

THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB OF BUFFALO  
**Illustrated Press**

NUMBER 17

NOV. 1977



Welcome to new members Arnold Bush, George Hobson, Richard V. King, Henriette Klawans, Charles H. Smith, and Richard Smith.

**MINUTES:** The OTRCUB met on October 10. Sharon Andrews resigned from the office of secretary and Chuck Seeley was appointed to fill the post until the December election. Firm prices for quality tape are to be presented at the next meeting. Jerry Collins gave a report on Jay Hickerson's convention. The ten honorary OTRCUB members are Edgar Bergen, Hi Brown, Clint Bushman, George Burns, Jim Jordan, E.G. Marshall, Mercedes McCambridge, Marvin Miller, Carlton E. Morse, and Orson Welles. Jerry Collins has drafted a very nice letter which will be sent to the above and is presently searching for addresses. If you can help, please write Jerry at the club address.

**DEADLINES:** Dec. IP = Nov. 21  
Jan. IP = Dec. 19

**MOVING?**

**CLUB ADDRESSES:** Please use the correct address for the business you have in mind. Note the new tape library address.

**TAPE LIBRARY, 38 Ardmore Place, Buffalo, NY 14213**  
**REFERENCE LIBRARY, 1620 Perry Road, Grand Island, New York 14072**

All other business: OTRCOB, P.O. Box 119, Kenmore, New York 14217



**LET US KNOW**

Note to local members: If you want a reel from the tape library, simply call Dom Parisi at 884-2004 and ask him to bring the tape along to the next meeting. For some reason, Dom balks at having to lug 60-odd reels of tape to the meetings.

**NEW MEMBERS:** Arnold Bush, 277 Allen Park Road, Springfield, Mass. 01118  
George W. Hobson, 452 Golden Valley Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63129  
Richard V. King, 21 Woodcrest Drive, Riverside, Rhode Island 02915  
Henriette Klawans, 3900 North Lake Shore Drive #23K, Chicago, Illinois 60613  
Charles H. Smith, 1039 East 27 Street, Brooklyn, New York 11210  
Richard Smith, 616 Oakley Lane, Jacksonville, Arkansas 72076

**ELECTIONS:** The OTRCOB will hold its annual election of officers at the December meeting. Only those members present at the meeting will be eligible to vote. Every member who can attend is urged to do so.

**IRON-ONS:** Member Stu Mann still has a few OTRCOB T-shirt iron-on decals for sale at \$2.25 each postpaid. The decals measure about 11" by 11" and feature a picture of an old radio. Write Stu Mann at 44 Ganson St., North Tonawanda, New York 14120.

**OLD NOVEMBER:** Nov. 1, 1952: First hydrogen bomb is exploded at Eniwetok in the Pacific.  
Nov. 4, 1922: Tutankhamen's tomb is discovered in Egypt.  
Nov. 5, 1950: THE BIG SHOW debuts with Tallulah Bankhead.  
Nov. 7, 1932: BUCK ROGERS IN THE 25TH CENTURY debuts on CBS for Kellogg.  
Nov. 7, 1942: The Allies invade North Africa.  
Nov. 9, 1965: Great Northeast power blackout.  
Nov. 11, 1974: Jane Ace dies at age 74.  
Nov. 11-15, 1966: Final Gemini mission.  
Nov. 14, 1940: Coventry, England is destroyed during German bombing.  
Nov. 22, 1963: President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas, Texas.  
Nov. 25, 1960: Last AMOS 'N' ANDY MUSIC HALL.  
Nov. 28, 1942: The Coconut Grove nightclub fire in Boston kills 491 people, including Buck Jones.

And in November 1976, there were 13 reels in the OTRCOB tape library. Also during that month, the first Radio Historical Association of Colorado/OTRCOB combined newsletter was published, the first of its kind. This year's combination is in preparation and will be ready for December.

**NEW BLOOD:** Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Stu Mann on the birth of their daughter, Kelly Ann, on October 4. Way back in the first issue of the IP (Feb. 1976) we announced the birth of Stu's son.

## National Radio Trader

*We're still  
growing like a  
weed . . .*

Can you tell us why?

- Is it our professional printing and design?
- Is it our ads from traders around the country?
- Is it our features like—

From Out of the Past Comes  
Radio In Review  
Radio Roots  
The Old Equipment Shopper  
Radio Answer Man  
Radio Crossword

- Is it our news of clubs  
and old time radio happenings?

*Whatever it is . . .  
we must be doing  
something right!*

If you're not already a subscriber, send for free sample issue mentioning where you saw this ad.

Write:  
National Radio Trader  
Post Office Box 1147  
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

*Then . . .*

Please tell us what we're doing that's making us grow like a weed!

