

THE OLD-TIME RADIO GAZETTE

OLD-TIME RADIO DRAMA: IN REVIEW
SEPTEMBER, 1993

I give the DRAGNET episode, titled "The Big Mole," best dramatic award for the month. In addition to the commonly emphasized *"Yes Ma'm...No Ma'm...How is that Ma'm?"* numerous dramatical phrases were exchanged during the thirty-minute show, many being very humorous. How about Joe Friday's partner, Frank Smith, saying how much trouble his wife has with batting in pillows: *"...Faye always has trouble with it. Stuff always creeps down to one end of the pillow. You've got one real fat end, and the other one just hasn't got anything in it. It's kind of uncomfortable when you sit on it."* This was truly one of the "funny" shows from the DRAGNET series.

ESCAPE
GREATEST MYSTERY & ADVENTURE ON RADIO

"Tired of the everyday routine? Ever dream of a life of romantic adventure? Want to get away from it all? We offer you -- ESCAPE!" That was the opening for Escape, which was, perhaps, the greatest mystery and adventure series ever on radio. As the show noted, you should step away from your everyday problems to live at the edge of your chair for a half-hour of suspenseful terror.

Premiering in 1947 and lasting to 1954, Escape starred many of the great CBS actors, including William Conrad of GUNSMOKE. Other stars were Parley Baer, Virginia Gregg, Sam Edwards, Jack Webb, Edgar Barrier, and John Dehner -- also known as Paladin on HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL. Story adaptations provided twist endings, similar to SUSPENSE material. "Leiningen vs. the Ants," "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge," and "A Shipment of Mute Fate" are but a few of the horrifying stories of Escape. "Three Skeleton Key" was the rat story that was voted for best sound effects in RADIO-TV LIFE magazine and was later aired on SUSPENSE.

BOB HOPE'S 90TH

In 1940 Bob Hope's radio show was fourth in the ratings, and in 1943 he jumped to first place. Hope was a great hit not only with comedy, as he appeared in numerous other radio programs like *SUSPENSE* and *LADY ESTHER'S SCREEN GUILD THEATRE*. More success came when he teamed up with Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour in *ROAD TO SINGAPORE*. The three made about seven other "Road" pictures, including *ROAD TO UTOPIA*, *MOROCCO*, and *HONG KONG*.

Hope entertained the G.I.'s in World War II with Frances Langford and Jerry Colonna and later touched the hearts of troops in the Korean War, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm.

Bob has written eight books, such as *DON'T SHOOT, IT'S ONLY ME*; *I OWE RUSSIA \$1,200*; and *HAVE TUX, WILL TRAVEL*.

THE ADVENTURES OF THE SHADOW MOVIE SEEMS DRY

THE ADVENTURES OF THE SHADOW movie is far from the plot of the famed radio show of the '30s and '40s. The *new* movie portrays a man, Jimmy Pyrex Pootie [played by Douglas Balentine], who is tired of everyday modern life and decides to become a figure of the past. When Jimmy vanishes, his wife, Lucretia [Vanessa Klimek], calls Dr. Wier [Michael Goggans], who then uses hypnosis on Lucretia. She becomes the still-remembered companion of the Shadow, Margo Lane.

The film has humorous segments, unlike the original Shadow program, where the character used invisibility to solve dangerous crimes.

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**GARRISON KEILLOR'S RADIO PROGRAM TO AGAIN BE CALLED
"PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION"**

Garrison Keillor's radio show, now called *The American Radio Company*, will again be called *Prairie Home Companion*. This fall, *Prairie Home Companion* will be aired each week, replacing *The American Radio Company*. Keillor explains in a recent Associated Press article, "Prairie Home Companion represents the Great Plains, the heartland; and people on the coasts expect us to uphold everything that's good in America. They look to us to represent virtue."

Keillor has recently built a new home in Wisconsin and has finished a book, titled **THE BOOK OF GUYS** which will be released in November. **THE BOOK OF GUYS** portrays 21 guys, including Keillor and George Bush. Keillor is also working on a script for Disney studios.



NEW SUBSCRIBERS: Robert & Albertina Hron, Glenn J. Thompson ["Name that Sound" winner], Kenneth Slattery, Randy Bonneville, John Gruber [Canadian subscriber], Tim Oster, and Ken Weigel.

RENEWAL SUBSCRIBERS: Randy Ellison, Tom Connolly, G. Suomala, and Tiny Farrow. **RENEWAL REMINDERS ARE SENT ONE MONTH BEFORE THE FINAL ISSUE IN THE SUBSCRIPTION!!**

BIRTHDAYS: Mark Miller (Oct. 11).

ANNIVERSARIES: "War of the Worlds" brought panic to 1,200,000 listeners on Orson Welles' MERCURY THEATRE 55 years ago this month (Oct. 30).

IDEAS NETWORK STATIONS:

OLD-TIME RADIO DRAMA is aired each Sunday evening from 9-11 p.m. on the following Wisconsin Public Radio stations:

91.5 FM WGBW Green Bay
91.1 FM WLFM Appleton
90.7 FM WHAD Milwaukee
970 AM WHA Madison
91.3 FM WHHI Highland

90.3 FM WHLA La Crosse
930 AM WLBL Auburndale
88.3 FM WHWC Eau Claire
90.3 FM WHBM Park Falls
91.3 FM KUWS Superior
90.3 FM WRST Oshkosh

10/03/93 *Red Ryder* Roar of the River
10/03/93 *Bergen & McCarthy* The Golf Game
10/03/93 *Magnificent Montague* Saving the Proccenium Club
10/03/93 *It's a Crime, Mr. Collins*
10/03/93 *Bulldog Drummond* The Bookstore
10/03/93 *Mindwebs 077* Moth Race by Richard Hill 10/01/76

10/10/93 *Mandrake the Magician* Return of the Cobra
10/10/93 *Five-Minute Mystery* The Cave
10/10/93 *Richard Diamond* Stop the Singing
10/10/93 *Candy Matson* The Egyptian Amulet 10/23/50
10/10/93 *Black Museum* The Razor
10/10/93 *Mindwebs 076* When We Went to See the End of W
09/24/76

NAME THAT SOUND CONTEST!

10/17/93 *Frontier Town* Claim-Jumpers Case
10/17/93 *Hollywood Directors* Fort Apache
10/17/93 *Mr. District Attorney* Set-Up for Re-Entry
10/17/93 *Dimension X* Dwellers in Silence 07/19/51
10/17/93 *Mindwebs 075* A Walk in the Dark 09/17/76

Wisconsin Public Radio Fund Drive!

10/24/93 *Bing Crosby Show* Guest is Fred Astaire 01/03/51
10/24/93 *Richard Diamond* Timothy the Seal 02/05/50
10/24/93 *Inner Sanctum* Dead Heat 08/15/49
10/24/93 *Mindwebs 074* A Place & Time to Die 09/10/76

10/31/93 *Miss Pinkerton, Inc.* First Show 07/12/41
10/31/93 *Suspense* Murder Goes for a Swim 07/20/43
10/31/93 *Mercury Theatre* Dracula
10/31/93 *Mindwebs 073* Beyond the Wall of Sleep 09/03/76

Tom C. Miller
Old Time Radio Gazette
2004 East 6th Street
Superior, WI 54880