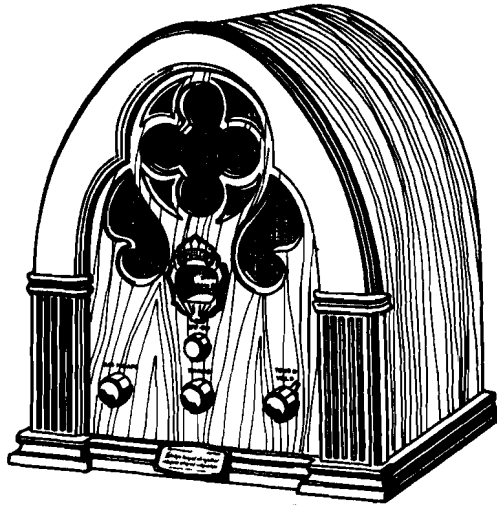


PARIS!

OLD
TIME
RADIO



CLUB
OF
BUFFALO

NEWSLETTER #6
DECEMBER 1976

Editor: Chuck Seeley

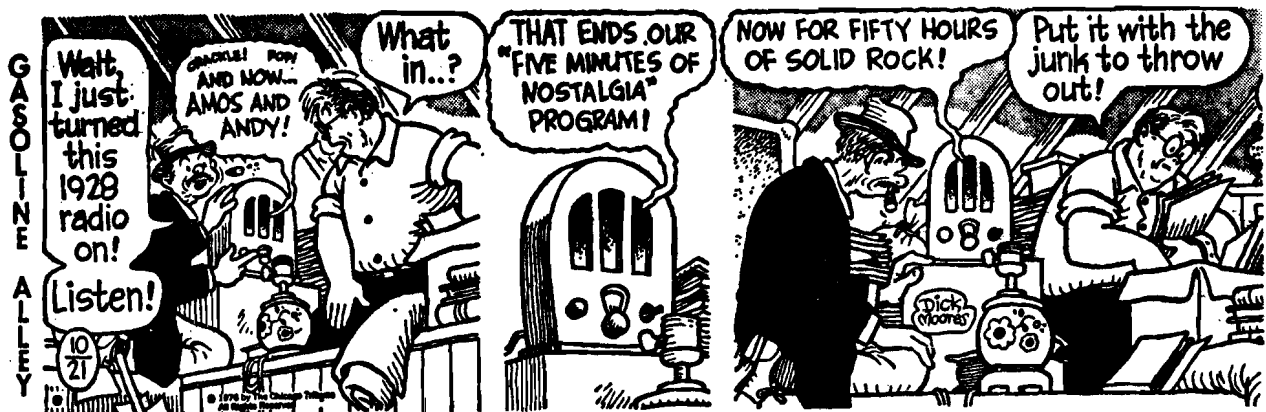
Merry Christmas to all OTRCOB members and friends, and welcome to the club's three newest members: Ronald C. Barnett, John Furman, and Herb Riley.

REMINDERS: If you notice a bright yellow sheet after you turn the page, it means that your membership in the OTRCOB expires at the end of this month. If you want to renew your membership, please fill out the coupon and send it along with your dues as soon as possible. With club memberships staggered throughout the year, this seems to be the best and most economical way of handling renewals....Don't forget to send in the surveys attached to the November newsletter. Deadline is January 28, 1977....As mentioned last issue, send in your wants, trade notices, etc. and we'll publish them here.

CORRECTION: In the list of the OTRCOB staff last issue, I failed to note that Pete Bellanca is co-editor of Memories (Sorry, Pete).

DEADLINES: For Newsletter #7 (Jan. 1977) : Dec. 15
For Newsletter #8 (Feb. 1977) : Jan. 28
For Newsletter #9 (March 1977) : Feb. 28

TAPE LENDING LIBRARY: Thanks to members Randall Dunford and Mike Meredith for their donations to the club's tape library. Their donations are 1800' and four-track, and are described on page two.



