

The Illustrated Press

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 1

APRIL 1990



--- RONALD COLMAN & BENITA HUME ---

They're best remembered for "The Halls of Ivy" which ran on NBC from 1950-1952. It was a show in which Colman played the head of an American college, sort of an Americanized Mr. Chips.

(credit great radio personalities)



THE OLD TIME RADIO CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

New member processing—\$2.50 plus club donations of \$17.50 per year from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31  
 Members receive a tape listing, library list, monthly newsletter, the Illustrated Press, the yearly Memories publication and various special items. Additional family members living in the same household as a regular member may join the club for a \$5.00 donation 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 with a regular member. This membership is a \$13.00 donation per year and includes all the benefits of regular membership. Regular membership donations are as follows; If you join in Jan.-Mar. \$17.50--Apr. - June \$14.00--July-Sept. \$10.00 Oct.-Dec. \$7.00. All renewals are due by Jan. 2. Your renewal should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing issues. Please be sure to notify us if you change your address.

OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIPS are now available. Annual donations are \$29.75. Publications will be airmailed.

The Old Time Radio Club meets the first Monday of every month.

from Aug.- June at 393 George Urban Blvd., Cheektowaga, N.Y. Anyone interested in the "Golden Age of Radio" is welcome. Meetings start at 7.30 P.M.  
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The ILLUSTRATED PRESS is the monthly newsletter of the "Old Time Radio Club" headquartered in Buffalo, N.Y. Contents contained become the property of the Old Time Radio Club. Credits given where noted and possible.  
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CLUB ADDRESSES  
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 Lancaster, N.Y. 14086. (716)684-1604

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REFERENCE LIBRARY

Ed Wanat-393 George Urban Blvd.  
 Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CHANGE OF ADDRESS, MAILING OF PUBLICATIONS

Pete Bellanca-1620 Ferry Rd.  
 Grand Island, N.Y. (716)773-2485

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TAPE LIBRARIES

CASSETTES-Dan Marafino  
REEL 1-600-Bill Weber-226 Harding Rd.  
 Williamsville, N.Y. 14221  
REELS 601 & UP

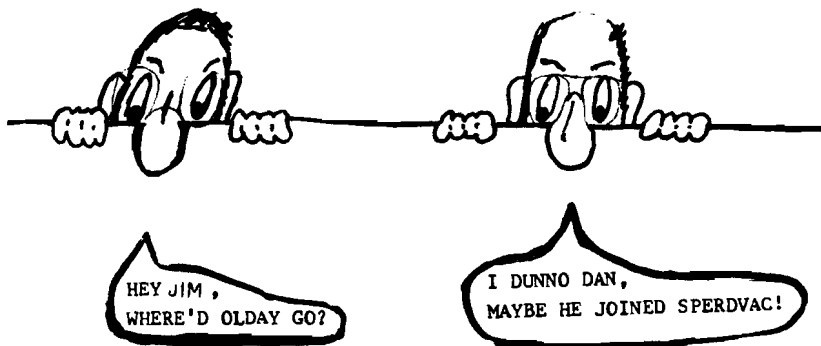
Tom Harris-9565 Wehrle Dr.  
 Clarence, N.Y. 14031  
 (716) 759-8401

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

VIDEO & RECORDS-Dominic Parisi

38 Ardmore Pl.  
 Buffalo, N.Y. 14213  
 (716) 884-2004



Starting with this issue Dan Marafino and Jim April are taking over the duties of Editor of the Illustrated Press.

We have plans for it that are going to change the I.P. in some minor and major ways. Hopefully, the changes will work, bringing the I.P. into the 90's with a different look and attitude. We hope you'll be pleased with our efforts. If they don't go over well we can, and will, revert back to the old formula.

Dan and I are not out to change the world - just certain parts of the I.P. which we feel have become repetitious, redundant, and less than interesting.

Reprinted articles will be held to a minimum and the pulp reprints will be done away with (unless we r-e-a-l-l-y need them). It all depends on the amount of input we can get from you.

The Illustrated Press is the voice of the Old Time Radio Club. It is the way that you and we can make our thoughts known.

Praise(?), gripes, or just random thoughts are all welcome and, in fact, encouraged.

If articles or columns are not forthcoming we will try to manage without them...but wouldn't

it be a much better publication if it reflected the opinions of all of you instead of just Dan and I?

