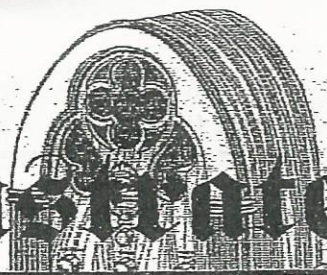


The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

The Illustrated Press



Number 406

January 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR



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.

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

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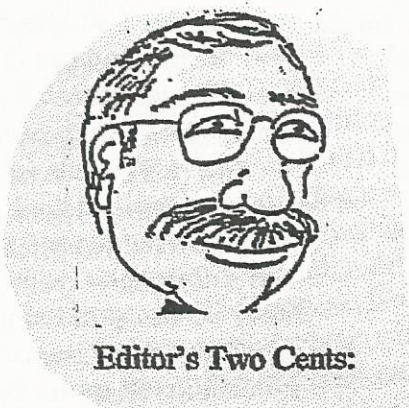
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Library Rates:

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.

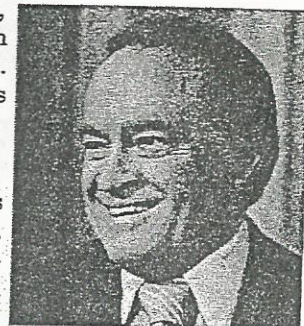


Happy New Year to all our members. Our Christmas party went off just fine. We had over 25 people and the assortment of refreshments was fine. This was one of the best parties I thought. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. We missed a few regulars, but as I usually say "A good time was had by all. And of course the weather was great, unlike some previous years. It's hard to believe another year has gone by again. We're all getting older, but the good news is that we didn't lose anyone in the past year. Our club's library is getting bigger, and everyone of the members should have received the latest catalogue disc Bob McDevitt was kind enough to make up. Once again it's that time of year when membership dues are due. The yearly membership of \$18.00 hasn't gone up yet. What the first class postage going up one penny we can still maintain to stay solvent. So I would ask you to send a check to Peter Bellanca or give it to him at the next meeting. There are no bills sent out or reminder. This is your bill and reminder. Thanks for your promptness in sending in your payment. You'll save a penny if you send in before the postal increase.

MY FAVORITE JOKES

by bob HOPE

When it comes to Christmas, few comedians can match Hope's collection of jokes. Here are some of his favorites:



Christmas Eve at Bing's house is always wonderful. Santa comes down the chimney and Bing gives him a present.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit, Crosby gave me a gift certificate last year. Isn't that nice? I didn't even know J.C. Penney had a store in Belfast.

Of course I got my kids what they wanted last year. I asked Tony what he wanted for Christmas, and he said, "I wanna watch." So I turned on the television and let him.

And I got a sweater from my Aunt Leslie in El Segundo last year. It's a nice sweater but it has too much fuzz on it. I put it on one morning, walked out the door, and a St. Bernard offered me its bone.

The Christmas spirit is a wonderful thing. It's the one time of the year when a man will give somebody a \$50 watch, and the rest of the year he wouldn't give him the right time.

I'll never forget Christmas back home in Ohio. We were so poor when we were kids, we didn't have a fireplace—so we used to hang our stockings over a can of Sterno.

We couldn't afford a Christmas turkey, so Dad bought a sparrow and had it pumped up at a gas station.

My folks couldn't afford to buy us Christmas toys either. So every Christmas Eve my father used to tear one page off the calendar, then when we came downstairs in the morning he'd point to the calendar and say, "Look, it's December 26. Where were you kids yesterday?"

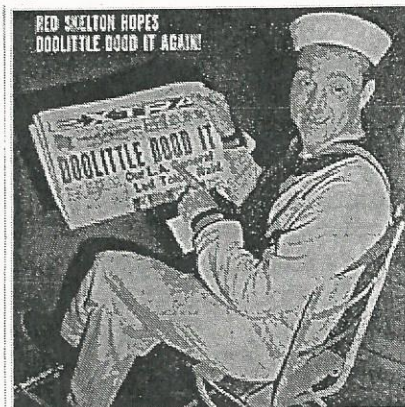
Yes, every Christmas Eve we'd hang our stockings up, and the next morning they'd be nice and dry.

