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THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB

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THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New member processing-\$2.50 plus club donations of \$17.50 per year from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31
Members receive a tape listing, library list, monthly newsletter, the Illustrated Press, the yearly Memories publication and various special items. Additional family members living in the same household as a regular member may join the club for a \$5.00 donation 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 with a regular member. This membership is a \$13.00 donation per year and includes all the benefits of regular membership. Regular membership donations are as follows; If you join in Jan.-Mar. \$17.50--Apr. - June \$14.00--July-Sept. \$10.00 Oct.-Dec. \$7.00. All renewals are due by Jan. 2. Your renewal should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing issues. Please be sure to notify us if you change your address.

OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIPS are now available. Annual donations are \$29.75. Publications will be airmailed.

The Old Time Radio Club meets the first Monday of every month.

from Aug.- June at 393 George Urban Blvd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Anyone interested in the "Golden Age of Radio" is welcome. Meetings start at 7.30 P.M.

Club Address

Old Time Radio Club
P. O. Box 426
Lancaster, N. Y. 14086

Club Officers

President - Jerry Collins
56 Christen Ct.
Lancaster, N. Y. 14086
(716) 683-6199

Vice-President & Canadian Branch
Richard Simpson
960-16 Rd. R. R. 3
Fenwick, Ontario
LOS 1CO

Treasurer & Video & Records
Dominic Parisi
38 Ardmore Pl.
Buffalo, N. Y. 14213
(716) 884-2004

Illustrated Press
Dan Marafino
19 Church St.
Lancaster, N. Y. 14086
(716) 684-0733

Reference Library
Ed Wanat
393 George Urban Blvd.
Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225

Membership Renewals, Change of Address, Mailing of Publications
Pete Bellanca
1620 Ferry Rd.
Grand Island, N.Y. 14072
(716)-773-2485

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

Tape Libraries

Cassettes

Jim April
85 Hyledge Dr.
Amherst, N.Y. 14226
(716) 837-7747

Reel to Reel 1-600
Bill Weber
226 Harding Rd.
Williamsville, N.Y. 14221
(716) 634-7021

Reel to Reel 601 & up
Tom Harris
9565 Wehrle Dr.
Clarence, N.Y. 14031
(716) 759-8401

GOOD NEWS FROM THE TAPE

LIBRARIES

Catalog updates are now available on computer discs for IBM compatible machines. The files are Lotus .WK 1 format and available on 360K either 5 1/4" or 3 1/2".

*****~*****

CHANGING OF THE REELS

I have enjoyed my two year term as reel librarian, however I must resign at this time as I am in the final stages of setting up a mail order business. I will be a dealer in philatelic material (stamps & supplies). The space in my house is very limited and I will be needing the same space now being used by the reel library.

I have made many friends as librarian and would like to thank all those who have helped me by sound checking tapes and giving me advice and ideas. I would like to give special thanks to Tom Monroe, Jack Mandik, Paul Edelson, Jim Crawford and Tom Harris.

The reel library, 1-600, will now be serviced by Marty Braun, who I am sure will give you quality service. Thank you Marty, for taking over at this crucial time for me.

Bill Weber

CLARIFICATION OF RATES FOR THE REEL LIBRARY

\$1.85 for each reel--
includes postage

Meet the new reel to reel librarian for 1-600 *****

MARTY BRAUN
10905 HOWE RD.
CLARENCE, N.Y.
14031

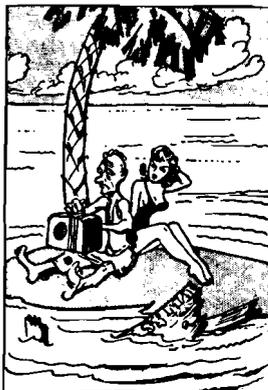
An I.P. Editorial

Well, how did everyone like their Dec. 91' issue? Time sure does fly by when you're having fun. Actually it gets to cold in Buffalo in January, so skipped it. Really it was my fault, don't know why, but.

At any rate you'll only have to put up with me for one more issue, the March issue. I am saving the last issue for something I don't believe has ever been done before. I guess you'll just have to wait and see.

Most of you who recieved the latest issue of Memories, must have looked at the inside back page and noticed the phrase "so sue us". Being the editor of the I.P. only, I have NO control over what goes into Memories. This is put together by others, who's names I will not mention. The response I have had concerning this phrase, all negative I might add, was quite concerning. The members of the board discussed this matter at our last meeting and the author admitted to doing it on his own. We didn't hang him or sentence him to life in Attica for this mistake. We simply discussed the matter and came to an agreement that it would not happen again. Simply put, it was done in haste. The matter has been resolved.

Dan Marafino
Editor



"Gee, I'll go crazy with nothing but my portable radio set to play with."



The Cassette Library

Jim Aprile

In my last column I listed those cassettes no longer in our library and stated that if any of our members would like to donate a replacement for them it would be greatly appreciated. So far two people have responded. Frank Boncore replaced one before I even had a chance to list it missing in the Illustrated Press..... and P.R. Johnson, who has already contributed many, many cassettes to our library, was able to replace three more. The following numbers are once again available:

c-2, c-231, c-317.

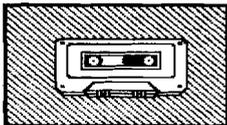
NOW ONLY 104 to go!!!?

Many members have written letters commenting on the large number of fine old radio programs available from our reel library, but are unavailable from our cassette collection. They ask, understandably, if the club plans to transfer these programs to cassette. When you consider the difficulties involved in finding or even just maintaining the reel to reel machines, I feel that the question is a timely one. The board should take it seriously.

The purpose of the club is to keep old time radio alive and appreciated, but in order to achieve this purpose fully we need to have a library that is usable to as many members and potential members as possible..... There just "aint" many people using or buying reel to reels anymore!

I am happy to announce that over 100 cassettes have been added to the club library since last summer. Many came from dealers present at the last Old Time Radio Convention in New Jersey. The rest from our membership. I have submitted a list of these additions to the I.P. They'll be printed as space permits. They fill almost four pages and this is a lot to include in one issue.

ja



Send Check Or Money Order To:

James Albert
2732 Queensboro Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15226

TRIVIA QUIZ

By DONALD SALTZ

1. Eight reindeer pull St. Nicholas' sled in Clement Clarke Moore's classic poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas." Four are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer and Vixen. Name the other four.
2. Name the manufacturer of "Le Car."
3. Occasionally, Ben Matlock plays a musical instrument on the TV show "Matlock." Identify the instrument.
4. What leading actress had roles in "Of Human Bondage," "The Little Foxes" and "Jezebel?"
5. The National Football League began as the American Professional Football Association in 1920. Was the original cost of a franchise \$100, \$1,000 or \$10,000.
6. Complete the title of the World War I-era song: "Would You Rather Be a Colonel with a Eagle on Your Shoulder or a...?"
7. What is the literal meaning of "Ouija" as in Ouija board?

