

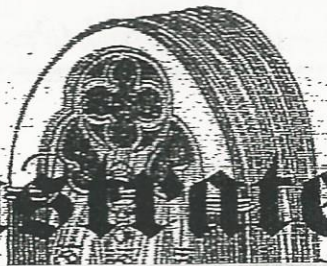
The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

The Illustrated Press

Number 404

November 2012



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. Member rates 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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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.



Message From The Editor:

Well, our October meeting went well. I missed out one winning one of the serials by one number two months in a row. Lucky Rich Olday took home the bacon two months in a row. I'd like to especially thank Rich Olday, Jerry Collins and Rich Simpson for giving an extraordinary presentation of Old Time Radio at our Knights of Columbus meeting on October 16th. I even learned a few things myself. Everyone present thought it was enjoyable and entertaining. Thanks again.....Believe it or not our Christmas Party will take place at our next meeting in December. Can you actually it's Christmas next month. Our party will start at 6:30pm. Guests are invited. Also remember to bring a dish to pass; either a dessert, salad, hoer'douvre, or main dish. We usually wind up with a good assortment of food every year, and a good time is usually had by all. So if you can only make one or two meetings a year, this is the one to come to. I would like to thank Peter Bellanca for the 5 page article on Blondie, which is featured in this month's issue. Very well done. Also thank you to Dominic for his article on Sherlock Holmes. I hope

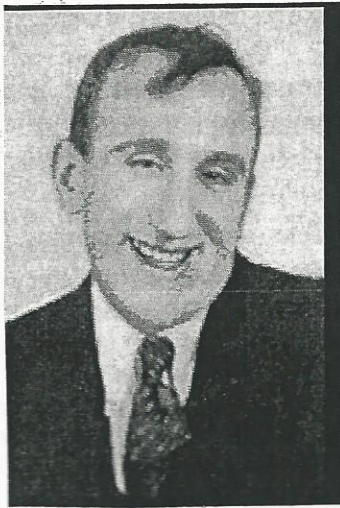
Frank Bork won't be too offended. I added a little excerpt at the end about the mediums. Hope you liked it.

I did get a little correspondence on the Gunsmoke October # 403 issue.

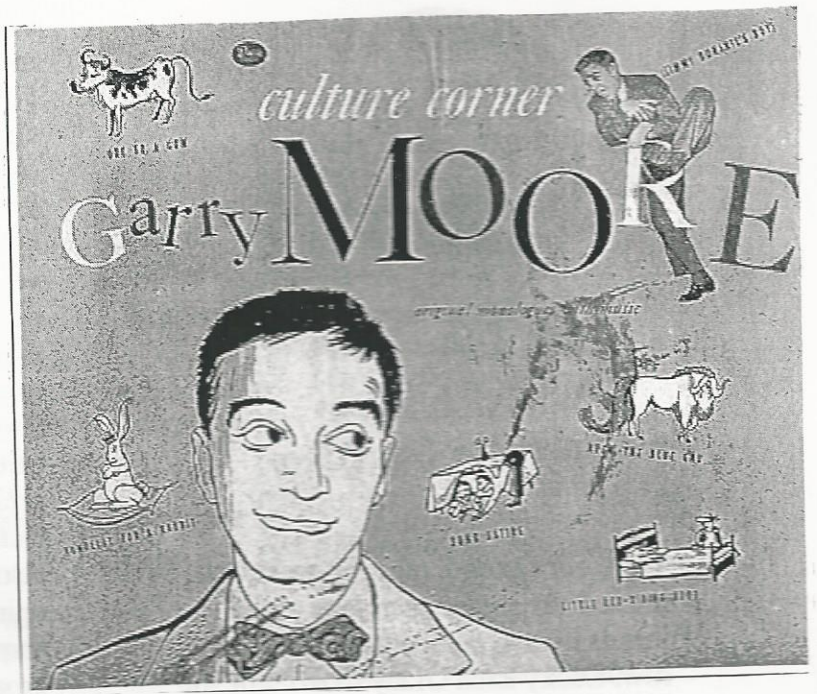
Alan Glaser of Staten Island writes: Just a note to say how much I enjoyed Press # 403. First, the picture on the cover is wonderful. Four of my favorite people on radio. The article brought back many memories. Great reading. Keep up the great memories. Take care, Alan Glaser. Bruce Raleigh of Grosse Island, Michigan writes: Tom, Thanks for the great article on "Gunsmoke" in the October issue of The Illustrated Press. I also think it was a great show. In my opinion the best of the western OTR shows. I did not hear the original broadcasts, but have listened to them after discovering them on cassettes. I have many in my collection. I really enjoyed your article and the information on the cast. Very informative. Thanks again and keep up the good work regards, Bruce. Thank you Bruce and Alan. I am humbled by your kinds words. I too think Gunsmoke was one of the best. I hope you enjoy the Jimmy Durante article. Durante, well not maybe a good looking leading man type, he possessed an inner quality to truly make you love the guy. He had few enemies, if any at all and had many friends. In fact he had "A million a dem".

