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The Story of **Commando Mary** by Martin Grams

Japan had Tokyo Rose for their propaganda broadcasts. Nazi Germany had Mildred Gillars. Fascist Italy had Rita Zucca. The United States had Commando Mary. And who is Commando Mary? *Commando Mary* was a novel radio program, a by-product of World War II, presented by Ernesta Barlow and featured prominent guest speakers.

This series was an outgrowth of the five-minute program, *You and the War!* Initially the series focused on discussions of outstanding summer courses teaching (in the form of a sales pitch) skilled wartime occupations for women as well as the salaried and voluntary war jobs available to America's 45,000,000 women in factories, farms, homes, laboratories and offices. Months before the War Manpower Commission was created, this radio program launched a weekly campaign aimed at women to become more assertive and join the war effort. Used the fact-in-fiction method of dramatized presentations in the hope of clarifying in the public mind many misconceptions about the work done by women of the service.

The object of the program was to give accurately the principal opportunities of the moment for war work for women volunteer jobs as well as paid for all ages, citizens and non-citizens. Understanding that most women were



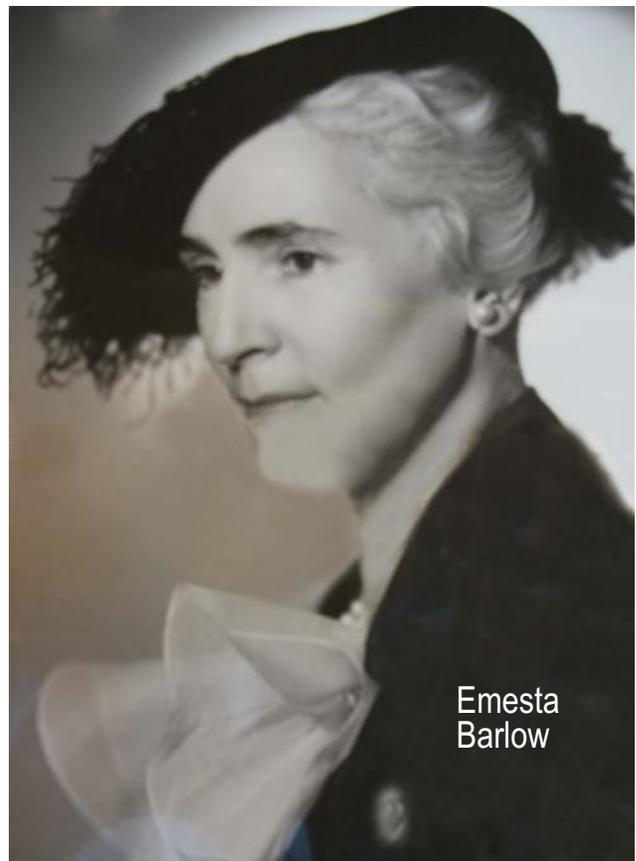
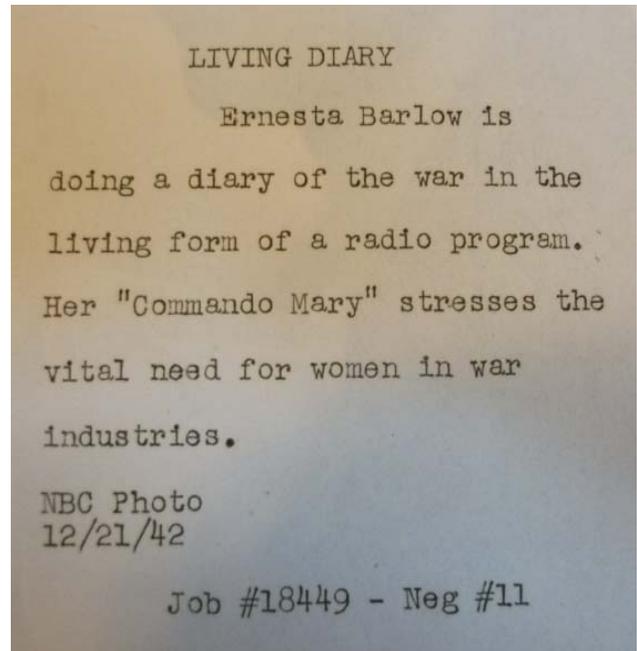
not skilled mechanics or battlefield soldiers, the series dismissed most munitions options, promoting the importance of labor and war production. A strong emphasis on trade skills from sewing to mail delivery could help affect the war. The broadcast of December 20, 1942, for example, centered on news about what the blind were doing their part in war industries, and in civil life to fill in behind the men who have gone to war. For the broadcast of August 23, 1942, Ernesta Barlow gave a long list of jobs available to women over the age of 50.

The recruitment of nurses was emphasized perhaps more than any other fashion -- which fluctuated as the special appeals changed during the war. The U.S. Army lacked nurses in December of 1941, requesting the American Red Cross to employ local volunteer committees in every state to recruit thousands of women for the necessity. Two years later, the War Department felt there was sufficient numbers and asked that such recruitment methods come to a halt. *Commando Mary* honored the request and ceased promoting the necessity of nurses in October 1943.

At times the program appeared to be a forum for opinions but everything was scripted in advance, including the interviews, and approved ahead of time by the Office of War Information's Radio Bureau. The department ensured that nothing was mentioned regarding the dangers to American soldiers, hoping to emphasize that the people's war would end a little sooner with the cooperation of every American--no matter what her sex or skills were.

Since a few months after Pearl Harbor, *Commando Mary* (a.k.a. Ernesta Barlow) visited scores of American factories, gleaning material for the Sunday woman's radio program in which she told women about the kinds of war jobs open to them and the work that other women were doing. During the earliest of broadcasts, when a guest speaker was not available for the weekly program, Ernesta Barlow herself became "Commando Mary," discussing the topic of the day. When a male guest was featured, the audience was told that "you too can become a Commando Mary."

In early 1943, Barlow began making publicity tours across the country and giving weekly reports of her findings. The war plants and munitions factories she toured were promoted



with an emphasis that women workers (skilled or unskilled), were needed. In May of 1944, Barlow was asked by the Office of War Information to go to England and talk to factory workers there about American women in war jobs and answer their questions. Things never worked out for her to tour Europe, but the program continued with tours of American factories and war plants. During the series' final six months, Ernesta Barlow herself was clearly referred to as "Commando Mary," possibly influenced by the propaganda programs originating from Axis radio meant to disrupt the morale of American servicemen.

Ernesta Barlow was the former Ernesta Drinker and a descendant of a famous Quaker family. One of her ancestors was Elizabeth Drinker, whose book, *Elizabeth Drinker's Diary*, is a literary and historical classic of the American Revolutionary period. Barlow was born in Philadelphia, the daughter of Henry S. Drinker, president of Lehigh University, grew up a tomboy, refused to go to boarding school and dragged out her debut for three years because she was having such fun. Then she married William Bullitt (at that time World War I correspondent for the *Philadelphia Ledger* and later American ambassador to Russia and France). She spent her honeymoon at the Paris peace conference.

Five years later she and Bullitt were divorced. She married Samuel Barlow, musician and composer, and made interior decorating her job. "Then came Pearl Harbor and I asked myself what I was going to do next," she recalled. "So I thought up this radio program and here I am."

But it wasn't as simple as that. Mrs. Barlow made an outline and a platter of her program and took them to some friends in radio and asked their opinion. After listening to her cosmopolitan accents, they dashed cold water all over any idea that she might be a radio commentator.

"You'll never do," said the first. "You have too much elegance. The public would never stand for you."

"No," said the second gloomily. "You wouldn't have any higher rating than Toscanini."

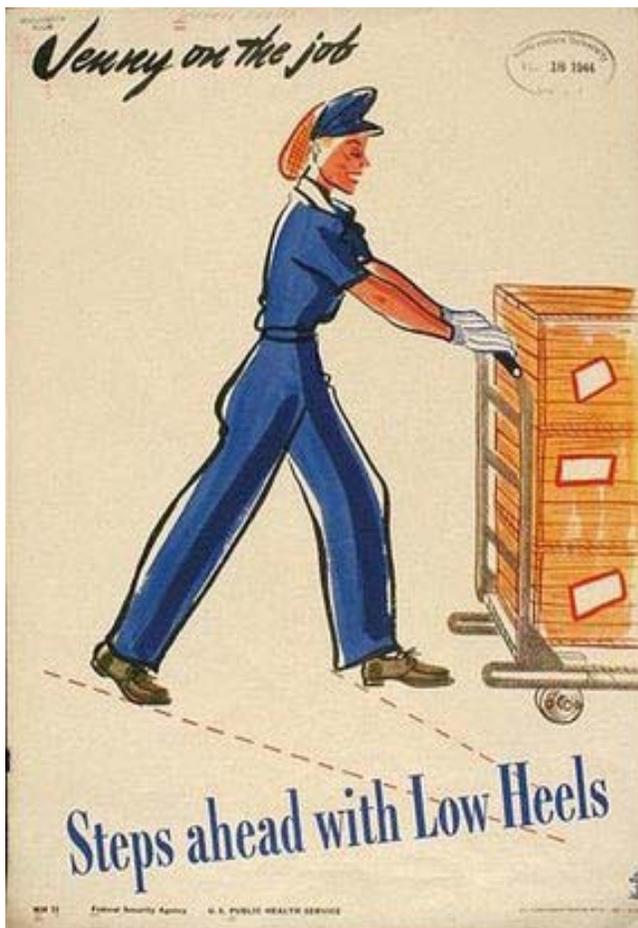
But the friends had already turned away. So Barlow tucked her platter under her arm and marched up to the National Broadcasting Company with it. A week later it was accepted



and soon *Commando Mary* was on the air. “It scared the daylight out of me at first,” she said.

Barlow worked like a stevedore, visiting war planes in various states, talking to the women workers and pouring the story out over the airwaves. Barlow believed in drafting women for service in industry if needed. So she tackled another job as citizen Ernesta Barlow and not as radio commentator “Commando Mary.” She eventually headed the women’s division of a citizen’s committee to pass a national war service act and outlined a campaign which she hoped would draw men to its support.