Answers

1. Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.
2. Renault.
3. Banjo.
4. Bette Davis.
5. Only \$100.
6. "... Private with a Chick on Your Knee?"
7. "Yes, yes," "Oui" is French for yes, and "ja" is German for yes.

SHERLOCK'S DAY — This is the day that the Baker Street Irregulars and other fans celebrate as the birthday of Sherlock Holmes — the great fictional detective creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

OLD RADIO SHOWS ON CASSETTES

QUALITY TAPE — HUGE SELECTION — FREE CATALOG
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NEW LIFE WITH LUIGI

These tapes come with the "OLD RADIO SHOWS"
no time limit guarantee!

FIRST NEW LIFE WITH LUIGI'S IN OVER 10 YEARS:

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| 7-4-50 | July 4th Parade |
| 8-15-50 | Fire In Store |
| 8-22-50 | On Train To Chicago |
| 9-5-50 | Luigi Sells Ice Cream |
| 9-12-50 | Luigi Lonely |
| 9-19-50 | Crusade For Freedom Speech |
| 9-26-50 | Trolley Transfer |
| 10-3-50 | Luigi Gives Blood |

IN VG+ SOUND QUALITY!

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------|----------|
| 1200-Ft. Reel | \$15.00 | postpaid |
| Set Of 4 Cassettes | \$18.00 | postpaid |

CASSETTE LIBRARY

- 1459 Big Band 7 - Jimmy Grier 1475 Phil Harris/Alice Faye
 "Trouble w/ Train Tickets
 1/29/50
1460 Big Band 8 - Tommy Dorsey
 & Vaughn Monroe "Jumping Off Brooklyn Bridge
 2/05/50
1461 Big Band 9 - Alvino Rey,
 Artie Shaw & Les Algart 1476 My Friend Irma
 "Boss Buys Race Horse
1462 Big Band 10 - Gus Arnheim,
 Les & Larry Algart "Irma's Birthday/Dates
 Older Man
1463 Academy Award Theater 1477 Amos N' Andy
 "If I Were King "Kingfish tries To Evict
 "Lost Horizons Leroy 11/11/47
 "Andy's Mail Order Bride
1464 Fat Man 1/13/48
 "Murder PLAYS Hide & 1478 Eddie Cantor Show
 Seek "w/ Abbot & Costello 5/06/48
 "Order for Murder "w/ Lauritz Melchior 5/13/48
1465 Lights Out 1479 The Great Gildersleave
 "Oxychloride X "Swami Gildersleave 3/01/46
 "Rocket from Manhattan "Investigate a Swami 1/20/46
1466 Mystery Theater 1480 The Whistler
 "Tell Tale Heart 1/11/75 "Fog 9/20/42
 "Concerto in Death "Jealousy 9/27/42
 1/22/75
1467 Mystery Theater 1481 Escape
 "The Transformer CBS "Ambassador of Poker 4/07/50
 "Fallen Angel CBS "Wild Jacl Rhett 12/17/50
1468 Mystery Theater 1482 Escape
 "Creature From the Swamp "Journey Into Fear 11/19/50
 3/07/74 CBS "Funeral Fires 11/26/50
 "Death By Who's Hands 1483 Escape
 3/26/74 CBS "Red Wine 2/26/49
1469 Mystery Theater "Orient Express 2/19/49
 "Sleepy Village
 1/23/75 CBS 1484 Escape
 "Pass To Berlin 5/19/50
 "The Rim of Terror 5/12/50
1470 Mystery Theater 1485 Escape
 "Flowers of Death "The Pistol 1/03/50
 1/17/75 CBS "Shark Bait 7/14/50
 "Ghost Talk 1/17/75 CBS
1471 Suspense
 "Three O'Clock 3/10/49 1486 Escape
 "Murder Through the "Confidential Agent 4/02/49
 Looking Glass 3/17/49 "When The Man Comes Follow Him
 4/09/49
1472 "Edger Bergen Hour
 "Fugitives From FBI/Rich 1487 Escape
 Armour 3/04/56 "Present Tense 1/31/50
 "Command 5/26/50
1473 Life With Luigi
 "Civil Defense Group 1488 Suspense
 2/26/52 "Copper Tea Strainer w/Betty
 "Luigi Can't Sleep at Grable 4/21/49
 Night 4/15/52 "Death Has A Shadow W/Bob
 Hope 5/05/49
1474 The Halls of Ivy
 "Pro Warren's Retirement 1489 Suspense
 1/31/51 "Albi Me
 "Eddie Gray's Romance "Catch Me If You Can 2/17/49
 3/07/51

- 1490 Suspense
 "A Murder Of Necessity 3/24/49
 "The Face is Familiar 1/18/54
- 1491 Suspense
 "Muddy Track 11/11/48
 "The Bullet 12/29/49
- 1492 It Pays To Be Ignorant
 "What Is Love 9/07/45
 "What Is A Window 10/05/45
- 1493 "New Edgar Bergen Hour
 "Diet Exper: Adele Davis 2/05/56
- 1494 Bob Hope Show
 "W/Claudette Colbert 5/05/42
 "W/Victor Mature 11/06/45
- 1495 Mysterious Traveler
 "The Man Who Knew Everything 11/11/52
 "Death Has A Cold Breath
- 1496 Death Valley Days
 "Story of Sam Bass 3/08/38
 "Burro With No Name
- 1497 Crime Does Not Pay
 "Operation Payroll 1949
 "Kid With A Gun 1949
- 1498 Murder By Experts
 "Two Coffins To Fill 7/02/49
 "Conspiracy 1949
- 1499 Mollie Mystery Theater
 "Close Shave 5/14/48
 "Solo Performance 5/21/48
- 1500 Hermit's Cave
 "Professor's Elixir
 "Crimson Hand
- 1501 Vic & Sade
 "Five Men From Maine 5/30/41
 "Grand Old Lady 6/04/41
 "The Hammock
 "Fletcher's Shoe Laces 6/07/41
 "Mr. Gumpox Eyes
 "Skulkers In The Alley
 "Meeting Vic's Train
 "Tearing Up Lee Street
- 1502 Nero Wolfe
 "Case of the Lost Hair 4/20/51
 "Case in Room 304 4/21/51
- 1503 (cont'd)
 "Silks Bergen
- 1504 Jack Benny Show
 "Grand Opening of Jack's Pool 4/18/43
 "W/Eddie Cantor
- 1505 Great Gildersleeve
 "Burglar in the Area 4/27/49
 "Gild. Sues Bullard for Defamation of Character 5/25/49
- 1506 Fred Allen Show
 "Chas McCarthy Sues Fred & Takes Him To Court 10/28/45
 "Brooklyn Pinafore W/Leo Durocher 11/25/45
- 1507 Jimmy Durante Show
 "Pirates W/Victore Moore 10/23/47
 "Vice Pres W/Victore Moore 12/17/47
- 1508 Night Beat W/Frank Lovejoy
 "Death of Mr Riley 5/15/52
 "Marvelous Machine 6/05/56
- 1509 Screen Director's Playhouse
 "A Foreign Affair NBC 60 min.
- 1510 Screen Director's Playhouse
 "Night Has a Thousand Eyes 2/27/49
 "You Were Meant For Me 3/13/49 NBC
- 1511 Columbia Workshop
 "Soliloquy To Balance The Budget 6/15/41
 "Double Concerto 7/20/41
- 1512 Columbia Workshop
 "Higher Than A Kite 12/38/39
 "Odyssey of Runyon Jones 6/08/48
- 1513 Srgt Preston
 "Heart of a Killer 12/23/50
 "Dead Man's Whistle 10/25/50
- 1514 Srgt Preston
 "Red Coated Crook 8/31/51
 "Boy Alone 9/02/51
- 1515 Srgt Preston
 "Dog Crazy 9/29/50
 "The Malaca Cane 10/02/50
- 1516 Escape
 "Leinengen vs the Ants 1/14/48
 "Papa Benjamin (East Coast) 1/21/48
- 1517 Escape
 "Finger of Doom 3/19/49
 "Country of the Blind 3/20/49

