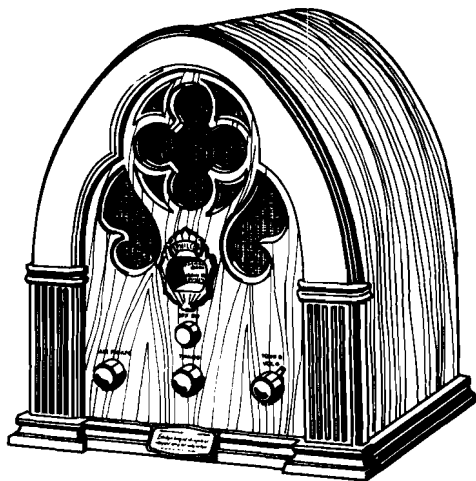


**O**LD  
**T**IME  
**R**ADIO



**C**lub  
**O**f  
**B**uffalo

NEWSLETTER #7  
JANUARY 1977

Editor: Chuck Seeley

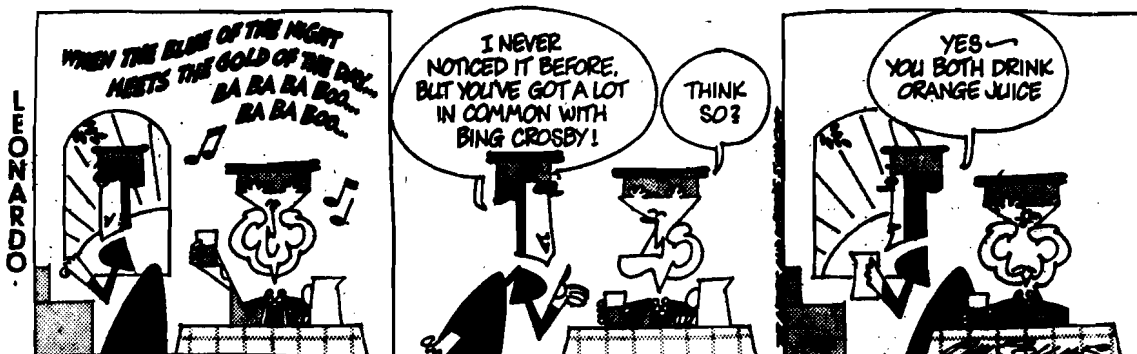
Happy First Anniversary and Happy New Year to all OTRCOB members and friends! And welcome to new members Carl Barnum and Pete Russell.

REMINDERS: I've only received five surveys in from the November newsletter. That's not a very useful sample from 59 members. Deadline is January 28. Let's get with it, especially you local members...Don't forget to send in your membership dues as soon as possible so that you don't miss any issues of the magazine or the newsletter.

ELECTION RESULTS: The annual OTRCOB elections were held on December 13. The entire slate was unanimously re-elected: President Peter M. Bellanca, Vice-President Ray Olivieri, Secretary Sharon Andrews, Treasurer Dom P. Parisi, and Member-at-Large Stuart Mann.

NEWSLETTER: This is the first issue of the monthly newsletter. You'll note that it is the same as the bi-monthly except that no extras are included. The extras will appear every other month, as before. We are working on a script for next issue now, either DIMENSION X or X MINUS ONE. Also next issue will include the 1977 members' directory.

DEADLINES: Newsletter #8 (Feb. 1977): Jan. 28  
Newsletter #9 (Mar. 1977): Feb. 28  
Newsletter #10 (Apr. 1977): Mar. 28



## THE OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB OF BUFFALO

by Peter M. Bellanca

One year has passed since the re-birth of the OTRCOB. Many questions have been asked about our origin and goals, and I hope that the following brief history will answer those questions. It should be pointed out that an organization like ours could not exist unless some members are willing to give more than is expected of them. Although many members could be named, I would like to single out three who fall into this category: Mill Dunworth, Dom Parisi, and Chuck Seeley.

In November of 1974, there was a nostalgia meeting at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, and out of this meeting emerged the Western New York Popular Culture Society. At the February, 1975, meeting of the WNYPCS, a group of members who were primarily interested in old time radio decided to meet on their own. The first meeting was held at Frank Matesic's home, and it was decided that a club "dedicated to the regeneration of interest in and enjoyment of that part of vanishing Americana that has become known as the Golden Age of Broadcasting" be formed. Members of the club were Pete Bellanca, Chuck Cammarata, Bob Davis, Mill Dunworth, Dan Marafino, Frank Matesic, Ray Olivieri, Dom Parisi, Douglas Roycroft, Chuck Seeley, and Leo Stachura. Dan Marafino was appointed President and Chuck Seeley Secretary. The next meeting was held at the Crane Library in Buffalo and Pete Bellanca was appointed Vice-President and Mill Dunworth Treasurer. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church also agreed that we could use their facilities as our permanent meeting place.

