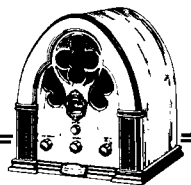


THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB OF BUFFALO  
**Illustrated Press**



NUMBER 16

OCT. 1977

**WHAM**

ROCHESTER'S  
 NO. 1 STATION

**GALA LONDON PREMIERE**

NINETY MINUTES OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY  
 ENTERTAINMENT IN THE HISTORY OF RADIO

**THE BIG SHOW**



starring the magnificent, unpredictable

**TALLULAH BANKHEAD**

AND THE MOST FAMOUS GUESTS IN THE WORLD

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| FRED ALLEN     | VERA LYNN        |
| PORTLAND HOFFA | LAWRENCE OLIVIER |
| MICHAEL HOWARD | BOB WILTON       |
| VIVIEN LEIGH   | GEORGE SANDERS   |

MEREITH WILLSON

all on the one . . . the only . . .

**THE BIG SHOW**

**WHAM**

6:30 on

dial 1180

**It's ANOTHER ALL-STAR NIGHT ON WHAM!**

Welcome to new members James and Myrtis Cotton, Ronald Duplechain, Joseph Fallon, Steven Miss, Jerry Nostrand, John Pellatt, and Tom Schampers. Special thanks as always to friend Bob Bindig for the donation of more old radio pages from newspapers.

**MINUTES:** The OTRCOB met on September 12. Plans to obtain quality tape at discount prices for the members were discussed (more information as it becomes available). The proposed OTR convention was brought up and all members with ideas, suggestions, etc. are asked to send them in. There are now 60 reels in the tape library. A new list has been made up and will be sent to all members. It was also decided that the club will induct ten honorary members this year, with names to be announced next month.

**FORMAT:** Alert readers will have already noticed that this issue looks somewhat different from our past efforts. There are several reasons for going to this format, prime of which is to cut down the time between printing and mailing. With any luck at all, this issue will be mailed on October 1 or before. Notice also that the annoying staples have been eliminated. Your editor would like your opinion of this format.

- OLD OCTOBER:** Oct. 2, 1895: William "Bud" Abbott born.
- Oct. 4, 1957: Sputnik I, the first man-made satellite, is launched into orbit around the Earth. The Space Age begins.
- Oct. 5, 1946: Debut of THE ADVENTURES OF FRANK MERRIWELL.
- Oct. 6, 1927: The part-sound film, "The Jazz Singer", opens in New York City.
- Oct. 8, 1942: Debut of Abbott & Costello's Thursday night show on NBC.
- Oct. 8, 1944: ADVENTURES OF OZZIE AND HARRIET debuts on the Nelson's ninth wedding anniversary.
- Oct. 19, 1937: BIG TOWN debuts on CBS.
- Oct. 22-27, 1944: The Battle for Leyte Gulf, the biggest naval action ever fought, breaks Japanese naval power.
- Oct. 22, 1962: Kennedy orders air and sea blockade of Cuba.
- Oct. 23, 1942: Lt. General Montgomery defeats Rommel at El Alamein.
- Oct. 24, 1931: Al Capone sentenced to 11 years for income tax evasion.
- Oct. 27, 1904: New York subway opens.
- Oct. 30, 1938: Oh, you know. "Invasion from Mars."

**CLUB ADDRESSES:** Please use the correct address for the business you have in mind. Note the new tape library address.

**TAPE LIBRARY, 38 Ardmore Place, Buffalo, NY 14213**  
**REFERENCE LIBRARY, 1620 Ferry Road, Grand Island, New York 14072**

All other business: **OTRCOB, P.O. Box 119, Kenmore, New York 14217**

**DEADLINES:** Nov. IP = Oct. 24  
Dec. IP = Nov. 21

**BACK ISSUES:** Igor, keeper of the musty archives, has finally sorted out all the back issues of Memories and the newsletter. The following are all available for \$1.00 each postpaid, except where noted. The number in parentheses is the quantity left.

