

CHUCK SCHADEN'S

# NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER

AND  
RADIO  
GUIDE

FROM THE HALL CLOSET • BOX 421 • MORTON GROVE, IL 60053 © SEPTEMBER, 1980



JACK CARSON first appeared on radio in his own show in 1941 for the Signal Oil Company on NBC. In 1943 he joined CBS in a program sponsored by Campbell Soup and continued successfully until 1947 when he moved to NBC as the replacement for Jack Haley on the Sealtest Village Store. Eve Arden, who appeared with Haley, became Carson's co-star until the end of the 1947-48 season when she went on her own to become Our Miss Brooks. Carson continued for one more season starring in his own "Jack Carson Show."

## A DISSERTATION ON A "HAM"

Ham, often found between slices of bread, has a traditional way of turning up on theater stages, the screen, in night clubs, and over the air. As a dramatic term it is strictly a mark of opprobrium, a label of discredit that rings of artistic ineptitude. A ham, in short is a lousy actor. Yet members of one of the most popular dramatic groups on the air today are self-confessed "hams", and mighty proud of it, too.

REPRINT from RADIO VARIETIES, May, 1940

**T**HERE are, of course, hams and hams. To wear that badge of dubious distinction because you don't know any better is one thing, to be a "good" ham is another. For hamdom at its best, take a look at the Mighty Allen Art Players, heard with Fred Allen every Wednesday evening on the "Fred Allen Hour" over the NBC-Red Network.

There is no question but what the Mighty Allen Art Players belong to the group which merits that stamp of porcine perfection. When Allen, himself, introduces their fifteen-minute dramatic skit he openly refers to them as "the pullets of Pulitzer," the "only group of actors to bring tomato baskets on stage," and "The only thespian troupe ever to play 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and have the blood hounds walk out on them." One is easily misled into thinking that their ludicrous dramatic farces would make the collective Little Theater groups of the country look like a flock of Duses and Drews in comparison. But such, indeed, is far from the case.

Minerva Pious, John Brown, and Charlie Cantor have reached their present positions of first-rate hams only after years of experience and success on the stage and before the microphone.

Take Charlie Cantor who was introduced to grease paint more than twenty years ago when, during high school vacation, he answered an urgent summons to act as "straight" man for his brother, "Rusty" Cantor, then a famous vaudevillian. Save for a few ill-fated years when he decided to settle down and enter the shoe business, Charlie's been trouping either in vaudeville, musical comedy, dramatic stock, or on the air.

A short, butter-ball of a fellow, consistently jolly despite the ever-increasing bald pate that privately causes him much

mental anguish, Charlie is starting his 4th year as a member of the Mighty Allen Art Players. During that time he has taken more than 200 different parts in the Allen sketches, ranging from that of trained seal to a mediaeval balliff. He personally favors such characterizations as a cloak-and-sulter, or an harrassed delicatessen proprietor. For Allen, Charlie is always the ham. Yet he is in constant demand for straight dramatic programs.

Commencing his career in vaudeville in 1920 as a black-face comedian and dialectician, Charlie next turned to stock, and then for two and one half years, believe it or not, he played the part of Little Eva's mild-tempered plantation owner father in a road company of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Then came the ill-fated shoe venture and Charlie, flat broke, saw desirable coffee and cakes as a radio actor. His first job was at a small Brooklyn station with a banjo-playing partner. They worked sustaining — and gratis — for one week and then went commercial at \$15 a pair.

Harry Richman gave Charlie his first real start, and before long he was on constant call by network producers. Currently Cantor may be heard not only with Fred Allen on the "Fred Allen Hour," but on as many as twenty programs throughout the week.

Charlie's voice isn't hard to recognize, once you learn it, but like most character actors his name is rarely mentioned over the air. It's one of the hazards of being a first rate ham.

Minerva Pious, is another Mighty Allen Art Player who arrived at the enviable status of a well smoked ham only after plenty of seasoning.

"Min" is a veteran of the Mighty Allen



THE MIGHTY ALLEN ART PLAYERS  
(Left to right) John Brown, Minerva Pious, Charlie Cantor and Eileen Douglas

Art Players. She has been with Allen since he started his program seven years ago. Only five feet tall she belies her penetrating voice, but she does have that saucy, impertinent appearance you would expect from listening to the parts she plays over the air. Wait for the sharp-tongued shrew; the rasping voice of the chambermaid or spinster of uncertain years and you have Minerva. Pious, incidentally, is her real name.

Born in Moscow on March 5, 1909, Min had her first stage experience as a child walk-on in a production of the Russian Imperial Grand Opera in which her father sang the baritone lead. She was educated in dramatics in Salzburg. Before she arrived in radio she played character bits on the New York stage and did a turn in the editorial department of a nationally known news syndicate.

Minerva broke into radio as an accompanist, and says she wouldn't be the ham she is today if she hadn't been fired early in her career. One night she was playing for a radio singer when she forgot the notes. The singer, Harry Taylor, fired her, but later on, in one of radio's strange twists of fate, he became producer of Fred Allen's show, and remembering the little girl who spoke with a Russian accent, hired her for a Mighty Allen Art Player. The show is now produced by Bob Welch.

