

*The Old Time Radio Club*

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**Radiomania**

**By Dorothy Urfer**

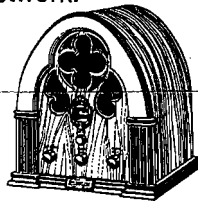


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**Club Mailing Address**

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Lancaster, NY 14086



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## Oriental In OTR: A Preliminary Survey

—  
by JACK FRENCH

While Oriental characters were not common on dramatic shows in the Golden Age of Radio, there were certainly more of them than we might realize. I'm in the process of a research project that involves these Oriental characters on radio and also Asian actors, regardless of the roles they played.

My preliminary examination has reflected that generally Oriental characters were seldom played by Asian actors (much akin to Black characters in OTR being played by Caucasians) in similar situations. Also, most of the Oriental roles were in the supporting category, but there were some leads, Charlie Chan, Mr. Moto, and even a major villain that the series was named after, *Fu Manchu*.

The purpose of this article is to acquaint your readers with my progress thus far and solicit from them any additional data they have on the subject that I can incorporate in my presentation on the topic, at the October 1997 Newark FOTR Convention.

*Fu Manchu* actually beat *Charlie Chan* to the network microphone, but only by three months (September to December 1932) but Charlie certainly outlasted the Madarin Prince of Evil. *Fu Manchu* ran 9/32 to 4/33, went off the air, returned as *Shadows of Fu Manchu* on 5/39 but only lasted six months in this second try.

Charlie on the other hand, ran from 12/32 to 33, went off and returned on 9/36 and lasted until 4/38, came back 7/44 (with Ed Begley in lead) and continued to 11/45. In a fourth incarnation *Charlie Chan* was back on network air with Santos Ortega playing him from 8/47 to 6/48. Much later an Australian company brought this distinguished police inspector back, but I haven't found the dates, even though I have copies of some of these Down-Under shows. As far as I can tell, neither *Charlie Chan* or *Dr. Fu Manchu* was ever portrayed by an Asian actor on radio.

Mr. Moto (full name of show, *Mr. I. A. Moto*) came to network radio late, in May 1951. James Monk had the lead; it lasted only five months and this Japanese radio detective was no more.

I believe these are the only shows in which an Oriental Character was the lead. Next I'll briefly examine those

shows in which Asians were very common, although only in supporting roles as heroes or heavies.

*Terry and The Pirates*, based upon Steve Canyon's comic strip, took place in the Orient and virtually everyone (except Terry and Pat) were natives of some Oriental country. Big Stoop, Connie, the Dragon Lady and a host of others were present throughout the comic strip and the resulting radio show. It was on the air for about ten years, 1937 to 1947, and there are nearly 200 episodes in circulation today.

*Voyage of The Scarlet Queen*, one of my favorite series, took place mostly in the China Sea and again, with the exception of the two leads, almost everyone, good or bad, was Oriental. Skipper Phil Carney (played by Elliott Lewis) was on a mission for the mysterious Mr. Kang and each episode brought new challenges from clever Asian enemies (William Conrad in one show played a North Korean bandit.)

The kids adventure shows had many Asian character who showed occasionally to trouble our heroes, including *Captain Midnight*, *Jack Armstrong*, and *Hop Harrigan*. Three kids shows each had a Chinese cook but in very minor roles. The first Bobby Benson series, 1932-36, entitled *The H-Bar-O Rangers*, had one, and *Red Ryder* also employed one at his Painted Valley Ranch. And the very talented and quite versatile Olan Soule got his first network role playing "Aha" the Oriental cook in Daddy Warbuck's kitchen on *Little Orphan Annie*.

*The Green Hornet*, as we all know, had Kato his valet-chauffeur, and the show ran from 1936, on-and-off, until late 1952. This was the first network show in which a Japanese character was played by a Japanese actor. Tokataro Hayashi, whose name WXYZ owner Trendle could not pronounce or remember so he had Hayashi change his name to "Raymond Toyo, he was a native of Japan.

The common story we've all heard is that on Pearl Harbor Day, "Kato" changed from Japanese to Filipino. Dick Osgood, the author of "[WXYIE Wonderland](#)", repeats this story but gives it a slightly different twist. He claims that Hayashi was either deported or sent to an Arizona relocation site so he was replaced in the cast with a Caucasian, Rollon Parker. I'm still trying to sort out the historical facts in this long-cherished story of the abrupt change in nationality of Kato.

