

RADIO CURRENTS

VOLUME II, NO. 1

FALL/WINTER 1981

What's this - Radio Currents back, after an unfortunate demise? Well, yes and no. The original Radio Currents was used to list the latest logs of current radio drama. This new format will sort of function as a Son of Collector's Corner/NRT...kind of help to keep Collector's Corner current, you might say.

Which brings us to our next topic, one of the primary reasons you're getting this and the next couple of Radio Currents with our compliments. Collector's Corner/NRT has gotten off schedule and because of the quarterly schedule, a late issue really seems late, for which we apologize! The problem involved with Collector's Corner/NRT is not so much getting the content together, or mailing or addressing or printing...The difficulty arises in the actual putting together of the magazine. No further excuses will be offered here, because you can probably think of them yourself (Sorry, we'll try to do better!). Neither Joe Webb or myself are directly involved in any of the lay-out process, so once the "issues" leave our hands in the form of typewritten copy we never see it again until it is in the form of a completely printed issue. It's a system that greatly simplifies getting a newsletter out to you (or magazine as in our case), and eliminates a lot of work on the part of the editors. We're still using part of this system, bypassing only the lay-out stage.

The format of Radio Currents will be simple, to save time, and being Current, it will be timely and up-to-date. Although no promises will be made, only a week or so will elapse between the time issues are typed and they are mailed out. So to keep Collector's Corner Current, we bring you Radio Currents.

What's happening with Collector's Corner/NRT? Well, we're still very much alive, if that's what's worrying you - we have no intention of ceasing publication like many others before us. Why would we suddenly stop after growing to be Old Time Radio's largest circulating publication? The answer to the question is we haven't, we aren't and won't. We just slowed down for a short time to oil the gears, and we should be back on schedule soon. Our upcoming issue, by the

way, will bring you an ARNOLD STANG interview, a feature on THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO, more on buying tape equipment from mail order dealers, a book review and the regular features, ads, etc. that are all part of CC/NRT.

Radio Currents will bring you NEWS items, some of the overflow of CC/NRT articles, editorials and words from our sponsor, BRC OTR Distributors, and Nostalgia Warehouse, Inc...You'll get Radio Currents during CC/NRT "lapses" approximately four times a year. It'll be a very flexible format, so we would appreciate your suggestions and comments; you can mail them directly to me (through 1981 only) at 2013 South Huron Parkway #1, Ann Arbor, MI. 48104...Otherwise use the Nostalgia Warehouse or BRC business address. There are many details still to be worked out on the new Radio Currents, but right now, let's get into the meat of our first (sort of) issue!

Bob Burnham

"OLD TIME RADIO COLLECTING AS I GREW UP WITH IT"

By Bob Burnham

Collector's Corner/NRT has received letters over the years asking if articles could be written on the history of OTR collectors, perhaps starting out outlining Joe Webb or my early days. A recent tape letter I received from a former OTR publisher now - inactive collector, even suggested the possibility of a book on the topic. The latter is not very feasible from a financial standpoint, but certainly there's room for a little discussion on the topic here in Radio Currents.

First, who am I and how did I get started in OTR? That's a loaded question to be sure! I am a member of the "younger" collecting set...25 years old, married, currently employed full time as an OTR dealer. I have been employed in the past primarily in the broadcast industry as Production Manager, Air Personality, engineer, you name it. I became interested in OTR in about 1969 or so, although I don't remember exactly when.

Warren Pierce, who currently is an afternoon personality on WJR in Detroit, was working on a small Detroit station where he highlighted many programs. Using my small cassette deck, I would tape his rebroadcasts and re-listen to them. Around the same time, I saw an ad for Dave Goldin's infamous "RADIO YESTERYEAR"...all the OTR I could ever want for.... what! \$12 and HOUR?? Maybe I would stick to taping

Pierce's rebroadcasts. Unfortunately, he left the station for a job as morning man at CKSL in London, Ontario when the station changed to a top-40 rocker (since then, it has changed owners and call letters and become a country station!). OTR rebroadcasts were non-existent in the Detroit area - this was even BEFORE CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATRE was conceived. So I started saving my pennies to buy OTR from Dave Goldin as his was the only source I knew of at that time. My plan at that point to make it possible for me to afford such high prices was to sell copies of everything I had to anyone I could get interested... I think my prices were 50¢ an hour and the customer had to supply me with cassette tapes...This whole bit of history took place within a years' time, so in 1970 BRC entered the OTR field selling rebroadcasts and Radio Yesteryear dubs...By the time ads started appearing, I was charging \$2.50 for a cassette.

