

HELLO AGAIN

VOL. 24 NO. 3

MAY - JUN 1993

A PERSONAL NOTE: Radio lost one its giants with the death of **Carlton E. Morse** on May 24 at the age of 91. Carlton came to our convention several years ago where hundreds of people had a chance to talk with him. I Love a Mystery has a very large following and work is being done today to preserve and revive this series...**Ron Barnett** informed me of the death of his mother, Edna, on March 20. Many of Ron's friends knew her...Just a reminder that only 4 sheets of paper (similar to the ones in HA) can be mailed for 29 cents. A fifth sheet will go over one ounce and require another 23 cents.

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: I have a correction about the programs in New York. They are on WQEW (1130 AM) at Saturday from 7 to 7:30 pm. There are 39 weeks of shows including Jack Benny and Burns and Allen that started on April 10th...In New Haven, The **Shubert Radio Theater** presented its second live radio performance on May 9 with Ezra Stone and Barney Beck participating in an Aldrich Family Re-creation. There are plans for many more performances. The first two were not open to the general public; those that follow will be...**Arthur Tracy** will celebrate his 94th birthday on June 25th. If you wish to contact him, write Arthur at 350 West 57th St. #19C, New York, NY 10019 (212) 246-7306. Arthur is still active with personal appearances and broadcast performances. He is celebrating his 70th anniversary in radio.

RE-CREATIONS: More Information: WBAI, 99.5 FM, in New York announced the official start of a new radio theater program beginning Saturday, May, from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. The station is looking for high quality radio drama, comedy, monologues, poetry, etc. If you have any to submit, contact Andrews Phillips and Associates at 718-398-2174. Joe Bevilacqua will host the new series. Scheduled to far are programs written by Norman Jayo, Joe Bevilacqua & Robert Cirasa, Charlie Morrow, Phillip Suraci, Jeff Ward and Mitchell Pearson...**The American Radio Theater**, 3035 23rd St., Dept. RSWC, San Francisco, CA 94110 is looking for scripts for its 1993 ART Radio Script Writing competition. To receive all necessary contest materials, write to above address and include a SASE (business size)...**Bob Simpson** and The Mighty Simpson Art Players, 4565 SE 57th Ln., Ocala, FL 32671 perform OTR shows for local groups in their area...**John Barber** has over 180 scripts available for use. Prices range from \$3 to \$6. Proceeds benefit The Old-time Radio Theater in New Orleans.

OTR BROADCASTS: An up to date listing is enclosed.

COMPUTER NETWORKS: **Bob Burnham** mentions that Macintosh software available for those on computer networks are White Knight, Microphone II or Zterm.

ULTIMATE LOG: If you have any corrections or additions to my Ultimate Log, please send them to me. I will issue annual updates. I am hoping all dealers and traders who acquire new programs will let me know. This is the only way I can update the book.

CONVENTION 1993: Dates are October 21 - 23, 1993, again at the Holiday Inn - North in Newark, NJ. Tentative plans include re-creating Tim Corbett with much of the original cast.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: **Tune Into Yesterday** (Orca of England), Issue 14; articles on The shadow; Raffles; Hi Gang; Tony Hancock...**NARA News**, Vol. 20, #3; articles on

the first radio broadcast; reprint of first issue...**Tape Squeal**, Mar - Apr; articles on squealing tape; problems and solutions on Long-Term Tape Performance; FBI in Peace and War... **Radio Recall**, Mar - Apr; articles include Little Orphan Annie; Portland's American Advertising Museum...**Past Times**, Spring; Many thanks for the favorable review of my Ultimate Log; articles on Harold Lloyd, Ukulele Ike, a review of a book about Ish Kabibble...**Abbott & Costello Quarterly**, #19; articles on Hillary Brooke, Jean Yarbrough...**The Illustrated Press**, April, Many thanks for mention of my logs by Frank Boncore; article on Kay Kyser...May; article on Charlie Chan...**Daily Sentinel**, May - Jun, articles on radio's anthologies, Arthur Godfrey...**SPERDVAC Radiogram**, May; article on Jerry Hausner. They are also looking for information about following 4 shows. I am not aware of them are they are probably local or regional programs: What's on Your Mind (1940, CBS); The Ghost Walks (1946, CBS); The Adventures of Dr. Hunt (1940); Retribution (1946 - 47, ABC - West coast)...**Wavelengths**, Vol. 8 # 4; article on FM's early problems...**Tune In**, May; one man's opinion on the best radio shows; log on the 1952 - 53 season of Tarzan...**Nostalgia Digest**, Jun - Jul; articles on Don McNeill, WW II V-discs, Roy Rogers, Bob and Ray...**Old Time Radio Digest**, Mar - Apr, Reprints of articles on Ezra Stone and Red Skelton.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES: Last month I mentioned the book, **Al Jolson, A Bi-Discography** by Larry Kiner and Philip Evans. This 832-page book lists every song recorded or sung by Al Jolson, all is radio and TV shows, movies. It is very thorough. You can buy it through the Al Jolson Society at a reduced rate...\$67.50. Make checks payable to Dolores Kontowicz, 11520 West James Ave., Franklin, WI 53132. Dolores is president of the Society.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS: The first **Abbott and Costello Convention** will be held August 20 - 22 at the Ramada Inn in Clifton, NJ. For details write A & C convention, Box 1117, Laurence, NJ 08879: (908) 566-1093; FAX (908) 566-7859...Kathy O'Connell sent me information about the **Pavek Wireless Museum**, 3515 Raleigh Ave., St. Louis Park, MN 55416 (612) 926-8198. It contains broadcasting equipment of all kinds, donated by a collector in the area. Director is Steve Raymer...**Yesterday USA Superstation** is having their third annual reunion from July 10 through July 16 in Richardson, Texas. Many activities are planned. For full details and costs, write to YUSA Superstation, 2001 Plymouth Rock, Richardson, TX 75081 (214) 690-3636...An **Al Jolson Festival** is being held July 8 - July 11 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel and the Friars Club. For information contact Harry Rhinehart, 12 Mauger Rd., Elverson, PA 19520.

