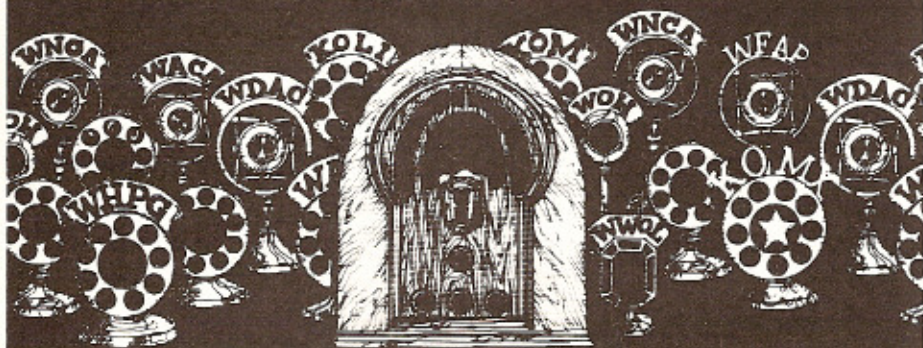


Collector's Corner



Number 11 January 1979 \$1.25



Interview with former choirboy
George Ansbro



Collector's Comments from Bob Burnham

Another year is upon us, isn't it? It seems I'm always in awe at the completion of every year over how I actually made it through. For me, 1978 was a strange, frustrating, fun and exciting year. Much of the latter was the result of my OTR habits and ventures. Actually, my involvement in our hobby is probably the one thing I've done more of for a longer period of time than anything else, including eating and sleeping! I'm sure there are many more fanatics like myself reading this.

During 1978, of course, Collector's Corner was established and the format slowly evolved. In addition to CC's birth, a few other interesting things happened in OTR: Two people I know of announced they would be "quitting" OTR. This may seem to be of relatively low importance, however, one of those persons was Bill Snook of "Reels Only." Mentioning the other person's name at this point, would be irrelevant to the rest of this editorial. At any rate, Bill is the source for much prime material in circulation today. He apparently changed his mind about "quitting," and began selling copies of his masters—his original plan was to sell his actual masters, but it seems he gave up that idea. Bill's efforts restored my faith in an old yet quick and efficient method of acquiring radio shows: BUYING. Yet another phase of OTR collecting further enhances the "buying" method: GROUP BUYING. To Ron Barnett I'm grateful for his implanting this idea in my head.

The typical, average every day collector will spend an average of maybe \$2.00 a reel for the blank tape on which he trades. When trading, in addition he has to spend at least 90 minutes recording the tape, making certain it's properly identified then boxing and shipping to his trading partner (not to mention all the time spent writing letters, exchanging catalogs etc. prior to the actual trade). If the collector wants 20 reels of Escape, then he has to spend at least 30 hours preparing the tapes he's trading for the Escapes, and then he has to spend \$40.00 or more in blank tape and shipping. If he bought the same reels straight from a dealer himself, the cost might be \$200.00, however, he wouldn't have to run his machines for 30 hours, and there would be far less paper work. On top of that there's always the problem of sound quality. Everyone wants only the "best" sound, however, not everyone knows what "quality" sound is and some are not capable of

reproducing it. The solution? Obviously trade only with reputable traders and buy only from reputable sellers. But how can one determine who is reputable and who isn't? That's a topic in itself which would require a whole editorial devoted to it. Generally speaking, however, the dealers who have been around awhile will give satisfactory service, although not all have consistently first rate sound.

A higher price doesn't always mean higher quality, although there are exceptions. The price charged by "Reels Only" is quite reasonable, and worth every cent, and if you're dissatisfied, every effort is made to correct the situation. At least with Bill Snook, the extra cost is well worth it.

But maybe you're a poor collector (financially), and you'd love to buy someone's entire catalog. This is where you implement the powerful forces of a buying group to work in your favor. Contact all your trading cronies and see if they like the idea of buying what you want. No doubt there will be some favorable replies. Ask them to chip in \$10-15 each, and order the tapes. Once they arrive, each person can make copies of them for himself and the originals can later be either donated to a worthy cause or split up among members.

During 1978, I participated in a buying group, and helped to form a new one, and I strongly recommend it. Over what seems like decades I've collected, I've never gotten so much excellent material so fast and at such low cost than what I've received through buying groups. What more can I say?

