



HELLO AGAIN

A PERSONAL MESSAGE: Happy St. Patrick's Day...The cover was drawn by Dave Howe and redrawn on a stencil by my son, Jeff...Featured this month is a list of all stations I know of carrying old time radio which is not syndicated rebroadcasts or new network material such as CBS Radio Mystery Theater...Next issue I would like to mention those people who only trade cassettes; not those who trade both reel and cassette but cassette only. Write and let me know.

IN FOND MEMORY;; Benjamin Homer, 57, Feb 12; composer and arranger; wrote "Sentimental Journey"...Ben Blue, 73, Mar 8; comedian...Joseph Dunninger, 82, Mar 9; magician and mentalist. He had his own radio show in the 40's.

PUBLICATIONS: Chuck Schaden, Box 421, Morton Grove, Il 60053 puts out "Nostalgia Newsletter and Radio Guide." It is monthly and \$6.00 a year. It covers all the radio programs being heard in the Chicago area which Chuck does and also covers news in the Chicago area...I talked with Thomas DeLong on the phone. Tom is writing the book "Mighty Music Box" which will cover music in radio. I will keep you informed of the progress of the book...Received latest issue of "Magic Sounds" written by Craige Snader Jr, Apartado 12-655, Mexico 12, DF, Mexico. It is published quarterly and is \$2.00 a year. It is the only publication I know of that is about magic on radio. If you want a present for a friend send \$2.00 for a very unusual supplement. Send by May 1st...RECEIVED latest issue of "Radio Historian" written quarterly for \$5.00 a year; Box 11983, Shorewood, Wisc 53211. Highlights include articles about The Great Gildersleeve and Billy Jones and Ernie Hare.

CATALOGS: Neil Lane, 787 Dodge Trail, Westville, Ind 46391; Reels 77-128; looking for FIBBER MCGEE, J BENNY, OUR MISS BROOKS...Bill Sabis, 5715 NW 4th Pl, Gainesville, Fla 32607; 153 reels; music, bands, radio shows especially science fiction. Bill has an extensive catalog of his X-1 and DIMENSION X which goes into more detail than I've ever seen

JACK BENNY: Peter Pearson, 288 Lake St, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada has a 3 hour program called "This was Jack Benny?" It features a complete show from the 30's plus one hour of Benny and F Allen... The following was an article in the Nov 5, 1932 issue of Radio Guide: Comedian Jack Benny and Ted Weems' Orchestra will make their debut on the Canada Dry program Sunday, October 30 from 9 to 9:30 p.m. on CBS. Broadcasts for the first 3 weeks will originate from New Orleans. Thereafter the twice-weekly series; Thursday at 7:15 and Sundays at 9:00-will be heard from New York. Sid Silver will serve as "annoyer" for Benny on the show...

Putnam has signed up Irving Fein, Jack Benny's personal manager-producer-confidante for the past 28 years, to write "an intimate biography" of the late comedian. It is scheduled for late summer and will have an introduction by George Burns and excerpts from some of his most popular radio and TV shows...I received a very nice letter from Frank Nelson who was on the JACK BENNY SHOW for many years...Two corrections on my listing which many of you sent for: Jack Benny 12/11/49 guest should be Frank Lahey, coach of Notre Dame...3/8/55 should be 5/8/55.

BLANK TAPE: New prices for Oregon Magnetics tape from John Olsen, Box 321, Baker, Ore 97814; 1800' \$66.00 for case of 50; 90 day guar-

\$5.50 IS DUE FOR ANOTHER YEAR

antee.

NEW ADDRESSES: Don Fisher, 125 Grandview, Bennington, Vt 05201... Char Cosgrove, 1700 Argonne Dr, Concord, Cal 94518...Matt Arim, Box 580, Mill Valley, Cal 94941

HERE AND THERE: New Friends: J Murray Jones, 715 Downie St, Peterborough, ~~XXXX~~ Ontario, Canada...Clyde Benge Jr, 5561 Heil Ave, Huntington Beach, Cal 92649...Edwards Electronics, 1320-19th St, Lubbock, Tex 79401... Sam Zitron, 1709 E 34th St, Brooklyn, NY 11234...Bill Sabis, 5715 NW 4th Pl, Gainesville, Fla 32601. Bill is especially interested in Science fiction.

