

THIS ISSUE starts a new year on a very sad note. While it does begin my sixth year collecting the radio programs of the past, it is the first issue written without the person for whom it was named. The final two pages of this issue will be devoted to the greatest entertainer and gentleman of them all, Jack Benny.

A PERSONAL NOTE: My oldest son, Jeff, drew the cover for this issue from one of the many pictures and photographs in the paper. Last month's cover was done by Paul Pitzer... Many thanks for the many readers who sent the TV Guides I needed... On October 1972 I printed a listing of all the Jack Benny programs I had at that time (125) plus 25 undated ones. It is chronologically arranged. Those who never received it, please send a SASE if you want it. By Feb. 1st I will have a supplement with many of the undated ones dated and all the Benny I have acquired since 1972 plus others that are available. If you just want the supplement send a SASE. One SASE is enough for those that want both...

IN FOND MEMORY: Bob Montana, 54, Jan 4; Creator of the Archie comic strip... Richard Long, 47, Dec 21; TV series include Maverick, 77 Sunset Strip, Bourbon Street Beat, Big Valley, Nanny and the Professor... Harry Hershfield, 89, Dec 15; A wit, author, newspaperman, and cartoonist. Hershfield was a panelist and storyteller on CAN YOU TOP THIS... Reed Hadley, 63, Dec 11; Hadley played Red Ryder on radio. TV credits include Racket Squad and Public Defender. Appeared in several films... Rufe Davis, 66, Dec 13; Stage and screen performer. Was railroad conductor on Petticoat Junction... Paul Richards, 50, Dec 10. Appeared in several TV series including Breaking Point and Littlest Hobo... Milton Cross, 77, Jan 3. From Dec 25, 1931 to Dec 28, 1974 Milton Cross was "the voice of the Metropolitan Opera." Mr. Cross missed only two performances two years ago when his wife died. Other programs included: A&P Gypsies, Chamber Music Society, Children's Hour, Coast to Coast on a Bus, Information Please, Magic Key, This is Your FBI, Singing Lady...

PUBLICATIONS: Charles Stumpf wrote a very interesting article on children's television programs from 1947 to now. It is four pages long but I'm not sure what publication it was in. Write Charlie for details at 722 N Laurel St, Hazleton, Pa 18201... Received NARA News, second issue. Its 18 pages contain reviews of 1975 activities and reprints and short articles about performers.

CATALOGS: Richard Foss, 7 Melvyn Ave, Beverly, Ma 01915; 50 reels of BBC.

QUIZ: Only 2 people sent in answers. They were Ed Cardaran and Lora Palmer. Answers: J Oakie, R Rogers, M. Rooney, P Singleton, A Sothern, D Thomas, M Wilson, E Wynn, F Allen, D Ameche... Jan. QUIZ: What were the stage names of the following people: Leon Wycoff, Julia Vernon (Wells), Eunice Quedons, Betty Perske, Eugene Klass, the Blythe family, Benjamin Kubelsky, Golda Edelstein, Milton Berlinger, Fanny Borach.

LOGS: Meade Frierson III, 3705 Woodvale Rd, Birmingham, Ala 35223 has a fairly complete alphabetical log of the GOON SHOW from 1953-1960. If anyone has a considerable number of Goon Shows for trade, Meade will send him 2 copies, one of which will be returned to Meade with the shows checked that you have. If you don't want to trade send 25¢ for postage and copying and Meade will send you one copy.

LET THE BUYER BEWARE: Has anyone learned of the whereabouts of Richard Stadler or Virgil James?

HERE AND THERE: New Friends: Vincent Damiano, 68-34 64th St, Ridgewood, NY 11227...Harral Peacock, 324 W 99th Ave, Northglenn, Col 80221...

