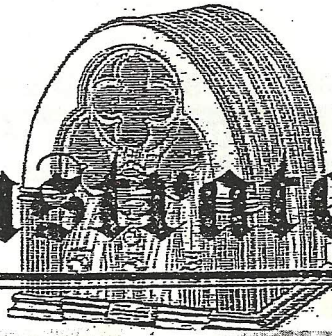


The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

The Illustrated Press



Number 376

January 2010



Dinah Shore

The Illustrated Press

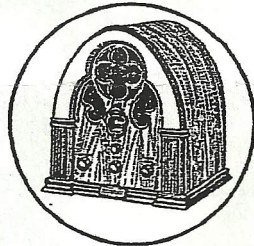
Membership Information

Club Membership: \$18.00 per year from January 1 to December 31. Members receive a tape library listing, reference library listing and the monthly newsletter. Memberships are as follows: If you join January-March, \$18.00; April-June, \$14; July-September, \$10; October-December, \$7. All renewals should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing newsletter issues. Please be sure to notify us if you have a change of address. The **Old Time Radio Club** meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM during the months of September through June at St. Aloysius School Hall, Cleveland Drive and Century Road, Cheektowaga, NY. There is **no** meeting during the month of July, and an informal meeting is held in the month of August.

Anyone interested in the Golden Age of Radio is welcome. The **Old Time Radio Club** is affiliated with the Old Time Radio Network.

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All Submissions are subject to approval prior to actual publication.

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

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Library Rates:

Audio cassettes and CDs are \$1.95 each and are recorded on a **club supplied cassette or CD** which is **retained** by the member. Rates include postage and handling and are payable in U.S. funds.



Editor's Two Cents:

Well, our Christmas Party is history and it went off very well. Some of the regular members were not on hand, but a few of the occasional ones did make it. There were plenty of goodies and a generous amount of Christmas spirit flowing for everyone to have a good time. I hope everyone is enjoying the newsletter. I'm trying to make it light-hearted and interesting for all. I am trying to incorporate shows that some members have a fondness for, Fibber McGee for Marian, and to write about some of the great stars that get little credit. Mr. Frank Bork has put me in a mild dilemma. It appears that his short story of Sherlock Holmes is about 400 pages long. This may qualify as a Guinness book record of being the longest short story. It appears in this month's newsletter. Frank has assured me he will do a rewrite otherwise we may not know the conclusion until the year 2126. Until then I appreciate any comments either pro or con.

Don't Forget ! Dues are due by the end of the month. This may be your last Illustrated Press if you don't renew.

Betsha Didn't Know !

There have been some high profile kidnappings through the years. Most notable was the little Lindburgh baby in the 1930s. Frank Sinatra Jr. was also one in the 1960s J Paul Getty's grandson was another one. As John Carson wrote many years ago young Gary Evan Crosby son of you know who was mentioned in a plot being planned in San Francisco. It appears an eavesdropper was in a posh Frisco nightclub and heard two thugs planning the scheme. The caller phoned the FBI and somehow radio gossip column host Jimmy Fidler spilled the beans on his show the next night. Bing's brother Larry made a statement the next night saying the conversation may have been in regard to a race-horse deal and the gentleman was simply misunderstood. It was Johnny Burke, Bing's lyricist who first admitted the authenticity of the kidnapping plot. It was also revealed that the Crosbys knew about it. Dixie was so scared that Gary no longer took a bus to school but was chauffeur driven with an armed guard. It's no secret that Shirley Temple's parents had kidnap scares along with Ronnie and Sandra Burns children of George and Gracie. Others threatened were the children of Harold Lloyd, Marlene Dietrich's daughter Maria, and the sons of Norris Goff of Lum and Abner. When Wallace Beery daughter Carol Ann was threatened she was issued a permit to carry a revolver. She was only 12. Bing Crosby had electronic devices set up at their house, their lake estate and the summer home at Rancho Santa Fe. He also had packs of vicious dogs. It cost about \$500 a month to be safe, but Bing thought it was worth every penny. **So Now You Know.**

Old Time Radio a Dicing Hobby By Jerry Collins Part 4:

The Challenge of the Yukon. This was the third big show to have originated on WXYZ in Detroit and was produced by George W. Trendle (5/9/72) Enterprises. It was also written through its complete run by Fran Striker (9/14/62). The show played on the motto of the Northwest Mounted Police, "They always get their man." The locale of the show is the Yukon Territory and the role played by Yukon King added to the excitement of the show. Sergeant Preston was played by Jay Michael (born 9/3/08), Paul Sutton (1/31/70) and Brace Beemer (3/1/65). The inspector was played by John Todd (7/14/57). The announcers were Bob Hite (2/18/00), Jay Michael and Fred Foy (born 3/27/21). The show was sponsored by Quaker Oats, produced by Charles Livingston and directed by Al Hodge (3/19/79) and Fred Flowerday (/). Sgt. Preston hit the airwaves in June of 1947 and remained there until 1956. This trio of shows from Fran Striker and George Trendle helped make my childhood very special. The people from Quaker Oats came up with very unique idea for a premium. They developed the Yukon Trail with 59 models along the way, buildings, waterfalls, scenery, animals, dog sleds, etc. The names of the models were based on events in Preston's search for Bat Nelson. They all appeared on the back of eight different boxes of Quaker Puffed Wheat and Quaker Puffed Rice. In 1951 George "Gabby" Hayes (?) and Aunt Jemima were added to the show to promote the Quaker Company and its premiums, including a Gabby Hayes hat for \$.75. The Challenge of the Yukon like the other big shows coming out of Detroit had their own distinctive music.

To save money George Trendle used classical music which was in the public domain. The Donna Diana Overture was used by the Sgt Preston show. Although the music was not as well known as the music of the Lone Ranger and The Green Hornet, it was perfect for a show taking place in the Yukon. The show had another great introduction, which happened to be the longest. Without the gunshots it read as follows:



Now as gunshots echo across the windswept snow-covered reaches of the wild northwest, Quaker Puffed Wheat and Quaker Puffed Rice, the breakfast cereal shot from guns The Challenge of the Yukon! It's Yukon King, the swiftest and strongest lead dogs in the Northwest, blazing the trail for Sergeant Preston of the Northwest Mounted Police, in his relentless pursuit of lawbreakers! On King, On you huskies! Gold! Gold! Discovered in the Yukon! A stampede to the Klondike in the wild race for riches. Back to the days of the gold rush, with Quaker Puffed Wheat and Quaker Puffed Rice bringing you the adventures of Sergeant Preston and his wonder dog Yukon King, as they meet the challenge of the Yukon!

Comedy Shows :

The Great Gildersleeve prev. profiled

The Jack Benny Show prev. profiled

The Aldrich Family prev. profiled

Our Miss Brooks. This was one of radio's few shows about a schoolteacher, Connie Brooks was a high school English teacher played by Eve Arden

(11/12/90). Philip Boynton, biology teacher at Madison High School was played by Jeff Chandler (6/17/71). Osgood Conklin was played by Gale Gordon (6/30/65), Mrs. Conklin was Paula Winslow (3/7/94), while his daughter was played by Gloria McMillan (still alive). Walter Denton was played by Richard Crenna (1/17/03), while Leonard Smith played Stretch Snodgrass. Mrs. Davis was played by Jane Morgan (1/1/72). Al Lewis (2/3/02) was the writer and director of the show, while Wilbur Hatch (12/22/69) was the musical director. Our Miss Brooks was on the air from 1948-57. Although some of the plots were unrealistic I as a retired teacher always rated the show as one of my favorites.



The Phil Harris and Alice Faye Show.

I am a member of a fairly large group of OTR fans that consider The Phil Harris and Alice Faye Show one of the funniest comedy shows ever produced. Phil Harris (8/11/85) and Alice Faye (5/9/98) played themselves. Elliot Lewis (5/20/90) as Frankie Remley and Walter Tetley (9/4/75) as Julius Abbruzio were hilarious in supporting roles. Robert North (?) played Willie, While Gale Gordon (6/30/65) played Mr. Scott. Bill Forman (/) was the show's announcer. The show was on the air from 1946-54 and was sponsored by Rexall and RCA.

