

DECEMBER, 1980 - JANUARY, 1981

CHUCK SCHADEN'S NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER

AND
RADIO
GUIDE

©



RED SKELTON was mainly a visual comedian when he came to radio in 1937, but his imagination and comedic mind quickly created many audio characters that delighted listeners throughout his 16 year career on the air: Clem Kadiddlehopper, Willie Lump-Lump, J. Newton Numbskull, and Junior, the mean little kid.

STILL FIZZING FOR ALKA-SELTZER

REPRINT FROM RADIO VARITIES Magazine, March, 1940

When you drop an alka-Seltzer in water you can hear it fizz, and when you tune in the Alka-Seltzer National Barn Dance program any Saturday night you can hear it fizz too, thanks mainly to the sparkling musicianship of the Hoosier Hot Shots. Starting on the Barn Dance as an unknown act back in 1934, these four boys have forged their way to the top as a musical group, until today their records, their pictures and their personal appearances are in constant demand, not only in the middlewest but in effete Boston, in the south, in the west, and even in London. And after more than five years in which they have climbed steadily to the top, the Hoosier Hot Shots are still fizzing for Alka-Seltzer.

Probably the one man who is proudest of the success of these boys is Walter Wade, head of the advertising agency which produces the National Barn Dance. When he heard them audition for his show in 1934 they were new to radio, having spent years touring the country in vaudeville. He saw the possibilities of such a novelty act, and he immediately signed them up. In the years since then his faith in the act has been amply rewarded, and he has watched them: rise to fame with a somewhat paternal pride.

The history of the Hoosier Hot Shots goes back twenty years, when Kenneth and Paul (Hezzie) Trietsch, Frank Kettering and Charles (Gabe) Ward got together to reminisce over their experiences in amateur school plays. From this conversation an act was born, and the four started a tour of vaudeville that lasted 12 years. They toured the country several times, presenting an act that drew upon their recollections of their early life on farms.

The boys constantly sought for novel effects. Their song arrangements were as novel as their instruments — a musical washboard an electric bass viol, a guitar and a clarinet.

But after years of living in a trunk the boys decided they wanted to establish permanent homes, and so they turned to radio.

All four of the boys came from Indiana farms. Kenneth and Hezzie Trietsch earned their first money carrying water for harvesting crews. Gabe Ward earned his first money selling newspapers. Frank Kettering turned to music for his first employment and, at the age of eleven was playing with the Monmouth, Ill. Municipal Band.

Kenneth Trietsch oldest member of the quartet, was born on September 13, 1903, near Arcadia, Ind. His father enjoyed a reputation as a musician, and Kenneth played the violin, the banjo and the brass horns. In high school in Muncie, Ind. he played with the concert band. Then came his bow on the stage and years of trouping. In 1924 he left vaudeville to play with Paul Whiteman's Band.

Hezzie Trietsch, Kenneth's little brother, was born on April 11, 1905. His musical inclination was toward the drums, and he worked out novelty arrangements and added trick gadgets to his drum. Throughout his career in vaudeville his drum was a thing of constant wonder to his associates as well as the audiences.

Gabe Ward was born in Knightstown, Ind., on November 26, 1905, the son of two musicians. He was a member of school glee clubs, orchestras and bands, and upon graduation formed his own band. Then followed a brief tour of vaudeville before he joined the Trietsches in the present musical organization.

Frank Kettering was born near Monmouth, Ill., on New Years Day, 1909. His father combined farming with proprietorship of a jewelry store, and his mother had been a teacher of music at Monmouth College. When he was 13 years old Frank played his first engagement with a dance band. At 18 he had his own band, and when he graduated from Monmouth College he joined a vaudeville company, which he left to enter radio.

The boys made their first radio appearance during a Red Cross relief program on station WOWO, Ft. Wayne, Ind., in



The Hoosier Hotshots left to right, Gabe Ward, Hezzie Trietsch, Frank Kettering and Kenneth Trietsch.

1931. A couple of years later they came to station WLS, Chicago, and soon after that they were signed up for the Alka-Seltzer National Barn Dance and the Uncle Ezra program.

Though they play many different instruments in making records and pictures, on the air Gabe Ward usually plays the clarinet; Kenneth Trietsch the guitar; Frank Kettering the bass viol, and Hezzie plays his famous washboard, which is fitted with horns, bells, pie plates, wood blocks, and other assorted gadgets.

Last June the boys made their first feature picture in Hollywood. It is "In Old Monterey," starring Gene Autry, and featuring the Hoosier Hot Shots as actors in the story and also with their instruments. Since the picture was released they have been making personal appearances in the theaters where it was showing in the middle-west, and in many cities

they have smashed all box office records. In one city a wise proprietor of a phonograph record shop installed a machine in the lobby of the theater where the boys were appearing, and played their records continuously. He sold more than 3,000 Hoosier Hot Shot records in three days.

