

ON THE AIR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE VINTAGE BROADCAST ASSOCIATION



RADIO'S CRIMEFIGHTERS

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

MARCH - APRIL 1985

Report From the President



Hello again,

Since the last issue of "On-the-Air" alot has happened concerning the club.

We have finally become incorporated. However, the powers that be insisted that we change our name for some crazy reason, so henceforth the club will be called the "VINTAGE BROADCAST ASSOCIATION, INC." Pretty nifty, huh??

We have had a reorganization of club Directors (what, again??). Stu Weiss, Kevin Eastwood and Max Schmid have had to resign because of personal and/or business reasons. We are down to four Directors as you can see on the "Board of Directors" page. Please note the new responsibilities. We are looking for a new club librarian. If you are interested, please let one of the Directors know.

Have you noticed the new art work? We have PAUL TREVOY to thank. He is one of our newest members and has graciously consented to continue doing the artwork for all future issues. In recognition of Paul's outstanding artistic professionalism, the club Directors have made Paul the "ART COORDINATOR" for the club.

Robert Brunet is the new Editor of "On-the-Air". This guy is a wonder. The same day he accepted the position letters went out to members who had mentioned they were willing to donate articles and the replies came pouring in. Robert has the next 12 issues already in the planning stage. Glad to have you aboard, Robert.

The club would like to thank Barbara Watkins, the "SPERDVAC" Editor, for giving our club a very nice plug in the latest issue of their club magazine.

In closing, I say again what I always say, please write the Directors and let us know what you want out of the club.

See you next issue,

Feedback

It's always a pleasure to hear from our members. It was especially heartening to receive the following comments this past month:

-From Don L. Aston came these words:

"I sure hope your radio club is finally getting off the ground. I do enjoy the newsletter. Keep up the good work."

Thanks, Don.

-From Jennifer Flagg, a new member, these complimentary words were received:

"I loved your double issue of On-the-Air. Please continue the informative, friendly articles, and large-type format. I'm looking forward to the next one! I also loved the reproductions of radio ads from old newspapers."

It's good to hear from you. Welcome to the Club.

-From Charles Platt, we received the following comments:

"It's lots of fun reading On-the-Air. Why not issue it on a monthly basis?"

Thanks, Charles, as soon as we have more contributions from our other members.

Whether complimentary or critical, we want to hear from all of you. About the content of the newsletter, and the lending library, and anything else about the Club.



Gerald
Mohr



Ben Alexander

Jack Webb

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

Lewis Krieger
President
Membership Chairman/Librarian
3000 Bronx Park East
Bronx, New York 10467

Jack Shugg
Vice President
P.O.Box 81
Bronx, New York 10468

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Treasurer
2475 West 16th Street
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Robert Brunet
Secretary/Editor (ON-THE-AIR)
21 West 74th Street
New York, New York 10023



**HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO RE-LIVE THE DAYS OF:
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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*.

\$1.00 Brings You This Catalog!!!



Chester Morris



Richard Kollmar

CHESTER MORRIS starred in "Luck of the Irish" and as detectives Boston Blackie and Richard Rogue.

RICHARD KOLLMAR took over the role of Boston Blackie in 1945.

" The Many Voices of Radio's Great Heroes "

by

R. Brunet

Heroes can come in different shapes, sizes and colors. But on the radio this was not the case. The imagine of the radio hero was often molded by the distinctive voice or vocal delivery of the actor or actress.

If the radio demanded a dejected, downtrodden imagine the voice of Stu Erwin was used, when the role called for a solemn delivery the voice of Alexander Scourby might have been heard, when a down-to-earth, homespun country yokel was needed, the voice of Parker Fennelly was perfect. The voice helped create the character and the imagine, and often helped to make the character immortal.

One of the earliest examples of how important the voice was to a character occurred when Earl Grasser died and Brace Beemer assumed the role. The voice had become so closely associated with the character that the creator and producers took tremendous care in making sure that the new and different voice was explained so logically and sensibly that it was accepted. It was, and the Lone Ranger rode into American folklore.