- 1503 Broadway Is My Beat
"Murder of Willie Nelson
1518 (cont'd)
"Visiting Vultures 9/27/49
- 1519 Counterspy
"Murdering Messenger
8/25/49
"Arrogant Arsonist
9/08/49
- 1520 Counterspy
"Cold Blooded Professor
8/30/49 60 min.
- 1521 Counterspy
"Stolen Car Racketeers
7/28/46 (Rehearsal)
"Case of the Mexican
Rancho 2/22/49
- 1522 Counterspy
"Washington Woman Spy
8/13/45
"Case of the Explosive
Dog 8/20/45
- 1523 Counterspy
"Case of the Desert
Explosion 8/18/49
"Case of the Bouncing
Bank Robber 8/23/49
- 1524 Counterspy
"Case of the Postal
Pirates 9/20/49 60 min.
- 1525 Counterspy
"Case of the Poison
Peddlar 2/24/49
"Case of the Blackmailed
Hijackers 8/09/49
- 1526 Mysterious Traveler
"Murder in Jazztime
"Haunted Trailer
- 1527 Mysterious Traveler
"Change of Address
1/22/52
"Stranger in the House
- 1528 Mysterious Traveler
"Last Survivor 1949
"Lady in Red 5/23/50
- 1529 Continuous Broadcasting
"News From the Pacific
;Music Room 8/10/45
"World News W/Mary Marg.
McBride 8/10/45
- 1530 Top Secret W/Iona Massey
"Church With Out a Cross
8/20/50
"(No Title) Rehearsal
8/25/50 NBC
- 1531 Quiet Please ABC
"Valentine 2/13/49
"And Jeanie Dreams of Me
- 1518 Counter Spy W/Don MacLaughlin
"Hot Car Killers 9/15/49
- 1532 Calling All Cars
"Knives of the Barbary Coast
2/05/36
"Young Dillinger 2/12/36
- 1533 Police Headquarters NBC 1932
(15 Minutes Each)
#17 "Telephone Suicide
#18 "Boxing Match Death
#19 "\$80,000. Robbery
#20 "Infiltrating the Mob
- 1534 Tales of the Texas Rangers
"Alibi 9/07/52
"Misplaced Person 8/31/52
- 1535 Adv. of Sherlock Holmes MUTUAL
"The Copper Beaches 10/06/40
"The Missing Bloodstains 5/15/44
- 1536 Adventure Ahead (circa 1942)
"The Green Mantle
"A Tooth for Paul Revere
- 1537 Philip Marlowe
"Deep Shadow 3/21/50
"Sword of Cebu
- 1538 Cloak and Dagger
#7 "Kachin Story 6/18/50
#8 "Direct Line To Bombers
6/25/50
- 1539 Sky King (15 Min.)
"The Dwarf Barow
"A Message in Code 12/04/47
- 1540 Gunsmoke
"Wrong Man 5/08/60
"Tall Trapper 5/15/60
- 1541 Dangerous Assignment NBC
"Assignment: Latin America
9/27/50
"Assignment: South America
7/03/51
- 1542 Dangerous Assignment
"Assignment: Murdered Shiek
3/27/50
"Assignment: Alaska 4/24/50
- 1543 Dangerous Assignment
W/Brian Donlevy
"Assignment: Brazil 10/22/52
"Assignment: Havanna 10/29/52
- 1544 Counterspy
"Case of the Murdered Millions
8/11/49
"Case of the Statue of Death
8/16/49
- 1545 Obsession
"Question of Personality
"Summer Evening

- 1546 Yours Truly Johnny Dollar 1560 The Chase
 "Wayward Fireman Matter
 2/11/61 "Tiger Lily 5/24/53
 "Morning After Matter "Evil Puppet 5/31/53
 3/04/61 1561 Vic & Sade
 "Ladies Auxiliary 7/04/46
 "L. Vogel Drum 8/01/46
- 1547 Yours Truly Johnny Dollar
 "Ring of Death Matter 1562 Through 1565 A Sci-Fi serial,
 3/11/61 "The Secret of Dominion", is
 "Informor Matter 3/18/61 complete on four cassettes.
 There are seven installments.
- 1548 Yours Truly Johnny Dollar
 "Plant Agent Matter 1562 #1 & 2
 3/05/56 > 3/09/56 1563 #3 & 4
 1549 Yours Truly Johnny Dollar 1564 #5 & #6
 "Simple Simon Matter 1565 Finish of the Secret of Dominion
 5/13/61 "The Lone World Matter Theatre Five - A Presence of
 5/20/61 Mind
- 1550 Yours Truly Johnny Dollar 1566 BBC Plays 90 min.
 "Mad Hatter Matter "Fallen Idol
 "Kirby Will Matter "Creeps By Night: The Hunt
- 1551 Lightning Jim
 #32 "Devil's Dishpan
 #33 "Meets Belle Starr
- 1552 Lightning Jim
 #25 "Marshall Morgan
 #27 "Pony Express
- 1553 Lightning Jim
 #15 "Dope Smugglers
 #16 "Lightning Jim -
 Texas Lil
- 1554 Lightning Jim
 #19 "Good Luck Robberies
 #20 "L J Helps Kansas
 Kate
- 1555 Lightning Jim
 #21 "L J Meets Little
 Bear
 #22 "Little Bear Repays
 a Debt
- 1556 Captain Midnight
 #175 & #176
 #181 & #182
- 1557 Captain Midnight
 #171 "Terro 10/23/39
 > #172
 #173 "Zollinger 10/25/39
 > #174
- 1558 Captain Midnight
 #23 "Photography /
 #40 "Tornado
 #63 "Crash of Red
 Roberts/ #64
- 1559 The Chase
 "Murder Row 3/29/53
 "Bank Robbery,
 Kidnapping 4/05/53



However, your budget may not allow such a major purchase now. Do not despair. You can rent a machine, enter your data, print it out, save it on a disk, and then update the disk periodically as necessary. Many public libraries have machines for use by patrons. Community colleges, and most high schools have machines. Even a friend might be a source for a short time use. Surely everyone can find a computer, and someone able to show them how to operate it, so they can prepare their listing.

