
ILLUSTRATED PRESS

EST. 1975

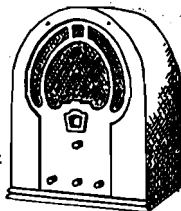
OCTOBER 1988
ISSUE # 145



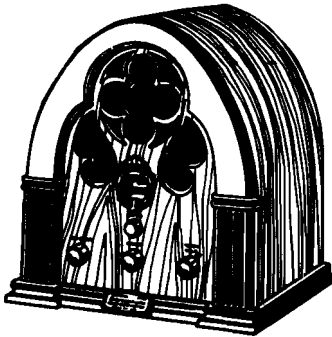
Mel Blanc, with buddy Bugs Bunny

AP

THE OLD TIME



RADIO CLUB



**THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Club dues are \$17.50 per year from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Members receive a tape listing, library list, a monthly newsletter (THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS), an annual magazine (MEMORIES), and various special items. Additional family members living in the same household as a regular member may join the club for \$5.00 per year. These members have all the privileges of regular members but do not receive the publications. A junior membership is available to persons 15 years of age or younger who do not live in the household of a regular member. This membership is \$12.00 per year and includes all the benefits of a regular membership. Regular membership dues are as follows: If you join in January, dues are \$17.50 for the year; February, \$17.50; March, \$15.00; April, \$14.00; May, \$13.00; June, \$12.00; July, \$10.00; August, \$9.00; September, \$8.00; October \$7.00; November \$6.00; and December, \$5.00. The numbers after your name on the address label are the month and year your renewal is due. Reminder notes will be sent. Your renewal should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing issues. Please be certain to notify us if you change your address.

OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIPS are now available Annual dues are \$29.50. Publications will be air mailed.

THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS is a monthly newsletter of THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB headquartered in Buffalo, NY. Contents except where noted, are copyright 1988 by the OTRC. All rights are hereby assigned to the contributors. Editor:

Published since 1975. Printed in U.S.A. Cover designed by Eileen Curtin.

CLUB ADDRESSES: Please use the correct address for the business you have in mind. Return library materials to the library addresses..

NEW MEMBERSHIP DUES:
Jerry Collins
56 Christen Ct.
Lancaster, NY 14086
(716) 683-6199

ILLUSTRATED PRESS: (Letters, columns, etc.) & OTHER CLUB BUSINESS:
Richard A. Olday
100 Harvey Drive
Lancaster, NY 14086
(716) 684-1604

REFERENCE LIBRARY:
Ed Wanat
393 George Urban Blvd.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CHANGE OF ADDRESS
Pete Bellanca
1620 Ferry Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
(716) 773-2485

TAPE LIBRARIES: REELS
James R. Steg
1741 Kensington Avenue
Cheektowaga, NY 14215

CASSETTES-VIDEO & AUDIO, RECORDS
Dominic Parisi
38 Ardmore Place
Buffalo, NY 14213
(716) 884-2004

CANADIAN BRANCH:
Richard Stimpson
960 - 16 Rd., R.R. 3
Fenwick, Ontario LOS 1C0

BACK ISSUES: All MEMORIES and I.P.s are \$1.25 each, postpaid. Out of print issue may be borrowed from the reference library.

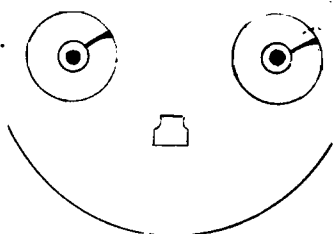
Dominic Parisi
38 Ardmore Pl.
Buffalo, NY 14213

The Old Time Radio Club meets the FIRST Monday of the month (September through June) at 393 George Urban Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY. Anyone interested in the "Golden Age of Radio" is welcome to attend and observe or participate. Meetings start 7:30 p.m.

DEADLINE FOR IP: 10th of each month prior to the month of publication.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR MEMORIES:
\$50.00 for a full page (ALL ADS MUST BE CAMERA READY)
\$34.00 for a half page

SPECIAL: OTR Club members may take 50% off these rates.
Advertising Deadline - September 1.



REEL-LY SPEAKING

This past summer has been very good for our radio club. We have received dozens of cassettes to add to our tape library. I will be sorting and listing these in future issue of the I.P.. Keep Tuned In! A sample of what coming: WEIRD CIRCLE, HAUNTING HOUR, THE SAINT, SUPERMAN, HERCULE POIROT, MAGNIFICENT MONTAGUE, NERO WOLF, CHARLOTTE GREENWOOD SHOW, WHATEVER BECAME OF... and so on, and so on.

More packages came today! Fifty-six (56) more cassettes donated to the club by JACK MANDIK. Thanks again Jack. JACK SAID THAT MORE ARE ON THE WAY!!! With all these new shows coming in I guess I better start listing again.

Here is a selection to add to your listing. As I mentioned earlier, these will be included in our next supplement.

- C908-THE SHADOW-Shadow Returns 11/19/39 Sandhog Murders 11/26/39
- C909-THE SHADOW-Legend of Crown Shield Castle
- Terror a Wolfshhead Knoll
- C-110-THE FALCON-Dirty Dollar 6/19/52 Vanishing Visa 6/19/52
- C-911-THE CISCO KID-Gunman for Hire, Hondo Boys, \$5,000 Reward
- C-912-WILD BILL HICKOCK-Danger Down the River, Bullets from Nowhere, Bank Books and Hot Heads
- C-913-VOYAGE OF THE SCARLET QUEEN- Spaniard and the Laskar Pirates, Boston Geisha and Chesapeake Bay, Lily in the Chimolpo Bar
- C-914-VOYAGE OF THE SCARLET QUEEN-Courtship of Anna May Lamour, Shore Leave & the Unhappy Wife, Fat Trader & The Sword of Apokaejiam
- C-915-VOYAGE OF THE SCARLET QUEEN-Bubble Dancer & the Buccaneers, Pegleg Skipper & the Iberian Blade, Rocky III & the Deadman's Chest
- C-916-VOYAGE OF THE SCARLET QUEEN-The Derelict & the Wandering Boy, Fang Rubies & the Black Siamese, Ambitious Hostess on South Bride Road
- C-917-MR. & MRS. NORTH-The Missing Sparkler, Who Killed Mr. Stefano?

