

The Old Time Radio Club

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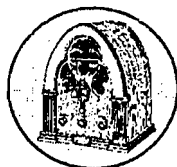
Merry Christmas

Membership Information

New member processing, \$5 plus club membership of \$15 per year from January 1 to December 31. Members receive a tape library listing, reference library listing, and a monthly newsletter. Memberships are as follows: If you join January-March, \$15; April-June, \$12; July-September, \$8; October-December, \$5. 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 PM during the months of September to June at 393 George Urban Blvd., Cheektowaga, NY 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. The *Old Time Radio Club* is affiliated with The Old Time Radio Network.

Club Mailing Address

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



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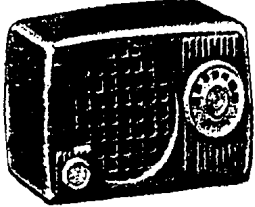
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SAME TIME, SAME STATION

by Jim Cox

OUR GAL SUNDAY

Our Gal Sunday was a rags-to-riches tale continuing a theme popularized in serial dramas of women of lower social order marrying wealth or fame and moving into higher society (a la *Backstage Wife*, *Kitty Foyle*, *Lora Lawton*, et al). These appealed to listeners' dreams of sudden wealth and social position.

The pattern was one of the more compelling from the assembly line of Frank and Anne Hummert, who produced more radio serials than anybody else. They would take a frail but determined heroine of humble origin and wed her into money and prestige. Then she would spend the rest of her days fending off jealous female competitors for the affections of her husband.

In *Sunday's* case, it began as the story of an unwanted waif who was abandoned at a Colorado mining camp. Raised by two old prospectors, she was obviously exposed to the best they could offer in the way of education, despite their lack of sophistication and means.

The "radio sequel" was based on a Broadway play simply named *Sunday*. Ethel Barrymore, who starred in the original stage play shortly after the turn of the century, improvised a line at the end which summarized it all: "That's all there is, there isn't any more." But for the Hummerts, it was only the beginning. They took the story from where it ended onstage and carried it through Sunday's marriage to "England's richest, most handsome lord, Lord Henry Brinthrope." It was, as millions of listeners can still recall from the epigraph, "the story that asks the question — *Can this girl from the little mining town in the West find happiness as the wife of a wealthy and titled Englishman?*"

Black Swan Hall, the Brinthropes' "lovely Virginia estate," as announcer Ed Fleming reminded the audience daily, was situated near the mythical town of Fairbrooke. Everybody lived on an estate in Fairbrooke; at least, everybody the Brinthropes dealt with had a home with a name on it. Their best friends, Irene and Peter Galway, resided at Bow Ridge, the manor adjacent to the Brinthropes' lavish plantation. Nearby, one of the town's meddling troublemakers, Elaine Cralle, who had it in for Sunday, owned a summer home at Birchwood, yet another grand estate.

Over the years Sunday would see her little boy Davy become crippled when a hit-and-run driver stuck him. In time she would cradle the head of her dying friend, Kevin Bromfield, after he took a bullet meant for her. Kevin had silently loved Sunday for years, but kept it to himself, knowing he could never win her from Lord Henry.

Sunday suffered numerous indignities at the hand of Lord Henry's childhood friend from England, Thelma Mayfield, who visited the Brinthropes at Black Swan Hall. Facing Lord Henry one morning across the breakfast table, Sunday informed him just how far things had gone. Thelma had told her in no uncertain terms the day before that she fully intended "to become mistress of Black Swan Hall." Sunday gushed: "She announced point blank that she's going to take you away from me!"

Lady Brinthrope also had her turn at being accused of murder, a common thread in many radio serials, upon the death of Tippy Rogers. Rogers was killed in the Brinthropes' summer house and Lord Henry's revolver was proven to be the murder weapon. In the end, Sunday was spared the chair as the real killer confessed to the crime.

Sunday and Lord Henry had three children, Lonnie, Davy and Caroline (the last two adopted). The trio was often referred to but seldom present. Their absence was explained by their nurse entertaining them in the nursery, etc.