All the boys are married and have children, and all will soon have their own homes on the outskirts of Chicago. Kenneth Trietsch has a daughter, Gloria Joan, 11, and his new home in Lincolnwood will be ready for occupancy in about a month. Hezzie Trietsch has a son, Paul, Jr., and is also building a home in Lincolnwood. Gabe Ward has four children, John, 10, Shirley, 8, Tim, 6, and Ned, 1. Though Gabe and his family are now living in their own home, they are building a larger one in Edgebrook. Frank Kettering has two daughters, Carol Sue, 4, and Barbara Dell, 5 months old, and he, too, is building in Lincolnwood.

MY PAL UMBRIAGO

by

JIMMY DURANTE

THE LITTLE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE GETS INTO THE ACT—ON PAPER!

REPRINT from TUNE IN Magazine, December, 1944

HERE I am, sittin' on my patio, as snug as two bugs in a jug, when in comes an interviewer to see what he can interview. But does he want me? No. He looks at me, and behind me, and at Junior sittin' beside me, and then he poses the interrogation.

"Where," says he, "is Umbriago?" Now my feelings is distinctly injured . . . in a word, I am hurt. Why does he want Umbriago, when Junior and I — the intelligently — are ready to be interrogated and even willin' to answer questions? But he wants Umbriago, so I goes at once to look for my little pal.

But what does Umbriago look like? Who knows? Nose? No, knows. No nose? Of course, Umbriago's got a nose! If he hadn't, he couldn't get into my act. So I starts into the house on a search for the guy, not knowing whether there's a catastrastroke in the offing. But that is neither topsy nor eva.

I looks in the living room, but I'm never sure whether Umbriago is living there. I gets no intimidation of his presence. I goes into the dining room, but it's a wild-moose-race, on account of no one has ever seen Umbriago dining in any kind of room.

He's not in the kitchen, so I looks in the butler's pantry, tew, and even the butler is out.

Then I gets an inspiration. Umbriago is a gay fellow — the guy who has given nonsense a new lease on life. His name is Italian for "revelry," so maybe he's passin' the time o' day in our rumpus room. I deeeeescends to the cellar and raises a rumpus. I looks under it carefully as I raises it, to make sure Umbriago will not escape me. And what do I see? . . . Nuttin'. That's the conditions that prevail.

I decides to look out in the Victory Garden, thinking mayhap my pal is commuting with Nature. As you indubitably know, I have been officially appointed "Camouflage Sentinel for the Conservation and Preservation of Vegetable Life." And what am I? A scarecrow! But Umbriago is a really auspicious character around a farm. He got his practice in botany in California sweeping out the Rose Bowl. Of course, Junior says we shouldn't worry about farming — with our kind of corn, the Government would pay us to plow ourselves under. Nevertheless, our first day on a farm, me and my pal Umbriago we plowed 40 acres of land. We'd have done even better if we'd had a horse.

But I couldn't find Umbriago in the garden, so I continues to the stables, thinking he might be in deep consol-

ation with a cow. I remember the day we bought a bull to keep the cows company. The bull rook a look at me, roared, and chased me into a corner of the barn. There was I, caught like cheese in a trap. What did I do? I said: "Moo-oo!" The bull ups and kisses me and we've been keeping company ever since.

Umbriago is great with cows. He's an inventor. He milks them upside down so the cream comes out on top.

But the invisible Edison is not to be discerned in the stables, so I meanders back to the house, depleted.

I am definitely unable to find Umbriago. But back on my terrazzo—that's Spanish for terrazzo—what do I

find? To my amusement, Junior is telling all about Umbriago. And when Junior tells all, it's in the biggest words in the Encentipedia Britannica.

He says I first met Umbriago in Venice, when I was sailing along in a gladiola and Umbriago was selling waterwings. I buys a pair, not wishing to be over-balanced and take an unexpected nose-dive into a cabal.

Garry is a bit Confucius about that. That was no nose-dive, it was my regular profile. And it wasn't Venice, it was Looney Park at Coney Island. And Umbriago wasn't selling water-wings, he was at a counter selling Life Savers and Camels. But that's Junior for you —always one to make the mouth go



MY PAL UMBRIAGO

and a tissue of words makes issue.

Umbriago, continues Junior, was the gink who sold minks without kinks to guys who buys drinks in Joyful Junction, Colorado. That's my boy who said that. I stops him just in time to save the interviewer from splitting an infinitive. Immediately, I sets him straight. Umbriago is not the gink who sold minks without kinks to guys who buy drinks in Joyful Junction, Colorado. Umbriago is the fella who furnished fuel, fixed flats and flattened fenders in a junky joint near Joyful Junction—jeepers, now I'm the jerk doing it!

Umbriago wasn't happy. He did a lot of odd jobs in his youth—and when he was a young man, tew. He worked splittr'n peas for split-pea soup. He was so good they advanced him into the artillery, where he was in charge of shellin' peas.

But he didn't like to work. A very souperior guy, a little man who has more fun than anybody. He decided, and with intelligence, to make a career of having fun. He founded a society to see that pretzel benders didn't go straight. He started a research society to find out where department store Santa Clauses go in January. He began an investigation to find out how a one-track mind gets back where it started. Lately, he's had less time for scienstiffic research, on account of managing my campaign for president.

