

TAPE SQUEAL



INDIANA RECORDING CLUB, INC.

Volume XX -- Number 11 -- November, 1979

THE SPIRIT OF COMPETITION

by

John Berryman, #1954

The spirit of competition promotes a better response to a good tape. Although that tape you recently received has superior audio qualities, and the material is sophisticated, you are now determined to outdo him in all respects. Using all your wit and wile, you upgrade your efforts in verbal content and audio expertise.

You might employ your Roget's Thesaurus, your book of 10,000 insults, the dictionary you recently purchased at a Salvation Army outlet, or you might even resort to that book of obscene limericks you've coveted for so long. You've got to make a better tape than he did.

I recently received a tape from England, and it was fascinating. His was a sophisticated tape, the conversation bright and witty and liberally sprinkled with wit and humor. Music tintured the sparkling monolog, and great classical guitar music at that. Most important, he was sober as a judge when producing this epic.

You can be sure I hustled about trying to find a tape that would be better than his. I ended up with Scotch Classic (ferrichrome), I embarked on a reading program, took lessons in elocution, joke-telling, and hired a professional organist so I might tape some live recordings. I was not to be outdone by some Lancastrian knave.

Competition, aha, that's the lighted fuse of the firecracker that hides neath our backside. That's the explosion that finally gets us all to move in a positive direction with a decent tape. Competition is the material that proves our ability to outdo the other guy, and remove ourselves from the humdrum routine of our own lives... filling out tax forms, watching a boring TV show, or a two hour wait at the doctor's office looking at dull pictures or no smoking signs on the walls.

Don't let that bead of sweat clutter your forehead, don't get panic stricken when you receive a magnificent tape from your tapespondent, just assemble all your own knights and pawns for the battle ahead. You can throw him back a few notches by dubbing the sound of the cricket making love under your refrigerator, the cockroach champing on your cheesecake, the fly buzzing about your coffee, or the slurp of mud pies being assembled in the back yard by the kids. You might also think of the train rumbling past your lot, the wife's snores or the grandfather's clock ticking away peaceably. I could go on and on.

Most of the tapespondents with whom I communicate doze away contentedly. It is not until someone swats a fly reposing on their indifferent nose that they wake up. They daydream in church,

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Track 2

Tape Squeal is the monthly newsletter of the Indiana Recording Club. Send all news, information, photographs, etc. to Sharon Moore, Editor, 4215 North Oxford Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205.

For information about membership in the Indiana Recording Club contact William B. Davies, Secretary, 1729 East 77th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240. Telephone (317) 251-7048.

Please send all changes of address and directory data to Eleanor Davies, 1729 East 77th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240.

Your Indiana Recording Club Board of Directors consists of Bill Endicott, President; Bill Tillett, Vice-President; Bill Davies, Secretary; Sue Bereman, Treasurer; and Gene Scott, Member.

TO ALL NEW MEMBERS

When you receive your welcoming tape please return the accompanying postcard to the committee chairman, William Kearney, 2625 W. Jefferson Rd., Kokomo, Indiana 46901.

MUSIC LIBRARY ADDITIONS.

- 417. "In the Holy Land." An account of a visit to the Holy Land by Johnny and June Cash. Songs and narration.
- 418. Best of Burl Ives - The Seekers - Best of Peter, Paul & Mary.
- 419. History of Israel in music and narration. Also Jewish songs and comedy.
- 420. Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Grand Duke" by D'Oyley Carte Opera Co. plus "Trial by Jury" & Henry the VIII incidental music.
- 421. Treasury of Georgian Chants. From a four record set.
- 422. Christmas music by Lynn Anderson, Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn, Burl Ives and Tammy Wynette.
- 423. Dickens' Christmas Carol, & Mr. Pickwick. Also Christmas songs by Lynn Anderson, Johnny Cash family, Brenda Lee and Burl Ives.
- 424. Christmas in Austria and Germany, from records and radio. 4 tr. mono.

These reels were all donated by Wallace Kennedy, #1803. They are all 7" reels, @ 3-3/4 ips, except #417 which is a 5" reel.

Robert Waters, #1706, donated four C-90 cassettes to the music library. They are:

- C-60. Bing Crosby & Louis Armstrong, The Mills Bros. & The Ames Bros.

- C-61. Frank Sinatra's biggest hits.
- C-62. Louis Armstrong - New Orleans Jazz.
- C-63. New Orleans Jazz.

G. E. Marrion, #1611, donated another cassette, C-64, Sights & Sounds of the Orient. This is a 40 minute cassette.
--Bill Davies, Music Librarian.