SPECIAL NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Our reel to reel library is being split. James. R. Steg will handle reels 1-600 until a replacement can be found. Please note our new reel librarian for reels 601 and higher: Thomas Harris, 9565 Wehrle Drive, Clarence NY 14031 Phone: (716)759-8401. Interested parties wanted to assume librarian duties for reels 1-600, contact Old Time Radio Club.

Jim Ameche Recalls Role

Jack Armstrong, Real Blast From the Past

By JAY SHARBUTT
Associated Press Television Writer

NEW YORK — A real blast from the past blew into town this week — Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy. The original Jack Armstrong from the golden days of radio.

But it took no secret decoder ring to learn his true identity.

Jim Ameche, 59, readily admitted he played the apple-cheeked, clean-living, globe-trotting hero of Hudson High from 1933, when the daily series began, until 1939, when he left the show for a new series.

ODDLY ENOUGH, he says, the millions who followed Jack's adventures each weekday never were told by the sponsor or the radio network (CBS, then NBC) that the younger brother of actor Don Ameche played Jack.

They always kept the identity of Jack Armstrong a secret to heighten interest in the series," he laughed, adding that even he didn't know who succeeded him as the series continued until 1961.

"Nobody ever knew I was Jack Armstrong when I was on the show. Even the picture they released was a composite. There was an unwritten law against revealing who played Jack."

Ameche, who now lives and does commercials in Nashville, Tenn., after years of radio work here and in Los Angeles, said he was an 18-year-old kid fresh out of high school when tapped to play Jack Armstrong.

A NATIVE of Kenosha, Wis., he said General Mills, the show's sponsor, had held auditions throughout the Midwest for the part. He said he gave it a try and got the job, even though he'd never worked in radio before.

"I guess I had a natural bent for that kind of thing," said Ameche, adding that his prior experience consisted of high school debating and acting. He said he was hired to play Armstrong for \$50.50 a week and did two live shows five days a week, from Chicago.

★ TONIGHT ★
JIMMY
DURANTE
GARDY
MOORE
CAMEL CIGARETTES

WIBX
10 P.M.

12/3/93

Wireless Wanderings



JIM SNYDER

There are a couple of "consumer" items that I would like to deal with this time. First is what to do when you feel that you are not satisfied with what you have received from one of the OTR dealers of tapes and cassettes. Over the years I have made actual purchases from 73 different dealers of this material. I have found most to be honest and upright. There have been a few that I have considered truly outstanding and a few that have been fraudulent in their operation. There has been a wide price difference charged by these dealers, and price has not always been indicative of quality. While some who charge a rather high price deliver new and high quality material, others are frankly ripping you off. On the other hand, a few of the inexpensive dealers put out excellent products, but again some send you such terrible material that it is unusable and must be thrown away. There is no bargain in that, no matter how low the price. I would suggest that you place small orders with an assortment of different dealers until you find one that has the material you want, in good quality, at a price that you want to pay, and that you feel is dependable. I suggest starting with small orders because if you do have a bad experience the amount of money lost won't be so great. Otherwise your aggravation would tend to drive you from the hobby, particularly if you are a beginner.

If you do feel that you have been "victimized," there are a number of avenues open to you, and you should certainly pursue all of them. When you reach the stage where you receive no satisfaction from the dealer, you should write a letter of complaint, including full documentation, to: Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection (MO-P), Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC. 20580. This is the consumer's "watchdog" agency of the Federal Government. Admittedly they get so many complaints on so many things, that they cannot investigate them all. But they will start a file on this dealer with your letter, or add your letter to an already existing file on him. If, in the time they receive enough complaints they will follow through. If you have problems with purchases made at some kind of show or convention, you should

write full details to whoever administers that show. They are, of course, concerned with your good will and may be able to help you resolve the problem. If not, it would not be unreasonable to expect them to take some action against the dealer, such as prohibiting him from future shows, if there are enough complaints. If your purchases have involved the U.S. mail in any way, and you feel that you can establish "fraud," then you should contact your local postal inspector. My local post office is large enough that I am always able to get right in to see an inspector, without an appointment. "Walk-in's" are fine. If you live in a smaller community, however, you may have to set up an appointment through your local postmaster. The inspectors do make regular visits to all post offices, no matter how small. You will need full documentation, including copies of orders, correspondence, and cancelled checks, to prove your claim. Finally, if you receive something from the dealer that includes profanity, or threats of physical violence, you should run to the postal inspector just as fast as you can get there.