Old Friends: Chuck Huck, 43230 River Rd, Warrenville, Ill 60555 is looking for any of the Benny tributes. Chuck also mentions that the W C Field Columbia LPs mentioned 2 months ago contain much material found in other lp's...Raleigh Barker, 6206 Bankside Dr, Houston, Tex 77035 wants EDDIE BRACKEN SHOW from 1946-47; a copy of the start of Metropolitan Opera broadcast of Jan 4th which had tribute to Milton Cross; also lloking for Hans Conried in series other than MY FRIEND IRMA...Bill Carr, Box 215, Chaumont, NY 13622 is looking for VIC AND SADE...Arthur Blair, 71 Surrey St, San Fran, Cal 94131 would like more information on: Pelican record "For Whom the bell Tolls" with G Cooper and I Bergman (Just found it. It is LUX 2/12/45). Can't find info, however, on Command Performance "Three Muskateers" with E Flynn. Also Art would like more information on YANKEE YARNS...Steve is starting a rental service for \$4.00 for a 6-hour reel. Write Steve Albert, 132 Withington Rd, Newtonville, Ma 02160...Tom Repko, 126 E Marigold St, Munhall, Pa 15120 wants FIBBER MCGEE shows from 1943... Pill Sabis, mentioned in new friends, is lloking for a log of QUIET PLEASE. Wants DIMENSION X, X-1, 2000 PLUS, BEYOND TOMORROW, EXPLORING TOMORROW, TALES OF TOMORROW. Also wants good quality CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER...Franklyn Belcour, 121 Day St, Auburndale, Ma 02166 is looking for A TRIBUTE TO NOEL COWARD from NPR...Bob Proctor's new phone number is (517) 423-5314...Ray Gurick, 462 N Broadway, Gloucester, NJ 08030 is selling reels of Jack Benny TV shows for \$10.00 per reel. 16 shows are on a reel. Also has for trade complete reel of Gene Autry's MELODY RANCH being rebroadcast...Mar-Bren (Howard Brenner), 420 Pelham Rd, Rochester, NY 14610 has 3 new LP's including 2 INNER SANCTUM, 2 BABY SNOOKS, and a 1935 Rogers and Hart comedy "Let's Have Fun." Check your record store...George Miller, 9733 S 51st Ave, Oak Lawn, Ill 60453 has his AMOS AND ANDY TV log still available for \$1.25. Also he has a collection of 16mm films of old TV shows like AMOS AND ANDY, JACK BENNY, DUFFY'S TAVERN...Mel Simons, 37 Beverly Rd, Brookline, Ma 02167 wants pictures of radio stars (not newspaper); radio premiums, old radios, FRIARS ROASTS and GUY LOMBARD...Bruce Ruggles, Box 3000, North Bay, Ontario, Canada 81B-8K5 is looking for complete CHICAGO THEATER OF THE AIR...Bob Vito, 1532 Ryder St, Brooklyn, NY 11234 has for sale: complete tape library with many rare shows; also many 16" and 12" radio records (Joslon, People are Funny, etc.); extremely rare radio books and magazines, scripts and photos. Send for free list and include subjects of interest...

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: Richard Mann, 11821 Monroe Way, Thornton, Col 80233 is looking for more people getting the special CBS press release describing each RADIO MYSTERY THEATER; Also he is looking for a log (Radiolog put out by Pat Murray continues a running log; the latest issue is enclosed)...NIGHTWATCH is a 5-minute mystery drama that started Feb. 3rd over many Mutual stations. Peter Lee tells each story...Tom Brannan has a big band show on Sundays from 6 to 7p.m on KADA-AM 12:30 on the dial in Ada, Okla

SEVERAL months ago I asked for the most exciting ESCAPE and SUSPENSE. Only Don Frey and Randy Eidemiller sent in responses. They both agreed on the following; ESCAPE: Evening Primrose; Three Skeleton Key; Leiningen vs. the Ants; Present Tense...SUSPENSE: Dead Ernest; Three O'Clock; Whole Town Sleeping; Donovan's Brain; Sorry Wrong Number.

From Alex McFee, Box 1105, Banning, Cal 92220; KFI, Los Angeles rebroadcasting THIS IS YOUR FBI Sundays at 8:30...I am looking for the LP of early 60's of Jack Kerouac reading his poems with Steve Allen on piano...Looking for more QUIET PLEASE...Want BOB AND RAY, WOR 7/12/73-1/1/74 (skits only).

