

ILLUSTRATED PRESS

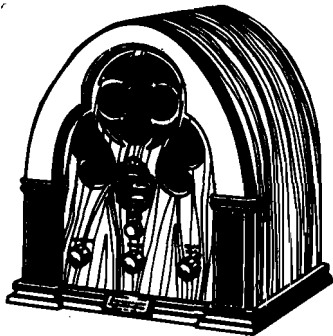
EST. 1975

DECEMBER 1989
ISSUE #159

Raymond Edward Johnson's reading at
The Friends of Old Time Radio Convention
in Newark....sketched by J. MacDonough



THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB



THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New member processing fee \$2.50 plus club dues are \$17.50 per year from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Members receive a tape listing, library list, 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 \$13.00 per year and includes all the benefits of a regular membership. Regular membership dues are as follows: If you join in January-March dues are \$17.50 for the year; April-June, \$14.00; July-September, \$10.00; October-December, \$7. ALL renewals are due by January 2! 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 \$29.75. Publications will be airmailed.

The Old Time Radio Club meets the **FIRST** Monday of the month (August through June) at 393 George Urban Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY. Anyone interested in the "Golden Age of Radio" is welcome. Meetings start 7:30 pm.

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: Richard Olday; Production: Arlene Olday. Published since 1975. Printed in U.S.A. Cover designed by Eileen Curtin.

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

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

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, MAILING OF PUBLICATIONS

Pete Bellanca
1620 Ferry Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
(716) 773-2485

TAPE LIBRARIES: REELS 1-600

Bill Weber
226 Harding Rd.
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 634-7021

REELS 600 and up

Thomas Harris
9565 Wehrle Drive
Clarence, NY 14031
(716) 759-8401

CANADIAN BRANCH:

Richard Simpson
960 - 16 Rd., R.R.3
Fenwick, Ontario LOS 1C0

CASSETTES

Dan Marafino
19 Church St.
Lancaster, NY 14086
(716) 684-0733

VIDEO & RECORDS

Dominic Parisi
38 Ardmore Place
Buffalo, NY 14312
(716) 884-2004

BACK ISSUES: All **MEMORIES** and **I.P.s** are \$1.50 each, postpaid. Out of print issues may be borrowed from the reference library.

Dominic Parisi
38 Ardmore Pl.
Buffalo, NY 14213

ADVERTISING RATES FOR MEMORIES:

\$60.00 for a full page (**ALL ADS MUST**
\$40.00 for a half page **BE CAMERA READY**)
SPECIAL: OTR Club members may take **50%**
off these rates.
Advertising Deadline - September 1

Cover Designed By: Renee C. Boncore

not afraid to talk about them candidly. She names names and exposes some of the warts and scars that are often hidden by Hollywood "glamor".

Her story has frequently made headlines and, in this audio presentation, she tells the story behind these events.

The trials and tribulations that she has faced will make you wonder how she ever survived it all to remain one of America's most popular stars.

Good "stuff"!

The second, from AUDIOWORKS, is "The Ragman's Son", done by Kirk Douglas.

Basically, it's the story of Kirk's love for his father, who was hard-pressed to show his love in return.

It's also about Kirk's rise in Hollywood and some of his many "dalliances" with the best of the great beauties of the movies. The man has led a life that other men only dream about.

Listening to this tape I found myself amused, titillated, and deeply moved. It's a human drama played against a background of Hollywood gloss that's full of successes, disappointments, and total failures. You get to see Douglas as a real flesh and blood person, far more interesting than any role he may have ever played.

I've always liked Kirk Douglas as an entertainer and, after hearing "The Ragman's Son", I like him even more.

It's 3 hours long...I wish it had been more!

The third autobiography on this Christmas shopping list is from DURKIN HAYES (aka LISTEN FOR PLEASURE) and is titled "P.S.-Jack Paar".

Through the years Jack has always been entertaining and more than a bit controversial. His humor has sometimes gotten him into trouble that a lesser comedian might never have involved with.

He often reacts to a situation in an "uncool" manner and wears his feelings in plain sight for the whole world to see.

Jack is a fascinating man and is one that people either love or hate passionately.

He chronicles his life with a wit, telling of his "battles" with the greats and not-so-greats of the show business world.

The thing about Jack Paar is that you never know what to expect from him. In the case of this audiobook however, you can expect three hours of interesting, funny, and solid entertainment. It's a "goodie".

You say that that certain someone on your gift list spends a lot of time driving long distances? Well maybe one of the unabridged audio-

novels is for him. A real dandy is the 14 hour long version of Mario Puzo's "The Godfather".

This BRILLIANCE BOOKS presentation is a faithful adaptation of the novel and movie but has more detail and motivational insight than the movie could ever attempt.

The story, because of its popularity, is familiar to most everyone, and it's telling is more than a dramatic reading - it's an epic tale told in spellbinding fashion by actors out to make the whole thing entertaining and believable throughout its 14 hour length.

They have succeeded masterfully and "The Godfather" will help those driving hours pass very easily. Not bad for listening to at home either!

BRILLIANCE BOOKS specializes in these unabridged, super-long audio-novels and this one is among the best that they offer. (An offer you can't refuse!???)

BOOKS ON TAPE has a real dandy of a story with their unabridged version of David Westheimer's "Von Ryan's Express".

Colonel Ryan is captured during WW-2 and put in a P.O.W. camp where he finds the conditions terrible and the men now under his leadership even worse.

He sets out to straighten out the conditions of both the camp and his men. His men resent it and are soon calling him "Von Ryan" because of his strict military attitude.

The story escalates and soon he is leading his men in an escape attempt aboard a train they take over, and head toward Switzerland...and freedom.

This 10 1/2 hour long story flashes by with whirlwind speed as Ryan and his men get into one perilous fix after another.

The movie was good, the audiobook is even better.

The toll-free numbers for ordering these tapes are as follows....

