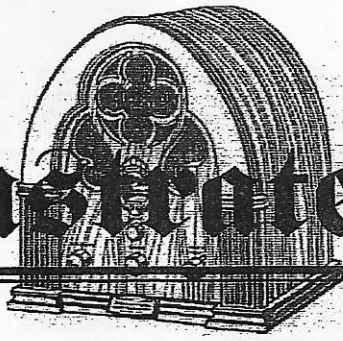


The Old Time Radio Club

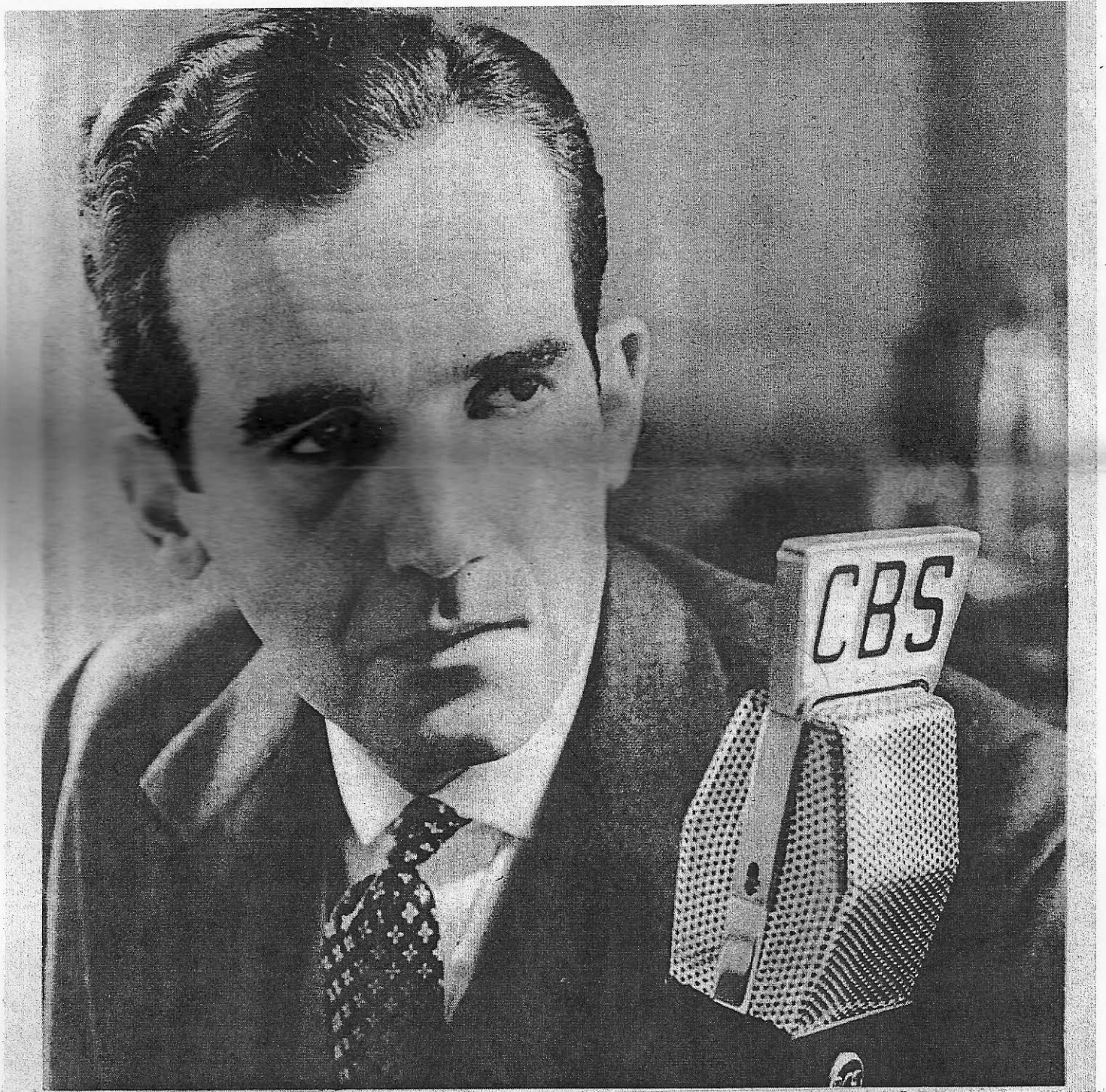
Established 1975

The Illustrated Press



Number 382

September 2010



EDWARD MURROW

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 the month of August.