ARE YOU LOOKING for new traders? Have you sent out catalogs hoping to meet new people and never get a reply. Well, I have and so to try and remedy this, I will at the end of May compile a list of people who definitely will trade radio shows and any related material. To be included 1. kind of tape 2. method of recording (cassette, $\frac{1}{4}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ -track open reel, etc.) 3. Name address, etc, 4. speed 5. how many tapes at once... If interested and if I can get enough response send a SASE and 25¢ to cover material used to Edward Carr, 629 East Race St, Stowe, Pa 19464.

LATE NEWS AND TIDBITS: Dead at 55 is Susan Hayward on Mar. 14th.

WHAT FOLLOWS is a summary of stations carrying original old time radio.

WUWM-FM; 89.7; Milwaukee, Wis; Sun 7:30-9pm "Sounds of Yesterday" host-Jed Dolnick; misc. shows and historical background; program guide
 WCONY-FM; 91.3; Syracuse, NY; Sat 7-8pm, Sun 6-7pm; "Sounds of Yesterday" Allen Rockford hosts miscellaneous shows and tributes; Program
 WNAC-TV; Ch 7; Boston; 1-1:30 daily; "Take One" Paul Benzaquin-host Mel Simons guests once a week; talks and plays excerpts of old radio
 WVAC-FM; 88.1; Adrian, Mich; 60min. a week; Bob Proctor, with help from Pat Murray, looks in depth at personalities; misc. shows
 WDBQ-AM; 1490; Dubuque, Iowa; 6:30-7pm, 2:30-3am Mon-Fri; "Studio B" Hosts: Paul Hemmer and Bill Zwack; one show daily; program guide
 WCBU-FM; 89.9; Peoria, Ill; 5-6:30 Sat, 6-7:30 Thur; "Do You Remember These" Roy Bright host variety of shows; also on WSSR-FM; 91.9 Springfield, Ill 10:30-1200am

The following are all hosted and/or shows supplied by Chuck Schaden

WLTD-AM; 1590; Chicago, Ill; Sat 1-5pm; "Those Were the Days" vari.
 WLTD-AM; Sat 10-11am; "Radio for Kids"; childrens shows.
 WLTD-AM; 7.10am Mon-Fri; "Hall Closet" variety; all of these have program guide
 WBEZ-FM; 91.5; Chicago; 8-9pm Thur, 8-9 Sat; "When Radio was Radio"
 WTAQ-AM; 1300; LaGrange, Ill; 8-1030 Mon; "Hall Closet Special"
 WLTD-AM; 6:30-7pm Mon-Fri; "Air Theater"; dramas

KFML-AM; 1390; Denver, Col; 11am-1pm Sun; John Dunning and Harry Tufts hosts complete shows with history

CFRN-FM; 100; Edmonton, Alberta; 8:30-9 Sat; one show
 KVI-AM; 570; Seattle, Wash; 7:8 daily; "Theater of the Mind" variety of complete shows; program guide

Hope this list helps a few of you, That's it for this month.

Write if you get work; hang by your thumbs

AGNES MOOREHEAD MEMORIAL CLUB

Roy Buchanan, Founder and President in Memorium 1945-1975

CAROL A. RODGERS - PRESIDENT

826 GLYNDON STREET, S.E.

VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180

February 19, 1975

Dear Members and Friends,

On June 16, 1974 Roy Buchanan lost his life in a boating accident.

I talked to Roy two days before he passed away, and at that time he was in the process of changing the name of the Club to the Agnes Moorehead Memorial Club. He felt most of our members would be interested in keeping the Club going as a living Memorial to Miss Moorehead.

Roy's 30 year collection was sent to me through the kindness of Mr. Gene Reid and Roy's mother. In looking through the collection I have found that Roy's list of members and friends is not complete for this reason I'm sending you this form letter. I need the help of each and everyone of you in order to keep the Club going. Should any of you know person's who would be interested in the Club, please pass the enclosed information on to them. Should any of you know of other members in the Club, pass their names on to me.

As vice president, I have chosen Mr. Charles K. Stumpf, 722 North Laurel Street, Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201.

Charles was a close friend of Roy's. Charles is also an actor and author of several books. He has given much of his expertise to the Club.

Mr. Stumpf is working on putting out a Special Memorial Journal to honor Miss Moorehead and Mr. Buchanan. The price of the Journal will be \$3.50, however we will not be able to have the Journal printed until we have at least 50 active members.