Old Friends; Larry Slavens, Box 132, Earlham, IA 50072 has 2 hours of Jack Benny memorial tributes which he will trade. Wants to trade for Benny or Suspense...Richard Arnold, Box 51, Tipton, MO 65081 has for sale a Metrotec graphic frequency Equalizer by BSR. 2 years old in new condition; price \$50.00. Excellent for improving sound...Who is putting "This is Radio Yesteryear" on their program tapes. Bruce Ruggles has acquired many of these and they spoil the show...Thomas Heathwood, 340 Parker St, Newton Center, Ma 02159 is looking for QUICK AS A FLASH, unedited FRIAR'S CLUB ROASTS, transcriptions, ABIES IRISH ROSE, premiums and scripts...Dick Foss, 7 Melvin Ave, Beverly, Ma 01915 has several hundred of his own tape he is willing to sell; 12 reels of shows for just \$20.00. This is mainly for beginners; Dick has no listings so its first come, first serve...Patricia Lalongo, 1712 So Amherst A, Los Angeles, Cal 90025 is looking for current and older BBC programs, particularly mystery and science fiction serials...Harold Cox, 552 Plumas A, Creville, Cal 95965 is still looking for YOUR HIT PARADE. Also looking for a radio show called FLYWHEEL, SHYSTER AND FLYWHEEL that ran for 26 weeks in 1934 starring the Marx Brothers...Cort Parant Jr, Crompond Rd, RFD 1, Peekskill, NY 10566 is looking for THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE that was broadcast on WRVR-FM in New York on December 31st...

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: On WTIF in Hersey, PA there will be a new show called THE JAZZ DECADES with Ray Smith starting this month. Ray has had this show for 17 years in Boston.

RADIO 1974 by Charles Stumpf: The sands of time have recorded.. another important year in broadcasting history: The successful return of drama to the air waves via CBS Radio Mystery Theater...Lowell Thomas marked his 44th year of continued newscasts for CBS. Many immortal voices have been stilled: JACK BENNY, the king--Ed Sullivan, John Gambling, Chet Huntley, Milton Cross, zany Jane Ace. Ace staight man Bud Abbott, jovial Harry Hershfield. Distinguished actresses who graced the microphone: Agnes Moorehead and Claudia Morgan; the dulcet tones of Roger Pryor, Reed Hadley and Warren Hull; the versatile voices of Cliff Arquette, Barbara Jo Allen (Vera Vague) and Bert Gordon (The Mad Russian) and alas, the advance obituary notice of NBC's MONITOR... To each--All hail..and farewell.

FROM JOHN OLSEN JR, Box 321, Baker, Ore 97814; I have a color video tape of the hour long Jack Benny tribute done on CBS on Dec. 29th...I am looking for TARZAN and THE HAUNTING HOUR in top condition being rebroadcast on WRVR-FM...What issue of TV Guide were WC Field's LP's advertised in?...I want to trade for top quality CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER. KOIN here in Portland botches up sometimes. Sometimes it loses the correct show and repeats the previous show. What can be done about this...Anyone taping the black serial SOUND OF THE CITY?

MANY EX-STARS of radio now found in Palm Springs including Brett Morrison, Freeman Gosden, Bob Hope, Red Skelton, Don Wilson, Norris Goff, Lud Gluskin, Frank Barton,...

\$5.50 is due FOR ANOTHER YEAR

RECOLLECTIONS AT 6 YEARS: 1975 starts my sixth year collection old radio programs. I'd like to share 5 years of thoughts with you. First, who am I? I am 40, am divorced, have 3 children: Jeff, 14 who is in the 9th grade and plays guitar and tenor sax; Robin, 11 who is in the 6th grade and plays flute, and Craig, 10 who is in the 5th grade and plays trumpet. I teach piano and play professionally in dance bands...Now-the hobby---In early January of 1970 Sal Trapani, whom I met through my piano playing, gave me about 100 radio programs. Armed with these shows, a primitive catalog, one primitive and one new tape recorder, and little knowledge of trading, I invaded the world of experienced collectors. My first trading friends were very patient and very helpful in making suggestions to improve my dubbing. I soon replaced my old recorder with a second new one. Since then I added one more. I got to know J Miller, M Shlank, J O'Neal and D Davies, all local traders. From G Blacker in Cheshire I got many discs of shows that were uncirculated at that time. I also met and traded with E Corcoran, D Brush and E Hack, all Conn. residents at the time...Because of these early contacts I had many programs people wanted. I tried to be very prompt in answering letters, requesting programs, and dubbing. I constantly put out supplements. Charlie Ingersoll of the RHSA has been helpful. I also tend to be organized. This, with a little more time than some, helped me accumulate programs faster than most traders. In one year I had over 3000 programs. My trading has now slowed down to a crawl because I am just looking for certain programs and they are becoming harder to find. I now have about 5000 shows including about 575 SUSPENSE, 160 ESCAPE, 160 JACK BENNY, all DIMENSION X and X-1 titles...Friends with me from early 1970 are: R Barker, D Boates, B Blalock, R Bright, R Bills, F Dickey, J Duning, F Dacey, P Croy, K Gackler, E Hack, J Hehn, B Hofer, R Hill, R Hayes, D Koehnemann, C Hoeffler, M Hahn, R Koch, R Kelting, J Lane, F McFadden, E McCoy, E MacBride, R Miller, W O'Rourke, B Pfeifer, B Ruggles, R Ross, E Robinson, C Schaden, B Smerickanicz, M Simons, A Vesik, S Weiss...Helpful in supplying logs, newsletters, and information are B Brooks, B Joseph, J Burger, J Scheinfeld, R Roos, R Stanich, C Stumpf, C Ingersoll, R Eidemiller, R Bright, F Dickey, M Frierson, P Murray, C Snader, M Wedin, R Oden, R Hill, D Maris, A Rockford, C Sterling...Personalities that have been helpful are H Peary, P Fennelly, W Spier, B Morrison, J Beck, E Juster, R E Johnson, A Moorehead, P Donald, J Pearl, M Kremer, M J Rigby, P Lynch...The trouble with listings names is that some have probably been left out, but not intentionally...my supplements and newsletter developed gradually. My first supplement in Feb, 1970 had 40 listings and my first correction section. My second supplement in March had a few sentences about my additions (110) and my first discs. the 3rd supplement in April had a page of COMMENTS AND TIDBITS mentioning a few people who already had helped me, a little information about myself, and how I graded my programs (280 listings). In May my Comment and Tibit section was a page and a half (240 listings). My June supplement had 480 listings (my largest) and HELLO AGAIN, in honor of Jack Benny, made its appearance. Its purpose was and still is to exchange ideas about collecting and trading and to tell you all about you all. Subscription started at \$1.00 and now is \$5.50 a year. Several logs and listings have been made available. Four Golden Age of Radio Conventions have been successfully held in New Haven with more to come...5 years have now past and I know that my life is richer, both because of the radio programs themselves and because of the many friends I correspond with. I hope I am able to continue trading for many years to come. Also as long as news comes, HELLO AGAIN will go out.

