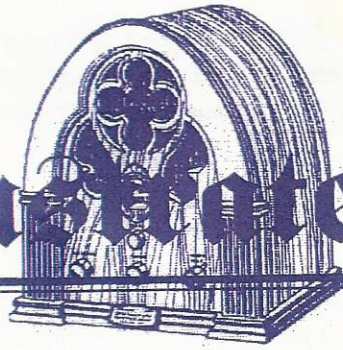


The Old Time Radio Club

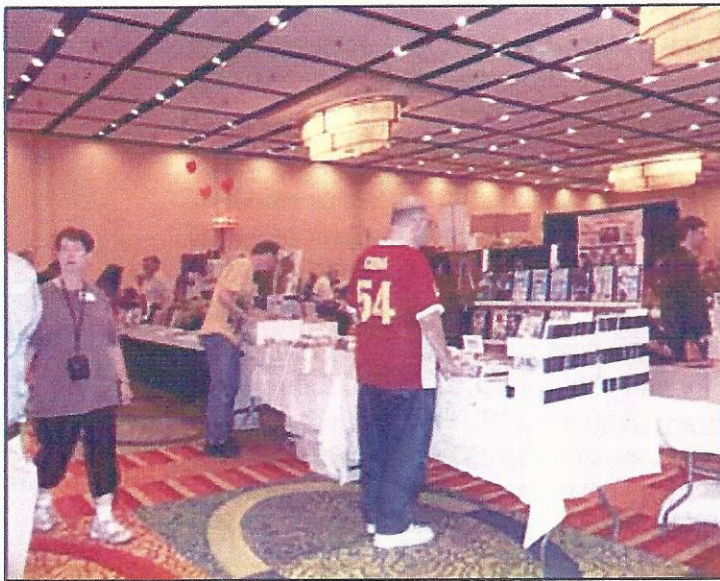
Established 1975

The Illustrated Press

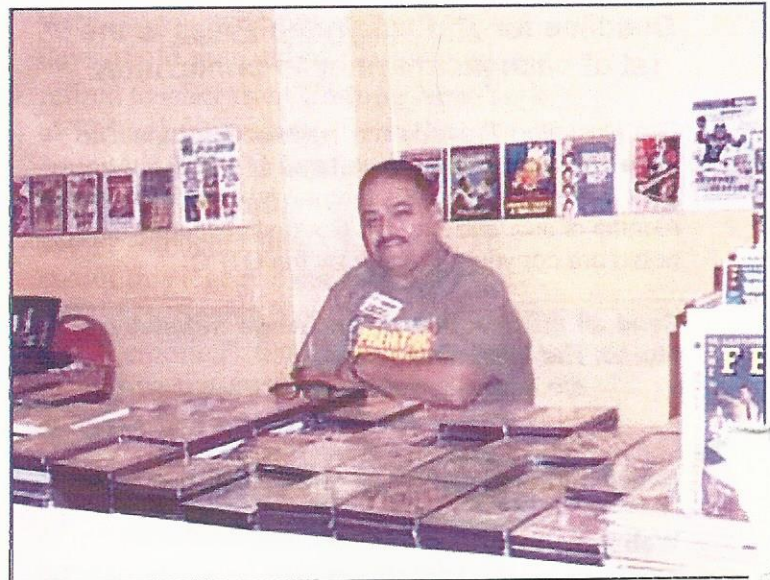


Number 394

November 2011



Vendor's Tables



3D Movie Vendor

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.

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All Submissions are subject to approval prior to actual publication.

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

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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:

Happy Thanksgiving to all. Well, it's getting to be that time of year, and I would just like to mention in the event that the Cleveland Hill School district is closed due to inclement weather then we will cancel the meeting for that night. If the district is closed for another reason, like a heating or boiler problem then we will have our meeting. Our last meeting had Rich Olday and Jerry Collins give us a vivid description of the 6th Annual Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention. On the following pages they both give their excellent reviews of the event. Jerry also had some timely trivia questions, many related to the old time stars that were present at the convention. Next month we will also hold our annual Christmas Party. Starting time will be about 6:30pm with an abbreviated meeting and party to follow. As always members are asked to bring a dish to pass. Guests are welcome to attend. All are invited. Rich Olday brought up the possibility of our club doing it own production of a Shadow radio show. Members will play the parts. Rich is Executive producer. More about that in 2012. I'd also like to mention that dues for 2012 are due by or before the January meeting. Notices are not sent out. You can pay in person or mail check to Peter Bellanca. Joe Collura, who happened to pick up a copy of the IP in Cinninnati enjoyed it and

