

## NUMBER 40 NOV 1979 16 PAGES





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Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

LETTERS TO IP:Kean Crowe 200 Woodward Drive West Seneca,N.Y. 14224 (716) 674-6123

COLUMNISTS: Jerry Collins 56 Christen Court Lancaster, N.Y. 14086 Hy Daley

437 South Center Corry, Pa. 16407

Chuck Seeley 294 Victoria Blvd. Kenmore, N.Y. 14217

Jim Snyder 517 North Hamilton St. Saginaw, Mich. 48602

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SCREEN DIRECTORS' PLAYHOUSE PRESENTED EVERY FRIDAY BY RCA VICTOR

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MEMORIES:Vol 1 #1 (\$2.00),#3,#4, #5;Vol. 2 #1,#4 (\$2.00). IP:#3 (with SHADOW script),#5A (RH AC/OTRC special #1),#8 (50¢), #10 (with Part 1 of LUX RADIO THEATER log),#14 (50¢),#15 (50¢), #16,#17,#18,REAC/OTRC Special #2, #19,#20,#21,#23,#24,#25,#26,#27, #26 (RHAC/OTRC Special #3),#29, #30,#31,#32 (\$2.00),#33,#34, #37,#38,#39. THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS

(cont.)

NCK POWELL

Page Three

sponsored)



## HY DALEY

The Richard Diamonds now in circulation are a must for the detective show freaks in the OTR aud-ience. Dick Powell, the flip ladykiller crooner, is perfect as the flip ladykiller, crooning detective. With more humor than Duff's Sam Spade, with more unbelievable scripts than I Love A Mystery, with more dazzling chicks than <u>Mike</u> <u>Shayne</u>, the <u>Richard Diamond</u> series must be rated No. 1. On most shows, Powell answers the phone with his newest slogan for his business, like: "Diamond speaking, a girl's best friend.", or "Diamond's tough when he's in the rough."

The shows are far out too. Take "The Gray Man" (2/16/51) who has been poisoned and is gradually turning colors, or the "Blue Serge Suite" case where every blue serge suite in town is disappearing! the time Rick takes a job in a butcher shop where "The Stakes Are Highl

Helen is the perfect girlfriend. Unlike most detective's girls, she stays out of every case. You know Margo Lane had to be snooping over Lamont's shoulder. And Ann Williams, Casey's sidekick in crime photography, had to be taking every other picture. Edi Miller in <u>Mr. DA</u> even helped to solve crimes for goodness sakes! Edith But not Helen. She waits in her rich, stately penthouse for Rick to finish his case and, when he finally shows up, he croons the Camel commercial, the kiss and fade out ... Diamond, you're a chauvanist pig, but I love ya!

Here are the Diamond cases that I have heard. Maybe there are others you know of to add to the list.

Undated:Gurman the Gunmaker 8:00 Killer Moran Suicide Murder in Oklahoma A Xmas Carol Big Foot Grafton Mona Lisa Case Jacobi's Back in Town

Baxter Matter Police Officer Symposium in Chapel Hill George Lexington Case Nancy Fowler Case No One was Murdered Case Marilyn Conners Case Dated Shows:Blackmail 5/29/49 Three Murder Suspects 6/19/49 Grounds for Divorce 6/?/h9 Phony Seance Racket 8/20/49 Man with the Scar 1/19/51 Rollins Case 1/26/51 Gaspary Case 2/2/51 Blue Serge Suite 2/9/51 Lady in Distress 2/25/51 Red Horse 3/2/51 Butcher Shop 3/9/51 Monsieur Beauchard 3/23/51 The Carnival 3/30/51 Xmas Story 12/21/51 Plaid Overcoat 12/28/51 Merry-Go-Round 1/4/52 White Cow Case 1/11/52 Simpson Case 1/18/52 Al Brennar Case 1/25/52 Gerrbalki Case 2/1/52 Eddie Burke Case 2/8/52 Dixon Case 3/14/52 as "Richard Diemond" Hank Burton Case 3/21/52 Mr. Walker's Problem

Undated: Ice Pick Murder (Rexall

3/28/52 Enigma of Big Red 4/4/52 46

Although most Sears Radio Theater shows leave me with about the same feeling as their monthly statement,I did find one that was very good. It's called "I Want Him Dead" (2/22/79). A boy is killed by a motorist and his hardhat father plans to revenge his son's death. The actress who plays the little boy's mother does a stunning job in the role as a crushed, hysterical woman, while the father is portrayed from the first hint of the boy's possible death as a man who will take an eye for an eye. Great script, great acting, great radiol

Came across a Buffalo area artist named Bob Bindig. I answered an ad in the Buyer's Guide concerning old newspaper cartoons. Come to find out, Bob is the one who does most of the drawings for the Illustrated Press, including the

(continued on page four)

#### THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS

November 1979



## JERRY COLLINS

Once again it is time to delve into the days of radio past... Ned Weaver played both Bulldog Drummond and Dick Tracy.

Les Tramayne, who would later play Mentor on the television show <u>Shazam</u>, played both Nick Charles on the <u>Thin Man</u> as well as Mike Waring on <u>The Falcon</u>.

Orson Welles called Ray Collins,"The greatest of all radio actors."

Quiet Please was sustained on Mutual in 1947 and also sustained on ABC in 1948. According to John Dunning in <u>Tune In Yesterday</u> "it was a fine creative place of radio that never enjoyed the success it should have had."

Few shows have had such a change of personnel as Your Hit Parade. The following were or-chestra leaders on the show; Lenny Hayton, Al Goodman, Peter Van Steeden, Ray Sinatra, Carl Hoff, Abe Lyman, Freddie Rich, Harry Salter, Harry Sosnick, Richard Himber, Leo Reisman, Scott Quintet, Mark Warnow, Alex Stordahl, and Raymond Scott. Th The even longer list of singers would include; Gogo DeLys, Kay Thompson, Buddy Clark, Fredda Gibson (Georgia Gibbs), Lanny Ross, Kay Lorraine, Bea Wain, Barry Wood, Frank Sinatra, Joan Edwards, Lawrence Tibbet, Dick Todd, Johnny Mercer, Dinah Shore, Ginny Simms, Martha Tilton, Doris Day, Dick Haymes, Andy Russell, Eileen Wilson, and with TV came Snooky Lanson, Dorothy Collins, Russell Arms, and Gisele MacKenzie.