As for that campaign, like I always said—and it still bears competition, even though the dice is cast—"If Washington calls me, I'll answer the call, but they better not call me collect." No candidate could plunk a better platform and Umbriago knew it. I'd figured that, when I got to Washington, no more of this 20% off everything you get a living from. How would I look with 20% off my nose? And we were

going to by-pass television for smelly-vision—what a field for Durante!

He was the best campaign manager a guy ever had—kissed the babies for me (some of 'em I picked out for myself), and when things got too tough he just made like a horn and blew. Great guy! Garry Moore says Umbriago is ubiquitous—a slander which I hasten to deny. Umbriago's too busy seeing that everyone everywhere has fun. He ain't got time to be ubiquitous. He's on the air with us every Friday night over CBS, but we don't let him talk. He's kept busy lighting cigarettes for all of us human dominoes on the show.

Speakin' of the act on the airways—which I does as often as I can—Umbriago keeps us chasing him. I recalls with trepidation the time maestro Roy Bargy goes to hit that high note and produces a lot of silence. What happens is that Umbriago is sitting right in the horn, positively preventing that high note from getting out—a promissory note if ever there was one!

And, of course, it's uncommon knowledge by now that Her Nibbs, Miss Gibbs—our Georgia songbird—was frequently bothered by my pal Umbriago playfully pulling her titian locks. She says "Shoo!" to him so often, it turns into the song, "Shoo Shoo Baby" . . . That's Umbriago for you . . .

Since he started working with me, Umbriago got an idea how to improve the world—an improvisation, so to speak. He got to thinking one Moore and one Schnozzola was all the world could hold, but it might be a lot better if there were more Umbriagos. Then we'd all be so busy laughing we wouldn't have time to start wars with each other. Maybe it's not so far from collosseal at that. It's going to be my campaign cry in the next big-time election—"Every man an Umbriago!"

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THOSE WERE THE DAYS • WNIB- FM 97.1

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS • 1:00 UNTIL 5:00

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6th
RADIO TO ADDRESS CHRISTMAS CARDS BY

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) The continuing saga of Paddy O'Cinnamon and his friends as they search for the Silver Star for the top of their Christmas tree. Chapter 15 - Snapper Snick, the Crocodile. (12:55)

CALIFORNIA CARAVAN (12-21-47) "How Santa Claus Came to Simpson's Bar" is based on a true incident from Christmas Eve, 1882, in a small prospecting town in the west. Bob Purcell, Virginia Gregg, Paul Frees. ABC, California Physicians Insurance Service. (14:30; 12:55)

SUSPENSE (12-20-59) "Korean Christmas Carol" starring Bill Lipton, Lawson Zerbe, Lyle Salloway. In Korea, 1958, a soldier recalls an incident from 1951. CBS, Participating sponsors. (7:00; 9:40; 6:00)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 16 - Oliver the Ostrich, the clock-eating bird! (13:05)

CAVALCADE OF AMERICA (12-25-44) "America For Christmas" starring Walter Huston. A group of soldiers, sailors and marines celebrate Christmas on a small island in the Pacific. A USO troupe gives them a Christmas show about America. Special songs by Woody Guthrie, arranged by Earl Robinson, sung by the King's Men. NBC, DuPont. (15:00; 13:50)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 17 - The mud-slinging muddlers. (13:05)

JACK BENNY PROGRAM (12-11-38) Mary Livingstone, Phil Harris, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, Don Wilson. Mary reads a letter from Momma, then goes with Jack to the department store to do some Christmas shopping. (This may have been the first Benny show with a Christmas shopping theme!) NBC, Jell-O. (16:40; 13:45)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 18 - The Cocklebur Cowboys. (13:00)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13th
RADIO TO WRAP, BAKE
AND DECORATE BY

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 19 - To the Golden Grove! (13:00)

EDDIE CANTOR SHOW (12-20-44) Harry Von Zell, Nora Martin, Leonard Seuss, Bert Gordon. Von Zell plays Santa in a "Santa Makes His Rounds" sketch. Then Eddie and Harry shop for a Christmas tree for Eddie

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Cantor Von Zell, Jr. NBC, Ipana, Sal Hepatica. (9:15; 10:50; 8:00)

SUSPENSE (12-21-58) "Out For Christmas" starring Raymond Burr with Joan Banks and Howard McNear. An ex-con, out for Christmas, sets out to kill the cop who sent him up. CBS, Participating sponsors. (6:25; 6:20; 11:30)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 20 - The Grand Wunkey takes the Wintergreen Witch to exile in the Looking Glass Valley. (12:55)

MEL BLANC SHOW (12-24-46) Mel tries to decide what to get his girl, Betty, for Christmas. Betty: Mary Jane Croft; Mr. Cushing: Hans Conried; Mr. Colby: Joe Kearns. CBS, Colgate. Halo. (10:55; 15:15)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 21 - The Land of Ice and Snow. (12:40)