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

Club Mailing Address

Old Time Radio Club
56 Christen Ct.
Lancaster, NY 14086
E-Mail Address
otrclub@localnet.com



All Submissions are subject to approval prior to actual publication.

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

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Send all articles, letters, exchange newsletters, etc. to: *The Illustrated Press*

c/o Tom Cherre, Editor (716) 833-9713
144 Fontaine Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14215

E-Mail address: skylark68_1999@yahoo.com

Web Page Address:

members.localnet.com/~robmcd

Club Officers

President

Jerry Collins (716) 683-6199
56 Christen Ct.
Lancaster, NY 14086
collinsjf@yahoo.com

Vice President & Canadian Branch

Richard Simpson (905) 892-4688
960 16 Road R.R. 3
Fenwick, Ontario
Canada, L0S 1C0

Treasurer

Dominic Parisi (716) 884-2004
38 Ardmore Pl.
Buffalo, NY 14213

Membership Renewals, Change of Address

Peter Bellanca (716) 773-2485
1620 Ferry Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
pmb1620@gmail.com

Membership Inquires and OTR Network Related Items

Richard Olday (716) 684-1604
171 Parwood Trail
Depew, NY 14043-1071
raolday@yahoo.com

Technical Manager / CD and MP3 Librarian

Bob McDivitt (716) 681-8073
109 Poinciana Pkwy.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
robmcd@verizon.net

Cassette and Reference Librarian

Frank Bork (716) 601-7234
10 Dover Ct.
Lancaster, NY 14086
frankbork209@yahoo.com

Library Rates:

Audio cassettes and CDs are \$1.95 each and are recorded on a **club supplied cassette or CD** which is **retained** by the member. Rates include postage and handling and are payable in U.S. funds.



Editor's Two Cents:

Well, by now Labor Day has come and gone. Summer is winding down. Our picnic, while a little smaller than usual was a big success. Quoting Rich Simpson, "A good time was had by all". Thanks to all who attended. A little radio talk went on, and all in all it was a nice affair. I like to mention a couple of radio shows that might be of interest to our members. Both are on AM 740 on Sundays. Mike Fley's Toronto and Gene Stevens Vintage Favorites. Both deal with a bit of nostalgia and some great music classics. Check for time. I'm sure you'll enjoy both shows. On a previous show Mike mentions how The Crewcuts who sang "Sh'Boom", some say the first rock and roll song, made an appearance at the Town Casino in Buffalo in 1954. The price for dinner and a show for two was only \$5.00. I think I can top that. My wife went to see Frankie Avalon at a matinee for \$1.95. This included a hamburger, a coke, and the show. Times have changed haven't they. No winner in the trivia quiz so I'm giving the same prize and question with a big clue. See next section across the page. Anyway I hope everyone had a great summer. For my money it was too hot and I welcome the fall. I'll probably have to suffer another dismal Buffalo Bills season, but you have to believe!!

Bet'sha Didn't Know!

Just had the pleasure of watching the 1987 Dragnet movie with Dan Ackroyd starring as Sgt. Joe Friday. It's a scream watching Ackroyd reeling off in rapid fire his recitation of regulations and penal codes to a suspect in his deadpan expression of Jack Webb. His reading the riot act of moral outrage is hilarious.



