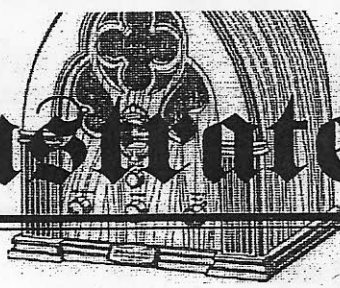


The Illustrated Press



Number 373

October 2009



The Illustrated Press

Membership Information

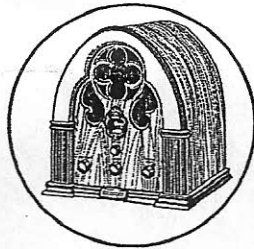
Club Membership: \$18.00 per year from January 1 to December 31. Members receive a tape library listing, reference library listing and the monthly newsletter. Memberships are as follows: If you join January-March, \$18.00; April-June, \$14; July-September, \$10; October-December, \$7. All renewals should 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.

Club Mailing Address

Old Time Radio Club
56 Christen Ct.
Lancaster, NY 14086

E-Mail Address
otrclub@localnet.com



All Submissions are subject to approval prior to actual publication.

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

The *Illustrated Press* is the newsletter of the *Old Time Radio Club*, headquartered in Western New York State. It is published monthly except for the months of July and August. Contents except where noted are copyright © 2009 by the OTRC.

Send all articles, letters, exchange newsletters, etc. to: *The Illustrated Press*

c/o Tom Cherre, Editor (716) 833-9713
144 Fontaine Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14215

E-Mail address: skylark68_1999@yahoo.com

Web Page Address:

members.localnet.com/~robmcd

Club Officers

President

Jerry Collins (716) 683-6199
56 Christen Ct.
Lancaster, NY 14086
collinsjf@yahoo.com

Vice President & Canadian Branch

Richard Simpson (905) 892-4688
960 16 Road R.R. 3
Fenwick, Ontario
Canada, L0S 1C0

Treasurer

Dominic Parisi (716) 884-2004
38 Ardmore Pl.
Buffalo, NY 14213

Membership Renewals, Change of Address

Peter Bellanca (716) 773-2485
1620 Ferry Road
Grand Island, NY 14072
pmb1620@gmail.com

Membership Inquires and OTR Network Related Items

Richard Olday (716) 684-1604
171 Parwood Trail
Depew, NY 14043-1071
raolday@yahoo.com

Technical Manager / CD and MP3 Librarian

Bob McDivitt (716) 681-8073
109 Poinciana Pkwy.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
robmcd@verizon.net

Cassette and Reference Librarian

Frank Bork (716) 601-7234
10 Dover Ct.
Lancaster, NY 14086
frankbork209@yahoo.com

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, it was good to get back to the regular meetings again. In all the confusion writing the first newsletter, I forgot to mention the club picnic. It was a very swell affair, with plenty of food and good fun seeing many of the members. Thanks to all who came and helped out with food and set up. It was great cooking with the grill the Barren's provided. Thanks a bunch. I trust the first newsletter was satisfactory. Appreciate all comments. I didn't realize that we have a gifted author in our midst. I'm referring to Sir Frank Bork Conan Doyle. He has written a Sherlock Holmes story which I am giving our readers privy to a sneak preview. I read the first couple of pages and found it very interesting and professional. Due to the length of its text Frank suggested he would give a shortened version or maybe feature a shorter story. I will include a teaser for you in this episode. Stay tune to next month and we shall see what progresses. I don't want to compliment Frank too much or else his deerstalker hat might not fit his head. It is very well done though and I'm sure you Sherlock fans will enjoy it.



"Betsha Didn't Know"

We all of know of Orson Welles many talents. His acting, directing, and producing abilities were quite noteworthy. Of course all of us oldtime radio fans remember him as one of the early Lamont Cranston's from "The Shadow". What you might not know is that in the beginning of the show when the Shadow gave his opening monologue it was followed by a sinister ghoulish laugh. For one reason or another Welles could not or would not do the laugh. The producer had to hire an actor just to do the laugh thing. Whether Orson Welles did anything at all after that his notoriety will forever be enshrined for his interpretation of HG Wells "The War of the Worlds" on his Mercury Theater Show on October 30th 1938. He duped countless of thousands of people that night, causing them to plunge into instant panic. This charade was successful mainly because of shrewd planning. Opposite the Mercury Show at 8:00pm was the very popular "Bergen & McCarthy Show. 30 million listeners tuned in compared to about 5 million for his show. For the first 10 minutes everyone listened to the beginning when Charlie McCarthy gave his funny gag line. At ten minutes after the show went to commercial break and believe it or not there were dial turners then. Welles had the announcers on his show interrupt his show saying there was some unusual happenings occurring on the moon. We were told to stay tune for further developments. People were hooked from then on thinking aliens had landed in New Jersey. A month later Adolph Hitler, in a speech, remarked how stupid the Americans were. Shame on You Dolph!