It was not unusual for the <u>Fred Allen Show</u> to last longer than the allotted thirty minutes. Thus it was also not unusual for the <u>Take It Or Leave It Show</u> with Phil Baker to lose a minute or so each week. After adding these minutes up over a period of half a season, Phil Baker barged into Allen's studio in the midst of the show and began <u>Take It Or Leave It</u> a little earlier that night.

Robert Taylor, Orson Welles and Jane Wyman all substituted for Jack Benny in 1943 when he had a severe case of pneumonia.

Pepsodent was the first sponsor of the <u>Amos and Andy Show</u>. Pepsodent was one of the first companies, aside from a radio company, to sponsor a radio show.

The Great Gildersleeve is thought to be the first radio show based on a supporting character from another show. It was also the most successful.

Until next month, "Goodnight All."

THE CRYSTAL EGG (continued from page three)

Crystal Egg. Nice job, Bob.

If you haven't purchased the Shadow Scrapbook by Walter B. Gibson,do so. The scripts, background material, and art makes the \$8.95 trivial.

\* \* \* \* \* Oh,yeah....that interview on Charlie Seeley is coming along. So far,I've utterly exhausted 10 secretarial students (female) trying to transcribe my tape of the conversation.

a Who I



#### 8:00 P. M. H-E-N-R-Y! HENRY ALDRICH! That's your signal to gather around the radio for a hilarious halfhour with America's favorite knight of "misadventure."

<u>LIS P.</u> ate Ciatro Ma Da . II Pays to 9:00 P. X. Lulu Memell, George Shelton and rry McNangaton prove Harry that ignorance is bliss as they happily misinterpret quis-master TOM HOWARD'S question Stage Deer Canteen 10:30 P. M. Best Lytell, ial host of the can penial any, the introduces prominent stars of stars of service-stage and service to service-men and radio audience. it stars of Mildred Bailey ★ 11:30 P. M. Music in the American manner, with songs by the Rockin' Chair Lady, accompaniments by Paul Baron's orchestra. For other WKBW programs see com plete listings elsewhere on this page

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THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS

Page Five



Ever hear the story of Joe Miller? It goes like this:

Joe Miller, born and bred in Burlap, Pennsylvania (it may be located near Corry), wanted to be a radio star. 1 mean, he really wanted to be a radio star. Trouble was, Joe was a mere railroad porter. However, Joe had a great sense of Which is to say, he was conself. Joe had his own small ceited. transmitter and would often perform his own broadcasts for the entertainment of the rather small population of Burlap, Pa.

It happened that, one day in 1934, Joe bought an engagement ring for the girl he thought was his girlfriend. In his broadcast that night he proposed to her in a very roundabout fashion, which resulted in the girl accepting a proposal from someone else entirely, leaving poor ol' Joe in the cold with an engagement ring.

The next day, Joe, lounging about on baggage trollies, was about to throw the ring away when, as luck would have it, the 9:03 from Corry steamed through the yard, stopping briefly for water. Joe spotted a very attractive girl sitting asleep on the last car's observation platform. Noting the name on her luggage, Janet Melrose, Joe slipped the ring on her finger without awakening her, and the train continued on its way.

Later, that same day, Joe was fired. He didn't realize he was talking to the president of the line at the time. Undaunted, Joe picked up, packed up, and headed for New York City. After a hard day of wandering through the Big Apple looking for radio work, Joe stopped at an automat for some eats. Peering past a chicken pot pie in one of the slots, Joe saw, of all people, Janet Melrose. What a surprise!

In a frenzy, Joe ran around the automat, trying to grab Janet's hand through one of the slots. He's finally informed that she's left, and he leaves, dejected. He didn't know that she'd been fired because of his actions.

But Joe Miller's not the kind of guy that stays down in the dumps for very long. That same afternoon, he managed, through some deception and sheer gall, to land a job on the <u>Burroughs Pancake Program</u> on station AKDK. The BPP was a very sedate, "cultured" show. Boring, too. Fearless Joe Miller changed all that. He introduced pizzazz to the Pancake program. Joe's snappy patter and innovations (dressing the orchestra in chef outfits and showcasing the Pancake Triothree Aunt Jemimas clustered around a mike singing doo-wah) made the show a huge success and made Joe Miller a Big Name. He did product endorsements ("I smoke Virginia Blend Cigarettes-They're Frosted!") and drew crowds into his favorite restaurant after each show to enjoy Burroughs Fancakes.

Meanwhile, Joe hadn't given up on Janet Melrose. In another amazing coincidence, he met her again in, you guessed it, that same automat. Joe, smooth character that he was, put the moves on Janet and, sure enough, she turned out to be a singer. However, her pride prevented her from taking Joe's offer to appear on the Pancake program. Not to be daunted, Joe managed to get the program manager, Mr. Greene, to pretend to hire Janet on her own merits. And what do you know? she's a hit, too.

So our pal Joe was really flying highthe was a big hit, Janet was a big hit, the whole show was tops in the ratings. But every silver lining has a cloud. Or something. Anyway, Joe was still bothered by a couple of things. First and foremost, of course, was the way Janet kept refusing his marriage offers. In fact, she seemed to be paying more attention to Mr. Greene. Also, Joe was being bombarded with offers to do movies and plays. But Mr. Burroughs had no desire to lose the star of his Pancake program and wouldn't let Joe out of his contract.

Finally, Joe pulled all the stops and threw a huge party in his penthouse apartment. At one point, Joe cornered Janet on the balcony and presented her with a ring that held a diamond about the size of a basketball. This time Janet really reamed hims told him exactly what she thought of his irresponsible spending habits (as near as I can figure, this was her main objection) and spurned him badly. Adding insult to injury, she left the party with Mr. Greene.

