

# OTRR OLD RADIO TIMES

Official Newsletter of the Old Time Radio Research Group

November-December 2024

[www.otrr.org](http://www.otrr.org)

[Groups.io](https://groups.io)

No. 135

## Contents

*Philo Vance* 1

"Lost"  
Christmas  
Special 9

*Musicmakers*  
Book Review 12

"The Diary of  
Sophronia  
Winters" 13

Radio 100 Years  
Ago 14

Wistful Vistas  
16

Purchasing  
Groups 16

Stay Tuned  
America 17

## Contributors:

Ryan Ellett  
Martin Grams  
Denise Noe  
Karl Schadow

Edited by Ryan Ellett  
Proofed by Richard  
Davenport  
Font by Joe Adams

\*\*\*

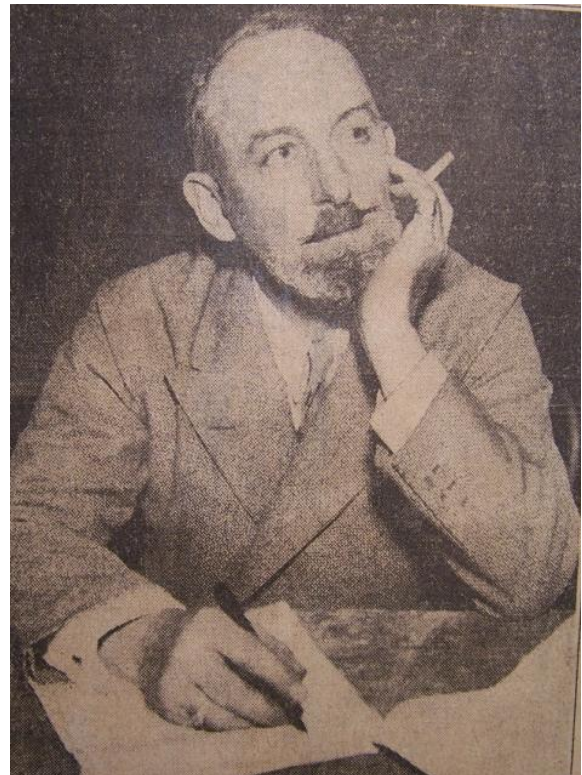
OldRadioTimes  
@  
yahoo.com

## *PHILO VANCE on the Air: The* Pre-Ziv Era, 1934 – 1945

Karl Schadow © 2024

Many fans of S. S. Van Dine's fictional private detective Philo Vance are probably familiar with the transcribed, syndicated radio program that was produced and released in 1946 by Frederic Ziv. This series comprised 104 half-hour episodes starring Jackson Beck. Audio of many of these recordings is in general circulation. Additionally, there is extant audio of two episodes of *The Adventures of Philo Vance*, a 1945 summer series in which José Ferrer held the leading role. Most impressive is that during the preceding ten years prior to the 1945 program, the character appeared on several occasions in either dramatic anthologies or comedies. Furthermore, several auditions were recorded in an attempt to bring the aristocratic sleuth to the aural medium in a regular weekly series. This study will present the first comprehensive investigation of the Philo Vance's escapades on the airwaves.

S. S. Van Dine was the pseudonym of art fancier and drama critic turned novelist Willard Huntington Wright. His first Philo Vance novel *The Benson Murder Case* was published in 1926. The amateur criminologist's sophistication and psychoanalysis involving the case were new to detective fiction at the time. These features resulted in an extremely successful enterprise. Additional adventures of Vance were published yearly including *The Canary Murder Case* (1927), *The Greene Murder Case* (1928) and *The Bishop Murder Case*



S. S. Van Dine

(1929). A total of twelve novels were written by Van Dine, with the last, *The Winter Murder Case*, hitting books shelves in 1939. Philo Vance was a natural for motion pictures with the first film adaptation *The Canary Murder Case* released in 1929 by Paramount Pictures starring William Powell. By 1932, a newspaper comic strip was being distributed by the Bell Syndicate. The lack of a *Philo Vance* radio series was highlighted in the Boston-based *Radio Log* (May 25, 1932). After noting the achievements of both Sherlock Holmes and Fu Manchu on the ether waves the anonymous author of the piece stated: "Yet, one character who it seems, would become more popular than any of the others, has been apparently

overlooked when broadcasting is mentioned, namely, the one and only Philo Vance.” It would two more years before Vance would make his debut on radio. And what an entrance it would be.

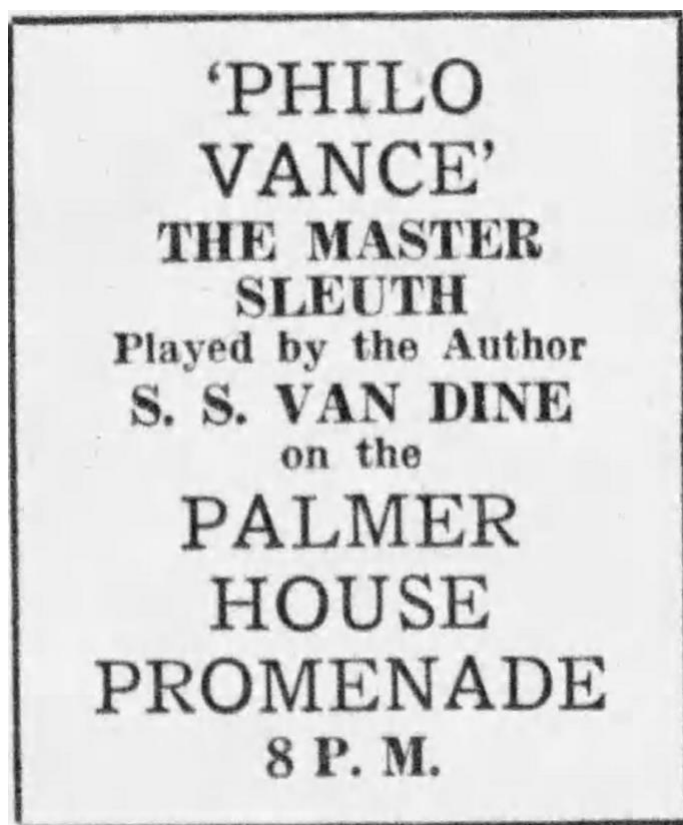


William Powell, the first Philo Vance on the big screen.

#### PHILO VANCE FIRST RADIO APPEARANCE

In May of 1934, S.S. Van Dine was in Chicago promoting both his Vance novels and films. He was staying at the prestigious Palmer House. At that time, this establishment was sponsoring a radio series, *Palmer House Promenade* which had debuted via NBC from the hotel itself the previous March 13th. It was a half-hour variety program emceed by Ray Perkins with vocalist Gale Page and an orchestra under the direction of Harold Stokes. Additionally, each week a guest star was featured. On the May 8<sup>th</sup>

session, S. S. Van Dine was the honoree. Not only did he write and direct Philo Vance’s radio debut, he also voiced his creation. Publicity for the Philo Vance inaugural included ads in various newspapers such as the *Des Moines Tribune*.



Print ad for WHO Des Moines, IA, May 8, 1934.

Other than the script’s title “Murder in the Studio” and Van Dine’s involvement, little has been unearthed regarding this performance including the supporting cast. Additionally, the script and audio are still being sought. Regarding his visit to The Windy City, Van Dine provided a memorable quote for the press: “Frankly, I came to Chicago to be sure a soprano was killed” (*Chicago Herald and Examiner*, May 9, 1934). During the next few years there were periodic publicity squalls in newspapers and trade periodicals stating Van Dine was promoting a set of twenty-six scripts for a regular weekly series. His fees offered per individual episodes ranged from \$2,500 to \$3,500. Despite these extraordinarily high figures for a writer, several potential advertisers expressed interest his series including American Tobacco Company, Frigidaire

Division of General Motors and unnamed drug chains and auto dealers. However, none of these firms were ultimately willing to commit to Van Dine's demands and negotiations failed (S. S. Van Dine Scrap Books, 1916 -1939, Princeton University).

### A JOINT NEWSPAPER/RADIO COLLABORATION

It was common practice for a popular novel to be published in newspapers either in serial form, or alternatively in its entirety in one issue. Commenced during the spring of 1934 in its Sunday editions, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* printed a complete novel with illustrations. As a publicity campaign for the newspaper, beginning with the October 20, 1935 edition, a dramatized preview of selected scenes from these tomes was presented by two local Philadelphia stations. No money exchanged hands in the package as this was a "space for time swap" (*The Billboard*, October 19, 1935).

These separate broadcasts took place on the preceding Saturday as WIP alerted afternoon listeners and WFIL enthralled an evening audience. The segments were billed under various titles such as *Let's Spin a Yarn* and broadcast at various times. Margaret 'Mike' Schaeffer from the WFIL staff crafted the adaptations. The rest of the production crew and cast are unknown. Noteworthy is that both Nero Wolfe and The Falcon who would later enjoy their own network radio programs were showcased in the *Inquirer*/radio collaboration.

One Philo Vance novel, *The Kidnap Murder Case*, originally published in 1936, was the feature of the March 20, 1937 edition of the *Inquirer*. An advertisement for the radio previews was published the previous Sunday. Though the newspaper continued to publish novels for several years, the partnership with the radio stations ended in September of 1937.

### NBC 1938 AUDITION

The following year, NBC was peddling a Philo Vance series attempting to attract a sponsor with a price tag of \$2,500 per episode (*Radio Daily*, January 21, 1938; *Radio Mirror*, April 1938). Details of auditions from the first half of 1938 are unknown.