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According to a number of newspapers across the country, Dr. Phillip Duncan Wilson, head of the New York Hospital for Special Surgery, commonly known as the Hospital for the Ruptured and Crippled, was scheduled for the interview with Ernesta Barlow. Dr. Duncan, who founded the American hospital in Britain which the American Army took over last July 15, was unable to attend so Dr. Erwin Linebach took his place. This change has been confirmed through a number of NBC inter-office memos and Barlow’s personal notes. So for the few that insist newspapers (which listed what was planned and scheduled to be broadcast), be assured that all of the information contained in this broadcast log is accurate.

Other sources:

Helen Hiatt Waller Papers, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

- The Library of Congress, Washington D.C.
- Records of the Office of the Secretary of War, College Park, Maryland
- *The 4th Revised Ultimate History of Network Radio Programming*, by Jay Hickerson

Broadcast Schedule

- Sunday 11:45 a.m. to 12 noon from June 21, 1942 to September 6, 1942
- Sunday 10:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from October 4, 1942 to January 17, 1943
- Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. from January 31, 1943 to February 21, 1943
- Sunday 9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. from February 28, 1943 to February 25, 1945

Unless otherwise specified, the broadcasts originated from the studios of WEAJ in New York City, the flagship station for NBC (Red). Special thanks to Jim Widner, Ken Stockinger and my wife Michelle for helping me with this article.

Episode #1 Broadcast June 21, 1942

Content: Mary Anderson (speaking from Washington from 11:50 to 11:56) is the Director of the U.S. Department of Labor's Women's Bureau and an authority on war work for women. She talked about what American women are doing and accomplishing on the production line. She gave information about the requirements for war jobs and pre-employment training courses.

Episode #2 Broadcast June 28, 1942

Content: Maria Unosha, a young Polish woman who escaped from Poland after the fall of Warsaw, told how Polish women fought through the siege of Warsaw. She is of a distinguished Polish family, but her account told of the valiant stand of Warsaw's women and how the peasant and aristocrat shared equally in that staunch and heroic resistance to Nazi invasion.

Episode #3 Broadcast July 5, 1942

Content: Laura MacCullaugh, an American citizen, was in Yugoslavia at the time of the

German Invasion and remained there eight months after the invasion. MacCullaugh provided a first hand account of the women of Yugoslavia have gone into the hills of the Guerillas and fight with them -- and how those women and children left in the villages were often used as hostages.

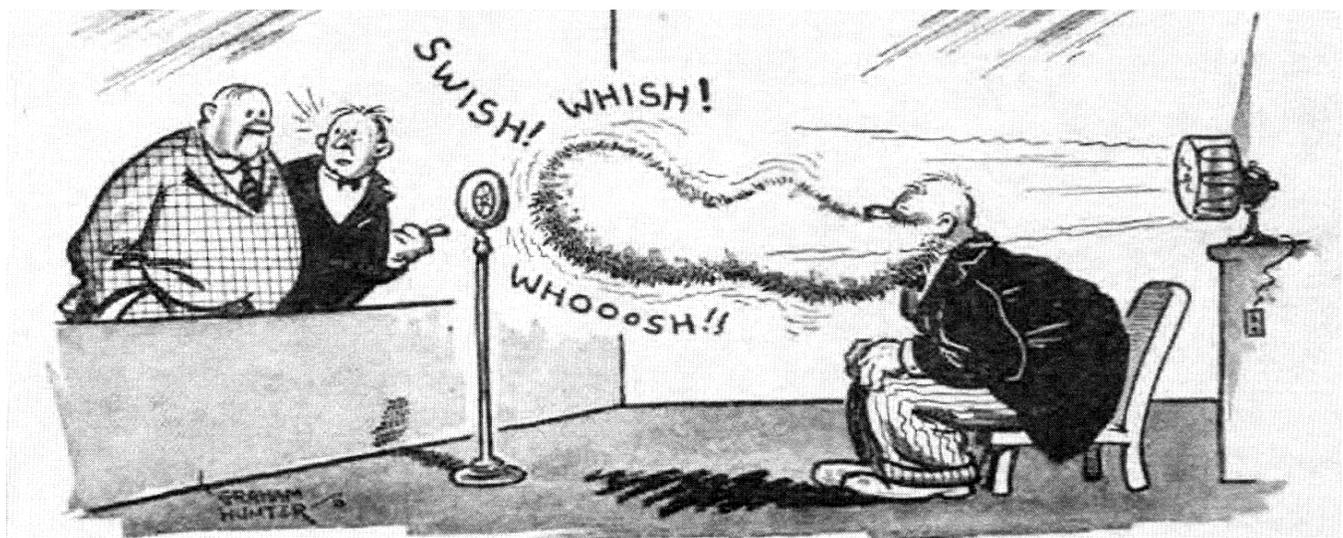
Episode #4 Broadcast July 12, 1942

Content: The first part of this program was devoted to emphasizing what kind of voluntary war work was available for women age 18 and younger, and to the work being done by the YMCA, Girl Reserves and Girl Scouts. Kitty Bowen, a sophomore in Radcliffe, has been working in a war factory during her summer vacation. Bowen made overshoes for the Army in a Springfield, Mass. Factory. She discussed the college girls' viewpoint on war work. The program closed with a discussion of industrial jobs for women and of the Women's Auxiliary Reserve of the Naval Reserve.

children left in the villages were often used as hostages.

Episode #5 Broadcast July 19, 1942

Content: An extension of last week's broadcast, with another discussion on volunteer jobs for girls under the age of 18.



"He used to be a swell tenor, but now he's just the wind in the tree tops of the *Nature Study Hour!*" (Radioland, January 1934)

Episode #6 Broadcast July 26, 1942

Content: This episode lists volunteer jobs for women and paid jobs for the War effort. Lillian Martens, who works in a defense plant on the Eastern seaboard, is the guest speaker.

Episode #7 Broadcast August 2, 1942

Content: Gene Sawyer, who has just returned from Honolulu, Hawaii, is guest speaker. She had been on the air for five years with her own program, *Around the Town*. All the girls and women of Hawaii are doing war work. Motor Corps, Engineering Corps, Red Cross, and USO morale work. Many are employed in making gas masks and "bunny masks" for children. Also provided is information regarding volunteer work in relief agencies and paid jobs for nurses in the Army and Navy.

Episode #8 Broadcast August 9, 1942

Content: The guest speaker is Colonel Davis Graves, Regional Commander of the First Fighter Command on voluntary and paid jobs for women in aircraft warning service. "Hundreds of women are needed," Graves explains. Then, Commando Mary discussed at length the WAVES -- how to join, what is needed and why.

Episode #9 Broadcast August 16, 1942

Content: This broadcast told of the need for Army and Navy nurses, and for women to take a home nursing course. Dr. Erwin Linebach has just returned from England where he served in the American Hospital, and told just what sort of work our women would be up against in taking care of Army and civilian casualties.

Episode #10 Broadcast August 23, 1942

Content: Miss Betty Finan, a real-life stewardess, had been scheduled to speak on the work of cargo ship stewardesses, on April 16, was unable to attend and was rescheduled for August 23. She told of the life of the stewardess ships, and how they must know nursing and medicine. Commando Mary gave a long list of jobs available to women over the age of 50.

Episode #11 Broadcast August 30, 1942

Content: The SPCA calls for aids to be ready to go out as Animals Aids during air-raids. There was

no guest for this particular broadcast, because of the time devoted to providing information about the WAVES.

Episode #12 Broadcast September 6, 1942

Content: This broadcast told of the need of the Office of Civilian Defense (OCD) for Health Assistants, and told of the work women could do in the factories in California. Like last week's broadcast, there was no guest speaker for this episode.

Episode #13 Broadcast October 4, 1942

Content: Mrs. Stafford, a married woman now working in a gun factory, is the guest. She told about her work and how important women were in the factory.

Episode #14 Broadcast October 11, 1942

Content: Margaret Wells, president of the National League of Women Voters of America, is the guest for this broadcast. The League, she explained, was a strictly non-partisan group and concerned itself solely with helping the woman voter to be fully informed on every aspect of the job as enfranchised citizens. Wells told women, as voters, how they could be of the greatest service to their country.

Episode #15 Broadcast October 18, 1942

Content: Dorothy Thompson told of the Volunteer Land Corps in Vermont. She spoke of the labor problem for the farmer and how this is being taken care of by the Land Corps group.

Episode #16 Broadcast October 25, 1942

Content: In honor of National Girl Scout Week, Eileen Busher, Senior Scout, told of Wing Scouting -- ground work for air training -- navigation, meteorology, and weather forecasting. She also told of other defense activities of the Girl Scouts.

Episode #17 Broadcast November 1, 1942

Content: Discussion on jobs of older women.

Episode #18 Broadcast November 8, 1942

Content: Discussion of paid jobs in airplane factories for women. This broadcast urged women to register as Nurses Aid. Commando Mary interviewed three Nurses Aids. Mrs. Harold Masback, Helen Weiseltheir and Mrs. Juta.

Episode #19 Broadcast November 15, 1942

Content: This broadcast focused on a discussion on communications and radio jobs. Senora Isabel de Palencia from Spain now exiled in Mexico, is guest. She is a writer and lecturer, and told how the women of Mexico are equipping themselves for this war.

Episode #20 Broadcast November 22, 1942

Content: In recognition of Thanksgiving, this broadcast focused on Indian women's attitude towards the war and their war activities. Guests included Begum Shah Nawaz and Oveta Culp Hobby. This program originated from Washington D.C., instead of New York City.

Episode #21 Broadcast November 29, 1942

Content: Discussion of jobs in airplane factories for women.

Episode #22 Broadcast December 6, 1942

Content: The weekly guest was Evelyn Thompson Brown, who worked at the Sperry Gyroscope plant on Long Island.

Episode #23 Broadcast December 13, 1942

Content: Discussion on the SPARS (the

Women's Reserve of the Coast Guard), and the requirements to become a recruit. During this broadcast, there was a discussion of the role of music in therapeutic work, and suggested a united nations chorus to be built in each community to gain knowledge of our allies.