Joe was really upset. He began drinking,drank some more, and showed up for the next Pancake program broadcast in a somewhat besotted condition. In his drunken rage, Joe began to bad mouth Burroughs Pancakes and was cut off the air. In a few short minutes, he had wrecked his career. In a few weeks, his name was seemingly forgotten by the multitudes.

Janet, naturally, had taken over the program after Joe was fired. Mr. Greene, fool that he was, finally told her that Joe was really the one responsible for her big break. She immediately went over to see Joe in his new digs at the Hotel Central, Rooms by the Hour or Day. Joe put on a brave front for Janet, but she saw right through him. Joe refused her offers of help, but didn't see her slip some cash onto his dresser. After she left, Joe spotted the mools.

Well, listen, Joe Miller had his pride. He wasn't about to take money from a woman. There was nothing to do but take the money back to the studio where Janet was about to go on the air. Storming through the stage door and past a couple of astonished pages, Joe strode on stage, interrupting Janet's song. As he started to speak, he realized that he was in front of both a live audience and a listening audience, and he sheepishly started to leave. But Janet wouldn't let him. When she introduced him and he said hello, the studio audience gave him a standing ovation. Overcome, Joe apologized to his fans and promised never to act irresponsibly again. Mr. Burroughs, pleased to see the reformed Joe Miller, gave him his job back. And Janet finally accepted Joe's marriage proposal.

Joe and Janet lived happily ever after. Or, at least, until television appeared.

You probably think I made all this up. No, not a bit of it. I like to think I have a better imagination than that. No, blame this story on Ralph Spence, who wrote it and actually sold it to Monogram Pictures, back in the early thirties. Monogram filmed it and released it in 1934. I haven't been able to ascertain the business it did. It's obviously a "programmer" picture, made to fill out a double bill.

The name of the picture is "Loudspeaker" and it stars Ray Walker, Jacqueline Wells, and Charles Grapewin. Grapewin's is the only familiar name to me. He's appeared in "The Grapes of Wrath", "Tobacco Road", "They Died With Their Boots On", and many more films.

The main interest for the OTR fan is the way radio is presented in the film. There's a brief shot of the control booth when Joe Miller is cut off the air. The technician just pulls a plug and puts a record on to fill the time. In the beginning of the film, Joe runs around using a record player to record bits and pieces from the radio. He uses these in his own local broadcasts. The only real-life radio personality referred to in the film is Ed Wynn.

The film, though, is incredibly corny. I haven't overstated very much of the synopsis. It's that bad. I don't imagine it gets much TV play, and then probably on some very late show. Anyway, I suppose the pict-

Anyway, I suppose the picture gives the viewer an idea of the times and can be viewed as an historical curiosity. Or something.

Our gentle editor has called for more input into the IP, which is why, in a moment of weakness, I volunterred to do this columm. I'm not too thrilled with the title, so if anyone out there is indeed reading this and has an idea for a better cognomen, please send it in. All suggestions welcome. (((At the same time, if any of the more artistic of you out there can draw a logo better than the sad-looking unknown artist's rendering above, size 2" x 3½", the editor would appreciate it.-KFC)))

At this writing, I have received only one mailed comment on my column in the last issue. I did, however, get some comment from those members who received IP #39 at the Bridgeport OTRcon. Reactions were mixed. I've been told that there'll be some comments in this IP, so I'm looking forward to seeing them.

The convention itself was a great time; I enjoyed myself hugely. One of the high points for me was to finally meet some of the people I've been in contact with for so long. It's a good thing they were there, too. They were the only ones that showed up at the newsletter panel I was asked to run. Thank you, Joe Webb.

(((For the reaction to Chuck's last column, read the Member's Forum.-Ed.)))

Dan Seymour holds fascinating human interest interviews

ve, The People



FRIENDS OF OLD TIME RADIO

#### CONVENTION

#### October 20,1979-Bridgeport,Ct.

For the third consecutive time, I, along with my wife Natalie and my son Michael, motored to Bridgeport, Connecticut for the Fourth Annual Friends of Old Time Radio Convention. The weather was warm and beautiful throughout the weekend. While travelling home along the Taconic Parkway, the view of the autumn foliage was the most stunning I have ever seen.

This was definitely the biggest OTR convention, ever. It began for some on Friday evening with a buffet supper. For most, the convention began on Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. Once again, Jay Hickerson made the day as complete and varied as possible. The number of exhibitors and

The number of exhibitors and dealers increased by at least thirty percent. One could view or purchase pre-recorded tapes and cassettes, comic books, magazines, books, posters, old radios, games, and audio equipment, as well as joining a variety of OTR, or related, clubs. It was also possible to view close to six hours of movies featuring many of the stars of old radio.

A series of workshops were presented throughout the morning and early afternoon hours. One could attend a sound effects, an acting, a writing, an equipment, a video tape, and a newsletter workshop (featuring Chuck Seeley). One could also participate in a trivia workshop, conducted by trivia expert Dick Curland, as well as viewing "The Shadow Slide Show", conducted by Anthony Tollin, Shadow expert and editor of <u>The Shadow</u> Scrapbook.

At mid-afternoon, the radio stars began assembling. Raymond Edward Johnson gave us another frightening reading. This one was titled "The Waxworks". Following this, Ted Mallie, Grace Mathews, Lee Allman, and Bill Griffis participated in an episode of Joyce Jordan, MD.

After the Joyce Jordan show, we were able to speak with all of the radio stars at a cocktail party. Among the guest stars present at this time, were Peg Lynch, Ira Ashley, Ward Byron, Art Hanna, Clair Hazel, Evie Juster, Hamilton O'Hara, as well as those participating in the morning and afternoon shows.

The day concluded with an excellent buffet dinner, Mark Trail

and Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar radio shows as well as an award cere- n mony. Don McLaughlin, Mandel Kramer, Ralph Bell, Jackson Beck, Court Benson, Bob Dixon, Jack Houseknect, Ian Martin, Vicki Vola, Sybil Trent, Arnold Stang, and Bob Prescott all participated in the evening performances. Rosa Rio was at the organ with Bob Prescott's sons, Bob Jr. and Peter handling the sound effects.