DOVE BOOKS.....1-800-345-9945
SIMON & SCHUSTER'S
AUDIOWORKS.....1-800-678-2677
DURKIN HAYES/LISTEN
FOR PLEASURE...1-800-962-5200 (USA)
1-800-263-5224 (Can.)
BRILLIANCE BOOKS...1-800-222-3225
BOOKS ON TAPE.....1-800-626-3333

Audio novels on cassette are an outstanding Christmas gift. They will show your loved one that you have put thought behind your present and selected something that will give them many hours of pleasure.

If you're not sure what titles he or she might like consider a book-on-tape gift certificate and let them pick their own titles. You can use the toll-free numbers to inquire about this.

We hope that you and yours will have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Wireless Wanderings



JIM SNYDER

Last summer, while studying the cannibals and head hunters of Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya, I met a charming lady who had written the scripts for a couple of old radio shows, and she graciously consented to tell me of her experience.

Martha Hood (now Marti Roynon) worked for and received her directions from the agency of Blacket, Sample and Hummert in Chicago. Her direct boss was George Roosen. She started as the one and only script writer, at that time, of Little Orphan Annie. She believes that this was during the 1939/1941 time period. Roosen had the contract to do the scripts but Miss Hood was the sole writer. While Roosen received \$350 a week for the scripts, Martha's salary from him was \$50 a week. She said that she really didn't have anything to do with the general story line. The agency and Roosen decided on the story line and she wrote the dialog from that. There were some general directions that she had to follow. For example, she was required to work in the characters of Mr. & Mrs. Silo for a given number of shows each season because the contracts held by the actors with those parts assured them of a specific number of shows each year.

Mrs. Roynon said that she really didn't feel particularly involved in the story line itself. She was just "batting out the words." She also found the writing difficult because of the age level that she was writing for. She also found it difficult to sometimes work the premiums into the story line. She did not have to deal with the Ovaltine "shake-up-mug," but was involved with the whistle that could only be heard by dogs (Sandy). She remembers having almost no difficulty with the "secret code ring," since this was primarily used to give the listeners a secret message at the end of the show. Those messages generally dealt with buying the sponsor's product, and since she didn't have to deal with the commercials, that

was out of her range of writing.

She remembers a story line about the characters going to Hawaii. Now since she had never visited the islands she was at a loss as to what she could say about them. Remembering CARPENTERS GEOGRAPHICAL READERS from the 3rd or 4th grade, she dug them out to put some authenticity into her scripts. She was at a party when one of the women excused herself so that she should go home to listen to LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE. When the others expressed surprise that a grown woman would listen to such a program, the woman explained that she had just returned from her honeymoon in Hawaii. She was interested because whoever wrote the scripts sure did know Hawaii. She said this without realizing that she was saying this to that writer whose sole knowledge of that part of the world came from elementary school textbooks.

Martha Hood lived in Chicago and the shows were broadcast from WGN. In those two years she never met a single one of the actors and never listened to a single one of the shows. She said there was no contact with others because show wrote along, and Roosen kept her a secret from the sponsors.

For one year she also wrote the daytime soap STEPMOTHER, the story of Kay Fairchild. She said that she couldn't take more than a year of this show because "It was stinking-- it was awful." She mentioned a complaint that I have aired in a previous column. That was in regard to the terribly slow pace of the show and how agonizingly long it took for anything to happen. She remembers being called and having to get out of bed at midnight on a Sunday, because Roosen had lost the script for Monday and she had to rewrite it again in the early hours of Monday morning.

She decided, after having to do STEPMOTHER for a year, to write her own soap, on a little higher intellectual plane. She sold this new show of hers, THE UNDERSTANDING HEART, to the Blue Network and then a few days before it was to start on the air she was notified that the Blue Network was to become ABC and that ABC wasn't going to use the shows.

This was her last stab at radio and she went into writing scripts for industrial films, an avenue she enjoyed greatly, was very successful at, and which paid her much higher return. Marti Roynon still lives in Chicago.



Season's Greetings

ANSWERS TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

1. James
2. Young Sherlock Holmes (1985)
3. Hamish
4. Tom Conway
5. William Shatner
6. Martha
7. Tales of Fatima/Scotland Yards Inspector Burke/The Circle
8. William Gillette
9. Petri Wine Co.
10. January 6th
11. Reichenback Falls..in Switzerland
12. Mr. Bartell (Harry Bartell)
13. The Hound of the Baskervilles...(1939)
14. Both Peter Cushing and Reginald Owen played Holmes and Watson.
15. They Might Be Giants..(1971)
16. A Great Dane
17. Mycroft
18. The Seven Percent Solution (1976)
19. Without a Clut..(1988-89)
20. They Might Be Giants..(1971)

LETTERS



Thanks so much for the nice prize! I don't care how many people won! I haven't won anything since I hit a wrist watch on a punchboard when I was about 14! (((17 out of 20, very good, Joel...Ed.)))

When we were chatting in Newark I recall that you mentioned that some of the IP readers have expressed displeasure at the controversies which you sometimes publish in IP. I just wanted to go on record as saying that Carolyn and I really enjoy these "editorial discussions." There is really no other vehicle that we know of in which one can be exposed to opposing views (even arguments) of controversies germane to OTR issues. We would urge you to keep up these sorts of forums in IP- we think that they add to the unique quality of IP and makes for most informative and interesting reading!

Thanks again, for everything.
 R. Joel Senter
 4003 Clifton Ave.
 Cincinnati, OH 45220

(((I told Joel that we decided to award prizes to everyone who entered our contest. Yes everyone who

entered received a prize. I can only assume that our members do not like contests. Our last contest had only 2 entries and this one only had half as many! Sen in your comments...please...Ed.)))

"AN EDITORIAL"

By: Frank C. Boncore

If you have not read the article by Carolyn and Joel Senter in the October 1989 issue of the IP, I would strongly urge you to read it as some background information before reading this.

