

CONVENTION 2013 COMING NOVEMBER 15

*sperdvac*



Volume 38 • Number 6

October 2013

# THE QUEST for the WHOLY GRAIL





SPERDVAC graciously extends its gratitude to these individuals who have contributed \$50 or more to SPERDVAC during the past 12 months. If you wish to be a sponsor of SPERDVAC and join this select group your tax-deductible donation to SPERDVAC can be mailed to Jerry Williams at P. O. Box 125 in Oroville, CA 95965. Thank you!

- ALICE AKINS *in memory of Glen Akins*
- DAVE AMAREL *in memory of Jim Harmon*
- ARTHUR J.M. ANDERSON *in memory of Orson Welles*
- ERIC BAELEN
- JUDIE BARTELL *in memory of Harry Bartell, Ben Wright and Vic Perrin*
- PAUL M. BENNETT
- OLIVER BERLINER *in memory of John Guedel, Martha Tilton and Lena Romy*
- FRED BONDY *in memory of the whole Gunsmoke gang*
- GEORGE BRECKENRIDGE
- DAVID & LINDA BRENINGER
- BUD BRESNAHAN *in memory of Richard Crenna*
- RICHARD A. BROCKELMAN
- DENNIS B. BURK *in memory of Phil Harper*
- CHRIS M. BUZZARD
- RICHARD CHANDLEE *in memory of Truda Marsen Chandlee*
- GEROLD M. CLEMENSEN
- WARD L. COCHRAN
- BERT H. COHEN
- RICHARD F. COLAVECHIO *in memory of Bryna Raeburn, Craig McDonnell, Bill Zuckert and Florence Robinson*
- JOHN COLLINS
- THOMAS W. COLLINS *in memory of William Conrad*
- TOMMY COOK *in memory of Arch Oboler*
- IVAN CURY *in memory of Bob Novak*
- DIX DAVIS
- LLOYD DE LLAMAS
- ROSEMARY DOBBS
- JUNE FORAY DONAVAN *in memory of Hobart Donovan*
- WIL DUFOUR
- BOB DUNCAN, JR.
- HERB ELLIS *in memory of Larry Dobkin, Harry Bartell and Parley Baer*
- JAY ELZWEIG *in honor of the Long Island Radio & TV Historical Society, the WCWP-FM Alumni Association and Staff, John "The Movie Man" Carpenter and Eddie "The Old Philosopher" Lawrence*
- HENRY C. ENGELHARDT III *in memory of Michael Meredith*
- CARMEN FINESTRA
- DAVID FOLKMAN
- ART FORSTER *in memory of Gil Stratton and William Conrad*
- JACK FRANCE
- BARBARA FULLER *in memory of John Newland, Peggy Knudsen and Laughter*
- JACK GAGNE
- BARRY GERBER
- STANLEY D. GINSBURG
- RICHARD GLASBAND *in honor of Bobb Lynes and Barbara Watkins*
- KATHLEEN GRAMS-GIBBS *in memory of Mary Grams*
- TOM J. GRIMSLEY *in memory of Rosemary Dobbs, Art Linkletter and Stuart Lubin*
- JOHN F. HALLEY
- BARBARA HARMON *in memory of Art Hern, Jack Lester and Curley Bradley*
- HELPING HANDS FOR THE BLIND
- BOB HICKS
- GORDON HIGBEE
- DR. MICHELE HILMES
- STEPHEN E. HOLDEN
- GERALD A. HOLZMAN
- JAMES F. HORNER *in memory of The KNX Radio Drama Hour*
- SEAMAN JACOBS *in memory of Fred S. Fox*
- ROBERT JANOVICI
- SALLY JANUS
- DENNIS C. JOHNSON
- RALPH M. JOHNSON
- SAM KAMLER
- CASEY KASEM
- GLENDA KELLY *in memory of Stuart Lubin*
- NILAN L. KINCAID
- ALBERT J. KOPEC
- DENIS KRAY *in memory of my beloved parents, Norbert and Florence Kray, and in memory of Glenn, Ray, Marion, Tex and all the boys in the band*
- RON LANGSETH
- JEFFREY J. LEBRUN *in memory of all departed voice artists*
- ALFRED LUCAS
- LON McCARTT *in memory of Smilin' Ed (Froggy the Gremlin) McConnell*
- ROBY & JOYCE McHONE
- ESTHER GEDDES McVEY *in memory of my leading man, Tyler McVey*
- JAN MERLIN *in memory of Frankie Thomas and Mona Bruns Thomas*
- MELVIN MOREHOUSE *in memory of Brace Beemer*
- MIKE MORITZ *in gratitude for all of old-time radio*
- JAMES L. MORRISON
- MILLIE MORSE *in memory of Jim Harmon*
- BOB MOTT *to all the SFX artists when radio was still radio*
- GEORGE (BOB) & VIRGINIA NEWHART *in memory of Bill Quinn*
- JAN ELLIS O'HARE *in loving memory of Antony Ellis*
- ROBERT OLSEN
- DR. WAYNE OTT
- FORREST F. OWEN
- GARRY PAPERS
- DAVE PARKER *in memory of Fred Foy*
- PHIL PROCTOR
- BRIAN E. RAMSEY
- CHESTER RAWSKI *in memory of Carolyn Rawski*
- MARIE RAYMOND
- RONALD M. REISNER, M.D.
- DICK RICHARDS
- D.W. RICHARDSON
- STEPHEN K. SHUTTLEWORTH
- STUART & JANIS SIMON
- CHUCK SIVERTSEN
- LOREN SLAFER
- KENNETH L. SLEEPER
- LEE SMITH
- MICKEY SMITH
- C. W. STAUFENBERG *in memory of Paul Rhymer and members of the "Vic and Sade" cast*
- RICHARD STONE
- ROBERT A. SUMMERS
- JON D. SWARTZ *in memory of Jim Harmon*
- RICHARD & MADELENE TEPERSON *in memory of Gil Stratton*
- JOAN TREMAYNE *in memory of Les Tremayne*
- EDMUND TOTMAN
- EUGENE J. WARD
- WASHINGTON OLD TIME RADIO CLUB *in memory of Jim Harmon*
- EDWARD C. WEAVER
- BETSY L. WEINBERG
- LESLIE C. WEST
- JERRY & BARBARA WILLIAMS *in memory of Michael Rye*
- JAMES C. WORDEN





