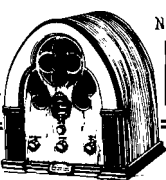


NUMBER 51 NOVEMBER 1980

# Illustrated Press

THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB



SINCE 1975



SIT BACK AND ENJOY

**Groucho Marx**  
*and*  
**Fay McKenzie**  
in *Blue Ribbon Town*  
C. B. S.  
Saturday Night

SIT BACK AND ENJOY

**Blackstone Cigar**  
the choice of successful men

**NEW SIZES!  
NEW SHAPES!  
NEW PLEASURE!**

★ **SOMETHING NEW** has come to town! Blackstone Cigars! All in new streamlined shapes... for your greater smoking pleasure. Filled 100%, as always, with the finest and costliest Havana tobacco grown in Cuba. Extremely mild, yet full flavored. Size and shape for every taste: Perfecto Extra, 3 for 50¢; Cabinet Extra, 15¢; Kings, 15¢; Princess De Luxe, 12¢; Bannan, 2 for 15¢. Enjoy a new Blackstone! Wait & Bond, Inc., Newark, N. J.





### THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB

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# The CRYSTAL EGG



## HY DALEY

In the next few columns of the Crystal Egg, I'd like to rate radio programs and comment on them for collectors. Right off, I want to make clear these are my own reactions to radio shows I have heard. After listening to over 6000 hours of shows, I've formed many opinions of shows, both good and bad. I'd like to rate the shows on a four-point system. One point will be given to shows that are of marginal interest only. This show is not worth the collector's time nor money to collect. Two points will be given to what I term the "average" radio show. It may have some good shows in the series or a particularly good actor/character. Three points will be given to a radio series that is above average. Many shows of the series were outstanding. Four points will be given to a "must" show. This show can be listened to repeatedly. A listener can sit through a 6 hour reel of this show without problems. I invite comments on this rating system. I also hope others send in their opinions of certain shows for future articles. I am rating only shows I have heard.

Abbie's Irish Rose-2. I have listened to six shows in this series circa 1943-44. Such titles as "Writing a Book" and "Scarlet Fever Scare". Mostly an unfunny comedy.

Abbott & Costello Show-3. I have heard ten of these shows.

ABC Documentaries-3. I have only heard one show, "Jimminy Cricket in 1960" (9-8-47). Jimminy looks into the future to see what 1960 will be like. As I remember, the ole cricket missed the mark a few times.

Academy Award Theatre-2. Many of these were great movies, but as half-hour shows they were disappointments. Titles included: "Stage Coach," "The Maltese Falcon," "Young Mr. Lincoln," and "Night Train."

Roy Acuff Show-2. Strictly for the C & W fan or the lover of the old-fashioned cowboy music of the '40s.

Adventures By Morse-3. There

are many diehard Morse fans in OTR. They are good shows, but I find, after listening to a few of these serials, their plots and characters seem to blend and become redundant.

Adventures in Good Music-2.

An AFRS presentation from WJR in Detroit.

Adventure in Research-1. An AFRS educational program.

Adventure Parade-1. A kids' show, retelling the classics-"Treasure Island", "Ivanhoe", for example.

AFRS Playhouse-2. The only program I've heard in this series was "Mary of Scotland", starring Helen Hayes.

Against the System-1. Typical soap opera fare.

Air Stories of the World War-1. 30's program. Only title heard-"The Three Inseparables".

Aladdin Lamp Show with Smilin' Ed O'Connell-2. Smilin' Ed tells stories and sings a bit. Before Froggy the Gremlin.

Aldrich Family-3. I heard twenty or so of these programs. I get a little tired of Henry's parents. Personally, Henry shouldn't be allowed to run around with Homer-poor influence.

All Star Western Theater-3. If you like the "B" western, you'll love this show. Such stars as Tex Ritter, Timmy Wakely, Eddie Dean, Ken Curtis, Tim & Jack Holt, Smiley Burnette, and Johnny Mack Brown star in mini-westerns.

Fred Allen Shows-4. One of the ten best radio shows of all time. Allen's Alley should be enshrined in the Smithsonian. Many others copied his format.

Jimmy Allen-2. This serial of a young aviator can hold your interest. Too bad more chapters were not available.

Steve Allen Show-3. This show came in two formats; a straight variety show, and an interview-type show. One dated 10/26/49 had Al Jolson and Teresa Brewer talking to Steve.

