

# The Illustrated Press

VOLUME 16 ISSUE 6

SEPTEMBER 1990



Fanny Brice entered radio in the early 1930's and became popular as "Baby Snooks." Considered one of the great comediennees of her day, Miss Brice started her career as a song sheet illustrator. Later she was hired by George M. Cohan and Sam H. Harris as a singer and dancer. When she was seventeen, she was engaged by Florenz Ziegfeld for his "Follies," in which she achieved stardom singing "My Man." As "Snooks" on the radio Fanny Brice sorely tried the patience of her long-suffering Daddy, played for many years by Hanley Stafford.





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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## I.P. Editorial

A few meetings ago, a news item was read to the members of the OTRC about one organization (no names please) wanting to start a common newsletter encompassing all OTR club newsletters. The idea seemed sound, and since that time there have been issues put out. Very good issues too, I might add. Well what do you say we take this sharing idea one step further? As long as we're on the subject of having all clubs share in a newsletter, why don't we share a common tape library.

A master listing could be prepared and distributed to the various clubs, and only clubs would have the ability you "tap in" to the master library, NOT individuals.

I bring this idea up because of the lack of availability of "new", or hard to find shows, unless of course you want to spend your money at the dealers. Don't read into this, I have NO quarrel with the dealers and I want it to stay that way.

When one first enters this 'hobby', he/she usually gets a start by trading with one or more collectors. This idea of a master library could work the same way.

I'm not going to go to deep into this now, rather just throw it out and see what kind of reply(s) I get. It definitely needs much more thought and that's where all of you come in. I invite all clubs to contact me on this idea with any suggestions you may have and let's see what we can do. If this does'nt start your juices flowing, then I don't know what will.

D.J. Marafino  
Editor

## A few notes about this issue

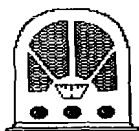
A few of our regular staff writers don't have their columns in this issue, as you probably have noticed. Fellas, if I don't get the material, I can't print it. Like it says on page 15, deadline is the 10th of the month. We WILL be back to normal come October.

While we're on the subject of October, and we all know what happens in that month, our master writer of the macabre, is preparing a story of terror and horror so terrible, I cringe at the thought of it. Bob Davis guarantees this one.  
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We haven't been receiving any letters from you people, so we'll go ahead under the assumption that you're all very happy with what you're getting.

Now really, you're not completely satisfied, are you? You know our address.  
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**OTR**

## The Cassette Library

Jim Aprile

As announced in a previous issue of the Illustrated Press, Dan Marafino has decided to step down as Cassette Librarian and concentrate his efforts on his duties as editor. I feel that he should be commended for his performance in this job. One of his major goals as Librarian was to increase the number of cassettes available in the OTR library. His success in fulfilling this goal will be readily apparent when our new cassette catalog is finally completed.

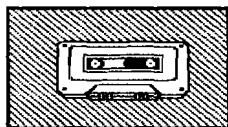
My primary goal, at this point,

**GREAT JOB!**

will be to improve the quality of the cassettes we already have in our library. The first step will be the identification of those cassettes with unacceptable sound quality. I suppose that this step is one that can never be fully completed, but should always be in process so the quality of the library will be maintained. This activity should be one of the basic responsibilities not only of the cassette librarian, but of every responsible Old Time Radio Club Member. In the short time that I have been connected with the library I have heard and seen evidence that this feeling is shared by many "old time" radio enthusiasts. It was in fact demonstrated by my very first contact, as librarian, with a member (Ron Sayles). During an exchange of tapes he noticed that the cassette boxes were "rather beat" and replaced them with new Norelco boxes. This is the type of cooperation that keeps a club of this kind in a healthy, happy state of being. I LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER CONTACTS OF THIS NATURE.

I need your input!

If you believe a cassette is faulty let me know! If you have a suggestion you feel will help the quality of the library, please don't hesitate to send it to me! I have inventoried the cassette library and it appears that there are a number of tapes currently listed in our old catalog that have been withdrawn over the years because of poor quality.



