

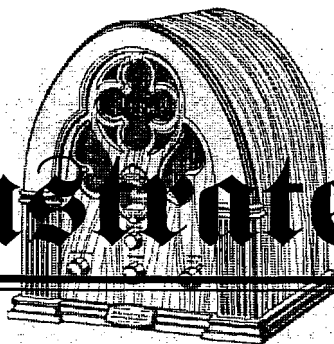
The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

The Illustrated Press

Number 341

June 2006



Bing Crosby

The Illustrated Press

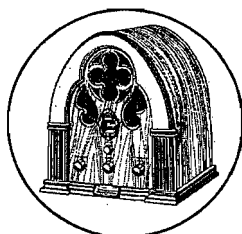
Membership Information

Club Membership: \$18.00 per year from January 1 to December 31. Members receive a tape library listing, reference library listing and the monthly newsletter. Memberships are as follows: If you join January-March, \$18.00; April-June, \$14; July-September, \$10; October-December, \$7. All renewals should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing newsletter issues. Please be sure to notify us if you have a change of address. The **Old Time Radio Club** meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM during the months of September through June at St. Aloysius School Hall, Cleveland Drive and Century Road, Cheektowaga, NY. There is **no** meeting during the month of July, and an informal meeting is held in August at the same address.

Anyone interested in the Golden Age of Radio is welcome. The **Old Time Radio Club** is affiliated with the Old Time Radio Network.

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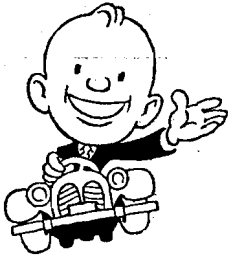
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Library Rates: Audio cassettes are \$1.95 each and are recorded on a **club supplied cassette** which is **retained** by the member; video cassettes are \$1.85 per month; records are \$.85 per month. Rates include postage and handling and are payable in U.S. funds.

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Cincinnati OTR Convention

by DICK OLDAY

Another great OTR convention was held in Cincinnati on April 21 - 22. It was rumored that the 20th convention might be the last. However, Bob Burchett is planning to continue the tradition for another year. First of all, our club would like to thank the following OTR dealers for their generous donations to our club library.

- 1.) Radio Memories (OTR on cassettes)
P.O. Box 94548
North Little Rock, AR 72190-4548
- 2.) Leo Gawroniak (OTR on cassettes)
352 Lakemont Dr., Apt. H
Louisville, TN 37777
- 3.) Great American Radio (OTR on MP3)
1010 South St.
Mt. Morris, MI 48458
- 4.) BRC Productions (OTR on CD & MP3 & vintage TV)
P.O. Box 158
Dearborn Hts., MI 48127
- 5.) Olden Radio (OTR on MP3 & movie serials)
P.O. Box 8
Beach Grove, IN 46107

Please let the dealers know that you heard about them from the OTR Club.

Fred Foy, Bob Hastings, Hal Stone and Rosemary Rice were the guests at this year's convention. Re-creations of the *Lone Ranger*, *Let George Do It*, *Suspense*, *Dan Turner*, *Hollywood Detective* and *Ethel & Albert* were presented.

Fred Foy played the Ranger as well as announcing. Bob Hastings and Rosemary Rice were Ethel & Albert, Hal Stone directed most of the shows as well as playing several parts. The Blue Coal Trio presented OTR bits as well as a trivia quiz. Yours truly won a MP3 for correctly identifying Shirley Booth as the first Miss Duffy on *Duffy's Tavern*. Rosemary Rice revealed a couple of very interesting tidbits on "Visit With The Guest." When she was working on *Theatre 5*, they brought in Sammy Davis Jr. to help with the ratings. Sammy had already been in TV, Broadway and the movies, but was a nervous wreck about his radio debut. He was only able to proceed when he had a bottle of Scotch to fortify him. With the libation, he was able to perform. Also, she men-

tioned that when she was on *I Remember Mama*, Dick Van Patton (Nels) was drafted. James Dean was brought in as the replacement. Those of you familiar with Dean know that he is not known for comedic roles and in fact, he only lasted four shows. Fortunately, Dick was soon able to return to *Mama*.