“The Case Of The Holy Scepter”

By Francis Edward Bork

It was in the year 1947, about three days before Christmas; I was in the attic of an old farmhouse in Adrian, New York, helping my uncle John clean out his attic. My grandfather Watson had left me an old wooden strip iron chest full of books, papers, and notes, left to him by his father, Dr. John Hamish Watson. In his will he had specified that his only grandson, Robert Myles Watson, was to have the trunk full of his father's notes etc. Uncle John helped me carry the chest down from the attic and put it in the back of my car. I did not even look in the chest to see what grandfather had left me. I was too sad and at a loss to look with someone else, even Uncle John, who I love like my own father. I wanted to be alone with my memories of grandfather when I opened the chest. After supper with Uncle John, Aunt Sarah, and cousin Mary I said my goodbyes and left for home in Buffalo. All the way home Christmas music was playing, but I paid no attention because my mind was on the stories my grandfather had told me of his father's adventures with the famous Sherlock Holmes. I got home at 9pm just before the snowstorm hit. My wife Vera was just putting the kids to bed. After I tucked them in to bed we went into the kitchen and had a cup of coffee. When Vera asked how Uncle John and Aunt Sarah were, I remembered the chest in the car. We got the chest out and brought it into the kitchen. I took the old brass key and unlocked the chest. The chest hadn't been open since years before grandfather had died. On top of the chest was an old newspaper “The London Dispatch”, dated May 7th 1891, giving the account of the death of Sherlock

Holmes at Reichenbach Falls, located in the Swiss Alps. Beneath the papers I found some some notebooks and an old medical journal, dated 1870 and bundles of paper written in free hand, each tied with a piece of string. There were clippings and several large folders which were notes of Holmes himself. I was delighted to have these treasures in my possession. Vera had taken one of the papers from the chest, and was reading it when she let out with a cry. “Oh my God! Can this be true?” I said “Vera what is it? Let me see.” She gave me the paper as I read it I was just as shocked. I said “My God, Vera, grandfather never said anything about this. I wonder if he had read this. “Pour me another cup of coffee, sweet. I'm going to read the entire story”. “But Myles, just look at that snow outside. You'll have to get up early to clear the snow from the driveway. You promised to take the kids to get a Christmas tree tomorrow. “Well if I don't read this I won't be able to get to sleep tonight. “Well OK she said, You go ahead and read it , but I'm going to bed. I'll help you clear the drive. After all we can't disappoint the children just because of an old story written back in 1894 now, can we dear?” So with a kiss I sent Vera off to bed. I was determined to read the entire manuscript. I poured myself another cup of coffee, threw a log on the fire, which was burning very brightly. As I headed for my favorite chair I could not help but glance over at the window. The snow was coming down quite heavy. I went to my chair, sat down and flipped through the manuscript to the spot where Vera and I had read. There were at least 500 or more pages. The story I started to read was dated December 21st 1894, written at 221 B Baker Street by Dr. Watson. It

1894. I had gotten up rather late this morning, as I had sat up quite late last night with a sick patient. Mrs. Hudson then entered with a breakfast tray consisting of eggs, toast, jam, and hot tea. Holmes had gone down to the tobacco shop for a packet of Shag and the morning papers. As I sat down to breakfast the door burst open and in came Holmes covered with snow. "Confounded snow" shouted Holmes as he brushed some of the snow off his Inverness. "I tell you Watson, this weather is not fit for man nor beast. I slipped on some ice in front of Oldman Newton-Brown's Tobacco Shop. The old man himself came out to help me up. Newspaper's all wet, But luckily I had the Shag in my Inverness pocket. Ah! I see Mrs Hudson has brought up some hot tea. Be a good fellow, Watson, and pour me a cup while I get out of these wet things." Holmes came out of his room with dry clothes on and his favorite mouse-colored dressing robe. "I see you have finished breakfast Watson" as I handed him his tea. "Mmm good" he said "The one thing we can count on Watson, is Mrs. Hudson's tea". As he walked over to the window, he looked out and said, "Well Watson, it looks like we won't have a client today. Just look at that snow coming down. Why I can hardly see across Baker Street. Hello! What's this? Holmes exclaimed. A four wheeler parked on Baker Street in front of 221. A young man bolted from the cab, looked up and down the street, then at the number of 221 B, paid the cabbie and walked over to the door. Still snowing, the man knocked on the door. Mrs. Hudson knocked on the door saying "A gentleman to see you Mr. Holmes. Should I show him up?" "By all means do so" said my companion. We could hear him shaking the snow from