LOGS: **Ray Stanich's Logs** are now available from me. A portion of the proceeds from the sales will go to Ray's Estate. Details are enclosed.

CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS: **John Barber**, Box 70711, New Orleans, LA 70172 has for sale a photocopy of Jack Armstrong Comics from September 1949 for \$6. John also has on cassette many Superman, Our Miss Brooks, Shadow...**Bob Burnham (BRC)**, Box 2645, Livonia, MI 48151 (313) 721-6070 has a new summer supplement including several new First Nighter Programs. Bob also puts out a Gateway Online Macintosh User Group Newsletter. If you have a modem and wish to participate contact Bob...Received latest catalog from **Vintage Broadcasts (Andy Blatt)**, 42 Bowling Green, Staten Island, NY 10314. Highlights include The Chase, 21st Precinct, Linda's First Love, Consider Your Verdict, Tom Corbett.

NEW ADDRESSES: **Clyde Benge**, 2502 Delaware Ave., Huntington Beach, CA 92648...**Roger Hill**, 2161 Whitman Way #31, San Bruno, CA 94066...**Michael Langer**, 4865 Tarrington Dr., Barrington, IL 60010 (708) 776-8774.

NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: Dick Hill, 1802 Bateman, Hastings, NE 68901 looking for many Fred Allen on cassette...**Bill McKenna**, 47 Haynes St., East Boston, MA 02128...**Harry Fleetwood**, 244 W 72nd St., New York, NY 10023...**Sol Magid**, 39 west 70th St., New York, NY 10023...**Stuart Yedwab**, c/o Lincoln Middle School, Lafayette Ave., Passaic, NJ 07055...**John Fawcett**, RR2, Middle Tpke, Storrs, CT 06268 (203) 429-9228. John is involved with various activities including collecting old cereal boxes, radio premiums, **Lone Ranger and other WXYZ program memorabilia**, 1930's Disney items, others. He buys and sells. John is especially looking for autographed WXYZ Radio shows photos and scripts; everything by Brace Beemer, John Todd, etc.; original art of Lone Ranger, Green Hornet, Sgt. Preston; WYXIE Wonderland by Dick Osgood. **Tom Garcia**, Box 15186, Tucson, AZ 85708 is looking for information on Dave Miller, who among other things, had a country-western show on WPAT in Patter-son, NJ during 1949 - 1950...Tom also heard a talk by Artie Shaw on March of this year and wrote a paper about what he said. It is written as if Artie were talking. Send me a SASE for a copy...**Dick Ayers**, 316 Main St., Plaistow, NH 03865 (603) 382-4077 has 5 cartons of blank 7" gray plastic reels, each containing 200 of more reels. He also has 25 10 1/2 blank metal reels in boxes (DAK). Cost would be UPS charges and packaging charges. Please send a SASE or call if interested and indicate what you would like. Dick would prefer not to break up the boxes...**Mike Hamm**, 3393 Wessex Ct., Loveland, OH 45140...**Joan Myers**, 214 Hillcrest Ave., Woodridge, NJ 07075...**Matthew Mark Drew**, 3321 East 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50316...**June Johnson**, 304 Brixton Rd. South, Garden City South, NY 11530 is looking for a wire recorder, preferable a Webster Chicago Wire Recorder, so she can transfer her wire recordings to cassette...**James Gungoll**, Box 1422, Enid, OK 73702...**Stewart Lyons**, 4602 Beechwood Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043 (410) 719-7985 is looking for information about Herb Jepko who had a late night talk show from Salt Lake City about 20 years ago. It was called something like the Naughty Nightcap Show...**Mark Paswinski**, 2030 - 44th St., Highland, IN 46322. Mark is very much interested in the Great Gildersleeve...**Wallis Antuck**, 3815 Waverly Hills Rd., Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 484-8607...Wallis is very interested in Buddy Clark and would like any show he was on...**David Minars**, 24 Steers St., Staten Island, NY 10314...**Paul Gagne**, 82 Walker St., La-conda, NH 03246 wants all information on The Passing Parade and all tapes, especially The Man Who Lived in a Cupboard...**Valerie Hughes** (Adventures in Cassettes), 5353 Nathan Ln., Ply-mouth, MN 55442; 1-800-328-0108...**Sam Frank**, Box 417, Los Angeles, CA 90078 is writing a book on The Halls of Ivy and needs information on certain radio shows...**Paul Kotke**, 36 S. Prior Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105...**Karen Spiegel**, 1175 Amherst Ave. #7, Los Angeles, CA (310) 820-1988 has the movie and TV rights to ILAM and I Love Adventure and is looking for scripts and/or synopses of each story.