I'll list them in the cassette library column next month.

ja

### The Knack

Every once-in-a-while there will show up on our radio schedules one of those now rare birds - a new radio production. We all tune in with great expectations but usually are disappointed within a few short minutes.

Even with all the high-tech improvements that radio has made over the years one thing appears to have disappeared, never to return.

The best name we can put on it is "The Knack", the know how to do a show that gets you totally involved and makes you forget that you are listening to the radio.

Radio in the 30's, 40's, and 50's had that knack. Those old-time radio shows, even those with limited budgets, were able to get you involved and whisk you away until you were mentally an active observer to what was happening in the story.

The dawning of the 60's tolled the death knell for these creative geniuses that had done their work with such ease...and when they left they took their secrets with them.

Today's radio shows are missing that knack. Rarely are you drawn into a story and never to the extent that the old-timers did.

Listen to a story of recent vintage and then one from years ago. The new one will have great sound, fantastic sound F/X, very good acting, and outstanding production values...but will leave you cold.

You might equate it with two cooks making the same recipe. One using a cookbook and following each step exactly, the other just knowing how it's done and doing it.

Both meals will be the same but the one out of a book will be missing that certain something that separates good from great.

This is the difference between having the knack and not having it. OTR had it!

R.T.D. - SUN. - July 22, 1990

# Process revives tapes for transfer to compact discs

By Hans Fantel  
© New York Times Service

To the delight of serious collectors, older recordings of outstanding musical merit are constantly being reissued on CD. Yet the process of transfer to the new digital format led to a sad discovery. Many priceless master tapes of yesteryear had deteriorated, seemingly beyond hope of restoration.

When fetched from their storage vaults after 30 or 40 years, the tapes containing the original recording proved no longer playable.

Unless a mint-condition LP pressing could be found, no satisfactory transfer to CD could be accomplished, and in all too many cases, the musical legacy of an incomparable artist seemed forever lost.

The tapes so fatally affected stemmed mostly from the early period of tape recording — the years after World War II.

After its initial development as a part of German chemical research in the 1930s, magnetic tape was quickly adopted as the preferred recording medium by record companies throughout the world.

By 1950, it had replaced the old wax or acetate platter in almost every studio.

However, nobody realized that the tapes of that era were chemically unstable and thus vulnerable to the passage of time.

The adhesives binding the magnetic particles to the plastic backing slowly leached out in the intervening decades, leaving the magnetic layer brittle and flaky.

Such tapes would instantly self-destruct when engineers tried to copy them onto CDs. The loosened magnetic particles would come off, clogging the playback head of the tape recorder while leaving the tape itself stripped of the music. As a result, many transfer projects had to be abandoned.

But a way to rejuvenate those

moribund tapes has been discovered. Agfa Corp., one of the leading manufacturers of professional recording tape, developed a process that brings defunct tapes back to life for a short time — a single hour.

After that, the tape reverts to its former state of dilapidation. Yet during that single hour of resurrection, the musical content of the tape can be rescued and recaptured in digital form.

Agfa explains that the brief rejuvenation involves baking and subsequently cooling the old tape under carefully controlled conditions.

The object is to melt those clotted and hardened adhesives so they flow freely to redistribute themselves evenly along the tape surface and once again bind the magnetic particles firmly enough to prevent any shedding during replay.

The main trick is to do this without displacing the tiny magnetic particles from their exact positions, which represent the shape of the sound waves. Just how this is done Agfa won't tell, but the process has been made available as a custom service to record companies as well as to the archivists of broadcasting organizations.

The process was developed jointly at Agfa research laboratories in Munich, Germany, and in the United States and has proven both reliable and effective.