NEW DIRECTORY BINDERS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

If you have belonged to IRC for more than a year and a half, you probably still have one of the old, black directory binders and it may be getting a little dog-eared and in need of replacement. Members who joined during the last year and a half or so, have the new gold colored binder with the IRC logo on the front. These binders are made of a real tough material which will last for years with no appreciable sign of wear.

We still have a good supply of these binders for sale to members for \$3.50 post-paid. Or pick one up from Bill Davies or Bill Endicott for \$3.00. Send mail orders to Bill Davies, Secretary.

they sleep while driving their car and nod gently while eating a meal. When my tape to them finally arrives, they fall asleep while listening to it, and while having a nightmare, they answer it. The results sure enough sound like a bad dream and one cannot help but wonder: "where did I go wrong?"

We just need the competitive spirit.

The phrase: "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt." seems to apply to some of my friends on tape. After awkwardly announcing some hum-drum weather facts, they munch on a sandwich of trivia, and then fill the rest of the tape with music you've just heard the week previously on the radio.... and all this for 28¢ first class mail. A rather expensive package when you consider the time spent listening...

When my tapespondent spends half that expensive cassette telling me about the weather, I'm demolished. Unless it's something unusual like the IRS agent buried under ten feet of snow while on his way to your house for an audit, or your mother-in-law floating down the river after a heavy flood. I can get all the weather information I need concerning Yahoo from the local newspapers. I want something else.

Were I a lonely female tapespondent, I would immediately forget competition, and be competition. Can you imagine receiving a tape from a young female that started with soft in-the-mood music, and then a candlelight and champagne voice: "This is Donna, how are you?". A little more soft music to strengthen the mood, and then: "Gee, I'm lonely tonight, and I thought I'd tape with you. I'd like to talk about, etc." Now what modern Tarzan of today could resist Jane's plaintive plea?

Competition spawns a better breed of tapes, a richer way of saying what we

have to say with a nicety of flavor and a purposeful intent. Oneupmanship makes us all aware of the need for demagnetizing the heads of our recorders, removing all that red oxide, purchasing better tapes, taking another look at our way of saying things, and just using plain common sense in general. All this might add up to the difference in taping being a bore and a chore, instead of a delight and something quite right.

Now I lay me back to sleep,
the speaker's dull, the subject's deep.
If he should stop before I wake,
give me a nudge, for goodness sake.

*
*
* M. H. JONES.
*
* **The Old Philosopher Says** *
*
* Time is a great healer, *
* but it takes too long. *
*
*

Mrs. Joy C. Howell, #1869, asked for an article on the care and repairing of cassette recorders. We'll try to come up with such an article, but in the meantime, here's a reprint from the March, 1971, Tape Squeal, which contains useful information about all types of tape decks or recorders.

Care and Feeding of Tape Recorders

Proper care and feeding of the tape deck quickly trains it to follow your every command, while neglect gives it a mind of its own.

A little tender loving care should be applied after every ten hours of playing time. Failure to do so allows your deck's heads to build up a magnetic charge that will erase the high frequencies on your tapes and replace them with hiss. (This should make a head demagnetizer as important to you as a take-up reel.) Also, the accumulation of shed oxide and dirt will cause wow and flutter and poor fidelity.

DEMAGNETIZATION

The first step in proper deck care is to demagnetize the tape heads plus all metal guides and lifters. The best job is done when the head demagnetizer is removed very, very slowly from the heads, because quick removal will cause a charge to be left on them. Also, never turn a head demagnetizer on or off within two feet of the heads or your

(Continued on Track 5)

RADIO SPONSOR TRIVIA QUIZ

Remember radio -- TV without pictures? It had coast-to-coast network programs and, yes, sponsors. Can you answer these questions about oldtime radio shows, their sponsors, and the products advertised? Perfect score is 200 points.