There were other kids shows that had Oriental characters, usually in supporting roles. *The Sea Hound*, an ABC show, ran from 1942 to 1944 and again from 1948 to 1951. When Barry Thompson took over the lead of

Captain Silver, his assistant was "Kai", played by Alan Devitt and sounding a lot like Charlie Chan, *The Blue Beetle* occasionally took on Oriental villains, one of whom headed up "*The Purple Dragon*."

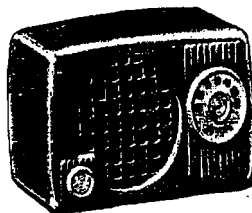
*The Green Lama* (a knock-off on *The Shadow*) lasted a brief three months on CBS, Paul Frees played the lead of "Jethro Dumont" and he had a Tibetan assistant named "Tulka." *The Orange Lantern*, a Blue Network adventure show for the 1932-33 season, had as its chief villain, Batnik, a Japanese jewel thief.

Not many adult series had Orientals in supporting roles, but there were a few. *Have Gun Will Travel*, a John Dehner classic, was on CBS late in network radio (106 episodes from 1958 to 1960) and the complete run is in trading circulation. Each episode would start out with Paladin getting news, usually by telegram, delivered by "Hey Boy", an Oriental employee of the hotel where Paladin lived. He was played by Ben Wright; when Wright was not available Virginia Gregg took his place as "Miss Wong".

There were other Asian characters in this show, usually portrayed in a sympathetic manner, as they were in Dehner's other adult Western, *Frontier Gentleman*. There are two other adult series that had an Oriental in a major role. *Frank Watanabe and The Honorable Archie*, despite the long title it lasted for three years on NBC as a 15 minute comedy/adventure show in the early 30s. Watanabe, a Japanese house-boy (played by Eddie Holden) referred to his boss, Archibald Chiselberry (the voice of Reginald Scheffield), as "The Honorable Archie", hence the title.

The only other adult show I've found with an Oriental in a major role is *The House on Q Street*, a drama about the lives of people in a boarding house in Washington DC during World War II. A Chinese resident was portrayed by Ed Bagley, who would later go on to play *Charlie Chan*.

**Author's Note:** Readers who know of any series or characters I've missed, please contact me at 5137 Richardson Dr., Fairfax, VA 22032, or E-Mail: OTRplano@erols.com.



## SAME TIME, SAME STATION

by Jim Cox

### THE GUIDING LIGHT

*The Guiding Light*, or *Guiding Light* as it was renamed on television, has given new generations of Americans a direct link with an era in which the nation was primarily informed and entertained by the theater of the mind. While the humble origins of the radio play may radically depart from the glitz and glamour of the fast-paced sequences of the nineties, the fact that this longest-running narrative of daytime drama has survived sixty years is a milestone. Irna Phillips' most important radio creation lives on, a testament to the enduring qualities that she brought to a form that entertains billions of people around the globe every weekday.

*The Guiding Light* had an on-again off-again affair with radio for much of its first decade. Debuting for Proctor & Gamble's White Naptha soap on the NBC Red network January 25, 1937 at 4:15 p.m. Eastern Time, it soon shifted to 3:45 p.m. By the 1939-40 season, apparently after a brief hiatus, it aired at 11:45 on NBC Red. The following year it moved to 10:45 a.m. When P&G dropped its sponsorship December 26, 1941, the serial left the air, netting 75,000 letters of protest from fans. The program resurfaced only eleven weeks later (March 17, 1942) when General Mills agreed to underwrite it.

Under General Mills, *Light* resumed broadcasting at 3:30 p.m., then moved to 2:30 p.m. in 1942-43 and finally aired at 2 p.m. for the duration of its NBC run, 1943-46. Sponsorship was canceled by General Mills on November 29, 1946 and the series again left the air. It didn't return until P&G picked it up for Duz laundry detergent twenty-six weeks later. Starting June 2, 1947, it continued on radio with the same sponsor until it was permanently withdrawn on June 29, 1956.

The serial's highest ratings as a radio feature, similar to those of most of its contemporaries, were recorded in the 1949-50 (8.7) and 1950-51 (8.3) seasons. In ten of its sixteen full broadcast seasons the program earned high numbers of 6.0 or more. For six seasons its rating reached 7.0 or better.

