

No.61 - Oct. 1981

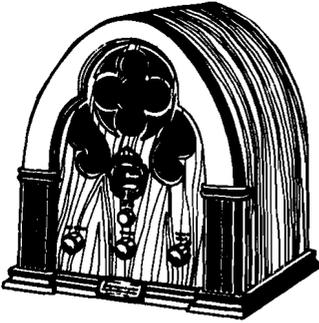
Illustrated Press

THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB

SINCE 1975



elliott lewis



THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Club dues are \$15.00 per yr. from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Members receive a membership card, library lists, a monthly newsletter (The Illustrated Press), a semi-annual magazine (Memories), and various special items. Additional family members living in the same household as a regular member may join the club for \$3.00 per year. These members have all the privileges of regular members but do not receive the publications. A junior membership is available to persons 15 years of age or younger who do not live in the household of a regular member. This membership is \$7.00 per year and includes all the benefits of a regular membership. Regular membership dues are as follows; if you join in Jan. dues are \$15.00 for the year; Feb., \$14.00; March \$13.00; April \$12.00; May \$11.00; June \$10.00; July \$9.00; Aug. \$8.00; Sept. \$7.00; Oct. \$6.00; Nov. \$5.00; and Dec. \$4.00. The numbers after your name on the address label are the month and year your renewal is due. Reminder notes will be sent. Your renewal should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing issues. Please be certain to notify us if you change your address.

THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS is the monthly newsletter of The Old Time Radio Club headquartered in Buffalo, N.Y. Contents except where noted, are copyright © 1981 by the OTRC. All rights are hereby assigned to the contributors. Editor: Richard A. Olday; Assistant Editor: Jerry Collins; Production Assistance: Arlene Olday; Production Manager: Millie Dunworth; Graphic Coordinator: Corb Besco. Published since 1975. Printed in U.S.A.

CLUB ADDRESSES: Please use the correct address for the business you have in mind. Return library materials to the library addresses.

CLUB DUES: Dom Parisi
38 Ardmore Place
Buffalo, New York 14213
(716) 884-2004

ILLUSTRATED PRESS (letters, columns, etc.) & OTHER CLUB BUSINESS:

Richard Olday
100 Harvey Drive
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086
(716) 684-1604

REFERENCE LIBRARY: Pete Bellanca
1620 Ferry Road
Grand Island, N.Y.
14072
(716) 773-2485

TAPE LIBRARY & BACK ISSUE DEPT.:

Ken Krug
49 Regal
Depew, N.Y. 14043
(716) 684-5290

The Old Time Radio Club meets the second Monday of the month (September through June) at 393 George Urban Boulevard, Cheektowaga, New York. Anyone interested in the "Golden Age of Radio" is welcome to attend and observe or participate. Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

DEADLINE FOR IP #62 - Oct. 12th
#63 - Nov. 9th
#64 - Dec. 14th

BACK ISSUES: All are \$1.00 each, postpaid, except where noted. Out-of-print issues can be borrowed from the Reference Library.

MEMORIES: Vol. 1 #1 (\$2.00), #3, #4,
#5; Vol. 2 #1, #4 (\$2.00);
Vol. 4 #1, #2

IP: #3 (with SHADOW script), #5A (RH AC/OTRC Special #1), #8 (50¢), #10 (with part one of LUX RADIO THEATER Log), #14 (50¢), #15 (50¢), #16, #17, #18, RHAC/OTRC Special #2, #19, #20, #21, #23, #24, #25, #26, #27, #28, (RHAC/OTRC Special #3), #29, #30, #31, #32, (\$2.00), #33, #34, #37, #38, #39, #40, #41, #42, #42, #44, #45, #46, #47, #48, #49, #50, #51, #52, #53, #54, #55, #56, #57, #58, #59, #60, (\$2.00), #61



It was the first weekend in August when the sad news reached us. With the death of Norm Giesler we had lost a very dear friend.

Norm was our tape librarian. But much more than that, Norm supplied the humor when it was most needed, the witty statements when we had become too serious and the outrageous ideas when things looked hopeless. He never missed a meeting, picnic or banquet.

Norm was one of our trivia experts, specializing in Big Bands and Old Movies. Norm was also a jack of all trades; a former pro baseball player, a former school teacher and a businessman. He did all this in a life that spanned less than fifty years.

The only parting remark that I feel is appropriate is that somewhere, someplace, sometime in the future, Norm will be telling his stories and jokes to a different type of audience.



IAN MARTIN, PROLIFIC TALENT FOR 'MYSTERY THEATER',

LEAVES LEGACY OF OVER 250 SCRIPTS, 500 PERFORMANCES

Ian Martin, one of the most prolific writers and actors for CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER, died of a heart attack last week at his Westport, Conn., home. Hi Brown, creator, director and executive producer of the series, called Martin's death "a sad loss to the creativity of MYSTERY THEATER."

Martin had written more than 250 dramas and acted in some 500 episodes during the eight years of MYSTERY THEATER broadcasts on the CBS Radio Network.

Brown added: "He was a gifted writer for the arts, including films, novels, television and magazines. But he always felt that radio was a special medium, and it was the one he most enjoyed writing for. Some of Ian's adaptations of the classics are among the best ever done for MYSTERY THEATER."

In addition to his writing, Martin's acting career spanned Broadway, television, films and commercials. He also served as writer for a number of daytime television dramas, including "One Life to Live", "The Edge of Night" and "Search For Tomorrow."

The Buffalo News/Sunday, August 30, 1981

'Death Stills Voice of Radio

From News Wire Services

PAWLING, N.Y. — Lowell Thomas, the dean of the world's radio news broadcasters whose pioneer feats through more than five

✓ Pictures on Picture Page

decades form one of the most extraordinary chapters in media history, died Saturday. He was 89.

His secretary, Electra Nix, said Mr. Thomas died of a heart attack in his sleep at his upstate New York home here.

He was the first man to broadcast from a ship, from an airplane, from a coal mine and from a submarine, and his reporting took him to both poles and almost everywhere in between.

A noted columnist wrote in 1958, "The day will come when a compact man, with piercing blue eyes, wavy salt-and-pepper hair, a thin mustache and a voice like an organ, will stride briskly toward the pearly gates. The guardian angel will recognize him at once.

'Here comes Lowell Thomas,' he will say. 'He's been everywhere else.'"