Did you know Friday had 4 partners? Ben Romero (Barton Yarborough) who died after the 2nd episode. Next was Sgt. Ed Jacobs (Barney Phillips) then the first Frank Smith (Herb Ellis) and lastly Frank Smith played by Ben Alexander. Ben wanted to do 4 shows but wound up doing hundreds. The Dragnet theme was called Danger Ahead, written for a German film in 1947. . Now you know. **Trivia Quiz:** This Druggist dispensed more sodas, sundaes, and advice than drugs to a certain commissioner. Who was he?



Edward R. Murrow

By Tom Cherre

Have you ever imagined what God's voice might sound like? I assume it would be a powerful commanding one. It would also be authoritative, strong, and reassuring. That voice might also belong to Edward R. Murrow. To my mind Murrow was the epitome of News journalists for thirty years. Murrow was born as Egbert Ruscoe Murrow on a small farm in North Carolina in 1908. By today's standards he would be considered poor. The log cabin they lived in had no phone or electricity. The bathroom facilities were outside. They had no car or whatever modern conveniences there were at that time. The family raised hay and corn and garnered about three hundred dollars a year for their efforts. When Ed was six the family moved to the state of Washington as homesteaders. The family led a simple life and Murrow worked hard to help the family survive. At college he took an active part in school politics, and was the leader of the debate team. He was an exceptionally bright student and after graduating he landed a job in New York City working for CBS News under Robert Trout. In 1937 Murrow was sent to Europe to persuade European figures to broadcast over the CBS network. Murrow achieved his first big exposure during the March 1938 "Anschluss" in which Adolf Hitler annexed Austria to Nazi Germany. In 1938 Murrow gave live reports over CBS of Hitler's coveting of Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia for Germany. Listeners had analyst H.V. Kaltenborn waiting for for Murrow's shortwve broadcasts saying..."Calling Ed Murrow....Come in Ed Murrow." As the war grew in intensity Ed Murrow was



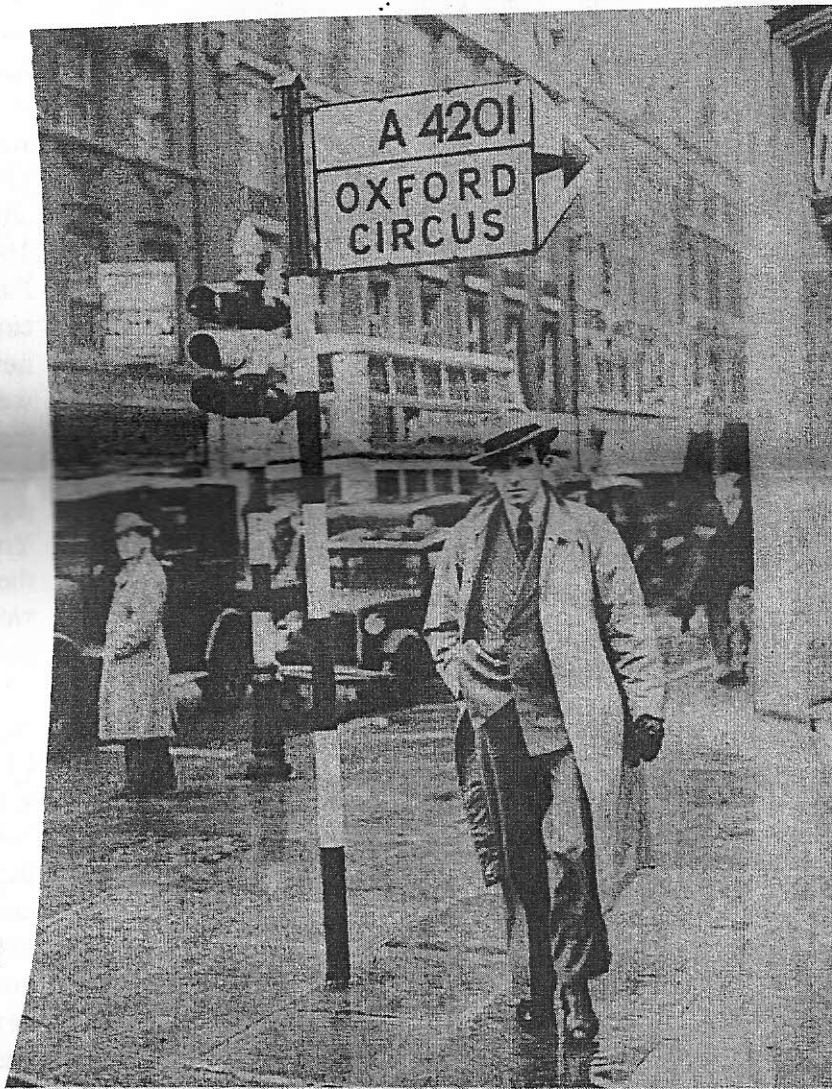
sent to London. Murrow gave live radio broadcasts during the height of the *Blitz* over London. It was here that Murrow electrified radio listeners with broadcasts as London was being shelled. It was the aerial Battle of Britain which turned the behind – the – scenes drama of Murrow's life into behind – the – mike drama which he could personally share with all the world. He was twice bombed out of his London offices. Once a bomb struck the very building where he was broadcasting. Never before had American audiences heard programming like this before. Previously war coverage had been provided mainly by newspapers or newsreels shown in movie theaters. As I mentioned before his two familiar catchphrases began in London. His initial opening was "Hello America." His former speech teacher, Ida Lou Anderson, who still kept in touch with her student suggested using "This is London", with the emphasis on the word This with a slight pause. You already know the Good night one. Ed Murrow was first and foremost a journalist, but during the war he flew on many bombing missions. He would record the bombing just as he saw it, and it would be heard on radio through tape. As the war hostilities increased Murrow expanded the CBS staff. The result was a group of reporters that would be acclaimed years later. This group included Eric Severeid, Charles

