

The Illustrated Press

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 4

JULY 1990



A typical ad you may have seen at the movie theatres across the country during WW 2. Even though the wording is non radio, the theme of the times is carried across. It was a time when we all came together and Patriotism was a natural high. Radios' contribution is contained inside in part 3 of Radio in the war years.



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.

Club Address

Old Time Radio Club
P. O. Box 426
Lancaster, N. Y. 14086

Club Officers

President - Jerry Collins
56 Christen Ct.
Lancaster, N. Y. 14086
(716) 683-6199

Vice-President & Canadian Branch
Richard Simpson
960-16 Rd. R. R. 3
Fenwick, Ontario
L0S 1C0

Treasurer & Video & Records
Dominic Parisi
38 Ardmore Pl.
Buffalo, N. Y. 14213
(716) 884-2004

Illustrated Press
Dan Marafino
19 Church St.
Lancaster, N. Y. 14086
(716) 684-0733

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. 14072
(716) 773-2485

Membership Inquiries
Richard Olday
100 Harvey Dr.
Lancaster, N.Y. 14086
(716) 684-1604

Tape Libraries

Cassettes

Jim April
85 Hyledge Dr.
Amherst, N.Y. 14226
(716) 837-7747

Reel to Reel 1-600
Bill Weber
226 Harding Rd.
Williamsville, N.Y. 14221
(716) 634-7021

Reel to Reel 601 & up
Tom Harris
9565 Wehrle Dr.
Clarence, N.Y. 14031
(716) 759-8401



In the June 1989 I. P. I wrote an article called the Other Side of Burnout. Near the end of the article I indicated that one should keep the belief that something good, grand, or wonderful was just around the corner. I was right it was and its form was in the shape of a convention.

The first OTR convention must be something like one's first love, impossible to explain. First I had the pleasure to meet and share a club table with Tom Monroe. If any one person embodies all that is good about this hobby Tom's that person. Then came the faces to match the names that I've heard over and over; Jim Snyder, Don Aston, Terry Salomonson, and Bob Burnham.

Let me try to cut down on the rambling by starting at the beginning. Tom Monroe had secured us a table at the entrance to the dealers room. To our left was the combined forces of Aston, Salomonson, and Burnham. I gathered that they have combined forces to form the AVPRD's (Audio Visual Professionals). The table against ours contained material by Bob Burnham and I soon found myself the proud possessor of LISTENING GUIDE TO CLASSIC RADIO PROGRAMS and a subscription to The LISTENING GUIDE NEWSLETTER. No finer tools are available to OTR hobbyist. If you'd like to find out more about the above write to SRC Productions, P.O. 2645, Livonia MI 48151.

Other tables that I had time to visit were Ivan Snell from Wichita who had a very large selection of cassettes. I lost Ivan's address if anyone could supply it I would appreciate it. SuzAnne Barabas was there with her (and her husband's) Gunsmoke The Complete History and Analysis of the Legendary Broadcast series; Wilt: A Comprehensive Episode-by Episode Guide to Both the Radio and Television Programs. This



Our guests will be Parley Beer and Bob Hastings. Parley Beer is best known for his role as Chester on radio's Gunsmoke. Early in his TV career, Parley played Darby, one of Ozma & Harriet's neighbors. He is remembered more for his role as mayor of Mayberry on the Andy Griffith Show.



At the Newark Radio Convention Bob Hastings is known as the younger. He started as a child singer in 1935 and worked his way through radio soaps to the title role in Archie Andrews. He was active in television from its inception appearing in most of the live dramatic shows. His biggest break came with the role of Lt. Ermy Carpenter (Captain Bonham) on the Van Mankin McCall's Navy.

832 page book cost \$45 and seemed to be worth every cent. Inquiries can be made to McFarland & Co. Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640.

Barbara Davies of Treasure Hunters was displaying a rich assortment of memorabilia, as was Karl Rommel of Hi-Yo Silver. Be happy to give the above addresses upon request. There were other dealers but I'm sorry to say that about this time

all my attention became focused on the events of the convention.

To put it mildly the recreation were wonderful. The David Warren Players were not only highly polished, without practice) but injected the whole thing with a sense of fun. I was able to get the names of the following players who I would like to personally thank; Bob Burchett, Bob Simmons, Steve Thompson, Gary Yoggi, Don Ramlow

and especially Ruth Brown and an amazing gentleman named Dave Zwengler (or is it Fred Allen, or Archie?).

Now comes what I've been dreading. How can I possible describe the impact made by the two guest. Of course they got befor the miks and magic things happened but it went far beyond that. I guess the corny term magic might do. When a person loves what they have and are doing and also love people it is a wonderful plesure to be in their presence. After the first group of re-creations Bob Hastings and Parley Bear sat in front of us and just soared into one story after another about their lives, their careers, and their philosophies of life. This was one of the richests hours I'ved ever enjoyed. I hope that a tape of this dual monologue was made. What wonderful men, what wonderful lives, what a pleasure to share even a short period of time with them. Thank you!