However, if you do eventually decide to buy a computer, try to avoid the mistakes I made. Be sure you buy one with enough memory to handle the job. Don't forget, you may only have 200 shows now, but you might have 10,000 a few years from now. And you might want to include a lot more information about those shows, than you plan to put in the computer right now.

I also recommend you buy a computer that's compatible with most other machines presently in use. I picked an IBM compatible for several reasons. There are more IBM and IBM compatible personal computers in use than any other type. Because of this competition, an IBM clone is usually less expensive than other types. Also, for the same reason, there are more programs for IBM type machines. For example, there must be dozens of data base programs, each of which has some features different than the others. But none of which is perfect for our use, in my opinion.

I know many people who use Apple-Macintosh will disagree with the above. And if I really needed a good graphics program, I might have been tempted myself. But for inventories only, I still feel I made the right choice. But regardless of what you choose, I still feel you'll benefit from having your OTR shows listed on a computer. And please start early with your listings. Don't wait until your collection gets so large that you're intimidated by all the work required to enter the data into the computer, and you just give up.

Birthdays

TODAY: Comedian **Joey Adams** is 80. Actress **Loretta Young** is 78. Actor-comedian **Danny Thomas** is 77. Pollster **Louis Harris** is 70. Bluegrass performer **Earl Scruggs** is 67. Former automaker **John Z. DeLorean** is 66. Singer **Sylvia Syms** is 57. Actress **Bonnie Franklin** is 47. Golfer **Nancy Lopez** is 34.

MONDAY: Actor **Vincent Gardenia** is 69. Author **William Peter Blatty** is 63. NBC newsman **Douglas Kiker** is 61. Singer-songwriter **Leona Williams** is 48. Singer **Kenny Loggins** is 43.

TUESDAY: Actress **Butterfly McQueen** is 80. Actor-director **Jose Ferrer** is 79. Actor-comedian **Larry Storch** is 68. Actor **Ron Moody** is 67. Comedian **Soupy Sales** is 65. ABC newsman **Sander Vanocur** is 63. CBS newsman **Charles Osgood** is 58. Singer **Shirley Bassey** is 54. Actress **Yvette Mimieux** is 52. Rock singer **David Bowie** is 44.

WEDNESDAY: Former **President Nixon** is 78. Football hall-of-famer **Bart Starr** is 57. Actor **Bob Denyer** is 56. Folk singer **Joan Baez** is 50. Actress **Susannah York** is 50. Singer **Crystal Gayle** is 40.

THURSDAY: Singer **Gisele MacKenzie** is 64. Opera singer **Sherrill Milnes** is 56. Baseball Hall-of-Famer **Willie McCovey** is 53. Singer **Frank Sinatra Jr.** is 47. Singer **Rod Stewart** is 46. Singer **Pat Benatar** is 38.

FRIDAY: Actress-director **Eva Le Gallienne** is 92. TV producer **Graut Tinker** is 65. Producer **David L. Wolper** is 63. Actor **Rod Taylor** is 62. Country singer **Naomi Judd** is 45. Golfer **Ben Crenshaw** is 39.

SATURDAY: Journalist **Martin Agronsky** is 76. Singer **Ray Price** is 65. The "Amazing Kreskin" is 56. Actress **Kirstie Alley** is 36.



ACTION



Dick Tracy **PG**
Warren Beatty stars as the comic strip detective in this box-office smash.

"DEALERS" REVISITED or
AN ANSWER TO JACK PALMER
by
JOEL SENTER

I have never had the pleasure of meeting Jack Palmer, personally, but since I have never met anyone associated with the Old Time Radio Club that I didn't like, I would forecast that we would get along famously as fellow OTR addicts. I've got to say, though, that it was with considerable surprise that I read Jack's article entitled "Dealers" in the November IP. I can understand anyone's wanting to get what he/she wants, whether OTR programming or soda crackers, at the best possible price, hence I have no quarrel with that part of Jack's argument. What did disturb me was the general anti-free enterprise, profit demeaning tone of his article. One of the past Governors of Ohio issued a proclamation saying, "Profit is not a dirty in Ohio;" and I never thought that it was a dirty word anywhere in this great country of ours. Oh, I'll admit to the evils of such things as "excessive profits," "profit gouging," or "profiteering," but , unless Jack is including folks like Metacom and Radio Yesteryear (and I can't imagine any knowledgeable OTR fan buying from either of these sources- especially the latter), none of these labels could possibly apply to any of the OTR Dealers I know! Most of the hobbyist/dealers don't come anywhere near making enough money from OTR to live on, hence, all of whom I know have other jobs just like the rest of us.

Jack's first point of criticism is that buying programming from dealers cost too much (as a matter of fact, this seems to be Jack's main point). There can be little doubt that programming can be had for less money through club libraries or swapping with other hobbyists. I have long given up adhering to the old saying that, "You only get what you pay for," "but I do believe, quite fervently in the phrase, "You never get more that what you pay for." OK, I'll grant that buying from a dealer does not guarantee the sound quality of the product is going (to be) superior. Some vendors have developed reputations for reliably high quality goods and some haven't. The main thing which pays for from vendors, I don't think, is the privilege of getting what programming you want when you want it! OH, sure, club libraries generally have pretty much anything might want but personally I get tired of waiting for others to return tapes I want, or to find out that programming that I want has mysteriously disappeared from the library. I have actually requested first, second and third choices from one of the very largest club libraries and received none of the tapes I specified. The best luck I have ever had is with the Old Time Radio Club's library, but even with this outstanding organization, I commonly receive some second or third choices. If a person shops from dealers

prudently, and has the hardware to take advantage of open reels, that OTR material can be had for a buck, or so, per half hour program. To me, this is little enough to pay in exchange for the capability of getting the programming I want when I want it!

Jack's second point of contention is couched in an ethical question, i.e. "...is it ethical to withhold shows from general distribution among OTR fans so the dealer can make a profit...? Two ideas pop into my mind in response to this question. First, is it ethical for any of us to own any OTR programming unless we know, as a certainty that the recorded material is in public domain? Remember, copyrights are supposed to protect the owner from unauthorized copying of materials, not necessarily from unauthorized sale of the material! Much of the materials we retain in our personal collections rests there because the identities of the original owners have gotten lost in time, the original owners don't know we have them and not because any of us really own anything other than the magnetic tape, itself. One might wonder as to how ethical is any of us is in the pursuit of our beloved hobby? The second thought which occurred to me arises from my belief in private enterprise. I have never actually known any vendor to deliberately withhold any programs from the hobby- after all, nobody makes a cent from not selling programs. I do believe, though, that if a person lays out good money for something (e.g. an OTR transcription) they have a right to do whatever they want to do with them. Is it ethical for Jack to have a program in his collection which I don't have? If he does, should he be forced to make it available to me, and to the rest of "the hobby" just because he has it and the rest of us don't? I couldn't help but notice that Jack's second point begins with an ethical question, but by the beginning of the second paragraph this point, too, slyly slips into the economic question of how much dealers must or must not, pay for original transcriptions.