his coat. While waiting Holmes glanced at the card Mrs. Hudson had given him. The card said Darryl B. Edwards dealer in Religious Artifacts, 129 Harrogate Street W. London. A pleasant well dressed young man entered our rooms. "Mr. Holmes please" said the man. "I am he" said my friend. "How can I be of service to you?" "Mr. Holmes you must help me find the cross of The Holy Scepter" cried the young Edwards, almost to the point of hysteria. "I'm at my wits end. It was to be presented to Bishop Francis Patrick Burke at midnight mass this very Christmas, and now it is gone, missing, stolen, I don't know, I don't know". "Calm yourself Mr. Edwards" said Holmes. "Watson! Some brandy for our guest please. " Now sit down here by the fire and take a sip. It will make you feel better". "Thank you", Edwards said as he took the brandy with a trembling hand. "Now suppose you start from the beginning and tell us what this Cross of the Holy Scepter is and where did it come from?" "Well Mr. Holmes the cross came from the temple of the Holy Scepter. During the time of the Second Crusade, the Knights Templar of St. John built a church in the wilderness of what is now Syria to celebrate Easter Service. It was a magnificent temple carved in sheer rock in the side of a mountain near the dessert.

Editor's note. Well this is a sample of Frank's long short story. Frank promises to either condense it or give us another short story. I myself have went over this story and it appears to be worthy of print. I would appreciate feed back from you readers. Will this story continue? As Holmes would say "all in due time old chap". Another continuing feature from Jerry Collins to follow.

As I promised last month I would feature the death of Earle Graser. This comes from the New York Times Wednesday April 9th 1941.

Lone Ranger Dead , Auto Hit Trailer. Hero of Western

Adventures, 15 million radio listeners heard his "Hi-Yo-Silver" but he never rode a horse. Idol of youngsters was a lawyer. He met his death in Michigan hometown.

Farmington, Mi. April 8th—Death lifted the Lone Ranger's mask at daybreak today. He died at five o'clock when his car zig-zagged into a parked trailer in front of a Methodist church. None of his listeners would have recognized their stern-voice, hard-riding hero in the figure that lie in the wreck. He was a mild-eyed chubby man of 32, an inch or so short of six feet. In the eight years children have thrilled to his "Hi-Yo-Silver-Awa-ay-ay" he lived in a white colonial house with his wife Jeanne and daughter, Gabrielle, who is 15 months old. Graser was a lawyer with three different college degrees. He was never west of Michigan, and never rode a horse. He was still the Lone Ranger. Graser had a deep rich voice. He sang bass in his church choir. He studied elocution. He was every kid's symbol of hard-riding justice, foe of the road agent, strong arm of the weak, and deliverer of the oppressed. He was as popular in New Zealand and Yugoslavia as he was in the United States. His fan mail came from Mexico and South America. Graser was the third Lone Ranger starting on April 16th 1933. Born in Kitchener , Ontario, he moved to Detroit when he was a young child. He worked as a soda jerk, in a grocery store, sang in pit orchestras, and was an usher in the Michigan Theater. He worked his way into doing bit parts at WXYZ. He was among five

men who auditioned for the Lone Ranger part, and his vibrant timbre voice got him the part. Fran Striker and the owners decided the Lone Ranger must ever be a mystery. They forbade personal appearances, never revealing who the voice of the Lone Ranger belonged to. His body is to lie in state in a funeral parlor here until rites on Thursday. The broadcasters think mostly adults will visit. They hope that few of the children will hear of the wreck. An official said: "We have to do it that way. The Lone Ranger could never die. Every kid knows that in his heart."



Earle W. Graser

This month we feature part one of Jerry Collins' 100 favorite shows. This will run concurrently up to number 100. I will try to run a general theme for the month. For example, November – Thanksgiving, December – Christmas etc.

I am enjoying being editor. My past receptionist who was born in the 30s can't believe I know all the big bands and their singers. My wife says I only listen to music from 50s and 60s (partly true). My son says I only watch black and white movies (completely untrue) This is mainly a nostalgic thing so I guess I fit the bill. Happy Halloween to all.editor.....

Old Time Radio a Dying Hobby

By
Jerry Collins

More to a year ago I began a very interesting, but time consuming research project. I assembled a list of close to 700 radio performers, writers, musicians, producers, directors etc. My ultimate goal has been to determine who is still alive, those who are deceased and a smaller list of presumed dead, but I am lacking a date of their death.