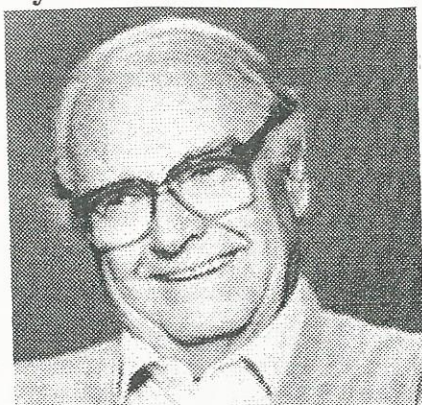
has a feature article of Parley Baer (Chester) of Gunsmoke fame. Joe met Parley, and has also met Fred Foy and Herb Ellis. Thank You Joe for submitting to the IP.

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This past month TV fazed out two of the longest running soap operas on the air. Next month I will feature one of radio's most celebrated soap opera's star. Oxydol's own Ma Perkins as she was known by in those days. The lovely Ma Perkins was played by Virginia Payne. She was on the air with "Ma" for 27 years, and she never missed an episode. Tune in for next month with Ma Perkins.

Lastly I am sad to report that this last Newark convention is indeed the last forever. Organizer Jay Hickerson says the march of time has taken its toll. The gathering that used to garnish real old time radio actors has come down to child stars in their 80s or 90s and grandkids of old time radio stars. This year's program had grandsons of Eddie Cantor and Brace Beemer. Most of the attendees were too young to remember the glory days of old time radio. Gary Yoggy a retired teacher from Corning New York at 73 has been to every Newark convention for the last 36 years. He said this was his favorite week end of the year, even better than Christmas. The end of this legacy closed with the music of "I'll Be Seeing You" and "Thanks For The Memories". Our little group that meets every month strives to keep the hobby going. I feel it's a worthwhile chestnut that glows of nostalgia and satisfying entertainment. I'm sure most of our members feel the same way. I hope to see all of you at the club party on December 5th. Happy Radio Listening.

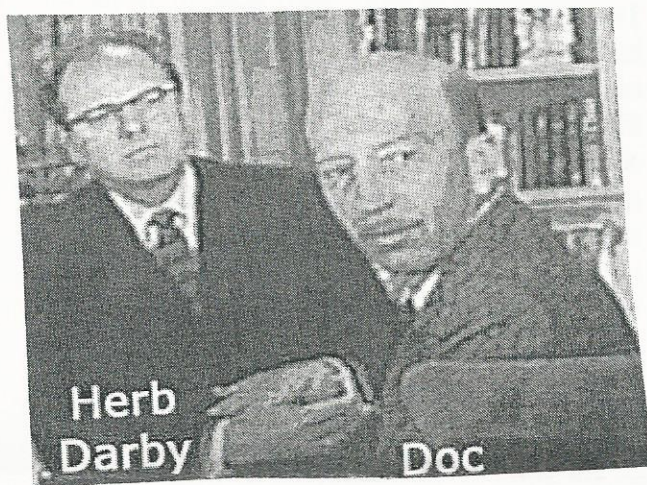
Parley Baer Mr. Dependability
By Joe Collura



The man who is best known to old-time radio fans as Chester Proudfoot on *Gunsmoke* was born on Wednesday, August 5, 1914, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The third child of Charles and Edith Baer, who had moved to Utah in 1902 after homesteading in Kansas, Parley spent some of his youth ushering at a local theater. It was there that he first caught the acting bug. Later enrolling at the University of Utah, where he majored in speech and drama, the young man began his long and varied career on the stage. His first semi-professional role was as a member of a wedding party in a stock company production of "Smilin Through". Next, at station KSL in Salt Lake City, Parley got into radio as an announcer and advanced to special events events/drama supervisor. He noted "At one time when I was on staff there, I was doing 22 shows a week, and I was writing half of them". While he enjoyed his work in the still relatively new medium, it was the people he met through his profession that really excited him. One such group were the circus promoters. Parley became so enchanted with the circus that he wrote the Barnes-Floto Circus requesting a position. To his surprise, he was made a press agent. Eventually learning many other big top jobs, including how to be a ringmaster,

