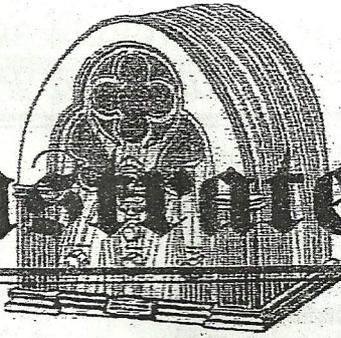


The Old Time Radio Club

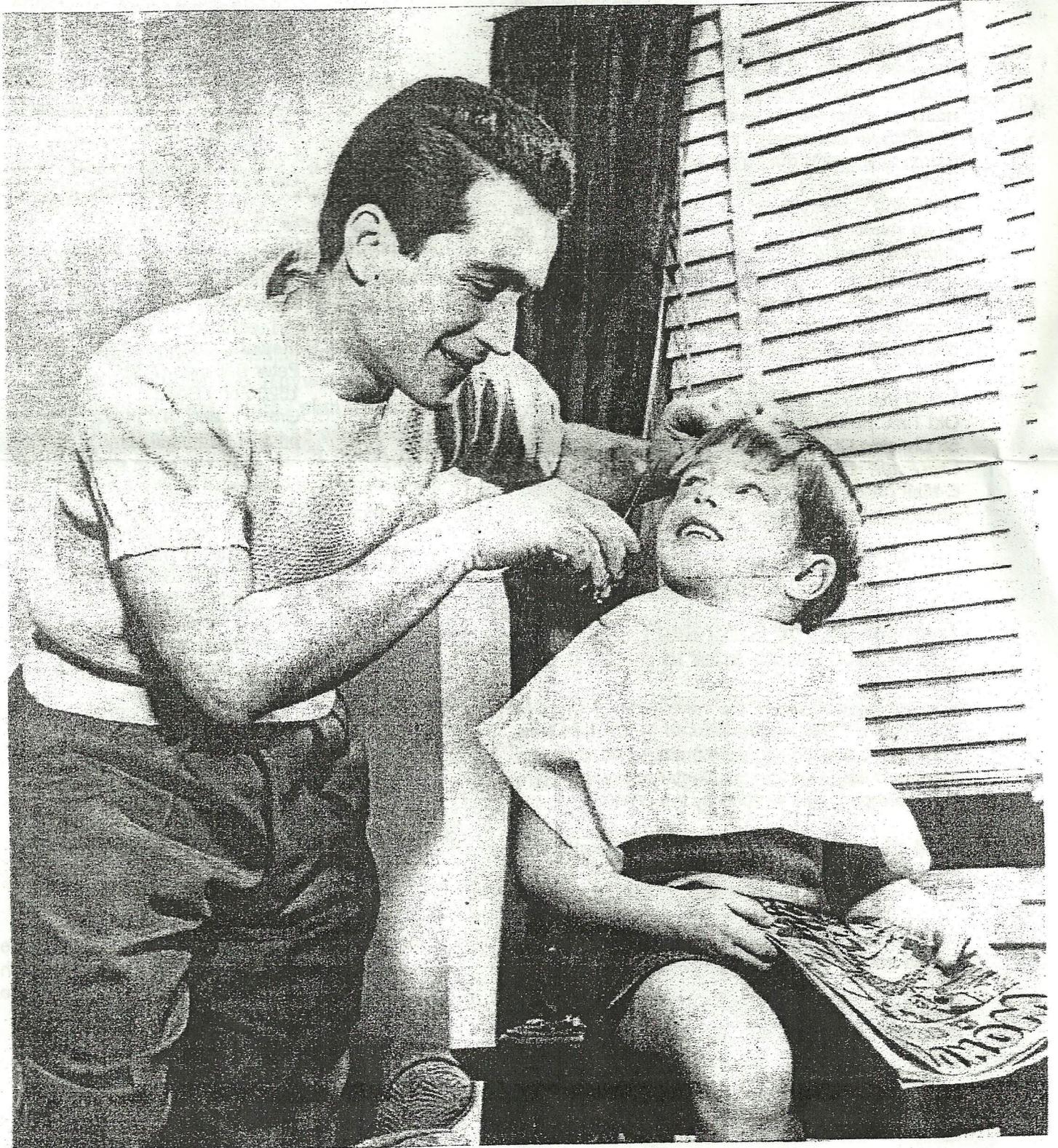
Established 1975

The Illustrated Press



Number 380

May 2010



The Illustrated Press

Membership Information

Club Membership: \$18.00 per year from January 1 to December 31. Members receive a tape library listing, reference library listing and the monthly newsletter. Memberships are as follows: If you join January-March, \$18.00; April-June, \$14; July-September, \$10; October-December, \$7. All renewals should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing newsletter issues. Please be sure to notify us if you have a change of address. The *Old Time Radio Club* meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM during the months of September through June at St. Aloysius School Hall, Cleveland Drive and Century Road, Cheektowaga, NY. There is no meeting during the month of July, and an informal meeting is held in the month of August.

Anyone interested in the Golden Age of Radio is welcome. The *Old Time Radio Club* is affiliated with the Old Time Radio Network.

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All Submissions are subject to approval prior to actual publication.

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

The *Illustrated Press* is the newsletter of the *Old Time Radio Club*, headquartered in Western New York State. It is published monthly except for the months of July and August. Contents except where noted are copyright © 2009 by the OTRC.

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Library Rates:

Audio cassettes and CDs are \$1.95 each and are recorded on a club supplied cassette or CD which is retained by the member. Rates include postage and handling and are payable in U.S. funds.



Editor's Two Cents:

Before I go any farther I'd like to apologize to Jim Cox for giving him a different last name in the April newsletter. I'd also like to mention that I got replies to the question that I posed in the last letter about "The Ole Timer" from Fibber McGee. I guess I'll have to see an eye doctor and an ear doctor. And I'm an optician too. Anyway Mr. C is on the cover. Next