SHERLOCK HOLMES (12-21-47) "Adventure of the Christmas Bride" stars John Stanley as Holmes and Alfred Turley as Dr. Watson. Lord Robert Neville requests Sherlock Holmes come to Pensdragon Castle to make sure nothing goes wrong at the wedding of his daughter, Lady Jennifer, who is scorned by a jilted admirer and scared by a ghost. (1) **MUTUAL**, Clipper Craft Clothes. (18:05; 12:00)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 22 - Santa Claus introduces our travelers to Jack Frost. (12:00)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20th
RADIO TO TRIM THE TREE BY

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 23 - Paddy O'Cinnamon gets stuck in a pile of Christmas stickers! (11:50)

LET'S PRETEND (12-19-53) "The Night Before Christmas" with Uncle Bill Adams and the Let's Pretend regulars. A mouse family travels to the North Pole to see what goes on Christmas eve. Santa gives them the royal tour. Sustaining, CBS. (14:10; 9:00)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (12-24-43) President Franklin D. Roosevelt offers a Christmas message to the country and its fighting men. Excerpt, CBS. (5:45)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 24 -

THOSE WERE THE DAYS • WNIB- FM 97.1

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS • 1:00 UNTIL 5:00

Judy, Jimmy and Paddy attend the Christmas Tree Parade. (12:00)

JACK BENNY PROGRAM (1950s) with Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, Mary Livingstone, Phil Harris, Don Wilson, the Sportsmen, Joe Kearns, Frank Nelson, Sheldon Leonard, Elliott Lewis, Artie Auerbach, Mel Blanc. On his annual Christmas shopping spree, Jack decides to get some golf tees for announcer Don Wilson. Lucky Strike Cigarettes, CBS. (15:55; 8:30)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (12-24-46) President Harry Truman lights the White House Christmas tree and sends his annual Christmas greeting to the nation. CBS. (7:05)

LUM 'N' ABNER (1940s) Christmas in Pine Ridge with Chester Lauck as Lum Edwards and Norris Goff as Abner Peabody. (14:05)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 25 - Captain Tin Top returns the star, but the Crazy Quilt Dragon steals it! (12:00)

RICHARD DIAMOND, PRIVATE DETECTIVE (12-19-51) Dick Powell stars as Diamond, who tells his favorite Christmas story, "A Christmas Carol" as presented by various characters from the Diamond stories. Cast includes Virginia Gregg, Alan Reed, Arthur Q. Brian. Camel Cigarettes, ABC. (17:20; 10:55)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE (12-24-53) President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivers his annual Christmas message to the nation. NBC. (5:10)

CINNAMON BEAR (1937) Chapter 26 - the final episode in the adventure. Do our heroes find the star for the Christmas tree? (12:45)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27th
SEASON'S GREETINGS
CONSECUTIVE SHOWS - PART 1

RED SKELTON SHOW (12-25-45) Red appears as Christmas tree salesman Clem Kadiddlehopper and as Junior, the Mean Little Kid, visiting a department store Santa. Cast includes GeGe Pearson, Verna Felton, Anita Ellis, David Rose and his orchestra and Arthur Q. Brian as Santa. Raleigh Cigarettes, NBC. (7:50; 7:45; 12:28)

JUDY CANOVA SHOW (12-21-46) Judy and the gang plan a Christmas party and reminisce

about Christmas in Cactus Junction. With Mel Blanc (as Pedro), Joe Kearns, Ruby Dandridge, the Sportsmen, Verne Smith, Palmolive, Halo. NBC. (11:20; 18:55)

BING CROSBY SHOW (12-25-52) On Christmas Day, Bing, Jud Conlon's Rhythmairs and John Scott Trotter and the Orchestra present an outstanding program of seasonal music. Ken Carpenter announces. General Electric, CBS. (12:55; 16:00)

SUSPENSE (12-17-61) "Yuletide Miracle" starring Larry Haines, Santos Ortega, Joe DeSantis, Rosemary Rice. A man on parole is moved by the spirit of Christmas to fulfill the wish of a dying boy. Participating, CBS. (10:10; 13:05)

HENRY MORGAN SHOW (12-25-46) The comedy star tells of kids who go to Washington to lobby for a law to make every day Christmas, then interviews Santa Claus for a commercial about his sponsor's product! Eversharp Shick Razors, ABC. (7:45; 10:20; 5:00)

FIBBER MC GEE AND MOLLY (12-25-51) "The spirit of giving" is in evidence as McGee exchanges gifts with Doc Gamble, the Old Timer, Ole, Wallace Wimpole, Mayor LaTrivia and Teeney. Jim and Marion Jordan star with Bill Thompson, Gale Gordon, Arthur Q. Brian, Dick LeGrand, Harlow Wilcox. With Billy Mills and the Orchestra and the King's Men. Pet Milk, NBC. (9:05; 9:05; 10:20)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3rd
SEASON'S GREETINGS
CONSECUTIVE SHOWS - PART 2

