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Old Time Radio

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THE INCREDIBLE STOOGE BY JAMES STREET

FTER the spree of 1929, and when the hangover set in, Bergen kept plugging in vaudeville, which even then had a deathrattle in its throat. Eddie decided he needed a new character to work with McCarthy, so he had Little Audreymade. But it was no soap. She was the magpie type and Bergen didn't have a voice to fit her. She was the animated type, and Eddie had to talk rapid-fire to keep her personality alive. It was too hard on his stomach.

So he had Elmer Snerd created, and he was better—a bashful rustic, a goof, and fitted Eddie's voice exactly. Of course not as well as McCarthy but well enough. Funny thing about Elmer, though. When he was carved, Elmer had a thin upper lip and firm chin. The public turned thumbs down on him, because a thin lip suggests meanness. Bergen laughs about it. "I had to give Elmer a thick, protruding lip and a receding chin," he said. "Then the public accepted him." (Elmer now is Mortimer Snerd.)

Bergen had made a warm friend of Ken Murray in vaudeville. They still are pals. Eddie had a great yearning for a headline billing and didn't want to be billed as a ventriloquist. So he wrote himself a one-act opus called "Apple Valley." In it he was a Swedish explorer and gagged about his trip to the North Pole. Master McCarthy was out.

"Apple Valley" flopped the first

Bergen knew the act was funny. He figured one thousand Americans must be wrong, because they said the act was terrible. He tried to pull a fast one. He was billed as a ventriloquist but came on the stage as the explorer and went into his act. The crowd froze him. The manager said, "Get that dummy, brother, or get out!" Bergen pulled

Charlie out of the bag, went back into the old patter stuff, and left them in the aisles. Ironically enough, Bergen and McCarthy were the backbone of many bills, but they never got headline bill-

McCarthy had taken many parts during his life-newsboy, baseball player, Lord Fauntlerov-and the time had come for him to assume his real personality and take his rightful place among men. Bergen was billed in England and McCarthy put on a high hat. Eddie realized the old vaudeville Mc-Carthy wouldn't go over with the clawhammer-and-white-tie boys, so he whittled off McCarthy's wooden hair and bought him a red wig. He cringes now when he thinks of the chance he took, carving McCarthy as though he were a slab of pine. He put a monocle on his doll, and in boring the hole in McCarthy's cheek for the monocle's pin, the knife slipped and almost changed Charles McCarthy, Esq., into Scarface Mac. The tiny cut still shows on McCarthy's cheek and his face must have a special treatment before McCarthy faces the movie cameras, or the scar shows.

Eddie hunted high and low for a special paint that wouldn't shine in the spotlights, and finally solved the problem himself by loading his paint with pumice stone.

PE practised until his fingers ached, perfecting the manipulation of his dummy, and he made the operation as simple as possible. McCarthy had worn out many innards in vaudeville and Bergen finally gave him a new inside. He learned to operate McCarthy with only two motions. The million-dollar head was mounted on a wooden pole about the size of a broom-handle. It revolves, nods, and is raised or lowered by Bergen's thumb and the last



three fingers of his right hand, which grasps the rod—McCarthy's windpipe. The index-finger is hooked into a ring, and Bergen works his trigger-finger as though he were shooting a gun. That motion works McCarthy's mouth.

Eddie took McCarthy to his tailor and he was fitted with tails, and the pair was ready for the conquest of Europe. They had come a long way together. Charlie the Gamin had become Charles McCarthy, Esq. Bergen, the boy who wanted to invent a strawberry-picking machine, was to play before a king.

Eddie says he worried on the way to London, wondering how the English would accept the top hatted McCarthy, who is a take-off on the English. Mr. Bergen, we suggest, probably is pulling our leg, as we say in dear old Mayfair. We have an idea Mr. Bergen,

smart showman, knew that the English won't laugh at many things but will always laugh at themselves, and that's why Mr. McCarthy put on tails.

In London, he appeared first at London's famous Grosvenor House. Barbara Hutton was there. So was Lady Furness. So were many other persons who whooped and laughed, quite vulgarly, at McCarthy. Then Bergen went to Sweden and put on "The Operation." There wasn't a giggle, although Eddie did it in Swedish. Suddenly he remembered that in the old country doctors are venerated. He tried that Swedish explorer's thing, and even the Swedes gave it the cold shoulder. Next Bergen went back to his old patter-and clicked. He played a command appearance before Swedish royalty.

He went to Russia and Denmark and visited Iceland on a cruise. The natives

understood Swedish and Eddie gave an impromptu performance. McCarthy, the love-sneak, bowed to an Icelander's wife and said, "Madam, will you allow me to kiss you?"

