

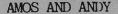
ON THE AIR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VINTAGE BROADCAST SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1 JANUARY - FEBRUARY 1984

FREEMAN GOSDEN AND CHARLES CORRELL









LETTER FROM THE PREZ

Hi, fun seekers. Welcome to the 1st edition of ON THE AIR, the official magazine of the VINTAGE BROADCAST SOCIETY. Yes, two new names!! This all came about at our last Board of Directors Meeting (see next page). A round of applause to Lewis Krieger, Kevin Eastwood and Jack Shugg, who are the hard working editorial staff.

This is your magazine. We expect that you will write letters to use, on your thoughts about our OTR hobby and on your reaction to previous editions. We invite articles, well-written and articulate, from you, especially if you are knowledgeable on the subject. Please send all your letters and material to Kevin Eastwood, 145A Linden Road, Mineola, N.Y. 11501 (Kevin is the new Editor). If you want to find certain tapes, records or whatever or want to trade items, there will be a space for you in our magazine.

I know that there are members who want that first members meeting. We, on the Board of Directors, have been busy getting ye old club's act together, i.e., hustling for membership, researching the ways to become a tax-exempt club, etc., and we almost forgot a meeting. We regret that. We know many members like to meet and talk with other OTR fans. Our first meeting will be held within several weeks, keep your hopes up.

We now have over 70 members, most in the New York area, but we're now in California, Michigan, Connecticut, Louisiana and Canada. Wow. Thank you all for your faith in us. We'll try to live up to it.

Sincerely,

John

Listed below are the names of the Club's Board of Directors. If you have any questions or information which might be useful to the club, please call or write any of the individual listed.

John A. Barber President 77-02 34th Avenue Apt. B62 Jackson Heights, NY 11372

Lewis Krieger Vice President/ Membership Chairman 3000 Bronx Park East Bronx, NY 10467

Kevin Eastwood Editor "On-the-Air" 145A Linden Road Mineola, NY 11501

Jack Shugg Secretary P.O. Box 81 Bronx, NY 10468 Max Schmid Historian c/o WBAI 505 8th Avenue New York, NY 10018

Ron Baron Treasurer 2475 West 16th Street Brooklyn, NY 11214

Robert Brunet Librarian 21 W. 74th Street New York, NY 10023

SPECIAL NOTE: The following individuals have resigned from the Board of Directors;

- . Cheryl Levine and Brian Hochberg because of personal and family responsibilities.
- . Lawrence Rao because of his insistence on maintaining complete control over the club publication in direct opposition to the wishes of the rest of the Board of Directors who wished the publication to be directed by the Editorial Staff.



RECENT MEETINGS **** RECENT MEETINGS **** RECENT MEETINGS

$\frac{\text{MINUTES}}{\text{OF}} \stackrel{\text{OF}}{\text{THE}} \frac{\text{THE}}{\text{BOARD OF}} \frac{18,\ 1983}{\text{DIRECTORS}} \frac{\text{MEETING}}{\text{MEETING}}$

The following changes have been instituted by the Board of Directors:

- . A new name for the club was chosen, the "VINTAGE BROADCAST SOCIETY".
- . The Executive Board would henceforth be known as the Board of Directors.
- . Because of resignations, the Board of Directors will now consist of seven (7) members and they are as follows:

John A. Barber, Lewis C. Krieger, Kevin Eastwood, Jack Shugg, Ron Baron, Max Schmid, and Robert Brunet

. Officers were elected and they are as follows:

President - John Barber Vice President - Lew Krieger Treasurer - Ron Baron Secretary - Jack Shugq

. Membership Cards will be issued to all members.

- . All members joining before January 1, 1984 will automatically have their membership expiration date extended to December 31, 1984.
- . Effective January 1, 1984 membership dues will be \$15. annually.
- . The club publication will henceforth be known as "ON-THE-AIR" (Kevin Eastwood is the new editor, so all material will be sent to him).
- . Paper work has been initiated which will permit the club to become incorporated and a non-profit organization.
- . The meeting was adjourned.