As usual Arlene and I enjoyed visiting with everyone and look forward to the 21st convention. Unfortunately, Robert Newman had bypass surgery and was unable to run this year's convention, but was able to attend the Saturday night dinner. Best wishes for a speedy recovery. Volunteers stepped in to help out in Bob's absence. Most activities went off without a hitch with one exception (the raffle).

BING CROSBY

By TOM CHERRE



I'm sure our good friend and former host of our meetings, the late Ed Wanat might be smiling upon reading this piece on "der Bingle." Since Marconi came out with the radio and Edison cranked out his first phonograph no other voice has personified the world of music like that of Bing Crosby. Bing is usually considered to be a member of the holy trinity of ultra super-icons of Elvis and the Beatles. Some people might also include Sinatra in that trilogy.

Harry Lillis Crosby, the fourth of seven children, five boys and two girls, was born in Tacoma, Washington on May 3rd 1903. The family later moved to Spokane where Bing spent his early years growing up. The nickname "Bing", which he would be known by for the rest of his life, was bestowed to him by a childhood friend, Valentine Hobart. Both shared a common interest in a comic strip called "The Bingville Bugle." Hobart began calling him Bingo from Bingville. The name was shortened to Bing, and forever after he was Bing Crosby. Bing's parents both liked to sing and were lovers of music. Bing enjoyed singing and took singing lessons for awhile. He did not like the rigorous demands his trainer required so he quit the lessons. His favorite singer at the time was Al Jolson, however Bing's style would be

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quite different. Bing wanted to go to college and had aspirations of becoming a lawyer. He enrolled at Jesuit-run Gonzaga college in 1920. While in school he sent away for a set of mail order drums. He eventually joined a band making music and money. In his senior year he dropped out of school hoping to pursue a career in the music industry. One might ponder, if Bing ever became a lawyer who would have sung "White Christmas" or played Fr. O'Mally?

In 1926 Bing latched on to the very popular Paul Whiteman band. The microphone was just starting to come into existence, and Bing worked it to perfection. He also worked the crowd with his smooth melodic crooning. On the other hand when Al Jolson started out he would have to belt out his songs to reach the back seats of theaters because there were no mikes. Bing became a star when he sang Whiteman's biggest hit of 1928 "Ol' Man River". Bing's undisciplined antics gave Whiteman no choice but to fire him in 1930. In 1931 Crosby began his career with Gus Arnheim with such hits as "I Surrender Dear", "Just One More Chance", and "A Million Dollar Baby". In 1936 Bing replaced his former boss Paul Whiteman as host of NBC's *Kraft Music Hall*. And as they say the rest is history. Bing's biggest hit was "White Christmas" as he introduced it on a 1941 Christmas season radio broadcast. That song according to Guinness is still the second most popular selling song of all time. It was reported that over 100 million copies have been sold around the world.



Bing Crosby at the 1944 Academy Awards with the Best Actor Oscar for "Going My Way"

Right now in 2006 I would ask you is there anyone out there that commands the music or movie industry? First of all we all know the real good music died about 30 years ago. There may be one or two songs in the last decade that may have some substance, but that's debatable. As far as movies go, that venue is a little bit more encouraging. From 1935 to the early 1950s Bing Crosby was the ultimate star in both categories. Sad to say his music is rarely played with the exception of a few easy listening stations, which are growing shorter as I speak. It's a shame younger generations are deprived of this great voice. Bing's radio shows, both Kraft and Philco are still one of my most favorite shows. For music and sophisticated humor there is no rival.

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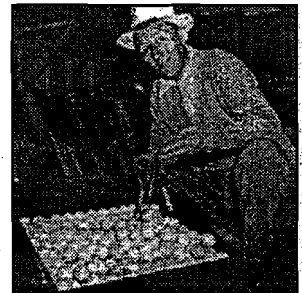
Bing was married to Dixie from 1930 to 1952 when she died from ovarian cancer. Dixie had serious drinking problems and was a confirmed alcoholic. The 1947 movie "Smash-Up" was indirectly based on her life. Bing died at the age of 74 while golfing in Madrid. His nice guy image was almost destroyed when his son Gary wrote an incriminating biographic book entitled "Going My Way". The book depicted Bing as a ruthless Atilla the Hun type of character who was merciless and abusing towards his wife and 4 sons. It was son Philip who strongly disputed his brother's claims about his father. Philip said his father may have been strict, but in no way should he have been portrayed as someone who beat his kids till they were black and blue. He says Gary wrote a vindictive book humiliating our father just to make money. He knew he could make a fortune by blackening his name. Philip says he loved his father and he was his hero. Two sons, Lindsay and Dennis both committed suicide. When Bing died he was worth over 150 million dollars. In his will he stated that his four sons from his first marriage could not receive anything until they reached their 80s. Bing felt they were amply taken care of by a trust fund from Dixie Lee. None of the sons ever reached their 80s. I still enjoy Bing's music and movies, and perhaps Ed is enjoying the talents of Bing first hand. You never know!!!!