The woman blushed. "Oh!" she said, and acted as though she wouldn't object. But her husband was there, so she said, "In Iceland a married woman is not allowed to kiss another man. My husband would object."

A giant of a fellow stepped from the crowd and glowered at McCarthy. Bergen almost stammered, but managed to save McCarthy, who said graciously, "Where I come from it's merely a sign of respect. I wanted to show my respect for you by kissing your hand."

Nice work, Bergen.

The lady offered her hand and Mc-Carthy bowed and kissed it. Elsa Maxwell gave a party and Bergen entertained. He and McCarthy lampooned cafe society, and they loved it.

Other night-club bookings came in, and he went to Chicago to play at the College Inn. He arrived a week ahead of time and decided to fill in at the State-Lake Theater. The College Inn fired him before he started.

B DROPPED by to see his friend Joe Jacobson, at the Chez Paree, and Jacobson gave him a spot. Rudy Vallee blew into Chicago, and Jacobson told him Bergen was a radio natural. Rudy said he was too busy to hear the show, but when Jacobson insisted Vallee went to the club. If Rudy ever needs a job, he can get big money as a talent-scout. For the minute he heard Bergen, he knew he had something. The next morning he signed Bergen for an ap-

EDGAR BERGEN HAS GIVEN AMERICANS A DUMMY FOR A NATIONAL IDOL AND MADE THEM LIKE IT — TREMENDOUSLY

The hardest assignment Bergen ever had was in Venezuela, where he performed in a leper colony. The memory still haunts him. He stood in a courtyard surrounded by cells out of which the lepers peered. He knew no Spanish, so he made McCarthy sing. The lepers just stared at him. Eddie did some tricks of magic, but the lepers didn't smile. After all, they needed a miracle.

Bergen came home and discovered the old place had changed. Vaudeville was dead and Eddie's meal-ticket was gone. Booking-agents laughed when he said he could click in night-clubs, but he put on the pressure and got a spot in a small club.

Then it happened. The night-clubbers toasted McCarthy, and before Eddie knew just what it was all about he was booked for the Rainbow Room in Rockefeller Center, one of those very very places. Bergen and McCarthy shot up like the elevators in the dump.

pearance on the Variety Hour.

"I can't put you on steady," Rudy said, "because your material won't hold up."

Bergen agreed with him. It never had entered his head that he was a top-flight writer, although Noel Coward once had told him he was a whiz. But good old conservative Bergen didn't believe all he heard.

HIS first radio appearance was with Vallee on December 17, 1936. He got \$350 and used one of his standard routines. The next week he got more and used another old, reliable routine. The third week he said he couldn't think of anything to say, but he was offered \$750, and he sat down and wrote himself a program.

The nation forgot about its woes and Bergen gave us a new deal in enter tainment.

Out in Hollywood, Sam Goldwyn heard him and McCarthy and said,



Bergen likes to tear around on his motorcycle with his pal Ken Murray and Charlie. When Eddie bought the motorcycle the dealer thought he'd make a fat profit, but Bergen's clever bargaining amazed the dealer

"Sign those two guys. They are good." He and McCarthy went to Hollywood, but they've never gone Hollywood. Bergen signed with Goldwyn for \$15,000 for a picture, but was astute enough to refuse an option on his future services. He was a smash in Goldwyn Follies. He began on the Chase and Sanborn Hour in May of 1937 at \$2,000 a week on an increasing salary arrangement. He now draws \$3,250 every Sunday from Chase and Sanborn. Universal paid him \$100,000 for his last two pictures, and now he is asking \$100,000 a picture. His dolls, toys, books and other side-lines earn another \$100,000 a year for him. He declined a personal-appearance tour which would have netted him \$200,000 in ten weeks. At an appearance in Los Angeles on a 50-50 basis, he made \$17,500 in a week. He was paid \$5,000 in San Francisco for five minutes' work.

He is making money hand over fist, but his feet are on the ground. When he realized what he had, he sent home for his mother and brother Clarence. He turned his side-line business over to Clarence's management, and devoted all of his time to radio and movies.

Just in case you've forgotten, Mc-Carthy is an old hand at the movie business. He was acting in shorts for Vitaphone back in 1935, but he wasn't a star.

With a swelling bank-account, Bergen looked around for a house and found Bellavista to his liking. It's a rambling Spanish-type bungalow. He picked it up at a bargain and improved it to suit himself. He has a small swimming-pool, a golf putting-green and a badminton court. There are no more rooms than he needs-bedrooms for his servants, himself, mother and secretary. He has an office den, living-room, dining-room and a hobby-room, or shop. He is adding a wing to contain a rumpus-room, at the end of which will be a small stage, and there he is determined to put over his Swedishexplorer act, or bust, which is what the act always did.