Zeb and Sal, a 29 minute film/video produced by THOMASFILMS, won a Gold Award at the Worldfest - Houston International Film Festival in April, 1993. It is the story of two ladies, who in the 1930's, had a comedy act which they performed on stage and radio in the Mid-South. Today, over fifty years later, the same two ladies recreate their comedic characters in this award winning film. Video cassettes (VHS), which contain an original radio skit performed by the ladies in 1939 over WMC, Memphis, Tennessee, are available from THOMASFILMS, Box 153, Iuka, MS 38852 (601) 423-3333. Cost is \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.

D.R.H. Knox, 31A Arlington Sq. Apts., Greenville, NC 27858...**George Kelly**, Box 1172, HCCD, Raymond, MS 39154...**Jackie Thompson**, Box 118781, Cincinnati, OH 45211.. **Jon Fessler**, Box 23276, Portland, OR 97281. Jon is involved with the USA Network radio shows...**Tim Oster**, 5141 Lynn Rd., Greendale, WI 53129...**Bill Natowich**, 145 Burton Rd., Bea-con Falls, CT 06403 is looking for a video of the New Years concert from Vienna, broadcast on New Years Day, 1992. Bill also has 200 7" reel OTR shows if anyone wants them; also has 3 reel machines for sale (Ampex; Magacord; Tanberg)...**Ed Ginsburg**, 3011 Kent Rd., Louisville, KY 40205. Ed wants logs of Baby Snooks, Bickersons, Charlie McCarthy, Burns and Allen, Red Skelton...**Gordon Joseloff**, 150 North Ave., Westport, CT 06889. Gordon's father, Stanley Joseloff worked in radio for many years. He was producer of Eddie Cantor Radio Hour and ex-

ecutive producer of Screen Guild Radio Theater, Take it Or Leave it, Life of Riley, Philip Morris Follies...**Ken Riebold**, 28-48 201 St., Bayside, NY 11360.

OLD FRIENDS: **H. Edgar Cole**, Box 3509, Lakeland, FL 33802; Phone or FAX (813) 682-2235 has a **Sony CCP-100 Cassette Duplicator**, 1 x 1, 30 ips monaural. Ferrite Heads, direct drive, excellent. Has made about 700 copies. 1/1 modulation radio. With operator, service manual and dust cover. Best offer: \$250 minimum...**Francis Pelletier**, 24 Irving St., Salem, MA 01970 is looking for the complete jingle "Pickle in the Middle."...**Patrick King**, Box 20761, Waco, TX 76702 corrected a couple of items I mentioned last issue. Note the correct Box number above. Also he is **not selling but is trading** the uncirculated Columbia Workshops he has...**Spiros Kopiopoulos**, 149 Autumn Ridge Rd., Montgomery, IL 60538 is still looking for World War II news broadcasts...**Francis Rylance**, 66 Newton St. #2, Lawrence, MA 01843 is looking for a log of The Black Museum...**David Siegel**, 419 Granite Spring Rd., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 has a very good copy of Tune in Yesterday by John Dunning for sale for \$75...**Darwin Maurer**, 315 Market St., Perkasio, PA 18944 is looking for all shows with John Charles Thomas.