Approximately 570 are dead, 35 still alive and 30 presumed dead, but without documentation and 33 unaccounted for. Once completed I was uncertain as to how I would actually use this assemblage of facts. I have always been opinionated as to what shows I like and dislike. Combine this with my love of lists and I think I have the formula for using my statistics. I have decided to assemble my 100 favorite shows and place them in categories. I then summarized the show. I also managed to include some bits of nostalgic information. For each show I also included notable performers as well as writers, producers, directors etc. I then included vital statistics for each individual.

My Favorite Shows

Nick Carter Master Detective. Nick Carter was one of the best detective shows of all time. The character of Nick Carter originated in Street and Smith Magazines back in 1886. The show had a great cast that included Lon Clark, former opera singer turned actor (10/7/98) as Nick, Helen Choate (born 10/17/11) and Charlotte Manson (12/8/96) as Patsy Brown, John Kane ? as Scubby the reporter. Michael

Fitzmaurice (8/31/67) was the announcer and Jock MacGregor (?) was the producer director and occasional writer. The shows were well written and usually left the listener in suspense till the end of the show. The show was broadcast from 1943-55 and was sponsored by Lin-X Home Brighteners Super Kemptone Paints and Cudahy Meats. There were only a few adult detective shows that had unforgettable introductions. The Shadow and Nick Carter Master Detective were the exceptions. Nick Carter's was one of the briefest. It all began with someone pounding heavily on Nick Carter's door. Patsy Brown replied in a very loud voice, "What is the matter, What is it?" This was followed by a male voice yelling, "It's another case for Nick Carter."

The Shadow. Many would list this show as their all-time favorite. Along with the Lone Ranger the show will almost always be brought up during discussion of Old Time Radio. The show premiered in August of 1930. During the next 7 years the show went through a number of major changes until the writers arrived at the right formula and correct mold for the Shadow. The timing was perfect because it was at this time that Orson Welles and Agnes Morehead were hired to play the roles of Lamont Cranston and Margo Lane the introduction, the music, the John Barclay Blue Coal commercials, the D&W Coal Company and the sinister laugh will always be remembered. The concluding lines of the show are remembered like some of the most famous lines of Shakespeare. "The weed of crime bears bitter fruit. Crime does not pay. The Shadow knows." The character and the story of the Shadow were developed by Walter Gibson (12/5/85), a writer and

magician who wrote Shadow pulp novels that were published in Street and Smith Magazines. The Shadow/Lamont Cranston was played by Orson Welles (10/10/85), Bill Johnstone (4/7/97), John Archer (12/13/79) and Bret Morrison (9/25/78). Margot Lane was played by Agnes Morehead (4/30/74), Marjorie Anderson (?), Gertrude Warner, Margot Stevenson (Still alive-born 2/18/14), Grace Mathews (5/15/95) and Lesley Wood(8/2/03). Dweight Weist (7/16/91), Santos Ortega (4/20/76), and Ted DeCorsica (\$/11/73) played Commissioner Weston. Keenan Wynn (10/14/86) and Alan Reed (6/14/77) played Shrevie, radio's most famous cab driver. The show also had some of radio's best announcers Andre Baruch (((9/15/91), Carl Caruso (8/26/01), Ken Roberts (6/19/09) and Ted Malie (1/25/99). A variety of factors led to the success of the Shadow; the settings were usually quite bizarre, the Shadow possessed an insidious laugh; Rosa Rio (still alive- born 6/2/02) used her organ to almost magically create a setting of fear and fright. The time of day or usually the evening, the weather and the story line also played on the mind of the listener.

The Lone Ranger. One of radio's greatest shows and one of its longest running, 22 years was the Lone Ranger. After a brief trial run on WEBR in Buffalo in 1932, the show premiered on Detroit WXYZ in January of 1933 and remained there until late May of 1955. The Ranger was played by George Seaton (7/28/79), Jack Deeds (?), Earle Graser (4/19/41) and Brace Beemer (3/1/65). Tonto was played by the elderly John Todd (7/14/57). Ernie Stanley (?), James Lipton (10/29/2001) and Dick Beals played Dan (still alive-