Jerry Collins' continuing article on the Shadow will resume next month. Mr. C. Perry Como will be highlighted in the December issue. Perry was another really nice guy too. So another reminder, don't forget our party is next month, and it starts at 6:30pm Hope to see everyone there. Until then I hope everyone enjoys a very Happy Thanksgiving. Happy radio listening to all.

Jimmy Durante
By Tom Cherre



The lovable portrait of Jimmy Durante adorns November's issue of The Illustrated Press. There was probably no one in Hollywood that was more lovable than Durante. Tabloids would go broke if they had to look for the least bit of scandal for a Durante type. Even as a kid I enjoyed watching him on TV in what was then, his twilight years. Like many stars he came from poverty. He grew up playing piano, and in the eighth grade he dropped out of school to become a full time ragtime pianist. He first played with his cousin, who was also named Jimmy Durante, but personalities clashed a bit so he left the family band. He wound up playing with the first recognizable jazz band in New York, the Original New Orleans Jazz Band. Incidentally, Jimmy was the only member of the band not from New Orleans. He became a big vaudeville star, did some Broadway, and quite a few movies. In 1934, Jimmy had a major novelty hit with his own composition, "Inka Dinka Doo" which would be his trademark song for the rest of his life. He entered his radio career on Eddie Cantor's "The Chase and Sanborn Hour" as a guest on September 10, 1933



continuing right up to November 12 of the same year. When Cantor departed, Jimmy took over the NBC show as star for a couple of years. In 1943 he teamed up with a young brushcut comedian by the name of Garry Moore. They enjoyed huge audiences, and the duo became national favorites till the end of the decade. It was an unlikely pair with a 23 year age difference, but maybe that's what made them successful. Durante would refer to Moore "Dat's my boy dat said dat". That became an instant catchphrase. Of course his other catchphrases "Wait a minute wait a minute-Stop the music", "I got a million of em", "Everybody wants to get into the act", "Umbriago", "Ha-cha-cha-cha-uumm", and "Surrounded by assassins. He had a bunch of them. Of course his favorite was "Good Night Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are". He did have a bunch of them, and they could

never be used by any one else. His co comedy star Garry Moore was a star debater in school and was considered the fair-haired boy of the Little Theater group in his hometown Baltimore. He left high school in his senior year to become a playwright. He collaborated on a revue with the legendary F. Scott Fitzgerald, the great jazz age novelist. The show was never produced, but he landed a job as a continuity writer on a local Baltimore radio station. From Baltimore he fled to New York to become a free-lance writer, and found himself guesting in person on a Fred Allen show. From there he went to St. Louis to Chicago and eventually to New York City where he would team up with "Schnozza". Getting back to Mrs Calabash, it was finally revealed on an NBC broadcast of Monitor that he was referring to his first wife who died on Valentine's Day in 1943. It was revealed that while driving down a small town cross country they drove through a place called Calabash. His wife loved the little town and Mrs. Calabash became her pet name. And as Paul Harvey would say "That's the rest of the story. Durante married his second wife, Margaret Little, in 1960. She was 41, he was 67. Margaret died on June 7, 2009 at the age of 90. Jimmy Durante was not only well liked, but also a very charitable person. On August 15th 1958, he was awarded a huge 3ft high brass loving cup by the Shriners Temple inscribed "It's larger than your nose, but smaller than your heart. Happiness always, Al Bahr Temple, August 15th 1958. When Jimmy performed at a benefit for handicapped and abused children the head of the organization, Bob Hansen inquired as to his fee for performing. Jimmy replied, "do not even mention money or I'll have to mention a figure that'll make ya sorry