At its inception, *The Guiding Light* swirled around the study of the Reverend Dr. John Rutledge, a kindly cleric

of a nonsectarian congregation in the small town of Five Points. Representing the spiritual strength of suburbia, his mission was to demonstrate how to live a good life through patience and understanding. The pastor of the little church of Five Points became a champion of life's inspirational qualities and the humanity offered by the ideals of the American way.

The show's title was a direct link to the example offered by Rutledge himself as he became the community's "guiding light." A widower whose daughter moved with him to Five Points, Rutledge dispensed helpful advice while demonstrating an attitude of caring and selflessness. As he confronted one challenge to his values after another, he applied the merits of the "guiding light" and found them justified.

These early years revolved around a succession of ministers including Drs. Rutledge, Gaylord, Matthews, Andrews, Keeler and — by the early fifties — Reverend Marsh. Several devices sustained a sure connection between the character of the current clergyman and the principles of the "guiding light."

During the forties, the program opened with a prayer or homily which was delivered by the pastor. Annually, and sometimes more often, the current clerical character delivered a sermon for the duration of the daily installment. On Good Friday during the final decade the soap opera was aired on radio, "The Seven Last Words" sermon was preached by the resident minister.

In the early days, in addition to Dr. Rutledge, the cast included his daughter, Mary, and an orphan son, Ned Holden, whom the minister adopted at the age of eight, and who was destined to become Mary's husband. There was Rose Kransky, Mary's best friend, a Jewish girl whose father, Abe was a local merchant; plus several other townspeople.

By the time the soap opera had reached its television era, very little was left of its loftier ideals. There was one possible exception, however. That was the organ which, in the story line, had been played in earlier days by the parson's daughter, Mary. For years it supplied bridges and background in the version appearing on the tube, too.

The console virtuoso (who in real life was Bernice Yanoczek on radio) labored over the keyboard for a thunderous rendition of Goetzl's "Aphrodite" near the opening of each chapter. One observer of the serial discounted her sharp intrusions into an otherwise reflective performance, noting: "No program in heaven or earth could match *The Guiding Light* in ominous chords, stings and

cadences." In the broadcast of January 10, 1950, for instance, the organ's erratic exclamations jarred fans twenty-three times. Such unexpected and unnerving outbursts interrupted every chapter in those days, possibly keeping some of its listeners on edge.

Around 1947, a decade after the program debuted, *Light's* focus shifted from a predominantly uplifting emphasis provided by the minister and his flock to the Bauer family of nearby Springfield. Despite their numerous tragedies and personal dilemmas, the Bauers provided the fusion which bound listeners to the show for decades. In fact, after an absence from the story line of twenty-two years, the character of Meta Bauer, by then an old woman, reentered the plot in late 1996. The actress selected to play her was a veteran of TV soap opera. For about thirty-five years Mary Stuart had portrayed the invincible Joanne Tate, oft-married heroine of *Search for Tomorrow*.

The Bauers included Bill and Bertha, Bill's widowed father who was affectionately known as Papa Bauer and who lived with his son and daughter-in-law, Bill's sisters Meta and Trudy and their mates and offspring. Meta, who became the central character, conceived a child (Chuckie) out of wedlock, culminating in a loveless but seemingly necessary marriage.

By the late forties, Chuckie had been adopted by a couple named Ray and Charlotte Brandon. Meta, who had given her son up for adoption, then decided to reclaim him, an idea that has perhaps earned more notoriety in contemporary times than it did in the forties.

Meanwhile, Chuckie expressed his preference for Aunt Trudy over his own mother, Meta. And Meta professed romantic interest in sister Trudy's current heartthrob, Ross Boling, a promising young physician. Ted White, Chuckie's dad had set his sights on convincing Meta to marry him so Chuckie could have a united home with his biological parents. Finally persuaded that she owed that to Chuckie, Meta agreed to Ted's proposal.

A short time later Chuckie was injured in an accident that resulted from his father's ideas about raising a child. Ted White was determined to diminish an unyielding control that Meta had developed over their son. He saw the boy's interest in painting as something only sissies did and tried to emphasize the boy's masculine developmental needs. Unfortunately, the child responded with neither the desire nor the personality for such strenuous activity.

The sequence reached a climax in 1950 when, instead of healing from his injuries, Chuckie died unexpectedly.

Meta was absolutely distraught with grief and blamed Ted for Chuckie's death. Strained beyond endurance by the unforeseen turn of events, she lost control of her emotions. In a rage Meta picked up a gun and shot Ted to death. But a jury acquitted her of the crime when it determined that she was temporarily insane.