CLASSIFIED HALF PAGE FULL PAGE 1/4 PAGE

\$15.00 \$25.00

\$8.00

minimum 25 words) \$.10 per word name, address, zipcode free)

- All ads must be submitted Photo ready.
- Size of original must be proportional to printed size.

Because of excessive printing cost, we are temporarily discontinuing the member's discount on ads. NOTE:

PUBLICATION DATE MARCH 15, 1984 COPY DEADLINE FEBRUARY 29, 1984





HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO RE-LIVE THE DAYS OF: "OLD TIME RADIO" In your own living room, again hear the voice of The Shadow, The Lone Ranger, Amos 'n Andy, Bergen & McCarthy, Gunsmoke, and many others. Hear Al Jolson, Judy Garland, and Bing Crosby.

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PREDICTROLA

PERFORMED BY DUNNINGER AND YOU

Here is a combination of a knockout display of mentalism together with entertainment while you are given credit for joining forces with the one today's trend toward nostalgia that produces a monument in close up and only Dunninger in a truly professional presentation.

EFFECT: The performer introduces or borrows a cassette player and places it in plain view. A small box containing nine printed cards and a cassette is removed from the performer's pocket. The cassette is inserted in the player and the pile of cards is laid on the table.

While going through these procedures, the performer explains that he is a close associate of Dunninger, farmed mentalist of all media. Dunninger has sent him the cassette, the cards, and a personal letter explaining an unusual prediction, an expension ment in mental perception. The prediction will succeed only if the performer (you) performer now announces that he poper time and place the prediction was made for. The performer now announces that he feels this is it. He has sensed it all day. He feels has a mental rapport with Dunninger.

The cassette recording is now started. The opening to Dunninger's past radio show have a stange bearing on titure events. The nine cards are titled with the names of nine famous programs out of the golden past of radio. Dunninger now directs the performer to spread the cards out on the table and pick an assistant from the audit-(cards) one at a time. As each program is eliminated, its opening theme is actually heard. One program is left, and Dunninger confirms his prediction by correctly named that card. At this time a ball of paper which has been in full year of the audit-markable walk down memory lane.

FEATURES

I. A high quality cassette selected for long reliable service. It comes in its own unbreakable box, and the sound quality is very good throughout for the type of recordings included.

2. Nine printed business size cards that give the impression that they must have come from Dunninger.

3. DUNNINGER'S recorded narration of the effect. Dunninger, as you know, is the greatest mentalist of all time, and a professional of the highest degree. Selective and critical, he has chosen to give this effect his personal endorsement and talents. Authenticity and realism were a must for this presentation. The recording was actually made in Dunninger's home with a professional cassette recorder, and there is a to become a collector's stem.

4. The opening radio themes include Dunninger, Inner Sanctum, Charlie McCarthy, The Lone Ranger, Fred Allen, Terry & The Pirates, The Shadow, Amos 'N' Andy, "Gangbusters and The Whistler. These openings were selected for their mass popularity and for being unique in their melodic and audio effects. Absolutely fascinating even to those new to old time radio.

5. PLUS: An actual recording of the late and wonderful Harry Blackstone making magic through his instructions and your assistant's hands. A collector's item.

6. PLUS: Also included is a complete 8 minute broadcast of a classic example of what made radio so popular before the rise of television. Here is a mind stimulator showing how radio made human imagination work to create mental images and moods. To some this will be a tele of sheer terror. Others will find it hilarious. In any case no one will ever forget the sound of that laughter or the utter realism of the main sound effect. Play this for your next gathering.

7. PLUS: No waiting. Your order will be AIR MAILED to you within 24 hours after receiving your letter. DEALER INQUIRIES ARE INVITED.