**A Complete Novel Every Week**

**NEXT WEEK**

**“THE KIDNAP  
MURDER CASE”**

**By S. S. Van Dine**

Here is a story that deals with two of the most unusual cases in the whole record of Philo Vance's criminological researches. Kaspar Kenting, a playboy and a ne'er-do-well, disappears from his ancestral home, the "Purple House" in West Eighty-sixth street, New York, with all indications pointing to kidnapping. District Attorney John Markham and Sergeant Ernest Heath, of the Homicide Bureau, participate, with Philo Vance, in the exciting investigation.

Vance runs into the gravest personal danger, and it is through the accuracy of his aim, at a crucial moment, that he saves Sergeant Heath's life as well as his own.

The locale of this amazing crime shifts from one of the most fascinating residential landmarks in midtown Manhattan to a sordid and obscure hovel on the upper East Side.

You will thrill with the narrative which moves with arresting swiftness to a dramatic climax.

Highlights of this story will be broadcast over radio stations WIP and WFIL next Saturday. For the exact time consult the Radio Timetable in next Saturday's Philadelphia Inquirer.

Print ad for WIP/WFIL Philadelphia, March 7, 1937.

However, on August 1<sup>st</sup> of that year, Edmund Lowe was cast as Philo Vance in a pilot recorded at the NBC Hollywood studios (*The Hollywood Reporter*, August 2, 1938). Previously, Lowe had portrayed the gentleman sleuth in the 1936 M-G-M release, *The Garden Murder Case*. Despite NBC continuing to promote the project through the rest of the year, no regular series evolved from the audition.



Edmund Lowe



### PHILO VANCE ONE-SHOTS

Though no adaptations of the Philo Vance movies were performed on *Lux Radio Theatre*, *Screen Guild Theatre* nor several other anthologies, a skit was performed as part of the 1938 season finale of the CBS variety series, *Hollywood Hotel*. During the program's December 2, 1938 episode, William Powell re-enacted his role as the investigator from the 1929 film, *The Canary Murder Case*. The supporting cast of the *Hollywood Hotel* sketch comprised Glenda Farrell, Humphrey Bogart, Thomas Mitchell and Charles Butterworth.

Willard Huntington Wright died April 11, 1939. In his obituaries, there was no mention of any radio escapades of Philo Vance. Of the twelve Vance novels, the most unusual was *The Gracie Allen Murder Case* published in 1938. It was highly publicized with a film version released on June 2, 1939 by Paramount Pictures. It starred Gracie Allen who received top billing over Warren William as Vance. As part of the publicity campaign, scenes from movie were performed during *The Burns & Allen Show* on June 16, 1939. Of course, Gracie reprised her role from the film with husband George as Philo Vance. The supporting players included the show's orchestra conductor Ray Noble, along with Frank Parker and Paul Douglas.



Gracie Allen and George Burns

### LORD/SCHUBERT VENTURE

During the Fall of 1939, Philips H. Lord secured the rights to develop a *Philo Vance* radio series (*Motion Picture Daily*, October 12, 1939). Bernard L. Schubert (not to be confused with the Hollywood screenwriter of the same name) was in charge of the project for the Lord firm. Scripts were transformed from both the previously published novels and also unpublished material that had been acquired from the Van Dine estate. Script titles from this latter batch included "The Case of the Missing Finger Prints" and "The Hospital Murder Case" (Phillips H. Lord Collection, Library of Congress). After leaving the Lord firm to found his own radio packaging business (*Variety*, December 18, 1940), Schubert acquired the Van Dine property and continued to develop a radio series (*The Billboard*, February 22, 1941). Schubert's previous successes with Lord along with shows created by his new firm were promoted in the 1941 Edition of *Radio Annual Shows of Tomorrow*. Unfortunately, Schubert's efforts did not advance past the initial script phase and the project was shelved.

**BERNARD L. SCHUBERT - INC.**

501 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK, N. Y. • PLAZA 8-0771

**PROGRAMS SOLD**

GANG BUSTERS  
HOW DID YOU MEET?  
MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
BY KATHLEEN NORRIS

**PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**

PHILO VANCE  
SKY BLAZERS  
FAITH BALDWIN PRESENTS  
KNOW YOURSELF

*Radio Daily Shows of Tomorrow Annual 1941*

## JOHN EMERY AS PHILO VANCE

During 1942 and 1943, Twentieth Century-Fox held the Philo Vance motion picture rights but did not produce any films featuring the gentleman detective (*The Film Daily*, August 28, 1942). There was not much activity regarding the character's radio activities either at this time until a couple of brief items appeared in *Motion Picture Daily* during the spring of 1943. The first on May 5th stated: "The Russel Seeds Agency in Chicago is auditioning *Philo Vance*, a mystery series, as a possible substitute for the Raleigh Cigarette account." Nearly two weeks later (May 20th) a follow up report cited: "The William Morris Agency through Wally Jordan is auditioning a *Philo Vance* radio series for Freeman Keyes of the Russel Seeds agency in Chicago." The Morris firm was seeking a summer series for the vacationing Red Skelton and had secured an option on the Vance radio rights from the Van Dine estate. Though the Russel Seeds Agency was headquartered in The Windy City, its New York office collaborated with the Morris agency to produce a trial recording at NBC on April 29, 1943. John Emery was selected to portray Philo Vance. The recording's audio reveals that Emery was then starring in *Angel Street* on Broadway at the John Golden Theatre. In December



John Emery

of 1942, Emery had assumed the role of the sadistic John Manningham from Vincent Price. Prior to being cast as Philo Vance in the proposed series, Emery's radio appearances were few but included such network highlights as *Rudy Vallée* and *Campbell Playhouse* along with the local New York WHN production, *Gotham Nights*. However, he had compiled an impressive stage resume starring in *Parnell* and major supporting roles in *Hamlet*, *Romeo & Juliet* and *The Barretts of Wimpole Street*.

In this Philo Vance audition "The Case of the Cellini Cup," the suave sleuth assists District Attorney Markham and Police Homicide Sergeant Heath in solving the murder of an antique shop proprietor. Both of these characters were brought over from the novels, though the story was not based on any of the original Van Dine tomes. Ian McAllister portrayed the district attorney with John Gibson as Sergeant Heath.



Ian McAllister (District Attorney)

Everett Sloane played art collector George Henry Howard one of the prime murder suspects. Ruth Gilbert was cast as Getmans' love interest, Miss Allen. NBC staff announcer Tom Shirley emoted the Raleigh cigarette commercials. The producer, director, writer and music director of the audition are



John Gibson (Sgt. Heath)

still unknown. As many radio auditions included a teaser for the proposed "next week's" episode, this Vance pilot was no exception. In this instance, the sleuth was going to entertain "The Mystery of the Missing Cat." Brown & Williamson decided not to pick up the audition as a regular weekly series opting instead for *Beat the Band* to fill Skelton's Tuesday night slot on NBC. It is important to note that the audition with John Emery has been misinterpreted in many print and online sources as a "short run on NBC" in either "1943, 1944 or 1945." Moreover, it has been misconstrued as a "1946 West Coast Series."

Had the audition been approved by sponsor Brown & Williamson Tobacco Company, John Emery would have made an impressive Philo Vance. But how long would the Emery series have remained on the air? The actor suffered from a chronic sinus condition which eventually forced him to undergo surgery and bow out of *Angel Street*. Upon recovering from the operation, he was planning to peruse film opportunities in Hollywood (*Variety*, May 26, 43).

### ED WOLF ASSOCIATES

Interest in an airwaves version of *Philo Vance* continued in 1944 when the New York-based Wolf Associates secured the rights to produce a series transformed from the novels (*Variety*, February 23, 1944; *Broadcasting*, February 28, 1944). Each story would have consumed four weekly half-hours to complete. Ed Wolf, president of his own firm had been in the radio business for nearly twenty years packaging such successful entities as *Hilltop House*, *The O'Neills* and *Her Honor - Nancy James*. He had also brought to the forefront Mary Small and Arthur Treacher, among others. The production crew and potential cast for the Wolf's attempt with *Philo Vance* are unknown. He was unable to secure a sponsor and his option on the property expired. No scripts or recordings of this proposed series have been located.

### THE ADVENTURES OF PHILO VANCE

In the spring of 1945, advertising agency Ruthrauff & Ryan purchased the rights to the property and was contemplating the possibilities of presenting *Philo Vance* as either a cliff-hanger during the day or placed in a weekly, night-time slot (*The Billboard*,

March 31, 1945). That firm along with their client Lever Bros. decided to use it that year as a summer replacement for the vacationing Bob Burns. Ted Huston of the agency was assigned as producer/director. Avery and Paul Dumont from NBC shared the duties as associate director. At the organ console was Elsie Thompson who had composed theme and incidental music. Bob Shaw crafted the scripts. He was currently the scribe for *Front Page Farrell*, with prior achievements including *Mr. District Attorney*, *Appointment With Life* and *The Shadow*. The nature of a *Philo Vance* audition for the proposed series is unknown but José Ferrer was ultimately chosen to play the aristocratic sleuth. His radio experience was limited,



Jose Ferrer

appearing as a guest on Rudy Vallée and also as emcee for one year of *The Prudential Family Hour*. However, Ferrer was a highly acclaimed actor on the Broadway stage playing Iago in *Othello*. The supporting characters of *Philo Vance* carried over from the novels included Vance's valet Currie portrayed by Ralph Bell and District Attorney



Markham enacted by Ted Osborn. Though Sergeant Heath is mentioned in a couple of scripts, he has no dialog in any of them. However, a new character,



Ted Osborn

Lane Randall was created specifically for the radio series. Frances Robinson portrayed Vance's Gal Friday, a government operative for an unknown agency. There is a romantic interest between Vance and Lane but it is not on the same level as in



Frances Robinson

Robinson's future series *Let George Do It* where she plays Claire "Brooksie" Brooks opposite Bob Bailey's George Valentine. The full log for the weekly series of S. S. Van Dine's sleuth is presented here for the first time. Titles, plots and selected cast members were culled from the scripts (NBC Collections, Library of Congress). Additional performers were identified from audio of the two extant episodes (\*\*\*\*).