The Illustrated Press is the monthly newsletter of the Old Time Radio Club of Buffalo. Contents, except where noted, are copyright (c) 1977 by the OTRCOB. All rights are hereby assigned to the contributors. Send all contributions, comments, and questions to the editor, Chuck Seeley, at Box 119, Kenmore, New York 14217.

"Train leaving on track five for Anaheim, Azusa, and KOOK-a-munga" may be the first line that comes to mind when the name Mel Blanc is mentioned to an OTR buff. But let's not forget Porky Pig, Bugs Bunny, Tweety-Pie, Road Runner, Sylvester, the Tasmanian Devil, and Pepe le Pew. Then there's Barney Rubble and Dino. And then there's Professor LeBlanc, the Maxwell, "the little Mexican," Polly, and what about the "happy postman" on the BURNS AND ALLEN show? Daffy Duck? Yosemite Sam? The list could go on forever.

Mel Blanc was born in May of 1908 and has been entertaining America for almost 50 years. His family moved from San Francisco to Portland, Oregon shortly after Mel was born. During school, he developed what would become the voice of Woody Woodpecker.



*Carrotful Character*

Mel Blanc, the voice of Bugs Bunny, satiric Blanc is also the voice of cartoon world superstar in toon greets Porky Pig, Sylvester, New York Tuesday during a re- Tweety, Daffy Duck and Road heard for an upcoming musical Runner. (AP Laserphoto) revue, 'Bugs Bunny Follies.' The ver-

In 1928, after graduating from high school, he embarked on a career that has fascinated every radio listener and cartoon buff. The NBC Radio Orchestra in San Francisco recognized Mel's talent for bass and violin, and he was in show business. In 1933, he and his wife Estelle were hired to appear in a daily one hour show in Portland. Because the budget would not allow additional actors, Mel's vocal talent was put to work.

In the mid-Thirties, Mel moved to Los Angeles, hoping to break into motion pictures and network radio. He made the rounds of the major studios and, in September of 1936, made his debut for Looney Tunes in "Porky and the Rainmaker."

Bugs Bunny, according to the June, 1976 issue of Current Biography, was introduced in a 1938 cartoon, "Porky's Hare Hunt." His name was then the Happy Rabbit. He was billed as Bugs Bunny as early as 1935 in "The Wild Hare." During the Forties and Fifties, Blanc supplied the voices for over 3,000 Warner Brothers' cartoons.

In the late Thirties, the late Jack Benny hired Mel to be on his show as Carmichael, the bear that guarded his vault. Mel reflected on this in a broadcast of THE GOLDEN DAYS OF RADIO with host Frank Bresee: "After several months, I told Jack I could talk, too." That led to several different characters, including Professor LeBlanc, "the little Mexican" ("Si-Sy-Sue"), the Maxwell, and "cimirin rolls."

The annual Benny Christmas stories are classics. It seems that every year Jack would drive salesclerk Mel crazy buying and exchanging gifts for



Don Wilson. One year Mel was selling paints. Another year it was sopher traps. Finally, the salesclerk's doctor ordered him to the Palm Springs branch for rest and relaxation. Little did he know that Jack and the cast were there for the holidays. Mel was stationed at the counter, selling dates, and who walks in but Jack.

"You got radar?!" a trembling Mel screams at him.

DOWN MEMORY LANE — The late Jack Benny gets violin lessons from Mel Blanc (the man with a "saint face") on the Jack Benny Show.

On Tuesday nights in 1946, while most of the nation was tuned in to that show that brought us the antics at 79 Wistful Vista, Mel was spotlighted on a show of his own on CBS. He was cast as the owner of a fix-it shop, aided by his assistant, a stammering 4ookie (The voice for this character, I believe, was introduced in the early war years in the character of Private Sad Sack). The show didn't make it because of the competition, but really wasn't that bad. I've heard worse. One show that he was in that probably has been forgotten by few (and I can understand why) was POINT SUBLIME, with the late Cliff Arquette.

Quoting the article that was the main basis of this biography, the June, 1976 edition of Current Biography reads, "Branching out into full-length motion pictures, Blanc appeared in several forgettable films. In "Neptune's Daughter" (MGM, 1949), an over-produced Esther Williams vehicle, he played a minor comic character. The following year, he supplied the voice for Caesar, a talking parrot, in "Champagne for Caesar" (United Artists, 1950), a spoof of radio quiz shows..."

Blanc Communications Corporation was formed in the early Sixties. The company has handled many major accounts and produces one to two minute spots for rock music stations. Anybody remember THE STORY LADY in the early Seventies?

Mr. Blanc lives with his wife in Pacific Palisades, California. He is even the honorary mayor. He relishes in personal appearances, and has been scheduled to appear at the Civic Center in Syracuse for the Cinephile Society on November 4.

That's all, folks!!!

