



# The Old Radio Times

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## The Howdy Doody Radio Show by Martin Grams Jr.



From 1947 to 1960, *The Howdy Doody Show* entertained young children across the country, often credited by historians as one of the leading reasons why television became a staple in American living rooms. The television series certainly demonstrated the potential of the new medium to advertisers, which competed against the already established medium of radio. Each week the television viewers to exposed to the antics of Clarabelle the Clown, watched silent slapstick comedies, and watched as Howdy Doody joined Buffalo

Bob in attempts to foil the schemes of Mr. Bluster. Princess Summerfall-Winterspring a beautiful Indian Princess, sang and told stories. Howdy Doody had red hair, 48 freckles (one for each State of the Union) and was voiced by Bob Smith himself. (Which also explained why Howdy Doody never put in a public appearance when Buffalo Bob and Clarabelle appeared on stage for various functions.)

*The Howdy Doody Show* was a program of historic firsts. It was Howdy Doody's face

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that appeared on the NBC color test pattern beginning in 1954, was the first children's program telecast in color on NBC, and was the first children's program to be broadcast five days a week.

On the afternoon of February 12, 1952, *The Howdy Doody Show* reached a milestone, celebrating its 1,000<sup>th</sup> telecast. To mark the first TV network show to reach 1,000 performances, the *Howdy Doody* telecast a gala on-the-air celebration with celebrity guests Milton Berle, Ed Wynn, Jack Carson, Danny Thomas, Dave Garroway, Paul Winchell and Jerry Mahoney, and Kukla, Fran and Ollie.

As a result of all the publicity and popularity of the children's program, and with Bob Smith's experience on the radio, it wasn't difficult to convince the network to grant Bob Smith a Saturday morning radio program of the same name.

Bob Smith got his start in broadcasting on WBEN radio in Buffalo, NY, after being discovered by singer Kate Smith. He later moved to WNBC in New York City. The character of "Howdy Doody" really began on Bob Smith's radio program, *Triple B Ranch*, in 1947. At that time, Bob Smith was voicing a character named Elmer who always greeted the children in the audience with "Howdy Doody, Kids!" Soon the children were calling Elmer by the name of "Howdy Doody." Later in 1947, Howdy Doody made his television debut and the show rose to popularity. In 1950, Smith gave up his radio show to devote full time to *The Howdy Doody Show* on television.

Bob Smith and his famous puppet, Howdy Doody, were joined by their television friends and other cast members – Mr. Bluster, Flubadud, Princess Summerfall-Winterspring (played by the beautiful Judy Tyler), Dilly Dally,



and Clarabell the Clown and his All-Clown Orchestra. The format was the same as the television program as a comedy-variety show staged strictly for a children's audience, with children in the "Peanut Gallery" being invited to sing with Howdy, to say "Howdy-Doody," etc. from time to time, thus getting the children into the act. (Screening silent comedies was not done on the radio program like it was on the television counterpart.) The audience was composed of children invited from various public schools in the New York area, plus other children who requested tickets in advance if such an offer was made available from time to time. Adults accompanied the children, but did not sit in the "Peanut Gallery."

The Saturday (later Sunday) morning radio program was produced and directed by Simon Rady, a package production of the Kagren Corporation. The entire radio program originated from New York City. Every episode

was taped in advance sometime during the week, so once a week a large handful of the kids that appeared on the television program as members of the Peanut Gallery were treated to a radio broadcast after the live television show went off the air. The script writers were Bob Cone and Eddie Keane. Eddie Keane was also the musical director. He wrote the music Howdy Doody sang. Celebrity guests paid visits from time to time. Bob Smith himself played the piano in novelty numbers. In short, the radio program was pretty much the same as the television series, without the visuals and added sound effects.

In the minds of the juvenile listeners, the



“All-Clown Band” probably consisted of a dozen face-painted clowns – the kind you would see in a traveling circus. In reality, the magic of radio proved a disappointment to the kids sitting in the Peanut Gallery. The “All-Clown Band” was really one person, Buffalo Bob Smith, playing whistles, washboard, bells, spoons, horns, frying pans, and more. Clarabell, initially played by Bob Keeshan (who would later gain fame as Captain Kangaroo) never spoke on the television series. For radio, he honked a horn instead of talking. Some might believe a sound man was responsible but Keeshan was present in the studio, in complete clown makeup. (Remember, young kids were still present.) Keeshan also supplied the voice of Zabby, the “man from Mars,” and Flubadub, “the only talking animal in radio.” Whenever the role of The Inspector was needed, Keeshan also voiced The Inspector.

Bill Le Cornec was the voice of Dilly Dally. Dayton Allen supplied the voice for Mr. Bluster, Phineas P. Bluster, Flubadub and on rare occasions he doubled for the voice of Howdy Doody. Allen’s last broadcast was November 29, 1952. Bob Keeshan’s last broadcast was also November 29, 1952. Effective with the broadcast of December 6, 1952, Bob Nicholson played the role of Clarabelle as well as all the other roles Keeshan played. (Nicholson later went on to more success as co-producer of television’s *The Newlywed Game*.)

### **Broadcast Breakdown**

**December 15, 1951 to September 5, 1953**

East Coast Broadcast: Saturday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

West Coast Broadcast: Saturday from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. \*



\* In the Los Angeles area, *Howdy Doody* aired only twice on the radio and at a different time slot from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. on September 6 and 13, 1952, hoping to attract a local sponsor. Also, for the June 21, 1952 broadcast, only the second half was heard on the repeat West Coast show (12:30 to 1:00 p.m.).