month I plan to feature "Old Blue Eyes" when he wasn't so old. It will probably be a two or three part story and should appeal to all Sinatra fans with some interesting facts about Mr. S. that you may not have heard before. It seems like a pattern of singers have hit the cover, but I assure you the September cover will not feature a crooner. Ken Krug was present at the last meeting and was looking very good. Jerry Collins is on the mend after having shoulder surgery, and we hope he is doing fine. Just like to mention that Old Time Radio can be good for your health. Taking a three mile walk with the company of Fibber McGee and Suspense I managed to lose a dozen pounds and lower my sugar glucose level to a safe level. I wouldn't walk without my stories so I have them to thank for being a little healthier. This month I will start running a little quiz for some small but rewarding prize for identifying the picture of a popular radio star.

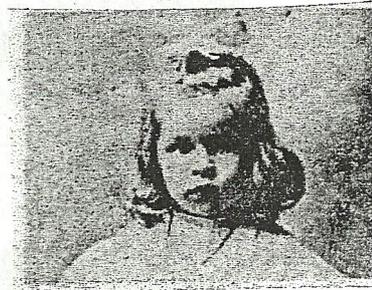
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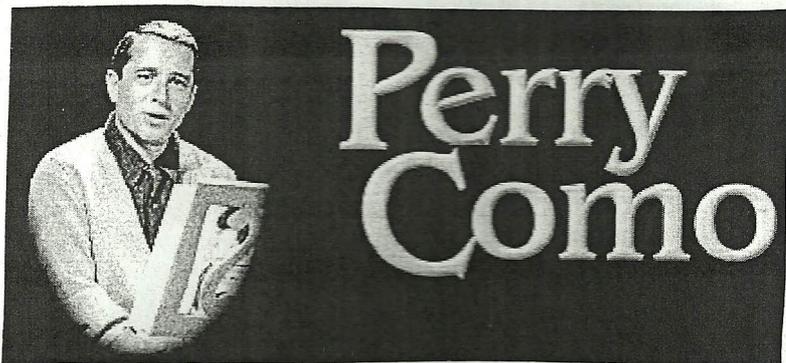
Two little tidbits: One is from Bill Stern so you take it for what it's worth. This is about legendary cowboy star Tom Mix. On an interview with Tom Mix, he told Stern he had a lucky penny that he carried with him wherever he went. He told Stern on the interview he recently miss-placed it. The following week Tom Mix died in a fatal car accident. That was Bill Stern. On a more pleasant note we talk about Abbott and Costello. It seems that Cupid doesn't always work its wonder under a soft moonlight. Comedians Bud and Lou were known to argue with each other constantly. When they were younger and working in vaudeville in a small town in Ohio a fight broke out with two beautiful chorus girls. They began yelling at each other and later it became a hair-pulling slap facing brawl. Bud and Lou were minding their own business back stage, but wound up separating the girls. Bud had been holding Betty and Lou had a hold of Anne. In three weeks Bud married Betty and shortly after Lou married Anne. Betty and Anne have remained best friends for years. Bud and Lou continue to fight. Now you know.