The Illustrated Press

Collingwood, Howard K. Smith, Richard C. Hottelet, Bill Downs, and Larry LeSuer. This talented group would later be dubbed "Murrow's Boys". Murrow was with the Allied Forces when they liberated the survivors at the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany. Murrow provided a very complete and descriptive account of the goings on that took place on the camp. He caused a great deal of controversy and won him a number of critics, and also enemies. He gave an eye witness summation of what the concentration camp prisoners who had survived looked like. He mentions the rows of bodies stacked up like cordwood, and refused to apologize for the harsh tone of words he used. In response to the criticism he received, he had these words "I pray you to believe what I have said about Buchenwald. I have reported what I saw and heard, but only part of it. For most of it I have no words. If I've offended you by this rather mild account of Buchenwald, I'm not in the least sorry".

When Murrow came home from the war he was surprised to find out that his overseas reports had made him a star at home. He continued to do radio, and with the advent of television coming along he became even more popular. Every time you'd see Edward R. Murrow on TV he always had a cigarette in his hand. He was rarely seen without his trademark Camel cigarette. It was reported that Edward R. Murrow smoked 65 Camel cigarettes a day. "See It Now" was the first program to have a report on the connection of smoking and cancer. Murrow said during the show "I doubt I could function a half hour without a cigarette with any comfort or ease. In 1963 he had a lung removed due to cancer. He died two years later in 1965 two days after his 57th birthday. The

world lost an exceptional newsman. A few others like Paul Harvey, and Walter Cronkite have used some of his mannerisms in their careers, but there will only be one Edward R. Murrow. His long time friend and colleague Eric Sevareid said of him "He was a shooting star and we will live in his afterglow for a long time." "Good Night And Good Luck."



MURROW'S TENSE FACE BETRAYS THE TENSION OF PEOPLE IN LONDON DURING THE B...

Next meeting will be Monday October 4th. Hope to see everyone.



