

HELLO AGAIN

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JUL - AUG 1991

A PERSONAL NOTE: Page 19 of **The Collectors List** is now available (#182 - 191) for a SASE.

CONVENTION 1991: Dates are Oct 24 - 26, 1991. All details on flyer. Cost is a little higher due to many West Coast guests we are inviting.

EARLY COMMENTS ABOUT OUR GUESTS: From Radio Guide, December 5, 1931: "I like **Arthur Tracy**, the Street Singer, for his kindness. On his recent vaudeville tour (and no publicity either) he actually became a street singer in various small towns, doing songs by the hour on the curbs, while a vaudeville friend passed the hat. The money went to various unemployment relief funds."...From Radio Guide, December 24, 1931: "**Kenneth Roberts** of CBS announcing staff, recently received a fan letter from a lonely heart who wanted to start a correspondence with someone with matrimonial possibilities."...From Radio Guide, November 28, 1931: "**Adele Ronson** is a talented radio actress. She is heard regularly over Collier's Radio Hour at 8:15 pm on Sundays."...From Radio Guide, July 16, 1938: At **Joan Benny's** 4th birthday Party, whether born to their famous dads and mothers, presented to them by Evanston's famous Cradle, or just adopted by the second daddies, all the children had the same hilarious fun. More than a hundred guests with nurses and mothers crowded under a big tent to see the marionette show (2 pages of pictures and comments)."...From Radio Guide, Dec 27, 1941: One of radio's most unusual profiteers is **Raymond Edward Johnson** on the "Inner Sanctum Mysteries." Neither criminal nor crime-cracker, Mr. Johnson plays Host and it is his business to scare the day-lights out of listeners with such interlocutory tidbits as "Did that make your blood curdle?".. From Radio Guide, Feb 28, 1942: Al Pearce has to be on his toes or **Ray Erlenborn**, his dead-pan stooge and sound-effects technician, will be....Radio Guide, Jan 17, 1942: The Aldrich family was renewed by General Foods for six years. Its star, **Ezra Stone**, is currently in the Army, stationed in the Morale Division at Governors Island, NY, but is permitted to appear on the program each week...From Radio Guide, May 9, 1942: **Charlotte Manson and Willard Waterman** are featured in Aline Ballard's several-part story of "Stepmother."...also **Betty Winkler** transferred her dramatic activity from Chicago to New York and took her mother along. Betty stars in "Abie's Irish Rose."...From Radio Guide, Nov 7, 1942: Rudy's heart is lost to **Shirley Mitchell**. At least, that's what the script of the Vallee shows says each Thursday...From Radio Guide, Mar 27, 1937: The players in "Pepper Yong's Family" don't act their parts--they live the story of an American home. Peggy Young forgets she is really **Betty Wragge**.

REMINISCING: From **August, 1971 (Vol. 2 No. 8)**: The original Network Log and Suspense Log were finished...A picnic was held at the house of Sal Trapani and it was agreed that a one day convention be held in the New Haven area. Among those present were John Furman, James O'Neal and Mel Shlank and several members of the very new Radio Collectors of America including Ralph Miller, Michael Franklyn, Bob Spoffard, Bernie Feitelberg, Al Smith and Burt Brown. The RCA is the first old-time radio club in this country. They have about 15 members (Bernie is the president today)...**Roger Hill** says that when taping transcriptions, wipe them with a soft cloth first, then wipe them with a damp cloth. Then while the ET is on the turntable, spray the surface with water in the stylus's path. It removes many pops and clicks, etc...Many dealers are now trading by the reel or by the track instead of individual shows (It is now the norm for reels)...For those who buy shows, it would be well to check out any new person you buy from, especially those companies without a person's name and no phone number. Always place a minimum order first...**New Friends: Mike Edwards; Bill Schroeder; Jim Batchelor; Burt Brown; Bernie Feitelberg; Robert Hutchison; John Scheinfeld;** John has done extensive research on suspense; **Hal Brodsky; Al Smith; Stuart Schneider; Peter Huckel...****Jack Benny** has recently been awarded a citation for 30 years of promoting the sale of US Saving Bonds. The 77-year old comedian was awarded a miniature Liberty Bell on August 11

and was described as the most frugal man since Benjamin Franklin.

