

MEMORIES

OLD **T**IME **R**ADIO **C**lub **O**F **B**UFFALO



Vol. 2 No. 3

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This issue of Memories is dedicated to John Lloyd and the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, one of the best OTR clubs in the country.

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The Old Time Radio Club of Buffalo meets on the second Monday of every month at St. Matthew's Church, 1182 Seneca Street, Buffalo, New York. Anyone interested in the old time radio programs of the past is welcome to attend a meeting and observe or participate. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM.

Membership in the OTRCOB is \$10.00 per year. Members receive a membership card, Memories, and the club's monthly newsletter, The Illustrated Press. Comments, memberships, and contributions to the magazine can be sent to this address:

OTRCOB
P.O. BOX 119
KENMORE, NEW YORK 14217

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MAE WEST, OLD TIME RADIO, AND GOLDEN AGE CENSORSHIP

by Alf H. Walle

It wasn't Mae West's sex appeal that constantly got her in trouble with censors, the Legion of Decency, and concerned parents; there was just as much sex appeal in the Thirties as any other time in history. Instead, West cultivated a legendary lack of discretion and practiced a brand of candidness which aroused anger. She especially was ridiculed once when she brought her bawdy sense of humor to the "family listening" hours of old time radio.

West's problems with movie censors are common knowledge and, in radio, history repeated itself. In December, 1937 she became the target of one of the first big clean-up campaigns directed at radio. The newspaper statements describing the December 12 CHASE AND SANBORN hour seemed innocent enough; West was shown in a composite photo with Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy. Don Ameche was also scheduled to appear. There was no mention that the salty Miss West would portray history's first temptress in an amusing off-color skit entitled "Adam and Eve."

The show was apparently quite candid and the uproar was immediate. New York City's Catholic News (12/18/37) stated, "Last Sunday night with the introduction of Mae West into the program, THE CHASE AND SANBORN HOUR descended into the mire." The student newspaper of Manhattan College featured an editorial entitled "Polluting the Air Waves" which described her efforts as "smutty suggestiveness and horrible blasphemy." Dr. Maurice S. Sheeney, then chairman of Catholic University's Department of Religion, called the show "filthy, sacrilegious, and irreverent."

In Hollywood, motion picture executives were developing new policies to prevent their actors from tarnishing their images; new regulations were released demanding that movie producers had the right to read all radio scripts performed by their actors and actresses at least 24 hours before a show was to be aired.

Meanwhile, the Federal Communications Commission had received a barrage of letters describing "Adam and Eve" as "profane," "obscene," "indecent," "vulgar," "filthy," "dirty," and "insulting." As a result of this outcry, Frank McNinch,





*"It looks bad, Bergen. Yes, it looks bad."
- Charlie McCarthy*

chairman of the F.C.C., stated, "I have no hesitancy in saying that the licensees of the stations over which it was broadcast have been derelict in the discharge of their duties."

On the next Sunday's airing of the CHASE AND SANBORN HOUR, the sponsor publicly apologized, "It has been brought to the attention of the sponsors of this program that a skit on it last Sunday night offended the religious sensibilities of some of our listeners... Our hope is to make each and every hour spent with us both entertaining and edifying. We pledge ourselves to that purpose and sincerely regret any

unintentional offense."

That was the last word in more ways than one. On Christmas day, 1937, an announcement was published stating that any reference to Mae West was banned from the entire NBC network.

Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy, and Don Ameche, who were also involved in the show, might have gotten "egg on their faces," but they stayed in radio and the incident was forgotten. It was different with Mae, no doubt because she had a long history of censorship offences and because she had a habit of gleefully harassing the Legion of Decency on every possible occasion. She was so identified with censorship that even her name became tabu.

NBC treated West like a mistake to forget and they were largely successful. Even though West and her "Adam and Eve" caused a public uproar and made radio history, no reference to Mae West can be found in even the most authoritative reference book on old time radio, Frank Buxton and Bill Cramer's The Big Broadcast.

What exactly did Mae West say? Turn the page to find out.

The following is excerpted from Jon Tuska's Mae West (Citadel, 1973). This transcript was also published in Views and Reviews, Vol. 4, #2, Winter 1972.

////////////////////

The show opened with Ameche talking about the odds of Charlie's succumbing to Mae's charms.

Ameche: Why do you say it's a tough fight?

Charlie: Well, my opponent's in great form.

Mae was introduced. After a few interchanges, she said,

Mae: Charlie, why don't you walk out on Bergen? What's holdin' yuh?

Charlie: He is.....You'd better tell him, Mae.

Mae: All right, if yuh wanna know, he did come up to see me.

Bergen: Oh, he did. And what was he doing up there?

Mae: Well, Charlie came up an' I showed him my etchings.

Pause. The program is cut off the air. It returns to raucous laughter.

Mae: An' he showed me his stamp collection.

Charlie: There you have it, Bergen, there you have it!

Bergen: Yes, so that's all there was to it...etchings and a stamp collection?

Charlie: (aside, chuckling) Haha, he's so naive!

And after a few more interchanges,

Charlie: Could you even like Mr. Bergen?

Mae: Ah, Mr. Bergen. He's very sweet. In fact, he's a right guy. Confidentially, yuh'll have to show me a man I don't like.

Charlie: That's swell! Bergen's your man. You know, he can be had.

Mae: On second thought, I'm liable to take him away from yuh. Then what'll yuh say?

Charlie: Well, if you take Bergen away, I'm speechless. (Laughter)

Mae: Why don't you come up....uh, home with me now, honey? I'll let yuh play in my wood pile. (Laughter)

Charlie: Well, I'm not feeling so well tonight. I've been feeling nervous lately. I think I'm gonna have a nervous breakdown. Whuuup! There I go.

Mae: So, good-time Charlie's gonna play hard to get. Well, yuh can't kid me. You're afraid of women. Your Casanova stuff is just a front, a false front.

Charlie: Not so loud, Mae, not so loud! All my girl friends are listening.