At the award ceremonies, Ken Piletic became the first recipient of the annual Allan Rockford for the promotion of the hobby of old time radio. With the official closing of the convention, many of us rode the elavator to Lee Allman's room on the seventh floor. Mrs.Allman, Miss Case on the <u>Green</u> <u>Hornet</u> as well as the brother of Jim Jewel, told us of her experiences on the <u>Green Hornet</u>, the <u>Challenge of the Yukon</u>, and the <u>Lone</u> <u>Ranger</u>.

It was a marvelous convention with over 240 people attending the dinner, with many more attending only the morning and afterncon sessions. Some of the Old Time Radio Club members in attendance were:Bob Davis, Chuck Seeley, Richard and Rosemary Simpson, John Furman, Jim Snyder, Mike Collins, Jerry Collins, Hank Kropinski and others. -Jerry Collins



MAY 2 0 1979

#### REVIEWS:

<u>NARA News Vol. 7 #2,Summer 1979</u>, quarterly journal of the North American Radio Archives,edited by Al Inkster,sample issue \$2 from 3051 South Jessica,Tucson,Az. 85730.

This is Al Inkster's last issue as NARA News editor. Roger Hill assumes the editorial reins next time. Fortunately,Al will continue to be a contributer to the News. I've very much enjoyed Al's tenure on the News, and I believe that he,more than anyone else,is responsible for making NARA News a class act. Al will be tough to follow and I don't envy Roger Hill his task.

Highlights of the News this time around include a very interesting report on OTR available for syndication; another of Charlie Stumpf's patented career articles, this time on Minerva Pious (Mrs. Nussbaum); a fine article by Jack French recollecting the Tom Mix radio show that almost makes me want to listen to some of those shows, and that's an accomplishment in itself; the second part of John Pellatt's Bob and Ray overview, consisting of a list of 40-odd characters that appeared in a single typical week of Bob and Ray shows, and I'm <u>definitely</u> going to be listening to more of the two and only; and the first of an apparent series on OTR dealers (sounds familiar), this one dealing with Mar-Bren. Also included in this issue, besides the usual reviews and club notes, is a reproduction of an information brochure that accompanied a spool of recording wire. This ought to be required reading for anyone who complains about recording tape. -CAS

COLLECTOR'S CORNER #19 & #20, monthly,edited by Joe Webb and Bob Burnham,\$7.50/12 issues from Old Radio Warehouse,Box 267, Centuck Station, Yonkers,N.Y. 10710.

The longest piece in CC #19 concerns the DBX system and dynamic range (as I understand it, dynamic range is another term for volume), and is of interest, I suppose, mainly to those collectors who are into the technical side of the hobby. The shorter article in #19 covers Bergen and McCarthy at the beginning of their radio career. Ed Carr contributes another News of the Past column, information gleaned from various radio magazines of the Thirties and Forties.

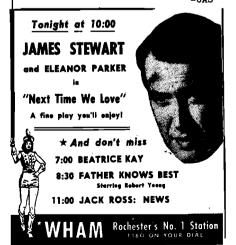
There's only one article in CC #20,happily it's a good one. In the fourth of his "Mystery Dial" series, Steve Lewis discusses <u>Mr. &</u> <u>Mrs. North</u>. This issue also <u>com-</u> pletes the log of <u>Suspense</u> and includes a log for <u>The Mercury Thea-</u> <u>ter On the Air from 11 July, 1938,</u> to 10 March, 1940, with the notation that this last date was the final broadcast on a regular basis. The log includes stars and writers where known. Not included is a notation of the series' name change to <u>The Campbell Flayhouse</u> beginning 10 September, 1939.-Robert Hightower

TAPE SQUEAL Vol. 20.#11,monthly newsletter of the Indiana Recording Club,edited by Sharon Moore,club info from William B. Davies,1729 East 77th St.,Indianapolis,In.46240.

The Indiana Recording Club is primarily an organization for those who enjoy exchanging tape letters, and <u>Tape Squeal</u> reflects that interest. There's a trivia quiz,club news,and a very funny article on one-upmanship among tapespondents. This is definitely something to check out if you're into tape lettering. -Chuck Seeley

ON THE AIR Vol, 7.#6, bi-monthly newsletter of the Golden Radio Buffs of Maryland, edited by David Easter, 1900 Angleside Road, Fallston, Md. 21047.

Much of <u>On the Air</u> is local interest material, but there are some items for the general readership. There's a good article about Ed Wynn, outlining his career, a wartime propaganda reprint, and a funny Lone Ranger cartcon ("Who was that man wearing the dark sunglasses?"). -CAS



#### THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS

#### OTR NOTEBOOK

According to Radio Currents #6, CBS sources report that the Sears Radio Theater was not picked up for renewal and will end in February.

Partly because of the Sears cancellation, Radio Currents is ceasing publication immediately and all subscription monies will be refunded. The CBS Radio Mystery The-ater listings will be carried henceforth in <u>Collector's Corner</u>. word is that <u>Collector's</u>

Corner will be going to a new for-mat early in 1980. Currently IP-size,CC will go to 82" by 11" page size. Which ought to be nice.

Ames 'n' Andy Return at Ten

**Guiding Light** Pleases We **I** Women listeners give a high rating to "Guiding Battories Michiganes tesain and John Chairles Thomas en WHEN tonight...at 10 Women listeners give a high rating to "Gulding Light".....2 o'clock show

Thanks to Jim Snyder for the clipping below.

#### **OBITUARY:**

Lum and Abner

Visit Musie Ball

Pine Ridge storekeepers

call on George Murphy at

Kraft Music Hall ..... at 9

I was very saddened to hear of the recent death of Ed Blainey. Mr. Blainey, a top sound effects man, was featured on many radio shows, including <u>The Fat Man, Gang-</u> busters, <u>Terry</u> and the <u>Pirates</u>, and <u>Hop Harrigan</u>.