IN FOND MEMORY: **Edna Amadon Toney**, Apr 13, 79; writer, actress (Kraft Music Hall)...**Pinky Lee**, Apr 3, 85; comic, children's television host. On radio in Tonight at Hoagy's, Carefree Carnival, Railroad Hour...**Jerry Hausner**, Apr 1, 83; Radio actor (Big Town, Sam Spade)...**Patricia Peardon**, Apr 22, 69; stage and radio actress, sculptor (Life Begins, Orphans of Divorce). Patricia attended our convention...**Leslie Charteris**, Apr 16, 85; British mystery writer who created the character of Simon Templar (The Saint) which was adapted for radio, television and movies...**Sy Howard**, April 30, 77; comic writer; created My Friend Irma; wrote for Danny Thomas, Milton Berle, Jack Benny.

Write if you get work; and hang by your thumbs

JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514
(203) 248-2887; FAX (203) 281-1322

I L AM Movie
scripts
Pinky Lee TV

Logs of Ray Stanich

Order from Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514

A portion of the sales will be given to the estate of Ray Stanich. Please order at least \$5.00 worth of logs. For every \$5.00, please add 50 cents for P & H.

Adventurers Club (1947 - 48)	\$.50	Lights Out	1.50
Andrews Sisters (1944 - 46)	.50	NBC Star Playhouse	.50
Arch Oboler Programs including A O Plays, Everyman's Theater, Everything for the Boys, Free World Theater, Plays For Americans	1.50	NBC Theater of the Air and World's Greatest Novels	3.00
Arthur Hopkins Presents	.50	Nick Carter and Chick Carter	6.00
Bell Telephone Hour	6.00	Once Upon a Tune	.50
Big Show, The	1.00	Orson Welles Almanac	.50
Cabin B - 13	1.50	Orson Welles Theater (Lady Esther)	.50
Casey, Crime Photographer	7.00	Palmolive Beauty Box Theater	1.00
Cavalcade of America	10.00	Perry Mason (Partial: 1943 - 47)	1.00
Celebrity Club	1.00	Philco Radio Hall of Fame	1.00
Chicago Theater of the Air	4.00	Philco Radio Playhouse	.50
Contented Hour (1942 - 45)	2.50	Philip Morris Playhouse, Johnny Presents, Great Moments From Great Plays	4.00
Crime Does Not Pay	1.00	Popeye, the Sailor (1936 - 37)	.50
Curtain Time	1.00	Presenting Boris Karloff	.50
Damon Runyon Theater	.50	Prudential Family Hour	4.00
Dangerously Yours and Matinee Theater	1.50	Prudential Family Hour of Stars	1.50
Dark Fantasy	1.50	Radio City Playhouse	.50
Death Valley Days	8.00	Radio Reader's Digest	4.00
Dr. Christian	8.00	Railroad Hour	.50
Electric Hour, The	4.00	Request Performance	.50
Electric Theater	1.00	Richard Diamond (Partial)	2.00
Encore Theater (1946)	.50	Romance	4.00
Encores from Bell Telephone Hour	.50	Rudy Vallee (Fleischmann Hour and Royal Gelatin Hour: Dramas performed: 1932 - 39)	3.00
Favorite Story	1.00	Sears Radio Theater	1.00
First Nighter	12.00	Silver Theater	4.00
General Electric Theater	.50	Somerset Maugham Theater	.50
Good News (1937 - 40)	1.50	Stage Door Canteen	2.50
Grand Marquee	.50	Star and the Story, The	.50
Great Moments in Music	3.50	Star For a Night	.50
Great Scenes From Great Plays	.50	Starlight Theater	.50
Green Lama, The	.50	Stars in the Air	.50
Hallmark Playhouse/Hall of Fame	3.50	Tales of Fatima	.50
Harvest of Stars, The	3.00	Tales of Tomorrow	.50
Helen Hayes (Textron Theater)	.50	Tarzan (1952 - 53)	.50
Hollywood Hotel	3.50	Tell It Again	.50
Hollywood Players	.50	Terror By Night	.50
Hollywood Sound Stage	.50	Texaco Star Theater	3.00
Hollywood Star Playhouse	1.50	Theater, USA	.50
Hollywood Star Time	1.00	This is Hollywood	.50
Hour of Mystery	.50	This is My Best	.50
Inner Sanctum	6.50	This is War	.50
Inspector Thorne	.50	Time for Love	.50
Intrigue	.50	Tish	.50
Jungle Jim	4.00	To the President	.50
Kenny Baker Program (1944)	.50	Two on a Clue	.50
Knickerbocker Playhouse	.50	Vick's Open House	.50
		Voice of Firestone	9.00
		Westinghouse Program	3.00
		Woolworth Hour	2.50
		World Security Workshop	.50