**July 5, 1945 "The Case of the Hungry Dog"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson, Ralph Bell and Ted Osborn with announcer Don Hancock

Plot: Vance travels to Germany to capture a Nazi war criminal who is hiding in a mountain-side resort.

**July 12, 1945 "The Case of the Clean Shave"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Francis Robinson, Ralph Bell, Ted Osborn and Mercedes McCambridge with announcer Don Hancock.

Plot: A husband drops dead after his morning shave. Did his wife murder him?

**July 19, 1945 "The Case of the Happy Yank"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson and Ralph Bell with announcer Don Hancock.

Plot: What is source of the information leaks that result in the sabotage of Pearl Harbor shipping?

**July 26, 1945 "The Case of the Girl Who Came Back"\*\*\*\***

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson, Ralph Bell, Mercedes McCambridge and Maurice Wells. Elliott Lewis as T4Y - AFRS announcer.

Plot: A girl with amnesia tries to convince everyone including her estranged father that she is the actual daughter of the wealthy businessman.

**August 2, 1945 "The Case of the Double Trouble"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson and Ralph Bell with announcer Don Hancock.

Plot: On a crucial flight to Europe, Philo Vance risks his life exchanging places with a British statesman.

**August 9, 1945 "The Case of the Strange Music"\*\*\*\*\***

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson, Ted Osborn, Joan Alexander, Joseph Julian, Will Geer and Don Randolph with announcer Don Hancock and commercial spokesman Craig McDonnell.

Plot: Eerie organ interludes are the background to a prominent banker found dead in a wax museum.

**August 16, 1945 "The Case of the Green Eye"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson and Ralph Bell with announcer Don Hancock.

Plot: Philo Vance is on the trail of a mad scientist who wants the secrets of the atomic bomb.

**August 23, 1945 "The Case of the Helping Hand"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson and Ted Osborn with announcer Don Hancock.

Plot: Veterans adjusting to civilian life are being scammed by an employment agency.

**August 30, 1945 "The Case of the Vampire Wife"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson and Ralph Bell with announcer Don Hancock.

Plot: A disfigured girl seeking revenge blames a vampire for poisoning her family members.

**September 6, 1945 "The Case of the Refreshing Death"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson, Ralph Bell and Ted Osborn with announcer Don Hancock.

Plot: It is up to Philo and Lane to save an innocent person who is scheduled to be executed.

**September 13, 1945 "The Case of the Wailing Wind"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson and Ralph Bell with announcer Don Hancock.

Plot: A quiet house party in Maine is interrupted by mysterious sounds and murder.

**September 20, 1945 "The Case of the Air Tight Murder"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson and Ralph Bell with announcer Don Hancock.

Plot: The strange death of a doctor in a hospital has Philo Vance perplexed.

**September 27, 1945 "The Case of the Bride of Death"**

Cast: José Ferrer, Frances Robinson and Ralph Bell with announcer Don Hancock.

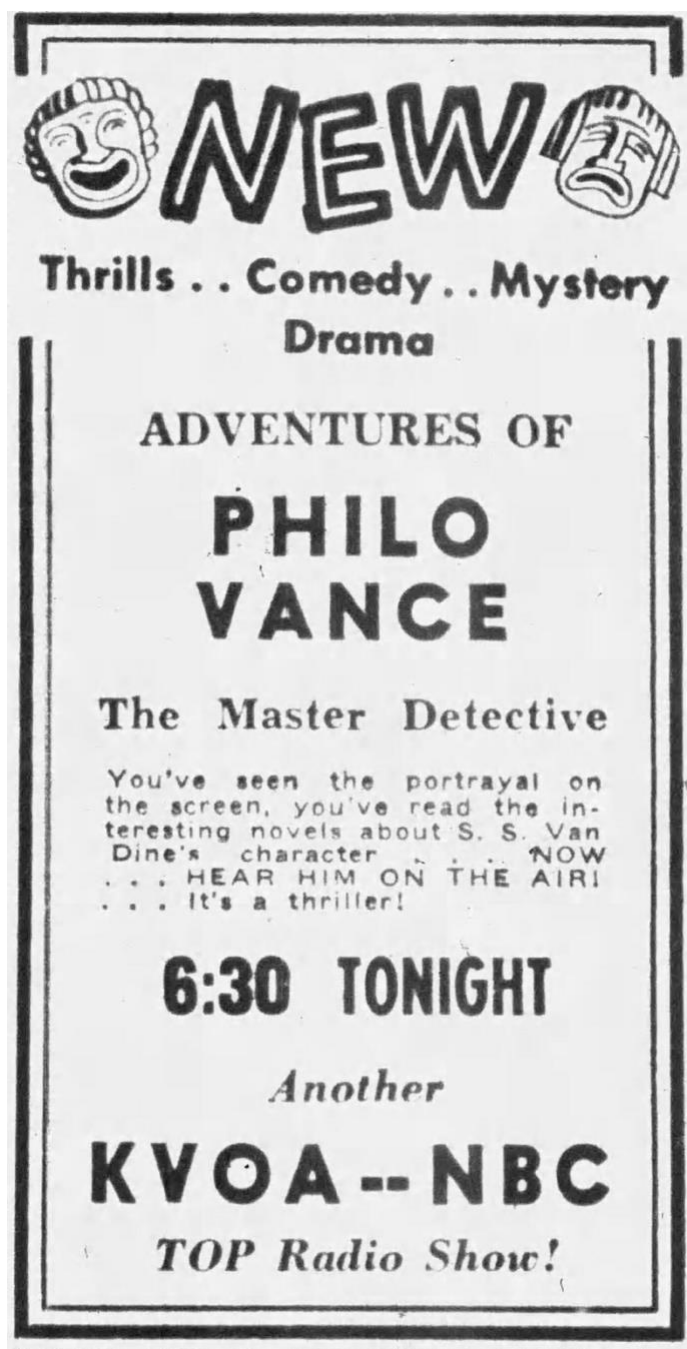
Plot: A bride to be is murdered on the night her upcoming marriage is announced.

The program was reviewed by Saul Carson (writing as *Cars*. in *Variety*, July 18, 1945) who noted: "If there's got to be a mystery on the air - and some perfectly fine people think so - this is as good as any." However, Carson ripped the Lifebuoy commercials as: "sickening, nauseating". You can check them yourself [here](#). Magee Adams (*The Cincinnati Enquirer*, August 9, 1945) bemoaned the interpretation of the airwaves version of the character stating: "Virtually nothing remains of the erudition and fastidious sophistication that made 'Vance' one of fiction's most civilized detectives." Magee continued his critique noting: "Of course, that follows radio custom. Many named fiction detectives haunt the air in name only." And concluded his assessment: "But the reason still defies explanation. By all ordinary logic, the radio reincarnation should be aimed primarily at listeners who read the original. As things stand, they are least likely to be interested." But this author believes that the arrogant, know-it-all from the novels would not have been ideal for radio, at least not in 1945. Moreover, S. S. Van Dine's following had continuously declined following his death in 1939. The series was not carried over for the Fall of 1945 by Lever Bros.

Philo Vance may have set a record for the number of radio one-shots and auditions by firms who took a chance at developing a dedicated series for the sleuth. The search continues for the audio and scripts of that initial 1934 performance and subsequent tryouts. In 1946, Frederic W. Ziv produced and distributed the most successful *Philo Vance* series on radio. This will be the subject of a future article in *The Old Radio Times*.

**Acknowledgments:** The author thanks the staffs of Special Collections Library, Princeton University and National Audio-Visual Conservation Center, Library of Congress for their assistance with this research.





Print ad for Tuscon, AZ

## The "lost" 1938 *Lone Ranger* Christmas Special

Martin Grams

On the evening of December 26, 1938, the radio cast at station WXYZ played roles in not one, but two episodes of *The Lone Ranger*. Although the program premiered in 1933, it was not until February of 1938 that the radio program was recorded on a regular basis. For the holiday offering of 1938, it was decided not to record the episode because the series was then being syndicated across the country and it would have been weird to hear a Christmas episode in April, July or September. So, the logical solution was to dramatize two different episodes on that evening. One as a traditional holiday adventure and the other as a normal western.

For the West Coast broadcast and for the transcription, the script was used for the broadcast of September 9, 1937. In that episode, Missouri Mike and his friend Steve Sanders are among the shrewdest outlaws the Lone Ranger and Tonto ever tried to track down. Wanted for murder, robbery and rustling, the only clue to their identity is a tattoo on the right forearm. The Lone Ranger and Tonto ride out to the ranch of Widow Spragg, 15 miles from Parkersville, unaware that the men they are trying to track down are trailing from behind. Hours after the masked man and Indian leave the ranch of Sam Spragg and his mother, the thieves break into the house and commit another robbery. Days later, finding no sign of Missouri Mike, The Lone Ranger and Tonto leave to hunt the outlaw in the open plains. Outside of town, a Native American named White Fox participates in a race with Sam, with prize money for the winner, and then they exchange death blows over money that was stolen by Missouri Mike who never left town.

In desperation, The Lone Ranger talks with men from Parkersville, and the tribe of White Fox, to outline a plan for locating the outlaws. With Native Americans as expert trackers and vengeance in their hearts, The Lone Ranger has the advantage and together they hunt under the guide of moonlight. Finding the outlaws' camp, they take Missouri Mike's shirt off to verify the tattoo.

For the East Coast and Mutual Broadcast System, a holiday adventure was dramatized. In that



episode, poverty was common in the town where Bob Hamill lived, and little could be done about it, while Eric Flint thrived. The latter is rich, owns practically all of the town, and is hated and despised. When he learns a masked man is looking for him, he hires two bodyguards, Butch and Cooper, but a desperate clerk named Bob Hammil decides to rob him to buy Christmas presents for his son.