At this time we have not decided on dues for membership, because the Club will not be as active as it was when Miss Moorehead and Mr. Buchanan were with us.

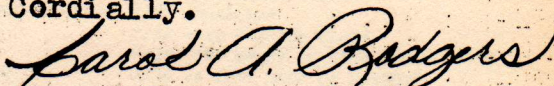
The future of the Club will depend upon YOU!

Roy had great plans for the Club as a Memorial, I see no reason why Roy's dreams can not become a reality.

You must keep in mind that I have had to start at the bottom with the Club. Your ideas, advice and suggestions are Needed!

I will be looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Cordially.



(Mrs.) Carol A. Rodgers
President of the Official
Agnes Moorehead Memorial
Club.



Dashiell Hammett's "FAT MAN"

America's top mystery writer creates a great new sleuth whose adventures weave a web of some of the most hair-raising, swift-paced action ever spun over the radio.

THE FAT MAN

BY DAVE HOWE

PART ONE

The fire crackled in the fireplace while the kerosene lantern cast an eerie glow over the table, which sat in the middle of the screened sunporch. Thirty yards to the East, the small wavelets were heard rippling upon the sandy shore of Limekiln lake. Sounds of night merged with the whisper of the wind as it filtered its way through the maples, pines, and hemlocks which surrounded the tiny camp. Darkness was absolute; covering the mountains, forest and lake-giving the impression of a deep black shroud.

From the beach, one could barely make out the form of a person sitting at the table, head bowed, as if intently absorbed with the papers which were spread upon the table.

A movement on the beach; a boat slides silently onto the sandy shore. A dark shadow jumps from the boat to the shore, glancing to its left to observe the dimly lit porch. The shadow moves swiftly and silently forward and is soon lost in the wooded area thirty feet from shore.

Moments later, the night erupts as the crack of a heavy rifle explodes from the depths of the woods. The silhouette on the porch jerks to an upright position only to fall forward, sprawling across the table. Blood flows freely from the wound at the base of the head, spreading across the papers which the now-stilled figure had been reading.

AN OCCASIONAL COLUMN

BY PAT MURRAY

The date-September 12, 1974; time-half past midnight. The setting was as described above with one exception. Had the crack of a rifle been heard this night, the ensuing article would have joined Beethoven's "unfinished Symphony."

The setting and action described could have been the basis for---"There he goes into the drugstore. He's stepping on the scales. Weight-237 pounds. Fortune-DANGER! Who is he? 'THE FAT MAN!'" [The commercial from the August 22, 1947 broadcast was deleted by the legal staff of the Norwich Pharmacal Co. due to the strict FDA rules.]

Let us backtrack to September ninth. I was on leave, having left Winter Harbour on the first, and was sitting at my desk working on THE LONE RANGER FANZINE. The reels of our portable recorder were turning, providing enjoyable entertainment. The program... THE FAT MAN! As the program progressed, wheels in my mind began to turn-PEPTO-BISMOL (whir-click)...THE NORWICH PHARMACAL COMPANY (again-whir,click)..BRINGS YOU-THE FAT MAN! (EUREKA, BINGO, AND JACKPOT!!!) Why hadn't I thought of it before? A quick call to my good friend, Dorothy Marvin at the Word Processing Center gave me the number to contact. Shortly thereafter, I was speaking to Mr. Bill Kenney, Public Relations Manager for the Norwich Pharmacal Company who arranged an interview.

That afternoon, I was met by Mr. Kenney in their reception area. After receiving a pass which must be displayed at all times [shades of Naval Security], I was guided to the fifth floor where I was given a desk to use while researching their files. In addition to many references to Norwich's radio sponsorship of THE FAT MAN in several volumes of their house organs-THE NORWICH PHARMACAL NEWS and THE NORWICH PERCOLATE-Mr Kenney managed to uncover three huge scrapbooks from the dusty depths of their cellars. I felt as though I was the first to

see and utilize them since they were compiled back in the late 1940's.

On the basis of the materials found there, the following article is based. Although it may appear to be commercially oriented, that was not my intent but due in part to the fact that some of the information was taken from publications prepared for Norwich's sales staff. No part of this article may be reprinted, reproduced or copied in any manner without the expressed consent of myself and the Norwich Pharmacal Company. I wish to express my sincere thanks to Mr Kenney for their assistance as well as their warm, cordial manner which was displayed during my visits.