he stayed with his happy surroundings until Pearl Harbor was bombed, and the country went to war. Permitted a medical deferment, Baer went ahead and volunteered for military service anyway by joining the Army Air Corps. He was stationed in Florida, attending Officers Training School, when he met his future wife, Ernestine Clarke, an aerialist and bareback rider with the Cole Brothers Circus. Following different assignments including that of supply officer in places like New Guinea and the Philippines, the young man rose to the rank of Captain, despite a sense of humor that sometimes got him chastised by his superiors. For example, for a show he had organized for the troops, he brought up photos of General Douglas McArthur walking courageously ashore on some dangerous island and quipped, "Think how brave the fella was who took these pictures and had his back to the enemy." An expert at moving, loading and then landing massive amounts of equipment, Baer won a Bronze Star medal for his ingenious ideas, as well as seven battle stars. When World War 2 finally ended, he returned home to marry his circus girlfriend, "Ernie Clarke", in New York City, in April of 1946, just prior to the pride performing in Madison Square Garden on the same day. For a number of years, Parley and Ernestine worked together at the Polack Circus; he as a ringmaster and she as aerialist and bareback rider. Then, in the early 1950s, Baer decided to broaden his skills by returning to the stage. After playing God in the first white company production of *Green Pastures* and *Judas* in *The Pilgrimage*, he ventured back into radio, as an actor. In coming years, the rather jowly, balding actor would appear in more than 15,000 radio network productions, ranging from *The Cisco*

Kid, to my favorite Husband to the Lux Radio Theater, and not just in guest spots. As a regular cast member, he was Rene Michon, the faithful manservant in The Count of Monte Cristo, the hired man, Eb, in Granby's Green Acres, Pete the Marshall in Honest Harold, the doctor in Rogers of the Gazette, and more. Of course the radio character for



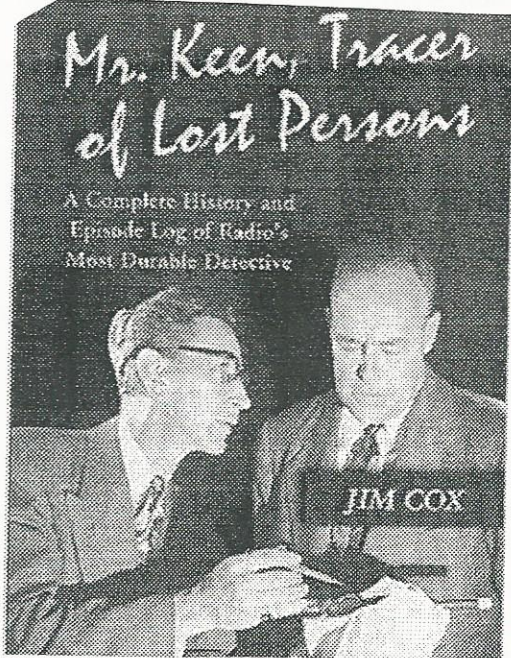
which Parley Baer will forever be identified is Chester Proudfoot, Matt Dillon's deputy on Gunsmoke. Often described as the airwaves' "first adult Western," Gunsmoke achieved a level of realism and excellence like few other shows, on radio or television. From the writing to the music to the acting to the sound effects, everything rang true. Lasting from April 26, 1952 to June 18, 1961, the program set the standard by which all other radio dramas are judged. "The wonderful thing about that show (Gunsmoke) was, it remained intact (same principal actors and crew) throughout its run," Baer told this writer in 1993. "And another thing I'm very grateful for, when we did the last show, we didn't know it was the last show. We were spared the agony... We didn't know Gunsmoke was going on TV (with

a new cast) till we read it in the trades." In addition to his many radio credits, Parley worked extensively in television. He was a recurring neighbor named Darby (1955-1961) on The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet and Mayor Stoner (1962-1963) on The Andy Griffith Show. Plus he guested on scores of other programs like Father Knows Best, I, Make Room for Daddy, Perry Mason, Bewitched, Hogan's Heroes, Little House on the Prairie and Quantum Leap. As far as big screen projects are concerned, he appeared in about fifty feature films, beginning with Comanche Territory (1950), with Maureen O'Hara and MacDonald Carey, and ending with Last of the Dogmen (1995), with Tom Berenger. Of these, he was especially effective as an opportunistic Nazi soldier who plans to desert and become a Frenchman in The Young Lions (1958), with Marlon Brando. Although movies paid good money, his most lucrative acting assignments may have been for TV commercials. He once estimated he had done some 350 of them, including providing the voice for Ernie, the lovable patriarch of the Keebler cookie elves. He did that for three decades. In later years, Mr. Baer was adocent of the Los Angeles Zoo and was on the board of the LA Circus, a one ring community amusement area. He also continued his radio work through an organization called CART (California Radio Artists Theater). On November 1, 2002, Parley was guest of honor at a convention for lovers of old-time radio shows. "Everyone rose and gave him a five minute standing ovation," reported longtime family friend, Roger Smith. "It was his last ovation." Sadly Parley passed away in Los Angeles, on November 22nd 2002.

