

*The Old Time Radio Club*

Established 1975

# THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS

Number 202

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Hear the Thrilling Adventures Of

## RED RYDER ON THE RADIO



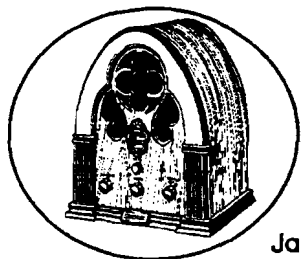
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## The Old Time Radio Club

### Membership Information

New member processing, \$5.00 plus club membership of \$17.50 per year from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Members receive a tape listing, newsletter, and the yearly *Memories Magazine*. Memberships are as follows: If you join Jan-Mar, \$17.50; Apr-Jun, \$14.00; Jul-Sep, \$10.00; Oct-Dec, \$7.00. All renewals should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing issues. Please be sure to notify us if you have a change of address. The Old Time Radio Club meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30 P.M. during the months of September to June at 393 George Urban Blvd. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225. The club meets informally during the months of July and August at the same address. Anyone interested in the Golden Age of Radio is welcome.

### Club Mailing Address

Old Time Radio Club  
P.O. Box 426  
Lancaster, N. Y. 14086

The Old Time Radio Club is affiliated with The Old Time Radio Network.

Back issues of our publications are available from Dom Parisi as follows:

The *Illustrated Press* and *Memories* are \$1.50 postpaid. Publications out of print may be borrowed from our Reference Library.

*Deadline for The Illustrated Press is the 1st of each month prior to publication.*

The *Illustrated Press* is a monthly newsletter of The Old Time Radio Club, headquartered in Buffalo, N.Y. Contents except where noted, are copyright 1993 by the OTRC.

## Club Officers and Librarians

### **President**

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56 Christen Ct.  
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086

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### **Editor of IP, Renewals, Change of Address**

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Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

### **Membership Inquires, and OTR Network Related Items**

Richard Olday (716) 684-1604  
100 Harvey Dr.  
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086

### Tape Libraries

#### **Cassettes**

Don Friedrich (716) 626-9164  
21 Southcrest  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

#### **Reel to Reel, 1-850**

Marty Braun (716) 759-8793  
10905 Howe Rd.  
Clarence, N.Y. 14031

#### **Reel to Reel, 851 and up**

Tom Harris (716) 759-8401  
9565 Weherle Dr.  
Clarence, N.Y. 14031

Tape Library Rates: All reels and video cassettes are \$1.85 per month; audio cassettes and records are \$0.85 per month. Rates include postage and handling. Canadian rates are the same as above, but in Canadian funds.

**Attention:** All OTR clubs that exchange newsletters with the **Old Time Radio Club**, and/or individuals who contribute columns, letters, etc., be sure to send them to the new editor of the *Illustrated Press*--Peter Bellanca  
1620 Ferry Road  
Grand Island, NY 14072

## Spoonerisms and related goofs

Spoonerisms are the accidental interchange of the initial sounds of words. An example is saying "a well boiled icicle" for "a well oiled bicycle." They were named after the Rev. W. A. Spooner, who was "(in)famous" for his verbal slips. Radio actors and announcers also had their share of spoonerisms, goofs, boners, or whatever you want to call them. Such slips in no way reflect on the ability of the performer, everyone goofs up at one time or another. But they are much funnier when heard coming over the radio by a big name performer. Some were just funny, while other caused the network censors ulcers. Here are a few of the more famous goofs.