Quiz: the first person who e-mails me to the identity of this little girl wins a 24 song CD of Bing Crosby's greatest Irish Hits. E-mail Skylark68_1999@yahoo.com

hint: A

moon helped her.





By Tom Cherre

The last time I saw Perry Como was at the Niagara Falls Convention Center about 20 years ago. He was doing a Christmas show. He was in his late 70s, but his voice was as good as ever.

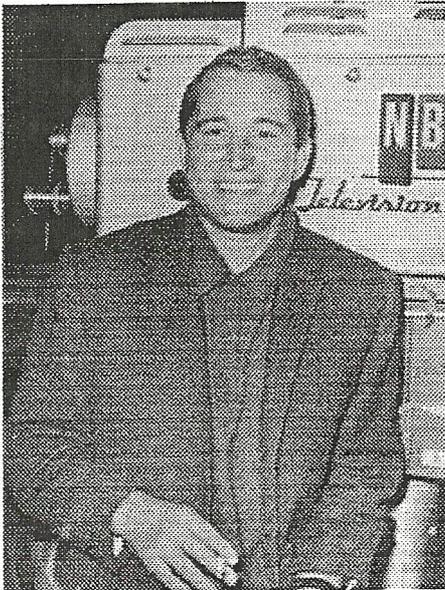
During the show he took a few moments to answer questions from the crowd. To hear him speak to the audience was like listening to a favorite uncle. Perry Como was a genuine all-round good guy. He closed with his *Ave Maria*. Walking out of the show I got a true sense of what an entertainer Perry Como was really like. Mr. C., outside of being a superstar, his career had not one hint of scandal to tarnish his illustrious life. He was married to the same woman for 65 years. Como like so many stars came from a humble beginning. He was born Pierino Ronald Como in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania on May 18th 1912. He was the seventh of thirteen children born to Italian immigrants



Perry would work for a few cents a day after school in a barbershop. Later in high school he operated his own barbershop. He also earned extra money by singing at weddings and other events. He was one of the few vocalists at the time to read music. He also played the organ and the baritone horn. While he was on vacation in Cleveland in 1933 Como auditioned for Freddy Carlone's band, and was hired at a salary of \$25.00 per week. At the time Perry had a lucrative business cutting hair and making a net profit of \$125 per week. That same year he married his high school sweetheart Roselle Belline, the daughter of French immigrants. They had three children. *Their son Ronald is shown on front cover with dad.* After awhile things weren't working out too well so Perry went back to barbering. In the late 1930s he took another stab at singing with the Ted Weems orchestra, and it was clear sailing from then on. After the band broke up NBC offered Como a radio contract to co-star with Jo Stafford on *The Chesterfield Supper Club* regularly broadcasting Mondays through Fridays. Perry usually sang his romantic ballads, and the listening audience loved him. Hollywood movie makers tried to lure him to the silver screen, but his career in movies was both brief and unrewarding. Three of his movies *Something for the Boys* (1944), *Doll Face* (1945), and *If I'm Lucky* (1946) were memorable only due to Carmen Miranda appearing in all of them. Como said "I was wasting their time and they were wasting mine." He remained with NBC on the radio from the 1940s to the early 1960s on TV with *The Kraft Music Hall*. I don't remember Perry Como on the radio, but I remember watching him every single

Wednesday night. Frank Gallop was the announcer and Ed Herlihy would pitch all the Kraft products. The show was great, and for being so good Kraft sold tons of cheese and plenty of Miracle Whip, I'm sure. Como had plenty of hit songs from the 1940s even having his rendition of Jingle Bells hit the charts in 2006, enabling Como to have chart topping songs 61 years apart. His theme song *Dream Along With Me* is as memorable as Bing's *Blue of the Night*. I myself liked Perry Como very much. I liked his style and the character of the man. Music critic Gene Lees described Perry Como in his 1968 album "Look To Your Heart" in his words.