He has invested his money in government bonds and annuities.

"I'm making more money than I ever dreamed of," he said. "It's more than I want, even if eighty-five percent of it does go for income taxes. I think income taxes are good things. They set a limit on a man's work and keep him from killing himself with ambition."

He is never reckless with his money and knows how to spend everything deductible for tax purposes. He is apt to be long on correspondence and short on cash with friends in difficulties. He will take them to lunch, maybe, hear their hard-luck stories, and perhaps buy a script, which he probably never will use. He would rather show them a way out of their predicaments than dig into his pockets.

He is canny with his money. Last year the police department of Culver City tried to unload a flock of benefit tickets on him. He balked and said he would support his own community, Beverly Hills. Since then, it is reported the Culver City cops have been watching for a chance to tag him, but he avoids that town.

Bergen likes to rip around the countryside on a motorcycle, and when he bought it the dealer thought he had a nice fat profit coming. But Bergen drove such a hard bargain that the dealer is not sure he even made a profit.

His habits are jerky and he is a restless, industrious fellow. There was a time when he drank rather heavily, but he had sense enough to realize the stupidity and futility of it and now he is a light drinker. And for every cocktail or highball he downs, he averages a quart of milk.

He is a sound sleeper, and gets in his seven or eight hours a night, and usually gets up at 7 a.m. and reports at the movie studio at 8. He sleeps in gay pajamas with wide stripes, and shuns a pillow. He often takes a midday nap. Bergen won't have breakfast in bed, but after a hard day's work he enjoys dinner in bed. He's a hefty eater and likes Chinese food, and frequently has snacks between meals. When he went to Hollywood howeighed about 140 pounds. Now howeighes about 160.

Bergen is a conservative dresser,



One of Bergen's most recent girl friends is singer Kay St. Germain. Edgar's romances furnish choice gossip in Hollywood. Friends say he is still looking for his ideal girl, even though he's quite a gadabout

with a weakness for shoes and hats. His hair is thinning. Maybe that's why he likes hats. The most he ever spent for a suit was \$225 for a claw-hammer get-up. McCarthy has a larger ward-robe than his stooge.

His household employs a Swedish cook and her husband, who also serves as houseman, valet and chauffeur. His secretary is Mary Hanrahan, tall, brunette and very efficient. She was working in the government research department of the University of Chicago until she took a job with Bergen. Now she helps mother him, and has been with him two years. Bill is Bergen's gardener. Mrs. Nellie Bergren completes the household. She and Clarence retain the r in their name.

Bergen's office force includes a staff of three or four gag-men, but they do more suggesting than writing. They write an idea and Bergen studies it. Then he runs the lines through an Ediphone and changes them to suit his style. If he likes it, he has the act transcribed and runs it through a refining process. The completed job usually is nothing like the suggestions of his gag-men. At rehearsals, he is apt to adlib some swell spontaneous cracks. His secretary must catch them, and they are added to the script.

Like many other radio personalities, Bergen gets ideas from his own life. He was in a minor automobile accident one evening, and that gave him the idea for the great script in which McCarthy wrecked Bergen's car. It also furnished the idea for Bergen to give McCarthy a car for his birthday and have the little fellow wreck it.

Remember the time Charlie was an interior decorator? That was at the same time Bergen was decorating his new home. Bergen got the idea for McCarthy going into the bird business when he bought a canary for his mother.

His versatility is among the marvels of Hollywood. He knows writing, comedy, mechanics, and is superior in most sports. He has a smattering knowledge of medicine and a great knack for law. He is a cartoonist and an airplane pilot. He loves gadgets and is always trying to invent something, but his only patents are on McCarthy. He spends much of his time in his workshop, just tinkering. He enjoys fishing, but his favorite sport is hunting, particularly wild goats on Catalina

He has a big collection of firearms, many of which were given him by Texas Rangers, who made Bergen and McCarthy honorary members.

His secretary doesn't like the guns, and one of her problems is to get information from him while he stands on his patio and blazes away at the markers on his putting-green.

He has one dog, a cocker named Skinny Dugan, but he is planning to buy a Doberman pinscher. Skinny is afraid of McCarthy and goes into a dither when the dummy calls him. Most dogs, however, are fascinated by McCarthy's voice.

Bergen owns two cars, a sedan and a limousine. He prefers to drive himself, but uses his chauffeur when the occasion calls for one. He flies his lawyer's plane.