Ed was a regular at the Friends of Old Time Radio Convention and very instrumental in attracting big name stars to the convention. I personally valued Ed Blainey as a friend. He was a fine performer and an even finer gentleman. We will indeed miss him very much.

-Jerry Collins

Frank Morgan Dreaming Again On Maxwell House Coffee Time tonight, he offers screen test to Songst Cass Daley .... at 8 P. M.

THE SAGINAW NEWS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1979



# Remember radio's influence

WASHINGTON - Father Coughlin died at 88, virtually on the 59th anniversary of the stock market crash that launched the Depression that launched him as a public nuisance. The "radio priest" was one of the first and worst exploiters of one of the best modern media: radio.

When in February 1932, he attacked President Hoover as "the Holy Ghost of the rich," he received 1.2 million letters from listeners. Soon, more formidable men were on the make on the air:

"Hello friends, this is Huey Long speaking. And I have some important things to tell you. Before I begin I want you to do me a favor. I am going to talk along for about four or five mintues, just to keep things going. While I'm doing it I want you to go to the telephone and call up five of your friends, and tell them Huey is on the air."

Long horrowed the name "Kinglish from a radio show: "Amos 'n' Andy." He, and especially Franklin D. Roosevelt, understood intuitively the paradox that Daniel Boorstin, the historian, explains:

. the enormous increase in the (speaker's) audience actually informalized the situation. Radio . . . was creating a new segregation: the listener sitting before his receiver in his living room, his kitchen, his workshop, or his automobile felt alone, and could be alone, with the broadcast voice. Between listener and speaker a new feeling arose. 'Public speaking' became just talking." Hence the fireside "chat."

Television has not been for any politiclan as effective as radio was for men as different as FDR. Hitler and Chur-



chill. Hitler on television would have been, like everyone else, about six inches tall. Churchill seen seated at a desk uttering those bugle-call sentences would, I think, have been less than compelling.

(Republicans, those everimaginative rascals, sponsored radio "debates" with Sen. Arthur Vandenberg arguing against recorded excerpts from FDR's speeches. FDR's wonderful laugh must have ratiled the windows in the White House).

Radio exploded across America quickly. In April, 1912, a young man (David Sarnoff) manning a wireless station installed as a gimmick in Wanamaker's New York department store, caught this message: "S.S. Titanic ran into iceberg. Sinking fast." For 72 hours Sarnoll, reporting the names of survivors, hold the nation's attention.

Television came of age during three days of covering John Kennedy's death. Radio became part of the nation's nervous system with coverage of the 103 ballots of the 1924 Democratic convention.

Boorstin believes that broadcasting's 'experience-at-a-distance'' has transformed American life more than radios in public places.

vention except the autor Radio was the beginning of a new form of "segregation." Hitherto, the destre to share an experience caused people to come legether, as at a theater for entertainment. Now they stayed apart.

Purthermore, Boorstin notes that "radio made the relationship between buyer and seller more indirect than ever, and deepened the mystery of who was receiving the advertiser's message." So a son of Danish im-migrania, Arthur Nielsen, pioneared the science of market research.

Television often is a domestic disaster. Rooms are organized around that machine as rooms once were organized around the fireplace. (Staring at a fire is, by and large, better for the brain, and soul, than staring at a television). Radio listening, however, is a relatively guilt-free activity because, unlike television watching, it is not immobilizing: you can do other things simultaneously.

One of the reasons for routinizing the work of life is to free the mind. Even quite skilled tasks (making an om repairing a transmission, removing an appendix) require less than 100 percent concentration. Groups of immigrants employed as cigar makers often pooled their money so that one of the group could always be reading to the others while they worked. Radio can be fitted into lives that way.

The most serious drawback to radio is that it is both popular and portable. In a civilized society, there would be stocks in public parks for the punishment of people who play transistor



The Old Time Radio Club has ventured into new territory this year. On August 25th, we held our first picnic. Bob Johnson proved to be a marvelous host allowing us to use his summer home in South Wales,N.Y., as well as providing the beverages for the picnic. Pete Liaros provided the hot dogs and used his own secret technique in cooking them. Although the turnout was small, those in attendance had a very enjoyable afternoon. Once again, thanks to Bob and Pete for hosting the picnic, and also to Tom Pawlak for making preparations for this event.

On Tuesday, October 9,1979, the Old Time Radio Club held its first banquet at the Pellanwood Restaurant in West Seneca, N.Y. After socialising for an hour in the lounge, we then dined on a very excellent meal of filet mignon. After the completion of the meal, Clint Bushlman, the dean of Buffalo broadcasting, talked to us for more than an hour on his radio career from 1924 to the present. Mr. Bushlman seemed to enjoy himself that night and was very pleasantly surprised when Jerry Collins presented him with a plaque making him a life member of the Old Time Radio Club.

Although the attendance was lower than expected,all those present had a very pleasant evening. The club wishes to extend its appreciation to Tom Fawlak, Jerry Collins, and Pat Capella for their efforts in making the banquet possible.

Editor's note-Final figures on the OTRC banquet show a financial loss of \$72.71. Costs included a \$100 fee for the guest speaker.

The picnic was held at no cost to the club treasury.

MEMORIES, the club magazine that has been in suspension for some time is alive. A new editor has taken over and a issue should be out to members before the end of the year. The new issue will showcase Lone Ranger creator, Fran Striker.

A bonus gift to members, that was promised almost a year ago is being sent out to members before January 15,1980. This surprise will be sent 3rd class mail so don't complain if you haven't received it, until after February 1, 1980. Chances are it will be in your hands well before that, maybe before Christmas.



From the Desk of the President-Jerry Collins

I wish to thank Chuck Seeley for the very comprehensive article that he wrote for the October issue of the <u>Illustrated Press</u>. As the President of the Old Time Radio Club, I thought it only appropriate to write a reply. If one considers numbers

If one considers numbers only, the picnic and banquet were less than successful. If these ventures are labeled as failures the record must show that neither the banquet nor the picnic received the complete support of the local members of the club. Those that complained the most gave us the least support.