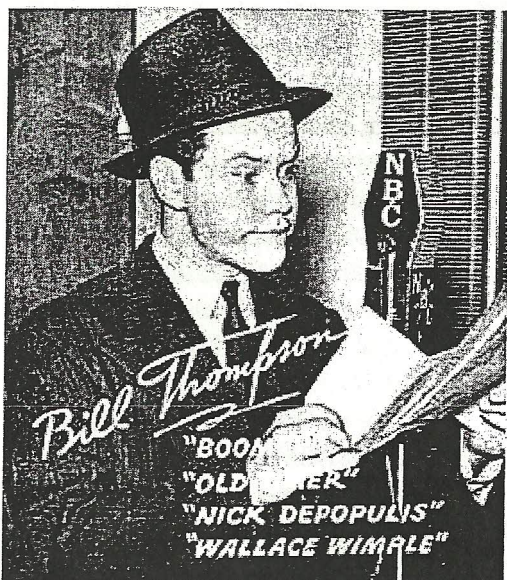
Fred Allen. This was one of the truly great radio shows. Like the Jack Benny

Show when you combine a masterful comedian with a great cast and many excellent guests you have a winner. Although he used topical humor like Bob Hope (7/27/03), Eddie Cantor (10/10/64) and Red Skeleton (9/17/77), his humor had stood the test of time. He was way ahead of his time with such features as the "Mighty Allen Art Players" and "Allen's Alley." Fred Allen (3/17 56) and his lovely wife Portland Hoffa (12/25/90) were the stars of the show. The supporting cast included Parker Fennelly (1/22/88) as Titus Moody, Minerva Pious (#/16/79) as Mrs Nausbaum, Kenny Delmar (7/14/84) as Senator Claghorn, Peter Donald (4/20/79) as Ajax Cassidy, Alan Reed (6/14/77) as Falstaff Oppenshaw, Charlie Cantor (10/10/64) as Socrates Mulligan and Shirley Booth (10/16/92) as Dottie Mahoney. The show also featured the DeMarco Sisters. The announcers were Jimmy Wellington (12/22/72), Harry VonZell (11/21/81) and Kenny Delmar. Certain segments of his show are still remembered; his feud with the network over the length of his show, the hilarious battle with Charlie McCarthy and his feud with Jack Benny, which featured "The Battle of the Century" and "King for a Day." The nature of the show lent itself to the addition of quality guest stars such as Orson Welles (10/10/85), Jack Benny (12/26/74), Charles Laughton (12/15/62), Edgar Bergen (9/30/78), Tallulah Bankhead (12/12/68), James (7/27/89) and Pamela Mason (6/29/96), Alfred Hitchcock (4/29/80), Bing Crosby (10/14/77) George Jessell (5/23/81), Henry Morgan (5/19/94), and Bob Hope (7/27/03). Next month we continue with: **Edgar Bergen Charlie McCarthy Show.**

Fibber McGee & Molly

By Tom Cherre

Do any of you know someone who's a cheapskate, welcher, moocher, or a conniver? Does anyone know someone who borrows all sorts of things and never returns them? This someone is also self-centered, egotistical, lazy, and always has to have the last word. This character always thinks he right and is rarely one to apologize. Hmnnnnn? That person may be me. Not quite. I may possess some of those traits, but the criteria of that person can only be Fibber McGee. His long suffering wife Molly is undoubtedly immune to his shenanigans. Molly keeps him in tow most of the time, but she would go to the limit of the law to save her darling McGee. She's battled against the police, thugs, and bullies for her man. I've come to the conclusion that Doc Gamble, Mayor LaTrivia, and Gildersleeve were all taken by McGee. I know it's only a story and that's probably why we like him so much. I guess there's a little Fibber in all of us. Like Jack Benny, "Fibber McGee & Molly" had a gifted cast ensemble.



Voice actor Bill Thompson.

Bill Thompson was one of the many talents doing the voice of the "Old Timer" and "Wallace Wimple" among others. I just loved Wimple's voice and all his escapades with "Sweetieface". There was also Gale Gordon, Hal Peary, Arthur Q Bryan, Richard LeGrand, Isabel Randolph, and also "Teeny" the ("Hey Mister whatsha doin! I betsha I can - I can) beautifully played by Molly.