### September 6, 1953 to April 18, 1954

- East Coast Broadcast: Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
- West Coast Broadcast: Sunday from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. (times also varied in different areas)

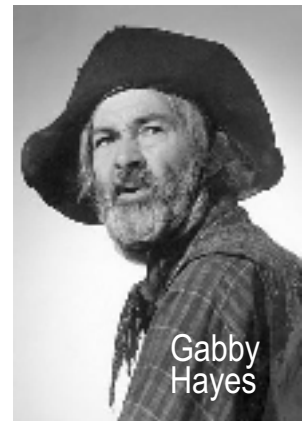
### Sponsors

- December 15, 1951 to March 15, 1952, sustained.
- March 22, 1952 to June 14, 1952, the 9:00 to 9:15 a.m. portion was sponsored by International Shoe. (West Coast Repeat was 12:30 to 12:45 p.m., obviously)
- One exception: Over WNBC in NYC, International Shoe was not the sponsor.
- June 21 to August 9, 1952, sustained. (International Shoe took a summer hiatus)
- August 16, 1952 to March 14, 1953, the 9:00 to 9:15 am segment sponsored by International Shoe on a portion of the network only. (Other stations sustaining or co-op).
- From March 21, 1953 to April 18, 1954, the entire hour was under co-op, part of the network's Minute Man Plan.

Today, very few people know that *The Howdy Doody Show* was also broadcast on radio. And a popular assumption was that the radio program was nothing more than an audio track from the television series, but the radio series did consist of original material created and produced for the radio. Jay Hickerson of Leesburg, Florida, has been the official record keeper for more than two decades when it comes to all existing and available circulating radio programs. His publication is updated

every four years with annual supplements in between. According to Hickerson, a total number of 17 radio broadcasts exist in recorded form. Only ten have been assigned broadcast dates. The remaining seven have not been verified and dates assigned by collectors are apparently inaccurate (citing Wednesday and Thursday dates, not Saturday or Sunday). The exact dates of the remaining recordings still need to be determined. Verified dates include December 15, December 22 and December 29, 1951. February 23, March 1, May 3, June 28 and August 16, 1952. January 3 and April 4, 1954.

Among the highlights of the radio program was the premiere broadcast of December 15, 1951. Milton Berle, the popular television personality, and his little daughter, Vicki, are guests. All of the kids in the Peanut Gallery referred to the comedian as "Uncle Miltie." Western star Gabby Hayes, who appeared in a number of *Howdy Doody* television broadcasts, made his first of many appearances on the program, telling tales of stagecoach times and about his uncle who drove a reindeer stage one Christmas.\*



\* Gabby Hayes would make his second visit to the radio program on February 16, 1952.

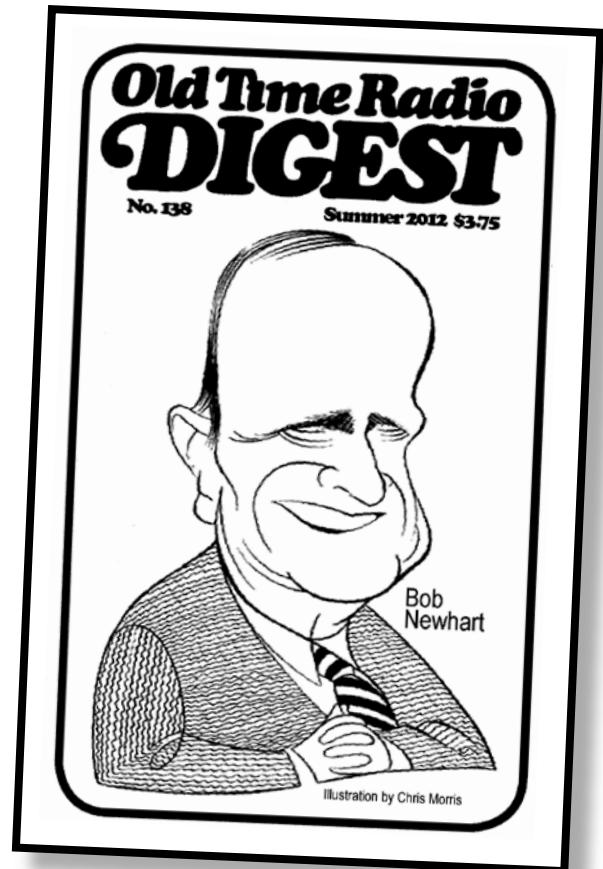
For the broadcast of December 22, 1951, Bob Smith told the story of "The Little Branch," a Christmas story about the little branch on a big pine tree that became a Christmas tree. The broadcast of January 12, 1952, featured a dramatization of "Hopalong Riding Hood," spoofing the Western cowboy hero and the

Little Red Riding Hood story. The February 23, 1952 broadcast of *Howdy Doody* was a special George Washington program. All of the stories and songs were about the first President of the United States.

Beginning with the broadcast of August 23, 1952, an announcement was made during the International Shoe-sponsored segment about a Poll Parrot Shoe write-in gimmick. Every youngster who wrote in to tell what he liked about Poll Parrot Shoes would get a membership card in the "Howdy Doody Thinker-Upper Club," which had just been organized. The two best letters received each week would be read over the air and the writers would receive a special gift such as a Howdy Doody doll or a Clarabelle doll, or a Howdy Doody Phonograph. Kids simply needed to visit the nearest Poll Parrot dealer; take a look at all the Poll Parrot shows and then go home and write their letter.

