

CHUCK SCHADEN'S
NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER
AND
RADIO GUIDE

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

BOOK FIVE

CHAPTER TEN

NOVEMBER, 1979



EDGAR BERGEN AND CHARLIE MC CARTHY are at it again! For the fifth consecutive year they grace the cover of our NOVEMBER Newsletter. This tradition (and challenge to your editor) began in 1975.

Metro Golden Memories



5941 W. IRVING PARK ROAD, CHICAGO 736-4133
WE'RE OPEN! COME IN AND BROWSE

Chuck Schaden
and
Dave Denwood
offer



OLD TIME RADIO
SHOWS on Cassette
8-Track Tape and
LP Records

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES
about the stars
and days gone by

COMIC BOOK
Memorabilia

GIFTS, NOVELTIES

ORIGINAL MOVIE
POSTERS, MAGAZINES

RIVERVIEW AND
STREETCAR PHOTOS

MOVIE STAR PHOTOS

BIG BAND AND
PERSONALITY
RECORDINGS



OPENING IN NOVEMBER — — OUR SECOND SHOP
at 9004 Waukegan Road, just North of Dempster, in Morton Grove
STAY TUNED FOR GRAND OPENING DATE

COMMAND PERFORMANCE

ARMY SHORT WAVES BIGGEST AMERICAN
RADIO SHOW TO SERVICE MEN ABROAD

REPRINT FROM TUNE IN, MARCH, 1943

A few Sundays ago, a young and unknown radio producer sat down to a telephone in the War Department in Washington and called Leopold Stokowski, in New York. "Mr. Stokowski," he said, "I want you and your orchestra to appear on my radio program two weeks from today." Mr. Stokowski—who won't lift a baton for less than four thousand dollars—gasped. But before he could hang up, Glenn Wheaton, radio producer for Uncle Sam, explained.

"We want you to appear on 'Command Performance.' 'Command Performance' isn't heard in the United States. It's Uncle Sam's show for men in the armed forces serving abroad. They ask for

what they want. We give it to them. We've had a bunch of requests for classical music and we'd like you to answer those requests."

"Tell me where you want me to be—and when. I'll be there." It was as simple as that. By V-mail, letters, cables, requests pour into Washington from American lads serving from Alaska to the Antipodes.

The letters, themselves, provide a magnificent collection of Americana, a cross-section of the soul of America, and a wistful study in nostalgia. Good, bad, or indifferent, these men on foreign soil ask only for the America they left behind.



Last Minute Details of a Command Performance are ironed out by Col. Kirby, left, Glenn Wheaton, producer, center, and Bob Hope, emcee



Most of the "Command Performance" broadcasts originate in Hollywood, where Groucho Marx and Barbara Stanwyck stand before the Army's

"Command Performance" is a remarkably well produced show. There are no corny pep talks. The Army feels that fellows out in Guadalcanal and Africa know why they're there. Neither are there commercial announcements on these shows. Nearest thing to a commercial runs about like this:

"Just tear off the top of a Stuka or Zero and write us what you want on the show. We'll give it to you." And the boys have done just that. One bomber squadron stationed in England has a working arrangement with Judy Garland. She'll sing a song for them in return for each Nazi plane they shoot down. To date, Judy owes



studio marquee but occasionally, the shows are built elsewhere. Once Kay Kyser flew entire band east for broadcast at personal cost of \$8,000

the boys two songs. A request that the world's best and worst violinists do a program together found Jascha Heifetz and Jack Benny working as a team. Brenda and Cobina brought the rubber shortage on the home front close to the boys by describing how the girls are retreading their girdles. Perhaps the most unusual request was from a sailor at Pearl Harbor. "Would Carol Landis step up to the microphone and just sigh—that's all?" She would and did.

Command Performances were once the prerogative of royalty. Now every soldier's a king, his command an order of the day.



Variety is the Word for "Command Performance"—and Jerry Colonna and Don Wilson are living proof that what the boys want, the boys get

The Radio Branch originated "Command Performance" nearly a year ago. The shows are broadcast thirty-six times weekly by short wave beamed at different parts of the world and at different hours so that wherever American soldiers are on duty overseas, it will reach them during their waking hours. Having proved its power as a morale builder, on December 15, it was transferred to the Army's Special Service Division, in charge of welfare and entertainment of U. S. Troops—with Glenn Wheaton remaining as its guiding genius.