Dick Olday has done a commendable job at the helm of the I.P. for years and we thank him for his untiring efforts. He single-handedly kept us going through some pretty rough times.

We hope that we can keep up the I.P. with the same enthusiasm and dedication that was evident in his work.

Dan and I will need input from you if we are going to make this thing work. Are there changes that we are implementing that you don't want us to make? Are there things that we should do? (nothing nasty please) Do you want the I.P. to be something unpredictable, unlike any other OTR newsletter, and a bit off-the-wall at times, or something strictly formatted and as comfortable as an old shoe?

We can go either way but it is your opinion that will ultimately tell us the correct course.

The Illustrated Press is your vehicle and Dan and I are only the drivers, piloting it to where you want to go.

Let's hope that it turns out to be a fun trip for us all.

Keeper of the Cassettes--

Busy, busy, busy. Have I been busy. You don't know how busy I've been, what with orders coming and going, tapes being dubbed, made, checked and added. WHEW!!!

But enough of what I've been doing. Let's find out what I will be doing. In the months to come the tape library will be undergoing some changes (for the better) I hope. I've already told you about the Movies and the bands. More Radio shows will be added. This is not enough. The major changes will be in the improvements in the existing tapes in the library. As of the beginning of January, several members have been helping me go through EVERY tape in the library and grade them. Ex.-VG,G,G-F,F. ANYTHING less than fair gets the old heave-ho and it's history. We don't have anything that rates an E.

I still need your help. If you happen to come across ANY tape that you think could be improved, and you have the right equipment to do it, by all means go ahead and do it. Send them back to me MARKED, say you replaced 543, mark the NEW tape 543 and replaced. Simple.

Any help will be appreciated and rewarded.

Well I have to go now, back to the tapes--busy, busy, busy.



IVAN CURY--as Bobby Benson, introduces a new generation of youngsters to the B-Bor-B Ranch, heard Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:00 P.M., EST, over Mutual Network stations.

### An I.P. Editorial

For quite some time this newsletter has strived to bring you the best in what OTR is all about, whether it be factual columns on radio stars, columns on collecting and trading OTR material, radio serials and whatever else was of interest. The new editors of this newsletter intend to continue the tradition of a quality publication. We won't try to deceive you by saying there won't be any changes, there will, but they will be informative, entertaining, educational and a bit humorous.

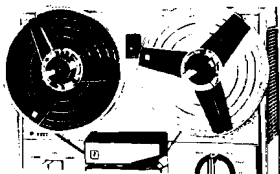
We want the Illustrated Press to tell you something YOU want to know, to show you something YOU want to see and we hope you will tell your friends about us. We feel we have something to offer all of you in the hobby and if we don't, than we soon will.

Look for expansion in the Audio Novels section as well as trivia, brain teasers, articles on taping, dubbing, how-to columns where to find the good deals, qualities of tape, a flea market, and a whole lot more.

Some of the articles planned are the history of the westerns on radio, the private eyes, an article on sponsors, and much more. We want to put the most info between the covers of each and every issue we possibly can.

We also extend an invitation to anyone receiving the I.P. to write a column. By the way, we've planned an article on just that subject--How to write an article. It's easy.

Till the next ish.



by Tom Harris

Welcome to "Real World". Hopefully this column will be more useful and informative than "Reely Speaking" which it replaces. I will try to follow a monthly format as follows. First a listing of new reels and their contents. Then an updated sound quality grade. Also, when possible, comments on content and background. Finally, if space allows, I hope to end with a review of an older reel and/or a list of "favorite programs" by a member. If you'd like to participate in the later my address is under reel librarian in this issue.