And to Jack's third point. As I read it, this seems to be the idea that vendors tend to unjustly vindicate their profit by ballyhooing all the good which they claim to do for "the hobby" through donations to club libraries. I personally know no dealers who go around "patting themselves on the back" (as Jack put it). Many of us put time, effort, and our personal programs into the hobby and that is at it should be with any hobby and any group of hobbyists. Jack seems to take the position that contributions to the hobby are worth while only if the contributor never sells any programming! Does the vending of programming somehow render altruistic acts of support for our hobby less noble? Is a contribution to a club library a selfless act unless the donor happens to be a dealer in which case a donation becomes some act of crass commercialism. A strange and convoluted logic, I think!

I wonder if Jack really believes that there would have been as much OTR programming preserved for us today if dealers had never existed? I firmly believe the fact that some people have seen the possibility of making a few bucks- and I mean just a few (cont)

THE COMPUTER AND OLD TIME RADIO

It seems a little ironic to talk about computers when discussing old time radio shows which were already disappearing from the air by the time computers appeared. Also, with all my emphasis on being able to enjoy the hobby without buying a lot of expensive equipment, here I am talking about a quite expensive bit of equipment.

For some one who has been working around computers since 1948, when the Air Force installed the first punch card models in their supply system, I never really thought much about using them for any of my hobbies. But as my collection grew, it became a major operation just keeping track of everything. Every update to my typed catalog required an amendment. As the number of amendments grew, it became more difficult to find a particular show. I had to check through 4 or 5 lists each time.

About this time, the so-called personal computer was being introduced. Although still expensive, a PC was at least obtainable with a little scrimping and saving on other items. So I purchased my first PC to keep track of my OTR shows, as well as my other collections. Unfortunately, I made two mistakes. I purchased a computer which was not compatible with any other brand on the market! And I forgot about the terrific amount of time it would require to get everything entered into the data base.

I was able to get everything entered that I had obtained since my last typed update, but was never able to find the time to enter all the old listings. As time went on, it became obvious that the computer was too small, too slow and too incompatible to ever be able to accomplish what I wanted. So last year I took the big step and bought a larger, faster and IBM compatible machine. I now have my choice of programs to operate the system, and the ability to do just about anything to my data base. I can pick out programs from a certain year, a certain date, all Jack Benny, all 1 hour long, etc. But I still have the same problem. Getting all the old data from my typed lists into the system, so I can do all these wonderful things to it!

So now I'm actively looking into a optical character reader that can automatically scan my typed lists and enter the data into the computer. It's not going to be cheap, but it certainly may save me a lot of typing, and time. And I guess time is really the basic reason for using a computer. It facilitates your ability to locate a certain show, or a special item, or print out specialized lists for special interests. You can do all these things without a computer, but think how long it takes to locate one particular item, or the problem in preparing special lists on the typewriter.

There is also another benefit. It's easier to prepare labels for addresses and for your tapes and to write letters and articles like this!

Now that I've discussed my reasons for thinking a computer is a necessary adjunct to OTR collecting, lets discuss a few specifics. First, if you are going to pursue this hobby at all, you are going to end up with a lot of shows, and you're going to want an inventory, or listing, or whatever you want to call it. Also, as you progress in knowledge of the shows you enjoy, you'll want to enter more and more information on this listing. Unless you have only a very few shows, a computer is going to make all this easier.

Mrs. Blanche Trinajstick

2730 Baltimore Avenue
 PUEBLO, COLORADO 81003

Representing: THE FAN CLUB DIRECTORY
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
 FAN CLUBS

Dear Fan Club President:

This is just to say THANKS for the newsletters you send me. I always read, and enjoy them.

Not only does your newsletter indicate to me your devotion and dedication for your Honorary, but also lets me know what your Honorary is doing career-wise. I've always been fascinated with anything connected with the entertainment field, and I read everything I can get my hands on about it.

I receive a couple of newsletters written by the celebrity themselves, and they are like reading a personal letter from the celebrity to his/her fans.

Having worked in fan clubs for more than 30 years, I have seen every kind of newsletter, and I know the time and work that goes into them. Some are more professional than others, but all of them do what a fan club is supposed to do - provide a link between the celebrity and his/her fans.

I'm sorry I cannot acknowledge each and every newsletter I receive, but I'm afraid the postage would bankrupt me! I hope this letter will assure you that I appreciate your cooperation, and I will be back in touch during the summer of 1991 to up-date the listing for the 1992 Fan Club Directory. Thanks for the marvelous response you gave me in 1990!

Very sincerely,

Blina

Blanche Trinajstick

Linda Osteen

Happy Holidays!

MAILBOX

TO THE EDITOR:

I have a problem with something in the new issue of MEMORIES. That is the full page "boycott Radio Yesteryear" thing inside the back cover. Let me say that I do not disagree with the idea of a boycott against this company, but I do think it is out of place for the club's board of directors (the monthly meeting of the Buffalo crowd) to lay this down as an official policy of the club. This is the first time that the club itself has ever taken an official stand on an issue, and I think it is out of place. The only thing I can think of that is of a similar nature was in July of 1981 when SPERDVAC's board of directors put that club on record as "condemning" OTR dealers. The only difference between the two situations is that you are willing to publish my letter of disagreement while they refused to do so. I have no objection to a boycott being recommended in the letters to the editor, columns, or signed editorials, but I consider it out of place for the club itself to take a position on this. Even the ad would be all right if it was labeled as a paid ad, as required by other publications and broadcast media for items of a similar nature. But since the ad is not so labeled it must be considered to be an official position of the Old Time Radio Club. I am not alone in viewing it that way as noted in a form letter that I received a full two months before I received MEMORIES. That letter stated, "-- a major OTR club's annual publication will bear the legend 'Boycott Radio Yesteryear.'" That denotes a club policy.

I suppose it is possible that perhaps our "board of directors" did not take this "official" position. If that is so, then the problem is even greater, since someone else has taken it upon themselves to "set policy" for the club. No individual has any business doing that, and if this should be the case, then someone has gone way out of line.

A flat, unlabeled ad such as that makes it an "official" statement by the club itself, and I object to that. The club has no business telling its members what or where to buy, as a part of its official policies.

Jim Snyder

A DANGER TO OLD TIME RADIO COLLECTING?

As all who read this column know by now, I am a great fan of Bob Burnham's LISTENING GUIDE NEWSLETTER. I learn something from every issue, and even when I don't agree with him, I have to admit he often brings up some valid points.

His last issue was a perfect example. He had a long discussion of the SHADOW LITIGATION (as he called it!). Although when I saw the titles, I thought, "Oh no, not again!", I still read the articles. Surprisingly, he brought up a couple of points I had never thought about.