- the announcer for *Mr. Keen, Tracer of Lost Persons*, announces, Mr. Keen, Loser of Traced People
- Eddie Peabody, the guitarist, was introduced as, Eddie Playbody will now pea for you
- due to circumstances beyond our control, we can not bring you the baseball game from Wrigley Field, so due to a mistake we bring you Liberace
- Johnny Weissmuller's wife, Beryl Scott presented him with an eight-pound baby boy today, and now for other sporting events
- this is WJZ, no other station can make that statement
- remember we have low overhead at Robert Hall's, where prices are high, and quality is low
- every car is test driven by your Ford mechanic, see what a bang up job he can do
- at the end of a religious program the announcer stated, "the sermon next week will be, cast thy broad upon the water"
- at Christmas time we heard, "our next selection is O Come, All Ye Faithful, by Adeste Fidelis"
- Morey Amsterdam while doing a telethon took a pledge from Mr. and Mrs. Grovgood of the Bronx, who pledged \$2.00, with a message to tell Teresa to go to bed. Morey acknowledged the pledge and said "Teresa will go to bed for \$2.00"
- an announcer who was late for work read, "this is either the Red or the Blue Network of the



National Broadcasting Company

- the best prices are at your local A&P poo store
- Domberg's Department store just received a new shipment of bathing suits, now you can buy one for a ridiculous figure
- Jimmy Walling signed off a *Famous Romances* show with "so ends another virgin"
- Mel Allen telling his audience "it's smipe poking time"
- Frank Wright's weather report, "tomorrow rowdy, followed by chain"
- Milton Cross describing the operetta, *The Prince of Pilsen*, as The Pill from Princeton, and another time introducing the *A&P Gypsies* as the A&G Pipsies
- Gabriel Heater ended one of his broadcasts with, "be sure to listen to the voice of the dead" followed by "and now ladies and gentlemen, announcer Len Sterling
- and the all time flub, the reason the presidents of the United States are no longer introduced by name, belongs to Harry von Zell, who introduced President Herbert Hoover as "Hoobett Heever"

Sometimes it was the sound effects department that caused the problems, as follows:

- the scene calls for the detective to shoot the bad guy, "take that," nothing happens, "take that," still no sound, the actor improvises, "my gun is jammed, I'll use my knife, take that," the sound effects department replies with BANG, BANG
- the breathless lovers in a soap opera are to whisper words of love into each others ears, against the soft, light, background of a summer breeze, the sound man responds with a gale like hurricane
- the plot called for the sound of the surf beating against the rocks, what the audience got was a crowd cheering at a football game.

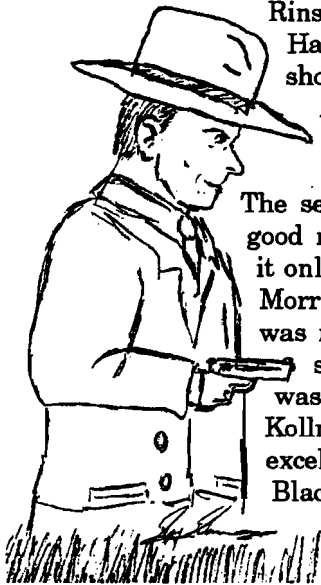
So don't feel bad if you get verbally confused, just remember that famous line from *The Lone Ranger*, when Tonto says, "I hear a white horse coming."

## RADIO MEMORIES

by Francis Edward Bork

Remember Boston Blackie? In films at our local movie theater we saw Chester Morris as Blackie, but things were different on the radio. The character of Boston Blackie began with a B-rated movie from Columbia Films Co. titled "Meet Boston Blackie" in 1941. In 1944 the movie Boston Blackie came to the radio with Chester Morris playing Blackie on NBC with Rinso Soap as its sponsor.

Harlow Wilcox was the show's announcer for this Amos 'n' Andy summer replacement.



The series didn't have a very good record on radio though, it only ran a short time with Morris as Blackie. In 1945 it was revived as a syndicated show, this time Blackie was played by Richard Kollmar, who did an excellent job of portraying Blackie. Blackie was quick witted, and always ready with a smart comment. He was "an enemy to those who make him an enemy; friend to those who have no friends."

Making the cops look stupid was Blackie's goal in almost all of the radio shows, which of course he accomplished during each show. The boss of the local police unit was Inspector Faraday, who was the butt of most of Blackie's wit. Faraday was played by Richard Lane for Chester Morris' Blackie show on NBC. Maurice Tarplin played Faraday on the Richard Kollmar series of Blackie, while Lesley Woods played Blackie's girl friend Mary.