born 3/16/27). Rollin Parker (?), Paul Hughes (?), Al Hodge (3/19/79) and Jack Petruzzi (#/1/67) also had key roles in the show. The most well known announcers/narrators were Bob Hite (2/18/2000), Brace Beemer and Fred Foy (3/27/21). The men behind the scenes were George W. Trendle (5/9/72), Fran Striker (9/14/62), Jim Jewell (8/75) and Charles Livingston (?) The Lone Ranger's original sponsor was Silvercup Bread, but for most of the run the sponsor was Cheerios. The show went through a major crisis when on April 8, 1941 the Lone Ranger died. Earle Graser was killed in a car accident outside of Farmington Illinois. Striker, Jewell, and Livingston pulled off the transitions perfectly. Brace Beemer, Graser's announcer was placed in the lead role. During a brief period Tonto took over the lead role while the Lone Ranger recovered from gun shot wounds. After a week Beemer took over the role and held it to the end of the show. During that time Beemer became one of the most revered and beloved of all radio performers. He lived the role for the rest of his life. Growing up in the 1940s nothing was more familiar to me than the music from The William Tell Overture and the always familiar introduction to the Lone ranger. (With his faithful Indian companion Tonto, the daring and resourceful masked rider of the plains led the fight for law and order in the early western United States. Nowhere in the pages of history can one find a greater champion of justice. Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear... From out of the plains comes the thundering hoofs of the great horse Silver! The Lone Ranger Rides Again. **Return next month for pt 2 of Jerry's fine story of Old Time Radio a Dieing Hobby.**

BEING THERE: Collecting Radio Broadcast Admission Tickets

By RICK PAYNE (All Rights Reserved 2009)

During the golden age of radio, networks and sponsors invited the general public to attend live performances of many popular programs. For the performers, the presence of the studio audience provided encouragement, laughter and appreciation. For the audience, the experience was an unforgettable opportunity to see their favorite entertainers at work. Tickets from some broadcasts survive today . . . waiting for collectors like me.

Way back in November 2006, Being There presented a review of audience tickets for military programming during the Second World War. We focused most of our attention on several programs produced by the Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS) specifically for uniformed personnel. Many of these programs were never heard by the general public. Their principal purpose was to boost troop morale. *Command Performance, Mail Call, G.I. Journal, Stage Door Canteen* and *Jubilee* will always be remembered for the unconditional patriotism shown by most of America's top entertainers. In that column, I promised we would return to look at patriotic programming for the Home Front . . . and it's time to fulfill that promise.

For the first time, the sounds of war were brought into the living rooms of American homes. The possibilities . . . and the responsibilities . . . of this capability were not lost on the people leading the government and the broadcast networks. Through their efforts, radio played an important role in keeping the nation informed, inspired and entertained during those difficult years.

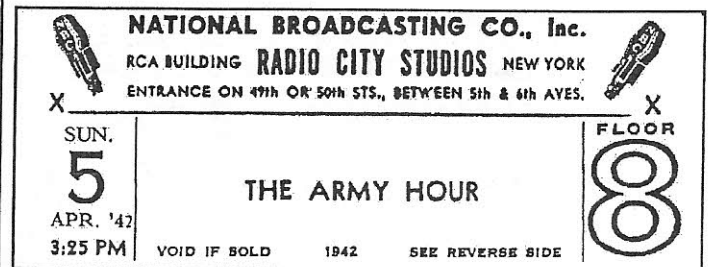
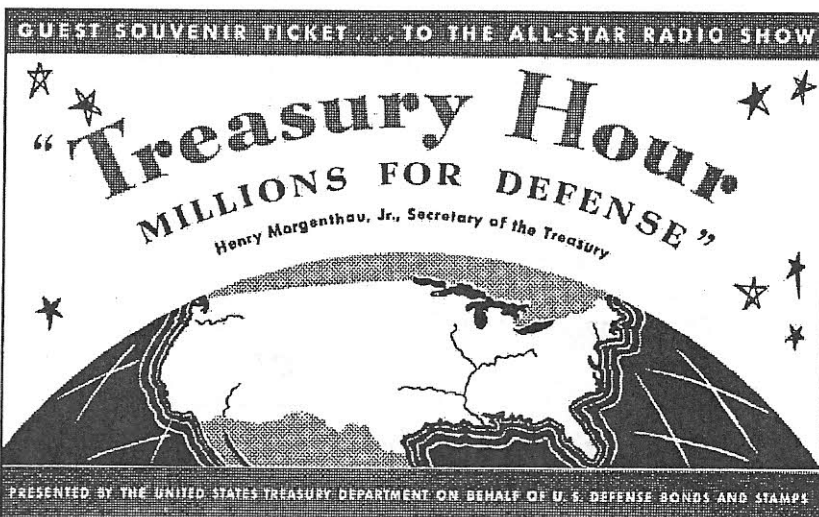
On May 1, 1941, President Roosevelt addressed the nation to ask citizens to begin purchasing Defense Savings Bonds and Stamps to "swell the coffers of the Federal Treasury." He didn't mince words . . . he challenged every citizen to sacrifice personal spending to demonstrate their faith in America to guarantee the nation's strength. FDR hoped that the sale of the new Series E Bonds would not only fund the building of our military, but would also connect the citizenry emotionally and financially to the sacrifices that would be faced in coming years. Pearl Harbor was seven months away but we were already preparing for war.