First he mentioned that the threat of this suit is already scaring many OTR dealers out of the business. And obviously, if the plaintiff wins this suit, many other dealers will be wiped out of existence. "So what!", you say. Think about it a minute. Old Time Radio only exists because of the flow of OTR shows between interested parties. If the flow is decreased, or cut off entirely, there will be no Old Time Radio collecting. Of course, there are the OTR clubs scattered across the U.S., and Canada. However, many of these have very tight budgets and are unable to expand their libraries and distribution as they would like.

Since I have already expressed my feelings regarding dealers, you may be surprised to learn that I was so affected by Bob's articles that I sent him a check for the Defense Fund the following day! Regardless of how I feel about dealers, I feel even more strongly against monopolies. And a monopoly is going to exist if this suit is decided in favor of the plaintiff, and he obtains the damages he is requesting. (Also Bob was offering additional issues of his magazine to all subscribers who donated to the FUND! I helped myself while helping the DEFENSE FUND!)

The next day I received my copy of MEMORIES and the December issue of THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS, which contained additional articles on this same problem. The more I read about this problem, the more I felt that the plaintiff is so interested in obtaining a short term profit, that he does not realize the implications of his suit. He is facing the risk of a long term decrease in sales if he continues to build resentment with OTR collectors, who must be his biggest and most regular customers. If you are an OTR collector and do not resent this suit, you have not adequately thought this problem through. If he wins this suit, he will have destroyed or shut down almost all small collector/dealers within the U.S. Perhaps two or three nationwide dealers will exist. They will be interested in profit only, which means the lesser known, or less profitable shows, will never be released or distributed, and the ones that are distributed will be more expensive.

As you probably know by now, RADIO YESTERYEAR is one of the companies owned by the plaintiff in this suit. I have done business with both RADIO and VIDEO YESTERYEAR over the past few years, and expected to do more in the future. However, after reading these articles and doing a little thinking on my own, I forwarded the following letter to RADIO YESTERYEAR today.

4 January 1991

Dear Sir:

This is to inform you that I wish to be removed from your mailing list. Since I have learned that you are the party involved in the Old Time Radio Show suit involving THE SHADOW, I am no longer interested in purchasing any of your products.

While I have no objection to anyone retaining their rights to products which they own, I feel this particular suit is being pursued with the deliberate purpose of putting all local and/or part time dealers of Old Time Radio shows completely out of business. While this may increase your business slightly, it will reduce the availability of many Old Time Radio shows tremendously. As a long time fan (over 25 years) of Old Time Radio, I deplore anything which will decrease the flow of such shows to all dedicated fans.

Because of my personal feelings in this matter, I can not, with good conscience, transact any more business with your organization.

Sincerely,

Jack L. Palmer
145 North 21st Street
Battle Creek, MI 49015

While I am not advocating everyone do as I have done, I am writing this article to express my opinion about this problem, and my reasons for feeling as I do. I am a great believer in everyone making his own decisions. I just want everyone to study this situation and how it will affect them and then take whatever action they feel appropriate.

Jersey tunes in to the golden years of radio

Original stars recreating roles for annual gala

By ANTHONY F. SHANNON

The lobby of the Holiday Inn at Newark International Airport filled up early yesterday as some of the top talent from radio's heyday, folks like Ezra Stone, the original "Henry Aldrich," and Bob Hastings and Rosemary Rice of the Archie Andrews and Rosemary Rice of the 15th annual convention of the Friends of Old Time Radio.

"I've been coming back to this event for more years than I can remember," said the 73-year-old Stone, who created Henry Aldrich in 1938 in the Broadway production "What a Life," then played the same role for about 15 years on network radio.

"It was the first domestic comedy series on radio, the granddaddy of them all," Stone said. "It paid well. You didn't have to work too hard. And—best of all—there was no memorizing of lines. I loved every moment of it."

The highlight of the two-day program, which includes workshops, panel discussions, and loving reminiscences, is scheduled for 9 o'clock tonight when a cast headed by veteran actor Burgess Meredith re-creates "A Plot to Overthrow Christmas," directed by Norman Corwin.

Meredith's radio career began in the late 1930s, but he is probably best known today as the feisty boxing manager in the first three "Rocky" films.

"Christmas" is one of the most popular and often repeated of all the radio dramas done by Corwin, who has been called the radio poet laureate.

Lee Munsick of Whippany, who helps stage the annual convention along with radio historian Anthony Tollin of Fairfield, said public interest in "Friends" continues to grow.

"And it's not just the nostalgia crowd," Munsick said. "There are a lot of young people who show up for these things. They really go for audio tapes like 'The Lone Ranger' and 'The Shadow.' Everybody remembers them."

Margot Stevenson, who as Margot Lane was the only person who knew the



Photo by George Michals

Rehearsing for the annual convention of Friends of Old Time Radio at the Holiday Inn in Newark are, from left, Elliott (Ted) Reid, star of the 'March of Time' classic, Rosemary Rice, of the Archie Andrews show, Ezra Stone, who played Henry Aldrich of the Aldrich Family radio show, and Bob Hastings, who was Archie Andrews

true identity of Orson Welles' "Shadow" (Lamont Cranston, of course), was on hand last night to help re-create the Lux Radio Theater version of "You Can't Take It With You."

"She (Stevenson) only played opposite Welles for one season (1938)," Tollin said. "But it was a memorable season."

Stone, who now runs the David Library of the American Revolution in Washington Crossing, Pa., and Rice, who called Short Hills home for 27 years, also had roles in the Pulitzer Prize-winning show.

"The wonderful thing about radio, and there were so many wonderful things, was the fact you could be anything and anyone you wanted to be," Rice observed. "It didn't matter how young or how old you were, or whether you were pretty or not so pretty."

"Radio was 'theater of the mind.' You were exactly as your listeners pictured you in their own minds."

The 65-year-old Hastings, a native of Brooklyn who made a smooth transition to television after 24 years in radio, said he played the teenage Ar-



Margot Stevenson, who played Margot Lane in "The Shadow," rehearses

chie Andrews for 10 years, "something I could never have done on TV."

"Archie was about the same age as Henry Aldrich," he said. "But in that I was being heard and not seen, I never had any problems with age."

But although the actors had scripts in hand as they stood before the microphones, there were still fluffs aplenty, according to Stone.

"But even when someone said, 'I'm doing downtown to beat—instead of meet—my mother, the rest of the cast stayed in character,'" Stone added. "It was a slip of the tongue, but was seldom picked up by a studio audience."

Elliott (Ted) Reid, who starred in countless radio classics, including the "March of Time," will be in the cast that re-creates Welles' Mercury Theater on the Air at 2:15 this afternoon.

"I did the 'March of Time' in the '30s and Mercury Theater in the '30s and '40s, and this is the very first time I've attended a Friends of Old Time Radio," he said.

"For someone who started in radio when he was 13 (1933) and stayed with it until dramatic radio ended in the 1950s, well, it's about time I got to one of these events," he added.