Unable to pay the mortgage, Bob is going to lose his homestead to Flint, so he figures what harm would it be to give his son a holiday to remember? Catching the outlaws in play for The Lone Ranger, Bob draws his gun and forces the men – including Eric Flint – into an old shack, tied and bound. The Lone Ranger, meanwhile, learns from Tonto about Eric Flint.

There are a lot of men here in the West who came to escape unhappiness in the East, the masked man rationalizes. Flint is one of them but his faith in his fellow-men was destroyed before he came here, which did something to him. He lost his sense of values, his sense of fair play. The Lone Ranger breaks in to kidnap Flint, leaving Bob with the two gunmen. Throughout Christmas Eve, The Lone Ranger forces Flint to call on a few of his customers, people he loaned money to, and people who will not

be able to pay off their debts. The first person they call on is Dan Dickerman.

RANGER: He's not going to take your house. Those papers he signed with you were illegal. I want you to sign this paper telling just what sort of an agreement he made with you.

JANE: Illegal?

RANGER: Then I want you to come with me to the sheriff's office and lodge a complaint against him. He's on his way to jail.

FLINT: No, no! Yuh can't put me in jail. Them papers is legal!

RANGER: You be quiet! How about it, Dan?

DAN: But we can't do it now...

RANGER: There's no time like the present. The sooner he gets to jail, the better the community will be. We may have a long ride to the county seat in this kind of weather, and I've got to get him there before the first of the year if I'm going to save your property. All I need is one complaint against him.

DAN: Well, can't you get somebody else?

RANGER: What for? He made an agreement with you, didn't he?

DAN: But... well, I don't know. Look, stranger, it's Christmas Eve. I can't send a man tuh jail on Christmas Eve.

RANGER: Not even Eric Flint?

JANE: He oughta be in jail... if he's dishonest, Dan...

RANGER: It might save your house. Don't you realize that?

DAN: I won't do it. That's all. Taint the spirit of the day. You get somebody else to send him to jail. If it was day after tomorrow or next day, any other day but Christmas...

RANGER: We'll find someone else. Come on, Flint.



The Lone Ranger takes Flint to another house, and then another, and each place Flint noted with increasing amazement, that the spirit of Christmas, the thought of peace on earth, and good will, so imbued the men, that not one could be found who would agree to assume the responsibility for jailing a man on Christmas day.

Eric's backstory is not so cheerful. Eric Flint came out to the West twenty years ago, intending to send word to his wife when she could come out and join him after he got a foothold. He sent that word and waited, but she never answered his letter. When next he heard, he read her name in a paper ten years later, saying that she was on the stage.

It soured him. He was mad. Mighty mad, to think she wouldn't join him after all the promises he made. But he did not know his letter never was delivered. He did not know she waited years to hear from him. She did not know where to reach him. The Lone Ranger found the letter Eric Flint wrote. It never was delivered. He found it with a pack of other mail that had fallen into the hands of Native Americans when a stagecoach was wrecked. Then the Lone Ranger located her.

She finally came out West in an effort to try and find him. She was singing on the stage to get the money for the trip. She hunted years and finally settled down. The Lone Ranger knew of this and is determined to show Eric Flint that there are things far better than cheating customers out of their land.

As the night wore on, Mary Hammil sits by the window where a small candle gleams out into the

night. She can't sleep. She worries, worries about her husband, worries where he went, and remembering the expression of grim determination on his face when he left, is fearful of what might happen before he comes back. But when Bob returns, he has a smile on his face. He tells his wife all about Eric Flint being taken away and justice being served against the vile banker.

The next day, early Christmas morning, Eric Flint arrives at the Hammil homestead to surprise young Donny, Bob and Mary's little boy, with a Christmas tree. Over the night, while everyone was sleeping, Butch and Cooper cut down Christmas trees and follow orders from Flint to deliver them to everyone's house. Mary is shocked to discover the old Scrooge has had a change of heart. He plans to visit everyone in town and deliver them a generous Christmas morning. Then he has to leave town and Mary asks for how long.

FLINT: How long? Sakes alive, I don't know. I'm goin' to meet my wife. I ain't seen her in 20 years. She's still waitin' for me. I won't be back next month. Mebbe not until spring. Mebbe I won't come back! And who cares? A merry Christmas everybody!

### Notes

While the Christmas adventure was never recorded, it should be noted that this script would later be recycled for the episode titled "The Christmas Tree," broadcast on Christmas 25, 1950, with slight revisions. (For the 1938 rendition, the element involving Donny wanting a Christmas tree and the delivery of a huge tree on Christmas morning was borrowed from the broadcast of December 24, 1934.)



Book Review: *Musicmakers of Network Radio: 24 Entertainers, 1926-1962* By Jim Cox  
Ryan Ellett

After reviewing Cox's *Music Radio* book in the last issue, it seemed only natural to take a closer look at Cox's *Musicmakers of Network Radio* this time. They are complementary volumes in a way as Cox notes he went out of his way to minimize the overlap in content between the two.

As with *Music Radio*, *Musicmakers* also turned out to be a pleasant surprise for me. Even though it's 12 years old now (published in 2012) I did not get a copy until this past year.

Glancing at the back you'll see the names of some well-known singers such as Rosemary Clooney, Jo Stafford, and Bob Crosby included inside. So, I settled in thinking I'd learn more about some fondly remembered second-tier Golden Age singers.

I was thrown off right from the first page with performer number one: Steve Allen. Wait! Isn't Steve Allen an early television guy, who maybe did some radio? I don't know, I'm not really familiar with him. Cox had my attention immediately. It turns out, the man wrote thousands of original songs during his lifetime, including some that were recorded by such notable artists as Perry Como and Ella Fitzgerald.

The second entry was brand new to me: Howard Barlow, the long-time conductor of *Voice of Firestone*. Barlow was followed by Jack Berch and Archie Bleyer, only Berch sounding even vaguely familiar of these three. By entry five Cox finally got to an artist with whom I was familiar (if not deeply so), and that was Clooney.

Just by reviewing these first five featured musicians you can get a sense of the ground that Cox covers in this volume. I'd venture that there's a good chance you won't even be familiar with several of the profiled musicmakers. Several of the others you likely won't have any knowledge of their extensive musical background and contributions to broadcasting. And of those remaining entries with whom you are familiar, you'll surely discover something new about them in Cox's in-depth biographies.

Throughout this 320-page book he also covers

opera performers, quartets, a children's broadcaster, and who I would have considered purveyors of "potted palm music" among others. There is sure to be at least a couple of artists of special interest in these pages for everyone.

If you're like me, you'll get about half way through and wonder how Cox decided on the particular performers included within because it covers such an array and there are no apparent threads connecting them, other than some level of radio involvement. To be fair, Cox does describe his methodology of selecting artists for the book in his prelude, so if that is important to you don't wait to read that until the end like I did!

I think your state of mind in approaching this book will greatly determine how much you will appreciate it. If you're wanting some sort of systematic approach to radio musicmakers that will leave you with a more thorough understanding of how music was integrated into the creation of audio plays, this book is not for you. It truly is two dozen stand-alone biographies of individuals who contributed musical talent to the airwaves across almost any musical style of the era you can imagine.

However, if you can sit down with this book and just allow yourself to be surprised and even delighted by whatever musician comes next, it can be a real treat. You'll no doubt learn something, and if you're as ignorant overall about musical contributions of the OTR era, you'll learn a whole lot.

While I appreciate the scholarship Cox brought to this hobby over the past three decades, I also appreciate his writing. He has a gift at making history – which can be dusty and dry – really sing.

In this case Cox has inspired me to check out the music of Vaughn Monroe, Percy Faith, Lanny Ross, and others profiled in this book and I expect he will have considered all his toil worthwhile if the included artists gain some new listeners from it.





## "The Diary of Sophronia Winters": Tension, Terror, and a Fire Axe

By Denise Noe

First broadcast on the radio on April 27, 1943 on the anthology program *Suspense!*, "The Diary of Sophronia Winters" is a spellbindingly tense audio drama. Agnes Moorehead stars as Sophronia Winters and Ray Collins as Hiram Johnson and both play their parts perfectly.

At the start of the story, Sophronia says, "For forty years, I've never had what could really be called a thrilling experience." (Later we learn that she was born in 1892 which means these events are set in 1932.) She has used her inheritance from her father's death to travel to St. Petersburg, Florida. On the beach she meets handsome, friendly Hiram Johnson. The two feel an immediate connection, partly because of her name.

"My sister-in-law's name was Sophronia," Hiram cheerfully comments. He also says our narrator Sophronia looks quite like the similarly named sister-in-law. When Hiram and Sophronia find a nine-point starfish, he remarks, "My sister-in-law Sophronia used to collect nine-point starfishes."

After more pleasant conversing, Hiram proposes marriage. He runs a hotel in Maine and would love to have Sophronia's help. Sophronia happily accepts that proposal.

The two marry and the next scene finds them entering the hotel that Hiram owns and manages. It is without visitors at this time of year. As Hiram brings her inside, we hear a pained Sophronia complain that he is hurting her arm.

Then he shows her a portrait hanging on the wall of sister-in-law Sophronia. He says, "She was a murderess. She was hanged in Portland twenty-five years ago for the murder of my brother Ephraim." She murdered Ephraim in the hotel lobby. The weapon she used was a fire axe that still hangs on the wall in the hallway on the way to that lobby. Our narrator Sophronia is understandably shocked and horrified.

After midnight, Hiram insists Sophronia visit his sister-in-law's grave that is on the grounds. Ominously Hiram says he knew she "was one of those restless sleepers who wouldn't stay quiet" in the grave but would find a way to roam around.