**Memories Vol. 1, #2:** articles on Bogart, Crosby, LONE RANGER, more (5)  
#3: articles on THE SHADOW, GOON SHOW, transcriptions (30)  
#4: Groucho Marx interview, ZERO HOUR article, more (30)  
#5: articles on Fred Allen, BBC science fiction, more (40)  
**Vol. 2, #1:** articles on AMOS 'N' ANDY, NO SCHOOL TODAY, more (30)  
#3: articles on Mae West, Radio Free Europe, more (40)

**Newsletter #2, April, 1976:** with LONE RANGER script (5)

without script (8) 50¢

#3, June, 1976: with SHADOW script (12)

#4, August, 1976: with American Heritage reprint (6)

#5A, November, 1976: with Radio Historical Association of Colorado combination newsletter (13)

RHAC combination alone (16) 50¢

#6, December, 1976: with 1976 trading list (3)

Illustrated Press #8, February, 1977: (12) 50¢

#10, April, 1977: with LUX RADIO THEATER log, part 1 (14)

without LUX log (17) 75¢

#11, May, 1977: (5) 75¢

#14, August, 1977: (24) 50¢

#15, September, 1977: (42) 50¢

The above are all in the 8½" by 11" format. If it's not listed, it's out-of-print, please do not order what is not listed. All out-of-print items can be borrowed from the reference library.

**NEW MEMBERS:** James & Myrtis Cotton, 519 S. Juniper St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19147

Ronald Duplechain, Route 6, Box 7, Ville Platte, Louisiana 70586

Joseph Fallon, 6905 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn, New York 11228

Steven Hiss, 2337 S.W. Archer Road #401, Gainesville, Florida 32608

Jerry Nostrand, Box 449, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901

John Pellatt, 47 Stuart Avenue, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2N 1B2

Tom Schampers, Route 1, 4721 Esther Lane, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

**ADDRESS CHANGES:** Stu Mann, 44 Ganson St., North Tonawanda, New York (effective Oct. 1)

Alf Walle, Dept. of Social Science, Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio 44805 (Alf wants to meet OTR collectors in the Ohio area.)

Richard Hluchan has moved and left no forwarding address. If you are in contact with him, tell him we need his current address, please.

## National Radio Trader

*We're still  
growing like a  
weed...*

Can you tell us why?

- Is it our professional printing and editing?
- Is it our ads from traders around the country?
- Is it our features like—

*From Out of the Past Comes...  
Radio In Review  
Radio Roots  
Ye Olde Equipment Shoppe  
Radio Answer Man  
Radio Crossword*

- Is it our news of clubs and old-time radio happenings?

*Whatever it is...  
we must be doing  
something right!*

If you're not already a subscriber, send for free sample issue mentioning where you saw this ad.

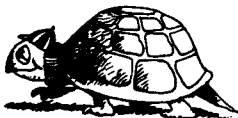
Write:  
National Radio Trader  
Post Office Box 1147  
Mount Vernon, Washington 98273

*Then...*

Please tell us what we're doing that's making us grow like a weed!

The Illustrated Press is the monthly newsletter of the Old Time Radio Club of Buffalo. Contents, except where noted, are copyright (c) 1977 by the OTRCOB. All rights are hereby assigned to the contributors. Send all contributions, comments, and questions to the editor, Chuck Seeley, at Box 119, Kenmore, New York 14217.

MOVING?



LST US KNOW!

by Hy Daley

# The CRYSTAL EGG



Most OTR buffs unfortunately have only listened to the reel thing, not the real thing when it comes to transcribed radio. The thrill of listening to a disc far outweighs the whirl of wheels and the hum of a TEAC, Sony, or whatever, as its reliable heads sense the signal of a dubbed program. The true-blue purist will find the disc the only completely satisfactory way to listen to old radio. I know of one Ohioan who sputtered and growled when I even mentioned tape to him. He has thousands of discs and enjoys his SHADOW, LONE RANGER, etc. first hand only.

But, as you know, discs are hard to come by---most radio stations have unloaded their discs long ago. The manager of a local station tells of pushing piles of AFPS discs into the ocean immediately after WW II on an occupied island. It took a bulldozer to do it!

You've probably all heard a CAVALCADE OF AMERICA show along the line. The program seems to have spawned quite a period of time (maybe 15 years or so). Recently, I traded with Sol Feldman for four reels of CAVALCADE and found it a very pleasant show of historical tidbits with great acting: Dane Clark, Robert Young, Margaret O'Brien, Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Widmark, Glenn Ford, Loretta Young.... just to name a few.

The show usually tells the story of an American who has fought great odds to succeed in medicine, politics, business, etc. One fellow spent his life savings to build the first automated harmonica!

Received a great reel of FRANK MERRIWELL shows recently from Ken Neal. Some of the titles in this group are "Unreasonable Aunt" (6/26/48), "Championship Game" (3/5/49), "Danger on the River" (3/12/49), "Riddle of the Wrong Answer" (10/5/46), and "Clue of the Numbers" (10/19/46). Frank is one of the few kids' heroes I've found in radio who is listenable. He's more believable than Dick Cole, more human than Jack Armstrong, and far less of a buffoon than Archie. Sure wish I had Frank on my Cross-Country team!