Many producers tried to secure the "perfect" voice to fit the character they were creating. One of the more successful matches was the character of the Fat Man to the voice of J. Scott Smart. When a leading man or woman left a series, and a replacement was needed, auditions were given, and the voice was carefully studied before a choice was made.

In 1947, the first voice of Raymond Chandler's two-fisted Phillip Marlowe was Van Heflin. He had a gruff, rasping voice which exuded toughness and realism. In the broadcast of August 5, 1947, his delivery style was slick and rapid; he was able to sound convincingly rugged and ingratiating at the same time. An excellent Marlowe!

His replacement, in 1948, was Gerald Mohr. His voice was distinctive and easy-on-the-ear, and certainly not tough enough to be a convincing detective. In "The Torch Carriers," he tried using his voice in a snarling manner with a Brooklyn like accent. He even raised his voice, forcing it to be authoritative, but it made him sound phony and ludicrous. He would have been a good Nick Charles.

In 1950, William Conrad became Phillip Marlowe. He sounded naturally tough, a perfect, deep, resonant, booming voice for a detective. Many years later he proved his ability in this type of role in the television series "Cannon."

In 1945, James Meighan was the voice of Michael Waring, better known as the Falcon. The character was suppose to be suave, confident, gay. But Meighan's voice--with its slight trace of a British accent--sounded too somber and heavy to be suave or carefree. In "Murder is a Family Affair," his curt, indifferent delivery seemed to imply that he was not too sure of what was going on, his voice, with its somberness tried to be lighthearted but its dark coloring mitigated his attempts. His voice seemed to lack character.

By 1951, Les Damon was the voice of The Falcon. He sounded tough and menacing. In "The Case of the Big Talker," he growled more than talked. His voice was hard without finesse or tact. Even his offer of a drink to Sgt. Corbett was gruffly-made. Here was a voice with the character of Mike Hammer.

When Chester Morris appeared as Boston Blackie in 1943, he brought along his light, breezy, carefree voice. He accentuated the right words, and it made everything he said sound frivolous and mischievous. In the broadcast of December 1, 1943, when a line was fluffed, he remained unruffled, his voice casual and flippant. He was able to do what other actors could not; he was able to express more indignation than rage in his voice when the subject of injustice was discussed.

About a year later, in 1945, cool, relaxed Richard Kollmar assumed the role, but his James Meighan-type voice worked against him. In "Dead Man's Shoes," he tried to sound flippant and humorous, and failed. His not-so-light voice made him sound contemptuous and abnoxious.

In 1946, Francis X. Bushman was the voice of Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe. His voice was deep and heavy, his words clear and articulate. In "The Shakespear Folio," his delivery was coherent and fast-paced; less of a Nero Wolfe and more like a Brad Runyon.

By 1950, Sydney Greenstreet had the role. In "Murder in a Flood-Stranded House," his voice was more natural to the character. Lazy, indifferent sometimes incoherent, his concluding laugh sounding more like a bored gag, which was a more authentic vocal recreation of the character. An especially fascinating contrast of voices on the same series would be that of Archie Goodwin, portrayed by Elliott Lewis and Gerald Mohr.

As Rocky Jordan, in 1945, Jack Moyles sounded like a rugged cynic. In "Smokescreen" his voice was hard and expressive. His delivery style was fast and furious, serving both as narrator and star. He was a natural for Rocky Jordan!

And then, in 1951 Moyles was replaced by George Raft who played the role with deadly seriousness. Grim! Flat! Emotionless! Unfortunately, the new voice did nothing to improve the character, and less than a year later the show went off the air.

During a span of thirteen years, 6 different voices brought the action-packed insurance investigator Johnny Dollar to the radio. Many enjoyed Charles Russell's version, others Edmund O'Brien.

But what about you? Who in your opinion was the better Johnny Dollar? Who was your favorite voice? Which actor made the character come to life for you? Why not tell us? Clip this portion off and send it to Robert Brunet. We'll let you know in the next issue who were the most popular voices of some of radio's great heroes.



