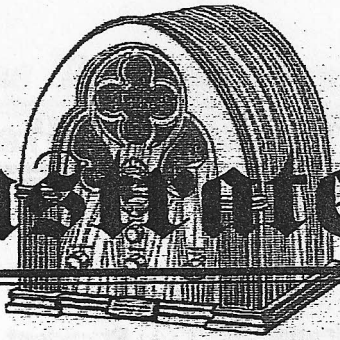


The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

The Illustrated Press



Number 384

November 2010

10

CENTS

THE
CANDID PICTURE
MAGAZINE
OF RADIO

COMPLETE
COAST-TO-COAST
PROGRAM LISTINGS

FANNIE
BRICE

Earl
Christy



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.

The *Illustrated Press* is the newsletter of the *Old Time Radio Club*, headquartered in Western New York State. It is published monthly except for the months of July and August. Contents except where noted are copyright © 2009 by the OTRC.

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 !

Almost as soon as I gave the trivia question Dan Marafno was quick as a bee and told me the correct answer. The song was "So Rare" by Jimmy Dorsey. For that he received a CD of Sammy Kaye hits. The song came out in 1957, and both of the Dorsey brothers had already passed away. Neither one came close to collecting social security checks. Jerry Collins lightened up the meeting with about ten trivia questions. He could not stump the club members (no thanks to me) and it added a little something to the meeting. Dan says he will have his own quiz for November. Jerry and I will have some in the can, just in case. A reminder to all club members! Our Christmas Party will be next month. Bring a guest and a dish to pass. Also regarding the weather. If the Clve. Hill School district is closed then we will also close. This only pertains to weather problems. If the school is closed to electrical or water problem etc. this will not effect us. I checked on club shirts. The cost is about \$15.25 each. This total cost with the tax added in. All shirts double -X or larger will run a little more. We need minimum of 12 so let me know. I will have color selection to view. I was thinking light blue, maroon, or forest green. First we need a dozen or more orders then we can worry about the colors. A Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Betsha Didn't Know:

While on the subject of the Dorsey brothers, it appeared they argued quite a bit. Tommy had a reputation for being a perfectionist. He was very volatile and known to hire and fire (and sometimes rehire) musicians based on his current mood. Frank Sinatra said he learned his breath control from watching Tommy play the trombone. One trombone player in his band was Nelson Riddle, who would later arrange and conduct for Sinatra. He also had a young trumpet player named Carl "Doc" Severinsen in his band, and you know what he did. Jimmy Dorsey had a young female vocalist in his band in 1939. Her name was Helen O'Connell. Jerry Lewis first wife Patti Palmer was a singer for Jimmy for about a year in 1944. The Dorsey brothers both died young, and died within a few months of each other. Next December 15th will be the 66th anniversary of Glen Miller's disappearance. That night in 1944 his single engine plane a UC-64 Norseman took off from England to Paris France, but was reported missing over the English Channel. There are 3 surprising theories to what occurred that night. 1. His plane was shot down by the Royal Air Craft. 138 Lancshires after aborting a bombing raid in Germany were running low on fuel decided to dump their load over the channel. Another report was British artillery shot his plane down by mistake. Lastly, this one a bit far-fetched, Ike convinced Miller, who spoke German to convince German officers to end fighting early. While in a Paris brothel he was shot and killed. The US covered it up to avoid unwanted embarrassment. All these are all highly speculated. Who Knows? I bet you didn't Know!