Most horrifyingly, Hiram elaborates that he has found her three times in different guises. There are three graves of women he murdered because he believed them incarnations of murdering sister-in-law Sophronia! Even more ominously, there is a fourth grave dug but not yet filled.

Naturally, our narrator Sophronia is terrified that the fourth grave is meant for her. Her fear for her fate also draws her attention to that fire axe on the wall. There are several things that make this an especially enthralling *Suspense* episode. One is the way it keeps us truly in suspense by having Hiram go back and forth between being a psychotic apparently convinced our Sophronia must be an incarnation of the murderous Sophronia, and a normally concerned and caring husband. The juxtaposition of contradictory moods is jarring in a most positive way for the episode. Another is that there is more than one "trick" in its ending as it leaves the listener to puzzle as to exactly what has transpired and who our narrator really is.

What's more, good audio drama depends not only on the story and acting but on the sound effects which are top-of-the-line in "The Diary of Sophronia Winters." The sounds of waves, of footsteps, of keys in locks and doors opening and shutting all help to paint the scenes in the mind's eye.

"The Diary of Sophronia Winters" is an excellent audio drama that should be heard and savored by anyone who appreciates the best in suspense — and in *Suspense*!

### Bibliography

*The Diary of Sophronia Winters*

<http://emruf.webs.com/suspense4.htm>  
[Old-Time Radio's Greatest Mysteries](#)

## **Santa Claus Again To Visit Children At Big Radio Party**

**Candy and Fruit to Be Given to  
Kiddies at WLW Celebra-  
tion.—Send Your Letters  
to St. Nick Now.**

Santa Claus has just finished overhauling his airplane and will be ready to read the letters sent to him from all over the country when he arrives at the Crosley WLW broadcasting studio, Monday evening, December First. 'Santa Claus Hour' will begin at 6 o'clock and this jolly patron saint of childhood will be in the studio Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Who will be the first little boy or girl to write to Santa in care of The Crosley Radio Corporation, Cincinnati?

Do you remember the big party at Music Hall last year, with the funny clowns, fine music and then Santa Claus and his candy and fruit? Well, Powel Crosley, Jr., has engaged the large auditorium again this year and all the children who can possibly attend are invited to the big Christmas Festival to be held Monday night, December 22. To the little folks who cannot attend, there will be the broad-

casting of the entire proceedings which may be heard in the comfort of their own homes. Candy and fruit will be given to the kiddies as they pass the hero of all childhood—Santa Claus.

Last year there were many hearts made glad and hundreds of little children smiled when they saw the fine toys Santa Claus sent them. Now Santa was so busy he could not collect all the toys but asked the radio fans to send them to the Crosley studio from which place willing helpers distributed them to the needy kiddies in institutions. So don't forget to send in your toys so they may be distributed in plenty of time for the children to have them on Christmas morning.

When Santa Claus gave his big Midsummer Festival in Burnet Woods and flew across the heads of the kiddies before landing and coming to the platform built for him, he made a host of new friends who promised to write to him and help him make his party at Christmas time a big affair. "More Good Will" was the song sung by the thousands of little children and they meant every word of it, too.

*Crosley Radio Weekly December 1, 1924*

# RADIO SANTA CLAUS HOLDS BIG GIFT BAG

## AWARDS MANY VALUABLE PRESENTS TO FANS

List Includes Dozen Complete Synchro-  
phase Receivers, Furnished Bungal-  
low with Lot and Smaller Gifts

RICHMOND HILL, N. Y.—Hang up  
your stockings on an aerial, or at least  
an indoor loop, kiddies and grown-ups, for  
this is to be a real  
Radio Christmas.



Santa Claus

Such is the edict  
of the Radio Santa  
Claus of Station  
WAHG, A. H. Grebe  
and company, Inc.,  
who is going to ride  
the electromagnetic  
waves with his rein-  
deer.

Thousands of  
youngsters and old-  
sters will be made  
happy by this "St.  
Nick of the Air." All  
that is required of  
gift seekers is a let-  
ter or postcard ad-  
dressed to the Radio  
Santa Claus of  
WAHG, Richmond  
Hill, Long Island.

There is no age

limit for the letter writers, since the  
WAHG Santa invites all, whether six, six-  
teen or sixty, just as long as the heart  
is young. That's enough for the Radio  
Kris Kringle.

### Thousands of Dollars in Gifts

WAHG Santa's gift pack includes many  
treasured things. An even dozen syn-  
chrophase receiving sets with loud speak-  
ers, tubes, storage batteries and loop  
aerials, lead the list.

Among thousands of dollars worth of  
other prizes are silk stockings, umbrellas,  
sweaters, skates, girdles, silk underneath-  
lings, vanity cases and purses. Then, in  
case any nien address the WAHG Santa,  
they may receive cigars, pipes, smoking  
and chewing tobacco, cogarettes and even  
a few silver flasks for the optimists.

Even a bungalow and lot is included  
in the Radio St. Nick's list. The bungal-  
low will be completely furnished. The  
house and lot is to emphasize the four  
primary needs of humanity—food, cloth-  
ing, shelter and Radio, of course. The gift  
home will have a Radio receiver in first  
class working order for long distance.

### Santa's Schedule on Air

A 17-year-old miss, known to Radio-  
phans as "Nancy Clancy," acts as an-  
nouncer for WAHG's Santa every Mon-  
day, Wednesday and Friday evening at  
7:40 o'clock, Eastern time, and at 9 o'clock  
Santa is on the air for the far West  
audience.

St. Nick appears also on the midnight  
programs Saturday and Monday at 1 a. m.  
Eastern time.

So if you believe in Santa Claus, uncap  
your fountain pen and get busy with a  
letter or postal card.

*Radio Digest* December 20, 1924



## Purchasing Groups

The Old Time Radio Researchers Purchasing Group:  
Contact Jim Wood at [OTRPG@Bookfixer.com](mailto:OTRPG@Bookfixer.com) Dues: 5\$ per month.

Ted Davenport / Corey Harker Purchasing Group:  
Contact Corey at [corey.harker@gmail.com](mailto:corey.harker@gmail.com)  
Dues: \$40 per month for 10 hours of material from electrical transcription disc and an additional 15 hours from 1<sup>st</sup> generation or low generation tape. Additional bonus material is thrown in every month as well.

## Support the *Old Radio Times*

Since its debut in December 2005, the *Old Radio Times* has been offered free to the old-time radio community. It is the only free group publication in the hobby and it will remain so. However, as a way to help readers show their appreciation for the zine, we've created a Patreon page where you can pledge a regular donation to the upkeep of the zine and OTRR in general.

Visit [the Times' Patreon page](#) to become a subscriber, paying \$1 (or \$2, or more!) to our dusty coffers each time a new issue is published. We are currently on a bi-monthly schedule so the total annual cost could be as little as \$6.

Thank you to our Patrons!

Tony Adams, Brian Allen, Rob Bates, Jim Edmondson, Ryan Ellett, Damon Fries, Robert Garrison, Dan Gerawan, Adam Graham, Walden Hughes, Brian Kavanaugh, Larynxa, Scott Mahan, Mahto-topah, Bob Merritt, Michael Miller, Michael Morenstein, Kahri Nelson, John Nicholson, Marc Olayne, OTR Gold, Glenn Peffers, Chris Pickett, Dan Seavers, Walt Staves, Mahlon Wagner, Barbara Watkins, Phillip J. West, and Steven Wickliffe.

## Visit Us on Social Media

[OTRR Home Page](#)

[OTRR Facebook](#)

[OTRR YouTube](#)

[OTRR Tik Tok](#)

[OTRR Reddit](#)

[OTRR SnapChat](#)

Wistful Vistas  
From the Editor's Desk  
Ryan Ellett

Tis the season, beloved readers, for get-togethers and much holiday merriment. Hopefully you've had some opportunities to catch some holiday-themed episodes of your favorite series.

Member Brian Kavanaugh put together a curated playlist of holiday old-time radio programs with many suggestions from fellow group members. [Visit our YouTube channel here](#) to peruse the offerings.

This issue we are thrilled to welcome Karl Schadow back to our pages. He's sure to expand your knowledge of the radio history of Philo Vance. As I shared with Karl in a personal email, I'm always interested to find out about radio programs that actually had earlier runs – often with entirely different casts and production teams – that are unfamiliar or even entirely unknown to hobbyists due to not being preserved or even recorded in the first place.

It seemed timely to run a Martin Grams piece on a Lone Ranger Christmas episode. He notes the difficulty of meeting the needs of audiences who heard a particular broadcast live and those who might hear the same episode at a different time of the year via syndication.

If you weren't following Carl Amari's Kickstarter for I Was a Communist for the FBI (covered in our last issue), it successfully funded in November and should be available to backers before the end of the year. What series will he tackle next? Go to [this poll](#) and have your say!

As usual, please send items of interest and article proposals to the editor at [OldRadioTimes@yahoo.com](mailto:OldRadioTimes@yahoo.com). It's all of you that keep this press churning every other month!



