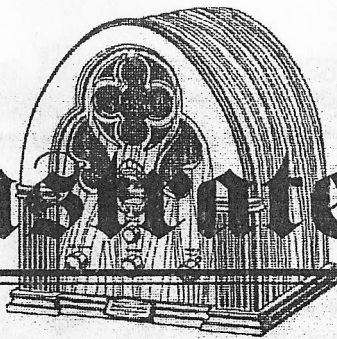


The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

The Illustrated Press



Number 377

February 2010



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.

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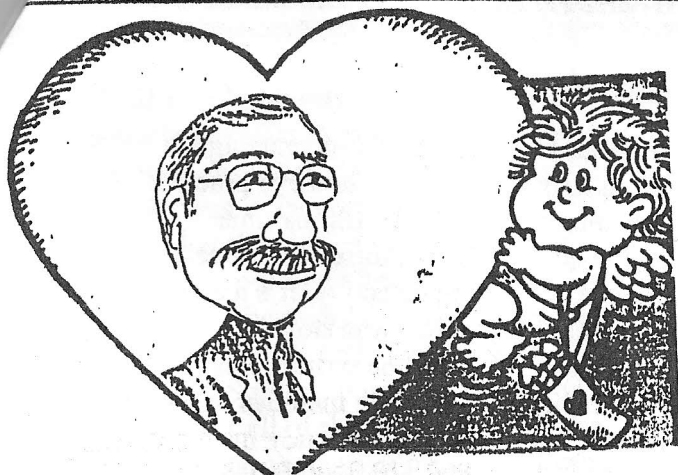
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Library Rates:

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 Message

Well, we just had our January meeting and much of the topic was around the new Sherlock Holmes movie. Let me tell you folks that I never planned to have so much dialog on Sherlock Holmes, that's the way it went. I promise I will not feature Mr. Holmes in any newsletters for the rest of the year. Frank Bork had a lot to say about the movie, not much in compliments. He also has a lot more to say later on in the newsletter. I really meant to do something highlighting on Valentine's Day, but I got caught up with all the Sherlock stuff. Next month I will feature one of Ireland's favorite sons. I would also like to pass along some grateful thanks to Tom Monroe. Frank told me he was kind enough to donate 100 cassette tapes to our club library. Thanks again Tom. Missed a few regular members at the last meeting or two. Hope all is well. Just think by the middle of next month baseball spring training starts. The month after that is spring. In March I will also feature an interesting anecdote about one of my personal experiences with one of baseball's Hall of Fame great ones. Once again I hope everyone is enjoying the newsletter. I apologize again for making this issue seem like a Sherlock Holmes special edition. Until then, "Happy radio listening to all."

Bet'cha Didn't Know:

When the "Inner Sanctum" mystery show was only a few weeks old, a woman listener sent a can of oil to the producer Hi Brown. She said she did not mind the blood and ghoulishness of the program, but that darned door sent shivers up her spine. Of course the squeaking was intentional and nothing was done to relieve the squeak from the hinges. The show started in January of 1941. It was estimated that 15 million people listened each week to get their spine chilled by the blood-curdling slaughter that took place each week. The sound began with an accident when Himan Brown was browsing around the side effects and happened upon a squeaking door. He made a mental note to use that sound some day. When asked by a sponsor to submit an idea for a new show, he thought the conception of a host welcoming guests to an eerie portal chamber of horror with a squeaking door was just what was needed. Every week congenial host Raymond Edward Johnson welcomed us into a half hour of thrilling entertainment. Himan Brown studied law at CCNY, but never passed the bar exam and lucky for us went into radio. Years later Himan Brown produced CBS Mystery Theater. One day a young stagehand approached Brown and told him I fixed the squeaking door so it doesn't make that terrible noise. They fixed him. Now you know.