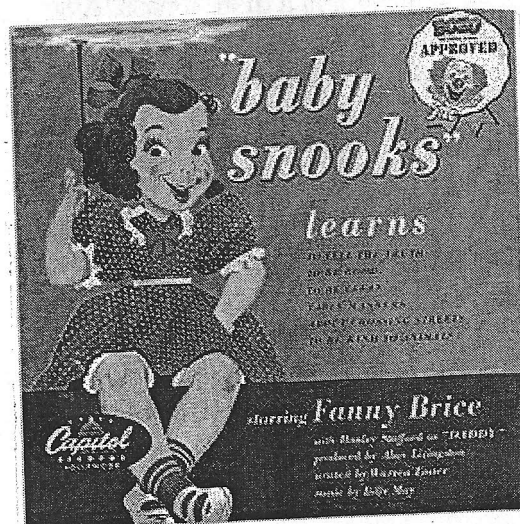
Fanny Brice
By Tom Cherre



c.1911

Fanny Brice, by today's standards, led a relatively short life, leaving us at the age of 59 after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. In those 59 years she managed to aspire in the world of music, stage, movies and lastly, star in a very successful radio show. Her life began when she was born in October of 1891 in New York City as Fania Borach. Her Hungarian-Jewish parents were well off owning a rather popular saloon. At the tender age of 17 Fania dropped out of school, joined a burlesque review and changed her name to Fanny Brice. Two years later she became a headliner with The Ziegfeld Follies. Her association with Flo Ziegfeld lasted from 1910 to the 1930s. In the 1921 Follies she was featured singing *My Man* which became both a big hit and also her signature song. Her second most associated song was *Second Hand Rose*. I'm sure we're all familiar with that one. The last years of her life will be remembered for her loving portrayal as *Baby Snooks*. We have to go back to 1904 when George

McManus began his comic strip, *The Newlyweds* about a couple and their child, *Baby Snookums*. Brice recalled doing her Snooks character in vaudeville back in 1912. At the same time there was a juvenile actress named Baby Peggy, and she was very popular. She made her *Baby Snooks* a character of Baby Peggy. *Baby Snooks* premiered in the Ziegfeld Follies of the Air in February 1936 on CBS radio. She went to NBC in December of 1937 performing the Snooks routine as part of the Good News Show. She returned to CBS as part of the Maxwell House Coffee Time with sketches of Baby Snooks with comedian Frank Morgan in 1944. *Baby Snooks* began in its own right later that year in 1944 running until 1951. Brice was so meticulous about the show that while doing it she performed in a toddler's costume, even though she was only seen by a small radio studio audience. In fact Brice did not like to rehearse the show feeling she could she could get a more natural feel for the character doing it live. Brice said when the show started she actually became *Baby Snooks* for the 20 to 25 minutes she was on the air.



BabySnooks recording

Getting back to her early life, she was married in her teens to a local barber whom she met in 1911. The marriage broke up in a few years. Her second marriage was to the notorious gambler Nicky Arnstein. Barbara Streisand would later star as Brice in the 1964 Broadway musical *Funny Girl* which centered heavily on her relationship with Arnstein. Streisand's reprising role as Brice in the movie would win her an academy award in 1968. Streisand recorded many of Fanny's songs including her signature *My Man, I'd Rather Be Blue Over You*, and *Second Hand Rose*. After her break up with Arnstein Brice married producer Billy Rose. Her radio show *Baby Snooks* was still popular right up until her death in 1951. Featured in the cast was a young Danny Thomas who played the postman. Hanley Stafford played Daddy Higgins. LaLive Brownell was Mommy Higgins. Also in the cast were Leone Ledoux as younger brother Robespierre. Others were Ben Alexander, Frank Nelson, Lillian Randolph, and Charley Cantor.



David Stone Martin's illustration of Fanny Brice in the role of Baby Snooks



from the trailer for the film *The Great Ziegfeld* (1936) in which Brice appeared as herself

One of the script writers was Jess Openheimer, later the producer and head writer for *I Love Lucy*. Fanny Brice died May 29th 1951 at the age of 59. The last episode was broadcast as a memorial to the star that created the bratty little toddler. Hanley Stafford gave an on the air eulogy to her saying "We have lost a very real, a very warm, a very wonderful woman. One of her last shows Report Card" is included in the CD "The 60s Greatest Old Time Radio Shows of the 20th Century. This CD is introduced by Walter Cronkite. As Walter would say "And that's the way it was." I really don't remember the *Baby Snooks* show. My brother who is a few years older than me does have a good recollection of hearing Snooks planting a bees' nest at her mother club meeting, cutting her father's fishing line, ripping the fur off her mother's coat, putting marbles into her father's piano, and smearing glue on her baby brother. Hmmmmnn? She doesn't sound too bad. Kids do a lot worse these days. Tune in, you might like it. I'm sure Frank would be more than happy to accommodate you.

Rich Olday's Report On 5th Annual Mid-Atlantic Conv.