Meta was soon off on a new tangent, chasing after Joe Roberts, a newspaper reporter who had helped her gain her freedom in the trial. Roberts' children by a previous marriage resented Meta so deeply, however, that they posed a threat to any serious intentions the pair may have had. Despite that, Meta and Joe married anyway. Within months, they were on the brink of divorce as a result of the ongoing internal family conflict involving the children.

By this time, the drama had arrived on television (June 30, 1952). In making the decision to air a televised version of its popular radio serial, Procter & Gamble recognized the possibility of siphoning off millions of loyal radio fans. Preferring another route instead, the household and personal care goods manufacturer decided to offer concurrent episodes on both mediums. The radio performance continued to air live at 1:45 p.m. Eastern Time. The same episode could be seen on the same day, with minor alterations, at 2:30 p.m. on the CBS Television Network. The daily live TV series was eventually moved ahead of the radio version, to 12:45 p.m. Eastern Time.

Within eighteen months *Light's* TV audience had increased to 3.5 million viewers while only 2.6 million were following it by radio. As many as four million fans had been listening at the inception of the televised series. There could be no mistake which way mass audiences were turning as TV became more accessible to millions of new viewers. Thus, the decision was made early in 1956 to discontinue the radio series and concentrate wholly on the visual one. *Light* aired for the last time on radio June 29 of that year.

A little known thespian who played in stage productions before making his radio debut in Minneapolis, Arthur Peterson, was tapped to portray Dr. John Rutledge. Born in Mandan, North Dakota in 1912, Peterson was only twenty-four when he won the role of the Five Points cleric. During his radio career he earned credibility on *Bachelor's Children*, *Girl Alone*, *The First Nighter*, *The Story of Marlin*, *Woman in White*, *Tom Mix* and many other shows. He served in the second world war and died in 1952 at the age of forty.

Other major radio roles in the *Guiding Light* included Sarajane Welles and Mercedes McCambridge portraying

Dr. Rutledge's daughter, Mary; Ruth Bailey and Charlotte Manson as Rose Kransky; Ed Prentiss, John Hodiak and Ned LeFevre as Ned Holden; Laurette Fillbrandt as Trudy Bauer; Jone Allison as Meta Bauer; and Hugh Studebaker as Dr. Charles Matthews.

Announcers were Fort Pearson, Clayton (Bud) Collyer, Herb Allen, Martin Block, Ed Prentiss, Gene Baker and Chet Kingsbury.

As the sole survivor of scores of radio soap operas, *The Guiding Light* is now a distant reminder of an era in which drama by installment was an significant and daily meeting of the minds for millions of American home-makers.

## Seattle OTR Convention

June 27-28, 1997



### "180 DAYS 'TIL CHRISTMAS"

The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound (REPS) have announced details of their REPS RADIO SHOWCASE V, as it begins to shape up. The theme this year is "180 Days 'Til Christmas" with re-creations and decorations reflecting that season.

First time guests include Larry Dobkin, Sandra Gould, Bob Hastings and Peg Lynch. REPS believes that previous attendees likely to join the fun are: Parley Baer, Dick Beals, Frank Buxton, Stewart Conway, Sam Edwards, Herb Ellis, Ray Erlenborn, Art Gilmore, Merrill Mael, Tyler McVey, Gil Stratton, Jr., Ginny Tyler, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Peggy Weber, Rhoda Williams, Doug Young.

The program will begin on Friday night, June 27th, with new radio drama. This has been a first class segment in the past, well received by the actors and fans. Two shows will be written around the talents of the special guests in attendance by long time radio writer, Jim French. It will be taped and later aired in Seattle and in over 110 markets in syndication.

On Saturday, REPS continues the highly popular segment "Just Sittin' Around and Visiting" with all special guests up front and interacting. The first re-creation

activity on Saturday, will be "Ethel and Albert Meet Vic and Sade". Peg Lynch and Parley Baer will be on stage with the Vic and Sade cast. Each will do a skit independently, and then there will be a hilarious combined segment.

Sandra Gould will do Miss Duffy in a re-creation of Duffy's Tavern and there is one more major re-creation to be announced. Ethel and Albert will pop up throughout the day.