\*\*\*\*\*  
**EDITOR'S WORD:** Many thanks to John Wells for the above article and especially for the photos on the cover and on page 3. John also sent a bunch of newspaper clippings concerning UTR which are being xeroxed and placed in the reference library. The originals will be returned to John. If you have similar items you'd like to share with your fellow members, we can do the same thing.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**RESPONDENTS:** Send in your wants, etc. and we'll run them here for two consecutive months.

- Edward J. Carr, 216 Shaner St., Boyertown, PA 19512---wants to obtain transcriptions.
- Jim & Myrtis Cotton, 519 S. Juniper St., Philadelphia, PA 19147---Want TOPPER shows.
- John Pellatt, 47 Stuart Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2N 1B2---As mentioned last issue, John has an audio show on Toronto's KEEBLE-YORK cable TV system on Channel 10. The show is called SOUNDS INTERESTING and John needs broadcast quality shows, especially suspense/mystery and comedy material.
- Chuck Seeley, 294 Victoria Blvd., Kenmore, NY 14217---will buy or trade for record or tape of Broadway musical "Donneybrook" from the early Fifties.

# OTR: A LITTLE MIXED UP...by Stu Mann

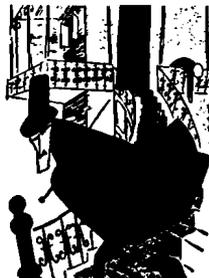
Here are some titles of radio shows. Can you unscramble them? Have fun!

- 1) Hte Wadosh
- 2) Nerni Tumsanc
- 3) Hte Onel Nagerr
- 4) my Grifteva Usandhb
- 5) Ruet Tectevibe SisteriyM
- 6) Teh Aft Amn
- 7) Penseuss
- 8) Érylle Neeuq
- 9) Terbusgangs
- 10) Ontfr Agep Krellaf
- 11) Paintac Dignithm
- 12) Torpia Acefs File
- 13) Pppeer Onguys Family
- 14) Sirft Terhign
- 15) CuryerM Zaterth
- 16) Teh Bergsgold
- 17) Dieonbl
- 18) Astfkreab Lucb
- 19) I Ovle A StreyyM
- 20) Lipphi Owlarm

## "INNER SANCTUM"

Every Monday At  
8 P. M.

An elderly man with strange powers of prophecy brings his own death notice to a newspaper in Fred Meebo's original drama "Obituary". Listen!



Answers next month. And you'll find the answers to last month's OTRCrypto-grams directly South of this point:

- 1) Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows.
- 2) From out of the past come the thundering hoof beats of the great horse Silver.
- 3) Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear.
- 4) Sirens howling in the night, the flaming clatter of submachine guns, and, finally, the marching tread of convicts headed for their cells.  
--Gang Busters
- 5) The Shadow-- In contrast to the radio program, where the master of men's minds relied on his powers to cloud minds and to strike fear into stout hearts, in the magazine he was also a master of gunplay.
- 6) Little Orphan Annie was the most juvenile serial star, the only sub-teen-age protagonist ever to be successful as an adventure character on radio-- Jim Harmon



Who?

THE WIZARD!

Wizard of What?

THE WIZARD OF OZI!

On the air tonight is a wonderful new Program for Children! Parents and teachers will like it, too! Presented by JELL-O.

EVERY MONDAY--  
WEDNESDAY--FRIDAY

KSD 4:45 P. M.

★ TUNE IN! ★

- 7) "The freedom of the press is a flaming sword. Use it justly! Hold it high! Guard it well!-- Steve Wilson
- 8) From the Meridian Room of the Park Plaza in New York City, we bring you the music of Ramon Raquell and his orchestra.
- 9) The voice of both mild-mannered Clark Kent and his alter ego, the might Superman, was Clayton "Bud" Collier.
- 10) Good evening, friends. This is kaymond, your host, welcoming you through the squeaking door to the Inner Sanctum.
- 11) Mr. First Nighter arriving at the theater hat the exciting trappings of an opening night on Broadway

CONVENTION REPORT.....by Jerry Collins

My wife and I recently attended Jay Hickerson's "The Friends of Old Radio" convention in Meriden, Connecticut on Saturday, October 1. The all day gathering was held at the local Holiday Inn. This made it very convenient for the out-of-town guests, some coming from as far away as Michigan and Illinois, to find

accommodations. For those interested in making the trip next year, it took us seven hours to get there, traveling by way of the New York State Thruway and routes 90 and 91. Fortunately for us, most of our journey was done during daylight hours and, with the change in season, we were afforded the opportunity to see some extremely beautiful scenery as we traveled through New England.

## 2 Disc Jockeys Get Network Break 4/9/50

By JACK GAVER

New York—(AP)—The latest attempt to popularize a network disc jockey show is being made by the American Broadcasting Company through a zany pair known as Gene Rayburn and Dee Finch.