Episode #24 Broadcast December 20, 1942

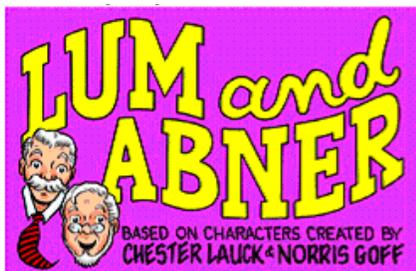
Content: This broadcast centered on news about what the blind were doing in war industries, and in civil life to fill in behind the men who have gone to war.

Episode #25 Broadcast December 27, 1942

Content: Discussion of Civil Service jobs for women.

Episode #26 Broadcast January 3, 1943

Content: A report from the First Fighter Command about the women airplane spotters. A discussion of the new Shopping Service for the men in service, called Service Men's Service. The guest speaker for this broadcast was Capt. Ralph T. Millet, Aircraft Warning Service Officer of the First Fighter Command, who told of the work women could do in this service.



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Episode #27 Broadcast January 10, 1943

Content: Discussion of war jobs which take some college training. All the training is free and some actually receive pay. Mary Grigs, of England, was invited to come to the U.S. by the Department of Agriculture to tell radio listeners how the young women from Great Britain have gone into agricultural work and saved the farms and helped produce food for the country.

Episode #28 Broadcast January 17, 1943

Content: News about schools and colleges where training is given for special war work for women. There was no broadcast on January 24.

Episode #29 Broadcast January 31, 1943

Content: Discussion of the American Legion Auxiliary and of the work they have been doing along the volunteer war effort. Mrs. Alfred J. Mathebat, National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, discussed the contributions by these women. Commando Mary also discussed the Women Flyers of America and how women could get into actual flying service for the duration of the war.

Episode #30 Broadcast February 7, 1943

Content: Discussion of jobs for women in factories and shipyards.

Episode #31 Broadcast February 14, 1943

Content: Discussion of work for half a million women from coast-to-coast. Women were needed to fill the many jobs in transportation, bus drivers, truck drivers, train conductors, etc. The weekly guest was Joseph B. Eastman, Director of Defense Transportation, who told of the part women could play in transportation today.

Episode #32 Broadcast February 21, 1943

Content: Discussion of work in ammunition factories for women, specifically the Remington Arms Factory in Bridgeport, Conn.

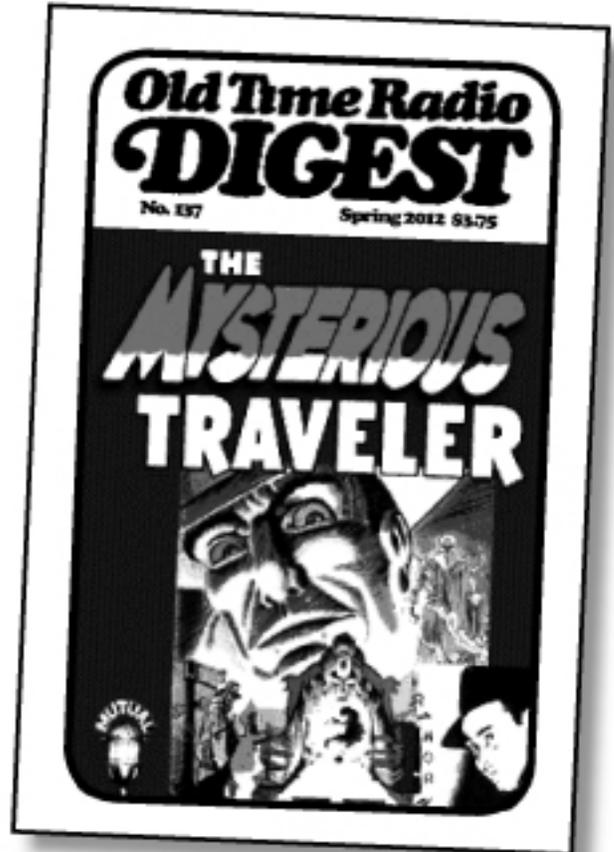
Episode #33 Broadcast February 28, 1943

Content: Discussion of war jobs for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Episode #34 Broadcast March 7, 1943

Content: Sewing jobs for women in the Naval Clothing Bureau.

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Dealers whose ads we carry or may carry have agreed to give those placing orders with them a discount if they mention that they saw their ad in 'The Old Radio Times'. This is in line with the groups goal of making otr available to the collecting community.

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Distributed by Jim Beshires
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Episode #35 Broadcast March 14, 1943

Content: Discussion of the life of a WAVE in training school, such as she saw it at Hunter College.

Episode #36 Broadcast March 21, 1943

Content: Discussion about jobs making PT Boats, specifically the work of the Electric Boat Company at Bayonne, New Jersey.

Episode #37 Broadcast March 28, 1943

Content: Discussion of the work at the Hercules Powder Company near New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Episode #38 Broadcast April 4, 1943

Content: The first half of the broadcast featured a discussion on Greek War Relief. The second half featured a discussion on volunteer work with the Boys Clubs of America. Eight boys from the Kips Bay Boys Club joined together giving their Victory Pledge.

Episode #39 Broadcast April 11, 1943

Content: Discussion on the recent work of the Red Cross, and an interview with a nurse, Mrs. Florence Conrad, who served in the French battle zone.

Episode #40 Broadcast April 18, 1943

Content: Discussion about work for women in the Grumman Aircraft plant in New York City, of how they train their women workers, and how they treat them so well in their complicated and respectable jobs. Mrs. David Long of Harrisonville, Missouri, the wife of a country doctor and head of the Women's Field Army, tells about the Army, because it has a part in the keeping of the civilian population as a strong army behind the Armed Forces. She told how the Army spread information about the cure of cancer, squelching the superstitions which people have and that hinder them from getting a possible cure.

Episode #41 Broadcast April 25, 1943

Content: A report on the new requirements of the Women's Auxiliary Ferry Squadron, the Consultation Service for women in New York to help them pick out the kind of war work they can do, on the Women's Land Army (farm work by

women, in which they do what the government considers the most useful work they can do). This broadcast also features an interview with Maj. Robert Jones, former golfing champion, now Director of Warning Center Volunteers for the First Fighter Command, telling about the need of women for that service. Jones and Barlow also discuss a job for which there is a course at Simmons College, Boston, Industrial Personnel Counselor, by giving to the Blood Donor Service.

Episode #42 Broadcast May 2, 1943

Content: Report on how we may save a soldier's life; about some Civil Service jobs, and a tie-up between housewives and our military equipment (the job of saving and salvage). On the salvage, Alice Pentlarge of the War Production Board, was interviewed by Commando Mary.

Episode #43 Broadcast May 9, 1943

Content: Discussion about the work in the G.E. plants, in which women are making war equipment, and the activities connected with the war of the Junior League in the U.S. and in Canada. A former National President of the Junior League, a visitor to the National Junior League Conference in New York, has come from Canada, Mrs. George V. Ferguson, and told how the basic idea behind the League is public service which is now war service as well, done by helping the girls find the organization in which they can best serve.

Episode #44 Broadcast May 16, 1943

Content: Discussion of the work of the WOWS, the Women Ordnance Workers at Aberdeen, Maryland. They explain how women have proved their ability to test tanks and guns and other ordnance, so that they are being hired to the work in ever-increasing numbers. Commando Mary describes her experiences in a jeep test.

Episode #45 Broadcast May 23, 1943

Content: Discussion about women working to build submarines at the Electric Boat Company at Groton, Conn.; the pride they have in their boats, and how several companies like this exist throughout the United States, all of which employ women at challenging jobs. There is also a discussion about the Radcliffe Personnel course

starting in July.

Episode #46 Broadcast May 30, 1943

Content: Discussion about the Women's Land Army. Interview with Hazel Hunkins Halliman, an American woman who lived in Britain during the Blitz, who talked about women in Britain and how they are 100 percent mobilized.

Episode #47 Broadcast June 6, 1943

Content: Discussion about women asking for guns at the American Type Founders in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where women do minute detail work as well as the simpler production jobs. Interview with Lucrezia Bori, formerly a star of the Metropolitan Opera Company, now one of the leaders of the Metropolitan Opera Guild, told of the work of the Guild in procuring instruments for musical therapy work on what used to be called "Shellshock" cases. Bori urged women to form groups and get instruments so that the work of our medical corps carries on in the field of psychology.

Episode #48 Broadcast June 13, 1943

Content: Interview with Mrs. Ingeborg Lorenz, employee of the Connecticut Railway and Lighting Company, on women working in buses both driving and keeping them in shape. She urged women to help keep our transportation going.



"At this point, stop the hurricane and become a yelping coyote!" *Radioland, May 1934*

Episode #49 Broadcast June 20, 1943

Content: Discussion of women's work at the Bulova Watch Co. making hack watches for bomber crews -- the part of them that is so small that it can hardly be seen, the synthetic sapphires for other precision instrument makers as well as the Bulova works. They make other precision instruments like telescopes as well. Commando Mary interviews Mrs. Graham Campbell, from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, who is the wife of a captain in the Army. Campbell told about the file of the addresses of Army wives that the women have started there, in order that their friends can keep track of them, and even their husbands find them after they have been away through this agency.

Episode #50 Broadcast June 27, 1943

Content: Discussion of many phases of women's war activity, and warning women who will only work for a short time to take only certain kinds of jobs. Interview with Joan Bloomfield, a Canadian woman who has received recognition from Britain's Ernest Bevin for her work in housing, feeding and looking after the welfare of armies of workers all over Britain. She talked about her work.

Episode #51 Broadcast July 4, 1943

Content: Discussion about jobs at the National Pneumatic Company, at Rahway, New Jersey, which is now making Armor-piercing shells for the best protection our American soldiers can have effective ammunition. Also "Dogs for Defense" was explained.