The other item that I would like to discuss is that a couple of time, in these pages, you have been encouraged to buy reel-to-reel tapes that are "seconds," at an extremely attractive price. I want to state up front that I have not tried any of these tapes, but I would encourage to you use great caution in purchasing them, and to buy them in very small numbers until you have had a chance to try them out. The price, no matter how low, is no bargain if you must throw them all out. Here is the reason for my concern. These are the "used" government tapes. Most dealers offer these reels "unchecked." That is, they have not been inspected. The price is attractive. They also offer "hand inspected" reels that are supposed to be free from defects. This second category of tape comes at a higher price. I always buy this "hand inspected" tape. I have done so, I think, from all the big dealers in the country, and a number of the smaller ones. As soon as I get a box of "inspected" tape, I check each and every reel myself and I always throw out thirty to forty percent of these tapes, from every box, from every dealer. And I am not as fussy as some others, as one collector tells me that he throws out a full fifty percent that are defective. In spite of discarding so many, I still find this category of tape to be a bargain, so I am not complaining on this issue. Why by the way, must I throw them out? The overwhelming problem is a wrinkled edge, along one side of the tape. I don't know why so many are wrinkled, but I

suspect because they have been stored laying flat in some hot government warehouse. This wrinkled edge causes sound problems. The volume goes up and down as the wrinkles lift up off the heads. Sometimes, if the wrinkle is severe it causes complete dropouts of sound. Now, if I find this many tapes that are defective from those that the dealer "hand inspected" and found to be "problem free," then it stands to reason that the one that he did catch, and that he is selling as "seconds," will have much greater problems. Once again, I haven't check out any of these "seconds", but would encourage you to do so very carefully, before spending any great amount of money on them

A Special Service For Club Members Only

WANTED: Photographs, preferably glossy, of any of the following radio actors: Richard Leland, John Brown, Griff Barnett, Parker Fennelly.

Willing to pay

Mickey C. Smith
School of Pharmacy
University, MS. 38677

WANTED: Radio Tapes Wanted: The Kraft Music Hall program of 12/11/47 (Al Jolson as host and violinist Yehudi Menuhin as guest). The Fred Allen fued with Jack Benny in which a young boy plays "The Bee" on the violin (date??). The Jack Benny program in which Jack reciprocates and plays "The Bee". The Sekretary Hawkins "Ghost of Lake Tapaho" episodes (Ralston Purina Sponsoring). The Fiorello LaGuardia (major of New York City) tribute to Nikola Tesla over WNYC on Jan. 10, 1943. Any programs featuring famous violinists.

Harry Goldman
RR6 Box 181
Glens Falls, N.Y.
12801



JACK SMITH SHOW 7:15 P. M.

Binch Shore teams up with Jack Smith to bring you song bits of today and not so long ago. Tune in every Monday through Friday!

And Don't Miss:

- 4:00—Good News
- 4:15—MacMillan, Sports
- 4:30—Journal of the Air
- 4:45—Lowell Thomas
- 7:00—Beulah
- 7:30—Club 13
- 7:45—Edward R. Murrow
- 8:00—FBI in Peace & War
- 8:30—Mr. Kona
- 9:00—Suspense
- 9:30—Hallmark Playhouse
- 11:00—D & C News

FBI in Peace and War ★

8:30 P. M. A returning veteran helps the FBI to break up cheap and petty rackets which have victimized his family and friends.

Andre Kostelanetz ★

9:00 P. M. Tonight's guest is an old friend, until lately Major LANNY ROSS, now returned to civilian life to sing the songs you love.

Hobby Lobby ★

9:30 P. M. Among the hobbyists visiting tonight is the lovely and exotic MERLE OBERON.

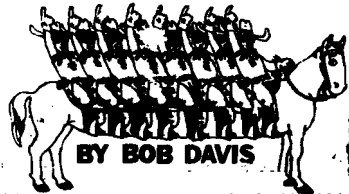
Powder Box Theater ★

10:30 P. M. Songs by EVELYN KNIGHT and DANNY O'NEIL . . . a dramatic sketch by JIM AMECHE and screen star ELLEN DREW.

For other WKSW programs see complete listings elsewhere on this page.

SAY!

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?



Please do not think that the club or I am ungrateful for the generous donations that are made to the club library. The library exists only because of the many people that have given shows so that others may benefit from it.

The reason that I say ungrateful is that my following statement might be read as such and, believe me, it is not meant to be so.

Recently an unknown source gave the library dozens of cassettes with some very good and generally uncirculated shows on them. It could have been a fantastic gift if not for a couple of things.....

First, they were dubbed with a mike. The originals were obviously in very good to excellent sound. The dubbings, because of being mike recorded, are at best good to good plus. It's a shame because the shows are good ones.

Second, the openings and closing and most of the middle commercials have all been edited out leaving the story only. This too is a shame because the donor took pains to do the edits probably thinking that he/she was enhancing the shows. Unfortunately the reverse was accomplished.

The Old Time Radio Club is always appreciative of any donations to the club library. These shows will go into it and will probably get much use. To the unknown donor...our thanks, the shows are most welcome but please, in the future, don't edit the material and try not to dub with a mike. A patch cord is easier and the sound produced usually equals the original.

Well, the OTR Convention looms in the very near future and, once again, ol' Bob cannot make it (at least as this is written) but the Old Time Radio Club will be well represented. When you spot a name card with the Club's name on it why not stop and talk over things with the person wearing it. This way some of you who are reluctant to write to us with compliments or complaints can make your thoughts known to us and we

can try to act on them. This is your club, let us know what you think of it.

After years of searching I am still looking for a show broadcast ten or fifteen years ago on a southern California station that, in War of the Worlds style, enacts what would happen if the San Andreas Fault finally let loose. This show was broadcast but I seem to be the only one that ever heard of it. Any help would be appreciated.

What happened to Suspense? "New" ones were popping up every once in a while but for the last few years - nothing! Nothing at all! Com'on fellas, break loose with a few more. Some of us are starving for some new one. The same goes for Escape.