As popular and profitable as the disc jockey business has become, it has never worked for long on a network basis. Big names have tried it and given up. To the country at large, Rayburn and Finch may not be big names, but they certainly are different.

The two have been working together for about three years on local station WNEW, doing an early morning platter show on which anything goes. Five days a week they start at 6 a. m. and finish at 9:30 a. m. and on Saturdays they start at 7 and finished at 9:30.

"This," said Rayburn, who is tall and lanky and can talk faster than sound, "is no time of day for a decent citizen to start earning a living, so you can draw your own conclusions. Either we aren't decent or we aren't earning a living. Maybe it's both." At any rate, they have become extremely popular in the area covered by WNEW, so much so, that when ABC needed a program to replace the Bob Crosby Show in the 9 to 10 p. m. slot Saturday nights, Rayburn and Finch drew the assignment. Their morning show continues as before on WNEW.

"We're just jutting our way along on the Saturday night show now," explained Finch, "which is a little to get warmed up, especially when we do not yet have the commercials to fool around with as we do on our morning shows.

"We don't use a script, you know, and when we can't think of anything to chatter about on the morning show one of our 33 sponsors is handy to be picked on. When we get a couple of sponsors on the night show we'll feel more at home."

The playing of records on a Rayburn-Finch show is essential, just as it is on any disc jockey program, but they are apt to heckle a recording, halt it midway, sing along with it in burlesque fashion or dash an offending disc to the floor.

Regardless of the fate of their network venture, the lads have nothing to worry about for a few years. WNEW has just signed them to a new long-term contract, apparently in complete ignorance of the report that radio is supposed to be a victim of television poisoning.

We were kept quite busy at the convention from nine in the morning 'til almost ten in the evening. At the outset of the convention there were people selling radio tapes, posters, pictures, books, and other trivia items. There were also representatives from other clubs, as well as Don Richardson and Allen Rockford from Syracuse. When our purchases were made, we went into the next room to view old Amos 'n' Andy and Fibber McGee & Molly films. These along with other films were shown continuously all morning. As the radio celebrities arrived, there would be a mad rush to get autographs and to talk with such famous personalities as Raymond Edward Johnson, Vicki Vola, Grace Mathews, Court Benson, Lee Stanley, Fred Foy, Mandel Kramer, and many others. After the films had been completed there was a radio quiz show (my score was 53 out of 71) followed by a panel discussion on "radio now and then."

While the tables were being assembled for dinner, we were ushered downstairs for a cocktail party. I was momentarily lost in the basement with Mandel Kramer and Court Benson. Johnny Dollar and Dr. Watson came to the rescue and we quickly found our way to the cocktail room.

An excellent buffet dinner was followed by live performances of OUR GAL SUNDAY and THE SHADOW. In addition to excellent performances by all the actors and actresses in attendance, the two shows were under the direction of Warren Summerville, with Rosa Rio at the piano, Ed Blainey doing the sound effects, and Fred Foy announcing. The performances were excellent when one considers that there were no rehearsals and that the scripts were hastily studied during the dinner hour.

My wife and I both had an excellent time talking with the stars of radio past as well as socializing with radio enthusiasts from all over the country. We were very impressed with the sincerity, dedication, and love these stars of radio past had for each other, as well as for the audience. There was a real comradeship among them and they really enjoyed themselves at the convention. They were quite honored to be there and really felt the enthusiasm the audience had for OTR. They all received a trophy engraved with their name, convention date, etc. They seemed to have as much fun as we did.

OTRCOB, when is the next convention?

MEMBERS' FORUM: From Jim Snyder, 517 North Hamilton St., Saginaw, Michigan 48602--- The new format 1E, that arrived today, is excellent. It's hard to

## TONIGHT



## RAYBURN & FINCH

9:00 P. M.

Premiere! Uninhibited Gene Rayburn and Dee Finch in a full hour of light-hearted fun! Songs by Peggy Anne Ellis and Stuart Foster!

## BLOCH PARTY

8:00 P. M.

Another premiere! Featuring the music of Ray Bloch and his Orchestra with vocalists Russ Emery and Judy Lynn plus a vocal chorus. Listen!

# TODAY



## BIG TOWN

8:00 P. M.

Tonight Walter Greese and Fran Cerio co-star as rack-et-busting newspaper folk in "Murder Witnesses". Here's one of the most exciting dramas on the air!

### To The Ladies 9:30 A. M.

Margot, with her singing, har-pine playing and her warm-ly-intimate conversational pat-ter, is heard daily by thousands of enthusiastic women!