Despite his immense popularity, Como is rarely given credit for what, once you stop and think of it, he so clearly is : one of the great singers and one of the great artists of our time. Perhaps the reason people rarely talk about his formidable attributes as a singer is that he makes so little fuss about them. That celebrated art is the result of mastery over the details of his craft. Como made singing seem effortless, but a good deal of effort has gone into making it seem so.



What more can you say about Perry Como? He deserved all the accolades he received. Perry Como died on May 12th 2001, a week shy of his 89th birthday. He died peacefully in his sleep. Como appeal spanned generations and he was widely respected for both his professional standards and the conduct in his personal life. Billboard Magazine summed up his life in these few words: **"50 years of music and a life well lived. An example to all."**

Perry Como Tidbits: On the final episode of the Seinfeld series George Costanza's lawyer wants him to look like Perry Como. He says "No one's going to convict Perry Como."

In downtown Gettysburg there are two statues in front of where Lincoln gave his famous address. One is of Lincoln, his left arm raised to point where he stayed. His right hand is on the arm of a tourist. The tourist depicted is Perry Como in his famous cardigan sweater.

Perry Como's birthplace of Canonsburg is also the birthplace of singer Bobby Vinton. The town erected a statue of Como in the middle of town. On the base it reads "To this place God has brought me." Como died before he saw the statue. The statue sings by playing recordings of his music.

Bing The Beloved Loafer
Part 3



Well, Bing and Dixie were married, but it wasn't a happy one. Dixie now had second thoughts about making the right choice. Bing was away every evening singing at different nightclubs. During the day he was still making silly slapstick movies. This might have been OK for a bachelor, but not quite the same for a newly married couple. Bing had lucked out in the beginning of his career when Paul Whiteman by sheer chance happened to see him that one night. Bing was starting to worry that his luck was about to run out. However his Irish luck was with him once more on another quirk of fate that was about to take place. One of the big executives at CBS was on a Trans-Atlantic cruise and by chance heard a recording of Bing on a portable phonograph. Bing was singing "I Surrender Dear", a song he had written himself especially for Dixie. The executive was immediately impressed with hearing the baritone that delivered the lyrics. He liked Crosby's natural talent of having a lazy type of romanticism when he heard him sing. He cabled his staff at Columbia to get a hold of this Crosby fellow and sign him to a contract right away. Bing was elated when he heard the news, but there were a few minor problems he had to settle

first. CBS wanted him in New York right away. Bing had apparently signed dozens of contracts for small engagements on the coast. He called his brother Everett, who not only had a good head on his shoulders, but could wheel and deal contracts with the best of them. It cost Bing thousands of dollars, but Everett was able to extricate Bing from all the contracts he had signed. The three Crosbys, Bing, Dixie, and Everett took off for New York for a new radio show. When Bing went on the air for the first night he started with his theme song "When the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day" there was a wake of palpitations over the network, indicated by a deluge of fan mail. His romantic, laid back style captivated his listeners. With Victor Young's orchestra, Eddie Lang at guitar, and the hot fiddle of Joe Venuti Bing was on the road to fame. He would give his production crew heart failure by sitting down on the floor during orchestra rehearsal whistling and reading the newspaper comics. Then he would rise lazily step up to the microphone and croon out the tunes in that Crosby style.



Brother Everett set up an office to take care of Bing's business. One room was completely filled with fan mail. Bing would rarely show up at his office. Him and Dixie were out and about in New York City having the best time of their lives. They were happier then they had ever been. Bing's rise to fame was inevitable. He was well at ease and could deliver Chesterfield commercials as smooth as any professional on the air. Another good thing happened. Bing was receiving bids to make more movies in California. Columbia had offered him prime roles in A movies. The good thing was that he could go back to California and still do his show from the West Coast studios. The other good news was that Dixie was expecting their first child, and Dixie wanted to settle down in their own home. As for pictures, Bing said to his brother "I can't act." As for the movies decided not to take the movie business too seriously and wound up being a grand romantic comedian who could also sing a good tune. People began to sit up and take notice of Bing's rule. Take it easy It began to look like a good idea.