As a result of the troubles behind-the-scenes with Bob Keeshan and the producers, Clarabelle the Clown was written out of the series more than once, only to return to the program soon after. During the broadcast of August 30, 1952, and beginning the week after, youngsters had to enjoy the show without the consistent horn-hinking. Clarabelle would return a few weeks later. Bob Keeshan made his final appearance as Clarabelle on the broadcast of November 29, 1952, and the clown was written out of the series. Young children were led to believe that Clarabelle would not return for a few weeks, but the fan letters poured in and the week after, December 6, Bob Nicholson began playing the role. Clarabelle never left the program as it was dramatized the week prior, and tens of thousands of young children were no doubt

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relieved.

The Presidential election of 1952 received major television coverage, much more than the 1948 election since most Americans did not have a television set. As a result, Howdy Doody ran for office. Free campaign buttons were distributed to any child who wrote to the network. Young children all over the nation had been encouraged to send in their votes. This was not just a publicity stunt for the television and radio program, but an attempt to convince the executives at International Shoe to continue sponsorship of the radio program since they expressed a desire to option a clause in their contract to cease sponsorship. They reportedly received over 60,000 requests, statistically representing one-third of the American homes with television sets. Within the first two weeks, other potential advertisers were convinced and the Howdy Doody radio program was successfully profitable for NBC-Radio. Among the new sponsors was the Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Company. During the radio broadcast of November 8, 1952, an announcement was made that "Howdy Doody" had been elected "President of all the kids in the United States," due to the overwhelming response.

### **Tape Problems**

On television, Buffalo Bob Smith encountered the usual errors that result in "live" broadcasting. During one broadcast, while showing a silent slapstick comedy, one of the children exited the Peanut Gallery and walked up to Buffalo Bob and sat on his lap. Loud enough for the microphone to pick up Smith's narration of the film, the young lad remarked, "I have to go to the bathroom."

For radio, you would think taping the show in advance for later playback was not without

its flaws. Not so. In the start of the broadcast of January 5, 1952, there were three seconds of dead air due to tape machine failure. The content lost was "It's Howdy Doody Time," the answer the children gave to the opening. The June 7, 1952 broadcast suffered another setback. Trouble with the taping resulted in dead air from 9:16 to 9:20, at which time the tape resumed. NBC filled the four minutes with Electrical Transcription music. (It only took the network 25 seconds to start the music from the moment the show went to dead air.) The broadcast of September 20, 1952, began a little late (10 seconds of dead air time to be exact) because of the tape machine being "frozen."

### **In Conclusion**

In September of 1954, months after the radio series concluded, Buffalo Bob Smith, at age 36, was stricken in his home with a heart attack. NBC Television used some film previously made by Smith himself, beginning September 6. The reruns gave Smith a chance to recover, and Smith never returned to the program until January of 1955. No doubt the radio program would have also been affected had the series continued beyond April of 1954.

After she left the *Howdy Doody Show*, Judy Tyler became a night-club singer and got rave reviews for her opener at Mocambo's in Hollywood. Bob Keeshan began a long and successful career as Captain Kangaroo.

His love of radio was clearly evident after the *Howdy Doody* television show concluded, when Bob Smith purchased a radio station in Maine and continued his career in broadcasting as an announcer and emcee for numerous radio programs. ■

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# **The *4th Revised* Ultimate History of Network Radio Programming & Guide to All Ciculating Shows**

Written by Jay Hickerson October, 2010  
Editor of Hello Again

# 565-page reference book listing over 6000 network, regional, local and syndicated radio programs. (Soft cover and spiral bound). This information was first presented in this combined format in 1992 with separate publications issued in 1986.

# **Traces each program by giving broadcast dates, sponsors, network and air time. Often a brief description with one or two cast members is given. The main purpose, however, is to trace each program by showing when it was on the air.**

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## P&G Sponsors It's First Daytime Serial

by Danny Goodwin

Lincoln, Me. (DG)—

Monday, December 4, 1933 was a historical day in network broadcasting. At 3:00 PM on NBC's Red Network, the first episode of *OXYDOL'S OWN MA PERKINS* was presented. This was more than the debut of a program. It was the first daytime serial on network radio sponsored by a Procter & Gamble product--- and more importantly, a Procter & Gamble SOAP product.

From the very beginning, *OXYDOL'S OWN MA PERKINS* was a popular daytime serial, and Oxydol was a popular product for washday. It was the soap many housewives used to take the drudgery out of washing the laundry.

For those of you who are not familiar with washing the laundry during the 1930's, it wasn't anything like the way we wash the laundry today. If you know your American history, you already know the 1930's meant "The Great Depression." There were washing machines back then, but they were also expensive--- especially at a time when money wasn't plentiful for a lot of people. The common way to wash the clothes was with a washtub, a washboard, water, and a lot of elbow grease. The housewife had her choice of using bar soap, flaked soap, and granulated soap. Although some of these products said they were soap, there was a noticeable difference in how they cleaned clothes. If an inferior soap was used, the housewife frequently scrubbed the clothes on the washboard and had very little to show for her trouble--- except sore arms, chapped hands,



Virginia Payne

and an aching back. This was wonderful for the makers of liniment and hand lotions, but it was miserable for the housewife. When the washing was finished, the housewife was sore, exhausted, and not in the best of moods. Fortunately, the housewife didn't have to go through all that extra scrubbing--- as long as she used Oxydol.





Announcer Bob Brown stated that Oxydol's suds went right to work in eliminating dirt 25-40% faster and washing white clothes 4-5 shades whiter than the other soaps. With white clothes whiter, there wasn't a need to boil the clothes. Using Oxydol didn't exactly make washing the laundry a barrel of chuckles, but it did help the housewife get through this unpleasant chore faster and easier.

