

MEMORIES

Old Time Radio Club Of Buffalo



Lux
presents

HOLLYWOOD

Vol. 1 No. 1

THIS ISSUE DEDICATED TO:

Lee DeForest***Abbott&Costello***Mister Meek***Ozzie&Harriet***Philip Marlowe***Topper***Peter Salem***Against the Storm***The Air Adventures of Jimmy Allen***Al Pearce***Henry Aldrich&Family***Alias Jimmy Valentine***Amos 'n' Andy***The Answer Man***Jack Armstrong, The All-American Boy***Arthur Godfrey***Jack, Doc, and Reggie***Baby Snooks***Backstage Wife***Beat the Band***Your Hit Parade***The Camel Caravan***Benlah***Fibber McGee&Molly***The Bickersons***Chase and Sanborn Hour***Big Jon and Sparkie***Big Sister***The Big Story***Big Town***Escape***Suspense***Inner Sanctum***William Conrad***The Fat Man***The Thin Man***Richard Diamond***Sam Spade***Bold Venture***Bing Crosby***Black Castle***Black Museum***Blackstone, the Magic Detective***Blondie***Bob & Ray***Bob Hope***Bobby Benson***Boston Blackie***Ma Perkins***Superman***Buck Rogers***Box 13***Breakfast Club***Bulldog Drummond***Burns and Allen***Jack Benny***Orson Welles***Mercury Theater***"War of the Worlds" Can You Top This?***The Canovas***Captain Midnight***Mysterious Traveler***Favorite Story***Dimension X***X Minus One***Two Thousand Plus***Casey, Crime Photographer***The Shadow***Straight Arrow***Challenge of the Yukon***The Lone Ranger***Chandu the Magician***Tarzan of the Apes***Jungle Jim***Charlie Chan***Nick Carter***Cisco Kid***Gunsmoke***Bill Stern***Kay Kyser***Dick Tracy***Don Winslow***Flash Gordon***Little Orphan Annie***Mandrake The Magician***Red Ryder***Smilin' Jack***Perry and the Pirates***Dangerous Assignment***Three Sheets to the Wind***Danny Kaye***Death Valley Days***Don Ameche***Dr. Christian***Dagnet***Duffy's Tavern***Easy Aces***Eddie Bracken***Crime Club***The Falcon***The Saint***The Spirit***Sherlock Holmes***FBI in Peace and War***First Nighter***Academy Award Theater***Phil Harris and Alice Faye***Edwin Armstrong***Life of Reilly***Frank Merriwell***Henry Morgan***Fred Allen***Fu Manchu***The Phantom***Gene Autry***The Goldbergs***Grand Central Station***The Whistler***Grand Ole Opry***Great Gildersleeve***The Green Hornet***Chickenman&The Tooth Fairy***CBC***CBS Mystery Theater***The Brown Hornet & Leroy***The Goon Show***Ray Bradbury***The Guiding Light***The Gumps***The Hardy Family***Hop Harrigan***Hopalong Cassidy***House Party***I Love A Mystery***One Man's Family***Captain Friday***It Pays To Be Ignorant***Pier 13***Just Plain Bill***Stella Dallas***Truth or Consequences***Cavalcade of America***Uncle Don***Life Can Be Beautiful***Joe Palooka***Gangbusters***Gabriel Heatter***Curley Bradley***Ed Wynn***Jimmy Durante***Al Jolson***Walter Winchell***Major Bowes***The Columbia Workshop***Land of the Lost***Lassie***Latitude Zero***Let's Pretend***Life With Luigi***Lorenzo Jones***Lum and Abner***Lux Radio Theater***Man Called X***March of Time***Mark Trail***Meet Corliss Archer***Mel Blanc***Michael Shayne***Mickey Mouse***Milton Berle***Mr. & Mrs. North***Mr. District Attorney***My Friend Irma***National Barn Dance***Horace Heidt***Omar The Mystic***Our Miss Brooks***Cur Gal Sunday***Pepper Young's Family***Perry Mason***Philip Morris Playhouse***Philo Vance***The Railroad Hour***Red Skelton***Renfrew of the Mounted***Rin-Tin-Tin***Howard Duff and all the other stars and shows that made old radio as great as it was.

