

The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS

Number 294

November 2001



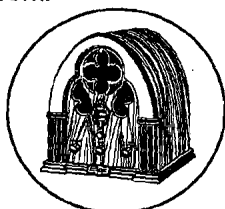
HARLOW WILCOX

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Club Mailing Address

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56 Christen Ct.
Lancaster, NY 14086



Back issues of *The Illustrated Press* are \$1.50 postpaid.

Deadline for *The Illustrated Press* is the 1st of each month prior to publication.

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A History of BASEBALL on the RADIO, 1921-1966

by JERRY COLLINS

The history of baseball is closely intertwined with the early history of both radio as well as television. I will attempt to chronicle the highlights of radio's growing love affair with baseball. I will begin with the first broadcast of a baseball game on KDKA and end my survey with the firing by the New York Yankees of first Mel Allen and then two years later Red Barber.

The Pittsburgh-Philadelphia game on August 5, 1921 was the first Major League broadcast on the radio. The game was played in Forbes Field and won by the Pirates 8-5. Harold Arlen sat in a ground-level box seat behind home plate as he did the game for KDKA. Arlen used a technology that was called "wireless telegraphy." He used a microphone that was a converted telephone.

The 1921 World Series between the New York Yankees and the New York Giants was broadcast by the three affiliated stations of the Westinghouse Broadcasting Network; KDKA of Pittsburgh, WJZ of Newark, New Jersey and WBZ of Springfield Massachusetts. Grantland Rice, a sports reporter for the New York Herald Tribune broadcast directly for KDKA. WJZ and WBZ broadcast the game in a more circuitous manner. A reporter from the Newark Call telephoned information about the game back to Tommy Cowan who repeated the information over the microphone. Cowan was perched atop the Newark Westinghouse Building in a tin-walled radio shack.

Radio's technology improved greatly for the 1922 World Series. WJZ's chief engineer, Charles W. Horn, convinced Western Union to lease its wires to the radio station for a direct broadcast of the World Series from the Polo Grounds. Grantland Rice broadcast the series that matched the New York Giants and the New York Yankees. The quality of the transmission was so good that it was possible to hear announcements made by

the umpires along with the voices of boys selling ice cream cones. The Giants won the Series. Lacking a sponsor, the final two games of the 1922 series were not broadcast.

In the 1923 World Series Grantland Rice was supported by Graham McNamee who did the color. Midway through the third game, Rice became bored and turned most of the broadcasting over to McNamee. Graham McNamee would continue in this role until the mid 1930s. The New York Yankees won their first World Series title, defeating the Giants in six games.

Two of America's early great sports announcers were Graham McNamee and Ted Husing.

McNamee announced ten different sports and consequently, with the exception of the World Series could not concentrate on baseball. Husing also announced a variety of sports with emphasis on college football. He came to CBS on Christmas day 1927 and remained with the network until 1946. Like McNamee, he did the World Series, but did not do baseball on a regular basis.

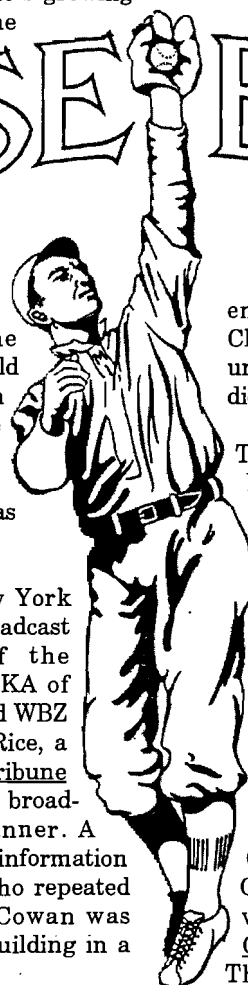
The legendary Ted Husing had a very short-lived baseball career. He broadcast the 1934 World Series for CBS. After criticizing the umpires, Husing was banned from the 1935 World Series by Judge Landis. He never broadcast another baseball game.

Baseball was more sympathetic to Fred Hoey. He was so excited about doing the 1933 World Series that he came drunk to the first game. He was pulled off the air after the third inning. His audience was told that he had a bad cold. Hoey was too good to be fired for only one offense. He continued announcing for another six years.