Red Skelton the Clown By Tom Cherre:



I previously wrote a little something about Red Skelton two years ago. I've inserted a little footage (movie term) to add to this article. To be realistic about it, there were really only two clown comedians. One was the great Ed Wynn and the other was, of course, the great Red Skelton. It seems like many show business people were born into poverty. Red Skelton was a true case for sure. Red was the youngest of four boys. His father died shortly before he was born. This was back in 1913 when, if disaster hit, you were at the mercy of friends or family helping you out or you fended for yourself. Red's mother cleaned houses and was an elevator operator. Red worked singing on the streets for pennies when he was only seven. A few years later when he was selling newspapers in his home town of Vincennes, Indiana he had a chance meeting with vaudeville star Ed Wynn who was doing a show in town that night. Wynn felt sorry for the poor little boy and bought all his papers and also gave him a ticket to the show that evening. Wynn took young Red

backstage and introduced him to everyone. He showed him the footlights and he looked through the peephole at the audience coming in. It was at this moment when he was 13 that Red Skelton fell in love with show business and he realized this is what he wanted to do with the rest of his life. Skelton told another version of the story of how he got into show business; at age 10 he auditioned to be part of a medicine show. When he accidentally fell from the stage, bracing bottles as he fell, people laughed. Red realized he could make a living with his ability. Both of these stories bear credence. At the tender age of 14 he left school to take on work on showboats, vaudeville, burlesques, and the circus. Sounds exciting, but many times he didn't know if he had a bite to eat or a place to sleep. Some life for a 14 year old. Following, in his father's footsteps, he became a clown in the circus. This is where he perfected his *Freddie the Freeloader* character. In 1931 while performing at The Gaiety Theater in Kansas City he met one of the ushers, Edna Stilwell, and after a short time he married her. Red and Edna put together an act and were fairly successful in the vaudeville circuit. While in Canada Edna developed the well-known dunking doughnut routine. It was a visual of how various people ate doughnuts. The problem with this routine was that Red had to eat 9 doughnuts at a time in the act and he



performed the act 5 times a day. If you do the math, he was eating 45 doughnuts a day. After gaining 35 pounds in a few weeks, he shelved the act. Although the doughnut routine was dangerous to his health, it was funny and drew laughs. After doing this gag at The Paramount in New York, it led to Skelton's first appearance on *The Rudy Vallee Show* on August 12, 1937. Red was never one to stick to a script. Rudy was just the opposite. Nevertheless, the show received an overwhelming amount of fan mail necessitating another invite back to the show. After yet another encore, Red was given the chance to replace Red Foley as host of *Avalon Time* on NBC. Red hosted the show until 1939 when he began his MGM movie career. Red became very popular in the movies, and this led to him getting his own show, *The Raleigh Cigarettes Program*, on October 7th, 1941. The bandleader for the show was Ozzie Nelson. The female vocalist was Ozzie's wife Harriet, who still worked under her maiden name Hilliard. She also worked with Red in his skits. The show's announcer was Truman Bradley. On his show Red got a chance to introduce the first two of his many characters, Clem Kadiddlehopper



and the Mean Widdle Kid, or Junior. Red based Clem after a Vincennes neighbor named Carl Hopper, who was hard of hearing. The Mean Widdle Kid

was a young boy full of mischief, who couldn't stay out of trouble. A popular



catchphrase of "*I Dood It*" was created by Junior whenever he did something wrong. He always responded by saying "*I Dood It.*" Red was divorced from his wife Edna in 1943 ending his draft deferment making him 1-A. He was drafted into the Army in 1944. He was shipped overseas to serve with an Army entertainment unit and three months later he suffered a nervous breakdown. Years later he joked "I was the only celebrity who went in and came out as a private. In December of 1945 *The Raleigh Cigarette Program* resumed where it left off with Skelton introducing some new characters, Bolivar Shagnasty and J. Newton Numbskull. He also had Cauliflower McPugg, Willie Lump-Lump, San Fernando Red and his pair of cross-eyed seagulls Gertrude and Heathcliff. Lurene Tuttle and Verna Felton also joined the cast, with Felton playing both Junior's mother and grandmother. The announcers were Pat McGeehan and Rod O'Connor. David Rose would be the music conductor. Incidentally, when Red's show was cancelled due to the service Ozzie Nelson and wife Harriet started their own little show called *Ozzie and Harriet* which would run for almost ever on radio and TV. While on the set of *The Harvey Girls* Red met his second wife,