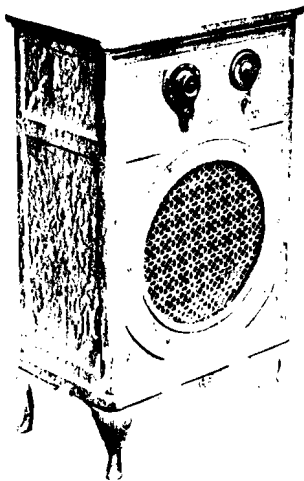
"We haven't yet met a tape we couldn't restore," says John Matarazzo, technical manager at Agfa's U.S. headquarters in Ridgefield Park, N.J.

At this point, nobody can tell what nuggets of the musical past, formerly inaccessible, might be reclaimed for contemporary listeners by the new method. But in all likelihood, listeners have a treat in store.

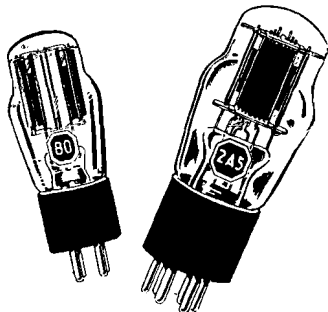
As W.H. Auden put it, "For many of us, some of our most important 'new' experiences are discoveries about the hitherto unknown past."



Atwater Kent display. Photographed at Museum of Wonderful Wireless.



Atwater Kent, model 52, AC, TRF, metal cabinet. Photographed at Western Heritage Museum.



W. W. BURNETT BURNETT

I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day...

From the date of my... order June 21... I had a letter from you... the other day...

I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day...

WHERE WOULD IT END??? I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day...

The pace of the... reading had caught up with me... I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day...

1. You lose your... 2. You look but... 3. You don't have... I had a letter from you... the other day...

This is a... I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day...

I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day...

WELCOME TO BURNETT... ONLY ONE THERE!... I had a letter from you... the other day... I had a letter from you... the other day...

FADA Radio advertisement featuring station call letters (KFI, KOA, KGO, WCCO, KFJX, WJZ, KOK, KFJ, WJAF, WGN, WOC, KSD, WMAA, WGY, WBZ) and a central illustration of a person listening to a radio.

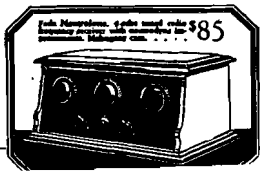
It's new! It's startling! It's better!

Fada Harmonated Reception is as much better than ordinary radio as the electric light is better than the oil lamp... Ask the Fada Dealer for a demonstration and hear complete reception for the first time. It's unbelievably good.

Fada Neutrodyne Receivers—table and furniture models—4, 4 and 5 tube—ranging from \$75 to \$400. Fada Cone Speaker—Table type \$35. Pedestal Floor type \$50. Look for bubble "D" and name of the master Fada dealer.

F. A. D. ANDREA, INC. 1381 Jerome Avenue, New York

Manufacturers of TUNED RADIO FREQUENCY Systems using the highly efficient NEUTRODYNE principle



Fada Neutrodyne, Fada cone speaker, frequency mixer with automatic volume control, \$85

Fada Neurolette advertisement, ca. 1927. Courtesy of Prairie Farmer.

NOT EVERYBODY LOVES A MYSTERY

It's a funny thing but those of us who are into OTR collecting and trading all seem to assume that EVERYONE remembers and loves OTR just as we do.

Well, it ain't so!

On a recent stay in a hospital I was talking to my "roomie" and the subject of old radio programs came up (My, what a surprize!). The guy I was talking with was old enough to have lived through the "Golden Years" of radio but they obviously did not affect him as they've done us.

He remembered listening to Fred Allen but "Didn't like him at all!". As for Jack Benny - "He was OK but he was better on tv where you could see him!".

Many others he didn't, or chose not to, remember at all. The only two that he did seem to recall with any affection were "The Shadow" and "The Lone Ranger" (Isn't that ALWAYS the case?).