A note on sound quality. My ears and equipment are different from yours so I'd be very surprised if there weren't differences of opinion. Here is the rating guide I'll use:

- E = excellent
- VG = very good
- G = good
- F = fair

REEL 726 JACKSON & DASSER 1800' VG

Victory Benny with a...  
 Andy Devine. These shows are less predictable than later ones. The take off on Little Women is a wild cross between The Three Stooges and The Marx Brothers.  
 Stanley Livingston 10-22-39  
 Halloween Party 10-29-39  
 The Women 11-5-39  
 Jack's Toothache 11-12-39

Thanksgiving Party 11-19-39  
Bullseye Benny 11-26-39  
REEL 726 & DASSER 1800' VG

The shows on this reel ran from October to May 1950 or 1951. The opening music is very different with a deep voiced announcer telling us that the show's a true adventure of the OSS who's weapons are black war, espionage, and international intrigue. Pretty heavy beginning. Don't be put off these shows are extremely well done mixing in some good humor with top WWI action. It was based on the book of the same name. The major continuing character is the Colonel played by Raymond Edward Johnson (Inner Sanctum). There is a very short patch of speed variation in the second show. I highly recommend this reel. I've put stars names after some shows.

- Eyes of Buddha 7-2-50 G. Richards
- The Trap 7-9-50 Everett Sloane
- Secret Box 7-23-50 Jerry Lester
- Swastika on Windmill 7-30-50
- Recommendation fr. Rommel 8-6-50
- Roof of the World 8-13-50
- REEL 727 CBS COVERAGE OF D DAY  
1293' G/G

Living history at its best. It cuts from live commentary in Paris (A) to a narrative (C) from Europe. Willis Cow... starts out like... of the world. Great job.

D Day Coverage 11-26-39

Mr. Mayer 4-7-41  
 Cha...  
 ...icks 6-2-44

SHAPER Communique 11 1-1-44

Charles Collingwood 6-9-44

Ken Crawford 6-9-44

FOR 4th Term Campaign Speech  
 10-5-44

REEL 788 LUX RADIO THEATRE

Movies adapted to radio

is, of course, a lost art.  
 But an art is lost. The art is  
 that about as well as anyone.  
 From October 1934 until June  
 1955 roughly a thousand shows  
 were produced. The four here  
 are good cross section. Some  
 have the original movie cast,  
 some didn't. Some suffered from  
 this change, some were made  
 "different", and some were  
 improved. Highly recommended  
 is Hitchcock's Shadows. William  
 Powell is just plain brilliant  
 (Joseph Cotton was in the movie).  
 Cast Members are added.

Constant Nymph 1-10-44

Charles Boyer, Alexis Smith

Shadows of a Doubt 1-10-44  
 William Powell, Veresa Wright

Kathleen 12-27-43  
 Shirley Temple, G. Marshall

Casablanca 1-24-44

Alan Ladd, Hedy Lamarr

REEL 789 SGT. PRESTON OF THE YUK  
YUKON 1300' (-) VG

This actioner from the  
 creator of The Lone Ranger ran  
 from 1947 until 1955. It was  
 first called Challenge of the  
 Yukon. Don Aston refers to it  
 as the Lone Ranger of Canada.  
 This show, as with The L. R.  
 has a very loyal following.  
 The sound here is almost excel-  
 lent. Only one track in each  
 direction is recorded on.

Sold Behind the Waterfall 9-11-50

Polar Quest 9-13-50

Left to Die 9-15-50

Sack of Sand 9-16-50

Talemute Express 9-20-50

Torn Map 9-22-50

REEL 790 SGT. PRESTON OF THE  
YUKON 1300' VG

Diagram of Danger 9-25-50

Red Raiders 9-27-50

Doc Crazy 9-29-50

Malacca Cane 10-2-50

Vagabond 10-4-50

Criminal Collie 10-5-50

REEL 791 LUX RADIO THEATRE  
1200' VG

Smilin' Through 4-29-40

Robert Taylor, Barbara Stanwyck

Midnight 5-20-40

Don Ameche, Claudette Colbert

Alexander's Ragtime Band 6-3-40

Alice Faye, Ray Milland

The Sisters 10-9-39

David Miveny, Irene Dunne

Goodbye Mr. Chips 11-20-39

Laurence Olivier

REEL 792 LUX RADIO THEATRE  
1200' VG

Ceiling Zero 2-27-39

James Cagney, Ralph Bellamy

Invitation to Happiness 10-23-39

Madeline Carroll, F. Mac Murray

Sidewalks of London 2-12-40

Charles Laughton, E. Lanchester

Wings of the Navy 10-7-40

George Brent, John Payne

William Russell 10-21-40

Alice Faye, Victor Mature

RE-- (REELING REELS 615 & 616

ADVENTURES OF PHILIP DRIFT  
1300' VG-

Some voices were born for  
 certain roles and Gerald Mohr's  
 was born for Marlowe. A tough  
 uncompromising series with little  
 humor(except sardonic) and Mohr's  
 voice is a match. I like this  
 show more with each listening.  
 REEL 615 has only the first six  
 episodes, 616 is complete. REEL  
 617.