ya brought it up". What can we do then Hansen asked? "Help the kids," was his reply. Durante performed for many years not charging a nickel, and not even taking travel expenses. When they raised enough money for a pool in Port Arthur, Texas, they called it the "Inka Dinka Doo Pool".



A few years ago I remember watching the video "Sleepless in Seattle", and my daughter asked me who was singing the opening song. She said he had a funny voice. The song was Make Someone Happy". I told her it was "Schnozzola". Of course she had no idea who I was referring to. I then proceeded to say it was Jimmy Durante, one of the greatest showman and entertainers of all time. She said he sure had a funny voice, but I like him just the same. That about says it all. In today's world of entertainers, I don't think an elderly senior citizen with a big nose, raspy voice and a murderer of the English language could create a dent in the world of music, movies, or TV, but he sure did a good job years ago. And goodnight Mr. Calabash wherever you are.

Regarding the Below Artist
By Dom Parisi



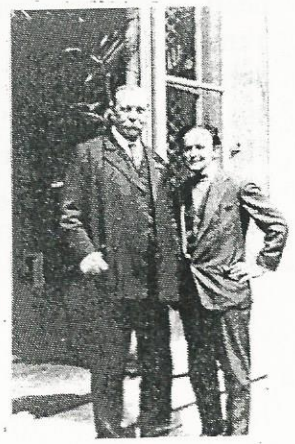
Was Arthur Conan Doyle the "Fictional" character or was Sherlock Holmes ????. Any Holmes expert (Frank Bork) want to comment on this? In his article "Maiwand 1880" (November) Gary James includes an anecdote regarding Sherlock Holmes biographer, Dr. John H. Watson. Since both were fictional characters, I assume the photo is of their creator, Arthur Conan Doyle. Gary James replies:
To us devoted Sherlockians, it's Conan Doyle who is the shadowy figure and Holmes and Watson who are real. I have it on the best authority that is an actual picture of Dr. Watson in his later years. For reference, here's a picture of the fictional Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The associate and chronicler of famed consulting detective Sherlock Holmes,



Dr. John H. Watson had some early adventures of his own. As a surgeon with the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers, he took part in the Second Afghan War and was injured in the Battle of Maiwand. He mentions in *A Study in Scarlet* that he was wounded by a jezail bullet in the shoulder, grazing the subclavian artery. However, in *The Sign of the Four* and *The Noble Bachelor*, Watson makes reference to a leg wound. One would think that, if one was shot with a half-ounce lead ball he'd remember where he was hit. The only reasonable answer is probably that the good doctor was struck twice - once in the shoulder and once in the leg. Fortunately, wherever the bullet hit, it didn't stop him from supplying us with a wealth of wonderful stories.

.....
As a side note to this; did you know Conan Doyle was a huge believer of spiritualism. When his father died Conan was only 34. He became very depressed and lost interest in Sherlock Holmes. He killed him off and turned to mediums in the hope of reaching out and communicating with his dead father. When his son died in World War 1 he became even more devout to this cause. Visiting the U.S. he became a very close friend of Harry Houdini, who sought out mediums trying to reach out to his deceased mother. They remained friends until Doyle's wife a self-proclaimed medium had a séance with Houdini saying his mother would leave a message to him.