About these shows - he remembered the main characters and that he used to listen to them a lot... but could not bring to mind any particular episode or happening - just general things.

So there I was, with many hours of "witty" anecdotes and remembrances about shows that this guy couldn't care less about. It was a strange feeling to me because usually everyone I run across, in a certain age group, remembers OTR and say something like "Yeah, I still remember sitting around that big old radio we had back then and listening to "our stories". The whole family would be there."

The<sup>n</sup>these old-timers will say "I'll bet I remember an old show that you don't. We never missed it. Did ya ever hear of Sergeant Preston of the Yukon?"

Now..., isn't that the kind of response you'd expect? Sure it is, and it's the one you've gotten for years - me too - until this guy!

This reaction, or non-reaction, got me thinking. If someone were as deeply into growing flowers as we are into OTR then wouldn't them talking flowers to us be a total turn-off and be greeted with a cool reception from us? I guess it's the same thing but seen from a different angle.

Not everybody remembers OTR. Not everybody loves OTR. There are people that don't even like OTR!

AND, if you cannot believe that then let me tell you about this new strain of Gladiolas that I'm trying to grow.....

Enough said????

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THE I.P.'s TOP 10 REASONS TO HAVE A TOP 10 LIST.

(With apologies to Letterman.)

- 10..Gotta fill this space with something!
  - 9..Thought it might be funny!
  - 8..It was this or reprints of the Nick Carter stories!
  - 7..The Editors wanted to do it!
  - 6..Nobody else in the OTR field does it!
  - 5..It's our way of expressing ourselves!
  - 4..By popular demand?????????
  - 3..Couldn't think of anything else to write!
  - 2..Because it's a contest between Dan & Jim who will run dry first. (We've got a 25¢ bet)
- And, the number one reason why we now have a Top 10 list....
- 1..Why not?

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AUDIO BOOKS..WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUTPART 2

Audio books are made up in various ways. Here are some of those ways....

DRAMATIC READINGS..These are recordings of a story narrated by one person who uses his/her dramatic talents to convey the tale without the use of sound effects or music.

At first thought these stories might appear to be the least wanted but the opposite is often the case. Most readers do an excellent job. They use voice inflection and acting ability to get the story across. Many of them are clever enough to change their voices to fit the character that is speaking.

After a very short time one forgets that they are hearing a reading and feels that there is a full cast performing for them.

As you get more into audio books you will get to recognize the names of these talented people. There are a lot of them.

DRAMATIZATIONS..These recordings sound just like radio shows. There is a full crew of actors doing the story and, in these cases, music and sound effects are also evident, sometimes very much so.

The productions are usually extremely well done and in stereo sound which adds much to the overall enjoyment of the story.

FULL PRODUCTIONS..There are some audio books that almost boggle the mind in the way they are produced. Much money goes into these tapes and it is evident by the big-name stars, excellent original music, high grade sound effects and the sound of overall superior quality. The production values are so high that the story content almost

becomes secondary. When the story is also great you have an audio book that cannot be beat!

HYBRIDS..These are mixtures of dramatizations and dramatic readings, with a touch of full productions thrown in for good measure.

The "Star Trek" audio novels are a good example. George Takei narrates the tales and assumes the voices of the characters, but when Spock appears Leonard Nimoy acts the role. It's a strange mix but works wonderfully.

Add to this a musical soundtrack and sound effects and you have an effective presentation. On some of the Trek stories James Doohan does the narrative. Hybrids use the voices of a few to create the illusion of a large cast.

FLAT READINGS..Fortunately these are rapidly becoming a thing of the past. They consist of someone unemotionally reading into a mike with little or no inflection in their voice and no attempt to alter the voice to fit the character.

In the past this was the kind of work done when making audio books for the sight impaired and is, sadly, the reputation that the modern-day audio books carry with them.