After almost two months of planning and little input from local members, Tom Pawlak and I received a number of last minute telephone calls from members, saying that Saturday, August 25th was a bad day for the picnic. Why weren't these complaints made earlier?

While we were planning the banquet, it appeared that we had the support of the local members. At the May meeting, I informed the membership that Clint Beuhlman had requested a \$100 fee for speaking at our banquet. On Once again a vast majority of the local members gave their approval to continue preparations for the banquet. Our expenses, with the ex-ception of the speaker's fee, were quite minimal and our efforts, as well as time, put into the banquet quite large. Once again at the September and October meetings, when it was too late to cancel or change the format of the banquet, the banquet committee was criticized for holding a banquet. The criticism was also repeated in Chuck Seeley's article. Where were all these critics when the banquet was in the planning stages. In addition the banquet was

Oct. 21,1979

held on the same night as the October meeting of the Pop Culture Society. Why weren't we informed of this early enough to change the date of the banquet.

Why can't we have a better tape library? Whether the member be local or out-of-town, if he donates tapes to our tape library, he should know enough to donate good quality shows and generous enough to donate popular and even rare shows. I agree with Chuck, that we should purchase shows, but I see nothing wrong with members donating tapes. My major complaint has been the failure of members to rate tapes. If each local member checked three tapes a month, all the remaining tapes in the library could be rated in two months.

I also disagree with Chuck's views on the maintenance of a reference library. All major OTR clubs have reference libraries. Our weakness has been in maintaining quality tape and reference libraries and properly advertising these libraries to our members.

I was also disturbed by the way Chuck Seeley maligned some of our local members. Millie Dunworth helped us acquire the church basement that we used as a meeting place for the first few years of our existence. She has also saved us a large sum of money in lower printing costs. Granted her work is not perfect and not always on time, but did this warrant the attack she received in Chuck's article.

At times, Pat Capella is egotistical and overbearing. One characteristic of a mature adult though, is to realize that all people are different and to learn to live with and work with all types of people. Pat is one of the hardest workers in the club and we can ill afford to lose him at this point.

The Illustrated Press and <u>Memories have always been prepared</u> by local members, with most of the articles written by local members. All business of the club has also been conducted by local members. I certainly feel that we should meet our obligations to our outof-town members, but I do not think we should feel any embarrassment when we conduct a picnic, a banquet, or show a movie at a monthly meeting.

Chuck talks of the club being run by four or five people. Based on past experiences, are there four or five people who will be willing to handle the club business on a twelve month basis? Based on my experiences with the picnic and banquet, I conclude this typing in a very pessimistic mood.

#### Dear Mr. Crowe,

Having just returned from the Friends of Old Time Radio Convention in Bridgeport, Conn., I feel compelled to write.

The convention was, in my opinion, a complete success. Joe Webb and Jay Hickerson are to be congratulated for their efforts in this endeavor of bringing together some very talented radio performers of the past with a cross sec-tion of collectors and fans. The highlight of the festivities had to be the radio programs "Mark Trail" and "Johnny Dollar". Jac) son Beck's Marrry Trail opening Jackwas as thrilling as ever; Mandel Kramer's Johnny Dollar was superb, excellent, and every other adjec-tive imaginable; Ralph Bell sounds better than everyand I could go on and on. Of particular interest to me was Mrs. Lee Allman, who lived in my area and appeared in all of the great shows from Detroit. confirmed what I have known for She some time, and that is that John Dunning erred in <u>Tune In Yesterday</u> by stating that the <u>Hermit's Cave</u> originated at KMPC, Los Angeles. It is a fact that the Hermit's Cave was produced at station WWJ (pronounced Dubja-Dubja-Jay in these parts) in downtown Detroit. As an afterthought, I must say that Arnold Stang is Arnold Stang; same guy on the air or screen as off, and I mean very funny (funny ha-ha and 1 mean very turns, the set of the that is). The low point of the convention had to be the very poor scheduling of Chuck Seeley's Newsletter Workshop with the Writing Workshop in progress. I am certain that Mr. Seeley can hold his own in any competition of this kind. But when you put him on the second floor when everyone is on the first floor, this is unfair. Also I think Mr. Seeley has an aw-ful lot to contribute and should be heard by the collector and fan in attendance. Joe Webb pulled a bigger crowd to his workshop on the second floor.

It is not my primary purpose in this letter to report on the convention. It's very disconcerting to me that the Old Time Radio Club is considering abandoning its out-of-town members. This is very clear in the October issue of the ILL Press. I use the word ILL literally in this case, and not as an abreviation. Personally, I support

Mr. Seeley's statements of fact in Circuit Writers,mainly because he is knowledgeable. Should push give way to showing, I would also support his conclusions. Hopefully this will not be necessary. But all of you members from outside Buffalo must stop and think of what will be left of our hobby if another publication bites the dust. How will new people find out about our hobby? The Illustrated Press must be preserved for our own welfare.

Secondly, your membership committee, or whatever, has not fulfilled its function very well. In this respect, I have never been notified or reminded that my membership is, or was, due, as is so plainly stated on page two of every flustrated Press. If you do not mean it, you shouldn't print it!! Others are also due and not solicited. Gosh fellas, if you're broke why not try to generate the money? Enclosed is a check for \$13.00 to cover my dues and I hope others will do the same.

In caselusion, I would leave you with this thought. It appears to me that there is something almost illegal, if not immoral to discontinue anything for which you have solicited funds and failed to deliver. The safe route in such a case, is to take a vote of every member. Walter Reuther knew this and you should too.

#### Yours truly, Gene Bradford

(((The consideration of the outof-town members was made by Chuck because he felt we were not doing enough for them. There was never any serious thought of dropping the outof-town members, a vote was even taken at the last local meeting, with only one vote against the mail membership and I'm not even sure if that wasn't a joke. The center of the storm is the fact that the publications have not come out as promised to members when they joined the OTRC. Members outside of the local area only get these publications for their dues, they're too far away to join in picnics and banquets. Therefore, if issues of the IP are skipped or MEMOR-IES doesn't come out, we're not delivering the goods. We feel we owe those members, we're not going to cast them aside.