An Open Letter to all Collectors

By Ray Oden

written in July, 1971

I believe that this is probably the most rewarding and least expensive of all the hobbies that I know. By and large, the backbone of this hobby is represented by teachers, professors, doctors, lawyers and many wonderful people who are too young to remember the golden age. I honestly believe that most collectors are just wonderful people and will do anything for another collector friend. Unfortunately there are many problems that I am throwing open for comments

My first and foremost is being ignored by a fellow collector for a long period of time or not to get a reply at all to correspondence. The only time when answers aren't necessary is when you get unsolicited catalogs with no personal message. (I might add, as I have often done, that if you want an answer, please enclose a SASE)

The second great problem is that there isn't a uniform grading system like in stamps or coins. In many cases faulty equipment produces flaws which then are circulated. I realize that catalogs are graded according to the owner's interpretation, but how many shows are really overgraded. (These comments are also relevant today).

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: A radio cassette is now available (**Detectives on Tape**) produced by Krist Boardman and Joe Knight. These are 2 new radio dramas produced in Maryland. Cost is \$11.40 including postage. Make check out to DOT and send to Box 455, Dept. S-91521, Joppa, MD 21085...**Bob Proctor** mentions that CBC radio (AM) will end radio drama programming on September 1 after almost 40 years of drama services. Drama would continue over CBC Stereo service...Still syndicating vintage radio shows to radio stations, according to Broadcasting, are Charles Michelson, Inc., who offer 27 series on tape and Dick Brescia Associates who distribute *When Radio Was* with Art Fleming via satellite...Coming soon or out now are a digital audiotape (DAT); Digital compact cassette (DCC); and a Mini Disc recorder-player (MD). What's next?

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: **Tape Squeal**, May - Jun, article on the Aragon and Trianon Ballrooms...**SPERDVAC Radiogram**, Jun; articles on Phil Cohan and Ray Singer, Fletcher Markle, Douglas Edwards...July; articles on Robert Fisher, Marvin Kaplan, The California Artists Radio Theater (award-winning group performs radio drams in Pasadena)

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES: (Just a reminder that these are brief reviews. For more exhaustive reviews, check other newsletters, especially Chris Lembesis's column in the **SPERDVAC Bulletin**)...A new publication is **Modern Radio Drama** by J. Steven Coleman, Box 12631, Berkeley, CA 94701. Subscription is \$10 a year for 4 issues. It concentrates on radio drama today and yesterday. Feature articles on Norman Corwin; the state of Radio drama today; The American Radio Theater; Bobb Lynes; Radio sources...**The Nostalgia Entertainment Sourcebook** is compiled by Randy Skretvedt and Jordan Young; Moonstone Press, Box 142, Beverly Hills, CA 90213; 1991; Its 160 pages lists Dealers, organizations, publications, research centers covering movies, vintage records, old-time radio and the theater. It is very complete. Cost is \$9.95 at your bookstore or call Moonstone Press at 1-800-677-1927...**The Adventures of Amos 'n' Andy**; A Social History of an American Phenomenon by Melvin Patrick Ely; The Free Press (division of Macmillan), 1991; \$23. Ely explores the enormous appeal of the Amos 'n' Andy as he narrated a fascinating tale of the shifting and ambiguous color line in 20th Century

America. Primary sources were used for this 300-page recommended reading...**Boris Karloff** by Scott Allen Nollen, McFarland & Company, Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640; 1991; \$39.95. This 400-page comprehensive work incorporates in-depth information and criticism as Nollen examines Karloff's careers in Screen, Stage, Radio, Television and recordings

ORGANIZATIONS AND CONVENTIONS: One of several Communications Museums around the country is the National Museum of Communications, 6305 N. O'Connor, Suite 123, Lock Box 55, Irving, TX 75039 (214) 556-1234. If you are in the area, stop in. It is open Tues. - Sat and has all kinds of hands-on exhibits from hardware to the shows themselves.. The **Abbott and Costello Fan Club** is alive and well in California. Write Chris Costello, Box 2084, Toluca Lake, CA 91610. Dues are \$8 (US); \$9 (Canada). Send a SASE to Chris Costello for details...NARA list of OTR Sources, totalling 53 groups, museums, etc. is available from Jack French, 5137 Richardson Dr., Fairfax, VA 22032; \$1.50 for NARA members, \$2 for non members. Please send coins, stamps of currency; no checks.

CATALOGS AND NEW SHOWS: **Larry Kiner**, Box 82, Redmond, WA 98073 has a new supplement (#31). New shows include Inner Sanctum, quiet Please, Rudy Vallee, Eddie Fisher, Nelson Eddy, Johnny Green's Packard Summer Hour, Many discographies...**Ed Carr**, 216 Shaner St., Boyertown, PA 19512 has 6 new Terry and The Pirates; 3/29/44; (1945) 7/3, 7/5, 7/17, 7/20, 7/23.