For this first issue, we thought that it might be a good idea to try to explain exactly what we are attempting to accomplish.

The Old Time Radio Club of Buffalo is made up of people who still have fond memories of the time when radio was king and the great eye of television had yet to open. There is a tremendous amount of available material circulating among radio collectors; shows that were put on early home tape recorders only to lay collecting dust in attics or closets, shows that were salvaged from radio station trash heaps after the advent of television, and shows that are still playing today over certain Armed Forces Radio stations throughout the world.

Local radio stations today seem to fall into patterns that for some reason or another do not include dramatic or comedy programs. There exists a sameness that suggests that the stations are not really interested in what they are programming, but rather in what their competitors are programming. With the exception of the CBS Radio Mystery Theater, there just are not any shows today that can get the listener as totally involved as they were when Raymond welcomed them through his creaking door into the "Inner Sanctum."

The radio collector remembers this involvement and relishes in it. He tries to gather up as many shows as possible so that he can relive a time when things seemed a little better. A collector usually starts his collection by buying some shows from a dealer (lots of them around), meeting up with other collectors, and trading some of their shows for ones they do not have. The good part about this is that only copies are traded; the original copies stay with the collector. Thus if he starts out with ten shows and trades copies of them for ten more, he now has twenty shows. In a fairly short time, with active trading, a collector can build up a sizeable number of shows. This is generally how the members of the OTRCOB have built up their collections. The only equipment needed is two tape recorders: one for playing and the other for recording. After this initial expense, the cost of maintaining the collection is minimal... just the price of a reel of tape that will yield up to six hours of shows. Consider this. A reel of tape can run six hours and costs about two dollars, but an average LP record runs about forty minutes and costs about seven dollars. Also, tapes never get scratchy.

The OTRCOB does not sell shows but we can give you names of people who do. Our purpose is to try to reactivate interest in the drama and comedy that was... old time radio.

The Old Time Radio Club of Buffalo


PETER M. BELLANCA
1620 Perry Road
Chesterfield, N.Y. 14072

VERY BRIEFLY, RADIO COMEDY

by Dan Marafino

What was radio comedy? It was the ability of a performer to make his audience laugh without being seen. Sound was the prime element. Think back and try to recreate the sound of Fibber McGee's closet as everything, including the proverbial kitchen sink, fell out. It was hilarious, and it was all the result of the talents of the sound effects man added to the performer's dialog. If the same thing were done on TV today, week after week, the humor of it would wear off very quickly, but thirty-five years ago the effect lasted for years. One word sums it up--- IMAGINATION.

Radio comedy was a world apart from comedy of today. One of the most famous and funniest lines ever to come out of radio happened in a Jack Benny skit. This story has been told many times, but I think it deserves one more go-around. A crook has a gun on Jack and asks him, "Your money or your life!" There is silence for a moment, and then the audience roars with laughter. The crook repeats the choice, silence again, and finally, as the laughter dies down, Benny answers, "I'm thinking, I'm thinking." The audience roars once more and the funniest moment on radio is history.

Comedy is not new by any means, it goes back to the caveman, but when vaudeville came in comedy became a national pastime. Stars like Fanny Brice, Burns and Allen, Jack Benny and many more became the top comedians of their day. When radio became popular, many of these comics left vaudeville to work over the airwaves. This mass exodus from vaudeville had a hard-hitting effect on radio, making it the second most popular medium in the world; movies were number one.

Comedy excelled on radio and among the more memorable stars of radio comedy were Benny, Allen, Cantor, Burns and Allen, Fanny Brice (aka Baby Snooks), and the list goes on and on. Two other comedians contributed immensely to the field of comedy: Amos and Andy. They had such a following in their early days that an entire nation, including the President, adjusted their dinner hour to listen in.