MURROW—7:45 P. M.

believe that it has the same amount of material as the old one, but I guess it took just as long to go through

From John Wells, RD #1, Chittenango, NY 13037--- Here's a bit of info from the September 26th Broadcasting: "At TV will pre-empt all of its prime time programming on Sunday, Feb. 12, for a 4 hour celebration of ABC's 25th anniversary (7-11PM, EST). The special, ABC'S SILVER AN-NIVERSARY CELEBRATION--25 AND STILL THE ONE, will featu past and present ABC stars. ABC was formed on Feb. 9, 1953, through the merger of the old ABC with United Par-mount Theaters."

Also in that issue was an ad from O'Connor Crea-tion Services, offering for syndication Bob and Ray material that was originally aired on WOR. They offer a free aud-ition cassette for radio station executives. I assume the materials are short skits, similar to material in the a-lbum released a few years ago entitled "Vintage Bob and Ray," on the Genesis Label. By the way, Bob and Ray are now doing TV ads for I think Bank Americard ((it's Amer-ican Express)) and radio commercials for a syrup.

I got the latest IP in yesterday's mail and think that it is a great improvement. The magazine-type forma-tion is more "professional," allowing more material to be used. And, as you mentioned, the annoying staple is mis-ing. There may be some problems arising with it, however: First is the fact that the print is so small and may te-nd to be a strain on the eyes. And secondly, the post offic-sometimes cancels on both sides of a piece of mail. How-ever, these are very minor, and I greatly enjoyed the October IP.

Bumper stickers...it depends on what way you want to look at it. If the club treasury is in dire need of money, the stickers should be printed so that they can be sold to every OTR buff. (But then again, if the treasury is in need of money, there wouldn't be enough to spend in the first place.) If the stic-kers are printed for club members, why not just print the masthead from the IP? Then have the OTRCOB's address on the sticker.

The inserts for the tape boxes, in my opinion, should be made of a heavy stock paper and just be able to fit inside the box.

((John also included a sketch of his idea of the tape box insert which is beyond your editor's artistic inabilities to reproduce here. On it, there are spaces for reel number, speed, and remarks, as well as most of the space going for the show listings, designated as Side 1 (L), etc. John was the only member who wrote in with suggestions for the club's possible bum-per stickers and tape box inserts. Hphm.

((The overwhelming response has been in favor of the new IP format so I guess we'll keep it. The next step will be a slick People-size magazine... in about 30 years. The size of the print hasn't bothered most members and, as always, if you receive a messed up newsletter, let us know and we'll ship you another one. --CAS))  
+++++

REVIEWS: Once more into the breach....

Return With Us Now..., the monthly newsletter of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado. Membership \$8 per year from RHAC, 2667 East 99th Ave., Thornton, Colorado 80229. Editor Dan Darbon has been

## NOSTALGIA RADIO NEWS

Complete with ADVANCE listings for: THE SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY  
THE SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY  
COMEDY'S GOLDEN MOMENTS  
CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATRE  
CBS RADIO ADVENTURE THEATRE  
and many others, plus many features...

SUBSCRIBE: \$3.60/year (12 monthly issues) via 3rd class or \$4.80 for first class.

The Sounds of Yesterday  
Nostalgia Radio Network  
Box 7714  
Syracuse, N. Y. 13220

- FRIDAYS at 8:05 P
- WRVO (FM), Oswego STEREO
- =====
- 18 to 20++ pages each mo
- NEW FEATURES: Monthly ph
- page, plus article retri
- with more to come....
- WATCH US...WE'RE GROWIN

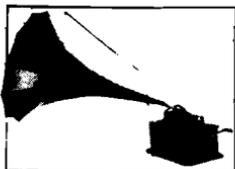


forced to give up the post due to an increasing workload at his regular job, and the September issue is apparently the last one he helmed. Dan introduced a number of changes to the newsletter, including professional printing, logos, and more. Return With Us Now... has never failed to provide interesting reading and the September issue is no exception. Besides local news, it includes a short article on the Andrews Sisters and a reprint of a piece from a 1931 Radio News entitled "Producing a Radio Drama." With the October issue, the RHAC newsletter will once again be under the editorship of John Lloyd. John's certain to keep up the newsletter's quality. -C&S

SPERDVAC Bulletin, the monthly newsletter of SPERDVAC. Membership \$15 per year from SPERDVAC, P.O. Box 1587, Hollywood, California 90028. For some time, my favorite part of the Bulletin has been Joe Crawford's "World of OTR" column. In the September issue, Joe globehops, with notes and news from New York City, Baltimore, and Switzerland. Also in this issue are the results of a members' questionnaire, club news and announcements, and John Mitchell's always entertaining editorial ramblings. The Bulletin is professionally printed, 6 pages in length, and generally excellent.