The rest was just icing on the cake. Terry Salomonson and Bob Burnham conducted a collectors workshop. This was not only very informative but their dedication to the hobby was infectious. With young, dedicated, realistic men in the forefront of our hobby I came away with a very good feeling for the future. One point however. Many collectors expressed disappointment that so few reels were for sale. A few pointers that this novice picked up which he had somehow missed were to strive to collect in dated order and the need to demagnetize heads. How many more "simple" things I'll learn in the future

will most likely fill a book.

A young friend of Mel Blank gave an excellent tape and talk program on the late actor. Mary Lou Wallace's affection for Mr. Blank gave an extra shine to the presentation. He was shown not only as an amazingly talented but also as an extremely generous man. One item that came up both here and in the visit with the two guest stars is how they all loved to work with Jack Benny who also was generous in allowing fellow actors to grow and be creative on his show. One item about Blank's career that was new to me was something called Supper Fund. These were very short fun pieces, and from the samples we heard they were truly hilarious.

Let me finish this with a large thanks to Bob Burchett for making the convention possible. It should have a larger attendance - a much larger attendance! I would also like to again thank all those people that we met who just reaffirmed what I also knew - this is a great hobby!



- FRIDAY:**
- 8:00-9:00 DEALERS ROOM OPEN
 - 6:30 RE-CREATIONS:
 - ALLY'S ALLEY
 - ARCHIE ANDREWS
 - GUNSWOKE
 - 7:30 VISIT WITH GUEST
- SATURDAY:**
- 9:00-4:00 DEALERS ROOM OPEN
 - 10:00 RE-CREATION:
 - DICKS TRIPER
 - MEL BLANK TRIBUTE
 - 11:30 COLLECTORS WORKSHOP
 - RE-CREATION:
 - 1:00 • ARCHIE ANDREWS
 - GUNSWOKE
 - GUNSWOKE PANEL
 - RE-CREATION:
 - 2:30 • ESCAPE
 - 5:00-4:00 VISIT WITH GUEST

COURTESY

Perhaps I'm living in the past, but the world seems to have forgotten good manners and courtesy the last twenty or so years. You may not think this has much bearing on OTR, but the lack of courtesy between members is one of my pet peeves. It is also creating trouble for future interchange between members and beginners to this great hobby.

For those who may not remember, my first letter to this publication was about the argument between two members that had been published in the Illustrated Press. I think I objected more to the language being used than to the argument itself. Not foul language, but hateful language! You can disagree with a person without accusing him of everything under the sun! Especially in print!

But the lack of courtesy extends to every facet of OTR collecting. For example; A person lists their name and address and requests information, on trading availability of certain shows. I answer their request and advise them of what I know or what I have available to trade. THEY DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO ANSWER MY LETTER! How can they expect people to take the trouble to write to them, when they can't take a minute to answer? Even a post card stating thank you for the information, or that they are no longer interested, would be acceptable. That is courtesy.

Over the past year I have answered at least a dozen such requests for information and/or trading. I recieved only two replies! I must admit that this experience has made me less anxious to answer such requests in the future. The requestors lack of courtesy has affected my reaction to all future requestors!

I also have my name listed with another OTR club, as being willing to trade with other members. I have recieved many requests for information on what I have available for trading. Yet, when

I reply to their request, I never recieved an answer. Didn't I have a single show they were interested in? Why can't they at least tell me why they are no longer interested? Why are they so anxious to use my time, but are not willing to take a little of their own time to let me know they at least recieved my letter?

Since I do have my name listed as interested in trading shows, and since I did answer a lot of requests in OTR publications in the past, I often get behind on my own correspondence. I always keep a supply of post cards on hand for that reason. If I can't reply to a letter within a few days, I send a card advising them that I will be delayed in answering their letter, but will furnish a reply as soon as possible. I wish others could make the same effort. It's only a little little courtesy, but it would certainly make life more pleasant for some of us old timers.

Jack L. Palmer

 Another Taping Project---by Jerry Collins

It is now close to a year since I completed that long and sometimes frustrating job of dubbing shows from my black backed tapes. Since then I have spent many enjoyable hours listening to the many shows that I added to my collection.

After the first of the year I began to reflect on what I had done and what still had to be done. I began to realize that while I had dubbed over 900 shows from my black backed tapes , I had totally ignored my better quality tapes. At that point another project began to take shape in my mind.