When World War II broke out, many stars went overseas and the most popular were the comics. GI Joe wanted to laugh; he didn't know when he might die, and Bob Hope gave him laughter. America's home front had to have something to laugh at and Fibber McGee and Molly gave it to them. Jack Benny could make an audience laugh themselves silly by silence and a stare; there has never been and never will be another Jack Benny. Milton Berle had a snappy one-liner, guaranteed funny. Mel Blanc had a talented throat, Red Skelton was a mean little kid, and Henry Morgan got laughs with insults, sort of a first generation Don Rickles.

We must remember one thing though: we never saw these people while they performed, we listened, something we don't do enough of anymore, and while we were listening, we were laughing. Seems to me we don't do enough of that anymore either. By the way, anybody wanna buy a duck?

I LOVE A MYSTERY
OR
THE GREATEST ADVENTURE THRILLER OF ALL TIME

A train whistle echoes through the night, a voice calls "I Love a Mystery," then the haunting organ strains of Sibelius' Valse Triste and we're into a new Carlton E. Morse adventure thriller, featuring Jack, Doc, and Reggie.

The main characters of ILAM were Jack Packard, Doc Long, and Reggie York. Jack, the leader of the trio, was a hard nosed unsentimental tough guy with a marked distrust of women. He was the main character and the story lines usually revolved around his trying to solve some exotic mystery. He was the ideal American man, strong, handsome, and intelligent, with women falling all over him. But like most other radio heroes of the 30's and 40's he never had much time for the distaff members of society. If Jack was the straight man, Doc was the comic. Almost as tough and intelligent as Jack, he was what Jack could never be, a ladies man with a sense of humor. The number of passes that Doc made at the girls were legion, and it was implied that he scored a few conquests along the way. The character of Reggie was less defined, bordering on second banana status and in many episodes he was completely written out. He was the typical, traditional Englishman, kind to the ladies to a point of embarrassment and ultra polite. When he was absent from the program his place was usually taken by one of Jack's secretaries, Jerri Brooker or Mary Kay Brown. Doc often referred to Mary Kay as, "the cutest little ol' secretary ever to fill out a dress so nice."

By current standards, this trio of soldiers of fortune would be considered oddballs, kooks, or just plain undesirables. They were definitely anti-establishment and the classic example of the means justifying the end. Respect for the law and the civil rights of individuals meant nothing to them in their pursuit of evildoers. They generally operated out of the A-1 Detective Agency which was located, "just off Hollywood Boulevard and one flight up." From this headquarters they had 10 successful years righting the wrongs of the world.

The program was first broadcast on January 16, 1939 and ran until December 31, 1944. It was again heard on October 3, 1949 and ran until its final demise on December 26, 1952.

P. M. Bellanca

NOSTALGIA AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO

"Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!" Every Thursday night the Shadow knew! Remember? The CBS Radio Network and Roma Wines of Fresno, California presents Suspense. Suspense aired tales well calculated to keep us on the edge of our seats! Remember? "Jel-lo again, this is Jack Benny." ("Now Don, cut that out!" - Remember?) "Mr. Allen Mr. Allen!" - remember Fred Allen and Allen's Alley? "Lux presents - Hollywood!" Remember? "Wheaties, the breakfast of Champions presents...Jack Armstrong, the all-American boy!" Remember how you use to rush home from school, do your chores and hope you would be finished in time so that you may listen to the boy hero? Remember "The Whistler?" "Amos N' Andy?" How about Lum & Abner with their corny-dry-humor? Burns and Allen kept us in stitches. (Say goodnight, Gracie," George would ask. "Goodnight Gracie," replied Gracie). Gunsmoke on radio was one of the shows that switched over to Television when radio entertainment started to die. The radio Matt Dillon was portrayed by Bill Conrad, the same actor who now plays Cannon on TV. It was decided that Conrad just didn't have the right Western-he-man appearance needed to take over the TV version of Gunsmoke. James Arness, of course, is an ideal video version of the good Marshall.

There was still another highly famous and popular golden age radio hero. Remember, - "Hi Yo silver -- away!" The Lone Ranger, the good guy with the white horse, silver bullets, and his ever faithful Indian companion Tonto, rode from out of the past and into our living rooms every Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 7:30. Somehow he always managed to bring law and order to the early Western United States without ever doing away with the dirty critters who would dare attempt to rule by the gun! Ah! How well I remember when a group of us would strap on our holsters and six-shooters, (I always had two) head for an empty lot and proceed to play Cowboys and Indians! I invariably wanted to be the good-guy in the white hat! Didn't we all?