Amazing Mr. Malone-2. One show available: 8/28/48. "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" with Frank Lovejoy is not bad.

American Album of Familiar Music-1. The music is too familiar.

American Challenge-1. WWI propaganda show. 2 titles available; "Lafayette Escadrille" and "Bombers to Britain".

American Family Robinson-1. A strange serial sponsored by a union, as I remember.

American Family Saga-1. Serial type. One show available, 3/13/44, which introduces the Mills family.

American in England-2. War-time drama showing how Americans and Britains got it on together. Circa 1942.

Amos & Andy-4. Never a dull moment with Amos, Andy, Kingfisher, and the whole gang. You can handle this show reel after reel.

Morey Amsterdam Show-2. So-so comedy.

Andrews Sisters-3. Enjoyable show with rousing music and interesting guests. Gabby Hayes added spice as he usually insulted the guest stars.

Archie Andrews-1. The comic strip was far, far funnier than this Saturday morning hotdog.

Answer Man-1. Wrong questions.

Mr. Anthony-1. You think you have trouble!

Corliss Archer-2. A female Henry Aldrich. Corliss comes across as a typical "air-head" female.

Armand Dance-1. One show, 4/11/33, best forgotten.

Armstrong Theater of Today-2. One show heard, "A Woman's Angle", 10/24/42, with Una Merkle. Possible.

Jack Armstrong-3. Best of the "kid serials". By this, I mean a "kid" was the hero. Many copies followed. I wish more chapters were available.

Army Bandstand-2. An AFRS program for Big Band and Pop vocalists of the '40s followed.

Desi Arnaz Show-2. A CBS show. One copy heard, 12/6/42. Latin music without Lucy.

At Ease-1. An AFRS D-J show.  
Attorney at Law-2. One show heard, 8/11/38.

Aunt Jenny-1. Another serial.

Aunt Jemima-1. Where was the NAACP?

Aunt Mary-2. The only reason I gave this a 2 was that I've listened to six-hundred episodes of this show and survived!

Author's Playhouse-2. One show heard, 11/18/42. "He Woke Up Famous" with Marvin Miller.

Gene Autry Show-2. For "B" western fans.

Avalon Time-2. Red Skelton skits on this show are best parts.

Avengers-1. Ghastly copy of the Shadow.

#### TAPE LIBRARY:

LIBRARY RATES: 2400' reel-\$1.25 per month; 1800' reel-\$1.00 per month; 1200' reel-\$.75 per month; cassette-\$ .50 per month. Postage must be included with all orders and here are the rates: for the USA and APO-50¢ for one reel, 25¢ for each additional reel; 25¢ for each cassette. For Canada: \$1.25 for one reel, 75¢ for each additional reel; 75¢ for each cassette. All tapes to Canada are mailed first class.

#### Y-IZZ-IT

Truisms by Bob Davis

Y-IZZ-IT that you always discover your new want list laying on the table after you wrap up the tape for mailing?

Y-IZZ-IT, that when you need a part for your recorder, the shop says the part maker is on strike?

Y-IZZ-IT, that the one time you really depend on an automatic turn on and off, is the time it doesn't work?

Y-IZZ-IT that the show so fondly remembered from your youth is so terribly awful when heard today?

Y-IZZ-IT, that just when you are beginning a big order, your recorders start acting up?

Y-IZZ-IT that, when you are showing off your new cassette deck, it picks just then to devour a tape?

Y-IZZ-IT that the shows you really want on an order you just got in are the poorest in sound?

Y-IZZ-IT that the Christmas shows you ordered in October arrive right after New Years?

Y-IZZ-IT when you buy a piece of equipment that the following week it goes on sale for mucho less?

Y-IZZ-IT that the day after you send a letter asking why your order is taking months and months... the order arrives?

MURPHY'S LAW... When something can possibly go wrong... it will!!!

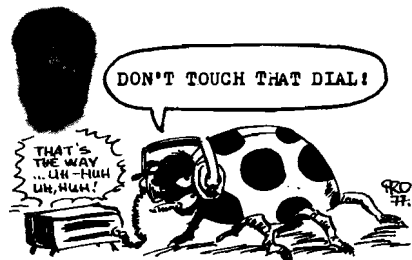
TAPES PONDENTS: Send in your wants and we'll run them here for at least two months.