Whatever Happened To?

By Tom Cherre

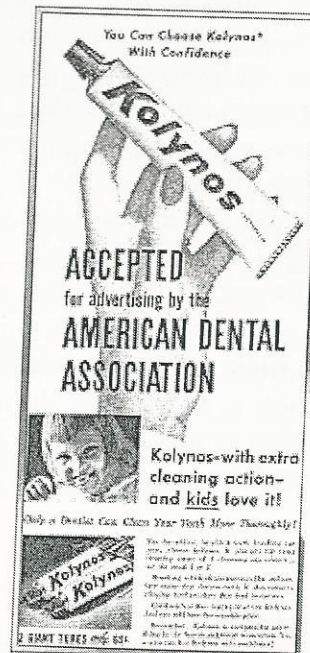
It was the amazing tooth dentifrice that was compared to jeweler's polish. Of course all of our many Mr. Keene fans know I'm referring to Kolynos toothpaste, toothpowder, or liquid dentifrice. Back then you had three to choose. I'm old enough to remember using toothpowder. It was like baking powder. Anyway Kolynos was created way back in 1908 by a chap named N.S. Jenkins. It is still manufactured by Colgate and is popular in Latin America and in Hungary. In the 1940s it was the preferred brand for people who preferred to keep their natural teeth in their mouths. Kolynos had a pleasant taste and boasted to do a little more to preserve the human smile.



In 1944, listeners to *Mr. Keene Tracer of Lost Persons* heard Larry Elliott describe Kolynos as a high polishing toothpaste. He compared Kolynos polishing quality to a jeweler's polish. The task of the jeweler's polish was to remove tarnish without marring and scratching the

surface of silver. While silver was expensive, human teeth were even more expensive, and Kolynos was the perfect toothpaste for them. Kolynos claimed to be gentle and safe in cleaning teeth without scratching the enamel. When the brushing was complete, the teeth were a glistening white. They were so white and clean that the teeth's owner could feel the clean feeling with his/her tongue. The best news of all was that Kolynos had a pleasing taste. The typical Kolynos radio commercial was similar to the famous Lifebuoy Health Soap "B.O." commercials. I'm sure we remember the Beeeeeee-Ooooooo sound effect. Elliott stated the human smile played an important role in achieving success in business and personal life. He stressed that it was important to brush with Kolynos every day. Kolynos was a wonderful toothpaste, but in the 1950s it slowly drifted away into oblivion. So if you want to try it, you'll have to go to Hungary or Latin America.

Next month we'll have the answer to whatever happened to Oxydol, longtime sponsor of Ma Perkins. Oxydol, the popular soap for housewives to take the drudgery out of doing the laundry.



**Sixth Annual Mid-Atlantic
Nostalgic Convention 2011**

By Jerry Collins

If you know Martin Grams or if you have also attended one of his conventions you know that things are done with near perfection. He is the master of the duct tape and the ability to move quickly from room to room while talking on a cell phone. He has unbounded energy and exists on very little sleep during the convention. He runs a high tech convention and has the people to solve any problems that do come up. He also has the support of a wonderful family and many loyal friends. The convention was held in a beautiful and spacious Marriot Hotel in Hunt Valley, Maryland, just outside of Baltimore. The logistics were perfect. The convention was on two levels with a perfectly placed elevator connecting the lower level and the first floor. All of the presentations were made in a large conference room on the main floor with movies and TV shows in a smaller adjoining room. Dealers were spread out in both hallways and in another large conference room on the lower level. Since there were so many presentations, I will give a condensed description of only the ones my wife and I saw. All presentations were approximately an hour in length. A slide presentation on radio premiums; Captain Midnight, Lone Ranger, Tom Mix etc. Emphasis was placed on Buck Rogers. David Weinstein, the author of *The Forgotten Man*, discussed the rise and fall of the Dumont Network. Harvey Chertok presented and discussed his one-hour documentary, *The Great Charlie Chan*. Neal Ellis hosted a very revealing panel interview with Tony Dow (Leave it to Beaver) as well as Billy Gray and