After the séance Houdini declared Lady Jeanne Doyle a fraud. Thus ended their long mutual friendship. And that's the end of the story.



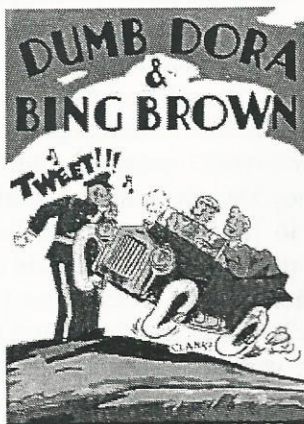
LONG RUNNING COMIC STRIPS (NOT SO) SHORT RUNNING RADIO PROGRAMS

Peter Bellanca

One of my favorite long running comic strips was titled for a 1920's flapper named Boopadoop and her marriage to a billionaire's son. The comic strip became so popular that it spawned twenty-eight films at Columbia Pictures and its radio program lasted eleven years. Confused? Read on and all your questions will be answered.

The comic strip of course is *Blondie*. *Blondie* was the creation of Marat "Chic" Young. Young was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 9, 1901. His pen name and signature "Chic" is short for his high school nickname, chicken.

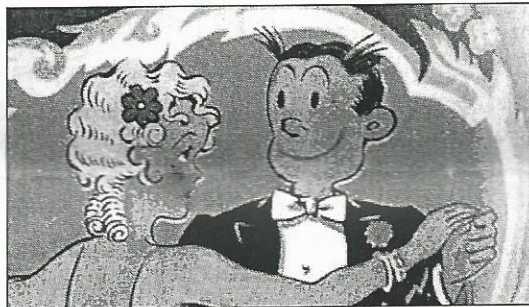
After graduating from high school he attended the Art Institute of Chicago and in 1921 applied for a position with the Newspaper Enterprise Association. The NEA wanted someone to do a comic strip that would appeal to young women and hired Young for twenty-two dollars per week. He created, *The Affairs of Jane*, about a struggling movie actress who dreamed of graduating from low-budget pictures to stardom. It lasted less than



six months. He left the NEA, moved to New York City and was hired by the Bell Syndicate to develop a comic about a young female. His new comic, *Beautiful Bab* ran for four months and was cancelled. King Features Syndicate became interested in his work and offered him a job in their art department. In 1924 he developed a strip called, *Dumb Dora*. It was about Dora Bell and her boyfriend Bing Brown and sub titled, "She's Not So Dumb As She Looks." This was not true, at times she was dumber than she looked. In 1927 Young married professional harpist Athel Lindorff and settled down to a comfortable living and working at his

Great Neck, Long Island studio. The stock market crash in 1929 wiped out most of his investments and he asked KFS for a raise or part ownership in his popular *Dumb Dora* strip. They refused and he threatened to leave the Syndicate. A compromise was reached and he was allowed to develop a new strip with ownership rights. Other artists were given the *Dumb Dora* strip and it was eventually canceled in 1935.

Young who had a knack for drawing pretty girls convinced KFS on the idea of a strip about a free-spirited, curly-headed blonde. Her name was *Blondie Boopadoop*, a stereotypical prohibition



era flapper who liked to hang around dancehalls. Her many boyfriends included Dagwood Bumstead, the heir to a wealthy, high society family. The Syndicate published the strip on September 8, 1930 almost a year after the stock market crash and the start of the Great Depression. At first the public accepted the strip and then as the depression worsened they became disenchanted with a strip about a leftover 1920's blonde flapper and her rich boyfriend Dagwood. Newspapers began dropping the strip.

On February 17, 1933 Young changed the direction of the strip when Miss Boopadoop married Dagwood Bumstead, the bumbling, playboy son of billionaire railroad tycoon, J. Billing Bumstead. Dagwood's parents did not approve of him marrying below his status and marrying "that gold digger blonde." Dagwood goes on a hunger strike and his parents reluctantly allow the wedding to take place. His parents are on the far right

in the comic panel below. After the wedding they disinherit him and are never to be seen again in the comic. Her flapper days behind her Blondie becomes the steady, dependable wife while Dagwood never having to work a day in his life is now forced to look for employment. He finds work with the J. C. Dithers Construction Compa-



ny whose overbearing owner is always threatening to fire him.