Aside from the buying groups, the climax of 1978 was missing for me (the October convention), however, the new friendships Collector's Corner has brought is a pleasant consolation. No doubt, 1979 will be another strange year for me, yet I can always count on OTR selling and collecting to put a streak of "normalcy" into the year.

Some of you may be wondering what the status of Collector's Corner will be during the coming year. I don't see any major changes ahead, although there will be some interesting "developments" which will involve some of you. We'll be telling you about that soon. Joe may announce we'll be expanding to 80 pages in a few months, with hard bound glossy covers, but nothing major you see...

But seriously, folks, if our success is indicative of the quality and content then why change? In my next editorial, I'll discuss how not to become a collecting pervert, meanwhile, display your "Honk if you love OTR" sticker prominently. If I ever see one in Michigan, I'm gonna give that person a free reel of shows and a year of CC free. How's that grab ya?



Collectors Corner
presents...

Choirboy to Network Staff Announcer-- ABC's George Ansbro

by Anne Nikl & Joe Webb

"I was a boy soprano. And a friend of mine was also in the church choir, and he was on THE CHILDREN'S HOUR every Sunday. So I would go down to the show with him on the subway. It was about then I became interested in radio."

The former Brooklynite started in broadcasting like many people did—as an NBC guide and page. George was there in 1933 when Radio City opened, and he took a job as an announcer in 1934. One of the young George Ansbro's first assignments included the signing on of NBC stations WJZ or WEAJ. He gradually moved along to other programs to where he is today, an ABC staff announcer, where you can hear him doing voice-overs, station-breaks, and other announcing duties.

George is best known for two types of programs—soaps and musical shows. Musical programs included Manhattan Merry-Go-Round and the American Album of Familiar Music. He announced band remotes for such populars as Eddie Duchin and the Dorsey Brothers. "I really enjoyed doing the musical programs."

But most of his work was on the soaps. Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch was an early one, and some stars got their experience there: Joseph Cotten, Richard Widmark, Frank Lovejoy, all had at one time or another appeared on the program. "Mrs. Wiggs was always in trouble," George told us, "but all the soaps are like that, aren't they? Soaps are stories about people in trouble and trying to get out of it."

A more popular program was Ethel and Albert, and George was this series' first announcer. Peg Lynch wrote and starred in the series. "Peg is quite a lady. Just sitting with her and having a cup of coffee is quite an experience...and she's one of the few people blessed with the ability to write in the same way that she thinks. So many people are funny when they talk, but they aren't when they write. Peg can do both."

The most famous of George's announcing jobs was that for Young Widder Brown. ("If I had ever said 'Widow Brown,' I'd have been off the air the next day for sure!"). George did Widder Brown for eighteen consecutive years—September 1938 to June 1956—the complete run of the program, and George was the only member of the cast to do



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so. "Widder Brown was always a part of my day. I did other soaps and other shows, but I always did Widder Brown."

George also filled in for other announcers when they were on vacation or ailing. While Ben Grauer was away, he would fill in for Jergen's Journal, which featured Walter Winchell. He was "nervous, egotistical, and Walter would admit to that...he was going twenty-four hours a day... always on the run...a man of tremendous influence who had power right into the White House..."

Regarding the OTR hobby, George thinks "it's great." He was one of the guests at the recent FOR convention, and really felt at home when he announced Front Page Farrell and Counterspy and even read a commercial for Kolynos Toothpaste! Like many others, George Ansbro was one of the people who had a hand in making the age of radio truly golden, and OTR fans thank them all.



On producing a modern radio drama by Frank Gilmore

Earlier this fall, I did some research into local radio history and discovered to my surprise that although Springfield, Missouri boasts of twelve radio stations, none had ever aired a locally produced drama.

This intrigued me. I began making some inquiries as to whether some station would be conducive to my putting a Halloween drama together. Several were interested, but only one gave me a firm commitment to air it if I built it.

Despite many interruptions (a death in the family and my being in an explosion) I finally got the script nailed together and began casting for the voices. The drama, entitled "The Madness Dust" called for eight speaking parts. I would take the lead since it was my creation and I knew what I was trying to achieve. Volunteers began offering their services and auditions were held. Some voices were just right...but most were far short of what my "minds eye" was listening for. I compromised a bit and the cast was set.