In response to that article I now find that it is now my turn to get on the soapbox in hope of getting as many people as I can to get up off their behinds and join the Senters in helping to save OTR by contributing \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ to the OTR DEFENSE RUND. The following OTR dealers and collectors are being sued by Premier Electronics which is 100% owned by John Sonnenborn:

1. BRC Productions-Bob & Debbie Burnham
2. Aston Adventures "Cowboy Don Aston
3. Nostalgia Lane
4. Dick Judge
5. Larry Kliner
6. Rex Bills
7. Howard Brenner
8. Carl Freulich

AND A FEW OTHER DEALERS AND COLLECTORS OF OTR. Mr. Sonnenborn claims to own the Shadow trademark since 1931. A David Golden may or may not be hired as a consultant by Mr. Sonnenborn.

It is this writers opinion that this is a NUISENSE suit designed to wear down the above listed people. I am not a judge or a lawyer. I am a Master Electrician by trade. The only advice I can give these poor people is electrical not the legal advice that they need. To get the proper advice they had to hire a lawyer for \$200 an hour. To help these people I would strongly urge everyone reading this to contribute what they can be it a dollar, five dollars, ten dollars or whatever they feel comfortable with to help. Also tell your friends aboutthis and urge them to help.

OTR DEFENSE FUND
 c/o Carolyn & Joe Senter
 4003 Clifton Avenue
 Cincinnati OH 45220

MEMORIES

By this time, you all should have received the 1989 edition of "VARIETY '49 MEMORIES". We, who have been putting MEMORIES together for the past several years, hope that you found it interesting and informative. The magazine has slowly been moving toward becoming an annual distinguished by more original writing, by a more in depth presentation of subject matter and by some rare or uncommon source material. Recently, we have been trying to produce something you won't find elsewhere.

This, of necessity, is a time consuming process. There is much more to this than just the writing and the laying out. For example, the planning, researching, preparation and writing of "Gur-smoke Memories" took almost two years, that for "Variety Memories" almost a year. (We do not, however, spend every waking moment working on it. There are delays in looking for and waiting for material, etc.)

With this issue, MEMORIES reached a crossroad. Shortly before this issue was to be assembled, a decision was reached by the membership present at the September meeting of the club, to reduce the magazine by half, due to cost factors. As a result, much of the planned material had to be pulled and the concept as originally formulated could not be developed as planned.

The future of this publication lies in the hands of the membership. Since brainstorming ideas for the next issue would begin shortly after the current one was "put to bed", and since time is needed for research and planning, it is essential that the entire membership consider the future of MEMORIES now.

Should there be a MEMORIES at all? Should future emphasis (and money) be placed on expanding and upgrading the audio library instead? Should there be a combination of both? Should MEMORIES stay the same size? increase? be reduced?

If MEMORIES is to continue, how should this be financed? Should expenses come out of the club treasury as at present? Should there be an increased emphasis on more paid advertising? Should all members be expected to approach businesses for advertising? Could members be expected to buy patron ads, or advertise themselves if they own or manage businesses? Is there any other way of raising money, short of raising dues? (No, we don't advocate selling candy bars!)

If MEMORIES is to be continued, it is only businesslike and essential to know at the start how much

money is available for printing and distribution. This would determine at the start the size of MEMORIES. A budget needs to be drawn up, based on costs and also on amount and sources of income. It is unreasonable to request at the last minute, after the work is done, that much of the issue be scrapped for financial reasons.

As members your input is essential. Do you want MEMORIES? What do you want in it? Is it what you want? If not, what subjects would you like to see covered? How will we pay for this? We are throwing this challenge out to you. MEMORIES 1990 will not start till we hear from you. Hope you respond.

Your Editors

A Special Service For Club Members Only

TAPESONDENTS: Send in your wants and we'll run them here for at least 2 months.

WANTED: Rider's Radio Theater off of NPR on either reels or cassette. Also looking for traders of radio related TV shows on VHS.

Chuck Wheeler
6210 Shull Rd.
Huber Heights, OH 45424
Ph: (513) 236-4570

WANTED: "Radio: A Reference Guide" (book), by Thomas A. Greenfield. Also, trading OTR & entertainment books, comics histories. Send \$1 for 40-page book list.

Ken Weigel
7011 Lennox Ave. #126
Van Nuys CA 91405

WANTED: Vintage table model radios in working condition.

Stan Rubenstein
2735 Beebe Drive
Cutchogue NY
Ph: (516) 734-7543

Tapespondents is a free service to all members.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

New copies of "His Typewriter Wore Spurs" by Fran Striker, Jr. are available for sale at the cost of \$10.00 which includes mailing. Follow in the hoofprints of the Lone Ranger and Silver, as you read the story of his creation from the son of its creator. If interested contact O'Donnell
 206 Lydia Lane
 Cheektowaga NY 14225
 All proceeds go to cover replications costs of MEMORIES.

A new publication for the old time radio collector...The Listening Guide Newsletter is now in preparation. The first issue is yours free! The LISTENING GUIDE NEWSLETTER is a new concept in old time radio periodicals. It will feature useful articles for both beginning and advanced collectors, as well as regular features on select shows, topics, technical tips and more. It is edited and published by Bob Burnham, author of A Listening Guide to Classic Radio Programs and a Technical Guide to Collecting Old Time Radio.

The LISTENING GUIDE NEWSLETTER will be published on a quarterly basis 4 times a year. It will be professionally typeset using the latest word processing and desktop publishing software, and professionally offset printed.

The first issue will be ready for mailing by September 15, 1989. THE FIRST ISSUE IS FREE TO ANYONE INTERESTED, but to guarantee receipt of your copy by FIRST CLASS MAIL, just send \$1.50 to cover postage to: BRC Productions
 P O Box 2645
 Livonia MI 48151

(Send \$2.50 if outside the U.S.) To subscribe, the special introductory price is just \$12.00 for 4 issues, PLUS the first issue FREE, or 5 issues in total. Send for your FREE sample issue or subscribe today. You won't be sorry.