Stay Tuned America Schedule  
(All times are Central Standard Time)

Monday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!  
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/ Greg Bell (Classic Episodes)  
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell (Current Episodes)  
19:00-20:00 - Make Believe Ballroom w/Jeff Bressler (Repeat)  
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/ Wyatt Cox

Tuesday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!  
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/ Greg Bell (Classic Episodes)  
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell (Current Episodes)  
19:00-21:00 - Same Time, Same Station - w/ John and Larry Gassman  
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/ Wyatt Cox

Wednesday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!  
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/ Greg Bell (Classic Episodes)  
17:00-18:00 - Anything Goes!! w/ Lise Avery (Repeat)  
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell (Current Episodes)  
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/ Wyatt Cox

Thursday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!  
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/ Greg Bell (Classic Episodes)  
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell (Current Episodes)  
19:00-21:00 - The Sounds Of Sinatra w/ Sid Mark  
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/ Wyatt Cox



Friday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!  
12:00-13:00 - Anything Goes!! w/ Lise Avery (Repeat)  
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/ Greg Bell (Classic Episodes)  
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell (Current Episodes)  
19:00-21:00 - The Great Music Club w/ Mike Shannon  
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/ Wyatt Cox

Saturday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!  
07:00-12:00 - Swing Thing w/ Fred Hall  
12:00-14:00 - Old Time Radio Classics w/ Jerry Haendiges  
14:00-15:00 - Make Believe Ballroom w/ Jeff Bressler  
15:00-17:00 - Memories In Melody w/ Matt Taylor  
17:00-19:00 - Seems Like Old Times w/ Craig Orndorff  
19:00-21:00 - American Standards By The Sea w/ Dick Robinson  
21:00-23:00 - The Sounds Of Sinatra w/ Sid Mark  
23:00-23:59 - WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour

Sunday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!  
07:00-08:00 - The Roaring 20's  
08:00-09:00 - Sound Ideas w/ Clay Ryder  
09:00-10:00 - Jazz Rhythm w/ Dave Radlauer  
10:00-11:00 - Juke In The Back w/ Matt The Cat  
11:00-12:00 - Rhythm Sweet And Hot w/ Mike Plaskett  
12:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell (Current & Weekend Episodes)  
19:00-19:30 - Imagination Theatre  
19:30-20:00 - Golden Days Of Radio w/ Frank Bresee  
20:00-21:00 - Powder River (Colonial Radio Theatre)  
21:00-22:00 - Anything Goes!! w/ Lise Avery  
22:00-23:59 - Archives Theater w/ Wally Stall

[www.pulpradioart.com](http://www.pulpradioart.com)

**Exciting hand illustrations  
inspired and based on your  
favorite old-time radio plays.**

**Pulp Radio Art**





Limited time Thanksgiving special!  
(see back page)

## Winter 2024 Digital Old Time Radio



Dean Martin  
1917-1995

Jerry Lewis  
1926-2017

## Dean Martin Jerry Lewis Show

- 11787 #42 Denise Darcel 11/02/1951
- #43 Danny Thomas 11/09/1951
- 11788 #44 Shelley Winters 11/16/1951
- #45 Dennis Morgan 11/23/1951
- 11789 #46 Jane Wyman 11/30/1951
- #47 Joan Davis 12/07/1951
- 11790 #48 Jane Russell 12/14/1951
- #49 Helen O'Connell 12/21/1951
- 11791 #50 Dale Evans 12/28/1951
- #51 Mona Freeman 01/04/1952
- 11736 #52 Hans Conreid 01/11/1952
- #53 Frank Sinatra 01/18/1952
- 11737 #54 Alexis Smith 01/25/1952
- #55 Gordon MacRae 02/01/1952
- 11738 #56 Rhonda Fleming 02/08/1952
- #57 William Holden 02/15/1952
- 11739 #58 Linda Darnell 02/22/1952
- #59 Tony Curtis 02/29/1952
- 11740 #60 Corinne Calvet 03/07/1952
- #61 Elizabeth Scott 03/14/1952
- 11741 #62 Marlene Dietrich 03/21/1952
- #63 Ann Sothern 03/28/1952
- 11742 #64 Claire Trevor 04/04/1952
- #65 Virginia Mayo 04/11/1952
- 11743 #66 Ann Sheridan 04/25/1952
- #67 Rosemary Clooney 09/16/1953
- 11744 #68 Jeff Chandler 09/23/1952
- #69 Jane Wyman 10/07/1952

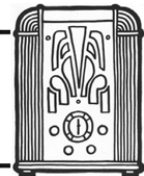


This NBC show was a comedy-variety series. Their first show (on television), *The Colgate Comedy Hour*, actually beat Ed Sullivan's show many times. **Dean Martin** was a singer while **Jerry Lewis**, was a zany comedian. Their comedy team actually lasted 10 years. Together they produced many films and radio and television programs. 110 radio shows were produced; some were sustained but many had multiple sponsors. Lewis is best known as host of the Muscular Dystrophy telethons.



### Suspense (newly available / CBS Network)

- 11801 #175 This Was a Hero 01/10/1946  
w/ Phillip Terry, Lurene Tuttle, Howard Duff (AFRS)
- #94 Fugue in C Minor 06/01/1944 Ida Lupino, Vincent Price (major audio upgrade / Roma Wines)
- 11802 #34 The Customers Like Murder 03/23/1943  
w/ Roland Young (major audio upgrade)
- #46 Last Night 06/15/1943 w/ Margo, Kent Smith (major audio upgrade)
- 11803 #255 Murder By An Expert 07/24/1947 Lynn Bari, Jack Webb (major audio upgrade / Roma Wines)
- #262 The Twist 09/11/1947 w/ Michael O'Shay (major sound upgrade / Roma Wines)
- 11043 #151 Fury and Sound w/ Norman Lloyd, Lurene Tuttle 07/26/1945 (AFRS)
- Forecast #04 The Lodger 07/22/1940  
Suspense audition w/ Herbert Marshall



**BRC BROADCAST SVCS**  
P.O. BOX 158  
DEARBORN HTS., MI 48127  
bob@brcbroadcast.com

Digital Old-Time Radio  
WINTER 2024

VERS. 251



## Message from Bob

There's no way I could have predicted how popular **Jack Benny** would become to present-day old-time radio fans as the BRC business moved through its peak years.

In the early 1980s, most of my Jack Benny masters were on reel to reel tapes. Many came from the late Don Aston of "Aston's Adventures." At the time, Don's neatly hand-typed catalog served as a reference log to that and many other shows. Remember there was no internet and extensive Benny and other logs were only available on printed sheets of paper or books.

Aston was involved in transferring original transcription discs in the early days as well.

As for Jack Benny, he had a successful formula and an ensemble cast and although his character was a cheapskate, he wasn't in person. "Rochester" Eddie Anderson became one of the richest and most successful African American actors of his era because of his association with Jack Benny, but that's all beside the point -- kind of.

In Jack's own words: "A comedian is not necessarily someone who cracks jocks and does wild pieces of business. Sometimes he or she is a subtle interpreter of lines and situations." ("Sunday Nights at Seven - The Jack Benny Story - by Jack & Joan Benny" 1990)

That was indeed Jack. No one has truly equalled his comedic timing, and probably never will. If you've listened to the recording of one of his last stand-up shows in Las Vegas (now available), Benny was a humble story-teller who surrounded himself with a loyal group of writers for the radio and TV show but he could be quick witted and with a dry sense of humor when the situation called for it.

With this mailing aside from Jack Benny, we've listed some new and in some cases, greatly improved versions of shows. The rumor that this business was going away or ceasing operation was wildly incorrect!

The past year, however, our professional work in present day radio has taken more time, but old-time radio has always been important to us. This is evidenced by our two weekly 3 hour radio shows produced and hosted in the Detroit area, but heard everywhere on whfr.fm. Many OTR releases we're currently working on or planned for the future get aired first on WHFR-FM! Most of these shows are edited specifically for broadcast (no cigaret commercials for example). When you order the digital copy from the website or by mail, however, the shows are never edited.

**The Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis** shows (front) represent a typical variety show. Dean, the crooner, sings a couple songs mixed with comedy skits with the duo and their guests. They are built around Jerry's slapstick style. Maybe you only knew him from his many years hosting the Muscular Dystrophy Telethons. Lewis, however, was in many feature films both with Dean Martin and solo including such titles as "The Nutty Professor" (1963).

We realize not everyone likes comedy, and there are selections here as usual, from other genres of radio.

Thanks for listening and thanks for your support!

-Bob Burnham 10/21/2024

© 2024 BRC BROADCAST SVCS



## Suspense (CBS Network)

*Suspense scripts were originally based on famous contemporary mystery and radio writings. 945 shows were aired over a 20 year period ending in 1962. The early years had more of a British mystery feel. This quickly evolved to a more contemporary style as the broadcast industry and the country changed, as well as the show itself. Roma Wines was the first sponsor. The Autolite sponsorship came next and they continued to sponsor the television version of Suspense. The later 1960s radio shows had multiple sponsors.*