His favorite musical instrument is the pipe-organ. He studied music a bit in school and can trifle with a piano. He has a good collection of phonograph records, mostly organ music.

Bergen's favorite hobby still is photography. He is not a heavy reader. His library has books on magic, photography and movie-making. He also goes for Skippy and Donald Ogden Stuart's books, and at times he wades into philosophy. He seldom reads newspapers, but gets his news from the radio.

His idea of a good time is to take a pretty girl to noisy night-clubs, where he generally is quiet. But every now and then he'll come up with a crack that will convulse the party.

He is very forgetful of things he doesn't want to remember, and is seemingly bashful. He'll let McCarthy say things he wouldn't dare say. When he thinks, he'll sit and scratch his nose. He is inclined to twist his right wrist when concentrating, as though he were manipulating McCarthy. He is eventempered, but when he is irked his taut lips are a storm warning. During a meal he will frequently go woolgathering, think of a crack for Mc-Carthy, and laugh out loud.

He still loves to travel. "I'm too tied down now to travel much," he said. "I should like to go to Europe this summer, but I can't get away. However. I'm going to New York pretty soon and broadcast from there."



So resourceful and self-satisfied is the irrepressible McCarthy that he is equally at home as a Dead End kid, a con-salesman, or a maharajah

Vol. 9. No. 15. January 26, 1940

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HOW I PAID MY INCOME TAX by CHARLIE McCARTHY

It happens this way, see — I'm sitting in my study nonchalantly marking a deck of cards, when who pops his beezer in the door but Bergen — the Swedish nightingoon. From the look in his eye, I can see he's about to lay the groundwork for a double-cross.

"Charlie," he says, with a look of fatherly affection in his good eye, "I'd like to talk to you."

"See my secretary for an appointment," I says demurely, "and perhaps I can squeeze you in about half past Thursday."

"Now, Charlie," he says, "we've been together a long time, haven't we?" I had to admit that this had the basis of truth and he continued, rubbing his hands, "And we've been very, very close."

"Yes," I cracked, "especially you." I've known him long enough never to agree with anything he says until I find out what cooks. That's why I stall him off in this case — with polite chitchat.

Next he goes into that hardship routine. He says, "Charlie, I've done a lot for you, with the thought in mind that you'd be a comfort to me in my old age."

"Well, haven't 1?" I says, thumbing an old copy of Esquire.

"Well, anyway," he continues, "today there's a little matter which I would like to discuss with you." As soon as he says "little matter," I know it has something to do with my allowance. And sure enough, he whips out an officiallooking card and says, "Sign here."

"Oh, no, you don't," says I. "Let me see what I'm signing." He gives me

some double talk about an Employeeswithholding exemption certificate, I ask him to drag that past a little slower. It turns out to be a form from the Collector of Infernal Refuge,

"Bergen, I refuse to sign anything until I've called my lawyer," I says. But before I can reach for the phone, he shoves a pen in my hand and points to a dotted line. Of course, I'm not going to stand for this stuff without reading it, so I looks it over. It turns out to be the new Pay As You Go tax plan. If I gotta pay as I go, I'm gonna stay right here.

Anyway, there's three boxes to check. The first one says, "Married person living with husband." That lets me out. You know I'm not living with my husband. I left him . . . the brute beat me. The next box says, "Single person not married, not head of family, not nothin'." That's comin' closer. The third one covers my case exactly. . "Single husband not married," So I check it off.

Before I sign, I ask Bergen for a breakdown on this shakedown. And he says the government wants 20% of my salary. This is ridiculous on the face of it, 'cause I don't make that much.

"But, Charlie," says Bergen, with one hand in my pocket, "the government needs money, and money doesn't grow on trees." The only answer to that one I could think of was "Yours did." And, anyway, I just ain't got the mazoolathe happy cabbage.

"What about your piggy bank?" asks Bergen, trying another angle. "Don't you have anything in that?"



"Not a sow," I says, "not a sow."

"That's the trouble with you, Charlie," he says, turning on the heat, "you're too careless with your money. I sometimes wonder where it all goes."

"Can I help it if I'm a spendthrift?" I says. "A penny here and a penny there and before I know it. a whole nickel's gone." And Bergen says, "That's just

the trouble—a fool and his money are soon parted." If that's the case, why do I have so much trouble getting any from him?

"Nevertheless," says Bergen, "you will have to figure out 20% or your salary and pay it to the government." So I starts to work on it. I puts down 75¢. It looks so small on the paper that I

tear it up and write it in five-inch numbers.