The longest continually heard voice in radio belonged to the indefatigable Ohioan, who first went behind the microphone in 1925 and began daily broadcasts on a Monday-through-Friday basis in 1930. His last regular broadcast was in May 1978, at the age of 84, on the CBS network, although he continued broadcasting intermittently after that time.



Lowell Thomas Is Dead at 89

Legendary news broadcaster Lowell Thomas died in his sleep Saturday at age 89. Above, he's shown on the air in 1966 with Buffalo broadcaster Chuck Healy during one of several visits he made to Western New York. Twenty-two years before this photo was taken, Healy was manager of Thomas' golf club in his Pawling, N.Y., home. At right, he's shown last December with his wife, Marianna, at a dinner in New York. (UPI) Story on Page A-7.

Pioneer Lowell Thomas

"He had been well and there was no indication of such a tragedy at all," Ma. Nix said. Mr. Thomas' second wife, Marianna, was with him at the time of his death. His first wife died in 1975.

He had been working on a series of vignettes on what people accomplished in their elderly years — what he called "The best years" — to be used as a syndicated radio spot feature.

He once explained the secret of his success. "I try to make news somewhat entertaining," he said. "It seems to me that the day-by-day exploits and adventures are fantastic, fabulous. Why shouldn't they be entertaining? And why shouldn't you tell them in a way that brings it out in that fashion! I've always tried to do that."

MR. THOMAS knew personally every president from William Howard Taft to Gerald Ford.

He was born in Woodington, Ohio, on April 6, 1892. His father, a doctor, headed west soon after his son's birth and set up practice in the mining town of Cripple Creek, Colo.

He landed his first reporting job at the age of 18 with the Cripple Creek Times. Shortly afterward, he became editor of the Victor (Colo.) Daily Record. He saved enough money for college and earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees at the University of Denver.

He then studied law at night at Kent College in Chicago, working in the daytime on the Chicago Journal. He also studied constitutional law at Princeton, supporting himself by instructing other students in public speaking.

He gave illustrated talks at that time before various civic groups. The talks were based on a filmmaking expedition he had made earlier in the Yukon. He had been thinking of becoming a teacher, but found he could make more money in two or three days lecturing than he could earn in a month as a college teacher.

His reputation as a public speaker led President Woodrow Wilson to commission him in 1917 to tour the Allied war fronts and tell the American people what he saw. The

purpose was to bolster morale on the home front.

Before taking off, he married Frances Ryan, whom he had met at the University of Denver. They journeyed to Europe together, he to the various war zones, including Palestine, and she to assignments with the Red Cross.

HE WITNESSED British Cmdr. Edmund Allenby's capture of Jerusalem from the Turks, and he was the only correspondent to cover T. E. Lawrence, who led the Arabs against the Turks. After the war, Mr. Thomas devised an illustrated lecture entitled "With Allenby in Palestine and Lawrence in Arabia."

The show, as he preferred to call it, opened in New York and then went to England. It was instantly successful, made Mr. Thomas rich and enabled him to buy a luxurious 500-acre estate 60 miles north of New York City. It was from his home that he made many of his CBS broadcasts.

After the war, Mr. Thomas continued his travels, visiting pygmy tribes in Africa and tiger hunting with the Prince of Wales (later the Duke of Windsor) in India. He penetrated the interior of Alaska, and later noted that many of his travels were "on the fringe of exploration."

Mr. Thomas' first broadcast in 1925 was over KDKA Radio in Pittsburgh. He became a regular broadcaster in 1930 at the behest of the man who was then president of CBS, William Paley.

Mr. Paley persuaded him to audition for a news program sponsored by the Literary Digest. Floyd Gibbons, who had been doing the program on NBC, had been fired and Mr. Paley hoped he could get the program for CBS.

In World War II, Mr. Thomas toured both the European and Pacific theaters of operation as a newscaster and broadcast on-the-spot from close to the scenes of action. During the war's closing days, he flew over Berlin in a reconnaissance plane, viewing the Nazi capital in flames.

MR. THOMAS visited the Himalayan mountain region of Tibet in the autumn of 1949. He met with the

Dalai Lama, then Tibet's 15-year-old ruler, in the "forbidden city" of Lhasa, and received messages on parchment from him to present to President Harry Truman.

During the trip, he suffered a broken thigh and had to be carried by litter for 20 days before reaching a place from which he could be flown to Calcutta.

The commentator said he found Tibet the most "anti-Communist country in the world," but on Oct. 25, 1950, China began its invasion. Mr. Thomas became head of a committee in the United States which raised money and supplies for thousands of Tibetans who fled to India.

Mr. Thomas continued lecturing and broadcasting for CBS and authored more than 50 biographical, travel and adventure books.

In April, Mr. Thomas celebrated his 89th birthday at the annual banquet of the Explorers Club, of which he was honorary president and key patron. The club named its highest award for exploration, "The Lowell," in his honor.

In 1990 — a year when he spent his birthday in Moscow — Mr. Thomas was among the first group of Lowell recipients. "I bet I spent \$10,000 of my own money on this award just to see myself receive it," he joked. "Now if that isn't bribery I don't know what is."

There probably are few people in the English-speaking world today who never heard Mr. Thomas' sign-off words: "So long until tomorrow."

In addition to his wife, Mr. Thomas is survived by his son, Lowell Jr., of Anchorage, Alaska.



REFERENCE LIBRARY: A reference library exists for members. Members should have received a library list of materials with their membership. Only two items can be borrowed at one time, for a one month period. Please use the proper designations for materials to be borrowed. When ordering books include \$1.00 to cover rental, postage, and packaging. Please include \$.50 for other items. If you wish to contribute to the library the OFRC will copy materials and return originals to you. See address on page 2.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A FIELD REPORTER

You can! Just write an article on a place, event, show, etc., dealing with old time radio that you think others would like to read. The article must be typewritten. Include a black and white photograph (no color, please).

Any magazine or newspaper articles or cartoons of interest, or a L.O.C. would also be welcome.