Patrick Carr, AV Director, Villa Grove Schools, Villa Grove, Illinois 61956.-We are looking for reels or cassettes of the show DEATH VALLEY DAYS. We have a collection of nearly 2,000 radio shows on reels which we would like to trade. Send Catalogue.

Gene Bradford, 19706 Elizabeth St., St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48080.-Wants TOM MIX STRAIGHTSHOOTERS, SKY KING, and JACK ARMSTRONG programs.

D.P. Parisi, 38 Ardmore Place, Buffalo, N.Y. 14213-Selling a major share of my Old Time Radio shows. These are my masters. 1800'-1200' reels. Your choice at \$.50 per reel plus 25¢ per reel postage. Huge catalog \$2.00.

By Daley, 437 So. Center, Corry, PA 16407-Interested in any 2nd generation tapes. Will return same. Comedies, adventure serials, detective.



## JERRY COLLINS

Once again it is time to delve into the days of radio past...

Since the radio audience could not see the actors, it was possible for an actor or actress to play many different parts, sometimes playing more than one part in the same show. The visual aspects of television as well as the greater amount of rehearsal time has brought an end to the days when hard working radio personalities would hurry from one studio to another to play all the parts that they had been hired for. No more will we see an actor like Joe Julian hiring an ambulance to drive him from one studio to another, or paying an elevator operator to wait for him after each show.

I will be devoting my next three columns to some of the famous radio actors and actresses and the parts they played during the Golden Age of Radio.

\* \* \*  
 Matt Crowley played Buck Rogers, Dick Tracy, Jungle Jim, Mark Trail, Paul Drake on Perry Mason, Batman on Superman, Dr. Jim Brent on The Road of Life, as well as parts in Myrt and Marge and Pretty Kitty Kelly.

\* \* \*  
 Ned Weaver starred as Bull-dog Drummond and also Dick Tracy as well as playing in Little Italy, Lora Lawton, Two On a Clue, Betty and Bob, Big Sister, and Her Honor Nancy James.

\* \* \*  
 In addition to many roles on the Jack Benny Show, Mel Blanc was Pancho on the Cisco Kid Show, Pedro and Roscoe Wortle on the Judy Canaya Show, Mel Blanc on the Mel Blanc Show, as well as other characters on the Jack Carson Show, Major Hoople Show, and Point Sublime.

\* \* \*  
 Ed Begley, the famous character actor, was Charlie Chan, Lt. Levinson on Richard Diamond, Detective Dan Britt on Official Detective,

will Brown on the Aldrich Family, as well as parts on the Alan Young Show, Big Sister, The Fat Man, Joyce Jordan Girl Interne and Myrt and Marge.

\* \* \*  
 One of my favorites, House Jameson, played Sam Aldrich, Inspector Douglas Renfrew, filled in as the host on Inner Sanctum, and also found time to play in Crime Doctor, This Day is Ours, and Young Widdier Brown.

\* \* \*  
 For most of us, Staats Cotsworth will always be remembered as Casey, Crime Photographer. He could also be found in other studios as Mark Trail, Dr. John Wayne on Big Sister, David Farrell on Front Page Farrell, Bill Weigand on Mr. and Mrs. North, as well as other parts on Amanda of Honeymoon Hill, Lone Journey, The Man from G-2, The March of Time, The Right to Happiness, The Second Mrs. Burton, and When a Girl Marries.

\* \* \*  
 He was the star of The Amazing Mr. Malone, Murder and Mr. Malone, and one of my favorites, Night Beat. I am of course speaking of one of radio's greatest stars, Frank Lovejoy. He could also have been heard on Brave Tomorrow, Bright Horizon, Calling All Detectives, Gay Nineties Revue, Joyce Jordan Girl Interne, Mr. and Mrs. North, Stella Dallas, This is Your FBI, Theater Guild on the Air, Valiant Lady, We Love, and Young Widdier Brown.

\* \* \*  
 Another one of the real veteran character actors on the radio was Hanley Stafford. Although he played J. C. Dithers on the Blondie Show, he gained his greatest fame as Daddy Higgins on the Baby Snooks Show, Maxwell House Coffee Hour, and the Palmolive Beauty Box Theater.

Until next month, "Goodnight all".