Georgia, also nicknamed Red. They had a son Richard born in 1945. Georgia continued to be Red's manager until the



1960s. The radio show lasted until 1953 and Red made the easy move to TV where he was immensely successful bringing all his colorful characters to view. The show was done first class with an opening dance number always starting the show. Red would go into his monologue, and then go into his skits. He would always have a top guest star joining him, be it a singer or movie star. Next to *Gunsmoke*, Red had the most popular show on the air. In the mid 1950s Red mentioned his son Richard was diagnosed with leukemia. He battled the disease for a year or so. Red would physically come out to the TV audience and ask them to pray for his son. His fans were saddened to hear of Richard's death on May 10th 1958, just ten days shy of his tenth birthday. I myself remember that night. Red's son and I were the same age. Red Skelton was touched greatly by his son's passing. He couldn't perform on TV acting like a clown for awhile. Guest stars like Jackie Gleason, Johnny Carson, and others filled in for him. Red continued doing the show for many more years. With its huge expense for dancers, costumes,

sets, music, and expensive guest stars, Red's show faded from the air waves. Red continued to do guest spots and



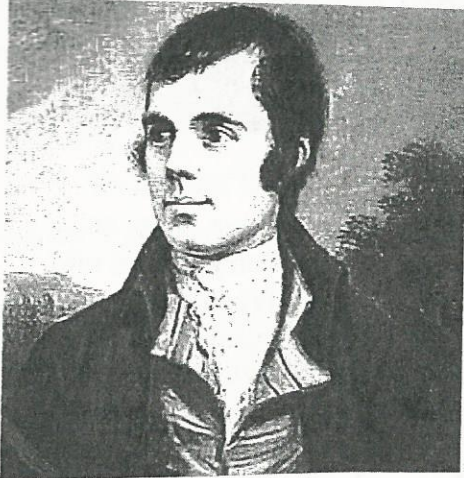
stage shows, never resorting to "Blue Humor". He criticized those that used four letter words and vulgarity to get a laugh. Red Skelton passed away from pneumonia in 1997 at the age of 84. Groucho Marx called Red Skelton the most acclaimed clown in the history of show business. Red once said that he didn't want to be called the greatest or one of the greatest. "Let the other guys claim to be the best" Skelton said. "I just want to be known as a clown, because to me, that's the height of my profession. It means you can do everything; sing dance, and above all make people laugh". And that he did. And May God Bless.



Red Skelton

Auld Lang Syne

By Tom Cherre



Like most of us out there I equate the song Auld Lang Syne with Guy Lombardo. Guy's been gone for 35 years now, and I don't really know if they still play that song on network TV anymore. I usually doze off before midnight comes around. Actually there's probably a generation out there with virtually no clue of who Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians were. My biggest question was, where did the Auld Lang Syne song come from. It was actually written by Scottish poet Robert Burns in 1788. I'm sure Frank remembers that year -only kidding Frank. Burns set his words to the tune of an old Scot tune called *Roud*. The song was sung by the Scots on *Hogmanay* or New Year's Eve and very quickly became a Scottish custom. The Scot's title is literally translated to mean "old long since", or long, long ago. It may loosely be translated to "for (the sake of) old times. With the Scots, Irish, Welsh, and English emigrating, they took the song with them. Guy Lombardo is the man that gave the song its popularity and longevity by starting to play it annually starting in 1929. Lombardo began his musical career in 1924 with brothers Liebert,, Carmen, and Victor. His band's

slogan was "The Sweetest Music this Side of Heaven", and by 1930, the group was America's top dance band.