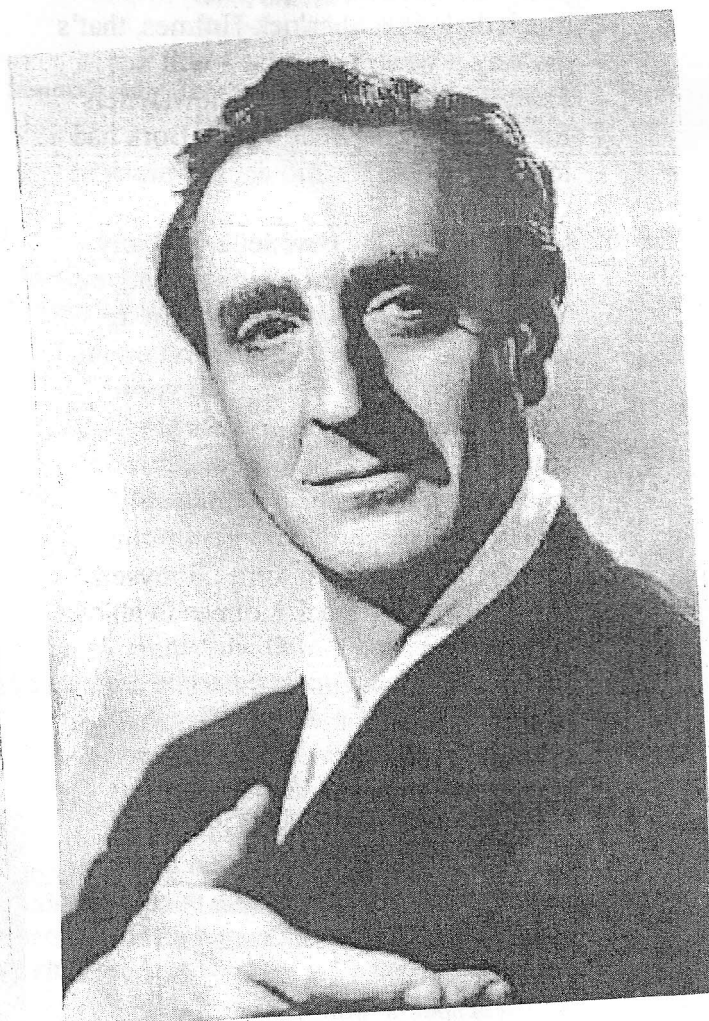
Hi Brown and Raymond

Sherlock Holmes

What a wonderful time to be a Sherlock Holmes Fan! TCM recently ran a 24 hour film festival of Sherlock Holmes movies recently including 13 of the 14 Rathbone-Bruce series. The new Sherlock Holmes movie starring Robert Downey Jr. just came out Christmas Day and Frank Bork and I had the pleasure of seeing it New Year's Eve. I'm glad Sir Arthur isn't around to see what Hollywood has done to Mr. Holmes. I was a bit disappointed. There was no shortage of special effects or fisticuffs, but I thought they went a little off the board. However, my son saw it, and he liked it. I guess it must be the generation gap. As much as I like Robert Downey Jr., in my mind Basil Rathbone is the definitive Sherlock Holmes. No one can ever personify Holmes like Rathbone did. Watson on the other hand was turned into a somewhat babbling buffoon by Hollywood. He was portrayed as a gullible soul seeming to get his foot stuck in the bucket type. This was not Doyle's intent, but more of Universal's doing. The other Watson characters were never like Bruce. Although he acted a bit naïve, Watson portrayed by Bruce was always a loveable chap. Holmes always managed to survive nonetheless.



It all started over a hundred years ago when Arthur Conan Doyle's eye practice became rather slow. To fill his time Doyle began writing stories and novels about a consulting detective. It's a credit to us that his practice was slow otherwise I wouldn't be writing this piece. His entire canticle includes 4 novels, his first being "A Study in Scarlet." That one and "The Valley of Fear" are probably his best. He also wrote 46 short stories, of which "The Musgrave Ritual" and "The Red Headed League" are also must reads.



Basil Rathbone was an accomplished actor in his own right before doing the Holmes character. After playing one continuous villain after another he jumped at the chance to play the good guy who would go after the bad one. He made two Sherlock Holmes movies for 20th Century Fox and 12 more for Universal Studios. Nigel Bruce played Watson for all of these. Basil and Bruce also play the same roles on radio. From 1939 to 1942 they were on the Blue Network. From 1943 to 1946 they performed on Mutual. While playing Holmes for many years Rathbone tried out for other movie roles including Lord Henry in the 1945 "The Picture of Dorian Grey." Producers thought Rathbone was typecast for playing the role so much so he was overlooked for many roles. Getting tired of the role and being overlooked for parts in other movies Rathbone quit the still popular series and went back to Broadway. Nigel Bruce continued his role on radio for many years, and eventually just became the narrator for the show. The announcer would enter Watson's study and say "Dr Watson, what story do you have for us tonight?" You could often hear the crackling of the fireplace and sound effects from merry old London from those unique Victorian times. I myself have enjoyed Sherlock Holmes in all of its media. I have all of Doyle's complete works. I also have all of the Rathbone Holmes' movies, and a number of the cassettes from radio. Through the years the stories of Sherlock Holmes have been broadcasted on shows like Suspense and The CBS Mystery Theater. As I said before there can only be one Sherlock on radio or movies, and he is Basil Rathbone. Of course that's only my opinion and many may differ. I'm sure there will be somewhat of a revival

of Sherlock Holmes now because of the new movie and new generations will appreciate this fine noble character. I would also say the stories written by Doyle were in the Victorian era, and this added a nicer touch. So if you like Sherlock Holmes, we do have a number of cassettes in our audio library. If you are not a rabid fan like Frank and I you should try a few. You may even like them. For all those who like trivia I will leave you with some noteworthy tidbits about our superior sleuth Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