**REFERENCE LIBRARY:** A reference library exists for members. Members should have received a library list of materials with their membership. Only two items can be borrowed at one time, for a one month period. Please use the proper designations for materials to be borrowed. When ordering books include \$1.00 to cover rental, postage, and packaging. Please include \$ .50 for other items. If you wish to contribute to the library the OTRC will copy materials and return the originals to you. See address on page 2.



BY CHUCK SEELEY

Can someone explain to me the fascination a great many OTR fans have for INNER SANCTUM and Raymond Edward Johnson?

INNER SANCTUM is simply a poor show, badly written and entirely predictable. It is fondly remembered, as far as I can determine, mainly because of the creaking door effect and Ray Johnson's (no, not that one, the other one) bad jokes. There must be some reason for the inflated reputation INNER SANCTUM has...bribery?

This year's OTR convention featured an INNER SANCTUM program as one of the live radio shows presented, Raymond reprised his job as host. It was not a very interesting half-hour. Part of the problem was the casting of Bob Prescott Sr. in the lead role. Now Mr. Prescott is a fine old gentleman who tells fascinating anecdotes about his days as a sound effects man, but he will be the first to admit that he's not an actor. Another difficulty was an apparent bad microphone that worked or didn't work, depending on the actor. The high point of the program was Bob Prescott's discovery that his script was missing a page.

INNER SANCTUM was preceded by another live show, this one (the title of which escapes me) narrated by Walter Gibson, creator of the Shadow. This show was of the INNER SANCTUM variety but was better... it was much shorter. Gibson does not have a particularly memorable voice, even when he could be heard.

It may have been an error to schedule two "atmosphere" type shows for the evening's entertainment. Last year's productions of MARK TRAIL and JOHNNY DOLLAR were much more fun, as were 1978's COUNTERSPY and FRONT PAGE FARRELL.

While, for me, the live radio show portion of the 1980 OTRcon was a disappointment, the rest of it was just fine. Talking with other collectors and old friends remains the reason for my attendance at the con. I fell in with the usual crowd, joined this year by Kean Crowe, who didn't know any better. The erudite Dave Heznick won the trivia contest for the second time around; he's entrusted me to mail him the prizes that he couldn't carry on the plane and I will, real soon now, Dave. Jim

Snyder, at one point, refused to sit with us because we were talking about old movies. Gene Bradford walked around, mumbling something about Tom Mix.

As the convention grows, new features are added. Where last year's Friday buffet was just that, plus plenty of sitting and talking, this year's Friday buffet was an Event, with sing-alongs and videotapes. Fortunately, there was a con suite for those who wished to just gab.

Finally, let's have Joe Webb back as MC. Bob Witte has a nice loud voice but that's about it. He managed to end the convention on a really swell note by remarking that this hobby will be gone in a few generations. That outlook must have pleased the guests.

I'll be sorry to see Kean leave as IP editor. I haven't worked for him as much as I told him I would, but he should know how unreliable I am. Anyway, I liked what you did with it, Kean.

((Thanks, Chuck. -Ed.))

RETURN WITH US TO... by Bill Owen 45

LET'S PRETEND



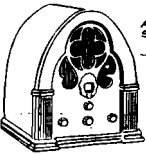
MIRIAM WOLFE PLAYED THE WITCH IN THE STORIES... MARLYN ERSKINE WAS THE FAIRY GODMOTHER.

I'LL GET YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS FOR THAT!

NOT WHILE I'M HERE TO PROTECT THEM FROM YOUR EVIL SCHEMES!

MILA MACK WAS THE CREATOR-DIRECTOR OF RADIO'S LEADING PROGRAM FOR SMALL CHILDREN.

CBS, AS A MATTER OF PRESTIGE, REFUSED FOR YEARS TO PERMIT COMMERCIALS ON LET'S PRETEND. HOWEVER, IN THE 1960'S THEY WERE FINALLY FORCED TO YIELD TO ECONOMIC PRESSURE...



AND SOLD IT TO WHAT BECAME ITS LONG-TIME SPONSOR... CREAM OF WHEAT.

CREAM OF WHEAT IS SO GOOD TO EAT THAT WE HAVE IT EVERY DAY. WE SAYS THIS SCHEM, IT WILL MAKE US STRONG AND IT MAKES US SHOUT HOORAY.