Once again, Marty Grams has put together an outstanding convention. Many stars were present including Dawn Wells (MaryAnn, Gilligan's Island), Mark Goddard (Lost in Space), Geri Reischl (Jan Brady The Brady Bunch), Ed Nelson (Peyton Place), Will Hutchins (Sugarfoot & Blondie), Roy Thinnes (The Invaders & Dark Shadows), and Marsha Hunt (Hollywood Actors). Unfortunately Van Williams (Green Hornet & Surfside Six) was unable to attend due to illness. The movie room opened at 5:00pm on Wednesday and continued until 4:00pm on Saturday showing classic movies & TV shows such as Bob Hope's 1956 Christmas special, Sugarfoot, The Invaders, Lost in Space, Howdy Doody, and Crusader Rabbit. Movies included King of the Jungle, Pardon Us, The Colorado Trail, Plan 9 From Outer space, and City That Never Sleeps. The above mentioned movies and TV shows were only a part of the presentations that were shown. Panels and seminars also started on Wednesday evening and continued through the delicious Saturday evening meal. Some of the presentations were A Closer Look At Phil Harris and Alice Faye, The History of the Lone Ranger, by Fran Striker Jr., The History of the Man From U.N.C.L.E., The History of the Green Hornet, House of Wax in 3-D, a recreation of a lost Mysterious Traveler from the 1940s, a Drive - Movie Theater show on the lawn next to the motel featuring The Brain Eaters, Nancy's Sister Sleuths hosted by Jack French, and ending up with a lost 1934 episode of the Lone Ranger starring Will Hutchins as the Lone Ranger. The motel is located in Hunt Valley Maryland and

was reached in a little over 6 hours from Buffalo. Most motels rise up to 10 or more stories, but this one only reached up to 3 stories, but must have been 10 or more stories wide. It was a very long walk to the convention rooms. However, accommodations were very good and service was top notch. The dealer rooms were huge. The large banquet room was used for a large portion of the dealers. However, adjoining corridors were jammed with other dealers. The movie room downstairs was also flanked by more dealer rooms. If you were looking for any nostalgic items, they were probably there. The convention is already booked to return the next two years at this motel. The dates are September 21st-24th 2011 and September 19th-22nd 2012. The motel is easily reached by car, train, or plane. Baltimore's Light Rail has a station very near the motel and has connections to the airport and train stations. Once again Kudos to Marty for running an outstanding convention. Also our club would like to thank Olden Radio PO Box 8 Beech Grove Indiana 46107 for donations to our club. Olden Radio has a great selection of radio, TV shows, serials, and movies.

Passing Away Of Eddie Fisher:

One of the greatest pop singers of the early 50s passed away on Sept. 22 In 1953 Eddie Fisher was given his own fifteen minute show called Coke Time. The show was so popular that Coke paid him 1 million dollars to be their national spokes person. Fisher had many top 40 hits. He died of complications from hip surgery. He was 82.



The Shadow: Perfect -O- Lite's Five Broadcasts Part Two

By Martin Grams

(Further research into the Hachmeister-Lind Company through the Pittsburgh Historical Society and state archives have led this author to believe this company bankrupted the company and all its records disappeared. Whether Hachmeister-Lind Company was bought out by another company or simply vanished remains a mystery.)

The Shadow had a prime time slot and certainly showed promise. It premiered immediately following Eno Crime Club, another Mystery program which began featuring adaptations of Edgar Wallace mystery novels. The Shadow only had to deal with musical programs on rival networks. Any dial tuner wanting to listen to drama with action instead of music had only one choice. No competition and a strong mystery beforehand gave The Shadow every opportunity to succeed*

**The Shadow also borrowed talent from the preceding Eno Crime Club with Elsie Hitz and John McGovern in the cast. Or rather, they were members of the same acting troupe from the station. Radio Digest reported McGovern was a busy crime fighter, repeatedly appearing in Sherlock Holmes, Danger Fighters, The Shadow and Eno Crime Club.*

All of the episodes were adaptations of short stories that had appeared in recent issues (September and November 1931) of Detective Story Magazine. The first of the five dramas was "Dynamite Moll," based on a short story by Leslie T. White, who would enjoy the honor of having four of his stories adapted for the five programs. The mystery concerned

an enterprising reporter who stumbles on a new racket in his town involving both gangsters and influential politicians. He finally manages to break it up by gaining the confidence of the "Gun Moll" of one of the head gangsters

The second broadcast was "Wee Willie's Ghost" (January 12 1932), which told the story of a criminal who returns to life, seemingly after being executed. This same plot would be used again repeatedly in The Shadow continuity series---always proving that dead men cannot walk, but before they face the Grim Reaper can continue to create a new way of faking their spiritual return for the sake of vengeance against them.

