

The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

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## Souvenir **WLS** Program



## The Old Time Radio Club

### Membership Information

New member processing, \$5.00 plus club membership of \$17.50 per year from Jan 1 to Dec 31. Members receive a tape listing, newsletter, and the yearly **Memories Magazine**. Memberships are as follows: If you join Jan-Mar, \$17.50; Apr-Jun, \$14.00; Jul-Sep, \$10.00; Oct-Dec, \$7.00. All renewals should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing issues. Please be sure to notify us if you have a change of address. The Old Time Radio Club meets the first Monday of every month at 7:30 P.M. during the months of September to June at 393 George Urban Blvd. Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225. The club meets informally during the months of July and August at the same address. Anyone interested in the Golden Age of Radio is welcome.

### Club Mailing Address

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

The Old Time Radio Club is affiliated with The Old Time Radio Network.

Back issues of our publications are available as follows:

The **Illustrated Press** and **Memories** are \$1.50 postpaid. Publications out of print may be borrowed from our Reference Library.

*Deadline for The Illustrated Press is the 10th of each month prior to publication.*

The **Illustrated Press** is a monthly newsletter of **The Old Time Radio Club**, headquartered in Buffalo, N.Y. Contents except where noted, are copyright 1992 by the OTRC.

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### Tape Libraries

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*Tape Library Rates: All reels and video cassettes are \$1.85 per month; audio cassettes and records are \$0.85 per month. Rates include postage and handling.*

## Nostalgia and The Golden Age of Radio

by Dom Parisi

"Who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men? The Shadow knows!" Remember? The CBS Radio Network and Roma Wines of Fresno, California presents Suspense. Suspense aired tales well calculated to keep us on the edge of our seats! Remember? "Jello again, this is Jack Benny. Now Don, cut that out!" Remember? "Mr. Allen, Mr. Allen" Portland Hoffa and Allen's Alley. Remember? "Lux presents Hollywood!" Remember? "Wheaties, the breakfast of Champions presents---Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy" Remember how you would rush home from school, do your chores and hope you would be finished in time to listen to the boy hero? Remember "The Whistler?" "Amos 'n' Andy?" How about Lum & Abner with their corny dry humor? Burns and Allen kept us in stitches. "Say goodnight, Gracie," George would ask. "Goodnight Gracie," replied Gracie. Gunsmoke on radio was one of the shows that switched over to television when radio entertainment started to die. The radio Matt Dillon was portrayed by William Conrad, who later play Cannon on TV. It was decided that Conrad just didn't have the right Western he man appearance needed to take over the TV version of Gunsmoke. James Arness, of course, was the ideal video version of the good Marshall.

There was still another highly famous and popular golden age radio hero. Remember, "Hi Yo Silver -- away!" The Lone Ranger, the good guy with the white horse, silver bullets, and his ever faithful Indian companion Tonto, rode from out of the past and into our living rooms every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights at 7:30. Somehow he always managed to bring law and order to the early Western United States without ever doing away with the dirty critters who would dare attempt to rule by the gun! Ah! How well I remember when a group of us would strap on our holsters and six shooters, (I always had

two) head for an empty lot and proceed to play Cowboys and Indians! I invariably wanted to be the good guy in the white hat! Didn't we all?

The Lone Ranger program was narrated by Fred Foy. He had a distinct speaking voice that you could never forget. The Lone Ranger was played by George Seaton, Earl Graser and by the most famous and well remembered, Brace Beemer. Tonto was portrayed by an aging Shakespearean actor by the name of John Todd.