Volume 38 • Number 6 • October 2013



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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*president*

Larry Gassman

• • •

Glenda Kelly • Barbara Harmon  
John Gassman • Jerry Williams  
Jerry Haendiges • Walden Hughes

#### Officers

Treasurer ..... Jerry Williams  
Secretary ..... Glenda Kelly  
Activities Chair ..... Barbara Harmon  
Acquisitions Chair ..... John Gassman  
Membership Chair ..... Barry Opliger  
Elections Chair ..... Neil J. Mitchell  
Catalogs ..... Bob Steinmetz  
New Members ..... Rex Quinn



Editor

PATRICK LUCANIO

RADIOGRAM is published monthly except December by SPERDVAC, the Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, P.O. Box 125, Oroville, California 95965. Dues are \$25 for first year and \$15 for renewals; \$30 American currency for Canadian members. Annual subscriptions to *Radiogram* only are \$15 in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, and \$20 in all other countries. Editorial submissions are welcome, but the publisher assumes no responsibility for the return of unsolicited material. All editorial-related photographs and artwork received unsolicited become the property of SPERDVAC. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the opinions of SPERDVAC. All rights to letters sent to *Radiogram* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication unless otherwise stated. The publishers make every effort to ensure the accuracy of information published in editorial and advertising material but assume no responsibility for inconveniences or damages resulting from editorial error or omissions. Publisher is not responsible for typographical errors. All photographs and illustrations are believed authorized for reproduction as set forth within. Entire contents are copyright © 2013 by the Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy. All rights reserved. Nothing contained in this issue may be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any means, including the Internet, without prior written permission from the publisher.

**EDITORIAL SUBMISSIONS** should be sent to Radiogram, Patrick Lucanio, Editor, 1097 Janus Street, Springfield, Oregon 97477; e-mail: Radiogram@comcast.net. E-mail attachments in Microsoft Word are encouraged for all articles submitted. Articles sent by U.S. Mail should be Microsoft Word formatted compact disk accompanied by hardcopy.

**ADVERTISING RATES.** Full page \$125; half-page \$70; quarter page \$40. Rates subject to change without notice.

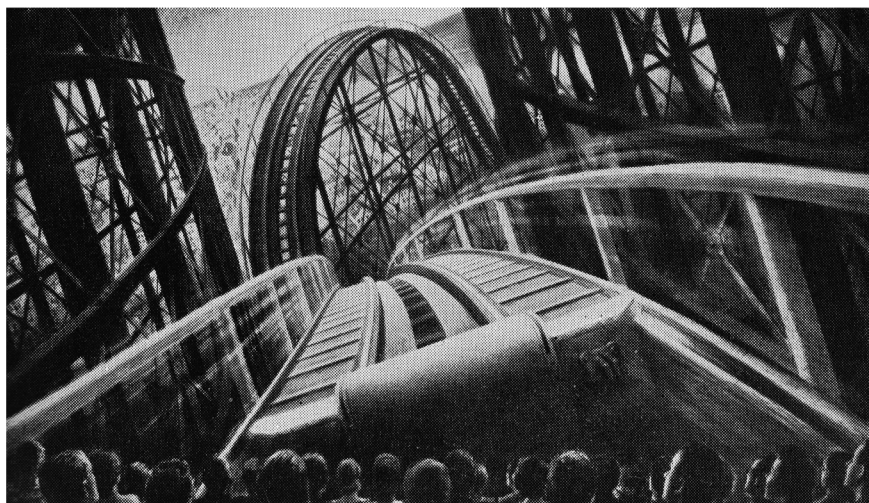
**ADDRESS CHANGE.** Send address change to Barry Opliger, 435 Garfield Avenue Apt. 306, South Pasadena, CA 91030-2241

**AUDIO RADIOGRAM** is available by sending a C-90 cassette in a returnable mailer to Russell S. Hudson, 3836 Harper Court, Bethlehem, PA 18020-7570. Telephone 610-866-0386. (This service is for blind members only).



E-MAIL

[radiogram@comcast.net](mailto:radiogram@comcast.net)



# IT'S JUST OVER THE HILL!

SPERDVAC's Bigger and Greater and *ALL NEW*  
CONVENTION 2013!

# THIS IS OLD-TIME RADIO

## The Prez Sez . . .

Our convention is coming up very quickly, and a few items for those in the Los Angeles area.

We still need volunteers to help us with transportation for some of our guests who no longer drive and wish to attend the convention.

Please call Larry Gassman if you can volunteer to help us at (877) 251-5771.

We also need some help with items for our silent auction. If you can help us as we put our silent auction together, please let me know.

Our reservation deadline for the hotel is October 25. If you wish to make a reservation at the hotel, do it by that date to take advantage of the group rate. Also our menu items have changed slightly. Steak is no longer available. Our choices are now Braised Beef, Chicken, Grilled Salmon, and Vegetarian.

See the current registration form on page 6.

Thank you to so many volunteers who have done so much for SPERDVAC, especially during the transitional months since the new board took over. Bob

Stienmetz, Jerry and Barbara Williams plus Phil, Walden, and Sandy Hughes, Rex Quinn, Glenda Kelly, Jerry Haendiges, Roger Rittner, and Don Aston are just a few of the names who have spent long hours working for SPERDVAC. You haven't seen their efforts reflected in the library catalog pages, but you will soon. Walden has been especially helpful with our monthly meetings and the convention.

Barbara Harmon has done an excellent job with our monthly meetings as well.

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to help us with our many activities.

We could still use more help. Please call the SPERDVAC line if you wish to volunteer your services.

SPERDVAC now has a Paypal account on the web page, which is [sperdvac.com](http://sperdvac.com). You can now pay for library orders and convention registrations.