Trivial Tidbits:

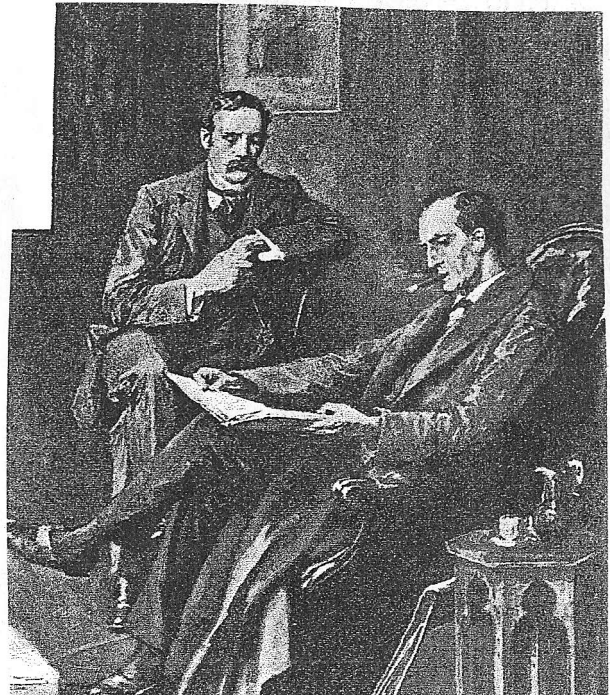
The deerstalker hat Sherlock Holmes was known to wear was first created in illustrations for The Strand Magazine by Sidney Paget. The forever memorable phrase "Elementary my dear Watson" was uttered in the very first sound picture to feature Sherlock Holmes. Sherlock's arch enemy Dr Moriarty "The Napoleon of Crime only appears in two episodes, "The Valley of Fear" and "The Final Problem." The only one to outwit Holmes was a woman...she being Irene Adler. 75 different actors have played Sherlock Holmes in over 200 movies. For you historians; Major Henry Rathbone, a distant cousin of Basil was in the Lincoln theater party at Ford's Theater the night of the assassination. He was stabbed by Booth in the arm and slashed in the face. His fiancée Clara Harris was also in the booth. She was also his stepsister. They married and in 1875 he murdered his wife. He was ruled insane and was to spend the rest of his life confined in an insane asylum. Sorry to end on a gruesome note, but "That's Elementary My Dear Readers."

The Case Of The Holy Scepter

By Frank Bork

We left the shop, turned left, and started to walk to the office of Wheelman Express Freight Company. The snow was coming down with less force than when we came to Harrogate Street, but it was getting a little colder. I wrapped my scarf around my neck, pulled my gloves on tightly, and felt quite warm, in spite of the cold. Holmes, walking beside me said, "Watson," while puffing on his Mursken fondly, "I am convinced now there were four of them, not just three." "What makes you think that Holmes? Three men you said before seems just right to me; the two brutes who lifted the crate and the third who waited with the horse and van. Who else was needed?" "Horses, Watson, horses, a van carrying three men and a box would most certainly have two horses, what with the weight and the heavy snow on the roads. It would be much easier with two horses and would draw no attention." "But what of the fourth man you just mentioned, Holmes?" I then said. "He, Watson, would be our leader, the brain man. The two delivery men did not have the intelligence to plan the hoist. They most likely did not know what was in the crate they delivered." "And the driver," I said, "Maybe he was the planner." "No" said Holmes. "It is unlikely they could use a Wheelman Express van, for the name is printed clearly on each side of all their vans. So you see Watson, the third man was used because he had a two-horse van, or at least access to one. The planner has to be a man who not only knew about the cross and its value, but also when it was shipped. Further Watson, he had to know about this building. Remember it was delivered yesterday morning and stolen