I have only one complaint--I don't live on the West Coast. In the past 4 months, SPERDVAC meetings have had such guests as Frank Buxton, Olan Soule, Barbara Luddy, and Carroll Carroll. In October, Arch Oboler is scheduled to attend. This is the only OTR club that has frequent meetings with guest speakers of this stature. And here I am in Buffalo with Stoopnagle and Budd.

The Reproducer, the monthly newsletter of the Southwest Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society. Send an SASE for details to SVRPS, P.O. Box 19406, Dallas, Texas 75219.



This newsletter, ably edited by George Potter, is 12 pages long and is mostly concerned with club news and old radio/phonograph restoration information. For example, the October issue contains a detailed article on the various types of disc records and the equally various types of needles required to play them without ruining the record. If you are a collector of classic radios and/or phonographs, this is obviously the club to join.

News and Reviews, published monthly, \$6 per year (12 issues) from BRC OTR Distributors, 17173 Westbrook, Livonia, Michigan 48152.

This amusing little 8-pager is co-edited by Andy Blatt and Bob Burnham. Due to financial problems and lack of time, apparently, they didn't publish in August so that the current issue (#29) is labelled Fall, 1977. At any rate, #29 contains trader listings, reviews, a short fantasy on OTR collecting in the year 2027, the first of an apparent series giving tape deck buying hints, and a short Jack Benny biography. If you are opposed to the unauthorized selling of OTR shows, you may not want to consider News and Reviews, since it is the "house organ" of BRC, which sells and rents OTR programs.

OTR collectors sometimes forget that there are still original dramatizations being produced, though infrequently, that are released on LPs. Two such, released within the past few years, are Moondance Productions' Conan albums. (For those readers not familiar with the writings of Robert E. Howard, Conan is a barbarian adventurer living in a mythical past age of pre-history. Howard is recommended reading if you enjoy blood-and-thunder tales or "purple prose.")

The first of these LPs contains two straight dramatizations of two Howard Conan tales. "The Tower of the Elephant" is especially interesting because it was produced as a radio show pilot. Unfortunately, the pilot didn't sell so Moondance decided to do another Conan tale, "The Frost Giant's Daughter," in the same manner and issue the two shows on an album. Conan is a perfect mind's eye character and he should come through much stronger than he does in these shows. Part of the problem is the overbearing narration; there's just too much of it. Subtle use of music can set the proper mood faster and better than endless narration. I can't help but compare these to OTR because I keep thinking how much more effective these shows would be in the hands of the old pros. The actors, actresses, and technical people try admirably and obviously have worked hard, but seem to

be lacking the magic of well-done radio drama. Sound effects are adequate.

The second album is simply a reading of two Conan pastiches by author L. Sprague de Camp, accompanied by music and sound effects. De Camp pitches his voice differently for each character. Alright, if you like readings, but I prefer the other record.

For prices and a Woodance catalog, send an SASE to Woodance Productions, Box 425, Wilmington, Vermont 05363.

I wonder what Carlton E. Morse could do with Conan...

\*\*\*\*\*  
**CBS LISTINGS:** The following information was provided by the CBS Press Department. Check your local station for time of broadcast. (R) means rebroadcast.

- 10/31: "Trial by Fire" An American con artist convinces a scientist friend to invent a way for him to walk on red-hot coals. Stars Michael Tolan, Norman Rose, and Evie Juster.
- 11/1: "Last Train Out" An American TV documentary crew in Turkey inadvertently becomes involved in Communist/anti-Communist intrigue. Stars Anne Williams, Ian Martin, Earl Hammond, and Robert Dryden.
- 11/2: "Two Motives for Murder" (R) A stockbroker, accused of stealing a client's securities, is pushed from a yacht into the sea. Stars Don Scardino and Robert Dryden.
- 11/3: "Land of the Living Dead" Two U.S. anthropologists explore a part of the Brazilian jungle inhabited by pink-eyed albino Indians. Stars Don Scardino and Russell Horton.
- 11/4: "The Final Judgement" King Solomon tries to determine which of three merchants is guilty of thievery. Stars Gordon Heath, Ralph Bell, Bryna Raeburn, Nat Polen, and Roger de Koven.
- 11/5: "The Birthmark" (R) A mad scientist attempts plastic surgery on his beautiful wife. Stars Gordon Heath, Tony Roberts, and Marian Seldes.
- 11/6: "Tomorrow, Cloudy and Cold" (R) A parapsychologist alters a young man into a person whose changing moods affect the weather. Stars Norman Rose, Bryna Raeburn, Russell Horton, Morgan Fairchild, and Ralph Bell.