To encourage the sale of those bonds, the United States Treasury Department sponsored a new summer radio series to fill Fred Allen's timeslot. The program was titled *Millions For Defense* and featured guest appearances by the top stars of stage, screen, radio, sports and music. Each week's lineup was entirely different and the program was so successful that in the fall Bendix Aviation agreed to continue the program on the Blue Network under a new title: *The Treasury Hour*.

This broadcast ticket . . . the only one I've ever seen . . . is unfortunately undated. Printed in patriotic red, white and blue colors, the reverse has several quotations from Lincoln, Webster, Patrick Henry and Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau's inspiring words: "We Americans can do any job that we set our hearts, our minds and muscles to do."

Although the series ended just a couple of weeks after America officially entered the war, *The Treasury Hour* provided the model for most wartime radio programming. An amazing range of entertainers and celebrities from all walks of life appeared on mike to celebrate the American spirit and show the power of unified commitment to the cause. DiMaggio, Disney, Crosby, Garland, Dietrich, Bill Robinson, Fonda and others appeared without pay to celebrate assembly lines and fervently appeal for continued purchase of Defense Bonds . . . renamed "War Bonds" after December 7th.

Nearly 70 years after crooner Bing Crosby and famous hooper Bill "Bojangles" Robinson performed on the program, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner still pays homage to them by singing the blues and tap-dancing around questions at Congressional hearings.



The Illustrated Press

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw this ticket pictured among a group of paper items in an ebay listing last spring. On April 4, 1942, the holder of this ticket attended the very first broadcast of *The Army Hour* in New York City. You might not be familiar with this program, but it stands as one of the more historically-significant . . . and courageous . . . radio series of all time.

Produced by the War Department, *The Army Hour* took listeners to battlefronts and bases around the world every Sunday afternoon. Exceptional talent from NBC and the Army's Radio Division developed the technology to bring shortwave reports to the airwaves from the world's hot spots. The production effort was led by writer-producer-director Wyllis Cooper of *Light's Out* fame. The final dramatic Morse code messages from the fall of Corregidor were heard on *The Army Hour* in June 1942. For people at home, the opportunity to hear news and voices from soldiers and commanders provided a valued link to friends and family serving around the world. The War Department insisted on factual reports rather than propaganda.

The premiere program aired from Radio City, but I don't know if *The Army Hour* routinely had a studio audience. This might have been the only occasion. I'm very proud to add this one to my collection.

Now unfortunately there aren't any broadcast tickets for *Chandu The Magician*, but here's the next best thing. Gayne Whitman played Chandu from 1932-1935, but he later hosted a documentary drama called *Eyes Aloft* in 1942. Like *United We Sing*, the program aired only on the west coast.

Eyes Aloft had an interesting purpose. After the Pacific fleet was heavily damaged at Pearl Harbor, there was genuine concern that Japan might attack the Pacific coast of the United States. Large numbers of civilians were encouraged to "watch the skies" for suspicious aircraft. When the effort began to wane, the Fourth Fighter Command produced *Eyes Aloft* to bring the practice back into fashion. With the help of guest stars and top brass, dramatized stories and recognition for those who performed those important duties were aired. Ken Carpenter did announcing chores.

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM COLUMBIA SQUARE PLAYHOUSE 6121 SUNSET BLVD. - HOLLYWOOD		Thursday	No. 36
STUDIO A CBS		MAY 7 1942	
"UNITED WE SING" with ART BAKER WILBUR HATCH and the CBS Orchestra		Doors Close 8:15 p.m.	
CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS WILL NOT BE ADMITTED			

And then there's *United We Sing*, a west coast CBS program. I've absolutely struck out on finding any information about this series! The host, Art Baker, was the popular announcer or host of several series including *People Are Funny*. He later created and hosted *You Asked For It* on television. I think we're pretty safe to assume that in May 1942 the market was ripe for a program of patriotic songs. One of the challenges of ticket collecting is that many programs were not broadcast nationally and as such are largely forgotten. In a future column, we'll take a look at some of those regional programs.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO., Inc.	
VANDERBILT THEATRE	
148 WEST 48th STREET BETWEEN 6th AND 7th AVENUES	
MON. 29 MAR. 6:50 PM	CHESTERFIELD PRESENTS PLEASURE TIME FRED WARING and His PENNSYLVANIANS in VICTORY TUNES
VOID IF SOLD 1942 SEE REVERSE SIDE	