[TO BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE]

TRANSCRIPTION AUCTION

AT THE END OF APRIL, WE SHALL HOLD AN AUCTION OF 12" AND 16" TRANSCRIPTIONS WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED ON CONSIGNMENT. AMONG THEM WILL BE BIG BANDS [THE DORSEYS, GLENN MILLER ORCH., SAMMY KAYE, ETC.]; PERSONALITIES [ABBOTT & COSTELLO, JOLSON, BING CROSBY, BOB HOPE, JUDY GARLAND, ETC.]; A SELECTION OF AFPS MATERIAL, AND SOME RARE THICK SHELLAC TRANSCRIPTIONS WHICH DATE BACK TO 1930 AND 1931 MAINLY. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING AN AUCTION LIST [WHICH WILL BE MAILED ABOUT THE END OF APRIL], PLEASE SEND US A SELF-ADDRESSED SAMPED ENVELOPE (LARGE #10 SIZE) AND WE SHALL SEND YOU ONE AT THAT TIME. SEND TO US AT 1756 WASHTEENAW, YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN 48197

A PERSONAL NOTE - DUE TO NEW JOB COMMITMENTS, WE HAVE FOUND IT NECESSARY TO SUSPEND FURTHER HOBBY ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE END OF APRIL, 1975.

THE CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATRE LOG [CONTINUED]