Jim and Marian Jordan as caricatured by Sam Berman for 1947 NBC promotional book.

I remember years ago when my mom would scold me a little bit about my closet looking like Fibber McGee's. Sorry to say, my mom was right. I used to open the door and throw things in right away and close it. I thought that's what closets were for. When ever I opened the door I got a surprise. Of course I'm not like that anymore..... Even with all his faults Fibber had some redeeming qualities, some times. Many's the time Molly said "T'aint Funny McGee." I have to say "T'was Funny." Tune in some time, it's a great show.

The Case of the Holy Scepter

By Frank Bork

To recap our readers: Holmes has discovered how thieves have made off with the stolen cross by lifting it through the ceiling. *We shall now continue:*

Let me ask you, how many men were required to carry the crate containing the cross into your storeroom from the alley? "Why, there were two men, Mr. Holmes" said he. "As a matter of fact, they were both very large and heavily built men. They both had the look of wrestlers or fighters, flat noses, close cropped hair, and large muscular arms. The crate containing the cross was very heavy. I could not lift it myself." Holmes said, "I think they took the cross out of the crate and removed it from the building first. Then when they knew they had not been discovered, they returned for the packing crate. You see, they wanted the cross in perfect condition too, for a damaged article would be low-priced and difficult to sell. It is clear they knew their trade very well, very well indeed. "If you care to come up here I will show you how they got the cross out of the building. They used a small block-and-tackle to hoist the crate, cross and all, up here. There are rope fragments on the cross beams which hold the roof extension in place. Once the crate was up here, they took the cross out and carried it out through the roof extension to the back wall of the building, and then through a trap door, which leads into the storage loft in the next building. This loft has a large double door that when opened, has a large beam with a heavy-duty block-and-tackle on it. It was here they recreated the cross and then lowered it into a waiting van where the third man was. After that

it was simple to slide down the rope to the van themselves. The last man down hung on the rope and kicked the door closed. He then slid down the rope to the van as his partner had. Then they drove out to Harrogate St. just like any other delivery van and made good their escape. By Mr. Darryle Edwards description of the delivery men, I am sure they are in fact, the thieves who stole the cross. I don't think they were smart enough though, to plan the crime themselves. Therefore, we must elsewhere for our mastermind."

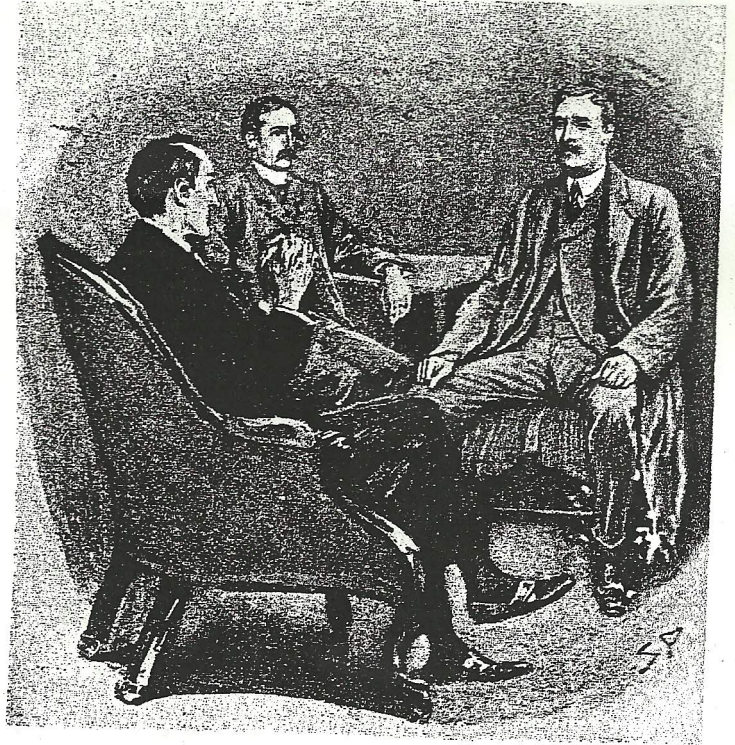


"Who knew you were getting the cross from Von Altson? Just my assistant, Jack Herbert, and Norma Mary, Mr. Holmes. I have already you of my trust in Norma Mary and I also tell you I have complete trust in Jack. Why, he helped me start this business, and he has been with me ever since." Nevertheless" said Holmes, I should require your permission to investigate the two of them, very discreetly of course." "If you must Mr. Holmes, you must, I suppose, but bear in mind, besides being my employees, they are both my friends. So please be careful that you don't injure