For information on registration or dealer tables, contact

**Mike Sprague...Showcase...PO Box 723,  
Bothell, WA 98041  
Phone 206-488-9518 FAX 206-402-6988  
e mail hrrmikes@aol.com**

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| 2331 | Dragnet - Greatest Dragnet Operation in History<br>9/10/49                      |      | Voyage of the Scarlet Queen - Ambitious Hostess<br>1/21/48           |
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| 2333 | Radio City Playhouse - The Dark Hour 9/25/48                                    |      | Bold Venture - Tears of Sheba  |
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| 2337 | Broadway is My Beat - Joan Gale 5/8/49  |      | Boston Blackie - Club 77   |
| 2338 | Broadway is My Beat - Gordon Ellies 3/13/49                                     | 2347 | Great Gildersleeve - Gildy gets a Great Dane 1/21/53                 |
| 2339 | Casey, Crime Photographer - Acquitted 7/3/47                                    |      | Great Gildersleeve - Grace wants Gildy back 1/28/53                  |
| 2340 | Casey, Crime Photographer - Lady Killer 7/10/47                                 | 2348 | Great Gildersleeve - Letter from Center City 1/27/54                 |
| 2341 | Casey, Crime Photographer - Death in Lover's Lane<br>7/31/47                    | 2349 | Great Gildersleeve - Worried about Leroy 2/3/54                      |
| 2342 | Casey, Crime Photographer - Bright New Star 8/7/47                              |      | Great Gildersleeve - Gildy locked in Basement<br>1/13/54             |
| 2343 | Suspense - Beyond Reason 2/21/48 (60 min.)                                      |      | Great Gildersleeve - Leroy going steady 1/20/54                      |
| 2344 | Suspense - Mate Bram 4/14/52  | 2350 | Suspense - Plan X 2/2/53   |
| 2345 | Suspense - The Death of Me 5/26/56  |      | Suspense - St. James Infirmary Blues 2/23/53                         |
| 2346 | Suspense - Beirut by Sunrise 5/31/55  | 2351 | Suspense - Murder for Myra 8/9/45                                    |
| 2347 | Suspense - Death Flies Blind 5/4/43   |      | Suspense - Shooting Star 3/24/57                                     |
| 2348 | Suspense - Devil's Saint 1/19/43 (90 min.)                                      |      | Suspense - Sin Eater 7/8/62 (90 min.)                                |
| 2349 | Suspense - Too Perfect Alibi 1/13/49  | 2352 | The Shadow - Unburied Dead 4/14/46                                   |
| 2350 | Suspense - Witness to Murder 10/22/61   |      | The Shadow - Gorilla Man 4/21/46                                     |
| 2351 | Suspense - You Died Last Night 4/1/62 (90 min.)                                 | 2353 | Sam Spade - Red Anapola Caper (rehearsal) 5/21/50                    |
| 2352 | Suspense - The Swift Rise of Eddie Albright 4/3/47                              |      | Sam Spade - Honest Thief Caper (rehearsal) 5/28/50                   |
| 2353 | Suspense - The Taming of the Beast 3/29/45                                      | 2354 | Terry and the Pirates - #145, #146 4/24/42, 4/27/42                  |
| 2354 | Suspense - They Call Me Patrice 12/12/46 (90 min.)                              |      | Terry and the Pirates - #147, #148 4/28/42, 4/29/42                  |
| 2355 | Suspense - Love's Lovely Counterfeit 3/8/45                                     | 2355 | Mark Trail - Forty Year Freeze 10/11/50                              |
| 2356 | Suspense - The Man from Tomorrow 9/1/57   |      | Mark Trail - Witch of Lost Forest 10/13/50                           |
| 2357 | Suspense - The Cave of Ali Baba 8/19/42 (90 min.)                               | 2356 | Gunsmoke - Innocent Broad 8/6/55                                     |
|      |   |      | Gunsmoke - Johnny Red 8/13/55  |
|      |   | 2357 | Great Gildersleeve - Leroy has the Flu 2/17/46                       |
|      |   |      | Great Gildersleeve - Gildy's New Hobby 2/24/46                       |
|      |   | 2358 | Jack Benny - Thanksgiving at Mary's 11/26/44                         |
|      |   |      | Jack Benny - \$85,000 Horse Race Bet 10/28/45                        |
|      |   | 2359 | Jack Benny - Buck Benny 4/7/40                                       |
|      |   |      | Jack Benny - Leaving for New York 4/14/40                            |
|      |   | 2360 | Our Miss Brooks - Putting the Touch On 10/24/48                      |
|      |   |      | Our Miss Brooks - Driving to Football Game 10/31/48                  |
|      |   | 2361 | Edgar Bergen Hour - Charlie's Christmas Money<br>12/18/55 (60 min.)  |
|      |   | 2362 | Mysterious Traveler - Man who tried to save Lincoln<br>2/7/50        |
|      |   |      | Mysterious Traveler - Big Brain 3/14/50                              |
|      |   | 2363 | Suspense - Man in the Fog 9/24/61                                    |
|      |   |      | Suspense - No Hiding Place 10/1/61                                   |
|      |   | 2364 | Suspense - Feast of the Furies 7/11/46                               |
|      |   |      | Suspense - 5 Canaries in a Room 6/8/43                               |
|      |   |      | Suspense - Flesh Peddler 8/11/57 (90 min.)                           |
|      |   | 2365 | Johnny Dollar - Meg's Palace Matter                                  |
|      |   |      | Johnny Dollar - Meg's Palace Matter                                  |
|      |   | 2366 | Favorite Story - The Valiant   |
|      |   |      | Favorite Story - The Moonstone                                       |
|      |   | 2367 | Favorite Story - Vanity Fair   |
|      |   |      | Favorite Story - Pride and Prejudice                                 |
|      |   | 2368 | Phil Harris - Phil's Daughter has a Boyfriend                        |
|      |   |      | Duffy's Tavern - Marie McDonald                                      |