Brown's narration was basically the way Oxydol was sold on the program's commercials during the 1930's. With The Great Depression beginning to fade into a bad memory, washing

machines were becoming affordable. In many homes, the washtub and washboard were being replaced with the modern washing machines of that time. As always, Oxydol continued to save time and work, but an adjustment was needed to sell the soap in the 1940's. The commercials focused on how white the clothes were after an Oxydol washing.

From the beginning, Oxydol was known as the soap that washed white clothes whiter without boiling and without bleach! During the war years, the listeners heard announcer

**Rub-a-Dub Dora**

WASHBOARD RUBBING FAIRLY "ATE UP" HER CLOTHES 'TIL SHE DISCOVERED THIS PRICELESS SECRET

OH, DEAR-- YOU'LL HAVE ME BROKE BUYING NEW CLOTHES AT THIS RATE!

HONEY, YOU LOOK TIRED! WHY DO ALL THAT MENDING TONIGHT?

I'VE GOT TO TURN THESE SHIRT CUFFS--EVERYTHING FRAYS OUT SO TERRIBLY FAST WITH ALL THAT BEASTLY WASHBOARD SCRUBBING!

BUT HERE IT TELLS ABOUT A NEW SOAP--HIGH-TEST OXYDOL--IT MAKES CLOTHES LAST 2 OR 3 TIMES LONGER BECAUSE IT SOAKS DIRT LOOSE WITHOUT ANY SCRUBBING AT ALL. WHY NOT TRY IT?

BUT IF IT SOAKS DIRT LOOSE AND WASHES WHITE CLOTHES AS MUCH AS 9 TO 11 SHADES WHITER ARE YOU SURE IT'S SAFE FOR COLORS?

ABSOLUTELY--IT'S MADE BY THE MAKERS OF IVORY SOAP! MY WIFE SAYS IT'S A REGULAR "BEAUTY TREATMENT" FOR WASHABLE COLORED THINGS.

NEXT WASHDAY

IT'S TRUE! JUST 10 MINUTES' SOAKING AND THESE CLOTHES HAVE WASHED SHADES WHITER WITHOUT EVEN TOUCHING THE WASHBOARD AT ALL!

SOME TIME LATER

BOY, ARE WE SAVING MONEY ON CLOTHES THESE DAYS! THIS SHIRT'S OVER SIX MONTHS OLD AND STILL LOOKS FRESH AS NEW!

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL HOW THINGS LAST SO MUCH LONGER SINCE I PUT A STOP TO WASHBOARD WEAR AND TEAR--AND SWITCHED TO NEW HIGH-TEST OXYDOL!

**NO RUINOUS SCRUBBING OR BOILING YET CLOTHES COME UP TO 9 TO 11 SHADES WHITER**

IT'S true! There's now a way to wash clothes far whiter--without back-breaking scrubbing or boiling! A way so SAFE that clothes last 2 to 3 times longer, from a standpoint of washday wear and tear.

This new way is made possible by a new-type soap called High-Test OXYDOL, containing a revolutionary new ingredient not previously found in any bar or package soap.

When you try High-Test Oxydol you'll find it does these amazing things:--(1) Soaks dirt loose in 10 minutes, without scrubbing or boiling. Even "extra dirty" spots come clean with a few quick rubs. (2) Gets white clothes up to 9 to 11 shades whiter than soaps lacking its new miracle ingredient--actual Tintometer shades, as proved by our laboratory tests. (3) Cup for cup, gives up to 3 TIMES THE SUDS--suds stand up 2 to 3 times longer. (4) Yet SAFE for washable colors, hands!

So do as thousands are doing--switch to the High-Test OXYDOL soaking way! Save clothes, save time, save money--and save yourself.

Trade Mark Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

**OXYDOL**

THE NEWER "NO-SCRUB, NO-BOIL" LAUNDRY SOAP THAT'S Really Safe

Tested and Approved by Good Housekeeping Institute

“Charlie Warren” (an alias used by several different announcers on the *MA PERKINS* program) talk about Oxydol’s “Hustle Bubble Suds” and how these pudgy fellows lifted out dirt and helped to wash white clothes “White Without Bleaching.”

After World War II ended, the theme of Oxydol’s advertising concerned how the laundry looked after it was washed. Clean was important--- but it wasn’t good enough for Oxydol. The laundry had to have a sparkle to it. That meant a wash that was sparkling white, sparkling bright, and sparkling clean. In other words, the laundry had “That Oxydol Sparkle.”

As the 1940’s were coming to a close, there was an even better Oxydol on the horizon. Announcer “Charlie Warren” (not sure of the announcer’s true identity in this commercial) told the listeners about New Lifetime Oxydol . The reason why this product was known as “Lifetime Oxydol” was because it washed white clothes “White For Life.” What this means, white clothes washed in Lifetime Oxydol had a brilliant new sparkling white for the life of the clothes--- as long as they were washed in each washing in Lifetime Oxydol, that is! Of course, clothes will eventually wear out and be reduced to cleaning rags--- but they will be “White For Life” while sopping up an unpleasant household mess.

Since Lifetime Oxydol washed clothes “White For Life,” that meant Procter & Gamble went as far as they could with their granulated soap. Let’s face it, you can’t improve on “White For Life”--- or can you? Procter & Gamble realized it made sense that to wash white clothes whiter, the soap itself should also be white. It’s a possibility that white clothes could be washed whiter if the soap was

chartreuse with pink polka dots, but Procter & Gamble just didn’t see it that way. To the company, the white soap in New White Oxydol made all the difference. Announcer “Charlie Warren” (a.k.a. Dan Donaldson) pointed out the white soap in New White Oxydol washed white clothes whiter even if they were dried inside. Announcer “Warren” described New White Oxydol as “The Whiter, Whiter Soap For A Whiter, Whiter Wash.”