EDITORIAL

In any organization when the time comes for a changing of the guard, there follows a period of transition, when new people assume new responsibilities and those who continue on must adjust to their new colleagues' methods and ideas. Such transitions often spell difficult times for volunteer organizations like ours where too much responsibility is allowed to rest on too few people. When anyone assumes a role and its responsibilities voluntarily, it is usually for both the personal satisfaction to be gained by the individual as he or she participates in the life of the organization and the benefit of the organization which must depend on the support and good will of its members. However, it usually happens that sooner or later, the individual is expected to perform in the chosen voluntary role at the pleasure or whim of others, who come to identify the individual only with the particular role and sometimes chastise him or her when something is not done on time or in the way that the critic thinks it should be. In short, we tend all too often to take for granted many of our fellow volunteer members and the work they do for the club. We must pay cheerful attention to those among our active members whom we have allowed to become indispensable and let them know, without being patronizing, how much their efforts are appreciated even when we feel they could or should do better. Without them, where would the organization be?

The object of this editorial is to remind ourselves, corporately and individually, how fragile this organization is, how little it would take to topple this house of cards! The best insurance against such an occurrence is to get more people involved in the essential functions of the club. Then there should be no mad scramble or picking up the pieces when someone decides to step down from a long held position or responsibility or when a vacancy is created by the death of a member. (Many thanks to Ken Krug for stepping into Norm's position so promptly.)

If you are interested and have the time and energy to help give the OTR Club a new look, please contact the undersigned. We need volunteers to do both issues of MEMORIES next year.

Richard A. Olday, Editor
The Illustrated Press

Mondays
Early 1950

Radio Programs Tomorrow

(Programs furnished by stations subject to change without notice)

	WIBX (950) (CBS)	WKAL (1450) (MBS)	WGY (810) (NBC)	WRUN (1150) (ABC)	WGAT (1310)
7:00	Devoctions	Time-keeper	News: Earl Pudney	News: Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes: Tunes:
7:15	Music Clock	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
7:30	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
7:45	Music Clock	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
8:00	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
8:15	Musical Fashions	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
8:30	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
8:45	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
9:00	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
9:15	Date with Kate Neighbor	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
9:30	Trading Post	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
9:45	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
10:00	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
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12:15	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
12:30	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:
12:45	News	News: Time-keeper	Earl Pudney	Cartwright	Time, Temp. News: Tunes: Tunes:

WKTY (Channel 13) 6:00 p. m. Coming Attractions: 6:15, Judy Spintars; 6:30, Howdy Doody; 6:50, Cactus Jim; 6:50, Baking Show; 6:50, Fashion; 6:50, News; 7:00, Kukis; 7:00, Fran and Ollie; 7:30, Mohawk Show; 7:50, News; 8:00, Opera; 8:00, Theater; 8:30, Voice of Firestone; 8:00, Lights Out; 9:30, Opera; 10:30, Who Said That?; 11:00, Coming Attractions.

*Programs duplicated over WIBX and WIBX-FM.

TAPE LIBRARY RATES: 2400' reel-\$1.25 per month; 1800' reel-\$1.00 per month; 1200' reel-\$0.75 per month; cassette and records-\$0.50 per month. Postage must be included with all orders and here are the rates: For the USA and APO-60¢ for one reel, 35¢ for each additional reel; 35¢ for each cassette and record. For Canada: \$1.35 for one reel, 85¢ for each additional reel; 85¢ for each cassette and record. All tapes to Canada are mailed first class.

TO THE MEMBERSHIP. . . .

Due to the untimely passing of Norm Geisler, our Tape Librarian, we were left with a large void to fill. Because I had the privilege of working with him during his illness, I decided to take on the job he left behind. My first order of business was to work with Judy Geisler in gathering together all the Club's materials. I learned very quickly of the personal touch Norm put into any contact he had with fellow members. He will be missed.

After re-organizing newsletters, tapes, records, etc. I decided that the best way to handle this project was to issue new listings of the Club's holdings. A smaller, updated version of the Tape Library Listing is being prepared. (Similar to the old format) it will also contain the sound gradings of any tapes that were previously graded.

We would like to see the continued growth of the Tape Library that began under Norm's guidance. If you could donate anything (blank or recorded tapes) it would be appreciated. If you don't have the facilities for dubbing, let us know and we'll work something out. If you're one of those who started your collection on cassette and switched to reel-to-reel and don't know what to do with all those cassettes, donate them to the Library. If you bought records of Old Radio Shows and put them on tape, send in the records. This is an excellent way to help the club as it brings in fresh material which generates more interest and additional revenue. Remember, it's tax deductible and a good way to honor the memory of a good friend.

So long Norm,
hope you approve

Ken Krug

NEWEST ADDITIONS

All cassettes donated by Ken Krug

Fibber McGee & Molly-"Unknown Person sends Molly Candy"
Fibber McGee & Molly-"Football Play"

Amos'n'Andy-"Trip to Canada" 4/29/47
Amos'n'Andy-"Leroy's Lock Invention" 3/13/47

The Great Gildersleeve-"Jolly Boys' Halloween Party"
The Great Gildersleeve-"Rich College Chem is Coming for a Visit"

Fred Allen Show-w/Jack Benny as "King for a Day"

Command Performance-w/Abbott and Costello

Fibber McGee & Molly-"Army Visit" 13/1/39

Fibber McGee & Molly-"Window Shade Problems" w/Zazu Pitts 2/7/39

My Friend Irma-"Irma Sees a Ghost"
My Friend Irma-"Irma's Boss is Running for Senator"

Fibber McGee & Molly-Two Fifteen Minute Shows

Eddie Cantor Show-"Birthday Show" w/Jack Benny 1/30/47

The Aldrich Family-"Henry Gets a Letter from an Unknown Girl"

The Aldrich Family-"Homer Gets Engaged" 5/5/49

Red Skelton Show-"Deadeye and the Western Dance"

Let's Pretend-"The Magic Cuckoo"
Land of the Lost-"The Blue Pearl"

Our Miss Brooks-"The School Garden"
Our Miss Brooks-"Acts as a Proxy Bride"

Charlie McCarthy Show-w/Lana Turner 11/16/47

Charlie McCarthy Show-w/Betty Hutton 9/28/47

Amos'n'Andy-"The Traditional Christmas Show"

Interview with Charles Correll-"What Ever Became of Amos'n' Andy?"

Our Miss Brooks-"Loses All Her Friends"

Jack Benny Show-"The Broken Phonograph"

Life with Luigi-"Beach Party" 9/2/52
Life with Luigi-"The Football Game"

Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar-"The Case of the Wayward Gun"

The Adventures of Frand Race-"The Adventure of the Fat Man's Loaf"

Superman-"Saves a Deep Sea Diver 1943 (15 min.)"