Chief of the Radio Branch is chocky, active, sandy-haired Lt. Col. E. M. Kirby. Kirby operates from a half-finished office cluttered with uncovered telephone cables in the Army's new and fantastic Pentagon Building, in Arlington. He is a red-tape-cutter; and few men know their way around in radio better than he. For

years, he directed the National Association of Broadcasters, knows problems of broadcasting and programming intimately. Before Pearl Harbor—when only ostriches and those who were blind and would not hear failed to perceive the war clouds then brewing—Kirby went to the army as a civilian dollar-a-year man to direct the then-new Radio Branch. After Pearl Harbor, he was commissioned and has been doing a terrific job.

"Command Performance" was born of a sports broadcast the Radio Branch cooked up. Boys in the field wanted to know how the baseball games were going, and Col. Kirby arranged to broadcast the games by short wave.

But the boys in far places then began to write in and ask why—if they could have the sports broadcasts—couldn't they have the good entertainment shows being broadcast in America. Col. Kirby knew that the entertainers of America were more than willing to do their part. So were the radio stations. The result was "Command Performance." Presented by a commercial sponsor, "Command Performance" would have a weekly talent cost of not less than \$50,000. For Uncle Sam, there are no charges.



The World's Greatest performers freely give time and talent in fulfilling requests. Barbara Stanwyck, Spencer Tracy recently shared mike

THOSE WERE THE DAYS • WNIB- FM 97.1

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS • 1:00 UNTIL 5:00

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd
DON'T TOUCH THAT DIAL!

PHIL HARRIS—ALICE FAYE SHOW (11-14-48) with Elliott Lewis as Frankie Remley, Gale Gordon as a department store clerk, Robert North as Willie. Phil and Frankie try to invent a new drug to please their sponsor. Alice sings "A Little Bird Told Me" and Phil sings "The General Says Giddyup." Rexall, NBC. (13:05; 7:45; 8:05)

STRAIGHT ARROW (1-7-50) Howard Culver stars as Steve Adams, a white man raised among the Comanche Indians who becomes Straight Arrow "to take up the cause of law and order throughout the west." A pioneer wagon train heading for Oregon is snow bound in the mountains. Nabisco Shredded Wheat; MUTUAL. (8:15; 10:00; 9:25)

TREASURY STAR PARADE (1943) "Chicago, Germany" stars Joan Blondell in a radio play by Arch Oboier, suggesting what life in Chicago would be like should Germany win the war. Announcer is Paul Douglas. Treasury Department. (14:40)

HOP HARRIGAN (1940s) America's Ace of the Airwaves escapes from a Nazi prison camp and steals a Messerschmidt. Chester Stratton as Hop, Jackson Beck as Tank. Announcer Glenn Riggs reads a letter from a sergeant in the Junior Salvage Army Drive. Sustaining, NBC BLUE. (14:30)

DESTINATION FREEDOM (8-8-48) "The Heart of George Cotten" was a Peabody Award winner in this series "dramatizing the great democratic traditions of the Negro people interwoven in the pageant of history and a part of America's own destination freedom." A story of two black doctors, Ulysses Grant Dailey and Daniel Hale Williams, first to perform an operation on the human heart. Chicago Defender and WMAQ, NBC. (14:30; 15:00)

ADAM AND EVE SKETCH (12-12-37) The famous excerpt from the Chase and Sanborn Hour broadcast featuring Don Ameche and Mae West in the Garden of Eden. Written by Arch Oboier, this is the classic episode that kept Mae West off the air for 37 years! (8:45)

DRAGNET (12-7-50) Jack Webb stars as Sgt. Joe Friday with Barton Yarborough as Ben Romano. A pair of fake talent scouts seek young girls for a pornography racket. Fatima Cigarettes, NBC. (13:00; 13:00)

OUR SPECIAL GUEST will be J. FRED MAC DONALD, whose book "Don't Touch That Dial" discusses all of the old-time-radio material presented on our program today.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th
SALUTE TO ARMED FORCES RADIO

AFRS STORY (1-1-53) The Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS) puts itself on the back in this documentary telling the history of the unique broadcast service for military audiences. "The Network That Covered The World" offered 63 hours of programming each week to 67 AFRS radio stations around the globe. (13:00; 16:30)

COMMAND PERFORMANCE (8-25-44) Hostess Bette Davis introduces Marilyn Maxwell, Jimmy Durante, Artie Shaw and Jose Iturbi. AFRS. (11:45; 9:25; 9:00)

G. I. JIVE (1944) America's sweetheart G. I. Jill spins records for the troops. Music by Bob Crosby, Will Bradley, Glenn Miller, Gene Krupa. AFRS. (14:00)