Also picked up some new NICK CARTER too. Carter is one detective who really appeals to modern kids. My OTR clubbers here at Gorry High really enjoy Nick and ask for him. The only real competition he has here is BOSTON BLACKIE.

Did any OTRCOB member attend the Hickerson convention in Connecticut on October 1? Stu Weiss suggested I go, but with school and my X-C season going strong, I couldn't make the trip. I hope if any member did attend, he will write something about this worthwhile convention.

**IRON-ONS:** Member Stu Mann is still offering OTRCOB T-shirt iron-on decals for sale. The decals measure about 11" by 11". In the center is an old Philco radio. Surrounding the radio are the words: OLD TIME CLUB OF BUFFALO (the radio picture taking the place of the word "radio"). For each decal desired, send \$2.00 plus 25¢ (postage) to Stu Mann, 44 Ganson St., North Tonawanda, NY 14120.

**WHEC**  
BASIC CBS

**THE STATION  
LISTENERS BUILT!**

# TONIGHT

## CRIME PHOTOGRAPHER

**9:30 P. M.**

This mystery series, starring **Stuarts Catworth** as a dashing newspaper cameraman, is now in its eighth year of broadcasting! It is sponsored by **Phillip Morris**. Don't miss it!

**And Don't Miss!**

- 6:45—Lowell Thomas
- 7:30—Gary Moore
- 7:45—Larry Lousur
- 8:00—FBI in Peace & War
- 8:30—Mr. Kees
- 9:00—Suspense
- 10:00—Johnny Dollar
- 11:00—D & C News

**WHEC**  
BASIC CBS

**THE STATION  
LISTENERS BUILT!**

# TONIGHT

**PHILIP  
MARLOWE**

**10:00 P. M.**

William Wrigley Jr. Co. presents another hair-raising adventure with **Gerald Mohr** star of stage, screen and radio, in the title role.

**And Don't Miss:**

- 6:00—Goodrich—Bond News
- 6:15—MacMillan—Sports
- 6:30—Journal of the Air
- 7:00—Gary Moore Show
- 8:00—Mr. Chameleon
- 8:30—Dr. Christian
- 9:00—It Pays to be Ignorant
- 9:30—The ABC's of Music

# OTRCRYPTOGRAMS by Ed Frost

In the cryptograms below, you are given various quotations from OTR shows. In cryptograms, one set of letters is substituted for another. The words are in their right order with a space after each. For example: A BIG CAT -- M SWX UMY. Here M is substituted for A, S for B, W for I, etc. You can break each code by watching for the frequency of certain letters or the way they are grouped. You know that a single letter is usually A or I, that the word THE occurs very often in our language, as does AND. Try IS, IT, OF, and other common words when you find a group of two letters.

- 1) NSM OBMNJMSKR GYVW VEIOJ WB RSG SGKIRJ ML HGB, RSG JSKPMN OBMNJ.
- 2) XJGE GML GX LZN HSKL UGEW LZW LZMPVWJAFY ZGGX TWSLK GX LZW YJWSL ZGJKW KADNWJ.
- 3) MHKXMJ DUKA XL JZD KZ KAZLH KAMUWUJJS TNEL ZR EHLKHMEHNM.
- 4) CHUTEC IDXVHES HE BIT EHSIB, BIT LVQFHES KVQBBTU DL CAJFQKIHET SAEC, QER, LHEQVWN, BIT FQUKIHES BUTQR DL KDEYHKBC IQRTR LDU BITHU KTVVC. ---SQES JACBTUC.
- 5) THE SHADOW--- CW AVWKYNRK KV KJO YNUCV HYVZYND, XJOYO KJO DNRKOY VB DOW'R DCWUR YOICOU VW JCR HVXOYR KV AIVFU DCWUR NWU KV RKYGPO BONY CWKV RKVPK JONYKR, CW KJO DNZNGCWO JO XNR NIRV N DNRKOY VB ZFWHNM.
- 6) TLVVTY WSPDKE KEELY HKG VDY ZWGV PARYELTY GYSLKT GVKS, VDY WETI GAX-VYIE-KUY PSWVKUWELGV YRYS VW XY GAJJYGGNAT KG KE KORYEVASY JDKSKJYYS WE SKQLW.---PIZ DKSZWE
- 7) "AXS EHSJBP BE AXS PHSV OV M EKMPOL VNBHJ. QVS OA DQVAKZ! XBJK OA XOLXI LQMHJ OA NSKKI" ---VASRS NOKVBU
- 8) YWRT DJA TAWZVBE WVRT RY DJA XEWU XPEGB VE EAM HRWU NVDH, MA QWVEI HRL DJA TLSVN RY WBTRE WKLAPPR BEZ JVS RWNJASDWB.
- 9) EQR XJLBR JW ZJQE CLVH-CITTRORH BVIQG GRTE ITH QLY IVERO RDJ, EQR CLDQEN YKUROCIT, AIY BVINEJT "ZKH" BJVVNRO.
- 10) PAAR KIKTZTP, VGZKTRW. SEZW ZW GLOXATR, OAHG EAWS, DKFBAXZTP OAH SEGAPPE SEK WYHKLNZTP RAAG SA SEK ZTTKG WLTSBHX.