- 09206 #81 Portrait Without a Face 03/02/44 w/ Michele Morgan, Philip Dorn, George Coulouris
- #82 The Defense Rests w/ Alan Ladd, John McIntyre, Hans Conried, Will Wright
- 09207 #83 Narrative About Clarence w/ Laird Cregar, Hans Conried 03/16/1944
- #84 Sneak Preview w/ Joseph Cotten, Hans Conried 03/23/1944
- 09208 #85 Cat and Mouse 03/30/1944 w/ Sonny Tufts
- #86 The Woman in Red 04/06/1944 w/ Katina Paxinou, Hans Conried
- 09209 #87 The Marvelous Barastro 04/13/1944 w/ Orson Welles
- #88 The Palmer Method 04/20/1944 w/ Ed Gardner
- 09210 #89 Death Went Along for the Ride 04/27/1944 w/ Gene Kelly
- #90 The Dark Tower 05/04/1944 w/ Orson Welles
- 09211 #91 The Visitor 05/11/1944 w/ Eddie Bracken
- #94 Fugue in C Minor 06/01/1944 w/ Vincent Price, Ida Lupino
- 09212 #92 Donovan's Brain Part 1 05/18/1944 w/ Orson Welles
- #93 Donovan's Brain Part 2 05/25/1944 w/ Orson Welles
- 09213 #95 The Case History On Edgar Lowndes 06/01/1944 w/ Thomas Mitchell, Donald Crisp
- #96 A Friend to Alexander 06/15/1944 w/ Geraldine Fitzgerald
- 09214 #97 The Ten Grand 06/22/1944 w/ Lucille Ball
- #98 The Walls Came Tumbling Down 06/29/1944 w/ Keenan Wynn
- 09215 #99 Search For Heri Le Fevre 07/06/1944 w/ Paul Muni, Lurene Tuttle
- #100 The Beast Must Die 07/13/1944 w/ Herbert Marshall
- 09216 #101 Of Maestro and Man 07/20/1944 Peter Lorre, Richard Conte
- #102 The Black Shawl 07/27/1944 w/ Margaret O'Sullivan, Dame Mae Whitty
- 09217 #103 Banquo's Chair w/ Donald Crisp, John Loder, Hans Conried 08/03/1944
- #104 The Man Who Knew How 08/10/1944 w/ Charles Laughton, Hans Conried
- 09218 #105 The Diary of Sophronia Winters 08/17/1944 w/ Agnes Moorehead, Ray Collins
- #106 Actor's Blood 08/24/1944 w/ Fredric March, Ben Hecht
- 09219 #107 Black Path of Fear 08/31/1944 w/ Brian Donlevy
- #108 Voyage Through Darkness 09/07/1944 w/ Olivia de Havilland, Reginald Gardner
- 09220 #109 You'll Never See Me Again 09/14/1944 w/ Joseph Cotten
- #110 Bluebeard of Bellac 09/21/1944 w/ Merle Oberon
- 09221 #111 The Man Who Couldn't Lose 09/28/1944 w/ Gene Kelly
- #112 Dateline: Lisbon 10/05/1944 w/ John Hodiak

## Mr. Chameleon (Bayer Aspirin / Karl Swenson)

- 11705 #59 The Mistreated Wife Murder Case 08/31/1949
- #60 Case of the Snarling Corpse 09/07/1949
- 11714 #61 The Murder Clue of the Embalmed Body 09/14/1949
- #62 The Hanging Judge Murder Case 09/21/1949
- 11715 #63 The Friendly Divorce Murder Case 09/28/1949
- #64 The Suspicious Father Murder Case 10/05/1949
- 11721 #65 The Murder Clue of the Rope Ladder 10/12/1949
- #66 Case of the Unwanted Child 10/19/1949
- 11722 #67 The Girl Who Typed Murder 10/26/1949
- #68 The Murder Clue of the Carved Gold Ring 11/02/1949
- 11728 #69 The Stolen Melody Murder Case 11/09/1949
- #70 The Party Girl Murder Case 11/16/1949
- 11729 #71 The Marriage Proposal Murder Case 11/23/1949
- #72 The Apartment to Share Murder Case 11/30/1949
- 11781 #73 The Deceitful Wives Murder Case 12/07/1949
- #74 The Hot Biscuit Murder Case 12/14/1949
- 11804 #76 The Green House Murder Case 12/28/1949
- #77 The Widow's Ruby Murder Case 01/04/1950
- 11805 #78 The Last Penny Murder Case 01/11/1950
- #79 The Little White Lies Murder Case 01/18/1950
- 11378 #94 The Gold Cigarette Holder Murder Case 05/03/1950
- #95 The Engagement Ring Murder Case 05/10/1950

## One Night Stand (Big Bands)

- 11807 Benny Goodman Hotel New Yorker 11/09/1943
- Shep Fields from the Copacabana, NYC 08/09/1944

## Fred Allen Show

- 11809 Guest: James Mason 01/04/1948
- Guest: Jack Haley 02/01/1948

## The Adventures of Philip Marlowe (Gerald Mohr)

- 11031 #01 The Red Wind 09/26/1948
- #02 The Persian Slippers 10/03/1947
- 11032 #03 The Panama Hat 10/10/1948
- #04 Where There's a Will 10/17/1948
- 11033 #05 The Heart of Gold 10/24/1948
- #06 The Blue Burgonet 10/31/1948 (aircheck)
- 11034 #10 The Hard Way Out 11/28/1948
- #14 The Old Acquaintance 12/26/1948
- 11035 #15 The Restless Day 01/08/1949
- #16 The Black Halo 01/15/1949
- 11036 #17 The Orange Dog 01/22/1949
- #18 The Easy Mark 01/29/1949
- 11037 #19 The Long Rope 02/05/1949
- #20 The Lonesome Reunion 02/12/1949
- 11038 #23 The Friend from Detroit 03/05/1949
- #24 The Grim Hunters 03/12/1949
- 11039 #25 The Dancing Hands 03/19/1949
- #26 The Green Flame 03/26/1949

## Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar

(Mandel Kramer / CBS Network)

- 11321 The Rilldoe Matter 07/08/1962
- The Weather or Not Matter 07/15/1962 (Pepsi Cola)
- 11322 The Skimpy Matter 07/22/1962
- The Four Is a Crowd Matter 07/29/1962
- 11323 The Case of Trouble Matter 08/05/1962
- The Oldest Gag Matter 08/12/1962
- 11324 The Lorelei Matter 08/19/1962 [AFRTS]
- The Gold Rush Matter 08/26/1962

## Jack Benny

- 11723 **Jack Benny in Las Vegas** - His Final Appearance  
11/28/1972 (58 minutes)
- 11460 **Rehearsal** - for Bob Hope and Jack Double Date 1955  
**Johnny Mercer's Music Shop** 06/21/1944\_Sunday  
(Navy #15)  
**Johnny Mercer's Music Shop** 06/22/1944 Guest: Bob Hope  
(Navy #16)
- 11353 Your money or your life; Ronald Coleman's Oscar is stolen  
03/28/1948  
Borrowing Bing Crosby's Oscar 04/04/1948
- 11354 Murder at the Racquet Club Part 1; from Palm Springs  
04/11/1948  
Murder at the Racquet Club Part 2 04/18/1948
- 11355 Jack Dresses As Charlie's Aunt 04/25/1948  
Guest Star Frank Sinatra 05/02/1948
- 11356 Rehearsal at Jack's; what really happened to Ronald  
Coleman's Oscar 05/09/1948  
Robert Taylor subs for Jack 05/16/1948



## Gunsmoke (William Conrad, Parley Baer/CBS Network)

- 11813 #08 Jailbait Janet 06/14/1952  
#11 Never Pester Chester 07/05/1952
- 11814 #12 The Boughten Bride 07/12/1952  
#13 Doc Holliday 07/19/1952
- 11815 #14 Gentlemen's Agreement 07/26/1952  
#15 Renegade White 08/02/1952
- 11816 #16 The Kentucky Tolmans 08/09/1952  
#17 The Lynching 08/16/1952
- 11817 #18 Shakespeare 08/23/1952  
#19 The Juniper Tree 08/30/1952

## Mixed Bag #133

- 11669 **Fitch Bandwagon** #38 (Censored Pressing)  
Guest: Hoagy Carmichael Old Man Harlem  
**Eddy Arnold Show** #86 Easy Rockin Chair  
**Eddy Arnold Show** #87 Too Far Apart

## Mixed Bag #134

- 11687 **Mr & Mrs North** 12/09/1947 Call Me Choo Choo  
**Suspense** 08/30/1945 Nobody Loves Me Peter Lorre  
(Roma Wines)

## Mixed Bag #135

- 11693 **Our Miss Brooks** #72 Mr. Conklin's Induction Notice  
04/15/1951  
**Red Skelton Show** Christmas Show (AFRS)

## Mixed Bag #136

- 11777 **Blue Ribbon Brigade** Pat O'Brien 08/13/1942  
(Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer)  
**Burl Ives, Philco's Friendly Troubadour** #061  
12/12/1947  
**Les Brown Show** #21 (U.S. Marines) Wonderful

## Mixed Bag #137

- 11810 **Request Performance** Guests: Phil Harris Alice Faye,  
Lionel Barrymore 01/27/1946 (1st Half Only)  
**Here's Veterans** #159 Spike Jones Show 1949  
**Stars on Parade** #571 Gigi Durston 07/22/1951  
**Stars on Parade** #572 Joan Davis 07/29/1951

## Fibber McGee & Company (Johnson's Wax/NBC Network)

- 11681 #154 Sulfer and Molasses 03/22/1938  
**Ozzie and Harriett** 06/04/1954 #38 Ozzie's  
Night Out
- 11689 #155 Standing Up for the Bridegroom 03/29/1938  
**Ozzie and Harriet** The Golf Widower  
06/11/1954
- 11706 #157 The Duel with the piccolo player 04/12/1938  
**The Hardy Family** #39 Honeymoon Travel Trailer  
(Micky Rooney circa 1949)
- 11713 #158 On a diet 04/19/1938  
**Dean Martin Jerry Lewis Show**  
Guest: Mona Freeman 01/04/1952
- 11720 #160 Managing the Movie Theater 05/03/1938  
#161 A New Arrangement of Kiss Me Again  
05/10/1938
- 11730 #163 Managing a Riding Academy 05/24/1938  
**A Day in the Life of Dennis Day** Dennis Needs An  
Agent 06/10/1950
- 11778 #164 McGee Runs A Quiz Program 05/31/1938  
#165 McGee the Artist 06/07/1938
- 11811 #166 Airplane Propeller Air Conditioning 06/14/1938  
#167 Lifeguard McGee 06/21/1938

- 11818 #20 The Brothers 09/06/1952  
#21 Home Surgery 09/13/1952

- 11819 #22 Drop Dead 09/20/1952  
#23 The Railroad 09/27/1952

- 11820 #24 Cain 10/03/1952  
#25 Hinka Do 10/10/1952

- 11821 #26 Lockinvar 10/17/1952

- #27 The Mortgage 10/24/1952
- 11822 #28 The Overland Express 10/31/1952  
#29 Tara 11/07/1952

- 11823 #30 The Square Triangle 11/14/1952  
#31 Fingered 11/21/1952



**Rocky Jordan** (CBS Network / Jack Moyles)

Though produced during the latter years of dramatic radio, **Rocky Jordan** is still considered a good series to listen to. Nearly 100 episodes of the original series were produced starring Jack Moyles. Moyles like Bob Bailey in *Yours Truly*, Johnny Dollar was made for the role and naturally falls into character. A shorter run starred George Raft. By the time this CBS Sustained program (later sponsored by Del Monte), television had already captured the public's attention. The series was also considered to be moved over to television but it never happened.