R-15 (1800') (Dunford) (\$1.00/month)

CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATRE "45 Minutes to Murder" 6/28/76
ZERO HOUR "Remember Me?" 7/17/74
X MINUS ONE "Gray Flannel Armor" 1/9/58
CHARLIE MCCARTHY SHOW "w/Linda Darnell 10/12/47
SOUNDS OF DARKNESS "The Killers"
FIBBER MCGEE & MOLLY 4/18/39
GREEN HORNET "Murder For Sale"
LIVES OF HARRY LIME "Violets, Sweet Violets"
THE LONE RANGER "Origin Show"
LUX RADIO THEATRE "Frenchmen's Creek"
OZZIE & HARRIET "Exaggerating" 9/30/45

R-16 (1800') (Meredith) (\$1.00/month)

ESCAPE "Evening Primrose" 8/25/49
LUX RADIO THEATRE "It's A Wonderful Life" 3/10/47
CBS RADIO WORKSHOP "1489 Words" 2/10/57 w/William Conrad
RADIO GUILD "The Man Who Was Tomorrow" 5/14/39
ACADEMY AWARD THEATRE "Pride of the Marines" w/John Garfield
SHERLOCK HOLMES "The Bruce Partington Plans" 11/6/39 w/Basil Rathbone
THE SHADOW "Mansion of Madness" 11/5/39 w/Bill Johnstone
SUSPENSE "Murder Through the Looking Glass" 3/17/49 w/Gregory Peck
BABY SNOOKS "Charity Auction" 10/17/47
GREAT GILDERSLEEVE "Lelia Ransom Expects Lightfoot" w/Hal Peary
FIBBER MCGEE & MOLLY "I Can Get It For You Wholesale" 1/9/41

REVIEWS: There are three items in the club mailbox for review this month. The first, SPERDVAC Magazine, looks like it has the most class. It's an annual publication of the Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety, and Comedy (SPERDVAC, which was profiled last issue). This issue is Volume One, Number One, sells for \$2.25, and can be had from SPERDVAC, 201 E. Chapman Avenue, #31-J, Placentia, California 92670. This first issue is a pretty fair effort, consisting of 32 pages of articles and pictures about OTR. The NBC network is the cover feature and three articles and many pictures are devoted to the net. Other articles include a "how-to" piece on building a reel-to-reel player for your car, an in-depth look at HEARTBEAT THEATRE, and poetry, no less, by Marvin Miller. The magazine has slick black-and-white covers with a wrap-around stapled binding. All in all, not a bad effort for a first issue, although the price is pretty steep.

Airwaves, yet another OTR-zine, is published by Jerry Chapman, 438 W. Neptune, NIU DeKalb, Illinois 60115. This 7" x 8½", 8 page (including covers) zine is published 12 times a year, and is \$6.00 per subscription. Airwaves #1, November 1976, features the pulp version of The Shadow on the cover, a short article on The Shadow, part one of a SHADOW log, a listing of collectors, and a piece concerned with the standards of OTR trading. Nothing special; a so-so first effort. With time and experience, it should improve.

The third item in the club mailbox is the most off-beat. Magic Sounds #17, published by Sounds Unlimited, Aptdo. 12-655, Mexico 12, D.F., Mexico, and edited by Alex Redans, is "dedicated to the preservation of the sounds of magic." Annual subscriptions to this 8 page zine are \$2.00 in US funds. The content is exclusively concerned with magic-

sounds on tape: magicians' acts, interviews, and magical OTR, such as CHANDU and MANDRAKE. If you're into this specialty, I imagine that this zine would be tough to beat.

SPERDVAC Magazine #1, Airwaves #1, and Magic Sounds #17 are all in the club lending library.

MEMBERS' FORUM: From Frank Amico: "I don't really mind the increase in membership dues if the quality of the newsletter remains high, and I hope the OTRCOB will help to keep it that way.

"For anyone interested, there is a new book out (I haven't seen it yet) called Tune In Yesterday, by John Dunning. It is said to be the ultimate OTR encyclopedia."

---As long as your editor has anything to do with it, the quality of all the OTRCOB publications will remain high and, hopefully, improve. And as for Tune In Yesterday, check the attached slinger. By the way, Mr. Dunning's book has been picked up by both the Nostalgia Book Club and the Literary Guild.

From Ron Barnett: "I look forward to hearing from you and other members of the club. I will be much more prompt and respond to all correspondence. I am thinking of starting an OTR club sometime in the near future. I must weigh all the pros and cons...but I'm leaning towards this end.