MAIL CALL (1940s) Groucho Marx stars with Katharine Grayson, Kenny Baker, the Les Paul Trio in this variety show. Announcer is Ben Alexander. Groucho sings "Lydia, the Tattooed Lady." AFRS (12:10; 10:30; 6:00)

JUBILEE (9-18-44) Ernie "Bubbles" Whitman emcees a showcase for black talent including Jimmy Rushing, Thelma Carpenter, Butterfly McQueen, Art Tatum and Count Basie and the Orchestra. Guests are the King Sisters. AFRS. (10:18; 12:50; 8:15)

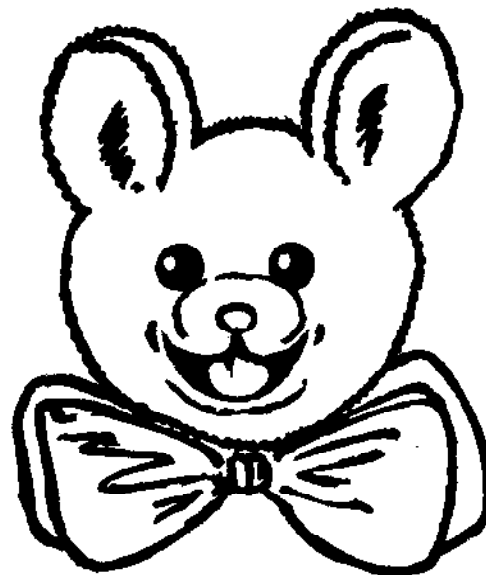
G. I. JOURNAL (1944) Bob Hope is "Editor-in-Chief" of this radio magazine for the boys in the service. "Reporters and writers" include Jerry Colonna, Glenn Miller, Betty Grable, Mel Blanc, Ray McKinley and Arthur O. Brian. (AFRS) (8:25; 8:30; 11:45)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17th
ANNUAL THANKSGIVING SHOW

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) It's time again for our annual presentation of the classic Christmas fantasy in which Judy and Jimmy Barton, while searching for the silver star for the top of their Christmas tree, meet Paddy O'Cinnamon, the Cinnamon Bear. It's a charming story and for many years was originally broadcast between Thanksgiving and Christmas during radio's golden age. We'll do just about the same, presenting a few chapters each Saturday between now and Christmas. There are 26 chapters in all, and each is a holiday cliff-hanger!

THOSE WERE THE DAYS • WNIB- FM 97.1

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS • 1:00 UNTIL 5:00



Buddy Duncan stars as Paddy O'Cinnamon and the cast includes Verna Felton, Joseph Kearns, Hanley Stafford, Slim Pickins, Howard McNear, Elvia Allman, Elliott Lewis, Lou Merrill, Frank Nelson, Cy Kendall, Gale Gordon and others. Listen closely to see if you can pick out who's who! Chapter 1 — The missing star. (13:25)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 2 — The trip to Maybe Land. (13:15)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 3 — Ambushing the Crazy Quilt Dragon. (13:15)

JACK BENNY PROGRAM (11-23-47) Just before Thanksgiving, Jack and Mary Livingstone go to the market to buy a turkey for the planned holiday dinner. Mr. Kitzel helps them choose a live bird! Phil Harris, Dennis Day, Mel Blanc, Don Wilson. Lucky Strike Cigarettes, NBC. (16:30; 12:00)

CAVALCADE OF AMERICA (11-24-47) "Us Pilgrims" is the fanciful lighthearted story, related by an immigrant student, of how the first pilgrims came to America. DuPont, NBC. (14:15; 13:25)

JACK BENNY PROGRAM (11-30-47) Just after Thanksgiving, Jack tells how he couldn't bring himself to kill the turkey he bought last week; he told Rochester to do it! Fred Allen is guest with regulars Mary Livingstone, Dennis Day, Phil Harris, Don Wilson. Lucky Strike Cigarettes, NBC. (13:40; 15:15)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 4 — Cap-

tured by the Inkaboos. (13:22)
CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 5 — Wesley, the Wailing Whale. (13:40)
CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 6 — Adventures in the Root Beer Ocean. (13:20)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24th
RADIO TO GET INTO
THE HOLIDAY MOOD BY

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 7 — Presto the Magician. (13:05)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 8 — Captured by Pirates. (12:40)

THE WHISTLER (12-24-50) "Three Wise Guys" is a Damon Runyon story based on the Nativity. Cast includes John Brown, Marvin Miller and Bill Forman. Signal Oil Co., CBS-West. (11:23; 8:11; 8:14)