- 1974
- 5/1 -THE DEATH BELL-W/ M.TOLAN
- 5/2 -DRACULA-M.MCCAMBRIDGE
- 5/3 -UNDER GRAVE SUSPICION *-R.BELL
- 5/4 -A LADY NEVER LOSES HER HEAD*
- 5/5 -THE WALKING CORPSE*-TONY ROBERTS
- 5/6 -MURDER WITH MALICE- M.RODD
- 5/7 -THE SUICIDE CLUB-B.NELSON
- 5/8 -BREAKING POINT-R.DEKOVN
- 5/9 -A TINY DROP OF POISON-T.GRIMES
- 5/10 -BLIZZARD OF TERROR*-L.SMITH
- 5/11 -SEA FEVER*-G.MATTHEWS
- 5/12 -THE WALLS OF JERICHO*-R.DRYDEN
- 5/13 -THE LODGER-KIM HUNTER
- 5/14 -VOICES OF DEATH-MANDELL KRAMER
- 5/15 -THE FOREVER MAN-P.HECHT
- 5/16 -THE TROUBLE WITH RUTH-M.SELDES
- 5/17 -THE HORLA * -P.HECHT
- 5/18 -THE HORSE THAT WASN'T FOR SALE*
- 5/19 -EDGE OF DEATH * -P. O'NEAL
- 5/20 -CRACK IN THE WALL-C.HOLM
- 5/21 -THE LONGEST KNIFE-BRYNA RAE BURN
- 5/22 -CHOICE OF WITNESSES*-P.HECHT
- 5/23 -THE BLEEDING STATUE-TONY ROBERTS
- 5/24 -OUT OF SIGHT*-J.MERO
- 5/25 -PROGNOSIS NEGATIVE-MASON ADAMS *
- 5/26 -THIS WILL KILL YOU*-L.HAINES
- 5/27 -MIRROR FOR MURDER-C.HOLM
- 5/28 -A LONG TIME TO DIE*-M.KRAMER
- 5/29 -PHANTOM LULLABY-ARNOLD MOSS
- 5/30 -DRESSED TO KILL-R.MORSE
- 5/31 -THE SENDING*-MANDELL KRAMER
- 6/1 -THE CREATURE FROM THE SWAMP*
- 6/2 -THE THING IN THE CAVE*
- 6/3 -TO KILL WITH CONFIDENCE-M.SELDES
- 6/4 -OCCURENCE AT OWL CREEK BRIDGE
- 6/5 -SACRIFICE IN BLOOD*.BELL
- 6/6 -DEADLY DARLING DOLORES
- 6/7 -A LITTLE NIGHT MURDER*-J.GRIMES
- 6/8 -THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER*
- 6/9 -SEA OF TROUBLES*-S.COTSWORTH
- 6/10 -BARGAIN IN BLOOD-T.ROBERTS
- 6/11 -GHOST AT THE GATE,THE*
- 6/12 -THE HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES-N.ROSE
- 6/13 -THE RAT-M.WAGER
- 6/14 -ORDEAL BY FIRE*-M.KRAMER
- 6/15 -DIARY OF A MADMAN*-L.HAINES
- 6/16 -DEATH BY WHOSE HANDS*
- 6/17 -THREE TIMES DEAD-W.REDFIELD
- 6/18 -DR.JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE
- 6/19 -IT'S SIMPLY MURDER*-J.GILFORD
- 6/20 -SECRET DOCTRINE-M.MCCAMBRIDGE
- 6/21 -THE UNEARTHLY GIFT*-B.PALMER
- 6/22 -THE BLACK CAT*-M.SELDES
- 6/23 -THE PHARAOH'S CURSE*-K.HUNTER
- 6/24 -ESCAPE!ESCAPE!-ROBERT DRYDEN
- 6/25 -WHERE FEAR BEGINS-K.HUNTER
- 6/26 -DIE!YOU'RE ON MAGIC CAMERA*
- 6/27 -YESTERDAY'S MURDER-M.MCCAMBRIDGE
- 6/28 -THE LOCKED ROOM*-J.GRIMES
- 6/29 -MURDER MUSEUM*-M.WAGER
- 6/30 -OUT OF FOCUS*-W.REDFIELD
- 7/1 -HURRICANE-JOSEPH JULIAN
- 7/2 -STRANGE COMPANY-G.PETRIE *
- 7/3 -THE SECRET LIFE OF BOBBY DELAND
- 7/4 -THE YOUNG DIE GOOD-P.ELLIOT
- 7/5 -ONLY THE DEAD REMEMBER*
- 7/6 -MEN WITHOUT MOUTHS*-J.SILVER
- 7/7 -THE HORROR WITHIN*-D.SCARDINO
- 7/8 -TOO MANY WOMEN CAN KILL YOU
- 7/9 -AND DEATH MAKES EVEN STEVEN
- 7/10 -A PORTRAIT OF DEATH *
- 7/11 -DEVIL-GOD -R.DEE
- 7/12 -THE WISHING STONE*-W.PRINCE
- 7/13 -THE GHOST DRIVER*-M.ADAMS
- 7/14 -THE HAND*-A.SCORBY
- 7/15 -THE CANTERVILLE GHOST-A.MOSS
- 7/16 -ALL LIVING THINGS MUST DIE*
- 7/17 -THE REAL PRINTER'S DEVIL
- 7/18 -DREAM WOMAN-K.MCCARTHY
- 7/19 -THE VENUS D'ILLE*-JOAN LOVEJOY
- 7/20 -DEATH BELL*-M.TOLAN
- 7/21 -SUNRISE TO SUNSET*-M.SELDES
- 7/22 -THE DEADLY PROCESS-N.ROSE
- 7/23 -ADAM'S ASTRAL SELF-M.WAGER
- 7/24 -MURDER WITH MALICE*
- 7/25 -MY SISTER-DEATH-M.SELDES
- 7/26 -BREAKING POINT*
- 7/27 -DRACULA*
- 7/28 -THE SUICIDE CLUB*
- 7/29 -THE GHOST AT HIGH NOON-C.HOLM
- 7/30 -A TINY DROP OF POISON*
- 7/31 -THE ONLY BLOOD-H.DESILVA

*-REPEAT BROADCAST

MY THANKS TO ELLEN ROBINSON AND RANDY EIDEMILLER FOR CONFIRMING DATES AND FILLING IN GAPS.



Fans and collectors of old-time radio broadcasts, in common with fans of the other fields of the entertainment media, are certainly saddened by the recent passing of Jack Benny, one of the master comedians of this century. His career took him successively to the top of his class in vaudeville [where he was billed as the "handsomest star in vaudeville"]; radio, in which he starred over 20 years; and television where he had a weekly show for many years and still appeared annually in at least one special of his own as well as guesting on many other variety programs each year. By way of a tribute to him, we present the following article from the magazine, RADIO STARS—August, 1933. It is of extreme interest although must be viewed with the thought in mind that it appeared in a fan magazine of the time and as such, may not be entirely candid.

THE LOVE STORY OF MARY AND JACK BENNY

THEIR meeting was one of the strangest in all radio history—the meeting of Jack Benny and Mary Livingston. If they had never believed in fate before the curious chain of circumstances that led up to that forgotten encounter, it should convince them of the weird workings of destiny.