John Brown, "the Englishman," as the rest of the troupe refer to him, is a third member of Allen's coterie of hams. Tall,

dark, mustached John was born in Hull, England, thirty-four years ago; Most likely because he was hired originally six years ago, to do the part of an English duke, John gets the bulk of the more refined masculine roles, but nevertheless is as versatile a dialectician as Charlie Cantor, and plays with him on several straight dramatic shows.

John's first stage experience came in 1916 when he was in public school in England—a short lived experience since in the play, "Master Skylark," he was always killed in the first act. After a theater venture in Australia, he came to this country in the early twenties and started in stock in upper New York State. For six months he played character parts, acted as stage manager, and painted scenery. Then came Broadway and the legitimate stage, where he is still remembered for his work in "Peace On Earth" and "Milky Way." In fact, if it weren't for a serious shortage of good hams in radio, John would have probably continued his stage career. As it was he was the one man Fred Allen wanted to fill an opening in the "Mighty Allen Art Players," and Fred has a way of having his way.

So, the next time you tune in "Fred Allen Hour" and hear Charlie, Min, and the rest clowning through script, buffooning this line, and mugging that until your own sides are splitting, at their hammy acting, remember, it takes plenty of time to smoke a ham!

# "LIFE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL"

REPRINT FROM RADIO VARIETIES Magazine, October, 1940

The "Life Can Be Beautiful" program was on the air two years last September 5th, and to date the chief problem of the authors, Don Becker and Carl Bixby, is how to introduce a villainous character into the script and keep him, or her, that way.

Their difficulty can be traced directly to Papa David Solomon, the central figure of their story, and to the atmosphere of his little Slightly-Read Bookshop, where, for the most part, the scene of the story is laid. When Bixby and Becker created David Solomon, they endowed him with a philosophy which is summed up in the program title, "Life Can Be Beautiful", and they gave him a sincere belief in the fundamental goodness of every human being. Papa David immediately came to life before their eyes, and has so stubbornly adhered to the characteristics, with which they themselves endowed him, that every new, and supposedly villainous, character which they introduce to the script immediately reforms under David's kindly tutelage, and another plot has to be revised.

Stephen Hamilton, a crippled young lawyer, was already living with David in the bookshop when the story opened and, in the first day's episode, Chichi Conrad, a young girl from the slums who had been turned out on the streets by a woman she believed to be her mother, ran into the shop for refuge. These two have since become Papa David's "adopted" children, and the old man's influence on them was all according to plan. A short while ago, however, a character by the

name of Rita Yates was introduced to the show. She was supposed to be in the bookshop for the questionable purpose of swindling money from one of Chichi's friends, and her character was definitely on the shady side when first we met her. She stayed in the bookshop a few weeks and, in spite of the authors, her better nature began to assert itself. Finally David reformed her completely, while Bixby and Becker tore their hair and resigned themselves to finding Rita honest work in a settlement house. She was a complete washout as a villainess when David got through with her.

Ralph Locke, who takes the part of Papa David, is a genial gentleman with a twinkle in his eye, and a perfect fit for the part. Even Papa David's stubbornness is reflected in Ralph's sustained and single-minded refusal to accept publicity. He says that if he's any good the public will find it out, and if he isn't there's no point in trying to persuade them to think he is. He then retires to his out-of-town home and only shows up in the city for his regular broadcasts.

Alice Reinheart, who plays the part of Chichi Conrad, and John Holbrook, who plays Stephen Hamilton, are, however, regular city dwellers and maintain a sort of program solidarity by living within a few blocks of each other.

Alice, the petite and pretty star of the show, is 5'2" tall and weighs only 95 pounds. She has chestnut hair and her own description of her eyes is "green with coffee grounds in them". Her radio life in David's bookshop reflects her own life, for her



John (Stephen Hamilton) Holbrook and Alice ("Chichi" Conrad) Reinheart.

library is the most important part of her own home. She has collected first editions for years and has a four-volume scrapbook in which she has transcribed excerpts from the world's greatest literature. She turned down a movie contract to make her debut in radio in 1931, and has behind her a long list of successes in stock and on Broadway. An accomplished pianist, Miss Reinheart studied the piano for fourteen years, part of the time at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and then tried her hand at journalism, majoring in that subject at the University of

California. Her early stage experience took her on a European tour, and she has appeared on the stage in Berlin. The wide variety of her interests, and the vital quality of her mind make Miss Reinheart a well-informed and fascinating conversationalist on almost any subject that can be brought up, and lends an unusual richness and depth to her acting.

John Holbrook, the Stephen Hamilton of our story, has a rather different and unusual background for an actor. His first business venture was a very successful ski school in Canada. Passing from

## LIFE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL

this job to being an automobile salesman, and later joining a group of actors in Waterbury Conn., he eventually found himself before the microphone as an announcer on a local station. After this he wrote, produced, and announced various shows in Boston, and was at one time the head of the Radio Department of an advertising agency. He gave up this job, because he didn't feel he knew enough about radio, and came to New York City. Here he was primarily responsible for the compilation of the largest known recorded library of music in public domain, and here his career as a successful radio actor really began.