That doesn't help much, so I start to figure: "Twenty times 75 is what I got to get... First, I multiply zero times zero. It comes out a goose egg. Then I multiply zero times seven and I get another zero. I've done all that work and what do I have to show for it? Nothin' so I take another tack. Five into two

goes ... oh, oh, it doesn't work. There's no use forcing it, so I drop the seven and push in another goose egg. I sauté the goose egg, slop it around, and the whole thing comes out 131, except February, which has 28."

Bergen brings up the question of expenses, so I decide to make a list of my assets and liabilities. When I get through, it looks something like this:

They're Coming Back!



Edgar Bergen, Charlie McCarthy, Mortimer Snerd and their gang are on the air again for their regular Sunday night show beginning

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The Inside Story of the McCarthy Program Break-Up

When we first received an inkling of the radical upset which the new year has brought in radio's top variety show, "The Chase and Sanborn Hour," we wired our Hollywood wiseman, Evans Plummer, immediately, assigned him to the job of digging up the behind-thescenes story we knew must be there. Here is Mr. Plummer's answer—and a very interesting answer it is. Every disappointed listener, every McCarthy, Lamour, or Ameche Ian should read it by all means.—Editor.

N ANGRY burble of protest has arisen in the land. When the settled habits of millions of Americans are rudely upset, such a burble is inevitable. When the upset concerns a pet radio show around which those millions plan their Sunday listening throughout the year, the burble is likely to blow up into a blast, but quickly. "Just what," they ask, "do the Chase and Sanborn people mean by tearing our favorite radio program to shreds?"

Well, what do they mean?

Before going into that, here is what the culprits have done. They've thrown out the old "Chase and Sanborn Hour." Come the New Year and January 7, the great multi-starred, hour-long program will emerge from a high-powered streamlining process. It will fit very nicely into thirty minutes. It will have to struggle along without the aid either of Don Ameche or of Dorothy Lamour. It will have said good-by to Nelson Eddy forever. Now, what do they mean?

Briefly, it was a matter of money. Standard Brands, the combine which sells Chase and Sanborn Coffee, had to readjust its advertising budget. The "Chase and Sanborn Hour" got the ax. Which is no adequate answer, however, to the major operation now being performed on radio's most popular broadcast. To explain more fully, then:

It might be wise to first squelch certain rumors which already are flying. Rumor No. 1, that the show had proved itself a failure, is false. Rumor No. 2, that Don Ameche and Nelson Eddy and Dorothy Lamour had fallen into disrepute with the sponsor, is definitely false. Rumors Nos. 3, 4, 5, etc., that any variations of these two tales (as dispensed by have-an-ax-to-grind sources) is the truth, are most definitely false.

Having laid all the fanciful stories in one fell swoop, there remains the money angle to clear up.



To depart from the coffee hour are two full-fledged radio and film stars — Don Ameche and Dorothy Lamour. Indications are they won't wait long for new radio contracts

This is how they doled it out:

Network time for—

"Chase and Sanborn Hour" \$1,000,000

"Rudy Vallee Variety Hour" 1,000,000

"One Man's Family" 500,000

Talent for all three shows 1,500,000

Tótal \$4,000,000

\$4,000,000 is big money, but if it had stopped there the grocery moguls would have been well content. Several unforeseen changes, however, cramped their style—in financial parlance, unbalanced their budget.

In the first place, Rudy Vallee, after

ten years on the air, was becoming a radio problem-child. Finding his show form more and more difficult to deliver because of the scarcity of comedians and novelty acts—his past performers now had shows of their own—he decided to take a long-needed rest. So



To remain—as the whole show, the "Charlie McCarthy Show" (NBC, Sun.)-are Edgar Bergen and the dummy which made him famous. Mortimer Snerd may sneak in too

Rudy quit radio temporarily. To replace him, the grocerymen introduced two serial dramas, "I Love a Mystery" and "Those We Love." Despite big savings in star salaries, increased expenses in other directions raised rather than lowered expenditures by \$340,000.

CECOND, Chase and Sanborn's salary scale was becoming a problem. Increased salaries given to keep the performers happy-an unhappy performer doesn't perform-and to reward successful service had blown up the show's weekly pay-roll to an average of \$20,000 weekly, totaling \$156,000 more than for the preceding year of 1938.

Add up those petty-cash items and the grocerymen were almost a half-million dollars over their radio advertising budget. They, like all good businessmen, knew that going overboard would ultimately lead to writing more red ink than blue on the ledger sheets. They,

Comes the revolution in Sunday listening and America wants to know why. Here are the facts hot from the scene of action

BY EVANS PLUMMER

like all good businessmen, knew also that paring was in order.