If you have questions or comments please e-mail me at [LarryGassman@Roadrunner.com](mailto:LarryGassman@Roadrunner.com) or give me a call at (877) 251-5771.☎

SOCIETY TO PRESERVE AND ENCOURAGE  
RADIO DRAMA, VARIETY AND COMEDY



## OLD TIME RADIO CONVENTION "IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON"

November 15, 16 & 17, 2013

Beverly Garland Hotel

North Hollywood, California

OCTOBER 25 IS THE CUTOFF FOR THE HOTEL CONVENTION RATE  
THE BURBANK AIRPORT IS THE CLOSEST TO THE HOTEL

For more information and registration form  
go to [SPERDVAC.COM](http://SPERDVAC.COM) or

Contact Barbara Williams at [mrj131313@gmail.com](mailto:mrj131313@gmail.com) 530-990-4214

### Honorary Members and Guest who will be with us to Celebrate the Holiday Season of Radio

Bob Hastings\*\*\*Chuck McCann\*\*\*Gloria McMillan\*\*\*Ron Cocking\*\*\*Tommy Cook\*\*\*Ivan Cury  
Stuffy Singer\*\*\*Terry Moore\*\*\*Janet Waldo\*\*\*Dick Van Patten\*\*\*Gladys Holland\*\*\*Frank Bresee  
Camden Singer\*\*\*Beverly Washburn\*\*\*Rose Marie\*\*\*Gary Owens\*\*\*Herb Ellis\*\*\*Marvin Kaplan  
Marsha Hunt\*\*\*Monica Lewis\*\*\*Jan Merlin\*\*\*Shirley Mitchell\*\*\*Peggy Webber\*\*\*Wink Martindale  
Patricia Rye\*\*\*Barbara Fuller\*\*\*June Foray\*\*\*Tony Dow\*\*\*Ben Cooper\*\*\*Ivy Bethune\*\*\*Jimmy Weldon  
Carolyn Carroll\*\*\*Tom Hatten\*\*\*H.B. Barnum\*\*\*Don Barrett\*\*\*Joan Del Mar\*\*\*Tiger Fafara  
Doug McIntyre\*\*\*Chuck Southcott\*\*\*John Wilder\*\*\*Randy & Chris McMillan\*\*\*Kate McNight  
Jenn Olivia\*\*\*Christopher Uminski\*\*\*Sean Uminski\*\*\*Tom Murphy\*\*\*Van Alexander\*\*\*Ed Ames  
Ray Charles\*\*\*Jill Corey\*\*\*Bob Graham\*\*\*Gogi Grant\*\*\*Lee Hale\*\*\*Tom Kelly\*\*\*Margaret O'Brien  
Alan Oppenheimer\*\*\*Melinda Peterson\*\*\*Phil Proctor\*\*\*Amy Pietz\*\*\*Sue Raney\*\*\*Connie Sawyer  
Mark Silverman\*\*\*Chuck Southcott\*\*\*George Pirrone\*\*\*Bryan Hendrickson\*\*\*Ed French\*\*\*Bert Williams

### Re-Creations



Jeff Regan,  
Investigator



Jack Benny

My Friend  
Irma



I Love Lucy,  
The Untold Story



Velveteen  
Rabbit

The  
3rd Man



The Bickersons



A Christmas Carol



A Date  
With Judy

### Panels

Sitting Around Visiting\*\*\*Movie Star Panel\*\*\*Jack Benny Beavers  
DJ Panel\*\*\*Salute to Disney\*\*\*Music Panel



# 10/80

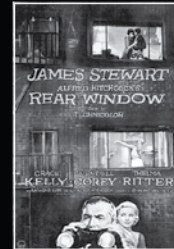
**TEN BUCKS WILL GET YOU  
EIGHTY OTR CASSETTES!**



We're swimming in cassettes and so we are offering a grab-bag of 80 cassettes—that's right *eighty* cassettes—of old-time radio shows for just \$10 and that includes postage. **YES, JUST TEN BUCKS WILL GET YOU EIGHTY OTR CASSETTES!** We have about 2500 cassettes available. It's a grab-bag. You'll get what you get. When they're gone they're gone. Don't delay; order today. Send \$10 to:

Bob Steinmetz  
P.O. Box 669  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

***sperdvac***



*Serious Buyer Paying Top Dollar for*  
Movie Posters (1910-1980) ♦ Lobby Cards ♦ Window Cards  
Film Stills and Entertainment Photography  
Original Screenplays and Scripts ♦ Concert Posters 1920's-1969  
1920's-1930's Jazz and Blues 78 RPM Records



Will buy one piece or entire collections.  
Buying all sizes; any condition accepted.  
Immediate Cash Paid – Finders Fees offered  
*Always happy to provide appraisals!*



**RALPH DELUCA**

157 Park Avenue ♦ Madison, NJ 07940 USA  
1-800-392-4050 Toll Free ♦ 1-973-377-1007 Outside the US  
1-973-377-4020 Fax ♦ [ralph@ralphdeluca.com](mailto:ralph@ralphdeluca.com)

For more information check out my website at [www.ralphdeluca.com](http://www.ralphdeluca.com)

**2013 SPERDVAC OLD-TIME RADIO CONVENTION**  
**Nov. 15, 16 & 17, 2013**  
**The Beverly Garland Holiday Inn**  
**4222 Vineland Avenue • North Hollywood, CA 91602**  
**ADVANCE RESERVATION FORM *Cancellation Deadline is November 9, 2013***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Guest name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: If you wish to be seated with your friends, please send reservation forms and fees together.

If you worked in early radio check here \_\_\_\_\_

Convention tickets will be held at the Registration Desk. This is not a fundraiser and the full cost of tickets goes to cover costs. Therefore no part of the ticket price is considered a tax deductible contribution.

CONVENTION RATES DEADLINE November 9, 2013 • *CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THIS DATE FOR ADVANCE PRICES*  
 "AT THE DOOR" PRICES WILL BE \$10 HIGHER per event • *When paying at the Door – Checks or Cash only. Thank You.*

<b>1. Convention Package</b>	<b>\$160</b>	<b>x _____ = _____</b>
<b>2. Friday Dinner &amp; Program</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	<b>x _____ = _____</b>
<b>3. Saturday Daytime</b>	<b>\$ 25</b>	<b>x _____ = _____</b>
<b>4. Saturday Evening Dinner &amp; Program</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	<b>x _____ = _____</b>
<b>5. Sunday Buffet Brunch &amp; Program</b>	<b>\$ 35</b>	<b>x _____ = _____</b>
		<b>➔ TOTAL \$ _____</b>

(Optional): I am enclosing a tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in support of SPERDVAC's old-time radio convention.

Please Indicate Menu Selections:

Friday: Braised Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday: Braised Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify special dietary requirements so that the hotel can be advised. No host bar available Friday and Saturday evenings.