History and nostalgia are combined in a new book, PHARMACY AND MEDICINE ON THE AIR, published by Scarecrow Press. Focusing on Radio's "Golden Age", the book describes the way pharmacy, drugs and physicians were portrayed in radio drama, comedy, documentaries, and commercials.

PHARMACY AND MEDICINE ON THE AIR was written by Mickey Smith, Professor at the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy. Smith used archival materials, radio scripts, recordings of radio programs, and personal interviews with such radio stars as Phil Harris and Willard Waterman (The "Great Gildersleeve") in preparing the account.

Among the shows highlighted in the text are: Gildersleeve (with Peavey the druggist), Fibber McGee and Molly (with Kremer's Drug Store) and the Phil Harris/ Alice Faye show (with the Rexall Family Druggist). Little known programs are also featured such as "County Seat (starring pharmacist "Doc" Hackett), Family Doctor (which also starred a pharmacist, Mr. Feathers (a pharmacist played by Parker Pennelly), and the Dennis Day Show (in which Day worked in a pharmacy).

Drug commercials and shows featuring physician characters ranging from Doc Gamble on Fibber McGee to Dr. Kildare removing his own appendix also make up a part of this historical account.

PHARMACY AND MEDICINE ON THE AIR is available from Scarecrow Press
 P O Box 4167
 Metuchen NJ 08840

for \$22.50 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling. Inquiries concerning other aspects of the work can be directed to:

Dr. Smith
 School of Pharmacy
 University of Mississippi
 University, MS 38677

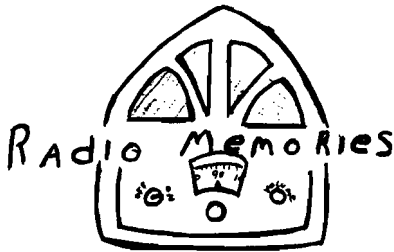
JUST THE FACTS MA'AM

By: Frank C. Boncore

Congratulations are in order for Frank Bork, our elderly librarian emeritus, and his wife Pat who recently celebrated the ?? wedding anniversary. I am not at liberty to tell you just what anniversary it was, however Frank was upset for first class postage was raised to 2¢ at that time.

Getting back to the anniversary celebration, Frank decided that this time he was going to go all out and spare no expense; well maybe not quite all out (one must realize the high cost of living these days). The very first thing he did was to let Poor Jim Steg leave work an hour early so he could wash Frank's 1948 Kaiser-Frazer (it is more practical to pay poor Jim his salary of \$1.25 per hour to wash the car then to go through a car wash for \$3.75). With the money Frank saved, he instructed poor Jim to put 2½ gallons of gas in the car (Frank is doing his part to make this country less dependent on Arabian crude).

Afterwards Frank took his lovely wife Pat, poor Jim and his wife Kathy to McDonalds for dinner. It was the practical thing to do since Frank had coupons to buy one hamburger and get one free and didn't split the bill with poor Jim.



BY: Francis Edward Bork

Back in the late thirties when there wasn't any television, we had radio. I don't think there will ever be anything like old time radio ever again. Like the after school radio programs and the Saturday morning children's radio shows. When the good guys always played fair and didn't use four letter words except work and soap. The bad guys were always caught in the end. But now television and the movies, WOW, you just can't turn TV on and let your grandchildren watch without, first checking what's on the boob tube. Most movies at the movie theaters are impossible.

I remember rushing home from school to listen to Jack Armstrong, Dick Tracy, Terry and the Pirates, Yukon King and Don Winslow of the Navy.

I remember one time about a week before Christmas in the thirties. I think around 1936. I'm not really sure, but anyway, my dad was going to visit a man from work who was home sick. Dad had gotten the man's pay envelope from the boss and after supper he was going over to the man's house to give it to him. Can I go with you dad I asked? Sure, why not dad said, get your coat and dress warm, it's cold outside. Okay I said. Here take this apple pie along for the children mom told dad. That's fine dad said, there's a boy about your age Franke, you two can play while I visit with his father. It was a cold drive over there because our old Chevie didn't have a heater. Dad parked the car in front of an old house. We both got out of the car and I followed my dad up the front steps to the porch. A thin lady opened the door. My dad told her who he was. Why yes, I heard her say, please, please come in out of the cold. I could hear their radio playing. Oh boy, it's the Lone Ranger, I won't miss it, I thought. Robert, Butch come here, there's a nice boy here to play with th lady said. She turned

and smiled at me. I was surprised because she was a colored lady. The two boys were colored too. Hi, my name's Robert and this is my little brother Butch, the boy about my age said. I'm Frankie I said still surprised. Do you like the Lone Ranger Robert asked me? Sure do, I said. He's my favorite cowboy next to Gene Autry and Roy Rogers. Hey they're my favorites too Robert said. Yeah, well no body can beat Hopalong Cassidy Butch told me and Robert. We all listened to the Ranger and built a fort with Lincoln logs. Robert had a Lincoln log set just like mine at home and cowboys and indians too. I was surprised to learn that Robert liked all the same radio shows that I liked. Robert's mother brought up a plate of home made Christmas cookies and hot cocoa for us to have while we listened to the radio. Butch was a pest like all little brothers. He kept knocking our fort down and running over our cowboys with his toy truck. Butch kept looking at me kinda strange, then all of a sudden he ran out into their kitchen taking his mother by the hand, come-mere, come-mere he said, look and he pointed at me. His eyes are blue mom, his eyes are blue. Butch had never seen a white kid with blue eyes before. Well we had better be getting on home dad told me. I can't keep you up too late. Aw gee dad, just another half hour, I pleaded, there's a swell story on radio we're listening to. Yeah, please mister, little Butch pleaded, we almost got those indians beat. Everyone laughed at that one. Well alright, just a half hour no more dad said. Well we beat the indians alright, the only thing, little Butch was their chief.