OTR BROADCASTS

<u>STATION</u>	<u>FREQ.</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>HOST IF KNOWN</u>	<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIME</u>
WADS - AM	690	Ansonia, CT	Tom Chelsea	Sat	9 - 10 pm
KJBL - AM	590	Austin, TX		Sun	3 - 7 pm
KBOL - AM	1490	Boulder, CO		Sun	9 - 12 mid
WICC - AM	600	Bridgeport, CT	When Radio Was	Sun	7 - 11 pm
WEBR - AM	970	Buffalo, NY		Sat - Sun	8 - 9 pm
WBBM-AM	780	Chicago, IL	Chuck Schaden	Mon-Fri	12 mid - 1 am
WBBM-AM	780	Chicago, IL	Chuck Schaden	Sat -Sun	8-10 pm
WNIB - FM	97.1	Chicago, IL	Chuck Schaden	Sat	1 - 5 pm
KSPC - FM	88.7	Claremont, CA	Randy Skretvedt	Sun	3 - 4 pm
WCLI - AM	1450	Corning, NY	Gary Yoggy	Sun	9 - 10 am
KNUS - AM	710	Denver, CO	John Rayburn	Sun	12 - 4 pm
WCAR - AM	1090	Detroit, MI	Bob Burnham	Sat - Sun	10 pm
WXYZ - AM	1270	Detroit, MI		Mon - Fri	11 - 12 mid
KAPR - AM	930	Douglas, AZ	Bob Carroll	Wed	3 hours
WDOE - AM	1410	Dunkirk, NY		Mon - Fri	11 pm
WJKL - FM	94.3	Elgin, IL	Carl Amari	Mon - Fri	10 - 11 pm
WJKL - FM	94.3	Elgin, IL	Carl Amari	Sun	8 - 11 pm
WXFM - FM	105.9	Elmwood Pk, IL	Wayne Messmer	Sun	2 - 4 pm
WSWI - AM	820	Evansville, IN	Gordon Kelley	Sat	11:30 am - 2 pm
KSER - FM	90.7	Everett, WA	Larry Siskind	Sun	6 - 7 pm
WAJD - AM	1390	Gainesville, FL	Bob White	Sat & Sun	8 - 5
WUFT - FM	89.1	Gainesville, FL	Bill Sabis	Sun	9 - 11 pm
WWSC - AM	1450	Glens Falls, NY	D Richardson, W Mitch	Sun	8 - 10:30 pm
WPOP - AM	1410	Hartford, CT	Art Flemming	Sat	8 - 10 pm
WRCQ - AM	910	Hartford, CT	Phil Callan	Mon - Sat	12 - 5 am
KTRH - AM	740	Houston, TX		Sun	9:30 - 11 pm
KCMO - AM	810	Kansas City, MO		Sun	6 - 10 am
WBZW - AM	1040	Knoxville, TN		Sun	1 - 3 pm
KRWG - FM	90.7	Las Cruces, NM	Fred Dabner	Sat	
KANU - FM	92.5	Lawrence, KS	Darrell Brogden	Sat	7 - 8 pm
KNX - AM	1070	Los Angeles, CA		Daily	9 - 10 pm
WJUL - FM	91.5	Lowell, MA	Wayne Braverman	Sun	3 - 6 pm
KKSU - AM	580	Manhattan, KS	Ralph Titus	Fri	2 - 2:30 pm
KFAI - FM	90.3	Minneapolis, MN	Amanda Schauburger	Mon	2 pm
CFMI - FM	101.1	New West., BC	Brian Arnold	Sun	8:30 - 11 pm
KCSN - FM	88.5	Northridge, CA	B Lynes, B Watkins	Sun	12 - 3 pm
WBAI - FM	99.5	NYC, NY	Max Schmid	Sat	7:30 - 9 pm
WFUV - FM	90.7	NYC, NY	Frank Margesson	Wed	11 - 12 mid
WQEW - AM	1560	NYC, NY		Sat	7 - 7:30
KPCC - FM	89.3	Pasadena, CA	Gassman brothers	Sun	5 - 7 pm
WCBU - FM	89.9	Peoria, IL	Frank Thomas	Sun	7 - 8:30 pm
WDUV - FM	90.5	Pittsburgh, PA		Mon - Fri	2 - 3, 8 - 10 pm
WTKN - AM	970	Pittsburgh, PA		Mon - Fri	7 - 7:30 pm
WEDO - AM	810	Pittsburgh, PA		Mon - Thu	3 - 4 pm
KBOO - FM	90.7	Portland, OR	Ern Houd	Sun	8:30 - 10:30 pm
KZUU - FM	90.7	Pullman, WA	Paul Brians	Sun	6 - 7 pm
WINY - AM	1350	Putnam, CT		Sun	9 - 9:30 am
KWEB - AM	1270	Rochester, MN	Frank West	Sun	10 - 12 mid
KSJN - AM	1330	Rochester, MN		Sun	6 pm
WHAM - AM	1180	Rochester, NY		Mon - Fri	10 - 11 pm
WPRS - FM	88.3	Rockland, MA	A Chapman, B Bowers	Fri	1 - 2 pm
KLBB - AM	1400	St. Paul, MN	"When Radio Was"	Mon - Fri	8 - 9 pm
KLAF - AM	1230	Salt Lake City	Gayle, Morgan		5:30 am - 12 n
KALW - FM	91.7	San Francisco	Bud Carry	Sat	10 - 11 am
KFRC - AM	610	San Francisco	"When Radio Was"	Mon - Fri	11 - 12 mid
KCOZ - FM	100	Shreveport, LA		Sun	8 - 11 pm
KXLY - AM	920	Spokane, WA		M, W, F	7 - 7:30 pm
CHRE - FM	105.7	St. Catherine		Mon - Fri	10 - 11 pm
KMAQ - AM	680	St. Joseph, MO	Victor Ives	Sun	11 pm
WRVO - FM	89.9	Syracuse, NY	Art Pierce	Mon - Fri	Mid - 1 am
WRVO - FM	89.9	Syracuse, NY	Bill Shigley	Fri	9 - 10 pm
WRVO - FM	89.9	Syracuse, NY	Bill Shigley	Mon - Thu	9:30 - mid
CHUM - FM	104.5	Toronto		Sun	9 - mid
CKNW - AM	980	Vancouver	Jack Cullen	Sun	11 pm
WCRB - FM	102.5	Waltham, MA		Mon - Sat	11 - 11:30 pm
WAMU - FM	88.5	Washington, DC	John Hickman	Sat	10 - 10:30 pm
				Sun	7 - 11 pm