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- 11) TA. GRAWM CRQFMFA NAARLRQ NM MFP MFPNFA PNH MFP PKORMRCQ MANBERCQW UG NC UBPCRCQ CRQFM UC IAUNHYNZ.

Answers next issue. The solution to last month's crossword appears at left.  
 ++++++

**TAPESPENDENTS:** Send in your wants, etc. and we'll run them here for two consecutive months.  
 Pete Bellanca, 1620 Ferry Road, Grand Island, NY 14072  
 ---Will trade for any American Football League games.  
 Edward J. Carr, 216 Shaner St. Boyertown, PA 19512---Wants to obtain transcriptions.  
 Dan Haebele, 3376 Descanso Ave. #6, Los Angeles, CA 90026---Wants: THAT'S LIFE 7/18/46; and the Canadian satire DR. BUNDOLLO'S PANDEMONIUM MEDICINE SHOW.

Ken Neal, Box 911, Washington, D.C. 20044---Always looking for new material with very good sound, enjoys meeting new collectors with which to trade. Ken has originated many reels, including the complete broadcast day of WJSV, 9/21/39.

Chuck Seeley, 294 Victoria Blvd., Kenmore, NY 14217---Will buy or trade for record or tape of Broadway musical "Donnebrook" from the early Fifties.

**IS THE DUKE A GAG?** by Dan Haefele

The announcer calls the program an "experiment in communication." Two ex-cons talk about juvenile delinquency on CBS Radio. It's Sunday afternoon, December 9, 1956. You might have heard this program while returning home from Christmas shopping. But I doubt it.

"I Was the Duke" was the CBS RADIO WORKSHOP's offering for that date. The Duke is "Bobby," a 23-year-old man who has been in trouble with the law since he was 13. He is interviewed by a friend who has also been on the wrong side of the law.

I have all of the CBS RADIO WORKSHOP broadcasts, and "I Was the Duke" is the most interesting of them all. You see, Bobby uses language which would not have been permitted on radio in 1956 (In fact, you won't hear the type of things he says on most radio stations today). When I listen to this program I wonder if someone at CBS was asleep (or in shock?) when the Duke poured some four letter words into the network airwaves.

The youthful offender compares his stepfather and a teacher to various parts of the human anatomy. On the street, "all of the broads were getting knocked up all the time." A prospective employer is a "lousy bastard."

Was this show ever aired? I don't really know. My source for this program says there was nothing on the disc to indicate it is a rehearsal.

Of course, one possible explanation is that this really is a rehearsal. The shows were transcribed in advance, so naturally all mistakes could easily be omitted. On another WORKSHOP broadcast in my collection, "No Time for Heartaches," I can clearly hear someone coughing during the closing credits. This leads me to believe that several CBSRW programs in circulation are really rehearsals. Maybe the two hoods on "I Was the Duke" are really two actors having some fun with the script. Or possibly the only difference between the rehearsal, if this is a rehearsal, and the actual broadcast is that the latter has the unbroadcastable portions bleeped out.

Or did someone make a monumental goof at CBS? It seems doubtful. I can't find anyone who recalls such a memorable incident.

I would be very interested in hearing from any OTRCOB members who have a different version of this broadcast. Write me at 3376 Descanso Drive, #6, Los Angeles, California 90026.