On April 23, 1924, Hal Totten broadcast the Chicago Cub's 12-1 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals. Totten was a twenty-three year-old rewrite man for the Chicago Daily News. The game was carried by WMAQ. Thus began the first regular broadcasting of a Major League baseball team. He remained as the voice of the Cubs until 1944. The Cubs soon became the first baseball club to install a glass-partitioned radio booth.

The Chicago White Sox ballgames were carried on five stations by the mid 1920s. The games were announced by Joe E. Brown, Pat Flanigan, Quin Ryan, Truman Bradley, John O'Hara and Bob Elson. Jack Brickhouse came to Chicago in 1940 to assist Bob Elson. The two of

BASEBALL



them worked together on re-creating Cubs and White Sox games. When Elson entered the service, Brickhouse became the voice of the Cubs and the White Sox. After Elson returned from the service, Brickhouse became the television announcer for both clubs.

Soon radio coverage spread to other cities; Bill Dyer - Philadelphia Phillies, Garnett Marks - St. Louis Cardinals (1927), Fred Hoey - Boston Braves and Red Sox (1925) Ty Tyson - Detroit (1927) and Tom Manning - Cleveland (1928). In 1932 WHK replaced WTAM as the flagship station of the Cleveland Indians. Jack Graney replaced Tom Manning as the Tribe's announcer. Manning had done some games in 1925, but he did not become a full-time baseball announcer until 1928. He returned in the 1956 and 1957 seasons to work with Jimmy Dudley. Graney, a former outfielder with the Indians, became the first ex-athlete to occupy the broadcast booth.

Certain aspects of radio technology had still not improved by 1936 World Series. According to Red Barber, there was still no radio booth at the New York City ballpark. A plank was put in front of a couple box seats in the upper deck. The boxes were separated by a small link chain. Tom Manning, Ty Tyson and Red Barber all sat shoulder to shoulder as they each did three innings of each game between the Yankees and the Giants. On a sad note, Graham McNamee sat silently to the left of Barber. His World Series announcing days were over.

Radio broadcasts of the Detroit Tigers were done in an unusual fashion. Ty Tyson broadcast over WWJ to the residents of Detroit. Beginning in 1934 and extending through 1950, Tiger legend Harry Heilmann broadcast over George Trendle's WXYZ, the flagship station of the Michigan Broadcasting Network. Heilmann's broadcast reached Western Michigan and the Upper Peninsula.

The 1930s and the early 1940s were the glory days of the St. Louis Cardinals. These were the days of Dizzy Dean, Rip Collins, Pepper Martin, Wild Bill Hallahan and the remainder of the Gas-House Gang as well as the early years of Stan Musial, Marty Marion, Harry "The Cat" Brecheen, Mort Cooper, Murray Dickson, Howie Pollet and Enos Slaughter. During the full extent of this time (1929-1946) France Laux was the voice of the St. Louis Cardinals and Browns. Harry Caray became another one of the great midwestern baseball announcers. He was the voice of the St. Louis Cardinals from 1945-1969. Just two years after being fired he became the baseball announcer of the Chicago White Sox.

With the exception of one year in New York City (New York Yankees - 1939) Arch McDonald "The Old Pine Tree," broadcast Washington Senator's baseball games

from 1934 to 1956. Probably the most durable baseball announcer was Byrum Fred Saam. He broadcast Philadelphia baseball from 1938-1976. He broadcast the Athletics games in 1938, the Athletics and the Phillies from 1938-1949, the Athletics from 1950-1954 and the Phillies from 1955-1976.

Bob Burdette became the Cincinnati Red's first radio broadcaster in 1929. He broadcast from a booth on the roof of Redland Field. He was replaced by Harry Hartman. Although Hartman was only 5'6" tall, he weighed 320 pounds. He frequently did the game dressed in an undershirt.

Five months after the formation of the Mutual Broadcasting Network, the network broadcast their first sporting event, the first night baseball game on May 24, 1935 in Crosley Field in Cincinnati. On October 2, 1935, Red Barber, Quin Ryan and Bob Elson traveled to Navin Field in Detroit to do Mutual's first World Series game. Paul White, Frank Laux, Jack Graney and Truman Bradley broadcast the Series for CBS. Graney became the first ex-player to announce a World Series game. Ty Tyson, Hal Totten and Boake Carter headed the NBC team. Graham McNamee made occasional appearances in his final World Series appearance. At that time the Ford Motor Company was broadcasting the World Series. They believed in multiple network broadcasting of the World Series. This practice would continue until Gillette took over sponsorship of the World Series in 1939.