Prior to any taping, I decided to compile a list of my favorite shows. I would be much more selective this time. I would tape these shows and only these shows. My list finally included 27 shows; The Adventures of Ellery Queen, The Adventures of Frank Merriwell, The Adventures of Nero Wolfe , The Adventures of Sam Spade, The Adventures of the Thin

Project-cont;d

Man, The Aldrich Family, Big Town, Bulldog Drummond, Casey, Crime Photographer, The Challenge of the Yukon, David Harding Counterspy, The Great Gildersleeve, The Green Hornet, I Love a Mystery, Mark Trail, Mr. Chamelion, Mr. District Attorney, Mr. Keen, Tracer of lost persons, Mr. & Mrs. North, Mr. President, Nightbeat, Nick Carter, Richard Diamond, The Saint, The Shadow, Straight Arrow & Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar.

By early February the patch cords were reattached and I was ready to tape again. Two months of marathon taping were to follow. During my taping sessions last year I drove my oldest daughter crazy with the constant playing of the Pepsi-Cola commercials on the David Harding, Counterspy shows, This year it was the Bromo Seltzer commercials on the Ellery Queen show and the Lucky Strike spots on Richard Diamond as well as the introductions on such shows as Nick Carter, Frank Merriwell, Mark Trail and The Challenge of the Yukon that were responsible for most of her headaches. I also discovered that the "Flight of the Bumblebee" was not her favorite piece of music.

In less than two months all the taping was completed. With most of the sorting and categorizing done last year I was able to devote all my time this year to just taping. When completed I had added 227 shows on 106 cassettes to my collection.

With the start of Easter vacation I turned off my recorders and turned on the electric typewriter. Now for the next ten days, I drove my family crazy with my constant typing. First I added eight pages to my catalog. The next part of the project was the hardest. Without a computer I produced a mini-catalog of all my favorite shows on cassette. Each one of the shows was given from one to five pages, depending on the number of episodes in my own collection. Shows

like the Thin Man and Mr. Chamelion took one page while the Shadow took five pages to complete. I first alphabetized all the episodes for each show and then typed. When completed, I had a 48 page mini-catalog. Now, not only will I be able to enjoy some excellent shows, but now I will be able to find these shows much more quickly. I have already used my new catalog to check shows in other catalogs. What took 5-10 minutes before can now be done in seconds.

What's next? By next year I will be 50 years old. It might be time to listen to some of those adult shows that Bob Davis and Jim Snyder are always listening to; you know, shows like Suspense and Lux Radio Theatre.

The I.P. Fireside chat or Editorial

I'm going to make this months' comments short, sweet, and to the point. First, you are all of the opinion I wrote the "In My Opinion" article. I DID NOT, Bob Davis is the author of the article. A lot of you seem to be reading more into it than is actually there. I suggest you go back and read only the words printed and stop trying to make it look like Mr. Davis took sides on this issue, HE DID NOT. As editor of the I.P., and a close friend of Bob for many years, I will defend him till hell freezes over when he is right. Again I say, he stated an OPINION. Any comments anyone may have concerning this editorial should be sent to me at our new P.O box 426. I will gladly forward them to Bob. Although we in Buffalo are SYMPATHETIC to the dealers, there is NO WAY this newsletter is going to take sides in a matter we don't completely understand. We DO hope it is resolved quickly as it is having an adverse effect on the hobby as a whole. I wish you all the best and I'll be more than happy to print your rebuttal.

Dan Marafino
Editor
Illustrated Press

on the air

James Lenhard



Three OTR dealers, Don Aston (Astons' Adventures from California), Bob Burnham (BRC Productions from Michigan), and Terry Salomonson (Audio Classics from Missouri), have joined together into a new company called AVPRO (Audio Visual Products). While each will continue selling from their home base, and checks should continue to be made out to their respective company names, they will join together in advertising and other promotion and aquisition activities which will help keep costs down and will help them provide greater service and increase the availability of materials to their customers and the hobby at large.

Tom Monroe, the cassette librarian for the North American Radio Archives (NARA), has started a new club, "The Old Time Radio Show Collectors' Association of England ("ORCA"). The purpose of this club is to make foreign English broadcasts available to American OTR hobbyists. These shows are available on cassettes for a rental fee of only 60¢ per cassette to members. Currently all the shows available are from BBC in England, but the library will later also include shows in English from other countries. A one year membership costs \$15, and includes a newsletter in addition to access to the cassette library. Memberships or information can be obtained from Tom Monroe, 2055 Elmwood Ave., Lakewood, Ohio 44107.

Terry Salomonson, author of the massive log to the Lone Ranger radio series, has just completed two new logs, one for the Challenge of the Yukon, and another for the Green Hornet. These can be purchased for \$7.50 each (including shipping) from Audio Classics, P.O. Box 1135, St. Charles, Missouri 63302.

There is a massive new book, Gunsmoke, by Suzanne and Gabor Barabas, which deals with both the radio and television version of this classic. The book tells the story

of both shows, about the actors, and writers etc., and also includes a complete log for each series. This hardcover book has 823 pages, including 128 pages of glossy pictures. It can be obtained for \$47.00, which includes shipping from the publisher: McFarland & Company, Box 611 Jefferson, North Carolina 28640.