Can you recall the many, many tear jerking soap operas? The true to life story of Stella Dallas and her daughter Laurel, The Guiding Light, Young Dr. Malone, When A Girl Marries -- "dedicated to everyone who has ever been in love," Mary Noble, Backstage Wife -- "the story of an Iowa stenographer who fell in love with and married Broadway matinee idol, Larry Noble." How about Portia Faces Life -- "the story of a woman's fight in a world of men." If you would have tuned into this thrilling new, fast moving radio drama, you would have heard the story of courageous Portia Blake...a beautiful widow...mother of a nine year old boy...a woman lawyer...a woman who fought to gain her place in a man's world. Of course, we can't leave out Our Gal Sunday! "The story of an orphan girl named Sunday, from the little mining town of silver Creek, Colorado, who in young womanhood married England's richest, most handsome lord, Lord Henry Brinthrope. The story asks the question: "Can this girl from a mining town in the west find happiness as the wife of a wealthy and titled Englishman?" And how can forget The Romance of Helen Trent. Helen Trent sets out to prove to herself what so many women long to prove -- that just because a woman is thirty-five or more doesn't mean that romance is dead! On that note I'll say go so long till we meet again in the next issue of the IP. Write if you get work.

## The Real Charlie Chan

Charlie Chan, the famous Chinese detective, was first heard on radio in 1932. Based on the stories of Earl Derr Biggers he had a spotty radio career that lasted sixteen years. Our mind's eye tells us that Charlie Chan was slow moving, portly, and well dressed. And we all remember how he spouted Confucian proverbs.

The real Charlie Chan was an Honolulu Police Department detective named Chang Apana. He was short, wiry, terse, dressed to blend into a crowd, and a scrapper who took on opponents twice his size.

Earl Derr Biggers, who wrote six Charlie Chan novels, had visited Hawaii planning to write a mystery story based in the islands. The story never materialized. Later in 1924, while doing research at the New York Public Library, he ran across a Honolulu Star Bulletin account of how Apana had risked his life to smash a drug ring in Hawaii. All the pieces fell together and a year later, Biggers published the first Charlie Chan mystery. The House Without a Key.

After his first Chan novel became a best seller, Biggers journeyed to Honolulu to meet the man who inspired the novel. The two men became friends, and Biggers used details from Apana's life to add the Chan image.

Chang Apana had nine children, including a daughter named Rose. So did Charlie Chan. Both lived on Punchbowl Hill, and both were promoted to Detective First Grade following a police department scandal. As an officer, Chang Apana was fearless and energetic. He possessed one of the best records in the police force, and was well known for his ability as an investigator. He carried many scars on his face and body as a result of encounters while performing his duties. He had many feats of daring, especially relating to the early days of Chinese immigration to the islands, when there was much opium smuggling. Chang Apana received several medals and citations for his work as a Detective. He retired from the police department on May 22, 1932, at the age of sixty-eight.

Earl Derr Biggers passed away on April 13, 1933, less than a year after completing his last Chan novel, Keeper of the Keys. Chang Apana died eight months later on December 8th, at Queens Hospital in Honolulu, the victim of diabetes. He was buried in the Manoa Chinese Cemetery. His police badge was buried with him.

## First Nighter Program Returns for 14th Year

Sept. 11, 1943 One of the longest run and most popular dramatic shows of the air, "First Nighter," will launch its fourteenth consecutive year of broadcasting when it returns to the Mutual network, Sunday, November 7.

"First Nighter began its career Thanksgiving Night 1930. Its dramatic format pioneered a trend in radio performance of plays written for the microphone. Since then more than 600 original plays have been performed in the "Little Theater off Times Square."

The program has been the springboard for many performers including Don Ameche, Gale Page, Tyrone Power, and Henry Hunter. The late Madame Schumann Heink made her dramatic debut on the program, and former film star Pola Negri chose this vehicle to make her comeback in theater.

Eric Sagerquist and his "First Nighter" orchestra, which hasn't missed a performance in the show's thirteen years of broadcasting, will be in the pit as usual to conduct the between the act music.

## do you have a heart of gold?

Or, do you **KNOW** someone whose good works and unselfishness deserve recognition? You can tell about it **AND** win a valuable prize on

## "ladies be seated"

Monday—Friday ABC Stations

**JOHNNY OLSEN, M.C.**

*From the vaults of the IP*

The following article was written by the late Bob Davis in 1976.