The third broadcast "Turn of the Tide" (January 19 1932) was based on a short story by Kyle Corning, also known as Earle Stanley Garner, creator of Perry Mason. Radio listeners were given the tale of a gangster girl schooled in racketeering who falls in love with a gangster chasing detective. When Chick Kendall is discovered to be a police stool pigeon, the head of a gang, Sam Keene, decides to set Kendall up to be killed. He gets his girlfriend, Sally Mason, to fool special duty policeman Fighting Finney to do the killing. But Sally remembers the help Finney gave her when she was in jail and decides to turn against Keene. She tells Finney what is going on, but he still decides to go ahead, intending to set up Keene and his gang instead.

The fourth episode was "Friday the 13th" and told an exciting story of circus life. The fifth and final broadcast, "Two Keys" (February 2 1932) was described by one newspaper as a thriller about perilous adventures of a reporter. Casey

Shannon is traveling on the Salt Lake Limited after reporting on the trial of convicted jewel thief Wilkenson. On the train a blonde and Shannon suspects a young brunette, who flees from the train when it comes to a stop. Shannon chases after, only to be held against his will, as she pulls a gun on him. Mistaking him for a man named Weiss, she demands a second key to a safe deposit box where jewels are stashed. Shannon attempts to prove he is a reporter and soon discovers she is Wilkenson's sister. The real Weiss appears and takes the woman's safety deposit key. While the two are held at Weiss's apartment in San Francisco, they devise a scheme that will allow justice to prevail.

On the same afternoon the final broadcast aired, in the February, 1932, issue of the (Baltimore) Evening Sun, an unidentified radio columnist remarked: "Network programs these Tuesday nights are overloaded with dramatizations. Columbia persists in giving us two in a row the Crime Club drama and The Shadow's program. Each detracts from enjoyment of the other." Keeping in mind that more than 80% of the evening's entertainment on the major networks were musical presentations, crime dramas were few and far between and the critic would have preferred crime thrillers spread throughout the week.

The musical conductor for the productions was Eugene Ormandy, making what is probably his only contribution to the *Shadow* thrillers. At age 32, Ormandy was the youngest conductor of a major symphony orchestra broadcast over the radio in the United States. This distinction did not go unnoticed and his credit on the *Shadow*

was repeated numerous times in newspapers throughout 1932. Known as a child prodigy who never used a score, he also never missed a cue. After a close study of a composition before a rehearsal he had a "picture" of it in his mind he once explained. He reached New York a few years previous to the *Shadow*, without funds, unable to speak English. The violin training he began when less than 4-years old won him a place in a theater orchestra. His first break came when the conductor became ill and Ormandy filled in for him.

Very little is known about Ormandy's radio career. He was musical director for the *Jack Frost Melody Moments*, in which he played the violin as a highlight of the program, months before working on the *Shadow*. Thorough research by multiple parties suggests his work on the five *Shadow* broadcasts and *Jack Frost* may have been the only major musical task Ormandy had on network radio. The networks had strict policies about keeping track of broadcast music scores broadcast for both royalty and legal purposes. If Ormandy applied his way of conducting an orchestra for the productions, his tenure on radio would not have been long-lived. Two days after the fifth and final broadcast of the series, *The Evening Tribune* reported that Ormandy was the head of the Minneapolis orchestra and was making plans for a 7000 mile concert tour that winter, departing radio for the stage. George Earle and his orchestra would become the music staple for *The Shadow* dramas following Ormandy.

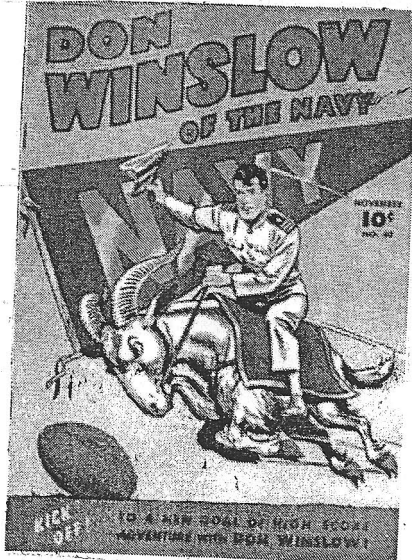
Numerous reference guides have cited Ormandy as the spooky narrator, and some historians speculate he doubled for the role when Frank Readick was

unavailable. Tracking down the source from the reference guides (not too surprisingly, they were borrowing the information from other reference guides) this author succeeded and tracking down the initial source. It seems Ormandy was listed among certain newspaper radio logs and it was assumed, he played the role, with the initial historian unaware at the time that newspaper listings often listed the musician as well as the name of the program. Thus it remains highly unlikely Ormandy played the role.