**HOTEL**

To make reservations call the Beverly Garland Hotel direct toll-free reservation number 1-800-BEVERLY. Ask for SPERDVAC group rate of \$125 per night or on line at [www.BeverlyGarland.com](http://www.BeverlyGarland.com) & input Group Code listed: Group Code: S13 PARKING: \$15.00 overnight, \$7.00 Event parking per day. ➔ **CONVENTION HOTEL ROOM RATE DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 25, 2013**

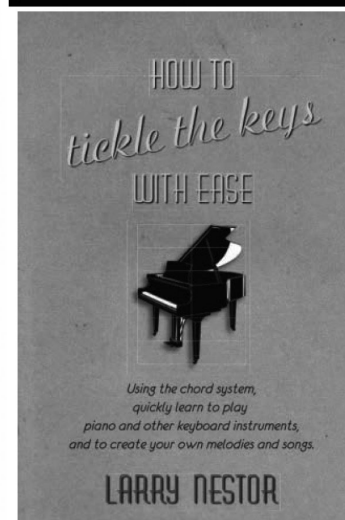
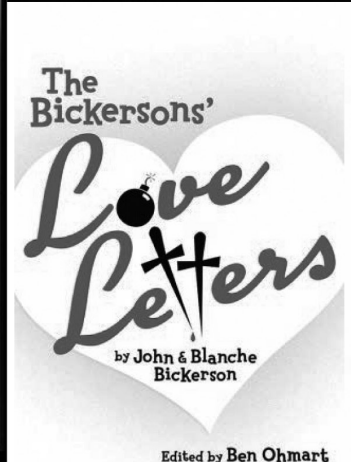
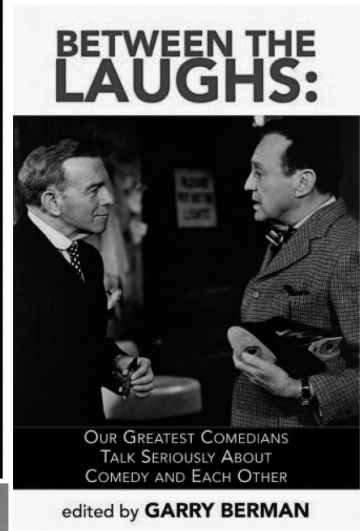
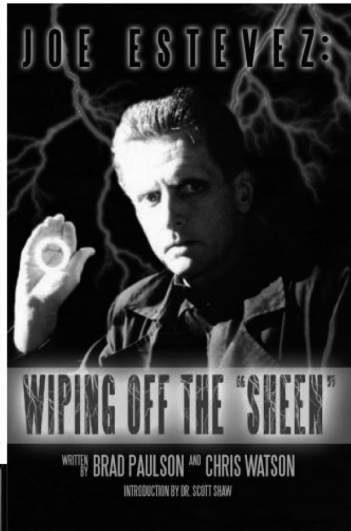
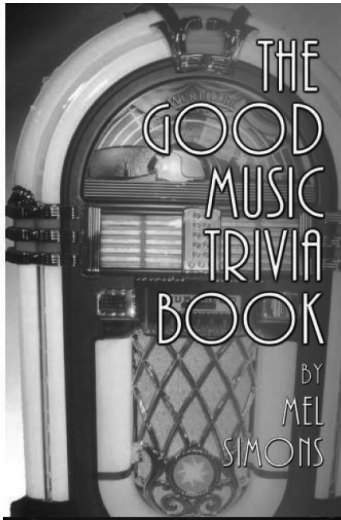
There will be a raffle and silent auction. Radio items are needed for the Raffle & Auction. If you have items to donate or would like to place an ad in the Convention Program, please contact SPERDVAC@aol.com

**Make checks payable to SPERDVAC**

Mail to SPERDVAC • P.O. 125 • Oroville, CA 95965 or you may use PayPal at Website: SPERDVAC.com

Convention Questions: Convention Chair Larry Gassman 800-251-5771  
 Reservation Questions: Barbara Williams 530-990-4214 or [mrj131313@gmail.com](mailto:mrj131313@gmail.com)





Ebooks available for all titles!

All books on this page are only \$14.95!

\$5 postage per book, plus \$1 per additional book

BearManor Media

P.O. Box 1129

Duncan, OK 73534-1129

580-252-3547

orders@benohmart.com

www.bearmanormedia.com



*The* QUEST FOR THE

UnHOLY

GRAIL

DRACULA  
THE VAMPIRE

Originally a chilling novel written in 1889 by Bram Stoker, *Dracula* was adapted for the stage by Hamilton Deane and premiered in the United States in 1927. Hungarian actor Bela Lugosi was the actor most associated with the role perhaps because of his casting in the 1931 film based on the stage play. Rumor has persisted in OTR circles that in the spring of 1928 Bela Lugosi had appeared before a radio microphone as Dracula despite no extant recordings or even mention in media publications—until now! Ace OTR researcher Martin Grams has uncovered proof that Bela Lugosi had portrayed Dracula before the radio microphone in 1928. Now, go with Martin on his “vault-by-vault” quest to find what has amounted to OTR’s unHoly Grail.





Difficult as it is to write an article about a lost radio program without giving the appearance of bragging, the following story behind the discovery of a script to a legendary and long-rumored broadcast is more amusing than the discovery itself.

by Martin Grams, Jr.



NOT A WEEK GOES BY that someone isn't asking me for information about some radio broadcast that has yet to be documented. I feel bad about not having the time to answer every request, but when someone asks me to seek out one of the top 10 Holy Grails of old-time radio and the archaeological trail leads to success then moments like these can be shared with everyone. Amusingly, the discovery came not from a request but from of a wager.

About a year ago I was shaking hands with Jerry Robbins, who introduced himself as an authority on all things Bela Lugosi. I was an attendee at the annual Monster Bash convention in Butler, PA and Jerry brought a copy of a magazine article I wrote a few years back about Lugosi's 200-plus radio appearances. What piqued his interest was a notation I made referring to "the earliest known radio appearance" of Bela Lugosi. A number of newspapers and magazines of the twenties and thirties publicly hailed Hollywood and Broadway celebrities making their "radio debut" — but that was always for publicity and newspaper editors rarely questioned what was reported in press releases. Indeed, if you dig far enough you will often find an appearance that dates before said proclamation.