Depression Shopping List: 1932 to 1934

Automobiles					
NEW					
Pontiac coupé	\$685.00	Electric washing machine	47.95	Rib roast (per lb.)	.22
Chrysler sedan	995.00	Gas stove	23.95	Bacon (per lb.)	.22
Dodge	595.00	Electric portable sewing machine	24.95	Ham (per lb.)	.31
Studebaker	840.00	Copper lamp	1.95	Leg of lamb (per lb.)	.22
Packard	2,150.00			Chicken (per lb.)	.22
Chevrolet half-ton pickup truck	650.00	Furniture		Pork chops (per lb.)	.20
USED		Dining room set, 8-piece	\$46.50	Salmon (16 oz. can)	.19
Lincoln '27	125.00	Bedroom set, 3-piece	49.95	Milk (per qt.)	.10
Studebaker '30	200.00	Lounge chair	19.95	Butter (per lb.)	.28
Ford '29	57.50	Double bed and spring mattress	14.95	Margarine (per lb.)	.13
		Bridge table	1.00	Eggs (per doz.)	.29
		Colonial walnut secretary	54.00	Cheese (per lb.)	.24
		Mahogany coffee table	10.75	Bread (20 oz. loaf)	.05
		Chippendale mahogany sofa	135.00	Coffee (per lb.)	.35
		Louis XV walnut dining table	124.00	Sugar (per lb.)	.05
		Wing chair	39.00	Rice (per lb.)	.06
		Grand piano	895.00	Potatoes (per lb.)	.02
				Tomatoes (16 oz. can)	.09
				Oranges (per doz.)	.27
				Bananas (per lb.)	.07
				Onions (per lb.)	.03
				Cornflakes (8 oz. package)	.08
Clothing		Miscellaneous		Real Estate	
WOMEN'S		Dental filling	\$1.00	Modern house, 6 rooms	
Mink coat	\$585.00	Tooth paste (large)	.25	2-car garage, Detroit	\$2,800.00
Leopard coat	92.00	Coty face powder	1.50	English cottage,	
Cloth coat	6.98	L'Aliment perfume, ¼ oz.	1.00	8 rooms, 3 baths,	
Raincoat	2.89	Cultivated Oriental pearls	35.00	1 ballroom, Seattle	4,250.00
Wool dress	1.95	Razor blades (10)	.49	Italian villa,	
Wool suit	3.98	Cigarettes	.15	12 rooms, Westchester, N.Y.	17,000.00
Wool sweater	1.89	Cigarette lighter	.29	Spanish stucco,	
Silk stockings	.69	Pipe	.83	7 rooms, Beverly Hills	5,000.00
Leather shoes	1.79	Alarm clock	2.00		
Reptile leather shoes	6.00	Fountain pen	1.00		
MEN'S		Briefcase	1.00		
Overcoat	11.00	Console radio	49.95		
Wool suit	10.50	Electric shaver	15.00		
Trousers	2.00	Desk typewriter	19.75		
Shirt	.47	Movie camera, 8 mm.	29.50		
Pullover sweater	1.95	Kodak Box Brownie	2.50		
Silk necktie	.55	Automobile tire	6.20		
Suede hunting shirt	2.94	Gasoline (per gallon)	.18		
Calfskin riding boots	9.50			Travel	
Golf suit	20.00			AIR	
Tuxedo	25.00			New York to Chicago, round trip	\$86.31
Stetson hat	5.00			Chicago to Los Angeles,	
Shoes	3.85			round trip	207.00
				RAIL	
				Chicago to San Francisco	
				round trip, 16 days in	
				San Francisco	80.50
				New York City to Scarsdale, N.Y.,	
				monthly commuter ticket	10.39
				SEA	
				Tour of Europe,	
				60 days, 11 countries	495.00
				Bermuda-Havana-Nassau,	
				cruises, 16 days	110.00
				Around the world,	
				85 days, 14 countries	749.00
				San Francisco to Hawaii,	
				round trip	220.00
				New York to California via	
				Panama Canal	120.00
Household Items		Toys			
Silver plate flatware, 26-piece	\$4.98	Doll carriages	\$4.98		
Double-bed sheets	.87	Sled	1.46		
Bath towel	.24	Tricycle	8.98		
Wool blanket	1.00	Two-wheeled bike	10.95		
Linen tablecloth	1.00	Fielder's glove and ball	1.25		
Wool rug (9' x 12')	5.85	Catcher's mitt	1.19		
		Leather basketball	1.00		
		BB air rifle	.79		
Appliances		Food			
Electric iron	\$2.00	Sirloin steak (per lb.)	\$0.29		
Electric coffee percolator	1.39	Round steak (per lb.)	.26		
Electric mixer	9.95				
Vacuum cleaner	18.75				

PART # 3

Entertainment Programming

T
R E A D I O E I N

World War II also affected entertainment programs. On April 26, 1942, Gulf replaced its "Screen Guild Theatre" with "We, the People, at War." "We, the People" had been on the air since 1936 with stories "of broad human interest and appeal" about various types of people. The title and focus changed as it began in 1942 to emphasize how the war affected "the lives of Americans on the home front and on the battle front." A newspaper advertisement said that the series would bring

the living drama of our nation's great war effort. Real stories by the people themselves . . . heroes of the fighting forces . . . men in war industries and men in the government . . . plain everyday folks who are doing their share on the home front."

Featured people included members of the Greek underground, the operator of the Hollywood Guild Canteen for servicemen, war refugees, an Army pilot who was in bombing raids on Berlin, and Sgt. Charles E. (Commando) Kelly, who won both the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Silver Star.

At least one program that began as a public affairs broadcast became more entertainment-oriented as the war continued. An April 12, 1942 newspaper noted that "Spirit of '42" was adopting a new format using the Army, Navy, and Marine bands. It said the change resulted from President Roosevelt's request that the nation hear more martial music.

In addition to martial music, popular songs that reflected the nation at war were quick to emerge. In the early 1940s, the big-band sound was the most popular type of music. Big bands were popular on networks, and local stations included their music when they played songs of the day.

War songs came in immediately after Pearl Harbor, Hart said, and they were used to help generate support for the war effort. Much locally originated entertainment that East Tennessee listeners heard then was familiar patriotic music or popular music related to the war. Some popular songs that emerged were "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," "Let's Remember Pearl Harbor," "Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer," and "White Cliffs of Dover."

Several programs of war-oriented music were developed. On April 19, 1942, "Halls of Montezuma," from the Marine Corps base in San Diego, California, began on WBIR. On July 8, 1943, WFCL had the premieres of "Music in the Air" and "Music at War." The former presented musical groups from armed forces training centers across the United States. The latter featured the NBC Orchestra and was designed "to demonstrate that music can be a weapon of war as well as an instrument of peace," according to a Knoxville newspaper.

Meanwhile, fans of established programs found their music affected. By 1943, "Johnny Presents," a variety program taking its name from a Philip Morris cigarette spokesman, had become "Johnny

had Simms interviewing servicemen, arranging family reunions, and singing.

Other examples of the war's influence included a Fitch Bandwagon broadcast on WROL in 1943 with guest Jimmy McMugh, who wrote "Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer," and a broadcast on WROL that had a Women's Army Corps private singing with Bob Crosby.