Superman-"He Rescues Robin" 3/1/45

Life of Riley-"Junior Get Lectured"

Baby Snooks-"The Beehive"

Easy Aces-"The Actress" & "Numerology"

It's a Crime Mr. Collins-"Murder in the Air"

Candy Matson-"Murder at Ford Ord"

Maxwell House Coffee Time-w/Baby Snooks

Blondie-"Dagwood Has Dreams"

Richard Diamond, Private Detective-
"German Gunmaker"
Crime Club-"Death Blew Out the Match"

Baby Snooks-"Daddy's Old Flame"

Life of Riley-"Early Marriage"
Life of Riley-"The Roof Leaks"

Adventures of Frank Race-"Adventure
of the Six Week Cure"
Adventures of Frank Race-"Adventure
of the Black Friar's Bridge"

All Books Donated by Judy Geisler

"Tune in Yesterday"-Dunning-Hard
Cover

"The Old-Time Radio Book"-Ted
Sennett-Soft Cover

"The Big Radio Comedy Program"-
Edited by Ross Firestone-
Soft Cover

All Amos'n'Andy (1200')

Donated by Doug Keeney

3/27/49-Easter Clothes
4/19/53-Detective Agency Job
3/06/49-Picture of Robby
10/09/49-Saphire's New Job
5/01/49-Boarder with Saxophone
10/30/49-Floressa and Charmaine
11/06/49-Rochester Borrows \$400.
10/23/49-George's Car Stolen

All Phil Harris (1200')

Donated by Doug Keeney

2/12/50-Quiz Winner
2/19/50-No Utility Service
2/26/50-Western Movie
3/05/50-Margie-Clyde-Julius
3/12/50-Marriage Scare
3/19/50-A New Car
4/02/50-Flying Saucer
4/09/50-Bugs Benny

All Amos'n'Andy (1200')

Donated by Doug Keeney

12/11/49-Abigail Simpson
1/01/50-Abigail Sues Andy
1/15/50-Andy Goes on Trial
2/12/50-Flower Shop Interest
12/10/50-Beaver Coat Stolen
3/25/51-A Dozen Dresses
11/27/49-George Wins \$400 TV Set
11/15/53-George Wrecks Leroy's Car



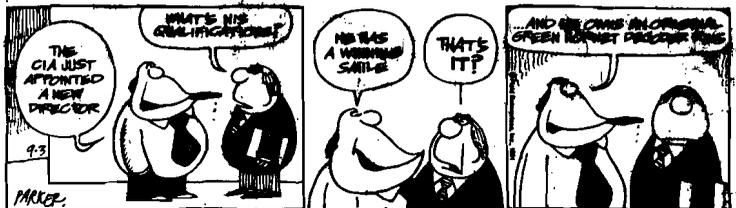
FLASHBACK

The Golden Days of radio acting were also a golden age for sound effects. Where would radio drama have been without those ingenious artists who created roaring oceans, and forest fires, gun battle, car crashes, and bar fights, racing horses, snarling wolves and whimpering puppies, falling bodies, pistol shots, creaking doors and just ordinary doors opening and closing; who created sounds of glass shattering, telephone noises, footsteps, and almost any other sounds you have heard or imagined.

There would have been no radio dramas without them. The actors could have gone through all the motions of mounting horses, walking, fighting and dying, but without the soundmen duplicating in sound every movement they made, there would have been no pictures in the minds of the listeners.

WXYZ in Detroit had what was perhaps the finest sound department in the country from the very beginning of radio drama. In fact, at one time, NBC tried to woo the entire team away from George W. Trendle, WXYZ owner, but it didn't work, because, according to Dick Osgood (whose book WIXIE WONDERLAND is due to be published shortly), "There was such a wonderful family spirit at WXYZ that they all preferred to remain in Detroit."

GOOSEMYER





- | | Very
Good | O.K. | Thumbs
Down |
|---|--------------|------|----------------|
| 19. Expansion of reel to reel library | — | — | — |
| 20. Letters from members | — | — | — |
| 21. Is there some other contents you would like to see either in
Memories or the I.P.? | | | |

22. Other Suggestions:

O.T.R. SURVEY

*(SAVE \$2.00)

*(SAVE \$2.00)

In order to shape the direction of the O.T.R. Club in the manner which the majority of the members would like, we have developed the following survey. Since many people tend to be apathetic about answering surveys, we are offering the inducement of being able to renew your membership in the O.T.R. Club for \$13.00* when you return the completed survey form. ~~Dues~~ for 1982 will be \$15.00 due to increasing costs such as postage. This special offer expires midnight December 31, 1981.
Return to Richard A. Olday, 100 Harvey Dr., Lancaster N.Y. 14086

	<u>Very Good</u>	<u>O.K.</u>	<u>Thumbs Down</u>
1. Reprint old stories related to radio (Such as Nick Carter & The Shadow)	—	—	—
2. Reprint articles from old newspapers & magazines	—	—	—
3. Current columns on radio past & present	—	—	—
4. Reprint articles from current newspapers & magazines	—	—	—
5. O.T.R. related pictures	—	—	—

Fred Flowerday and Tony Caminita, two of these sound effects experts at WXYZ in the '30s, '40s, & '50s who helped make the appropriate sounds for "The Lone Ranger", "The Green Hornet", and "The Challenge of the Yukon", are now the president and vice-president of their own recording studio, Sound Recordings in Detroit, in which are many vignettes of radio drama days. Their studio has a library of 6,000 sound effects on records and tape. Some are actual recordings, others, make-believe sounds like walking on packed snow made by scrunching fistfuls of cornstarch to simulate the sound... or flicking a finger on a match box to simulate a punch in the jaw. Flowerday still recalls how he and Caminita used ingenious methods to achieve the sounds they wanted. "One of those presses dentists use to make dentures is a helluva good bear trap noise" Flowerday remarked. He recalls the time he took a jar of pepper and a tape recorder to try and capture a horse sneeze on tape. It worked!