In the spring of 1928, Bela Lugosi supposedly appeared before a radio microphone to act out the role of Dracula, the title character of a stage play adapted from the Bram Stoker novel of the same name. The Broadway play premiered in 1927 and exists today only through playbills, photographs, newspaper articles, tabloid briefs and Lugosi's reprisal on the silver screen in 1931. Lugosi's Hungarian accent limited his repertoire for other screen roles but inspired numerous other actors to mimic a similar accent for their performance of Count Dracula. As is often the case in Hollywood, Lugosi found himself typecast and played the role of a vampire many times or suspected of being a vampire as in the case of the 1935 motion picture, *Mark of the Vampire*.

One evening Jerry called me on the phone to ask if I was planning to attend Monster Bash in a few weeks, reminding me of our discussion about the 1928 radio broadcast, which Jerry was seeking. He asked if a recording of that broadcast has been found. Again, my answer had not changed from the year previous. No, it has not and probably will not. Why? In 1928, radio broadcasts were not even considered a viable commercial property. Rarely was a broadcast sponsored because companies both local and national questioned just how many people had a radio in their living room. Nineteen twenty-eight was the same year *Amos and Andy* premiered in Chicago, radio station WOL in Washington, D.C. opened for business, and it was not until December 23 that NBC was set up to broadcast as a coast-to-coast network. This means most radio stations (depending on the wattage) offered local programming. Ten years later, in 1938, the cost of a half-hour transcription disc was \$90 (yeah, that was a lot of money back then) and while the reasons why radio broadcasts of the thirties, forties and fifties exist today vary, depending on the program: someone had to foot the bill. If the Lugosi broadcast of 1928 was ever recorded, what would be the reason and who would have paid the bill? Per statistics (via Jay Hickerson), only four (general) radio broadcasts exist in recorded form that are dated from 1928, so the chances of the long-rumored radio



broadcast surfacing remains almost improbable.

Jerry, being determined, asked me if a copy of the radio script exists. "It might," I told him, explaining that there was no industry standard for radio scripts in 1928. At that time, many radio programs were broadcast without the use of scripts. The few that were scripted were molded in the form of stage plays. And dramas were few and far between. Radio provided mostly news and music, especially music. Singers who knew the lyrics didn't need anything but a director to cue their vocal chords. After explaining all this to Jerry, he offered a proposition. He wagered a box of Krispy Kreme donuts that I couldn't find a copy of the 1928 radio script within 30 days. Hmmm . . . *pause behind the phone for a moment.*

"Sixty days," I told him. "I will be attending Cinevent and the Cincinnati Nostalgia Expo, among other things, and I need to prepare for the shows." Jerry accepted the terms and as King Henry IV (Shakespeare) remarked, "the game's afoot." So how do you go about finding a radio script from 1928 with nothing but the information described above? Start by narrowing down the possibilities. The *Dracula* stage play went on tour across the country but it was still rooted in New York City at the time. It was an educated guess that the broadcast originated from New York and would have been a local broadcast not a coast-to-coast presentation. That narrowed down the number of radio stations. The broadcast more than likely would have been from 1927 to 1929 with the primary focus to publicize the stage drama.

Newspaper listings are rarely consulted because it has been proven that one out of every eight listings is inaccurate (refer to the article

*Text continues page 12*



-6-

3.30  
WJZ

Stardom of Broadway" Dracula"

(Announcement attached)

OK Swetsler

OF  
4.00  
WJZ

The Tea Timers

(Program attached)

A. G. B.

(420)  
(431)  
(432)

ANNOUNCER  
3/30/28 "Dracula"

STARDOM OF BROADWAY.

This is 'radio-matinée' time, when the National Broadcasting Co. presents its regular weekly feature, a radio-version of a current Broadway play-success, broadcast by the principals of the actual stage-cast. This is the "Stardom of Broadway" series, put on under the supervision of Mortimer Stewart, every Friday on station WJZ. This week's offering is: "Dracula", a melodrama by Hamilton Deane & John Balderston, from the celebrated



ANNOUNCER  
"Dracula"

②

novel of the same name, by Bram Stoker. Horace Swright presents it at the Fulton Theatre in 46<sup>th</sup> st., at Broadway, New York. The characters of "Dracula" at the microphone, played by the original theatre-company, are:

Sonthe Peterson, as Lucy Seward  
 Florence Hill, as Jonathan Harker  
 Edward Vansloan, as Prof. Van Helsing  
 Bernard Jukes, as Renfield  
 and Bela Lugosi, as Count Dracula.  
 And now — here's Mr. Stewart . . .



ANNEX  
"Dracula"

③  
CLOSING

This was the radio-version of "Dracula", a melodrama by Hamilton Deane + John Balderston from Bram Stoker's famous novel, produced by Horace Swiright + now current at the Fulton Theatre in New York, where it has been running all season. This is the "Stardom of Broadway" series of current play-successes, presented by the Koff Broadcasting Co., under the supervision of Mortimer Stewart, every Friday over station WJZ. (The principals of the actual broadcast whom you heard today, WJZ: PICK UP)



Pages of the handwritten script for the 1929 WJZ series *Stardom of Broadway*. At right, a section from the September 18, 1930, *Film Daily* reports that Bela Lugosi and Edward Van Sloan from the stage production have been cast in the Tod Browning film "transcription" of *Dracula* for Universal Pictures.

THE *Film* DAILY

V. Y. Chain Houses To Play 'T

**HOLLYWOOD FLASHES**

**Gillstrom Will Direct Educational Comedies**  
Educational has signed Arvid Gillstrom to direct a number of comedies at the Metropolitan studios. His first assignment will be announced shortly.

**Evelyn Brent to Make Two More for Radio**  
Evelyn Brent has been signed by Radio Pictures for two more pictures. She is expected in "The Silhouette" for the company.

**Signed for "Dracula"**  
Edward Van Sloan is another member of the original stage cast of "Dracula" to be recruited by Carl Laemmle, Jr. to impersonate the same role on the screen as he portrayed in the legitimate version. Bela Lugosi was a former member of the original stage cast to have been signed for the film transcription.

**Two More Cast for Columbia**  
Cast of "Tolable David" has been increased with the addition of Edmund Breese and George Duryea. John Blystone is directing for Columbia.