The Lone Ranger program was narrated by Fred Foy who now announces on one of the TV talk shows. He had a distinct speaking voice that you could never forget. The Ranger was played by George Seaton, Earle Graser and by the most famous and well-remembered, Brace Beemer. Tonto was portrayed by an aging Shakespearean actor by the name of John Todd.

The program was first aired on radio January 30, 1933 and was to continue until September 3, 1954. Before he became the Ranger, Brace Beemer narrated the program while Earle Graser played our hero. Graser was killed in an auto accident in 1941. For a period of several broadcasts, the Lone Ranger was supposedly very ill and wasn't heard except for heavy breathing. After a sufficient time had passed, Beemer became the Lone Ranger.

Can you recall the many, many tear-jerking soap operas? The True-To-Life story of Stella Dallas and her daughter Laurel, The Guiding Light, Young Dr. Malone, When A Girl Marries -- "dedicated to everyone who has ever been in love," Mary Noble, Backstage Wife -- "the story of an Iowa stenographer who fell in love with and married Broadway matinee idol, Larry Noble." How about Portia Faces Life -- "the story of a woman's fight in a world of men." If you would have tuned into this thrilling new, fast-moving radio drama, you would have heard the story of courageous PORTIA BLAKE... a beautiful widow...the mother of a 9-year old boy... a woman lawyer...a woman who fought to gain her place in a man's world! (Woman's Lib!) Of course, we can't leave out Our Gal Sunday! "The story of an orphan girl named Sunday, from the little mining town of Silver Creek, Colorado, who in young womanhood married England's richest, most handsome lord, Lord Henry Brintrope.

NOSTALGIA AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO (Continued)

The story asks the question: Can this girl from a mining town in the West find happiness as the wife of a wealthy and titled Englishman?" Lastly there was, The Romance of Helen Trent. Helen Trent who sets out to prove to herself what so many women long to prove -- that just because a woman is thirty-five or more doesn't mean that romance is dead!"

Oh, what we would give to be able to listen once again to Lamont Cranston and his lovely companion, Margo Lane fight the forces of evil! How vividly I remember the opening lines of the program.... "Your neighborhood Blue Coal dealer brings you --- The Shadow! --- The Shadow, mysterious aide to the forces of law and order is, in reality Lamont Cranston, wealthy young man about town who, years ago in the Orient, learned the hypnotic power to cloud men's minds so that they could not see him. Cranston's friend and companion the lovely Margo Lane, alone knows to whom the voice of the invisible Shadow belongs...Today's drama -----!" And we sat spell-bound for one-half hour every Thursday night wishing that the program would never end!

Then there was the Whistler, the man who walked by night. Remember his opening lines? "I am The Whistler. And I know many things for I walk by night. I know many strange tales hidden in the hearts of men and women who have stepped into the shadows. Yes, I know the nameless terrors of which they dare not speak."

I wonder why it was that The Whistler knew many things simply because he walked by night? I'm sure he knew many things even if he walked by day! Sure, radio had its corny lines and funny dialogue -- but we were happily entertained by it all.

Perhaps one of the most outstanding and well-remembered radio broadcasts of all times is "The War of the Worlds" with Orson Wells.

On October 30, 1938, Halloween night, the Mercury Theatre on the Air presented this radio dramatization. The listening audience was informed at the very beginning of the broadcast that the Mercury Theatre Group was presenting the radio show. Thousands of people either missed the opening lines, or tuned in late. People started to panic. They panicked because the show was dramatized in the format of an actual live news type broadcast. This is how it was presented: News flashes interrupted dance music from a hotel (Park Plaza) in downtown New York. The announcer said that "Strange Activity was being observed on the planet Mars." More dance music was played. Another interruption and bulletin. More news flashes -- now the announcer reported that a meteor had crashed near Grovers Mills, New Jersey. Next followed an on-the-spot remote pickup from New Jersey. "A thousand persons had been killed -- not by a meteor as supposed, but by death-ray guns fired by an army of invaders from outer-space! An eyewitness described the scene -- "Weird creatures streaming from a huge silver cylinder and burning everything in its path!" The Martians, it seemed, had landed -- still more interruptions -- news bulletins -- "The National Guard has been called!" -- "The Army was mobilizing!" The White House declared a state of National Emergency!" "Be Calm" the announcer urged the public!