Being just a little bit corny at times, Boston Blackie was not one of the top rated detective shows on Old Time Radio. But I do remember, that way back then, I really did like Blackie and even now I do enjoy the reruns of the show, aka,

the cassette library.

I do think that the radio detectives were a lot better than the "New Modern Detectives" with their, blow their guts out with a 357 Magnum or killing a dozen or two with a sub machine gun, then eating a hot dog while drinking a beer with their buddies as if nothing happened. Case in point, Chuck Norris in *Hitman*.

"Gosh Joe, what a dull day, I only wasted six bad guys today, Oh dread, I didn't even warn up my sub machine gun. But wait, sixty-five guys just stole an apple from Apple Annie." NOW our hero can act. Lets see, sixty-five bad guys at three bullets each (our hero counts on his fingers) "that's hmm -- well maybe, oh heck, I never was any good at math. Lets just go out and gettun." Bang, bang, and another bang, "ha ha, your dead".

Remember the show, *We Deliver the Goods*. What was it about? Who knows besides the Shadow? Not the ever evil Prof. Boncore that's for sure. *We Deliver the Goods* was a show about the Merchant Marine shipping during World War II. Strictly an out and out propaganda show designed to encourage young men, not in essential war work, to join forces with the Merchant Marine seaman to deliver much needed war material to America's allies.

Being a merchant seaman was a well paid job, and at the time, a very dangerous one. The threat of German U-Boats was forever present. Many brave seamen gave their lives for the cause of freedom. No medals for these unarmed fighting men, no monuments, nothing, except maybe a small notice in the newspaper such as: *Several merchant seamen were lost at sea when their ship went down a victim of German torpedo's.* (Thanks Men)

*We Deliver the Goods* ran on Saturday evening during 1944 on CBS. (in Buffalo, N.Y. it was heard on Saturday afternoon) The men of the Merchant Marine produced the show themselves. Howard Culver, the shows narrator was the exception, along with a few professional actors and actress who dramatized the stories of

Merchant Seaman heroism. The entire remaining cast was made up of the men from all walks of life, the inexperienced actors of the men of the Merchant Marine. The musical end of the show was provided by the Maritime Service Band under the direction of Lt. Curt Roberts. The announcing duties were ably handled by Bosun's Mate Second Class Sam Brandt. Chief Petty Officer Ray Buell and Ship's Cook Joe Sylva did the singing chores for the show.

Each show was produced by Del Castillo and had Lt. Culver's dramatic reading of the true adventures from the annals of the Merchant Marine. On occasion the real life heroes were brought to the microphone to tell their story over the airwaves.

The theme song was sung by the members of the Merchant Marine Academy which went something like this: (this is from memory and I'm not sure it is the exact words of the Merchant Marine Song)

*Heave Ho my lads, heave ho  
We've a long, long way to go  
With all our crew aboard  
And all our hatches full  
We can cross any ocean  
Sail any river  
Give us the goods and we'll deliver  
Damn the submarines  
We're the men of the Merchant Marine*

Well that's about it for the story of the men of the Merchant Marine. I think they did their share in helping win the war and to help establish peace throughout the world. As the Navy had said to the men of the Merchant Marine, "Well done men."

Till next time, Happy Radio Memories.

---- Letters ----


On behalf of the Old Time Radio Club, I want to thank the following dealers for their generous donations to our club at the Cincinnati convention this past April. I have listed the dealers alphabetically so not to show any

favortism because each one of them is a "quality dealer" and you can order from them with confidence! When you order from these dealers, tell them the Old Time Radio Club sent you!