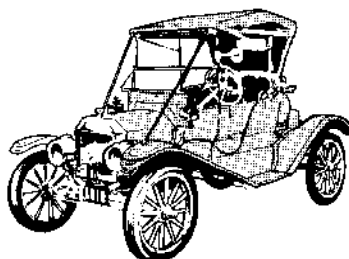
These three people, versatile and interesting in their own right, make up the nucleus around which the story of "Life Can Be Beautiful" revolves. Other permanent members of the cast are: Carl Eastman, who plays the part of Toby Nelson, a loyal and belligerent admirer of Chichi ever since her childhood days in the slums of the big metropolis where our story takes place; Richard Kollmar, who is heard as Barry Markham, son of the wealthy and prominent surgeon, Dr. Markham, played by Charles Webster; and Mitzi Gould, vivacious and talented young actress who takes the part of the now reformed Rita Yates.

The theme music used on the show was written by the co-author, Don Becker, and its title is, naturally enough, "Life Can Be Beautiful". It can be bought in sheet music form. Don, himself, listens to the show and to the rehearsals almost every day by means of a private wiring system, which allows him to "tune in" to the studio at any time while sitting in his own living-room.

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# SPORTS ANNOUNCER

REPRINT from RADIO VARITIES, September, 1939



**BOB ELSON**

The story of Bob Elson as an announcer for WGN—Mutual is a ten year sports chronicle of the United States. Now in the thick of his eleventh exciting year as a sports commentator, Bob holds the distinction of being the only announcer to cover every world's series ball game since 1929, and every all-star baseball contest since the first one in 1933.

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 1:30 to 1:45 pm., Bob conducts the "Ladies' Answer," an interview show. On the evenings of those days, he broadcasts his sports review, from 6:30 to 6:45 pm.

Seven days a week, ten minutes before game time, Bob visits the dugout at Wrigley Field or Comiskey Park and gets inside slants from players on the "Leadoff Man" program. Then there is the little matter of reporting the play-by-play account of the baseball game itself. When the games finish at a reasonable time like five o'clock, Bob has a leisurely hour and a half to drive through heavy traffic and munch a sandwich before his 6:30 sports review

# THOSE WERE THE DAYS • WNIB-FM 97.1

## SATURDAY AFTERNOONS • 1:00 UNTIL 5:00

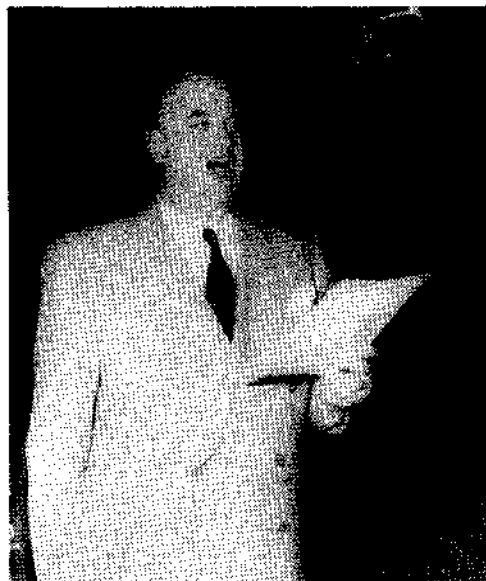
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th**  
**SALUTE TO DON WILSON**

**JACK BENNY PROGRAM** (1-10-54) Jack and the gang — Mary Livingstone, Dennis Day, Bob Crosby, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, the Sportsmen — salute announcer Don Wilson on the occasion of Wilson's 20th anniversary on the Benny show and his 30th year in radio. The cast participates in "The Don Wilson Story" sketch. AFRS rebroadcast. (8:45; 16:15)

**OUR SPECIAL GUEST** will be veteran announcer **DON WILSON** who reminisces about his long career in radio and his association with Jack Benny. (15:30; 18:20; 12:20)

**JACK BENNY PROGRAM** (1-23-49) Don Wilson, Phil Harris, Dennis Day, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, Mel Blanc, Frank Nelson, Bea Benadaret. This is the first of three consecutive and related programs dealing with Don Wilson's contract. Rochester does the opening announcements as Jack and Don are negotiating. Don refuses to sign and Jack locks him in the den without food. Lucky Strike Cigarettes, CBS. (11:05; 15:05)

**JACK BENNY PROGRAM** (1-30-49) Don Wilson, Mary, Rochester, Dennis, Phil, Mel.



**VETERAN ANNOUNCER DON WILSON**

Dennis does the opening chores this week while Don is still locked in Jack's closet, refusing to come out and sign a new contract. Later, Jack attends a meeting of the Beverly Hills Beavers Club. Lucky Strike Cigarettes, CBS. (10:50; 16:00)