*Martin Grams is the author of **Yhe Shadow: The History and Mystery of the Radio Program, 1930-1954**, due out through OTR publishing in January.*

Old Time Radio A Dieing Hobby By Jerry Collins:

Don Winslow of the Navy. It was only natural that World War II would lead to a number of children's shows based on the war. One was Terry and the Pirates and now Don Winslow of the Navy. Don was played by Rob Gulbert (?) and Raymond Edward Johnson. (8/15/01). Rod Pennington was played by John Gibson (9/71). The show was sponsored by Post Toasties.



Terry and the Pirates.



The show went from the comic strips to radio in 1937. Terry Lee was played Jackie Kelk (5/02) and Cliff Carpenter (still alive) Pat Ryan was played by Clayton "Bud" Collyar (9/08/69). Agnes Morehead (4/30/74) played the dragon Lady, as did Marion Sweet pictured above. Connie was played by Peter Donald (4/30/79), while Ted DeCorsica (4/11/73) played Flip Corkin. The show was announced by Douglas Brownley (?). The high point of the show was 1943 when Terry joined forces with the Dragon Lady to fight the Japanese. When the war ended Terry and the Pirates declined rapidly in popularity.

The comic strip was written by Milton Caniff.

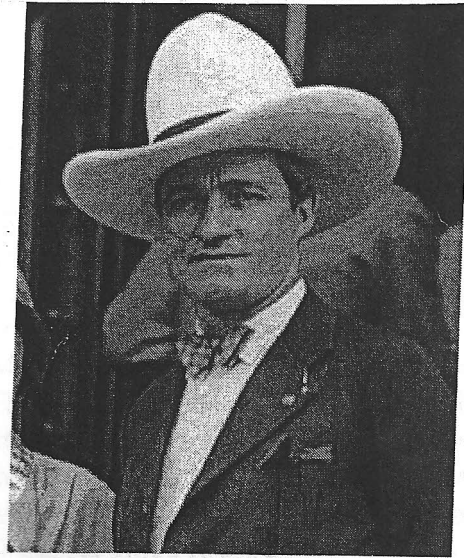
The Adventures of Jack Armstrong. I am quite certain that most Americans

past the age of 65 have very fond memories of listening to numerous episodes of Jack Armstrong the All-American boy. We ate wheaties, purchased the pedometer and other premiums and sang the Hudson High fight song. How exciting it was as our friends traveled to the Sulu Sea, the Phillipines or the South Pacific. Some outgrew the parts, some moved on to bigger and better things and some went off to war. I selected the more well known performers and those that stayed with their roles the longest. Jim Ameche (2/4/83) and Charlie Flynn (?) played Jack Armstrong. Billy Fairchild and Dickie were both played by Dick York (2/20/92). Billy and Betty Fairchild were cousins. Coach Hardy was played by Olan Soule (2/1/94), while Captain Hughes was played by Don Ameche (12/6/93). The announcers on the show were Truman Bradley (&/28/74), Paul Douglas (9/11/58) and Franlin MacCormack (6/12/71). The show's director was Jim Jewell (8/75). Jewell and Robert Hardy Andrews (11/11/76) were writers of the show. The show was famous for its premiums; pedometers, decoders, etc and for its introductory music;

Jack Armstrong
Jack Armstrong
Jack Armstrong

The A-I-I-I American Boy

*Wave the flag for Hudson, boys
Show them how we stand
Ever shall our teams be champions
Known throughout the land*



Tom Mix. The show was another one of the great children's serial set during the War years. Tom was played by Russell Thorsen (7/6/82) and Curley Bradley (6/3/85), while his sidekick Sheriff Mike Shaw was played by Leo Curley, Hal Peary, and Willard Waterman. The Old Wrangler was played by Percy Hemus while Pecos Williams was played by Curley Bradley. Tom Mix's base of action was the T M Bar Ranch in Dobie Township. One of the writers was George Lowther (4/28/75). The announcers were Don Gordon (11/23/06) and Frank Ferguson. The Tom Mix show premiered in September of 1933 and remained on the air, except with a small gap in the early 1940s until it left the air in the mid 1950s. The show was sponsored by Ralston Purina and offered numerous premiums during its long run. Ironically a major tragedy took place in 1940 that came close to permanently ending the show's run. On October 12th 1940 Tom Mix died in an automobile accident near Florence Arizona. This marked the termination of the life of one of America's greatest heroes. *We continue with Tom Mix next month.*

