

*The Old Time Radio Club*

Established 1975

# THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS

Number 210

March 1994

Take it  
wherever  
you go!



**U**NDER a tree, on a mountain top—tune in. Out on the sea, lazing coolly on the deck—tune in! And off for a motor trip, put into the car one more suitcase—a Radiola Super-Heterodyne *complete*. Its loudspeaker is built-in, its loop in the cover, its batteries inside!

The Radiola Super-Heterodyne is made, now, in two portable models. It is the same far-famed "Super-Her"—with the same fine quality of tone—the same complete simplicity—the same distance performance. But it is portable now—and you can take your entertainment with you everywhere!

Radio Corporation of America

Chicago

New York

San Francisco

# Radiola

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

PRODUCED ONLY BY RCA



**Membership Information**

New member processing, \$5.00 plus club membership of \$15.00 per year from Jan 1 to Dec 31.

Members receive a tape library listing, reference library listing, and a monthly newsletter.

Memberships are as follows:

If you join Jan-Mar, \$15.00;

Apr-Jun, \$12.00; Jul-Sep,

\$8.00; Oct-Dec, \$5.00. All

renewals should be sent in as

soon as possible to avoid missing

issues. Please be sure to notify us if you have a change of address. The **Old Time Radio Club** meets

the first Monday of every month at 7:30 P.M. during the

months of September to June at 393 George Urban

Bld. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225. The club meets

informally during the months of July and August at the

same address. Anyone interested in the Golden Age of

Radio is welcome. The **Old Time Radio Club** is

affiliated with The Old Time Radio Network.

**Club Mailing Address**

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

Back issues of the *Illustrated Press* are \$1.50 postpaid. Publications out off print may be borrowed from our Reference Library.

**Deadline for The *Illustrated Press* is the 1st of each month prior to publication.**

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Send all articles, letters, exchange newsletters, etc. to:  
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Grand Island NY 14072

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**Cassettes**

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Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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Ed Wanat Sr.  
393 George Urban Blvd.  
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Tape Library Rates: All reels and video cassettes are \$1.85 per month; audio cassettes and records are \$0.85 per month. Rates include postage and handling. Canadian rates are the same as above, but in Canadian funds.

## *Molly and Me*

by Fibber McGee

(continued from the February, '94 IP)

At Rochester she had every kind of an examination the doctors could think up, and there wasn't anything wrong with her. After three days of looking at her through fluoroscopes, X-ray machines, and a dozen other gadgets, the doctors all got together and said very solemnly what Molly had been saying all along.

"Nervous exhaustion." Another way to say "just tired." But they meant it. They set her to Sacred Heart Sanitarium in Milwaukee and put her to bed.

There a frantic two months, when Molly dutifully went to bed every Tuesday, then knocked the cure for a loop by flying to Chicago every Monday to appear on the radio program. Nothing I could do or say would stop her. Luckily, however we have a good boss. The Johnson Wax Company put down a firm but gentle foot, and bundled Molly off for an uninterrupted rest.

Molly was so worn out by that time that she forgot she had hated hospitals. She even forgot to fret about the children, She told me she slept a solid week before she had energy enough to ask the phone operator to connect her with our home.

She was never asleep on Tuesday nights, though, When the *Fibber McGee and Company* were on the air. She'd be on the phone the moment we signed off to say she liked the show. Nice girl, she didn't even badger me by long distance with her mistake game.

I suppose if Molly hadn't had to hole in at the sanitarium for a few months I should never have known, really, what a trouper she really

is. People are always commenting on her versatility. How clever of her, they think, to play a half dozen characters on a single broadcast, to change from Mrs. Wearbottom to the "I betcha" girl in a split second, and then back to Molly again.

If they only *knew!*

I found out how really versatile she is. At first, it was the simple things which threw a bright light on Molly's real character. The maid's inquiry, "And what for dinner tonight, Mr. Jordan?" would throw me into a dither for hours.

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**We would have been married  
at once, but the year was  
1917, and...I was on a  
troop ship headed for France**

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"Just meat and potatoes," I found, meant just that. We had meat and potatoes so steadily that the children started asking for crackerjacks for dinner. Where were those wonderful things Molly did to meals? The house was spotless, but it looked like a hotel, no flowers, no books around to take the chill off.