The series, however, was unique and original in its concept as it was set in Cairo. The central character Rocky Jordan, was an American, who owned a restaurant. Each week he would become involved in some kind of mystery or adventure in this series which had a decidedly Eastern "feel." His restaurant the "Café Tambourine," is located (according to the announcer), "not far from the Mosque Sultan Hassan." Another of the cast regulars, Sam Sabaaya (played by Jay Novello) is the police captain who apprehends the crooks at the end of each show. The series was written by Larry Roman and Gomer Cool who used the names of real streets in Cairo, Egypt,

- 11648 #01 The Bartered Bridegroom 10/31/1948
- #02 Count Me Out 11/07/1948
- 11649 #04 The Man in the Morgue 11/21/1948
- #06 Strangers, Three 12/05/1948
- 11650 #07 Ace High Straight 12/12/1948
- #08 Up in Flames 12/19/1948
- 11651 #10 Death in the Sand 01/02/1949
- #11 Escapade With Paula 01/09/1949
- 11683 #12 The Case of the Sleepy Camel 01/16/1949
- #14 Bakshish Boy 01/30/1949
- 11684 #15 Champagne, Caviar and Hot Ice 02/06/1949
- #16 Red Stands for Blood 02/13/1949
- 11685 #17 Twenty Fathoms Under 02/20/1949
- #19 The Two O'Clock Man 03/06/1949
- 11686 #20 St. Louis Blues 03/13/1949
- #21 Passport for Vivi 03/20/1949
- 11687 #22 Everything Shipshape 03/27/1949
- #23 Portrait of Rocky 04/03/1949
- 11688 #24 My Quiet Friend 04/10/1949
- #25 Consignment for Naples 04/24/1949
- 11689 #26 Fall Guy 05/01/1949
- #27 Lady in Disguise 05/08/1949
- 11690 #29 The Make-up Man 05/22/1949
- #30 Desert Betrayal 05/29/1949
- 11691 #31 The Man They All Loved 06/05/1949
- #33 The Big Ditch 06/19/1949
- 11692 #35 The Map of Murder 07/03/1949
- #37 The Race 07/17/1949
- 11822 #38 The Coward of Moo-Ka-Tan 07/24/1949
- #39 Bar-Lat-Chee 07/31/1949
- 11823 #40 Gold Fever 08/07/1949
- #41 Cairo Vendetta 08/14/1949
- 11824 #42 The Gum Queen 08/21/1949
- #43 The Lady From Istanbul 08/28/1949
- 11825 #44 A Stranger to the Desert 09/04/1949
- #45 Adventure With Andraya 09/11/1949
- 11826 #46 The Nile Runs High 09/18/1949
- #47 Momento From Adelaide 09/25/1949
- 11827 #48 Pattern for Revenge 10/02/1949
- #49 The Man With No Name 10/09/1949
- 11828 #50 Quest for Traneeneh 10/16/1949
- #51 The Dearite Bowl 10/23/1949



**Jack Moyles**  
"Rocky Jordan"

**Archie Andrews**

(Bob Hastings / Swifts Premium Franks / NBC Network)

- 11830 #273 Veronica's Coming Out Party 10/19/1946
- #294 Jokes at Mrs. Lodges' Red Cross Party 03/15/1947
- 11831 #355 Archie Has Hiccups 05/15/1948
- #359 Archie Has a Cold 06/12/1948
- 11832 #363 No Ice 07/10/1948
- #364 Wallpapering 07/17/1948
- 11833 #369 Going on a Picnic 08/21/1948
- #371 Late For a Dance 09/04/1948
- 11699 #372 Archie borrows a jack 09/11/1948
- #373 Archie's in love 09/18/1948
- 11700 #379 Halloween Party 10/30/1948
- #380 Locked out of the house 11/06/1948
- 11701 #381 Early to bed 11/13/1948
- #382 Relatives visit unexpectedly 11/20/1948
- 11702 #383 Laryngitis ruins Dad's nap 11/27/1948
- #384 Archie gets a job at a drugstore 12/04/1948

LAYOUT © 2024 BRC BROADCAST SVCS

**whfr.fm**  
89.3 "Making Waves"

**RADIO VAULT + SUNDAY MYSTERIES**  
Tuesdays 10AM-1PM ET / Sundays 9PM-midnight • whfr.fm 89.3

**Audio CD Prices (2023-2024)**

1 CD: \$3.95 + \$9.50 SHIPPING (TOTAL: \$13.45)

3-5 CDs: 3.95 per CD + 10.50 SHIPPING

6-11 CDs 3.68 ea. per CD + 11.00 SHIPPING

12-14 CDs 3.05 per CD + 11.00 SHIPPING

15-17 CDs 3.02 per CD + 11.00 SHIPPING

8-47 CDs 3.00 per CD + 11.50 SHIPPING

48-95 CDs 2.98 per CD + 21.50 SHIPPING

96+ CDs \$2.82 per CD + 22.00 SHIPPING (\$292.72 for 96)

2022 catalog available on-line only at brcradio.com

2020 and 2021 printed catalogs are free upon request  
(while supplies last) with any order.**ALL SHOWS ALSO AVAILABLE AS FLAC OR MP3  
COLLECTIONS****NOTES and THANKS...**

We are an unusual business launched 50 years ago in the interest of making quality old-time radio affordable and readily available to everyone.

**The emphasis has always been on quality.** With that in mind, we employ advanced technical methods to maximize quality. Our CD product also features "CD TEXT," so you know exactly what's playing while it's playing.

Our tombstone style radio logo is based on a fully restored 1936 Atwater-Kent radio that has been in our office since the early 1980s (cover). The logo itself is the work of the late Bob Burchett of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The programs we (and others) offer would not have been possible without the work and dedication of these individuals, just to name a few:

Bob Burchett, Jerry Chapman, Ted Davenport,  
Martin Grams, Jerry Haendiges, Jay Hickerson,  
Terry Salomonson, Dr. Joseph Webb

And special thanks to Collectables Expert,  
Tom Eurich of Dearborn, Michigan.

**NOTES ON ORDERING...**

via web at brcradio.com (or U.S. mail)

- All shows from all mailers can be ordered on the website or by mail
- Our most popular digital format is standard audio Compact Disc (CD), which are playable on any device. Ask about other formats (FLAC and mp3). There is a savings!
- Each CD number contains approximately 60 to 80 minutes of programming.
- You can order 1 CD at a time, but order in multiples of 3 CDs for best price.
- All products are shipped PRIORITY MAIL via U.S. Postal Service.
- Some orders from this mailer shipped within 24 hours of receipt; Larger orders will take longer and sent in multiple shipments at no additional cost.
- Tracking numbers supplied (upon request) via e-mail
- Credit or Debit cards are not charged until order is actually shipped.
- Illegible checks will be returned and order not filled.
- Bonus discs are sometimes included as a thanks for your support!

**whfr.fm**  
89.3 "Making Waves"



**BRC BROADCAST SVCS**  
P.O. BOX 158  
DEARBORN HTS., MI 48127  
bob@brcbroadcast.com

**OLD-TIME RADIO  
ORDER FORM  
WINTER 2024  
(version 2.51)**

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Date Rec'd by BRC \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail or Phone \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

MUST HAVE PHONE # AND / OR E-MAIL FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS

STOCK #	SERIES TITLE	PRICE EA.	TOTAL
1.)			
2.)			
3.)			
4.)			
5.)			
6.)			
7.)			
8.)			
9.)			
10.)			
11.)			
12.)			
13.)			
14.)			

PAYMENTS: ( ) CHECK, MONEY ORDER OR VISA / MC

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_



Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Sec. Code (CVV) \_\_\_\_\_

Use your own  
paper for  
larger orders

Sub-Total: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michigan Residents Only 6% Sales Tax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shipping / Handling: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grand Total: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thanksgiving special!

**FREE SHIPPING ON ALL ORDERS PLACED  
THROUGH NOVEMBER 2024 ONLY!!**

OFFER EXPIRES DEC. 1, 2024

NO MINIMUM (ALLOW EXTRA TIME FOR LARGE ORDERS)

MAIL ORDER ONLY.

**RADIO VAULT + SUNDAY MYSTERIES**  
Tuesdays 10AM-1PM ET / Sundays 9PM-midnight • whfr.fm 89.3





Created in 1984, the Metro Washington Old-Time Radio Club is the second largest old-time radio club in the United States. Club members enjoy monthly club meetings, an annual luncheon, and a bi-monthly newsletter. You do not have to live in or near Washington, D.C., to become a member. The newsletter, RADIO RECALL, is mailed to members from all over the country and loaded with fascinating articles, news of what is happening in the hobby, recently-discovered "lost" programs and more. Why not join the hundreds who enjoy the newsletter, which can be sent via email in PDF format, or be mailed to you through the post office?



You can sign up to become a member on the club website.

[www.mwotrc.com](http://www.mwotrc.com)

## Old-Time Radio Researchers Acquisitions: New Episodes and Upgraded Sound Encodes

Please note that our distributions are available to OTRR Purchasing Group members first, and then made available to the public after about six months. Purchases made from Ted Davenport are distributed to Purchasing Group members after one year.