## They Were the Most Active People In Radio — The Big 100 !

By **DOM PARISI**  
(Part 7)

**Paul Douglas** had an outstanding career in the movies and radio. I remember Mr. Douglas in the film "A Letter to Three Wives" and the 1950 drama "Panic in the Streets" with Richard Widmark, Jack Palance and Zero Mostel. On radio Paul was one of the announcers for *Buck Rogers*, *Jack Armstrong* and *Saturday Night Swing Club*.

Douglas was also one of the announcers for *Command Performance* and an early host for *Coast to Coast on a Bus*. We heard him on the *Star for a Night* show featuring Wendy Barrie. In addition to these he announced for *Country Club of the Air* that was heard over Mutual in 1936 and *Dupont Zerone Jesters* in the thirties, a 15 minute musical program hosted by vocalist Irene Beasley. Paul was with the comedy show *Pick and Pat* with Pat Padgett and Pick Malone, two comedians who performed in blackface as Molasses and January.

The announcer **Bill Cullen** hosted the CBS quiz show *Winner Take All* and another quiz program, also over CBS, called *Hit The Jackpot*. On a more serious note we had Cullen announcing for the serial drama show *This is Nora Drake*, plus *Casey*, *Crime Photographer*. He hosted *Fun for All*, *Quick as a Flash* starting in 1949, *The Patty Clayton Show* on CBS in 1946 and the *Danny O'Neil Show* in the forties that was broadcast in both 15 and 30 minute segments.

I know that **Parker Fennelly** was in a 1955 film called *The Trouble with Harry* that was directed by Alfred Hitchcock and introduced Shirley MacLaine in her first movie. I don't know any more about Fennelly's movie career. He was, however, a giant in radio. He portrayed Lem Stacy the store owner on *Your Family and Mine*. He was Hirman Neville on *Snow Village Sketches* a comedy production that aired on both Mutual and NBC in the twenties and forties. He played Dad on another 40s comedy show called *Mother and Dad*. In still another family comedy program he was Pa on *Ma and Pa*. Parker ran a drugstore on *Mr. Feathers* a Mutual comedy; he played Dan Tucker on *Lawyer Tucker* in 1947, and he was publisher Henry Foster on *Mary Foster, Editor's Daughter*.

Parker portrayed the character Sam on *House in the Country*, a serial drama on the Blue in the forties. He was a regular on the early series sponsored by Westclox

Clocks called *Big Ben Dream Dramas* on NBC. I think, however, that he will best be remembered as Titus (Hi yi Bub!) Moody on the Fred Allen shows that ran on radio for a long 17 years — 1932 thru 1949.

Other than doing the part of a serious announcer for *This is Your FBI*, all of **Milton Cross's** activities were geared toward music, humor, variety and quiz shows. He did, however, sing the theme song "Slumber On" for the *Slumber Hour Show* over NBC in 1927. Milton was both host and conductor of the bus for *Coast to Coast on a Bus*. He was guest host on the humor and musical show *Bughouse Rhythm* in 1936-1938 and for *Melody Highway* over ABC.