Episode #52 Broadcast July 11, 1943

Content: A discussion about the Women's Army Corps (WAC), why the women go into the organization, and how they are doing a good part of the winning of it. Guest speakers include Mrs. Phyllis McGhee, wife of Lt. Col. James L. McGhee, (Mrs. McGhee is a Private First Class in the WAC), Mrs. Mable Lord, mother of a WAC, and Walter Hodgdon from Flushing, Long Island, brother of a WAC. The second half of the broadcast featured a discussion about the Russian War Relief.

Episode #53 Broadcast July 18, 1943

Content: Discussion about the Civil Air Patrol, the opportunities of training offered to women, and the work they do in it. Also, women working at the

Sunnyside yard of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Commando Mary interviews Dorothy Sells, from the Office of Defense Transportation in Washington, chief of Personnel Supply Section, Division of Transport Personnel.

Episode #54 Broadcast July 25, 1943

Content: Discussion about the Simmons Company of the Beautyrest Mattress fame. Their beds are only made for the services now and the company is asking for other vital materials. Commando Mary interviews an employee of the company.

Episode #55 Broadcast August 1, 1943

Content: Discussion about the work of the U.S.O. in Middle River, Maryland, where the Glen Martin plant has brought in thousands of workers where a solitary farmer lived before. The discussion also centers on how the U.S.O. is helping improve housing conditions, and assists the workers in solving their other new problems. U.S.O. training at Columbia University.

Episode #56 Broadcast August 8, 1943

Content: Jane Tiffany Wagner, director of Women's War Activities at NBC, fills in temporarily during Ernesta Barlow's vacation (this broadcast only). Wagner gave a summary of the latest available war jobs for women, paid and voluntary. of International Law at Columbia University). They discuss "Women in Post-War Relief and Reconstruction Work Abroad."

Episode #57 Broadcast August 15, 1943

Content: Commando Mary interviews Philip Jessup, Chief of the Division of Personnel and Training of the Office of Foreign Relief and Rehabilitation Operations (and Professor

Episode #58 Broadcast August 22, 1943

Content: A discussion about Gloucester, Mass. and the part women are playing in the American fish industry to keep it alive during the war period.

Episode #59 Broadcast August 29, 1943

Content: *details remain unknown*

Episode #60 Broadcast September 5, 1943

Content: Commando Mary provides an account of her visit to the Charleston Navy Yard at Boston describing the great role women are playing in the shipbuilding industry.

Episode #61 Broadcast September 12, 1943

Content: Commando Mary interviews Mrs. H.M. Aitken, from Toronto, Canada, with the Consumer Branch of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, who just completed a trip across Canada. Aitken gave a fashion show to point out to the women that their old clothes could be made over and to save valuable materials for the war cause, must not purchase new clothes. This fashion show was called "The Remake Revue." After the show, sewing centers were established and people were taught how to sew. Aitken discusses how important a role she has been playing and encourages the radio listeners to refrain from buying new clothes.

Episode #62 Broadcast September 19, 1943

Content: Commando Mary interviews Miss Anne Sarachon Hooley, Assistant Director of the National Catholic Community Service, one of the six big agencies which constitute the U.S.O. Hooley told of how the U.S.O. helps those persons who move into war centers, or boom town -- and it is not just an organization for Servicemen. This broadcast also features a dramatization of this situation.

Episode #63 Broadcast September 26, 1943

Content: No guest was featured for this broadcast. Commando Mary told the story of how the diamond has gone to war and the part women were playing in a great and growing industry was absolutely essential to the war effort. There was also a War Bond plea.

Episode #64 Broadcast October 3, 1943

Content: A discussion about the Motor Transport Service of the AWVS (American Women's Voluntary Services), telling of the many phases of this work, and the great aid these women were giving during the shortage of doctors and nurses.

Episode #65 Broadcast October 10, 1943

Content: A review of volunteer groups where women could serve and were always needed.

Episode #66 Broadcast October 17, 1943

Content: This broadcast gives a picture of life and work in one of our Army hospitals. Halloran General Hospital on Staten Island, New York, is featured as an example. The second half of the

broadcast centered on Russian women in the war.

Episode #67 Broadcast October 24, 1943

Content: Commando Mary interviewed Miss Therese Bonney, photographer, who took pictures of the war as seen thru the eyes of children. Her book was now on sale and was called *Europe's Children, 1939 to 1943*.

Episode #68 Broadcast October 31, 1943

Content: The first half of the broadcast featured a discussion centered on the work in a small War Plant. Lawrence Engineering and Research Corporation of Linden, New Jersey. The second half of the broadcast told of work being done for wives and children of men in the Army by the Army Emergency Relief, and its function throughout the nation.

Episode #69 Broadcast November 7, 1943

Content: This broadcast originated from Canada. Speaking on the great contribution Canadian women have made to the war effort in the industrial field, in the services and at home after a visit with Canadian women in work and a tour of Canadian Industries where women were employed.

Episode #70 Broadcast November 14, 1943

Content: This broadcast featured a discussion on gliders and women's part in their production -- giving in detail the process of their manufacture.



Radioland, April 1934

"That darn cheese program's on again!"

Episode #71 Broadcast November 21, 1943

Content: Commando Mary again talking on the women of Canada, their work in the war effort, in war plants and the service.

Episode #72 Broadcast November 28, 1943

Content: This broadcast featured a talk on the Family Allowance or Allotment of Pay Checks in an attempt to straighten out a certain amount of confusion now existing. Guest speaker was Brigadier General H.N. Gilbert, who presently headed the Office of Dependency Benefits.

Episode #73 Broadcast December 5, 1943

Content: A talk on the WACs at the Aberdeen Proving Ground where she had been visiting and how happy the girls were in their Army life. Told about the triptychs, an altar piece used in the Armed Forces which helped to transform an open field into a church. The triptychs were painted by artists at cost -- more were needed -- the cost of each was \$100, which could be contributed together by groups of people.

Episode #74 Broadcast December 12, 1943

Content: Talked on women in the war -- U.S., China, Russia and Great Britain. Guest speaker was Nile Ulanova (Mrs. Robert Magidoff) who toured America speaking for the Russian War Relief.

Episode #75 Broadcast December 19, 1943

Content: Commando Mary described the Hercules Powder Co. plant in West Virginia, which made gunpowder, resin, turpentine, celluloid and other products. All of their employees were women.

Episode #76 Broadcast December 26, 1943

Content: Discussion centered on the Conmar Products Corp. in Newark, New Jersey, specializing in making gauges. This factory formerly made dolls eyes, hair, etc. The guest speaker told of the conversion for the war cause. The program closed with Commando Mary asking for civilian workers to consider working in the Navy Department.

Episode #77 Broadcast January 2, 1944

Content: A talk on the Jersey City Quartermaster's Repair Depot which mends and repairs articles of

clothing and other G.I. equipment. The second half of the broadcast centered on the Navy's need for qualified clerical employees. Accommodations available for out-of-towners, qualifications necessary and salaries.

Episode #78 Broadcast January 9, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talked on women's work in aircraft manufacture; airplane engines; electrical communications; precision instruments; ammunition and powder.

Episode #79 Broadcast January 16, 1944

Content: Commando Mary described her recent visit to Mitchell Field, headquarters of the First Fighter Command which is the key center to the Air Defense of the Eastern Seaboard

Episode #80 Broadcast January 23, 1944

Content: Commando Mary discussed museums and work being done by them for the Army and Navy and Airforces, and for our government and the part women were playing and could play in this picture.

Episode #81 Broadcast January 30, 1944

Content: Commando Mary told the story of life-saving under the International Red Cross Convention rules for friend and foe alike.

Episode #82 Broadcast February 6, 1944

Content: The guest speaker is Frau Elsa Bernadotte Cedegren, niece of King Gustav of Sweden, and Vice President of the World YMCA. Mrs. Cedegren was also one of the 25 women members of the Municipal Council of Stockholm. She told of visiting internee camps for women in Germany and reported on conditions. She reported, too, on the work done by women of Sweden who took 25,000 Finnish children into their homes. Sweden who took 25,000 Finnish children into their homes.

Episode #83 Broadcast February 13, 1944

Content: Guest speaker is Pin Pin T'an, who told of her work of teaching Chinese Naval Officers at Swarthmore College an intensive course in English language. This was the first very group to arrive in this country for specialized training. Miss T'an gave a picture of some of the difficult tasks the women in China have undertaken in

their years of war. For the past four years, she has been giving language broadcasts to Europe and Latin America over the World Wide Broadcasting Corporation.

Episode #84 Broadcast February 20, 1944

Content: A discussion about the lighter-than-aircraft school and station at Lakehurst, New Jersey. Commando Mary told of the works of the WAVES and SPARS.

Episode #85 Broadcast February 27, 1944

Content: Today is International Day and the tenth anniversary of its observance as celebrated by the International Federation of Business & Professional Women. Guest speaker was Miss Essy Key-Rasmussen, who for 16 years was one of the women executives in the League of Nations. She spoke on the International aspects of "Women's Role in Postwar Rehabilitation." Also a guest speaker on this program, Bess B. Loodworth, Vice Chairman of the Women's Advisory Committee of WMC, spoke about women's role in Postwar Rehabilitation.

Episode #86 Broadcast March 5, 1944

Content: A discussion on the production of flying and navigation instruments, including the miracle timing device used in anti-aircraft shells, produced at the Waterbury Clock Company in Waterbury, Conn.

Episode #87 Broadcast March 12, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talks about Fort Dix, an army camp near Trenton, New Jersey. Guest speaker is Mrs. Charles Gilbert, an active worker of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Episode #88 Broadcast March 19, 1944

Content: This broadcast tells of the conversion story. Conversion from peacetime to war work, from rubber to its substitute buna-S.

Episode #89 Broadcast March 26, 1944

Content: During this broadcast, it is mentioned that tomorrow is the third anniversary of the day which Yugoslav people rose in revolt against their government, which sold them out to Hitler. Guest speaker is Company Commander Irene Grodshi who talked about the Polish WACs. She told of her deportation to Russia and her experiences until

the organization of WACs, of being separated from her husband and of knowing nothing of the present whereabouts.