NEWSLETTERS AND PERIODICALS related to vintage radio now being published. These are all publications I have read and enjoyed. In most cases we exchange newsletters.

VINTAGE RADIO:

NARA NEWS (Roger Hill), Box 13114 Station E, Oakland, Cal 94661; journal of North American Radio Archives; irregular; \$10.00/year
DOUBLE-R-RADIO newsletter (Allen Rockford), 505 Seeley Rd, Syracuse, NY 13224; mostly information in Syracuse area; monthly; \$2.00 per year.

RADIO IN DEPTH (Texas Historical Society), Box 3634, Bryan, Tex 77801; bimonthly; \$14.00 per year

RADIO HISTORIAN (Ed-Thomas Wegner), Box 11983, Shorewood, Wisc 53211; quarterly; \$5.00 per year

VINTAGE RADIOS: OLD TIMERS BULLETIN (Ed.- Bruce Kelley). Main St, Holcomb, NY 14469; journal of Antique Wireless Assoc; quarterly; \$5.00 per year.

SCIENCE FICTION-FANTASY: Replay (Joanne Burger), 55 Bluebonnet Ct, Lake Jackson, Tex 77566; Journal of NFFF (National Fantasy Fan Federation (I think)); monthly (although I haven't received one in a while), \$1.25 for 10 issues.

MULTI*NOSALGIA:

NOSTALGIA JOURNAL (Ed-Joe Williams), Box 242, Lewisville, Tex 75067; Adzine; free for now; monthly

REMEMBER WHEN (Don Maris), 2519 Linden St, Norman, Okla 73069; 8 issues for \$6.00; not sure how often it is published.

TV SERIALS: DAYTIME SERIAL NEWSLETTER (Bryna Laub), Box 6, Mountain View, Cal 94042; monthly; \$8.00/year; monthly review of TV soaps.

MASS COMMUNICATION: MASS MEDIA BOOKNOTES (Chris Sterling) Dept of Commun., Temple Univ, Phil, PA 19122; monthly; \$3.50/yr; book reviews of all phases of communication.

HOBBIES: HOBBIES (Ed- Pearl Reeder), 1006 So Michigan Ave, Chicago, Ill 60605; monthly; \$6.00 per year.

MYSTERY AND DET. FICTION: MYSTERY FILE (Steve Lewis), 62 Chestnut Rd, Newington, Ct 06111; 4 issues of \$1.00; published irregularly.

MAGIC: MAGIC SOUNDS (Craig Snader Jr), Apartado 12-665, Mexico 12, DF Mexico; quarterly; \$2.00 per year.