Bing Crosby with his first wife Dixie Lee

Bing Crosby Trivia: Bing Crosby possesses the most recorded human voice in history. Just after World War Two a Yank Magazine poll declared him the person who had done the most for G.I. morale during the war.

He turned down the role of playing *Columbo* because it would interfere with his golf schedule. Bing Crosby died after 18 holes of golf in which he shot a respectable 85. His last words walking off the 18th tee were reported as: "That was a great game of golf, fellas." He took a few steps and was gone. It is believed his *actual* last words were "lets get a Coke".



Golfballs for the Scrap Rubber Drive during WW II.



**A BOOK
REVIEW:**
Christian Radio, The
Growth of a Mainstream
Broadcasting Force
by **BOB LOCHTE**

Reviewed by **Jerry Collins**

Religious broadcasting has been part of radio history since its beginning on such small stations as WCAL at St. Olaf's College in Minnesota. (1922)

Some of the earliest roots of Christian broadcasting can be traced back to the James D. Vaughn Music Company that began publishing, marketing and performing religious music in the late 19th century. In 1923 WOAN of Lawrenceburg signed on the air. Just two years earlier the Church of the Covenant in Washington, D.C. became the first religious radio station to be issued a license.

Russell Fesselden was the first Christian broadcaster (Brant Rock, Massachusetts in 1906). The first religious broadcast originated from KDKA (Pittsburgh in 1921).

Among the other notable radio stations issued radio licenses in the 1920s were; KSFJ International Church of the Foursquare Gospel — Los Angeles (radio base for Aimee Semple McPherson); WWBL Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Richmond; KPCC Pasadena Presbyterian Church, Pasadena and KFUD Missouri Synod St. Louis (Walter Maier and Concordia Seminary).

The Moody Broadcasting Network began in 1926 and has been acquiring radio stations ever since.

Northwestern College in St. Paul, Minnesota owns 15 Christian radio stations in North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Florida. Their first station, KTIS, first went on the air in 1949.

The Pillars of Fire, a Methodist-based organization was founded in 1901. They founded KPOF in Denver and soon after received a license for WAWZ in New York City and Northern New Jersey.

The Salem Broadcasting Network began in 1986 and it has also been expanding since. In 1999 the Salem web network was established. OnePlace.com has become an integral part of the network.

Some of the other prominent evangelists were Paul Rader (Chicago Tabernacle), Charles Fuller (Los Angeles), Father Charles Coughlin (Detroit), Gerald Winrod, Gerald L. K. Smith, Carl McIntire and the National Association of Evangelicals.

Dick and Shirley Bott established the Bott Radio Network in 1962, which was based in Kansas City, Missouri. They eventually expanded to other stations in Oklahoma and Indiana. Their stations are based on the talk and teaching format. They are a commercial station, not affiliated with any church and do not accept donations. In April of 2003 they signed a contract with ChristianNetcast.com. They will continue their mission over the Internet.

The Bible Broadcasting Network first went on the air over WFYI in Norfolk, Virginia in October of 1971. They have now expanded to 30 stations.

The expansion of the Evangelical Movement in the 1970s helped to spur another growth in Christian radio. Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, the Moral Majority and the Christian Coalition were all part of this expansion.

The Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation and the National Black Network were the largest Black Christian networks in the 1970s. One of Sheridan's stations, WUFO, was located in Amherst, New York, north of Buffalo. In 1991 the two large networks merged to form the American Urban Radio Network.

The Family Life Network carried out their ministry on cable television. In August of 1983 they purchased a radio station in DuBois, Pennsylvania and petitioned the FCC to have it moved to Bath, New York, where it reopened as WCJK.