Telephone switchboards were swamped! People donned gas masks! Sailors on shore leave were called back to their ships! Crowds mobbed churches, seeking confession before the end! Highways were jammed in many parts of the state!

The broadcast was one hour long. It was the first portion of the broadcast that made you believe that our country was being invaded. The second part of the show dealt with Orson Wells roaming the destroyed city searching for some signs of life.

NOSTALGIA AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO (Continued)

A multitude of neurotics simply failed to listen -- the time was ripe -- a war scare was on. The public could be made to believe anything at this time!

Here are some actual reported events that followed the broadcast. These were reported by the Associated Press:

Woman tries suicide - Pittsburgh. Man returns home in midst of broadcast and finds his wife with a bottle of poison in her hands, screaming -- "I'd rather die this way!"

Man wants to fight invaders - San Francisco. One excited man called police and shouted: "My God! Where can I volunteer my services? We have to stop this awful thing!"

Church lets out -- Indianapolis - A woman ran into a church shouting the news of the invasion. Services were dismissed immediately!

Woman sees the fire - Boston - One Woman said she could see the fire and told reporters she and her friends were "getting out of here!" - (There was no fire, of course.)

The War of the Worlds broadcast made such an immense impact on the population especially in the Eastern part of the United States, that a sociological investigation was undertaken to find out why people reacted the way they did. A number of books and reports have been written on the subject.

The Amos 'N Andy Show, one of the most famous comedy shows on radio was first broadcast on March 19, 1928 on a local Chicago station. They lasted on radio for over 30 years!

So popular were these two that many movie houses installed loudspeakers and switched off their films every night so the audience could listen to this comedy team.

Factories in the Midwest, where the program went on the air an hour earlier, advanced their closing time so employees could drive home on time to tune in. Many restaurants refused to take orders during the broadcasts. Store fronts were fitted with loud-speakers so people on the street could listen.

When Amos 'N Andy began to advertise a certain toothpaste on radio, the sales tripled!

Charles Correll (Andy) died of a heart attack on Wednesday, September 27, 1972 in Chicago at a dinner in his honor. He was 82 years old. Charles Correll and Freedman Goddsen never had an unkind word between them in all the years they knew each other.

Fred Allen - Jack Benny

Jack Benny's first radio appearance was in 1931. He was a guest on a show run by none other than Ed Sullivan! Ed was hosting a variety show, he was reporting news and gossip as a columnist for a New York newspaper. As part of his show Sullivan interviewed a celebrity.

NOSTALGIA AND THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO (Continued)

One of the biggest laughs Jack Benny ever received in radio is well known. In the skit Jack was coming home late one night. He was stopped by a robber. "Your money or your life", the crook snarled! The laughter of the audience mounted higher and higher during the long minutes of silence in which Benny thought over the problem.

Fred Allen - started on radio in 1932. The Allen/Benny feuds are a well remembered act of these two great stars. Each one was trying to outwit and out laugh each other. Insults made against one another blasted from the old radio speakers every week.

The most popular feature in the Fred Allen Show was Allen's Alley. Fred would knock on different doors to hear the response from a weekly question he would submit to his regulars on the show: Remember Mrs. Nussebaum, Titus Moody (Howdy bub!) and Senator Claghorn?

Fortunately, the Golden Age of Radio is not completely dead! Although you wouldn't be able to tune in your old Atwater Kent radio (if you're lucky enough to still own one) and hear the old shows, you can still catch some stations throughout the country and Canada that are playing re-broadcasts (a version of the late show re-runs). Also, in the hands of private collectors, radio station archives and colleges are thousands upon thousands of radio broadcasts preserved forever on recording tape and transcriptions. And who knows, perhaps someday, somehow, someone will dig into this vast supply of nostalgia and maybe just maybe someone may decide that it would be a good idea to let the younger generation hear what it was like in those "Good Old Days!"