That was a long, long time ago. Now Christmas is near once more and as I listen to my tapes of those old radio stories again, "Christmas stories of course", my thoughts go back to that cold snowy night so long ago, I wonder how Robert is today, probably like me with children and grandchildren of his own. I truly hope he is well and happy, and little Butch also.

I guess that's the reason I like old time radio so much, it brings back to many happy memories. MERRY CHRISTMAS to all and happy radio memories.

Till next time, good listening.



REFLECTION IN THE RADIO MIRROR

By: Lance Hunt

Another FRIENDS OF OLD TIME RADIO CONVENTION has concluded at the Newark North Holiday Inn in New Jersey. They will soon be designating the hostelry just outside New York City as a National Historic Site. At the very least it should be recognized as a phantom arm of the Museum of Broadcasting.

So many recreations of well-known radio broadcasts, many with original cast members, have been done there. So many of the artists and talents of the radio broadcasting industry have visited there, some to participate; others to just fraternize and remember. Each year, sadly, some are eulogized.

(AN OBSERVATION: Our rich, culturally diverse nation is the only one in the world to let advertising "murder" an art form unique from any other).

Each convention is different, but always interesting and rewarding.

Here are some of my memories:

...The ever youthful and athletic BOB HASTINGS (Archie Andrews) gleefully rehashing a Buffalo Bills Monday Night Football cliffhanger.

...The erudite ARNOLD MOSS, who as a New York Times puzzle writer (not generally known) constructed a Times puzzle themed on old-time radio, and revealing he gave a copy to ANTHONY TOLLIN to be duplicated as his gift of appreciation to each radio fan at the convention.

...The always gracious and delightful DWIGHT WEIST recounting how a Munich, Germany call from the producers of "The Name of the Rose" resulted in his narrative voice-over in the unusual Sean Connery medieval mystery film.

...The sleeper panel of the weekend, "The FBI on the Air!", conducted by former agent JACK FRENCH, of Washington, D.C., who fronted in public relations liaison with the various broadcasts over the years. Ten shows were produced beginning in 1932 and ending in the mid '50's with "G-Men" produced by, of all things, the British broadcasting Corp. in London. French gave a fascinating and extremely detailed presentation.

...Joe MacDonough, an art teacher from Saratoga Springs, visiting the convention for the first time, getting swept up in the proceedings as he sketched the performers (his RAYMOND EDWARD JOHNSON is on the cover.) and selected for a "Gateway to Hollywood" broadcast.

...The irrepressible RAYMOND EDWARD JOHNSON in better form than ever, giving a chilling lovecraft reading

to a hushed room. Later, he performed as his early radio character, Mandrake the Magician. In the lobby he graciously signed messages for the fans and chatted profusely. On a tape, he revealed he has had multiple sclerosis for 48 years and attributes his stunning vocal gifts and acceptance of this affliction to a deep religious faith.

...The affable author ROBERT TAYLOR, art critic for the Boston Globe, who autographed his just published biography, "FRED ALLEN, HIS LIFE AND WIT," a wonderfully researched and long overdue tribute to one of America's (and radios) comedic treasures.

...A young collector from New Jersey ANDY JAYSNOVITCH, admitting to not having heard the shows live and lamenting but enjoying the "Gateway to Hollywood" shenanigans on Saturday, Andy, who enjoys the serials on video, is discovering old time radio. Nice to see appreciation from the newer generations.

...A discovery, in New York City, at my favorite theatrical bookstore, a copy of "Ivory Tower" by ARCH OBOLER, the genius of radio writers. Published in 1940, the limited edition included the title play plus "Alter Ego," a play indigenous only to the radio form. It starred BETTE DAVIS who emoted with "tremendous effectiveness" according to Obler. It also contained a third script..."The Ugliest Man in the World," first performed on March 25, 1939, more than 50 years ago, with featured lead, RAYMOND EDWARD JOHNSON. (anyone got copies of these broadcasts?)

...And finally, a Manhattan crosstown jog to catch "NELSON EDDY VS. THE MARTIANS" at the Museum of Broadcasting. I missed Eddy's operatic solo as heard on the EDGAR BERGEN/CHARLIE MCCARTHY HOURS which on this evening was opposite Orson Welles' fright night broadcast. The museum's notes suggest Nelson's "over enthusiastic" rendition drove some listeners to randomly dial twist, picking up the "martian invasion" on the rebound. At the museum there were five listeners in a dark room on which a black and white slide of an early four-legged Majestic was cast on a screen. The Welles broadcast was the best I've heard having been digitally remastered from a newly discovered copy. Two of the listeners were elderly ladies who seemed confused. The others were college age students who laughed uproariously when the Martian machines waded into the Hudson River.

Incidentally, the museum will soon be relocated to a spanking new building next to the fabled "21 Club".

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I FORGOT TO

RENEW MY OTR
CLUB DUES FOR 1990!



ADDITIONS TO THE REFERENCE LIBRARY

BOOKS:

B-33: The Soaps - Daytime Serials of radio and TV

MAGAZINES & SCRIPTS.

M-75: Suspense - The Hand

M-76: Escape-The Blue Wall
2 copies

M-77: Escape-The Coward

M-78: Escape-The Primitive
2 copies

M-79: Escape-The Haunter Man

M-80: Escape-The Run of the Yellow Mail

M-81: Suspense-The Mission of the Betta

M-82: Escape-Nightmare in the Sun
2 copies

M-83: Escape-One-eight Apache

M-84: Escape-The Canterville Ghost

M-85: Escape-Jimmy Goggles The God

M-86: Escape-Dangerous Man



We Wish
All Our Friends
A Blessed
And Safe Holiday
Season.