Dick Olday

1. James Albert  
2732 Queensboro Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226
2. AVPRO  
P.O. Box 1392  
Lake Elsimore, CA 92531
3. Great American Radio  
Box 504  
Genesee, MI 48437
4. Radio Spirits, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2141  
Schiller Park, IL 60176
5. Vintage Broadcasts  
42 Bowling Green  
Staten Island, NY 10314

**LISTEN TONIGHT**  
**OLIVIA DeHAVILLAND**  
 in radio's thrilling  
**"SUSPENSE"**  
 mystery drama  
**"VOYAGE THRU DARKNESS"**  
**8:00 P.M. WKBW**  
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## ◆ ◆ Tuning In ◆ ◆

by Tom Heathwood

One of the most often asked questions by people who are new to old-time radio broadcast collecting is: HOW??

How do I start a collection? Where do I get programs to start the collection. What format should I choose for my collection? Is it likely to be outdated? How can I "trade" with other collectors if I don't have anything (or anything they want)? Should I try to collect everything, so I'll have a "complete" collection? What kind of equipment will I need to do the job right? How can I keep track of my collection?

In this article, I'll try to answer the above questions and put my expertise as a broadcaster and collector of almost 50 years to work on these and other questions commonly asked by new collectors. Times and technology have changed from the early collection days. We'll take a look at how that has effected the job of choosing what to collect and how.

Perhaps primary to this whole collecting thing is, WHY? People collect OTR (like other things) because it gives them personal pleasure. It's not only fun to listen to OTR, but it brings back memories of a time gone by. For a brief moment, we are catapulted back in time to another era, to our childhood, to a place in time where we can almost relive the emotional responses of many years ago.

We like to collect things in which we have an interest. Some people have obsessive (recurring) thoughts about collectibles which bring about compulsive urges to collect ALL of that type of item, without rationale restrictions. These are the folks who must have "everything." But luckily, most of us are not driven, in our acquisition of collectibles. We are happy collecting "in moderation." In the case of old time radio, we are happy to collect a sampling of many shows, and an in-depth collection of perhaps a few of our special favorites. It's helpful to decide at the outset, which shows will

be part of your general collection and which will be on your "special" list.

The brand new collector is faced with the problem of having nothing to trade with. He must acquire some shows to establish a "trading base" with others. His best bet to start with, is to purchase some shows from reputable dealers that are: 1) not in wide circulation, or 2) are considered "rare" or unusual. This gives the new trader something to bargain with that not everyone already has. He should look for shows that are near perfect in quality. This will help to establish himself, right from the beginning, as a trader/collector of quality sound. He might also start one of his special series, again making sure that what he is buying is in excellent sound. A few sample tapes will verify the dealer's claims.

The new collector may also want to join one or more OTR clubs, and subscribe to one or more newsletters. Club membership will give him the opportunity to borrow from the club's "lending library" of OTR tapes, adding to the "trading base" he has started. Taping shows from current OTR nostalgia programs such as heard on the YESTERDAY-USA SUPERSTATION will help to make the base of quality shows grow quicker. As a new trader/collector, accumulating programs, you MUST begin organizing and cataloging your program material right from the start. If you start indexing early in your collecting, it will be easy to maintain. Cross indexing can be very helpful, in years to come, in locating specific material. As you begin trading, you will see how others who have large collections have organized their programs. You can also use commercial database programs on your PC to take a lot of the work out of it for you. A database like Q & A is capable of defining many factors regarding a single given show, and bringing up on a list, programs that fall into certain categories such as: title, year, network, star(s), guests, sponsor, etc. You can develop a very sophisticated catalog using this sort of database. You enter also, the location of each item, such as "reel #243" or "C-60 #745" for instant retrieval.