The remaining meetings in 1975 were trying and difficult. One meeting was spent just on choosing a name for the club, another on by-laws. Members could not agree on what direction the club should take. Some wanted a local informal coffee klatch group, while others wanted a more formal national organization. Many prospective members attended meetings during this period, viewed the chaotic situation, and never returned. The one bright spot was that the club established a magazine, Memories, devoted to OTR.

At the November, 1975, meeting, the President resigned, and the organization appeared to be on the verge of extinction. One week after the meeting, four members, Pete Bellanca, Ray Olivieri, and Dom Parisi met with Chuck Seeley at his home to reorganize the club. Pete Bellanca moved up to President, Ray Olivieri became Vice-President, Chuck Seeley kept the Secretary's post, and Dom Parisi became Treasurer. It was decided that the club would become a national organization, dues were established, a bi-monthly newsletter was begun, and the club's publication, Memories, was to be continued as a quarterly magazine. In December, 1975, the remaining members agreed unanimously to the reorganization.

The period from January 1976 to January 1977 has been one of stabilization and growth. Membership increased from 11 to 59. Four issues of Memories were published, the newsletter became a monthly publication, an executive board was established, and a membership chairman was appointed.

We are in contact with other OTR clubs, and a joint newsletter with the Radio Historical Association of Colorado was published in November of 1976, with the promise of more to come. A tape lending library was established in July of 1976 and contains 20 reels at this writing. Our reference library presently contains over 50 articles, books, and scripts.

With our first year now history, the OTRCOB has truly become a viable voice in that bit of nostalgia known as Old Time Radio.

REFERENCE LIBRARY: Thanks to Stanley Steinberg for the donation of a clipping concerning the LONE RANGER.

NEW MEMBERS:

Carl Barnum, 1909 Fair Oaks Road, Kings Kingsport, Tennessee 37664  
Pete Russell, P.O. Box 8109, Coral Springs, Florida 33065

BAD NEWS: WBEN here in Buffalo has dropped the CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER. This also means that it is highly unlikely that they won't carry the new RADIO ADVENTURE THEATER when that program begins on February 5. The club is firing off a strong letter of protest about the cancellation, and we urge members in the Buffalo area to write individual letters of protest. Send them to: Station Manager  
WBEN Radio  
2077 Elmwood Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14216

TAPESPONDENTS: Pete Bellanca is looking for a show called THE WHISPERER that played over Mutual in the early Fifties. The show was based on the character from the pulp magazine of the same name. Write Pete at the club address.



WORTH WATCHING: Jim Jordan, radio's former Fibber McGee, debuts as a television actor when he guest-stars on "Chico and the Man," airing at 8:30 tonight on Channel 2. 12/17/76

Remember, send in your wants, trade notices, etc. and we'll publish them here in two consecutive issues.

OLD JANUARY: Thanks to Mill Dunworth for these dates and events.

- Jan. 1, 1930: "The Cuckoo Hour" starring Raymond Knight is heard for the first time tonight.
- Jan. 4, 1937: MYRT AND MARGE began on radio.
- Jan. 6, 1941: FDR's "Four Freedoms" speech.
- Jan. 12, 1926: Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll debut on radio with SAM 'N' HENRY.
- Jan. 15, 1936: GANGBUSTERS began on radio.
- Jan. 16, 1920: Prohibition begins.
- Jan. 25, 1934: John Dillinger captured in Tucson, Arizona.

**CBC Began in 1936**

TORONTO (CP) — The CBC, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary, took over the Canadian Radio Broadcasting Commission having a staff of 132 people in 1936. Now it operates in both English and French four national radio and two television networks, a radio and television Northern Service, an international short wave service and Radio Canada International with a staff of more than 11,000.



**SANTOS ORTEGA**  
20 Years in Series

*"I have heard that Grandpa Hughes of As the World Turns has passed away. Is this true, he was such a dear man. — Mrs. W.H., Kenmore.*

Santos Ortega, 76, the veteran actor who played Grandpa Hughes, died April 10 in Florida, where he was visiting. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

An original World cast member, Ortega joined the show 20 years ago. He was born in New York City and started his career as a singer at the old Hippodrome Theater in the 1920s.

He won his first radio part because of his Spanish name. With a very limited Castilian vocabulary and a good Spanish dictionary, he bluffed his way through the role of Don Rodrigo in "Blackstone Plantation."

Ortega went on to many radio detective roles — he was the original inspector in "Elery Queen" and "Nero Wolfe," Commissioner Weston in "The Shadow" and Dr. Barton Crane in "City Hospital."

One of the original players in the CBS "Lux Radio Theater," he also had major roles in Perry Mason, Charlie Chan and Big Sister.