HOWARD DUFF



GEORGE RAFT



EDMOND O'BRIEN

	<u>Heroes</u>	<u>Voices</u>	<u>Your Vote</u>
1)	Cisco Kid	Jackson Beck or Jack Mather	[] []
2)	Chad Remington from Frontier Town	Jeff Chandler or Reid Hadley	[] []
3)	Martin Kane	Wm. Gargan or Lloyd Nolan	[] []
4)	Mr. D. A.	Jay Jostyn or David Brian	[] []
5)	Rocky Jordan	Jack Moyles or George Raft	[] []
6)	Nero Wolfe	Francis X. Bushman or Sydney Greenstreet	[] []
7)	Sam Spade	Howard Duff or Steve Dunne	[] []
8)	Sgt. Preston	Jay Michael or Paul Sutton	[] []
9)	The Shadow	Orson Welles or Bill Johnstone or Bret Morrison	[] [] []
10)	Johnny Dollar	Charles Russell Edmund O'Brien or John Lund or Bob Baily or Bob Readick or Mandel Kramer	[] [] [] [] []

Below enter one or two of your favorite heroes and their voices and your favorite one.

- 11) []
[]
- 12) []
[]

* THE TRADING POST *

THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR YOU! If you are looking for a particular show, book, record or radio-related equipment, if you are interested in selling, buying or trading any of the above, let us know. We'll print your needs, wants and requests with your name and address. This is a free service to all members.

Today Irwin Tane is interested in adding to his collection with the following shows:

"The Shadow"
"The Lone Ranger"
"Suspense"

"Inner Sanctum"
"Witch's Tale"
"Our Miss Brooks"

You can reach him by writing to: Post Office Box 36
Yonkers, New York 10710



WILLIAM CONRAD

He appeared in such radio programs as "Johnny Madero, Pier 23," "Jason and the Golden Fleece," "Phillip Marlowe," CBS Radio Workshop, "Escape," "Romance" and the legendary "Gunsmoke."

TRIVIA QUIZ

Hello, again. This is John Eccles welcoming you to another session of Old Time Radio Trivia. This month's quiz deals with some of the great detective shows heard on radio. So put on your trenchcoat and fedora and enter the world of the private eye.

1. WHAT WAS SAM SPADE'S LICENSE NUMBER?
2. WHO WAS SAM SPADE'S LAWYER?
3. WHAT NEWSPAPER DID RANDY STONE WORK FOR ON NIGHTBEAT?
4. WHO WAS THE POLICE INSPECTOR FOREVER HOUNDING PAT NOVAK?
5. WHO WAS NICK CARTER'S SECRETARY?
6. BESIDES BASIL RATHBONE, WHO PLAYED SHERLOCK HOLMES OPPOSITE NIGEL BRUCE?
7. WHO WAS BILLED AS "ENEMY TO THOSE WHO MAKE HIM AN ENEMY, FRIEND TO THOSE WHO HAVE NO FRIENDS?"
8. WHO WAS THE ORIGINAL ELLERY QUEEN?
9. WHO WAS MICHAEL WARING?
10. HOW MUCH DID THE FAT MAN WEIGH?

The answers can be found on Page II.



DICK POWELL

He appeared on radio first as a singer in "Hollywood Hotel," "Your Hollywood Parade," "Campana Serenade" and "The Fitch Bandwagon." Then he switched to detective work in "Rogue's Gallery" and "Richard Diamond, Private Detective."



Santos Ortega, Don MacLaughlin, Helen Wagner and William Johnstone (l. to r.)

Santos Ortega: He appeared in hundreds of programs and starred as Nero Wolfe, Bulldog Drummond, Perry Mason, Commissioner Weston, Roger Kilgore, Charlie Chan and Peter Salem.

Don MacLaughlin: He was featured in many soap operas and starred as Tex Thorne on the "Zane Grey Show" and as David Harding, Counterspy.

William Johnstone: He appeared in a host of shows but is best remembered as Lamont Cranston, The Shadow, and Ben Guthrie on "The Line-Up".