Episode #90 Broadcast April 2, 1944

Content: Commando Mary discussed vital work done in the Climatic Research Laboratory of the Army Quartermaster Corps at Lawrence, Mass.

Episode #91 Broadcast April 9, 1944

Content: Commando Mary described her tour of the Arma Corp. in Brooklyn, which is turning out instruments for the Navy.

Episode #92 Broadcast April 16, 1944

Content: Commando Mary discussed the women of our sister Republics in Latin America and what they were doing to help the cause of the United Nations in the war.

Episode #93 Broadcast April 23, 1944

Content: A discussion on the tin can. This follows Barlow's visit to the American Can Co. factory in Jersey City and the many ways tin is being used in the war effort.

Episode #94 Broadcast April 30, 1944

Content: The guest speaker is Helen Hiatt, correspondent and author of *No Matter What* (1944). She talked on the underground movement of France, how it started, what the women of France were doing to help restore the French way of life when peace comes, and acts of courage displayed by French women.

Radioland, May, 1934



"This is one broadcast we've scooped WXX on."

Episode #95 Broadcast May 7, 1944

Content: Commando Mary described the Naval Air Station at Floyd Bennett Field and what it was like to work and live at a big Navy air station.

Episode #96 Broadcast May 14, 1944

Content: Commando Mary described the work being carried on at Bethlehem Steel Shipyards and women's role in it -- especially the building of LST boats.

Episode #97 Broadcast May 21, 1944

Content: This broadcast centered on rubber and how women are helping in one of the major industries of the war, Commando Mary discussed her visit to plants of the U.S. Rubber Company where women are the majority of the employees. The various uses to which synthetic rubber is put to use is also explained, so radio listeners understand the importance of rubber production.

Episode #98 Broadcast May 28, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talked about Municipal Hospitals and the splendid work done in these institutions by women. As an outstanding example, she talked on the Harlem Hospital of New York City.

Episode #99 Broadcast June 4, 1944

Content: Commando Mary discussed the plastics industry in America and for an example, talked about her recent tour of a plastics plant, the Panelyte Division of the St. Regis Paper Company.

Episode #100 Broadcast June 11, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talked on the need of 800,000 women in the Woman's Land Army. Extra hands were needed to harvest crops. She also described the school at Farmingdale, Long Island, where instruction is given to women who would work for two months or longer on a farm.

Episode #101 Broadcast June 18, 1944

Content: Commando Mary interviewed Rev. Leslie Edward Cooke, who came from his Congressional church and parish in Coventry, England, to visit some of our Congregational churches here. She talked about the women of England in the service and working in the war effort.

Episode #102 Broadcast June 25, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talked on the

Seabrook Farms, near Bridgeton, New Jersey, the largest truck farm in the country with 15,000 acres of vegetables. She told of the processing of vegetables for future use, and on women enlisting in the Armed Forces.

Episode #103 Broadcast July 2, 1944

Content: Commando Mary described her visit to the Fleet Post Office in New York. She described the WAVES which operated 24 hours a day. Every two hours a messenger came in bringing the changes in address of our Navy men.

Episode #104 Broadcast July 9, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talked about her visit to the Chester Tank Depot in Chester, Pennsylvania. This was the largest shipping installation of Army motor vehicles, tanks and battle wagons in the country where many women are employed.

Episode #105 Broadcast July 16, 1944

Content: Guest speaker was Caroline Haslett of London, an electrical engineer. Since the war broke out, she has been the adviser to Ministry of Labor on women training. She told of her work of recruiting and registration of women and of the best methods of securing their services. Miss Haslett came to the U.S. to address the Canadian Federation of Business and Professional Women and our own National Federation in New York City.

Episode #106 Broadcast July 23, 1944

Content: Guest speaker was Mrs. Frederick Basham of New Zealand, known to women of her native land as "Aunt Dalay" on the radio. Mrs. Basham was in the U.S. to observe the war work carried on by American women. She talked on New Zealand and the part women in that country play in the war effort.

Episode #107 Broadcast July 30, 1944

Content: Commando Mary described war production in the great mills of the Bethlehem Steel Company, where the largest naval guns and shells are made and the heaviest armor plate is forged. The vitally important posts held by American women in this plant are described.

Episode #108 Broadcast August 6, 1944

Content: Helen Hiatt makes her second appearance on the program, this time as a substitute for Ernesta Barlow, who was on vacation. Hiatt talked about the Volunteer Land Corps in Goshen, New York, and how these teenage volunteer girls came to this farm and harvested the crops -- comparing all this to the labor camp in Germany in which Miss Hiatt was once confined.

Episode #109 Broadcast August 13, 1944

Content: Helen Hiatt continues to substitute for Ernesta Barlow. Hiatt discussed the plight of German women in Germany, the women of England, France and Russia, and the contributions they were making to the war effort.

Episode #110 Broadcast August 20, 1944

Content: Ernesta Barlow, known to radio listeners as "Commando Mary," returns. Commando Mary interviewed Mrs. Doris Corwith, assistant to the NBC Public Service Counselor. They discussed the American Legion's Auxiliary Girls State project.

Episode #111 Broadcast August 27, 1944

Content: Guest speaker was Mrs. Robert P. Patterson, wife of Under Secretary of War, who discussed the need for workers in essential industries.

Episode #112 Broadcast September 3, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talked on the making of precision instruments, controls and compasses for ships and planes. As an outstanding example of a company which manufactures these instruments, she told of her visit to the Sperry Corporation in downtown Brooklyn, where many

women are employed.

Episode #113 Broadcast September 10, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talked to those who actually seek a war job. The War Manpower Commission in Washington sent Ernesta Barlow a prepared list of musts in war production, the number of workers needed, the areas where the work is located and the reasons why output of specified types of material must be stepped up.

Episode #114 Broadcast September 17, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talked on nylons. What nylon is, its importance in the war, and how women figure in its manufacture.

Episode #115 Broadcast September 24, 1944

Content: Guest speaker was Freida Miller, head of the Women's Bureau in the U.S. Department of Labor, who discussed the women of America who are participating in war work.

Episode #116 Broadcast October 1, 1944

Content: Guest speaker was Mrs. Olivia Hemingway Kemerer, who has been overseas as Director of Red Cross Clubs in Europe, and was now home for a little rest. She told of her experiences on all battle fronts where she established clubs for recreation purposes for the fighting men.

Episode #117 Broadcast October 8, 1944

Content: Commando Mary talked about her recent tour of Triumph Explosives, Inc., and ammunition factory at Elkton, Maryland.

Episode #118 Broadcast October 15, 1944

Content: Guest speaker was Margaret Hickey, President of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women, who was also on



the Women's Advisory Committee of the War Manpower Commission. Hickey discussed future possibilities for women in all types of business and professions.

Episode #119 Broadcast October 22, 1944

Content: Commando Mary reported on her recent visit to the RCA Communication's central terminal office, the nerve center of the world's largest radio communications system, which has helped to make the United States the communications center of the world.

Episode #120 Broadcast October 29, 1944

Content: A continuation of last week's report on wartime activities at the RCA Communication terminal. Commando Mary also discussed the work of women at RCAC, the world's largest commercial radio telegraph control center.

Episode #121 Broadcast November 5, 1944

Content: Commando Mary reported on her visit to the "S.S. Refuge," a hospital ship used to bring wounded American servicemen and wounded German prisoners to this country. During the second half of the broadcast, she also discussed employment opportunities for discharged war veterans.

Episode #122 Broadcast November 12, 1944

Content: Commando Mary discussed the value of stabrine in the control of malaria and how it has helped the United Nations in waging the war in the South Pacific.

Episode #123 Broadcast November 19, 1944

Content: Commando Mary told of the men and women who work at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, in Akron, Ohio, making heavy tires and

tractor treads for the Armed Services that keep our supplies moving up to the front lines.

Episode #124 Broadcast November 26, 1944

Content: This episode was broadcast from Chicago. Guest speaker was Marine Sgt. John Montgomery. This was the only episode of the series broadcast without a script (except the announcer sheets). This broadcast was cleverly designed as publicity to assist with the 6th War Loan Drive. Commando Mary discussed the work of the Seabees and described the largest exhibition ever put on by the U.S. Navy, which Commando Mary witnessed on Lake Michigan, when dramatic landings and rescues were staged with amphibious boats, manned by returned servicemen.

Episode #125 Broadcast December 3, 1944

Content: Commando Mary reported on war work for women that involved the production of millions of heavy paper bags that were required to ship food, chemicals, seeds, fertilizers and construction materials to our armed forces and to the civilian populations of allied nations and occupied countries. This broadcast also centered on Commando Mary's recent visit to the St. Regis Paper Company plant at Oswego, New York.

Episode #126 Broadcast December 10, 1944

Content: Guest speaker was Mrs. Frances P. Bolton, Republican Congressman from Ohio, founder of the Bolton Bill that sponsored the Cadet Nurse Corps. She was one of the first women to go into Paris after the invasion, and saw our nurses at work in the front lines and knew what they accomplished and knew their



needs. During the second half of the program, Tech. Sgt. Thomas Logadon of Rushville, Illinois, Rifle Platoon Sgt. in the Infantry, told of his experiences and then made a war bond plea.

Episode #127 Broadcast December 17, 1944

Content: Commando Mary told about the making of glass at the Corning Glass Works of Corning, Stuben County, New York.

Episode #128 Broadcast December 24, 1944

Content: Commando Mary reported on the important role cotton played in the winning of the war. On an inspection tour of cotton mills in Georgia and South Carolina, she learned that women comprise fifty percent of the personnel.

Episode #129 Broadcast December 31, 1944

Content: Continuation of last week's story of Cotton, Rayon and Nylon at war and showed how dependent heavy artillery and the Air Force was upon the textile industry.

Episode #130 Broadcast January 7, 1945

Content: Commando Mary reported on her recent tour of the Army's Research Department at the Picatinny Arsenal, Dover, New Jersey.