Lauren Chapin (Father Knows Best). A major contrast between the very relaxed atmosphere on Leave it to Beaver compared with the tight almost stifling Father Knows Best. I might meet with some opposition, but I think Billy Gray gave the best interview. Once a rebel always a rebel. Martin Grams, author of *The Shadow, the History and Mystery of the Radio Program, 1934-1954*, presented a history of the Shadow. We concluded the evening watching *Revenge of the Creature* in 3-D format. Friday opened with Gene Blottner, author of *Columbia Pictures Movie Series; 1926-1955* discussing such series as *Blondie*, *Ellery Queen*, *Jungle Jim* etc. At noon Ken Stockinger did a reveling interview with Patty Duke. In a conversation with Tony Dow we were shocked by the child abuse, problems with alcohol and drug use and even incarceration that clouded their lives. After two hours of visits to the dealer room we watched a presentation of an episode of *Inner Sanctum*. Michael Hyde did a great job interviewing Karen Valentine and Michael Constantine both from *Room 222* and Doug Jones from *The Monkeys*. They all made major contributions to a very good interview. The drive-in movie was moved indoors because of bad weather. It was one of the top Cold War science fiction movies, *Invaders From Mars*. The ever popular Jack French opened the Saturday session with a presentation on lady aviators, both real and in fiction. It was very timely because of recent governmental changes in re women in World War 2. It was beginning to take upon itself the appearance of a science fiction convention. This time Maury Cagle presented a history of Buck Rogers. This was followed by an interview of a pair of science fiction stars, Jimmy Hunt and

Charles Herbert. Hunt had played the young boy in *Invaders From Mars*. Michael J Hyde hosted a very interesting interview. Author Francis Nevins concluded the convention by discussing the work of Bill Whitney, the famed director for most of Columbia Pictures' great action films in the 1930s and 1940. Nevins used film clips from a series of action packed westerns. Since I spent most of my time in the dealer room and viewing the presentation, I had little time to spend in the film room. I did view a broadcast of the wrestling match between Wilbur Snyder, who wrestled a number of times in Buffalo and Jack "Sockeye" McDonald (5/4/54). By mistake I missed *A League of Freighted Men* (1936), a Nero Wolfe film. After an excellent meal we watched a presentation of *Escape*-*"The Canterville Ghost."* Since there were no radio personalities in attendance the casts for both were both made up of amateurs.

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**6th Annual Mid-Atlantic
Nostalgia Convention
By Rich Olday**

Marty Grams has done it again Another great convention held Maryland. Marty had great guests stars which included Patty Duke who entertained us with numerous stories including a meeting with Helen Keller. Tony Dow (*Leave it to Beaver*) told us about great working conditions on their show and Hugh Beaumont (father) wanting to leave the show after two years because he did not like working with kids. Tony looked almost the same except for the white hair. Lauren Chapin and Billy Gray told us of their days on *Father Knows Best*. Both liked their TV parents, but their

working conditions were not as good as Tony Dow experienced. Both worked past ten hour days but were only paid for ten hours. Lauren stated that she was sexually abused by her father and uncle and her mother was an alcoholic. She ran away five times and was told one more time and she would be fired. She would end up in prison after the show but has turned her life around. Among other guests were Michael Constantine & Karen Valentine from *Room 222*. Karen is still very trim but a little older than we remember her. These were only some of the celebrities on hand. Among the many presentations on hand was a history of the Dumont TV network. Dumont was the first TV network starting in 1946 and lasted until 1956. Unfortunately, Mr. Dumont was a great engineer but not so good businessman. Two old time radio shows were presented from "lost" shows. Jack French presented an interesting one about lady aviators in real life and fiction. The real life ones had to put up with harassment from the males including sugar in the gas tanks and acid on their struts. This resulted in the death of at least one lady pilot. For movie lovers, many features were shown including the 3-D version of *Revenge of the Creature*, *Patty Duke Show*, *Olsen & Johnson on TV*, *Room 222*, *Father Knows Best*, & *Leave it to Beaver*. This is only a small part of their movies shown. Saturday night concluded the convention with a great buffet dinner, a piano recital by Ed Clute, a magician who escaped from 2 strait jackets while balancing on a 2 foot ball and the 2nd OTR presentation of a lost show. Next year's convention will be held on August 9-11. Celebs will be Jay North, Shirley Jones, & Ron Ely. Don't miss out. The dealer rooms alone make the trip worthwhile. **Thanks Jerry & Dick!**