* ANSWERS TO THE JACK PENNY QUIZ *

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) Van Jones | 6) The Quiz Kids |
| 2) Ping Crosby | 7) December 9, 1945 |
| 3) Acme Plaza | 8) 6 |
| 4) R O 7236 | 9) Marty Sperzel, Max Smith,
Gurney Fell & Bill Days
(An earlier member was John
Rarig). |
| 5) Goodman Ace, Peter Lorre
and Fred Allan | 10) Syracuse, N.Y. |

* ANSWERS TO THE MYSTERY QUIZ *

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1) I37596 | 6) Tom Conway |
| 2) Sid Weiss | 7) Boston Blackie |
| 3) The Chicago Star | 8) Hugh Marlowe |
| 4) Inspector Hellman | 9) The Falcon |
| 5) Patsy Bowen | 10) 239 Lbs. |

ON RADIO

WAAT 870
 WABC 776
 WBNZ 1368
 WBS 1368
 WBYD 1338

WDOM 1480
 WJNB 1010
 WJWB 1480
 WJWC 1480
 WJWA 830
 WJWB 710

WABC 860
 WBYW 1130
 WJWB 1480
 WJWC 1480
 WJWA 830
 WJWB 710

WOY 1280
 WPAT 1580
 WQXR 1580
 WJWB 830
 WJWA 1000

1:25—Baseball: Giants vs. Chicago Cubs—WMCA;
 7:55—Yankees vs. Baltimore Orioles—WINS; Dodg-
 ers vs. St. Louis Cardinals—WMGM.
 8:45—Walking Committee Testimony concerning
 Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, as reported by news-
 men (Recorded)—WABC.
 8:05—Symphony Hall: Featuring George Gerahwin's
 Piano Concerto in F—WQXR.
 8:30—Walk a Mile: Quiz, with Bill Cullen—WNBC.
 8:30—Nightmare: "Bread and Butter," superlati-
 on in the solder that binds a falling business parter-
 ship; Peter Lorre, narrator—WOR.
 9:30—The Best of Groucho Marx (Recorded)—WNBC.
 9:30—Crime Photographer: Casey sees through a

girl's fraudulent scheme contrived "For the Fam-
 ily Honor," with Staats Colaworth—WBCS.
 9:30—The Big Story of Gene Lindsey, who "un-
 earthed" clues leading to the brutal killer of a
 widow, with John Larkin—WNBC (Premiere).
 9:30—Paul Whitman Varieties: With Shirley Har-
 mer and Bill Darnell, vocalists; Dizzy Gillespie,
 trombonist, guests—WABC.
 10:10—Phycho-logically Speaking: "Do We Know
 How to Give Sex Education?"—Dr. Hugo Belgel
 and Otto Scheffinger, guests; Mrs. Lee R. Steiner,
 moderator—WBYD.
 10:05—Gala Performances, by Arturo Toscanini,
 Kiratzen Fiagstad, Walter Gleesking, Zino Frances-
 catti, Arthur Fiedler, Enrico Caruso—WQXR.

DAYTIME

7:00—WABC—News; Ailyn Edwards
 WOR—News Reports
 WABC—News; Jack Gregson
 WBS—News; Jack Sterling
 WNYC—Surreal Symphony
 WQXR—New York Times News
 7:05—WQXR—Bright and Early
 7:15—WOR—Cunningham's Musical Clock
 7:30—WQXR—Weather Report
 7:30—WABC—News; Ailyn Edwards
 WABC—Charles M. McCarthy
 WBS—News; Jack Sterling
 WQXR—Breakfast Symphony
 7:35—WABC—Jack Gregson
 7:45—WNYC, WBS—News
 8:00—WNYC, WBS—News Reports
 WABC—News Reports
 WNYC—Around New York
 WQXR—New York Times News
 8:05—WQXR—Breakfast Symphony
 8:15—WOR—Dorothy and Dick
 WABC—The Fitzgeralds
 8:30—WNYC—Text and Jinx
 8:45—WNYC—Food Talks