LOGS: From **Ray Stanich**, 173 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201; Partial **Perry Mason** for SASE; Complete **Philco Radio Playhouse** (SASE).

NEW ADDRESSES: **John Gaughran**, Yorkridge Apts. #7G, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598...**Peter Massaro**, 17500 Chagrin Blvd., Shaker Heights, OH 44120...**Michael Ogden**, 5429 Grove Valley Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32303...**Steve Szejna**, 7806 West Waterford Ave. #1, Greenfield, WI 53220...**Steve Hiss**, Rt 1, Box 253, Alachua, FL 32615.

NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: **Darwin Maurer**, 315 West Market St., Perkasio, PA 18944 looking for John Charles Thomas Show with Victor Young's Orchestra.. **Howard Mandelbaum** (c/o Photofest) 47 West 13th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 1001...**James Robert Parish**, 4338 Gentry Ave. #1, Studio City, CA 91604. Jim is author or coauthor of many movie or tv books including Complete Actors tv Credits, Prison Pictures and The Great Spy Pictures...**Don Fisher**, 132 Fillmore St., Bennington, VT 05201...**William Hufford**, 135 Rosedale Ct., Bloomingdale, IL 60108...**Jerry Hoedema**, 1408 Whittier St., Ypsilanti, MI 48197...**Patrick King**, Rt. 6, Box 477, Waco, TX 76706 is writing a definitive history of Columbia Workshop and is looking for several people including Harry Clark, Sandy Becker, Werner Michel, Carl Beier, John Dietz and others. If you can help, please write him...**Steve Casper**, 810 Independence Dr., Tracy, CA 95376...**Frau Ethel Tedaldi**, A 89/6, Gufenhaldenweg 22, CH - 8708 Mannedorf, Switzerland...**Sharon Gavin**, 1043 Bear Creek Way, Stockton, CA 95209 wants copy and information about the Cinnamon Bear...**Bill Hansen**, N8723 1025th St., River Falls, WI 54022 wants some Amos 'n' Andy for his 82-year old father.

OLD FRIENDS: **Tom Heathwood**, Box 16, Boston, MA 02167 has for sale vintage broadcast equipment; free list for SASE. Tom is looking for 1940's - 1950's studio clock, 14" in diameter, brown case, cream color, Naval Observatory Time via Western Union; flashed red light and reset on the hour...**Walt Gollender**, Box 519, Irvington, NJ 07111 (201) 373-6050 still looking for any radio transcriptions of The Four Aces; also any audio, video or photo material but not Decca products. Also wants the episode of The Naked City (tv) entitled "The Scorpion Sting" or "Down the Long Night"...**Frank Tomaselli**, 112 Garnet Lane, Stones Throw, East

Stroudsburg, PA 18301 still wants new one hour Fred Allen; also new ILAM...**Ruben Thomas**, 830 Manida St. #1, Bronx, NY 10474 wants more Barrie Craig including excellent copies of 6/9/55 (Sucker Bait) and 6/23/55 (Two Dead Men).

IN FOND MEMORY: **Fletcher Markle**, May 23, 70; radio, tv and film writer, director and producer (Studio One, Columbia Workshop, Ford Theater)...**Mort Lewis**, May 21, 82; radio, tv and film writer (Telephone Hour, Jimmy Durante, George Burns)...**Eva Le Gallienne**, Jun 3, 92; actress, director, author (appeared on Suspense "Phobia.")...**Dwight Weist**, Jul 16, 81; Radio and The Friends of Old-time Radio lost a dear performer and good friend; announcer, actor, teacher (March of Time, Mr. District Attorney, Big Town, The Shadow, many others)...**James McCallion**, Jul 11, 72; actor in radio, tv, films (Billy and Betty, Gasoline Alley)

Write if You Get Work....and Hang by Your thumbs

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JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887. \$12 a year

DRAMATIC ENTRANCE

Pacific Program Services has announced a Sept. 1 premiere date for SoundPlay, a year-long series of original American and international radio dramas, produced by Voices International for broadcast on public radio stations. The series debuts with a series of "new Horspeil" productions, exemplifying the German avant garde movement experimenting with language and sound. These include an English-language production of *The Flight of Lindbergh*, written by

Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, and also includes Wolfgang's *The Outside*, Gunter Eich's *Dreams*, Ingeborg Bachmann's *The Good God of Manhattan* and Reinhard Lettau's *Breakfast in Miami*. Other plays focus on American and international contemporary radio drama, native American myths and stories and a festival of Samuel Beckett plays. SoundPlay was produced with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Goethe Institute and the New York State Council on the Arts.