Don Wilson By Tom Cherre

Don Wilson, possibly the greatest radio announcer in history, suffered the fate of many a fat jokes by his boss Jack Benny. Of course, Jack meant no ill, but the gag was funny and it was good for the show. While Don stood at 6ft 3in he probably topped the scale at about 230-240 pounds. On radio Benny could exaggerate and say almost anything about Don but when he began the TV shows the fat jokes were toned down because Don Wilson was not all that obese as you would think. Don wasn't skinny, but he was by no means that



heavy. Don Wilson was born in 1900 and got his first taste in the radio business as a singer on Denver radio station KFEL in 1923. Wilson later got in to sportscasting and actually covered the opening of the Summer Olympics of 1932. Don's first broadcast on the Jack Benny show would take place on April 6th 1934. At the same time he was announcer on George Gershwin's Music by Gershwin. Due to

his large stature Don had a powerful resonant voice. He also had a hearty healthy belly laugh. Don Wilson rarely flubbed his lines. On one rare occasion that occurred January 8th 1950 Wilson was called upon to read the name of columnist Drew Pearson and said Dreer Pooson. Later on in the murder-mystery skit Frank Nelson took advantage of the situation. Benny asked Nelson, "Pardon me, are you the doorman"? and in his typical sarcastic manner came back with "Well who do you think I am? Dreer Pooson". My way of thinking is that was a great adlib or it was planned. Wilson usually had a part in many of the skits. He also announced for other show beside Benny, including Alan Young, Bing Crosby, and Baby Snooks. Wilson was voted the best TV and radio announcer for 15 straight years. He was a great announcer and a great sport. He passed away April 25th 1982 at 81

Grab Bag Special

I am overstocked on OTR cassette tapes so I am offering the following. 40 tapes (my choice of titles- no duplicates) for \$50.00!!! First come first served. The sale will be over when my overstocked cassettes are gone.

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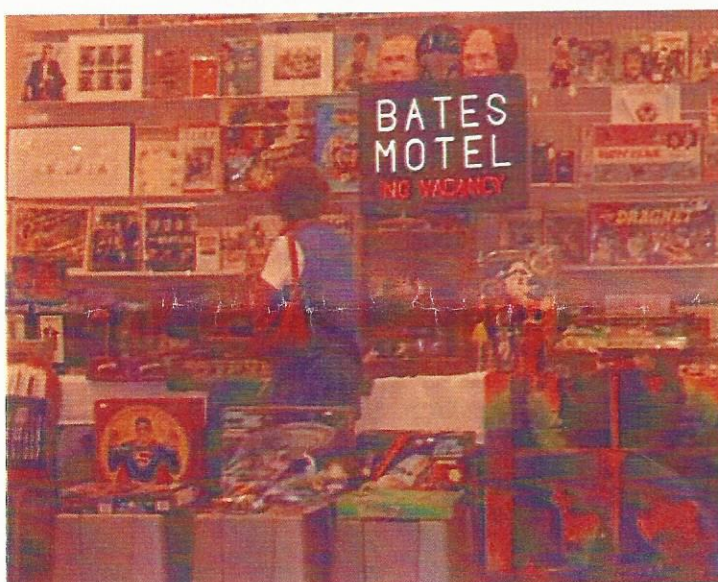
☆☆☆ 6th Annual Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention ☆☆☆



Our Attendees: Dick Olday, Jerry and Natalie Collins



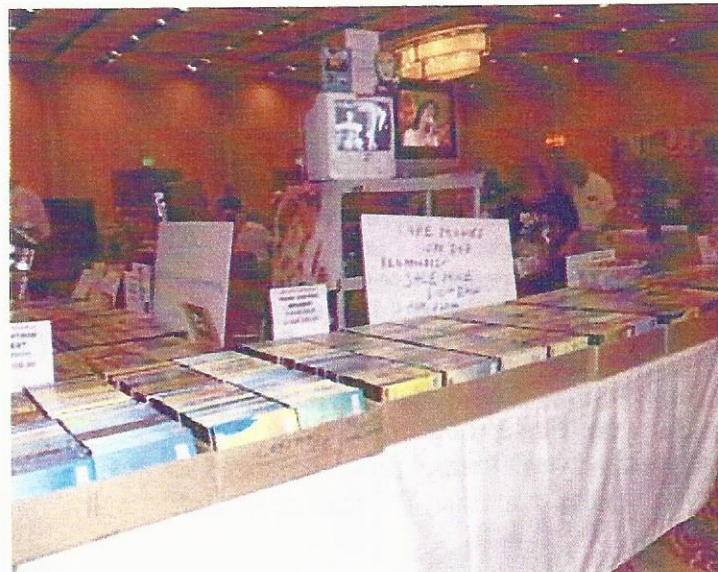
Neil Ellis Broadcasting the Convention over the Internet