One final note: for the last few years Himan Browns' CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATRE has been airing in syndicated reruns on a number of radio stations around the country. Last Dec. 31st, however, it was rather suddenly and abruptly removed from syndication and is no longer on the air.

RADIO IN THE WAR YEARS---THE FINAL CHAPTER

Rather than follow the same format I used for parts 1 & 2 , I thought I'd try something a bit different for this last chapter. I'm going to let you read the news as it was written, with headlines included and I hope it gets the message across somewhat better than I could write it.

WHL D Plans Salute
to American Heroes

Production is Topic

Army, Navy Leaders
On CBS Tomorrow

Aldrich Family Returns With Third "Henry"

From the voice of Pinocchio to the voice of Henry Aldrich. That's the transition to be made by Dickie Jones when he takes over the leading role in "The Aldrich Family" as it returns to the air after a summer vacation Thursday September 2. He replaces Norman Tokar, who has followed the original Henry, Ezra Stone, into the armed service.

Ellery Queen Solves
Mystery Of Bride

New Electronic Wire
Records "Army Hour"

Obler Analyses Radio's War Job

In a recent issue of Variety, "the theatrical Bible" of show business and now of radio, Arch Oboler gave an illuminating analysis of radio's wartime job. He wrote: "Of far greater concern to all of us right now certainly is what has been done since since Pearl Harbor in terms of radio drama and what all of us can do in the here and now."

Since Sally Felton chooses so many of Arch Oboler's radio plays for presentation every Saturday afternoon 4:15-4:45 for WHLD's Workshop-of-the-air over WHLD, what Mr. Oboler has to say should be of interest to WHLD listeners.

He points out that "the most effective propaganda, experience has shown, is that which neither exhorts nor pleads, but which presents the facts emotionally through entertainment."

Oboler feels that, taken from this viewpoint, radio drama has, in the last six or eight months, done an effective, if limited, job of it. He also feels that there have not been enough programs effectively saying what has to be said.

"The problems of this war and of the peace to come are many and involved and it is far-fetched to say that to an undeterminable extent the duration of the war and the conditions of the peace to come, may depend upon the degree to which the American public is acquainted, through the radio medium, with the facts of the issue."

Oboler feels that "it is the courage with which we program our broadcasts today and tomorrow that will determine our right to live and speak in that better world for which men are dying."

This afternoon, at 4:15, Arch Oboler's "Letter at Midnight" will be dramatized by the WHLD Work shop under Sally Felton's direction.

Correspondent Gets Story to America in Record Time

CBS correspondent John Daly brought Americans the first eyewitness account of Messina's fall on "The World Today" just four hours and 26 minutes after the first Allied troops entered the city.

Daly entered Messina with a platoon of Third Division Troops at 4:35 a. m. Algiers time (3:35 p. m. EWT) and was on hand to greet the British Eighth Army when it reached Messina 30 minutes later.

Daly flew to Algiers to tell the Columbia audience his unique experience.

"We didn't exactly enter the city in style," said Daly, "we walked practically on tiptoe watching the ground for buried mines until our eyes ached. After an hour of walking, we rounded the corner and saw the city lying below us."

"Fourteen strong, we arrived at the City Hall at 8:25. Messina was ours, and for the moment, we were the garrison." Thirty minutes later an English lieutenant colonel drove up, reported Daly. He said, "Hello, Yanks, congratulations!" His disappointment was hidden. It had been exciting to see who would get to Messina first—the American Seventh Army, or the British Eighth.

At 11:35 a. m. (Algiers time) the first shell, bearing Daly's signature, was fired from Sicily against Axis positions on the Italian mainland.

Three hours after Daly's eyewitness account was heard, CBS' "Report to the Nation" went on the air with a dramatization of Daly's account of Messina's fall.

Nazi Propaganda to Be Exposed on CBS

"Our Secret Weapon," a new CBS program series exposing the lies of German propaganda, has its network debut at 7 p. m. tomorrow on CBS.

"Lie Detective" on the broadcasts is Rex Stout, celebrated author, chairman of the Writers' War Board and a representative of Freedom House.

Enlisting the facilities of the CBS shortwave listening post in New York City and the aid of Bob Trout in London, the new program series is to reveal and prove by direct quotation the contradictory utterances of Nazi propaganda.

Trout, CBS correspondent in London, is to provide analyses of false German propaganda released to the German people, while the shortwave listening post analyzes the German lies directed here.

WHLD First Station in Area to Allied Propaganda No Longer Means Spread of Falsehoods

REFLECTIONS IN

THE RADIO MIRROR
by Lance Hunt

The New York Times gave radio buffs

an extra Christmas present on Dec. 31 when they quietly printed an opinion piece by famed British writer Anthony Burgess (A Clockwork Orange). Mr. Burgess is convinced that the "future of broadcasting rests with radio." He maintains that the medium of television has "promised so much and has delivered so little." He said that most of America's commercial channels are little more than "movie museums" already outmoded by the videocassette.