## OTR Book Review-JJA

Pharmacy &amp; Medicine on the Air

- by Mickey Smith

Mr. Smith's interest in this segment of radio history flows naturally from a combination of vocational activities as a Barnard professor of health care administration at the University of Mississippi and his avocational interest in what is often called the "Golden Age of Radio". He points out that radio during this period is thought to have been a powerful tool in shaping the listening audiences behavior and perception. He raises two thought provoking questions in the first section of his book in the support of this position;

1. Did radio portrayals mimic the practice of pharmacy?
2. Was the future of pharmacy somehow altered by its radio image?

He also states that radio..... "shaped opinion, often unconsciously, and was used to instill patriotism and propagandize both American ideals and commercial products."

His own answers to these questions are a feeling that they, "...should be affirmative and that radio was a major force in American life during the period covered by his study. But since".....sociological and psychological research techniques during the period were not sophisticated(enough) and in contrast to the attention given television, these social scientists did not expend a great deal of effort on the study of radios effects."In other words...it cant be proven one way or the other.

We all probably have some sort of stereotype in our minds formed perhaps by the manner in which the radio programs we heard portrayed the pharmacist: kindly, eccentric, humorous, helpful, conscientious, bumbling, henpecked, fatherly, business like, etc. They are mostly positive

images. The author does aptly point out that "pharmacy did then and in some cases still does suffer from a kind of schizophrenia ----part business, part health profession.

But I dwell to long on what os really a very minor part of the book. It is obvious, even after a cursory examination, that this books real value is an in depth reference book for the here-to-fore neglected role of pharmacy in radio history. This volume divides the data into the following logical areas: PHARMACY AND RADIO: 1935-1960; MAJOR PHARMACY CHARACTERS ON RADIO; MINOR PHARMACY CHARACTERS ON RADIO; MEDICINE AND NURSING IN RADIO; THE END OF RADIO DRAMA; VARIETY AND COMEDY; THE SPONSORS and lastly a detailed section listing his reference. This last section,(a crucial part of a well designed reference tool) lists three classes of material: Published References, Interviews and Archival Material. The author makes some insightful statements on the study of radio as an agent of change/persuasion and entertainment. He shows that these "agents" do not have to be treated as seperate entities. He uses the following with the following illustrations: "When Mr. Peavey earned a laugh with one of his typically conservative remarks, were not some of the listeners, especially the younger ones, persuaded that druggists are conservative? And when Doc Hackett simultaneously displayed science and humanity, even in his short lived series, might not some have been persuad-

ed of the professionalism of this man and the pharmacy practioners whom he portrayed?"

The quotes above accomplish both goals...entertainment and persuasion. Were the writers consciously attempting to achieve both? Was perusasion incidental?

Oh well..enough of this... If you are interested in a reference book that covers this portion of radio history in a solid workmanlike manner, its published by:

SCARECROW PRESS, INC.  
METUCHEN, N.J. & LONDON

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JUST THE FACT'S MA'AM

Recently I recieved an update from Joel and Carolyn Senter concerning the progress of the OTR defense fund. They sent out a mailer soliciting funds to help in their drive to help the OTR dealers. They recieved \$35.00, just enough to cover the postage. Just a reminder that if this effort fails, one might end up paying \$8.00 to \$10.00 per show. Donations to the OTR Defense Fund are still being accepted.

Send your contributions to---  
OTR DEFENSE FUND  
c/o CAROLYN & JOEL SENTER  
4003 CLIFTON AVE.  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220

Memo to Gary Mihalak  
737 Gramercy  
Toledo, Ohio 43612

Thanks for your contribution to the OTR Defense Fund and your name will be given to the tape librarians for your free rental.

Gary & LaDonna Kramer of Great American Radio P.O. Box528, Mt Morris, Michigan 48458, have a new flier out. Cassettes are available for just \$2.50 each.

Several new shows are listed. If you haven't recieved your copy drop them a note and mention that you read about it in the I.P.