RED SKELTON SHOW (1-1-46) The subject of the Skelton Scrapbook of Satire is "Balls and Resolutions." Red appears as Deadeye and as Junior, the Mean Little Kid. Rod O'Connor announces, with singer Anita Ellis and David Forrester and his orchestra. Raleigh Cigarettes, NBC. (8:20; 7:55; 11:50)

JUDY CANOVA SHOW (12-28-46) Judy has written a western sketch for the annual Brentwood amateur show. All the regulars, including Charles Dant and the Orchestra and the Sportsmen. Judy sings "Auld Lang Syne." Palmolive Soap, Halo Shampoo, NBC. (12:30; 17:35)

BING CROSBY SHOW (1-1-53) Bing starts the New Year right with his guests: violinist Joe Venuti and singer Ella Fitzgerald. John Scott Trotter and his orchestra, announcer Ken Carpenter. General Electric, CBS. (7:50; 6:45; 14:49)

SUSPENSE (12-31-61) "The Old Man" stars Leon Janney, Lawson Zerbe, Larry Haines,

THOSE WERE THE DAYS • WNIB- FM 97.1

SATURDAY AFTERNOONS • 1:00 UNTIL 5:00

Rita Lloyd. An old man is forced to retire. Participating, CBS. (11:55; 12:20)

HENRY MORGAN SHOW (1-1-47) Morgan previews the new year and reports on his shows from the old year: "We used 918 jokes, of which 818 were funny!" Eversharp Shick Razors, ABC. (9:00; 14:30)

FIBBER MC GEE AND MOLLY (1-1-52) The McGees learn their friends' resolutions as they go visiting on New Year's Day. Jim and Marion Jordan are Fibber and Molly with Bill Thompson, Gale Gordon, Arthur Q. Brian, Dick LeGrand, Harlow Wilcox, the King's Men, Billy Mills and the orchestra. Written by Phil Leslie and Keith Fowler. Per Milk, NBC. (8:30; 11:50; 7:30)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10th THE GOOD GUYS

THE GREEN HORNET (12-3-52) "Pretenders to the Throne," Jack McCarthy stars as Britt Reid, daring young publisher who matches wits with the underworld as the mysterious Hornet. Fred Foy announces. Orange Crush, MUTUAL. (16:30; 12:45)

PAT NOVAK FOR HIRE (4-2-49) Jack Webb stars as tough guy Novak with Raymond Burr as police inspector Hellman. A priest wants to hire Novak to help stage an escape from Alcatraz. ABC, AFRS rebroadcast. (13:50; 16:15)

THE MAN CALLED X (9-18-47) Herbert Marshall stars as Ken Thurston with Leon Belasco as Pagan Zeldschmidt. An airplane pilot is killed while flying his plane. AFRS rebroadcast. (11:25; 8:45; 5:35)

LET GEORGE DO IT (10-18-48) "Death Wears A Gay Sports Jacket" stars Bob Bailey as private eye George Valentine. A young lady thinks she knows the killer of four people. Standard Oil of California, MUTUAL-DON LEE. (14:25; 14:25)

BOSTON BLACKIE (1940s) Blackie vows to get the man who shot Inspector Faraday. Richard Kollmer as Blackie, Maurice Tarplin as Faraday and Lesley Woods as Blackie's girlfriend Mary. AFRS rebroadcast. (14:50; 6:45)

THE FAT MAN (10-3-47) "A Window for Murder." J. Scott Smart stars as Dashiell Hammett's fascinating character: "There he goes . . . into that drug store. He's stepping on the scale. Weight: 237 pounds . . . fortune: Danger." Cast includes Alice Frost and Sarah Burton. Pepto Bismal, Unguentine, ABC. (14:35; 14:35)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17th

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (1940) "The Voice Machine" a 12-part adventure starring Clayton (Bud) Collier as the Man of Steel and mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent, with Joan Alexander as Lois Lane. Episode 1: "Dr. Roebing's Disappearance." Sustaining, MUTUAL. (11:53)

FRED ALLEN SHOW (2-6-49) Fred considers television with Portland Hoffa and guest star Bert Lahr. Ford, NBC. (15:05; 13:25)

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (1940) "The Voice Machine," Episode 2: "Lois Lane's Escape." Sustaining, MUTUAL. (11:36)

FORT LARAMIE (7-22-56) "Spotted Tail's Return" is a soldiers and Indians story starring Raymond Burr as Captain Lee Quince of the U. S. Cavalry stationed in Wyoming. Vic Perrin appears as Sgt. Goerss. Sustaining, CBS. (14:50; 14:08)

GREAT GILDERSLEEVE (9-2-45) Hal Peary stars in the first show of the 1945-46 season. LeRoy (Walter Tetley) and Marjorie (Louise Erickson) try to convince their Uncle Throckmorton that they should go to the lake for the Labor Day weekend. Kraft Foods, NBC. (17:50; 11:35)

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (1940) "The Voice Machine," Episode 3: "Superman Captures Jack Roebing." Sustaining, MUTUAL. (11:40)