How come my Jack Benny Shows from the 30's are crystal clear buy my Johnny Dollar shows from the early 60's are all muddy? This is technical progress? Go figure....

I've asked this in the past and never got an answer so I'll ask it again. It's been asked of me and I honestly don't know. The question is...Is there a listing of OTR shows that are in the Public Domain and how can one go about getting a copy of that list? Surely Michaelson doesn't own EVERYTHING! ...or does he?

See ya next time.

TAPE LIBRARY RATES: 2400' reel - \$1.50 per month; 1800' reel - \$.25 per month; 1200' reel - \$1.00 per month; cassette and records - \$.50 per month; video cassette - \$1.25 per month. Postage must be included with all orders and here are the rates: For the U.S.A. and APO, \$.60 for one reel, \$.35 for each cassette and record; \$.75 for each video tape.

CANADIAN BRANCH: Rental rates are the same as above, but in Canadian funds. Postage: Reels 1 Or 2 tapes \$1.50; 3 or 4 tapes \$1.75. Cassettes: 1 or 2 tapes \$.65; for each additional tape add \$.25.

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 \$2.00 to cover rental, postage, and packaging. Please include \$1.00 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.

FU MANCHU: SATAN'S
EMISSARY ON THE AIR

BY Ken Weigel

UNTHINKABLE HORRORS

"The Shadow of Fu Manchu" stuck to a tried-and-true serial formula (a) A gifted vigilante battles (b) a huge criminal organization directed by (c) an evil genius, whose warped ambitions bring about (d) unthinkable horrors. In that regard it was typical of the serials that were all over the dial in the thirties.

What set the yellow mufti of malice apart from the common run of serial villains were his homicidal tendencies and total depravity. (His instruments of torture included scorpions, death adders, lobotomized baboon men, poisonous gas, etc.) Add to that his skill at deception and you have the perfect model of sadistic rottenness. (He once killed an attache to the British Embassy with a rose, by means of a hollow thorn concealed among the petals. The thorn was filled with poison). To be sure, The Scorpion, Ivan Shark, Roxor, Killer Kane, Dr. Zhapato and The Octopus all had their lunatic moments on radio. But Fu belongs more to the category of flesh and blood fiends. He could have been sired by Torquemada, and Hitler might have been his alter ego. By comparison, the Borgias were strictly canned goods.

"The Shadow of Fu Manchu" was heard three time a week in quarter-hour segments for six month. The cast included Hanley Stafford and Gale Gordon as Smith and Dr. Petrie, with Paula Winslowe, Ted Osborne, Frank Nelson and Norman Fields in supporting roles. Gerald Mohr narrated. Technically, the series was the picture of low-budget simplicity. Sound effects were kept to a minimum. A gong clashing, ala "Lights Out," was used to bridge the scenes and punctuate dangers, and a tense Oriental theme opened and closed the show.

The dates of its airing--May 8 - November 1, 1939--are variable. According to Ray Stanich, who supplied much of the groundwork for this article, the shows were transcribed and rebroadcast in other locales on different dates. In New York, for example, the series began airing in March.

At least the first 39 broadcasts are in circulation. They were adapted from three of Rohmer's novels: "The Insidious Dr. Fu Manchu" (episodes #1-21),

"The Hand of Fu Manchu" (#22-27), and "The Return of Dr. Fu Manchu."

In August 1944, Mollie Mystery Theatre aired a single adaptation of Fu Manchu mystery on NBC. Aside from that, "The Shadow of Fu Manchu" seems to have been Fu's last appearance on radio.

(The author would like to hear from anyone who has information about the "Junior G Men" serial starring the East Side Kids. Write % Illustrated Press).


Ken Weigel

**Radio's Biggest
"Twin Bill" Tonight!**



Biggest-Money Show!
**"BREAK
THE BANK"**
with **BERT PARKS**
WBEN—9 P. M.

Action—mystery—
drama!
**"MR.
DISTRICT
ATTORNEY"**
WBEN—9:30 P. M.



Tune in from 9 to 10 tonight and every Wednesday night!

TONIGHT AT 9:00



—dial CBS 950 • WIBX
LIFE WITH LUIGI

Old-Time Radio Fans!

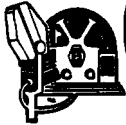
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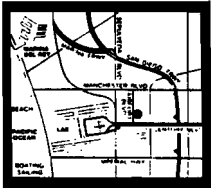
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PEOPLE

AUGUST 1, 1988
The Saginaw **NEWS**



Saginaw junior high counselor becomes librarian of taped history

by Maggie Rositer

No matter where he travels, James L. Snyder tunes into "home" with a twist of the knob on his radio.

Listening to the banter of "Amos 'n' Andy" and "Fibber McGee and Molly" on American Armed Forces Radio Services soothed Snyder's homesickness during the late '60s and early '70s when he worked as a counselor at a school for dependent American military and civilian personnel at the U.S. Army installation at Sapporo, Japan. Those same shows proved to be a comfort when he was stationed at the American Embassy in Bonn, West Germany from 1970-72.

He felt indebted. Snyder was hooked on preserving old-time radio since he returned from foreign service in 1972. He has duplicated more than 19,000 radio programs and has approximately 1,600 tapes in his collection.

"There are only a few thousand collectors around the country," Snyder said. "I read about them in Time magazine and joined the group."

A member of two national radio collectors clubs — Old Time Radio Club in New York and North American Radio Archives in California — Snyder also writes for several hobby-related publications including the Old Time Radio Digest and Illustrated Press.

"I've traded with 20 or 30 people over the years," said Snyder, snapping a tape into the reel-to-reel recorder he uses to make reproductions.