Mae: Oh, yeah! You're all wood and a yard long....

Charlie: (weakly) Yeah.

Mae: Yuh weren't so nervous and backward when yuh came up to see me at my apartment. In fact, yuh didn't need any encouragement to kiss me.

Charlie: Did I do that?

Mae: Why, yuh certainly did. I got marks to prove it. (snickering from audience) An' splinters, too. (Laughter)

And later,

Mae: I thought you were gonna have a nice long talk Tuesday night at my apartment. Where did you go when the doorbell rang?

Charlie: Well, I tried to hide in your clothes closet, but two guys kicked me out. (laughter) So, I went out the back door.

Mae: Don't tell me you went down...uh, out the French windows? I'm on the third floor, y'know.

Charlie: Oh, so that's what it was, the French windows, huh? I was gonna say you were pretty skimpy with those back steps. (Laughter)

....And that's the way it was on December 12, 1937.



Bernard Gotfred—Newsweek

Edgar Bergen gives the side of his mouth to Charlie McCarthy and Mortimer Snerd

Out of the woodwork of **Charlie McCarthy's** lips—and the fiber glass of **Mortimer Snerd's**—came some familiar-sounding repartee as a photographer clicked away at 73-year-old ventriloquist **Edgar Bergen** and his ageless dummies. "Did he get my personality?" asked Mortimer, the No. 1 boob of the tube as No. 2 banana on Bergen's old radio and television shows. "I think he did—what little there is," snapped Charlie, a carved-pine legend whose bite is still worse than his ancestral bark. The puppets and their elastic-voiced master were in New York promoting their appearances on the Public Broadcasting Service's current "Festival '76" series of Bicentennial TV programs. "You're known by the company you keep," said Bergen fondly, "and my closest companion the last 40 years has been Charlie." As usual, Charlie had the last word: "You're very lucky."

OTR WORDSEARCH

by Ed Frost

F I D U F F Y S I N D I O H K A E S
B G L U X R A D I O C R A K C I H C
H A T T O R N E Y A B T L U T A O T
S W I T C H E S N S J V W C D I S L
H R E B B I F D W R B B L O N D I E
E O H P U F Y G R E K R W T Y C T B
R E L T S I H W O N I O Z U E L L S
L P Z K T J H A Q U R O L N S I O G
O Q D S S E O A X U L K J W A G M N
C N I H M S T E L L A S D O C H A O
K E C E K O M S N U G P M T A T L L
F L N B G A N F P X E N Y G R S N A
B L O X Y A W A M R I B K I L O Y P
G A T V Y F T T S P I K E B T U R O
N D L C N H S M E O E T O S O T E H
O B E N N Y N A T I R I E D A O L I
O A K R E B E N I B M R N L Q I L C
G A S P A D E P M N P E P A C S E K

Hidden words are in CAPITAL letters below.

Fred ALLEN

Mr. District ATTORNEY

Jack BENNY

BEULAH

BIG TOWN

BLONDIE

Our Miss BROOKS

CANDY Matson

CASEY Crime Photographer

CHICK Carter

DUFFY'S Tavern

ELLERY Queen

ESCAPE

FATMAN

FIBBER McGee

GOON Show

GUNSMOKE

HOPALONG Cassidy

My Friend IRMA

Kellogg's PEP

LIGHTS OUT!

LUX RADIO Theater

Sergeant PRESTON

SHADOW

SHERLOCK Holmes

Red SKELTON

Sam SPADE

SPIKE Jones

STELLA Dallas

WHISTLER

WITCHES' Tale



Back Tonight
THE BOB HOPE SHOW
 The Ski-snoot kid is back! A new season of puns, gags, and famous ad-libs begin again tonight
 at **9:00**
WHAM dial **1180**



Back Tonight
FIBBER MCGEE & MOLLY
 Fuller closets, louder schemes, fibbier fibs, bigger and bigger laughs begin tonight
 at **9:30**
WHAM dial **1180**

WHAM ROCHESTER'S NO. 1 STATION



THE BIG STORY
 Adventure and excitement as it really happened when Bob Sloane narrates a reporter's once-in-a-lifetime "Big Story"
 at **9:30**
WHAM, Dial 1180

★ AND TODAY DON'T MISS:

- 12:45 Ann Rogers
Special news and features for women. Highly popular program!
- 1:30 Cinderella Weekend
Ross Weller looks for another weekly winner for a free trip to New York.
- 2:00 Double or Nothing

- 6:00 Esse Reporter
- 6:10 Bob Turner: Sports
- 10:30 Bold Venture



ANN ROGERS

EVERY NIGHT IS ALL-STAR NIGHT ON WHAM

TUNE IN TIME

DIAL WHEC TONIGHT!

The F.B.I.
 In Peace and War
 8 P. M.



Another thrilling story of G-Men, and the nation's everlasting crusade against the underworld.

WHEC ALWAYS OUT IN FRONT IN Rochester!

RADIO LEADS In DRAMA!
WHEC
 LEADS In ROCHESTER RADIO!

TROUBLE and CURE!



Mr. Chameleon
 8:00 P. M.



Dr. Christian
 8:30 P. M.

Karl Swenson plays the part of the famous and dreaded detective who frequently uses disguises in "The Case of The Murdered Millionaire." Don't miss it!

Jean Hersholt stars and Rosemary DeCamp is featured in "Amelia Has A Change Of Heart", the story of an oldster nearly killed with kindness.

Grand Slam — 11:30 A. M.
 Join the thousands who tune in singing emcee Irene Beasley's famous musical quiz every morning, Mondays through Fridays! Sponsor: Continental Baking Co.

The Station LISTENERS Built

ON WARC **TONIGHT**

THE LONE RANGER
730 P. M.

Don't Miss

DOCTOR I. Q. 3 P. M.
CASE BOOK OF GREGORY HOOD 8:30 P. M.
SHERLOCK HOLMES 9 P. M.