Here is what happened: Jack was playing the Orpheum Circuit in Vancouver, British Columbia, with the Marx Brothers. Zeppo Marx had friends in the city and, one night, asked Jack to accompany him to their house.

"Not interested," Jack said. "Just ordinary people bore me. I like folks who talk my language. What do these people know about the theatre?"

But Zeppo insisted, Jack had nothing else to do and presently he discovered himself in an average household, among people who talked of average, commonplace things and knew nothing of the theatrical world. Just the host and hostess wouldn't have been so bad. They were nice enough—but those kids! Jack couldn't stand those kids.

The little daughters sat at his feet and gazed up at him.

"How does it feel to be an actor, Mr. Benny?" they asked. "Are you ever scared on the stage before all those people? How long does it take you to learn your speeches?" Etc., etc. Well, you know how girls like that go on.

Answering in monosyllables did not quell their enthusiasm for digging deep into an actor's soul. And finally Jack could stand it no longer. He jumped up from the chair and said to Zeppo, "I told you not to bring me to this place!" And before the startled family could open their mouths he had gone.

It was an incident that Jack soon forgot. To him his action was justifiable. He didn't want to go in the first place, the little girls had driven him crazy with their incessant questions and the talk had bored him. So there was nothing left for him to do but to take a walk-out powder.

And then one day, years later, his wife, Mary Livingston (whose voice you know so well on those Chevrolet programs in which she works with Jack) told him that she was one of the curious little girls who had questioned him in Vancouver so much to his annoyance.

WHEN she first told him about it Jack was stunned and incredulous and then he laughed and Mary laughed and she gave an imitation of him that night, stalking out of the house, and he gave an imitation of her asking him dumb questions. And that is why their marriage has been so successful and why O. O. McIntyre once called them "the perfect couple." They know how to laugh.

Those two, who are so crazy about each other, have an unflinching system to stop quarrels. They possess a magic key that puts the padlock on bickerings. The key is laughter. Jack and Mary have found that you can't laugh and quarrel at the same time. And I'll show you, by telling you of a couple of scenes that actually happened in the Benny household just how this system works.

Once Mary was reading a

FLASH! WORLD'S GREATEST RADIO FEUD BREAKS OUT WITH BRAND NEW FURY!

JACK BENNY STARTED OUT ON RADIO AS A SPOT ANNOUNCEMENT AND SOMEONE FORGOT TO REMOVE THE SPOT



NOW THAT CIVILIAN GOODS ARE MORE PLENTIFUL, FRED ALLEN IS ABLE TO COME BACK ON THE AIR. YOU SEE, HE NOT ONLY TALKS THROUGH HIS NOSE ... HE PRINTS HIS SCRIPTS ON KLEENEX



book and Jack wanted to talk. But Mary was absorbed and wouldn't put the book down and that made Jack sore, for he thought that certainly she should fall in with his moods. Finally he grabbed the offending volume and tossed it into the fire. Mary burst out laughing. It was a book that Jack had bought which he prized highly. And because he loves her so much Mary's laughter always flows to him. Presently he was laughing, too.

Another one: It was three years ago in Kansas City when both attended a New Year's party. This time it was Jack who was having a good time and Mary who wasn't. He knew all the people and there was much back slapping and revelry. But Mary was tired and wanted to go home. You know how those things are. Jack stayed on. Mary waited, tapping foot the while, and when they at last drove home the atmosphere in the taxi was as cold as an Eskimo pie.

The quarrel continued far, far into the night and well into the next day. Cutting words whizzed back and forth and then suddenly Jack ran for a pencil and paper and began making notations. The idea had just occurred to him that what they were saying to each other would make swell dialogue for a vaudeville skit.

"What are you doing?" Mary asked accusingly. And then she saw and, honestly, it just isn't possible to keep up a quarrel when one of the quarrelers is recording the others' barbs for posterity. So they both stood there and laughed like fools until the tears ran down their cheeks.

Every married couple can learn a marvelous lesson from Jack and Mary. Those two have laughed their way through life.

THEIRS is an odd romance, a romance which was certainly marked by the hand of destiny. After that early meeting which Jack forgot, they met again in California and saw each other just once, on a party. But during the second that their eyes met, Jack knew and Mary knew that the attraction was mutual and deep. It was so deep, in fact, that just the one meeting brought about an ardent correspondence while Jack was playing in vaudeville all over the country and Mary was still in California.