Flat readings will soon be history, especially now that more and more companies are getting into the field. Things are very competitive and the companies are going for products that are lively, inventive, entertaining, and most of all...saleable!

The listener comes out the big winner on this deal. Hey, score one for us!

What new innovation do they have coming up? I don't know, but I'm looking forward to finding out!



FOR THE YOUNG - AT - HEART

If you were a kid during OTR's "Golden Era" you had it better than you knew. Never in history was there so much entertainment designed just for you.

Here are a few brief comments about some of those shows that made you rush home from school and sit glued in front of the radio.

SUPERMAN...The fastest, strongest, most everything man in the world. If it weren't for that darned Kryptonite, he would have been unbeatable! And, he could fly!

SKY KING...Old West villains in a modern West setting. He could also fly...but needed an airplane.

BUSTER BROWN...A variety show for kids that had it all, adventure, comedy, funny animals, and Froggy, the Gremlin!

ROY ROGERS...No question about it, he was "The King of the Cowboys"!

BIG JON & SPARKIE...A small-time show, done so well that it made it big! The precursor of "Alvin and the Chipmunks".

GENE AUTRY...Lotsa action and good adventure. His show would've been perfect if only someone had hid his guitar and made him stop with the singing!!

TERRY & THE PIRATES...Just your average youngster in the Orient, getting involved with air-battles, sinister villains, a Dragon Lady, and your basic life-or-death situations. We loved it!

LET'S PRETEND...For the very, very young. A kid's primer for the other shows they would grow into as they grew older. Charming to a fault!

LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE...How could one little girl and her dog get into so much trouble?

A catchy theme song AND don't forget her Ovaltine Shake-Up Mug!

TARZAN...Truly, the lord of the jungle. A fairly one-dimensional character that captured every kid's imagination.

How could you not swing from a rope (vine) and not (at least in your mind) give out with a Tarzan yell?

DICK TRACY...Using modern police methods, he fought crime and evil-doers like Gruesome and Flat-Top. Funny, he'd send them to jail but they'd be back a few shows later to cause trouble again. You can't keep a good crime-king down!!!

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT...Mysterious man of action and adventure that always encountered the nastiest villains in the world! He also had an Ovaltine Shake-Up Mug!

STRAIGHT ARROW...An un-superhero in the Old West. Gee, he even had a secret identity. I hope The Lone Ranger and Zorro never heard about this guy!

ARCHIE ANDREWS...You'd read his comics, listen to his radio show, and realize you had a friend like Jughead...and wish you had friends like Betty and Veronica!!!

Puberty finally strikes!

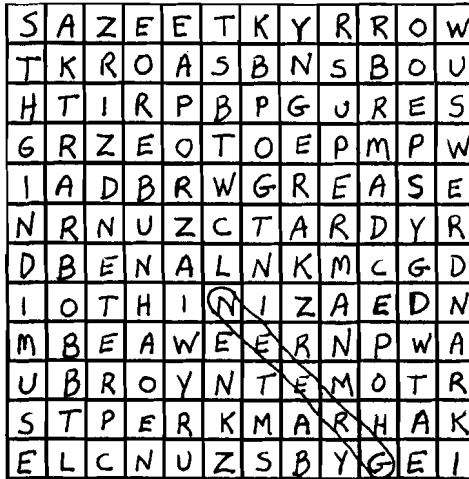
TOM MIX...He fought the best of the worst the Wild West had to offer. Tom also had the neatest radio premiums of anyone. They made us aware of Checkerboard Square.

There were many more and each had the ability to expand a child's small world into something full of adventure and wonder! We miss 'em.

In the old days it was easy to tell the good guys from the bad guys. The airwaves were filled with their adventures which were aimed at the young and the young-at-heart.

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.