One of the first "major" publications I advertised in was The Detroit News. The very first response I got came from Bruce Rittenhouse, who remains an active collector today, and is a loyal supporter of OTR (and regular attendee of the F.O.R. Conventions). Interestingly enough, it was also Bruce who put me in contact (and vice versa) with Gary Kramer of Omega a couple years later. Gary has since become one of the leading suppliers of blank tape to OTR, and certainly the most well known authorities on blank tape (don't miss his workshop at the convention this year!).

By the middle of the 1970's I had purchased my own mimeograph machine and was publishing NEWS & REVIEWS, which also turned out my earliest catalogs. The mimeograph was finally retired, and I started using more professional methods of getting things printed.. Just prior to this period, I had written to Joe Webb I think near the end of 1974. Joe was advertising OTR in Nostalgia Journal (now the Comics Journal). Through my ads in the same publication, I had gotten letters from collectors concerning trades...Joe and I only traded one reel at a time since at that point, both of us were making up custom reels only, show by show. By then, I had also heard from Hy Daley, Joe Kulda, Steve Gordon, and many others, including Jerry Chapman, who with his brother-in-law, operated RADIO DOCTORS (later Airwaves). Jerry and I corresponded (and still do) by cassette letter. Jerry eventually contacted Joe Webb through me, and in time, the Airwaves newsletter was started.

Others who contacted me around that point were Andy "Vintage Broadcasts" Blatt, and later Bob Burchett. The rest is all sort of standard, well known history.. I decided I wanted to improve NEWS & REVIEWS into something even better, Joe Webb decided to leave

BRC OTR DISTRIBUTORS

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RADIO CURRENTS/CONVENTION SPECIALS
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Fall/Winter 1981

If you receive this flyer in Radio Currents or at the Friends of Old-time Radio Convention in Bridgetport, CT., you can take advantage of these special limited time only prices!

COMPLETE REEL: Ampex 041 or 641 (used).....\$9.00 per reel number
NEW CBS (Columbia Magnetics)....12.00 per reel number

CUSTOM CASSETTES: 5.00 per hour

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BOTH CATALOGS— 3.00

REEL 1981 NIGHTBEAT & QUIET PLEASE

NIGHTBEAT:

Football & the Syndicate 7/2/50
Somebody Stop Ann 8/7/52
Flight from Fear 7/31/52
The Old Itch 7/3/52
A Taste of Peaches 7/15/52
Twill Be the Death of Me 7/10/53

QUIET PLEASE:

If I Should Wake Before I Die
One for the Books
Good Ghost
Shadow of the Wings
My Son John
The Little Morning

REEL 1982 ABC MYSTERY TIME

No One Will Ever Know
The Suicide Club
The Overcoat
Picture of Dorian Gray
Fatal Jugglers
The Tale
Death Walked in
Half an Hour
Murder in Haste
Four Time Loser
My Adventure in Norfolk
Success

Don't forget to ask for our
new 1981 catalog...just \$2.00.

REEL 2033 MR.KEEN AND OTHERS

The Strange Woman 7/20/51
Photograph Album 7/27/51
Strange Murder of Carrie Ellis
8/3/51
The Abandoned Well 8/10/51
The Poisoned Sandwich 8/17/51
The Silver Candlestick 3/3/52
NERO WOLFE-Careworn Cuff
THE FALCON-Gangster's Girl
HEARTHSTONE OF THE DEATH SQUAD
Unheeded Warning
CRIME DOES NOT PAY Operation
Payroll 1944
TERROR-The Graveyard Rats
MACABRE-Final Resting Place
((MORE MR.KEEN IN OUR SUMMER/
FALL 1981 FLYER))