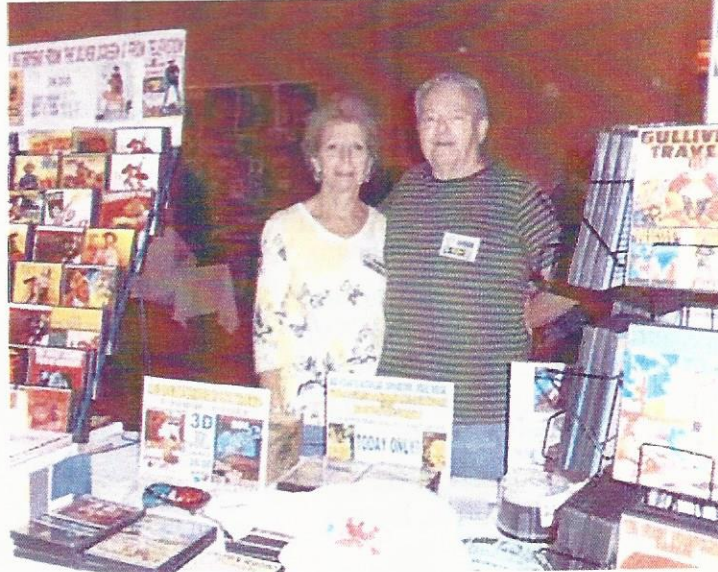
Memorabilia for Sale



Marty Grams, Convention Founder

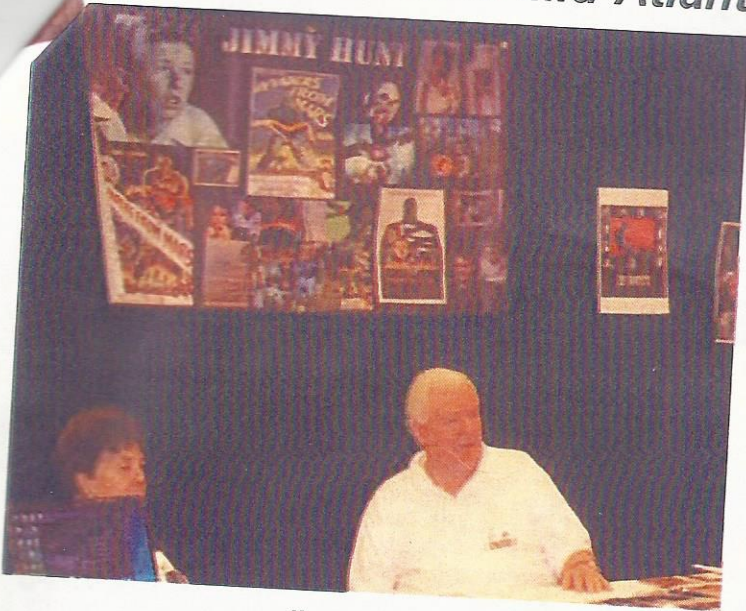


Large assortment of DVDs for sale

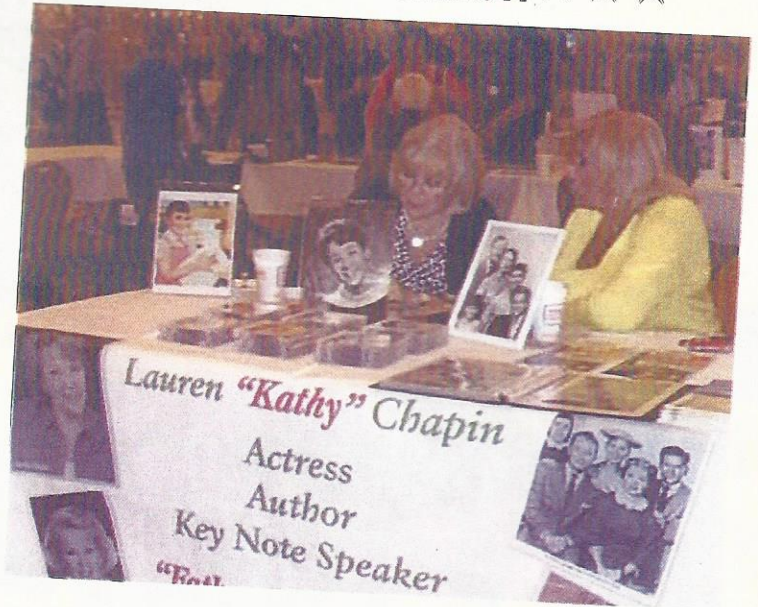


Jerry Randolph from Olden Radio

*** 6th Annual Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention ***



Jimmy Hunt



Lauren Chapin



Patty Duke



Karen Valentine



Ed Klute at the Keyboard



Brian Rudo, Escape Artist/Magician during Banquet

For other Budget Beaters ask your neighborhood grocer or write to Campbell Soup Company, Camden 1, N. J.