"To many of us it has become a mere electric fire, a necessary warmth, not primarily a source of information or entertainment," he said.

Burgess said television has settled into a permanent state of adolescence. It is not a medium for adults.

He said when he was young he was educationally influenced by BBC radio (British Broadcasting) headed then by a director who believed man had a right to the best "from the Bach cantatas that started off the Sunday programs at 3 in the afternoon to the variety shows that closed the transmissions on Saturday evenings." Listeners could be entertained but not vulgarly.

"No radio comedian could subsist on low innuendoes," he said. Instead the BBC recognized the responsibility of what was known as "social technique."

Since it was believed the public did not know what it wanted, let the decision as to what it should be given rest with kindly liberals who had "never heard of ratings or market research." This led to a high plane of variety and dramatic offerings which spanned everything from new writers for radio to Goethe, Shakespeare, Brecht and Noel Coward. The money that powered

WHLD to Pay Tribute to Local Heroes on "Honor Roll of Air"

Captain Clark Gable on Network Program

A 6,000 mile jump from Hollywood to England to pick up the voice of Captain Clark Gable in London will be a feature of the second broadcast of "What's New?" the BLU Network program tonight, from 7 to 8 p. m. EWT.

As guest stars, Don Ameche, emcee, will introduce Lena Horne, the sensational new Negro actress, currently seen in "Cabin in the Sky" and "Stormy Weather," Monty Woolley and the comedy team of Mally Brown and Alan Carney. The RCA-Victor Orchestra will be directed by Lou Brigg.

Brown and Carney are comparatively new to radio, but have been entertaining theatre and nightclub audiences. Brown specializes in what he calls "Drabble Talk" an improvement on the old fashioned double talk, and Carney does impersonations and characterizations. Captain Gable, in London, will talk about the Third War Loan drive.

these programs came not from advertising or commercials but from licensing fees.

Burgess said radio drama remains the chief nutriment of the European channels not given over to "wallpaper rock or all the works of Vivaldi." He said the BBC still purveys about 50 hours of drama every week a great deal of which represents the "conservation of dramatic culture."

"The rest is innovative, following a tradition of the 1930's, when BBC drama exploited the limitations of pure sound with a kind of expressionist play that owed much to Europe.

Burgess believes that there is nothing in the new culture patterns of our century that is comparable to what has been done in radio drama.

"This is because sound is something on its own, while television looks like a reduced cinema screen or a truncated stage."

Burgess views, in my mind, has opened up a potentially marvelous discussion as to what has happened to the creativity of our youth in this country.

More on radio drama will be explored in future columns. Ask yourself about the spoken word. Where has it gone?

Readers are invited to participate and send in their opinions.

-30-

LETTERS

Dear Dan,

You asked for feedback re The Illustrated Press and Memories. Memories - Of the six options listed in Volume 16, No. 1, I prefer the 4th: change the size format of Memories to the size of The Illustrated Press, and once or twice a year issue it in place of The Illustrated Press. The type of contents of Memories is available from many other clubs, although probably not as well done.

The Illustrated Press: Volume 16, No. 1 had several printing difficulties, and some pages were almost unreadable. The various columns of editorial content were interesting, although evidently spaced out to fill pages. I do not miss the reproductions of ads or program listings at all. The financial report is a worthwhile addition. I definitely do miss the pulp reprints, especially the Shadow novels. These were something I particularly looked forward to. I hope you will reconsider your decision to eliminate them.

I like Bob Davis' column re books on tape. Please pass on to him a request that the reviews indicate whether the books are full versions or condensed. I much prefer full versions.

Very truly yours,
H. A. Brodrick

CASSETTE COMMENTS

This will be the last tape column I write as I am relinquishing the duty of cassette librarian to devote full time to my other duty, that being the editor of the I.P. Jim April has volunteered to take over as cassette librarian and step down as co-editor in order to do this.

I enjoyed the cassette job very much and am kind of sorry to give it up but one job is enough for anybody. Thanks to all who I met through the library. I know Jim will give you good service.

DON'T FORGET OUR NEW POST OFFICE BOX

4 2 6
for any correspondence relating to the club.

METAMORPHOSIS

by Bob Davis

The latest word coming through the grapevine is that there will soon be a unit on the market that will enable home recordists to make their own Compact Disc (CD) recordings. This fills me with such *deja-vu* that it isn't even funny.

We've been down this road before and the story is always the same.

Those collections that we have so carefully built up over the years will have to be changed because new technology has made the mode our collections are recorded on out-of-date, and well on the road to becoming totally obsolete.

Years ago, when I first started collecting old time radio shows, I recorded everything on a monaural (non-stereo) open-reel tape recorder, which was the recording method of the time.