"I normally trade on unspliced Capitol 2 tape. I realize that since members get Shamrock at a discount, they will probably prefer to trade on it. Can you tell me how much the Shamrock costs?

"The P.X. here is having a terrific sale on Capitol 2 1200' Low Noise reels. The regular P.X. price is \$2.50 per reel (which means at least \$4.00 stateside)...special price is \$1.25 per reel. I put 40 on layaway; I can make about 15 reels available to club members at \$1.25 per reel plus postage (and insurance if desired)."

---If you decide to start an OTR club, Ron, be prepared to do 95% of the work. In any case, I think you can count on the OTRCOB for help. By the way, since you're over there and all, how about an article on OTR in Europe? Are there any traders/collectors in your area?

The club's prices for Shamrock reel tape follow: \$1.05/1800' and \$.85/1200'. These prices are plus NYS Tax (7%). Maybe you can work something out with one of the club members.

New members' addresses are below. I hope to have an OTRCOB members directory ready for next issue, but no promises.

NEW MEMBERS:

Ron Barnett, EUR RGN - Club Management Dir., APO NY 09090
John Furman, Box 132, Ballston Lake, NY 12019
Herb Riley, 115 Cove Blvd., Panama City, Florida 32401

TAPESPONDENTS: Pete Bellanca is looking for a show called THE WHISPERER that played over Mutual in the early Fifties. The show was based on the character from the pulp magazine of the same name. Pete's looking for programs themselves or any info about them. Write Pete at the club address.

CONVENTION REPORT: Thanks to Mike Meredith for the following report.

On October 30, 1976, the Sixth Annual Old Time Radio Convention was held at the Holiday Inn in Meriden, Connecticut. Jay Hickerson and his committee should be congratulated for a job more than well done. For almost twelve hours, there was always something taking place and each scheduled event moved smoothly to the next.

The day started at 10 AM with registration. Dealers' tables were on display and the first of three films provided by Tony Esposito was available for viewing in an adjoining room.

The first event of the afternoon was a general trivia quiz conducted by Dick Curland and which was very well attended. Following the trivia quiz was a slide show of old radio personalities presented by James Maloney. Hamilton O'Hara presented a sound effects workshop from 3:30 to 4:30 which was of great interest.

The last event of the afternoon was a panel discussion. The guests on the panel were Jackson Beck, Evelyn Juster, Raymond Edward Johnson, Jack McCarthy, Don MacLaughlin, James Maloney, Larry Haines, and Lee Stanley. Moderated by Bob Witte, the panel received questions from the audience and discussed varied aspects of their careers.

The evening began with a cocktail hour and a buffet dinner. Following dinner, Jackson Beck gave a fine dramatic reading of Marc Antony's Funeral Speech from "Julius Caesar."

Raymond Edward Johnson next scared everyone to death with his reading of "I Am Condemned."

The concluding dramatics of the evening were provided by Jackson Beck, Evie Juster, James Maloney, Don MacLaughlin, Jack McCarthy, and Lee Stanley as they presented THE FBI IN PEACE AND WAR program, "The Gentleman's Estate." Hamilton O'Hara supplied the sound effects and Jay Hickerson provided the music.

The final event of the evening was the presenting of special awards to Jackson Beck, Evie Juster, Don MacLaughlin, Jack McCarthy, and Hamilton O'Hara.

Attendance throughout the day and evening totalled approximately 150.

HELLO AGAIN: New OTRCOB member John Furman is the first OTR collector to be featured in the new "Spot at the Mike" section of Jay Hickerson's Hello Again. This section honors collectors who have done something extra with OTR. Anyone who knows John or trades with him knows that he is certainly worthy of the honor.

TUNE IN YESTERDAY: This is a portion of the letter received along with the attached slinger from Tune In Yesterday author John Dunning. I had asked him how he thought his book compared with The Big Broadcast: "I'm not sure my book will replace The Big Broadcast, but I think it may well supplement it in giving collectors and other radio historians information that Buxton and Owen didn't have. It is bigger--- I'll say that much--- 703 pages after final editing and typesetting. I did cover many of the shows that appeared after 1950, which Buxton and Owen didn't do. But it was impossible to get every show that ever ran, and I didn't even attempt it. Maybe someday I'll do a Son of Tune In book. There'll be plenty of material for that one too."