I was talking to a dealer recently and he said that it is possible that 1,000, count 'em, 1,000 new FRED ALLEN shows have recently been found.

The same person also said that possibly 100 NEW SHADOW shows had also been found. If these new Shadow shows were found by the person who is suing the OTR dealers, I hope he chokes on them. If they were found by someone else, I wish him the best of luck and hope he or she makes a ton of money on them.

If someone else can confirm this, please write me c/o the I.P.

Those are just the facts  
Ma'am.

Frank Boncore



Martin Kane--Private Eye (radio/tv mirror)  
William Gargan & two cast members

**LIFE CAN BE BEAUTIFUL** Now completely on the side of crippled young Danny, Chiehi fights valiantly to protect the boy from the selbsh clutches of two other women--his greedy, heartless mother, and wealthy, lonely Victoria Vandenbush, who means well by Danny but does not understand her own motives. Will the scheming Paul Porter add a decisive factor to the increasingly turbulent situation? What does Papa David think? M-F, 3 P.M. EDT, NBC.



MEMORIES - DUMP IT OR NOT?

If this were a perfect world where everything was peaches and cream, top of the line, and free of any cost, we would be able to offer you the world and all that goes with it and not worry who was going to pay the bill for it all.

The world, unfortunately, is far from perfect and there is no longer such a thing as a free lunch. Bills have to be paid out of available money and budgets have to be set up and adhered to if one is to survive.

We (local members who want to dump Memories) can see bad times coming for the club financially unless steps are taken to stop the problem in it's tracks.

Memories has become a financial burden for the club, costing an inordinate amount of money to produce and print...and a dreadful amount to mail out!

Those arguing to keep it going just as it is, state that Memories brings in revenue from it's ads. They say that it is a prestige item that promotes good will with our membership. We've been issuing it for years and the members expect it so we can't drop it! Members will quit the club if we stop giving them Memories! More emphasis should be made on getting paid ads by all members! How about asking members to buy patron ads like they do for high school yearbooks? HOW ABOUT RAISING THE DUES TO COVER IT'S COST!?!?

We believe that Memories has priced itself out of a range that the club can afford! The amount of revenue that it brings in comes nowhere near the cost of producing it!

The Old Time Radio Club is the only club producing special issues aside from their regular newsletters. Doesn't this tell you something - that they know better - that a magazine like Memories can be such a drain on a club's treasury that it just isn't worth it!

Try to get more paid ads??? Be serious! The few we had last time were the best that we could come up with! Patron ads are also a bit of a joke. Members would resent being asked and those that do buy would do so grudgingly! So much for the good will and prestige of Memories...and the club!

The bottom line would end up being that the money came from the already overburdened treasury...as usual!

What does that leave us with? Yeah, you know...raise the dues! Or, how about we make the I.P. a bi-monthly or quarterly thing? That way we could afford to keep Memories.

Last fall we moved to get rid of Memories but succeeded only in having the page-count lessened to help save on printing and mailing. This had only a minimal effect on the overall cost and, when looked at realistically, did nothing at all to help the situation.

We do not believe that other aspects of the club should have to be curtailed or restricted just so the club can, once a year, issue a vanity piece such as Memories!

Nearing the end of 1989 we were in pretty good shape financially... until the bills for Memories came rolling in! Suddenly we were dipping into 1990's funds just to

(Memories-continued)

finish out the year! This is fiscal irresponsibility at it's worst - all because of Memories! The sad thing is that if something isn't done 1990 promises to be even worse because part of it's funds have already been spent!

Something most definitely has to be done about Memories and it seems that we, locally, cannot agree on the course of action to be taken!

BOTH sides of the argument are asking that YOU tell us the way to go.

We are open to suggestion. As of now here are the options that we have....

Keep Memories just as it is and worry about costs as they happen.

Discontinue Memories until a time we can afford it again.

Change the Illustrated Press into a bi-monthly publication to cut costs. (Cut 6 issues of the I.P. to save 1 issue of Memories)

Change the size format of Memories to the size of the I.P. and once or twice a year issue it in place of the I.P.

Raise the club's dues to cover the cost of Memories.

Request that every member buy a patron ad to keep Memories alive.

No, we will not sell jams and jellies door to door to make money!