TAPE LIBRARY RATES: All reels and video cassettes - \$1.25 per month; cassettes and records - \$.50 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 tape \$1.50; 3 or 4 tapes \$1.75. Cassettes: 1 or 2 tapes \$.65; for each additional tape and \$.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 material and return the originals to you. See address on page 2. Please include \$25 refundable security deposit for each book borrowed.

Merry Christmas!



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DECEMBER 15, 1942

THE SHADOW

by WALTER GIBSON

The Money Master

Chapter Nineteen: Verdict of Death

The conference between the Money Master and his new associates lasted approximately half an hour. When it was over, Zorva reappeared to have another look at his knife-flanked prisoner. Rymol kept on through the library and returned shortly, bringing Shep Ficklin and Bert Cowder.

That pair promptly took over with their guns, relieving Zorva's servants, who followed Rymol's beckon from the doorway. Beyond Rymol, The Shadow saw Hume leaving with Dorfee, the two chuckling over the conference they had just held.

As soon as the front door closed, Zorva spoke to Shep and Bert.

"This prisoner is important," declared Zorva. "I want you to keep him where he cannot escape. I would suggest the strong room."

Zorva was studying The Shadow as he spoke. Looking up from huddled pose, The Shadow saw something that The Money Master did not notice. That something was the look that Shep gave Bert.

"You will take your men with you," continued Zorva. "All must be on duty. Remember: you will be guarding my wealth along with this captive."

"We'll remember," began Shep. "Just count on us --"

"To watch the prisoner," put in Bert quickly. "That vault of yours could laugh at anybody who tried to crack it. Even The Shadow!"

"That is the point I have in mind," asserted Zorva. His eyes were narrow slits. "This prisoner of ours may be The Shadow."

Instantly, Shep and Bert pushed closer with their guns. In their minds, mere suspicion was sufficient to warrant a death ticket.

Zorva gestured the pair

back.

"Not yet," he asserted. "We shall allow an hour's grace. By then, I shall know if the real Shadow is still at large. If he is, I shall inform you. Otherwise --"

No need to specify further. Shep and Bert understood. It would be death for their prisoner -- death which would be their privilege to deliver.

"The luggage is ready, Mr. Zorva"

It was Rymol who spoke, coming from the hallway. With over-the-shoulder glances, Shep and Bert saw huge stacks of suitcases, some nearly as large as trunks. Zorva's servants, now in street clothes, were bringing more of the huge bags.

"I am moving my headquarters," explained Zorva. "My friend Dorfee, the real one, owns an excellent residence in Washington. He feels that it would be better suited to my future needs. However" -- he looked from Shep to Bert -- "the funds will remain in their present place of security until I have provided a new vault for them."

This time, Shep and Bert refrained from any glances. Instead, they concentrated on their prisoner. Stepping forward, they pressed their guns against The Shadow and told him to come along.

The death march began.

Out through the hallway, past the heaps of luggage that the servants were now removing to waiting cars. There, more members joined the death squad. They were the thugs that Shep and Bert had acquired the night before. They started The Shadow through the first reception room. There, Zorva halted them.

"You escaped those knives neatly last night," Zorva told The Shadow. "I mean when you

were leaving Mardith's. Rymol threw one and Pana the other. But why should I tell you something you already know?"

The Shadow gave no reply. He still preferred to pose as Dorfee. Zorva's laugh became quite pleasant.

"You are the Shadow," accused Zorva. "Those who appear to know too little always know too much. Pardon my pride in quoting one of my own epigrams. I have a book of them that you may read to while away your last hour."

Calling for Rymol, Zorva obtained the book and placed the leather-bound volume in The Shadow's hands. With a wave, the Money Master ordered Shep and Bert to continue the death march.

Down the concrete stairway, The Shadow led the way, with guns bristling at his back. He could hear the jangle of keys that Shep carried, so he knew the old crypt must be locked. Otherwise, The Shadow could have tossed off his Dorfee sham and risked a headlong dash for the strong room. Still, such a course was of doubtful merit. Anyone holding that strong room could eventually be starved out.

The Shadow was banking on another plan. At the bottom of the steps, he stopped to rest patiently on his cane while Shep unlocked the strong room door. When Bert arrived, he gave a sudden kick that sent the cane flying from The Shadow's grasp. Instead of staying erect as Bert suspected, The Shadow sprawled and had to be helped to his feet.

"Say, maybe this guy isn't as phony as he looks," Bert told Shep. "What do we do in that case?"

"We croak him just the same," decided Shep. "He's no use to us. Only, hold it until we're sure that Zorva is gone."

Opening the strong-room door, Shep ordered his men to thrust the prisoner inside. Clutching his regained cane, The Shadow looked about curiously, as though viewing the place for the first time. The closet doors were closed and their fronts were faced in metal; but strong though they were, they seemed trivial in comparison with the great steel-barred vault where the Money Master kept his wealth.

Shep detailed a brawny thug named Shank to return upstairs and make sure of Zorva's departure. The others waited with ready guns, as though

itching to dispose of their prisoner. Quite oblivious to the threat of weapons, The Shadow sat on a box of papers in a corner and began to look through Zorva's book of epigrams.

A hollow call came down the stairs. Echoing beneath the archways, the voice was incoherent. Shep turned to Bert, saying:

"It's Shank. Find out what he's trying to tell us."

Bert returned with the news that Zorva and the rest were gone. He'd told Shank to stay upstairs and report if they returned. Shep nudged toward the door and Bert closed it. Guns pointed toward the Shadow. The firing squad was ready to deliver death, now that the shots could not be heard.

In imitation of Zorva's imperious style, Shep waved his followers back. He's observed how the Money Master controlled his helpers, and considered it a good process. In a sense, Shep Fickin was initiating a regime of his own. As a start, he'd show this mob of his how he could make prisoners quail just as Zorva did.

"All right, stooge," said Shep to The Shadow. "Got anything to say before we give it?"