their reputations." "You have my word" said Holmes. "Now how were you informed that Von Alton was sending the cross to you, and why did he select you?" "Von Alton sent me a wire from Stuttgart, Germany, where he lives. He chose me because he knew my father from the Boer War. In fact he saved dad's life there. You see dad was wounded and left for dead by the Fizzies, but then Von Alton, then a lieutenant in the German Volunteer Corps. Found him. Because dad always carried a rosary with him Von Alton being a Catholic himself, felt friendly towards dad, and had his medic dress dad's wounds. Dad was with Von Alton for three or four months when near the town of Pretoria (which the British forces had just capture) Von Alton smuggled dad past his outguard to the British lines. There they bid goodbye, exchanged addresses, and agreed to meet after the war, which they did. Dad and Von Alton wrote to each other regularly and dad told him of my business venture. See that cross above the door Mr. Holmes? That was sent to me by Von Alton from the Holy Land a year a year after I went into the business. When Von Alton was here he presented dad, mom, sis, and I to the bishop. So you see, it was only natural that he should send me the cross to us for his cousin, the bishop." "Very well Mr. Edwards, we have done all we can here. With the exception of the delivery firm which delivered the crate." "I was brought from Europe by Mason and Wells, a shipping firm with its head office in Portsmouth. From Portsmouth it was sent by Wheelman Express Freight Company, another old and trusted company." "I must inquire if the two delivery men are new employees or old. Does this company have a local office?" "Why yes,

they do, as a matter of fact on this very street, just about three blocks down to the west end of the street." "Good said Holmes." "We will start there eh Watson? How about a nice winter walk about three blocks to be precise." Then to Mr. Edwards he said, "We shall do our utmost to have your cross for Christmas Eve service and the criminals behind bars where they belong. Be of good faith Mr. Edwards, and good day to you. With these words we left."

My dear fans Mr. Holmes has sprung the net. I presume he will catch a bigger fish. I bid you farewell until next month when we continue with The Case of the Holy Scepter.



Spaghetti Dinner

Just wanted to let our members know our Knights of Columbus Spaghetti dinner is on Sunday Jan. 31st from 4-7pm in our school cafeteria. All are invited to attend. Presale tickets will be available next meeting in January or give me a call. This would be a nice show of good will for the free use of our room for the radio club meetings. Your support is graciously appreciated. *Tom*

Dinah Shore
By Tom Cherre



Why Dinah on the cover? Why not! She was one of the greatest recording stars of the 1940s. She was on numerous radio shows. She was a gifted entertainer, and I loved the way she blew me a kiss on her Chevy Show

Dinah was born Frances Rose Shore on February 29th, a leap year baby in the year 1916 in Winchester, Tennessee. She was the second daughter of Solomon and Anna Stein, who were Russian immigrants. Her dad owned a dry goods store. When Frances was about two years old she contracted polio. She recovered from the dreaded disease, but was left with a slight limp and a deformed foot. Through years of therapy she lost the limp, but still had a deformed foot. When she was eight the family moved to Nashville. In high school she was very active in sports, dramatics, and music. She loved to sing and had aspirations for a life of music. She first performed as a singer at the tender age of 14 in a Nashville nightclub. She began to frequent "The Grand Ole Opry", and eventually landed a small paying job at local radio station WSM. After graduating from Vanderbilt University she set her sights on New York City determined to break into music. She auditioned for many

orchestras and radio stations and finally got hired at station WNE with another upcoming singing star who also had high hopes of making it big. Oh! His name was Frank Sinatra. In her audition the station DJ had her constantly rehearsing a number called "Dinah." Disc jockey Martin Bloom could never remember her name and kept calling her that "Dinah Girl" and it just stuck, and forever she was known as Dinah Shore. Soon she was singing and recording with Xavier Cugat. She signed a recording contract with RCA on their Bluebird label. Dinah's first hit was "Yes My Darling Daughter" in 1940. She was part of "Radio's Chamber of Music Society of Lower Basin Street" on NBC.