WATCH WARC 950

24 HOURS DAILY

**TONIGHT!
AWARD-WINNING
COMEDY HIT!**

**"Father
knows best"**

STARRING
ROBERT YOUNG

Tonight and every Thursday night—

WHAM—8:00 P. M.

TONIGHT AT 9 . . . WHAM

**Cary
Grant**



**Mr.
Lucky**
DIRECTED BY H. C. POTTER

SCREEN DIRECTORS' PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTED EVERY FRIDAY BY **RCA VICTOR**



Presented by
MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE

Revere
Magnetic-Tape
RECORDER

ONLY

\$159.50



TONIGHT ON RADIO

**GROUCHO
MARX**

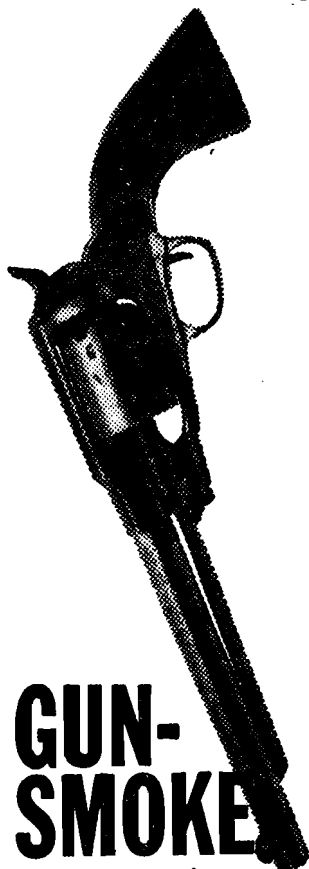
**IS
BACK**

9 P. M.



WHAM

Presented by your
DESOTO - PLYMOUTH DEALER



**GUN-
SMOKE**

Radio's most famous,
most excitingly real Western,
now twice each weekend.

WMAZ-RADIO

SATURDAY—12:30 p.m.
SUNDAY—6:30 p.m.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO. Inc. PRESENTS THEIR NEWEST CONCERT FEATURE

In Person **BILL** "Bojangles"

ROBINSON NBC's **Deep River Boys**

World's Greatest Dancer

Triple Threat Quintet High Jive from All Five

AUDITORIUM | **Concert and Dance** | **Advance Sale 85c**
Wednesday, March 26, 8:30 | 5 FULL HOURS | at Door \$1.10, tax included
Section Reserved for White

OTRIVIA

by Rex Bennett



- 1) What three California towns were on the railroad schedule often called out on the JACK BENNY SHOW?
- 2) Who was Merwin A. Bogue? On what program did he perform?
- 3) Who gave voices to Bert and Harry Piel?
- 4) What mystic mage used the incantation "invovo legem magicarum"?
- 5) What could Dockery Crane fly?
- 6) Name the five Marx brothers.
- 7) Who was Ardala Valmar and whose girl was she?
- 8) If Chester A. Riley worked for Cunningham Aircraft, where did Vern Albright work?
- 9) What was the Lone Ranger's mask made of?
- 10) Who was the host of EXPLORING TOMORROW? Also, name the theme of the show and the popular movie with which the music is associated.

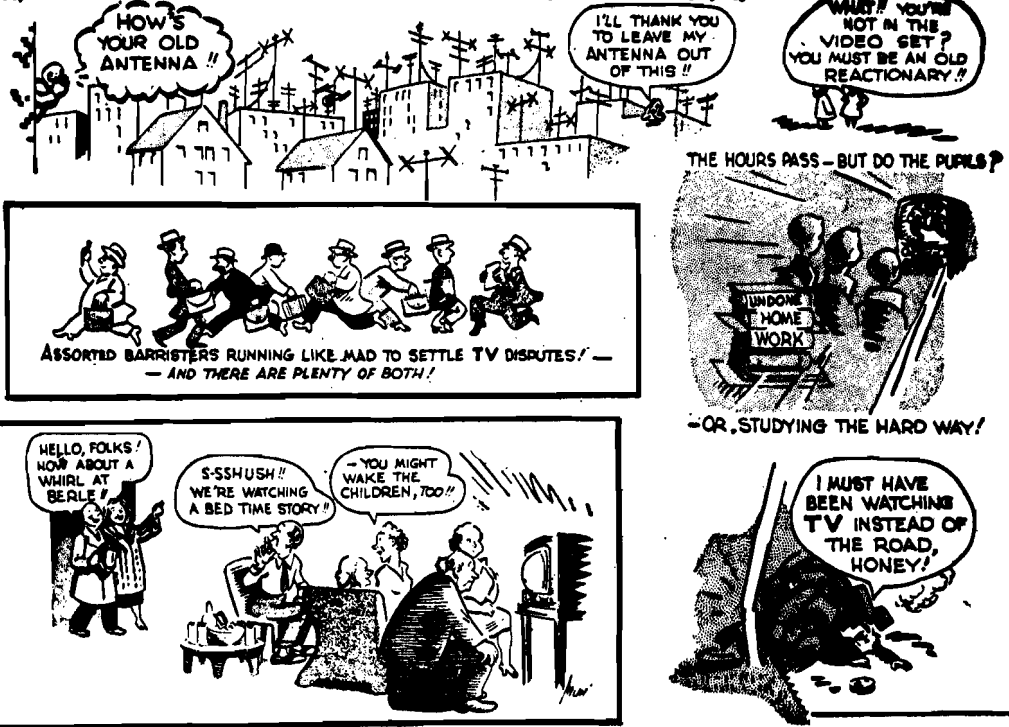
- 11) Who used the tag-line "And that's our three-o mark for tonight"?
- 12) "The March of the Ancestors" was the theme for which detective show?
- 13) Who was Baby Gerald, on what show did he appear, and what did he know a lot about?
- 14) Where was OUR GAL SUNDAY born?
- 15) Who were the stars of I REMEMBER MAMA on radio?
- 16) What breakfast food sponsored JET JUNGLE?
- 17) From which city was BREAKFAST CLUB broadcast?
- 18) Who was Edward Israel Iskowitz?
- 19) Who gave speech to Judy Splinters?
- 20) Who sponsored LASSIE on radio?
- 21) DETECTIVES BLACK AND BLUE worked out of what city?