They almost risked their lives at times to get the effects they wanted. Caminita recalls one experience when he nearly lost his life while draped across the hood of a Pontiac GTO as it raced down an airstrip while trying to record the sound of a high-performance car.. and Flowerday once stood between runways at the Detroit Metro. Airport to capture the piercing shrieks of the jet planes taking off, in flight, and landing. At other times they merely drove around Detroit recording traffic sounds, people sounds, "live" weather sounds... rain, thunder, hail, high winds, etc. They taped the noises made by fire truck, police and ambulance sirens, church bells, construction sounds, motor boats on the river, street cars...any and all sounds they thought they could use in the future.

In 1928 when I first started in radio broadcasting, the actors themselves were involved in creating some of their own sound effects. I can remember when we did our own footsteps up and down a set of stairs, or across a wooden floor at the mike--when we did our own falls, if, or when we were knocked down..when we yelled into our own cigar boxes to be heard at a distance, and slammed a closed fist hard into the other open palm in a "fist Fight" so the listeners could see and feel the blows. All this was live before there were facilities for recording the shows and sounds.

Naturally, during live broadcasts things did not always go smoothly, and even the sound department was not immune to the embarrassment of the inevitable boo-boos, or "fluffs" as they were called then. There was the time when a soundman missed a gunshot cue just as an actor (one of the bad guys) stepped up to the mike and yelled, "Take that!" No gunshot sounded. Agonizing seconds passed. Then the actor who had his wits about him yelled, "I'll knife you!" Problem solved. Another time, Flowerday, making horses hoof sounds with coconut shells, stumbled into a pile of pots and pans on the studio floor (needed for the ranch scene), and what was supposed to sound like the Ranger galloping off into the distance sounded like he was riding through somebody's kitchen.

I remember one almost catastrophic episode during a Ranger broadcast when Ernie Winstanley, one of the young soundmen, who had been hitting a log with a hatchet to create the sound of a rancher chopping down a tree, began fooling around when the hatchet slipped from his hand and landed deep into his knee. The other boys who had been galloping their horses stopped what they were doing and rushed Ernie to a doctor. We finished the broadcast with no sound department and no galloping or neighing horses. I can't remember, but I'd guess that Brace Beemer must have led Silver across the prairie into the sunset that night.

The "invented" sound were at times truly fantastic. Jim Jewell, WXYZ producer and director of the "Ranger" and the "Hornet" created a great many of the make-believe sounds used before recordings were made available. One script called for ocean waves, so he came up with the idea of using a metal jelly roll pan, filled it with B.B. shot, covered it with a piece of screen and manually rolled it back and forth. It worked fine. He was the first to use the idea of crumpling cellophane to simulate a crackling fire, and it was he who substituted short-handled bathroom plungers for coconut shells he'd started out with to create horses' hoof beats. I remember how he experimented for weeks for a means of reproducing the "buzz" of the Green Hornet. He finally hit upon the idea of vibrating a violin string with a high-frequency buzzer and recording it with the tone arm of the receiver resting right on the string (Or was it the buzzer?) That was a long time ago and I never can remember whether it was the string or buzzer--

at any rate, it turned out to be the closest imitation of a real hornet's buzz that existed.

The one "invented" sound I shall never forget was part of a "Hermit's Cave" show one Sunday night at WJR in Detroit. Not unlike "Inner Sanctum", the show had its horror features, and this particular one involved a murderer who was trying to escape through a forest inhabited by millions of spiders. The sound department was having difficulty dreaming up an effect of spiders being crushed beneath the murders' feet and with his hands as he pushed his way through the trees where the horrendous creatures hung and crawled. Well...the boys came back from their supper break with about 10 pounds of Emperor grapes (the large red ones) which they put into a big box. Then at show time they took off their shoes and socks and walked barefooted, crushing the grapes with their feet. The effect was so real that even the actors at the mike shuddered as the lines were being read. I've often wondered how the listeners reacted in their darkened rooms as they followed that murderer through that forest. Someday I hope to find a tape of that show so I will know. I know how I felt at that microphone. Uggggh!

Those talented, creative sound pioneers were such an important part of those old radio days that it would be nice if they could have erected for them a very special niche in the columns of the radio halls of fame everywhere.

**Wireless
 Wanderings**



JIM SNYDER

(Shanghai, China-August6) In the past I have written occasional columns on radio in other countries, and will now do another. As I write this I am well into a trip through the People's Republic of China. This is in no way a definitive paper on radio in China, as I have been far too busy doing and seeing things to spend much time with the radio, but as usual, I do have some observations.

Eleven years ago, when I was living in Japan, I sued to listen to Radio Peking's English news broad-

casts on shortwave. At that time, whatever the problem in the world, it was blamed on "the Yankee running dogs and their ilk." I don't think that I will ever forget that phrase because it was used several times in each newscast. That kind of oratory is now gone. First of all, the villain in China's present world is Russia, not the United States, but even when referring to Russia, the oratory has calmed down considerably.

Although I don't understand Chinese, it does appear to me that there is a balance of programming on Chinese radio. On trains and planes the radio has been on full blast during the entire journey, and I have run through the AM and FM dials on my radio to see what I can get. I find what appear to be talk shows (I don't know if they are news, lectures, or what), drama, comedy, and about a fifty-fifty balance between Chinese music and Western classical music, which is quite a change since Western music was completely forbidden during the Cultural Revolution. There is never any "top 40" type music, however. I have seen no television programming at all. I had a TV available in only two of my hotel rooms, but I was too busy to even turn them on. Television is out of the reach of most Chinese anyway, as it is prohibitively expensive for them.

Last night, in Soochow, I spent several hours walking through some of the residential areas looking in the open doors and windows (It is so hot and humid they are all open) and in a very few homes I found people gathered around a TV set. One home even had a color TV. For the most part, however, it was the sound of radios coming out to the street. Most were listening to music, and a full half were listening to Western music.

I have been meeting a number of people, on the street, who are trying to learn English and so come up to visit with me. Much to my surprise, many comment on listening to foreign short wave broadcasts to get the pronunciation of English. It is often possible to tell if they are listening to the Voice of America or the BBC because of their American or British accent.