1. a. When the Sherlock Holmes series started in 1930, who was its sponsor?... (5 points)
- b. What was unique about the product advertised? (5 points)
- c. When Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce assumed the radio roles of Holmes and Watson, respectively, in 1939, they had two sponsors. Name one. (5 points)
2. The Voice of Firestone (1928-1954) featured a weekly guest vocalist -- a top artist from opera, the concert stage, or musical comedy. By contract, each vocalist was required to sing the opening and closing themes ("If I Could Tell You" and "In My Garden" respectively). Why? (5 points)
3. Billy Jones and Ernie Hare were the most durable song/comedy duo on radio -- and certainly the most adaptable. (Editor's note: They're in the IRC Music Library. No. 301) They started in 1926, sponsored by Happiness Candy, as "The Happiness Boys". But, as they changed sponsors, they changed their duet name to incorporate the product name -- presumably for tenure.
 - a. In 1929, who became their sponsor, and what new name did they adopt? . (10 points)
 - b. Two years later, in 1931, they changed sponsors and their duet name again. Name both (10 points)
4. You've heard about -- and probably have heard one of the numerous re-broadcasts of -- Orson Wells's Mercury Theatre of the Air Halloween Eve '38 broadcast of H. G. Wells's "War of the Worlds". Quick, who sponsored the broadcast? ... (5 points)
5. You probably remember that The Jack Benny Show was sponsored on radio for many years by Jell-O, and then for many years more by Lucky Strike. But who was Jack's first radio sponsor? (5 points)
6. And who was Bob Hope's first radio sponsor? (5 points)
7. Complete this slogan from Fred Allen's Town Hall Tonight: "_____ for the smile of health; _____ for the smile of beauty". (10 points)
8. Information Please attracted a more intellectual audience, so it wasn't immediately saleable. It ran sustaining in spring and summer 1938. But in October 1938 a daring sponsor picked up the tab. Who was it? (5 points)
9. (Editor's Note: Question 9 consists of 25 parts, and will be next month's offering! Since it will be worth 125 points, count 75 points for this month.)
10. Many companies sponsored radioshowes that bore their corporate name. Can you name at least two such shows sponsored by oil companies? (5 points)

(Answers are on track 6. Thanks to Frank Belcour, #1294, for this quiz. It appeared in a local trade publication and he obtained permission for us to use it.)

Harold Rundel, #1704, writes: If you're contemplating the purchase of an in-the-car cassette player - check to see whether or not it has a rewind button. I didn't when I bought my Craig - now I have to remove it, reverse it and use F.F., which to me is a nuisance. Many other makers are guilty of the same practice, which is not mentioned in their promotion, just left to the prospect with a "suspicious mind".

A request has been received for someone in the South Bend area to tape Notre Dame basketball games, preferably on open reel but cassettes would be acceptable. If interested, call Tom Riley, Newton, Iowa, collect, (515) 792-5864, between 12:15 & 12:45, or after 5:15 p.m. Central time. He has several hundred OTR shows to trade, or will pay cash for the games. He will provide the tape and pay the postage costs, etc.

TRADING POST

Free notices for IRC members, concerning tape and related items to sell, buy, trade, etc.

Crescence Stadelbe, D-17 -- wants contacts from anywhere in the state of California. Also would like to hear from single males 35 to 50, especially professional people with general interests.

Frances Tickle, S-63 -- is looking for the following numbers: "Remember Me, I'm the One Who Loves You" by Stuart Hamblin or any vocal; "Moments To Remember", any vocal; and "Green Onions" by Booker T and the MG's or any organ rendition. She also has about 1000 78's, 300 LP's, and stacks of 45's if anyone wants something specific or just wants to trade tapes.

Donald Andrews, S-41 -- is looking for the song "I'm a Little Teapot" by Ronnie Kemper. Has one 78 by Ronnie of which one side is "Bessie Couldn't Help It" and the other side is "Ragtime Cowboy Joe."

Fred Becklenberg, D-13 -- wants information as to where he can purchase a small amount of Telford Clasp envelopes (size 4" x 6-3/8") which are used for mailing cassettes. He would also appreciate information regarding the price of the envelopes.

Fred Becklenberg, D-13 -- is looking for a copy of the editorial "The Americans" by Sinclair Lewis, the Canadian deejay. He will supply the cassette tape.

Gerald Ruark, D-34 -- would like to make contact with someone who regularly tapes "Jazz Lives" and "Jazz Revisited" from WIAN, Indianapolis. He wants "Jazz Revisited" from 8/19/79 and has most of the past shows to trade for the few he does not have.

John di Francesco, S-73 -- wants to hear from anyone with opera or classical music, particularly from radio in years past, on tape.

Keith Bucher, S-45 -- has for sale a Fisher Model MT6210 turntable with AudioTechnica cartridge. Also a selection of rock-and-roll albums. Both are in excellent condition and are reasonably priced.

Ed Malkentine, D-49 -- seeks cassette tapers (personal) and R-R on the following: U.F.O.'s and Flying Saucers - all encounters (close-up contactee) visual or experiences. Also reincarnation (other lives), E.S.P., astro-projection (soul travel), mental telepathy, dreams, bio-rhythms, spirit guides, guardian angels, all psychic sciences, also poetry narrated to music (organ and strings.)