- 22) PETE KELLY'S BLUES: which came first, the movie or the radio show?
- 23) What is CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT's real name?
- 24) Everybody knows that the radio SHADOW is really Lamont Cranston, but who is The Shadow in the pulp magazines?
- 25) Stoopnagle and Budd first appeared in what city?
- 26) With whom do you associate the number 137596?
- 27) Name the two futuristic organizations headed by Captain Strong and Buzz Corey.
- 28) Frank Chandler was known by another name in the East. What was it?
- 29) On MY LITTLE MARGIE, Verne was Margie's father. What was their last name?
- 30) John Wayne starred in THREE SHEETS TO THE WIND in 1942-1943. Name the unsold pilot show he starred in several years earlier.

From the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, 11/23/50

OH, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE SEE WHEN FIRST WE MONKEY WITH TV!



Writer Can't See Television --- Yet

By SAUL PETT

NEW YORK — (AP) — Maybe we're not ready for television yet.

I mean any kind of television—black and white or color, 405 lines or 525 lines, 24 frames or 30 frames a second. Maybe we're just not ready for any of it.

Here's a look at some of the things that have been happening in addition to the headaches over color, screen size or where to put the antennae.

* * *

IN NEW HAVEN, CONN., a woman was telephoning a friend. "I'm going out to the back yard," she said. "Too damn hot out in front." Wires were crossed somehow and the conversation was heard by the television audience of Station WNHC.

In Kalamazoo, Mich., an 18-month-old baby became deathly ill from drinking kerosene while his parents watched television.

In Houston, Tex., television fans heard a man commit suicide at a Texas League baseball game. After the shot the TV camera focused on his body. Justice of the Peace Tom Maes immediately returned an inquest verdict of suicide without leaving his home. "I saw the man on television," he said.

A local television show from Chicago was seen on screens in Louisiana, where it had no business. Another time, a TV show in London was seen in New York. NBC engineers attribute this to "temperature inversion," which has something to do with unusual changes in heat in the atmosphere and troposphere causing cold air to press down on hot air, or maybe it's the other way around.

* * *

THERE ARE signs that the animal kingdom is revolting. In Chicago a rat crept into a television set. In Atlanta, a cat sneaked inside a received and jammed the sound reception.

In Baltimore, a moth put Station WAAM-TV off the air for an hour. It flew into the machinery and caused a short circuit. Tubes blew out, fuses popped, and a flash of high voltage electricity solidly welded the vibrating contacts of a relay.

In Washington, the Better Business Bureau said complaints about television set sales and service comprise the Number 1 beef reaching the bureaus from around the country.

In Long Beach, Calif., Manuel Sanchez banged up his car and his

wife as he tried to watch television while driving. The television he was trying to watch was in a store window.

Dr. Daniel L. Marsh, president of Boston University, warned that "If the television craze continues with the present level of programs, we are destined to have a nation of morons."

* * *

A UNIVERSITY of Southern California survey conducted by Sociologist Edward C. McDonagh reported that conversation is down by 50 per cent and reading all but forgotten among television families.

Checking 800 families around the campus, McDonagh found that:

Ninety per cent are listening less to the radio; 75 per cent are going to fewer movies; almost 50 per cent attend fewer sports events; 100 per cent do less pleasure driving, and 100 per cent of the housewives complained they never went anywhere any more.

Study hours at the Shaw High School in Cleveland, Ohio, were lengthened by 30 minutes for several reasons, among them the claim that television was keeping pupils away from their homework.

RADIO PREMIUMS:

by Ted Bronson

"It's a seething scientific sensation! Actual atoms----split to smithereens inside this ring! And you can see brilliant atomic effects!....You'll see frenzied flashes of light caused by released energy of atoms splitting like crazy!....Atomic materials in Atom Chamber are harmless..."

THE LONE RANGER



Well...maybe it wasn't all that spectacular. But it sure was something. The Lone Ranger Atomic Bomb Ring was offered by Kix cereal for 15¢ and a box-top in 1947. On the adjustable "gold" band was a miniature A-bomb (which could almost be mistaken for a silver bullet). The warhead was silver, the tail section red. In the tail section was a hidden message compartment. And it was by removing the tail section that you could find the real magic in the rings: the Atomic Chamber in the warhead.

First, you stood in a dark closet until your eyes became accustomed to the dimness. After whacking the ring sharply against the door (which invariably brought shouts of "What are you doing up there?"), you peered through the observation lens to see the "frenzied flashes of light." Marvelous.

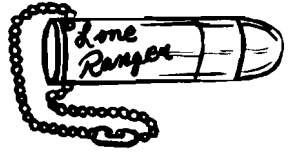
What more natural a premium for the Lone Ranger than a silver bullet? The first LR Silver Bullet had his name imprinted at the base of the bullet, which also pulled out to reveal the obligatory secret compartment. On the inside of the bullet's base was a tiny compass. Other Silver Bullets were also hollow; one containing a lump of "genuine" silver ore, another tablets with which to make invisible ink. The LR Silver Bullet Keychain was just that---a keychain attached to a "realistic but harmless" metal bullet.

Another Silver Bullet related item was not strictly a radio premium. The LR Silver Bullet Ballpoint Pen Set with cowboy belt could be obtained in stores for \$1.98. The steerhide tooled cowboy belt was decorated in an oakleaf pattern, with an engraved longhorn on the simulated silver buckle. There was a cartridge holder for the three bullet-shaped silver plastic pens. The holder was decorated with pictures of the Lone Ranger, Silver, and



Tonto (why was he always last?). The pens wrote in three colors: blue for "secret," red for "Danger," and green for "Hi-Yo! Let's go!"