**LIGHT UP TIME** (12-27-49) Frank Sinatra stars with Jane Powell and Jeff Alexander's orchestra. Announcer is Don Wilson. Frank sings "It All Depends On You" and "You're The Cream in My Coffee." Lucky Strike Cigarettes, NBC. (12:50)

**JACK BENNY PROGRAM** (2-6-49) Don Wilson, Mary, Rochester, Dennis and guests Claudette Colbert, Vincent Price and Fletcher Markel. In this third and final show in the "Don's Contract" sequence, Mary does the opening announcement while Don is still locked in the den. Lucky Strike Cigarettes, CBS. (16:45; 11:30)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th**

**JACK CARSON SHOW** (1940s) Jack confesses he's afraid of horses, but to impress Beverly Dillingham, he brags that he's an expert. Howard Petrie, Frank DeVol and the orchestra. AFRS rebroadcast. (8:05; 9:00; 9:35)

**SHELL CHATEAU** (6-29-35) Al Jolson stars in a rare, early broadcast from radio's golden age. Guests on this variety show starring the "world's greatest entertainer" include Reese and Dunn, Sylvia Fruse, Maxie Rosenbloom and actor Otto Krueger. Victor Young and his orchestra and announcers John McIntyre and Frank Nelson. Shell Gasoline, NBC. (12:35; 11:50; 29:20)

**DR. SIXGUN** (1954) A special story for Yom Kippur. A Southern colonel of the Jewish faith arrives in the territory and is challenged to a duel on the Day of Atonement. Karl Weber stars as Dr. Grey Matson, known as Dr. Sixgun. William Griffiths is Pablo and Bill Adams is Col. Arthur Turo. Sustaining, NBC. (16:55; 11:15)

**ADVENTURES OF OZZIE AND HARRIET** (9-2-45) The Nelsons struggle with a leaking faucet. Cast includes Bea Benadaret, John Brown, Viola Vaughn, the King Sisters. International Silver Company, CBS. (14:30; 15:00)

**SUSPENSE** (11-23-50) "Going, Going, Gone" starring Ozzie Nelson and Harriet Hilliard with

# THOSE WERE THE DAYS • WNIB-FM 97.1

## SATURDAY AFTERNOONS • 1:00 UNTIL 5:00

Joe Kearns. A couple buys an old trunk at an auction, but a "little man" wants to buy it from them. Auto Lite, CBS. (8:20; 6:08; 14:17)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th**

**HALLMARK PLAYHOUSE** (10-7-48) "Elmer The Great" starring Bob Hope in Ring Lardner's famous baseball story. Hallmark Cards, CBS. (13:45; 14:50)

**20TH CENTURY LIMITED** (1950) Bob Elson interviews visitors to Chicago aboard the famous train. Kranks Shave Creme, Kolor-Bak, Mar-O-Oil Shampoo. (14:30)

**OUR SPECIAL GUEST** will be veteran sportscaster and Baseball Hall of Famer **BOB ELSON** who will join us in our Metro-Golden-Memories Studio in Morton Grove to reminisce about his long and distinguished career as a broadcaster.

**CRIME FILES OF FLAMMONDE** (4-25-48) "The Case of the Ruinous Report" starring Myron Wallace as Flammonde. Pierre Andre is the announcer and Bob Elson does the commercials! Brachs Swing and Mint Candy Bars, WGN. (15:09; 14:40)

**HILDEGARDE'S RALEIGH ROOM** (1940s) The Incomparable Hildegard stars in a variety show set in a fictional night club. As she table-hops, Hildegard visits with George Jessel, Bill Stern, Milton Cross, Ed Herlihy, Bud Collier, others. Originally sponsored by Raleigh Cigarettes, this is an Armed Forces Radio Service rebroadcast. (8:30; 8:30; 11:25)

**LIFE OF RILEY** (1950s) William Bendix stars as Chester A. Riley who wants to move to a new home. Riley's wife, Peg (Paula Winslowe) is not too keen on the idea. John Brown appears as Digby O'Dell, the Friendly Undertaker. Announcer is Jimmy Wallington. AFRTS rebroadcast. (13:54; 11:15)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th**

**SILVER EAGLE** (7-20-54) "Decoy For Death" stars Jim Amacha as Sgt. Jim West, of the Northwest Mounted Police, the Silver Eagle, who investigates the murder of a woman. Produced by James Jewell. Wheaties, Cheerios, ABC. (11:30; 12:45)

**NORTHWESTERN REVIEWING STAND (1964)** "Do You Remember Radio?" The first of two consecutive programs discussing the "grand old days of radio." Moderator is James H. McBurney, Dean of the School of Speech, Northwestern University. Panel members are Willard Waterman, who starred as The Great Gildersleeve; James Jewell, producer of The Lone Ranger, The Green Hornet, Jack Armstrong, The Silver Eagle; and Franklyn MacCormack, announcer for Wayne King and Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy. Sustaining, WGN-Mutual. (10:35; 13:00)

