# Old Time Radio DIGEST

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# Old Time Radio

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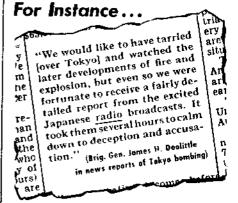
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# THE TRUTH ABOUT BENNY SMUGGLING

When Federal sleuths began a routine investigation of a New York smuggling case, they had no idea that the trail would lead finally to George Burns and Jack Benny. It was the baggage of the elegant Albert N. Chaperau that provided the first important clews. One note from George Burns told Chaperau that Gracie was crazy about her bracelet. A memo read "See JB re clips for ML." Quite unknown to Jack Benny

and George Burns, Chaperau was an imposter who had wormed his way into their friendship. As yet they had no idea of the embarrassment he was to bring to them and their wives because they permitted him "to do them a favor."—Editor.

N LOS ANGELES, Federal men were checking up on Gracie Allen and Mary Livingstone and their new jew-



# THE BURNS-CASE BY T. H. TRENT

elry, on orders from New York. In Manhattan, detectives were sifting every piece of paper found in the swank Chaperau suite at the Hotel Pierre.

One piece of paper was a photograph of Jack Benny and Chaperau together on a beach. Chaperau, the now-known lawbreaker, and Jack Benny. How would the man whom the Federal investigators had got the habit of calling "Jell-O Again" laugh that one off?

The boys in the Los Angeles area had by this time succeeded in bringing the jewelry picture into sharp focus. Gracie Allen, it now developed, was not only sporting a new diamond bracelet but a new ring. Mary Livingstone was wearing not only a pair of diamond clips but a beautiful bracelet.

Now the investigators began to piece together, in a general way, the movements of Burns, Benny and Chaperau during the previous several months. Steamship records disclosed that Benny and Chaperau had been in Europe at the same time the past summer, namely, during the month of August. Benny had returned to these shores August 30, and gone straight to the Coast. He hadn't declared any purchases such as a diamond bracelet and the clips when he came in, and as a matter of fact, so far as the Los Angeles investigators could ascertain, Mary Livingstone had not been seen wearing the new "ice" until about the middle of October.

So it was decided that the Government's strategy should be to talk turkey to George Burns. The Los Angeles customs gentlemen dropped over to the Paramount Studios on Vine Street and had a little chat with him under the pepper trees. They told him, in a nice way, that in their humble opinion the smartest move Mr. Burns could possibly make would be to hop a plane for New York and stop down to the Federal Building and have a talk with Mr. Delaney, the Assistant U. S. Attorney.

"What for?" asked Mr. Burns.

### A Photo, a Shopgirl's Memory, and a Hotel Register Combined to Change Jack Benny's Mind

NOW, the middle of October was an incriminating period of time, in the opinion of the sleuths, for two reasons. First, Chaperau had arrived in New York from Europe the first week in October, and that is when he would have brought in the jewelry, if he had brought it in. Then, too, George Burns was in New York, at the fashionable Sherry-Netherland Hotel, the day Chaperau got in, and remained for several days afterward, arriving back in Hollywood around the middle of the month. When the investigators added the fact that not only Mary but Gracie both began to wear their new jewelry at the time in question, the boys figured they had something there.

What would the next move be? Veteran law-enforcement officials are agreed on one thing: When you seem to have the goods on a guy, put it up to him. If he is smart, he will spill all he knows, plead guilty, and get the case washed up with a minimum consumption of aspirin for all concerned. A plea of guilty saves a lot of tedious and expensive investigation, not to mention a long courtroom headache.

gling diamonds into this country from Europe," the comedian was told. Then it was added that Mr. Burns, inadvertently no doubt, had been keeping bad company by being seen with this fellow Chaperau, and that he had certainly been very indiscreet in writing a note to the spurious diplomat saying that "G. is crazy about the bracelet."

It was all very sudden, shocking and embarrassing to Mr. Burns, and he just sat there, under the pepper trees, thinking faster than he had ever thought for an ad-lib. Finally, he said:

"All right, I'll go."

So George Burns, obviously scared to death, landed at Newark Airport thirty-six hours later, and was whisked off to the Federal Building in Manhattan. Those cluse to the case say they must hand it to George. He knew he was in bad, that a Federal prison was staring him in the face, but he didn't cry on anyone's shoulder. He talked straight and fast, like a man.

MR. DELANEY," he said to the Assistant U. S. Attorney, "I'm

willing to take my medicine.

He insisted that Gracie had known nothing about how the jewels were brought into America. He had met Chaperau through mutual friends some time previously, and hadn't the faintest idea that the man had a criminal record. When Chaperau, who was apparently a diplomatic attache and could pass through the customs without examination, explained that he often carried little items in for his friends, when he offered to help George save a piece of money, it seemed logical and not at all vicious.

So Chaperau brought in a bracelet and a ring in October and delivered them to Burns at the Sherry-Netherland

Hotel.

Then U. S. Attorney Delaney took a shot in the dark: "And when Chaperau delivered the jewelry tor your wife, he also gave you the jewelry to deliver to Jack Benny, for Mrs. Benny?"

"Did Chaperau tell you that?" asked

Burns.

"No," said Delaney. "Chaperau isn't talking, but we know that the logical thing for him to have done would have been to give you the jewelry to deliver to Mr. Benny, inasmuch as you were here in New York when the stuff was brought in and your friend Benny was on the Coast."

Burns just sat there, staring out of a window. "Yes," he said at length, "Chaperau gave me the stuff to take out to Jack. There's no use trying to hide anything; I'm not going to sit here

and lie to you,"

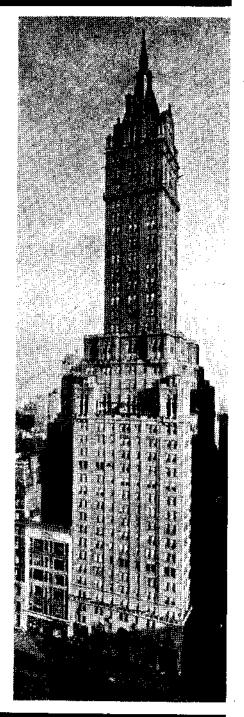
Burns was asked if he were willing to tell his story to a grand jury, and warned that whatever he said in the jury-room would be used against him—and also against his pal, Benny.