Frank Sinatra: Early Days Pt 2
By Tom Cherre

As we closed last month Sinatra's relationship with Tommy Dorsey was troubled because of a clause in his contract that awarded Dorsey 1/3 of Sinatra's lifetime earnings in the entertainment industry. In January of 1942 Sinatra recorded his first solo sessions without the Dorsey band (but with Dorsey's arranger Axel Stordal and with Dorsey's approval). These sessions were released on the Bluebird Label. Sinatra left the Dorsey band in 1942 to go solo. This incident sparked rumors of Sinatra's involvement with the Mafia. A story appeared in the Hearst newspapers saying that mobster Sam Giancana coerced Dorsey to let Sinatra out of his contract for a few thousand dollars. This story was famously copied in "The Godfather" movie of 1972 where Al Martino as Johnny Fontaine gets the Godfather to help release him from a similar contract. According to daughter Nancy, she says Hearst wrote the story because of Frank's involvement in the

Democratic Party which differed from Hearst. In fact Nancy said her father's contract was bought out by MCA founder Jules Stein for \$75,000. The only one knowing the truth for sure, may be Phyllis McGuire of the famed McGuire Sisters, who was known to have had a longtime relationship with Giancana. Frank Sinatra's appeal to the "Bobby Soxers" or teenage girls, as they were called then was unbelievable. This was the same sort of popularity that Elvis and a little later on, The Beatles would enjoy. This new wave of audience was a first for popular music which previously had been recorded mainly for adults up to that time. On December 31st 1942 Frank Sinatra opened at the Paramount Theater in New York City causing near riots the likes that had never been seen up to that time. There were some cynics back in 1943 who insinuated publicly that the teenagers who squealed in frenzied ecstasy at the sight of Sinatra on the stage of the New York Paramount were paid to do so at the tune of \$2 a head. If this was true it was an investment that ranks with the purchase of the Louisiana Purchase and Alaska too. Out of this immense popularity hundreds of Sinatra Fan Clubs were formed, both nationally and world-wide. That first generation of bobby-soxers that are still left are now in their nineties. They and their children are also responsible for "Ole Blue Eyes" unending fame. And I myself am still one of his biggest fans. His voice is one I never hear enough of. Say what you want of him, he was simply the best.

Hope all had an enjoyable summer. Looking forward to another happy and prosperous year for our radio club.
Editor

Old Time Radio: A Dying Hobby By Jerry Collins:



Boston Blackie. The story lines were not always that good and there was usually little mystery or suspense to the show. Still the shows were popular because of the excellence of the performers. Boston Blackie was played by Chester Morris (9/11/70) and Richard Kollmer (1/17/71). Mary was played by Leslie Woods (2/22/45) and Jan Miner (2/15/44). Inspector Faraday was played by Maurice Tarplin (5/12/75), while Tony Barrett (11/16/74) played Shorty. Harlow Willcox (9/24/60) and Larry Elliot (7/27/57) were the announcers. The show premiered in 1944.

Murder and Mr. Malone. During the final season the show was known as The Amazing Mr. Malone. Mr. Malone was portrayed by Gene Raymond (5/2/98), Frank Lovejoy (10/2/62), and George Petrie (11/16/87). Malone was a lawyer, spent much of his time solving crimes. The show lasted from 1947-49. Bill Rousseau (5/2/72) directed, while Bernard Schubert (?) produced Murder and Mr. Malone. Art Gilmore (still alive – born 3/18/22) was the show's announcer. Gregory Hood in the Casebook of Gregory Hood used quite a novel technique in one of his shows. He was trying to gather information on a

wanted criminal who was from Chicago. So he called John J. Malone at one of his favorite bars to gather the information.

Candy Matson.



The show based in San Francisco, premiered in June of 1949 and remained on the air until May of 1951. The show was created, written, and produced by Monty masters (1969). Candy was played by Natalie Masters (2/9/86), while Lt. Ray Mallard, Candy's suiter was played by Henry Leff (still alive). Candy,s friend and assistant Rembrandt Watson was played by Natalie's uncle Jack Thomas (4/87). Dudley Manlove (4/17/96) was the announcer on Candy Manson.

The FBI in Peace and War.