Add to this the cold fact that the coffee hour was consuming sixty-two percent of the budget. Add to this another cold fact-that coffee nets Standard Brands the lowest profit per unit sale of any of their products-and the partial liquidation of Charlie McCarthy's gang was just in the cards.

So the worthy grocerymen put their heads together, consumed aspirin copiously, and called in the stars. Nelson Eddy was first, Don Ameche and Dorothy Lamour came later. The worthies laid their cards on the table in a series of friendly talks.

The show Standard Brands had started out to build in May, 1937, said they, had turned into quite something else. A ventriloquist named Edgar Bergen, who had made seven brilliant appearances on Rudy Vallee's program. had been thrown in the program pot at a bargain starting figure of \$1,500 weekly. That was because he had not "arrived" yet. Don Ameche had been doubtfully started at a similar beginning salary to master-of-ceremonies the show and act in dramatic spots. Dorothy Lamour had been signed very

reasonably for about \$500 weekly. W. C. Fields, whom the sponsor and the program's producers had thought would dominate the show as 1937's great air comedy find, had been added to star with Nelson Eddy. Fields was to receive \$5,000 a broadcast and Eddy. \$4.000.

To bolster this mass of talent, an additional sum of \$3,000 weekly had been provided for screen-name quest stars (who have cost anywhere from a thousand to five thousand dollars). Total cost of the show as scheduled was therefore to have been \$18,800 for tal-

Instead, this happened:

Genial Mr. Fields didn't last through the fall of 1937. He tired of the weekly grind of preparing new material, it is said. But some folks think maybe he didn't like the way a little dummy named McCarthy and his lap, Edgar Bergen, were getting most of the laughs. Listeners were even calling the show the "Charlie McCarthy Hour."

In fact, from that point on the mass of listeners continued calling it that. Not the Nelson Eddy program or the Don Ameche show-but the Charlie McCarthy Hour! At the same time, doubtful

Don Ameche was fast developing into radio's No. I master of ceremonies. Lamour and her sarong were becoming the talk of male America. Today, the rise of Bergen and Ameche and Lamour would seem to have been inevitable, but at the start it wasn't so evident either to listeners or grocerymen. At any rate, they rose to stardom and were entitled to stars' salaries. They got them.

And as the salaries began to grow top heavy, the grocerymen couldn't help noticing the obvious preference of listeners for one act of their great variety program. Whatever changes were made and they became more and more certain of this—the famous wooden dummy would have to remain.

So when Eddy, Lamour and Ameche met their sponsors and looked over the pay-roll late in 1939, they saw some thing like this:

Bergen-McCarthy	\$5,000
Nelson Eddy	6,000
Don Ameche	3,500
Dorothy Lamour	1,500
Guest star (average)	3,000
Drama material	300
Orchestra and leader	3,000
Total	\$22,300

Nelson Eddy's contract had originally called for \$4,000 weekly with annual increases of \$1,000 per broadcast. Mr. Eddy, gentleman and astute businessman that he is, agreed with his sponsor friends that their budget could not stand his scheduled increase; that a new \$1,000-a-week vocalist like young Donald Dickson might help cure their financial headache. He withdrew grace-

On November 30, Don Ameche was called in. The grocerymen stressed the fact that his work was tops; that he was worth all of his present salary and more. They did not ask him to take a cut. They just felt they couldn't afford that amount now

fully.

N HOLLYWOOD Don's agent—who does not get ulcers from Don's over work—told a trade-paper reporter that Don had been asked to take a cut and stay on the show. Standard Brands denies this charge and the denial holds water, because the grocerymen have never been known to chisel or cut artists' salaries. They don't believe in employing unhappy artists.

No, Don understood the problem and agreed that a further rest wouldn't hurt him. He agreed to finish off his contract and await a new radio call later in 1940. Chances are he won't be long waiting. Already plans are under way to feature him as guest star on most of the important Hollywood shows.

Dorothy Lamour received the news the same day that Ameche was told. She also agreed that there was but one solution to the problem.

And so, kind listeners, you have the answer coming in the January 7 edition of the Chase and Sanborn show. It will be the Charlie McCarthy program, with Edgar Bergen, Donald Dickson and a streamlined, smaller orchestra still directed by maestro Robert Armbruster. There is still some doubt about the new guest-star policy, but it is likely that Hollywood glamour girls will continue to flirt with Charlie on Sunday nights.

Savings which will thus accrue to the grocerymen sponsors are substantial. They believe that they have found the antidote for their headache. They also have the comforting hunch that another coffee program—"Good News of 1940"—is planning to trim its hour show to thirty minutes, leaving a "Baby Snooks Show," perhaps?

