

Vol 1 No. 5

August 1970

July was slower than June since many people cut down on trading and take vacations. We went to Lake George in New York the first week of August. Details will be mentioned later. The Southern Conn. Lo-Fi Radio Buffs (Jay Hickerson, Sal Trapani, Jack Miller, Mel Shlank, Bill Smerckanicz) had their first annual summer picnic at the home of Jay Hickerson. Would you believe no radio programs were listened to at all (to the relief of the wives). Food and games were enjoyed by all.

You may wonder about the different printing methods. When I ran off the last copy I broke the school's ditto machine. The principal thought it may be a good idea to invest in a used machine which the group did. We purchased a used mimeograph machine for \$45. Since we are buying our own paper we are using both sides. Until I find that I am going broke this newsletter will be free to all my trading friends and a few other special people. All copies go to Charles Ingersoll whom I've told to reprint anything he wishes for Radio Dial.

4th class mail went up 15 per cent but will not be in effect until a later date. I have found a perpetual calendar very handy in checking dates of programs. I got mine from The World Almanac. Was Jack Benny always on Sunday? The following numbered programs are not Sundays and if you have a different date please send it along: #1408, 1409, 1014, 1016, 649, 419. I have also noticed leakage (track 1 onto 3, 4 onto 2, etc.) on some 4-track recordings. This happens sometimes with machines with reversible direction, especially Ampex. This can happen if two machines are feeding into one. This might be something to check into.

DEATHS: Preston Foster, Barry Wood, John J. Anthony, Leith Stevens. Leith Stevens was the musical director for some Escape and Pursuit programs as well as many others. He is best known in radio and television for the theme music to Hawaii 5-0. He also wrote many pieces of music for the screen and concert stage. Stevens also wrote the music for Star Trek. Dead also is Frank Leonard, cartoonist who created Mickey Finn.

There was a nice article about Sandra Gould (Miss Duffy) in July 11, 1970 issue of TV Guide. Bruce Ruggles thinks "Whistler" theme was used by Bob Becker. He also cautions the practice of double-speeding to dub unless you have an equalizer (which many machines have). I now have the complete version of Escape-Leiningen and the Ants and two complete Suspense versions.

HERE AND THERE: (New friends will have addresses)

Dick Ayers suffered a slipped disc recently but is getting better.

Eolfe Blaess has been helping a friend build a house this summer.

Tom Cole is interested in Fu Manchu, David Harding, Mandrake, Little Orphan Annie, Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon, Bobby Benson, Frank Merriwell, and any show broadcast on 10/28/35 or on Oct. 28 in general. Also TV shows before 1955. Tom is 35, married, has a boy, 8, and a girl, 7 months. He has been involved in the Air Force/Strategic Air Command for several years. Tom now works for Bonney Forge and Tool Inc., has written 9 articles for the local paper and writes a monthly story about radio for the plant magazine.

Charles Ingersoll, Radio Dial, Box 190, Cloquet, Minn. 55720.

"Charlie" enjoyed the last bulletin and mentions that he tries to get away to his wilderness cabin with his puppy Mr. Pedro as much as possible.

Ed Corcoran, 39 Glenwood Rd. South Windsor, Conn. 06074. Ed is looking for Hilltop House, Doctor's Wife, Death Valley Days, and Latitude Zero. I've mentioned Ed in previous newsletters. Ed started collecting in the late 50's and at that time knew almost every collector in the country (There were less than 50).

Vern Eldridge is married with 3 children, is a TV technician, and besides radio collects books, articles, and records on the strange and the unusual (parapsychology, ESP, flying saucers, etc.). He is also interested in BBC programs and big band programs and tributes. He also does some work with the blind which is something all of us could do, making available our radio programs to the blind.

Meade Frierson III, 3705 Woodvale Rd., Birmingham, Ala 35223. Meade specializes in science fiction and horror. He is 30 and a lawyer. Programs he is interested in are: K-L (he has over 100), Dim. X, SF 68, 2000 plus, Exploring Tomorrow, CBS Radio Workshop, Theater 5, Escape, Theater 10:30, Suspense, Mysterious Traveler, Quiet Please, Tales of the Supernatural, Weird Circle, Arch Oboler's Plays, Black Mass. He also puts out a magazine about radio science fiction (Static Flutter and Pop). Meade feels that doublespeaking in dubbing might distort. I haven't received too much comment about this question I put in last month's magazine.