As the 1950’s began, detergents were becoming the popular product for washing the laundry. In order to survive, the soap brands had to come up with something to compete with its laundry rival--- and Oxydol was no exception! The housewives already know of Oxydol’s whitening ability, but now they would know about “Deep Cleaning Oxydol.”





## Editorial Policy of the Old Radio Times

It is the policy of The Old Radio Times not to accept paid advertising in any form. We feel that it would be detrimental to the goal of the Old Time Radio Researchers organization to distribute its products freely to all wishing them. Accepting paid advertising would compromise that goal, as dealers whose ideals are not in line with ours could buy ad space.

That being said, The Old Radio Times will run free ads from individuals, groups and dealers whose ideals are in line with the group's goals and who support the hobby.

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Announcer "Charlie Warren" (Dan Donaldson again) informed the housewives that Deep Cleaning Oxydol washed away the toughest dirt from the clothes with just 1 rinse.

Before we go any further, you may have noticed colored clothes haven't been mentioned in any of the previous paragraphs. The main theme of Oxydol's advertising over the years was its ability to wash white clothes whiter. It wasn't that Oxydol washed white clothes only and thumbing its nose at colors. In all honesty, Oxydol was the soap to use for washing colored clothes. No, it didn't wash colored clothes white, but Oxydol did wash them to a brighter color than before. Instead of "White For Life," Oxydol washed colors "Bright For Life." To sum it all up, Oxydol was the soap to use for all types of laundry.

With laundry detergents becoming popular, the original Oxydol Laundry Soap came to an end in the mid 1950's--- but not the Oxydol name. As with many other former soap brands, Oxydol became a laundry detergent. It carried over its outstanding whitening quality, but something new was added. Oxydol was the first detergent to have its own color safe "Oxygen Bleach." This Oxygen Bleach helped Oxydol wash away the dirt and gunk from the laundry, while washing the laundry white and bright--- without adding anything else. In selling this new product, Oxydol was the detergent that "Bleaches As It Washes."

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Although Oxydol sponsored *OXYDOL’S OWN MA PERKINS* for a long time, there was an eventual parting of the ways. On Friday, November 30, 1956, the final broadcast took place under Oxydol sponsorship. The following Monday, the program was sponsored by the “Multi Sponsors” package. The program continued its story with various sponsors until

Friday, November 25, 1960. This was the sad day when *MA PERKINS* and the other 5 remaining radio serials aired their final broadcasts on CBS Radio. As for Oxydol (the detergent), it was a sponsor or co-sponsor of different daytime serials on television.

Oxydol’s 23-year sponsorship of *MA PERKINS* was a tremendous experience for both sponsor and program. It was as close a program/sponsor relationship as there was during radio’s golden age. Although the program’s title was really *MA PERKINS*, it was known on the air as *OXYDOL’S OWN MA PERKINS*. It left no doubt in the listeners’ minds what product sponsored the program.

As if the housewife needed reminding, on the back of the Oxydol box toward the bottom, there was a reminder to “LISTEN IN DAILY TO *OXYDOL’S OWN “MA PERKINS”* (as it was exactly printed on the box). At this time, I haven’t come across another product who had a program reminder on its packaging.

It didn’t mean much on that December day in 1933, but the debut of *OXYDOL’S OWN MA PERKINS* marked the beginning of the dominance Procter & Gamble would eventually have in sponsoring the daytime serials on radio and television. With the numerous P&G soap products sponsoring the serials, the program earned the slang name “Soap Opera.” This didn’t set too well with the sponsors of drug and food products, who were also popular sponsors of daytime serials. I acknowledge the drug and food companies had a valid complaint, but when it comes to the serial’s slang name, I leave you with this thought--- “would you want to listen to a Drug Opera?” ■

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Our last catalog **(B25)** was issued in July 2010 and includes over 300 items including a nice variety of items we have never seen before plus a number of old favorites that were not included in our last catalog. Most items in the catalog are still available. To receive a copy, send us one dollar (\$1.) in cash or stamps and ask for the **Radio Broadcasting Catalog**. We shall send you

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## Eye on eBay: Getting Stung by The Green Hornet Or Look Honey, Isn't That Just the Bee's Knees?

By Doug Hopkinson

Hello everyone. Once again it's time to troll the deep blue waters of the ocean of items that is eBay.

Back in the early 1930's Fran Striker and George W. Trendle enjoyed great success when they invented *The Lone Ranger*. Around five years later they doubled up on another character that became just as popular and they called him, *The Green Hornet*. It is interesting to note that this superhero has essentially been popular for almost 80 years. From radio in the 1930's, movie serials and comic books in the 1940's, television in the 1960's and a major movie in 2011, this character has generated millions if not billions of dollars in merchandise over the decades. I thought I'd introduce you all to some of these Green Hornet collectibles in this issue.



Up first we have a 1938 Green Hornet membership card for the G-J-M (Golden Jersey Milk) club. It is unused so you could fill it out and put it in your wallet! At a cool \$700 you might want to put it in a bank vault instead. Kudos to the seller for free shipping and for not listing it at \$699.99. Very classy.