**"Lux Presents Hollywood"**

For two decades this opening was used to announce that radio's most glamorous show was about to begin. Because they presented radio adaptations of movies, the series could not be called a highly original program, but there was no denying that the show had a gloss and a finesse that gleamed like a diamond. It took the then current and not so current screenplays and presented them to the public in a way that the listener felt that they were seeing a movie right in their own home, a movie that, at times, was a their local movie house at the same time. Often a person could return home from a movie matinee and, a few hours later, hear the story that they had just seen. It sounds like a concept that couldn't work, but it did...and how!

The Lux Radio Theater first appeared on the air on October 14, 1934, with the presentation of *Seventh Heaven*, starring Miriam Hopkins. The show ran 932 presentations, ending on June 7, 1955, with *Edward, My Son* starring Walter Pidgeon. The final curtain rang down and radio was a little poorer for it.

Other shows were on the air that featured movie adaptations but, while they were good, they weren't in the same class as Lux. One big reason for this is that the other shows featured radio actors on their presentations while Lux was starring the cream of Hollywood on theirs. A list of actors and actresses that appear on Lux would read like a "Who's Who's" of Hollywood. Quite often the original stars would appear in their original roles; at other times, a completely different type actor would assume a role that was closely associated with another actor. An example of this was Alan Ladd as Rick in *Casablanca*, a role that has become synonymous with Humphrey Bogart. For a few moments it doesn't sound quite right, but then the magic

takes over, Bogart is forgotten and Ladd shines through in a fine performance. Bogart appeared frequently on Lux, however, usually recreating his famous film roles in such classics as *The Treasure of Sierra Madre*, *The African Queen*, and the never to be forgotten *To Have and Have Not*, which co-starred his movie leading lady and wife --- Lauren Bacall.

"And your producer...Cecil B. DeMille." When the announcer introduced DeMille every week, the show attained a bit of bigness that really came over the radio speaker. DeMille was the producer and director that gave audiences the biggest, glossiest, the most lavish pictures of the era. His films were noted for a certain largess that seemed to burst out of the screen. When he stepped up to the microphone, he brought this aura of bigness with him and lent it to the story being heard that night. DeMille probably would have stayed with the show until the end if it had not been for a ruling that he had to join the actor' union. He refused, considering the ruling to be "silly" and, as a result, was forced to quit his radio "acting" job.

For a while Lux tried other directors and actors to fill DeMille's post as "producer." Actually, DeMille nor any of the other "producers" ever did produce the show. It was just a way of giving the show the an added bit of gloss. After trying a number of people, William Keighley became the permanent "producer." It was said that Keighley got the job because his voice was similar to DeMille's. He Stayed with the show until it folded in 1955.

Some of the stories that were presented over the years turned out to be some of radio's best remembered moments. From Charles Boyer and Ingrid Bergman starring in *Gaslight* to Kirk Douglas in the dynamic *Detective Story*, Lux provided quality radio programming. The stories were first proven at the move box office and then re-proven by the tremendous numbers of listeners who turned in each week to the *Lux Radio Theater*.

Only once during its long run did the show

deviate from the film adaptation concept. On January 8, 1945, and adaptation of Bob Hope's book I Never Left Home was presented. The story concerns Hope's tours to the fighting fronts to entertain the boys fighting the war. Naturally, the Lux show starred Hope and his entourage of Frances Langford, Jerry Colona and all the others. The show was a tremendous hit as it gave some insight to Hope's travels to hospital to battleship to foxhole in his attempt to take the fighting man's mind off the war, if only for a little while, and to let them know that they were not forgotten back home. Lux recreated this and lets us see what kind of show Hope was putting on for our guys.

Even the commercials on Lux were Hollywood oriented. During the commercial breaks, we were often told how the costumes for the latest epic being filmed were always washed in Lux Soap to protect them and get them really clean. There was usually a starlet from some studio saying how great Lux Soap was and, of course, mentioning that studio's latest release. At the end of each show the stars of the program would return to the microphone to discuss next week's show and casually mention that they, too, used Lux Toilet Soap. Sometimes these plugs, coming from rough, tough he-men, seemed awfully funny, as evidenced by the night Humphrey Bogart lisped, "Why Thee-Bee, I'd be lost without my Lux Toilet Soap." Lux stayed on as a sponsor of the show for the entire run, from first to last, a record unparalleled in radio history.