The New York Times
NEWS BULLETINS
 every hour on the hour
 7 A. M. to midnight over
 WQXR
 (1500 on your dial)
 WQXR—FM
 94.3 mc. 1 on FM scale

8:55—WNYC—News Reports
 9:00—WOR—News Reprints
 WABC—Breakfast Club
 WBS—This Is New York
 WNYC—Masterwork Hour
 WQXR—New York Times News
 9:05—WQXR—Just Music
 9:15—WOR—Canning's Breakfast
 9:30—WABC—News; Jim Coy
 WOR—The McGinnis at Home
 WBS—Joan Edwards Show
 WQXR—Piano Personalities
 9:45—WQXR—Composers Varieties
 10:00—WNYC—Bob Smith Show
 WOR—News; Martha Deane
 WABC—My True Story
 WBS—Arthur Conley Time
 WQXR—New York Times News
 10:05—WQXR—Morning Melodies
 10:25—WABC—Whispering Streets
 10:30—WNYC—You and Your Health
 10:45—WNYC—Break the Bank
 WABC—When a Girl Marries
 10:55—WOR—News Reports
 11:00—WNYC—Florida Calling
 WABC—Modern Romances
 WNYC—For the Ladies
 WQXR—New York Times News
 11:05—WQXR—Mid-Morning Concert
 11:15—WOR—News; Quin-Ton
 11:30—WNYC—Phrase That Pays
 WABC—Dean Cameron
 WBS—Make Up Your Mind;
 Dr. Lyman Bryson, Guest
 11:45—WABC—Second Chance
 WBS—Rosemary
 WQXR—Luncheon Concert
 12:00—WNYC—News; Jack Ledelle

2:35—WABC—Martin Block's Make-
 Believe Ballroom
 2:45—WBS—The Brighter Day
 3:00—WNYC—Welcome, Travelers
 WBS—Hilltop
 WQXR—New York Times News
 3:05—WQXR—Symphonic Matinee
 WBS—The House Party
 3:30—WNYC—Repetit Young's Family
 3:45—WABC—Mike and Buff's Mailbag
 WBS—Mike and Buff's Mailbag
 4:00—WABC—Backstage Wife
 WBS—Galen Drake
 WQXR—New York Times News
 4:05—WQXR—The Concert Hall
 4:15—WNYC—Stella Dallas
 4:30—WNYC—Young Milder Brown
 WBS—Lanny Ross Showtime
 WQXR—Listening—Jacques Pray
 4:45—WNYC—Woman in My House
 5:00—WNYC—Just Plain Bill
 WOR—Bobby Benson Show
 WBS—News; John Henry Faulk
 WNYC—Music From The Campus
 WQXR—New York Times News
 5:05—WQXR—Cocktail Time
 5:15—WNYC—Lorraine Jones
 5:30—WNYC—Front-Page Farrell
 WNYC—London Column
 5:45—WNYC—It Pays to Be Married
 WNYC—Air Warden Service
 Report; News
 5:55—WOR—Ceil Brown—Comments
 WBS—This I Believe
EVENING
 6:00—WNYC, WOR, WBS—News
 WNYC—Little Symphonies Concert
 WQXR—New York Times News