The next problem was getting the people together to cut a tape. Impossible. So I decided to try something a bit daring. I let each person do their own thing, and then blended and edited the whole thing together on my SelSync machine. The results were gratifying. Only one last minute glitch threatened the whole production. a voice role recorded on a cassette was nearly destroyed when the thing jammed. The actor was out of town by then and I had to go with what I had...consequently the role of Lt. Jordan has a slight gurgle in his voice.

Sound effects were the next hurdles. I went "on location" and recorded most of the effects myself...including getting out of my city's fire truck and recording it several times. Being Chief of the Fire Department helped! The pistol shots were from a brand new Colt 1911A1 I had just purchased. I tried a .38 which was too weak, a .44 magnum which boomed too much, but the .45 ACP had just the right sound on tape.

With everything ready I began editing...and editing...and editing. The air date grew closer and I still wasn't satisfied. Finally at 4:00AM on Halloween morning I called it quits and said it would run as it was.

The local newspapers gave me a terrific buildup. I began sweating. Would the final production live up to their expectations? I was really beginning to think the whole

thing was a dud. My storyline was believable, but I feared there would be too many people comparing me to "War of the Worlds"...with me coming in a very poor second.

As 9:00PM Halloween night approached I was eager to hear the work, but fate stepped in. An arsonist set fire to three houses in Clever and I was out till the wee hours fighting fires. But the next morning, the phone began to ring and I knew the listening public liked what they heard.

The following Sunday the Springfield-News-Leader gave me some flowers in their weekly column of critical comment about local media. I was floating on air. Even though I heard portions of the production that didn't satisfy me, the general public accepted my effort with enthusiasm. The radio station that ran the program, KSMU, received several requests for me to produce further dramas. I said OK...without thinking...and committed myself to doing a family Christmas drama.

Oh well....I don't have anything better to do with my time!



Collector's Comments from Our Readers

Howard Brenner, Mar-Bren Sound, Rochester, NY

Just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the latest issue of CC (November 1978). It was most interesting to see the faces of many friends and traders who till now had been only voices on the phone or signatures on a paper.

My congratulations to both your photographer and layout editor for a fine issue!

((Gee thanks, Howard! Ken Piletic and Bob Burchett are blushing. Ken and Bob took some fine photos, and Bob did a great job on layout.

Howard's comments are typical of all the comments we received on our convention issue. Many of the guests sent their best wishes, many collectors expressed their liking, and even OTRCOB's Chuck Seeley, a man known to have an opinion and saying it (although he continues to mellow) said he enjoyed the issue. One collector said that it was also because of the issue that several of his friends were already making plans to attend FOR '79. Which will be bigger and better than the last (which seems impossible) ---Joe W.))

News News News

One sure prediction for 1979 is that more new material is about to start flowing. But that's true of any year. But from what we here at CC are hearing is that 1979 should be a big year guaranteed to add a lot more reels to your collections!

The first big areas are in comedy, with FIBBER MCGEE and GILDERSLEEVE leading the way. Missing programs and upgrades will start circulation throughout the year. This will be a good year for comedies.

For detectives, upgrades of the Hobbs and Shelly SHERLOCK HOLMES series will be out by March. Previously circulating shows were airchecks of recent rebroadcasts. These, however are copies from the original discs.

A new SAM SPADE called "The Champion Caper" is circulating now, with about 24 new Jack Webb JEFF REGAN, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR also making the rounds. Be sure to watch for even more JOHNNY DOLLAR serials.

The OTR world anxiously awaits the coming of SEARS RADIO PLAYHOUSE on February 5, 1979 on the CBS Radio Network. It is hoped that all stations carrying MYSTERY THEATER will pick up the SEARS show. RADIO PLAYHOUSE is expected to have superior production and performance due to its director, the extremely competent Elliott Lewis. Lewis counts BROADWAY IS MY BEAT, ON STAGE, and SUSPENSE, and the recent ZERO HOUR as part of his directing and/or producing credits. He was, of course, one of radio's finest actors. With his talent, only the administration of the series could remain as a detracting factor. We'll have more next month.

Chuck Seeley has announced a new OTR publication called OTRAFAN. This publication will feature ads of the past and also ads for today's hobby. It is hoped that this will become similar to the BUYER'S GUIDE FOR COMIC FANDOM, the weekly newspaper for comic book collectors. OTRAFAN will publish bi-monthly.

Also on the publication front, Old Radio Warehouse is planning two new publications. One of these will be a co-publishing venture with another fanzine publisher. Details will be forthcoming next month.