The series debuted on March 29, 1937 and lasted all the way to January 2, 1959, nearly 22 years later. Aside from its durability, the serial had another distinguishing characteristic. It continued on the same network at the same hour for its entire run, at 12:45 p.m. ET. No other daytime drama approached that record; *Wendy Warren and the News*, aired at 12 noon over CBS for 11 years, was the next closest rival in tenure occupying a single quarter hour for the full length of its run.

Sunday led its time period and maintained one of the largest audiences of all the serials. In the 1949-50 season, *Sunday's* most successful, the serial climbed to 9.9. Its numbers remained substantial until the end.

Originated by Dorothy Lowell, the part of Sunday was transferred in 1946 to Vivian Smolen, who carried it the rest of the way. Lowell's only distinguishing radio feature until then was *The Man I Married*, where she played the female lead for a brief time. Smolen, meanwhile, appeared as one of three offspring on *Doc Barclay's Daughters*, 1938-40. She is well remembered for her long-running role on *Stella Dallas* as Laurel Dallas

Grosvenor (to Stella, "Lollie Baby"). She was featured as Veronica Lodge, *Archie Andrews'* love interest, and sustained a recurring role on *Front Page Farrell*.

The part of Lord Henry was carried initially by Karl Swenson, then Alistair Duncan. Swenson was one of the principals in *Linda's First Love* and *Rich Man's Darling*, the latter series involving a concept out of which *Our Gal Sunday* grew. Aside from the part of Lord Henry, Swenson is best remembered for the title role of *Lorenzo Jones*, which he carried for the 18 years of that series' run, 1937-55. He also was featured in the title role of the weekly evening crime series, *Mr. Chameleon*, throughout its run, 1948-52. He appeared in a recurring role in both radio and television versions of *Portia Faces Life*. With no other distinguishing radio or TV credits, Duncan picked up where Swenson left off and carried the part of Lord Henry until the show's demise.

Sunday and Lord Henry's best friends and nearest neighbors, Irene and Peter Galway, were played by prominent radio thespians Fran Carlon and Joseph Curtin. Carlon played the title role in the TV version of *Portia Faces Life* in which Swenson was male lead. She also appeared in TV's *As the World Turns* from 1968-75. Other series: *Big Town*; *Kitty Keene, Incorporated*; *Lora Lawton*; *Ma Perkins*; *The Story of Mary Marlin*. Curtin's most widely recognized role was as the male lead in the weekly detective series *Mr. and Mrs. North* he carried recurring parts in *Backstage Wife*; *David Harum*; *Myrt and Marge*; *Second Husband*; *Her Honor, Nancy James*; *Hilltop House*; and *The Thin Man*.

The best remembered of *Sunday's* announcers, based on longevity, was Ed Fleming. Fleming, who narrated both the *Light of the World* and *Mr. Keen, Tracer of Lost Persons*, was heard by audiences twice daily, usually for the same sponsor. At 12:45 he narrated *Our Gal Sunday* on CBS. For many years he returned to the microphone at 5:45 p.m. ET to announce NBC's *Front Page Farrell*. On *Sunday*, he was supplanted by Art Millett, John A. Wolfe, Bert Parks, Charles Stark, John Reed King and Warren Sweeney.

Jean Carroll obviously fell into favor with the Hummerts. For the last 14 years of the series' life she wrote the dialogue and was duly recognized for her efforts. It was a departure from earlier Hummert practice and was never found on very many of their shows.

There were many consumer wares advertised on *Sunday* across the years. Frequently, the program carried a closing commercial for Kolynos toothpaste. But

the most consistently advertised product, the one most closely identified with the program, was Anacin pain reliever.

Did Sunday find happiness as the result of her 22-year search for it? As her pilgrimage drew to a close, it seemed that Lady Brinthrope did discover that elusive bliss she pursued for so long, if only for an instant. While her reverie may have been short-lived, given the unstable characters that Fairbrooke bred, she seemed to bask in her fleeting moments of happiness as the wife of a wealthy and titled Englishman.

Member's Mike

HELP . . .

I am looking for copies of both the radio and TV broadcast of The Big Story. The story was about "Black Tom Evans" and the reporter who wrote it was John A. Ellert, of the Evansville, Indiana Press (my father). The radio show was broadcast on November 24, 1948 and the TV show October 14, 1949. Actor William Prince starred in the TV version. I would appreciate any and all help and/or any further referrals you can give me. Phone me collect at (330) 673-5120, thank you, thank you!