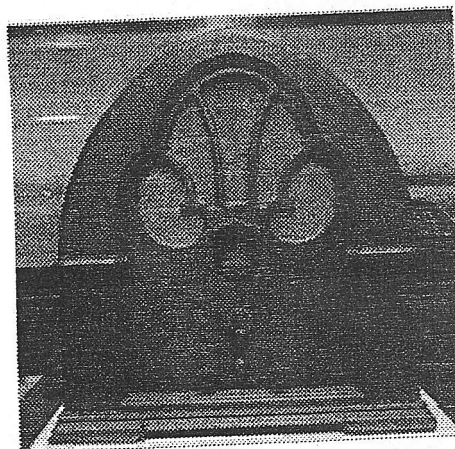
PHILCO

USA Philco logo

By Tom Cherre

This club was formed solely for the enjoyment of Old Time Radio and the preservation of the hobby. This issue I will write about one of the instruments that helped make it possible. There where many radio manufacturers in this country. Yes we actually made them in large abundance. This month we'll feature the Philco brand. Philco Storage Battery Company started in 1892 as the Helios Electric Company in Philadelphia. It began making batteries for electric vehicles in 1906. They later started making home charging batteries for the infant radio industry. At the time from 1920-1927 all radios were powered by storage batteries which were rather expensive. Something called the *Socket Power* which was a rectifier unit allowed users to operate these radios from wall current. In 1928 the invention of the vacuum tube rectifier came into use making charging batteries obsolete. Philco finally got into producing radios in 1928 and sold 96,000 of them. This made them rank 26th in national production. Up to this time radios were handmade and rather expensive for the normal family. Philco decided to mass produce radios by incorporating an assembly line, much like Ford Motor Co. This greatly reduced the price. By 1929 Philco was in third place behind Atwater-Kent and Majestic in radio sales. By 1930 Philco sold 600,000 radios and amassed gross sales of \$34 million and was the leading radio maker in the country. By 1934 they captured 30% of the radio market. Philco radios were known for their economy and

design without sacrificing quality or durability. They offered lines of radios with 5 tubes all the way up to high-fidelity consoles with 20 tubes in 1937. Philco also carried portable battery powered radios which were then called *farm radios*. The Philco *Baby Grand* (today called the Cathedral radio by collectors) was a shape that featured an arched top that wrapped from the sides over the top. Philco sold more of this style than any other maker. Many of them exist today in collections. By today's standards, most of them are still in excellent working order cranking out the mellow sounds of AM radio. Philco began marketing car radios in 1930 and later began producing many other appliances like refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, electric ranges, washers, dryers, and yes, televisions. I still remember my grandmother's old Philco. It was twice as big as the TV we now have. By 1954 Philco had led the radio industry in volume sales for 24 years in a row selling over 30 million. Like almost every major company in the US things have changed. Philco now exists as Phillips and is a drip of what it use to be. Anyway, thank you very much **Philco**.



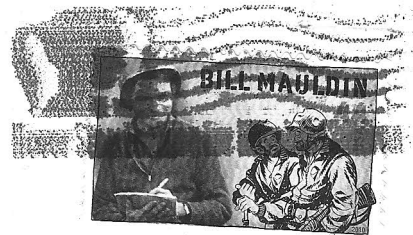
A Philco 90 "cathedral" style radio from 1931.

The Old Time Radio Club

THOMAS R CHERRE
144 FONTAINE DR
BUFFALO NY 14215-2038

BUFFALO NY 142

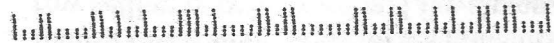
02 NOV 2010 PM 5 T



FIRST CLASS MAIL

JIM BESHIRE (C)
123 DAVIDSON
SAVANNAH, GA 31419

31419+3013



HOLLYWOOD FOLLOWS GOOD TASTE



Edward Stevenson — costume designer for Orson Welles' production "Journey Into Fear" — whose new creations are tops in good taste.

Pepsi-Cola rates top place in good taste with millions. Flavor, purity, size, Pepsi-Cola's 12 full ounces give you what you want—and plenty of it. All for a nickel, too.

**Purity...in the big, big bottle
...that's Pepsi-Cola!**



★ Pepsi-Cola is made only by Pepsi-Cola Company, Long Island City, N. Y. Bottled locally by Authorized Bottlers from coast to coast. ★