Eddie Cantor heard Dinah and signed her as a regular on his popular radio show "Time to Smile", also in 1940. Dinah credited Eddie Cantor to teach her the art of comedic timing, self confidence, and the proper way to connect with an audience. As she became more popular Dinah was signed to her very own radio show "Call to Music" in 1942. Success continued as she made her first movie "Thank Your Lucky Stars" in 1943. Legendary band leader Paul Whiteman also signed her

along as a regular on his show "Paul Whiteman Presents."

Like Crosby and Hope, Dinah became a popular entertainer for the troops fighting in World War 2. She did many Command Performances for Armed Forces Radio. Her first number 1# hits were "Blues in the Night" and "I'll Walk Alone." She sang those and many more when she traveled to Europe to entertain the troops enduring many hardships along the way. This strengthened her fan base immensely and she was as popular as the Andrew Sisters, not to mention better looking.

While performing at the Hollywood Canteen of the USO she met a young actor about to enter service. They were married December 5th 1943. His name was George Montgomery. When George returned from the service they settled in the San Fernando Valley. They had a daughter Melissa. Years later they adopted their son David in 1954. They later moved to Beverly Hills. Dinah continued with radio shows "Birds-Eye Open House" and "Ford Radio Show." She had more music hits including "Shoofly Pie", "Apple Pan Dowdy" "Buttons and Bows" "The Gypsy", and many, many more. She became a regular with Jack Smith on CBS, and made her television debut on "The Ed Wynn Show" in 1950. She made it real big on the "Chevy Show" on NBC which ran for many years on Sunday nights. Her marriage to Montgomery ended in 1962, and later she had a long relationship with Burt Reynolds. Dinah died of cancer in 1994. My memories of Dinah Shore don't go back to the forties. I remember her songs and TV show. Some say she was like a female Perry Como. She said herself, she did not have the greatest singing voice, but she could please a crowd and listening audiences with her

friendly and charming girl next door type personality. For over five decades she was a credit to the music industry and a darn good singer. That "Dinah Girl" was quite a girl.