Mary Ann (Ellert) Martin
1743 Walnut Road
Kent, Ohio 44240

See attached NBC News Release of September 29, 1949:

NBC "BIG STORY" TELECAST TO REVEAL HOW REPORTER CLEARED FRIEND SERVING LIFE TERM

A reporter's seven-year search for a murderer to prove his friend's innocence will be dramatized on "The Big Story" Friday, Oct. 14 (9:30 p.m., EST) over the NBC television network.

It is the story of John Ellert of the Evansville, Ind., Press, who forgot about his vacation when a new lead developed seven years after his friend Eddie Bannon was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder on circumstantial evidence. He was freed when Ellert finally located a man to whom the murderer had confessed.

William Prince will play the role of Ellert, with Peggy Nelson as Ina, John Marley as Bannon, Bob Bryden and Ken Kenneths, who reveals the real murderer; Dehl Berti as Tony Grimes, Lawrence Paquin as the judge, John Adair as the sheriff, Nelson Olmstead as the prosecutor, and Marjory Redmond as the nurse.

Parts of the program will be motion pictures of actual sites of the crime, investigation and trial. "The Big Story" is produced by Bernard J. Prockter and directed by Charles E. Skinner.

* * *

Dear Editor:

Regarding Dom Parisi's request for information on Johnny Roventini, I checked my reference books, including Jay Hickerson's "OTR Necrology", and could find no date of death for the "Little Giant in the Red Suit". However, my own clippings morgue contains some data on not one, but two Johnnies.

An AP release from Arizona on January 28, 1980 reflected that "Johnny" died that month in Phoenix where he had been living for the past three years as a wine steward in a local restaurant. This "Johnny" was 4 feet, 11 inches, and was born in 1915 as James Turchi in Indiana. In the 30s he was discovered while working as a bartender in Chicago. He won the part of "Johnny", changed his name to Jimmie Tattler, and was on the air and making personal appearances in the Philip Morris bellhop uniform for the next 20 years.

A St. Louis Post Dispatch article of 8-26-76 reflected that Philip Morris had just called out of retirement John L. Roventini, now aged 66 and still 4 feet tall, to announce the expansion of their New York City Headquarters. He came attired in his famous costume and arrived in a 12 cylinder, 1936 Lincoln convertible that the company had rented.

A Family Weekly magazine dated 4-30-72 contained a "remember when" piece on Roventini, stating he was born in Brooklyn and was now in his 38th year of playing this famous bellhop. When he was offered the job of "Johnny" in the Hotel New Yorker, he was hesitant to leave his job in which he averaged over \$25 a week in salary and tips. "I'll have to ask my mother" he told the cigarette officials. She must have said yes because he took the job. He told Family Weekly he only missed one broadcast, when he was snowbound on the Brooklyn Bridge.

So one Johnny is dead and the other is 86 if he's still alive. So how many were there? probably at least one, with a backup, on the air. How many other little guys did Philip Morris hire, dress up in the well known bellhop uniform and send on publicity appearances? Your guess is as good as mine. If you know, I hope you'll share your data with Dom and me.

Sincerely,
Jack French

Dear Mr. Olday,

I'm a prison inmate and for my birthday, I asked a friend for a subscription so I could receive old time radio schedules and listings that can be found. I was just given your package about tape catalogs. Tapes aren't allowed in this prison. I'm afraid I can't make heads or tails out of your September issue. It doesn't tell me about old time radio programs or the stations I can find them on. Could you please send the old time radio publication that will list the programs and stations that carry old time radio.

Thank you for your time and attention in the above. I'll be looking forward to receiving old time radio publications that will list the programs and stations playing old time radio.

Sincerely,
John Demmitt

Ed. note: — John is located in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, if anyone knows of any stations in that area broadcasting OTR we'd appreciate your dropping him a note. His address is:

John Demmitt
AK0848
P.O. Box 200
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17001-0200

FRAN STRIKER

(Continued from November Issue)

by JERRY COLLINS

By 1950 things were changing drastically for Fran Striker. He was by then writing for radio and television. He was in the process of writing the final three books of the Tom Quest series. Fran Striker, Jr. feels that these were his father's best works. By now Fran Striker had become a more astute businessman. He declined to sign over the rights to the *Tom Quest* to anyone. He now supervised a staff of four writers and was making an annual salary of \$50,000. He was also still actively involved in both comic books and comic strips.