CHRISTMAS FANTASY (1940s) The Christmas Jewel. (7:50)

BERGEN AND MC CARTHY (1952) Edgar and Charlie on the air for the Christmas Seal campaign. Charlie and Bergen's daughter Candice, age 5, recite "Twas the Night Before Christmas." (14:30)

CHRISTMAS FANTASY (1940s) How Christmas Seals Began. (4:15)

SUSPENSE (12-22-49) "Double Entry" stars Eddie Cantor in "an unusual story of clerical crime at Christmas time." Eddie helps his co-worker get money so he can return embezzled money. Auto-Lite, CBS. (16:25; 13:10)

CHRISTMAS FANTASY (1940s) Santa is Where You Find Him. (7:27)

BOB HOPE SHOW (1953) From Long Beach Veterans' Hospital, Bob prepares for Christmas with Bill Goodwin, Margaret Whiting, Frank Nelson, Sheldon Leonard and Jim Backus. Nelson is the floor walker in a department store! AFRS Rebroadcast. (12:25; 12:00)

CHRISTMAS FANTASY (1940s) Story of Robert Herrick, a Seventh Child. (6:15)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 9 — The house of the Wintergreen Witch. (12:50)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 10 — Through the Magic Picture. (13:15)

CHUCK SCHADEN'S NOSTALGIA NEWS-LETTER AND RADIO GUIDE IS A PUBLICATION OF THE HALL CLOSET, BOX 421, MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS 60053. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 10 ISSUES IS \$7.

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 the North West Federal Savings Community Center Auditorium, 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 to the Center.

Most programs begin at 8 p.m. and doors to the auditorium open at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds are donated to recognized charities.

ADVANCE TICKETS to these events, unless otherwise specified, are available at any office of North West Federal Savings.

Here's the line-up of coming attractions for the weeks ahead:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd -- 8 P.M.
STATE OF THE UNION (1948) Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn co-star with Angela Lansbury, Van Johnson, Aldophe Menjou, Lewis Stone. Frank Capra directed this fine film version of the Howard Lindsay-Russel Crouse play. Tracy is a presidential candidate caught between the ruthless ambition of a newspaper owner (Lansbury) who pulls the strings of his campaign and the integrity of his wife (Hepburn) who believes in the man behind the political facade. Capra presents a memorable menagerie of handshaking, backstabbing Party professionals who turn the election into an elaborate political sideshow. Tracy's disillusionment crystallizes in a coast-to-coast radio broadcast which climaxes the campaign. (\$1.25)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4th -- 2 p.m.
SALUTE TO MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT — from the turn-of-the-century to the mid-1930s. On stage, in person, will be the popular **WEST END JAZZ BAND** performing an hour-long concert of traditional American music including Ragtime, Cakewalk, Roaring Twenties Jazz and Dixieland. On screen, it's **THE BIG BROADCAST OF 1935** starring Jack Oakie, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Wendy Barrie, Bing Crosby, Ethel Merman, Amos 'n' Andy and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson. (\$2.00)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th -- 8 P.M.
W.W. II COMMAND PERFORMANCE — A look at entertainment during the war years as produced for the men and women of the armed forces and for the folks on the home front. We'll have some rare clips of "Command Performance" and other Armed Forces Radio Service programs filmed while being broadcast and starring such performers as Bing Crosby,

Carole Landis, Nancy Walker, Kay Kyser, Jerry Colonna, Bob Hope, Beatrice Kay, Beatrice Lillie, Burgess Meredith, Jimmy Durante, June Allyson, Gloria De Haven and Ethel Merman.

PLUS -- PRIVATE SNAFU propaganda/training cartoons for G.I. consumption: **THE HOMEFRONT (1943)** and **RUMORS (1944)**. And: Warner Brothers WW II cartoons: **TOKYO TOKYO (1943)** and **OF THREE I STING (1946)**. Also: **FOX MOVIEZONE NEWSREEL -- PEARL HARBOR (1943)**. If that's not enough: **ALL STAR BOND RALLY (1945)**, with Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Harpo Marx, Betty Grable, Fibber McGee and Molly, Linda Darnell, Carmen Miranda and Harry James and the Orchestra. Bing sings "Buy, Buy, Buy a Bond." (\$1.25)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11th -- 2 p.m.
THE WORLD AND MUSIC OF AL JOLSON — J. Fred MacDonald presents a multi-media visit to the world of exciting entertainment as only Al Jolson could make it. From **Swanee to Mammy**, from **Sonny Boy to California, Here I Come**, you'll relive a half-century of show business with slides, film and tape . . . the sights and sounds of days gone by with Jolson and his friends Sophie Tucker, Eddie Cantor, Fanny Brice and others. Included will be film clips of great Jolson production numbers from the 1935 film "Go Into Your Dance" and his 1936 hit "The Singing Kid." Also on the program will be a "Hollywood and the Stars" biography of the "world's greatest entertainer." (\$2.00)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17th -- 8 P.M.
WAY DOWN EAST (1920) A silent classic