"Sure I'll talk to the grand jury," said the funnyman. "When do I go?"

"Right now, Mr. Burns."

So Burns spilled his tale to the grand jurors and wound up with a smuggling indictment up his back. Mrs. Lauer, the Supreme Court Justice's wife, and

> In New York's Sherry-Netherland Hotel Chaperau gave to Burns the jewelry for both Burns and Benny



Chaperau had also been indicted. It seemed as if the case were going to be cleaned up without much trouble now, for both Burns, Mrs. Lauer and Chaperau walked into the courtroom and pleaded guilty. Burns was fined eight thousand dollars, given a prison sentence of a year and a day, and placed on probation for the same period.

JACK BENNY, however, remained a holdout. He came to New York and appeared before the grand jury. We don't know what he told them, but we do know what they thought about what he told them, for they indicted him on three counts, one of which specifically charged him with wilfully, knowingly and unlawfully smuggling jewelry into this country. Strong, serious words, those.

Back in Hollywood, Jack was telling intimates that he was going to fight the case to a finish. He believed he had not smuggled jewelry wilfully and knowingly. He thought he could prove the case. No jury in America would



Benny returned to Hollywood chastened, ready to resume his radio and movie career

convict him. Later his plea of "guilty" was to show a change of heart.

Meanwhile, the machinery of the Federal Government meshed into high

United States custom investigators in Paris, where Benny was known to have spent part of his summer vacation, were instructed to find out at what hotel he and Mary Livingstone had stopped, and when. The answer was the Ritz. The register revealed that the Bennys had gone into the Ritz for a short stay around the second week in August, that they had been absent about ten days—somewhere—and had checked in again for another short stay nearer the end of the month.

THE next question that had to be answered was this: Assuming that Benny had bought the jewelry himself, and given it to Chaperau to bring in for him later, where would a wealthy man, stopping at the Ritz, be most likely to make such a purchase?

The investigators ran into a piece of luck here. They didn't have to look any further than the Ritz lobby, where one of the biggest gem outfits in the country had a branch showcase. The jewel firm's records disclosed that during the time the Bennys were paying their first visit to the hostelry, someone had purchased a diamond bracelet and two clips to match—three pieces that tallied exactly with the stuff Mary wore in Hollywood later. Inasmuch as the transaction had been cash on delivery, and delivery had been made forthwith, no record of the purchaser had been kept.

Was the purchaser Buck Benny? The answer to that one wasn't to be forth-coming so easily, for the salesgirl who had handled the transaction was no longer in the jewel firm's employ. What was more, her whereabouts was not known!

The Federal gentlemen gritted their teeth and decided to open Napoleon's tomb, if necessary, in order to find that girl. The search lasted two weeks, and the young lady was found working elsewhere, with nothing in the world to hide. She identified photographs of



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Jack Benny and Mary Livingstone.

Now we come back to that snapshot that had been found in Chaperau's effects—the one of him and Jack Benny. The two boys were in bathing-suits in the picture. There was, of course, no way of knowing where it had been taken, but from the appearances of things in the background of the shot it looked as if the camera had clicked somewhere along the French Riviera.

After it was discovered that Benny had bought the jewelry in Paris, that picture assumed paramount importance. It was now a clew to the belief that Chaperau and Benny had actually contacted one another in Europe. proof of a contact of the two men there was necessary to round out the Government's case. That contact would serve as the connecting link in the chain of guilty circumstances. Benny had bought the jewelry in Paris, you see, and hadn't declared it upon his return to the United States. That indicated that he himself didn't bring it in, because George Burns admitted that Chaperau gave it to him for delivery. Thus, if the customs men could prove that Benny contacted Chaperau any. where on the other side, following purchase of the jewelry, that would constitute an overt, or guilty, act on Benny's part, in view of the unearthed evidence relating to what had happened after the actual purchase of the bracelet and clips. Records at the Ritz revealed that the Bennys had had luggage forwarded from there to Cannes. the famous French watering-résort.

Next investigative point: Cannes.

The investigators found that the Bennys had registered at one hotel while Albert N. Chaperau had been at another hostelry not far away! Not only that, but bellboys and other hotel attaches recalled Benny and Chaperau visiting each other.

Now the sleuths examined the beach, and found the actual background that had appeared in the photo seized in the New York hotel suite! It reads a little like fiction, but it happens to be cold fact.

It was ascertained, too, that when the Bennys left Cannes for the return to Paris, the elegant Mr. Chaperau was at the railroad depot to see them off.

So now there was quite a case. It is doubtful if Benny realized just how strong it was, for he continued to insist he was going to the mat with Uncle Sam.

It is understood that Jack Benny even went to his sponsors and offered to tear up his long-term contract if his troubles embarrassed them, and that they refused his generosity.

Just what caused Jack not to go to the mat with Uncle Sam will probably never be known publicly. After several postponements, his case came to trial and he walked into the Federal Court April 4, 1939, and pleaded guilty to three counts charging smuggling. John T. Cahill, newly appointed U. S. Attorney—chosen by President Roosevelt for the express purpose of taking some of the New York courtroom thunder away from District Attorney Tom Dewey—read a lengthy statement about Buck to Judge Vincent L. Leibell.

Judge Leibell fined Benny \$10,000, gave him a suspended sentence of a year and a day, and placed him on probation for a similar period. Counting civil fines automatically imposed on the undeclared jewelry and the dough Jack laid out to buy it back from Uncle Sam, Mary's bracelet and clips ran him over \$14,000, just ten times the original cost. George Burns' purchases ran equally high.

As to turning over the jewelry to Chaperau, United States Attorney Ca-

hili had this to say:

"During the latter part of August, defendant Benny and his wife went to Cannes, France, where they encountered codefendant Chaperau, whom they had previously met in Hollywood, California, the year before. While in Cannes, defendant Benny aided and abetted codefendant Chaperau to defraud the United States Customs by turning over the said jewelry to Chaperau at the Cannes railway station, just prior to the departure of defendant Benny and his wife."

The Judge gave Buck the tonguelashing of his life, telling him that this country had been pretty good to him.