"Tune in same time, same station, next Thursday night. Until then, Bye, Bye, Buy Bonds!"

"Say Good Night, Gracie." "Goodnight Gracie."

DOMINIC PARISI

SUSPENSE!

by Bob Davis

On Wednesday, June 17th, 1942, the CBS Radio Network broadcast the very first show in their new series... "Suspense." With the broadcast of a show called "The Burning Court", "Suspense" was starting one of the longest runs of any radio show in history.. twenty years.

In order to have attained this longevity, "Suspense" obviously must have had a little something extra going for it. In fact, it had a lot going for it. Premiering just six months after Pearl Harbor, the show had an audience that was sickened by news of the war and that wanted and needed a form of escape. "Suspense" fit the bill perfectly.

One of the audience-grabbing tricks that "Suspense" used was the casting of then current Hollywood favorites in roles that were seemingly unsuited for them. An example of this off-beat casting was comedian Eddie Bracken in a story called "Elwood." He played the part of a psychopathic murderer, and this story turned out to be one of the series best shows. Some other funny people used in this way were Bob Hope as a murderer, Ozzie and Harriet as murderers, Eddie Cantor as an embezzler, Rosemary Clooney as a gangsters moll, Dinah Shore as a murderess, and Jack Benny as, of all things, a Martian!

When a person went to the movies they knew that the star very rarely ended up dead in the film. They knew that no matter how bad things got, the hero would make it through all right. This was not the case with "Suspense." There was an even chance that the hero of that week's "Suspense" story would be dead by the final commercial. This was another trick that kept the listeners glued to their radios. Of course, the producers were wise enough to present certain actors in roles that were perfect for their image. Roles included such actors as James Cagney playing a tough gangster in "Love's Lovely Counterfeit," a part to be repeated with Humphrey Bogart in a later broadcast, or Charles Laughton recreating his famous Captain Bligh character in a show called "The Revenge of Captain Bligh." All in all, the casting of the shows was masterful.

In any study of the "Suspense" show, one cannot overlook the stories themselves. No matter how popular or talented an actor is, the show won't work if the storyline doesn't utilize his particular talents. "Suspense" ran many original radio dramas but quite often did adaptations of more classical works. On one occasion they presented Charles Dickens' "The Mystery of Edwin Drood." Another time they ran Edgar Allen Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum" and on yet another occasion, they ran Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein." Perhaps the show's most ambitious project occurred on May 4th and May 11th, 1953, when they presented Richard Widmark in "Othello," a two-part drama that somehow fit right in with the "Suspense" format. The most famous program ever presented on "Suspense" took place on May 25th, 1943. That night, after the "Man in Black" had introduced the program, Agnes Moorehead stepped up to the microphone and did a superb acting job in Lucille Fletcher's "Sorry, Wrong Number." This one show caused so much comment that it was repeated four more times before the series ended. It was also made into an award-winning movie starring Barbara Stanwyck.

SUSPENSE!/continued

During its long run, "Suspense" had two main sponsors. The first was the Roma Wine Company, who sponsored the program until mid-1948, when the Autplite Company took over. In 1956, "Suspense" started carrying several sponsors per show and it stayed that way until the end of the series.

On September 30, 1962, with the performance of Broadway actor Christopher Carey playing in a story called "Devilstone," The "Suspense" series came to an end. After twenty years and 956 shows, radio's outstanding theater of thrills was no more. Never again would the public be treated to that special kind of story that was wellcalculated to keep you in.... "SUSPENSE!"

HEINLEIN ON RADIO

by Charles A. Seeley

Robert A. Heinlein has been referred to, and justly so, as the "Dean" of science fiction. It was only natural that several of his tales were chosen by the producers of "Dimension X" and "X Minus One" for radio adaptation. The stories adapted were: "Destination Moon," "The Roads Must Roll," "Requiem," "The Green Hills of Earth," and "Universe." It is interesting to note that all of the above, except "Destination Moon," are part of Heinlein's monumental "Future History" series, his extrapolative study of mankind's future which rivals Isaac Asimov's "Foundation" trilogy and James Blish's "Cities in Flight" novels in sheer grandeur and scope.