The show was based Frederick R. Collins' book (8/05/06), *The FBI in Peace and War*. Agent Shepard was played Martin Blaine. (?). Each episode included a disclaimer saying that the shows were not official stories of the FBI. The show was famous for its music and its ava, commercials. Some of its regular cast members were Ed Begley

Readick (12/57/55), Harold Huber (9/29/59), Charita Bauer (2/28/85), and Grant Richards (7/4/63). The show should not be confused with This is Your FBI, which was sanctioned and approved by J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI. That show was remembered for its announcer Larry Keating (8/26/63) who later played the role of George Burns' and Gracie Allen's neighbor.



The Lineup. The show gave a new slant to a major part of police work, the lineup. Lt. Ben Guthrie was played by one of radio's best and busiest actors, Bill Johnstone (4/7/97), while Sgt Matt Grebb was played by Wally Maher (12/27/51). The show was on the air from 1950-52. The show's producer was Elliot Lewis (5/20/90), while Jamie DeValle (?) was the show's director (5/20/90) and the musical director was Eddie Dunstedter (7/30/74). The nature of the show lent itself to a long list of guest stars. The most famous were Raymond Burr (9/12/93), Jeanette Nolan (6/5/98), Sheldon Leonard (1/10/97) and Howard MvNear (1/3/69).

The 21st Precinct. The show gave a behind the scene look of the 21st

precinct. The show was on the air from 1953-56. Everett Sloane (8/6/65) was the captain. Ken Lynch (2/13/90) the Lieutenant and Howard Stone (?) the Sergeant.

Adult Adventure

I love a Mystery. Already profiled.

I Love Adventure. Written by Carlton E. Morse (5/24/83) the show was a variation of I Love a Mystery. The show was very creative and well written. The cast included Michael Raffetto (5/31/90) as Jack Packard, Barton Yarborough (12/19/51) as Doc Long and Tom Collins as Reggie York. Each 30 minute show began with our three heroes meeting the "Twent-One Old Men of Grammercy Park" for their weekly assignments. Dresser Dahlstead (4/10/98) was the show's announcer.



Michael Raffetto and Barton Yarborough as Jack Packard and 'Doc' Long



TOM COLLINS
DL 7000-200 4811



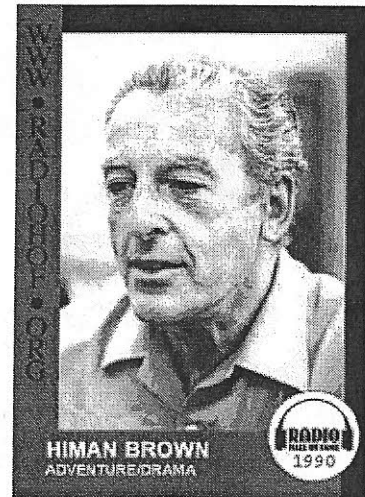
Jeanne Bates appeared as Mary Kay Jones 'the cutest secretary in Hollywood'

Himan Brown

By Tom Cherre

One of the truly great legends of Old Time Radio passed away this past June 4th. Without Hi Brown around I shudder to think that there would have been no CBS Radio Mystery Theater. For the last month or so I've been doing my walking to this great show. To say Hi Brown was an important figure in the world of radio would be redundant. He was one of the most respected figures in radio history. Brown was born in 1910 in Brooklyn New York to poor parents who immigrated from Odessa (now Ukraine). He became involved in theater as a teenager performing at the Brooklyn Jewish Center under the direction of Moss Hart. While going to school he helped his father out with his dress contracting business. In 1927, in radio's infancy, Brown's *chutpa* played a role in his reading poetry at The Roosevelt Hotel over WNYC. This he did while attending CCNY. The show was billed as Hi Brown Reading. He later worked on an NBC affiliate doing Jewish dialect characterizations over the Borscht circuit. He graduated from Brooklyn College with a law degree in 1931. Unfortunately Hi had trouble passing the Bar Exam. Lucky for us he did, and he made radio his career for the next seven decades. He decided to focus his thoughts on producing and directing. He became very adapt at creating ideas, outlining themes, help with the writing, and selling the concept to the sponsor. He was a one man organization. In 1933 Brown produced and directed the very first daytime soap opera "The Little French Princess". He also produced and directed David Harum's "John's Other Wife" and "Way Down East". He often directed as many as four productions daily. Brown also received the radio

rights for many popular comic strips, such as *Flash Gordon* in 1935. This starred future Hall of Fame actor Gale Gordon, who would later star in shows like "Fibber McGee & Molly", and "Our Miss Brooks."