Those who have worked on Memories have done a good job and should be commended for their work. It is a crying shame that things cannot just keep going on like they have been but the ever-increasing costs of production, printing, and mailing have made this impossible. And, let's face it - it ain't gonna get better, only worse.

Oh yes, there is one other argument that has been used as a "wedge" to block the dumping of Memories.

They say that Memories is a major reason that dealers and individuals donate tapes to the club's lending library!

We find this hard to believe. BUT if it is so, wouldn't a mention or plug in the I.P. serve the same purpose? We're sure it would!

Aside from dues the only money generating thing the club has going for it is the tape library which is more than holding it's own. Instead of using funds from the library to publish Memories we should be using them to make the library bigger and better to promote an even better income from it. Given time.., and a chance, it might generate enough money so we could actually afford Memories.

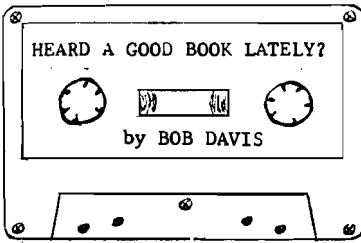
Anyway, a decision has to be made and now is the time to do it, before commitments are made.

Times change and we must adapt to the changes or suffer for it.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, let us know your feelings on what to do. A simple note will do - no long explanations are needed unless you want to make them.

Well, that's it. We've laid the problem at your feet.

THE REST IS UP TO YOU!



Great news for all you fans of the rough and tough school of private eyes. After almost 20 years the roughest and toughest of them all is back and he has aged very well indeed.

SIMON & SCHUSTER'S AUDIOWORKS has recently issued "The Killing Man", the latest Mike Hammer tale written by Mickey Spillane.

Stacy Keach narrates the story as Hammer and is perfect in the role.

The story is typically Spillane, with fights, shootings, sexy women, and (gulp!) decapitations!

Mike finds a cut-up body in his office, a body that was meant to be him! In his outer office he finds his secretary Velda, seriously shot and near death. This happens in the opening few minutes of this 3 hour presentation and the action and suspense are sustained right up to the slam-bang climax...which is a real dandy!

This tape is an excellent example of the way an audio book should be made. Don't miss it!

AUDIOWORKS has told me that they have plans to do all the Mike Hammer books. In May look for "The Big Kill" and "My Gun is Quick". Each will star Keach as Hammer.

Another bit of news from AUDIOWORKS is that, in addition to the recently released Sherlock Holmes tape featuring "The Case of the Out of Date Murder" and "The Waltz of Death", there will be more coming out next May and August. Naturally

these, like all the stories in this series, star Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.

CAEDMON TAPES has just issued a 3 hour version of John Kennedy's famous work "Profiles in Courage".

JFK Jr. does the narrative in a workman-like manner that does justice to his father's writings.

The tape concerns itself with personal stories of such Americans as Daniel Webster, John Quincy Adams, and Sam Houston - men who were not afraid to put their lives and careers on the line to back up their political beliefs.

This is a "classy" presentation that belongs in the category of tapes that are a "must".

A real winner for CAEDMON!

Want to hear a story so full of adventure and suspense that it'll stay with you for a long while after it's been played out?

Have I got an audio novel for you! BOOKS ON TAPE INC. has made available Elleston Trevor's fabulous "The Flight of the Phoenix".

Briefly, it's the story of 12 men stranded deep in a remote part of the Libyan Desert after their cargo plane, off course and finally disabled by a sandstorm, was forced to crash-land.

No search planes would be looking for them, and it was too far to attempt to walk to safety, so they decided on a desperate plan. Using the wreckage of the cargo plane they would build another plane to fly them out of there.

Can they do it? Can they survive the heat, lack of food and water, and the violent frustrations that they are forced to endure? After the story you'll know but I'm not about to spoil it for you. Listen for yourself and find out...

"Phoenix" is narrated by Richard Green and is 7 hours long.

(continued)

DOVE BOOKS ON TAPE continue to be a vanguard company in the field of audio novels. Their variety of product is wide and, in most cases, very entertaining. Here are a few examples.

DOVE has issued a 3 hour version of Terry Southern's famous (infamous?) novel "Candy" which frankly is not for the kiddies or those with sensitive natures that might get offended by explicit language or situations.

This is funny, funny "stuff" and has to be heard to be appreciated. I cannot go into the story for obvious reasons but you probably are familiar with it anyway.