©SHERWOOD AND OWEN 1976

6-20-76

NEW TAPE LIBRARY LISTINGS

h-94 (Donated by Bob Davis)  
1979 OTR Convention at  
Bridgeport, Conn. (10/20/79)  
Includes: Sound Effects workshop  
Acting Workshop  
Shadow Scrapbook  
Joyce Jordan  
Trivia  
Mark Trail  
Johnny Dollar  
Awards Presentation

R-95 (Donated by Ken Krug)  
DRAGNET-all  
"Howard Skully, Dope Peddler"  
10/26/50  
"Guthrie is Killed" 11/16/50  
"Swindlers" 11/23/50  
"Kid Bandits" 1/18/51  
"Band of Drug Smugglers"  
1/25/51  
"TV Repair Racket" 8/9/51  
"Anne Johnson, Parolee" 3/9/50  
"Newborn Baby Disappears"  
11/9/50  
"Fake Talent Scouts" 12/7/50  
"George Hoffman, Holdup Man"  
12/14/50  
"A Gun for Christmas" 12/21/50  
"Holdup Man Beats Victims"  
1/4/51

R-96 (Donated by Ken Krug)  
DRAGNET-all  
"Mrs. Benim is Shot" 6/8/50  
"Purse Snatcher" 6/15/50  
(1st Anniversary show.)  
"Alice Cribber is Murdered"  
6/22/50  
"Human Bomb" 7/13/50 (with  
Richard Boone)  
"Frank Chaney: Robber, Killer"  
7/27/50  
"Missing Officer: Eugene Brewer"  
8/24/50  
"Small Business Check Forger"  
8/31/50  
"Old Couple Disappears"  
9/7/50  
"Bakery Robbed, Man and Daughter  
Shot" 9/14/50  
"Little Girl Reports Stolen  
Furniture" 9/21/50  
"Charles Stone wants his Wife  
Killed" 9/28/50  
"Burglar Poses as a Doctor"  
10/12/50

NOTE

OTRC member Bob Angus has made the big time. He writes a regular column for the monthly national magazine, VIDEO REVIEW. Our congratulations, Bob. Sorry we didn't mention it earlier.



## Maisie's in town!

... Hollywood's Ann Sothern to you ...  
bringing to radio the same beautiful-and-not-  
the-least dumb personality of her MGM movie  
role ... beginning today and ...

Every Sunday Afternoon at 3

# WARC. 950

*on your dial*  
"The Adventures of Maisie" is the brightest,  
fastest-moving half-hour all Sunday long.  
Maisie gets in and out of trouble with equal  
speed. A hilarious 30 minutes for the whole  
family.

Brought your way by

ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICE  
ROCHESTER GAS **R G E** and ELECTRIC



Tonight at 8:30

## The Adventures of Sam Spade

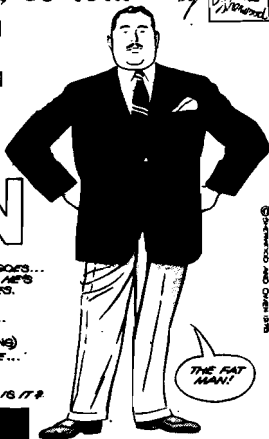
radio's famous sleuth  
capers with cops and criminals

# WHAM

6-27-76

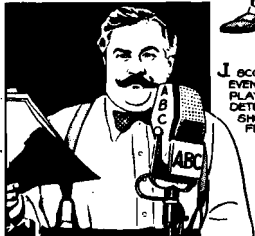
RETURN WITH US TO...

# THE FAT MAN



by Bill Lower  
Duff  
46

WOMAN'S VOICE: THERE HE GOES... INTO THAT DRUGSTORE, HE'S STEPPING ON THE SCALES. (CLINK OF A COIN)  
WOMAN'S VOICE: WEIGHT... 237 POUNDS.  
(SOUND OF CARD DROPPING)  
WOMAN'S VOICE: FORTUNE... DANGEROUS!  
(MUSICAL STING)  
WOMAN'S VOICE: WHOOOO IS IT?



J. SCOTT SMART, WHO WEIGHED EVEN MORE THAN THE FAT MAN, PLAYED THE DASHIELL HAMMETT DETECTIVE THROUGHOUT THE SHOW'S RUN ON RADIO FROM 1946-52.