**Looking at the Future**  
This business of entertaining the populace is a festering animal. New York.

**"Cimarron" Started at Radio**  
Production has been started on "Cimarron" at the Radio Pictures studios. Richard Dix is starring with Irene Dunn as the feminine lead.

**Sterling Ready for Educational**  
Ford Sterling will start on his initial Educational comedy as soon as Jimmy Starr and Harry McCoy complete the story. Production will be at the Metropolitan studios.

**Lightman for Apaf**  
Southern Illinois exhibitors to Lightman for their majority assembly advertising shown and to er or etc.





One of radio's first interpretations of *Dracula* was performed by Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre in 1938.

*Unreliable Newspaper Logs* from 2011). Remember, newspapers should not be used as reference, but as a tool for reference. Requiring a starting point, I used a number of New York newspaper archives (especially the valuable fultonhistory.com) in an effort to narrow down station identification. Nothing came up referring to *Dracula* or Lugosi that pertains to what I was looking for. Most likely the *Dracula* production was a dramatic highlight of a program of a different name. Using key words such as “Broadway” and “Stage,” and consulting Jay Hickerson’s *Ultimate Guide* book (recommended for anyone who plans to do research on old-time radio), the possibilities were narrowed down to 98 programs (might be 97 or 99, I did a loose count here). Scratching off anything originating from Buffalo or Syracuse, the number came down to 93.

For each and every program I dug into the series history and scratched off anything that aired in the evening. The actors could not have performed the drama during the evening since they had a play to perform. That narrowed down to a morning or afternoon broadcast. Down to 23. Looking over the list, one program caught my eye. *Fifteen Minutes of Drama* remained a strong possibility. No one said the cast of the stage play had to perform the entire drama (why give away the entire story?) so a sample or teaser was a likely theory.

Finding the exact program and air date would be trial and error. As you see above, Mary Margaret Chester was a temporary substitute for the series regular, Aileen Berry. This offers two additional leads: the names

of the female hosts. But two days of digging only suggested I was walking down an empty alley. Everything referring to the two women helped document *Fifteen Minutes of Drama* but nothing making mention of *Dracula*. For anyone curious, WJZ was one of two stations representing NBC (NBC Red and NBC Blue) and originated from Newark, NJ. Located about 30 minutes outside New York City, it remained possible that the stage actors, Lugosi included, made the trek down to Newark and their performance might have originated from New Jersey. This potential lead meant traveling to The New Jersey Historical Society. Located on Park Place, for anyone who is not familiar with Newark, I recommend you make the trip only if necessary. Remember the joke in *New Year’s Eve* (2011) about how bad an area Newark is? Yeah, I was afraid my car might be stolen after I parked and locked it.

The Historical Society, however, turned up negative regarding *Dracula* or Lugosi but I did find good radio material but nothing leading to *Dracula*. The next phase was to start scanning through old periodicals like *Broadcasting* and *Variety*. I scanned every page of *Broadcasting* at College Park in searchable pdf format but in this case it would not help. *Broadcasting* didn’t start until 1931. *Variety* was a crap-shoot. Next was a trek into New York City and to the Billy Rose Theatre Collection at the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center. Using their card files on the second floor I found a number of newspaper clippings for radio programs that featured the words “Broadway” and “Stage.” That is when one item came across my attention. A radio program known as *Stardom of Broadway*

which, on the afternoon of March 2, 1928, featured an adaptation of “The Racket” with Willard Robertson, Hugh O’Connell and Harry English reprising their stage roles. The clipping made mention of the play at the Ambassador Theatre and how screen options were recently purchased by a major film studio. The same clipping also stated that “The Racket” would be the first of many *Stardom of Broadway* radio broadcasts to highlight scenes from popular and “highly-acclaimed melodramas.” The director of the series was Mortimer Stewart. The sponsor was Barbour, Crimmins and Bryant, a theatrical firm based out of New York City. Obviously the producers bought radio air time to promote a number of stage plays including *Excess Baggage*, presently playing at the Ritz Theatre, which they were producing on Broadway (special thanks to Jo Bagwell for her assistance with the sponsor).

Looking through *Variety* for an obituary for Mortimer Stewart, I was able to discover who the next of kin was (example: “survived by son and daughter”). From there I was able to use www.whitepages.com and track down a family relative, but no one even knew Stewart did radio. They thought he did stage plays. Dead end again.

I put in a plea on Craig’s List for tracking down a family relative of a radio script writer responsible for the *Dracula* radio program. I did receive one response but after following that lead I discovered it was for a different *Dracula* script.

Trailing back and digging into the history of *Stardom of Broadway*, here is what we now know about the program. Mortimer Stewart was a member of the WJZ staff so his duties served as director and writer for dozens of radio programs over a short time and in many cases he managed as many as three programs a day! *Stardom of Broadway* lasted a mere five weeks during a total of five broadcasts. The series aired from 3:30 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern. The presentation of March 9 remains unknown. On the afternoon of March 16, “Our Betters” was dramatized, based on the stage play by W. Somerset Maugham. On the afternoon of March 23, “Excess Baggage” was presented, a comedy by John McGowan. On the afternoon of March 30, “Dracula” was presented. No one has been able to verify a *Stardom of Broadway* broadcast on April 6 and I suspect March 30 was the fifth and final broadcast of the series.

Now that I had a broadcast date, finding the script would be a cinch. The WJZ radio station archives might have something. So off I go to the studio’s microfilm division (and keeping in mind that finding something there without knowing the broadcast date, time and name of program is like searching for a needle in a haystack), WJZ’s accounting of radio broadcasts on March 30, 1928, cites



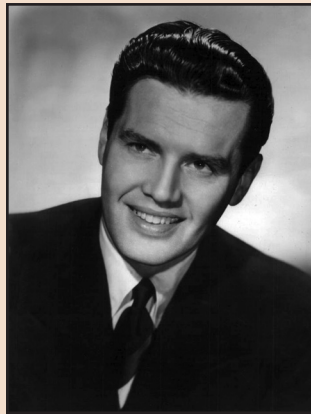
# Good Listenin' May 1947

Friday, May 16 . . . Baby Snooks makes a few dollars via stopping insults on the "Baby Snooks Show" starring Fanny Brice at 6 p.m. . . . Nick and Nora Charles solve the "Case of the Talking Horse" at 8:30 on the "Adventures of the Thin Man." . . . Lowell Thomas reports the news at 9 p.m. followed at 9:15 by Jack Smith, the man who smiles when he sings.