Settling down to a modest lifestyle the Bumsteads are perfectly timed for the economic situation of the 1930's. A rich young man loses his wealth and family connections, marries the love of his life and needs to find work. Love conquers wealth. Dagwood takes a bus to work because they don't own a car. They live in a small house, do not eat in restaurants or go out for entertainment. Paying their bills, solving money problems, raising a family and keeping a job were the main themes of the strip. From the first day they were married they slept in a double bed, although never facing each other, something it took film and television couples decades to achieve. Think of the *Thin Man* movies and the early *I Love Lucy* TV programs. They adopt a dog named Daisy and she soon has five puppies around the time the Dionne quintuplets were born. Just a coincidence I guess. Daisy's puppies remain puppies for years and then were written out of the strip.

Two children are born, Baby Dumpling (later called Alexander) on April 15, 1934 and Cookie on April 11, 1941. Cookie's name was selected through a national contest. Nearly half a million

readers submitted suggestions, hoping to win the \$100 prize money. Dagwood is the comic relief in the strip, his zany antics are a perfect contrast to Blondie's dependability. His priority goals appear to be keeping his job, taking naps and eating particularly large multilayered sandwiches made with seemingly incomparable food items. This develops into his trademark and the "Dagwood Sandwich" becomes part of the American culture. There are a number of recurring situations in the strip including Dagwood running into mailman Mr. Beasley, almost missing his bus to work, cleaning the attic, lending tools to neighbor Herb Woodley, interrupted baths, door to door salesmen, having a midnight snack and being fired or asking for a raise. The strip's real life situations and environment resonated with its readers and it became one of the most popular comic strips in history.



As the strip progressed it changed with the times. Blondie, still the steady homemaker opened up a catering business with her neighbor Tootsie Woodley and drives a SUV. Dagwood began carpooling to work, has a cell phone, a computer and uses the self-service checkout at the grocery store. He wears sport shirts and shorts. His characteristic red bow tie and one button shirt are only used for work. The children grew up and became teenagers, with teenage problems and began dating. They have been teenagers since the 1960's in order to retain the appeal of a family strip. Dagwood rarely brings his lunch to work anymore and often eats at a less than five star diner run by the burly, tattooed owner Lou. The strip generated a variety of media and merchandise. The *Blondie* characters were everywhere, including comic books, Pep Cereal pin back buttons, dog dishes, cookie jars, *Big Little Books*, films, radio, television and even Dagwood Sandwich Shoppes.

Columbia Pictures produced twenty-eight *Blondie* films between 1938 and 1950. They starred Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake as Blondie and Dagwood with Larry Simms as Baby Dumpling and Marjorie Kent as Cookie. For the first eigh-

teen films Jonathan Hale is Mr. Dithers and then sells his company to George Radcliff, played by Jerome Cowan. Radcliff is Dagwood's boss until the last film, *Beware of Blondie*, when Dithers briefly returns and is played by not credited Edward Earle. Columbia used the series to showcase many of their contract players including Rita Hayworth, Glen Ford, Larry Parks, Hans Conried and Shemp Howard.



Arthur Lake & Penny Singleton around him getting into and out of self-imposed difficulties. Blondie, of course, always comes to the rescue. It should be noted that in the movies, unlike the comic strip, Blondie is extremely jealous. Whenever Dagwood is out with a female client she would become overly suspicious, especially when he befriends Rita Hayworth in *Blondie on a Budget*. Another change was that their mailman Mr. Beasley is replaced by Mr. Crumb and the Fuddles take the place of their next door neighbors, the Woodleys, who appear briefly in the last film.