It was some months later when Jack was playing in Chicago that Mary visited there and they were married.

Actually they knew each other almost not at all. They knew that they were in love and that was enough. Jack didn't know, for instance, that Mary played the violin, until six months after they were married. He didn't know she sang, either. But he did put her

in the act with him.

He did this only because he wanted her with him all the time and because he thought it might bore her to trouse across the country with him, going to towns in which she knew nobody, sitting restlessly in a hotel room while he was at the theatre. So he introduced her as an amateur—as she was—only to discover that in a couple of weeks she was getting as many laughs as he. She's been in his act and, later, with him on the radio ever since.

When he first introduced her to vaudeville audiences the act was billed merely as Jack Benny, the comedian. Mary wasn't billed at all and although she had a large following, nobody ever bothered to mention her name in contracts until once in New Rochelle when Mary wasn't feeling well and Jack went on alone. Suddenly the manager came rushing to Jack to ask where the girl was.

"What difference does it make?" Jack asked.

"It makes a lot of difference," the manager shouted. "That girl has a big following!"

And Jack could hardly wait to get home to tell Mary that she was a success.

After that all contracts were made jointly.

THE family life of these troupers is amazing. Jack can wisecrack about mothers-in-law with a clean conscience, for he is crazy about his (and she has quite forgiven him for his rudeness the first time they met. As a matter of fact, they laugh about it now). Mary's sister, Babe, lives with Jack and Mary and every night after the broadcast they call Mary's parents in Seattle to see how they liked the program.

Jack sends his own father to Florida every winter (the mother is dead) but this summer Jack is going to buy a big country house and both families are going to spend their vacations together. That will thrill Jack for he gets as homesick for Marv's folks as she does. That's one for Ripley because it's true.

Jack and Mary don't do much entertaining. They're quite content with their own society and they love to lunch and dine tête-à-tête. They like the theatre and the movies. Jack is crazy about golf, but Mary's health won't allow her to indulge in such strenuous exercise. Their closest friends are Burns and Allen who live in the apartment in the Essex House just above them—and these four play bridge together often. Wouldn't you love to listen in and hear the gags they pull? But the odd part is that Jack is a rather serious lad. It's Mary who got him that way. You see, when she met him he was just another good comedian,

doing well, but not being spectacular. It was Mary's ambition for him and his love for her that made him achieve the heights he has achieved.

Jack hates staying up late at night and he would sincerely love the atmosphere of a small town—you know, a home with a garden and a big lawn, all quiet and clean. When he's with his friends—most of whom are comedians, Jack Pearl, Jack Haley, Eddie Cantor and George Jessel, he's a better audience than a funster. When someone pulls a gag that strikes him funny he'll fall right down in the middle of the floor flat on his back and laugh himself into hysterics.

In the last six years Mary has learned the show business thoroughly. She knows the good from the bad and she can write script and create gags like a professional. Mary and Jack always pick a skit to pieces and analyze it and when Mary laughs at a gag Jack can depend upon its being right.

MARY has made Jack take his career seriously; made him go out after better jobs; made him demand more money; made him really promote himself, until now he is one of the best and most famous comedians on the radio. Jack is the first to give all the credit to Mary.

Just one incident to show how Mary works: When he was told they wanted him at the Palace Theatre for an engagement he expected to get about \$700 a week. Mary told him to demand \$2,000. Jack said he wasn't worth it and even if he were he couldn't get it. Just then the 'phone rang.

"If that's the manager," Mary said, "Tell him you'll take \$2,000."

Tremulously Jack mentioned the enormous salary. And instantly there was a click in his ear—the manager had hung up on him.

Jack turned to Marv. "See, I told you," he said. "Now I won't even get the engagement. They're sore. If they call back I'll say \$1,500 and take \$1200."

But Mary wouldn't listen to him. \$2,000 or nothing," she persisted.

Finally the manager called back. "What's the lowest you'll take to play at the Palace?" he asked.

Mary gave Jack a piercing look and Jack heard himself saying, "\$2,000."

"Nothing less?"

"Nothing less."

There was a pause and then the manager said, "Okay, then."

Jack's eyes were shining as he hung up the 'phone. "Gee, Mary..." He couldn't say any more. But she knows. Theirs is a real understanding. They know that for six years they have worked side by side, hand in hand, in perfect accord for their careers and their happiness.