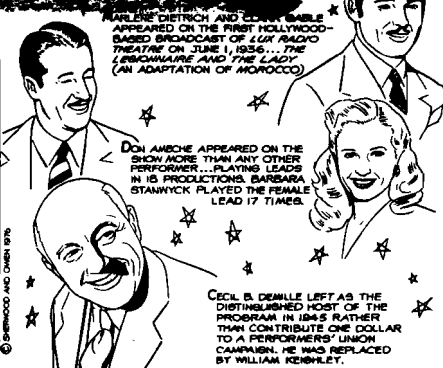
ED BOBBLEY HAD A FEATURED ROLE IN THIS TOP RADIO THRILLER.

RETURN WITH US TO...

# LUX RADIO THEATRE

by Bill Lower  
Duff  
46

THIS POPULAR PROGRAM BEGAN IN 1934 OVER NBC BLUE AND FEATURED HOUR-LONG ADAPTATIONS OF BROADWAY PLAYS STARRING BROADWAY PERFORMERS. THE SHOW ORIGINATED IN NEW YORK UNTIL 1936 WHEN THE SPONSOR TRANSFERRED IT TO HOLLYWOOD. FROM THEN ON IT FEATURED RADIO ADAPTATIONS OF MOTION PICTURES, SOMETIMES WITH THE SAME ACTORS WHO PLAYED THE FILM RÔLES.



DON AMECHE APPEARED ON THE SHOW MORE THAN ANY OTHER PERFORMER...PLAYING LEADS IN HIS PRODUCTIONS. BARBARA STANWYCK PLAYED THE FEMALE LEAD 17 TIMES.

CECIL B. DEMILLE LEFT AS THE DISTINGUISHED HOST OF THE PROGRAM IN 1945 RATHER THAN CONTRIBUTE ONE DOLLAR TO A PERFORMERS' UNION CAMPAIGN. HE WAS REPLACED BY WILLIAM KEENELEY.

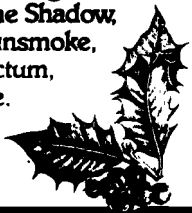


## The Golden Days Of Radio

An exciting, eleven-hour holiday experience in nostalgia, bringing back such old-time radio favorites as: The Shadow, Fred Allen, Abbott & Costello, Boston Blackie, Gunsmoke, Fibber McGee & Molly, Henry Aldrich, Inner Sanctum, Duffy's Tavern, Jack Benny and many, many more.

Starting 9:00 am tomorrow

WEBRnewsradio970







**Wheaties' All-American Boy**

**Evolution of a Radio Hero**

By P.M. CLEPPER  
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

*"Wave the flag for Hudson High, boys,  
"Show them how we stand ...  
"Ever challenging, we champions,  
"Known throughout the land — rah! rah!"*

THAT WAS THE theme song for the radio series, "Jack Armstrong, All-American Boy."

People who can't remember what they saw on television two nights back can recall that song from hearing it decades ago.

"Jack Armstrong" played an important part in radio history, and also in the history of General Mills, which had him created and for which he sold Wheaties from 1933 to 1961.

In 1929, General Mills launched what author James Gray in his book "Business Without Boundaries," describes as "the first well-planned merchandising effort to speak directly to the child as the ultimate consumer of a ready-to-eat cereal, to create a child bloc among customers."

The method for doing this was to present a radio program that would appeal to kids, who would get the advertising message, and presumably apply pressure on parents to buy the product for them.

The show was "Skippy," a radio version of a popular comic strip. The term didn't come into usage but it

could have been called a "cereal opera," as "soap opera" was used to designate the day-time series aimed at housewives and which had many soap sponsors — Procter & Gamble is still No. 1 in that field — but also paid for by the makers of flour, beauty preparations, patent medicines and the like.

"Skippy" improved Wheaties sales, but it was also troublesome for General Mills. The man who created "Skippy," Percy Crosby, was very protective of his meal ticket and wanted control over what his tiny boy hero was shown doing. Also, some parents objected to the very young hero, Skippy, having dangerous adventures.

General Mills didn't want to alienate any of its audience, so decided to have a hero who was a bit older.

THIS FIT in well with another problem: How to reach an audience of somewhat older consumers to whom "The Breakfast of Champions" would appeal.

And thus we come to the creation of "Jack Armstrong."

The name Jack Armstrong was only arrived at after a search. The advertising agency offered such names for the young hero as "Red Jones." Sam Gale, a young General Mills Executive, asked for response, "and found it wanting. 'Red' might identify any sort of boy from an eccentric to a juvenile delinquent."