For those of you on a limited budget you may want to consider this next item which is a dvd containing 13 episodes of the original 1940's movie serial Green Hornet. At only \$4.99 (under 39 cents an episode!) and free shipping this is probably the best Green



The next item has appeared in a previous Eye on eBay column but it's kinda cool and since it still hasn't sold, it's worth having another gander at it. It's a promotional folder for Green Hornet transcription discs from radio station WXYZ detailing the advantages



of buying into the Green Hornet radio series on discs and broadcasting them in your own market. The seller is starting the bidding off at \$290 but you could end the auction by buying it now at only \$320 (plus \$10 shipping). I'm not going to say this is over-valued but it hasn't sold yet, probably because it's over-valued.



In 1966, the Green Hornet made its television debut starring Van Williams as Britt Reid and Bruce Lee as Kato. There was an immediate response with an explosion in Green Hornet merchandise. Our next couple items are artifacts from that era. Above is a 1966 Milton Bradley Green Hornet board game. Many MB games from the 1960's have hefty price tags today but this Green Hornet game may be the highest priced among them. Whether or not the price is driven by rarity of the game or the popularity of GH collecting or a combination of both is hard to say but not many people can afford to buy this for \$1495.00. Asking \$18.25 additional for shipping puts this seller into the too tacky for words column. It should be noted that there are other sellers listing this game and if you can tolerate touching a previously used game you might be able to buy one for under \$500.

In 1968, Corgi Toys made a replica of the Black Beauty which was the Green Hornet's



fancy automobile. It was a popular toy for juveniles of the male persuasion back then. These days it's a sought after collectible for adult juveniles of the male persuasion who want to and can afford to buy back their childhood memories. At just \$650 you can own that precious memory and this seller won't charge you shipping. By shopping around for this Corgi toy you could save yourself a few hundred dollars as some memories are cheaper than others.



If you've purchased any of the items we've looked at so far you may want to consider bringing your own lunch to work for a while in which case this next item will come in handy, a 1967 Green Hornet lunchbox with thermos.

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At only \$199.99 (not \$200.00) you might feel like the guy at the end of the Green Hornet's fist as pictured on the lunchbox below. While very tacky, the \$12.99 (not \$13) shipping charge may allow you to take your lunch to work even sooner.

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In 1967 a little boy wanted that lunchbox very badly. Twenty years earlier, that little boy's father, then a boy himself was anxious to get this next item. A 1947 Green Hornet ring! This ring was not only stylish, it had a secret compartment. At \$264.95 (not \$265) you can own one of your father's childhood memories as well! The \$7.50 shipping charge is well worth it in order to bring that memory home to you quickly.

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The penultimate item today is quite unique. It is a Green Hornet sting whistle! Huh? Well, it's green. It's in two pieces. The seller claims it's the rarest of the rare in Green Hornet collectibles. The seller does not provide much information on this item. He says that he has an ad for it that will not go with the item but will be posted if he can find it. He says it was a General Mills cereal mail-in premium but does not provide a year or which cereal. A quick look on the internet shows anyone who bothers to research a bit, that this was indeed a mail-in premium but it was offered by Chicken of the Sea Tuna not General Mills. It was a 1966-1967 era premium. Somewhere on one of those plastic pieces there is stamped a Green Hornet logo. This or a different one sold last year for just over \$550 and it is considered to be rare. If you paid \$800 for a small plastic whistle some people might think you'd been stung in the brain by a hornet. A fellow collector however would be green with envy. Free shipping is always classy.

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The last item is also a 1960's era collectible. If you're like me, nothing screams "buy me" like a Pez dispenser does. That's what we have here, a 1966 Green Hornet Pez dispenser. This particular one is priced at what at first looks to be \$195.00 but a closer inspection reveals that this item is in the U.K. and that price

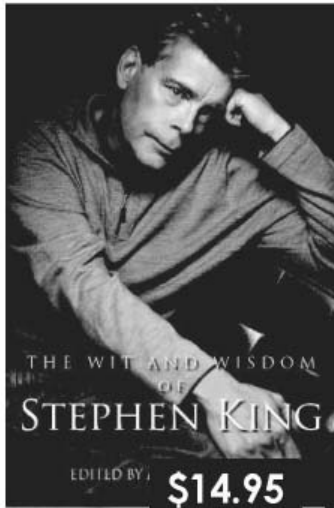
This appears to be the only one of its kind being offered at present, a truly rare collectible. It is always advisable to shop around before buying any collectible, after all, you don't want to get stung. See you next time. ■





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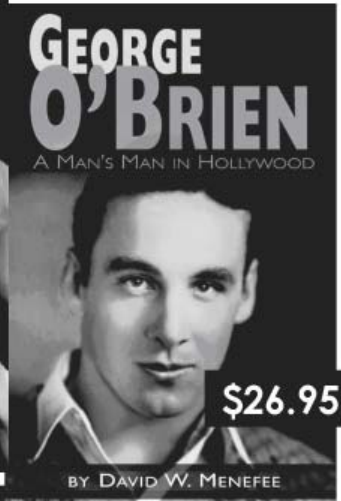
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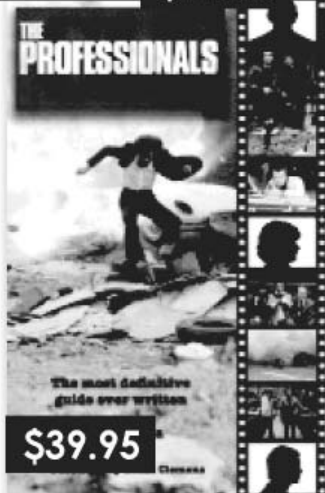
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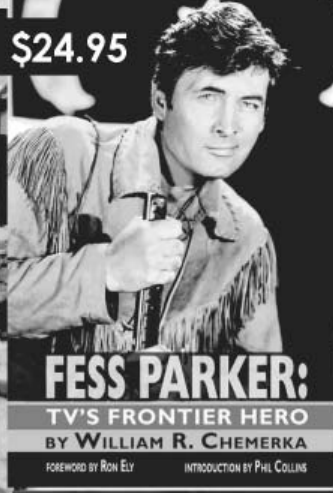
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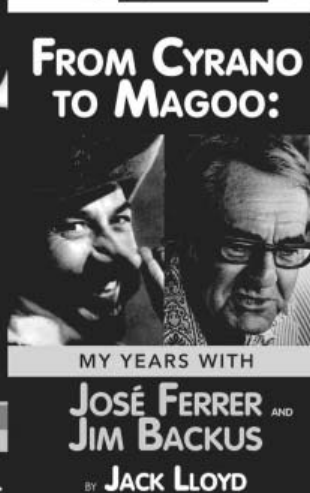