Probably the most magnificent LR premium was "Frontier Town." Models of the town's buildings were printed on the backs of Cheerios boxes but, to complete the town properly, you had to send for other parts, such as the three foot by four foot map on which you placed the buildings. Among them were Sheriff "Two-Gun" Tyler's office, the general store, the livery stable, the Union Pacific tunnel (a favorite spot for hold-ups), and the Rustlers' Cave (at which location justice usually triumphed).



As far as can be determined, the very first LR radio premium was a pop-gun offered free to the first 300 youngsters who wrote in for it to station WXYZ, Detroit. This was on May 16, 1933, and WXYZ was the only station carrying THE LONE RANGER. The pop-guns were gone in two days with the station receiving a total of 24,905 requests. Alert station personnel decided that they had a hit on their hands.

In November, 1933, Silvercup Bread became the first regional sponsor of THE LONE RANGER and, in 1935, instigated the Lone Ranger Safety Club. After filling out the Safety Club application card (available only from your local grocer, if he carried Silvercup Bread), you would receive a membership card, a secret code, and a Lone Ranger Safety Club Badge. The Badge was silver and an embossed picture of the Lone Ranger mounted on Silver was prominently featured in the middle. It's indicative of the Lone Ranger's popularity that, six weeks after the Safety Club promotion began, nearly half-a-million youthful fans had joined.

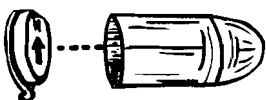
There were many other LR premiums, not as many as Tom Mix of course, but enough to make it tough to compile a complete list. Also, the show had many regional sponsors and many versions of the same premiums; it's impossible to keep track of them all. Here are a few:

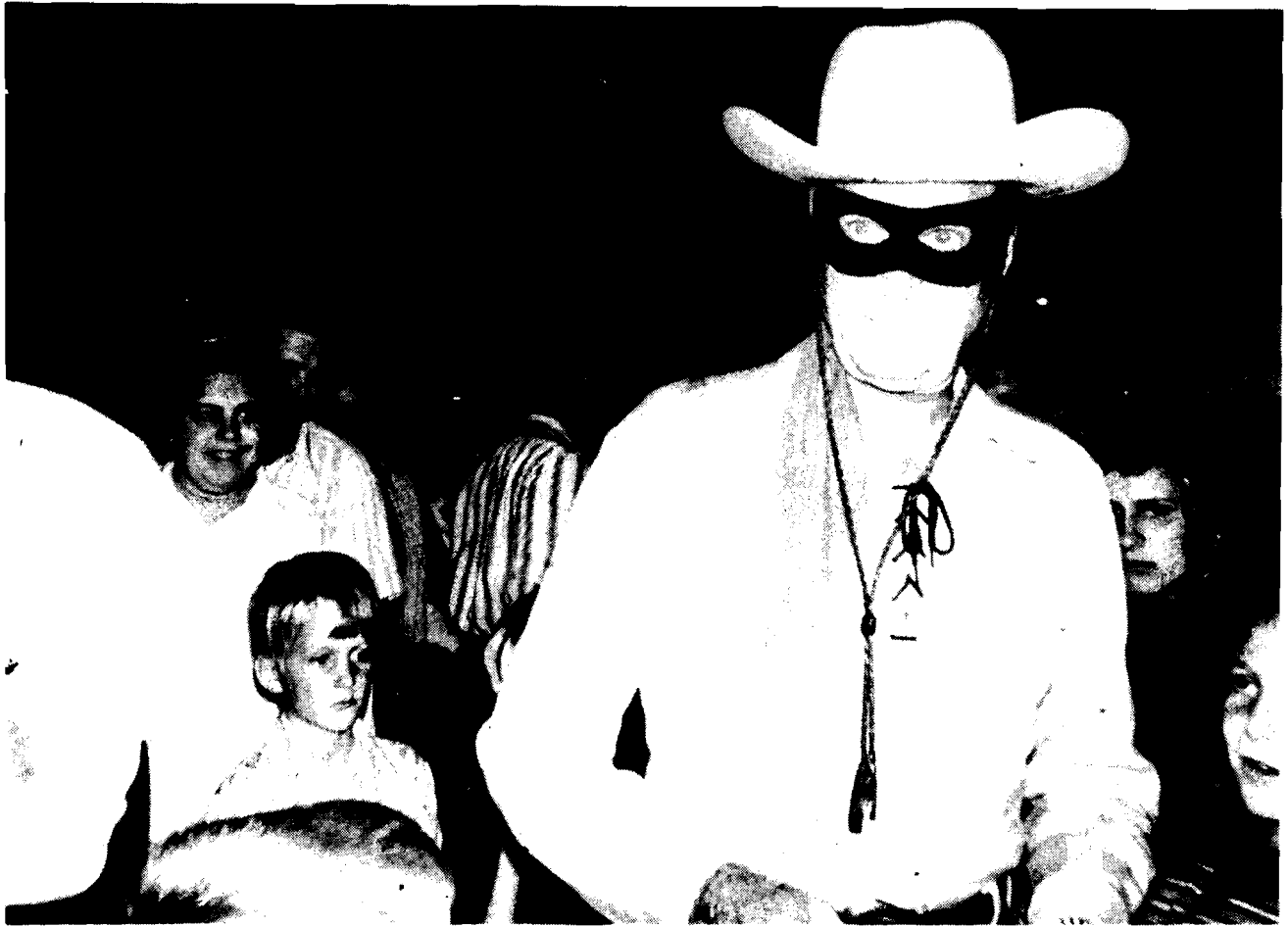
Silver's Lucky Horseshoe Badge: This was shaped, naturally enough, like a horseshoe, with a picture of the Lone Ranger in the middle.

Lone Ranger Silver Bullet Knife: A pocket-knife with an embossed bullet on the side. These were produced in many colors.