At this beautiful coast resort of Cannes, France, Jack Benny made the mistake of being photographed with Albert N. Chaperau. The picture was later to assume important proportions as a clew in the smuggling case

what with Benny's huge earnings, but that Benny had been pretty small in his attempt to evade payment of a measly \$700 duty.

After the trial and sentence, Jack passed out statements of explanation to members of the press which read:

"I feel that some explanation is due my fans of the radio and screen concerning the circumstances of this case:

"I was accused of having brought a bracelet and two clips into the United States without paying duty. There is not now and never has been any dispute about the facts. The jewels, which cost \$1.400, were bought in France as a present to my wife. They were

brought into the United States by Mr. Chaperau, whom I had previously met as a businessman of standing. I understood from him that there would be a perfectly legitimate saving in the amount of duty which would have to be paid. I had no intention of defrauding the Government.

"However, subsequent to my plea of not quilty, and after my attorneys and the United States District Attorney's office in New York had each made a thorough investigation and freely exchanged the results obtained, I was informed by my attorneys that in their opinion my actions constituted violation of customs laws of the United States.

"Therefore I instructed them to change my plea. I would have changed my plea long before had it not been that I was required to be constantly at the studio in Hollywood engaged in the making of my latest motion picture, as well as for my broadcasts.

"I want to take this opportunity of assuring my friends and fans of both the radio and screen that while I know that this is a technical violation, I had no guilty knowledge that a crime was to be committed or was being committed. I regret most deeply that through a stupid mistake on my part, however natural and honest it may have been under the circumstances, I have offended against the laws of the United States.

"I claim no credit for never having violated any laws before; I am appreciative of my opportunities and privileges as an American citizen. I have endeavored through many years of hard work to bring happiness and clean entertainment to people who listen to my programs and who see my pictures. And it is because of this fact that I most deeply regret that I should have so stupidly and carelessly become involved in a situation of this kind."

Thus ended the big diamond-smuggling mystery that brought two of radio's best-loved performers within the very shadow of prison doors. How two such smart men could be taken in by Chaperau is understood by those who know Chaperau's record. He was a smooth operator.

One bright rift in the whole messy business is that the Burnses and Bennys are still the good friends they have always been. Despite the fact that George had to "tell on" his pal, their understanding is such that they are close as ever. So are their wives.

As for their popularity, if the weekto-week polls conducted by audiencemeasurement agencies mean anything, it has not decreased. The fact that Jack Benny paid Uncle Sam \$256,000 in income tax last year is evidence to many that regardless of the newspaper headlines, he is doing his full share to support his Government.

As We Go to Press New York, April 11, 1939.—The final

chapter to the smuggling plots was written in Federal Court in New York today when Mrs. Elma N. Lauer, wife of Supreme Court Justice Edgar J. Lauer, was sentenced to three months in jail and fined \$2,500. She must remain on probation for one year and a day. Judge Vincent L. Leibell imposed sentence on her, expressing sympathy but pointing out that she had brought her troubles on herself. Mrs. Lauer had to be assisted from the courtroom, as she was in a dazed condition. When the sentence was pronounced she virtually collapsed. U.S. Attorney John T. Cahill had recommended a sixmonth penalty to the court, pointing out that Mrs. Lauer was not a first-offender. In 1937, she was caught smuggling clothes and jewelry and was fined \$10,-000, he recalled. Said Judge Leibell: "You have suffered from an insane vanity. Your constant breaches of the customs laws are comparable to the thefts of those people who are called kleptomaniacs and for which there seems to be no cure." The Judge refused to allow her to return home for a few days before starting her sentence.

Albert N. Chaperau, chief instigator of the plot, was sentenced in Federal Court here today to five years in prison and fined \$5,000. He appeared passive and indifferent while in court.

As a side issue of the case, it was revealed today that Rosa Weber, the German maid formerly employed by the Lauers and who gave the Government the tip when she got mad at Mrs. Lauer over a Nazi remark, may receive \$6,712 as a reward for her information.



#### Radio Rambles ..... HAROLD COX



# The Best Zings in Life are Frebergs By Clair Schulz

Mention the subject of parodies done on radio and immediately the names of Bob and Ray, Fred Allen, and Jack Benny come to mind. Very few subjects have escaped the keen gaze of Bob and Ray over the last forty years. Allen took on everything from game and detective shows to musicals, and Jack used the second half of his programs to poke fun at movies and mysterics. And there was one other show that was so filled with notable parodies that it still gives off a warm glow over thirty years after it flashed briefly before us. That program was *The Stan Freberg Show*.

The series ran as a sustained feature for fifteen weeks on Sundays during the summer and fall of 1957. The fact that the show could not attract a sponsor became a running gag and by the fourteenth episode Stan decided to be his own patron. He took a good-natured swipe at Pepsodent and himself by having the Rhythmaires sing the jingle, "You'll wonder where the Freberg went if you tune in two weeks from now."

Just hearing the first episode might have scared the sponsors away for good: What kind of a comedy show was this that had a twenty-minute sketch about a rivalry between two Nevada nightclub owners that satirized greed, oneupmanship, and meretriciousness? The show concluded with a vision of Armageddon after one owner tried to out-Herod the other by booking the hydrogen bomb; "I wonder if the boys were still counting their profits when time ran out and the man pushed the button." Then, nothing but the eerie sound of the wind passing over the post-atomic wasteland. No credits, no applause, no audience

laughter fading in the background. It was a daring debut, an anti-war fable for Cold War America.

The second and subsequent episodes were more conventional than the opening one, but it was still unlike anything else on the air since Henry Morgan left that corner in front of the cigar store. Freberg couldn't resist slapping his listeners awake by offering challenges like "Just in case there is someone we haven't offended. this will do it" before launching into a rock ditty entitled "Jeannie with the Light Brown Wig." Indeed, his musical parodies are some of the most memorable moments from the series. "The Banana Boat Song" with Peter Leeds as the bongo player with the sensitive ears, "The Yellow Rose of Texas" with the runaway drummer, and the mumbled lines on "Sh-Boom" are truly classics. His recordings of these songs preceded the series and their popularity did much to bring about The Stan Freberg Show.