**GREAT GILDERSLEEVE** (1950s) Willard Waterman stars as Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve who buys a new suit and decides to lose a little weight. Walter Tetley is LeRoy, Lillian Randolph is Birdie, Earle Ross is Judge Hooker, Dick Crenna is Bronco and Mary Lee Robb is Marjorie. AFRS rebroadcast. (12:05; 13:20)

**JACK ARMSTRONG, THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY** (3-12-41) An isolated episode of the classic kids' program starring Charles Flynn as Jack, John Gannon as Billy, Sarajane Welles as Betty and Jim Goss as Uncle Jim. Announcer is Franklyn MacCormack who not only pitches for Wheaties, but gets the kids interested in a special premium for girls! Written by James Jewell. General Mills, MUTUAL. (14:35)

**NORTHWESTERN REVIEWING STAND (1964)** "Do You Remember Radio?" part two. Panelists Willard Waterman, James Jewell, and Franklyn MacCormack continue their discussion of radio's good old days and take a look at radio in 1964. Sustaining, WGN-MUTUAL. (11:55; 11:20)

**WAYNE KING SHOW** (4-10-47) Wayne King, the Waltz King, and his orchestra with vocals by Larry Douglas and Nancy Evans. Music includes "Someone To Watch Over Me," "Don't Be a Baby, Baby," "My Ideal," and, of course, "The Waltz You Saved For Me." Announcer is Franklyn MacCormack. Syndicated. (11:40; 11:45)

**GREEN HORNET** (4-18-43) "The Corpse That Wasn't There" stars Al Hodge as Britt Reid, daring young publisher of the Daily Sentinel who, as the Green Hornet, breaks up a spy ring. Sustaining, NBC BLUE. (16:00; 13:50)

## NORTH WEST FEDERAL SAVINGS COMING ATTRACTIONS

If you have a fondness for the "good old days" then you're invited to enjoy some nostalgic programs at North West Federal Savings Community Center, 4901 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago. There's plenty of free parking in the large lot on Dakin street at the rear of the NWF office or CTA transportation will take you to the door. Enter the Community Center thru the parking lot. Visitors who arrive by CTA should walk south along the side of the NWF building, then turn west to the entrance of the Center.

Most programs begin at 8:00 p.m. and doors to the auditorium open a half hour before show-time. Proceeds are donated to recognized charities.

**ADVANCE TICKETS** are not needed for most programs, but are available for a few events. See the listing below for complete details:

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th — 8 P.M.**

**FOLLOW THE BOYS (1944)** George Raft leads the parade of stars, doing his bit for the war effort by signing up for USO shows. It's Universal's entry in the all-star WW II films and what a cast: Orson Welles, Marlene Dietrich, Vera Zorina, Dinah Shore, W. C. Fields, Jeanette MacDonald, Maria Montez, the Andrews Sisters, Sophie Tucker, Nigel Bruce, Gale Sondergaard, many others. Fields does his classic pool-table routine, Welles saws Dietrich in half and Mac Donald sings "Beyond the Blue Horizon." **PLUS** Mighty Mouse color cartoon and News Parade of 1944. (\$1.25)

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th — 8 P.M.**

**CHOCOLATE SOLDIER (1941)** Nelson Eddy and Rise Stevens star with Nigel Bruce, Florence Bates, Dorothy Gilmore, Nydia Westman. The score from Oscar Strauss' operetta and the plot from Molnar's "The Guardsman" add up to a pleasing film for operetta fans. **PLUS** color cartoon and Fox Movietone newsreel. (\$1.25)

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th — 8 P.M.**

**HOLLYWOOD PARTY (1934)** An all-star comedy revue starring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, Jimmy Durante, Lupe Velez, Charles Butterworth, Eddie Quillan, Ted Healey and Polly Moran. Durante does his Tarzan parody and Laurel and Hardy do the egg-breaking routine with Velez. Music by Rodgers and Hart, Arthur Freed, Gus Kahn, others. **PLUS** color cartoon and Fox Movietone newsreel. (\$1.25)

### **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th — 8 P.M.**

**RIO RITA (1929)** Rarely seen RKO musical comedy based on the Broadway show produced by Florenz Ziegfeld. Stars Burt Wheeler and Robert Woolsey (in their film debut), Bebe Daniels, John Boles, Dorothy Lee, Fred Burns. Music includes "Ranger Song," "Sweetheart, We Need Each Other," "If You're In Love You'll Waltz," "The Kinkajou," "You're Always In My Arms," "Long Before You Came Along" and "Rio Rita." It's a black and white film with the ballroom sequence in beautiful color. **PLUS** color cartoon and Fox Movietone newsreel. (\$1.25)

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th — 8 P.M.**

**MUSICAL HISTORY OF THE BIG BANDS—** A multi-media tribute to the big band era by historian Joseph Vance who presents slides, tapes and films of the biggest of the musical stars of an era that's gone, but not forgotten. Paul Whiteman, Isham Jones, Gus Arnheim, Ted Weems, Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Dick Jurgens, Eddie Howard, Harry James, Ted Lewis, Sammy Kaye, Shep Fields, Orrin Tucker, Russ Morgan, Frankie Carle, Vaughn Monroe and many others. (\$2.00) **ADVANCE TICKETS RECOMMENDED**