But there were worse complications. The children began asking *me* questions. What would you do if your sixteen year old daughter faced you with:

"What do I have to do to make the boys like me, Daddy? Is it enough to be smart, or must I be pretty, too?"

What would *you* do?

Well, we got through it all right. Katherine graduated from high school and looked both smart and pretty. Jim, Jr., got through a

spring baseball season without any broken bones. And Molly came back home and set the world on its axis again.

After an experience like that, I began to wonder if maybe Molly hadn't kept the world right side up all along.

We fell in love at first sight. I was just a farmer's son, and not particularly romantic, and we met in a church choir in Peoria, Illinois, but it was love at first sight, just the same. We would have been married at once, but the year was 1917, and before we had time to buy a license and a ring, I was on a troop ship headed for France.

Molly was still of the same mind when I came home, so we went right from the train to the church, and I with a wife to support, took the first job I could get, which was in a machine shop.

There were lots of jobs after that, selling washing machines, selling insurance, selling anything and everything. I even carried mail for awhile. We were having a swell time, Katherine had joined the family by then, and Molly was in seventh heaven fussing around the nursery, but I was having my real fun in the evenings.

(continued next month)

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**OTR Interview**

Trough the medium of imagination, the staff at the *Illustrated Press* have been able to interview a few radio personalities from the golden past. This month's interview is with Jack Benny, comedian. The question is ours, the answer is Jack's from 1954.

IP: Mr. Benny, how do you feel about the media constantly referring to you as cheap and colum-

nists in general.

Benny: I do appreciate the opportunity of taking to the [Illustrated Press], because it gives me the chance, without being charged for it, to tell everyone what magazine writers and columnists mean to me and people in my profession. I can truthfully say that I for one have made it a practice for years to read columns every morning before I get out of bed. The one time I read one *after* I got out of bed, it had a review of my show, and I had to go back to bed. The magazines and newspaper columns are chock full of vital information that we people in show business can't do without. For instance, last week, in one column alone, I learned that they're showing *Birth of a Nation* and other new movies on TV this season, that Bing Crosby now has so much money he's going to sponsor General Electric, and that Arthur Godfrey will cut down to two shows next year, one to last all day, and the other all night.

In some columns you can't afford to miss a single item. Last summer I happened to skip over a two line brief, and for five months I continued to send Fred Allen money without knowing he was working. I do have to admire the uncanny way the columnists have of getting scoops and exclusives on people in show business. I don't know how they do it. Take that time last year when I got sick and they rushed me to the hospital. Nobody knew what was wrong. And while I was lying in my room at Cedars of Lebanon, waiting for the doctor to come, I picked up a column and found out I was suffering from a mild case of pancreatitis. This not only eased my mind; it also saved the doctor the trouble of examining me! But I've kidded the columnists enough. Now it's time to say in all seriousness that I think they're doing a wonderful job. If I were asked to offer any constructive criticism, which I haven't been, I could make a couple of small suggestions, one being that they please forget that old wheeze about me being cheap. My only other thought is that they might use their influence to get the cost of the newspapers back -- nah, what's the use,

they'd never go back on two cents -- still -- it might be worth a try.

**AMERICAN RAILROADS present**

The **RAILROAD HOUR**

Summer Time Train  
with **Gordon MacRae** and  
**Lucille Norman**  
in *Musical Memories*  
Every Monday Night on the  
NBC Network

**Memorable lines from the Golden Age  
of Radio**

Costello: "My dog is a smart dog, Abbott. He plays chess."

Abbott: "He must be very clever."

Costello: "Oh, he ain't so smart, I beat him two games out of three."

Asked of W.C. Fields: "Which would you rather give up, wine or women?"

Fields: It would depend on the vintage."

Andy Brown talking with the father of a girl he is dating.

Father: "What are your intentions, young man, with my daughter, honorable or dishonorable?"

Andy: "You mean I gots a choice?"

From My Friend Irma

Boss: "Yes, Miss Peterson, I'm proud of my granduncle Charles. He was the military man in our family. He fought in the Zulu War."

Irma: "Oh, that's wonderful. Which side was he on?"

If you have a favorite line or two from OTR, send it to the IP and see it in print.