FOR THE YOUNG-AT-HEART



- Green (Hornet)
- (Captain) Midnight
- (Straight) Arrow
- Bobby (Benson)
- (Little Orphan) Annie
- (Big Jon &) Sparkie
- (Archie) Andrews

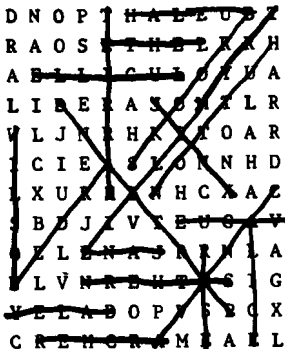
- Tarzan
- Sky (King)
- Roy (Rogers)
- (Buster) Brown
- (Dick) Tracy
- Hop (Harrigan)

- Gene (Autry)
- Tom (Mix)
- (Let's) Pretend
- Speed (Gibson)
- Uncle (Don)
- (Mark) Trail
- Superman

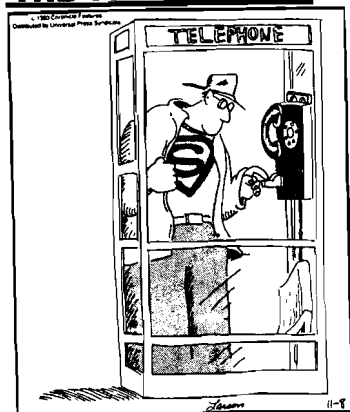
The answer to this puzzle will appear in next month's I.P.

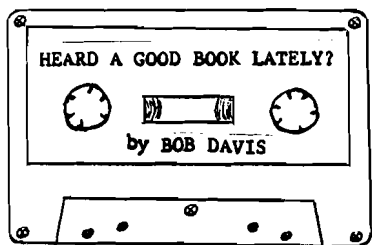
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Last month's answer.....



THE FAR SIDE





Twenty-six and one-half hours!! That's how long the BOOKS ON TAPE presentation of E.M. Nathanson's "The Dirty Dozen" runs, and if you think you know the story because you've seen the movie - think again. You know part of this blockbuster tale of a deadly wartime mission and the virulent group of men assembled to carry it out.

This splendid audiobook tells you about each member of this group and the crimes that got them in military prison in the first place.

It tells how Captain John Reisman forms the group (although he doesn't want the assignment) and tries to shape these murderers, thieves, and rapists into a fighting unit that just might possibly accomplish their deadly mission and still have a chance to survive, even if that chance is a slim one!

26½ hours is a long time and the story does drag a bit in certain areas, but the overall adventure is so good that those brief slow spots don't really matter much.

Narrated by Wolfram Kandinsky, this excellent audiobook is complete and unabridged. Every word in the novel is in this presentation.

Don't turn this one down because of it's length. It's habit-forming and you'll be sad when it's over!

Another audiobook that runs for hours and hours is BRILLIANCE CORP's fine dramatization of Clive Cussler's "Deep Six".

Everyone aboard a cruise ship is missing, a ship is found at the bottom of the ocean with a mysterious cargo aboard, the President and his top aides disappear from the highly guarded Presidential yacht. Somehow these situations all tie together, but how?

This 12 hour presentation is so full of cold-war brinkmanship and intrigue that a shorter rendition would have been a dis-service to it's telling.

It is well-written, well-acted, and well-worth your time to listen to "Deep Six".

One word about this story and most others from BRILLIANCE. You must have a stereo player to hear it properly. Each channel of the cassette(s) is used so you must have controls for the volumes on both the left and right tracks (or an adapter) toherwise you'll hear two portions of the story at once.

The toll-free numbers for ordering these titles are....  
BOOKS ON TAPE INC...1-800-626-3333  
BRILLIANCE CORP....1-800-222-3225

The Old Time Radio Club has been getting requests to order many of the audiobooks written about in this column from the club's library. Due to possible copyright problems the club does not carry audiobooks even though they would love to.

Audiobooks can be obtained by rental or purchase from various record stores or by using the toll-free numbers.

Another source would be from your local Public Library. Many times if the library doesn't have the specific title you're after they will order it for you...and it's free!