The war affected even classical music broadcasts. A series of Columbia Symphony Orchestra programs on WNOX offered music of countries under the domination of the Nazis. The April 26, 1942, broadcast, for example, was a salute to the French.

Many entertainers lent their talents to special broadcasts that helped to raise the public's morale and--at times--financial contributions. Less than three weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack, WROL listeners could hear Eddie Cantor as host of a special program for the Red Cross. Just over a month later, Ethel Barrymore, Orson Welles, and Alexander Woolcott starred in another special (on WNOX) about the Red Cross.

Another recipient of special programming was the effort to sell war bonds. An announcement on September 8, 1943, promised a full-hour program to be carried on all four national networks "touching off the nation's Third War Loan Drive . . . [and] featuring all the stars in Hollywood and New York, figuratively speaking . . ." Among those Knoxville listeners were scheduled to hear were Bing Crosby, Robert Young, Edgar Bergen, Dinah Shore, George Burns, and Gracie Allen. Smaller bond sale promotions from other cities were sometimes part of regular programs.

Other special observances included programs observing "I Am An American Day" (May 17, 1942) and the first anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Both were scheduled for all three stations.

Regular programs also tended to show effects of the war. Several people who worked in radio in Knoxville then remembered that writers at times inserted patriotic elements into network entertainment programs. Hart commented that the idea was to put the patriotic message where the audience was--with the entertainment programs. Anti-Axis messages were found in both dramas and

comedies. A dramatic program might have had the hero catching saboteurs or spies. An example of the latter was a "Counterspy" episode heard over WBIR October 2, 1944. In it, the lead character uncovered Nazi plans for a third world war.

Dramatic programs often included major film stars in war-related stories. Two heard over WRDL were Helen Hayes as an American Red Cross nurse (on "Cavalcade of America") accompanying the North Africa invasion and Claude Rains as a German diplomat sent home by the United States government on "Plays for Americans." That episode included a Meredith Willson composition, "Three Blind Mice," which was described as referring to Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito.

Even westerns felt the influence of the war. "Gene Autry's Melody Ranch," on WNOX, expanded from 30 to 45 minutes three weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack. Ads said each episode would include a drama from the files of the United States Cavalry.

Programs' places of origination were also affected by the war. As the war continued, networks began doing more remote broadcasts from military hospitals and bases. For example, listeners to Jack Benny's programs on WRDL heard him broadcasting from Army Air Corps fields and at least one Marine base.

Eddie Blick

Wireless Wanderings

FROM: Jim Snyder

In the last two or three years I have written a couple of columns about some of the "heros" of the OTR hobby. These are people who have really made our hobby possible; for without them, and a few others like them, this activity simply wouldn't exist. Again this month I would like to mention a couple more of these outstanding individuals who have given so much to all of us.

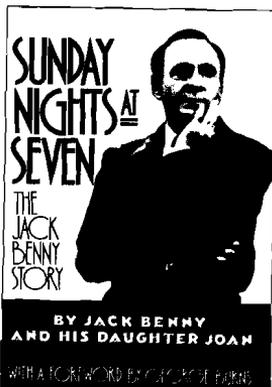
First is Bob Burnham from the Detroit area. I first became aware that he existed back in 1977 when he and I rather forcefully took opposite points of view, in different publications, on a controversial issue of that time. My first direct contact with him came a year later. That was when I did the first, of what turned out to be eleven annual columns, in which I talked about my experiences in making purchases from different OTR dealers. In that column I

reviewed a purchase from Bob. I sent him an advance copy of that column, as I did with all the dealers, and received a nice response from him. It was several years after that before I finally met him in person at one of the OTR conventions in Newark. Since then he and I have run into each other every couple of years. First of all, Bob is an OTR dealer, as I mentioned above. He is the owner of BRC Productions which recently joined forces with two other dealers in the new sales organization AVPRO. I have purchased many items from Bob over the years, and have found him scrupulously honest. He also has been the source of many shows that were previously not in circulation. Over the years Bob has produced two or three different radio series devoted to radio's "golden age," which have been broadcast over Detroit area stations. But above all other things, I think of Bob as an OTR writer. He has himself published several OTR newsletters and magazines, and has been a prolific writer in other publications, including this one. He has written two books directly related to OTR, giving us vast amounts of information on how to get the most out of our hobby. Currently he is publishing the LISTENING GUIDE NEWSLETTER. He has been a crusader in the hobby, at times; and I usually, but not always, agree with what Bob has to say. But the important thing is that whether I agree with his position on any particular issue or not, he always makes me think, and that is the mark of an outstanding writer. Bob pushes out so much written material that I expected him to be as big a loudmouth as I am myself. Instead, when I first met him I found him to be extremely quiet. In fact, I couldn't get an opinion out of him on anything. And actually I have come to learn that this is one of his strengths. He doesn't shoot from the lip. What he has to say is carefully thought out. Thus, when he does speak, he is worth listening to. Bob was awarded the prestigious Allen Rockford Award in 1984 for his many contributions to the hobby. Since then he seems to have redoubled his efforts in his dedication and service to all of us.

The other individual I would like to mention is Bob Burchett from the Cincinnati area. The first time I find his name in my files was from a 1982 letter responding to another dealer review, this time of Hello Again Radio, which Bob owns in partnership with

another individual. The response was not from Bob but from his partner. It was a year or two later when I met Bob at one of the Newark conventions. He remembered my review and laughed about it. That was my first experience with one of Bob's most notable features; his laugh. It comes often and is highly infectious. It makes Bob just plain fun to be around. For years Bob did the photography at the Newark convention, having his pictures appear in at least a couple of different publications, which helped promote the convention for those who hadn't attended, and which served as a nice souvenir for those who did. Bob owns a professional art studio and has done the art work for several of the OTR publications. In 1984 Bob and his partner from Hello Again Radio, started publishing the OLD TIME RADIO DIGEST, which I think is the second longest running independent old time radio magazine. Then, in the spring of 1987, Bob undertook the task of putting on an OTR convention in Cincinnati for those who live in the Middle West. This has continued, and it has continued to grow, under his direction as an annual affair. You might recall my telling of how much I enjoyed last year's convention in my column last June. Anyway, Bob is involved in three major phases of the hobby: dealer, publisher, and convention organizer, in addition to being involved in the Newark convention and in being an all around nice guy. Bob is a "behind the scenes" kind of person. He seldom writes for publication, and really isn't seen very much, but what he produces is seen by all of us. Like Bob Burnham, Bob Burchett was recognized with the Allen Rockford Award in 1989.

Each of these individuals is a part of that very small and select group that is responsible for our having the hobby that we do today. I hope you will have the chance to meet them, for you will be richly rewarded for having done so. They each give much, without asking for anything in return.



The Back Page

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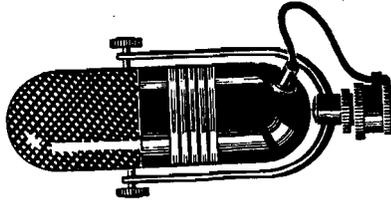
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