Under the close eye and scrutiny of brother Everett Bing's fortune continued to grow. He had the big house and later a ranch. He was comfortable. The Crosbys enjoyed the good life. The twins came along and finally Lindsey. The crooner remained a slight problem to brother Everett sneaking out of business meetings to go fishing, play golf, play the horses, or to yell himself hoarse at a football game, not caring about his precious vocal chords. Bing's theory was "Why Me Worry?" He had done quite all right for a lazy bones. He had made it big in the movies, radio, and recording industries. He was enjoying every aspect of his work except for the boredom of applying makeup and getting groomed to play a part. Everett says Bing's favorite movie was Mississippi where he had to grow a beard and look like a bum. Things have not changed for Bing since leaving Spokane many years ago. He finds himself the center of big business, which brothers Everett, and Larry, and also Pop Crosby help manage. He owns a stable of thoroughbreds on two big ranches. He still whittles and whistles when he runs up against a problem. But Bing's biggest problem has been solved. He made the world love a loafer.

Old Time Radio A Dieing Hobby
by Jerry Collins:

The Fat Man



This show was the first evening adult radio show that I was permitted to listen to. The Fat Man was created for radio by Dashiell Hammett and premiered in 1945. It lasted three years on the air. Brad Runyan was played by J. Scott Smart (1/15/60), native of Buffalo. Sgt. McKenzie was played by Ed Begley (4/28/70). I will always remember the use of the scale at the beginning of the show as well as the Pepto-Bismo commercials. Two of the regular guests on the show were Bette Garde (12/25/89), and Vici Vola (7/21/85).

The Adventures of Gregory

Hood. Like Candy Matson and Sam Spade, The Casebook of Gregory Hood was based in San Francisco, where he was an importer of fine jewelry and antiques. Hood was played by Gale Gordon (6/30/65), Elliot Lewis (5/20/90), Jackson Beck (7/28/04), Paul McGrath (4/13/78), Martin Gable (5/22/86) and George Petrie (11/16/67). Sanderson "Sandy" Taylor was played by Bill Johnstone (4/7/97), Howard McNear (1/3/69) and Art Gilmore (Still

alive born 3/18/12). The show was sponsored by Petrie Wine with Harry Bartell (2/26/04) doing the announcing. Although quite creative and imaginative, the show was never a regular on the schedule. It appeared on the air in 1946 and then appeared on an irregular basis until 1950.

Bulldog Drummond. Although the show took place in the United States, it certainly had an English flavor to it. Captain Hugh "Bulldog" Drummond was played by Santos Ortega (4/20/76) and Ned Weaver (5/6/84), while Denny was played by Luis Van Rooten(6/17/73) and Everett Sloane (8/6/65). The show was produced and directed by Himan Brown (still alive born 7/21/10). It was remembered for its famous introduction that brought the famous British investigator, "out of the fog, out of the night and into his American adventure."

CASEY CRIME PHOTOGRAPHER



Crime Photographer Magazine, No. 1, ca. Aug. 1949

CASEY CRIME PHOTOGRAPHER



Crime Photographer Magazine, No. 2, ca. Oct. 1949

Casey Crime Photographer. The show dealt with the escapades of Casy and Anne a star reporter for the *Morning Express*. The show was originally titled "Flashgun Casey". Casey was played by Staats Cotsworth (4/9/79), while Anne Williams was played by a bevy of well-known actresses; Alice Reinhart (6/10/93), Betty Furness (4/2/94), Joan

Allison (3/31/93), Leslie Woods (8/2/03) and Jan Miner (2/15/04). Ethelbert the bartender at the Blue Note Café played a major role in the show and was played by John Gibson (9/71). Captain Logan was played by Jackson Beck (7/28/04) and Bernard Lenrow (1963). The announcers were Tony Marvin (10/10/98) and Bill Cullen (7/7/90). The show was closely associated with its first sponsor, Anchor Hocking Glass. It was later sponsored by Toni Home Permanent and Philip Morris Cigarettes.