Prediction for 1979: Two OTR publications will fold by year-end. The revolving door of fanzines can at times be very disappointing.

COLLECTOR'S CORNER is proud to announce the addition of TERRY SOLOMONSON to its contributing staff. Terry will be contributing logs for our readers.



**Collector's Corner
OTR Log**

SUSPENSE

This issue we continue with our SUSPENSE log. However, we will now be listing two years at a time. This issue will cover 1952 and 1953.

SUSPENSE =1952=

Date	Title	Star(s)
1/7	Case Against Loo Doc	Jeff Chandler
1/14	Fall River Tragedy	Agnes Moorehead
1/21	Perfectionist	Richard Basehart
1/28	Carnival	Joseph Cotten
2/4	Treasure Chest of Don Jose	J Carroll Naish
2/11	Odd Man Out	James Mason
2/18	Track of the Cat	Richard Widmark
2/25	Killing in Las Vegas	Linda Darnell
3/3	Thirty-Nine Steps	Herbert Marshall
3/10	Watery Grave	Joseph Cotten
3/17	Wreck of the Old 97	Frank Lovejoy
3/24	Murder of Necessity	Robert Young
3/31	Lady Pamela	Deborah Kerr
4/7	Remember Me	Dan Duryea
4/14	Mate-Bram	Richard Widmark
4/21	Diary of Captain Scott	Herbert Marshall
4/28	Shooting of Billy the Kid	Frank Lovejoy
5/5	Frankie and Johnny	Dinah Shore
5/12	Missing Person	Macdonald Carey
5/19	Flight of the Bumble Bee	Fred MacMurray
5/26	The Death of Me	George Murphy
6/2	A Good and Faithful Servant	Jack Benny
6/9	Concerto for Killer and Eyewitness	Elliot Lewis
===OFF THE AIR===		
9/15	Sorry, Wrong Number	Agnes Moorehead
9/22	Jack Ketch	Charles Laughton
9/29	Vidoco's Final Case	Charles Boyer
10/6	Diary of Dr. Pritchard	Sir Cedric Hardwicke
10/13	How Long is the Night	Richard Widmark
10/20	Death of Barbara Allen	Anne Baxter
10/27	Allan in Wonderland	Cornel wilde
11/3	Frankenstein	Herbert Marshall
11/10	Frightened City	Frank Lovejoy
11/17	Death and Miss Turner	Agnes Moorehead
11/24	Man Alive	Paul Douglas
12/1	Big Heist	John Hodiak
12/8	Joker Wild	Cathy and Elliot Lewis
12/15	Man with two Faces	Lloyd Nolan
12/22	Artic Rescue	Joseph Cotten
12/29	Melody in Dreams	John Lund

=1953=

Date	Title	Star(s)
1/5	Mystery of Edwin Drood (Pt 1)	Herbert Marshall
1/12	Mystery of Edwin Drood (Pt 2)	Herbert Marshall
1/19	Gold of the Adomar	John Hodiak; Joe Kearns
1/26	Spencer Brothers	Richard Widmark
2/2	Plan X	Jack Benny
2/9	Man who Cried Wolf	William Powell
2/16	Love and Death of Joaquin Murietta	Victor Mature
2/23	St James Infirmary Blues	Rosemary Clooney
3/2	The Storm	Frank Lovejoy and Joan Banks
3/9	Dead Alive	Herbert Marshall
3/16	The Mountain	John Hodiak
3/23	The Signalman	Agnes Moorehead
3/30	Tom Dooley	Joseph Cotten
4/6	Around the World	Van Johnson
4/13	The Great Train Robbery	Fred MacMurray
4/20	Public Defender	Frank Lovejoy
4/27	The Man Within	Herbert Marshall
5/4	Othello (part 1)) Richard Widmark; Cathy) and Elliott Lewis
5/11	Othello (part 2)	
5/18	Vial of Death	Lloyd Nolan
5/25	Pigeon in the Cage	Dick Haymes
6/1	Vision of Death	Ronald Colman
6/8	Mystery of the Marie Celeste	Van Heflin
====OFF THE AIR====		
9/14	Message to Garcia	Richard Widmark
9/21	Empty Chair	Agnes Moorehead
9/28	Hellfire	John Hodiak
10/5	Action	Herbert Marshall
10/12	The Shot	Van Heflin
10/19	My True Love's Hair	Jeff Chandler
10/26	Butch Schultz	Broderick Crawford
11/2	Ordeal in Donner Pass	Edmund O'Brien
11/9	Needle in the Haystack	William Holden
11/16	The Moonstone (part 1)) Peter Lawford
11/23	The Moonstone (part 2)	
11/30	Wreck of the Maid of Athens	Agnes Moorehead
12/7	Trent's Last Case	Ronald Colman
12/14	Mystery of Marie Roget	Cornel Wilde
12/21	Twas the Night Before Christmas	Greer Garson
12/28	The Queen's Ring	James Mason