Episode #131 Broadcast January 14, 1945

Content: Guests includes good-will minded students from the Paul Hoffman Junior High School, Bronx, New York. Leonore Arnold, Philip Jerome, Joan Everling and Caroline La Rosa. They have been writing to English children about "Things American," the lives of our great heroes, the character of our cities and the activities of the average American school boy and girl. They told the radio listeners about the letters they have

received from their English correspondents.

Episode #132 Broadcast January 21, 1945

Content: This is the only broadcast of the series with a title: "A Whole Town At War." Commando Mary reported on her visit to York, Pennsylvania, which had 48,000 out of 90,000 in key war industries, 40 percent of whom were women. Ernesta Barlow's visit was arranged by the War Manpower Commission.

Episode #133 Broadcast January 28, 1945

Content: Mrs. Eleanor Stevenson, Red Cross Mobile Canteen worker, who had just returned from Italy where she and members of her unit were under the fire in the Battle of Salerno. As a guest speaker, she discussed her experiences and spoke of what those on the home front could do for the soldiers overseas.

Episode #134 Broadcast February 4, 1945

Content: Commando Mary told the story of ball bearings and their vital importance in war production.

Episode #135 Broadcast February 11, 1945

Content: Commando Mary reported on the activities of women soldiers in greasepaint who travel the war circuits for the U.S.O. Guest speaker was Peggy Alexander, a show girl who spent two and a half years in U.S.O. camp shows playing isolated gun emplacement spots, highly strategic unknown areas and remote posts.

Episode #136 Broadcast February 18, 1945

Content: A resume of the most urgent of the war jobs for women which Commando Mary investigated in more than two years of war plant



The Wireless Age, Sept. 1922 —Atlanta (Ga.) Journal.

visits, gathering data for her programs. She especially lauded the WACS, WAVES, SPARS, Marines and the Nursing Corps.

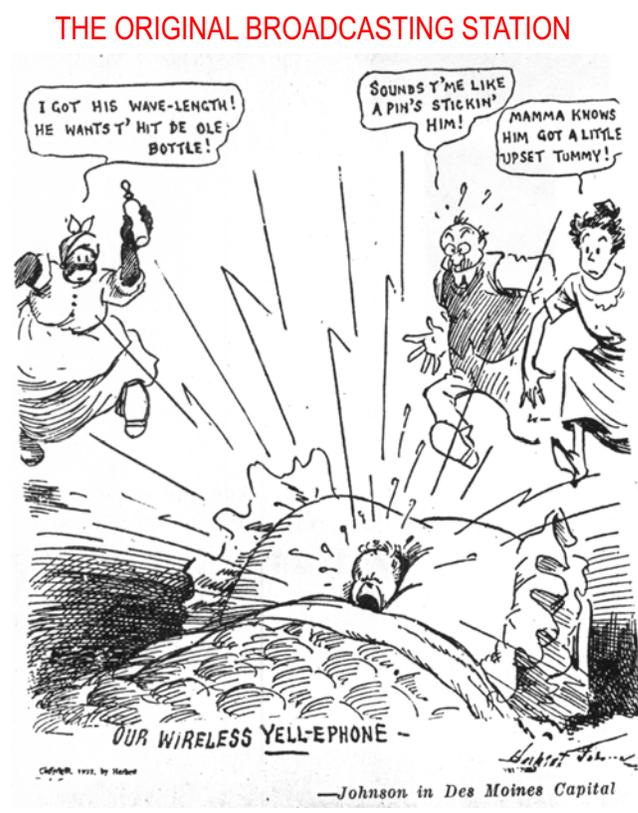
Episode #137 Broadcast February 25, 1945

Content: Final broadcast of the program.

Commando Mary gave conclusive proof that men and women were needed in our immense war industry. She quoted from Secretary Stimson's radio address of February 19; and a statement by the Undersecretary of War, Robert Patterson, made earlier in the month; before the Senate Military Affairs Comm.; in an effort to prove that as citizens in a free republic we now need a National War Service Act. ■

OOPS...The following Inner Sanctum show were left off the list in last issue.

- "The Cause of Death" (12/6/48) Berry Kroeger
- "Murder Faces East" (12/13/48) Charlotte Holland
- "Between Two Worlds" (12/20/48) Mason Adams and Ann Shephard
- "Fearful Voyage" (1/3/49) Elspeth Eric and Arnold Moss
- "Murder Comes to Life" (1/10/49) Charles Irving and Santos Ortega
- "Mark My Grave" (1/17/49) Santos Ortega and Lawson Zerbe
- "The Deadly Dummy" (1/24/49) Mason Adams and Elspeth Eric
- "The Devil's Fortune" (1/31/49) Jackson Beck
- "Death Demon" (2/7/49) Everett Sloane and Leslie Woods
- "Birdsong for a Murderer" (2/14/49) Arlene Blackburn
- "Flame of Death" (2/21/49) Charlotte Holland
- "Only the Dead Die Twice" (3/21/49) Larry Haines
- "Appointment with Death" (3/28/49) Charlotte Holland and Karl Swenson
- "Death Wears a Lonely Smile" (4/4/49) Mercedes McCambridge
- "Murder Off the Record" (4/11/49) Mason Adams and Elspeth Eric
- "The Death Deal" (4/18/49) Mercedes McCambridge
- "The Unburied Dead" (5/16/49) Leslie Woods
- "Strange Passenger" (5/23/49) Mason Adams
- "Death on the Highway" (6/6/49) Ted Osborne and Alice Reinhart



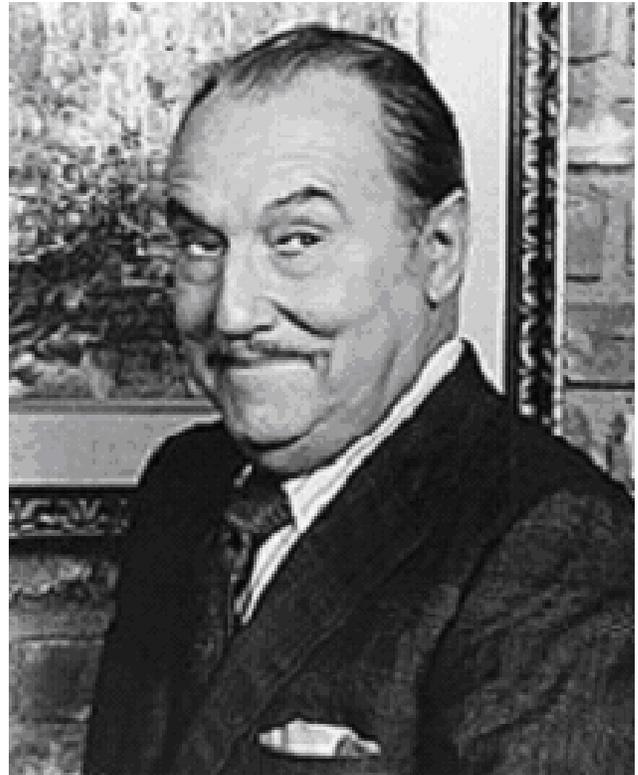
Gale Gordon (1906–95)

By Billy Jack Long

Charles Thomas Aldrich, Jr., was born February 20, 1906 in New York City. An only child, his parents were British actress Gloria Gordon and Charles T. “Chuck” Aldrich, a vaudeville comedian. When he was very young, the family moved from America to England to seek employment in entertainment. Gale was born with a cleft palate and he received surgery to fix this when the family was in England. In 1915, the family went back to New York City. At age 17, Gale went back to England to attend the Woodbridge School in Suffolk, England.

Returning to North America, Gale became a movie extra in Canada. His picture was *The Dancers* (1923). He also worked on the stage in Toronto. Knowing he was a good actor, he never realized that he had such a strong voice, having been born with a cleft palate. He said his discovery of his strong voice came about when he was playing around on the stage. In 1926, when radio was still in its infancy, Gale made his radio debut playing the ukelele and singing popular songs of the time. At this time, he was in Hollywood doing various odd jobs at movie lots and in radio stations. He was not afraid of hard work and developed a great reputation for being one of the most honest, ambitious men in Hollywood. There was lots of uncredited radio work and Gale considered this to be paying his dues.

By 1933, Gale Gordon was the highest paid radio performer in Hollywood. Some of the programs on which he was heard were *Calling All Cars* (on which he was the relief dispatcher when Los Angeles Police Sergeant Jesse



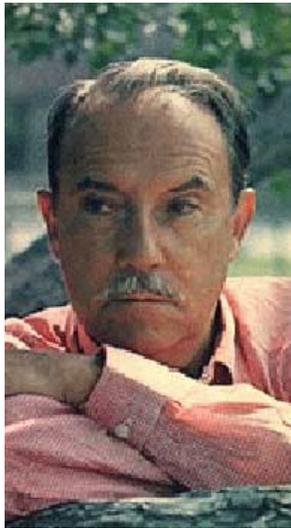
Rosenquist had to work), *Flash Gordon* (he was Flash Gordon), *Lux Radio Theater* (many parts), and *Sherlock Holmes* (he was Dr. Watson, playing against Nigel Bruce).

Gale met radio actress Virginia Curley in 1937. After a whirlwind courtship, they married. They were married for 67 years until her death in 1995. They had no children. Now, it should be pointed out that Gale Gordon NEVER legally changed his name. He was Charles T. Aldrich, Jr., until the day he died.

In 1939, Gale began a long working relationship with Lucille Ball on Jack Haley's *Wonder Bread Show*. This was also the year that *Fibber McGee and Molly* (he would not appear until after Marian Jordan successfully left an alcoholic detox program in Illinois) was moved from Chicago to Los Angeles. Many who do not know Gale's colorful radio past often write on their webpages that the

part which made him famous was the part of Mayor La Trivia (a play on New York City Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia). The first part he played on the *Fibber McGee and Molly* show was Molly's former suitor, Otis T. Cadwallader. Actually, it was the part of La Trivia which was the first representing his trademark slow burn anger, which would be present in every comedic role he ever did after that time.

But he did do drama. On *Dr. Christian - - The Country Doctor* he played the part of Roy Davis, the pharmacist. More can be read about that show in the story about Jean Hersholt. (Also click on the picture at the left to view more information.) Gale was on that show from 1939 to 1942.