Through the years movies came and went, but the *Lux Radio Theater* stayed on, firmly entrenched as one of the public's top favorites. It took the cyclops eye of television to finally end Lux's reign on the airwaves. The show enjoyed a brief resurrection on TV as *The Lux Video Theater*, but the magic was gone, as was the bigness and the gloss. After a short while, it faded even from TV. The *Lux Radio Theater*, in its passing, took something from radio, and radio has never been able to replace it.

## CAN YOU TOP THIS?

"Please teacher, which is right --Bill or William?"

"William, of course, Johnny!"

"Well," said Johnny doubtfully, "it seems kind of funny to say, look at that sparrow with a worm in its William"

Can you top that one? Listen to the "experts" try to top gags and jokes sent in by listeners. Enjoy a half hour of laughs! Tune in --

"CAN YOU TOP THIS?"

*Every Saturday Night*

**9:30 WBEN**

HEY, **BLONDIE**,  
WE'RE ON THE AIR!

I KNOW IT,  
**DAGWOOD**—  
EVERY MONDAY  
**9:30 WMAZ**

## Radio Awards for 1951

By 1951 television had pretty much killed radio programming, as the networks put all their energies into the cyclopic eye. Even so, awards were still given to outstanding programs. Here are some of the winners according to *Radio-TV Mirror*.

- Best Dramatic Actor: Jack Webb
- Best Dramatic Actress: Mercedes McCambridge
- Best Daytime Actor: Jon Larkin of *Perry Mason*
- Best Daytime Actress: Jan Milnor of *Hilltop House*
- Best Daytime Serial: *Ma Perkins*
- Best Husband/Wife: Fibber McGee and Molly
- Best Comedy: *Martin and Lewis Show*
- Best Dramatic Show: *Lux Radio Theater*
- Best Audience Participation Show: *Breakfast Club*
- Best Mystery Show: *Dragnet*
- Best Quiz Show: *You Bet Your Life*
- Best Children's Show: *Let's Pretend*
- Best Woman's Show: *Kate Smith Show*
- Best Sportscaster: Mel Allen
- Best Newscaster: Walter Winchell

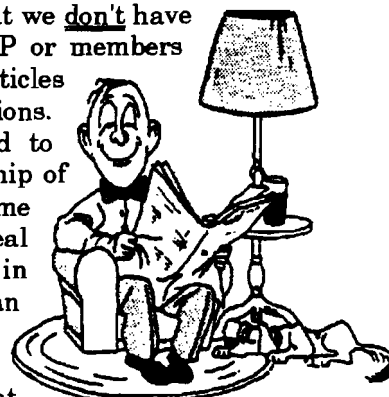
## From the Editor's Chair

As you probably have noticed, the IP this month has a different format. We have a crises here at the command center. Not a financial one like GM, IBM, and other *Fortune 500* companies are having.

Ours is that we don't have an editor for the IP or members willing to write articles for our publications.

Linda DeCecco had to give up the editorship of the IP due to the time demands of her real job. I am filling in this month, but can not do it on a regular basis. I

am using this format because it takes less time to set up and print than the booklet type we have used in the past. The letter (font) size has been reduced to approximately the same size as the booklet format, so the amount of material is about the same. Hopefully, when we get a new editor, he/she will return to our original form. But our problem is that we need an editor and material. If there anyone out there in OTR land that would like the job. If there is, let me know. Remember, it's your club.



### FRANK SINATRA

for the first time tonight  
in his own half-hour

Presented by VIMMS

THE VOICE all America loves

Frank's Guest tonight:

GINGER ROGERS

with BERT WHEELER and the

VIMMS VOCALISTS and ORCHESTRA

SINATRA singing the  
songs you like best

WMAZ - - - 8:00 P.M.