Narrated by the author, this one is a gem..., rough cut, but nevertheless a gem!

DOVE has also released the audio version of something titled "The Intimate Sex Lives of Famous People". This title might suggest that it is "dirty" but it is not. Mostly it's a collection of provocative anecdotes, written by various authors, about people like Marilyn Monroe, Jack Benny, James Dean, Sigmund Freud (!) and many others.

The text, narrated by Robin Leach, does tend to be a tad raunchy but does not approach being pornographic or dirty. The stories range from funny to sad and not a one of them is less than fascinating.

An off-beat tape that's not for everyone. If you like this "inside story" type of material then this one is for you.

Also from DOVE is an entertaining bit of fluff titled "Hollywood Anecdotes" which could be sub-titled "A Light-Hearted History of Hollywood".

Debbie Reynolds, a part of that history, narrates the stories with an enthusiasm that is infectious. She loves the subject and it shows as she relates tales of the screen greats that you might, or might not, have heard before.

Written by Paul Boller and Ronald Davis, "Anecdotes" runs a little less than 3 hours long and, as is so often the case, flies by much too quickly. Here's hoping that DOVE will see fit to come out with a volume two!

Unlike "Candy" or "Famous People" this one is suitable for all.

Lawrence Sanders has written some of the grittiest, hard-hitting novels of our time - "Stolen Blessings" is not one of them!! It is an action oriented comedy about a "kidnapping" quite unlike any you've ever heard of before.

I won't go into what is kidnapped but it's unique, a nine-of-a-kind (inside joke) item that will have you laughing out loud!

It's from SIMON & SCHUSTER'S AUDIOWORKS and they've done themselves proud. Jerry Orbach is just outrageous in his first rate narration, outstandingly so when he assumes the voice of Marilyn Taylor, "The Most Beautiful Woman in the World"!

Any one of the characters in this 3 hour story would be right at home in a Damon Runyon story.

If you're looking for a soul searching drama or one with deep social meaning, look elsewhere.

This one's strictly for laughs.

The toll-free telephone numbers for the companies mentioned in this article are as follow...

Simon & Schuster's Audioworks  
1-800-678-2677  
Books on Tape Inc..1-800-626-3333  
Caedmon Tapes...1-800-638-3030  
Dove Books on Tape-1-800-345-9945

These numbers operate during normal business hours and can take orders or answer questions about any audio novel mentioned in this column.

Radio in the War Years

1939 saw radio as a major form of entertainment with star filled lineups. Fourth place was taken by Fibber McGee & Molly & Kate Smith reached the top ten that year. Bob Hope slid

into seventh place. The top two shows of 1939 were the "Chase & Sanborn Hour" and Jack Benny. 1939 was also a year of fast moving, earth-shaking events. On the other side of the Atlantic, the threat of war loomed large. Adolf Hitler had taken over the government of Germany

Suddenly and without warning Poland was invaded. Blitzkrieg, a lightning attack, was to render Poland helpless within days. On September third, Prime Minister Chamberlain, speaking to the world over the BBC, announced England's declaration of war on Germany. Americans by the millions hear the broadcast and can only sympathise.

Captain Midnight, Hop Harrigan, Frank Merriwell, Jack Armstrong, all give us a reason to run home from school to tune in. At first the adventures were fun to us, but later the full impact of what was happening in Europe would hit us. Some how the

situation was'nt "fun" anymore. America maintains neutrality as more nations, Austria, Hungary, and France fall under the Nazi flag. The world watches as the Axis armies march into country after country with little opposition. It becomes very clear that the British Isles will be the next target.

Late 1940, the fall of the year in England. Hitler has vowed to take England. A young man named Edward R. Murrow would become famous the world over for what was about to happen. Murrow, a London war correspondent, worked for CBS and was chief of it's european staff. In the days ahead he would tell the world of the daily bombings by the Luftwaffe and the heroic deeds of the RAF pilots.

Radio in the USA had now become so big that it frequently set the pattern for all other fields of entertainment. Stars like Bing Crosby, Eddie Cantor, Joe Penner were better known than the leading Hollywood stars and in turn were paid huge amounts of money to star in the movies.

2:30 EST., Sunday, December 7th, 1941. Six million families were listening to there radios in disbelief as the announcer broadcast the news. The United States had been attacked by air. Forces of the Empire of Japan....