What makes the lampoons wear so well is that Freberg was right on target everytime. When he was wailing "Day-O," he sounded like Harry Belafonte. When he was chasing the dragon, he was Joe Friday. When he was awash with bubbles and schmaltz, he became Mr. Wunnerful. He was a gifted mimic with a deadly aim.

He also must have been a bit of an enigma to some listeners who were probably scratching their heads over the things they were hearing. Exhibit A: a tunded sheep chorus that rang their bells to the "Lullaby of Birdland." Exhibit B: acrobats (on radio!) Exhibit C: a woman at Mount Rushmore who carved oleomargarine busts of Mary Margaret McBride, Wyatt Earp, and Fats Domino.

Exhibit D: a number from the Skin Divers Mandolin Club. And that's only from the first three shows!

Maybe it was best that Freberg had no sponsors; with all the material he had there wouldn't have been time for commercials. He satirized Ralph, Alice, and Ed in "The Honeyearthers." Gunsmoke, became "Bang Gunley, U.S. Marshall Fields." The "Lox Audio Theater" was sponsored by "the salmonshaped bar of soap that swims uptub." Twice listeners were treated to the absurdities spoken by members of a panel who held postgraduate degrees in Little Orphan Annie and Tarzan. Censors, do-ityourself kits, actors, the flying saucer craze, abominable snowmen, pedants, demigods of American history, Good Humor men, interviewers: anything was fair game for Stan's irreverent barbs.

Even though Freberg knew before the thirteenth show aired that it would all end in two weeks, there was no coasting. In fact, the thirteenth and fourteenth episodes may be the best shows in the series. (The final show merely repeated favorite sketches and songs.) The first of these shows contains "Grey Flannel Hat Full of Teenage Werewolves," a devastating satire that rakes both horror movies and advertising agencies over the coals. Freberg was at his best when wielding two-pronged weapons as he did when he spoofed westerns and psychiatry in "The Lone Analyst." In the penultimate episode he satirizes detective shows and commercials when he becomes Sam Splade, a seedy gumshoe who spouts ludicrous similies like "he bit off his words like a rattlesnake striking a radish" and "she screamed and feel like a sack of wet spaghetti at a noodle festival." Anyone who thinks the overwrought language and gratuitous violence are farfetched has never heard an episode of Pat Novak, For Hire or read a novel by Mickey Spillane.

And anyone who ever listened to *The Stan Freberg Show* knows that it was a genuinely funny, well-written program. It had talented comic performers like Daws Butler, who had such a gold mine in his throat that Hanna-Barbera staked a claim there, and June Foray, who possessed a raspy voice that was a natural laugh-getter. It had critical acclaim from the press. What it didn't have was a large audience and a sponsor, and that combination killed the show.

Stan Freberg rose from the ashes of that program to become one of the most inventive minds in advertising, It is ironic that the man who could not find a sponsor now has clients from all over the country eager to tap his fertile imagination. Over the years he has created campaigns to sell chow mein. encyclopedias, prunes, sound systems, tea bags, albums, lawn mowers, and dozens of other products. A measure of success he has had in advertising is reflected in the eighteen International Broadcasting awards and twenty-one Clios he has garnered. His unconventional brand of humor is still very much in evidence as it is one of the trademarks of his commercials. Even the name of his production company, Freberg Ltd., seems to be yet another of his running gags for if there is one word that applies to the wit and creativity of Stan Freberg it is definitely the opposite of limited.



#### News

#### HRRC HAILS INTRODUCTION OF DAT BILL VOWS TO WORK FOR PASSAGE

Washington, D.C., February 22, 1990—The Home Recording Rights Coalition (HRCC) today hailed the introduction in the U.S. Congress of the Digital Audio Tape Recorder Act of 1990, and vowed to work for its quick passage. The bill, introduced today in the House by Representatives Henry Waxman (D-CA), Al Swift (D-WA), Jim Cooper (D-TN), Don Ritter (R-PA), Joe Barton (R-TX) and others, would standardize the digital audio tape (DAT) format. It would allow direct digital recording from Compact Discs, but would prevent digital copying of the copies.

Thomas P. Friel, Chairman of the HRRC, praised the DAT bill as a step forward in bringing advanced technology to consumers. Friel said,

"HRRC was formed in 1981 to support the right of consumers to enjoy new, high technology recording products, beginning with the home VCR. Since then we have fought to preserve the right to use all new recording products. Today, we join with the recording industry in supporting a bill that promotes the interest of creators and consumers alike."

Friel added that HRRC views the cooperative approach to seeking legislation as a significant accomplishment. He said that much of the thanks should go to Members of Congress who have taken an interest in copyright and high-technology matters. He said,

"HRRC particularly would like to thank Rep. Bob Kastenmeier (D-WI) and Sen. Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), the leading congressional experts on copyright matters. Together with Representatives Waxman and Swift, these leaders urged the consumer electronics and recording industries to find a common, pro-consumer approach to DAT. Now that such a bill has been drafted, we very much appreciate

# ISTANNUAL FRIENDS OF OLD TIME RADIO CONVENTION SALUTE TO

Thursday-Friday, October 18-20 Holiday Inn North, Newark, NJ their continued leadership."

Rep. Kastenmeier had announced at the 1990 International Consumer Electronics Show in January that the DAT bill would likely be introduced in February.

Rep. Swift, in his statement, praised the DAT bill as a "noble experiment" in keeping the law abreast of new technology. He said,

"For years, we in Congress have held hearings and commissioned studies about the march of technology and our inability to keep abreast of it. In this instance we asked the industries that developed the technology to work out a reasonable compromise on some very difficult issues, and they have actually done so. ... This bill represents a noble yet safe experiment. Those who care about applying the law to advanced technologies have every reason to wish it to succeed."

Digital audio tape recorders, or DATs, have been available since 1987. However, the original DAT format did not allow direct digital recording from Compact Discs. Nevertheless, in 1987 the recording industry urged legislation (supported by Rep. Waxman and opposed by Rep. Swift) that would have further limited the recording capabilities of DATs. With the demise of that legislation, which was vigorously opposed by the HRRC, congressional leaders urged the recording and consumer electronics industries to negotiate a compromise approach.