Saturday, May 17 . . . Comedy will be the keynote of the Vaughn Monroe musical variety show at 6 p.m. Besides Vaughn, his orchestra, and the Moon Maids, guests will include Shirley Booth and the hilarious Stroud twins. . . . Music by the Waltz King is featured at 6:30 played by the Wayne King orchestra, with songs by Nancy Evans and Larry Douglas. . . . Lionel Barrymore as "Mayor of the Town" is heard at 7. . . . David Niven, Kim Hunter and Vincent Price star in "Stairway to Heaven" on "This is Hollywood" at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18 . . . Alec Templeton makes one of his frequent guest appearances on the "Family Hour" at 3 p.m. . . . Minor problems arising in a normal American household are reflected in "Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet," a family comedy series starring Harriet Hilliard and Ozzie Nelson. Show airs at 4 p.m. . . . A dramatic performance of an all-time favorite story, "Johnny Appleseed," will be portrayed on the "Kate Smith Hour" program at 4:30. In the music department, Kate is supported by Jack Miller's orchestra and the Four Chicks and Chuck. . . . Ace nightclub and vaudeville comedian Danny Thomas visits the "Tony Martin Show" at 7:30.

Hints for Good Listening from the editors of *The Cedar Rapids (IA) Tribune* May 15, 1947



Jack Smith, the man who smiles when he sings.



**sperdvac**

*Meeting Schedule*

**October 12  
IVY BETHUNE  
West Valley Regional  
Branch Library  
19036 Vanowen Street  
Reseda**

ALL MEETINGS ARE SATURDAYS  
12 NOON TO 2

**PARKING.** Parking area for the West Regional Library is limited. The adjacent parking lot (used by municipal employees during the week) is available for library parking on the weekends. Parking area may be accessed via Vanalden Ave.



**SCRIPTS AND  
TRANSCRIPTS OF  
YOUR FAVORITE  
SHOWS!**

**PRINTED MATERIALS LIBRARY  
sperdvac**

news bulletins, titles of programs and *bingo!*

Keep in mind that in 1928 radio scripts were not necessary when the stage actors could recite their lines forwards and backwards. Besides the fact that no recording was ever made of this series, there apparently was never any script. Week by week the stage actors were expected to know their lines and deliver them flawlessly. And there were probably no rehearsals. Exactly what scene or scenes from *Dracula* were acted out before the radio microphone still remains a mystery. But what you see pictured on the previous pages is a copy of the radio script for the benefit of the radio announcer and, yes, it was hand-written! The first two pages consisted of the opening announcements and introduced the principals acting before the radio microphone. The third page consisted of the closing announcements after the drama concluded. Careful scrutiny verified that the program did not end on time. Scheduled to end at 4:00 p.m., the drama ran over eight minutes and concluded at 4:08 p.m. Note the name of the drama is the same as the stage play with no variation. It was not "Dracula — A Vampire Play."

Thus taking on a wager resulted in the discovery of what we can describe using the evil count's own terms, an *unHoly* Grail of old-time radio.

Incidentally, that box of Krispy Kremes sure tasted good.

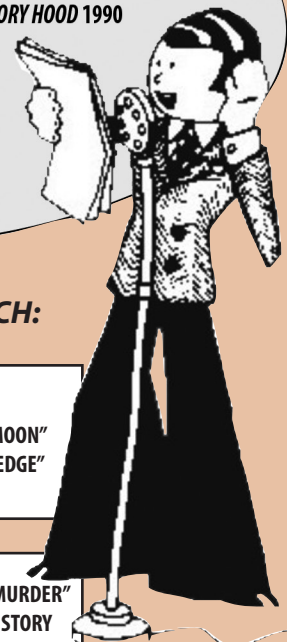
## DVD SET #3

**IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR \$10 DONATION!**

**THE WHISTLER "THE WEDDING GIFT" 1984 • ESCAPE "COUNTRY OF THE BLIND" 1985  
GUNSMOKE "CHESTER'S DILEMMA" 1988 • LUX RADIO THEATRE "ARSENIC & OLD LACE" 1989  
TOM CORBETT, SPACE CADET 1990 • THE CASEBOOK OF GREGORY HOOD 1990**

**SEND YOUR \$10 DONATION TO:**

**SPERDVAC  
P. O. BOX 125  
OROVILLE, CA 95965**



**ALSO AVAILABLE FOR \$10 DONATION EACH:**

### SET #1 CONVENTION 2012

**NERO WOLFE: "THE CASE OF THE CALCULATED RISK"  
THE MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER: "ESCAPE BY DEATH" and "BLOOD ON THE MOON"  
SHADOW SPOOF • IT PAYS TO BE IGNORANT • SUSPENSE: "THE KEENEST EDGE"  
plus 2 panels CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT and RUDY VALLEE**

### SET #2 2010 & 2011 LUNCHEONS

**MY FRIEND IRMA: "LONELY HEARTS CLUB • NERO WOLFE: "FRAME UP FOR MURDER"  
COLUMBIA WORKSHOP: "MY CLIENT CURLEY" • I LOVE LUCY: THE UNTOLD STORY  
THE SIX-SHOOTER: A COLD READ • SUSPENSE: "SORRY, WRONG NUMBER"**

# Character Captures Actor

by Arthur Lake

People who tell me they will see me in the comic strips scare me. To me, such people are more than plain bores with dusty formulas instead of ideas in their walk. They may even be right.

Six years ago I seldom read the newspaper cartoon pages. Now I have to read them. I've become an addict, in fact, for they are entertaining. And more, to me.

It all started when I was chosen to play Harold Teen on the screen. It was a good role and I enjoyed it. But people began to think of me as Harold Teen instead of as Arthur Lake, and that made Arthur Lake very jumpy after awhile.

## Singleton is Great

I was just beginning to live that down when Columbia Pictures tested me as Dagwood Bumstead in *Blondie*. With Penny Singleton as Blondie, we made the picture and it was a hit. We made another.

We went on CBS with a *Blondie* program which originally was intended to be a summer vacation series—and we've been doing it every Monday for two years. And making more *Blondie* films.

Now, I like *Blondie*. I look forward to reading each new program in the Monday CBS series. Penny Singleton is a great girl. It is pleasant to work with her.