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11th — 8 P.M.**

**THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER (1941)** Monty Woolley, Bette Davis, Ann Sheridan, Billie Burke, Reginald Gardner. A pompous author, invited to dinner by an average couple, breaks his leg and is forced to stay for a month, driving his hosts crazy with assorted wacky friends passing through. Classic screen version of the George S. Kaufman stage success. (\$1.25—**NO ADVANCE TICKETS**)

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12th — 2 P.M.**

**A SALUTE TO RIVERVIEW**, the "world's largest amusement park" that's gone, but not forgotten. An afternoon of memories presented by Riverview historian **CHARLES WLODARCZYK** who will show and narrate hundreds of color slides of the park that used to entertain millions of visitors on its grounds at Western and Belmont in Chicago. (\$2.00) (**ADVANCE TICKETS RECOMMENDED**)

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18th — 8 P.M.**

**WARNER BROS. CARTOONS — 50 GOLDEN YEARS —** A tribute to Warner Bros. on their 50th anniversary of animation. Guest Curtis Katz will present an evening of great cartoons, slides and information about the studio that gave us Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Elmer Fudd and other favorites. (\$1.25—**NO ADVANCE TICKETS**)

### **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25th—8 P.M.**

**GREAT AMERICAN BROADCAST (1941)** Alice Faye, John Payne, Jack Oakie, Cesar Romero, the Ink Spots, the Wier Brothers. 20th Century's Fox' idea of the history of radio. It's lots of fun and loaded with specialty acts. (\$1.25—**NO ADVANCE TICKETS**)

### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26th — 2 P.M.**

**SALUTE TO THE CENTURY OF PROGRESS —** a tribute to the Chicago's World's Fair of 1933-34 presented by World's Fair historian **THOMAS SCHULFER** who will offer a program of slides and films of the fabulous Century of Progress and its many exhibits and attractions. A large collection of world's fair memorabilia will be on display and the program will include a tribute to Sally Rand, who fan-danced her way to fame and fortune at the Fair. (\$2.00) (**ADVANCE TICKETS RECOMMENDED**)

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st—8 P.M.**

**KING'S ROW (1941)** Ronald Reagan, Ann Sheridan, Robert Cummings, Betty Field, Charles Coburn, Claude Rains, Judith Anderson, Maria Ouspenskaya. A realistic portrayal of small town America before World War I. (\$1.25 —**NO ADVANCE TICKETS**)

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th— NO MOVIE TONIGHT**

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15th—8 P.M.**

**PIN-UP GIRL (1944)** Betty Grable, Martha Raye, John Harvey, Joe E. Brown, Eugene Palette, Mantan Moreland, Charlie Spivak and his orchestra. Romance between a sailor and his pin-up girl provides the setting for a load of specialty numbers. (\$1.25—**NO ADVANCE TICKETS**)

# FRIDAY NIGHT FILM FESTIVAL

## THE FILMS OF PRESTON STURGES

Director Preston Sturges has earned a place in the company of America's finest satirical humorists — Mark Twain and Will Rogers. His films are a cross-section of American life, offering critical insights that are always tempered with sympathy and comedy.

The Films of Preston Sturges will be shown Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m. at North West Federal's Community Center Auditorium, 4901 W. Irving Park Road in Chicago. Advance tickets are not available. Donation is \$2.00 per person, payable at the door.

Here's the line-up of films by Preston Sturges:

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 12th — THE GREAT MC GINTY (1940)** Brian Donlevy, Muriel Angelus, Akim Tamiroff, William Demarest. Satire on politics with Donlevy rising from bum to influential statesman in no time.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 19th — CHRISTMAS IN JULY (1941)** Dick Powell, Ellen Drew, Raymond Walburn, William Demarest, Ernest Truex. Hopeful contest winner goes on a shopping spree on anticipated winnings.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 26th — SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS (1941)** Joel McCrea, Veronica Lake, William Demarest, Franklin Pangborn. Movie director sets out to bum around the country to capture flavor for a meaningful film.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 3rd — THE LADY EVE (1941)** Barbara Stanwyck, Henry Fonda, Charles Coburn, William Demarest. Nice boy falls for a pretty girl working for her cardshark father.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 10th — PALM BEACH STORY** (Claudette Colbert, Joel McCrea, Rudy Vallee, Mary Astor, William Demarest. Classic "screwball" comedy about a wife who runs off and meets a nutty millionaire.

**FRIDAY, OCT. 17th — HAIL THE CONQUERING HERO (1944)** Eddie Bracken, Ella Raines, Raymond Walburn, William Demarest. Frail young man, rejected by the army, is mistaken for a war hero by his home town.