Not all titles are available at all libraries but hey, give it a try!

Hey, What a Bargoon????

There are times when my brain gets put on "hold" and I go by nothing more than animal instinct. When this happens strange or bad things happen to me that, if I had been thinking rationally, I could have avoided.

Let me tell you about one of these times.....

Garbage tape is just that - garbage! It doesn't matter if it's low priced or high priced...trash is trash. I know this and have known it for years but I still go on, looking for that miracle of miracles, that gold at the end of the rainbow - really good tape at a better than bargain price. Like I said, I know better but yet I keep trying.

There they sat on the store's shelf - a ten-pack of C-90 cassettes, looking to the world like they were something fit for a king, packaged in a box that would make you proud to have it in your home! The tape bore the name R\*\*\*T\*N (you figure it out), a company well-known in the audio accessory field.

Hey, the price was right, it looked good, the package was attractive, the manufacturer was well-known, and there was a rebate that went with it. How could I go wrong?

I found out!!!

Eagerly I bought two boxes of the tapes and went home to test them out and smirk about the good deal I had stumbled across. I opened the packaging and removed one of the tapes...Awright!! They looked great with their fancy gold labels and the one I held in my hand even said it was the "Gold Series"! This must be top-of-the-line stuff!!!

Dream on!!!

I popped one into my cassette recorder and hit the buttons to

start recording but the automatic shutoff clicked and the machine stopped. I tried again and the same thing happened. At first I feared that the recorder was acting up. After trying two more times I removed the tape and stuck a pencil through it's take-up sprocket, trying to wind the tape by hand. It would not budge - not one lousy inch!

Upon checking it out I found that the tape on the pay-off side was stuck together for about a sixteenth of an inch of winding. It was as if someone had glued it together. That tape got trashed.

Now, before I go any farther, I must state that everything I am telling you here is absolutely true because this is going to sound like something I made up but I swear this is gospel!

The next cassette ran fine. OK, that first one must have been a dud. It happens. I recorded a few minutes and watched the meters peak properly as the tape slid past the recording heads. Terrific! Now we're cooking!

I rewound the tape to hear how it had recorded and heard a faint signal...and a whole lot of HISSSS. The recorded signal was so low as to not even move the meters! The HISSSS was nice and loud though.

I tried another tape and this one never even got into the tape unit. The take-up reel on this one HAD NO TEETH IN IT! Just a round hole that couldn't work no matter how hard you tried!

( continued on next page)

( Bargoon - cont. )

Now I could go on and on about all the problems I had with these two packages of R\*\*\*T\*N tape but it would take up this entire I.P. so I'll briefly mention just a few more....

Of the twenty cassettes that were in these two packages I found.....

Three of them had the tape twisted inside so the backing faced the heads. They had to be dismantled to straighten them out.

Two more had the first sixteenth of an inch of wind glued together.

One more had sprocket problems. Most of the teeth were there but the HOLE WAS WAY OFF CENTER!!! (Are we talking garbage tape or what? But wait- There's more!)

The retaining guides built into the case to hold the reels in place were MISSING(!) on three more cassettes. (Anyone keeping count?)

All the remaining tapes ran OK BUT had that terrible signal-to-noise ratio that made them next to useless. One more thing - Of the playable tapes EVERY ONE RAN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES SHORT ON EACH SIDE! They should have been listed as C-80's.

You may wonder why I bothered trying them all. Well, it got my curiosity going. I had to see just how bad this & \* % # \$ @ stuff could get.

This garbage was so blatantly outrageous that I started finding a perverse humor in it all. There was no way it could continue, but it did, and did, and did!

Needless to say 90% of the cassettes got thrown out. The rest of them still might be.

I wrote a letter to the R\*\*\*T\*N (hope you've figured it out by now) company telling them what happened and what I thought of their tapes.

I told them that I wasn't after my money back and didn't want them to send me any replacement tapes as I feared they'd be as bad as the others. I just wanted rid of them.