Four days later we would declare war on Germany & Italy. Radio was about to undergo a drastic change.

Next Issue-Part 2

THE WAY IT WUZ---JJA

The following clips were taken from the radio columns of the Buffalo Evening News on the dates noted. It's interesting to see that 60 years ago their main concern was the strength of the signal.

60 YEARS AGO--Friday, 4/18/30

Static---Signals were weak. WCAV, Philadelphia was fading badly and WSU, Florida, was very low. WRVA, Richmond was faint and subject to fading. WSB, Atlanta was only fair.

50 YEARS AGO--Monday, 4/01/40

Radio theatre had been going after its guests lately by long distance phone. Madeline Carroll was contacted aboard ship while returning from abroad. George Brent was signed in Honolulu and a phone call smoked Fred MacMurray out of a Mexican hunting trip

40 YEARS AGO--Monday, 4/17/50

Madame Sherry is on the Railroad Hour tonight. Gordon MacRae, the NBC page boy who rose to stardom by way of a swell voice, is now a motion picture star as well. The star of the R.R. Hour (tonite at 8 over WBEN ) came up the hard way. Chiefly through a warm personality evident in his manner and singing.

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No letters arrived in time to be put in this issue. Next month any letters recieved will be printed under the heading "FEEDBACK". Keep those cards & letters coming.

Ed.

30 YEARS AGO--Monday 4/17/50

FM radio upsurge continues. There are now more FM stations. 60's sales are booming. The number of FM stations has jumped past the 100 mark.

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The I.P. needs your input. Can you write about this hobby? We need columns from you. Be a part of the I.P. Send me your article(s).

# 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

Tapesondents is a free service to all members.

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..The Back Page  
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BACK ISSUES

I.P.'s and MEMORIES  
\$1.50 ea. postpaid

Out of print issues may be borrowed from the reference library.

Contact--Dominic Parisi  
38 Ardmore Pl.  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14213

ADVERTISING RATES FOR MEMORIES

\$60.00 for a full page  
\$40.00 for a half page

ALL ADS MUST BE CAMERA READY

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SPECIAL - OTR members may take 50% off these rates.

Advertising deadline--Sept. 1  
\*\*\*\*\*

DEADLINE FOR THE I.P.--10th of each month prior to publication  
\*\*\*\*\*

Quarterly Financial Report

Feb. balance---\$586.80  
Income-----\$670.90  
Total-----\$1257.70

Less expenses

Print I.P.-----\$45.00  
Mail I.P.-----\$37.95  
Cassette postage--\$12.94  
Bank sur charge--\$3.10  
Coffee--donuts--\$13.11  
TOTAL EXPENSES--\$112.10  
MARCH BALANCE\_ \$1145.60  
\*\*\*\*\*

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.

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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.  
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**EILEEN WILSON**—female vocalist on NBC's Your Hit Parade started her vocal training in childhood. She has a B.A. degree from UCLA where she majored in music. After graduation, Skitch Henderson signed her as vocalist with his radio show. Later she became featured singer with the Les Brown orchestra when Doris Day left the band. Eileen is married to Ray Kellogg, singer with Les Brown.

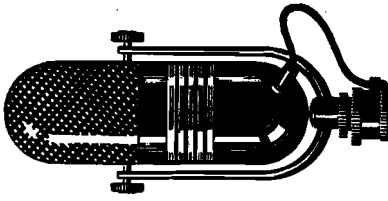
# HANG AROUND...

-NEXT MONTH IN THE I.P.  
Radio in the war years-2  
Oldday's old days  
membership questionnaire  
Profile-the private eyes  
word search  
and much more--TUNE IN

**GUIDING LIGHT** Young Kathy Grant at last realizes the dangerous challenge she gave fate when she kept certain important facts from her family and her husband, Dr. Dick Grant. If their marriage survives, can it ever be the same now that the foundation of trust has been shaken? Or will the past be forgotten as Kathy's father, Joe Roberts, and her stepmother struggle to avert further tragedy? M-F, 12:45 P.M. EDT, CBS-TV, M-F, 1:45 P.M. EDT, CBS.



The Old Time Radio Club  
19 Church Street  
Lancaster, NY 14086



F I R S T C L A S S M A I L