



Lee & Grant at Appomattox 1948 Radio Play Sound Effects

Featured in the above photo are some of the manually operated sound effects that Carle Kopecky will showcase to contribute to the realism of the upcoming "YOU ARE THERE" Lee & Grant at Appomattox 1948 radio play at the Windham Centre Church on Friday August 5th at 7 pm. The production is one of the weekend highlights of the Annual Civil War Heritage Music Gathering & Encampment. In the 1940s radio was the leading form of popular entertainment and the art of creating realistic sound effects was an invaluable element of the "Theatre of the Mind." In the early days radio stations filled their air time with orchestra music, poetry readers, singers and preachers, nearly all of whom were unpaid. Only when drama shows caught on with listening public and became the centerpiece of the broadcast schedule did the creative art of sound effects mature and develop. The first sound effects men had little training. Some had backstage theatre experience where they had shaken a metal sheet to replicate thunder or slapped one board against another to create gunshots. By the 1930s the emergence of drama shows, kids' serials, detective mysteries and soaps required realistic sound effects. The sounds fell into two broad categories, those that advanced and moved the action or the story line and those that set the background or mood of the script. Effects were a combination of manual and recorded sounds. On August 5th Carle Kopecky will recreate a variety of sound effects that would have been on display during the Golden Age of Radio. The sounds of the telegraph, galloping horses, soldiers marching and others is sure to immerse the audience at a 1940s radio studio. Friday evening's program is made possible by the NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization Funds administered through the Greene County Council on the Arts. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Windham Library and at the door prior to the show.