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THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB CONVENTION NOVEMBER 11-12, 1983 IN NEWARK, N.J. BY JOHN BARBER AND LEW KRIEGER

The following is a brief description of some of the various events held during that wonderfully nostalgic weekend in which so many of us had the opportunity to talk, eat, drink and watch some of our childhood idols, although at that time we knew them under their aliases; the Shadow, Chester, The Quiz Kid, etc. Our comments are our own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the rest of the Board of the Directors.

SATURDAY - DAY EVENTS BY LEWIS KRIEGER

This was my first Old Time Radio Convention so I made sure I arrived bright and early Saturday morning (8:30 a.m.). Even at that early hour there were collectors, traders and dealers "wheeling and dealing". As soon as I finished setting up the club table, I joined in. I slowly strolled around the room drinking in the lovely, delicious sight of hundreds of tapes of old radio programs just lying there ready to be picked like ripe grapes. I was smart, so I allocated "X" amount of dollars to spend and that's all I took with me. Foolish me, that money went in the first hour. However, I had some "mad" money just in case. Kevin Eastwood and his wife Kathy, joined up with me and for the rest of the day, while not at our club table, the three of us carefully scrutinized the available treasures. We bargained like crazy, paid from our dwindling funds and ran back to our table to compare our loot.

We also attended three interesting sessions. At 9:45 we attended the Lone Ranger session which discussed the convention held upstate early this year. Panelists included Fran Striker, Jr., Dick Osgood and Terry Salomonson. At 2:30 Arthur Anderson presented a re-enactment of an actual "Let's Pretend" Program ("The Brave Little Tailor"). It was unbelievable sitting there, with my eyes closed, thinking back to those Saturday mornings listening to the original show. Kudos to all the fine actors and actresses participating in the show. (John Barber played it to the hilt as a guard).

At 4:30 came the highlight of my day; the Shadow panel. I especially enjoyed this because Walter Gibson was a very good friend to those members of my family who were magicians. I listened in rapture to the actual stars, writers and the behind the scenes personnel, among them Ken Roberts, Dwight Weist, Walter Gibson, Grace Matthews, Gertrude Warner, Margot Stevenson. The panel was hosted by Tony Tollin who did an outstanding job drawing out the various behind-the-scenes anecdotes

Finally it was over, all to soon. I dragged my loot to my car and as I drove out of the lot I yelled out the window, --- "I will return" next year, of course.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed myself and look forward to many more conventions. However, in closing, let me say that I was looking forward to seeing Raymond Edward Johnson and was disappointed when I was told due to circumstances, he would not attend. Raymond, I look forward to seeing and meeting you next year.

Hats off to Jay Hickerson, Joe Webb and Stu Weiss for a great job!!!!

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT EVENTS BY JOHN BARBER

As an Old Time Radio buff, needless to say, I enthused in the entire convention, held in Newark, New Jersey, November 11th and 12th, but I will only discuss the two dinners, Friday and Saturday nights. Friday night, was devoted to a Quiz Kids workshop. There was a Ruth Duskin Feldman speech, with a few words by Joan Bishop and Pat Conlon. This was followed with a nostalgia quiz by Jay Hickerson, our leader, who is quite knowledgeable and who plays a mean piano. Keep up the good work, Jay. Is there a song you don't know??

My Saturday night chronology may be a bit off, but here we go. A doff of my hat to Anthony Tollin for spearheading a very professional reading of a Shadow script. Dwight Weist performed very well as Lamont Cranston/Shadow, and actors, Parley Baer, Jackson Beck, Arthur Anderson, (who had a beautiful dramatic scene) along with other great radio performers truthfully brought us back to those Golden Days of Radio. A thank you to Parley Baer, (Gunsmoke's Chester) for coming in at the last moment to replace Frank Nelson, who couldn't make it. Arthur Tracy, our wonderful Street Singer, was again, on hand, to deliver songs and commentary. The voice is a little shaky, but his vocal strength is - like, Wow, Man!! Grazie, Maestro!! I noticed Walter Gibson, the Shadow's creator had a wide grin.