Last issue, we mention that a cassette copy of Raymond Edward Johnson's Shakespeare readings (from the FOR convention) and MURDER AT MIDNIGHT: The Ape Song was available for \$4.00. Please send all orders to Joe Webb, 5 Valley View Drive, Yonkers, NY 10710. Keep all cassette requests separate from Old Radio Warehouse orders. This change in ordering is due to the fact that Ray has some commitments that will be keeping him quite busy in the coming months.

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REEL 1209 ESCAPE #10

Mars is Heaven 6/2/50
Serenade for a Cobra
Sundown 6/23/50
Blood Bath 6/30/50
Shipment of Mute Fate
Shark Bait 7/14/50
Yellow Wake 7/21/50
Poison 7/28/50
Two Came Back 8/4/50
Red Forest 8/11/50
The Footprint 8/18/50
Crossing Paris 8/25/50

REEL 1435 BOSTON BLACKIE

#31 Murder in music room
#32 Blackie kidnapped
#117 Harmonica man dies
#118 Construction robbery
#121 Butcher boy gang
#122 Burning house
#125 \$50 shoe shine
#126 Lighthouse ghost
#127 Exploding car case
#128 Old #86 is missing
#129 Death wish
#130 Dead Aunt Sarah

REEL 1210 ESCAPE #11

Sleeping Draught 10/1/50
Roulette 10/8/50
Power of Hammer 10/15/50
Time Machine 10/22/50
Seven Hours to Freedom
Earth Abides-1-11/5/50
Earth Abides-2-11/12/50
Journey into Fear 11/19/50
Funeral Fires 11/26/50
This Side of Nowhere
Passenger to Bali 12/10/50
Wild Jack Rhett 12/17/50

REEL 1436 JEFF REAGEN

Man with a Key 10/2/48
Prodigal Daughter 7/17/48
Lonesome Lady 7/24/48
Too Many Mrs. Rogers 10/9/48
Lady With Hair 11/6/48
Guy From Gower Gulch
11/13/48
Man who liked Mountains
8/7/48
Diamond Quartet 8/14/48
Man in the Door 8/28/48
House By the Sea 9/4/48
Cain and Abel and the
Santa Maria 9/11/48

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1979 NEW YEARS SPECIALS

COMEDY

REEL 12049 LIFE WITH LUIGI

First date 1/19/49
Dancing lessons 3/27/49
Block Party 5/1/49
Goes to Race track 6/5/49
Civil Defense 2/26/52
Loses his store 3/4/52
Income tax problems 3/11/52
3 most important words
3/25/52
Luigi opens wrong letter
4/1/52
Easter party 4/8/52
Luigi can't sleep 4/15/52
Antique dealer's dance
4/22/52

REEL 1500 GREAT GILDERSLEEVE

Leaves Wistful Vista and
goes to Summerfield 8/31/41
Leroy begins work as a
paperboy 9/14/41
A girl friend for Marjorie
9/21/41
Gildersleeve gets the
hiccups 9/28/41
City Government is
investigated 10/5/41
Leroy pulls pranks at school
10/19/41
Oliver visits 10/26/41
Baby sitter Gildersleeve
11/2/41
Birdie quits her job
11/9/41
Thanksgiving guest 11/16/41
Leroy and his friends smoke
cigars 11/23/41
A mute canary 11/30/41

12050 MIXED BAG—COMEDY

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CHASE & SANBORN 101'ST
ANNIVERSARY SHOW
11/14/65-w/Bergen &
McCarthy, Fred Allen
(1 hour)
CHASE & SANBORN 102'ND
ANNIVERSARY SHOW
11/13/66-w/Bergen &
McCarthy, others.
(1 hour)
CHASE & SANBORN HOUR
9/21/41 Bergen, McCarthy,
W.C. Fields star
FRED ALLEN SHOW 5/11/47
w/Bing Crosby in a
western opera.
RECOLLECTIONS AT 30
7/4/56-NBC's 30'th
anniversary special