Lone Ranger Armed Forces Rings: More war premiums. These rings were decorated with a variety of emblems from each armed service. The bonus was that the tops slid back to show a picture of the Lone Ranger.





Lone Ranger Flashlight Gun: This was offered in the early Fifties and wasn't too smashing.

Lone Ranger Pedometer: An almost exact duplicate of the Jack Armstrong/ Boy Scout pedometer, save that it had the Lone Ranger's name on it.

Lone Ranger Holster Set: These were offered for years (and probably still are). One set was inexplicably issued with red bullets instead of silver.

Lone Ranger Film Strip Ring: A war premium. A radio tower was embossed on the gold band. The viewer itself was tubular and a film strip of war scenes could be moved through a slot in the front of the viewer.

Lone Ranger Six Shooter Ring: A miniature sixgun was attached to the band. There was a flint wheel on the gun so you could make sparks while "fanning" the gun.

Lone Ranger Weather Ring: Variations of weather rings were offered by nearly every show and the same principle is still used today in various toys. The ring boss would change color according to the humidity. The instructions admonished "Be sure to take this ring off before you wash your hands." Sound advice.



HERE...While They Last...The Sensational HITLER PIN CUSHION

**STICK A
PIN IN
HITLER!**

You've probably seen photographs of President Roosevelt at his desk in the White House with the NEW HITLER PIN CUSHION at his side! Newspapers, newsreels and news magazines the nation over carried pictures of our President and his Hitler Pin Cushion.



ACTUAL SIZE

It's the rage from coast-to-coast. It's good for a million laughs now when every laugh is worth a fortune. This Hitler Pin Cushion is not a toy. It's a work of art. It's large, 6½ inches tall. Not a picture but an actual statue of simulated china, made to last a lifetime. Hand-painted with brown shirt, blue pants, Prussian boots in life-like colors. Sturdy, with felt covered base. About the only one who doesn't like it is Hitler himself. In fact, it's . . .

SEND NO MONEY

**INSPECT 10 DAYS ON SATISFACTION
GUARANTEE . . .**

Be the first in your community to have this Hitler Pin Cushion! Here's all you do. Send no money. We want you to inspect this Pin Cushion yourself, in your own home. You can't help smiling when you see this statue because Hitler, Prussian boots and all, is bent over with a look of pain on his face. When you stick a pin into Hitler's Pin Cushion, you can almost hear him holler!

So send no money with the coupon. On arrival, you don't pay \$3, \$4 or \$5 but simply deposit \$1.49 plus postage. Then examine your Hitler Pin Cushion . . . keep it for 10 full days. Then if you're not tickled pink with it, if your friends and neighbors don't get as much kick out of seeing it as you do yourself, simply send it back and your \$1.49 will be refunded in full. Remember, this isn't a toy but an actual hand-painted statue of Hitler, with large red pin-cushion affixed in the back, exactly as illustrated. Carry on your own "rear-line attack." Now, today, mail the coupon while still available.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT OFFER . . .

If you act now, today, you can obtain 3 of these amazing Hitler Pin Cushion Statues for only \$3.49. They make grand gifts, especially for boys in the service, and they come packed ready for re-mailing. Mail coupon today sure! Orders filled as received as long as our supply lasts.

Reprinted
from the '40s . . .

NOT ENDORSED BY HITLER

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY SURE!

10 DAY TRIAL

Let me at Hitler! Send me the Hitler Pin Cushion Statue. I'll give Postman \$1.49 plus postage on arrival on the understanding I can return the Hitler Pin Cushion Statue in 10 days and you'll refund my \$1.49 without question. (If money comes with order, we pay postage.)

NAME _____ (PRINT PLAINLY)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

SPECIAL! 3 Hitler Pin Cushion Statues only \$3.49

RADIO FREE EUROPE

by Ronald Ames

Propaganda is a tool used by every side in nearly every war, the exceptions being those wars fought in pre-literate times, and even then propaganda could be spread by word-of-mouth. With the popularization of radio, propaganda became an important and potent weapon. It played a vital role in World War II. Nowadays, although politicians say that the Cold War is over and this is the Age of Detente, radio propaganda is no less important.

Radio Free Europe broadcasts what is admittedly Western propaganda to the Communist captive nations. RFE has five "Voices" that broadcast about 450 hours of programming each week in the varied languages of those behind the Iron Curtain. The purpose of RFE is to serve as a "home service" from abroad to provide listeners with a full broadcast schedule as an alternative to the state approved broadcasts. These programs are done in the native tongue of the area to which the broadcast is beamed.

One of the first acts of Communists in their subjugation of a nation is the prohibition of certain music being broadcast, especially nationalistic music and folk tunes, in order to keep any patriotic feelings at a low ebb. RFE makes a special point of presenting the forbidden music. In 1949, after Hungarian Communists firmly seized power in their homeland, supreme power over music in any form was given to the musical department of the Ministry of Public Education, which was headed by the brother-in-law of the Communist dictator. Western music was banned as decadent and anti-democratic. Also banned were the classical works of Wagner, who was held up as the spiritual inspiration for Nazism. The music broadcast by the Communists was written to order by favored party members and was plain and simple Communist propaganda. Such titles as "Weave the Silk, Comrade" and "Produce More than the Machine" were sent over the airwaves.

As a result, RFE had a ready and appreciative audience for, then, jazz, and now, rock music. This music was condemned by the party, who termed it "music of putrescent capitalism" and "sexual perversion in sound." Therefore, the music and the music lovers went, and are, underground. Records are bootlegged into the captive nations. Buffs make primitive records from X-ray plates and gather for secret "jam" sessions. RFE features an American Hit Parade as well as an European Hit Parade. Along border areas in Germany, the United States Armed Forces Network is heard.