Ted Malone, star of "Between the Bookends", was on hand for a series of charming and witty readings, backed by the talented organist, Rosa Rio (who later gave her own concert, with power and vivace). Did you know Ted still does college concerts, doing what he did on radio years ago?? He never quits. A thank you to Karen Nater, for her musical salute to the Golden Age. The final Saturday Night event was devoted to presentation of awards to radio personalities, who contributed to the art. I saw tears. I saw amazed faces. I saw smiles. Gang, it was all worth while. Jay, let's do it again next year.

ETC...Birthday greetings to Danny Kaye, Jan. 18th....Lanny Ross, Jan. 19th....George Burns, Jan. 20th....Jim Backus, Jan. 24th.....
Tennessee Ernie Ford, Feb. 12th.....Gale Gordon, Feb. 20th.....Tony Randall, Feb 26th.... Watch Fellow Member Joan Bishop Barber on "2 On The Town" Jan. 24th, WCBS-TV. All about the "Quiz Kids".....
Listen to fellow members Jack Shugg and Max Schmid who are co-hosts of "The Golden Age of Radio" WBAI-FM (99.5) 8:30-9:30 a.m. Saturday mornings. Also on Saturdays WNYC-AM (830) has an hour of old time radio (12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.).



A capsulated look at some of the radio related books available during the calendar year 1983.

"Radio's Golden years, The Encyclopedia of Radio Programs 1930-1960" by Vincent Terrace from A.S. Barnes. A joke when "remaindered" at at \$4.95, a bloody rip-off at \$15.00.

"Lou's On First" a biography of Lou Costello, written by his daughter Chris. From St. Martins Press, one sided to the extreme, and very inaccurate. There are some interesting photos, but the so-called complete log of radio appearances totally neglects their appearances on the Bergan/McCarthy Show. Unless you're an Abbott & Costello freak, pass.

"Famous Radio Personalities, In Historic Photographs" by Anthony Slide. From Dover Press. A fantastic photo book, but not much text. Priced at under ten dollars, you can't go wrong.

"The Sound Of Detection" by Francis M. Nevins & Ray Stanich. From Brownstone. An absolute treasure. Nevin's test gives a new insight into the creation of Ellery Queen, and the complete radiolog by Stanich is worth the price by itself. The only drawback is finding a copy, and may at this time be only available from the publisher, or check with Joe Webb at Nostalgia Warehouse.

"His Typewriter Grew Spurs" by Fran Striker, Jr. The best, and probably the only accurate look at the man who created "The Lone Ranger". The book is filled with lots of new facts and photographs, gives the reader an inside look at the behind the scene goings on, in bringing the Ranger to the air. Well worth the price, but like the above, available only from the publisher, or again, check with Joe.

"Who Was That Masked Man" 1983 edition. By David Rothel. From Harcourt Inaccurate due to lack of cooperation from the Striker Family, the book is mainly a rehash of Rothel's 1976 book of the same title, updated to include the 1982 abortion "The Legend of The Lone Ranger". Lots of nice photos, and a radio script, but at twenty bucks it's only for diehards.

"The Mighty Music Box, A History Of The Golden Age Of Musical Radio" by Thomas A. Delong. Available through New Century Press, or Sasco Associated. The title is a bit deceiving as this book not only covers the history of music on the air, but also gives the reader an excellent view of the early days of radio itself. Delong's research is precise and accurate. His writing style makes it one of those books that's hard to put down.

"The Dead Sleep Lightly" by John Dicksen Carr, edited by Douglas Green. From Doubleday. A nice collection of Carr's best radio scripts. A must for the mystery collector, lacking only in the fact that there is no information on the date or series of original broadcast.