Arthur Lake was perfectly suited to play Dagwood and his mannerisms fit the character flawlessly. Most of the films had Dagwood's mailman scene in them. It begins with Dagwood at breakfast, looks at his watch, realizes he's late for work, gobbles down his toast and coffee, runs to the front door where Blondie has his hat and briefcase and he runs right into Mr. Crumb, the mailman. Letters are flying and Mr. Crumb is down for the count. There are variations of this event as Mr. Crumb tries to outwit Dagwood, but always fails. Daisy, their dog had an expanded role in the films and does all sorts of tricks and displayed pleasure or displeasure in certain situations. Gloria Blondell was

The movies were Columbia's most successful film series. As in the comics Dagwood was the real star of the movies and they revolved

around him getting into and out of self-imposed difficulties. Blondie, of course, always comes to the rescue. It should be noted that in the movies, unlike the comic strip, Blondie is extremely jealous. Whenever Dagwood is out with a female client she would become overly suspicious, especially when he befriends Rita Hayworth in *Blondie on a Budget*. Another change was that their mailman Mr. Beasley is replaced by Mr. Crumb and the Fuddles take the place of their next door neighbors, the Woodleys, who appear briefly in the last film.

originally cast as Blondie and then the part was given to Shirley Deane. When she became ill the part was given to Penny Singleton. Stuart Erwin was casted to be Dagwood, but when Lake auditioned the part it was given to him. When Columbia cancelled the series they said that it would be replaced with a series of *Gasoline Alley* movies. However, only two such films were made. Columbia then reissued the *Blondie* features, beginning with the first film in the series.

On December 20, 1938 Lake and Singleton reprised their film roles on Bob Hope's radio program. The appearance with Hope led to their own show on CBS. On July 3, 1939 *Blondie* became the summer replacement for *The Eddie Cantor Show* and continued in his Monday time slot when he did not return for the fall season. Cantor's sponsor Camel Cigarettes picked up *Blondie's* sponsorship until 1944 when Colgate-Palmolive's Super Suds took over. In 1944, *Blondie* moved to NBC's Blue Network for a short period, airing Fridays at 7:00pm from July 21st to September 1st. The final three weeks of that run overlapped with *Blondie's* return to CBS on Sundays at 8:00pm from August 13, 1944, to September 26, 1948, still sponsored by Super

Suds. Beginning in mid-1945, the 30-minute program was heard Mondays at 7:30pm. Super Suds continued as the sponsor when the show moved to NBC on Wednesdays at 8pm from October 6, 1948, to June 29, 1949. In its final season, the series was on ABC as a sustaining program from October 6, 1949, to July 6, 1950, first airing Thursdays at 8:00pm and later at 8:30pm. The program opened with the announcer stating, "Ah-ah-ah-ah! Don't touch that dial! Listen to" and then you would hear, "Blonnnnnnnnnndie!"

This was an ideal situation with Lake and Singleton starring in both radio and film venues. There were slight variations from the strip. One being that Dagwood somehow became a human adding machine, and you could hear the calculations whirring in his head. During this time King Features, Columbia Pictures and the radio networks

FIRST TIME TONIGHT

*Straight From The
"Funnies" Into Your Heart*

"BLONDIE"

A new 30-minute comedy-drama based on the famous comic strip—featuring Columbia Pictures' stars Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake

KTSA 8:30 pm CST

**ON THE AIR FOR
CAMEL CIGARETTES**

worked to coordinate promotions between their venues throughout the U.S. and internationally.

Arthur Lake played Dagwood for the complete series and Penny Singleton was Blondie until 1949 and Ann Rutherford, Alice White and Lake's wife, Patricia Van Cleve finished the series in 1950. Others in the cast were, Tommy Cook, Larry Sims, Bob Ellis, and Jeffrey Silver as Alexander, Marlene Aames, Norma Jean Nilsson and Joan Rae as Cookie. Hanley Stafford was



J.C. Dithers and Elvia Allman was his wife Cora. Leone Ledoux played both Alexander and Cookie as toddlers, Frank Nelson and Harold Peary were Herb Woodley while Arthur Q. Bryan and Harry Lang played Mr. Fuddle.