In looking back over a career that was now approaching the quarter century mark, Fran Striker must have been proud of his many accomplishments. He had participated in the creation of and written three of radio's most popular shows; *The Lone Ranger*, *The Green Hornet* and *Sergeant Preston*. Many other significant accomplishments can be traced to Striker. According to Don Ireland he invented the use of coconut shells in

sand to duplicate the sound of hoof beats (David Rothel). He also created four of the most famous support characters in radio; Tonto, Kato, Michael Axford and Yukon King. Striker was also one of the first writers to successfully move a character, Michael Axford, from one show, *The Manhunter*, to another show, *The Green Hornet*. He also successfully connected one character, Dan Reid, the nephew of the *Lone Ranger* with his son Britt Reid in *The Green Hornet*.

Returning to the *Lone Ranger* show, Fran Striker created the concept of the 'silver bullet,' the phrase "Hi-Yo-Silver," and created the word "yesteryear." It was also Fran Striker that was responsible for the shooting sequel that allowed for the smooth transition from Earl Graser to Brace Beemer following Graser's fatal automobile accident.

In 1937 Fran Striker purchased an eighty acre farm just a few miles outside of Arcade, New York, a small rural community some fifty miles southeast of Buffalo, Striker appropriately named this summer retreat "Fiction Farm." By the early 1940s a large addition was added to the original farmhouse, a bunkhouse was built, an office was added for Fran Striker and the property was beautifully landscaped.

The Striker family would faithfully travel from Gross Point to Arcade every Summer. Fran Striker would spend as much time as he could at "Fiction Farm." Vacations, long weekends and holidays would be spent there. The elder Striker seemed to have a passion for fireworks. He would spend a great deal of time throughout the year planning and making arrangements for his big fireworks displays on the Fourth of July.

Fran Striker's hectic schedule forced him to make weekly commutes between Buffalo and Detroit. When he was not making this long trip, he was racing from his rural hideaway on a Sunday to the Buffalo Airport to deliver a script.

As we reach the mid 1950s Fran Striker's life began to slow down. After 2,956 broadcasts the *Lone Ranger* was terminated on May 27, 1955. *Sergeant Preston* had already left the air in 1953, while *The Green Hornet* had departed from network radio on December 5, 1952.

Although *The Lone Ranger* remained on television until September of 1960, *Sergeant Preston* continued only through the 1955-56 season.

The 1950s were difficult years for Fran Striker. His two oldest boys, Bob and Don were called to active military

duty during the Korean War. Then in the mid 1950s Don was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

The decision was now made to move back to Arcade on a permanent basis. "Fiction Farm" was not adequately insulated for winter use. Thus it was necessary to purchase a home for the colder months of the year. "Fiction Farm" would still be used during the Summer, but a lovely home at 351 Main Street in the Village of Arcade was purchased for use during the remainder of the year. Don was placed in a Mount Morris hospital which was relatively close to Arcade. Don's battle with cancer finally ended on August 12, 1957.

In Arcade Fran Striker did his comic strips and let the post office deliver them. His minor involvement's with the *Lone Ranger* television show could also be handled through the mail or over the telephone. The last of his *Lone Ranger* novels had been completed. *One More River*, an adult western dealing with the army's experimental use of the camel in the West, was nearly completed. It would prove to be one of his finest literary efforts. The book that many people thought had been lost or even stolen from his accident scene was eventually published in a limited edition by Fran Striker, Jr. in 1993.

Striker's lifelong interest in the culture of the American Indian finally met with fulfillment in 1962, when he was formally adopted into the Hawl Clan of the Seneca Indian's Tonawanda band. He was given the name Ha Yah-Douh (The Writer).

By the end of the 1950s Fran Striker's involvement in radio and television had all but disappeared. He was now turning to a career in teaching. He taught a writing course for the Buffalo area YWCA. He also became associated with the University of Buffalo's Creative Problem Solving Institute. In addition he was preparing to teach a creative writing course at the University of Buffalo.