He gave many talented people their first break in radio including, Agnes Moorehead, writer Irwin Shaw (who wrote *Dick Tracy*) lyricist and composer Frank Loesser, and others. Brown's works were sometimes criticized for being too sexy (*The Thin Man*), too violent (*Dick Tracy*), or too scary (*Inner Sanctum*). *Inner Sanctum*, his first big show was especially popular ranking in the top 20 shows for more than ten years. During World War 2 Brown integrated much conservation and war bond appeal into his shows, such as the children's pledge to save paper on "Terry and the Pirates". Other programs followed this same format. His creaking door for "Inner Sanctum" was his idea, and the sound was later copyrighted. He used the same sound some thirty years later when he started producing "The CBS Radio Mystery Theater" in the middle 70s. Once again I'm glad Himan Brown never became a lawyer. What a loss it would have been for us.



**Art Linkletter Tribute:
By Tom Cherre**

My first knowledge of Art Linkletter probably came by way of his TV House Party Show in the early 1950s. I was probably a little older than the kids he interviewed, but I thought it was still cool. I also remember the People Are Funny Show which was syndicated on Saturday nights back about the same time. Art had a unique way of getting along with people. He made the kids and contestants feel at ease, and he made the viewers like his natural style. Art was another Old Time Radio giant who created two of the longest running shows, starting on radio and later on to TV. Art passed away on the 26th of May 2010. He was born as Gordon Arthur Kelly in Moose Jaw Saskatchewan July 17th 1910. As an infant he was abandoned by his natural parents and

adopted by an evangelical preacher. In his autobiography *Confessions of a Happy Man*, he revealed that he had no contact with his natural parents or his sister or two brothers since he was abandoned. He took the last name of Preacher Fulton John Linkletter and thus became Arthur Gordon Linkletter. When he was five his family moved to San Diego. He graduated from high school at age 16. During the years of The Great Depression he rode the rails of various trains taking him all over the country. He took on various jobs and met many different varieties of people. In 1934 after settling down he graduated from San Diego State University. He earned a degree in teaching, but decided to take on a job as a radio announcer. It paid more. In the 1940s Art became friends with John Guedel who pioneered the early games shows of those times. Art and John Guedel created a new type of show that made people do silly stunts for big prizes. Some stunts had people trying to connive people to outlandish schemes. It was loaded with other gags and served as a prototype for future game shows. House Party came along and with it was the segment where Art talked to the little kids. As you and I know kids will say the darndest things- and they always did causing many a mother's face to turn blush red. Art had a wonderful family with a wife and five kids. His eldest son Jack often worked with him later on his House Party show. He also had his disappointments in life. His daughter Dianne committed suicide in 1969 under the effects of LSD. She was only 21. His son Robert was killed in an auto accident. His oldest son Jack died from cancer a few years ago. With all his heartaches Art Linkletter continued to do good till the day he died. He was a darn good guy.