And what of those millions of Americans? Whether or not they'll stick to Charlie sans Ameche and Lamour is a question which only time will answer. For the present, however, who first gave the lion's share of the laughs to a certain wooden dummy? Who first called Chase and Sanborn's Sunday

broadcast the Charlie McCarthy Hour?

You, the public, did. You pick your own favorites, and those you will continue to get!

The "Chase and Sanborn Hour" may be heard Sunday 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.





W. C. Fields and Don Ameche kid . . .

Radio Humor

- Joan Davis says a gentleman is nothing but a wolf with his ears pinned back.
 - -Joan Davis-Jack Haley Show (NBC)
- Now that Gracie Allen has adopted newspaper reporting as a sideline to her radio activities, she's looking for a scoop. "Gee," says Gracie, "I wish I had some real news. If only Crosby would have a girl—or Cantor would have a boy—or Tommy Manville would have a wedding anniversary."
 - -Burns & Allen (CBS)
- A man had been trying to get a hotel room for a week. He finally found a vacancy and moved in bag and baggage. No sooner had he gotten himself settled than there was a knock on the door, and a blonde and a brunette moved in, bag and baggage. The man strode over to the telephone and called the room clerk. "It's outrageous. The brunette has to go!"

 —Harry Heribfield,
- Harry M'Naughton: I had a date with a girl from Palm Springs once . . . a window dresser.

Tom Howard: A window dresser? Harry M'Naughton: Yes, she never pulled the shade down.

-It Pays To Be Ignorant (CBS)

Can You Top This? (NBC)

Cass Daley: I've got men by the score. Robert Young: Then why are you still chasing them?

Cass Daley: I'm looking for one who doesn't know the score.

- -Maxwell House Coffee Time (NBC)
- Ed Wynn discovers the secret of perpetual motion—"That's a cow drinking a pail of milk." —Happy Island (Blue)

Classified Ads

RADIO SHOWS ON CASSETTE, also radio/tv related material, Catalog \$1, Phil Kiernan, 30235 Cupeno Lane, Temecula, CA 92592

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

Stove 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 Nall, 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.

WANT'ED TO BUY; Tape recordings of Jay Roberts' Nightlight show on WJR-AM. Please send prices to Jeff Jontzen, 21465 Detroit Rd., #205A, Rocky River, OH 44116

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

Tom Monroe, 2055 Elmwood, Lakewood, Ohio 44107./(216) 226-8189 Cassette and reel, mystery, adventure, sci-fi, westerns, drama, some comedy.

MOHNING MEN wanted on cassetterorder 1940s style especially: Bob Steele, John Gambling, etc. Leberman, Hazel St., Tunkhannock, PA 18667.

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

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

Have 48B archival quality sound Cavalcade of America shows. Will buy or trade for more. Murry Schantzen, 207–B Lynn Ct., N. Aurora, IL 60542

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 Highlields 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.

Ted Davenport, 1600 Wewoka, No. Little Rock. AR 72116 is looking for real traders for VG-EX material, 15,000-25,500 shows.

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.

WANTED: Masterpiece Hadio Theater, other multipart NPR or BBC dramas. Buy or trade cassettes. Howard Lewis, 132 Hutchin Hill Rd., Shady, NY 12409

Oon Berhent, 807 Glenhurst Rd., Willwick, OH 44094. The Shadow and movie serials. Books on both also:

Frank Tomaselli, 29-10 Donna Ct., Staten Island, NY 10314 is looking for 11 AM from 1939-1944; also Fred Allen's Town Hall Tonioht.

Tom Heathwood, 22 Broadlawn PI., Chestnut Hill, MA 02167. Shadow programs between 1941-44. Has supplement to his catalog for a S.A.S.E.

Chuck Juzek, 57 Hutton Ave., Nanuet, NY 10954. Green Hornet episode where Reid reveals himself to his father as the Hornet around 1943. Need log from 1936-40.

New club based in Seattle invites you to membership. Growing 700 cassette library, printed materials and newsletter. For information write Mike Sprague, Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound, 11732 NE 148th Place. Kirkland. WA 98034.

Amos n' Andy Sale: 8mm film in box— Sheet Music Perfect Song—Fresh Air Taxi Cab tin sign. Bob Morgan, 4005 Pitman Road, College Park, GA 30349

Harry Goldman, RR6, Box 181, Glens Falls, NY 12801 wants Kraft Music Hall of 12-11-47 (Al Jolson) Jack Benny "The Bee", Fiorello LaGuardia tribute to Nikola Tesla over WNYC on Jan. 10, 1943.

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

Phil Evans, Box 136 Downtown Station, Bakersfield, CA 93302-0136, Looking for any into in the Candfelight Hour Broadcast from NYC in 1931.