"Destination Moon" as broadcast during the "Dimension X" series bears only passing resemblance to the original story. The radio production was actually adapted from the George Pal movie which was in turn adapted from Heinlein's novel. All that's left by the time Hollywood and radio were done with it was the title. This bastardized version bears no resemblance to the story of the same name.

"The Roads Must Roll" is concerned with union-management difficulties in the nationwide "Road" industry. Heinlein postulates huge moveable belts upon which the economy of future America depends. When the workers on the Roads strike, disaster results. It's an exciting tale with a climactic battle in tunnels under the Road.

"Requiem" is a sequel to "The Man Who Sold The Moon" which, unfortunately, was never adapted for radio. D.D. Harriman, a character who appears in several of the "Future History" stories, is "the man who sold the Moon." He was the man who instigated the first flight to the Moon and, ultimately, exploration of the Solar System. Harriman had

HEINLEIN ON RADIO/continued

always longed to go to the moon but, although he was a multi-millionaire, legal and medical problems had forced him to remain earthbound. At the time of this story, he is in his seventies, thin and frail. Using his vast wealth and still sharp mind to outwit the authorities, Harriman hires two go-for-broke rocketmen to take him, at long last, to the Moon. It is one of the most touching tales Heinlein has written and is well-adapted to radio.

"The Green Hills of Earth" is considered one of the classic science fiction stories on radio as well as in the written form. Rhysling is an engineer blinded in a terrible accident, who becomes a minstrel, wandering the spaceways singing to anyone who will listen. This show is also interesting for the renditions of Heinlein's/Rhysling's songs: "Hear the Jets," "The Grand Canal," and the title song. A great show to listen to and a great story to read.

"Universe" is astounding. An exploration ship is sent from Earth to the nearest star cluster, but the journey is multi-generational. Through the years discipline breaks down, a mutiny results, and the ship's complement is divided into factions warring with one another. The ship goes on and on through space and finally all memory of its origin and mission are lost to the inhabitants, save for a few remnants incorporated into a religion. The story picks up when one man discovers that the ship is, indeed, a ship and attempts to convince the others. This idea has been used since by Harlan Ellison for the short-lived TV series, "The Starlost," and by Brian Aldiss in a novel called "Starship." Chronologically, "Universe" is close to the end of the Future History series with only "Methuselah's Children" and "Time Enough For Love" appearing after it.

A Heinlein radio log follows:

Dimension X "The Green Hills of Earth" 6/10/50 & 12/24/50
 "Requiem" 9/22/51
 "The Roads Must Roll" 9/1/50
 "Universe" 11/26/50 & 8/2/51
X Minus One "Requiem" 10/27/55
 "The Roads Must Roll" 1/4/56
 "Universe" 5/15/55
CBS Radio Workshop "The Green Hills of Earth" 7/21/57

NOSTALGIA

"Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear..."
When the radio dial opened the door of the listeners' imagination...

MA PERKINS, LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE AND HEIGH HO, SILVER!
by Charles K. Stumpf

... is a happy account of the early days of radio broadcasting. A wealth of information about the early shows, the stars and the networks, with many behind-the-scenes anecdotes.

Laugh again with the great radio comedians - weep with dozens of soap opera heroines. Hundreds of old shows are recalled with the names of casts, theme music titles, synopsis of story line, etc. There's even a special bow to the little known actresses who specialized in impersonating "baby voices" and the actors who supplied the sounds for dogs, birds, cats and even mosquitoes. A very treasury of trivia (and miscellaneous minutia.)

Hardbound - Many pictures \$5.00 CARLTON PRESS (N.Y.)

No stranger to the world of entertainment, Charles Stumpf has a professional acting background. In addition to many seasons of summer stock and Off-Broadway productions, he has toured extensively with childrens theatre companies, in roles ranging from kindly old grandfathers, to despicable villains, and including such unique characterizations as "a talking icicle" and a leprechaun who lived in a papier mache teapot!