(with a specially scored sound track of music and sound effects added in 1931) directed by D.W. Griffith and starring Lillian Gish, Richard Barthelmess, Lowell Sherman, Mary Hay. A poor but honest country girl is tricked into a phoney marriage by a city slicker who deserts her with child. Griffith's great skill as a director, Gish's superb acting, plus the exciting camera work of Billy Bitzer and Hendrik Sartov make this simple story of plain people a film masterpiece of timeless quality. The exciting climax, with the girl's rescue from the ice flow and waterfall during a blizzard (which was actually shot on location on the Connecticut River) will leave you breathless. (\$1.25)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24th -- 8 P.M.
RADIO RANCH (1936) A condensation of the Mascot Serial "The Phantom Empire" starring Gene Autry, Smiley Burnett, Frankie Darro and Betsy King Ross. One of the most popular serial-to-feature films due to its heavy emphasis on unusual science fiction. Gene battles the evil aliens and their electronic empire with six-guns and a white hat . . . but he always makes it to his weekly radio broadcast! (\$1.25)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1st -- 8 P.M.
WEEKEND IN HAVANA (1941) An extravagant 20th Century Fox Technicolor musical comedy starring Alice Faye, Carmen Miranda, John Payne, Cesar Romero, Cobina Wright, Jr. Leonid Kinskey, Sheldon Leonard and Billy Gilbert. Alice lands in Havana, torn between Payne and Romero. So what else is new? But it's great fun! (\$1.25)

HITCHCOCK FILM FESTIVAL

Donation is \$2 per person per film and proceeds go to recognized charities. Advance tickets are not available; purchase admission at the door. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 -- THE LADY VANISHES (1938) — Margaret Lockwood, Michael Redgrave, Paul Lucas, Dame Mae Whitty.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9 -- FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT (1940) — Joel McCrea, Laraine Day, Herbert Marshall, George Sanders, Robert Benchley, Edmund Gwenn.

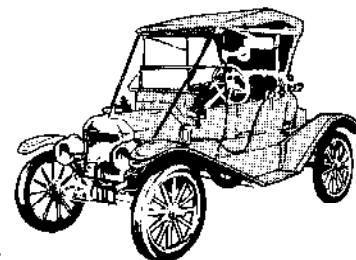
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16 -- SABOTEUR (1942) — Robert Cummings, Priscilla Lane, Otto Kruger.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23 -- SHADOW OF A DOUBT (1943) — Joseph Cotten, Teresa Wright, MacDonald Carey, Hume Cronyn.

Get Your

NEW FORD

from
an
Old-Fashioned
Dealer



NELSEN- HIRSCHBERG FORD

Since 1931

5133 W. Irving Park Rd.

— Open —

Monday thru Friday

Until 9pm

Saturday and Sunday

Until 5pm

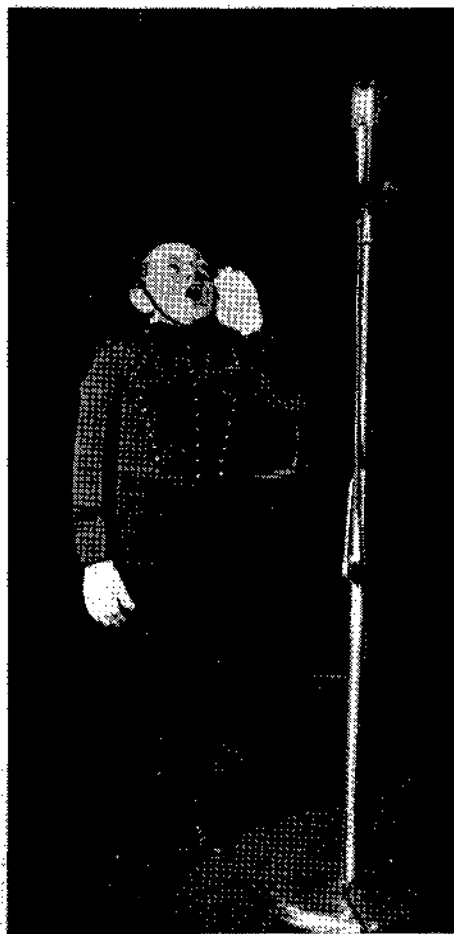
- Respect
- Courtesy
- Reputation

THIS IS JOHNNY, FOLKS . . .