Before this time there were a few other modes of making home recordings... such as wire recorders and record cutters that would allow you to record on paper discs. The sound from these was, frankly, lousy!

The advent of sound tape and home tape recorders was one that brought happiness to those enthusiasts looking for a recording format that was great sounding, convenient, and permanent. This new invention made it possible to make professional sounding recordings in our own homes and allowed collectors of old time radio shows to start building what would turn out to be the foundations of their collections.

It seemed a safe enough bet - what could they come up with that could out-perform this "miracle" invention? This was something that would stay with us for the rest of our lives! It would never become out-of-date!

How wrong we were!

4-track cartridges reared their ugly heads and looked like they were the future of recording. Many of us resisted this interloper, insisting that it was only a passing fad, but the sonofagun

hung in there until some collectors, seduced by the fact that they were convenient AND could be played in their automobiles, switched over to this format!

Like a thunderclap on a summer's night, 4 track cartridges were suddenly out - you couldn't buy 4 track tape anywhere - they were instantly consigned to a status in which they were considered as something as unappetizing as yesterday's garbage...and 8 track cartridges were the new "in" thing!

8 track equipment became awesome in its type and variety and soon became the big force in home recording. Naturally it wasn't compatible with those old-fashioned and obsolete 4 track dinosaurs.

Collections had to be, and were, transferred over to the new format... and the last nail was pounded into the casket of 4 track cartridges.

Meanwhile, some of us were still hanging onto our open-reel, mono recorders, thinking that the 8 track format was like the 4 track format and destined to lose favor with everyone in a very short time. They would wise up, dump the cartridge format, and go back to the tried and true open-reel recording method which was now even better than before because of the multi-track recording abilities now common in that format.

Well, they were partially right! 8 track cartridges, after a surprisingly long run, finally died out...only to be replaced by yet another format that was incompatible with any other. Cassettes!!

The switch over to cassettes was a slow, gradual thing as many were turned off by the poor sound quality they had. Surely, these small, flat cassettes - that all seemed to be assembled in Mexico - could not last! There was no arguing that they were ultra-convenient, but the slow tape speed made sound reproduction indistinct and muddy. Cassettes appeared to be a step backward in the field of sound recording.

Once again, the die-hard collectors stuck to their open-reel units, but the

seed had been planted. Slowly and ever so reluctantly, some old time radio show collectors started switching over and, as tape formulations and unit technology improved, more and more got on the cassette bandwagon. Those that had gone with the 8 track format were forced to adapt or be left out in the cold.

Cassettes got better and better sounding and the recording units became dramatically superior in sound reproduction. The consuming public became enchanted with them and soon they were commonplace...and so inexpensive as to be laughable. Everybody could afford them!

Meanwhile, back at the companies that manufactured open-reel units, there started a phasing out process that reduced the availability of new units to a new low while driving unit replacement costs through the proverbial roof.

Now, even the long time open-reel users are starting to worry. The format that has stayed with them through so many changes is now in danger and may, like the wire, 4 track, and 8 track unit formats, be phased out. New replacement recorders and/or parts are becoming difficult to find. Soon it will be impossible!

Old radio show collectors are stockpiling open-reel units garnered from garage sales and flea markets in preparation for the day when open-reel home recording dies completely. Let's face it - it is going to happen no matter how much we hate to think of it!

In light of this, the number of old radio show collectors who have switched over to the cassette format probably outnumber those still clinging to their tried and true open-reel recorders.

Some are hedging their bets by maintaining dual collections - open-reel AND cassette! We can only wonder if these people won't be doubly devastated if and when the CD recorders become the "in" thing and kill off all the other formats.

All my collecting life I've been an

open-reel proponent but even I have become a hedger within the last few years with, sad to say, cassettes slowly gaining favor and becoming dominant.

It appears that the cassette format will be around for a long, long time... but they said that about the 4 and 8 track systems too!

I know that no one said it was going to be easy...but do they have to make it this tough on us?

The grapevine says that the CD system will be superb and put all others to shame. If this is true then the open-reel and cassette formats will certainly disappear.

All the time, trouble, and money that collectors have spent switching to their current formats will have been wasted and they will have to face the challenge of re-doing it all over again into the CD mode.

And who is to say that there is not another format waiting in the wings, ready to replace CD's? Maybe there's a tiny computer chip in the offing that will become the "ultimate" format... until something comes along to replace it!

Planned obsolescence is a fact of life and we, the collectors of old radio shows, are caught right in the middle of it.

We who love collecting and listening to old radio shows have been, and will continue to be, tested severely on just how much we love it. Through no fault of our own we find ourselves in a position where decisions have to be made that, if wrong, can bring an end to something we've worked on for years.

All we can do is keep our fingers crossed and hope for the best!

I'm sharing your excitement over your wonderful new magazine venture. Best wishes and all success.