The bill introduced today results from a joint legislative proposal agreed on by the recording and consumer electronics industries in the summer of 1989. HRRC subsequently endorsed this approach as providing for an improvement in the DAT format (allowing direct digital recording) that is fully responsive to the needs of consumers.

HRRC continues in its opposition to royalty tax proposals, which have been endorsed by the recording industry, on consumer recorders and recording media. As to such proposals, the parties to the DAT Bill compromise have "agreed to disagree." The Recording Industry



Association of America (RIAA) has said that it would not seek enactment of such provisions in this Congress.

Formed in October of 1981, HRRC is a coalition of consumers, retailers and manufacturers of audio and video products.

Radio-Historian/Author Charles Stumpf is selling off part of his vast collection of radio memorabilia (books, magazines, photos, scripts, etc.) Some items are for mail auction with bid deadline set at August 31, 1990. For free lists send SASE to: Charles Stumpf, 123 West Blaine Street, McAdoo, PA 18237.



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### Radio Humor

 Annabella: One day I saw a man with a shorgun walking down the street. I followed him and discovered he was only hunting. I was very disappointed.

Louis Sobol: You were disap-

pointed? Why?

Annabelia: I thought I was going to see a wedding.

- Bright Lights (Mutual)

• Mike Romanoff: I lived in Russia but went to school in England.

Ed Gardner: It must have been tough for you to get home to lunch.

-Duffy's Tavern (Blue)

• Katina Paxinou: Well, young man, I see you're back again. Tell me, did you ever have your fortune told before?

Leo Sheren: Yes, a fortune teller once told me that my face was my fortune.

Bing Crosby: Don't worry, son, poverty is no disgrace.

- Kraft Music Hall (NBC)

• Fanny Brice: What's a cannibal? Hanley Stafford: You know perfectly well what a cannibal is. Suppose you are up your Mummy and me one night—what would you be?

Fanny Brice: An orphan.

- Maxwell House Show (NBC)

• Harry Von Zell: What'll I do with these pickled herrings?

Wally Brown: Just put them on ice until they sober up.

- Dinah Shore Show (CBS)





NORTH AMERICAN RADIO ARCHIVES, a non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of California on January 22, 1973. Become a part of the study, preservation and enjoyment of Old Time Radio. The N.A.R.A. offers members an extensive:

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# FATHER and SON

#### BY HAROLD R. HIGGINS

HOW "ONE MAN'S FAMILY" DEALT WITH AN AGE-OLD PROBLEM FAMILIAR TO ALL PARENTS AND WON THE WHOLE-HEARTED APPROVAL OF A NATION

Occasionally radio does a job that is a standout. Occasionally something is said by radio writers which reaches into a human problem and clarifies for thousands, and perhaps millions, of people, situations which have puzzled or bewildered them.

The facts of life are an important part of the education of any young man. Carllon E. Morse, in his "One Man's Family," encountered a situation with which every father is familiar. The way he handled it attracted universal attention and resulted in hundreds of requests for copies of the script. We present the script as a piece of fine writing, as a delicate handling of an all-important subject.—Editor.

■N THE National Broadcasting Company outlets which carry "One Man's Family," congratulatory letters from listeners are no uncommon matter, for "One Man's Family" is rated generally as one of the best dramatic programs on the air.

But the outpouring of whole-hearted applause evoked during the last two months by the Thanksgiving-week broadcast of an episode in this fiveyear-old serial story of the life of an average American family has been almost without precedent.

Letters by the hundreds, from parents everywhere, have poured into the stations which aired the show, and the burden of every message is the same: "This is the finest and most sensible treatment of this subject that we've ever listened to. Where can we get a copy of the script?"

THE occasion for this flood of praise was a dialog between Henry and Jack Barbour--father and son in "One Man's Family"—in which a problem that has worried parents in every generation was handled so diplomatically that no one could take offense, and so sensibly that many parents must have taken heart.

Radio has no exclusive audiences. It can not aim at a particular group, secure in certainty that only they will hear its message. By nature it must be forever firing at random, forever shouting from housetops. Its listeners may be infants, or they may be grandmothers. What it has to say may sound childish to one mind, be overpowering to another.

Hence the rigidity of radio's self-imposed censorship, its honest effort to strike a balance, to be mature and at the same time to avoid material too heady for youthful brains, handicap is that it must appeal to a universal and unseen audience whose nature it never knows exactly.

Carlton E. Morse, who has been writing the script for "One Man's Family" since the show first went on the air, on May 17, 1933, tackled this problem skilfully and courageously, An adept writer and a shrewd student of human nature, he handled the task so cleverly that the dialog he wrote has already become a popular landmark in-radio dramatics.

In the Thanksgiving-week broadcast of "One Man's Family," presented by Tenderleaf Tea, Henry Barbour, head of the family whose adventures have





.. Anthony Smythe (left) and Page Gilman: They take the parts of father and son in "One Man's Family"

been so well told that the story has become a standard of excellence in the literature of radio, talks with his son Jack. The part of Henry Barbour is taken by J. Anthony Smythe, that of Jack by 18-year-old Page Gilman.

JACK, the adolescent son, is troubled by an awakening consciousness of approaching maturity. His body and mind have undergone changes of which he is aware but which he hardly understands. Obviously, as appears from the conversation between him and his father, he is somewhat embarrassed and afraid.

Between father and son there is the barrier of silence which is inevitable between youth and age. Age is afraid of making an unwelcome intrusion; youth is afraid of the laughter of its elders, even afraid of its own fears for fear they may be foolish.

N THIS case only the fact that there is a healthy comradeship between Jack and his father, and that their natural friendliness and ease of man-

ner with one another is intensified by the holiday atmosphere of Thanksgiving emboldens the boy to speak. Reluctantly he addresses his parent.

Jack: You know what I really like best about Thanksgiving and Christmas?

HENRY: What's that?

JACK: The way you break down and are one of us . . . You know, Dad, you're doggone human when you break down . . .

HENRY: Am I, indeed?

Jack: Sure! At times like this I feel like I could talk to you about anything and you'd understand . . .

HENRY: Yes ... yes ... (pause) ... And at other times you can't?

Jack: Oh, I guess it's only natural ...
You're busy and all that ... but ...
Well, I DO get a "you're 'way over
there and I'm 'way over here" feeling ...