## Quick, Watson!

**The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Lead Detective and Doctor a Merry Chase**

Tune in Monday, 8:30 P.M. E.W.T. (Mutual)  
(reprinted from *Tune In Magazine*, January, 1944)

There's no better way to meet a parcel of black-hearted scoundrels than through the *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. But the listener shouldn't worry, they always get their just rewards. No matter how devious the plotting and devilish the ingenuity of these master criminals, that wonder detective, the one and only Sherlock Holmes, gets his man, assisted valiantly, if not ably, by Dr. Watson .

No reader of the famous stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle need fear that they've e been spoiled in dramatization, for the program has kept the spirit and atmosphere of the tales intact, even though the scripts have been streamlined for modem ears. Basil Rathbone, as Sherlock Holmes, trots forth his seemingly miraculous but always logical deductions in supercilious Oxford accents to stupefy both Dr. Watson and (if truth must be told) his listeners. And Nigel Bruce, as the good doctor, delights the audience with a series of throaty "Harrumphs" and exclamations of "Rot!" while he consistently demonstrates that his head is as thick as his waistline.

Both actors are eminently suited in appearance and training to the roles they play (on screen for Universal, as well as on the air for Mutual). Wiry, six-footer Basil Rathbone made his entrance into the world in dramatic fashion at Johannesburg, South Africa, during threatened native uprisings. After forsaking an engineering career to join a stock company managed by his cousin, Frank Benson, his schooling in old English roles was interrupted by the first World War, in which he received the Military Cross. Since then he has been a stage, screen and radio favorite on both sides of the Atlantic.

Nigel Bruce has had a colorful and adventurous life, too. Born in Ensenada, Mexico, as the younger son of a British baronet he was educated in traditional English schools. A brokerage business was cut short by the first war, in which he was wounded and invalided for three years. After his recovery, he discovered his field was comedy and has been convulsing audiences ever since.

The pair combine in these thrillers with eminent success, as they pile up evidence and chase their quarry through the English country lanes and crowded London streets they know so very well.

Start 1946 with LAUGHS!

**AMOS 'n' ANDY**

*Guest Star*

**EDW. G. ROBINSON**

WOW! What a laugh riot!

Don't miss this new and different Amos 'n' Andy program - A full hour of fun - Every story complete. Tune in this special New Year's Eve show.

TONIGHT  
8:00 P.M. - WWJ  
Brought to you by RINCO

**Additions to the Cassette Library**

- 1847 RICHARD DIAMOND - PICTURE OF KILLERS - 8/6/49
- RICHARD DIAMOND - PARK MURDERS - 8/20/49
- 1848 LUX RADIO THEATER - CAPPY RICKS - 3/1/37
- LUX RADIO THEATER - (CONCLUSION)

- 1849 HENRY ALDRICH - CLASS PIN
- THE SHADOW - GHOST BUILDING
- 1850 FRED ALLEN - EDW G ROBINSON - 1/26/47
- FRED ALLEN - LEO DUROCHER - 4/16/44
- 1851 NIGHT BEAT - SHAKESPEARE ON RANDOLPH ST
- NIGHT BEAT - MOLLY KELLER AND 14 YEARS
- 1852 NIGHT BEAT - THE 15TH OF LAST MONTH
- NIGHT BEAT - WILLIE CANTO
- 1853 PHILCO RADIO TIME - ALEC TEMPLETON - 5/26/48
- PHILCO RADIO TIME - FRED ALLEN - 6/2/48
- 1854 GOOD NEWS OF 1939 - 9/7/39
- GOOD NEWS OF 1939 - (CONTINUED)
- 1855 FORT LARAMIE - NATURE BOY - 7/29/56
- FORT LARAMIE - THE MASSACRE - 8/5/56
- 1856 FORT LARAMIE - ASSEMBLY LINE - 8/12/56
- FORT LARAMIE - GOODBYE WILLA - 8/19/56
- 1857 FORT LARAMIE - CHAPLAIN - 8/26/56
- FORT LARAMIE - HATTIE PELFREY - 9/2/56

*Member's Mike*

Dear Editor:



The December 1993 *Illustrated Press* was one of the best! Keep up the good work.

I found the subject of radio during WW II very interesting. As a WW II veteran of the ETO - I never heard Axis Sally - but heard about her. Mr. Bork's "Radio Memories" had more data about her than I ever knew before.

"Radio and WW II" also had data about programs back in civilian life I never knew about!

Paul Everett  
St. Paul MN

Dear Editor:

Just thought I'd write to express my thoughts on the past issues of the IP. I LOVE IT! Congratulation and a pat on the back to all the creative team involved.