Just The Facts Ma'am By Frank C. Boncore

It's soapbox time! I have a few things to get off my chest. Did you notice the New Shadows that just came out? It looks like OTR took a giant step backwards. The "new finds" are pretty good, however the old shows packaged with them are not cleaned up. I don't mind paying the price for the new stuff, but it pisses me off that old other stuff was just shoved in with all its imperfections. Computer Bob was really high on MP3s when they hit the market, while I was not. I still have reels. Do you know how long it took me to move to cassettes? Then CDs. Over the past few years I purchased a few MP3s. My new car has an MP3 player so I purchased several in Cincinnati recently. So far my MP3 player spit out 4 of the first 10 that I put in saying they were bad discs... That's not all. There were several shows in the MP3s that were not rejected, but had all kinds of clicks, hisses, volume drops, super increases in volume, and echoes. Perhaps it was just me or was I spoiled by quality dealers like Cowboy Don Aston, Ted Davenport, Tom Monroe, Bob Burham, Ron Barnett, Ed Carr, Leo Gawroniak etc. It's funny I never got anything but top quality from Bob Burnham. Hey Bob! Perhaps you can teach these geeks Qualiyt 101. Maybe you should start making MP3s. I know they would be the best. Perhaps with some competition from you older guys, the new guys would clean up their act and stop putting out this garbage. Maybe I am just getting old, but I think these new computer geeks can do a hell of a lot better job.

Thanks Frank, but why did you sugar coat it. "Only Kidding".

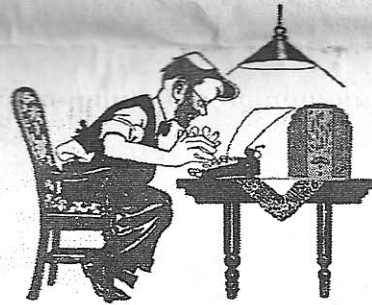
Notice To All Members:

Longtime member Tom Monroe has a project of sending books to our servicemen in the war zone. This is at no cost to the serviceman. He is looking for the following information. **Name and address of serviceman. Tour of duty date.** Give or E-mail the above information to Dick Olday waolday@yahoo.com or to Frank

Boncore Frankboncore@hotmail.com
They will pass the information to Tom Monroe.

Bob McDevitt

Sounds like a worthwhile project to me. If you or someone else knows of anyone serving in harms way pass this note on.

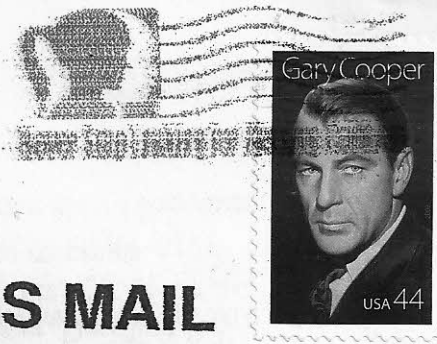


Editor's Note: This month's issue Of The Illustrated Press begins my second year as editor. I hope you have enjoyed the first year. Nothing new in the format for this year. I will try and print what I think would be both enjoyable and interesting for the club. Next month I will feature my favorite bandleader of all time. Mr. Sammy Kaye. Hope you enjoy it. As always I am willing to publish any articles for the newsletter. Deadline for articles and notices are the first of the month or the day of the meetings.
Thanks! Tom Cherre

The Old Time Radio Club

THOMAS R CHERRE
144 FONTAINE DR
BUFFALO NY 14215-2038

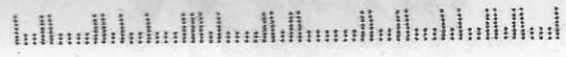
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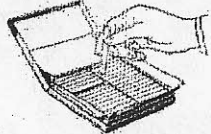
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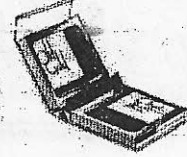
What a handsome gift it makes! Give him this "True Story of America's Double-Mellow Cigarette," and you'll give him a whole volume of smoking pleasure. Ladies will be thrilled with this Old Gold gift, too!



1 It looks like a rare edition, richly bound in maroon and gold.



2 Open it up and you find 2 regular "flat-fifties" of Old Golds (100 cigarettes).



3 Open one of the "flat-fifties" and enjoy America's double-mellow cigarette.

TUNE IN on Old Gold's "Melody and Madness" with Bob Henschley, every Sunday night starting November 20th, Columbia Network, Coast-to-Coast