"I'm trading with people, so I'm copying all the time." The radio tapes fill dozens of shelves in a spare bedroom. Snyder logs each program he records, documenting the series, title, date of broadcast, network and he adds a notation on the quality of the sound.

Through the years, numerous radio fans, including some performers, have contacted him for information or reproductions of specific shows.

One follower requested a copy of a program from the "Gun-smoke" series about a young boy who murdered his father.

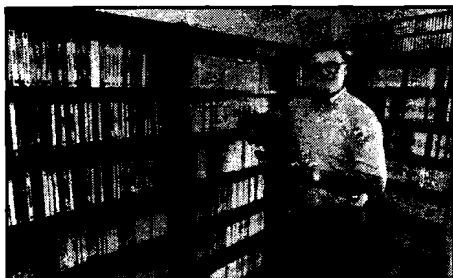
"There are several hundred programs in that series," said Snyder, who flipped through the pages of his journal to locate the specific broadcast.

"I found it and sent it to him. He wrote back to tell me he was the little kid," Snyder said.

Some of the radio broadcasts have piqued his students' interests through the years.

Before his Japanese assignment, Snyder was an English teacher and counselor at Saginaw High School for four years.

During literature classes, he used taped portions of BBC



News Staff/ Michael Robb

James L. Snyder with his collection of radio shows

(British Broadcasting Corp.) broadcasts to teach "The Diary of Anne Frank."

"When we hit the portion of the book that mentions the BBC radio broadcasts, I played the tapes for the class. The kids really liked that."

Now that Snyder, 53, is a counselor at South Junior High School, his tapes are stored for personal use.

"I really like the documentaries," he said. "I have six continuous hours of the CBS D-Day invasion of France and six hours of the coronation of King George of England. The coronation isn't that great but the music is fantastic."

He has listened to all 19,000 shows at least once.

"After I retire, I'm sure I'll listen to them again. I have cassettes in my car. When I'm traveling, I play some of my favorites," he said.

"I don't watch much television. I usually listen to old radio tapes. I might listen to five or six shows in an evening."

A seasoned traveler, Snyder has visited all 50 states and numerous foreign countries. He carries a shortwave radio that carries broadcasts of the "Voice of America," a radio service to foreign lands.

In 1981, when air traffic controllers went on strike while he was in China, the practice was extremely helpful.

"We didn't know whether or not planes were flying," he said. "I felt like Tom Brokaw everywhere I went because I was delivering the news to Americans."

...SUPERSTARRING...

The One and Only **AL JOLSON**...so prodigiously talented he burned himself out on two careers in one lifetime... a man so arrogantly cocksure of himself that he'd stop a Broadway show in the middle to ask the audience if they wanted him or the show. There never was any question. Invariably, they chose him!



THE WHISPERER

The Whisperer is Puffy Galt, a man who makes danger his business. Carleton Young stars.

5:00 P. M.



NOW HEAR THIS

Thrilling and stirring yarns of greatest singing men and women.

5:30 P. M.



Orson Welles spread fear throughout America (inset) with his 1938 "War of the Worlds" broadcast.

Radio Script That Stirred Panic About Mars to Be Aired Again

By RICK HAMPSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Veteran broadcaster Douglas Edwards had some bad news to announce Wednesday: "Those strange beings who landed in the New Jersey farmlands tonight are the vanguard of an invading army from Mars."

It was too much for his colleague, Steve Allen, who was standing on a Manhattan rooftop, making his last broadcast as a cloud of poison smoke moved toward Rockefeller Center.

"This, this is the end now," he croaked. "The smoke's spreading faster. It's reached Times Square. People trying to run away from it, but it's no use. They're falling like flies. Now, the smoke is crossing Sixth Avenue. . . . Fifth Avenue. . . . 100 yards away. . . . It's rising up from the plaza. . . ."

Relax — it was just the remnant of "The War of the Worlds," the radio drama which caused national hysteria when first broadcast by Orson Welles' Mercury Theater Oct. 30, 1938.

The new production, starring Jason Robards, will air on public radio stations Oct. 30, 50 years to the day after Welles' broadcast.

"This is not a nostalgia piece," said director David Ossman. "It's supposed to be realistic and contemporary. (The listener) should react as if it's really happening."

Some adjustments have been made: Crowded interstate highways have replaced parkways, and lasers, Amtrak and jet fighter planes have been added, as have interviews with contemporary figures such as science fiction writer Ray Bradbury and scientist Carl Sagan.

And news of the invasion is broadcast to the nation not by the secretary of the interior, as in the

original, but by the vice president. He is not identified by name, but he has just returned from Texas, where he was preparing for a campaign rally.

Plans call for an actor to mimic George Bush.

Although Welles' production included a weak disclaimer — it was introduced as a radio play at the beginning and before intermission — the new version will have none, according to the producer.

"We're going to go seamlessly onto the air," said Judith Walcutt. Alluding to the fact that Welles was not punished 50 years ago, she said, "At least there's no precedent for suing the producer."

Welles' role, that of astronomer Richard Pierson, will be played by Jason Robards. The adaptation of Howard Koch's original script is not without humor.

When Edwards tells how the Martians swept through New Jersey, tearing up rail, phone and power lines, and concludes that the invaders want to "crush resistance, paralyze communication and disorganize human society," Allen deadpans, "Very bad news, Doug."

Edwards recorded his part in Jacksonville, Fla., while Allen did his simultaneously at WNYC radio, later moving to a rooftop near Wall Street.

Allen said he was one of those fooled in 1938.