CHARLIE MC CARTHY SHOW (4-7-46) Edgar Bergen with Charlie, Mortimer Snerd, Anita Gordon, Ray Noble and his orchestra, and guest Hedy Lamarr. AFRS rebroadcast. (7:30; 7:20; 13:10)

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (1940) "The Voice Machine," Episode 4: "Doctor Roebing's Amazing Voice Machine." Sustaining, MUTUAL. (11:50)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24th

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (1940) "The Voice Machine," Episode 5: "The Voice Machine Destroyed." Sustaining, MUTUAL. (11:46)

AMOS 'N' ANDY (1940s) Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll as Amos Jones and Andrew H. Brown. Sapphire (Ernestine Wade) and Mama (Harriet Widmer) plan to go to Florida for the wedding of Sapphire's sister. AFRS rebroadcast. (7:20; 10:20; 7:15)

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (1940) "The Voice Machine," Episode 6: "Roebing Repairs

the Voice Machine" Sustaining, MUTUAL. (11:40)

SCREEN GUILD PLAYERS (6-24-46) "Barbary Coast" starring Mary Astor and Charles Bickford in a radio version of the popular 1935 film. A gambling hall hostess gives her love to a tough guy to save the man she really loves. Truman Bradley announces. Lady Esther products, CBS. (14:30; 8:15)

MY FAVORITE HUSBAND (1950) Lucille Ball and Richard Denning star as Liz and George Cooper, "two people who live together and like it." The radio show that provided the idea for "I Love Lucy" on television. In this story, Liz and George peek at new neighbors moving in. Cast includes Frank Nelson. AFRS rebroadcast. (10:20; 12:35)

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (1940) "The Voice Machine," Episode 7: "The Assassination Plot Unfolds." Sustaining, MUTUAL. (11:50)

LIGHTS OUT (12-8-42) "Scrap" is the story of a newspaper publisher who dumps all employees over age fifty. Arch Oboler narrates. Ironized Yeast, CBS. (8:55; 16:50)

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (1940) "The Voice Machine," Episode 8: "The Mob Moves On Benson." Sustaining, MUTUAL. (11:40)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31st

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (1940) "The Voice Machine," Episode 9: "Who Is The Big Guy?" Sustaining, MUTUAL. (11:40)

ABBOTT AND COSTELLO PROGRAM



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.

WE'RE TAKING A SEASONAL BREAK during December and January, but we'll resume our program of good old films and other special events early in February.

Complete details will be listed in the next issue of the NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER.

SLIPS THAT PASS IN THE MIKE

By HAROLD AZINE
Writer, WLS, Chicago

REPRINT from RADIO VARITIES, August, 1940

"Friends, our sponsors, the makers of XYZ Ham, stand behind every claim they make for their product. They honestly promise you that XYZ Ham is so tender you can break your fork in it — I mean, you can break it . . . er . . . eh . . . with your fork! Hem, heh . . . oooohhhh."

If every such mistake uttered into a radio microphone were punishable by sudden death to the guilty announcer, the mortality rate among that special species of humans would jump up faster than Aunt Clementine did the time you put her hat-pin you know where. Indeed, if death were the punishment, this world today would be without one very likeable Irish lad named Don E. Kelley who several years ago at a small Iowa station, broke his sponsor's heart with the above quoted slip that passed in the mike.

But, fortunately, Kelley lived on to tell the tale so well that he is always asked if he has any more like it. Which he has. A little farther along in Don's catastrophic career, he was hired by a larger station in Omaha. His first appearance before the good people of Omaha was to be in the capacity of a newscaster. Just a little nervous on the new job, and over-eager to make a favorable beginning, Kelley stepped up to the mike and greeted his listeners with a brisk "Good night, everyone..." Death where is thy sweet sting!

But the WLS family has a couple of boners in its own closet. There was the occasion during the Century of Progress Exposition when Sales Manager Bill Cline, then a WLS announcer, was given the duty of introducing the late Rufus Dawes to our audience. Mr. Dawes, who was president of the Exposition, smiled graciously as Bill opened his introduction with some complimentary remarks, but in the end it was Bill who proved more gracious than anyone expected. He climaxed the introduction by proudly hailing, "... Mr. Rufus Dawes, President of the United States!"

And there's the time when Tommy Tanner of the Hilltoppers musical crew, decided to help the announcer sell

washing machines on a sponsored program. As the announcer finished reading a commercial stressing how efficiently and harmlessly the advertisers machine washed clothes, Tommy rushed up to the mike and blurted out the enthusiastic, but ill-phrased advice, "Yes, sir, folks! That's the washing machine for your clothes. It just eats 'em up!" Tommy, for a week after that, looked as if he had been put through a wringer.

Perhaps you've heard of the time when the former New York Yankee star, Lou Gehrig, was being interviewed on his hobbies and habits during a program sponsored by "Huskies," — breakfast cereal. Came the time for Gehrig to say something nice about "Huskies," and the announcer led him up to the big moment with, "Tell me, Lou, what's your favorite breakfast food?"

"That's easy . . . I go for "Wheaties!" replied Lou inadvertently naming a leading competitive product.