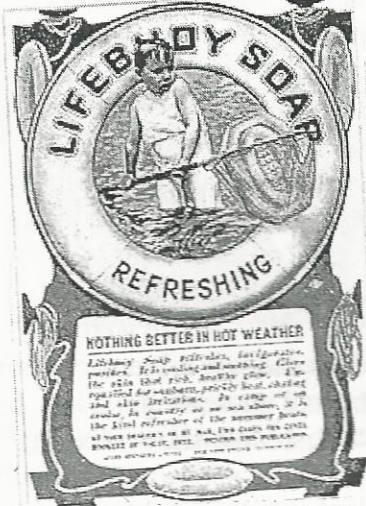
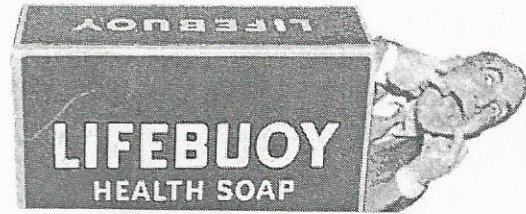
Lombardo recorded the song more than once. His first recording of it was in 1939. He later recorded a single on Decca Records on September 29th 1947. The song poses a rhetorical question as to whether it is right that old times be forgotten, and is generally meant to remember long-standing friendships. Anyway you look at it, it's always emotional when you hear Lombardo's rendition playing. Lombardo was often called Mr. New Year's Eve. "It all started back in the early days of radio," Lombardo once said. "Those were the depression days and, yet it seemed to me more exciting and interesting.

"Lombardo's first radio show was featured on CBS and sponsored coincidentally by Robert Burns Cigars in 1932. Lombardo enjoyed playing even after he was financially secure. He said "Doctors and lawyers see people when they're in trouble, or sick or dying. We see them at happy times. Guy Lombardo died on November 5th 1977 at the Methodist Hospital in Houston. The Royal Canadians were appearing in Bedford, New Hampshire. It was reported that at the moment he died the band was just finishing up Auld Lang Syne. *Happy New Year to all.*



Lifebuoy
By Tom Cherre

Beeeeeeee-Oooooooo If you remember Lifebuoy than you recall that B.O. commercial. If you have no clue then I will enlighten you. Lifebuoy was a very



popular bar soap originated by Lever Bros. in England, way back in 1895. It's no longer available in the states or England either, but is still sold in some remaining places. Lifebuoy was the major sponsor of *The Boston Blackie Show*. Minor sponsors were Champagne Velvet Beer and R&H beer. They also brought us *The Lifebuoy Show* on the Columbia Network which featured Al Jolson. It was Jolson's first radio show and he remained on it from 1936 to 1939.

An interesting anecdote that some old time baseball fans like Jerry and me may enjoy is worth telling. When the Philadelphia Phillies played in the old Baker Bowl in the 1920s the outfield had many ads plastered on the walls. One ad said "The Phillies use Lifebuoy". One night a fan snuck into the field and added to the ad "And they still stink". You may recall the classic movie "The Christmas Story", where Ralphie's parents washed his mouth out with Lifebuoy soap for uttering an obscene word. He then dreams he's going blind and hear's his father cry out "I told you not to use Lifebuoy soap. Incidentally, the term "B. O." short for body odor was thought to have originated from Lifebuoy, but was actually coined from a woman's deodorant called Odo-Ro-No. Of course Lifebuoy made the term famous with its radio ads. Warner Bros cartoons used a fog horn to create that famous sound. Hope you enjoyed these little trivial tidbits.

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The Illustrated Press

Part 4 of The Shadow by Jerry Collins:

"Murder of the Mind" was broadcast in the final year of the run of Shadow broadcasts. Professor Orloff has decided to work with Don Acton, brilliant young math student with a photographic mind. Its purpose was to extract information while hooked to a machine.

Visions of Death featured Professor Roger Bradley who has developed a serum that would give people the ability to visualize the future.

In the "Hands of Death" Lamont discovered that Professor Grelling and his associate Rama Shandu have developed a drug that will stop the aging process. Beautiful actress, Netta Shaw is found dead in the park, her body terribly withered.

In "Murder in the Sun." young physicist Bob Warner was mysteriously stricken while attempting to contact Lamont Cranston for help. Lamont and Margot suspected that it is Warner's former employer, Professor Orloff who is the guilty party. Orloff had invented a solar gun that causes a heart attack and paralysis.

"The Red Room" features an amateur zoologist named Norcross who imported flesh eating ants from Brazil sometimes called "The Red Demands of the Jungle." He bought slabs of beef from local butcher shops. They were stored under a trap door to keep the ants under control

In "Visions of Death" Professor Roger Bradley developed a serum to give a person the power to visualize the future.