REEL 12048 EDDIE CANTOR

w/Abbott & Costello
5/6/48
w/L. Melchoir 5/13/48
"Inside Hollywood"
5/20/48
Cantor goes to UCLA
5/27/48
Receives threatening
letter 11/6/48
Eddie looks for a
bodyguard 11/13/48
Eddie abducted-w/Jack
Benny 11/20/48
Thanksgiving 11/27/48
Eddie Returns 12/4/48
ROUND THE HORNE (BBC)
"Blue Max" take off
"Plastic Max"
African story
Last show
(ROUND THE HORNE-circa
1960's)

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CATALOGS: Catalog #1 of shows is \$1.00. Our pre-recorded cassette catalog is being readied for mailing. Catalog #2 will be out in 1979.

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Shanrock \$6.75 ea., 5 for \$31.00
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REEL #40803 X MINUS ONE

- 1-L No Contact 4/24/55; Perigi's Wonderful Dolls 6/5/55; A Logic Named Joe 12/28/55
- 2-L Parade 1/25/56; Skulking Permit 2/15/56; Junkyard 2/22/56
- 1-R Surface Tension 2/28/56; A Gun for Dinosaur 3/7/56
- 2-R A Pail of Air 3/28/56; How To 4/3/56; Star Bright 4/10/56

REEL #40836 FORD THEATER and GRAND MARQUEE (Ford Theater is 60 min ea)

- 1-L FT: A Star is Born; GM: Wedding In Columbia 8/6/46 w/ Jim Ameche
- 2-L FT: The Silver Cord 4/18/48; GM: Love That Is
- 1-R FT: Ellery Queen's 'Adventure of the Bad Boy'; GM: A Woman's Place
- 2-R FT: Storm in a Teacup 1/11/48; GM: Mouse or Man 8/20/46

REEL #40858 LONE RANGER-1954

- 1-L 2363 Mystery Fires; 2364 Squint-Eye; 2365 Incident on the River
- 2-L 2366 Border Intrigue; 2369 Man on the Ridge; 2371 Glory Road
- 1-R 2377 Flaming Decoy; 2378 Three Thieves; 2379 The Escape
- 2-R 2381 Silver Bullet for Speck; 2382 The Killer's Gun
- 2384 Widow's Spider Web

REEL #40964 GREAT GILDERSLEEVE

- 1-L 8/31/41 Leaves Wistful Vista and goes to Summerfield; 9/14/41 Leroy becomes paperboy; 9/21/41 Girlfriend for Marjorie
- 2-L 9/28/41 Gildy gets hiccups; 10/5/41 City government is investigated; 10/19/41 Leroy plays pranks at school
- 1-R 10/26/41; Oliver visits; 11/2/41 Gildy babysits; 11/9/41 Birdie quits job
- 2-R 11/16/41 Thanksgiving guest; 11/23/41 Leroy and friends smoke cigars; 11/30/41 Mute Canary

OLD RADIO WAREHOUSE, 5 Valley View Dr, Yonkers, NY 10710 (914) 375-0175

LATE ARRIVALS, continues.....

REEL #9100 ****MISCELLANEOUS NEW/RARE SHOWS****

- 1-L CASEY, CRIME PHOTOGRAPHER "Cupid is a Killer" 5/19/49
- SAM SPADE "The Champion Caper" 8/7/49
- GRAND CENTRAL STATION "Too Young to Understand" 9/18/48
- 2-L AMAZING MR. MALONE (P. Lovejoy) "Cleanliness is Next to Godliness"
- THE WHISTLER "Boiling Point" AFRS #14
- MURDER AT MIDNIGHT "The Ape Song"
- 1-R THE FALCON "The Big Talker" 4/29/51
- THE FALCON "Proud Papa" 6/6/51
- GREEN HORNET "Stolen Gun Racket"
- 2-R FRANK MERRIMWELL "Front Page Story" 11/13/48
- TOMORROW Civil Defense Drama with a star-laden cast, featuring Orson Welles as narrator----great show! (60 minutes)

REEL #40927 5-part YOURS TRULY, JOHNNY DOLLAR serials (each part- 15 min.)

- 1-L Jolly Roger Fraud 1-R Plant Agent Matter
- 2-L LaMar Matter 2-R Clinton Matter

Just in!

UNDER WESTERN SKIES #4 LONE RANGER ISSUE!

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