**CBS RADIO**  
**ADVENTURE**  
**THEATER**

- 11/5: "The Man Without a Country" A young U.S. officer is exiled. Stars Russell Horton.
- 11/6: "Treasure Island" Young Jim Hawkins falls in with pirates. Stars Jim Dybas and Robert Dryden.
- 11/12: "A Coat of Many Colors" A boy is sold into slavery by his brothers. Stars Tony Roberts.
- 11/13: "Three Tales of Hans Christian Anderson" include "The Ugly Duckling," "The Tinderbox," and "The Swineherd and the Princess." Stars Evie Juster.
- 11/19: "They Called Him 'Slim'" Lindbergh learns to fly. Stars Russell Horton.
- 11/20: "Then They Called Him 'Lucky'" Lindy flies the Atlantic.
- 11/26: "The Travels of Ulysses" The Trojan War. Stars Michael Wager.
- 11/27: "The Gold Bug" Story of hidden treasure. Stars James Dybas.
- 12/3: "Remember the Alamo" Stars Paul Hecht.
- 12/4: "Cinderella" Stars Catherine Byers.
- 12/10: "The Boy David" meets Goliath. Stars Skip Hinnant.
- 12/11: "The Adventures of Oliver" Orphan Oliver Twist is taught to be a pickpocket. Stars Evie Juster.
- 12/17: "The Eyes of Vishnu" Two youngsters try to solve the mystery of a neighbor's disappearance. Stars Merry Flershen and Jack Grimes.
- 12/18: "Three Times Magic" Three fables, including "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Rumpelstiltskin," and "Beauty and the Beast." Stars Don Scardino.
- 12/24: "The Valiant Little Tailor" A modest tailor is forced to prove his extravagant boasts. Stars Robert Dryden.
- 12/25: "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" Stars Gordon Heath.
- 12/31: "The Master Thief" If a robber fails at three thefts, he must reform. Stars Paul Hecht.
- 1/1: "The Sea Wolf" Stars Kristoffer Tabori.
- 1/7: "Youth" A sailor's first voyage. Stars Don Scardino.
- 1/8: "The Sailor Who Wouldn't Give Up" A young sailor faces imprisonment for poaching seal skins. Stars Russell Horton.
- 1/14: "Snowli" Part 1 of The Jungle Books adaptation. Stars Fred Gwynne.
- 1/15: "Tiger, Tiger" Part 2 of Jungle Books adaptation.
- 1/21: "Gullivar's Travels" Gully meets Shakespeare and Columbus. Stars Michael Tolan.

- 1/22: "The Man in the Iron Mask" Stars Paul Hecht.  
 1/28: "Daniel, the Oracle" Daniel in the lion's den. Stars Russell Horton.  
 1/29: "Ivanhoe" Stars Kevin McCarthy.  
 All of the CBS RADIO ADVENTURE THEATER shows are rebroadcasts.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL** .....by Jerry Collins

Once again it is time to delve into the days of radio past.

Lou Costello's life was marked by numerous tragedies. In March of 1943 with his new show at its peak, he was stricken with rheumatic fever. The new team of Jimmy Durante and Garry Moore had to be formed to replace Abbott and Costello. Next fall while rehearsing for his first show back, he learned that his one-year-old son had drowned in the family swimming pool. In an unbelievable act of courage, Costello returned that evening for his evening show. After completing the show, he broke down in front of the live audience.

Ozzie Nelson was a football player, lawyer, and band leader before he became a radio comedian. In the early days of the OZZIE AND HARRIET SHOW, he refused to allow his sons Ricky and David to play their own parts on the show. The roles were originally played by Henry Blair and Tommy Bernard. Finally, in March of 1949, Ozzie relented and allowed the boys on the show.

In 1946 and 1947 Arlene Francis played a female private detective on the show THE AFFAIRS OF ANN SCOTLAND.

AMERICAN AGENT, created by George W. Trendle, was one of the most controversial shows ever broadcast on radio. The idea of a newspaper reporter being a government spy was so offensive to the American newspaper community that the show was dropped after but one season.

In the midst of the talent raids on NBC by CBS, Fanny Brice went the other way. In 1949 she jumped from CBS to a Tuesday night slot on NBC. The show was still doing well in 1951 when tragedy struck. On May 24, Fanny Brice suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. Five days later, she was dead at the age of 59. Baby Snooks, who had never aged, was dead at the age of 7.

Moss Hart, the famous Broadway playwright, created the character of Baby Snooks for Fanny Brice.

Walter O'Keefe, the announcer on DOUBLE OR NOTHING, got quite a surprise on October 15, 1947. A waitress contestant suggested that Walter should "get a good looking girl like me and take her home and have a big screwing party."

One "lucky" winner on HIT THE JACKPOT won a \$3,000 gold-plated lawn mower in addition to \$23,000 worth of other prizes.

Mike Douglas got his show business start as a singer on KAY KYSER'S COLLEGE OF MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE.

Through advertising, Lucky Strike has become almost a household word. Who could ever forget such phrases as "Reach for a Lucky," "With men who know tobacco best, it's Luckies two to one," "LS/MFT," and "Lucky Strike Green has gone to war."