I visited John Furman while in Lake George but just missed him. I talked for a while with his parents. He recently married. He has 8 tape recorders (I still have 2, Don Marie has about 9, Roger Hill about 4). How many do you have? John is 29 and works for the Burnt Hills Central School as custodian and bus driver. He started collecting 2 years ago with a very poor copy of the Green Hornet.

Bill Hennessey, back from Multi-Con 70, was recently named St. Louis County director of welfare. Bill, 43, has worked for the county since 1963.

Roger Hill will be teaching a course at San Francisco State College on Radio Programming using many of the texts put out by Nostalgia Book Club. One of his purposes is to have the younger people understand the influence of radio on the "older" generation and perhaps lessen the generation gap. He will cover 1925-1965.

Dick Hayes is teaching a course in marine biology during the summer.

Jay Hickerson (that's me) besides many other things is trying to get at least one of every different band broadcast. Look around for any band that wasn't that well known.

Don Koehnemann is looking for details about the song "Foolish Little Boy." Don mentions he heard from a trader that 1.0 mil tends to stretch on start-up and that this may account for poor beginnings. Also poor beginnings could result from adjusting the volume control. He also mentions that: Dave Goldin (Radio Yesteryear) is working for CBS and is taping their entire library; The collection of Northwestern Univ. is being taped for trading; a Hugh Carlson is dubbing from disc many early Fibber McGee.

Jim Lane, Rt. 3, Quitman, Ga. 31643. Jim has a few hundred programs and just started trading recently. Jim also went to Multicon 70. He is 33, single, and has several hobbies; collects antique radios, ham radio, plays the guitar, and dabbles in photography.

Father William O'Rourke, 6310 South Claremont Ave. Chicago, Ill. 60636. Father O'Rourke has over 500 programs and was responsible for my getting through Don K and Chuck S many of the Jack Benny.

Fred Province is a man of many interests. He is very active in scouting and is the squadron advisor for the Aviation Explorer Squadron 872 B.S.A. He and his children hold awards in scouting. John, 4 years ago received the Hornaday Conservation Medal, scouting's third highest award. At the same time he received the God and Country Medal, highest religious award. Last year Sue Province received the God and Community

Medal, highest religious award for girl scouting. She was the youngest girl to do so.

I visited Don Racette while in Lake George, his wife Eileen and 2 young children. Don is in charge of the Audio-visual department at the school where he works and does many activities with his tape recorders besides radio programs. His radio career started when someone, to fill out a tape of music, sent a radio program.

Sal Trapani did the cover for the newsletter.

Chuck Schaden's radio program is continuing very well. He is able to interview many interesting personalities in the area.

ODDS AND ENDS: What does tape cost? I can buy Concert for 99¢ (1800 in lots of 100) and 79¢ (1200 in lots of 50). Don't forget a dehumidifier especially if you keep your tapes in the basement. Has anyone has experience with mold forming on tapes? Let me know if this newsletter is worthwhile. It takes a lot of time but is worth it if you find it useful and entertaining. I have had many encouraging comments so far.

If any of you have copies of Radio Guide or similar early radio magazines I am interested in them, especially for articles for this newsletter. Vern Eldridge just acquired some.

I recently spent over 4 hours talking to Don Brush, another Connecticut trader. Don's address: Donald Brush, 19 Greenhouse Blvd. West Hartford, Conn 06110. Don is married, has 5 children, and is a professional organist. He has been collecting for over 5 years and has over 2000 programs. He is a good friend of Dr. Barry Brooks. Dr. Brooks is a dentist in the Boston area who is constantly taping and playing programs for his patients. Dr. Brooks has well over 10,000 programs. Don is also a very good friend of Ed Corcoran. Don is especially interested in The Aldrich Family.

I'm rather green at using this mimeograph machine and I apologize for some of the pages. I hope the next issue will be less sloppy and more readable.

NEW TRADING FRIEND: Tom Rockey, Rt 5, Valley High, Newark, Ohio 43055; Tom recently started collecting and is especially interested in Tommy Dorsey.