TALKING about Harry James reminds us of the time an irate performer rose in his seat and demanded: "Who called the trumpet player a so-and-so?" and the band leader looked at him sternly and asked: "Who called the so-and-so a trumpet player?" They call trumpeters by all kinds of names, but Harry Haag James, considered the Number One trumpeter of the nation, is probably the only one ever named after a circus, the Haag in his name being the *Haag Circus*, in which Harry's parents were working when he was born. That was a little more than twenty-six years ago in Albany, Ga., where the tent show happened to be stopping.

The man who was destined to be the Trumpet King of his day started out, when he was only four, as a contortionist, graduated to playing particularly hot drums in his father's band and, at ten, was already conducting the Number 2 band for Christy Brothers Circus, in which his dad led Number 1. But the musical urge was strong in the young James and he longed for something beyond the limited repertoire of the tanbark musickers. He began sitting in with dance orchestras around the Southwest, and after graduation got himself a job with one of them. Finally he landed with his first "name" boss, Ben Pollack, and during this period he wrote a song called *Peckin'* which started a dance-craze among the jazz-mad kids. Benny Goodman sent for Harry, telling him to bring his trumpet and get ready to work. This was in 1937, and two years later Trumpeter James left Benny to his devices and started his own band.

Excellent musician as Harry is, not every grown-up would be able to tell you just what quality his "sending" has that seems to drive the swing addicts into an almost holy frenzy. But if you ask the youngsters, they look at you as though the thing were so obvious that it hardly needs discussion. "He just gets you," they say. And they would add, if

# HARRY JAMES

## HE MAKES THEM CALL OUT THE RIOT SQUAD

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TUNE IN Magazine, August, 1943

they weren't so polite, "If he doesn't get you it's only because old age is creeping up on you."

Whatever the secret is, Harry has certainly been getting them from coast to coast, and when he makes a personal appearance they often have to call out the police reserves to handle the crowd of jive-jumpers who assemble before dawn at the closed doors of the theatre, dance in the aisles when the magnetic trumpeter plays, and when he gives out with his *Two O'Clock Jump*, have to be prevented from leaping up on the stage and continuing their rhythmic calisthenics amid the brassy and strings of the band itself. This is music, and very significant music, as all will attest, including the cop who had a couple of ribs cracked by the surging crowd outside of New York's Paramount, where all house records were broken in addition to the ribs of the policeman. This kind of reaction is not to be dismissed lightly. It is a very important development in the music of our time.

Tall, slender Harry James has wavy dark hair, blue eyes, and a smoothly genial personality that comes through with every puff on his mouthpiece. He plays football and tennis well, and has organized his band into a couple of baseball teams. When they travel he has difficulty resisting the temptation, when passing a vacant lot, to stop and play a scrub game between the strings and the winds in his orchestra. He likes to play



the drums, and to listen to other bands.

But this superlative trumpeter is also a very serious musician, and he is doing a great deal to wean the hep-cats from the aimless musical jitters, and making them like it. He hired a string quartet to play with his organization, and has orchestrated such classics as Debussy's *Afternoon of a Faun*, which he feeds them along with *Flatbush Flanagan*. Thus, without realizing it, many of the younger generation have become acquainted with a classic line in music.

Good looking Harry James is married to Louise Tobin, former vocalist with Benny Goodman and they have two children, Timothy, one year old, and Jeffrey, four. They live in a charming ten-room house in Beverly Hills, and one of the features of his establishment is an illuminated nursery with figures that light up automatically to entertain the kids. There's also

a swimming pool and, they say, a set of the Harvard Classics.

Harry James feels his responsibilities in music. "Just because the kids want good music played outside of a concert hall, where they can dance and react," he says, "don't dismiss their tastes as cheap. It means something very important to the appreciation of good music in America. It seems that the hep-cats have grown up."

If they have, they've done it along with the ever-increasing stature of Harry Haag James, who grew up in a circus and is now heard on three ether programs weekly. This is a success story in the highest degree, a type of story dear to the heart of every American, and America rewards its successes with the utmost generosity. An authentically estimated aggregate audience of thirty-five million listen to him each week, and that certainly puts him away up at the top.



From the desk of

**CHUCK SCHADEN**

### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Due to ever-increasing printing costs, rapidly rising postage and handling expenses, and further demands on the time required to prepare this publication, the **NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER AND RADIO GUIDE** will be distributed bi-monthly beginning with the October-November, 1980 issue.

Our six-times-a-year **NEWSLETTER** will continue to be your guide to the good old days, bringing you articles from and about the past, the complete listing of the vintage radio shows we broadcast every Saturday on **WNIB**, and other items of special interest to fans of those thrilling days of yesteryear.

The annual subscription rate remains the same and single issues of the **NEWSLETTER** will be available at our Metro-Golden-Memory Shops in Chicago and Morton Grove.

Thanks very much for your support . . . and thanks for listening.