"I didn't hear the beginning of the show," Allen said. "I was 17, and I was on the ninth floor of a run-down hotel on the near-north side of Chicago with my mother and aunt. Take three otherwise normal people who believe the world is about to end, turn them loose in Chicago, and you have a situation comedy."

However gullible the audience this time around, Ossman said he expected no hysteria: "Instead of frightening people, it will give them a lot of fun."

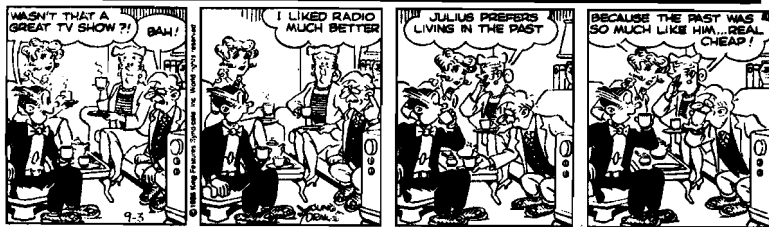


Associated Press

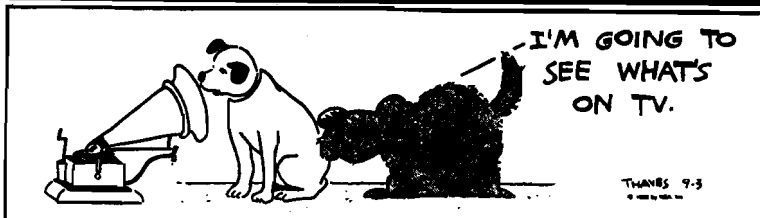
ALL'S WELLES — Director David Ossman, left, checks scripts with actor Jason Robards at the Skywalker ranch in Marin County, Calif., as they prepare for the 50th anniversary produc-

tion of Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds." The radio show will air on Sunday, Oct. 30, like the original Halloween broadcast that sparked panic over a reported Martian invasion.

BLONDIE



FRANK AND ERNEST



Thufferin' thuccotash!

Mel Blanc, voice of Bugs, Daffy, Porky, pens autobiography

BY LEE MITGANG

NEW YORK (AP) - Thufferin' thuccotash!

Mel, ah-say-Mel Blanc, the voice behind Bugs, Daffy, Tweety, Porky, Woody and almost every cartoon character from here to Cuc-amonga, is 80 years old and has just written an autobiography.

Blanc, in a warm-hearted and fascinating new book, "That's Not All Folks: My Life in the Golden Age of Cartoons and Radio" (Warner Books, \$17.95) says Warner Bros. produced 1,003 cartoons, and he voiced 848 of them.

His favorite character? Reached by telephone at his Los Angeles home, Blanc answered in the voice of Brooklyn's most famous bunny: "Everybody knows who I am, doc. I don't cayuh where dey are or who dey are. Even up in Mars dey know about me. HEHEHEHEH!"

"Bugs: that's my favorite character. I even have him tatoed on my shirt."

The "Looney Tunes" and "Merrie Melodies" churned out by Warner Bros. in a dank office dubbed Termite Terrace by Blanc and his cartooning co-workers had their heyday from the 1930s to the mid-'50s.

Rerun countless times, they are arguably still the funniest things on television. They parodied film stars from Humphrey Bogart to Katharine Hepburn, tweaked politicians and contained salty, hilarious characters that are a far cry from the phoney, unfunny goody-goodies and baddy-baddies that populate today's junk-food TV cartoon shows.

The box-office success this summer of "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," a mystery-fantasy in which cartoon characters must contend with the human world, proves that the public still eats up good animation.

Blanc, in fact, did the voices of Daffy Duck, Tweety Bird, Bugs Bunny and Syl-

vester the Cat in "Roger Rabbit," but he says he hasn't seen the film yet.

Cartoon connoisseurs will find plenty of little known facts to relish in Blanc's autobiography, co-written by Philip Bashe.

Just a few samples:

- The theme music for Warner Bros. cartoons is a tune called "The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down."

- Voice characterizations are done first, not the pictures, to the surprise of many.

- A single six-minute Warner Bros. cartoon took four or five artists sketching about 16,000 pictures and 60 backgrounds.

BOOKS

- Bugs Bunny in his earliest incarnation in the late '30s was called "Happy Rabbit." Blanc hated the name, and in 1940 he changed it to Bugs. He decided to give him a tough-guy Brooklyn accent, even though Blanc grew up in San Francisco and Portland, Ore., and to this day has never set foot in Brooklyn.

- He may love Bugs, but Blanc hated raw carrots. He chewed them for the sound effects, and filled trash cans with half-munched carrots.

- The hardest voice characterization for Blanc was Yosemite Sam since it had to be done at a constant holler. Sylvester was the easiest because he sounded closest to Blanc's natural voice, except for the exaggerated lisp.

After the demise of Termite Terrace, Blanc went on to do more modern cartoon characters made famous on TV, from Barney Rubble on "The Flintstones" series, to the Frito Bandito.

Blanc gained more fame than fortune from his cartoon characterizations. The most Warner Bros. ever paid him for being

the voice behind their cartoons was \$20,000.

The only hint of bitterness in his autobiography is about the way Warners copyrighted the voices of the cartoon characters Blanc made famous. It means he can't publicly say, "What's up, Doc?" or "I tawt I taw a puddy-tat" or such phrases he invented without getting the studio's permission.

"That is true," he said over the phone. "I worked for them and I did these voices, and they in turn copyrighted the voices and trademarked them. I wanted to keep working for them, so I didn't say anything. I was a jerk. I should have said something at the time."