HOW TV SUCKED RADIO DRY - THE BIG BRAIN DRAIN.....by Hy Daley

In my last article (OTRCOB/RHAC Special, last month), I showed how TV of the early Fifties took the shows and stars of Radio and lured them away. My target was Monday and Tuesday nights in 1951. This time it's Wednesday night.

At 7:30 PM you could have seen CHANCE OF A LIFETIME, a quiz show featuring John Reed King, MC of radio's BREAK THE BANK, announcer for OUR GAL SUNDAY, MC of GIVE AND TAKE, DOUBLE OR NOTHING, and CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.

Two old radio favorites competed for your attention at 8 PM as Arthur Godfrey and Kate Smith hit head on. Godfrey had such stars as Janette Davis, who sang on DON MCNEIL'S BREAKFAST CLUB before she came to Godfrey's show; the Mariners, who sang on the radio show first; Frank Parker, who starred with the A&P GYPSIES (wow!), Bob Hope's WOODBURY SOAP HOUR, Jack Benny, and HOLLYWOOD HOTEL; and Tony Marvin, who announced for Major Bowes before going on Red's radio show.

At 9 PM Warren Hull brought his daytime radio quiz show STRIKE IT RICH to TV. The "Show with a Heart" gave needy contestants a chance to win up to \$500.

Also at 9 PM old Don McNeil brought his daytime show to the tube, TV CLUB. The housewives who listened to him as they ironed their husbands' workshirts could sit in their livingrooms with their spouses and watch Don on alternate weeks. Twice a month you were stuck with the ARTHUR MURRAY DANCE PARTY. And a 1-2-3.

At 10 PM, TV showcased THE INTERNATIONAL BOXING CLUB, featuring the nation's top boxing bouts from NYC, Chicago, Detroit, and St. Louis. An old time radio sportscaster did his duty behind the mike--- Russ Hodges. If you didn't dig people punching each other's brains out, you could always view a less violent half-hour--- BREAK THE BANK. "Mr. Energy", Bert Parks, offered questions worth from \$10 to \$500 to studio contestants with a huge cash bank for the winner. Bud Collyer also hosted this TV show--- he and Parks had both done time in the radio version. Parks had graduated from radio's KATE SMITH SHOW, OUR GAL SUNDAY, REN-FREW OF THE MOUNTED, SECOND HONEYMOON, and super quiz show STOP THE MUSIC. Peter van Steeden, who a lot of you will remember from TOWN HALL TONIGHT with Fred Allen, MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY, and STOOPNAGLE AND BUDD, supplied the music to give money away by.

Maxwell Anderson, whose play, What Price Glory?, initiated radio's CAPTAIN FLAGG, supplied many scripts for a 10 PM feature, PLAYWRIGHTS' THEATRE.

(OK, Hy, we got 'em hooked. Send me the next article right away.Hy?....Hy?....Aw, come on Hy, you've only got four more days to cover....)

NEWS: Thanks to Jim Snyder for sending along a clipping, part of the content of which appears right here: "CBS Radio...has a new Saturday-Sunday offering coming up the first week in February. It's called the GENERAL MILLS RADIO ADVENTURE THEATER, will run just under an hour each night, and will premiere promptly at 6:07 PM EST on Saturday, Feb. 5, says CBS Radio President Sam Cook Digges. Digges...said the new weekend show will be an anthology series of such classic adventure yarns as "Robinson Crusoe," "Kidnapped," and "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

(continued on next page)