This is as up to date as possible as of June 1, 1993. When Radio Was, Charlie Michelson and USA Network were unable to supply me with a listing of stations.

EDITORS: JOANNE TANGORRA & JOHN ZINSSER

An Audiotape Goes Gold

Bantam's L'Amour series tops one million in sales

BY JOANNE TANGORRA

In a market where sales of even the most successful audiotapes rarely approach the high figures of their best-selling book counterparts, Bantam Audio last month marked a major milestone with the shipment of its one-millionth audiotape by popular frontier novelist Louis L'Amour. Bantam, which in the last five years has published 35 audio adaptations of L'Amour's fiction, hit the one-million mark with the release of *The Town No Guns Could Tame*, and will continue to expand the line with the spring and summer release of four additional titles, including *Bowdrie Follows a Cold Trail*, *McQueen of the Tumbling K*, *The Law of the Desert Born* (a boxed set) and *West of the Tularosas*.

According to Jenny Frost, vice-president and publisher of Bantam Audio, "L'Amour has become one of the bestselling novelists in the audio medium, and with this million-copy landmark we're making our place in audio sales history." Adds Beau L'Amour, the author's son and a supervising producer of the audio line, "It's ironic. I recently discovered in my father's journals that *The Towns No Guns Could Tame* was the first western story he ever sold, back in the 1930s."

In addition, the L'Amour line is getting greater play through the recently released *Louis L'Amour Theater*, a nationally syndicated weekly radio program based on Bantam's full-cast audio dramatizations of the author's classic tales of the Wild West and autobiographical accounts of his own adventures. The show—produced jointly by Bantam Audio, the L'Amour family and the California-based company CKW & Associates—has signed up 116 affiliates since it hit the airwaves in the fall. Says Frost, "The show grew out of our desire to see the programs reach an even wider audience. We knew we had an ongoing source of new programming and felt that there was an audience for the dramatizations."

In fact, a distinguishing feature of the L'Amour audio line is its multi-voice dramatizations (with the exception of a few single-voice narratives), complete with original music and sound effects. This approach reflects L'Amour's desire to "give listeners something special," according to Beau L'Amour, who has been instrumental in the production of the tapes since the inception of the line and particularly since his father's death in 1989.

"When we started talking about the audio line in 1986, my father said that his main concern was always to make sure that the audience got as much value as possible—in fact, he had asked Bantam to hold down the price on his books for a long time because he felt that was more fair to the consumer." (Bantam has published all of L'Amour's 109 titles, with 225 million copies in print internationally.) "As far as audio was concerned, Dad felt that it was a relatively expensive product and he wanted to give as much of a show as he could—as much production value as possible. When Jenny Frost suggested doing the programs like old-time radio, he was very excited."

As a supervising producer of L'Amour's audio titles, Beau has worked closely with Bantam to carry out his father's legacy, particularly in adapting L'Amour's short fiction to audio. "The line is unique in that my father gave us the freedom to change what he wrote, and each script is a specially written adaptation." Beau has written (and directed) several scripts himself—including *Merrano of the Dry Country* and *One for the Mojave Kid*—and has worked with writers on others. "What we try to do is find all of the little nuggets of gold in the original stories, identifying the main elements of plot and theme and then fo-

cusing single-mindedly on bringing those things out and interweaving them. We're not attempting to transcribe the short story to the tape—these are complete adaptations."