"Small plotters have small ways." In Dorfee's tone, The Shadow was reading from Zorva's book. "Small deed are therefore their undoing."

"If that's got anything to do with croaking you," sneered Shep, "I don't get it."

"I do," put in Bert, who was anxious that Shep shouldn't take the whole leadership. "It's small stuff knocking this guy off. If we do it too quick, it's a give-away."

"How?"

"Suppose Zorva comes back and wants to talk to the guy? How are we going to laugh that off?"

While Shep pondered, The Shadow found another epigram and decided to voice a further specimen of Zorva's wisdom.

"He who faces death," The Shadow quoted, "will gladly turn to answer any call."

"Give me that book," snapped Shep, snatching the volume. "I'll figure these rules for myself!"

"Nothing to figure about that one," insisted Bert. He nudged toward The Shadow. "This guy means he'll play along with

us, if we let him. So why not?"

"Here's a funny one," remarked Shep, referring to the book. "It says, 'To find a use for anything, keep it.' All right, we'll keep this guy a while. He's just the same as on ice. And what he's going to see can't hurt us, because we can croak him anyway."

Tossing the book back to The Shadow, Shep turned to a stoopish, squint-eyed crook and said:

"Your turn Buzzer. Get to work."

Buzzer approached the huge vault. His nickname was explained by the queer device he took from his pocket. It looked like an electric razor with an earphone attachment. There was also an electric cord that Buzzer plugged into a wall socket. Immediately, the instrument began to buzz.

Laying the earphone against the vault front, Buzzer toyed with the combination. After several turns to the left, he detected a slight interruption in the humming tone. Pausing to mark down a figure, Buzzer twisted the dial to the right.

It was a slow, painstaking process and by no means infallible. Buzzer was trying to catch the sound of the tumblers and thus learn the combination. Each time he failed, he began anew. After three numbers, Buzzer laid aside the sounding device. His pasty face was strained.

"These three may be right," asserted Buzzer, as he read the numbers off. "But I can't seem to get the next one. Guess I'd better rest a while."

The first three were right. The Shadow knew it, because the figures tallied with his own mental chart, which was gauged in terms of fifth-seconds. Likewise, The Shadow knew why Buzzer wasn't finding the fourth. He was riding past it.

After several minutes, Buzzer went to work again. He found the fourth number after a few dozen tries, but the task exhausted him. He sat down with his head between his knees, until Shep finally nudged him to his feet and snapped:

"Get back to work! We gotta finish this job before Zorva gets back. Maybe he'll take over again... and then what?"

"I'll tell you what," added Bert. "We'll lose out on the

biggest pile of dough you ever saw. All on account of you, Buzzer."

Nervously, Buzzer turned as he was applying his instrument to the safe. In plaintive tone, he piped:

"That's just it. You guys have been feeding me too many big numbers. How can I keep working on that combination when I'm thinking of the dough you talked about? Millions of bucks --"

"Try thinking of billions, Buzzer," put in The Shadow. His tone was Dorfee's, his eyes were looking at Zorva's book. "The bigger they come, the harder they fall."

"Zorva didn't make up that one," snarled Shep, snatching the book. "What's the idea, wise-guy?"

"It seemed applicable to the present case," replied The Shadow. "The larger the sum, the greater the mental hazard of learning the combination. Apparently, Buzzer agrees."

Buzzer did agree. He had practically collapsed. Bert took the epigram book, opened it wide and began to fan the nervous safe-cracker. But Buzzer could only moan.

"I got the jitters, Bert," he said, "The way Shep talks, you'd think he was putting the heat on me! Get me out of this dump. Give me some fresh air. Maybe when I feel better --"

"Listen to the guy!" interrupted Shep. "You'd think we had a week to work, instead of just one hour." He wheeled, to confront The Shadow. "Say, if I croaked you, maybe Buzzer would feel better!"

"He might feel worse," The Shadow argued, "if you proved that murder was merely a matter of your temper. Why not read Zorva's book some more? You may find something to help this situation."

Very slightly, The Shadow had changed his tone. Only Shep noticed it, and he wasn't entirely sure. He stepped back to survey the prisoner under better light. There was an odd flicker in Shep's eyes and The Shadow was coolly analyzing it. In this game of guessing thoughts, The Shadow was learning more than Shep.

"You're a wise bird, all right," asserted Shep. "Zorva was right when he said a guy that knows too little can know too much. You know enough to be The Shadow."

The Shadow retained a Dorfee stare.

"Even The Shadow might make a deal," Shep added cannily. "Just like the book says, anybody would listen when he's on the spot. And this is one jam The Shadow couldn't get out of. Unless he could get into something else. That vault for instance."

In so many words, Shep Ficklin was promising immunity if his prisoner could finish the job where Buzzer had failed.

Without a word, The Shadow arose. He looked Dorfee more than ever as he hobbled toward the vault and pressed Buzzer aside. All the while, Shep's gun kept close behind him, so close that Bert Cowder moved forward,

too."

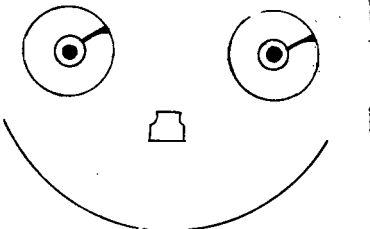
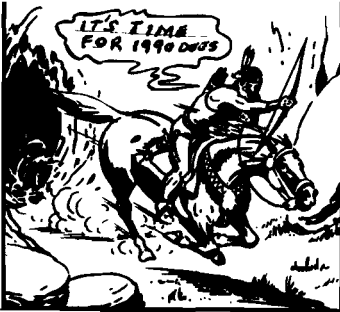
"Say, Shep." Bert's whisper was directly in Shep's ear. "This guy is The Shadow!"