"Funny People" and "More Funny People" by Steve Allen. From Stein and Day. Allen's view of some of the great comedians both past and present, many from the golden age of radio. An excellent analysis of just what makes comedy work. Allen takes a loving look at Fred Allen, Jack Benny, Groucho, and many others. May be hard to find, but well worth the effort.

"Superman the 30s To The 80s" from Crown. A rehash of "Superman the 30s to the 70s", a collection of strips from the comics. If you already have the first one, you may not want to pay the ten bucks more this one costs just for some new strips. Otherwise at \$16.00 you won't feel ripped off.

"Going My Own Way" by Gary Crosby. Not the hatchet job you would expect it to be. An honest look at the Crosby legend. The book reprints some scripts from the Crosby Radio Shows, and if you don't mind finding out that some idols do indeed have feet of clay, it's well worth reading. Some great photos.

"W*Y*X*I*E Wonderland" by Dick Osgood. From Bowling Green University Press. Excellent!! The best book of it's type I've ever read. If you've ever wondered just what goes on behind the screens at a major radio station this is the book for you. It's a history of WXYZ and the founding of the Mutual network. Put this one together with Fran Striker, Jr's book and you've got the most complete and honest picture of how "The Lone Ranger" was born as you'll ever see. A bird's eye view of the golden age of radio written by someone who was there. The drawback again is that the book is damn hard to get. Again check with Joe Webb.

"Whatever Happened To The Quiz Kids?" by Ruth Duskin Feldman. From Chicago Review Press. A sometimes depressing search for the one-time famous moppets. From the tragic death of Gerard Darrow to the hatred of Joel Kupperman for anything to do with his past, Feldman traces the rise and sometimes fall of the Quiz Kids. Not what you would call light reading, but an interesting look at a bunch of kids who may have had too much fame too fast, and too soon. Lots of Photos. Once more check with Nostalgia Warehouse.

"From Approximately Coast To Coast....It's The Bob and Ray Show" by Bob Elliot and Ray Goulding. From Antheneum. A collection of scripts from their 1983 B'Casts over national public radio. A must for Bob and Ray fans, and an excellent companion to their 1975 effect "Write, If You Get Work".

Also of interest during 1983 were two Biographies of Dashiell Hammett. First was "Hammett, A Life At The Edge" by William F. Nolan, well written and tightly constructed. Then came "Dashiell Hammett, A Life" by Diane Johnson. While not as well written as the Nolan effort it is perhaps a bit more factual. Either book will give you a fresh look at the man who gave us "Sam Spade", "Nick & Nora Charles", "The Continental Op." and "The Fat Man". Also of interest to Hammett freaks is a reprint of his team-up with Alex Raymond, "Secret Agent X-9". There was also a reissue of "The Art Of Mystery Writing" with contribution by both Hammett and Raymond Chandler.

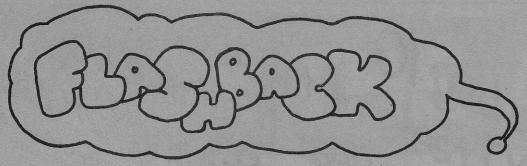
Some random thoughts on the hobby as we begin a new Year. With most of the manufacturers turning away from Mono Capable Open Reel Machines, a lot of collectors have purchased the Akai GX4000 D. This seems to be the only low-priced tape recorder on the market. It ain't worth it folks, it just ain't worth it. I've heard just too many complaints about this machine. The problem seems to lie in the fact that the machine was just not designed to be a work horse, and due to poor design there is no way to vent the heat that it generates. The results is that after several hours of continuous operation the take up reel seizes and the tape ends up all over the floor. We spoke to one of the tekies at Akai and were informed that the company was aware of the situation but had no plans to do anything about it. If you do buy one, be prepared to do some modifications, in order to be able to vent the head. This will mean opening the machine and installing a cooling fan and drilling air holes. Be advised that this will void your warranty. Perhaps with the attitude they have, it might be just as well to avoid Akai products.

