



OR THE PAST 21 YEARS, Patrick Lucanio has been the editor of the *Radiogram*. SPERDVAC is indebted to this fine man for each month assembling the articles and publishing our signature publication.

## But who is Patrick Lucanio?

*Radiogram* readers want to know more about our editor. So, I sat down with Patrick to get his story. The time has come to take a glance behind the curtain at the “Wizard of the Radiogram.”

Patrick was born in Dallas—Dallas, Oregon not Dallas, Texas, which is a very small town about 15 miles west of the state capital of Salem. There, Patrick said, “I had a rather Ray Bradbury childhood.” When he mentioned Bradbury, I asked if he was a reader of the pulp magazines.

“Yes and no,” he said. “In a small town they were hard to find, but every once in a while we would make a trip to the big city where there were newsstands. I just fell in love with their all kinds of books and magazines. Every once in a while my mother would let me pick up a science fiction type or a mystery type as long as the cover wasn’t too lurid.”

It was in junior high school, however, when he came across the Bradbury story, “The Lonely One.” The story reminded him about the experience he would have walking home alone after seeing a horror or monster movie in the town’s theatre. “I would walk home down the middle of the street to avoid walking too close to the bushes,” he recollected.

He finally corresponded with Bradbury later in life when he was working with Gary Coville on their book *Jack the Ripper: His Life and Crimes in Popular Entertainment* (McFarland and Company: 2008). He asked him to write the introduction. Unfortunately, Bradbury

couldn’t meet his deadline, but Patrick was happy to receive a nice letter from him.

Looking back on his life in Oregon, he reflected that his life was one where he went where the work was. After graduating from a teacher’s college just 10 miles from where he lived, he ended up teaching high school in a town only 25 miles from where he grew up. After six years of teaching there, he decided to return to graduate school at the University of Oregon. He had developed an interest in film theory and history, and the University offered a film program in which he could pursue that interest.

His academic studies led him to two master’s degrees—one in the Humanities and one in Film History—and a doctorate in Telecommunications and Film. Once he completed his advanced studies, he ended up going to work teaching at Western Oregon University—the very same teaching college where he had originally started his studies.

After 17 years teaching there, he went to a community college called Lane Community College where he taught film history and photography until he finally retired after 20 years at Lane.

Patrick has written five books. The first of which was *Them or Us: Archetypal Interpretations of Fifties Alien Invasion Films* (Indiana University Press: 1987). The book was a rewrite and publication of his doctoral dissertation. “It’s my favorite book,” claimed Patrick, “because I grew up watching all those films.”