HENRY: I see . . .

JACK: But not today . . . It's swell . . .

HENRY: .., er Jack ...

Jack: Yeah?

HENRY: You mentioned that you felt as though you could talk to me about anything . . .

Jack: Yeah, sure . . .

HENRY (hesitates): Is there anything you'd like to talk to me about?

JACK (hesitates): No-o-o-o-o...I don't think so. Not particularly... HENRY (disappointed): There isn't?

JACK (hesitates): No-0-0-0...

HENRY (disappointed): Ycs...Yes ...

Jack: . . . Dad? HENRY: Eh?

JACK: You're a clean-minded person. HENRY (startled): Eh?

Jack (hastily): I mean a lot more

than most people . . .

HENRY: Well, I try to be, but what

gave you that idea?

JACK: Well, you never say anything off-color and you never seem to notice implications or get double meanings in words . . .

HENRY: I have other things to think about.

Jack: But have you always been that way? . . . It's all right to say keep a clean, healthy mind and quite different to practise it.

HENRY: It bothers you?

Jack: Well, I don't think I'm different from most people, but . . . well, I don't like it . . . I don't want to have thoughts that would make me ashamed if someone found out . . .

HENRY (agrees): Yes...yes...

JACK: Is it me?... I mean, should

I be able to control my mind if I
want to?

HENRY BARBOUR, speaking frankly out of the wealth of wisdom which he himself has acquired, advises Jack, simply and honestly and with no false note of prudishness in his manner. He has been hesitant, yes, but hesitant only as he studies an approach to his subject, not hesitant out of intellectual dishonesty or a desire to dodge the question.

So he talks to his boy—no, not as man to man but, what is infinitely more difficult, as father to son, in an easy, straightforward fashion that has become the envy of every father who heard the program and has been confronted by the same task. Morse touched not only on a universal prob-



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tem but on a universal solution—the solution of friendship and complete conesty between father and son.

Henry Barbour addresses his boy:

HENRY: You're right in the prime of youth, Jack... Right at the period when the physical side of living is the foremost consideration. Apparently it's nature's way of assuring the continuance of the race. At least it's common to all healthy young people with strong, virile bodies...

JACK: You mean it's just this particular period of my life? That right now my body is dominating my

min**d?** 

HENRY: Yes, it's a problem everyone races . . .

JACK: Then there's nothing I can do about it?

HENRY: No, I didn't say that... There are a number of things to be done about it... You can wear down a good many of those insistent physical demands through exercise... A tired body relaxes the mind.

JACK: Yeah, I know that . .

HENRY: Then avoid rich, spicy food
And above all things avoid inloxicating drinks . They stimulate the body and the imagination!

ACK: Yeah!

HENRY: Then regulate your reading, your conversation and your other forms of pleasure... The wrong kind of reading whets your appetite just as do the wrong kind of companions...

JACK: But in any case in a few years things will change? I mean the mind will just naturally dominate the

physical?

HENRY: That depends on you...
Thinking is a matter of habit just as most other involuntary actions...
If you make no effort to control your thoughts now, then no matter how old you get to be your thoughts will still remain unleashed.

JACK: Is that what they mean by a

dirty old man?

HENRY: That's exactly what they mean. Jack (sighs): Whoever fixed things up certainly made a mess of it.

HENRY: Not necessarily . . . It's that continual fight for self-control within each of us which makes for strong men and women. Isn't there a saying, "It's better to rule yourself than to rule a kingdom"? . . . Something like that . . .

JACK: Yeah . . . You went through all that?

HENRY: I did, indeed . . .

Jack: Well, you seem to have come out all right.

HENRY: I hold mental reservations on that subject.

OTE closely the closing lines of the scene, in which Jack asks his father, "You went through all that?" and Henry replies, remembering his own youth and how slowly wisdom came, "I did, indeed." In those lines are the essence of Morse's story and the es-sence of its wide appeal. In this instance he has related the experience of the Barbours-father and son -to the lives of every father and son. In the "One Man's Family" episode described above, Morse and the sponsors and producers of the drama have met a universal problem squarely and answered it in a way which is both intelligent and inoffensive, an accomplishment typical of the entire serial. This episode in particular was a noteworthy bit of pioneering in the field of first-class writing for radio, and a broadcast which well deserved the letters of praise it drew.

One Man's Family may be heard Wednesday over an NBC network at: EST 8:00 p.m. —— CST 7:00 p.m. MST 6:00 p.m. —— PST 5:00 p.m. And Sunday for the West Coast at: MST 10:30 p.m. —— PST 9:30 p.m.

#### Radio Guide Week Ending February '5, 1938



Carleton Morse

#### Classified Ads

SCIENCE FICTION RADIO SHOWS on reg. cassettes. Send for catalog, 25¢ John Ford, 411 Truitt St., Salisbury, MD 21801.

WANTED: Amos & Andy radio program items, puzzles & stand-ups. Bob Morgan, 4005 Pitman Rd., College Park, GA 30349.

Steve Dolter, 577 West Locust, Dubuque, Iowa 52001. (319) 556-1188 200 reels, comedy, mystery, drama, Fred Allen, Jack Benny, Suspense, I Love a Mystery. Interested in books about OTR or OTR performers.

Raymond Stanich, 173 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201 Music, personalities, drama, comedy, Railroad Hour, Chicago Theater of the Air, Fred Allen, Richard Diamond, Baby Snooks, Bickersons, Ray Bradbury, Co-authored book: "SOUND OF DETECTION-ELLERY QUEEN ON RADIO." Do research on old time radio, Issue logs.

Radio books, parts wanted prior 1950 from radio repair shops. Send price list. Richards, Box 1542-D, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT ITEMS wanted. DeWayne Nail, P.O. Box 555, Cleburne, TX 76031

Want these Lux shows: Red River, Alice in Wonderland, Paradine Case, Kent Coscarelly, 2173 Willester Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95124

RADIO ITEMS BEFORE 1935, sets, speakers, tubes, parts, literature & advertising. Schneider, 9511-23 Sunrise Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44133

WANTED: To hear from anyone with Baby Snooks programs. Buy, sell or trade. Will buy or exchange catalogs. Lynn Wagar, Box 202 B.C.A., St. Cloud, MN 56301.