If an American wants to have any idea of what is going on in the outside world, or even in China itself for that matter, a short wave receiver is absolutely essential. There are no English language broadcasts at all, except for English language lessons that I have heard rather frequently. There is a new English language newspaper, the

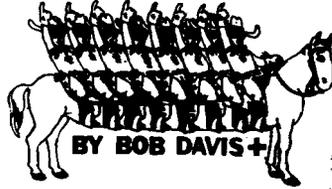
China Daily, which seems to be largely made up of American wire service articles, but it isn't widely available; in fact I have seen it only twice, once on the China Airlines plane from Tokyo to Peking, and the hotel where I stayed in Nanking had them for sale, but they were two weeks old. My hotels in such major cities as Peking and Shanghai didn't have them available.

I have had a "portable" Sony short wave receiver for years, but it is fairly large (8½ x 10 x 3½ inches) and heavy. I decided that it was too big to carry with me on this trip so I tried to find a small one before I left home. I couldn't find any smaller ones than I already had, so when I reached Japan I started an immediate search. I quickly found two different small models, both Sony, and bought one that only measures 7 x 5 x 1 inches, and weighs less than a pound and a half. While not as powerful as the one I have at home it proved very adequate on this trip, and I can't imagine my going on another foreign trip without it. Other Americans that I have met in China have been so desperate for news that I have begun to feel a little like Walter Cronkite. All expressed interest in my short wave receiver, and several indicated that they intend to get a similar one when they get out of China.

One concern I have on this trip is the air traffic controller strike at home, and whether or not I will even be able to get back home. Each morning at 6:00 I have been picking up the "Breakfast Show" from the Voice of America, which starts with a fifteen minute newscast, so I am keeping right up to date on the strike. In general, I find the Voice of America newscasts superbly done, although they do seem to spend a disproportionate amount of time on very trivial stories from Africa. The newscasts appear very even handed and objective, freely giving Russia's point of view in disagreements with the United States, for example. I do not find the heavy bias of our network television newscasts on the V.O.A. I have also picked up Radio Taiwan, Radio Moscow, North Korea, and BBC, among others, all in English, but I am not really taking the time to listen to any of them since V.O.A. is giving me what I want to hear.

SAY!

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN ?



Question: What do The Mad Russian, Frankie Remley and Don Wilson have in common??...Answer: They were some of the best second bananas in the business. quite often they would come up with lines that equaled or even topped the stars that they were backing up. In many cases the stars joke would have fallen flat if not for the second bananas topper that made it work.

Jack Benny was a master of surrounding himself with second bananas and using them to a tremendous degree. He would come out with a quip only to be bested by Don Wilson or Phil Harris or even the boy singer on the show Dennis Day. In fact, Harris and Day became so popular from the Benny show that they also had separate shows of their own. Harris seemed to realize the asset of having funny people with him on his show and had his own retinue to work with. Possibly the funniest second banana in all of radio was on the Harris show. His character name was Frankie Remley and was beautifully played by Elliot Lewis

Remley was a rogue, a conniver, and in many respects an innocent in the world of people who are really with it. He and Harris would come up with outrageous schemes and then with innocent abandon try to make the schemes work. If there was anything the least bit shady about the deal Remley would claim that he "knew a guy" that could help.

Eddie Cantor had been a star for years before he came to radio but when he finally made the move he was smart enough to bring second

COMING SOON --- IN MEMORIES:

SHERLOCK HOLMES

bananas with him. One was Bert Gordon who was known as the Mad Russian and soon his catch-phrase, "How Do You Do?" was being heard everywhere. The interplay between homebody Cantor and gadabout Gordon was funny stuff indeed and often hilarious, particularly when Cantor would ask Gordon an obvious question about his activities and Gordon would reply "Silly Boy!!"

Allens Alley was Fred Allen's way of surrounding himself with second bananas. As he would walk down this alley, knocking at the doors there, he would be greeted by some of the most unusual characters in radio, the funniest of which has to be Kenny Delmar AKA Senator Claghorn. He was a bombastically loud southern Senator with the philosophy that if its southern, it's good. One feels that if he had his way we'd be celebrating Jefferson Davis' birthday instead of Washingtons. It sounds like a hard premise to keep up week after week but they did and they did it very well.

Judy Canova also surrounded herself with second bananas. Verna Felton, Joseph Kearns and Mel Blanc (Pardon me for talking in your face senorita) were a few but the one I really got a kick out of was Sheldon Leonard. That's right, Sheldon Leonard the movie tough guy with a dese,dem, and dose way of talking. Leonard's role on the Canova show was usually that of an American Indian. You had to hear it to believe it.

The role of the second banana continues to this day into TV but it was radio that honed that role to a fine edge. From Kay Kyser and Ish Kabibble to Archie Bunker and Edith, from Henry Morgan and Arnold Stang to Johnny Carson and Ed McMahon, the second banana has shaped our entertainment and continues to do so.

* * * * *

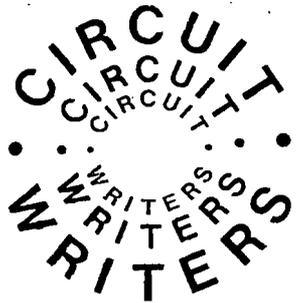
Tapespondents is a free service to all MEMBERS. Please send your ads in to the Illustrated Press.

* * * * *

TAPESPONDENTS: Send in your wants and we'll run them here for at least two months.

Jeff Muller, 439 Faitoute Avenue, Roselle Park, N.J. 07204--I'm looking for tapes of Mutual Radio Theatre or Sears Radio Theatre. I will trade 5 old radio shows for 1 Mutual or Sears Radio Theatre. I have a lot of shows. Please send list of your shows and I will send my list. I will reimburse you for postage.

OTR Shows. Master Reels. 1800'-\$4.50, 1200'-\$4.00 My Choice. A great way to expand your collection. Hundreds of reels including CBS Mystery Theater. If you specify a choice of preference, I will try to comply. You must be satisfied or I will exchange for another reel. If you prefer to select from catalog, price is \$5.00 per reel (1800' or 1200') plus 25¢ per reel postage. Catalog \$2.00 D.P. Parisi, 38 Ardmore Pl., Buffalo, N.Y. 14213 P.S. I will also trade for old comics, gum cards, or old photographs and toys.



Old Time Radio Sources Attacked

Everyone who enjoys listening to Old Time Radio (not just collectors) should be forewarned that a serious attempt is being made to apply new ethics and standards to the hobby as we know it which should effect the future availability of new program material.