REPRINT from TUNE IN Magazine, July, 1943

Johnny Roventini, America's best known living trade mark, is 31 years old, 43 inches tall and answers to the monicker of Johnny the Call Boy.

His is one of the most unusual radio success stories ever told. Eight years ago, Milton Biow, head of a New York advertising agency, sat in a New York hotel lobby waiting for a friend. Eventually, he heard a high, child-like voice shouting, "Call for Mr. Milton Biow. Call for Mr. Milton Biow."



Then an idea came to him. If people answered pages in hotel lobbies, why wouldn't they react the same way on the air? Thus Philip Morris's *Johnny the Call Boy* was born.

Johnny Roventini is a native of Brooklyn, N. Y., and receives \$20,000 a year from Philip Morris for the exclusive use of his voice, his size and his picture.

He is the youngest of four children born to the wife of an Italian day laborer. All of the other Roventini offspring were normally tall, but Johnny stopped growing when he was ten.

Johnny gladly gave up his hotel job, which brought him \$15 a week in salary and a similar amount in tips, to go to work for Milton Biow and Philip Morris for \$100 each seven days.

In the beginning, Papa Roventini soundly berated his youngest son for giving up a steady \$30 each week for a temporary \$100, but after a few months, as Johnny regularly received this sum for "doing nothing," as Papa said, he thought better of it. He celebrated by retiring completely from all work. That retirement has lasted to this day.

Johnny's earnings grew larger in subsequent years and he was insured for \$200,000. This, Milton Biow says, is only a fraction of his worth to Philip Morris.

Today, Johnny enjoys the status of radio star and this distinction rests becomingly on his pint-size shoulders. His \$20,000 a year made many things possible. He bought the two family house in Brooklyn where his family had formerly struggled to pay the rent. His sister and two brothers emulating the example of their father, decided to retire.

One of the brothers, formerly a cab

driver, functions as Johnny's chauffeur and bodyguard. To him is entrusted the sacred duty of protecting Johnny's person and voice. He is constantly beseeching and admonishing Johnny not to yell. He will not permit him to enter an air-conditioned movie theatre for fear of drafts and colds.

Johnny's principal love is baseball. Last year, his friend George Raft arranged a season pass that would enable him to sit on the bench with the Brooklyn Dodgers. This was found to be impractical after he had virtually yelled himself hoarse during a game. Today he sits in the stands with his brother at his side.

One yell, and Johnny is literally "thumbed out" of the game by his brother.

He plays baseball, too. In order to be able to do so, he completely equipped a sand-lot baseball team in the vicinity of his home. His team is a perpetual advertisement for his sponsor. They are known as the Philip Morris Flashes and that name is emblazoned on their uniforms. Johnny plays the "hot corner"—third base. He comes to bat using a kid-size club. He invariably gets a hit. Opposing pitchers always permit him to do so. Johnny knows that all his hits are gifts, but he enjoys them anyway.

His car, chauffeured by his brother, is a community bus. All the youngsters in the neighborhood are welcome to ride and as many as fourteen have been crammed in at one time.

Eight years ago, his suits, shoes and hats were purchased in boys' shops. Today, everything is made to his measure. His wardrobe is much more expensive and extensive than the average man's.

Johnny's most important radio program, as far as the neighborhood is concerned, is the Friday night CBS *Philip*

Morris Playhouse, on which movie stars appear in radio adaptations of motion pictures. Before and after each program he is asked by the neighbors to describe in detail what Marlene Dietrich said, what Dorothy Lamour wore, what kind of a guy George Raft is—and did he get any autographs? Johnny gets as many autographs as possible from the stars for the neighborhood youngsters. Dorothy Lamour gave him fifteen on as many slips of paper.

Miss Lamour idly asked, "What are you going to do with all my autographs—trade them in for one of Betty Grable's?"

"No," replied Johnny, "I give them out to my relatives."

"With the number of autographs you requested," she replied, "you must be related to the Dionnes."

Johnny attended a Brooklyn Dodgers game with George Raft. Raft later reported that just as many people asked Johnny for his autograph as requested his signature.

Johnny likes to feel he is an adult when dining out so he orders a regulation size dinner. After a few bites he gives up. His hunger is completely sated.