6:05—WQXR—Dinner Concert
 6:15—WNYC—Sports Daily; Mel Allen,
 Russ Hodges
 WOR—Dorothy and Dick
 WBS—Curt Massey Time
 6:25—WNYC—Weather Reports
 6:30—WQXR—News Reports
 WBS—Herman Hickman Show
 WNYC—French Press Review
 WQXR—Dinner Concert
 6:40—WBS—Three Star Extra
 6:45—WNYC—Walter Star
 WABC—Sports; Bill Stern
 WBS—Lowell Thomas
 WNYC—Weather; U. N. News
 7:00—WNYC—Intermezzo
 WOR—Fulton Lewis News
 WABC—John W. Undercooke
 WBS—Tennessee Ernie Ford
 WNYC—Masterwork Hour
 WQXR—New York Times News
 7:05—WQXR—On Stage
 7:15—WOR—Today's Business News
 WABC—Quincy Howe, News
 7:20—WOR—The Answer Man
 7:25—WQXR—Weather Report
 7:30—WNYC—News Reports
 WQXR—Gabriel Heatter
 WABC—The Lone Ranger
 WBS—The Choralists
 WQXR—Switzerland—Music
 WOR—In the Mood
 7:45—WNYC—One Man's Family
 WBS—Edward R. Murrow
 7:55—WABC—News Reports
 8:00—WABC—100-107; 6; Stars
 WOR—Squad Room
 WABC—Watkins Committee
 Testimony (See Box)
 WBS—F. B. I. in Peace and
 War—Drama
 WQXR—New York Times News
 (See Box)
 8:05—WQXR—Symphony Hall
 8:15—WABC—Frank Sinatra Show
 8:25—WBS—News Reports
 8:30—WNYC—Walk a Mile (See Box)
 WOR—Nightmare (See Box)
 WBS—21st Precinct; With
 Everett Sloane
 WNYC—Alice Morganthau Collec-
 tion Program
 8:45—WABC—Jack Gregson
 8:55—WABC—News Reports
 9:00—WNYC—The Best of Groucho
 Marx (See Box)
 WOR—News; The Man From
 Times Square
 WABC—Sammy Kaye's Screenade
 WBS—Crime Photographer;
 With States Catworth
 WNYC—Mission to the Middle

East—UNESCO Series
 WQXR—New York Times News
 9:05—WQXR—Paradise: The Measure
 of Ernest Bloch, An Illu-
 strated Appraisal
 8:25—WOR, WABC, WBS—News
 9:30—WNYC—Big Story (See Box)
 WOR—Let George Do It
 WABC—Paul Whiteman Varieties
 (See Box)
 WBS—Jack Carson Show
 WBS—Robert Trout, News
 10:00—WNYC—Fiber McGee and Molly
 WOR—Harry Flannery, Comments
 WABC—G. H. Combs
 WBS—Mr. Keen
 WNYC—Municipal Concert Hall
 WQXR—New York Times News
 10:05—WQXR—Gala Performance
 (See Box)
 10:15—WNYC—Heart of the News
 WOR—Spotlight Story
 WABC—Helen Hall Show
 WBS—Lenny Herman Orchestra
 10:25—WOR—Weather Report
 10:30—WABC—News; Stan Freeman
 WOR—The Cisco Kid
 WABC—G. H. Combs
 WBS—Melody in the Night
 10:55—WOR—Sports—Harry Wismer
 WNYC—News (FM to 3)
 11:00—WNYC, WOR, WBS—News
 WBS—News; Howard K. Smith
 WQXR—New York Times News
 11:07—WQXR—Music for Orchestra
 11:15—WNYC—Joe Hackett—Sports
 WOR—John Gamblin Show
 WABC—Mellin Floody
 WBS—Dwight Cobble's
 Great Book
 11:20—WNYC—Tex and Jinx
 11:30—WBS—Galen Drake
 11:45—WOR—Air Lane Trio
 WBS—Warner Orchestra
 11:55—WABC—News Reports
 12:00—WNYC—News; Symphonic Music
 WOR—News; Dance Music
 WBS—Music 'Til Dawn
 WQXR—New York Times News
 12:05—WQXR—The World of Music
 1:00—WOR—Mr. Midnight

FM Schedules

WFUV 90.7 10:30 A.M.—11:00 P.M.
 WNYC 85.9 6:00 A.M.—9:00 A.M.
 WABC 85.9 6:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M.
 WQXR 86.3 6:00 A.M.—1:00 A.M.
 WBS 87.1 5:30 A.M.—3:00 A.M.
 WBYD 87.9 6:00 A.M.—6:00 P.M.
 WMGM 100.3 3:00 P.M.—6:00 P.M.
 WGBT 101.9 6:00 P.M.—1:00 A.M.
 WWJL 105.1 6:00 P.M.—12:00 P.M.

New York Times Wed. Sept. 8, 1954

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