**MEMBERS' FORUM:** From Bob Angus, RFD #1, Ganaan, Connecticut 06018---

In the September issue, Hy Daley refers to the BBC drama "Danger," which the BBC claims is the world's first play for radio. The tape copy in circulation is a re-creation dating from the late 1960s, I believe. The original was broadcast in January, 1924 by the BBC, and is not the first

# WHEC

BASIC CBS

**THE STATION  
LISTENERS  
BUILT!**



**SATAN'S  
WAITIN'**  
8:30 P. M.

Premiere! An unusual psychological mystery drama series.



**THE CANDID  
MICROPHONE!**  
9:30 P. M.

Allen Pant catches people in the act of being themselves!

**THIS IS BING CROSBY—4 P. M.**

Bing visits the Palace at Faustina-bianca, and describes Phillips, his Frenchman-educated-at-Oxford driver.

7:00—Beulah  
7:15—Jack Smith Shaw  
7:30—Club 13  
7:45—Edward R. Merrow

8:00—Mystery Theater  
9:00—Life with Lela  
10:00—Johnny Dollar  
10:30—Philip Marlowe

drama program ever broadcast. The BBC had done "Julius Caesar" on February 16, 1923 in excerpt, starring Robert Atkins and Basil Gill. 2YA in Auckland, New Zealand, produced a local cast to do "Danger" on July 5, 1929. The station preceded the broadcast by warning that it would be unsuitable for young children and those with very weak nerves. "The dramatic atmosphere of the play will be considerably intensified by appropriate noises," the announcer said. One of the noises was an explosion in the mine---remember that this was in the days before sound effects records. "There had to be an explosion," a member of the New Zealand cast recalled later. "Ken Collins was the technician and he loved to find out how to do noises that would be effective over the air. And it isn't always the exact noise that

\*\*\*\*\* goes through the microphone. Anyhow, he

JOHN WAYNE

5451 Marathon Street  
Hollywood, Ca. 90038  
June 19, 1973

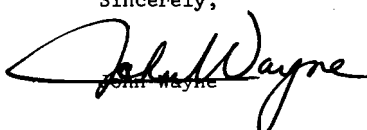
Mr. Charles Seeley  
294 Victoria Boulevard  
Kenmore, New York 14217

Dear Mr. Seeley:

Thank you for your letter of April 30. I did a radio show about 25 years ago so the rumor you heard is correct. It was called "Three Sheets to the Wind" and Preston Foster and I did play in it.

Thank you for your interest in remembering and if I am ever in Buffalo I will remember your invitation.

Sincerely,



JW:vp

\*\*\*\*\*

Just when radio drama started in Canada seems to be open to question, but in 1927 the CNR network, with stations in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Edmonton, Moncton, Halifax, Calgary, Regina, Red Deer, and Quebec, was doing plays. Many of these were produced in Vancouver, and a number of the scripts were original for radio. Canadian independent stations, like CHML and CFRB, presumably had been producing dramas locally before this.

U.S. radio stations aren't the only ones engaged in the current wave of nostalgia for the Good Old Days of Radio. The Armed Forces Network has been carrying shows in English to Germany and Japan for some time (and to points inbetween as well). Currently, AFN schedules two complete half-hour shows each day, including such favorites as THE GREAT GILDERSLLEEVE, NERO WOLFE, MEET CORLISS ARCHER, GUNSMOKE, YOURS TRULY JOHNNY DOLLAR, and more. Radio New Zealand earlier this year ran two weekly series of oldies, including locally produced shows and programs from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s purchased from Australia and South Africa. Currently, RNZ is carrying some BBC comedy shows from the 1950s. And the BBC has been celebrating the Jubilee Year by running repeats of the GOON SHOW, HANCOCK'S HALF-HOUR, TAKE IT FROM HERE, 'ROUND THE HORNE, and others on Tuesday nights.

I'm in the market for a clean copy of the CBS 50th anniversary broad-

cast. Incidentally, WEEI in Boston preceded the show with a program of its own about radio in Boston in the 1950s which featured Bob & Ray. Have you any members in Boston, or any way of getting a copy of that?