Amazingly Red Barber was lured to Cincinnati in 1934 by a contract that would pay him twenty-five dollars a week. One should have guessed that this was the beginning of a magical career for Barber. On opening day of 1934, Lon Warneke had a no-hitter for 8-1/3 innings. By the end of the year Barber had assumed additional announcing responsibilities and had his salary doubled to fifty dollars a week.

Although Red Barber's stay in Cincinnati was brief, 1934-1938, he was a witness to some major events in baseball history. Unfortunately Barber was unable to do live broadcasts of two of the biggest games in Reds' history. Johnny Vander Meer's consecutive no-hitters were pitched on the road, Boston (June 11, 1938) and Brooklyn (June 15, 1938). Some of the Cincinnati players traveled by plane to Chicago in 1934. This was a first for Major League baseball. Of course the biggest event occurred on May 24, 1935. Red Barber was there to broadcast Major League Baseball's first night game.

Waite Hoyt was a Hall of Fame pitcher with the New York Yankees and the Pittsburgh Pirates. His career ended in 1938. The following year he did commentary

work with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Two years later he was called to Cincinnati to do the play-by-play for the Reds. He remained in that position for the next quarter century. Most experts feel that he was the best athlete turned announcer. He was industrious, highly intelligent and full of stories taken from his highly successful career.



Albert Kennedy (Rosey) Rosewell was a humorist, a writer, a poet and an extremely popular and successful after-dinner speaker. From 1936-1954 he was also the voice of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He might have been the most popular and adored baseball announcer of his time. The breaking of "Aunt Minnie's window" became the most famous of all homerun

calls in baseball. When he died in 1955 he was replaced by his sidekick Bob Prince.

In 1943 Bert Wilson was hired as Pat Flanigan's assistant in the Chicago Cub's broadcasting booth. At the end of the season Flanigan retired and was replaced by Wilson, who held the position from 1944-1955. He became one of the hardest working and dedicated baseball announcers. He in turn was replaced by Jack Quinlan, who held the job for nine years. His career was cut short at the age of thirty-eight when he was killed in a horrible automobile accident during spring training in 1965.

In 1948 Jimmy Dudley, a World War II glider pilot, left his job with Hal Totten and the Chicago White Sox and began a twenty year career as the voice of the Cleveland Indians. He was personally hired by Bill Veck. During his last three years with the Indians, Dudley was teamed with Bob Neal. It was quite ironic that these two men despised each other. Their producer had to sit between them in the booth. During those three years they neither talked on the air nor off the air. The Indians have had many announcers since Dudley, but most Indian fans remember him as the best.

In June of 1948 Red Barber almost died from a hemorrhaged ulcer. In an unprecedented move the Brooklyn Dodgers traded minor league catcher Cliff Dapper to the Atlanta Crackers for their very popular announcer Ernie Harwell. In the winter of 1949 Harwell left the Dodgers to join Russ Hodges and the New York Giants. From 1954-1959 he became the first voice of the new Baltimore Orioles. When Van Patrick left the Tigers for the Mutual Network in 1959, Ernie Harwell became the new voice of the Detroit Tigers.

After Roger Baker left Buffalo in the mid 1930s to announce the Cincinnati Red's games, Jim Britt and Leo Egan were hired by WKBW to do the Buffalo Bison games from Offerman Stadium. In early 1939 Egan left for WNAC in Boston, where Frankie Frisch had recently replaced Fred Hoey as the voice of the Braves and the Red Sox. When Frisch was hired as the manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Jim Britt was hired by WNAC as the sports director of its Yankee Network. From 1939 to the early 1950s he was the voice of both the Boston Red Sox and the Boston Braves. He became not only one of the most popular sportscasters in the Northeast but also one of the most cultured announcers in the country.

Re-created baseball games are also an important part of our story. For a fee Western Union linked each major league park with studios all over the country. A writer would prepare a written copy and then give it to a Western Union operator, who converted the copy into a coded message. Ultimately the coded message reached a radio station in a distant city, where it was translated into a skeletal outline. The local baseball announcer would then add his own personal style in announcing the re-created game.