He is an exceedingly generous tipper, a throw-back to the days when he was a hotel page boy. He still remembers the disappointments over no tip and the joys of a large *pourboire*.

Besides the Friday CBS *Playhouse*, he is heard on the Sunday CBS *Crime Doctor* series and the Tuesday *Johnny Presents* programs over NBC. All three are coast to coast airings and Johnny is the first and last person heard on all of them. As the Ray Block orchestra plays Ferde Grofe's "On the Trail," Johnny's "Call for Philip Morris" rings out clearly.

HALL CLOSET CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

SHOWS THAT NEVER GROW OLD

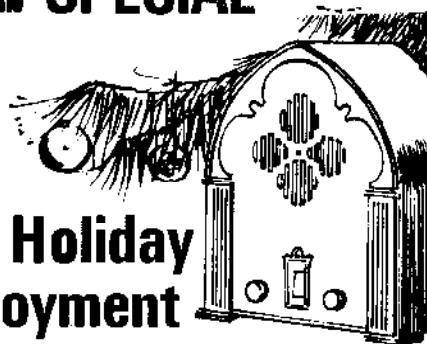
BUILD YOUR TAPE COLLECTION!
SET OF 3 CASSETTE TAPES

\$14

set

Reg. \$6.95 each

for your Holiday
Enjoyment



ORDER BY MAIL from THE HALL CLOSET,
BOX 421, MORTON GROVE, IL. 60053 OR, pick
up your tapes in person at any office of NORTH
WEST FEDERAL SAVINGS or at the METRO-
GOLDEN-MEMORIES Shop.

THE JACK BENNY

Christmas Show of 1954

With Mary, Don, Dennis, Rochester,
and Mr. Kitzel. Once again Mel Blanc is
the harrassed department store clerk
when Jack goes to the art department to
buy a Christmas gift of water colors for
Don Wilson . . . or should he get oils?
This time Mrs. Mel Blanc is there to
help, and Jack runs into problems. Brief
sketches by Dennis and Mr. Kitzel make
this a very funny program. Sponsored
by Lucky Strike, 12/5/54

PHIL HARRIS-ALICE FAYE

Christmas Show of 1949

Phil and Frank Remley, played by
Elliott Lewis, discover that there is not
going to be a Christmas tree this year in
the Town Square, so they decide to go
into "snow country" and cut down a 30
foot tree. With Walter Tetley as Julius
and Robert North as Willie. Sponsored
by Rexall, 12/18/49

MARGARET O'BRIEN

The Angel with the Cold Nose

This is a Christmas story of a little
girl who believes that angels don't
have just wings . . . sometimes they
have a cold nose. Add a lot of faith,
mix with a good Christmas story and
a miracle is certain to appear.

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

(Selected Sketches)

SPENCER TRACY

Tracy tells the classic story of a small 14 year old
donkey that is to be sold to a tanner . . . until the
miracle of Christmas happens. With Lee J. Cobb
and Howard Duff. 1944

LUM AND ABNER

Their traditional Christmas show, first told in
1933. A Nativity story as seen in a real life incident
in Pine Ridge, Arkansas. A warm Christmas
story. 1940's

ORSON WELLES AND

BING CROSBY

The beloved Oscar Wilde Christmas Story, The
Happy Prince, about a statue and a little swallow
that made his home in the statue. 12/25/44.

BING CROSBY,
DIXIE LEE & FAMILY

Bing's first family . . . Gary, Dennis, Phillip and
Lindsey. Bing insists on being Santa, but of course
no one is fooled. Lot of wise cracks, and the sing-
ing of another generation. 12/20/50.

THOMAS MITCHELL

The Miracle at Christmas

An auto accident leaves a wealthy
man a cripple. George, his friend
and neighbor has a little girl that is
also a cripple. The two become very
good friends and because of this
close friendship, a miracle happens.
A very happy ending to an emotion-
al Christmas story!

WE GET LETTERS



MIDLOTHIAN—The rebroadcasts of the WLS
National Barn Dance programs were fine and
greatly enjoyed. My sixteen year old son
thought the Hoosier Hot Shots were "cool".
Have you any recordings of Ford and Glenn or
Clem and Harry? They were two very fine and
popular duos in the late twenties and early
thirties of the Prairie Farmer Station WLS. Per-
haps others my age or older would remember
and enjoy them too. Thank you for a most
enjoyable program in the friendly spirit of the
good old days, when radio was RADIO. —
GEORGE VACEK.

(ED. NOTE—Sorry, no recordings by Ford,
Glenn, Clem or Harry in our Hall Closet ar-
chives. It's tough to find recorded copies of
early, local broadcasts as they seldom made
transcriptions for reference or rebroadcast.)