The Striker family now decided to sell their home in Arcade and move into a smaller home near the University of Buffalo. A home was selected at 2360 Kensington Avenue in the Snyder section of Buffalo. Janet Striker and her daughter, young Janet, preceded the moving van into Buffalo. Meanwhile Fran remained in Arcade until the moving van had left. He then carried out some minor duties and locked up the home and departed for Buffalo.

The journey was never completed. Fran Striker was killed in a terrible head on collision, 2:06 PM on September 4, 1962. The accident took place in a con-

struction area on Route 16, 300 feet north of Billington Road in the Town of Elma. Striker was probably driving too fast for the road conditions, but he had always driven fast in all those Sunday trips to the airport or all those trips from Detroit to Western New York to be home with his family. Fran Striker's heavy sounding typewriter had finally been silenced.

Funeral arrangements were handled by the W.S. Davis Funeral Home in Arcade, with burial in the Arcade Rural Cemetery.

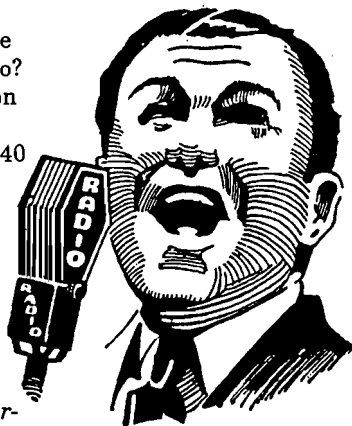
They Were The Most Active People in Radio — The Big 100!

by DOM PARISI

(PART TWO)

Who do you think was the busiest performer in radio? Santos Ortega? Harry Von Zell? No, actually it was **Marvin Miller**. I found 40 plus show listings where Miller was glued right up against the station mike's! He was an actor, announcer and a narrator. He announced on the *Andrews Sisters Eight-to-the-Bar Ranch*; on *Aunt Mary*; *The Bicker-sons*; *The Cisco Kid*; on *Dear John*, a daily serial; also for *Duffy's Tavern* and *Father Knows Best* with Robert Young. Then there was *The Frank Sinatra Show*, *Lonely Women*, and *Louella Parsons*. On *Ma Perkins* Miller used the name of Charlie Warren. To what end I know not. Miller also announced for *The Old Gold Program*, *The Railroad Hour* with Gordon MacRea and *Strange Wills* in 1946, and he once played the *Whistler*.

Marvin did the narration and character voices for *Armchair Adventures* as well as the *Behind the Story Show*. He had bit parts on the *Billie Burke Show*. On *Coronet Story Teller* it was Miller once again doing the announcing and the character voices. Marvin Sample on *Cousin Willie* was played by Miller. Along with Hans Conried, Miller was a regular on *Danny Thomas*. Marvin (and others) hosted *The First Nighter*. In the comedy *Great Guns* it was Marvin Miller again performing several parts — a butler being one of them. He was Harold on



Harold Teen a show copied from the comic strip of the same name. *Heartbeat Theatre*, a late starter on radio was narrated by Marvin Miller as a doctor? Yes, in *Judy and Jane*, he played a Dr. Bishop. An actor again in the comedy hit *Maisie*. In still another 15-minute show, *Mainstream*, Miller had an active part. A narrator once again, *Moon Dreams* a 15-minute variety show; an emcee on a program called *Name That Movie*. According to the *Handbook On OTR* Miller played 20 different roles on *One Man's Family*. Twenty different parts!! He was *Peter Quill* on the show of the same name, this time as a detective. Miller did the many comedy voices in *Play Broadcast*, 1940-1941. Talk about talent — this guy had it!! An actor again on *Press Club*, this time as newspaper man Mark Brandon. OK lets wind down with this star: He was Gil on *Romance of Helen Trent*; The bad Mr. Proteus on *Space Patrol*; an announcer on *Stars Over Hollywood*, and finally a host on *Stop That Villain*. Jack Bailey was the villain who tried to get the studio contestants to give wrong answers to a quiz. Miller supplied hints so they could give correct answers.