## Hair Won't Behave

But my hair won't lie down any more. My own hair, Arthur Lake's hair, shoots off at right angles from Dagwood's head so much that Arthur Lake is having trouble brushing it flat when he isn't acting.

Postmen shrink from Arthur Lake. They feel the Dagwood in him may break out any moment and they want to give him room.

Arthur Lake never borrowed a lawn-mower in his life that he didn't return the same day. Never. But now the neighbors think of things to do inside the house when I start to pass the

time of day over the back fence.

I can't wear a bow tie. Not, that is, without expecting to hear little boys on the street yell after me: "Oh, Blooooooondie!"

## Art's a Good Guy

As I remember him, Arthur Lake was a pretty good guy, too.

(That's Dagwood talking again. Pay no attention).

Dagwood is the type that goes in for everything. And comes out on a stretcher. His favorite simile is "as easy as rolling off a log and over Niagara Falls." Which is all right in the comic strips. Dagwood seems able to stand it.

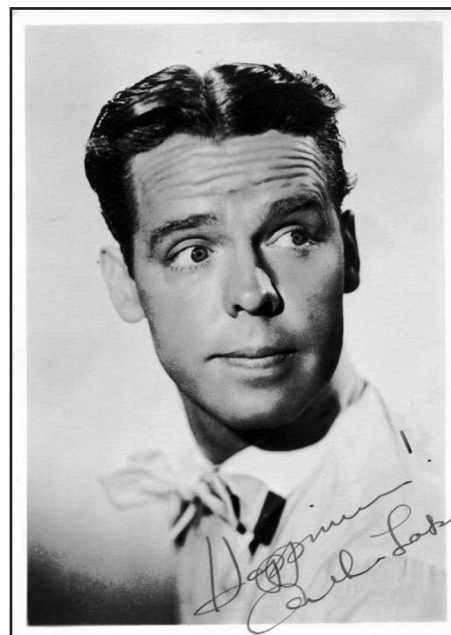
But I don't think Arthur Lake could. And if Arthur Lake's hair doesn't start lying down when I brush it back I'm going to get more insurance. Mrs. Lake is swell. Perhaps you know her as Patricia Van Cleve. She acts too. But so far her roles haven't taken her over.

## Superman or Palooka

It may be that Dagwood hasn't yet completely taken over Arthur Lake, either. But I'm not sure. And since Fate seems to turn to the comic strips for acting subjects for me, I'd like to get an application on file.

I want to be Superman. Or Joe Palooka. Or Buck Rogers. One of those guys who always wins.

After I'm done being Dagwood of the *Blondie* series, that is. In 40 or 50 years, perhaps. If Dagwood could play Superman, I mean if Buck Rogers is Arthur Lake. No.



Something's gone wrong.

Oh, Blooooooondie!👏

*A special account of Arthur Lake's dual personality dilemma in the radio section of the The Cedar Rapids (IA) Tribune of May 15, 1947. Incidentally, "the hilarious adventures of 'Blondie'" were heard each Sunday night 5:30 to 6:00 over WMT in Cedar Rapids.*

## SPERDVAC PRINTED MATERIALS LIBRARY

SCRIPTS and TRANSCRIPTS  
\$1 with minimum order of \$6

**Bobb Lynes**

**P.O. Box 628**

**South Pasadena, CA 91031**

## SPERDVAC INFORMATION

### SPERDVAC INFORMATION AND OFFICIAL BUSINESS

P. O. BOX 125 • OROVILLE, CA 95965

TOLL FREE 877-251-5771 or DIRECT (310) 219 - 0053

### MEMBERSHIP, ADDRESS CHANGES AND RADIOGRAM SUBSCRIPTIONS

Barry Opliger, 435 Garfield Ave. Apt. 306, South Pasadena, CA 91030

### ACQUISITIONS

*Discs, Tapes and Printed Materials:* John Gassman, 249 South Jensen Way #1, Fullerton, CA 92833 (714) 449-1958 for General and Archives Libraries.

### CATALOGS

Bob Steinmetz, P.O. Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-0669, SPERDVAC@aol.com.

FOR VOLUNTEER INFORMATION CALL OUR TOLL FREE NUMBER

**877-251-5771**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [sperdvac.com](http://sperdvac.com)**

### SEND YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS INFORMATION TO

Barry Opliger  
435 Garfield Ave. Apt. 306  
South Pasadena, CA 91030-2241




**CALL TOLL FREE!**  
**877-251-5771**  
**sperdvac**



Please order from only one library per form. OK to reproduce form.

# *spervac library*

## ORDER FORM

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP # \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Hollywood Museum** cassettes only Glenda Kelly, 2323 Ralston Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 cassettes for \$5.50

**General Library** cassettes 1-500 Bob Steinmetz, P.O. Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-0669  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 selections for \$8.75

**General Library** cassettes 501-1000 Hoag Schmele, 4067 Solana Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306-3167  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 selections for \$8.75

**General Library** cassettes 1001-1500 Bob Steinmetz, P.O. Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-0669  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 selections for \$8.75

**General Library** cassettes 1501-2000 Hoag Schmele, 4067 Solana Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94306-3167  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 selections for \$8.75

**General Library** cassettes 2001 and beyond Bob Steinmetz, P.O. Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-0669  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 selections for \$8.75

**General Library** CDs 2100 and beyond Bob Steinmetz, P.O. Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-0669  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 selections for \$8.75

**Archives Library** cassettes 1-2000 Bob Steinmetz, P.O. Box 669, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266-0669  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 cassettes for \$5.50

**Archives Library** cassettes 2001 and beyond Jim Worden, 21390 Via Del Parque, Yorba Linda, CA 92887  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 cassettes for \$5.50

**Archives Library** CDs 1800 and beyond Barbara Watkins, P. O. Box 628, South Pasadena, CA 91031-0628  
First five choices: \_\_\_\_\_ 5 cassettes for \$5.50

Alternates \_\_\_\_\_

Questions or problems? Contact SPERDVAC toll free (877)251-5771 or e-mail us: SPERDVAC@aol.com

**OLD-TIME RADIO IS BETTER THAN EVER!**



SPERDVAC  
P. O. BOX 125  
OROVILLE, CA 95965

(Pre-sorted) First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Albany, OR  
Permit 188

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**