Thus far, the L'Amour formula is proving successful, not only in the predictable places like Texas and the West—home to a solid base of loyal L'Amour fans—but across the country, according to Frost. "In terms of marketing and promotion, L'Amour is treated as any major author, though we key support to primary markets and target groups," she says, adding that the tapes do "exceedingly well" in truck stops. Beginning in May, Bantam will launch a Father's Day promotion, offering a free copy of a book by Louis L'Amour with each of the company's three boxed sets: *Chick Bowdrie*; *Riding for the Brand*; and *Law of the Desert Born*.

In the meantime, the *Louis L'Amour Theater* continues to "add a station a day," according to Charles Whaley, president of CKW & Associates, who says that the program is helping to bring back "the golden age of radio." CKW began syndicating the show last fall to country and talk radio stations across the country, some of which report standing room only at local "listening parties." According to Whaley, the 26-hour-long radio shows have wide appeal: "Listeners include not just the 40-to-50-plus age range but people in their 30s who are burned out on television and are seeking some kind of entertainment."

Adds Beau L'Amour: "We're hoping that radio will help to reach that large number of consumers who still are not aware of audio. Hopefully, through the show, we can educate the public about the product." L'Amour says he will continue to work with Bantam well into the future on audio adaptations of his father's remaining works. "We still have a long way to go." □



L'Amour: riding into the sunset with a million in sales in the saddlebag.

FOCUS: Radio, TV & Movie Memorabilia

PAGE 20 COLLECTORS NEWS

Radio Memories: The WLS National Barn Dance

by William J. Felchner
"Hcy, hcy, hcy, the hayloft gang
to here... Hello, hello, hello, every-
body, everywhere, well, well wel-
come to your ole Alka Seltzer Na-
tional Barn Dance."

The above introduction to The
WLS National Barn Dance became
a familiar one to radio listeners in
1933. The WLS National Barn
Dance was one of the most impor-
tant music shows to emerge from
the golden age of radio. In fact,
during its long radio history, the
program would prove to be the
spawning ground for a number of
country music acts which would
later achieve great fame in the en-
tertainment world.

The WLS National Barn Dance,
which was known as The Aladdin
Play-party and The Old Fiddlers'
Hour during its early days, made
its premiere on April 19, 1924.
Originally broadcast from "the old
hayloft" in Chicago's Sherman
Hotel, the show later moved to
the Eighth Street Theater.

Almost from the beginning
The National Barn Dance, as the
show was later called, became a
solid hit with radio listeners. It
also proved to be a boon with
Windy City residents, who rou-
tinely packed the rafters at the
Eighth Street Theater in order to
catch the popular broadcast in
person. By 1928, when admission
to most radio shows was free,
fans of The National Barn Dance
were eagerly paying the adult
price of 75c (35c for kids) to gain
admission to the theater.

Eventually, The WLS National
Barn Dance became one of the
hottest shows on radio, with its
Saturday night broadcast being
heard by millions of listeners na-
tionwide. By 1928, the show was
being broadcast to selected mar-
kets around the country.

A truly national hookup took
place on September 30, 1933,
when NBC Radio added the pro-
gram to its Blue Network. Com-
ing aboard as a national sponsor
was Alka Seltzer, which added its
moniker to the show's title.

When one thinks of the talent
that graced The WLS National
Barn Dance through the years, it's
easy to see why the show was so
popular, especially during the
glory years of the late 1920s, '30s,
and '40s.

One of the first stars to emerge
via The National Barn Dance was
Bradley Kincaid, who was billed
on the show as "The Kentucky
Mountain Boy with His Houn-
dog Guitar." Kincaid, who record-
ed such tunes as "The Fatal Wed-
ding" and "Bury Me on the
Prairie," starred on WLS from
1926 to 1931. He is regarded by
many music historians today as
the "Dean of the Folk Singers."

Also appearing regularly on
The WLS National Barn Dance were
many other popular hillbilly
/country music acts, including
the Maple City Four, Louise
Massey and The Westemers, and



Sheet music from 1945 pictures Jenny Lou Carson of
WLS and Georgia Mae of WBZ

"...Are you ready, Hezzie?" (fol-
lowed by the sound of a slide whis-
tle), brought immediate smiles to
the people out in radio land.