Arch McDonald broadcast from People's Drugstore on G Street in Washington. His booth was flanked by bleachers filled with Senator fans. When restaging a game, he stayed one inning behind—just in case the wire went dead.

Jack Graney used his many anecdotes and his own personal experiences to become one of the best baseball re-creators. Sponsored by Mobil's "The sign of the Flying Red Horse," Ty Tyson used numerous nicknames and catchy phrases to dress-up his coverage. Red Barber, who began his coverage of the Reds in 1934, was very honest with his fans. He told them that his coverage was a re-creation. He refused to use the tricks and gimmicks that other announcers used. Barber was also the first truly scientific and professional announcer. Many radio stations throughout the country did nothing but radio re-creations of baseball games. WHO in Des Moines, Iowa used to re-create the Cubs games. In the 1930s they had a baseball announcer who later went onto bigger and better things. His name, Dutch Regan.

Throughout much of the 1930s, all three of New York City's baseball teams banned all radio broadcasts even radio re-creations. In 1933 the Yankees, Giants and Dodgers all signed a five-year pact banning the radio broadcast of their baseball games. In 1932 The Cardinals, Browns and Pirates banned re-creations on Sundays and holidays.

In the mid 1930s, General Mills came out with a new cereal called Wheaties. Someone in their advertising department developed the name "The Breakfast of Champions." Cliff Samuelson from General Mills now became the representative of his own company as well as Mobil Oil and Proctor and Gamble in their joint effort to break into the baseball business in New York City. The time was right. Larry MacPhail a strong supporter of radio had been selected in 1938 to be the president of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Samuelson needed a good station and a good announcer. He got both, WOR and Red Barber. Even though Phil Crosley offered Barber \$16,000 to remain in Cincinnati, twice the figure offered by Samuelson, Barber wanted to move to New York City.

Although the Brooklyn Dodgers never won a World Series crown during Red Barber's stay, Ebbets Field might have been the most exciting place in all of baseball. Red Barber would be there on opening day in 1947 when Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier. He was there to witness the heroics of Pete Reiser, Pee Wee Reese, Don Newcombe, Preacher Roe, Jackie Robinson, Dixie Walker, Roy Campanella, Al Gionfriddo and Cookie Lavagetto. He also became the man in the Old Gold commercials.

The Brooklyn Dodgers had finally broken New York City's radio ban. All games would be broadcast, both home and away. Ed Barrow (New York Yankees) and Charles Stoneham (New York Giants) were both very fearful of the influence of radio on baseball in New York City. Following Brooklyn's actions, the Yankees and Giants had no choice but to go along with the Dodger's actions. The two New York City teams selected Arch McDonald as their announcer and WABC as their station. For the first time in baseball history all sixteen Major League would have their games broadcast on radio. The Yankees and the Giants broadcast only their home games. Walter Johnson replaced McDonald in Washington for one year, until he returned to the Senators in 1940. Beginning in that year, Mel Allen became the voice of the New York Yankees. He would remain in that position for more than two decades.

New York City was the last Major League City to permit the radio broadcasting of their baseball games; ironically the city was the first to televise its baseball games. In 1946 the New York Yankees sold the video rights to their games to the Dumont Network.

Bill Slater was a graduate of West Point, a former army officer, teacher and former high school football coach. Most of his announcing career was devoted to college football. He did, however announce the Yankees and Giants baseball games in 1944 and 1945.

As baseball returns to its normal schedule after the bombing of the World Trade Center, one is reminded of the role of baseball during World War II. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt made the immediate announcement that Major League Baseball would continue its regular schedule. The benefits were numerous. The sport helped to maintain the morale of the American people. Some games were played in the morning to allow second-shift workers to attend games. Announcers like Red Barber reminded Americans about blood drives and bond sales. There were restrictions. There were some travel restrictions. Spring training was held closer to home. Announcers could not give weather conditions at a game. If a game was cancelled because of rain, the reason could not be given.