While music is emphasized, news programs are the backbone of RFE. There are ten minutes of news every hour on the hour and this makes up 17% of RFE's total programming. Other programs include satire, drama, variety, religious, cultural, and the jazz and rock music shows. Some shows are aimed at special audiences---workers, farmers, youth, women, intelligentsia, and party members. There are daily commentaries which attempt to interpret and relate political developments behind the Iron Curtain and in the free world. Because of the limited number of talented exiles, RFE cannot present original programs all day, so whole blocks of programs are taped and re-played.

A popular RFE feature is the satirical radio cabaret, which is used to mix music and political jibes at Communist rulers. An example of this is the POLISH TEA PARTY, which is a regular Sunday afternoon show. The best known and most popular radio program in Poland, it is a fast-paced half-hour of variety, comedy, singing, and political comments. Among others, the nationally known cast includes Katius, a simple but crafty peasant boy, and Mrs. Mietowa, a complaining female who spoofs the Communists. The show's theme, "Let Us Be Gay", is supposedly whistled in the streets of Warsaw as a gesture of defiance to the party. The Czech version of the TEA PARTY is called KAHOUT'S KABARET, which combines music and political satire. Its star is Jara Kahout, a combination of Fred Allen and Fernandel.

The Voice of Free Hungary features the HUNGARIAN RADIO THEATER on Sundays. Eve Soreny and Sander Szabo, two famous Hungarian exile performers, are the weekly stars. Besides classical and modern dramas, the show presents translated American plays and musicals, such as "Abe Lincoln in Illinois", "My Fair Lady", "I Remember Mama", and "Carousel." Readings of suppressed books are also broadcast over RFE, books such as Dr. Zhivago and One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich.

OTR Wordsearch solutions:

F I D U F F Y S I N D I O H K A E S
 B G L U X R A D I O C R A K C I H C
 H A T T O R N E Y A B T L U T A O T
 S W I T C H E S N S J V W C D I S L
 H R E B B I E D W R B B L O N D I E
 E O H P U F Y G R E K R W T Y C T S
 R E L T S I H W O N I O Z U E L L S
 L P Z K T J H A Q U R O L N S I O G
 O Q D S S E O A X U L K J W A G M N
 C N I H M S T E L L A S D O C H A O
 K E C E K O M S N U G P M T A T L L
 F L N B G A N F P X E N Y G R S N A
 B L O X Y A W A M R I B K I L O Y P
 G A T V Y F T T S P I K E B T U R O
 N D L C N H S M E O E T O S O T E H
 O B E N N Y N A T I R I E D A O L I
 O A K R E B E N I B M R N L Q I L C
 G A S P A D E P M N P E P A C S E K

The following is a typical evening schedule of RFE. The times are given in the European 24 hour clock.

- 1500 News
- 1510 Military Review
- 1520 Request Music
- 1535 Other Side of the Coin
- 1545 20 Years of Independence
- 1600 News
- 1605 Facts and Views
- 1635 Hemar's Cabaret
- 1650 Poles in the West
- 1700 News
- 1710 Kaleidoscope
- 1735 Panorama
- 1750 Reprise of Hits
- 1800 News
- 1810 Exotic World
- 1825 Opera Music
- 1835 Literary Corner
- 1900 News
- 1910 Military Review
- 1920 No Curtain Shall Divide Us
- 1935 World of Jazz
- 2000 News
- 2010 Krakow Bugle
- 2015 Sports and Jazz
- 2030 Hemar's Cabaret
- 2100 News
- 2110 Panorama
- 2150 Sports and Jazz
- 2200 News
- 2210 Opera Music
- 2235 Literary Corner
- 2300 News and sign-off

ER, AH....THAT IS ...MPHM....

by Ethan Edwards

Someone should have put a stop to the use of transcriptions before it began. Hold it now, stay back with those ropes....Let me finish.

Like all OTR collectors, I'm eternally grateful for the existence of all the ET's around because they make possible our enjoyment of shows that would otherwise have been lost. But wasn't live radio (and live TV) more fun? Live radio made for suspenseful listening. Will the announcer stumble over his words? Will an actor fumble his lines? This kind of thing interests me, and I've collected a few instances that I'd like to share with you.

Announcer Andre Baruch was a gem. Once during a commercial he counselled "demand the breast in bed." Sound advice. Another time he said "Good ladies, evening and gentlemen of the audio radiance." He wasn't too swift with his sign-offs either. While closing a show on the Mutual network he announced "This is the Columbia Broadcasting System", which must have surprised executives of both networks.

Ralph Edwards started in radio in 1935 and quickly worked his way up to stints on MAJOR BOWES' ORIGINAL AMATEUR HOUR, THIS IS YOUR LIFE, and TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES. Once during a "man-in-the-street" interview he asked the occupation of a pretty young lady. "I'm a streetwalker", she replied. In the same vein, Edwards introduced a singer as "a charming young sinner."

The audience could tell where announcer Jimmy Wallington's mind was at as he signed off a FAMOUS ROMANCES show with "So ends another virgin...."

Sportscasters and sports figures were not exempt from fumble mouth. Check out this report of sports scores by Jim Britt (who must have been talking to Jimmy Wallington): "Notre Dame seven, Northwestern six, and once again the Fighting Irish eked out victory by a narrow virgin." Another good one happened during the coverage of a University of Pennsylvania football game. Notice the smooth cover-up.

ANNOUNCER: Franny Murray takes the ball...He crosses the thirty-five...the forty...

ASSISTANT: (whispers) That's not Murray. That's Elverson.

ANNOUNCER: ...he laterals to Elverson...

Baseball announcer Ford Bond had Lou Gehrig as a guest on a CITIES SERVICE show. Hoping to plug the sponsor, Huskies breakfast food, Bond asked Lou to name his favorite breakfast. Lou replied "Wheaties." When he realized what he had said, he sent his paycheck back to Huskies. Luckily,

the Wheaties people sent Lou a check that was double the amount of the first.