To Bill Cline's mis-introduction of Rufus Dawes, and the time when Harry Von Zell introduced Herbert Hoover as "President Hoobert Heever," perhaps this story should be added. During the 1936 political campaign, Col. Frank Knox, running on the Republican Ticket with presidential nominee Alf. M. Landon — was presented to a New Mexico radio audience. The announcer wound up a flowery introduction with "... and now, ladies and gentlemen, I present Col. Alf. M. Knox."

Well, such things happen sometime when a person forgets that he must always be mentally alert in front of a microphone. But once in a while the most wide-awake commit "flubs." For instance, there are those treacherous tongue-twisters which often throw the most linguistically proficient. Broadcasting Magazine recalls some of the following: Andre Baruch once announced that a Marine Roof program was originating from the "Maroon Reef." David Ross once referred to Tito Guizar as "Tito Guitar and his ro-

mantic guizar." Newscaster Floyd Roberts indeed struck a snag when he pronounced that phrase, "snuck a strag." Milton Cross remembers well the time he rendered the title, "Prince of Pilsen," as the "Pill of Princeton." And Deems Taylor, describing the composer, Sigmund Romberg, as a great Jerome Kern fan — declared Romberg to be a "fern can." Here are a few other slips that passed in the mike, probably more through the fault of the writer than the announcer: They come from the "Bull and Boner" department of Radio and Screen Guide.

"Ambassador Bullitt narrowly escaped injury when a bomb struck the room where he was eating lunch but failed to explode."

"The proper way for a man to pay respect to the flag is to remove his hat and place it over his heart if he is wearing one."

"The battle ship will be christened by Miss Jones as she takes her first slide into the East River."

"Here we are at the Republican National Convention where one thousand delegates and one thousand alternates have just been pounded into order by the chairman."

"A number of houses were destroyed but none were killed."

"What's the matter, Winifred? You've been crying till your eyes are red and pacing up and down."

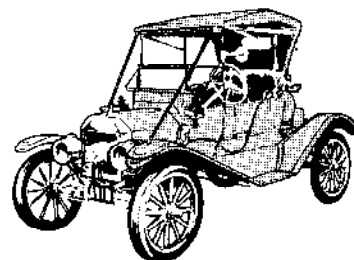
In the early days of radio, when there were few written or rehearsed programs, when broadcasting was pretty much of a catch-as-catch-can proposition, it was to be expected that many humorous mistakes would occur . . . and they did, as many of you will smilingly recall. Today radio is highly organized, efficient remarkably free of errors — and yet — well, if you've read this far you know that unexpected belly laughs are still enjoyed by listeners once in awhile.

But we in radio don't mind being laughed at. As long as American radio audiences continue to endure the 20,000,000 words a day poured upon them by microphone voices, we think they're entitled to all the fun they can have at our expense. We even laugh at our own mistakes . . . when we recover two or three months later.

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THE JACK BENNY CHRISTMAS SHOW OF 1950

With Mary, Phil, Don, Dennis, Rochester,
Mel Blanc and Mr. Kitzel

Jack's on his annual Christmas shopping trip with Mary Livingston. Jack buys a pair of cuff links for his announcer, Don Wilson, and drives the clerk, Mel Blanc, crazy. Phil Harris, Dennis Day and Mr. Kitzel are also buying gifts in the same store. Dennis buys his mother a corset!!! The Sportsmen sing a Lucky Strike commercial.

THE JIMMY DURANTE CHRISTMAS SHOW OF 1947

Ten year old movie star, Margaret O'Brien, joins the Schnoz in this fun-filled show. Jimmy, as Santa Claus, takes little Margaret along with him as he makes his rounds on this night before Christmas. The cast includes Peggy Lee, Arthur Treacher, Candy Candido, and Rexall sportscaster Tommy Harmon.

FRANK SINATRA - HALLMARK CHRISTMAS SHOW OF 1946

A True Story . . . "Room for a Stranger"
It's a Reader's Digest narrative of a Navy flier just back from overseas duty. He is on leave for Christmas, but then receives orders to report for duty before he gets to see his best girl. It shows the friendly Christmas spirit of people in a small midwestern town. One of the finest and most sentimental stories of the season.

THE AMOS 'N ANDY CHRISTMAS SHOW OF 1950

The funniest, warmest and most famous Amos 'N Andy radio broadcast. It's Christmas Eve, and Andy wants to get a doll for Amos' daughter, Arbadella. He gets himself a job as a department store Santa Claus to earn one for her. Later, Amos recites the Lord's Prayer to his daughter as she learns the true meaning of Christmas. A touching, sentimental program, sponsored by Rinso.

THE FIBBER MC GEE & MOLLY CHRISTMAS SHOW OF 1949

With Gale Gordon and Cliff Arquette
The Squire of Wistful Vista is decorating his house for the holidays as his regular visitors drop in . . . Mayor LaTrivia, Besse, The Old Timer, and, of course, Harlow Wilcox with his usual pitch for Johnson's Wax. Teeney and the King's Men sing "Twas the Night before Christmas."