In 1942, Gale joined the United States Coast Guard. He joined willingly; he wasn't drafted. He enlisted and rose to the rank of Petty Officer First Class in the three years he was in the Guard. Going on US Navy vessels his military service took him all around the most dangerous parts of the world at that time... mostly to Asia (he was stationed at the Coast Guard station at San Clemente, California, just north of Oceanside.) When on leave to visit his wife in Hollywood, he appeared on *Fibber McGee and Molly* in his Coast Guard uniform. For those who are proud American citizens, this program evokes a great deal of patriotism when listening to it, even though Gale, in his role as Petty Officer La Trivia, was in his normal slow burn to

anger he made famous.

Returning to civilian life, Gale was heard on *Fibber McGee and Molly* as Mayor La Trivia. He was also Foggy the weatherman on later episodes of that show. He was also Rumson Bullard, another weatherman on *The Great Gildersleeve*. There were many other radio shows. On *Our Miss Brooks* he was Osgood Conklin, the principal of Madison High School. On *My Favorite Husband*, he was Rudolph Attebery, the bank president. This was the first program in which he would have verbal fights with Lucille Ball. That would be the character Gale would be remembered for until the end of his life. In 1950, he played the part of John Granby in *Granby's Green Acres*. Granby was a New York City banker who got the idea of moving to the country to have his own farm. It also had Bea Benaderet as his wife and Louise Erickson as his daughter. 15 years later that TV show was transferred to television with most of the same characters (with different names), although that couple didn't have a daughter living with them.

There were also some radio programs on which Gale intended to be on but it didn't work out so well. He played the part of university president William Todhunter Hall on the pilot for *The Halls of Ivy*. The actual program was done with Ronald Colman as the president and Colman's wife, Benita Hume, as Mrs. Victoria Hall. Dr. Hall was referred on the program as being all-American. And Vicky was his English wife. However, in real life, Mr. and Mrs. Hall were English. To some purists that didn't seem right. But it was a very popular radio program. Three years later, with

almost all the same actors, the program was seen on TV. It wasn't quite as successful.

Gale was expected to have the part of Fred Mertz on *I Love Lucy* on TV, with Bea Benaderet as his wife, Ethel. But those parts went to William Frawley and Vivian Vance (a very unlikely couple, especially for the early 1950s). Later, he would have important parts on all of Lucille Ball's subsequent television series, with the exception of the last one, *Life with Lucy* (he only appeared on the first episode.)

His first television series was *Our Miss Brooks*. Except for missing Jeff Chandler (as Phil Boynton - - he was replaced by Robert Rockwell) both the TV series and the movie based on it had the original cast. There would be many other television shows.

In 1949, Gale bought a 150 acre ranch in Borrego Springs, California. On the ranch, he grew carob trees. He became one of the few successful carob farmers in the United States. His commute from Borrego Springs, located in the Anza-Borrego Desert of eastern San Diego County, was a four hour drive away from Hollywood back in those days, with the only freeway the Hollywood Freeway between downtown Los Angeles and Sunset Boulevard.

There were a few movies, including *Speedway* (1968), starring Elvis Presley.

He had a hobby of painting pictures and his work often hung in some of the best art galleries on the West Coast. He wrote two children's books: *Nursery Rhymes for Hollywood Babies* and *Leaves from the Story Trees*.

Gale and his wife Virginia spent the last

RETURN WITH US TO...

by Billy Owen
Don B4
Sherrwood

Flash Gordon

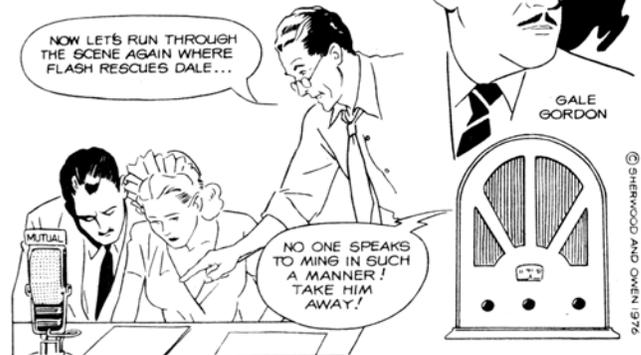


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GALE GORDON

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few years of their lives at the Redwood Terrace Health Center in Escondido, California (next to San Diego). Virginia died on May 3, 1995, of a heart attack. Gale died June 30, 1995, after a long struggle with lung cancer. ■

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Pretend now is really 1980. How "BIG" is your OTR collection? by James Mason

- If this were 1980 there would be no internet
- If this were 1980 there would be no XM Radio/Channel 164
- If this were 1980 you might have one or two radio stations in your area that played old-time radio in the evenings
- If this were 1980 and if you had an OTR collection - it would be a tape medium; either reel to reel, cassette or 8-track tape. Perhaps you had some on vinyl; highly doubtful, though
- If this were 1980, you could/might be able to listen to OTR in your car on a cassette player
- If this were 1980, instead of having 285 episodes of Dragnet, you'd have maybe 26- if you were lucky. If you were a die-hard fan with a lot of money or a lot to trade and were persistent and belonged to an OTR Club, you might have 100
- If this were 1980, 80% of what you were listening to had obtrusive background noise
- If this were 1980 and you had a large collection (assume it's as large as what you have on your computer) where would you store it? If you had 20,000 programs on tape, there's a strong possibility you'd have to have a room just for your collection. And even then, unless you took careful notes or had a rack full of books, you really wouldn't know what you had or who anyone was, except for the big stars
- If this were 1980, you probably would have never heard of about 90% of the radio stars

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For OTR fans, this graphic proves how the internet has changed things

you know now.

- If this were 1980, you actually have to have a budget for your OTR because there was a big recession in America then and cassettes weren't cheap (see the graphic at top.)
- If this were 1980, *CBS Radio Mystery Theater* would still be on the air - as were a couple of other shows that were modern and not "old-time."

Consider with the internet - OTR friends are a click away

- There's no need to buy or trade - almost every show is free (actually, every show is free if you know where to look.)

- The internet allows us to look at hundreds of newspaper, magazine articles from a by-gone era and we can literally learn as much as we'd like on almost anyone (with the exception of John Brown.)
- With an mp3 player, we are free to shop, sit in the doctor's office, drive, do chores around the house, work, cook and lounge and have OTR with us anytime we wish.
- We are able to have forums to discuss our hobby, when in 1980 we would have had to travel somewhere to a convention - and be subjected to a lot of nonsense and probably never get our questions asked or answered or voice heard.

While sometimes I wish I could go back in time, I say that only if OTR could go with me. ■

Follow Jim on his blog- <http://otrbuffer.blogspot.com/>

Dear Readers,

My name is Jeff Goldstein and I am the proprietor of www.Radiotiques.com. This is a website dedicated to the restoration and preservation of antique tube radios. Please visit Radiotiques and see my collection of over 600 tube, transistor and novelty radios. I also specialize in the repair of tube radios. If you need someone to repair a radio that is a family heirloom, or you simply want to purchase a working antique radio, please do not hesitate to contact me via my website or by email to JeffG@Radiotiques.com. Thank you.
Jeff Goldstein

Eye on eBay: Window Shopping on eBay OR 10 Items I Have Managed to Live Without

by Doug Hopkinson

This time I thought we could just casually stroll through the vast cyber-mall that is eBay. The first item we come across is a child-sized ring featuring Joe Penner.



Who, you ask? Why it's Joe Penner. He was a depression-era comedian. He was introduced to the nation by Rudy Vallee in July of 1933 and became an instant hit. He is most famous for saying "want to buy a duck?" which were his first words to Rudy on that July evening. By 1934 he had his own radio program which proves how popular he had become. Look him up on google sometime. For now take a gander at this ring. At \$400 bucks I think I'll pass besides, I don't think I'd wear a ring that was on that finger. Seriously, what's up with that digit? The \$12 shipping is absurd. Let's move on.



Next, we have a very cool little pin of Eddie Cantor with a big tall hat on his head. This pin

dates to 1935 when Pebecco toothpaste had a special promotion, Eddie Cantor's Magic Club. It seems to have been popular as there are several related items that can be found on eBay. I like the pin but the silver quarter may be worth more.

Our next item is an old friend. I think we looked at it a couple years ago. It's still as rare now as it was then. I wonder why it hasn't sold yet...



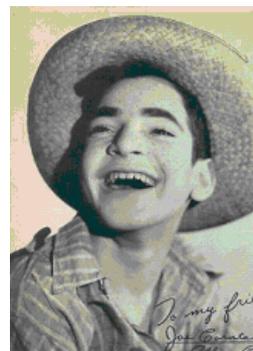
My eyes are just as green with envy for wanting it, but that price is a great deterrent. As you can see 8 people have made offers but none have hit the \$750 number. The \$15 shipping is a turn-off too.

This next item is strange. At first I did not believe it was even related to old time radio. It's a charm of a rocking horse with the words

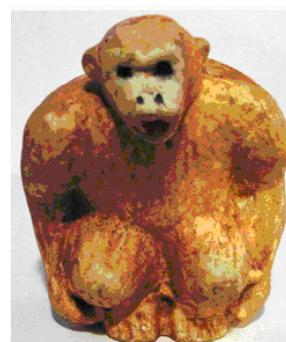


Hobby Lobby on it. Believe it or not there was a radio program called Hobby Lobby. I've come across it now several times while researching other 1930's programs. Hobby Lobby was on the air from 1937 into 1949. It was a program of human interest that featured everyday people and an occasional celebrity sharing their unusual hobbies with the listening audience. There are reportedly 4 programs in circulation. I'd like to take a listen to them. Priced at \$39.99 and \$2.50 shipping.

Next up is a photograph offered as a premium by Ovaltine. I'm pretty sure for to lid liners of Ovaltine and a shiny dime you could get this frightening picture of Joe Corntassle, one of Little Orphan Annie's friends. At least he has pupils in his eyes.... I think. \$8.95 and shipping free.