REEL 2018 MR.DISTRICT ATTORNEY

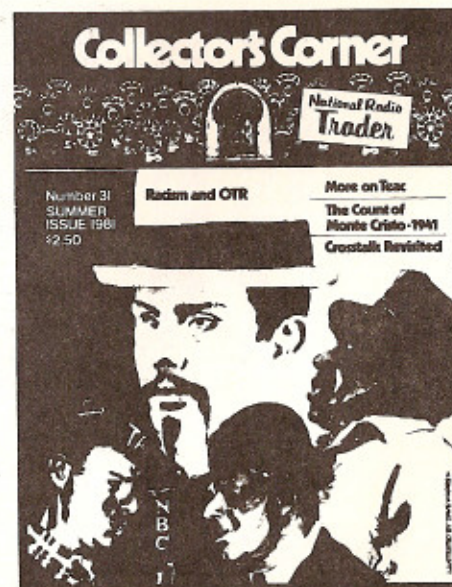
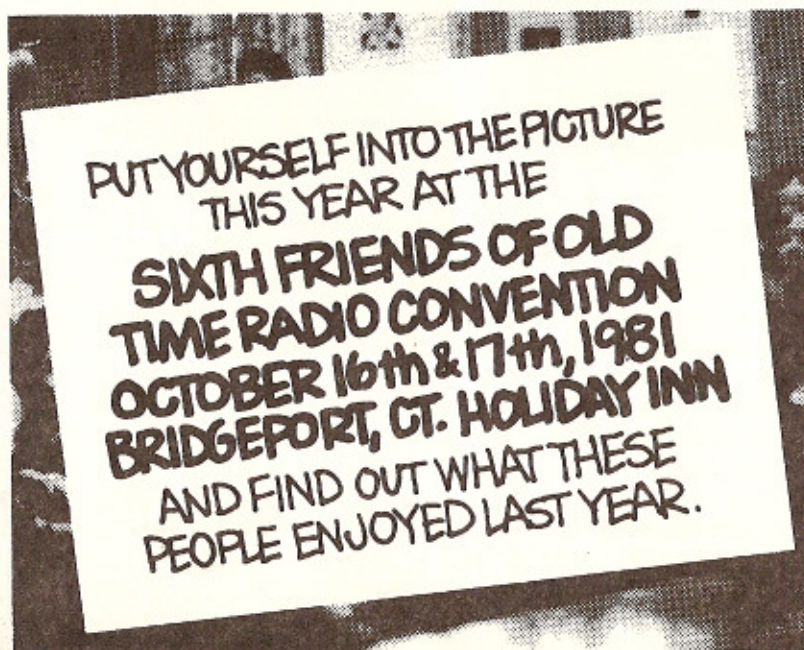
#1 Hijack Killer
#2 Supermarket Killer
#3 Man on the Ledge
#4 The Missing Doctor
#5 Joy Ride Murder
#6 Murderous Hitch-Hiker
#11 Case of Stair Case Killer
#13 Hit & Run Killer
#14 Desert Killer
#15 The Missing Corpse
#16 The Bank Killer
((MORE MR.D.A. AVAILABLE))

AIRWAVES to work with me, and the result was COLLECTOR'S CORNER. At that point, Andy Blatt teamed up for a short while with Jerry Chapman, and for a certain period, both co-existed. Eventually, Chapman became weary of OTR publishing, and COLLECTOR'S CORNER assumed their subscribers...The same thing happened later with National Radio Trader, when Phil Cole sent out letters to myself, and two other individuals offering NRT for sale.....

The very first OTR publication I ever saw was Bob Joseph's Stay Tuned. Bob's company, Sound Tapes of the Past, was also the first "reasonably priced" OTR company I knew of...Sadly, Bob recently discontinued selling OTR reels and now offers only cassettes and vitamins by mail!

I had heard about Jay Hickerson's "Hello, Again" for a long time, but never saw a copy until one collector gave me his address. I was able to find dozens of other collecting cronies through H. A.

So in a capsule, that's it....Perhaps it would be interesting to look at things through another point of view.....Maybe yours? Let us know what you think!



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OR RENEW

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CC/NRT is published quarterly, as is RADIO CURRENTS. Eight times a year you get the best of the hobby of old time radio shows! Order today!