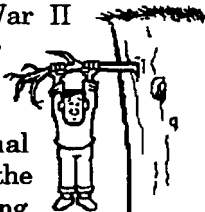
Some collectors prefer to concentrate on only

ONE programs series until they have exhausted all avenues in finding all the shows in the series they can locate from dealers, other collectors, or club libraries. Having reference guides such as Jay Hickerson's new "Ultimate History of Network Programing" and radio "logs" of the series are very helpful in making as complete a collection as possible of a given series. The "logs are essential in correlating individual shows in a series with dates, networks, episode titles, participants, etc.

continued in the August *Illustrated Press*

**HELP** by Francis Edward Bork

In my column Radio Memories I wrote about a radio show from the World War II days called *We Deliver the Goods*, about the Merchant Marine. I don't have any of these shows in my personal collection, nor are there any in the club library. So if anyone reading this column has a copy or two of *We Deliver the Goods*, please contact me and let me know about it. In the past I have been very lucky in getting the shows I've wanted from fellow club members. It's great to be a member of a club where other members are so willing to help their fellow club members. Thanks guys.



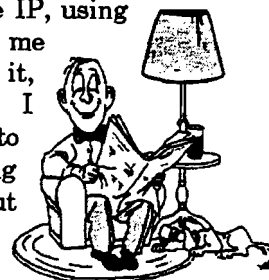
As in the past months, if you have one or more of the shows, just write to me and let me know the title if possible and your price. I will send you a check as per.

Francis E. Bork  
233 Broadbay Circle  
Machias, NY 14101

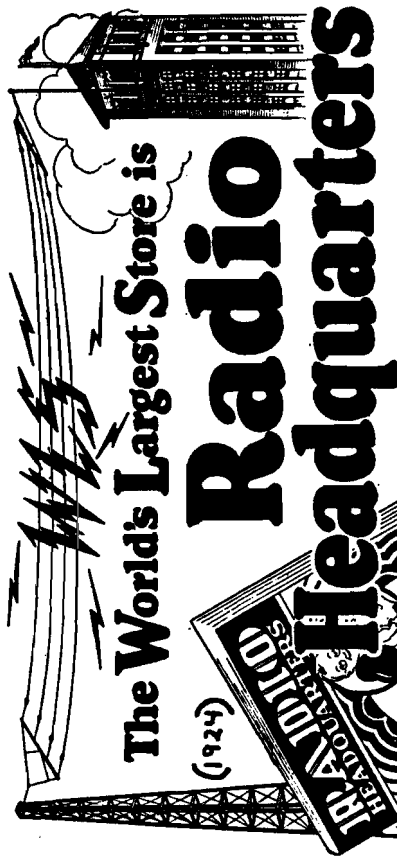
**Advertising Rates for Memories**  
\$60.00 for a full page  
\$40.00 for a half page  
All ads must be camera ready  
Old Time Radio Club members take  
50% off the above rates.

*From the Editor's Chair*

By the time you read this you should have received two issues of the IP, using our new format. Let me know what you think of it, good, bad, or indifferent. I would like to apologize to all members concerning the May issue. It was put together very quickly and contained a number of spelling and typing errors. Hopefully they will become fewer and fewer in future issues. But as Roger Hill so aptly put it in the NARA NEWS, Vol. XX, #3, "No matter how carefully an editor proofs an issue before printing, there will always be several glaringly atrocious grammatical typographical errors noticed after the journal is printed." In any case, let me know what you think of the new IP format.



**AGAIN TONIGHT**  
The Best Bet in Radio  
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**BELIEVE IT OR NOT!**  
Strange Facts Proved with  
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Puzzle to Work on.  
7:30 *daylight time*  
6:30 *standard time*  
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WCSH • WGR • WGY  
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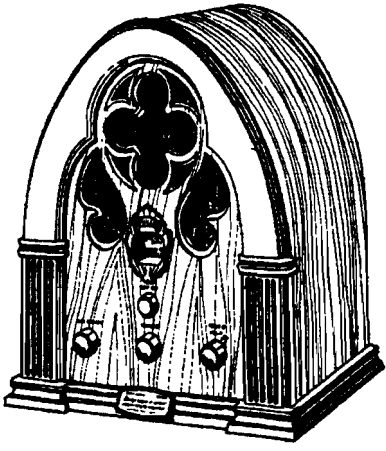
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