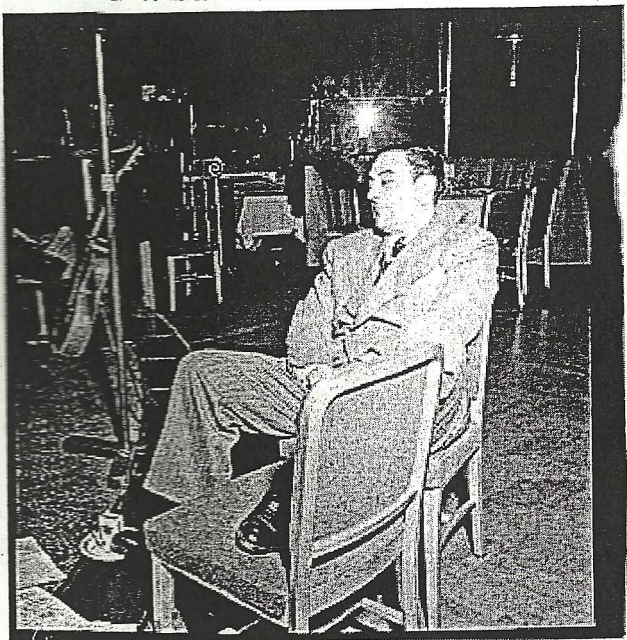
Dinah Shore

Dues Notice: Peter Bellanca



Guy Lombardo

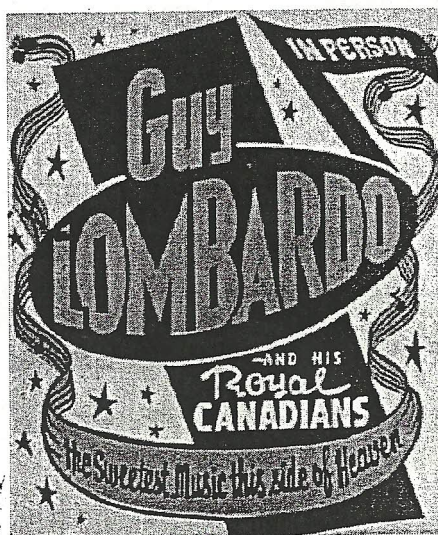
By Tom Cherre



As a kid I called him Guy Lumbago. He may have had the "Sweetest music this side of heaven," but I thought it was a little corny. What the heck did I know? As I got older and wiser I kind of liked his melodic sound. Gaetano Albert "Guy" Lombardo was born in London, Ontario, son of Italian immigrants. His father himself was an amateur singer and got all his four boys interested in music. They formed a band in grammar school and practiced in his tailor shop. They first performed in public at a church party in 1914. In 1926 they went to Cleveland and made their first recordings for the Garnett Label. The records went nowhere, so brother Carmen had an idea to change their sound and improvised the saxophones. They had instant recognition with a sound all their own. Miller, Goodman, the Dorseys all had their swing, Guy Lombardo had something different. Their big break came in 1927 when they played the Granada Club in Chicago.

Guy paid radio station WBBM to broadcast their 15 minute performance. At the end of their segment the phones were ringing like crazy with requests for more of the same. History was made with "The Royal Canadians" on October of 1929 when they signed a long contract with the Roosevelt Grill in New York City heard on WABC. It was on December 31st of that year that they began playing "Auld Lang Syne." That tradition would last for 47 years, 30 years at The Roosevelt, and another 17 at The Waldorf Astoria. Maybe not everybody liked his music, but he sold over 200 million records in his lifetime. I, myself being the recipient of two of his albums. It was in November of 1977 that Guy Lombardo suffered a massive coronary and passed away. He was 75. His band was later taken over by Al Pierson and they still do a few nostalgic tours. I was watching "It's a Wonderful Life" the other night and the last sound you hear in the movie is "Auld Lang Syne." I still get a little sentimental when I hear it done by Lombardo. "You know, It just may be the sweetest music this side of heaven."

Happy New Year To All !



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"I SPEND LESS AND HAVE WHITER, LOVELIER TEETH"

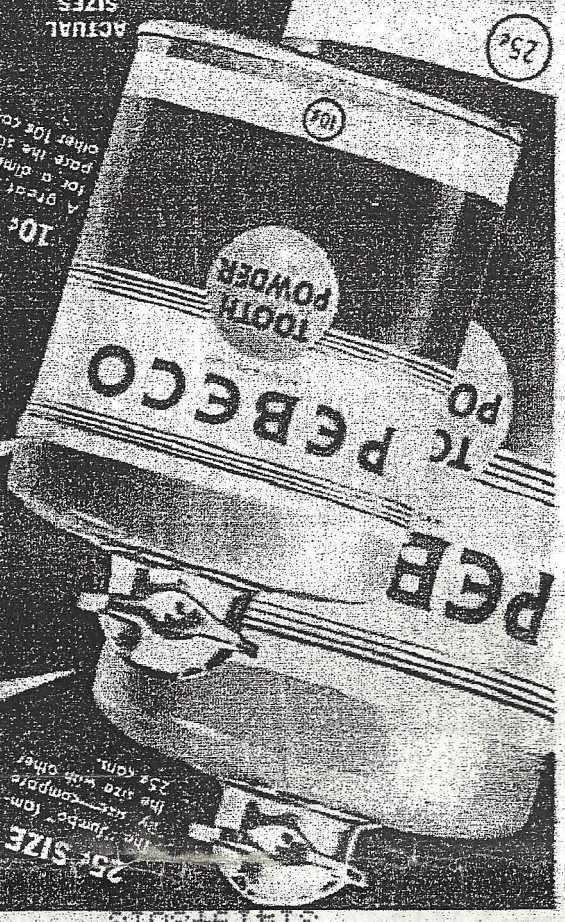
"LOOK WHAT I GIVE YOU FOR A DIME"

"I GIVE YOU MORE TOOTH POWDER FOR LESS MONEY"

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