On June 19, 1989 WVHM, The Voice of the Heartland Ministries went on the air with a format of southern gospel music and Bible teaching programs. Within a dozen years Heartland Ministries expanded throughout Kentucky and Tennessee.

Freeport, Maine is the home of L. L. Bean as well as Downcast Christian Ministries and Christian radio WMSJ.

In late 1997 Bill and Patty Baker established station WTMV (In the Master's Voice) in the name of Living Word of Faith Christian Ministries. It was established in Youngsville, Pennsylvania near Titusville. Through a 50-foot antenna and a satellite dish they have direct contact with the American Family Radio Network in Tupelo, Mississippi and the Praise Broadcasting Network in Arlington, Texas.

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Since most of us know so little about Christian, I decided to spend a larger than normal amount of space on the historical aspect of the movement. Now the controversy of the movement. Surveys of groups of young Christians have produced some unusual results. At least half said that they did not like the music and constant preaching and praying. They describe most Christian stations as "profit driven," exploiting the poor to benefit white Republicans and their causes. A fairly large portion of listeners of Christian Radio are Democrats. They are offended by the openly Republican bias of most Christian radio stations.

Many radio listeners are turned off by abusive announcers and sexually explicit language, they have many alternatives in addition to Christian radio. I feel that the author fails to deal with the tempting nature of these alternatives. Although their mothers want them to listen to Christian radio, many teenagers are more than likely to turn to CDs, their I Pods, satellite radio, music downloaded from the computer, their cell phones and those dreadful computer games. Granted that Christian based companies have made inroads into these areas, the author does not mention them.

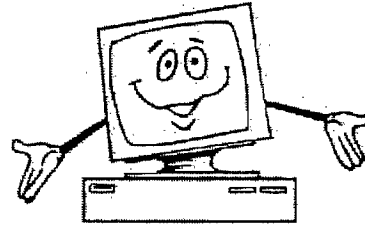
The author also fails to distinguish between commercial radio from 1930-1960 and television from 1950 to the present. Unlike television many radio shows had definite redeeming values. Radio shows like *The Family Theater*, *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, *Fibber McGee and Molly*, *The Great Gildersleeve*, *Dr. Christian*, *Dr. Kildare*, *Mayor of the Town* and even *The Lone Ranger* and the *Challenge of the Yukon* were unparalleled in their value to the listener. Besides early television shows like *I Remember Mama*, *Leave it to Beaver* and *The Andy Griffith Show*, I would be hard pressed to name other shows with redeeming value. Christian radio listeners prior to 1960 definitely had an alternative. Just turn to another show.

Unless you are a listener of Christian radio or have an interest in the topic, this is probably not a book for you. If, however you are a listener or a fan this book is definitely for you.

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**BITS
'N'
BYTES**
By
Bob McDivitt

It is now June, so I thought I should update the club members of my progress. I will try to do these at least twice a year CDs went out with the April issue of the Illustrated Press to all paid members. An instruction file on how to use it was included in the root directory of the CD. The plan is to produce the CD every year about the same time. I can say that it was successful.

I started from scratch to catalog the club's reels. The existing catalog is incomplete. I have reviewed every reel thus far. I hope to be finished with this project before the end of the year. Besides the club's existing reels, we have acquired reels that were generously donated by Frank Matesic and an anonymous donor. Some of the shows may be duplicates of shows that we already have. They will be added to the existing list.

Now, I need feedback from all the members. Since we do **NOT** loan out reels anymore, I want to know if the members want a listing when completed. Any shows requested will be transferred to a digital medium before being sent out. We have local guys who would be involved in the transfer process. The cassette librarian is reviewing the cassette catalog. We hope to start fixing the problems there soon. Progress is being made there, also. So far, the feedback on the catalog has been good. I look for any suggestions to make it better. When the reel catalog is finished, I will resume working on the CD catalog. I feel that this is the way to go to keep our club progressive. By including the Excel Viewer on the CD, members who don't have Excel can still view the catalog.

Programs are copied to the type of media requested by the members according to the fee arrangement specified in the **Illustrated Press** newsletter. CD's are reproduced by request as the time involved in creating them may create some delays. This will get better as other related projects are completed. As I have previously stated, doing a printed catalog has become cost prohibitive. The cost would well exceed the dues received. With computers becoming common throughout the country, this is the cheapest way to get the information out.

When ordering material, it would be wise to indicate date, series, and show title so mistakes can be reduced.