that very afternoon. It was the habit of Mr. Edwards and Mr. Herbert to leave the shop at exactly 2:00pm for their afternoon tea, walk one block to Hatters Tea Room, and return at 2:45pm. That gave the gang just 45 minutes to get the cross and make good their escape undetected, which of course, they did. Now someone had to know the routine of all three in the shop, for Miss Fisher has her tea at 1:30pm. A girl named Ellie Elmin, from the Sweets Shop two doors down, has tea with her, and Miss Fisher returns at 2:00pm, whereupon Mr. Edwards and Mr. Herbert then leave the shop for their tea. The timing is too perfect to be haphazard." "The van was most likely in back of the shop when they saw Miss Fisher leave for tea. Remember, they had to climb up the rope, open the loft, and bring their block and tackle with them. They then crawled to the space above the storeroom, loosen the plaster, and tie the block and tackle to the crossbeam. Then when Mr. Edwards and Mr. Herbert left for tea, and Miss Fisher was busy with customers in front of the shop, one of them could slide down the rope, tie it to the crate and the other would hoist it up.



Once above, the first man could climb back up and replace the plaster. They could take the cross out of the crate, and one man could take the cross through to the loft by the waiting van. The second man could untie the block and tackle, close the crate and prepare it to be taken to the loft opening. The first man could return, whereupon both men could carry the crate to the loft opening, lower it to the van, then the cross could be lowered down, the men could climb down the rope, place the cross in the crate, and be off down to Harrogate Street - just another delivery van returning from a delivery job. I doubt if any passersby would have taken any notice of them, so off they would go, Scott-Free.”

Holmes,” I shouted, “here is the office of Wheelman Express Freight. We just walked past it.” So we did, Watson, so we did,” said Holmes. We retraced our steps and turned into the office. A tinkle-bell rang as we entered the outer office room, where three young women sat at tables working on ledgers. A fourth woman working behind a desk got up, came over to the counter where we stood, and inquired if she could help us. Holmes introduced himself and me and asked to see the officer in charge. “Just one moment please,” she said very politely. “I will inquire if Mr. Johns can see you know.” She turned, walked over to the door marked manager, and rapped lightly. “Come in,” we heard a voice from within call out. She entered, closing the door behind her. Holmes and I waited a minute or two, then the door opened and the young lady came over to us. “Mr. Johns will see you now gentlemen; this way please,” she said and led us into the office. “Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson to see you Mr. Johns,” said she, and turned about and was gone, closing the door behind her. Mr. Johns

looked up from his desk, put down his pencil, and stood up. “Herman Johns,” said he, “Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson,” shaking hands with each one of us in turn. “Now gentlemen, how can I be of service to you?” “Yesterday, early in the morning, two of your delivery men delivered a crate to a Mr. Darryl B. Edwards, a dealer in religious artifacts at 129 Harrogate Street W. I should like the names of these men and their addresses.” “Why, what on earth for Mr. Holmes? Is there damage to the merchandise, what have they done?” Mr. Johns was quite concerned that his employees may have done some damage to the merchandise or property of his customer. “No, no” said Holmes. “There is no damage or cause for alarm. I would just like to discuss with them their method of delivery. You see I am interested in moving, just such a crate, and I think these two men are just the ones I need. Of course your firm will be hired to make the move.” “Well let me see just who made that particular delivery. We have several men working together.” He took a large ledger from the shelf behind him, placed it on the desk, and flipped through the pages until he came to yesterday’s entries. “Let me see,” he said, “Edwards, Edwards, Edwards, ah here it is; one crate to Mr. D.B. Edwards, 129 Harrogate Street W. delivered 9:30am December 20th by Alf and Bill, manifest #A87365.” He then went over to a file cabinet box, drew out the box listed 80000 to 90000, opened it, sifted through the papers, then handed Holmes one. “Here is the delivery manifest,” he said, “signed by Mr. Edwards himself. You will see in the lower corner where it states, ‘condition of merchandise’, both Alf and Bill put their mark there with an xc which means excellent condition.

To continue next month.....