CARE & FEEDING CONTINUED

tape. The surge of current at those moments can strongly magnetize a head or put a magnetic blip on your tape that your machine's erase head won't remove. The same cautions apply to bulk tape erasers and soldering guns.

Finally, if your head demagnetizer has bare metal probes, they should be covered with liquid rubber or masking tape to prevent scratching of the head faces.

CLEANING

The heads, capstan, pinch roller and guides should be cleaned only with the solvent recommended by the manufacturer of your machine. Solvents that are too strong can damage the plastic parts of the heads and harden the rubber pinch roller. Isopropyl alcohol and ethylene dichloride are safely used on most heads and pinch rollers.

If your machine uses pressure pads, they should be cleaned with water because stronger chemicals might loosen the glue that holds them in place. The pads should be changed if they have developed a hard surface or have visibly changed shape.

The playing of a tape on your deck should not closely follow its cleaning because still unevaporated chemicals may damage the backing of your tapes.

TAPE

High quality, name brand tape is a better investment than the cheap or "white box" tapes because it will give you better fidelity and less wear on your recorder. You should also use the tape for which your machine is biased. Consult your owner's manual or dealer for this information.

Bulk tape erasers not only erase tapes quicker but better. You can generally reduce the noise level on brand new blank tape almost 3 dB by bulk erasing it before use.

Also, when a brand new reel of tape is first played, the layers sometimes stick causing wow and flutter. This can be prevented by running the tape through your recorder in the fast forward and rewind modes.

Whether or not you follow the advice of this column will be ultimately reflected by the life of your recorder and the quality of your tapes. Do you want a collection of exact duplicates or only approximate reproductions?

SILENT

MIKE

Our condolences to the family of Henry A. Claise, #1554, of Beverly, Mass., deceased on July 5, 1979.

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Meetings are held in INDIANAPOLIS on the third Sunday of each month at the Leppert & Copeland Mortuary (740 E. 86th Street) at 2:00 pm. GUESTS ARE WELCOME!!!

This Month---

NOVEMBER 18th

Norb Kuzel will give a Demonstration of Time Delay Systems, which give a feeling of actually being in an auditorium while listening.

& Next---

DECEMBER 16th

Christmas show and party. Details next month. RESERVE THIS DATE!!

VOICE OF HISTORY

Two new tapes have been donated. #79 by Wallace Kennedy and #80 by Elmer Fuehr.

VH-79 Carl Sandburg Reads His Poetry, with filler of religious songs. 5" reel.

VH-80 The Innocent Years, The Times of Teddy Roosevelt. A T.V. Doc. on cassette.

Bob Geer, Librarian

Have you ordered from the Voice of History Library lately?

TWO COLOR TAPE MAILING LABELS WITH IRC LOGO.

Reel Size: 3-1/2 x 4-1/4

Cassette Size: 2-1/4 x 4

Price - \$1.75 per pad of 100 - either size.

Order from BOB GEER

1155 MAYNARD DRIVE

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., 46227

When ordering, please specify size.

ANSWERS TO RADIO SPONSOR TRIVIA QUIZ

1. a. G. Washington Coffee.
- b. It was instant coffee, long before today's instants arrived on the scene. It probably was ahead of its time because, if it exists today, it isn't nationally distributed.
- c. Grove's Bromo Quinine: Petri Wine.
2. Because both melodies were composed by Mrs. Harvey Firestone, the sponsor's wife.
3. a. Interwoven Socks: "The Interwoven Pair".
- b. Tastyest: "The Tastyest Jesters" (They made themselves out to be a trio, called Pep, Vim, and Vigor -- words in the Tastyest jingle.)
4. Sorry, no sponsor. Mercury Theatre was on sustaining; what a wealth of publicity a sponsor would have received from that broadcast.
5. Canada Dry.
6. Bromo Seltzer.
7. Sal Hepatica: Ipana (Bristol-Myers was the sponsor).
8. Canada Dry again.
10. Atlantic Family (with Bob Hope); Cities Service Band of America; Cities Service Concerts; Shell Chateau (with Al Jolson); Sinclair Minstrels; Soconyland Sketches; The Standard Hour; Texaco Fire Chief (with Ed Wynn); Texaco Star Theatre.

INDIANA RECORDING CLUB

Sharon Moore, Editor

4215 N. Oxford St.

Indianapolis, IN 46205

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage

PAID

Indianapolis, IN

Permit No. 5217

TO:

Joseph P. Hehn

422 N. 9th St.

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