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You can order ahead by e-mail but no material will be sent without prepayment. Watch the **Illustrated Press** newsletter for the e-mail address to order.

Any member can call me at reasonable hours for help. I will return out of town calls as my service doesn't cost me any more than local calls. You can, also, reach me by e-mail. My phone number is 716-681-8073 and my e-mail address is robmc@verizon.net. Indicate in the subject line "OTR Club" member and subject of message so I can instantly find them. I will respond in a timely manner to all. I sincerely hope that we have a method in place for all members to gain access to this wonderful medium.

Here's hoping all members are well and enjoying all this history at your fingertips. Bob McDivitt

BEING THERE: Collecting Radio Broadcast Admission Tickets

By RICK PAYNE (All Rights Reserved 2006)

In the early days of broadcasting, many performers came to the microphone with years of experience on the stage or in vaudeville. As the popularity of the new medium grew, most elected to perform their broadcasts before a studio audience. The performers drew strength from the audience, and listeners felt they were among friends as they enjoyed the performances. Tickets from some broadcasts survive, thanks to those who kept them as souvenirs of a special experience.

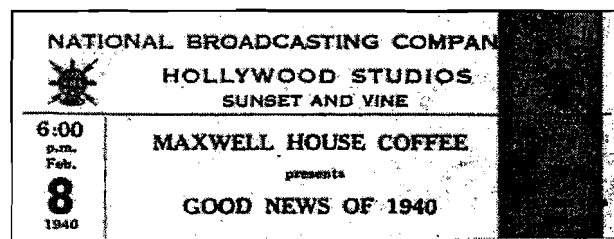
This month, we take a look at tickets from programs featuring Baby Snooks. From 1937 until 1951, Fanny Brice and Hanley Stafford entertained America with the irreverent observations of the precocious Snooks and the vain efforts of her Daddy to explain the logic of an illogical world. On the air until Brice's untimely death, Snooks was one of radio's most enduring family comedies.

Snooks was created by Brice in 1921, but didn't gain national prominence until she featured the character in weekly sketches on NBC's *Good News of 1938*. Presented on the Blue Network, "Good News" was an all-star extravaganza featuring MGM movie personalities. Illustrated here is a press invitation to the second season premiere broadcast, which featured a Snooks skit and song. Sponsors reserved tickets to special broadcasts for insiders, critics and favored clients. As a result, they're harder to find today. This invitation could be

General Foods Corporation
requests the pleasure of your presence
at the inaugural broadcast
of the second season of its radio program
"Good News of 1939"
presented for Maxwell House Coffee
by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer
on Thursday, September 1st, 1938
at 5 o'clock
at the El Capitan Theatre,
6838 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, California

Two reserved tickets are being held for you. Please return the enclosed card not later than Monday evening, August 29th and they will be left for you at the box office.

redeemed for the actual tickets . . . which would have resembled our next image.



Here's the standard Hollywood NBC ticket for *Good News of 1940*. For the third season of the series, the format was changed to feature Baby Snooks and popular character actor Frank Morgan, best known as the title character in MGM's recent release "The Wizard of Oz." A quick visit to the excellent RadioGoldIndex tells us that Ronald Colman was a guest on the program. This ticket has the colored stripe used to distinguish tickets for different performances. Thanks to the liberal use of color in printing, a collection of broadcast tickets makes an eye-catching display. The rules of usage are printed on the reverse. Ironically, Snooks herself wouldn't have been able to attend the broadcast . . . no children under six permitted!

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NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC. HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS SUNSET AND VINE		
Thurs.-Dec. 16 See Reverse Side	REPEAT BROADCAST MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE TIME	STUDIO D Doors Close 8:25 p.m.

By 1941, "good news" was hard to find. As war clouds gathered, the show's sponsor General Foods renamed the program the *Maxwell House Coffee Program* . . . and eventually *Maxwell House Coffee Time* by the time of this ticket from December 16, 1943 (thank you, perpetual calendar). This series featured Frank Morgan (of "The Wizard of Oz" fame) and Baby Snooks in separate segments. Still originating from NBC's Studio D, this ticket admitted the bearer to the West Coast repeat broadcast.