Richard Pepe, Box 303, Elizabeth, NJ 07207. Looking for listing of Top-40 "Hits of the Week" broadcast on WMGM, NYC by Peter Tripp, the Curly-Headed Kid, from 1955-58 (especially 1956).

07/22/1945: Looking for ANY shows broadcast that Sunday. Network/Local, Trade/Buy, Jim Avoli, 239 Foxcroft Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220–1705 (412) 279–4456

Oldtime Radio-Show Collector's Association (ORCA) is actively seeking members. You can remain loyal to your own local club and still belong. Write Reg Hubert, 45 Barry St., Sudburg, Ontario, 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 Fave 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.

Classic radio programs on cassettes. Hundreds of titles. Big catalog \$1.00 (refundable). Radio Americana Inc., Box 7431, Baltimore, MD 21227

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 Milts, 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, Acetates, 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 Hannukah Bush." Wanted. Copies of owner's manual for AKAI reel recorders. Models 1722W and GX-215D. Reproduced cores acceptable. Willing to pay reasonable price. Jack Palmer, 145 North 21st Street, Battle Creek, Mt 49015

Trade Fibber McGee and Molfy 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.

Pam Nemec, 1424 Heatherton Dr., Naperville, IL 60563 is looking for program listings of old radio stations of Ihe 30's and 40's especially WDZ. KMMJ, KMA, KFNF and KFEQ.

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

WANTED: Kid Shows, Serials, Big Band Remotes, Iranscription 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 crooks 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. Padillo, 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

WANTED: Radio Transcription Discs. Any type, any subject. Gilbert Smith, 248 South 36th St., San Dieco. CA 92113–1613

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 by St., Chattanooga, TN 37404. Collector of Raiston 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

Wanted: Hercute Poirot shows, Mutual Net, 1945; or info. on these shows. Tim Goggin, 1777 N. Vine #409, L.A., CA 90028 Thank You, Tim Goggin

WANTED: 16" transcriptions, for cash or trade. Joe Salerno, Box 1487, Bellaire, Texas 77402.

"THERE'S A SMALL HOTEL with a wishing well...". Can anyone identify the show having this theme? Michael Sprague, 11732 NE 148th Place, Kirkland, WA 98034.

Kitty Kallen is looking for radio and TV shows that she appeared on. She sang with Harry James, Jimmy Dorsey, and others. She worked on the Danny Kay radio show. David Rose shows, and her own show called Kitty Kallen Kalling. Contact Walden Hughes at (714) 545-0318 or write 2527 Duke Place, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

WANTED: Episodes of AGAINST THE STORM, TERRY & THE PIRATES, THE WOMAN IN MY HOUSE, ONE MAN'S FAMILY episodes prior to 1946, and THE VOYAGE OF THE SCARLET QUEEN programs #6, 7 and 10. Will buy or trade cassettes. John L. Woodruff, 145 Park Avenue, Randolph, NJ 07869-3442.

I'm looking for more shows of Mel Blanc (12), At Pearce Show (6), Red Skelton show (25), Our Miss Brooks (80), Aldrich family (40). Also looking for Stars Over Hollywood (25), Lux Radio Theater (35) certain shows on this one. Meet Corliss Archer (4), Ethel and Albert shows of the 40's. I have over 1700 shows. Looking for serious swappers on cassette tape only; 60/90 minute tapes. Please send complete list or partial list. I will do the same. Write soon! Beth Holman, 16705 Craigmere Dr., Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

Spiros Koliopoulos, 149 Autumn Ridge Drive, Montgomery, IL 60538. Interested in news bulletins on radio such as Pearl Harbor, Hindenburg Disaster; also broadcast before and during WWII.

George Olsen, Craven Community College, Box 885, New Bern, NC 28563. Wants We The People 11/25/37 and Hobby 9/20/39.

Walt Kunz, Box 1, Islip, NY 11751. Wants Sam 'N Henry, It Pays To Be Ignorant and Mel Blanc; also pre-1965 books and magazines on OTP.

Celebrity Address File with nearly 9,000 addresses of movie, television, sports, music, and other personalities. Obtain personally autographed pictures and letters from them. Guide with instructions only \$20,00. Jim Beshires, 1111 Clairmont, J-1, Decatur, GA 30030.

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



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#R ₽37	Jungle Drums (1953) 12 episodes #/Clayton Moore, Phytlis Coats	#RP22	Zombies Of The Stratosphere (1952) 12 episodes w/Judd Holdren, Aline Towne
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#VC24 The Fighting Davil Dogs (1936) 12 episodes W/Grant Withers, Adrien Morris

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