In 1946 Jack Brickhouse was hired to broadcast the New York Giants games on WMCA. Brickhouse left over a salary dispute in 1947 and was replaced by Frankie Frisch. Following World War II, Russ Hodges joined Mel Allen's announcing team in 1946. In 1948 he left the Yankees to become the voice of the New York Giants. He remained with the Giants for the next nine years. He will always be remembered as the man who announced Bobby Thompson's homerun in 1951 and Willie Mays' great catch in the 1954 World Series. He was also a witness to the heroics of other members of the New York Giants including; Monte Irvin, Sal "The Barber" Maglie, Larry Jansen, Alvin Dark, Eddie Stanky and their leader, Leo Durocher.

In 1950 Vince Scully joined Red Barber's announcing team in Brooklyn. He is still the voice of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Most would agree that he is the best baseball announcer of the past quarter century.

By the late 1930s advertising agencies replaced the radio stations as the ones who hired and fired announcers and set their salaries. This would lead to one of the biggest complaints amongst radio announcers, low pay for World Series games. The two men most responsible for this were Cliff Samuelson of General Mills and then Craig Smith of Gillette, who bought the exclusive rights to the World Series in 1939. In fact Red Barber received only expense money from the Ford Motor Company for the 1935-1938 World Series games. In 1939 Red Barber was paid seventy dollars a game. In 1944 when Smith pressured Red Barber to break his contract with the Dodgers and jump to the Yankees, Barber refused. He was told he would never do another World Series again. He was back on the World Series in 1945 when the Commissioner of Baseball said that the principal announcer for each team in the World Series must be included in the World Series announcing team. In 1952 Red Barber was paid two-hundred dollars a game. He vowed that he would never be paid such low wages

again. When Barber attempted to negotiate his salary for the 1953 World Series, he was dropped from the series and replaced by Vince Scully.

Walter O'Malley, the owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers was so incensed by Red Barber's actions that he fired Barber before the start of the 1953 World Series. On the morning of game six of the World Series Red Barber was hired by the New York Yankees. Baseball's two best announcers, Mel Allen and Red Barber, would now be working for the best team in baseball. They now would be sharing both radio and television announcing.

Red Barber's new partner would be the legendary Mel Allen. A lawyer by education, Allen switched careers in 1935 to announce the University of Alabama football games. In 1939 he was hired to announce the Yankee games. Probably his most famous moment came early in his career on July 4, 1939, when he officiated at the ceremony that honored the recently retired and mortally ill Lou Gehrig. He was there to officiate over the end of the era of Joe McCarthy, Joe DiMaggio, Bill Dickey, Red Ruffing, Lefty Gomez, Tommy Henrich as well as Charlie "King Kong" Keller and the coming of the age of Casey Stengel, Yogi Berra, Whitey Ford and Mickey Mantle. He will always be remembered for his connection with two of his sponsors, Ballentine Beer and White Owl Cigars.

The 1950s and early 1960s were also part of the glory years of the New York Yankees. Led by Eddie Lopat, Allie Reynolds, Vic Raschi, Phil Rizzuto, Roger Maris, Elston Howard, Bill Skowron, Berra, Ford, Mantle and others, the Yankees dominated baseball up to 1961. The things began to fall apart as the ownership began to cut back in many areas. In 1964 Mel Allen was fired. Two years later Red Barber was released. There is one pleasant footnote to this tragic end to two careers. In 1978 Mel Allen and Red Barber were the first two inductees into the Broadcasters Wing of the Hall of Fame.

Van Patrick was more famous as the announcer for the Notre Dame and Detroit Lions football teams. From 1949-1952 Patrick worked with Harry Heilmann in the Detroit Tiger's broadcast booth. After Heilmann's death he became the primary announcer of the Tigers. During this time he worked with Ty Tyson, Dizzy Trout, Mel Ott and George Kell.

Earl Gillespie, the voice of the Milwaukee Braves from 1953-1963 followed an interesting road to the Major Leagues. He played four years in Class D baseball before he retired as an active player. He then entered the field of broadcasting. After a short stay in Green Bay, he moved to Milwaukee where he became the voice of the Milwaukee Brewers in The American Association.

When the Boston Braves moved to Milwaukee Gillespie became the unanimous choice as their first announcer.