Each issue is a welcome source of information,

read with great enthusiasm.

It's wonderful to read articles about members who share their memories during this Golden Age of Radio period. For individuals like me who did not live during this period, It helps to bring into perceptible the importance and the impact radio had on its listening audience. Perfect examples of articles that illustrated this during 1993 were: "Mae West vs NBC," "The War of the Worlds" by Dom Parisi, "Radio and WW II" and the "Radio Memories" columns by Francis Edward Bork.

These articles not only dealt with the show itself, but also about its personality and provided additional background information not found in most reference materials that are available to me.

In addition, I am learning about shows that I never had the opportunity nor the desire to listen to. Articles about the *Blue Beetle* (Nov '92), *I Love Adventure* (Sept. '92), and the *Shadow of Fu Manchu* (Oct '92) have instilled within me a desire to listen to these shows.

It is very unfortunate that I am unable to attend the monthly meetings, because no doubt an abundance of valuable information can be acquired. It would be of great value to me and no doubt to other remote members, if a future article dealt with what occurs during these meetings.

Keep up the good work!

Douglas Yee  
Thornhill, Ontario Canada

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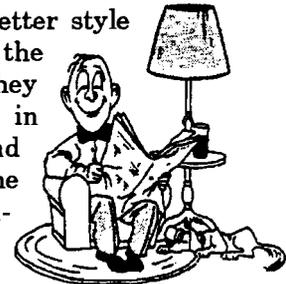
### **Dennis Day**

A laugh-adventure with  
the gifted timid tenor

**9:30 TONIGHT WHAM**  
Rochester's No. 1 Station

### *From the Editor's Chair*

A number of members have inquired about the OTR ads that are in the IP. Most of the ads, to use a NASA term, are computer enhanced. All that means is that they are cleaned up with a computer, and in some cases there is a subtle change in letter style that is not noticeable to the reader. All ads are as they were originally printed in various newspapers and magazines. If I know the date of the ad it is incorporated into the ad itself. I have noticed that some of these "enhanced" ads are showing up in other OTR journals. And I find nothing wrong with this. Enjoy!



Don't forget that Cincinnati's 8th annual **Old Time Radio and Nostalgia Convention** will be held on April 15 and 16 at the Marriott Inn, 11320 Chester Road. For more information call Bob Burchett at (606) 282-0333. Ezra Stone, Barney Beck and John Rayburn are the special guests.

*Tonight---and every Thursday night*

**ABBOTT and COSTELLO**

**WBEN 10:00**

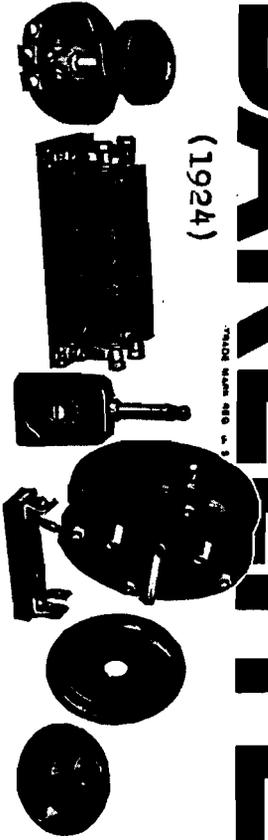
*brought to you by*

**CAMEL CIGARETTES**

[1947]

# BAKELITE

(1924)



## Federal and Bakelite

*"We hereby guarantee Federal Standard Radio Products to be free from all mechanical and electrical defects . . . and agree to replace at our expense, any unit or part which may prove defective."*

This Federal guarantee is typical of the confidence reposed in Bakelite by the manufacturers of radio parts. For they have found in Bakelite a material which successfully meets all of the requirements for Radio insulation.

They have also found in Bakelite a combination of properties not possessed by any other material—properties which permit its adaptation

to a wide range of manufactured articles in the radio industry. Mechanical strength, permanence of color, indifference to climatic or weather conditions and its durability under all conditions are only a few of the many valuable properties of this unique "Material of a Thousand Uses."

Write for a copy of our Radio Booklet A.

### Send for our Radio Map

Enclose 10c. to cover mailing cost and we will send you a large Radio Map which lists the call letters, wave length and location of every broadcasting station in the world. Address Map Department.

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