Peter Bellanca  
1620 Ferry Road  
Grand Island, NY 14072

Did you know that ---

- Ted Mack, of the *Original Amateur Hour* program once turned down Elvis Presley as a contestant for the show
- Walt Disney portrayed his own creation, Mickey Mouse, on the *Mickey Mouse Theater of the Air* radio show in 1937, on NBC
- *Your Hit Parade* at various times used a 30, 45, and 60 minute format for their shows
- George Burns would test the wind on stage before each show to make sure that his cigar smoke wouldn't blow in Gracie's face

**S U N D A Y**

A.M.	NBC	MBS	ABC	CBS
8:30 8:45			Earl Willd	Caroling Calling Memo From Lake Success
8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45	Wormwood Forest Games of Music	Tone Tapestries Wings Over Jordan	Sunday Morning Concert Hall Voice of Prophecy	News E. Power Biggs Trinity Choir of St. Paul's Chapel
10:00 10:15 10:30 10:45	National Radio Puppi Children's Hour	Radio Bible Class Voice of Prophecy	Message of Israel Southernaires	Church of the Air Church of the Air
11:00 11:15 11:30 11:45	News Highlights Solitaire Time	Christian Reform Church Reviewing Stand	Victor Lindlar Frank and Ernest Hour of Faith	Allan Jackson News Newsmakers Salt Lake Tabernacle

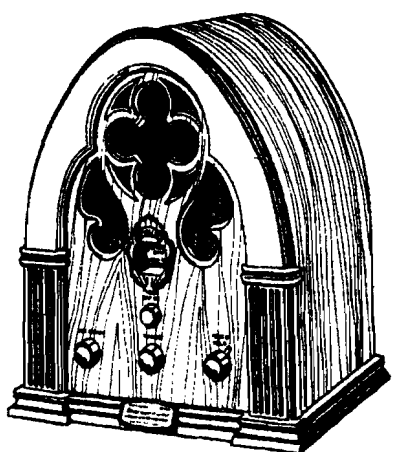
**AFTERNOON PROGRAMS 1949**

12:00 12:15 12:30 12:45	Mr. Fixit Eternal Light	College Choirs Lutheran Hour	Piano Playhouse	Invitation to Learning People's Platform
1:00 1:15 1:30 1:45	America United Chicago Roundtable	News Organ Music American Warriors	Foreign Reporter National Vespers	Meaning of the News Erno Roper Synoptation Piece
2:00 2:15 2:30 2:45	NBC University Theater	Mutual Chamber Music Bill Dunningham Veteran's Information	This Week Around The World Mr. President Drama	Longline Sym- phonette You Are There
3:00 3:15 3:30 3:45	The Quiz Kids	Treasury Variety Show Juvenile Jury	Harrison Wood Betty Clark Sings The Lutheran Hour	CBS Symphony
4:00 4:15 4:30 4:45	News	House of Mystery Martin Kane, Private Eye	Show Tunes Millon Cross Opera Album	Skyway to the Stars Chorallers
5:00 5:15 5:30 5:45	James Melton	The Shadow True Detective Mysteries	Family Closeup Greatest Story Ever Told	"Broadway's My Beat"

**EVENING PROGRAMS**

6:00 6:15 6:30 6:45	The Catholic Hour Hollywood Calling	Foy Rogers Nick Carter	Draw Patron Don Gardner Buzz Adler's Play- room	Family Hour of Stars Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet
7:00 7:15 7:30 7:45	Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show	Adv. of the Falcon The Saint	Think Fast	The Jack Benny Show Amos 'n' Andy
8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45	Four Star Playhouse Theater Guild on the Air	A. L. Alexander Enchanted Hour	Stop the Music	Sam Spade Lum and Abner
8:00 8:15 8:30 8:45	American Album	Opera Concert Shellish Graham Twin Views of News	Walter Winchell Louella Parsons Go For The House	Errn Your Vacation Our Miss Brooks
10:00 10:30	Take It or Leave It Pat Milk Show, Kay Armer	Secret Missions Don Wright Chor-us	Jimmie Fidler	Life With Luigi It Pays to Be Ignorant

Old Time Radio Club  
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**First Class Mail**