This past summer the California based SPERDVAC (one of the largest OTR Clubs in existance) announced first that it planned to donate money to "proper facilities" (?) to serve the "needs" of former radio people; then in a later and separte announcement they (SPERDVAC) "condemned dealers and sellers of OTR programs and material for not compensating former radio people (performers, directors, technicians, writers etc.) or their heirs for the use of their (former radio people) programs." If this is to be applied literally it should effect the distribution of programs previously available to most collectors and listeners by reducing the legitimate sources from which material has traditionally been obtained.

SPERDVAC, the administrator and distributor for the prestigious John Tefteller Archives of radio transcription discs and first generation material, is the only instigator in attempting to force innovative changes

in the principles of conduct to govern the OTR hobby. Influential individuals within the club have for some time advocated the prohibition of trading, selling or just plain giving away OTR material in the private; they have partially succeeded in their efforts to strangle such activity within the clubs members. Material contained in the Tefsteller Archives has been protected on the basis of the right of possession only and not on any known copyright privilege. This was demonstrated recently when Joe Webb's Old Radio Warehouse was forced to remove certain material from their catalogue. The consequences of this must be seriously considered by all.

Skeptics and critics of the SPERDVAC ethic and standards fail to realize that the great deal of material now in the possession of former OTR performers and the like is not in general circulation because of the prejudices these people have towards the use of programs without residual payments as in television. Even if these feelings on their part are not evident they can easily be persuaded in this direction. To obtain this material procurers must exploit these prejudices and other weaknesses by simply separating themselves from traders, dealers, sellers or any other "bad guys" they may wish to condemn or otherwise defame. When this is done by a seemingly wholesome, clean-cut reputable organization it will be most effective. If such activity is questionable at least it has not been successfully challenged by anyone to date.

The results of all this are not immediately known; only time will tell. However, when you observe that SPERDVAC does not have control of the Tefsteller Archives and factions within the club plan outside financing for the said Archives you have to wonder who will benefit in the long run; or more importantly who will lose.

* * * * *



6/17/81---The Thracian Lovers
An ancient gold piece connects

identical murders--separated by 4,000 years.
CAST: Marian Seldes, Michael Tolan
Jennifer Harmon, Bob Kaliban
WRITER: Sam Dann

8/18/81---"End of a Queen"
The trial and sentencing of Marie Antoinette are brought to life in this dramatization.
CAST: Tammy Grimes, Bob Kaliban, Norman Rose, Russell Horton
WRITER: James Agate, Jr.

8/19/81---"Diogenes, Inc."
Two former circus performers set up shop as private detectives, in a story adapted from Jacques Futrelle.
CAST: Jack Grimes, Evie Juster, Ray Owens, Court Benson
WRITER: James Agate, Jr.

8/20/81---"Cold Comfort"
A 60-year-old optometrist tries to retire from a spy ring.
CAST: Robert Dryden, Carole Teitel, Earl Hammond
WRITER: Sam Dann

8/21/81---"The Left Hand of God"
Samuel Clements, flush from the success of "Huckleberry Finn", comes to the rescue of a fellow author.
CAST: Norman Rose, Robert Dryden, Kristoffer Tabori, Evie Juster
WRITER: Sam Dann

8/24/81---"The Leopard Man"
A blundering Englishman in colonial India is punished for his indiscretion, in this tory adapted from Kipling.
CAST: Norman Rose, Bob Kaliban, Earl Hammond
WRITER: James Agate, Jr.

8/25/81---"A Shocking Affair"
A young couple unwittingly comes between an assassin and his target.
CAST: Joe Silver, Ian Martin, Patricia Elliot, Michael Wager
WRITER: Ian Martin

8/26/81---"Insomnia"
A lonely woman finds insomnia is driving her to the edge of insanity.
CAST: Teri Keane, Russell Horton, Carole Teitel
WRITER: Elspeth Eric

8/27/81---"The Headhunters"
A future society develops sophisticated technology to change personalities.
CAST: Len Cariou, Tracey Ellis, Earl Hammond, Paul Tripp
WRITER: Sam Dann

8/28/81---"Hidden Memory"

The cure of a paralytic embues him with an unusual power.

CAST: Kristoffer Tabori, Teri Keane, Elspeth Eric, Robert Dryden

WRITER: Elspeth Eric

8/31/81---"The Musgrave Ritual"

Sherlock Holmes solves the riddle of an ancient family ceremony, in an original script starring the famous sleuth.

CAST: Gordon Grant, Court Benson, Bernie Grant, Marian Seldes

WRITER: Murray Bernett

9/1/81---"The Innocent Face"

A naive young woman discovers her face could be her fortune--or downfall.

CAST: Roberta Maxwell, Paul Hecht, Ian Martin, Evie Juster

WRITER: Victoria Dann

9/2/81---"Little Richard"

A timid, small-time crook outwits the government of a turn-of-the-century town in Central Europe.

CAST: Kristoffer Tabori, Joan Shea, Robert Dryden, Bernie Grant

WRITER: Sam Dann

9/3/81---"Out of the Past"

An artist is obsessed with a face from his past.

CAST: Paul Hecht, Evie Juster, Mandel Kramer, Russell Horton

WRITER: Ian Martin

9/4/81---"Doublecross Death"

A retiring coroner can't quit until he solves the mystery of his niece's death.

CAST: Fred Gwynne, Mandel Kramer, Russell Horton, Ray Owens

WRITER: James Agate, Jr.

9/7/81---"Episode of the Terror"

A mysterious benefactor saves the lives of a small band of Catholics during the French Revolution, in this adaptation of the Balzac story.

CAST: Marian Seldes, Earl Hammond, Arnold Moss, Sam Gray

WRITER: G. Frederic Lewis

9/8/81---"The Runaway General"

France's greatest general is held captive inside German's infamous Konigstein prison during World War II.

CAST: Norman Rose, Tudi Wiggens, Earl Hammond, Ian Martin

WRITER: G. Frederick Lewis

9/9/81---"The Cat's Paw"

A famous scientist is impersonated in order to catch a double agent.

CAST: Larry Haines, Bob Kaliban, Marian Seldes, Joan Shea

WRITER: Roy Winsor

9/10/81---"Matched Pair for Murder"

A judge becomes convinced a guilty man has gone free.

CAST: Arnold Moss, Kristoffer Tabori, Bernie Grant, Evie Juster

WRITER: Sam Dann

9/11/81---"The Senior Prom"

A string of seemingly unrelated murders baffles a big-city cop.