It's hard to believe it's taken 30 installments of this column before Fred Waring was mentioned . . . but here we are, with a ticket for the 986th show of Fred Waring's *Victory Tunes* program! Few performers have enjoyed such long and successful careers. Born in 1900, Waring formed his first band as a teenager and died in 1984 minutes after videotaping a performance. He was one of the top-selling artists for Victor Records during the Jazz Age, and yet had the courage to revamp his act by adding a chorus (known as the Glee Club) and continually sought to create a totally unique musical experience. A brilliant opportunist, he found equal success in business and is best known for financing the popular Waring blenders still sold today.

Fred Waring Pleasure Time took to the airwaves in 1939 for a nightly quarter-hour program under the sponsorship of Chesterfield Cigarettes. The tobacco company's advertisements paired Waring alongside their other popular bandleaders: Paul Whiteman, Glenn Miller (more on him in a minute) and Harry James. Waring's group numbered nearly 100 performers, and it is reported that he earned \$20,000 a week from Chesterfield.

During the war, the name of the program was altered . . . creating one of the longest titles in radio history: *Chesterfield Pleasure Time Presents Victory Tunes by Fred Waring and His Pennsylvanians* . . . airing from the Pleasure Time Theatre at NBC's Vanderbilt Theatre. Whew . . . the program title was nearly as long

NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY, INC.	
HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS SUNSET AND VINE	
Mon. NOV. 30 Studio D	"EYES ALOFT" for Fourth Fighter Command of the United States Army Air Forces
5:55 p.m. CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE NOT ADMITTED	

as the program! *Victory Tunes* was anchored by the Orchestra and Glee Club and a cast of largely forgotten individuals. This ticket was accompanied by an original studio audience pamphlet/program. The Chesterfield Swingettes, Two Bees and a Honey, and The Four Squires joined drummer Poley McClintock, violinist Ferne, "Little Girl Blue" Donna Dae and Lumpy Brannum (Mr. Green Jeans of Captain Kangaroo) for patriotic musical presentations on *Victory Tunes*.

NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO., Inc. RCA BUILDING RADIO CITY STUDIOS NEW YORK ENTRANCE ON 49th OR 50th STS., BETWEEN 5th & 6th AVES.		
SAT. 4 NOV. 1944	"I SUSTAIN THE WINGS" with THE ARMY AIR FORCE BAND OF THE TRAINING COMMAND	FLOOR 3 Doors Close 11:25 PM
VOID IF SOLD SEE REVERSE SIDE		

It was big news when the star of Chesterfield's *Moonlight Serenade* program enlisted in the Army in 1942 while at the height of his popularity, but Glenn Miller believed that he could best serve his country by forming a top-quality modernized military band. After being reassigned to the Army Air Force, he finally succeeded in creating a 50-piece Band of the Training Command. The band joined him for an important morale-building tour in England in the summer of 1944.

I Sustain The Wings was a weekly NBC radio series featuring the Army Air Force Band under Miller's direction. The title of the program was derived from the Latin motto of the AAF. *I Sustain The Wings* featured "Captain Glenn Miller, Corporal Ray McKinley, Johnny (the kid next door) and many of your old friends", as introduced by announcer Philip Goulding. The show debuted in July 1943 and aired until the end of 1945. Miller was lost at sea when his plane disappeared on a flight to Paris in December 1944; the band played on under McKinley. Miller was still alive at the time this ticket was used.

WOR SATURDAY JULY 24 1943	MUTUAL THEATRE 52nd Street—West of Broadway New York City THE SATURDAY NIGHT BOND WAGON This ticket is subject to the terms and conditions stated on the back hereof.	ADMIT ONE 10:15 to 10:45 P.M. Doors Close 10:00 P.M. Sharp
---	---	---

War Loan Drives were the sponsor and beneficiary of the *Saturday Night Bond Wagon* from October 1942 to April 1944. Again, the stars turned out en masse to lend a hand on this weekly Mutual network program. The *New York Times* radio log listing for July 24, 1943 indicates that Warner Brothers character actor George Tobias was the guest star on the broadcast seen by the bearer of this ticket at the WOR Mutual Theatre. The *Times*

praised the *Bond Wagon* program for having unexpected rosters but the highest quality.