Hedda Hopper

THE DEALER'S CORNER
by FRANK C. BONCORE

Just received a new supplement from Edward J. Carr of **CASSETTES NOW**, REELS ALSO 216 SHANER STREET, BOYERTOWN, PA. 19512.

Included in this listing are: Three (3) 1800 ft reels of **Wild Bill Hickcock**. Some of which have the old Kelloggs commercials in them.

Thirteen (13) reels of **Crisis**, an excellent drama series produced by CBC. These are 1200 ft reels with 12 shows on each reel.

Two (2) 1200 ft reels of **YOU ARE THERE**.

Three 1800' reels of **THE SIX SHOOTER** starring Jimmy Steward.

One 1800 ft reel containing six (6) episodes of **RED RYDER**.

One 1800 ft reel containing 24- 15 min episodes of **DICK TRACY**.

Two (2) 1800 ft reels of **THE ALDRICH FAMILY** (aka **HENRY ALDRICH**)

Three (3) 1200 ft reels each containing sixteen (16) 15 min episodes of **FIBBER MCGEE & MOLLY**.

Two 1200 ft reels of **THE ADVENTURES OF PHILIP MARLOWE** starring Gerald Mohr. Reel #UK 380 has one episode starring Wm. Conrad as Philip Marlowe.

Two (2) 1800 ft reels of **THE SPIKE JONES SHOW**.

Seven (7) reels of **BOB AND RAY** and ten reels of **BBC** material

Everything in Ed's catalog is also available on cassette. To get a catalog send \$5.00 to the above address.

I have known Ed for several years. I have also purchased several reels and cassettes from him and found them to be of the best quality available.

As always, please tell Ed you read about him in the IP.

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ATTENTION! YOU HORSE OPERA LOVERS
Terry Salmonson of **AUDIO CLASSICS**, P.O BOX 1135, ST CHARLES, MISSOURI, 63302, now has two (2) 1800ft reels of **THE ROY ROGERS SHOW**. These are also available on cassette.

I also received a flier from Ron Barnett of **AUDIO TAPES INC, BOX 9594, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, 22304, PHONE # (703) 307-9560**.

Ron has reel to reel tape, mostly Ampex 641 (1800 ft) and Ampex 671 (2400 ft) available at the following prices:

- 1800 ft (unboxed) 7 reels \$16.45(\$2.35each)
 - 1800ft (unboxed) 12 reels \$25.20(\$2.10each)
 - 1800ft (unboxed) 25 reels \$48.75(\$1.95each)
 - 2400ft (unboxed) 7reels \$18.55 (\$2.65each)
 - 2400ft (unboxed)12 reels \$28.20(\$2.40 each)
 - 2400ft (unboxed)25 reels \$56.25 (\$2.25 each)
- MINIMUM ORDER 7 REELS !!!**

Boxes are available as follows:

- 7" White 7-12 50c each
- 7" White 25 \$11.75 (47c each)
- 7" White 50 (Box) \$21.50 (43c each)
- 7" White 175 (Case) \$61.25 (35c each)
- 7" Deluxe Brown \$24.50 (Box) \$24.50(49c each)
- 10" White 10 \$12.50 (\$1.25 each)
- 10" White 20 \$23.00 (\$1.15 each)
- 10" White 50 (Case) \$47.50 (95c each)

MINIMUM ORDER
7-7" BOXES
10-10" BOXES

NOTE: SHIPPING COSTS MUST BE ADDED TO THE ABOVE PRICES !!!! PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS.

Also note that if you order 12 or 25 **2400 ft reels FREE BOXES** are included. Call for details.

All products are unconditionally guaranteed any products found defective may be returned for replacment or refund at your option.

The government has not offered 1800ft or 2400ft tape since December 1988. Unless there is a new offering soon, used tape may approach \$2.75 per reel **within one year**.

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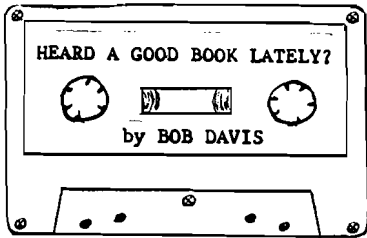
ORCA (The Old Time Radio Collectors Association of England) is looking for **NEW MEMBERS**. The cost is \$10.00 per year. This would give you a chance to get your hooks into some really neat **BBC** Material. Want to know more? Contact:

TOM MONROE, DIRECTOR
NORTH AMERICAN OPERATIONS
2055 ELMWOOD AVENUE
LAKEWOOD OHIO, 44107
PHONE (216) 226-8189

PULEEEZE NO COLLECT CALLS!!!!

As always when contacting anyone in my column, please mention that you read about them in the IP.

THANKS PCB.



No reviews this time because I feel that the time has come for me to speak out against a trend that appears to be worsening with each new audio-book that I hear.

I do not like the idea that I might be listening to an audio-book in my house, or outside in my yard, with neighbors or passerbys within earshot, and suddenly hear a string of the foulest words in the English language spewing out from my tape players speakers. It is downright embarrassing to them and to me!