Mr. Stumpf has worked on the production staff of NET-TV's MISTEROGERS NEIGHBORHOOD program and appeared in the Paramount film, THE MOLLY MAGUIRES. He is a prize winning playwright of childrens theatre scripts. Mr. Stumpf is also an authority on radio broadcasting history and has written many articles and given lectures on the subject. He is a collector of old radio cabinets, scripts, photographs, give-away premiums, and transcription discs and other memorabilia. He has over 1,000 hours of old radio programs on tape - including a very rare broadcast by Axis Sally and excerpts from the first broadcast over station KDKA on November 2, 1920.

Please contact us if you have any questions or (don't we wish) if you have any old radio programs stuck away somewhere. We are always on the lookout for new members and material and don't be shy... it won't cost you a cent.

This small magazine has the same purpose as the club itself: to attempt to regenerate interest in old time radio. The following articles were written by club members on subjects in which they are particularly interested.

Do you feel a compelling need to write something about old radio? Do it! Send it to us and, if it is coherent and/or intelligent, we'll print it. We hope to establish this magazine eventually as a self-sustaining entity. At present, it survives with the subsidy of the club. Any and all comments are invited. We need your support.

Old Time Radio Club of Buffalo Directory

Peter M. Bellanca
1620 Ferry Road
Grand Island, New York 14072

INTERESTS: old radio shows and related nostalgia items

RECORDING MODE: 4-track

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: over 3,500

Chuck Cammarata, Jr.
1 East Allen St.
Blasdell, New York 14219 PHONE: (716) 824-2276

INTERESTS: most programs

RECORDING MODE: 2-track, 4-track, 8-track, cassette

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: over 2,500

Robert Davis
1144 Lovejoy St.
Buffalo, New York 14206

INTERESTS: Suspense, Escape, Lux Radio Theatre, and
almost all other programs

RECORDING MODE: 4-track

NUMBER OF SHOWS: over 3,000

Mill Dunworth
47 Kamper St.
Buffalo, New York 14210

INTERESTS: big bands, soap operas, most other programs

RECORDING MODE: 4-track

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: over 250

Fritz Kuhn
25 Karen Drive
Tonawanda, New York 14150 PHONE: (716) 694-3077

INTERESTS: Jack Benny, sports shows, boxing, complete
baseball games, science-fiction (Bradbury)

RECORDING MODE: 2-track, cassettes

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: over 1,000

Dan Marafino
19 Church St.
Lancaster, New York 14076 PHONE: (716) 684-0733

INTERESTS: all programs

RECORDING MODE: 4-track

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: over 2,100

Frank Matesic
156 Meadowbrook Drive
Lackawanna, New York 14218

INTERESTS: Bing Crosby, Dick Todd, and most old radio programs

RECORDING MODE: 4-track

Ray Olivieri
29 Bellwood Avenue
West Seneca, New York 14224 PHONE: (716) 825-5685

INTERESTS: all shows

RECORDING MODE: open reel, cassette

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: over 2,100

Dom P. Parisi
38 Ardmore Place
Buffalo, New York 14213 PHONE: (716) 884-2004

INTERESTS: The Shadow, Escape, Suspense, Lux Radio Theatre

RECORDING MODE: 2-track, 4-track, cassettes

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: over 3,500

Douglas Roycraft
1525 Millersport Highway Apt. 404
Buffalo, New York 14221

INTERESTS: soap operas
Has not started trading yet

Charles Seeley
294 Victoria Blvd.
Kenmore, New York 14217

INTERESTS: sci-fi, movie & TV soundtracks and all
"The Phantom" items

RECORDING MODE: 4-track

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS: over 3,500

Memories

By Mill Dunworth

O, the memories of times gone by,
Brought to life by the Old Time Radio Club,
Programs we heard at home and afar,
In taverns and the old fashioned Pub,
Perhaps your too young to remember,
Clark Kent, Sam Spade, The Lone Ranger, Tonto,
Jack Armstrong, and The Shadow,
How they all faced life and much danger,
On tapes or cassettes we give you the best,
There's so much, so very much to enjoy,
We hope there will be more to join our Club,
Whether you're middleaged, old, girl or boy!