More recently, Ortega was heard on CBS Mystery Theatre and NBC's "The Eternal Light" radio dramas.

TAPE LENDING LIBRARY: We seem to have lost track of who donated reel R-4 (FIBBER MCGEE), so let us know if you were the donor and you will get proper credit. Also, Tape Librarian Frank Matesic asks members who borrow tapes to report on the sound of the tapes they borrow. It's impossible for him to check the sound quality on all the tapes, so just enclose a small slip of paper with your opinion of the sound when you return a tape. And Frank reminds everyone that they will receive credit if the tape they borrow has poor sound.

The following are new tapes received by the library. Thanks to Bob Angus, Richard Hluchan, William Moorman, and Tom Pawlak this month. When we get 25 or 30 reels in the library we'll publish another list.

R-14 (1800')(Pawlak)(\$1.00/month)

LUX RADIO THEATER "Is Zat So?" w/James Cagney  
"Five Graves to Cairo" w/Franchot Tone  
"Voice of Bugle Ann" w/Lionel Barrymore  
"Maytime" w/Nelson Eddy and Jeanette MacDonald  
BOX 13 "Sped to Burn"  
"House of Darkness"  
I WAS A COMMUNIST FOR THE FBI "The Sleeper"  
"The Red Ladies"

R-17 (1800')(Moorman)(2-track)(\$1.00/month)

INNER SANCTUM "Chinese Tile"  
"Stardust"  
"Jane Carter"  
"Taxi"  
"Dead Walk at Night"  
"Death for Sale"  
BOLD VENTURE "Framed"

R-18 (1800')(Moorman)(2-track)(\$1.00/month)

INNER SANCTUM "Death is a Double Crosser"  
"Murder Comes at Midnight"  
"Desert Death"  
"Death by Scripture"  
"Ghosts Always Get the Last Laugh"  
"Only the Dead Die Twice"  
"Devil's Fortune" (1 minute missing at end)

R-19 (1200')(Hluchan)(.75/month)

SPEED GIBSON OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRET POLICE "The Octopus Gang"  
Chapters 1-16

R-20 (1800')(Angus)(\$1.00/month)

CBS NEWS OF THE WORLD 5/20/42, 6/1/42, 6/4/42, 6/13/42, 6/25/42, 6/26/42,  
8/10/42, 9/3/42, 10/6,9,19,26,29/42

R-20 (continued)

BRITAIN SPEAKS w/J.B. Priestly 4/16/42, 1/16/42, 6/4/42, 6/11/42  
WABC excerpt CBS NEWS OF THE WORLD 5/22/42, 6/10/42, 7/20/42  
WEIO excerpt CBS NEWS OF THE WORLD 6/9/42  
FREE FRENCH PROGRAM w/Wendell Wilke & DeGaulle 7/8/42  
WILLIAM M. SHIRER News Analysis 7/10/42  
MAJOR GEORGE FIELDING ELLIOTT Analysis 7/11/42  
ERIC SEVEREID News Analysis 7/19/42  
JACKSON WHEELER & HIS LAST MINUTE NEWS REPORT 7/19/42  
NEWS Swedish ship "Grisholm" arrives in Rio 8/10/42

REVIEW: Strange Tales from the CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER, edited by Himan Brown, Popular Library, \$1.50, 250 pages. Contains "The Black Room" by Elspeth Eric, "The Only Blood" by Sam Dann, and "Time and Again or (The Vampire Clock)" by Ian Martin.

It may sound sacriligious, but I've never heard the shows from which these stories were adapted. In a way I'm glad I haven't because I can judge the stories on their own merits as short stories, instead of as adaptations of radio shows.

Elspeth Eric's "The Black Room" is probably the least adapted story. Nearly all of the tale is presented in straight dialogue form, with very little descriptive prose. The theme of sensory deprivation is one that has been used before, especially in science fiction, and I didn't find the theme presented very differently in this story. It just wasn't satisfying.

"The Only Blood" by Sam Dann is much better, but I don't care for stories that give you a moral at the end. At least this is a lot more like a short story than the first tale.

The third story, "Time and Again or (The Vampire Clock)" by Ian Martin, is clearly the best of the three. Dann's style is simple and straightforward; like the best of writers, he is concerned first and foremost with the story. And the story, while predictable, is a fine horror piece, one that might have been printed in The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction. Best of the lot.

In his introduction, Himan Brown makes a good case for presenting drama on radio, distinguishing listening as an activity from viewing as an event. On the whole, the book is interesting, and, if this volume sells well enough, we can expect more.