HAVE MOST BIG BANDS in chronological order in exchange for Boswell Sisters, Annette Hanshaw, Ruth Etting, Lee Whiley from 78 records or broadcasts. Have most of their L.P.'s. Walter M. Keepers, Jr., 6341 Glenloch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19135.1-77.

OLD RADIO SHOWS on cassettes. Rare Big Bands and Vocalists too! The absolute best quality. Free catalog. 2732-R Queensboro Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Tom Monroe, 2055 Elmwood, Lakewood, Chio 44107/(216) 226-8189 Cassette and reel, mystery, adventure, sci-fi, westerns, drama, some cornedy. Vintage Radio Programs on cassettes. Comedy, Drama, thrillers, westerns and more. Lowest prices nationwide. Catalog \$1.00 (refundable). Galore. Box 1321. Ellicott City, MD 21043 (1474) (52).

Wanted: Juvenile adventure serials, Mysterious Traveler, Gangbusters, Fred Allen, 2000 + . Cassettes only. Ken Weigel, 7011 Lennox Avc. #126, Van Nuys, CA 91405

Nelson Eddy and Bing Crosby Research; send data Box 724, Redmond, WA 98073-0724

Old-time Matinee Serials & Westerns on VHS Videocassette! Tom Mix, Buck Jones, Zorro, etc. Free list! Send S.A.S.E.-Series, P.O. Box 173 R Boyertown, PA 19512.

Wanted: 1st Nightbeat program (2-6-50) as well as one where William Conrad appears. Victor Padilla, Jr. 104 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211.

Wanted: Trade or buy Tom Corbett and other SF cassettes. Mark Skullerud, 20110 21st Ave. NW, Seattle, Wash. 98177

WANTED: 16" RADIO transcription recordings. All types.—Paul Scriven, 238 West State Street, Niles, OH 44446. my40441

RADIO TRANSCRIPTION DISCS wanted. Any size, speed. — Box 724H, Redmond, WA 98052.

EDWARD HAMILTON, 933 Naismith, Pl., Topeka, KS 66606 wants CBS Radio Mystery Theater; prefers cassettes...

ALLAN SHERRY, 5410 Netherland Ave., Riverdale, NY 10471 is trying to locate the last date for Prescott Robinson on the air plus any other information about him.

THOMAS HEATHWOOD, 22 Broadlawn Pk., Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 looking for Portia Faces Life, especially July 1948 and April 1949.

ROBERT SHEPHERD, 129 Highfields Rd., Abington, MA 02351 wants to know: who was the announcer for Suspense after Larry Thor and also during Bill Robson's era as producer.

The Golden Radio Buffs of Maryland will hold its 16th anniversary Golden Mike Awards, Baltimore, MD. For details write.

LOGS: Ray Stanica, 173 Columbia Hts., Brooklyn, NY 11201 has a complete log of Mercury Theater of the Air and Campbell Playhouse for a S.A.S.E. with 2 stamps.

WANTED: To hear from anyone with Baby Snooks programs. Buy, sell or trade. Will buy or exchange catalogs. Lyn Wagar, Box 202 BCA, St. Cloud, MN 56301.

AANTED: Masterpiece Radio Theater, other mutpart NPR or BBC dramas. Buy or trade assettes. Howard Lewis, 132 Hutchin Hill Rd., Shady, NY 12409

Don Berhent, 807 Glenhurst Rd., Willwick, OH #4094. The Shadow and movie serials. Books on both also.

Frank Tomaselli, 29-t0 Donna Ct., Staten Island, № 10314 is looking for 11 AM from 1939-1944; ass Fred Allen's Town Hall Tonight.

Tom Heathwood, 22 Broadlawn Pl., Chestnut Hill, MA 32167. Shadow programs between 1941-44. —as supplement to his catalog for a S.A.S.E.

Druck Juzek, 57 Hutton Ave., Nanuet, NY 10954. Green Hornet episode where Reid reveals himself to his father as the Hornet around 1943, Need log tron 1935-40.

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AANTED: RADIO MAGAZINES before 1935, such ## Radio News, Popular Radio, Radio Retailing, Short Wave Craft, etc. Gary B. Schneider, 9511 Sunnse Blvd., #J-23 North Royalton, Ohio 44133.

"arry Goldman, RR6, Box 181, Glens Falls, NY "2501 wants Kraft Music Half of 12-11-47 (Al Deson) Jack Benny "The Bee", Fiorello acGuardia tribute to Nikola Tesla over WNYC on ar 10, 1943.

MANTED: Kid Shows, Serials, Big Band Remotes, \*\*rarscription Recordings on Reel to Reel only mease Write to Wally Stall, 8408 N.W. 101, □\* anoma City, OK 73132.

Pre Evans. Box 136 Downtown Station, Barersfield, CA 93302-0136. Looking for any ric n the Candlelight Hour Broadcast from MC in 1931.

⊃ aries Michelson, 9350 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hits. CA 90212. Looking for broadcast quality epsodes of Amazing Mr. Malone and Mr. and Mrs. North for his syndicated show.

Oldtrine Radio-Show Collector's Association (ORCA) is actively seeking members. You can emain loyal to your own local club and still become. Write Reg Hubert, 45 Barry St., Sudburg, Ortano, Canada P3B 3H6.

Debbie Piroch, Rd 4, Box 234, Meadville, Pa 16335. Looking for any show with Nelson Eddy and/or Jeanette MacDonald.

Jim Blythe, 941 Redding Rd., Asheboro, NC 27203. Wants Lum and Abner, Magic Island, Jerry at Fair Oaks.

Marty Lewin, 8836 N. Lincolnwood Dr., Evanston, IL 60203. Looking for Sid McCoy Show (a Chicago DJ from 50's and 60's.) Also any new Phil Harris-Alice Faye Shows.

Ronald Waite, 578 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT 06511. Interested in Jack Benny.

Chuck Juzek, 57 Hutton Ave., Nanuet, NY 10954. Would like any info about Maurice Joachim who wrote the scripts for The Avenger.

Bob Proctor, Box 362, Saline, MI 48176. Wants Horatio Hornblower shows with Michael Redgrave.