Dix Davis was Alvin Fuddle. Mary Jane Croft was Harriet while Veola Vonn and Lurene Tuttle played Dimples Wilson. Harry Lubin, Billy Artz and Lou Kosloff supplied the music and the announcers were Bill Goodwin, Howard Petrie and Harlow Wilcox. When the program was re-broadcast via the Armed Forces Radio Network Elliott Lewis did the introductions.



Blondie had two short runs on TV. The first was on NBC with Lake repeating his film and radio role and Pamela Britton as Blondie. Florenz Ames was Mr. Dithers, Stuffy Singer was Alexander, Ann Barnes was Cookie and Hal Peary played Herb Woodley. It ran from January 4, 1957 to September 27, 1957. The second attempt was on CBS with Patricia Harty and Will Hutchins in the lead roles with Peter Robbins as Alexander and Pamelyn Ferdin as Cookie and Jim Backus portraying Mr. Dithers. It ran from September 26, 1968 to January 9, 1969. There was also an animated version in 1987 with Loni Anderson and Frank Welker doing the voiceovers for Blondie and Dagwood.

Arthur Lake (Arthur Silverlake) was born on April 17, 1905 in Colbin, Kentucky to theatrical parents. At the time of his birth his father and

uncle were touring with a circus in an aerial act known as "The Flying Silverlakes." His mother, Edith Goodwin, was an actress. His parents followed the vaudeville circuit and traveled throughout the South and Southwest. Lake first appeared on stage as a baby in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and became part of his parents act in 1910. His mother brought him and his sister Florence to Hollywood to get into films, and in 1917 Lake made his screen debut in the silent film, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Universal Studios signed him to a contract, where he acted in westerns as an adolescent character actor. In 1928 he signed with RKO Pictures where he appeared in *Dance Hall* and *Cheer Up and Smile*. During the early 1930's he typically played light romantic roles in such films as *Indiscreet* with Gloria Swanson. During this time Lake became friendly with newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst, who was the publisher of the *Blondie* comic strip through his ownership of the King Features Syndicate, and his paramour Marion Davies. Hearst and Davies were able to get Lake a much deserved audition for the Dagwood part in the *Blondie* movies. He was a frequent guest at Davies' beach house where he met socialite and actress Patricia Van Cleve. They were married at Hearst's San Simeon mansion on July 24, 1942. They had two children, a son named Arthur and daughter named Marion. At the time of her death in 1993, Van Cleve claimed to be the daughter of Davies and Hearst. Lake died of a heart attack on January 9, 1987 and was interred in a mausoleum at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery with Marion Davies and her husband Horace Brown. Lake has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6646 Hollywood Boulevard for his work as Dagwood Bumstead.

Penny Singleton (Mariana Dorothy Agnes Letitia McNulty) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 15, 1908. Her father gave her the nickname "Penny" because she was as bright as a new penny. Singleton began her show business career at an early age singing at a local silent movie theater. When she was eleven years old she followed the vaudeville circuit with a children's act and worked with childhood friend Milton Berle, appeared on Broadway in Jack Benny's *Great Temptations* and toured with various roadshows. She played a nightclub singer in, *After the Thin Man* and was credited as Dorothy

McNulty. In the 1941 film, *Go West, Young Lady* with Glenn Ford she received top billing. In 1937 she married Dr. Laurence Singleton. The marriage lasted two years and in 1941 married writer/producer Robert Sparks until his death on July 22, 1963. She had a daughter with each of her husbands.

She was active in union affairs and was the first woman president of an AFL-CIO union, *The American Guild of Variety Artists* and led the Radio City Rockettes month long strike in 1966 for better working conditions. In 1974 she received an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from St. John's University. In the early 1960's she was the voice of Jane Jetson on the animated TV program *The Jetsons* and *The Jetsons: The Movie* plus related specials and records connected with the program. She was awarded two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, one for radio at 6811 Hollywood Boulevard and for motion pictures at 6547 Hollywood Boulevard. Penny Singleton died on November 12, 2003 at the age of 95 and is interred in San Fernando Mission Cemetery in Los Angeles.