It's scheduled for early evening broadcasts...so as to catch the family trade, particularly youngsters for whom radio drama is just something Grandad mutters nostalgically about now and then. "We wanted to go with drama that would appeal to children broadcast at a time they could listen to it," Digges said. "We've found we've had a lot of complaints because MYSTERY THEATER in many markets is on too late for youngsters to hear it."....CBS hopes to get at least the same number of stations carrying the new weekend adventure series (that carry MYSTERY THEATER, some 220 stations)...the new show will be produced and directed by Hyman Brown...The new offering will air first-run episodes each Saturday and Sunday for 26 weeks this year, followed by 26 repeat weeks in which Saturday shows will air on Sundays, and Sunday shows on Saturday. However, Digges added, the new show won't be just a one-year proposition General Mills, the sole sponsor, is signed up for what Digges called a long-term agreement. He didn't specify how long, though. In any event, he added, this agreement will help the show avoid what happened to the CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER in almost three years on the air---operate at a financial loss. Digges, who declined to say what the loss was, said it was incurred because the show was paid for on a participating sponsorship basis. And there were times, he conceded, sponsors didn't participate. It was only this year that the mystery series began breaking even and then making a profit, he said. But he said the future of the show never was in doubt, even when it was running in the red...About the new adventure show: Since its sponsor makes breakfast cereals, can we expect a return to the days kids could send in boxtops and get such goodies as secret code rings? "Nope," Digges said. "Not at this point." Then he laughed. "But who knows?" (The clipping is from The Saginaw News of Saturday, December 4, 1976. Thanks again, Jim.)

MORE NEWS: WBEN Radio here in Buffalo is planning to drop its affiliation with CBS Radio. The status of the CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER on WBEN is uncertain; they may keep it on....NBC Radio premiered a new three-minute weekday series, VIEWPOINT EAST/WEST, on November 3. Tom Pettit and Jack Perkins anchor the show in NYC....Remember the NOTORIOUS WOMAN series on PBS? Its scripter, Harry Junkin, is the author of a six part mystery series, "The Chase," that just concluded on CBC PLAYHOUSE.Popular Library has issued a paperback, Strange Tales from the CBS Mystery Theater. The book includes novelized versions of "The Only Blood" by Sam Dann, "The Black Room" by Elspeth Eric, and "Time and Again" by Ian Martin. The collection is edited by Hyman Brown....George Burns will continue his comeback in films with "Oh God" for Warner Brothers. He'll play God. What a comeback....John Dunning's Tune In Yesterday received a good review in the November 10 Variety....WSIX in Nashville will mark its 50th anniversary in broadcasting on January 7 with a bunch of special programming to salute OTR. Excerpts will be played from THE SHADOW, CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT, DRAGNET, and others, as well as early radio commercials....Spike Milligan, one of the original Goons, is under treatment after a nervous breakdown....Cinema-Sound Ltd. of NYC, in association with the Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate, is producing six radio drama series based on comic strips for syndication under the title SIX SUPER ADVENTURE STRIPS. The shows that will alternate on the weekly series are "Dick Tracy," "Brenda Starr," "Terry and the Pirates," "Counterspy," "Crime Doctor," and "Rick O'Shay." The half-hour shows are written and directed by Jack Anson Finke, veteran scripter who wrote such radio shows as SUSPENSE, THE FBI IN PEACE AND WAR, and TREASURY MEN IN ACTION. Current station lineup includes WOR

New York, WBAL Baltimore, KSFO San Francisco, KLIQ Portland, WOC Davenport, and WHET Boston. These shows supposedly contain "fast action" and drama in order to appeal to adult audiences....Andy Devine was honored by the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters on November 19. Present on the dais were Lew Ayres, Mel Blanc, Dennis Day, Milburn Stone, and Guy Madison. The luncheon went on past 3 PM---one of the longest in PPB history....Kay Kyser appeared on the MIKE DOUGLAS SHOW on December 10. It was the first Kyser-Douglas meeting since 1950.

OBITUARIES: Robert Hardy Andrews--- died Nov. 11, 73 years old. Andrews, one of the most prolific writers in show business, did a great deal of writing for radio before moving to Hollywood to write for the movies and, later, TV. He wrote for such radio series as JUST PLAIN BILL, HELEN TRENT, MA PERKINS, and JACK ARMSTRONG.

SIGN OFF: I actually received a complaint at the November meeting saying that the newsletter is too thick. Well, let's hear from you members. Do you want to drop the extras, or the articles, or the news or obituary sections? Personally, I like it the way it is and I like putting the beast together.

Included with this issue is a TARZAN OF THE APES script from 1933 so I suppose the name of the show is technically the TARZAN RADIO ACT. Also included is the long-awaited trading list.

Don't forget to send in those surveys from the last issue AND your suggestions for the name of the newsletter.