He did considerably better financially as a radio and TV personality. For years on the Jack Benny program, he did the sound effects for the wheezing old Maxwell that the skinflint comedian supposedly drove. Most famous of all, he played the train depot caller who broke up audiences with "Train leaving on track five for Anaheim, Azusa and Cuc-amonga!"

Blanc says at the end of his book that while he may not last forever, he has plans to allow his cartoon characters to live on.

"A lot of people try to copy my voice, but there's only one guy who can do my voice and make it actually sound like me, and that's my son, Noel," he said.

Age and the emphysema which forces him to use oxygen at night have fortunately not impaired the gifted larynx of "the man of a thousand voices." Well, maybe he's down to a few hundred now.

The thought of retiring is, as Daffy would say, deth-picable.

"You know, I don't think I'll ever stop until I'm dead," he says. "I have to have a driver now. He drives me to work, either to Warner Bros. or one of the studios in town. I allow two hours for them to record me. It never takes that much, because they still call me 'one take Blanc.'"



DAVID LAWRENCE

... With an up to the minute accurate commentary on the news.

3:30 P. M.



JOHN CAMERON SWATZE HIGHLIGHTING THE NEWS

... With headline stories and news of human interest ...

3:45 P. M.



THE SAINT

Tom Conway stars as "Simon Templar" a man with a taste for art and adventure.

4:00 P. M.



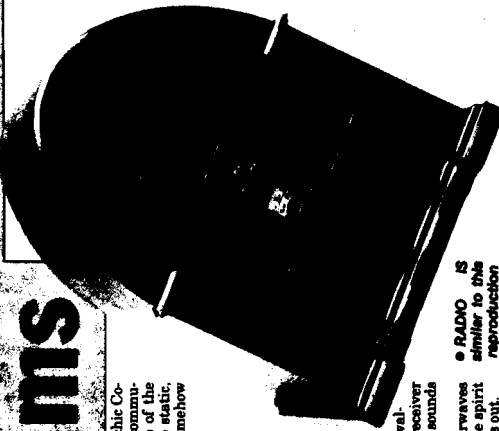
MARTIN KANE PRIVATE EYE

Lloyd Nolan portrays Martin Kane, a detective with a talent for danger.

4:30 P. M.

WHAM! ROCHESTER'S NO. 1 STATION

Haunted radio broadcasts 50-yr-old programs



A HAUNTED RADIO has thrown psychics and scientists into a frenzy with its constant broadcasts of hit shows from more than 50 years ago.

Psychics say the radio is possessed by spirits of the dead. Frustrated skeptics have given up on explanations after years of trying to figure out what's going on.

"It broadcasts old shows like *Fibber McGee and Molly*, *Jack Armstrong* and *Kay Kaiser*, and they sound brand new," says amused parapsychologist Nathan Strathairn.

Discovered

He is now studying the ghostly appliance.

The radio, a table model from the 1930s, was discovered several years ago in an Oregon warehouse and found its way into the home of a family who later got rid of it, scared out of

by ROBERT WEBB

"First it started broadcasting Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds*, and they thought it was a special program. But it had the original commercials and there were more old shows after that."

"This continued for days, and they called in psychics to investigate. Some heard strange voices of the dead in the static."

Over the years, the radio has passed through hands, and scientists have tried without success to find some explanation.

"They refuse to believe what they hear—a link to the past and the hereafter," declares Nathan, a British researcher.



PSYCHIC Cory Alden is studying phenomenon their wits.

"They bought it as an antique, but their teenage son fixed it," Nathan explains.

His partner, psychic Corey Alden, who's communicating with some of the voices heard in the static, says the radio somehow picks up comic waves from beyond.

"The spirits have found their refuge in a time that lasts eternally for them," she explains.

Strong

"Their combined energy was so strong it was swallowed up by this receiver which broadcasts sounds from that era."

"It proves the airwaves are a gateway to the spirit world," Corey points out.

RADIO IS similar to this reproduction

Phil Leslie Dies; Wrote for Radio

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Writer Phil Leslie, who for more than a decade created the comic antics of "Fibber McGee and Molly" that kept millions of radio listeners laughing, has died at age 79.

Leslie died of cancer Friday at his suburban San Fernando Valley home, said his son, Phil Leslie Jr.

The writer, who also brought the popular characters "Major Hoople" and "Beulah" to radio in other shows, wrote in later years for such television programs as "The Lucy Show," "Dennis the Menace" and "The Brady Bunch."

Leslie became the main writer for the "Fibber McGee and Molly" show during the show's heyday in the early 1940s after the show's creator, Don Quinn, left. He stayed on until it ended in the 1950s.

He later said working with the show's stars, Jim and Marion Jordan, during that period represented "the 13 happiest years of my writing life."

In addition to his son, Leslie is survived by his wife, Helen, and three daughters. Funeral services were set for Monday in Los Angeles.

All audio cassette tapes not created equal: tests

By the Editors
of Consumer Reports

Audio cassette tapes are not all alike.

They come in three basic types — Type I, or normal bias; Type II, or high bias; and Type IV, or metal. (Type III no longer exists in the market.)

In addition to these categories, many brands offer a few grades within each classification. The price can range from 55 cents at discount for a Type I to nearly \$10 list for a Type IV.

Which one to buy depends in large part on your needs. If you want to record speech, or have a cheap tape player in a noisy car, there's no need to buy the best quality tape. An inexpensive Type I will probably do just fine.

On the other hand, if you plan to tape live music, CDs or "audiophile" records whose dynamic range will be fully audible in a quiet listening room, you'll want a good-quality Type IV metal tape.