CHICAGO—I've been listening to Those Were
The Days for several years and look forward to
it every week. I especially enjoy the interviews
you have with the old time radio actors.—
N. E. DOUDICAN.

MORTON GROVE—I have a collection of your
Nostalgia Newsletters from October, 1975
in sequence up to the September, 1979 issue
which I would be glad to give to anyone who
might be interested. Love your program—no
one dares disturb me on Saturday afternoons!
—MARY SODEMANN.

(ED. NOTE—We hesitate to print your phone
number for fear that someone will call you
between 1 to 5 on a Saturday! But we'll give
your number to the first few people who call
our studio just after 5 p.m. on our next broad-
cast.)

WESTCHESTER—Is it true that you have
bought up the NW Fed building on Irving Park
for showing movies and are now renting out
space for the bank to do business when it
doesn't interfere with the films?

(ED. NOTE—Not true, of course, but some-
times it does seem that way, doesn't it? It's
really great to have a marvelous auditorium
at North West Federal Savings to show our

good old movies and present other nostalgic
attractions. Hope to see you there sometime.)

FRANKLIN PARK—What was the theme song
for the old "My Friend Irma" show starring
Marie Wilson? I forget who her smarter room-
mate was, and Mrs. O'Rilly, the landlady and
sleazy Al-got-a-problem.—ALEX M. BAKALET.
(ED. NOTE—"Friendship" was the theme of
"My Friend Irma" which co-starred Cathy
Lewis (Elliott's wife) as Irma's roommate Jane
Stacy. Mrs. O'Reilly was played by Gloria
Gordon and John Brown was Irma's boyfriend
Al ("Hi-ya, chicken!"). You'll also remember
Irma's boss, Mr. Clyde (played by Alan Reed),
Professor Kropotkin (Hans Conried), and Jane's
boyfriend Richard Rhineland III (Leif
Erickson).

BERWYN—I would like to know if Lux Soap
sponsored any other programs besides the Lux
Radio Theatre. Also, I would like to know
when Gale Gordon first appeared on the Fibber
McGee and Molly show.—KENNETH SCOTT.
(ED. NOTE—Aside from single spot com-
mercials in later years, the Lux Radio Theatre
was the major radio effort of Lever Bros. on
behalf of Lux soap. In the early days of tele-
vision, the company presented a Lux VIDEO
Theatre, offering TV versions of movies, just
as they had offered radio versions of films on
radio. It didn't work, however—why re-create a
picture of a picture?—as well as it did on radio.
Lever Bros. also manufactured Pepsodent
Tooth Paste (the Bob Hope Show), Swan Soap
(Joan Davis, Bob Hope), Spry (Aunt Jenny's
True Life Stories), and Rinso (Amos 'n' Andy,
Big Town, Big Sister, and the Al Jolson-Rinso
Show).

Gale Gordon joined the McGee show after the
program moved to the west coast in 1939. He
appeared in a number of supporting roles—
including that of Otis Catwallader, Molly's old
boyfriend—before moving comfortably into the
character of Mayor LaTrivia. When New York
Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia died, the writers
changed Gordon's character to Foggy Williams,
the weatherman. Later, primarily because of
bad weather, Foggy made his exit and Mayor
LaTrivia returned.)

NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER
BOX 421
MORTON GROVE, IL 60053

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 21

Morton Grove, Ill.

THE HALL CLOSET **NEW!**
CASSETTE TAPE FOR NOVEMBER

SEND TO:

THE HALL CLOSET
Box 421
MORTON GROVE, ILL. 60053

OR

GET YOUR
CASSETTE
IN PERSON
AT



OR

Metro Golden Memories



5941 W. IRVING PARK ROAD

JAMES STEWART

It's A Wonderful Life

Lux Radio Theatre presents a true-to-the screen radio version of the 1946 movie classic. Donna Reed plays Jimmy's wife while Victor Moore Co-stars as a lovable apprentice angel sent to earth by the Superintendent of Angels. Stewart is very depressed on Christmas Eve and wishes he was never born. If Victor Moore can convince Jimmy of his importance, Moore will earn his wings . . . after waiting 200 years!

The story is about the problems, the fun, the accomplishments and the love of a good man. When despair becomes great it takes an elf-like apprentice angel to make Jimmy realize how full and meaningful his life has been.

It is one of the most delightful Christmas stories you may hear this season. It is Jimmy Stewart at his absolute best. Broadcast 1947.