A word about the skipped August IP-I could have easily done that issue-as either an eight-pager or in the regular

rotation, making this issue the October one instead of November and putting the IP amonth further be-hind. Though the former would have appeased most, I found it unacceptable to me, and decided on the course I used. It is a common oc-curance for fan organizations such as the OTRC to have problems, financial especially, and they often die because the members not direct-ly involved with the operations of the club give up on it before the people in charge have a chance to correct the situation. Already much of the OTRC's problems are solved or at least being worked on. I've been told that membership renewal notices will be sent out, and local member Dick Olday is planning, at his own expense, to send notices out to former members who did not renew, to see if they can be coaxed back into the fold. Unfortunately, Unfortunately, promises of far reaching plans cannot be made until we know how many of the vast majority of the member-ship, whose dues come up in January, renews their interest in the club. If people stay with us, 1980 looks to be a lot steadier year than '79. Stay tuned.-KFC)))

#### Kean,

OK, the banquet was a "flop". We lost money. It could have turned out a success, we could have made money. If more local members (myself included) had put more effort into it, the banquet would have gone over great. Another thing, how were we to know that not one co-worker of our guest speaker didn't care enough to help celebrate and honor him at the banquet. Clint Beuhlman has been in radio for more years than I can remember. He worked with a lot of people. The media was notified of the ban-quet. No one cared! We "bombed"! Let's face it, what are we trying to do anyway? Kill the club? No! We're trying to promote OTR and raise money to have more benefits for our members.

I like most of Chuck Seeley's ideas regarding reorganizing the club. The out-of-town members are really the hub of the club. Without them we could not survive. However, the majority should rule. I think if we go along with Chuck's thinking, the members (all of you) should voice your opinion. It's your club. Speak up now!

Yes Chuck, some of Millie's work tends to turn out poor once in a while, and we do get it late. I've seen printing jobs that Insti-Prints and Mr. Copy have put out. They're not perfect all the time. It's as good as the originals tend to be. Let's face it, "you get what you pay for". You are right Chuck, we were indeed very lucky to have Millie there when we needed her the most. At the club's beginning! If she still agrees to continue on as Production Manager, we owe it to her to let her do the printing. With the understanding that we must stick to a schedule and all material must be on time. Just for the record-IP #39 was given to Millie on Mon., Oct. 15th. We got it back on the 18th! Three days later! We know Millie can produce on time if you put her heart into it.

> Dom Parisi Treasurer OTRC

- (((A quick comment on the printing of the IP. Since I've been editor, the originals given to the printer have been, for the most part, extremely good and of a consistent quality. Printing has not always been so. I believe Chuck's originals were also consistently good. We must make allowances for the reproduction of old newspaper ads, but the newly typed mater-ial is neat and clear. As to the time it took Millie to get the last IP done, I can only assume that she read Chuck's comments before starting it and was no doubt inspired by anger to complete it in record time. This is not the usual length of time it takes her to print the IP. Let's face it, Dom, we know better. -KFC)))
- (((Editor's note:The following letter was sent direct to Chuck Seeley, who then gave it to me.)))

Dear Chuck,

I always enjoy receiving the IP. I understand why you spent so much time on the problems of the club in the last issue, I hope in the future you won't have to do it again and be able to give the space to OTR. Maybe I wouldn't have been able to do any better, but I felt you could have said what was necessary on pages 3 & 4. I don't want to be a griper, so I will give financial support

so I will give financial support so maybe you won't have to repeat the article again very soon. With the check enclosed,I

want another year's subscription, and then the balance to be used for whatever the club needs to help get the IP printed. I would challenge other

readers to extend their subscriptions, as well as putting in \$10 to \$25 extra, to help get the club where it needs to be. If it will help cut expenses, then maybe the local club ought to be ended.

> Sincerly, Jerry Nosterand

(((Along with this letter, Jerry sent a check for \$75.00.-KFC)))

(((Another editor's note: The following letter came to me and I've decided to print it, but I wish it known that neither Inor the OTRC, can say whether or not it is on the up-and-up. Anyone wishing to contribute to the following should find out more about it first. If true, it's a good cause. Any member who can verify this letter and the organization should drop me a line. - KFC)))

Dear Kean,

I wonder if you could bring to the attention of your readers the case of our cassette ministry to the elderly and shut-ins?

I'm in charge of supplying tapes to those who have entered into the sunset of their lives. The tapes we supply have been of a religious nature. Recently, we received a donation of old-time radio programs and our people have really enjoyed them.

We have received many requests for more programs of this type. Our problem is that we depend on donations to increase our programs.

If possible, could you mention our ministry in your magazine? We would appreciate it if your readers could share their tapes with us. The elderly really have enjoyed these 0.T.R. programs and we would certainly like to have more to provide them with.

We would be happy to send blank tapes in return for ones with programs on them, if requested.

Anything would be welcomed and your readers can be assured that their donations are being used to the enjoyment of others.

> Thank you, James Beshires Lay Elder Baxley Seventh Day Adventist Church Star Route Box15-A Box 15-A Reidsville,Ga. 30453

(((Sounds good, but my paranoia advises checking it out first. Remember if you do decide to contribute, they are looking for cassette tapes. -KFC)))

#### Page Fourteen

#### THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS

November 1979



LAMOUR! Dottie introdu up-and-coming Paul Frees in Hollywood Star ater ton Th. : ah r



"SAM SPADE" SAM SPADE" Howard Duff solves "The Toy-town Capers" on WBEN Sendey a 8 P. M. Duffs sev film, "Womar in Hiding," is hav-ing world pre1

Mr. D. A. is telling some new thriller to comely Mim Miller, while faithful Harrington listens in. The popular dramatic aketch is on WBEN Wednesday evenings at 9:30 o'clock. Jay Jostyn plays Mr. D. A.; Vicki Viola is Miss Miller; Len Doyle is Harrington.