Recently, Consumers Reports' electronics engineers tested nearly 60 tapes — every model and grade that could be found from the top dozen manufacturers. They wanted to see how much of a difference exists among types and even among one brand's grades in a given type.

In general, the tests confirmed the superiority of Type II to Type I. They also confirmed that Type IV tapes as a class had the best dynamic range.

There was, however, considerable overlap in performance among the three types. The better Type II models performed as well as some metal tapes. Similarly, some high-rated Type I tapes were as good as some high-bias tapes.

For the best possible reproduction of sound, the engineers recommend the Sony Metal-ES, a Type

IV. It had an outstanding dynamic range, spanning 66 decibels in the mid-frequencies and an equally impressive 54 dB in the treble.

If you use the Sony tape on a deck with Dolby C noise-reduction circuitry, the tape's dynamic range will extend to about 74 dB in the highs. That's very good by any standard and quite enough to capture the dynamics of most CDs pretty well. The Sony sells for about \$4 or so per tape at discount.

Other high-rated Type IV cassettes were the TDK MA-XG, about \$6.65 per tape; the TDK MA, about \$4.85; the Maxell MX, about \$5.35; and the TDK MA-X, about \$4.25.

The top-rated Type II tapes were the Sony UX-Pro, at \$5, and the Sony UX-ES, at about \$3.40. They outperformed some of the lower-rated metal tapes.

Other good high-bias tapes include the TDK SA, about \$2.50; the TDK SA-X, about \$3; and the Denon HD7, about \$3.25. The Fuji GT-II, at \$2.25, costs about the same as a good Type I tape but was in the highly rated group. The Fuji has been discontinued, although it still is being sold in some stores.

If your audio demands are less critical, a good Type I tape will offer moderately high performance at a moderate price. Try the TDK AD and TDK AD-X, the Sony HF-S, and the Maxell UDS-I and XLI-S. They were about equal and ranged in price from about \$2.25 to \$3.55.

For the best results when recording, you should record as strong a musical signal as possible, short of overloading. Tape overload may be imminent when a deck's recording indicator reads zero or approaches the red line. A safety factor called headroom allows you to record occasional peaks with no noticeable distortion or deadening of the highs.

The Buffalo News/Saturday, September 3, 1988

Tin Amos 'n' Andy Dolls Remain Popular

By RALPH and TERRY KOVEL

"A MOS 'N' Andy," one of the most popular radio programs in the history of broadcasting, debuted in 1929 and continued until 1935 and was on the air every weekday from 7 to 7:15 p.m. The show was so popular that in 1932, bars, restaurants and stores would tune it in for their patrons every night. Many movie theaters were reported to have stopped the

Know Your Antiques

movie and tuned in the show in order to prevent their audiences from leaving.

Amos and Andy were black characters played by the white actors Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll. Toys based on the Amos and Andy characters often depicted the



Amos 'n' Andy walking toys, made by Marx about 1930, are 12 inches tall and are made of lithographed tin. Amos' red hat says taxi, Andy has a cigar.

two actors in blackface. In 1930, the Louis Marx company made a pair of walking toys based on how the actors looked. The box, however, was covered with cartoon drawings of a racist nature that caused comment even then, and Marx soon changed the pictures.

In a later version of the toy, Andy had a cane that could swing and eyes that moved up and down. Amos 'n' Andy toys are in great demand by collectors of tin toys and of black memorabilia.

The fame of Amos 'n' Andy continued even after the radio show ended. A TV show premiered in 1951 featuring black actors, and it remained on the air and in reruns until 1966.

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1957

Utica Observer-Dispatch

"MARTIN KANE PRIVATE EYE"



Starring
WILLIAM GARGAN



Tonight
WHAM TV
10 P. M.

Presented by the makers of OLD BRIAR, DILL'S BEST, MODEL AND TWEEED, one of the four just right for your tobacco taste.

Happy McMann says:



"Yes, one of those four tobaccos up there is just right for your tobacco taste. Me? I smoke Model. It's mild, costs only ten cents and smokes like a million. Brother, it's no wonder we sell so much Model every week!"

RADIO: Every Sunday WVET, 4:30 P. M.

RADIO TONIGHT

(Published by stations subject to change without notice)

	WIBX (950) (CBS) (MBS)	WKAL (1450)	WGY (810) (NBC)	WRUN (1150)	WTLS (1310) (ABC)
5	100 Lou Barile Jack-pot Show 110 News: Barile News: Jack-pot 120 News: Barile News: Jack-pot 145 P. of Law		News: Barile Show News: Barile Show	News: Mr. Sunshine News: Mr. Sunshine News: Mr. Sunshine	News: The WTLB Top Forty News: The WTLB Top Forty
6	100 News: It's Baldwin 110 News: It's Thomas 120 News: It's Thomas 145 L. Thomas	News: Twilight News: Twilight News: Twilight	News: Matody News: Matody News: Matody	News: Sports News: Sports News: Sports	News: Sports News: Sports News: Sports
7	100 House Party 110 Party News: Mamba 120 Party News: Mamba 145 Ed Murrew	News: Mamba News: Mamba News: Mamba	News: Mamba News: Mamba News: Mamba	News: Party News: Party News: Party	News: Sports News: Sports News: Sports
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TOMORROW

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Ezzard Charles will challenge JOE LOUIS ON

"WE, THE PEOPLE"

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TV CHANNEL 6
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A Half Hour of THE SWEETEST MUSIC THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN—

The GUY LOMBARDO SHOW

Every Sunday 8:00 P. M. WHAM

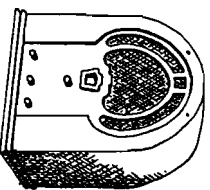
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