He announced for *Information Please* and *Don't Forget* on the Blue Network. Host again, this time for *Magic Key*, *Piano Playhouse*, *Raymond Paige Orchestra* and the long, long running (even into the eighties), *The Metropolitan Opera* over ABC and NBC from 1931 onward.

Cross announced for one of the earliest shows on radio. *The A&P Gypsies* heard over NBC starting in 1924. He appeared on *Lucky Strike Music Hall* an offshoot of the *Lucky Strike Dance Orchestra* on NBC. Lastly you heard him host the musical show *Jeddo Highlanders* sponsored by Jeddo Coal (you may have heard him in this show, I didn't. 1927-1930 was way before my time.), and he was on a show known as *Roxy and His Gang*.

On the very early *Atwater Kent Radio Hour* over NBC during 1926-1931, it was **Donald Voorhees** directing the music. It was Don again in another early CBS musical variety program called *Columbia Intimate Hour*. Voorhees provided the music, before Eddy Duchin, for *The Fire Chief Show*. In 1937 he took over the musical spotlight for *March of Time* sponsored by Time Magazine. We had him on the comedy variety show *Tim and Irene*, *Showboat*, *The Bell Telephone Hour*, *Club Romance* a CBS musical show in 1934-1935, *The Gibson Family* another musical show and on the dramatic broadcast *Cavalcade of America*.

Remember the movies "The Ghost of Frankenstein" made in 1942 with Cedric Hardwicke and Lon Chaney, Jr. and "The Unknown" in 1946? I can recall the "Frankenstein" film, not the "Unknown" one. Anyway, **Barton Yarborough**, best remembered as Doc Long on *I Love A Mystery* and *I Love Adventure*, appeared in both films. Barton was a featured player in *Adventures of Christopher London* with Glenn Ford. He was the assistant to attorney Roger Allen on *Attorney for the Defense* in 1946. Yarborough was Joe Friday's first partner, Ben Romero on *Dragnet*.



In the western *Hawk Larabee* Barton played Hawk. In another western *Hashknife Hartley* in the early fifties. It was Barton again, this time playing Hartley's partner "Sleepy." Mr. Yarborough died in 1951.

Organist **Rosa Rio**, probably best know for her rendition of "Omphale's Spinning Wheel" on *The Shadow* shows, was working the keyboards all over the airwaves. She played the theme "Auld Lang Syne" for *Between The Bookends*, she was heard on the Hummert's *Chaplin Jim, USA*, a World War II serial drama, and on *Front Page Farrell*. Miss Rio had a hand in the forever popular tear-jerking soaps — *When A Girl Marries*, *Second Honeymoon*, *Myrt and Marge*, *Lorenzo Jones*, *Hannibal Cobb*, and *Ethel and Albert* with Richard Widmark as Albert. She was heard on *Court of Missing Heirs*, a show where they tried to find real-life missing heirs, *Deadline Drama* and *My True Story*, using stories from True Story Magazine. And then there was a religious show called *The Gospel Singer* in 1933-1934 and *Cavalcade of America*.

Host announcer **Jay Stewart** had his own audience participation show about pet animals on ABC in 1949 called *Jay Stewart's Fun Fair*. He coordinated another audience sharing show called *What's Doing Ladies?* He also hosted the game show *Wizard of Odds*.

Jay was one of many to announce for *Truth or Consequences* and *Take It or Leave It*. An interview program known as the *Carnation Family Party* over CBS was hosted by Mr. Stewart. And in another audience show, *That's Life* in 1946. it was Jay doing the hosting. In this show, the people from the studio audience had a chance to get on the air. We finish our survey on Stewart with two more shows — the musical variety *The Open House* and *That's a Good Idea* the show about inventions.

**Staats Cotsworth** was the original Casey, the Crime Photographer. He was in the 1957 film "*Peyton Place*" with Lana Turner and Lloyd Nolan. The movies, radio, this man did it all.

He played Dr. John Wayne on *Big Sister*, playboy Roger Hoyt on *Marriage for Two*, Dave Farrell on *Front Page Farrell*, Edward Leighton on the Hummert series *Amanda of Honeymoon Hill* and Mark of *Mark Trail*. Cotsworth had a chance to play Wolf Bennett on *Lone Journey* during the forties and fifties. He portrayed Police Lt. Bill Wiegand on *Mr. and Mrs. North* and Major (he got promoted) Hugh North, American Agent on *The Man from G-2* over ABC. This show was an adventure series based on a U.S. Agent and his fight with the Nazi's.