MOVIE SERIALS: SERIAL WORLD (Jeff Walton) Dept H, Box 64177, Los Angeles, Cal 90064; irregular; \$1.00 each

Send me copies of those I may have missed. The last I heard Radio Dial wasn't being published anymore. Remember these other newsletters and periodicals of the past: EPILOGUE...STAY TUNED...ECHOES OF THE PAST.

LATE NEWS AND TIDBITS: Bruce Ruggles, Box 1256, North Bay, Ontario P1B 8K5 is interested in collecting certain shows in series such as CBS IS THERE, YOU ARE THERE, YOUR HIT PARADE, FIBBER MCGEE and others...Robert Flatter, 3126 N 12th St, Wausau, Wis 54401; has 800 shows...Walt Hart, 9015 N 10th St, Phoenix, Ariz 85020 is still interested in juvenile series, ILAM, ONE MAN'S FAMILY, WEBSTERS, science fiction...Let me know if you collect 16mm films or video tape and I'll list all of you in the next issue...Sat Trapani mentioned that Virgil James is divorced, lives somewhere in the Union City, NJ area, his company name is Edison Alarms, business phone is (212) 8660060...Neil Lane, 787 Dodge Trail, Westville, Ind 46391 has a partial FIBBER MCGEE log from 1939-1953 for \$2.00...Neil is also looking for SUPERMAN from March 5-19 1945...Paul Nichols now lives at 1219 S Ridley, Hacienda, Cal 91745...Paul Pitzer, 7510 SW 60th A, Portland, Ore 97219; supplement Reel 404-530 includes complete CBS MYSTERY THEATER for 1974, BBC. That's all for now...Hang by your thumbs; Write if you get work Jay Hickerson Box C, Orange, Ct 06477 (203) 795-6261 \$5.50/year

JACK BENNY**IN FOND REMEMBRANCE

At 2:32 AM, Friday, Dec 27th, 1974 Jack Benny died of cancer. There is little that I can say that hasn't been said already on TV, radio and in the press. Thanks to many of my friends, many articles and thoughts were sent to me....Benny, as many of you know, was my favorite radio personality. His is one program I listened to faithfully, including the repeats, until 1958. In my collection I have just about every show that is readily available (about 163) except 23 new ones originating from the west coast and 4 others...I laughed more listening to the Jack Benny Show that I did to any other. Who was the real Jack Benny???

Born on Valentine's Day, Feb. 25, 1894 as Benny Kubelsky, he was 80 years old when he died. Benny was married 47 years to Mary Livingston (the former Sadie Marks). For over 60 years he was active in vaudeville, radio (1932-1955; 1956-58 were repeats), television from 1951-1965 plus occasional specials after that and movies (21 plus 7 others in which he made guest appearances). Benny was generous, humble-almost shy, always busy, always living in the present. He was an accomplished violinist. He gave numerous concerts for charity, raising about \$5,000,000 by 1970.

A master of comic timing all he had to do was pause, give a blank look or simply say Hm-m-m-m. How did Benny describe his own comedy: "Never laugh at the other fellow; let him laugh at you. I try to make my character encompass about everything that is wrong with everybody. On the air I have everybody's faults. All listeners know someone who is a tightwad, show-off or womething of that sort. Then in their minds I become a real character."...As a result he was often the butt of his cast who devastated him with their barbs.

What did others say about Benny: STEVE ALLEN: Benny was to humor what Artur Rubinstein is to music. His "laugh at me" posture made him "a straight man for the whole world."...MARY LIVINGSTON: In all the years we were together, he never gave me one bad day, not one bad minute."...ROSALIND RUSSELL: We're losing one of the greatest performers who ever lived...RONALD REAGAN: He was a world institution. Everyone in the world felt they knew him...GEORGE BURNS: He was one of the great hearts of show business. I've known Jack for 55 years. I can't imagine my life without him...PRESIDENT FORD: If laughter is the music of the soul, Jack and his violin and his humor have made life better for all men...CAROL BURNETT: Jack was a super person. There was none nicer, or more generous...EDDIE "ROCHESTER" ANDERSON: I can't explain the sadness I feel. I worked with many people in show business, but I don't know anyone to compare with Jack...JOHNNY CARSON: Benny was a rare individual. Everyone who knew him loved him. I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone. I feel fortunate having my life touched by him...BOB HOPE: He was stingy to the end. He was only with us 80 years and it wasn't enough. Benny was revered as a genius by other comedians for his flawless sense of timing, but that Benny finally made a mistake. Histiming was all wrong. He left us all too soon. If there is a Mt. Rushmore for humanitarians, the first stone face might easily resemble him. And if a stone could talk, it would say "Well." How do you say goodbye to a man who was not just a good friend but a national treasure? No one will ever replace Jack Benny. He was the end of an era.