CAST: Larry Haines, Evie Juster, Russell Horton

WRITER: Sam Dann

9/14/81---"Flower of Evil"

A mail-order bride for a California gold miner turns out to be more than he bargained for.

CAST: Arnold Moss, Roberta Maxwell, Russell Horton

WRITER: Arnold Moss

9/15/81---"Stranded"

A pair of astronauts returning home crash-land on a strange planet.

CAST: Gordon Gould, Marian Seldes, Bernie Grant

WRITER: Victoria Dann

9/16/81---"Second Look at Murder"

A descendant of the judge who set Lizzie Borden free tries to vindicate that verdict.

CAST: Roberta Maxwell, Russell Horton, Jada Rowland, Robert Dryden

WRITER: G. Frederic Lewis

9/17/81---"When is Rome"

An uncouth American ambassador to a 19th-century European monarchy tries to avert a war.

CAST: Fred Gwynne, Joan Shea, Ray Owens, Ian Martin

WRITER: Sam Dann

9/18/81---"The Land of Dreams"

Rebels plot to overthrow a system of computers ruling Earth in the distant future.

CAST: Kristoffer Tabori, Marian Hailey, Earl Hammond

WRITER: Sam Dann

9/21/81---"Diablo"

A crusading television host may have more in mind than just exposing wrong-doing in New Mexico.

CAST: Marian Seldes, Michael Tolan, Mandel Kramer

WRITER: Nancy Moore

9/22/81---"Two's a Crowd"

A Manhattan playboy meets his long-lost twin brother, a loser from the other side of the tracks.

CAST: Earl Hammond, Mandel Kramer, Evie Juster

WRITER: Ian Martin

9/23/81---"The Final Step"

A concentration camp survivor stalks the doctor who killed her family.

CAST: Marian Seldes, Roberta Maxwell, Earl Hammond, Norman Rose
WRITER: G. Frederic Lewis

9/24/81---"Henrietta's Revenge"

A successful career woman falls for a rake.

CAST: Patricia Elliott, Joyce Gordon, Bob Kaliban, Mandel Kramer
WRITER: James Agate, Jr.

9/25/81---"The Judge's House"

Two college classmates rent an allegedly haunted house on England's moors, in this updated version of Bram Stoker's tale.

CAST: Gordon Gould, Lloyd Battista, Robert Dryden
WRITER: Bob Juhren

9/28/81---"The Liar"

A portrait artist captures an old liar for all eternity, in this story adapted from Henry James.

CAST: Norman Rose, Bernie Grant, Court Benson, Carole Teitel
WRITER: James Agate, Jr.

9/29/81---"Waking and Sleeping"

A man's decision to drop out from society may be a fatal mistake.

CAST: Michael Tolan, Teri Keane, Robert Dryden, Amanda Plummer
WRITER: Elspeth Eric

9/30/81---"The Fourth Bullet"

The brilliant composer Berlioz vows revenge on the woman who spurned him.

CAST: Bernie Grant, Russell Horton, Evie Juster, Ian Martin
WRITER: Sam Dann

10/1/81---"A Second Chance"

A drastically new personality inhabits the revived body of a heart attack victim.

CAST: Paul Hecht, Bob Kaliban, Marian Seldes, Joan Shea
WRITER: Bub Juhren

10/2/81---"Mata Hari"

A naive dancer is caught in a web of intrigue during World War I.

CAST: Tammy Grimes, Arnold Moss, Lloyd Battista, Mandel Kramer
WRITER: G. Frederic Lewis

SPECIAL NOTE

Memories will start to accept advertising with our Spring 1982 issue. Special introductory rates are \$25.00 for a full page, \$15.00 for a half page, and \$8.00 for a 1/4 page ad. Members may take 50% off these prices.

ACROSS THE AIRWAVES

Unfortunately, rising costs have forced us to increase our annual dues to \$15.00 effective 11/1/81.

However, you will be able to renew your membership for 1982 for \$13.00 by returning our survey--see special insert--comments about our club from new member Gary Bales: "About the I.P., I like it very much. I like the newspaper ad's about the shows the best. The radio scripts are o.k., but not as interesting to me. I would like to see, perhaps some radio timetables from local papers. Just to see in order when the programs were aired, and what followed what and on what day.

I also like the "return with us now" part of I.P. Also it would be nice to have a section on radio shows, that were not real well known, tell who starred, how long it ran, and sponsored. Well anyway, if I can come up with a story, I'll send it to you. Ps. I like the George Burns book very much, good gift!"

Thanks for the kind words, Gary. I hope to see many of you at the OTR Convention on October 16 & 17 in Bridgeport, Ct.--look for a tall heavy set guy with a pretty brunette. See you there---R.A. Olday

RETURN WITH US TO...

**ENO
CRIME
CLUB**

YOU'LL EITHER HAVE TO JOG YOUR MEMORY FOR THIS ONE OR TALK TO AN OLD-TIME LISTENER. ENO CRIME CLUB LEFT THE AIRWAVES IN 1956. IN FACT, BY THEN ITS TITLE HAD BEEN CHANGED TO ENO CRIME CLUES.

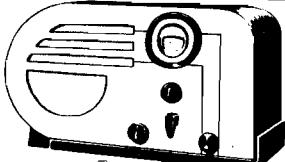
EDWARD REESE PORTRAYED "MANHUNTER" SPENCER DEAN WHEN THE SHOW PREMIERED OVER CBS IN 1951. CLYDE NORTH LATER PLAYED THE PART.



by BILL OWEN
DAN 1951
RESEES

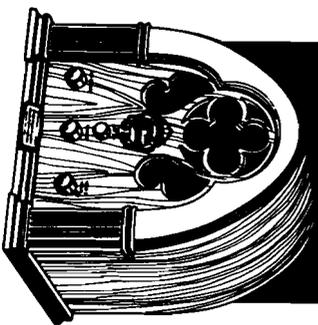
THE MYSTERY THRILLER WAS NAMED FOR ITS SPONSOR...

BUY ENO... THE "EFFERVESCENT" SALT!



JACK MACBRIDE PLAYED DEAN'S PARTNER, DANNY CAGNEY. THE PROGRAM WAS WRITTEN BY STEWART STERLING.

**NEXT MONTH!
THE SHADOW!**



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