Until next time
Hang by your thumbs
Write if you get work

Jay Hickerson

1. What day and time was Jack Benny on radio for so many years?
2. What date did Jack Benny appear on the Ed Sullivan show?
3. What was the exact date of the first broadcast of his own show, what was the sponsor, and the network?
4. Who was Jack's first gag writer that helped shape his radio personality?
5. What was Mary Livingston's real name and how old was she when Jack Benny met her at the May Company?
6. What did Mary do on her first performance on Jack's show?
7. Who were Jack's 4 writers during the late 40's and 50's?

The above questions were taken from the Mar 31, 1947 edition of Newsweek that Bill Blalock sent me. I tried to ask questions that aren't answered in The Great Radio Comedians. Answers are on last page.

A BACKWARD GLANCE

Leo Rosenberg at KDKA, Pittsburgh became the first radio news broadcaster of record in 1920. Other early newsmen and radio columnists were Mark Hawley, Frank Singiser, Gabriel Heatter, Boake Carter, Walter Winchell, and John B. Kennedy. By 1935 news, sports, and weather reports accounted for about 8½ per cent of network broadcasting time. All news broadcasts were live until 1937 when NBC broadcast a transcribed description of the Hindenburg Zeppelin crash on May 6, 1937. Herbert Morrison was the Chicago announcer whose voice was heard. Radio sometimes went to elaborate extremes to cover an event. "For the inauguration of President Frank Delano Roosevelt in January, 1937, for example, one network set up one complete master control booth under the East steps of the Capitol in Washington, a cue transmitter on top of the 555-foot high Washington Monument, a blimp equipped with a short-wave transmitter, employed two commentators who could speak French and Spanish, used 18 announcers and 20 engineers, and 30 microphones."

Technician Engineer
June, 1970

"Victrola music, played into the air over a wireless telephone was picked up by listeners on the wireless receiving station which was recently installed here for patrons interested in wireless experiments. The concert was heard Thursday night about 10 o'clock and continued 20 minutes. Two orchestra numbers, a soprano solo - which rang particularly high and clear through the air - and a juvenile 'talking piece' constituted the program.

The music was from a Victrola, pulled up close to the transmitter of a wireless telephone in the home of Frank Conrad, Wilkinsburg. Dr. Conrad is a wireless enthusiast and puts on the wireless concerts periodically for the entertainment of the many people in this district who have wireless sets. - - - sets on sale here in our store - \$10.00 up."

Thus, Dr. Conrad, a Westinghouse engineer who conducted experiments during World War I for the Signal Corps became the world's first disc jockey and responsible for the first paid advertisement by the Joseph Horne Company.

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Dr. Conrad was a major instrument in establishing KDKA, Pittsburgh, which began its history Nov. 2, 1920 by broadcasting Harding-Cox election returns.

Pittsburgh Sun: Sept. 29, 1920
Courtesy of Bill Blalock

TWIDDLING THE DIALS

A friend of mine is in the radio business. The other day he was on the phone in conversation with a woman in obvious need of a repairman. My friend assured her that he would send a man around at once, jotted down the name and address, and handed it to a service man. Fifteen minutes later the service man returned. His face registered extreme disgust.

"Well, what was the trouble?" said my friend.

"Nothing - nothing at all," the service man growled. "She ordered that set by phone from a department store bargain ad not noticing the 'without accessories' copy and. . ."

"And I suppose something was missing," my friend broke in grinning.

"I'll say there was," the repairman went on. "No tubes in the set, no batteries, no antenna - - not even a loudspeaker. She was just sitting there twiddling the dials and expecting the music to come out through the pores in the wood I guess."

Excerpts from article by James E.
Smith from Popular Science: July, 1925
Courtesy of Bill Blalock

ANSWERS:

1. Sunday; 7-7:30
2. March 29, 1932
3. Monday, May 2, 1932; Canada Dry Ginger Ale; NBC-Blue
4. Harry Conn
5. Sadye Marks; 17 yrs. old
6. She read a short poem supposedly written by a somewhat addled fan, Mary Livingston
7. John Tackaberry, Milt Josefsberg, Sam Perrin, George Balzer