One of the things that bothered Jack Benny the most while at NBC was the twenty-five cents daily parking charge.

The only way that the American Tobacco Company would allow Jack Benny to move from NBC to CBS was if William Paley guaranteed them \$3,000 per week for every point that Benny fell below his Hooper Rating at NBC. Instead, Benny's ratings rose by three points.

Jack Benny convinced his friends George Burns, Gracie Allen, Red Skelton, and Edgar Bergen to switch from NBC to CBS. Bing Crosby was also coaxed into returning to CBS.

Eddie Cantor's first radio appearance was on an experimental broadcast over a New Jersey station in 1921.



MYRT AND MARGE were mother and daughter in real life. Tragedy hit the show when Marge (Donna Damerl, Mrs. Peter Flick) died in childbirth at the age of 29 on February 15, 1941.

WENDY WARREN AND THE NEWS came to CBS on June 23, 1947 in one of the most unusual soap opera formats ever devised. The show would begin with 3 minutes of straight news. Wendy Warren, played by Florence Freeman, then gave slightly less than four minutes of news for women. After a commercial, Wendy entered into her dramatic role in the soap opera.

The team of Stoopnagle and Budd was formed in Buffalo. Frederick Chase Taylor was a stockbroker who had recently gone to work for the Buffalo Broadcasting Company. Budd Hulick was a former band leader who became an announcer with the same company. They got their start as Stoopnagle and Budd on Buffalo radio when a network show failed to come through because of line problems. For thirty minutes Taylor played the organ while Hulick carried on a conversation with him, frequently referring to him as Colonel Stoopnagle.

The RED SKELTON SHOW, like Edgar Bergen's show, was a radio enigma. Bergen was a ventriliquist, Skelton a pantomimist. Neither art was particularly suited to radio, but both shows were smash hits.

Until next time, "Goodnight All,"

\*\*\*\*\*  
STATIC: The next issue of Memories will be devoted to a tribute to Bing Crosby....Lost in the publicity of the crooner's passing is the news of Tay Garnett's death at age 83. Besides a long film and TV career, Garnett was involved in radio, producing THREE SHEETS TO THE WIND, among others....Thanks to Jerry Collins and Bruce Rittenhouse for their contributions to the tape library. Contents will be listed next issue. Bruce sent a copy of the CBS anniversary show. Listings for both libraries are completed and you should have them by now....Thanks also to Fritz Kuhn for the donation of a bunch of OTR fanzines from the early Seventies....CBS newsman Eric Sevareid is retiring soon. He will discuss his 38 year career with Walter Cronkite in a five part series, A REPORTER SUMMING UP: DEBRIEFING, to be broadcast at 7:30-39 PM (EST) on 5 consecutive nights, Monday, Nov. 14 through Friday, Nov. 18, on the CBS network. Sevareid was one of the "Morrow's boys" team assembled by Edward Murrow in 1939. He has covered World War II, the United Nations, Washington, Vietnam, and much more....OTR buffs may enjoy a Harlan Ellison story in the July, 1977 issue of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction. The story, titled "Jeffy is Five," concerns a boy born in the Thirties who is "stuck" at age 5. The catch is that all his 5-year-old enjoyments continue to exist for him, including 1977 versions of CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT, SUPERMAN, HOP HARRIGAN, and others. A fascinating story with a really smashing ending....There's an interview with Jim Harmon in the Oct. 21 issue of The Buyer's Guide for Comic Fandom. Harmon discusses his life and spends a fair amount of time talking about OTR....In the Sept. 26 issue of Time, in the letters section, Charles Michelson mentions that Fred Silverman, programming chief at ABC-TV, used to hang around radio studios to watch broadcasts of THE SHADOW, NICK CARTER, and THE SEALED BOOK. He'd beg scripts and, with his friends, he'd re-enact the shows at home....Mandell Kramer would like copies of some of the shows he was on. Write him in care of whatever TV soap opera he's on (diligent research by your editor failed to come up with the name of the soap)....We almost had a CBS affiliate in Buffalo again. You see, NBC dropped WWOL to go with WBBN. Rumors were that WWOL would go for CBS, but went to ABC instead....Member Alf Walle reports that he'll be providing OTR to a radio station in a Mansfield, Ohio prison. They'll love GANGBUSTERS....The club is always looking for scripts to reproduce for the members, if you can help....



SIGN OFF: Contributions welcome. If you like what you've been reading here, why not participate by writing something for your fellow members to enjoy? WRITE!! Chuck Seeley, editor, OTRCOB, P.O. Box 119, Kenmore, New York 14217

**OTRCOB**

**POST OFFICE BOX 119**

**KENMORE, N.Y. 14217**