Mel Allen could be a precursor of the comic strip "Tank McNamara" with his line "It's smipe poking time." Others in this select crowd are Arthur van Horne ("WOR presents the newted nose analyst..."), Frank Knight ("The weather report: tomorrow rowdy, followed by clain."), Harry von Zell ("President Hoobert Heever."), Milton Cross ("The A and G Pipsies"), and Fred Uttal ("I am here to introduce Buppert's Rear").

Here's an odd line from the fabled LONE RANGER: "I hear a white horse coming."

My favorite's from station WMCA in 1929. It started when the singer's false teeth popped out. Startled, the trumpet player blew a bad note. This caused the rest of the band to go raucously off-key amid gales of laughter. The band leader, understandably confused, backed up and tripped over a chair. Finally, the announcer, the very picture of cool, stepped up to the mike and said "I'll be damned."

They'll never match that on tape.

+++++

OTRivia Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Anaheim, Azusa, and Ku-ka-monga | 21) Duluth |
| 2) Ish Kabibble on KAY KYSER'S KOLLEGE OF MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE | 22) The radio show debuted in 1951. The movie didn't appear until 1955. |
| 3) Bob Elliott & Ray Goulding | 23) Captain Red Albright |
| 4) Mandrake the Magician | 24) Kent Allard |
| 5) Anything | 25) Buffalo |
| 6) Groucho, Chico, Harpo, Gummo, and Zeppo | 26) Sam Spade |
| 7) On BUCK ROGERS, she was Killer Kane's chick. | 27) Captain Strong was the head of Space Academy (in TOM CORBETT, SPACE CADET), and Buzz Corey led the SPACE PATROL. |
| 8) Honeywell & Todd | 28) Chandu the Magician |
| 9) His dead brother's vest | 29) Albright. Presumably not related to Captain Midnight. |
| 10) John W. Campbell, Jr. "As Time Goes By" was the theme, which is best remembered from "Casablanca" (1941). | 30) THE LIGHTNING KID |
| 11) Bill Stern | |
| 12) SHERLOCK HOLMES | |
| 13) Gerald Darrow was one of the QUIZ KIDS, and was an expert on birds, animals, and Greek mythology. | |
| 14) Silver Creek, Colorado | |
| 15) Nobody. I REMEMBER MAMA was not a radio series. | |
| 16) Jungle Oats | |
| 17) Chicago | |
| 18) Eddie Cantor | |
| 19) Shirley Dinsdale | |
| 20) Red Heart Dog Food | |

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MON. thru FRI.**

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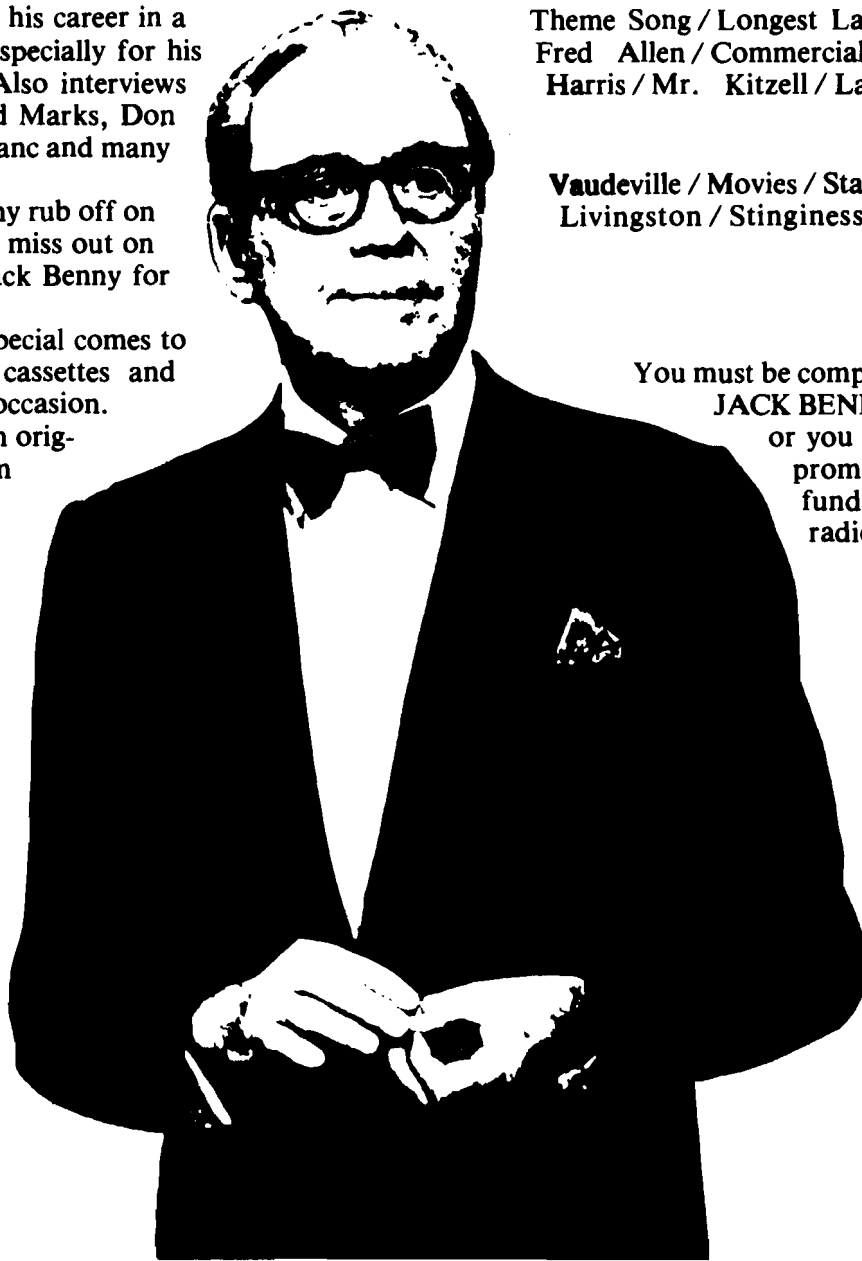
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