Close to a dozen Shadow episodes featured a mad, brilliant scientist. Although an artist not a scientist, Boris Duval invented an electrical device that allowed him drop temperatures 200 degrees. The name of the episode was "The Case of the Immortal Beauty."

"Night without End" is one of my favorite shows. Dr. Heath developed a process that enveloped the city in dense fog. He then demanded money from the city fathers, threatening to blow the city up.

Professor Thomas Gaunt and his servant Mundo return from a Himalayan expedition. When they opened a sealed urn they discover a rare green mold that bubbles and squirms. Gaunt soon discovered that the mold would twist the mind and infect the body of any person coming in contact with it. In "The Hungry hand" Gaunt attempted to infect Lamont and Margo by using rats in a steep and slippery pit. Before he falls into the pit Lamont gives Margo an antidote. He then uses rat poison to kill the rats.

In "Footprints of Death" Professor Frobisher and his assistant Martin have been robbing graves at the Oakdale Cemetery off a dark country road. The purpose was to extract hormones from stolen Pituitary glands. Frobisher was attempting to grow giant plants and animals.

In "The Man Who Could Not Die," Professor Mallock and his assistant Marco had developed a way of producing blood plasma. The blood is being used to bring Killer Brunelli back to life. The Shadow knocks the scalpel out of his hand just as Cardonna and other members of the police department arrive on the scene.

On a dark, stormy night Lamont and Margot arrived at Professor Sontalk resort in the Catskills in "The Secret of Valhalla Lodge" Sontalk had called requesting their help. In reality he knows the Shadow's true identity. Sontalk handcuffs Cranston and now intended to kill Lamont in a gas chamber. He then attempted to experiment on Margo to prove that it is possible to revive people from the dead.

"The Case of the Vanishing Baseball Player" featured star baseball player Roy Collins who had been kidnapped by Professor Nordin and his associate. Nordin's purpose was to transfer the brain of a Nobel Prize winner in physics and chemistry into Collins' body. The Shadow arrived in time to stop the transfer.

Professor Haller, an eccentric biochemist is featured in "The Thing in the Cage." His purpose was to create a new form of life as the first step to create an army of monsters that would take over the world. Haller was sent to an institution for the remainder of his life.

The episode "Fountain of Youth" featured Dr. Marler's efforts to control the aging process. Before he can go public with the information, an enemy agent named Gorlin killed Marler and stole the serum to help build a better army. On his way to escape he jumped to his death from an airplane.

"Murder by Rescue" featured Warren Mitchell and his Uncle Claude a psychology professor. Claude had used a record to hypnotize Warren that resulted in a hit and run accident killing Warren.

In "The Invisible Weapon" Dr. Brenner, a power hungry scientist, is held Valerie Hastings hostage in order to force her father to permit the use of his sanitarium and patients for dangerous anti-radiation experiments.

"The Case of the Red-headed corpse" featured Alfred Miller, a half-crazed chemist who has experimented with artificially induced amnesia.

Alfred Fain, world famous scientist, died of a heart attack when he realized that he had killed his best friend while he was in a trance. The case of the episode was "~~Cross~~ Currents of Death."

In "The Man Who Murdered Time" Dr. Willard is dying from an incurable heart condition. Before his death he invented a machine that would cause New Year's Eve to continuously repeat itself.

Formerly the chief chemist for the Brullick Company, Mitchell Hardis developed a drug that would speed the aging process. When Lamont reaches the age of 60, he used an antidote that returned to him his correct age. "Murder Host" was the title of the episode.

"Death Is an Art" involved the work of Professor Tasso. It is a serum that promotes the calcification process. This facilitates the conversion of a body into a perfect granite statue.

In one of the more popular episodes, "Murder Incorporated," Pascell, a well-known chemist developed a poison that was energized when a special match was ignited.



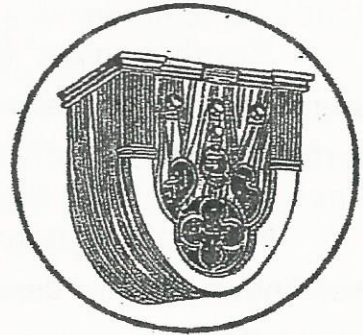
Along with the New Year comes the realization that this will be the last issue of the Illustrated Press that you'll receive unless you renew your membership.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!



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