Richard Palanik, 165 Summitt St., Plantsville CT 06479. Looking for copies of NPR's Dol Savage shows and Nightfall.

Wanted: Jack Benny show dated 12/8/46. Jack Goes Christmas Shopping and Buys Don Shoelaces. Steve Ovalline, 10214 Black Mtn. Rd. 49, San Diego, CA 92126.

Wanted: Cassette of any of the radio program "Hotel for Pets" name your price. Bruce Manschak, 6549 N. Drake, Lincolnwood, IL 60645.

Wanted: I am looking for the Green Hornet Show "Underwater Adventure" that aired 9-24-46. Chuck Juzek, 57 Hutton Avenue, Nanuet, NY 10987.

Wanted: "We The People" Broadcast 1-13-50 and any Lum and Abner shows prior to 1941. Willing to trade for anything in my catalog. Steve Ferrante, Box 153, Oakland Mills, PA 17076.

CAN YOU HELP/I am looking for programs with magic or related material. My catalogue has 48 pages, November 1976, and grows. Will trade recordings of anything and catalogue with you. Drop a line: Snader, Box 12-655, Mexico 12, D.F. Mexico.

WANTED: Classical music broadcasts, ET's, Acetales, tapes, all speeds, sizes, formats, for cash. Joe Salerno, 9407 Westheimer #311A, Houston, Texas 77063.

Vintage broadcasts, reliving radio's past. Free flyers. 42 Bowling Green, Staten Island, NY 10314.

Van Christo, 91 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116. Looking for Goldberg's Episode which was called "The Hannukan Bush." Wanted: Space Patrol - Tom Corbett, Capt. Video, old radio cereal giveaways, gurn cards, pep pins, nostalgia, comic character items 1930's-1950's. Joseph Fair, 10 Crestwood-R.D., New Castle, PA 16101 (35)

Trade Fibber McGee and Molly Cassettes VG/EX only. Offer 110 shows. Exchange list. Bill Oliver, 516 Third St. North East, Massillon, Ohio 44646.

Mary Sayer, 801 8th St. F5, Sioux City, IA 51105. Looking for any infor on "Uncle" Jim Harkin, Fred Allen's manager.

Wanted: 1950 Summer Replacement Show "Somebody Knows" by Jack Johnstone. (8 show run) Dick Olday, 100 Harvey Dr., Lancaster, NY 14080.

Gilbert HUEY, 90 W. Triple Tree Dr., Carrollton, GA 30017 is writing an article on Flash Gordon and needs much information on the radio and ty show.

William R. Lane, 236 W. 6th, Brigham City, Utah 84302./1-801-723-3319/reel to reel, 2600 hours/ Hill Air Force Base. All types, Lum & Abner, Jack Benny, Lux Radio Theater, Will buy or trade.

WANTED: RADIO MAGAZINES before 1935, such as fladio News, Popular fladio, Radio Retailing, Short Wave Craft, etc. Gary B. Schneider, 9511 Sunrise Blvd., #J-23, North Royalton. Ohio 44133.

WANTED: Kid Shows, Serials, Big Band Remotes, Transcription Recordings on Reel to Reel only please. Write to Wally Stall, 8408 N.W. 101 Oklahoma City, OK 73132.

For autobiography would like to know date (at least year/year, month better) of Superman radio episodes in which (1) S. finds Atlantis; (2) S. catches crook by following crook's discarded peanut shells. Believe first is 1945 or 6, Other 47-9. S.J. Estes/205 E. 78/ NY, NY/10021. Many thanks.

For Sale: Boxed set of six tapes from Stephen King's Night Shift. Original Price: \$34.95. My Price: \$12.00 postpaid. Five sets available. Phil Nelson, 221 Scioto, Chillicothe, OH 45601.

Would like: Mysterious Traveler, Whistler, Pat Novak For Hire on cassette. I have a lot to trade. Write to: Victor D. Padilla, Jr., 104 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211.

Wanted: Amos and Andy, Roy Rogers, and Gunsmoke, Will buy or have shows to trade in X Minus One, Dimension X, Sgt. Preston, Captain Midnight, Suspense, Escape, others. Phil Nelson, 221 Scioto, Chillicothe, OH 45601.

WANTED: Aldrich Family radio programs on cassettes, as well as information. Kenneth Barker, 874 27th Street East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 6P3

FOR-TRADE: SCRIPT-FOR-PROGRAM THE SHADOW 9/26/37, 3/20/38, (have show also) 12/3/39, 4/11/54, 4/18/54, 4/25/54, 5/30/54, 7/4/54, 7/25/54, 8/1/54, 8/8/54, 8/29/54, 9/19/54, 9/26/54, 10/10/54, 10/17/54, 10/24/54, 10/31/54, 9/30/45-or 9/3/54 (not sure which I have). Adam Trachtenburg, 1243 Knorr St., Phila. PA 19111 (215) 745-8224

WANTED: NBC MONITOR. Broadcasts from '55 to '64. I have many complete editions from '65-'75. Write to: Warren Gerbe, 42-60 Bowne Street, Flushing, New York 11355-2907

RADIO SHOWS ON CASSETTE, also radio/tv related material. Catalog \$1, Phil Klernan, 30235 Cupeno Lane, Temecula, CA 92390

JACK MELCHER, P.O. Box 14, Waukegan, IL 60087 wants to buy radio premiums, games, toys, buttons, comic related items. Disney, political, gum wrappers BUY SELL TRADE 312-249-5626

WILLIAM OSOVSKY, 2501 ivy St., Chattanooga, TN 37404. Collector of Ralston Tom Mix premiums, green 20 Grand Ale bottles with neck and paper labels intact. Octagon soap premium kites. Alaga syrup tins.

Wanted: Jake & the Kid, Hardy Family, Maisie on cassettes. N.A. McNamee, Box 602, Organ, New Mexico 88052.

Amos & Andy or Jack Benny Shows, other comedy shows. Rob Cohen, 6635 Helm Ave., Reynoldsburg. OH 43068



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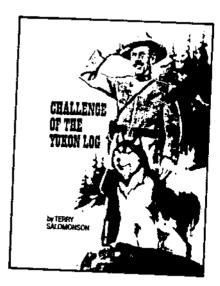
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