Publicity still for *Crime Photographer*, ca. 1944

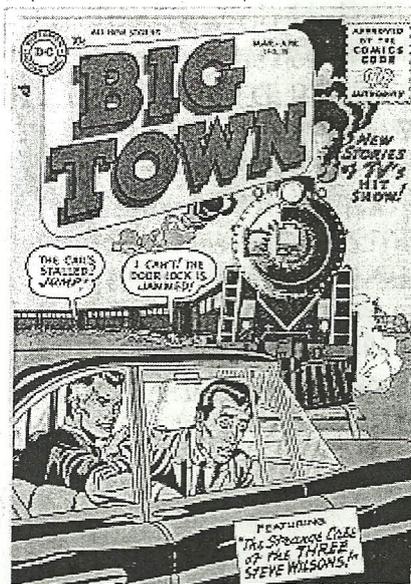
The Saint. The Saint, "The Robin Hood of Modern Crime" was played for much of its run by Vincent Price (10/25/93). The earlier Saints were Edgar Barrier (6/20/64), Brian Aherne (2/10/86), Tom Conway (4/22/67) and Barry Sullivan (6/6/94). Leslie Charteris (4/15/93) was the producer with Bill Rousseau (5/2/72) as director. Dick Joy (10/31/91) was the announcer for a show that was on the air from 1944-1951.

Rogue's Gallery. Richard Rogue was played by Dick Powell (1/2/63), Barry Sullivan (6/6/94) and Chester Morris (9/11/70), while Eugor was played by Peter Leeds (11/12/96). The show was on the air from 1945-47 and again from 1950-51 and was sponsored by Fitch Shampoo. Although it was a summer replacement for much of its run it was able to attract some quality guest stars; Lou Merrill (4/7/63), Gerald Mohr (11/10/68), Gloria Blondell (3/25/86),

Tony Barrett (11/16/74) and Lurene Tuttle (5/28/86).



Let George Do It. Although Bob Bailey (8/13/83) gained more acclaim as Johnny Dollar, he distinguished himself quite well as George Valentine. Claire Brooks "Brooksie" played by Virginia Gregg (9/15/86) was his sidekick and able assistant. Joe Kearns (2/17/62) played Caleb the elevator operator. In the early episodes in 1946 the show was more of a comedy-detective show. When Sonny, played by Eddie Firestone Jr. (3/1/07) left the show the comedy aspects of the show disappeared. Valentine received his cases by placing an ad in the local newspaper and waiting for letters in his postal box. Eddie Dunstedter (7/30/74) was the organist on the show.



Next month we bring you Big Town.

To recap on our story The Case of the Holy Scepter by Frank Bork, Mr. Sherlock Holmes was narrowing down the possible subjects, and sent Watson down to the Central Bank Exchange meeting Mr. J. T. Katilus.: We continue: He stated that the Bank Exchange did not give out information about their clients but, because I was on a case for Sherlock Holmes he would make an exception, very discreetly of course. Most assuredly I told Mr. Katilus. He then went to his files and returned in several minutes later. Mr. Johns is a very thrifty family man. He save two or three pounds from his pay every month without fail. I thanked Mr. Katilus, left the building and went back to Baker Street. As I arrived at our flat, Holmes was just opening the door. Holmes! I called, "Hold the door". "Ah, Watson, what news do you have for me?" I told Holmes of the events of the afternoon. "Good Watson, Mr. Johns is an honest man." Holmes stated. "What have you learned of Alf and Bill?" I asked Holmes. "Alf is married with a wife and five children to feed, but he still has money for a fling at the Globe and Dove Tavern, where he fancies the bar maid there. I was told he was a brute when under the influence of alcohol. He would go home and beat his wife and children. His poor wife had to take in laundry to buy food for their children. It will be my pleasure to put him behind prison bars." I had a long talk with Reverend Simmons about her and the children. He assured me he will find work and a better home for her and the children. What about Bill, I asked. Is he a brute like Alf? No Watson, Bill will stop for a pint with Alf, but only one and then he's off home to his wife and his children, a boy and a girl. I talked to two of his neighbors, and they both agree Bill loves