((Thanks for all the info, Bob. And much more thanks for mentioning the club in that Apartment Life article you wrote. We received so many responses from that mention that we ran out of information sheets and had to print more. Re Boston: We have no members from Boston proper, but I'm sure that the WEEI program has found its way into some member's collection. Incidentally, the CBS anniversary show wasn't carried here, so if someone would be kind enough to donate a copy to the club library, it'd be appreciated. --CAS))

From John Wells, RD #1, Chittanooga, New York 13037---

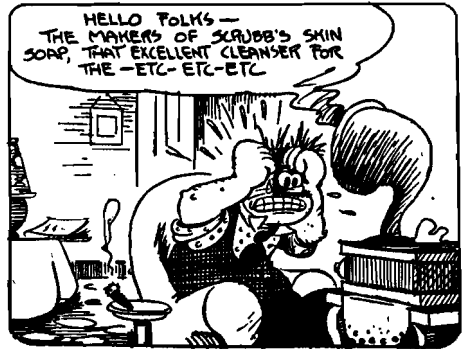
I recently spent \$46.90 for 10 reels of 1800' BASF performance tape from International Hi-Fi Distributors, 6330 Franford Avenue, Baltimore. I have dealt with them before and am quite satisfied with them. That's where I got my open reel deck last year.

((Sounds like a fair deal. Also received a catalog from Omega Audio, P.O. Box 39253, Redford, Michigan 48239. Among other things, they offer Ampex Professional Duplicating tape for \$3.10 for 1800' and \$2.70 for 1200' (lower prices for quantity). Catalogs are free on request and Omega is recommended by member Bruce Rittenhouse. --CAS))

From Ron Barnett, EUR RGN - Club Mgmt. Directorate, APO New York 09090---

Suggestion: For people like myself who live quite a distance from Buffalo (6000 miles in my case) you might consider an Associate member status at a reduced annual subscription rate. I love the publications of the OTR clubs, but with SPERDVAC at \$15, Airwaves now up to \$10, National Radio Trader at \$8, it is getting expensive to belong to all of them. I'll write similar letters to other clubs. Also, I'm going to publish at least one issue of a new newsletter called "Inner Circle," strictly a limited edition to be given free to a few traders. I hope to have some articles that either can be reproduced as items for various OTR publications or, at a minimum, create thought-provoking ideas for future newsletters.

((It'd be nice to be able to reduce membership dues for everybody but it's not likely as long as we have to deal with the post office. We're going to be hamstrung by them until we get a couple of hundred members. We can't apply for second class mailing unless we mail out 200 separate pieces at each mailing, and we're a 100+ shy of that mark at present. Couple that with printing costs and it figures out to a little over \$8 of your \$10 going towards keeping each member in publications, etc. Local members actually save us money because they pick up their stuff at the meetings, eliminating mailing entirely. And while it's highly unlikely our dues will increase in the foreseeable future (barring any foolishness from the PO), it's even unlikelier they'll go down.



Ron also mentions that he's forming a buying group plan to purchase OTR shows from dealers. It's a pretty well thought out organization. I suggest you send Ron a SASE for detailed information. --(CAS))

## Wireless Wanderings



the networks.

.....by Jim Snyder

Although the history of a radio network might seem like kind of a dull subject to many (and in some ways it is), I think that perhaps a brief understanding of what went into the founding of these organizations might be helpful for those of us involved in the OTR hobby. It certainly is necessary for a true understanding of what we are dealing with. With that thought in mind, this will be the first of a series of five articles spread across the next year and a half, highlighting the foundations of each of

Although the National Broadcasting Company, NBC, didn't start broadcasting until 1926, it was in some ways already three years old by that time. David Sarnoff first suggested a national radio broadcasting company in the spring of 1922. He saw the need for a "specialized organization with a competent staff capable of meeting (the task of) entertaining the nation." On June 1 of that same year, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company licensed station WEAJ in New York. At that time, the telephone company claimed the exclusive right to "sell" radio time. Under the Communications Act of 1934 "chain" (or network) broadcasting was defined as "simultaneous broadcasting of an identical program by two or more connected stations." The telephone company inaugurated its network broadcasting on January 4, 1923, with a program broadcast simultaneously over WEAJ and WNAC in Boston. Subsequent broadcasts added more stations with a transcontinental network broadcast early in 1924. By the end of 1925, the network was selling time to advertisers over a basic network of 13 stations for \$2,600 an hour.

RCA broadcast its first network program in December of 1923, connecting its stations by Western Union telegraph wires, the phone company being unwilling to provide service for a competitor. Because of the telephone network claiming sole ability to do so, RCA could not charge advertisers.

In 1926, the Telephone Company abruptly withdrew from the broadcasting field by transferring its properties and interests to the "Radio Group," made up of RCA, Westinghouse, and General Electric. For one million dollars RCA then purchased the entire operation in a series of complicated maneuvers that would take several pages to explain. On September 9, 1926, RCA formed the National Broadcasting Company to take over its network broadcasting activities. This became the first national network. NBC then ran a series of newspaper ads in which it was stated that "The Radio Corporation of America is not in any sense seeking a monopoly on the air. It is seeking, however, to provide machinery which will insure a national distribution of programs of the highest quality."