Mr. Magoo, **Jim Backus**, appeared in radio long before the Magoo character was invented. He was Hubert Updike on the *Alan Young Show*. Jim hosted a variety show over Mutual in 1948 called *The Big Talent Hunt*; he was a regular on *The Danny Kaye Show*; he appeared in his own *The Jim Backus Show* a 30-minute format, and then a 60-minute show in the late 50s. Backus played Horace Wiggins on *The Penny Singleton Show* on NBC in 1950. On the *Sad Sack* show over CBS in 1946 Backus was Chester, Sad's friend. Jim Backus went on to additional fame in TV, the movies and with his *Mr. Magoo* character.

The beautiful and popular star of both radio and stage, **Jane Froman**, almost lost her life in the crash of a Pan Am Atlantic Clipper over Lisbon during the war year 1943. The medical people said she would no longer be able to perform. Jane overcame her serious injuries however, and fought her way back to radio and the stage.

Earlier in her career, 1935, she appeared on radio with Bob Hope in a little known program called *The Intimate Review*. This Mutual variety show was heard over NBC. She sang on *The Gulf Oil Show* in 1939. Jane was a 1937 summer replacement for Jack Benny with her *Jane Froman - Don Ross Show*. She was in another variety program called *Palmolive Beauty Box Theatre*. In 1948 Coca-Cola sponsored Jane in *The Pause that Refreshes Program*; Pontiac Automobile had her on their *Pontiac Show* in 1934-1935; and Jane hosted a show with Gordon MacRea in 1948 called *Yours for a Song*. I also found where Miss Froman appeared in two movies:

Stars Over Broadway in 1935, and *Radio City Revels* in 1938. Stage, Radio, Movies — Jane did it all!

As a Character actor **Ed Begley** had a big share of performances on the screen-less box. He played Papa Dittenfeller on the *Alan Young Show*, a Chinese representative in *House on Q Street* over MBS, Police lieutenant Dan Britt on *Official Detective*, and again as a police lieutenant, Walt Levinson, in *Richard Diamond*. Begley had more than one character role in *Tales of The Texas Rangers*. He co-starred on *The Fat Man*, *Milton Berle Show*, and he played Chan, starting in 1944 on *Charlie Chan*. Let's not forget Begley in the movie version of *Sorry Wrong Number* in 1948 and *12 Angry Men* in 1957, just two of his many movies.

Organist **Del Castillo** provided the music for a children's drama program called *Tell it Again* on CBS. He was there for *Affairs of Ann Scotland* featuring Arlene Francis as a female private investigator; and he was on CBS in 1945 for a show called *That's a Good Idea*, a program about new inventions of the day. Castillo's music was heard on *Moon Dreams* a musical and poetry program, on *Skippy Hollywood Theater*, *Stars Over Hollywood* a drama show that featured well known film stars and on *Stranger Wills* sometimes known as *I Devise and Bequeath*.

Good old **Hans Conried** was a regular on *Danny Thomas* and also the *Jack Parr Show* when Parr filled-in for Jack Benny in the summers of 1947-1949. Conried held a supporting role in the *Judy Canova Show*, *Maisie* and *My Friend Irma* where he played Professor Kropotkin. He had a dramatic role in *The Thirteenth Juror* on NBC in 1949, he was Mr Cushing the lodge president of the loyal order of Benevolent Zebras on *Mel Blanc's Show*, and of course we will never forget him as the loveable Mr. Schultz on *Life With Luigi*.

Announcer **Dick Joy** was the only announcer for the *Sam Spade Show*, 1946-1951. You heard Dick along with Ken Niles, on *Blue Ribbon Town* a variety program, and also on *The Danny Kaye Show* over CBS. Joy announced for the comedy show *Forever Ernest* in 1946, *Sad sack* in the summer of 1946, a drama program called *Silver Theatre* over CBS, and a serial called *Those We Love*.

Verna Felton, Dennis Day's mother on *Jack Benny* was another active performer on radio. Speaking of mothers, Verna also played Mother Barton on the children's classic *The Cinnamon Bear* in 1937. She had a supporting role with Joan Davis on *Joanie's Tea Room* comedy show over CBS and also on *The Judy Canova Show* along with Sheldon Leonard ("Psst, hey bud, come

here!"), Mel Blanc and Hans Conried. Miss Felton appeared as Mrs. Odetts on *My Little Margie* and as Mrs. McIntyre on the comedy-variety show *Tommy Riggs and Betty Lou* on NBC. Again, with Joan Davis, she was on *The Sealtest Village Store* in the middle forties and on *The Red Skelton* and *Ray Bolger Shows*. Do you remember Verna Felton in the movie *Picnic* that came out in 1956?