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM COLUMBIA SQUARE PLAYHOUSE 6121 SUNSET BLVD. - HOLLYWOOD		
STUDIO A CBS	"TOASTIES TIME" starring FANNY BRICE with DANNY THOMAS HANLEY STAFFORD CARMEN DRAGON AND HIS ORCHESTRA	Sunday OCT. 8 1944 7:30-8 p.m. Doors Close at 7:25 p.m.

The 1944-45 season found Snooks promoting a different General Foods product on a different network on a different weeknight. The program was called *Toasties Time* for this October 1944 broadcast, and we see the addition of comic Danny Thomas to the cast. Generally, NBC didn't identify cast members on their tickets. Happily for collectors, CBS usually did! But bad news for the kids . . . you had to be at least twelve to get into the Columbia Square Playhouse! Note the program was broadcast at 7:30 PM from Studio A.

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM COLUMBIA SQUARE PLAYHOUSE 6121 SUNSET BLVD. - HOLLYWOOD		
STUDIO C CBS	SUPER SUDS presents "BLONDIE" starring PENNY SINGLETON ARTHUR LAKE	Sunday OCT. 8 1944 5-5:30 p.m. Doors Close at 4:45 p.m.

Two hours earlier, in Studio C of the same building, the *Blondie* program was broadcast, with Arthur Lake and Penny Singleton reprising their famous film roles. On this particular episode, Fanny Brice appeared as Baby Snooks in an adventure featuring the Bumstead's son,

Alexander. Once again, using online radio logs helps tell the story behind the ticket.

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM COLUMBIA SQUARE PLAYHOUSE 6121 SUNSET BOULEVARD - HOLLYWOOD		
STUDIO A CBS	"POST TOASTIES TIME" starring FANNY BRICE with DANNY THOMAS HANLEY STAFFORD CARMEN DRAGON AND HIS ORCHESTRA	Sunday JAN. 7 1945 3:30-4 p.m. Doors Close at 3:25 p.m.

Only three months later, we see that General Foods has altered the program to the more accurate *Post Toasties Time*. I've not been able to track down a recording of these broadcasts . . . but I'd love to know if the announced title of the program was changed!

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM COLUMBIA SQUARE PLAYHOUSE 6121 SUNSET BOULEVARD - HOLLYWOOD		
STUDIO B CBS	CBS presents SPECIAL ELECTION DAY BROADCAST starring FANNY BRICE AS "BABY SNOOKS" DANNY THOMAS, M.C. HANLEY STAFFORD AS "DADDY" Guest, JEAN HERSHOLT	Tuesday NOV. 7 1944 5:45-6:15 p.m. Doors close at 5:40 p.m.

Our next ticket is a real oddity. With the nation still at war, President Roosevelt is seeking an unprecedented fourth term and the nation eagerly gathers around the radio to listen to the early returns from . . . Snooks? Yes, indeed . . . on Election Night 1944, CBS aired a special Election Day Broadcast hosted by Danny Thomas and starring Baby Snooks and Daddy! In your search for tickets of your favorite stars, you'll often find pleasant surprises where you least expect it! The Radio community was very active in supporting charities, patriotic events, and special occasions. You'll note that Doctor Christian himself, Jean Hersholt, made a special appearance on the broadcast. This ticket came from the estate of a publicity agent in Hollywood.

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM COLUMBIA SQUARE PLAYHOUSE 6121 SUNSET BOULEVARD - HOLLYWOOD		
STUDIO A CBS	SANKA presents "The Baby Snooks Show" starring FANNY BRICE HANLEY STAFFORD Bob Graham Carmen Dragon and His Orchestra	SUNDAY APRIL 28 1946 2:30-3 p.m. Doors Close at 2:25 p.m.

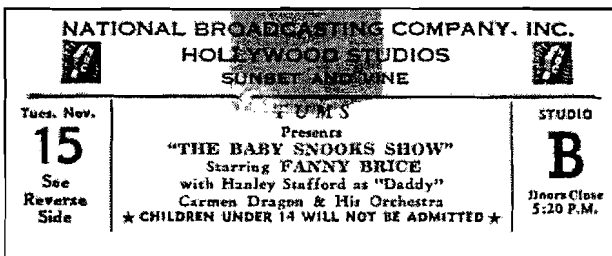
By April 1946, the program is FINALLY called *The Baby Snooks Show*. Yet another General Foods product (Sanka Coffee) enters the picture as a sponsor. Ironically, Danny Thomas had left the program to join the cast of

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The Bickersons on *Drene Time* later that year. Sanka would later sponsor his television program *Make Room For Daddy*. You might notice some discoloration on the left side of this orange ticket. A word of warning: CBS tickets, while colorful, are notoriously bad about fading. If you choose to display them openly, make sure they aren't exposed to direct sun or florescent lighting.