On November 15, 1926, NBC started on the air with a premier broadcast which was billed as a four hour and 25 minute extravaganza of stars. One observer who was there wrote: "I put on my stiff shirt and went down to the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel to attend the inaugural program of the National Broadcasting Company. There were perhaps five hundred other stiff-shirted gentlemen, and as many ladies in evening dress. Down in front was Walter Damrosch with his orchestra, playing the accompaniment for Titta Ruffo, Metropolitan Opera star. Harold Bauer, the famous pianist, came in a few minutes later. Following his performance was a second's pause, and then suddenly, as clear and strong as though the voice were there beside us, the announcer--- 'Ladies and gentlemen: We are in the Drake Hotel, Chicago, in the parlor of Miss Mary Garden. Miss Garden will sing.' And Miss Garden did.


**NOSTALGIA RADIO NEWS**

Complete with **ADVANCE** listings for: **THE SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY**

- THE SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY
- COMEDY'S GOLDEN MOMENTS
- CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATRE
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Another second's pause, and again a different announcer--- "Ladies and Gentlemen! We are now in Independence, Kansas, in the dressing-room of Mr. Will Rogers. Mr. Rogers will speak." And out of the air came the unmistakable tones of Will."

The formation of two separate networks, the Red and the Blue followed just a few weeks later. One of the common stories on how these two chains got their titles was that they were named after the colored phone jacks used by the telephone company for switching. The real reason is just as bizarre. NBC documents tell us that the use of colored pencils to draw network lines on a map gave them their names:

"Although when NBC was formed a single program service was contemplated, the widespread demand for network service led almost immediately to the establishment of a second network on January 1, 1927. NBC engineers named the two networks Red and Blue as a convenience when drafting maps of network coverage. Initially, 25 stations constituted the Red Network, six others the Blue. In actual practice, several of the stations listed as Red were available to supplement the 'basic' stations of either network. By the time the first NBC advertising rate card was published (September 1, 1927) all supplementary stations were listed separately from basic Red and Blue stations, and were offered as an optional adjunct to either network."

One little known fact is that the color tradition continued and later on there were Orange, Green, and Gold networks, as well.

During its first 14 months NBC operated at a loss, but moved into the black and was successfully on its way.

A few years later, NBC was forced to divest itself of the Blue Network, which then became ABC, but we will take that story up in February.

**WNY OTR:** Thanks to Buffalo station WFBO-FM (88.7) for a new regular series featuring OTR. It's called FRIDAY PLAYHOUSE, its host is Marc Chodorow, and it's on the air at 6:30PM Fridays. Marc also plays OTR on his Monday show YOU MUST REMEMBER THIS (formerly KINO EAR), which plays at 9:30PM on Mondays, just after THE GOON SHOW at 9PM. Also on Fridays, at 7:30PM, CEL-AM (740) is airing ESCAPE shows, the SUMMER PLAYHOUSE having vanished with the summer. Now if only WFBO would pick up THE SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY....

**STATIC:** Many, many thanks to Millie Dunworth for doing that super Mae West cover for Memories, Vol. 2, #3. Gorgeous....Let me also take the opportunity to thank all the contributors, past and present, who are responsible for making both Memories and the IP as enjoyable as they are. Thanks very much, everyone....Have any old Edelweiss Beer commercials on tape? The Richard H. Gerdes Advertising company is looking for such for use in a new ad campaign. They'll pay you for your trouble. Apparently, the beer was popular in the Chicago area some years back. Write the Richard H. Gerdes Adver-

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tising, Inc., 310 Insurance Exchange Bldg., Des Moines, Iowa 50309, or phone (515) 243-7628....Member Bruce Rittenhouse is looking for info on the Dolby system. If you can help him, write him at 327 Marquette Drive, Rochester, Michigan 48063....After more than 40 years on Buffalo radio, long time morn-



CLINT BUEHLMAN

ing man Clint Buehlman is off the air. His + last WBEN show was on July 29, and what a + show it was. Clint played the music he + liked, not what some anonymous programmer + decided on. It was terrific. Clint's been + on the radio for 47 years, 34 of them on + WBEN. That must be a record of some sort. + Funny how the demographics people claimed + that no one in the lucrative age brackets + listened to Clint's show, while his adver- + tisers were all more than happy. And when + Clint appeared on John Otto's EXTENSION 55 + call-in show, it sure seemed that a lot of + those callers had young voices. Well, what + can you expect from WBEN anyway? They drop- + ped their CBS affiliation and didn't even + carry that network's anniversary special.... + Also on the CBS front, Walter Cronkite was + named an Honorary Commodore by the Coast + Guard Auxiliary last month....New members