Starting our second half we have an old favorite, a rare Green Hornet ring with a secret compartment. This one looks a little bit the worse for wear but the price reflects its condition I think. \$84.95 shipping \$6.



This next item I really like. Anyone that is a Tarzan fan should recognize this ape figure. Cheetah? No! It's Kerchak. He was made by the Gem Clay company in 1932 and was

offered as a radio premium for the Tarzan radio program. He is about 2-1/2" tall. He was hand painted by someone and not a bad job. Apparently there were around 18 total figures offered. I've never seen any before. If they are all priced like this one, I'll never own any. \$225 free shipping.

Next we have a great item and one I'm sure we'd all like to own, a Buck Rogers telescope. I'm not sure how powerful this

telescope is but I can see by the price that I'll never own one of these either. I also feel compelled to point out that \$2999.99 seems so much cheaper than \$3000.00. The \$20.00 shipping is just plain tacky.



Our penultimate item is a fairly nice item. It is a Lone Ranger flashlight. I gotta ask, do you remember the Lone Ranger ever pulling out his trusty flashlight? At 7-1/2" long, this little item will only set you back \$26.26 per inch. Oh, plus \$8.13 shipping. Yeah, \$8.13. Like that's a real rate. (\$179)



Finally we come to the last item and perhaps the scariest. Have a look. I like Fanny Brice as much as the next guy but this is very creepy. This is nightmare fodder. Free shipping though!



That's all we have space for in this edition. See you next time. Priced at \$99.

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OTRR ACQUIRES NEW EPISODES AND UPGRADED SOUND ENCODES FOR JULY/AUGUST

This is a list of newly acquired series/ episodes. They may either be new to mp3 or better encodes. These were acquired by the Group during the months of May and June. They were purchased by donations from members and friends of the Old Time Radio Researchers. If you have cassettes that you would like to donate, please e-mail beshiresjim@yahoo.com For reel-to-reels, contact david0@centurytel.net and for transcription disks tony_senior@yahoo.com

Cisco Kid

- [ZIV_531] - Night Rider of Redrock.mp3
- [ZIV_532] - Dynamite In the River.mp3
- [ZIV_535] - Chinook.mp3
- [ZIV_536] - Convict's Revenge.mp3
- [ZIV_543] - Rustlers of the Shoshone.mp3
- [ZIV_544] - Cisco Meets the Sundance Kid.mp3
- [ZIV_545] - Morbid Jones and the Web of Death.mp3
- [ZIV_546] - Wheel of Chance.mp3
- [ZIV_547] - Vengeance of Laughing Lou, The.mp3
- [ZIV_548] - Pancho and the Princess.mp3
- [ZIV_571] - Flood at Humbug City.mp3
- [ZIV_572] - Salmon River Rustlers.mp3
- [ZIV_575] - Stampede in Texas.mp3
- [ZIV_576] - Jingle Bob's Last Stand.mp3
- [ZIV_577] - Fighting Deputies, The.mp3
- [ZIV_578] - Old Shell Game, The.mp3
- [ZIV_579] - Law's a Fool, The.mp3
- [ZIV_580] - Son of Rawhide Cargan, The.mp3

[ZIV_583] - Murder at North San Juan.mp3
 [ZIV_584] - Porfirio and the Bearded Lady.mp3
 [ZIV_589] - Dynamite at Rye Creek.mp3
 [ZIV_590] - Robber of the Rio Grande.mp3
 [ZIV_591] - Caravan of Danger.mp3
 [ZIV_592] - Burning of the Jail, The.mp3
 [ZIV_593] - Raiders Roundup.mp3
 [ZIV_594] - Colorado River Desperadoes.mp3
 [ZIV_595] - Frightened Witness, The.mp3
 [ZIV_596] - Dart of Death.mp3
 [ZIV_597] - Fight at Devil's Canyon.mp3
 [ZIV_598] - Cashiel Raynor's Revenge.mp3
 [ZIV_599] - Uncle Cipriano's Mule.mp3
 [ZIV_600] - Lochinvar Jones.mp3
 [ZIV_601] - Boomerang Vengeance.mp3
 [ZIV_602] - Stage to Silver City.mp3
 [ZIV_603] - Scavengers, The.mp3
 [ZIV_604] - Pancho's Return.mp3
 Cisco Kid [ZIV_605] - Double Frame-Up.mp3
 [ZIV_606] - Link Colby's Mine.mp3
 [ZIV_607] - Point of Honor.mp3
 [ZIV_608] - Little Train Robbery, he.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (471) The Giant Of Laredo.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (472) The Lancers Of The Black Horse Brigade.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (609) Larrupin' Lil.mp3
 Cisco Kid, The 5x-xx-xx (610) The Outlaw Brand.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (613) Intrigue In Ensenada.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (614) Pot O' Gold.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (615) Bullets At The Bridge.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (616) Sir Cisco, Knight Of The Round Table.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (619) The Tunnel.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (620) Bandits Of Tucumari.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (621) War In The Pecos Valley.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (622) Gohst Town Gazette.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (637) Killer In The JailHouse.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (638) Mistaken Identity.mp3

5x-xx-xx (639) Mesa Of The Hidden Bandits.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (640) The Devil's Highway.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (641) The Sheriff's 44's.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (642) Holdup At The Pass.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (647) Headless Valley.mp3
 5x-xx-xx (648) The Vandals.mp3
Fibber McGee & Molly
 55-04-10 The Mystery Movie.mp3
 55-03-23 Molly Tries To Increase McGee's Sales Resistance.mp3
 55-03-24 McGee Utters A Joke.mp3
 55-03-27 McGee Helps Doc Catch A Plane.mp3
 55-03-28 McGee Drives A Car.mp3
 55-03-29 McGee Meets A Texas Oil Man.mp3
 55-03-30 McGee Tries To Avoid The Elks.mp3

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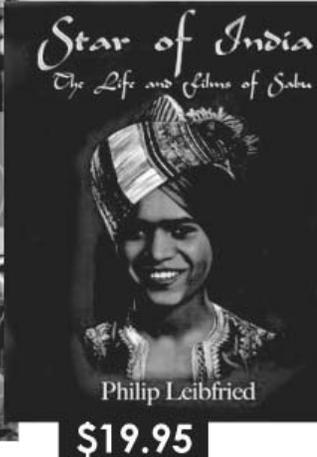
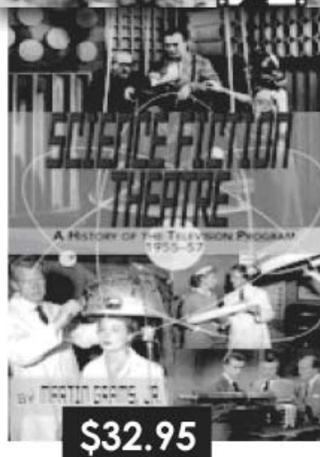
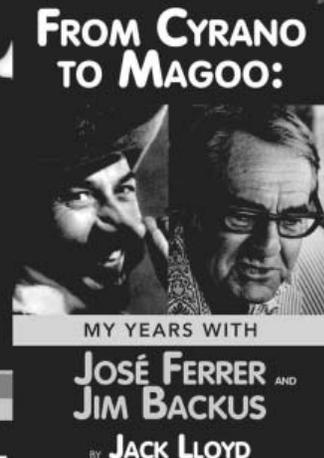
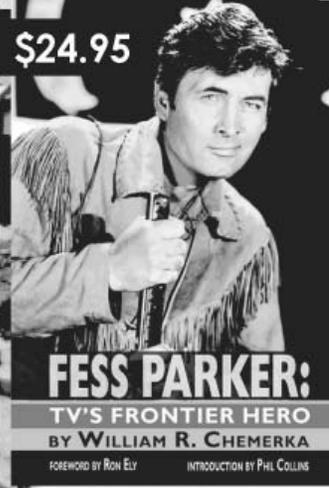
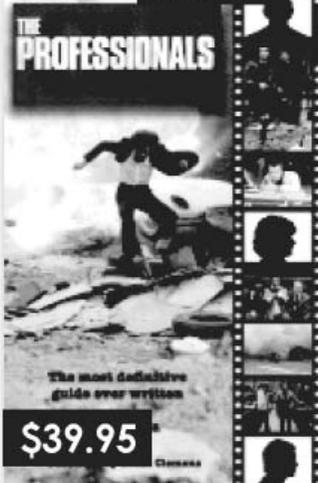
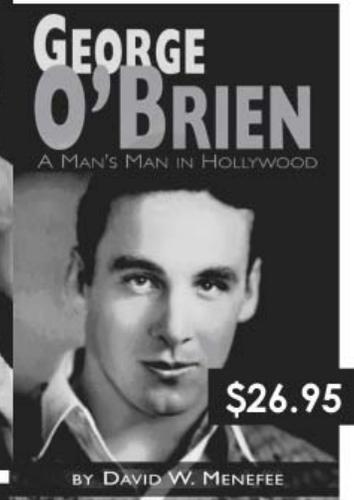
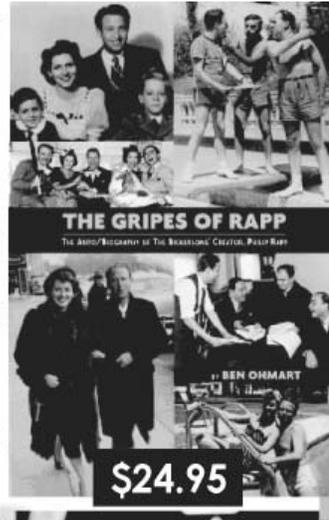
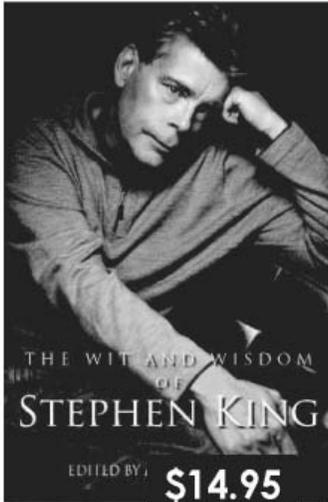
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