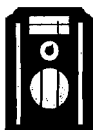


Six months later, the broadcasts have moved from the Columbia Square Playhouse to the El Capitan Theatre near Hollywood and Vine. Jello, another General Foods brand, is now sponsoring the show. Harlow Wilcox, long-time announcer for *Fibber McGee and Molly*, is now appearing with Snooks. An image of the classic pill microphone appears on the face. This show, in circulation, is titled "Halloween Trick or Treat."



Our final stop on this review of Snooks tickets is from November 15, 1949. The program has now returned to NBC and moved to Tuesday nights. At last Hanley Stafford's role as "Daddy" is acknowledged, as NBC finally gets with the program and identifies the cast. The 57 year-old scotch tape tells us that this was rescued from a scrapbook. This final ticket really only prompts one final mystery: what did those twelve and thirteen year-olds do to provoke NBC to throw them out of the studio? Had the golden age of radio continued, we might have reached the point where no one was admitted!

Next installment . . . comic strips on the radio!



Arthur Lake

"Dagwood Bumstead" (as he was known to millions) was born in 1905 in Corbin, Kentucky. He attended school in Nashville, Tennessee, but spent most of his boyhood traveling with his family. His father and his father's twin brother had an aerialist act called "The Flying Silverlakes." His mother was a stage actress known as Edith Goodwin. Arthur and his sister Florence became part of the act as soon as it switched to vaudeville and was renamed "Family Affairs."

Arthur's last name was shortened to Lake by his producer Carl Laemmle, Jr. when he went into the movies. His first role was in "Jack and the Beanstalk" (1917). In 1924 Arthur began making Sweet Sixteen Comedies which typecast him as a teenager, a part he played until he was into middle age.

Arthur played the original role of Dagwood, and stayed with the series in motion pictures, radio and television. When Penny Singleton left the radio version after seven years, Mrs. Lake, the former Patricia Van Cleve, took over the role for the remaining five years. When it became a TV program in 1954, Blondie was played by Pamela Britton. It premiered in January and was dropped in December. In July 1958 it commenced again, but this time it lasted four months

It was in Santa Monica that Arthur, following his retirement, opened a bar which lasted all of six weeks. Along with his large earnings during his heyday, the Lakes were well remembered in the will of Marion Davies who had a great affection for her niece—Arthur's wife. One of Patricia Lakes trinkets that would be beyond the Bumstead family budget was a \$600,000. Cadochon cut-star sapphire necklace.

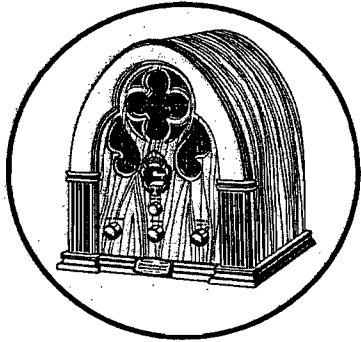
Arthur Lake was born April 17, 1905 and died in 1987.

Our condolences to
Owens Pomeroy of the Golden
Radio Buffs of Maryland on
the passing of his beloved wife
Ferne Pomeroy

Just a reminder that The Illustrated Press
will not be published during the months
of July and August.

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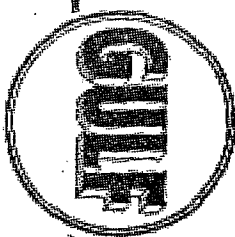
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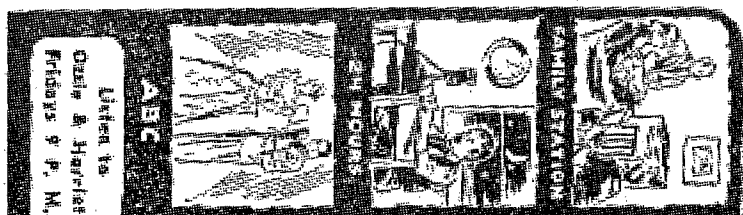
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