Greg Jackson, one of my readers, had some special remembrances:

REMEMBERING JACK BENNY by Gregory Jackson Jr...When Jack's regular show went off the air in 1965, he starred in 1 or 2 TV specials a year for NBC. I liked Benny too much to see him only a few times a year, so I decided to attend the taping of all his TV specials. Every year as soon as I saw it mentioned in TV Guide of the newspaper that Jack had been signed to do a special, I would write NBC for

tickets. Jack usually taped his specials 3 to 4 weeks before they were aired. He would always tape his specials on Saturdays and Sundays. Jack would have a dress rehearsal for about half the show on Saturday afternoon. You could get tickets for the dress rehearsal and attend because even though it was a rehearsal, they did tape it. Then Jack and the guests would take a break for dinner. Later they would return for the final taping of the half of the show they were doing that day. A completely different audience would attend the Saturday evening taping than had attended the afternoon rehearsal. With all the time the stagehands wasted slowly setting up the scenery of background, it usually took 1½ hours or more to tape the half hour's worth of show... On Sunday, Jack would tape the other half of the show, having again a dress rehearsal and a final taping. The dress rehearsals were always taped so that the tape editor could use it if he needed it. Sometimes a skit would turn out funnier in the rehearsal than in the final taping and by taping it all the editor could choose. Whenever you got a ticket for a Jack Benny special it always said you should arrive one hour in advance of show time. Well, if you wanted a good seat, you always arrived 1½ hours early. NBC always issued more tickets than there were seats since usually some tickets were never used; many times some people at the end of the line would be turned away and given tickets for some other show. If you attend the taping of a TV show, you will find that the star usually comes on when the crew is ready to shoot and quickly disappears when he's finished. Jack Benny was never like that. As soon as the audience was ushered into the studio, there was Jack. While the stagehands spent a half hour getting the props and setting up the background, Jack and not someone else, talked to the audience. He kept you entertained all the time. He told many jokes, introduced his guests, and explained what they were going to tape. As the taping progresses and the props and background had to be changed for the next skit, Jack would repeatedly apologize to the audience for all the delay--as if he felt guilty for how long it was taking... There was only one Jack Benny and I'll miss him terribly. Here at my desk I am looking sadly at the post card that NBC sent me a few months ago informing me that they would send me tickets to the next Jack Benny special as soon as they were available. That special, which would have been broadcast on Jan. 23, was to have had Gregory Peck and his wife and Englebert Humperdinck as Jack's guests.

In conclusion, what images, words and people come to your mind when you think of the JACK BENNY PROGRAM: Hello Again, this is Jack Benny talking--and Don... a vain tightwad... violin lessons... LS/MFT... Fued with Fred Allen... 39... trip to the vault... driving in his Maxwell... rehearsals with his cast: Mary Livingston, Phil Harris, Rochester, Dennis Day, Don Wilson, Mel Blanc, Frank Nelson, and Sheldon Leonard were often on also. All are still alive... So round, so firm, so fully packed; so free and easy on the draw... J*E*L*L*O... train leaving on track 5 for Anaheim, Azusa, and Cuc--amonga... Mary reading a poem... Sportsman's quartet... manichevivivitz... Mary reading a letter from her mother... Beverly Hill Beavers... Mary's sister Babe... "When I Say I Beg Y ur Pardon, Then I'll come Back to You"... agent, Steve Bradley... your money or your life... Hey Mabel; What is it Gertrude... Mr. Kitzel... cimeron rools... Herman Peabody, insurance man... Hey Bud; Come here a minute... farmer from Calabasis... Yeeees... Polly... Charlie Bagby--piano player... Frankie Remly--guitar player... Buck Benny... R45 L60 R15 L110... Jack's sister Florence... hunting bear... Greenberg on 3rd.. Pismo Beach... Happy Easter... Wilshire Blvd... Carmichael, the bear... blue eyes... Horn Blows at midnight... a mincing, almost effeminate gait... now cut that out... the Colmans... wait a minute... well... exchanging Don's Christmas present... oh oh OH ORRR... Manchester... turning the radio dial... Oh, say boss... Oh Boss. come now... SYMPathy soothing syrup... Doowahditty... sold American... We're a little late folks--good night