Due out this month is Memories Volume 1, #5. I hope.

Next month the club is officially one year old. In the anniversary issue of the newsletter will be a history of the club, election results, and, if this typewriter holds up, a new directory of club members.

So, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to everyone, and see you after the holidays.

WRITE! Editor, OTRCOB, P.O.Box 119, Kenmore, New York 14217

JUST IN: (From Al Rockford's Sounds of Yesterday newsletter)
The CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATER has been renewed for its fourth season. It will begin its new year with a week of O'Henry stories, adapted by Sam Dann (Jan. 10-16).

JOHN DUNNING TUNE IN YESTERDAY

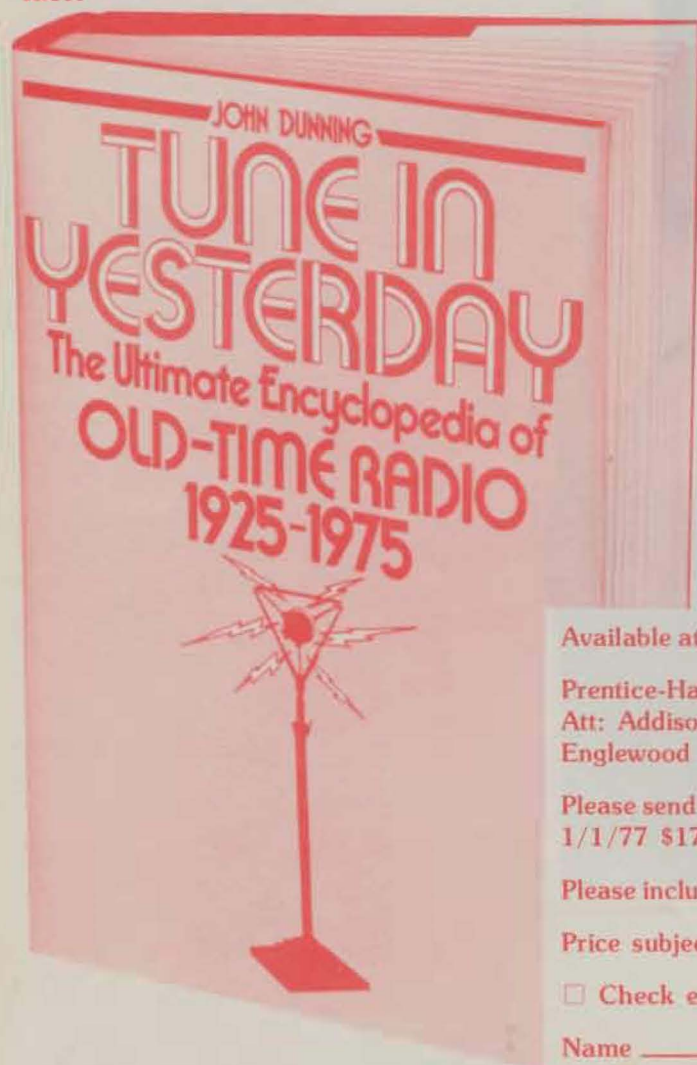
The Ultimate Encyclopedia of OLD-TIME RADIO 1925-1976

What two shows tried to copy *The Shadow's* success? Who was Ma Perkins' lumberyard friend? Who was the voice of Superman? Who ran *House Party* before Art Linkletter? How did Bing Crosby, Jimmy Durante, Red Skelton, and Bob and Ray make their radio debuts? And who played Oogie Pringle last?

If you can't remember, TUNE IN YESTERDAY has all the answers, plus thousands of other definitive facts you can't find anywhere else. Each show is listed alphabetically by title, giving all the players of major roles, the sponsors, changes of cast, crew, and writers; premiere dates, and shifts of format and network—all compiled from original tapes and from contemporary listings—as well as the early episodes, typical plotlines, development of the characters, openings and closings, and behind-the-scene glimpses of writers, stars, and studio executives.

In addition, TUNE IN YESTERDAY gives the complete genesis and development of classics like *Fibber McGee and Molly*, *I Love a Mystery*, *The Fat Man*, and *Jack Armstrong*, besides less well-known shows such as *Everyman's Theatre*, *I Fly Anything*, and *Dr. Sixgun*.

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