THE BURNS AND ALLEN CHRISTMAS SHOW - 1940's

With Edna Mae Oliver and Paul Whiteman
It's the night before Christmas and Gracie tells a bedtime story to her pet, Herman the Duck. She falls asleep and dreams she is at the North Pole where Santa's bag of toys has been stolen by the Wicked Witch. A delightful Christmas fantasy. Bill Goodwin speaks for Swan Soap.

HELLO, OUT THERE IN Radioland!! WE GET LETTERS

VARPARAISO, INDIANA — I would like to tell you how much I appreciate your program. I especially liked the 10 chapters of the Forties to add to my collection. It is strange how I came across your program. One Saturday I was just going from station to station and I came across Archie Andrews. Since then I have been a regular listener.—**MIKE HEATHERLY.**

CHICAGO — Thank you for the many, many hours of listening pleasure you give us. We look forward to every Saturday afternoon and some of our favorite radio programs, especially Jack Benny, the greatest of all comedians. Keep up the good work.—**FELICIA KARA.**

WHEELING — Love the TWTD programs, but would like to hear more of Sam Spade, Johnny Dollar, Broadway is My Beat, Suspense, etc. Too many comedies, not enough of the who-done-its.—**MRS. TINA BROWN.**

CICERO — I have been listening to your program since I was in the seventh grade. I am now a senior in high school and have been a loyal fan. I would like to know why you don't have a month of Fibber McGee and Molly, or Charlie McCarthy? I have also noticed that you do not play such shows as Blondie, My Favorite Husband, Our Miss Brooks and the Aldrich Family. Is it because you cannot get ahold of them? You tend to favor the mysteries and variety shows. Don't you like comedies? —**RICHARD BILEK.**

(ED. NOTE — Some times too much of a good thing is too much of a good thing, and that's why we don't feature a "month of . . ." most of the shows. We have been paying special attention to Jack Benny every February, but we feel that is a good exception. But even a month of Jack can wear thin if you're not a super-Benny fan — as most of us are. So, next February we'll have a surprise variation on the theme. As far as the situation comedies you mentioned are concerned, in some cases we have only a few shows and we've played them. In other cases, it's our judgement that the shows will benefit from limited exposure. And finally, I enjoy comedies, mysteries and variety programs and we do our best to offer a good mixture that will be good entertainment for most listeners.)

CHICAGO — Please help me in my fight against the TV networks to get more of the old Christmas and winter theme movies on the air for the holidays. The only way they'll ever get on is for people to write and call the TV stations and ask for them. People should urge the stations to show these movies a couple of weeks prior to and up until Christmas, not six movies on Christmas Eve and Day when no one can watch them. You printed my letter in the November, 1978, issue of the NEWSLETTER and my source at WGN said that their volume of mail on this matter really increased. So you see, with enough effort, it can be done. There are some 30 or 40 good movies that can be shown.—**JOHN NOVELLO.**

CHICAGO — I enjoy Those Were The Days. I'd sure like to hear more programs and fewer interviews with radio celebrities and others. They often go on MUCH TOO LONG. Perhaps some judicious editing would help. Anyway, I'm a fan.—**BRIAN KATZ.**

MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA — Loved your mug on the cover of the 10th anniversary issue. Exactly what you should look like. Would you believe I saved the pix and keep it next to the radio in the kitchen — where I do most of my listening to TWTD. It is such a friendly, happy program . . . much needed these days.—**JENIMAE GRABCZYK.**
(ED. NOTE—You have very good sense, keeping the ham in the kitchen!)

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DRAGNET

Starring Jack Webb

"Obscene Literature at High Schools"
You are a detective sergeant. You are assigned to the juvenile bureau. The high schools in your city have been flooded with obscene literature. You stamp out one source and a dozen more spring-up. Your job ... STOP THEM! Another true story from the files of the Los Angeles Police Department. Sponsored by Fatima Cigarettes. 4/6/50.

CHRISTMAS MERRIMENT

(Selected Skits)
AL JOLSON AND
BORIS KARLOV

Karloff as Santa (his bells don't jingle, they toll), gives Jolson's records to little boys who have been naughty. Funny skit. With Oscar Levant. 12/25/47

CHARLIE MCCARTHY AND
GARY COOPER

Charlie gets Gary Cooper to play Santa to raise money for a worthy cause (Charlie). Good lines and chuckles. With Edgar Bergen. 12/14/47.

BOB HOPE'S COMMAND
PERFORMANCE

Singing the carols of Christmas are Dinah Shore, Judy Garland, Ginny Simms, Francis Langford, Virginia O'Brien, and Dorothy Lamour. Nine minutes of beautiful music, with the finale "Silent Night." 12/25/44.

HOPALONG CASSIDY

The Santa Claus Rustlers ... a good story, involving the type of Christmas spirit we all enjoy, and as a bonus it has an unusual and enjoyable triple twist ending. Stars William Boyd. Broadcast 1952

ORSON WELLES

The master voice of radio ends this delightful Christmas program with a classical short story.

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