Ya know, they never answered my letter! Wonder why?

Weeks later I went into the store again (the one where I had bought those tapes) and spotted a huge display of them...and now the price was even lower. Less than 50¢ apiece... I wasn't even tempted!

So far I have run across two other people who have had the same bad experience with this garbage that I did. They too got sucked in just like I did.

In a way it's kind of nice to know that I wasn't the only one!



FROM THAT I DEVELOPED A VERY PAINFUL CONDITION KNOWN AS 'RADIO EAR!'



I DID. MY MOTHER WOULD WHOP ME ON THE LEFT ONE TO GET MY ATTENTION!



### THE LOOK

Did you ever tell someone that you collected old radio shows as a hobby and have them give you a look like they think it's interesting BUT they think you are insane for doing it?

After putting up with that look for years I've come to know it pretty well and have only recently realized that I am guilty of it also.

Let me tell you about it.

I have a friend whose big joy in life is listening to jazz music. He tapes it from any possible source and has built up quite a sizeable and varied collection. There's nothing wrong with that, right? Right!

This very same guy also audio tapes something else that really makes me wonder about him!

He doesn't tape OTR shows, but that's OK - not everyone appreciates it. He doesn't tape pop music, rock music, or even polka music. Get ready for this... He is an absolute fanatic about audio recording the soundtracks of televised professional wrestling matches!!! All of 'em!!!

He catalogs them and cross-index'es them, and has been doing this for about ten years with no indication of slackening off.

The descriptions of the action and the color commentary are what have "grabbed him". He lists the arenas, dates, participants, and the announcers names.

With just a brief glance at his listings he can tell you the outcome of an Andre, The Giant match from ten years ago.

It was during my conversations with him that I found myself giving him "the look"! Yeah, the same look that I've been getting all these years!

I've asked him why he doesn't switch over to video tape so he can re-watch the matches instead of just listening to them and his answer was, "It's not the same thing!"

For the longest while I considered this as somewhat strange and couldn't comprehend his reasoning but, the more I think about it the more I think I understand. He simply likes what he likes and he likes listening to wrestling bouts. Period!

So, who am I to say that he is strange, or wrong, or even suggest that he change his ways of enjoying things?

I think we've all, over the years, had people ask us why we bother with "those old radio shows" when there is plenty of entertainment that is new and up-to-date. Why bother with "that old stuff"?

One has to be involved with OTR to understand the charm of it. If one is not involved then no explanation will ever get the message through to them. How can you describe to others an intangible thing that, for you, strikes all the right chords and hits all the right buttons and brings pleasure to you?

I guess it's something like the guy who sound records wrestling matches!



Harry Van Zell as he appeared about 1930. A veteran announcer, Van Zell graduated to acting roles on the "Burns and Allen Show" and other programs.

**..The Back Page..**

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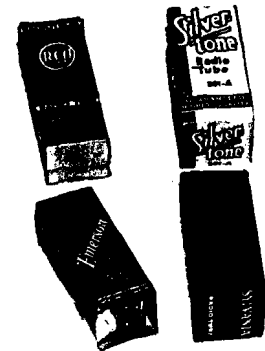
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TAPE LIBRARY RATES: All reels and video cassettes - \$1.25 per month; cassettes and records - \$.50 per month. Postage must be included with all orders and here are the rates: For the U.S.A. and APO, \$.60 for one reel, \$.35 for each cassette and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

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One of the most popular cowboys in entertainment history  
--William Boyd as "Hopalong Cassidy."



# HANG AROUND...

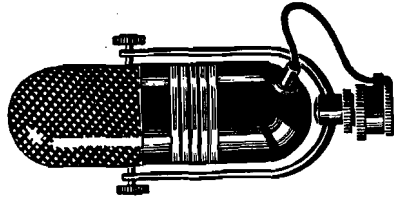
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