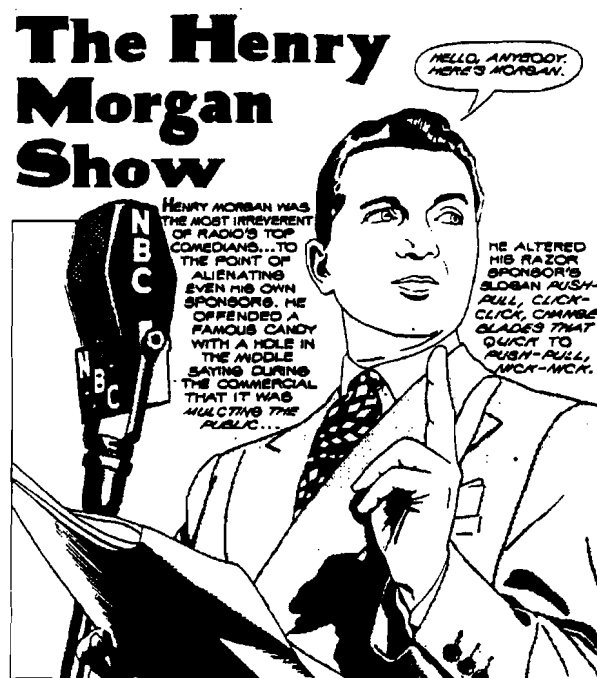
**Raymond Edward Johnson** was the first to host *Inner (come in, come in!) Sanctum*. He was Agent Joe Lincoln in the earlier version of *Treasury Agent* and he hosted *Crime Club* on Mutual in addition to *Tales of Tomorrow* in 1953.

Ray was Paul on *Valiant Lady* and Hal Lambert on *Brave Tomorrow* a serial drama on NBC. During 1943, Johnson played Winslow of *Don Winslow of the Navy*, starting in 1943 and *Mandrake on Mandrake the Magician* on MBS in 1940-1942.

Mr. Johnson was one of the featured actors in *There was a Woman* on the Blue network during 1937-1938. He played the gambler called Masters on *Tennessee Jed* over ABC in 1945-1947. Raymond and Don Ameche both had the part of the Forest Ranger on *National Farm and Home Hour*. (Don Ameche died on December 8, 1993.)

**Rex Maupin** was the musical director for a slew of music-variety programs. Looking through his list of credits we come up with: *Wake Up and Smile* on ABC, *The Black Night* also over ABC in the fifties, *Packham Inn* in 1946, *Smile Parade* and *Dreamboat* in 1951.

His was just one of the many orchestras to be heard on one of the longest running shows on radio, 1933-1968, *The Breakfast Club* and he was on *Sunbrite Smile Parade*, *The Ransom Sherman Show*, *Club Matinee* 1933-1946, and *The Danny Thomas Show*. (to be continued)



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**9:00 P. M.** Frank

Sinatra will return the Major's recent call and bring added attraction to the New London, Conn. show. Men of the Submarine Base supply the amateur talent.



**BILL HENRY ★ 8:55 P. M.** Hear this

famed War Correspondent sum up the latest communique from the Home and War fronts.

**FIRST LINE ★ 10:00 P. M.** Another stirring account of Navy heroism will be dramatized with the hero himself giving a few of the highlights.

**CLUB ELEVEN-FIFTEEN ★ 11:15 P. M.**

Join your master of ceremonies, Jack Gelzer, in another program of Good Listening to the music of Charlie Spivak.

**VIVA AMERICA ★ 11:30 P. M.** A musical salute to our GOOD NEIGHBORS to the south,

with Latin music played as only a Latin-American orchestra can.

A. M. ——— FRIDAY ——— P. M.

**FOLEY'S FOOD 7:15**

Daily diet and ration tips from a man's point of view.

**JOHN STURGES 4:30**

Songs, new and old, by Buffalo's famed baritone.

**SING ALONG CLUB 9:15**

**B. CHILDREN 10:45**

**B. HORIZONS 11:30**

**PERRY MASON 2:45**

**WOMEN'S PAGE 3:30**

**WOMEN AND WAR 5:30**

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