The drama serial announcer **Ford Bond** was popular in radio's heyday. You heard him on *Backstage Wife*, *David Harum*, *Lora Lawton*, *Your Family and Mine* 1938-1940, *Stella Dallas* (Lolly-Baby!) on NBC, and *Nona From Nowhere* on CBS in 1950 — a Frank and Anne Hummert serial that is not familiar to me. Finally we heard Bond announcing for two merry-go-round shows: *Manhattan Merry-Go-Round* and *Monday-Merry-Go-Round*. He was a busy man, that's for sure.

Talented director, producer, and writer **Norman Corwin** wrote many shows that leaned toward propaganda, especially during the second World War. He wrote *The Free Company* for CBS that aired in 1941-1942. Corwin wrote and directed *This is War* a series that featured famous film stars. He wrote a 13 part drama called *One World Flight*, a series modeled on his trip around the world in 1946. Another gigantic venture, 26 original shows entitled *Twenty-Six By Corwin* was Broadcast on CBS in 1941. He had his own *Columbia Presents Corwin* on CBS in 1944-1945. He directed *County Seat* a serial drama set in a small town. He wrote an adventure show called *Passport For Adam's* in 1943, and *Pursuit Of Happiness* a dramatic show over CBS that featured Burgess Meredith.

"Calling Dick Tracy! Come-in Dick, Pat here!" **Ned Weaver** was Dick Tracy as was Matt Crowley, and Barry Thomson. Ned was Nick in *Little Italy* a drama about an Italian-American. He played Tony in *Her Honor*, *Nancy James* a story of a female Judge. He was Peter on *Lora Lawton* and Dr. Anthony Loring on *Young Widder Brown* another Hummert serial. Weaver appeared on *The Wonder Show* a drama with an old movie serial theme. He played Capt. John Drake on the police show *Under Arrest*, and Jeff Spencer, part of the detective team of *Two on a Clue* a serial drama heard over CBS in 1944-1946. (to be continued)

It's that time again . . . get an early jump
on your membership renewal, send
in your check today.

The Cave of Gold

How Steve Adams
became Straight Arrow

by SHELDON STARK

Kr-rang!!

The rifle bullet smacked against the rock close to Packy's head and once again the frizzled prospector and mountain man thanked his lucky stars he had spotted the badmen in time to take shelter. Rubbing alkali dust off the sight of his rifle, he laid the stock against his cheek and drew a bead on a black Stetson showing some distance off and squeezed the trigger. He was rewarded with a distant cry of pain.

"That'll larn' em they dassen't git too close", he smiled. "Wish my canteen wasn't empty, I could stand those buzzards off fer a right long spell."

Then his smile faded. Packy was in a tough spot and he knew it. Ever since the Indian tribes of the Great Plains had begun acting up, Packy knew there was some reason for their behavior. Some one was stirring them up, setting them a bad example and giving them bad counsel. He had been on his way to Fort Despair to see if he could convince the cavalry not to take action against the tribes — and now, running into this ambush, he had a deep-down hunch that these outlaws were behind the whole border trouble. "Keno," he muttered, "that's why they drygulched me. They want the Injuns tuh be wiped out so's they can grab off the buffalo and beaver fer themselves."

Kr-rang, kr-rang, kr-rang! More shots whipped over his head and he answered carefully, using his dwindling supply of bullets to good effect.

The sun dipped lower. Packy found his mind wandering a little. What was it that old Indian medicine man had told him — the one he met way up in the mountains who died up there? *Something about, Packy tried to recollect, something about a mysterious Indian who would appear some day to save the tribes. An Indian taller and stronger and more brave than any who rode the plains.* That was the legend told in every teepee and hogan from the Wind River to the Staked Plains. The words of the old medicine man came back to him:

"It is foretold in the stars. When the great warrior was born, an arrowhead was hung around his neck — a gold arrowhead. And he was called Straight Arrow."