What was needed, he felt, "was a name that would somehow suggest courage, resourcefulness, ambition, and imagination."

So Gale himself came up with it: Jack Armstrong was the name of a boy whom he had known as a young neighbor in Minneapolis.

The fictional Jack began as a high school student in the town of Hudson. His best friends were Billy and Betty Fairfield, offspring of Jack's Uncle Jim. For 15 minutes each afternoon, their activities centered on sports.

Soon the playing field wasn't enough for adventure. Uncle Jim, who owned an airplane factory, came into the picture (so to speak, this being radio) and soon Jack, Uncle Jim, Billy and Betty were roaming the world, usually to save it from bad people.

Unlike some radio characters, Jack was allowed to grow up. Gray states that "Psychanalysts were summoned as consultants to guide him wisely through the mazes of adolescence. A succession of able writers helped him to mature sensibly until he emerged as a young scientist with a genuinely creative turn of mind. Indeed, Jack Armstrong of the air managed during World War II to anticipate so many advances in the science of weapons that the United States government felt obliged, finally, to step in for security reasons and censor the program."

## THE WORD FROM THE BIRD

First, the apology. I'm about a week late with this (more like a week-and-a-half now), the fault is my own. Since the same personal problems that cause such things are going to continue, I am quitting just in time. Getting this last one out has been tougher than I thought. The page count is still twelve, maybe the new editor can put it back up to the old standard of sixteen. Once again I ask that you help him out, this is not as easy as it looks. Those who supported my efforts should continue to support Dick Olday in this post, and those who didn't care for my work should hopefully find something more to their liking when Dick takes over next issue. I personally feel that the ILLUSTRATED PRESS is the most important feature of the Old Time Radio Club and, if you value the club, you should support it, not only by reading it, but by sending in your ideas and comments about it.

It has been an active eighteen months for the OTRC while I have been editor. We have weathered financial problems, personality conflicts, loss of columns and columnists, mailing difficulties, banquets, picnics, and conventions. A couple issues of the IP were lost along the way, but such things happen sometimes—we must look ahead. The club seems to be pretty well settled lately, no major problems besides the absence of MEMORIES and articles for the IP. A great concern in members' minds is are they getting their thirteen dollars worth. Considering what does get done and what services are available, I have to say that the answer should be yes. There may be other organizations that can offer more on a surface level, but I feel the OTRC responds to its members pretty well and gives them a good buy. A lot depends on what you're looking for and what you are willing to put into it.

It has been an interesting experience. I learned that I could do this sort of thing on a regular basis and put it on an even keel. I kept pretty tight to my own self imposed schedule, and I feel proud about that. I could not do it alone, of course, I have to thank the nice folks who assisted in making this less a chore than I thought it might be. Thanks to the regulars: Jim, Hy, and Jerry; to Alf Walle, George Klos and Frank Amico for their contributions; to the good folks I met at the OTR con—especially Dave Reznick, Gene Bradford, and Jim Snyder; to the locals including Norm Giesler, Ray Oliveri, Pete Bellanca and the Simpsons; to Millie for the printing; to Ed Wanat for the use of his basement; more thanks to our fearless leader Jerry Collins; to Bob Davis, who happens to be a very pleasant travelling companion; to Dom Parisi, who is the true backbone of the OTRC; and special thanks to my ma for surrendering the dining room table to my typewriter; and very special thanks to my good friend, Chuck Seeley, who got me into this mess in the first place.

I leave for personal reasons I can't explain, but Angelique has waited for me too long. Happy trails—KFC.



"Say goodnight, Gracie." Burns and Allen are joined by great radio stars, including Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, and Jack Benny in "Great Radio Comedians," a look (and listen) at the golden age of radio comedy.

# ILLUSTRATED PRESS <sup>#51</sup>

## SPECIAL CRAYON ISSUE

THIS IS FOR ALL THE MEMBERS WHO FAIL TO READ EDITORIAL NOTES, OR JUST DON'T BOTHER WITH THE NEWSLETTER AT ALL. YOU MISSED A NICE FREE GIFT AND SOME GOOD READING. OBVIOUSLY, YOU DON'T DESERVE A QUALITY NEWSLETTER. THIS SPECIAL IS FOR YOU. (KFC-ED.)



OLD TIME RADIO CLUB  
POST OFFICE BOX 119  
KENMORE, N.Y. 14217

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Al Inkster (G)  
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