As an aside to radio adaptations on the MYSTERY THEATER, the program, on May 5, 1976, presented "The Walking Dead", which Alfred Bester adapted from his own 1954 story, "Fondly Fahrenheit." The radio version is emasculated, lacking totally the verve and power in the original story. It wasn't Bester's fault; radio writers are under the same handicap of censorship that TV writers are saddled with. I for one am tired of the many "mood" pieces presented on the MYSTERY THEATER. How about a good action-packed, "blood-and-thunder" show for once?  
--CAS

JUST IN: Oh, ah, thank you, Miss Blue. I've just been handed a copy of an article written by member Bob Angus which appeared in the December 1976 issue of Retirement Living. The article is titled "Those Old-Time Voices are Big Again" and, deals, naturally enough, with the resurgence of interest in OTR. Another fine article by Bob, it can be found in the club's library. And thanks to Dom Parisi for the copy. (That's funny...I didn't know Dom was retired.)

NEWS: More on the GENERAL MILLS RADIO ADVENTURE THEATER to debut on February 5 on CBS: General Mills, the show's sole sponsor, has a longrange, three-year contract (with options to cancel every 26 weeks). The series will originate in New York from Arthur Godfrey's former studio in the onetime CBS building. The shows will be pre-fed to affiliates on Thursdays and Fridays, with airings restricted to between 6:07 and 8PM (since it's supposed to be a family show). Ian Martin, Sam Dann, Elspeth Eric, Allan Sloane, and Paul Tripp are turning out scripts.... WRTH in St. Louis is airing THE SHADOW and THE GREEN HORNET in a late-night slot on alternate Thursdays.... Dick Cavett is the "star" of a new 52 program series called MONEYSSENSE, a 2½ minute show produced by Merrill Lynch.... BBC's 30 minute radio play "The Snake", by Gerry Jones, took the Ondas Prize, the major radio award of Spain.... Consider this: Charles Michelson is having episodes of THE SHADOW edited into FIVE MINUTE segments for stripping on stations that have a DJ/record type format. He's calling them "miniserials". Apparently, Michelson has his finger on the pulse of low-attention-span America.... WIP in Philadelphia has purchased a new set of 65 CHICKENMAN episodes for next season.... Anybody remember Al "Jazzbo" Collins? You know, he starred in the "Real Gone" episode of X MINUS ONE. Jazzbo has left his long-time post at KMPX in San Francisco to go with KGO radio in the same city. He's doing the all-night shows on Saturday and Sunday.... The Nostalgia Book Club has picked up Groucho Marx's The Groucho Phile: An Illustrated Life and The Golden Age of Television by Max Wilk. Both will be spring selections.

OBITUARIES: Hobart Donovan--- died Dec. 3, 71 years old. Besides movie and TV credits, Donovan wrote for LASSIE and BUSTER BROWN SHOW.

Nino Martini--- died Dec. 10, 72 years old. Martini, a onetime New York Metropolitan tenor, had a one-man recital series on ABC radio. The series was biweekly and ran for five months.

SIGN OFF: Don't forget: Send in your membership renewals and please take a minute to fill out and send in that survey from the November newsletter. The surveys will give us an idea of the directions you want the club, the newsletter, and the magazine to take.

Speaking of Memories, I just put to bed Volume 2, #1 (Spring, 1977). The cover story is about AMOS 'N' ANDY by Stu Mann and there's a piece on BIG JON AND SPARKIE by Bill Zwack. Besides these and other goodies, there's a complete index to the first volume of Memories.

While this month is the club's anniversary, next month is the anniversary of our first newsletter, so I thought that next month would be the perfect time to unveil the newsletter's new name. You'll never guess what it is, but be assured that it's classy. And it refers to a particular OTR show, which is kind of fitting.

WRITE! Editor, OTRCOB, P.O.Box 119, Kenmore, New York 14217

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CHOICE OF ONE DESIGN BELOW, AND THE CAPTION 'OLD TIME RADIO LIVES!' IS ALSO INCLUDED!!!



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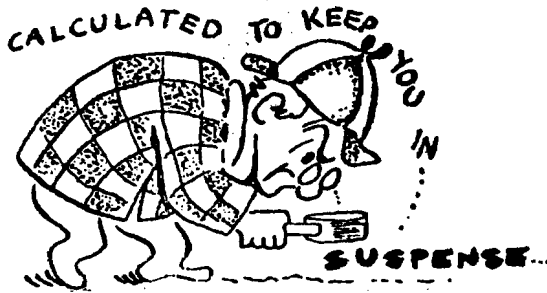
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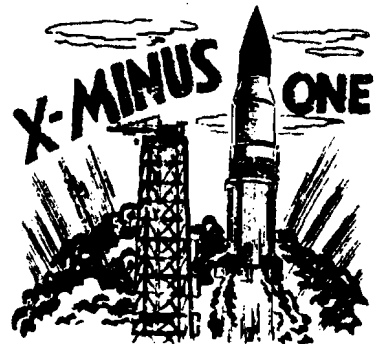
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