I do not inflict crude language on my neighbors or family and will not allow it to be inflicted on me!

It is true that the companies presenting these audio-books are just faithfully reproducing the texts of books (some of which are considered classics) but it must be kept in mind that books are meant to be read and the impact of the words is for the reader only - not those in his immediate area!

Maybe my thinking reflects an old-fashioned way of appreciating that which is meant to entertain me.

Radio does not allow this kind of language to be aired. Movies have a rating system. Cable TV systems also rate their programs. Broadcast TV is regulated by groups known as Standards and Practices(censors). Even the music industry has started (under pressure)to label their wares

to "warn" the consumer of possible offensive material contained in the product.

The ugly head of censorship now is evident and I fear that it will not be long before it strikes in some way, shape, or manner. This is something that no clear-thinking person should want.

When someone puts an audio-book on to play he should not be expected to know ahead of time of any foul language it contains, nor should he be expected to use headphones on the off-chance that there might be words or phrases that, to most, are not in good taste.

We are NOT trying to say that all audio-books contain foul language. This is just not so! And this is NOT to chastise or condemn those that do have this language. For better or worse it is the nature of today's literature to use these words.

Audio-books should not be forced to edit out or change the wordings of their product to fit into the guidelines of some regulatory agency. The consuming public should not be dictated to as to what they can or cannot hear

There already is a movement in the recording industry to regulate itself with the use of labels that warn the consumer of explicit language or situations that might offend.

This would seem the proper avenue to travel to avoid further problems to all concerned.

This is an open plea to a still young industry to implement a sticker warning system on their products and maintain it as a benefit to those of us that buy and listen to audio-books.

Like 'em or not commercials are the things that pay the way for all those shows we love so much to be broadcast. Many sponsors were so actively involved with OTR that they, today, remain an intrinsic part of it as well-remembered as the shows themselves.

The names to look for are listed. The parts in parenthesis () are not listed. They may be hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or even backwards. One example is given in the grid.... Have fun.

AND NOW A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Z	F	S	E	I	T	A	E	H	W	V	E
L	L	E	J	R	U	N	V	I	O	X	K
M	A	E	R	C	I	V	A	N	A	T	I
J	K	Z	A	T	O	N	L	C	K	I	R
E	E	N	L	Y	C	A	S	E	Z	B	T
L	S	A	O	X	A	D	L	O	U	A	S
L	V	B	Z	P	X	O	L	J	B	R	N
O	S	I	L	K	E	N	X	U	L	B	O
S	H	S	F	A	T	T	L	Y	A	A	T
W	L	C	X	A	M	O	R	V	D	S	P
B	R	O	W	N	V	L	B	I	E	O	I
U	R	B	C	A	N	A	D	A	S	L	L

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bulova | Cream (of Wheat) | Petri (Wine Co.) |
| Wheaties | (Blue) Coal | Whiz (Candy Bars) |
| Rinso | Oxydol | (Kellogg's Corn) Flakes |
| Lipton (Tea) | Nabisco | Canada (Dry) |
| Roma (Wine Co.) | Ovaltine | Jello...(given) |
| Texaco | (Buster) Brown (Shoes) | (Lucky) Strike |
| (Gillette) Blades | | Barbasol |

The answer to this puzzle will appear in next month's I.P.

The answer to last month's puzzle...

S	F	L	I	B	B	P	Y	G	I	U	L
G	O	T	E	V	A	S	E	E	V	E	
R	S	M	R	E	Z	H	Y	G	A	E	
A	B	T	E	R	O	N	Z	O	L		
H	R	E	M	H	B	B	O	N	D		
F	M	A	R	I	E	R	T	A			
Y	C	E	S	E	M	O	S	N	H		
A	N	F	I	N	E	R	T	H	O	R	
Y	H	E	A	E	L	Y	L	Y	C	T	
C	H	B	X	H	N	D	E	U	M	S	
F	M	I	E	A	N	M	A	I	A	N	
A	F	R	E	C	A	R	Z	E	R	T	

..The Back Page..
*****BackPage*****

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

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

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.

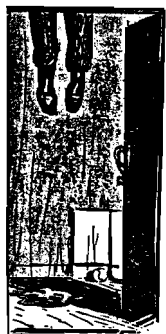


Amos 'n' Andy Music Hall

HANG AROUND...

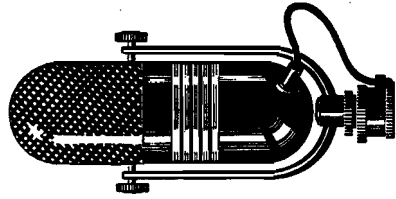
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The Great Radio Voices
Audio Novels--What's it all about
Burnout
and more-----




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Old Time Radio Club
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Lancaster, NY 14086



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