# HELLO, OUT THERE IN Radioland!! WE GET LETTERS

**CHICAGO** — I enjoyed your "Chesterfield" extra featuring a 15-minute show by Perry Como (on TWTD, July 26). Please feature more of these. As I recall, this program was on WMAQ at 10 p.m. nightly. Como alternated with Jo Stafford. For at least one summer, Tex Beneke was the summer replacement. Tex had shortly before been discharged from the service and took over the Glenn Miller orchestra. Our old friend Eddie Hubbard, who was being sponsored by Chesterfield on WIND, from time-to-time acted as announcer for the summer show.—**ANTHONY ZANETELLO.**

**CHICAGO** — Well, sir, your Summer Festival of Radio surely is a tasty dish! From the looks of the rest of the lineup, it will be equally as enjoyable, Saturday after Saturday. During some of the broadcast today, I was distracted and unable to listen carefully to the 1940's portion of the show. What I did hear of it was very interesting and even outstanding at times. I am unfortunately not able to record it myself or have anyone do it for me; otherwise I'd sure as heck be doing it. I'd like to inquire, also, about the show you saw and mentioned several times which was playing at Mill Run — The Big Broadcast of 1944. Do you know or have any information concerning any commercially available recording of it? Thanks for the fine program and your constant informative conversation.—**ROBERT MOYERS.**

(ED. NOTE—Sorry, no "original cast album" for The Big Broadcast of 1944 was recorded. Too bad, too, because it was a great show.)

**VALHALLA, NEW YORK** — I am a former avid listener of Those Were The Days. I spent several months in beautiful Chicago from September 1978, to June, 1979, studying medicine. I left in June to continue my studies on the East coast. At that time I wrote you, telling of my departure and expressing my gratitude to you for making my Saturday afternoons events that I shall always fondly remember.

I sadly report that there has been no radio program found in this neck of the woods that is comparable to yours. Thus it has been a rough struggle with the ever-present reality

of today's world. However, I have managed to make it through the days by taking some time out to listen to any one of dozens of cassette tapes of old-time radio broadcasts, or simply gaze at my authentic replica of the Maltese falcon — all purchased with joy at Metro-Golden-Memories. So you see, all is not lost. I am still able to carry over some of my more pleasant remembrances of Chicago.—**KEVIN C. DELAHANTY**

**CHICAGO** — In the years that I have been listening to your excellent program I have never taken the time to write and tell you thank you. So while I am taking time to renew my subscription to the **NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER**, I'll take this opportunity to express my appreciation for making my Saturday afternoons so enjoyable.—**DONNA NORTHFELL.**

**RIVERSIDE** — We just got back from a two week vacation driving down to Florida and thank goodness we took Suspense, The Shadow and Fibber McGee and Molly along. With three children in the car, ages 15, 10, and 8 years, pinching and teasing was the order of the day. The tapes kept everyone in the back seat from killing one another. We have all been big fans of Those Were The Days for the past three years and try never to miss a program. Thanks for bringing so much enjoyment into our home!—**MRS. DONNA SZYDLO.**

**WOODLAND HILLS, CALIFORNIA** — We always look forward to the **NEWSLETTER**, but the July-August issue was especially fun with the whole cover covered with Fib and Mol and all the people who made it great in those beginning years. And on the schedule for August 23rd old Phil Leslie shows up on the Fibber McGee and Molly Show and on Glamor Manor. Nice to see my name in print — I wish I could tune in those two shows. They were fun at the time — they'd be fun to hear again.—**PHIL LESLIE**

(ED. NOTE— A cassette is on its way to you, with regards and thanks from the thousands of Those Were The Days listeners who sincerely appreciate your contribution to radio's golden age.)



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**WAR OF THE WORLDS**

**Starring Orson Welles**

"Ladies and gentlemen, we interrupt our program of dance music to bring you a special bulletin ... it is reported that at 8:50 p.m. a huge, flaming object, believed to be a meteorite, fell on a farm in the neighborhood of Grover Mill, New Jersey ... This is the most famous radio broadcast of all time! The original, uncut program from Sunday night, October 30, 1938, as heard on the Columbia Broadcasting System. Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre group presented the classic H.G. Wells story in "on-the-scene" news-documentary style and frightened half the country with their "on-the-scene" reports of the landing of creatures from outer space ... men from Mars.

**BRAVE NEW WORLD**

**Aldous Huxley**  
**Forecast of the Future**

The premier broadcast of CBS Radio Workshop, January 27, 1956, narrated by the author, with host announcer William Conrad. It is a shocking and scary prospect of the future. Huxley opens the show by saying, "we have moved much closer to the terrifying world than even I had imagined!"

The Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning is taking new students on a tour of the hatchery where human beings are bred and cultivated artificially. The tour continues to the bottling room, the pre-conditioning room, and the nursery. The sound effects are outstanding!

A strange kind of love story is involved, but because morality is so different it is fascinating to listen to it evolve.

This workshop is dedicated to man's imagination ... the theatre of the mind. This show will certainly give your mind, and your imagination, much to consider. We believe you will listen to this story often.

**GET YOUR TAPES** at any office of **NORTH WEST FEDERAL SAVINGS** or at the **METRO-GOLDEN-MEMORY SHOPS**. **BY MAIL**, send \$5.50 for each tape to **THE HALL CLOSET, BOX 421, MORTON GROVE, ILL. 60053**.