COOK WITH

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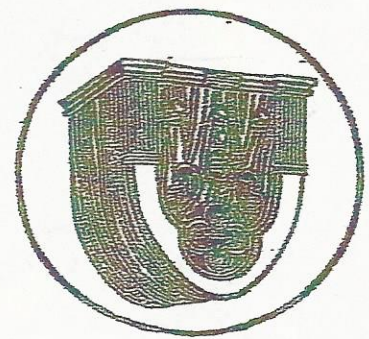
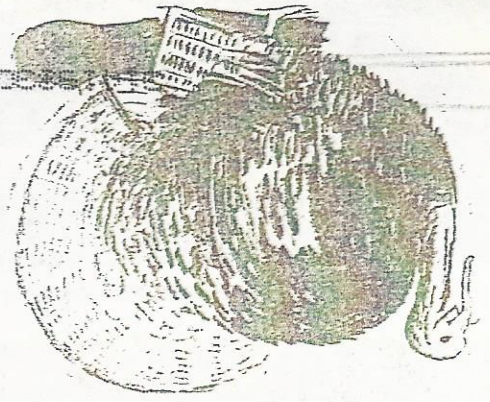
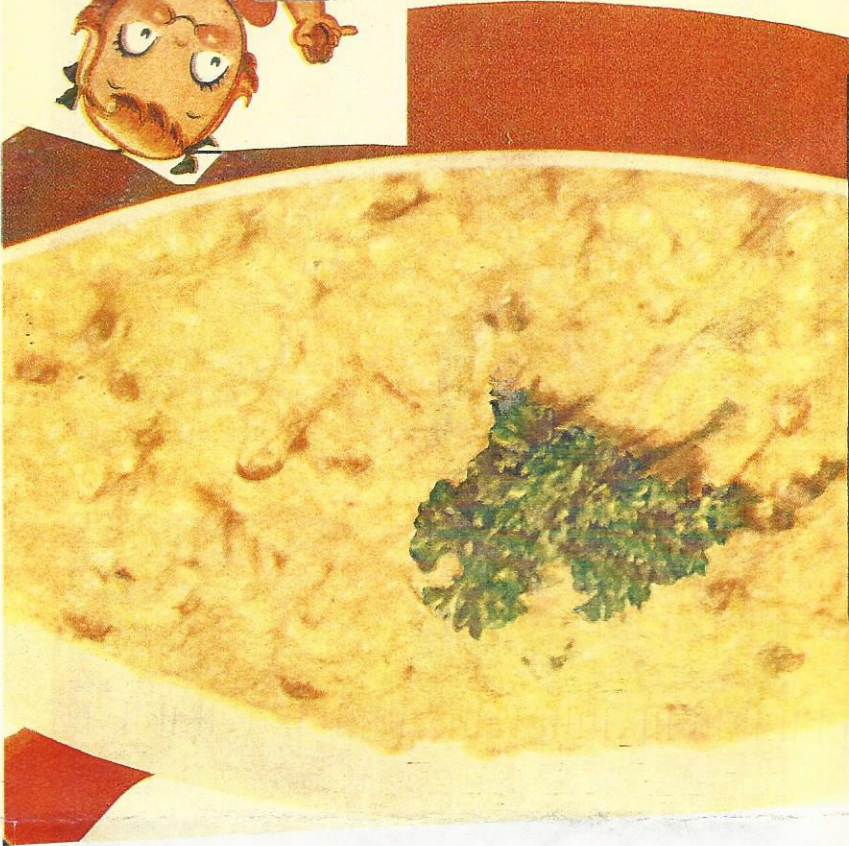
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Vegetable Soup • Chicken Scramble with Cream of Chicken
Soup • Celery Scramble with Cream of Celery Soup



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SOUPER SCRAMBLE!

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The Old Time Radio Club

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