Lulubelle and Scotty.
One of the most popular mu-
sical acts to grace the Chicago
radio show was the vaunted
Hoosier Hot Shots, a novelty
band whose members included
Paul "Hezzie" Trietsch on the
zither, whistle, and washboard;
brother Ken Trietsch on the ban-
jo and guitar; Charles Otto
"Gabe" Ward on the clarinet; and
Frank Kettering on the bass fid-

SOUVENIR
PROGRAM



WLS
NATIONAL BARN DANCE
80 S. Theater, Chicago

This Barn Dance souvenir program
dates from 1933.
die. Signed to The Barn Dance in
1933, the Hot Shots' signature
opening, "Are you ready,
Hezzie?" (followed by the sound
of a slide whistle), often brought
immediate smiles to the people
out in radio land.

The WLS National Barn Dance
featured a number of then-un-
known performers who would
later rise to national promi-
nence. One such artist was Gene
Autry, also known as "The
Singing Cowboy," who was a
regular cast member on the
show from 1930-34.

Also hitting it big as a result of
The Barn Dance was Patsy Mon-
tana, "The Yodeling Cowgirl."
Barn Rubye Blevins in Hot
Springs, Ark., on October 30,
1914, Montana had come to
Chicago in 1933 to visit the
World's Fair. While in the Windy
City, the future country music
great hooked up with a Western



THE HOOSIER HOT SHOTS
On Your Radio - Coast to Coast - Every Week
for ALKA SELTZER

A postcard from 1945 features the Hoosier Hot Shots,
one of the more popular acts on The WLS National
Barn Dance. The reverse bears a handwritten message
from Gabe Ward, playing the clarinet.

swing band called the Prairie
Ramblers. The act then became a
featured number on The WLS Na-
tional Barn Dance in 1935.

Yet another country music
great who got his start on The
Barn Dance was the immortal Red
Foley. A talent scout for WLS had
spotted the youthful Foley at
Georgetown College in Kentucky.
The radio scout then offered Foley
the proverbial chance of a life-
time: the opportunity to sing on
the famous WLS National Barn
Dance. Borrowing \$75 from his fa-
ther, young Red leaped at the op-
portunity and made tracks to
Chicago, where he appeared on
the Windy City radio program.
Foley then joined the regular cast
on The Barn Dance, performing as
both a soloist and a member of
the Cumberland Ridge Runners.

Musicians were not the only
performers to get a career boost
from The WLS National Barn
Dance. Several comics, including
George Gobel and Fat Buttram,
can rightfully lay claim to The
Barn Dance as the launching pad
for their successful careers in
show business.

In May 1960 The WLS National
Barn Dance finally closed its doors.
It was, however, not the final
death knell, as the show was later
picked up in the early 1960s by
WCN, which broadcast it briefly
as both a radio and TV program.

The WLS National Barn Dance
spawned a number of similar
shows across the nation. Principal
among these was the WSM Grand
Ole Opry, which premiered in 1925.

During its long years on the air
The WLS National Barn Dance not
only spawned a slew of radio
show imitators but a vast array of
interesting memorabilia as well.
Country music collectibles have
been receiving more attention as
of late, with many enthusiasts
looking to artifacts from The Na-
tional Barn Dance as part of their
prime search.

Among the Barn Dance items
available are sheet music, pro-
grams, posters, playbills, post-
cards, publicity stills, autographs,
and other memorabilia. Signed
photographs and letters from The
National Barn Dance cast members

are especially in demand by col-
lectors. A Red Foley autographed
portrait from his Barn Dance days
would be worth about \$65 today.
A signed, handwritten letter by
Foley would command an even
higher price - perhaps \$100 or
more - especially if it was penned
on WLS stationery.

It's interesting to note that
many Barn Dance cast members
handled their own fan mail, par-
ticularly in their early years with
the show. Louise Massey, Jenny
Lou Carson, Red Blanchard, Patsy
Montana, and other performers
on the program often penned
hand-written letters on the dis-
tinctive WLS Prairie Farmer sta-
tionery. Letters of this nature are
usually valued from \$15 to \$30 or
more, depending on condition

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This handwritten letter on WLS stationery from Barn Dance mem-
ber Blanchard, dated May 7, 1958, discusses the formation of Red's fa-

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ber Blanchard, dated May 7, 1958, discusses the formation of Red's fa-

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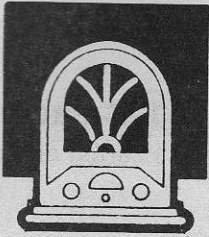
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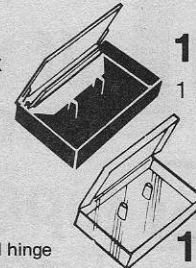
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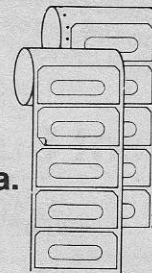
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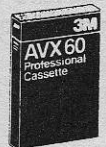
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