his wife and children. My gosh Holmes! How can a man like Bill associate with a low life person like Alf? Well it seems that Mr. Johns needed two bully men to handle the heavy deliveries, and Alf and Bill were the right men for the job. Tomorrow I'll talk with Lestrade and set him on Mr. Frederick Crown. I want him to loan us Constable Perkins. Holmes, do you mean that huge constable, the Man as large as Alf? He's the one Watson. What ever for Holmes? I'm going to ask Mr. Johns to put Perkins on for a few days and have him work with Bill. I want to get Bill away from Alf. Perkins will get Bill to tell him all about his little job for for Mr. Crown. I'm sure that Alf more or less forced Bill to go along with Crown on the job. Lestrade has been after Crown for years, and has never been able to convict him. Well if Bill will come clean and help convict Crown, I'm sure we can keep Bill out of jail. First thing in the morning I'll go see Mr. Johns and see if he will help us, which I'm sure he will, then I'll go and have a talk with Lestrade and tell him of my plans. These past few years Lestrade has become a good friend to the both of us Watson and I'm sure he will help us. It will be a feather in his cap when he gets Mr. Crown behind bars. What about Mr. Edwards Holmes, don't you think he would want all the conspirators put in prison? I'm sure he would, but when he hears that Bill is willing to do the just thing, he will see Bill as we do. There came a knock on the door. Come in Mrs. Hudson, Holmes said. How the duce did you know it was Mrs. Hudson, Holmes, I asked. Quite simple Watson. Her foot steps, and as you know, we keep the outside door locked at all times, Holmes said with a smile on his face. Inspector Lestrade to see you Mr. Holmes, she

said. "Thank you Mrs Hudson, please send him right up. Now this is a convenient coincidence wouldn't you agree Watson?" "Why ah, yes of course." I muttered. "Ah Inspector Lestrade, come in man, sit here near the fire and warm up a bit. Watson, now would be a fine time for that brandy



you said you wanted. Of course you will join us Lestrade?" "Why yes Mr. Holmes, on a night like this it would be very nice, thank you. One of my Constables' Rob Higgins gave me his report of the theft of the Cross of the Holy Scepter. I went to see a Mr. Edwards about it and he told me you were handling the case for him. Is that correct Mr. Holmes?" "Yes of course" Holmes answered Lestrade. "It seems an old adversary of yours, a Mr. Frederick Crown is mixed up with the theft. In fact I believe he is the mastermind in this case." Holmes then went into detail of the theft and told Lestrade of his wish to use Constable Perkins to encourage Bill to come clean and assist the police to convict Crown and Alf. Holmes told Lestrade about his investigation of Bill and Alf. "I am convinced that Alf bullied Bill into joining in the theft." Mr.

I have been after that rogue, Crown. He has been involved in more crimes than any criminal that I have ever tried to convict. He has always managed to have someone testify on his behalf, claiming he was somewhere else at the time of the crime he was accused of. If you help me catch Crown I will forever be in your debt Mr. Holmes. Yes! By all means I will work with you on this case."

Lestrade said. "Good" Holmes said. "Then tomorrow we will go see Mr. Johns of the Freight Company." Early the next morning Holmes, Lestrade, Perkins, and myself went to see Mr. Johns, who was very cooperative, for as he said, "the reputation of the company is at risk." Bill was called into Mr. Johns' office and was told he was to work with the new man on the job. "Alf ain't gonna like this Mr. Johns, Bill said. "Well you just go to work with this new man Bill. I'll take care of it. He's new at this kind of work, but he's as strong as an ox, and he'll work well with you."

"Yes sir!" Bill said, and left the office. A few minutes later Alf came into the office. "What's this?" Me and Bill's been working together for two years now, and I don't want another man to work with" Alf shouted at Johns. "You are to work with Jack. I want you to go out there and help him load the van now Alf" Mr. Johns ordered. Alf said nothing and left the office. The three of us came out of the adjoining room. "You handled that quite well Mr. Johns" Holmes said. "I started this business myself. These men don't frighten me one bit Mr. Holmes" Mr. Johns said.

Be sure to tune in next month for the final and concluding chapter of The Case of the Holy Scepter.

.....editor.....

Bill into joining in the theft." Mr.

addan

The Old Time Radio Club

THOMAS R CHERRE
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You're **SAFER** smoking
PHILIP MORRIS

* Govt. figures show all-time smoking peak