Nostalgia video freaks should be aware that a lot of the early radio related movie serials (once thought lost forever) are starting to surface on video tape. The 1948 "Superman" and the 1950 "Atom Man Vs. Superman" as well as both "Lone Ranger" serials, "The Shadow" and other are starting to make the rounds. I urge you to please check the quality of the material, and know the source you're buying from. Since there's no legal source for these tapes the quality of the product will vary greatly from one dealer to another. The transfers I viewed of the "Supermans" was quite acceptable, but "The Lone Ranger" was garbage. Know your source, you can't go to the Better Business Bureau if you've been ripped off by a "Pirate". As I said, there is no real source for most of the radio related serials, and I'm not saying don't buy them, just try not to get ripped off.

A last minute arrival on the radio book shelf is "Pops: Paul Whiteman, King of Jazz" by Thomas A. Delong. From new Century. A behind the scenes look at music legend and b'cast pioneer. Delong strips away the fluff and frills for an honest look at the man behind the myth. A must if you're into radio history, as good, if not better than his "Mighty Music Box" and that's a hell of a hard act to follow. Lots of Photos.

Let's just hope that there's enough new material coming out in '84 as there was in '83, and let's all try our best to keep the hobby fresh, and interesting. Happy New Year Folks.

Jack W. Shugg Co-Producer "The Golden Age of Radio" W.B.A.I., N.Y.



AMOS 'N' ANDY

Begun during a more innocent age, Amos 'n' Andy received some attack due to the racial stereotypes conveyed. However, the blacks at the time were very much in favor of the show, for people were shown the blacks in a favorable light. The program also broke ground for blacks in the industry, because though there were no blacks on the show itself, people were led to realize that there was a place for them on the air. Therefore, the show helped pave the way for such stars as Eddie "Rochester" Anderson and Eddie Green of "Duffy's Tavern".

IL

The phenomenon known as Amos 'n' Andy began on January 12, 1926. Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll began on W.G.N. in Chicago as the blackface characters Sam 'n' Henry. In 1928 they introduced Amos 'n' Andy over W.M.A.Q. Then, finally, they went network via NBC in 1929. Originally, the show was broadcast from 11:00 to 11:15 p.m. then later it was moved to the 7:00 to 7:15 p.m. time slot where it quickly topped all other shows on radio.

The daily situations centered around the happenings at Amos 'n' Andy's Fresh-air Taxicab Co. and within the Mystic Knights of the Sea Lodge to which they belonged. George Stevens, the lodge "Kingfish" was constantly scheming to liberate the boys from their money. In most instances though, his plan would backfire and he'd be left worse off than when he started.

In the beginning of the show's long run, all the voices were done by Gosden and Correll. In later years, however, when female characters were added, other actors were used on the show.

Orginally, Amos 'n' Andy was broadcast in a serialized 15-minute format. However, the audience desired a half hour show, where the entire dilemma was resolved by shows-end. In the fifties, along with their weekly show, Gosden and Correll broadcast the Amos 'n'Andy Music Hall each weeknight. On the Music Hall they would introduce popular tunes of the day. Popular stars would also appear, sometimes as a suprise mystery guest.

It's a shame that as the years passed the innocence of the people changed so drastically. Just about anything dealing with blackface performances, including Amos 'n' Andy, have been all but banned from public view.Rarely will the shows be heard on radio and, outside of Public television and motion picture art houses, Amos 'n' Andy's movie appearances cannot be seen. To many people, these shows are considered racist and even distasteful. It's sad to realize that if a movie with Amos 'n' Andy were to be shown on network television or in your neighborhood theater today, the network may be forced to dissolve, and protests and riots would abound.

These shows were never meant to be distasteful. On the contrary, they were meant to be taken in fun.

The age of innocence has most definitely vanished, never to return, and in general respect one of Radio's finest shows has been buried along with



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