With the success of the *Blondie* comic strip characters, licensing became a goldmine and the Young's moved to suburban New Rochelle, New York. When their first son, Wayne, died of diphtheria in 1937, Young and his wife took a year off and traveled throughout Europe. He stated that the death of his son made it difficult for him to



draw Baby Dumpling. After their return he again began drawing *Blondie*, quelling rumors that he might not return to the strip. They had two other children, Dean and Jeanne.

In 1939, Young relocated his family to California to be more closely involved with Columbia's *Blondie* film series. In the early 1950's they moved to Florida and resided on an island off the west coast of Florida. At his peak he received more fan mail than any other cartoonist. His other strip, *Colonel Potterby and the Duchess*, ran on the *Blondie* Sunday page from 1935 through 1963. Several

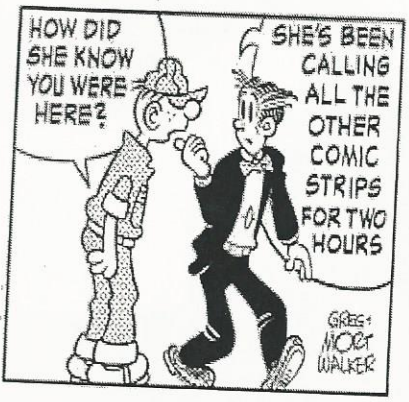
assistants helped with the strip, including Alex Raymond and Ray McGill. Raymond's younger brother, Jim who began as Young's assistant in 1935, took over all the art in 1950 when Young's eyesight began to fail.



Chic Young

Young produced *Blondie* seven days a week from 1930 until his death. With the exception of one year following the death of his first son, he produced more than 15,000 *Blondie* strips during his lifetime. In 1948 he was awarded the National Cartoonists Society's *Billy DeBeck Award for Cartoonist of the Year*, later renamed the *Reuben Award Cartoonist of the Year*. In 1995, the strip was one of 20 included in the *Comic Strip Classics* series of United States Postal Service commemorative postage stamps. Chic Young died of emphysema in St. Petersburg, Florida on March 14, 1973 at the age of 72. *Blondie* is presently written by his son Dean and Dean's daughter Diane and illustrated by John Marshall with his assistants Frank Cummings and Denis Lebrun. The strip from pencil sketch to the final inking is currently computer generated.

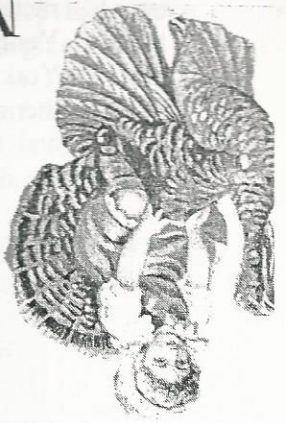
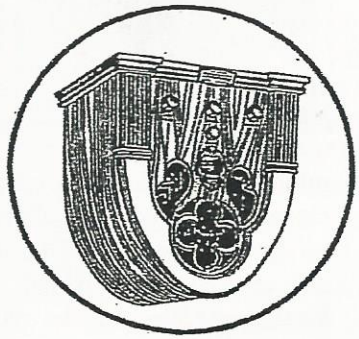
In the Sunday comic section on September 4, 2005 *Blondie* celebrated its seventieth anniversary. Earlier in the year the Bumsteeds began to invite other



comic strip characters to attend their anniversary. Dagwood appeared in their strips to personally invite them to their anniversary. Some of the attendees were *Hi & Lois*, *Beetle Bailey*, *Garfield*, *Dennis the Menace*, *Hagar the Horrible*, *Dick Tracy* and *The Wizard of Id*.

The Old Time Radio Club

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