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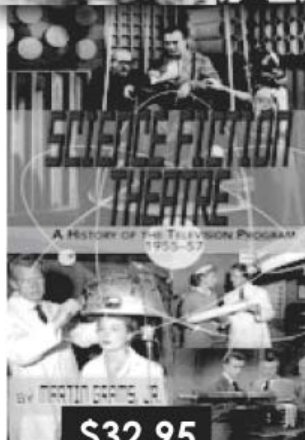
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## Dick Crenna (1926–2003)

By Billy Jack Long

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Richard Donald Crenna was born November 30, 1927, in Los Angeles, California. Dick's mother, Edith Crenna, who was divorced, managed a modest hotel in Downtown Los Angeles. Dick's father, Dominick Crenna, was a pharmacist. Dick went to Virgil Junior High School, which was located across the street from Earle C. Anthony's radio stations, KFI and KECA. It was there, before he attended Virgil, at the age of 11, that he acted in his first radio show, Boy Scout Jamboree (yes, he was a Boy Scout!), which was heard over KECA. He also did a few guest spots on the *George Burns-Gracie Allen Show*. From Virgil, Dick went on to Belmont High School and then went to the University of Southern California. He was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity.



Upon graduation, Dick acted in several radio situation comedies, starting with *The Great Gildersleeve*, in which he played Marjorie's boyfriend. Later on that show, Dick would portray another of Marjorie's boyfriends, whom she would marry named Bronco

(which was spelled "Broncho" back in those days, but still pronounced "Bronco"). His first regular role was Oogie Pringle on *A Date with Judy*. The next show he was heard on was *My Favorite Husband*, which starred Lucille Ball. Dick had a close personal and working relationship with Lucille and her husband, Desi Arnaz. His most memorable role was that of Walter Denton on *Our Miss Brooks* (in the



picture above, Dick is seen on the far left in his Walter Denton role on TV, this was a few years after the radio series went on). That radio series became a TV series.

Eventually, long after the radio series went off the air, Walter Denton's role mysteriously disappeared from the script. It was at this time, Dick starred in a TV sitcom, *The Real McCoys* (later just known as *The McCoys*). He played the part of Luke McCoy, who came to California from West Virginia with his wife (played by Kathy Nolan, born 1933) and little brother, who was also named Luke (played by Michael Winkleman, 1946-99), as well as his grandfather Amos (played by Walter Brennan, 1894-1974). After this went off the air in 1963, Dick did a few other TV shows, although now he was getting more into serious dramatic roles, rather than comedy. When this change started taking place, he became listed as "Richard Crenna," although, to his friends, he was still Dick.



Dick had an impressive career as a motion picture actor, director, and producer. His first movie was made when he was still a radio actor, *Let's Dance* (1950). Since he was uncredited and he never mentioned this movie, some

people aren't even sure he was in the movie, in which he was thought to be one of the dancers. His first really big role was as Paul "Daffy" Dean in *Pride of the Yankees* (1952). The rest of the movies were some of the greatest movies made in Hollywood of their period and he always did a wonderful job.

Richard Crenna was married twice, first to a college sweetheart, which ended in divorce, and his second marriage was to Penni Sweeney, a divorcee herself. He had two children with Penni, plus a stepdaughter from her previous marriage.

In 2003, Dick contracted pancreatic cancer. This is one of the fastest cancers, which also killed Jack Benny. He died January 17, 2003, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Hollywood, surrounded by family members, at the age of 76. Seeing that he was born, grew up, worked, and died within the city limits some people who didn't know anything about him might think he hadn't gone anywhere with his life. How wrong they would be. ■

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--Dallas Journal

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## **OTRR acquires new episodes and upgraded sound encodes for Sept/Oct**

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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](mailto:beshiresjim@yahoo.com) For reel-to-reels, contact [david0@centurytel.net](mailto:david0@centurytel.net) & for transcription disks [tony\\_senior@yahoo.com](mailto:tony_senior@yahoo.com)