The 1948 World Series between the Cleveland Indians and Boston Braves was the first October Classic to receive extensive TV coverage. The first series that I viewed on television was the 1949 Series between the New York Yankees and the Brooklyn Dodgers. The 1952 World Series again between the Yankees and the Dodgers was the first one broadcast coast-to-coast. By the 1954 World Series between the New York Giants and the Cleveland Indians, most people were following their baseball on television. Only Cleveland, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh and Kansas City did not televise their regular season games. As long as Major League baseball remained in the Northeastern and Midwestern part of the United States, radio was extremely important in transmitting baseball to the far corners of the United States. This would all change in the 1950s and 1960s. The Philadelphia Phils moved to Kansas City in 1955. The Dodgers and the Giants moved to the West Coast in 1957. The American League opened a new franchise in Los Angeles in 1961, while the National League opened a franchise in Houston in 1962. In 1966 the Braves moved to Atlanta. Most Americans could now travel to see a Major League game or watch their favorite team on television.

By the mid 1950s radio coverage of baseball was always available if we were not near a television set. Mutual's baseball network reached five hundred affiliates. An additional eight hundred stations received local team play-by-play coverage.

Some very well known announcers were still manning the microphones. The teams, stations and announcers were as follows: the Brooklyn Dodgers (WMGM), Vince Scully, Connie Desmond and Andre Baruch; the Cincinnati Reds (WSAI), Waite Hoyt and Jack Moran; the Chicago Cubs (WIND), Joe Wilson; New York Giants (WMCA), Russ Hodges and Bob Delaney; the Milwaukee Braves (WEMP and WTMJ), Earl Gillespie and Blain Walsh; the Philadelphia Phillies (WIP), Byrum Saam, Gene Kelly and Claude Herring; Pittsburgh (WWSW), Bob Prince; St. Louis (KMOX), Harry Caray, Jack Buck and Joe Garagiola; Baltimore Orioles, Ernie Harwell, Bailey Gross and Chuck Thompson; Boston Red Sox (WHDH), Curt Gowdy and Bob Murphy; Chicago White Sox (WCFL), Bob Elson and Don Wells; Cleveland Indians (WERE), Jimmy Dudley and Ed Edwards; Detroit Tigers (WJBK), Van Parick and Paul (Dizzy) Trout; Kansas City Athletics (KMBC), Merle Harmon and Larry Ray; New York Yankees (Mel Allen, Red Barber and Jim Woods and the Washington Senators (WWDC), Bob Wolf and Arch McDonald.



This is Archie Andrews' girl, Betty, played by Doris Grundy on NBC's Adventures of Archie Andrews (April, 1946)

Radio-IQ

Score one point for each correct answer. A score between 9 and 6 is good, 5-3, fair, and below 3—well, listen a bit closer to those recordings in your collection.

- 1.) Elmer Blurt is his famous creation and when you hear this ABC comedian whispering "I hope,—I hope,—I hope" you'll know we're talking about
- 2.) On CBS's Joan Davis Show there's that constant struggle between Joanie and her rival, Barbara Weatherby to win the affection of crooner-boy
 - (a) Dave Street
 - (b) Andy Russell
 - (c) Danny O'Neil
 - (d) Phil Brito
- 3.) Cecil B. DeMille was replaced on the Lux Radio Theatre. Can you name the replacement producer of the show?
- 4.) Senator Claghorn, "Claghorn that is"—on the Fred Allen Show is one of the regulars in Allen's Alley. Behind that character hides
 - (a) Alan Reed
 - (b) Kenny Delmar
 - (c) Fred Allen

- 5.) Unscramble the following names of radio shows:
 - (a) Jack Harrigan
 - (b) Captain Burton
 - (c) Hap Armstrong
 - (d) The Second Mrs. Midnight

6. Jack Benny's contest brought terrific response from his fans. We'd like you to name the slogan of that contest.

- 7. Match the following names with their occupations:
 - (a) Jim Brent
 - (b) Jeanette Davis
 - (c) Martha Deane
 - (d) Henry Morgan
 - (a) Commentator
 - (b) Singer
 - (c) Comedian
 - (d) Lead on Road of Life

8. On the Bob Hawk Show a contestant lost out because he couldn't name the capital of Nebraska. Can you?

9. One word was the trademark of this orchestra leader. He smoked a big cigar, "feuded" with his friend Walter Winchell, said "Yowzah, yowzah." Who was he?
(see answers on next page)



The Shadow (Brett Morrison) steadies the young ladies hand (Leslie Wood) as they prepare to escape from a tight spot. (Mutual Broadcasting System)

An Ode to Era of Radio

by TOM HENNESSY

This is written with love to the old Philco radio that stood in the house where I grew up. The Philco arrived before I was born. It graced a corner of our living room, a massive floor-model radio with walnut housing and amber dials that could serve up Edward R. Morrow from London or Al Jolson from Hollywood. It is impossible to describe the Philco's impact on family life to someone who missed the golden age of radio. Those who grew up with (and perhaps have been jaded by) television, cannot fathom a time when families sat around a box with no screen, wondering how Basil Rathbone could possibly trap Professor Moriarty in the remaining six minutes of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*.