But the medicine man had never been able to explain what happened to the Indian child who was given the name Straight Arrow. The child had disappeared and all that was left was the legend. The last thing the medicine man said to Packy before he passed on was: "Search for him! Search everywhere! He will save the Indian tribes!"

Packy ducked as the outlaw rifles sent leaden death crisscrossing over him; he wished that mysterious Indian would save HIM.

The barrel of his rifle was hot from constant firing. The sun was going down, flaming in the west. He looked at his horse, Paint, grazing in perfect safety a few yards from the little pile of rocks. Calculating the distance, he wondered if he could reach the saddle before a bullet knocked him kicking. It was worth a try.

Just as he gathered his legs under him, he glanced towards the outlaws. A dark shape was racing up behind them, out of the sun. Packy blinked his eyes in amazement; it sure enough looked like a gent pushing a pony for all he was worth. Then he saw the crimson flash of six-guns. With a burst of gunfire, the stranger came smashing through the outlaws. Taken by surprise, rider and horse were past them heading for Packy.

Packy was on his feet. "Come on, stranger!"

The man dragged rein in a flurry of dust. "Run for your pony," he barked. "I'll cover you! Run!"

Packy dug dirt. With the stranger's six-guns blazing away Packy was in the saddle and prodding Paint into a full gallop in a flash. Side by side the two men raced across the flat prairie.

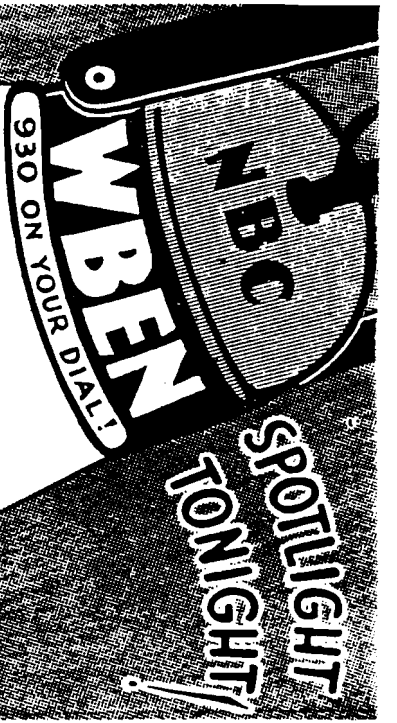
Packy yelled. "My handle's Packy, stranger. What's yore monicker!" . . . "Steve Adams!"

"Im mighty obliged Adams. Them polecats was diggin' me a sure-fer-certain grave."

"You're not out of it yet — and neither am I." Steve Adams put spurs to his chestnut saddle bronc and gestured behind him. Twisting in his saddle, Packy saw the outlaws. Five of them. They were sticking behind, riding in a tight, menacing knot.

Packy gulped. "If my Paint hoss wasn't so tired," he yelled above the clatter of hoofs, "he could show them catamounts a clean pair of heels. But as it is . . ."

(Continued next month)



This Is Laugh Week--

Nation's No. 1 Comics

Go All-Out . . . Tonight!

7:00—Ersel Twing, Supper Club

8:00—Milton (Buffalo-Bound) Berle

8:30—Teen Fun—A Date With Judy

9:00—Barber Trouble—Amos 'n' Andy

9:30—Vista's Best Driver? Fibber?

10:00—Eddie Cantor With Bob Hope

10:30—Red Skelton Crowned Laugh-Kid

11:15—Joe Wesp in Local-Laugh Slant

TOMORROW MORNING HITS

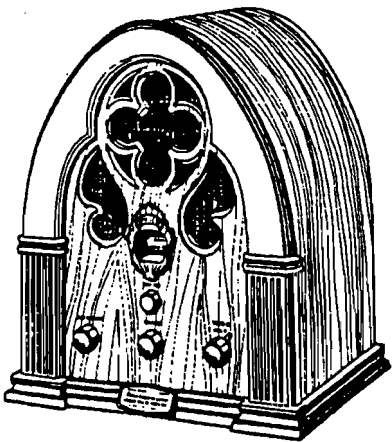
9:15—It's Circus Time! Col. Morton of Shrine Visits "Early Date"

12:30—Harold Russell, Soldier-Hero of Films, Visits Luncheon Club

WARNING! MORNING TREAT AT 11

4/1/47

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