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### **BIMB**

49-05-01 01 NY The Mary Murdock Murder Case.wav

### **Bob Burns Show**

43-04-08 Meat Shortages.mp3

43-04-15 Spreading Rumors.mp3

### **Columbia Workshop**

1939-07-27 Trip to Czardis.wav

### **Country Style USA**

xx-xx-xx First Tune - I'm Movin' On.mp3

xx-xx-xx First Tune - It Looks Like I'm Just In Your Way.mp3

xx-xx-xx First Tune - Little Liza Jane.mp3

xx-xx-xx First Tune - My Little Red Wagon.mp3

### **Floretta's Scrapbook**

44-12-19.wav

### **Front Page Farrell**

49-06-15 The Man Who Knew All The Angles.wav

49-06-20 Case Of The Fatal Smile.wav

49-08-16 High Explosives.wav

49-08-31 Case Of The Mysterious Killer.wav

### **Glamor Manor**

46-01-04.wav

46-06-10.wav

### **Granat**

Program First Tune - The Very Thought Of You (Audiition).wav

### **Grand Hotel**

45-05-19 Merely Players.wav

Grand Marquee

46-09-24 Mexican Interlude.mp3

### **Guest Star**

xx-xx-xx First Tune - American Patrol.mp3

xx-xx-xx First Tune - Every Little Movement.mp3

xx-xx-xx First Tune - I Should Care.mp3

xx-xx-xx First Tune - Running Off The Rails.mp3

### **Guiding Light**

xx-xx-xx Gag Transcription.wav

Gulf Screen Guild Theater

41-12-07 Between Americans.mp3

### **Heartbeat Of Broadway**

59-02-xx The Story Behind Guys And Dolls.mp3

59-02-xx The Story Behind Kiss Me Kate.mp3

59-02-xx The Story Behind My Fair Lady.mp3

59-02-xx The Story Behind Oklahoma.mp3

38-xx-xx Sing You Sinners.wav

### **Hollywood Preview**

0-xx-xx Turnabout.wav

46-xx-xx The Years Are Many.wav

### **Hopalong Cassidy**

51-02-03 Coming Attraction- Murder.mp3

51-02-24 The Cold Country.mp3

51-03-03 Buckshot Badman.mp3

51-03-10 The Boss of Vinegar Bend.mp3

51-06-16 The Man in the Yellow Mask.mp3

51-06-23 Run Sheep Run.mp3

51-06-30 Hoppy Meets his Match.mp3

51-10-27 Bayou Drums Mean Death.mp3

51-11-03 Cleanup of Caribou Mesa.mp3

51-11-10 Six Little Men Who Were Green.mp3



51-11-24 The Devil and El Diablo.mp3  
51-12-08 The Secret in the Hill.mp3  
51-12-15 The Memory of Mace Melot.mp3  
51-12-29 The Killers of Lion Canyon.mp3  
52-01-05 The Wastrels of Juarez.mp3  
52-01-19 Danger Wears Two Faces.mp3  
52-02-09 Bull Fight.mp3  
52-02-16 The Women of Windy Ridge.mp3  
52-03-01 Stampede at Semple's Crossing.mp3  
52-03-08 Cowtown Troubleshooters.mp3

### **Ida Bailey Allen And The Chef**

4x-05-10.wav

### **It's Murder**

44-08-10 Picture Wire Murder.mp3

### **It's Only Dream Time**

48-06-15 First Tune - I'll Remember April.wav

### **Jack Burch And The Boys**

44-11-21 First Tune - Little Girl.wav

44-12-06 First Tune - Babyface.wav

### **Jack Smith Show**

46-11-15 First Tune - I Feel A Song Coming  
On.wav

46-11-18 First Tune - When You're Gone What  
Can I Do.wav

### **Jack Webb Show**

46-04-10 Guest - John Galbraith.mp3

46-04-17 Guest - Midge Williams.mp3

### **Joe Palooka**

Audition #1.mp3

Audition #2.mp3

Pgm #1 The 15th Round.mp3

Pgm #10 Meet Miss Ruth McGregor.mp3

Pgm #11 Incriminating Evidence.mp3

Pgm #12 Myrtle Turns Detective.mp3

Pgm #23 Shots in the Night.mp3

Pgm #24 Al Wilson's Story.mp3

Pgm #27 Contrast.mp3

Pgm #28 The Cave-in.mp3

Pgm #3 The Search.mp3

Pgm #37 Visiting Hours 2 to 4.mp3

Pgm #38 Clear the Wires.mp3

Pgm #39 My Dear Old Mother.mp3

Pgm #40 Gotta Get Knobby Walsh.mp3

Pgm #41 No One To Help.mp3

Pgm #42 Trouble Brewing.mp3

Pgm #5 Dark Shadows.mp3

Pgm #6 The Warning.mp3

Pgm #7 The Man Who Wouldn't Talk.mp3

Pgm #8 No More Joe.mp3

Pgm #9 The Road Side Incident.mp3

### **Joyce Jordan MD**

48-01-26 Dr Jordan Tells Dr Tracy How She  
Was Forced To Operate.wav

### **Just Plain Bill**

55-08-11 Bill Thinks Arlene Wants To Kill His  
Daughter.wav

### **Leave It To The Girls**

46-07-26.wav

46-22-26.wav

### **Leo Is On The Air**

34-10-13 The Merry Widow.wav

36-xx-xx Born To D

36-xx-xx Suzy.wav

39-xx-xx Balalaika.wav

41-xx-xx Kathleen.wav

41-xx-xx Lady Be Good.wav

### **Lone Ranger, The**

39-05-31 Raids Along The Border.mp3

39-09-18 Mexico - Part 1.mp3

39-09-20 Mexico - Part 2.mp3

39-09-22 Mexcio - Part 3.mp3

40-11-13 South Of The Border.mp3

41-05-16 Border Queen.mp3

42-05-04 Island In The Rio.wav

42-09-23 Guns Across The Border.wav

43-06-25 Border Patrol.wav

44-03-31 The Border Rose.wav

44-10-30 Alamo Anderson.wav ■