Radio was, as Jack Benny once said, "do-it-yourself television." The world that came to us through the Philco's speaker was bounded only by the parameters of your imagination. It could transport you to Benny's vault or Fibber McGee's closet or the creaking door of the Inner Sanctum, but the actual appearance of those fabled places was determined only by your own cerebral vision.

When Sgt. Preston of the Yukon shouted, "On, King, on, you huskies," no machines were needed to whip fake snow onto the shoulders of his scarlet Royal Mounties jacket. You could picture Preston, tall and undaunted against the ice and snow, and even shiver a bit beside the Philco until that final moment when his commanding officer said, "well done. Preston. The Yukon still belongs to the Crown. This case is closed."

The old Philco helped us laugh our way through the Depression and, later, through those dark weeks when no letter came from my brother, who was piloting a B-17 over Germany. You could forget your troubles when Fred Allen took you down "Allen's Alley" and allowed himself to be taunted by Senator Claghoron. ("Son, your tongue's wagging like a blind dog in a meat market.") And when a hold-up man confronted Jack Benny with "Your money or your life," the silence that followed had to be one of the funniest moments ever.

The Philco gave us role models, heroes who did not seem trite when they unabashedly stood up for America. The Philco did not glorify connivers like television's J.R. or self-centered ninnies like Charlie's Angels. Instead, it gave us crusaders like Boston Blackie, "Friend to those who have no friend, enemy to those who make him an enemy." and the Green Hornet, who hunted "the biggest of all game—public enemies who try to destroy our America."

The Philco gave my mother Lorenzo Jones, One Man's Family and Mary Noble, Backstage Wife. It gave Dad

Gabriel Heatter, H. V. Kaltenborn and Walter Winchell. (The sounds filtered through the heating vents to my bedroom "Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. North and South America and all the ships at sea" was often the last thing I heard before falling asleep on Sunday nights.)

Recently I read an account of the Louds, the California family whose lives were portrayed on public television in the early '70s. When the Loud family, was shattered by trauma including the divorce of Bill and Pat Loud. Bill blamed television for much of his family's disintegration. If he were starting over again, he said, he would throw all their television sets into the Pacific Ocean. Maybe that underscores the difference between the eras of radio and TV. I do not know what became of our old Philco. But I do know my father did not throw it into the ocean.

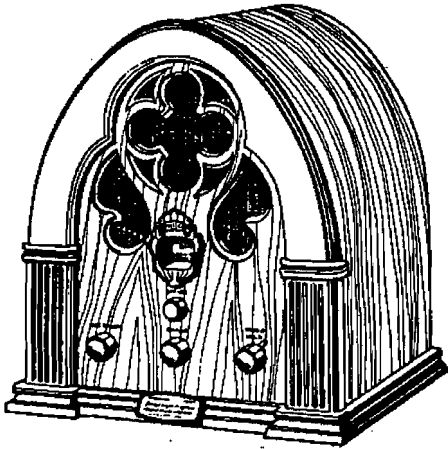
Answers to Radio-IQ on page 8:

- 1.) Al Pearce
- 2.) Andy Russell
- 3.) William Keighley
- 4.) Kenny Delmar
- 5.) (a) Jack Armstrong, (b) Captain Midnight, (c) Hop Harrigan, (d) The Second Mrs. Burton
- 6.) "I can't stand Jack Benny because"
- 7.) (a) Jim Brent - Lead on Road of Life, (b) Jeanette Davis - Singer, (c) Martha Deane - Commentator, (d) Henry Morgan - Comedian
- 8.) Carson City
- 9.) Ben Bernie



Old Time Radio Club

49 Regal Street
Depew, NY 14043



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Radioics

By King