Pasadena, CA 91106.

Bruce Miller now handles Archives cassettes 1001 up. His address is 1616 Harper, Redondo Beach, CA 90278.

Bruce tells us that for those who check out cassette 1028 to obtain the **Captain Midnight** broadcast, he has translated the coded message and includes it with the cassette.

In order to obtain request forms and mailing labels, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the appropriate librarian(s), with a note requesting the needed materials.

Library patrons are reminded that the more alternates listed on the order form, the quicker orders can be filled. This is especially important for members requesting **Suspense** or **Lux** broadcasts, our two most popular shows.

The following Archives cassettes are currently unavailable:

39	83	118	160	178
179	188	241	399	428
652	653	655	678	694
716	729	760	761	784
805	830	866	867	868
989	1006	1036	1055	1058
1166	1182	1188	1197	

HOLMES CASSETTES cont. from page 11

"Radio really is the Theater of the Mind, and with your imagination you can create the pictures of Holmes walking through a palace in India which can be as big or small as your imagination will allow. And that's the beauty of radio," he observed.

Ken Greenwald has adapted thirteen Holmes short stories as taken from the cassette radio series and released them in a book, **The Lost Adventure of Sherlock Holmes**, available at bookstores or through Mallard Press, 666 5th Avenue., New York, NY 10103. The cassettes are available from B. Dalton and Waldon bookstores. Orders can be made through Simon and Schuster at 1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10020 or 1-800-678-2677.

SPERDVAC's Friday Night convention recreation will be a Sherlock Holmes program. We are planning a brief panel to talk about the show. One of the featured members will be Holmes historian and actor Frank Thomas, who worked on many of the early Holmes broadcasts. For more information about the convention, please read the update in the newsletter or call 213-947-9800.



Announcing...

A new publication for the old time radio collector...

The Listening Guide Newsletter is now in preparation

The first issue is yours free!

The **Listening Guide Newsletter** is a new concept in old time radio periodicals. It will feature useful articles for both beginning and advanced collectors, as well as regular features on select shows, topics, technical tips and more. It is edited and published by Bob Burnham, author of *A Listening Guide to Classic Radio Programs* and *A Technical Guide to Collecting Old time Radio*.

Each issue of The Listening Guide Newsletter will feature:

- ***Hobby news & views...**who's doing what in the hobby, new shows, catalogs, products, books, conventions...which ones are best.
- ***Shows you might have missed...**capsule reviews of good shows that may or may not have been circulating for a while that you might have overlooked.
- ***Exclusive on-going collector directory...**plus information on who has what to trade, or who is looking for which shows.
- ***Salute to clubs...**a multi-part series reviewing the various old time radio clubs across the country
- ***Tools of the collector** and a regular technical tips section
- ***Selected interviews with radio personalities** as well as other articles reprinted from "Collector's Corner," an old time radio hobby magazine published in the late 1970's and early 1980's.
- ***Editorials...**each issue will feature commentary from the editor on a current topic of concern to the old time radio enthusiast..opposing viewpoints and guest editorials will be invited.
- ***Feedback from readers...**a column planned for issue #2...Questions, comments and criticisms are invited.
- ***Outstanding collector honored...** presented to the individual who has done more than his share to promote, preserve or enhance the old time radio hobby for the general old time radio "public." Those named receive a free one year subscription to the Listening Guide Newsletter.
- ***Regular special articles from contributors** to this new publication.

The **Listening Guide Newsletter** will be published on a quarterly basis 4 times a year. It will be professionally typeset using the latest word processing and desktop publishing software, and professionally offset printed.

The first issue will be ready for mailing by September 15, 1989.

The first issue is FREE to anyone interested, but to guarantee receipt of your copy by **First Class Mail**, just send \$1.50 to cover postage to: BRC Productions, P.O. Box 2645, Livonia, MI. 48151. (Send \$2.50 if outside the U.S.)

To subscribe, the special introductory price is just \$12.00, for 4 issues, **PLUS** the first issue **FREE**, or 5 issues in total. Send for your **FREE** sample issue or subscribe today. You won't be sorry.

Here's just some of the features lined up for the first issue of Listening Guide Newsletter:

Premiere issue editorial... *what ever possessed us to start such a publication in the first place!*
Tools of the collector... *features and tips for both beginning collectors as well as ideas for seasoned collectors who use reel to reel...some surprising advice!*
News & views... *new logs, shows, an OTR calendar and an OTR legal battle are all part of the news column.*
Collector directory... *this issue covers many collectors from the east coast...an on-going feature!*
Cassette duplicators for collectors... *a revision of info originally published in the Listening Guide book.*
Clubs... *a partial listing, plus a special article on SPERDVAC...despite occassional controversy, their new positive image and quality services keeps them the biggest and among the best of the OTR clubs in the country... Also in this issue: an interview with a famed OTR personality of the past, Shows you might have missed, and more!* **ISSUE #2** will feature the start of a multi-part old time radio computer series written from both a Macintosh and IBM viewpoint...that plus an Eve Arden interview, more helpful information, collector listings, sources for logs, articles and more.

LISTENING GUIDE NEWSLETTER ORDER FORM

☐ Please send the first issue only by first class mail when ready. Enclosed is \$1.50.

☐ Please enter my name for a year's subscription (4 issues plus 1 free issue). Enclosed is \$12.00.