Jim & Myrtis Cotton are looking for TOPPER shows. If you can help, their address is on page two. (I know, this should have gone in Tapespondents, but I forgot.)....Thanks to Al Rockford for dubbing off 4 of his and Don Richardson's SOUNDS OF YESTERDAY shows for the club library. SOY is two hours long, and includes just about two hours worth of OTR. Excellent show....For Torontonians: New member John Pellatt has an audio cable TV show on Fridays from 11PM to Midnight. It's carried on KEEBLE-YORK Cable Television on Channel 10, the community access channel. John reports that the show consists of talk, interviews, music, reports, re-views, and comedy, with OTR being played about every other week. John's looking for broadcast quality shows that would best represent the golden age of radio. His address is on page two if you can help him....Did you know that James Bond nearly made it to radio? Ian Fleming had contracted with ABC Radio to write 52 half-hours of a James Bond radio show for airing in 1965-66 (Remember the spy craze then? I SPY, MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E., etc.). But the project was aborted when Fleming died in 1964. The sample scripts had been altered to short stories and were published as The Spy Who Loved Me collection....It's been suggested that the club print up some bumper stickers. Do you want them? If so, what do you want printed on them? Should they mention the OTRCOB or should they be a general OTR thing, so that we might make money by selling them to non-members? A similar suggestion has been made concerning inserts for tape boxes (you know, to take the place of the usual scraps of paper you write the show titles on). What do you want on them? How large should they be? Should they be 7" square so they'll fit exactly in the tape boxes, or should they be larger so that they can be folded? How do you want the tracks identified? As track 1, track 4, etc., or as Side 1 Left, etc.?

SIGN OFF: I'd like to hear from everyone concerning this new format. Personally, I like it better than the 8 1/2" by 11" format. The originals I'm working with now are larger, so that these 10 pages are really equal to about 12 of the old size. But let's hear from you....Contributions are always welcome. I echo Hy Daley in suggesting that someone write a report on the recent Hickerson convention. And we could use a review of the CBS anniversary show. Indeed, reviews of any and all OTR-related items are solicited. The reviews section was squeezed out of this issue but it'll be back next month. Included will be a look at a couple of new dramatic records that feature Conan the barbarian....Also next month, we'll have advance listings for the CBS RADIO ADVENTURE THEATER. I understand that newspapers generally ignore such listings, so this should be useful to those members who can listen to the show....Member John Wells has written an article on Mel Blanc for next issue and has also sent a snapshot of Mel, which you'll see on the cover....Locust, the science fiction newspaper, reports in their August issue that Watermark Studios is preparing a "Star Wars" radio show. Where is LUX RADIO THEATER, now that we need it?.....

WRITE!! Chuck Seeley, editor, OTRCOB, P.O. Box 119, Kenmore, New York 14217

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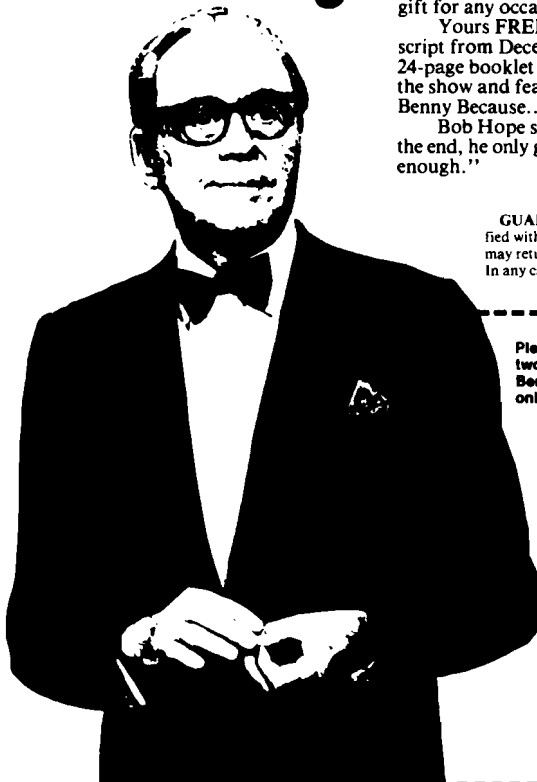
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