Shep resounded with a nod. The smile he gave was an imitation of Zorva's. A poor one, but similar enough for Bert to understand it. Here was the chance for partners in crime to outmatch the Money Master by using The Shadow as their tool.

Once the prisoner had proven his skill by opening the vault, Shep and Bert would forget their promise of immunity as a reward for the important task. Instead, they would revert to the original verdict as proclaimed by Eric Zorva.

That verdict was death -- to The Shadow!

STRAIGHT ARROW



REEL-LY SPEAKING

The following donations have been added to the club reel library. My usual sources have yielded no information on "Now Hear This" and "Proudly We Hail". Would appreciate any background information. Would also appreciate any and all donations!
Tom Harris

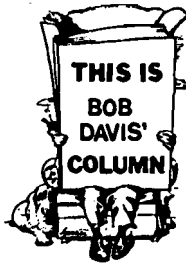
R-769 - Now Hear This: True Navy Stories (1200ft)
Fire at Sea 6/24/51
Army Rescue 7/1/51
Hawaii Rescue 7/15/51
Marine Rescue 7/22/51

Frogmen (Ends series) 7/29/51
A Christmas Carol with Laurence Olivier 12/24/53
Hopalong Cassidy-Coyote's Creed Abbott & Costello-Hunting Trip - BabySnooks
Talking to Daddy's Bos 2/10/38
In court 11/4/43
Bank Loan for Easter Outfit Thanksgiving Turkey
Homework Composition
Tonsils Out (mail call) 8/13/44
The Violin (first half) 1/16/51
Cheating on School Test 1/2/51 (second half)
Divining Rod

Daddy Plays Golf
Daddy Up at Midnight (mail Call)
Lodge Entertainment Director
Waste Fat (Philco/excerpt)
Pre-Xmas (4 minutes)
Hanging wallpaper
Buys Defense Stamps
At the Movies (Mail Call)
At the Beach (excerpt 1941)
Insomnia (Geography Lesson)
Homework Composition (different cast)
Fishing Trip 4/10/42
Duck Hunting 12/10/42

R-771 GUNSMOKE (WILLIAM CONRAD)
The Grass Asp 12/7/58
Kitty's Injury 12/14/58
Where'd They Go? 12/21/58
The Choice 12/28/58
The Coward 1/4/59
The Wolfer 1/11/59
The Kangaroo 1/18/59
The Boots 1/35/59
The Bobbsey Twins 2/1/59
Grat's Grudge 2/8/59
Body Snatch 2/15/59
Incident at Indian Ford 2/22/59





'Tis the season to be jolly and it's also the season to shop for presents big and small to give to your loved ones.

This column will try to make you aware of some of the books-on-tape that are now available and which would make great stocking stuffers.

For the younger set DOVE BOOKS has joined with the DISNEY COMPANY in presenting two tapes that are sure to please any youngster.

The first is the audio version of the classic Disney film "Bambi". They've taken dialogue and music from the movie, added narration, and come up with a sure winner.

The same thing can be said of the second title "Oliver & Co.". This is a musical adaptation of Oliver Twist that's been updated and features animated dogs in the main roles.

Both tapes are charming beyond words.

SIMON & SCHUSTER'S AUDIOWORKS has issued a whole set of stories based on the Star Trek tv & movie series.

Each is complete with sound effects and an original musical score. Some of the tapes are done by George Takei (Sulu) and Leonard Nimoy (Spock) while others are with Nimoy and James Doohan (Scotty).

There isn't a Star Trek fan that wouldn't enjoy getting any of these action packed stories. Two of the tapes are adaptations of Star Trek #4 and #5, the others are original dramas never done on tv.

On different tapes you will hear about Kirk's first adventure with his new command, Spock's son, Kirk's "death", and what happened after their 5 year mission was completed.

With the ongoing popularity of the tv series and movies this would be a most welcomed Christmas gift. (AUDIOWORKS plans to come out this coming spring with the first of the new Star Trek - The Next Generation stories)

OK, so your loved one isn't a youngster or a "Trekkie". AUDIOWORKS has something that will fit any age group.

One of the most popular book and movie series has been the James Bond stories. If you aren't aware of them

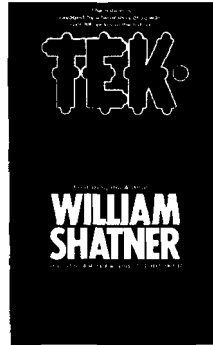
you're really out of touch with things and should get out of the house more often.

Some of the titles available are "Moonraker", "You Only Live Twice", "The Man With the Golden Gun", "Doctor No" and one not written by Ian Fleming "No Deals, Mr. Bond" by John Gardner.

Roger Blake does the narrative on these stories and his voice is exactly what we expect Bond to sound like.

The adventures are fast paced and exciting and real ear-candy for any Bond fan.

You cannot go wrong with any of these titles.



As if he doesn't have enough going for him already William Shatner has now joined the ranks of those doing books-on-tape.

Just recently released, and an excellent Christmas gift, is his exciting "Tek-War"

Tek is a futuristic, highly addictive substance that is taking over the world of the 22nd century. Jake Cardigan (Shatner) is an ex-cop forced into the battle against it.

The story is laced with deadly killer robots, sexy androids, and vicious drug dealers. The war Jake gets thrust into is against the deadliest people on Earth.

Shatner's story and narration is excellent and AUDIOWORKS has seen fit to make the production outstanding.

Complete with music and sound effects, this story gives a view of what the future might (hopefully not!) hold.

In every respect this is a fantastic three hour presentation.

If your loved one is more into true-life stories there are three autobiographies that should make them more than happy.

The first, from DOVE BOOKS, is "Debbie, My Life" written by and also narrated by Debbie Reynolds.

You'd think that her story would be all sweetness and light but that isn't the case at all. She's had her share of major troubles and is

FIRST CLASS MAIL



The Old Time Radio Club
100 Starvey Drive
Lancaster, NJ 14086