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City _____

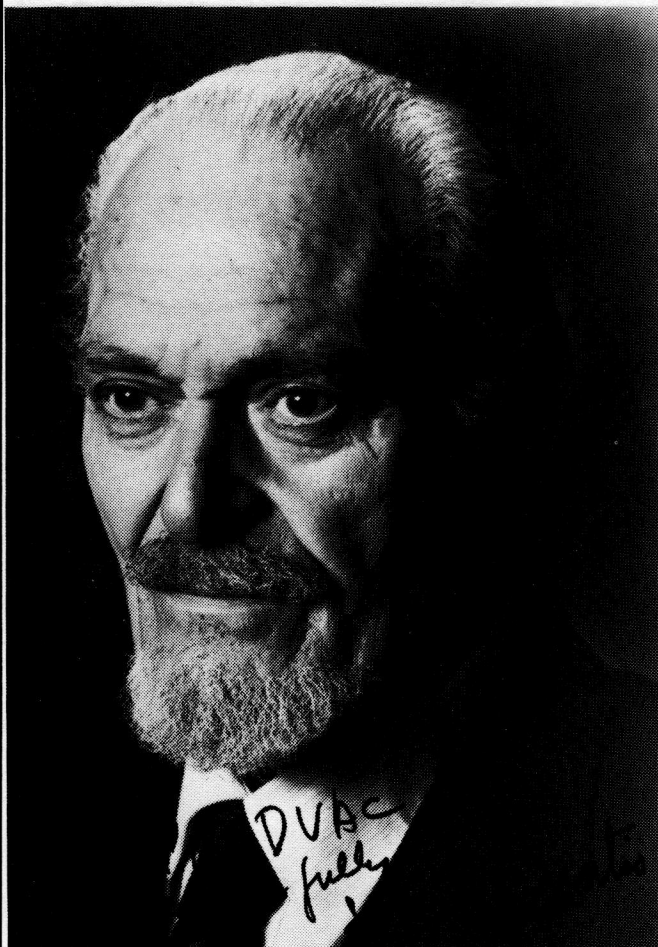
State _____

Zip _____

(Subscription rate applies to U.S. only. If you live in Canada or elsewhere, single copy is \$2.50 or write us for special subscription rate) **SEND TO: BRC Productions, P.O. Box 2645, Livonia, MI. 48151.**



RADIO'S JOE DE SANTIS



Radio actor Joe De Santis died Aug. 30 at the age of 80 in Utah, where he made his home during the past several years.

The New York City native made his first stage appearance in 1929 and debuted on radio in 1931 on an Italian language program.

During the late 1930s, Mr. De Santis combined stage and radio acting with his other artistic talents. He had his own sculpture studio in New York City. He also taught sculpturing and some of his work was on exhibit at the 1939 World's Fair.

His first English speaking radio job came in 1940 when he joined the cast of **Pepper Young's Family**. Mr. De Santis had roles on New York based radio programs including **The Goldbergs**, **The Clock**, **The Brighter Day**, **Dick Tracy**, **Tennessee Jed** and **Kitty Foyle**. During World War II he was the narrator on Norman Corwin's **This Is War** and on Corwin's **On a Note of Triumph**, which aired on CBS at the war's end. In the 1950s he appeared on NBC's two popular sci-fi series, **Dimension X** and **X Minus One**.



MEMOS FOR MEMBERS

SPERDVAC board member Jerry Williams has resigned his position. Jerry submitted his resignation at the September 23 BOD meeting. He is moving to Northern California where he will open a new business.

The board has elected Carolyn Rawski to fill the remainder of Jerry's term. Her term ends in March.

John Madigan, librarian for cassettes 500+ in the General Library, will soon have to give up his position. SPERDVAC's board would like to split the General Cassette Library into three parts, as has been done with the Archives Cassette Library. We need two Southern California area volunteers to operate cassette libraries for us, one for cassettes 501-1000 and the other for 1001+.

Actor Larry Riley is searching for radio material related to Black American performers. He is looking especially for these items:

Rhythm & Blues on Parade, with Willie Bryant, on ABC in 1955.

Men 'O War, 1943, from the Great Lakes Training Center.

They Call Me Joe, "They Call Me Joe" aired on CBS in 1944.

Chet Huntley's America, a black-oriented soap opera. Programs featuring William H. Luke (KECA, Los Angeles) or Wallace Ray (KNBC, San Francisco.)

Members with leads to these or similar shows may contact Mr. Riley c/o your Radiogram Editor.

SPERDVAC now has a condensed catalog index available free to all members. Unlike the detailed edition available for purchase, this index indicates only the location of scripts and recordings from a specific series.

The condensed index is twenty pages in length and three hole punched to permit easy addition to members' catalogs. It is available to members who send a self-addressed 9 x 12 manila envelope with \$1.05 postage affixed to printed materials librarian Jon Hughes, 7119 Owensmouth Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91303.

Chester Allen and his computer prepared the new index for SPERDVAC. The condensed index is now part of the SPERDVAC catalog distributed to new members.

Actress Peggy Webber's California Artists Radio Theatre is moving its radio production to KPCC-FM, Pasadena. Their 60 and 90 minute dramatizations of classic literary works will be aired as part of the non-commercial station's OTR program, **Same Time, Same Station**.

Their first production will be carried by KPCC (89.3 FM) Sunday, Oct. 29, at 6 PM. Cart's six programs previously aired on station KUSC will be carried on KPCC, and new productions are being prepared for broadcast in the near future.

Popular radio professionals Jeanette Nolan, Parley Baer, Lou Krugman, Janet Waldo, Les Tremayne and Eddie Firestone are among the long list of actors who have performed in the series.

SPERDVAC

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

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