I have to say that as a sports fan I am grateful for the surviving *Saturday Night Bond Wagon* broadcast of January 29, 1944. Apparently the "theme program" idea didn't originate with Merv Griffin. Here's the guest list for the program titled "The Golden Age of Sports": boxing's Jack Dempsey, Benny Leonard and Barney Ross; golf's Gene Sarazen; football's Red Grange and coach Bob Zupke; baseball's Babe Ruth and Frank Frisch; miler Glenn Cunningham; announcers Clem McCarthy, Ted Husing, Red Barber, Connie Desmond and Don Dunphy; and sportswriter Grantland Rice. Now THAT'S a starting lineup for the ages!

MUTUAL BROADCASTING SYSTEM DON LEE BROADCASTING SYSTEM 5515 MELROSE AVENUE		
TUE. NOV. 9 5:55 P.M.	Pall Mall FAMOUS CIGARETTES presents the Gracie Fields' Victory Show "Let's Have a Parade"	Studio 2 No 405

One of the stranger programs of the war years was the *Gracie Fields Victory Program "Let's Have A Parade."* The exuberant Ms. Fields brought her British music hall stylings to this Mutual network program committed to pretending the terrible war was over. In other words, let's pretend the boys are home and start celebrating now. It lasted three months; the *New York Times* declared after the second week that the show was "creating a new standard for dubious taste in radio." The sponsor pulled it off the air in January 1944.

Sometimes the less said, the better.

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM COLUMBIA SQUARE PLAYHOUSE 6121 SUNSET BLVD. - HOLLYWOOD		
STUDIO A CBS	The Men and Women Who Build LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT present "AMERICA - CEILING UNLIMITED" starring JOSEPH COTTEN with CONNIE MOORE and WILBUR HATCH'S ORCHESTRA CHILDREN UNDER TWELVE WILL NOT BE ADMITTED	Sunday FEB. 13 1944 11-11:30 a.m. Doors close at 10:55 a.m. No 2037

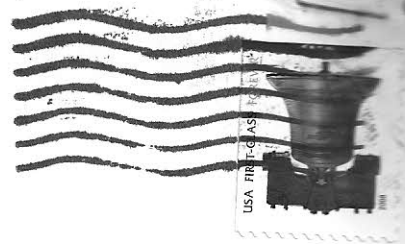
Stories of heroic wartime aviators were the hallmark of Lockheed Aircraft's *America - Ceiling Unlimited*. The 15-minute program was created by Orson Welles in late 1942 and author James Hilton (*Lost Horizon* and *Goodbye, Mr. Chips*) served as host when Welles moved on to other ventures.

Joseph Cotten, a member of Welles' Mercury Theatre Company, eventually became the resident star of dramatic sketches when the program expanded to a half-

Continued on Back Cover

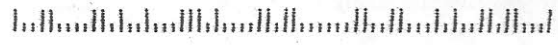
The Old Time Radio Club

144 Fontaine Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14215



FIRST CLASS MAIL

JIM BESHIRE (C)
123 DAVIDSON
SAVANNAH, GA 31419



hour in August 1943. His distinctive voice and exceptional acting skill produced excellent results. Agnes Moorehead and Hans Conruid appeared in several episodes.

This CBS Hollywood ticket notes the appearance of Constance Moore. In 1939, she played the role of Wilma Deering alongside Buster Crabbe in the Universal movie serial *Buck Rogers!*

NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO., Inc.
RCA BUILDING RADIO CITY STUDIOS NEW YORK
ENTRANCE ON 4th OR 5th STS. BETWEEN 5th & 6th AVES.

4 FEB. '44
DEFENSE AND
NBC ALL STAR WAR BOND PARADE

VOID IF SOLD 1944 SEE REVERSE SIDE

We close this visit with another blockbuster. From February 1st to 7th, 1944, NBC presented a special one-hour program each night to support the Fourth War Loan Drive. Each evening, NBC performers in Chicago, New York and Hollywood all did their part to push bond sales. As I read newspaper coverage of the week's activities, I was struck by the support and single-minded commitment to the cause expressed by all parties.

On the night of February 4, the lucky ticket-holder for *The NBC All-Star War Bond Parade* was part of a program that included Amos 'n' Andy (in character), Bob Burns, Bill Stern, and Lucille Manners (per the radio logs). I'm still working on finding out the rest of the performers who appeared. Others appearing during the week included Jack Benny, Ronald Colman, Vic and Sade, Eddie Cantor, Kay Kyser, Fred Waring, Lowell Thomas, The Aldrich Family, Fanny Brice, Bing Crosby, Grantland Rice, Glenn Miller, One Man's Family, The Great Gildersleeve and Bishop Sheen. What a week that must have been.

It's good to be back from our summer break and I know we're all glad to hear that Tom Cherre has taken the Editor position for *The Illustrated Press*. Next month, we'll be looking at news and public opinion programs from radio's golden age!