Shan



IDA LUPINO phones follu en \$26,200 jackpot in Hollywood Calling, Sunday et 7 P. M.

Les Damon and Claudia Morgan play the roles of "Mr. and Mrs. Thin Man" each Friday on WKBW at 8:30 o'clock.



SUSPENSE 9:00 P. M.



GENE

AUTRY 8:00 P. M.



HOPALONG CASSIDY 8:30 P. M.

Variety-spiced "masical, com- Bill Boyd stars as the cowboy edy and dramatic entertain- whose name has become a ment for the whole family! legand! Be sure to listan ini

## National Radio Trader

### We're still growing like a weed . . .

Can you tell us why?

- Is it our professional printing and editing?
- is it our ads from traders around the country?

· Is it our features like -

From Out of the Past Comes. Radio In Review Radio Roots Ye Olde Equipment Shoppe Radio Answer Man Radio Crossword

is it our news of clubs and old-time radio happeni

#### Whatever it is . . . we must be doing something right!

If you're not already a subscriber, send for free sample issue mentioning where you saw this ad.

Write:

National Radio Trader Post Office Box 1147 Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

Then . . .

Please tell us what we're doing that's making us grow like a weed!

<u>TAPESPONDENTS</u>:Send in your wants and we'll run them here for at least two months.

<u>NEW1</u>Douglas R. Keeney,271 Westgate Road,Kenmore,N.Y. 14217-looking for FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY shows he doesn't have with sponsors Pet Milk and Reynolds Aluminum-on cassette; ANDY AND ANDY MUSICAL HALL shows besides the one of September 23, 1954-on cassette;LUX RADIO THEATER (?)<u>Young Man With A Horn</u> with Jo Stafford-on cassette;and Buffalo Evening News Calendars (16 x 20) with subject of children on them (1920's - 1940 are paintings,1941-1954 are photographs) and with the calendar pads still on them.

Pete Bellanca, 1620 Ferry Road, Grand Island, N.Y. 14072-looking for the pre-game show from the 1978-79 AFC playoff (Houston vs. Pittsburg) and any AFL game. Will trade two hours for one.

Corb Besco, 815 Greenwood Avenue, NE Atlanta, Ga. 30306-wants cassette of IN SEARCH OF... episode which examined the Sherlock Holmes character. Also looking for the SEARS RADIO THEATER for 2/14/79, "The Thirteenth Governess", with Howard Duff and Linda Kaye Henning.

Gene Bradford,21707 Rosedale Street, Clair Shores,Mich. 48080-Wants TOM MIX STRAIGHTSHOOTERS,SKY KING, and JACK ARMSTRONG programs.

Doug Brown,409 Louisiana Avenue, Cumberland, Md. 21502-Looking for BREAKFAST CLUB.

Ed Carr,216 Shaner Street,Boyertown, Pa. 19512-Wantedik show lists from collectors of transcription discs, or if you have friends who collect discs,have them send me their lists and I will try to find the other half.

M.R.Ciel, 112 Central Avenue, Hillsdale, N.J. 07642-Wants: PRESENTING EORIS KARLOFF, FRANK MERRIWELL, GREEN HORNET, and NICK CARTER, all on % track.

Millie Dunworth,47 Kamper Street, Buffalo,N.Y. 14210-looking for THOSE WE LOVE starring Nan Grey, Richard Cromwell and Donald Woods.

Ron Laporte,1057 Felix,Windsor,Ontario,Canada N9C 3L4-looking for any GRAND OLE OPRY with Hank Williams. Also looking for THREE SHEETS TO THE WIND with John Wayne.

Stu Mann,44 Ganson Street,North Tonawanda,N.Y. 14120-looking for DAMON RUNYON THEATER and THE LONE RANGER. Will trade two for one to get them. Al Olson,4601 Terracewood Drive, Bloomington,Minn. 55437-looking for SETH FARKER and SNOW VILLAGE SKETCHES. Will buy or trade.

Bruce Rittenhouse, 327 Marquette Drive, Rochester, Mich. 48063-locking for SUPERMAN, FLASH GORDON, and a MAJOR BOWES AMATEUR HOUR from September or October 1943 with an appearance by a Detroit Chrysler worker.

Jim Snyder,517 North Hamilton St., Saginaw,Mich. 48602-Looking for any LUX RADIO THEATER shows he doesn't have. Will trade two for one to get them, and has over 300 to choose from.

## Man Called X



Herbert Marshall stars as the world-roving mystery man, Mr. X

TAPE LIBRARY: Volunteers are in the process of rating the sound quality of each reel and cassette in the club's Tape Library. The rated contents of these tapes will be listed here until all have been graded, at which time an entirely new Tape Library list will be iss-ued. If you would like to help grade the tapes, send your name and address to the Tape Librarian at the address on page two. Specif cassette or reel, and you'll have Specify to take pot-luck as to tapes recieved. Please listen to each program on a tape COMPLETELY and grade shows:Excellent,Very Good, Good,Fair or Poor, Please note any serious sound defects {static, off-speed, etc.). Each show must be graded seperately. Please return a list of the graded shows when you return the tape. Naturally, there is no rental charge for volunteers, so here's a chance to pick up some shows for just the cost of postage.

The following reels have already been graded:#'8,9,11,13,14, 22,24,28,32,37,42-44,46,48,50,58, 61-65,71-75,80,94,99,101-105,107-110,114. The following cassettes have already been graded:C29-31, 34-53.

LIBRARY RATES:2400' reel-\$1.25 per month;1800'reel-\$1.00 per month; 1200' reel-\$.75 per month;cassette-\$.50 per month. Postage must be included with all orders and here are the rates:for the USA and APO-50¢ for one reel,25¢ for each additional reel;25¢ for each cassette. For Canada:\$1.25 for one reel,75¢ for each additional reel;75¢ for each cassette. All tapes to Canada are mailed first class.