Old Time Radio A Dieing Hobby

By Jerry Collins Pt. 5

Edgar Bergen Charlie McCarthy Show. When I was a young boy my parents would never let us listen to the Edgar Bergen (9/30/78), because they thought that a radio show starring a ventriloquist was ridiculous. How wrong they were as the show became one of the most creative and funniest in radio history. The comedic aspects of the show related to Bergen's discussion with Charlie McCarthy, Mortimer Snerd, and Effie Klinker. The Bickerson skits were also created for this show. Don Ameche (12/06/93) and Frances Langford (07/11/05) played John and Blanche Bickerson. Due to the fact that Charlie McCarthy/Edgar Bergeb had that rare ability to banter back and forth with a guest, this became a part of the show. Such guests as George Raft (11/24/80), John Barrymore (05/29/42), Basil Rathbone (07/21/67), Orson Welles (10/10/85), W.C. Fields (12/25/46), Bob Burns (02/02/56), and Rudy Valley (07/03/86) were ideal for this part of the show. Sexually loaded skits with Mae West (11/22/80), Marilyn Monroe (08/05/62) and Dorothy Lamour (09/22/96) are radio classics. Due to its long time time sponsor the Charlie McCarthy Show was called the Chase and Sanborn Show.

The announcers on the show were Ken Carpenter (10/19/84), Ben Alexander (07/05/69) and Bill Goodwyn (05/09/58). Ray Noble's (04/03/78) orchestra provided the music for the show.

Duffy's Tavern. Even though the name of the show was Duffy's Tavern, Duffy never appeared in the show. The show debuted in 1941 with Ed Gardner (08/17/63) appearing as Archie, the manager of the tavern. Ed Gardner created the character of Archie. When it was time to come up with someone to play the part, Gardner could not come up with someone to play the part of, as he described it, "A typical New York mug." The method of developing a great comedy show; starts with a great comedian with perfect timing and surrounds him with a great supporting cast. Miss Duffy was played by Gardner's wife, Shirley Booth (10/16/92), Florence Halop (07/15/86) and Sandra Gould (07/26/99). Charlie Cantor (10/10/64) and Sid Raymond (12/01/66) as Cliton Finnigan, while Eddie Green (0) played Eddie the waiter. Alan Reed (06/14/77) played Clancy the cop, while Dick Van Patton (still alive 12/28/28) portrayed Wilfred Finnegan. Lurene Tuttle (05/28/66) played Dolly Snaffle. Jimmy Wallington (12/22/72), Marvin Miller (02/08/85) and Alan Reed all served as announcers on the show.

Amos and Andy. During the Depression of the 1930s no other radio show had a greater impact on America that Amos and Andy. John Dunning called it "the first great radio show." He goes further to say that if they had ratings in the 1920s, Amos and Andy would have had the highest ratings in the history of radio. The show empathized the members of



the cast as they were solving the same problems we were experiencing. The show became so popular that theater managers stopped movies and played the radio show. It was also played in stores. In the summer you could hear it outside as most city dwellers opened their windows and played the show quite loudly. The show premiered in January of 1926 and remained on the air in different formats into the mid 1950s. The two white stars of the show were Charles Correll (09/26/72) and Freeman Gosden (12/10/82). Correll played Andrew H Brown as well as Henry Van Porter. Freeman Gosden played Amos as well as George "Kingfish" Stevens and Lightin. Ernestine Wade (04/15/83) played Sapphire Stevens. Lou Lubin (0) played Shorty the barber, while Eddie Green (?) played Stonewall the Lawyer. The announcers were Bill Hay (10/12/78), Olan Soule (02/01/94) and Harlow Wilcox (09/24/60).

George Burns and Gracie Allen.

Similar to Fibber McGee and Molly, Jack Benny, and many other comedy shows, the George Burns (03/09/96) and Gracie Allen (08/27/64) can trace their roots to the vaudeville circuit. The show began in 1932 and was produced in a number of formats over the years.



Announcers played important roles in the show. The list included Ted Husing (08/10/62), Jimmy Wallington (12/22/72) and Harry VonZell (11/21/81). As was then the case in many comedy shows, commercials were woven into the show. The two sponsors were Swan Soap and Maxwell House Coffee. Music was always important to the show. Paul Whiteman (12/29/67), Ray Noble (04/03/78) and Meridith Wilson (06/15/84) and their orchestras were mainstays on the show. Artie Shaw (12/30/04) one of America's greatest clarinet players was also one of the biggest attractions on the show. The ability of George and Gracie to interact with their guest was another essential part of their success. Their guest list would include (10/14/77), Gale Gordon (06/30/65), Jack Benny (12/26/74), Charles Boyer (08/26/78), Hans Conreid (01/05/82), Orson Welles (10/10/85), next door neighbor Larry Keating (08/26/63) and many others. Occasionally long running themes such as, Gracie running for president and even running for Mayor of Buffalo. George's singing voice and Gracie's search for her brother played a big role in the show.

Life With Luigi.

Some listeners do not appreciate the show as much as I do. It told the story of Luigi Basco, a post World War 2 immigrant. Pasquale made enough money from Pasquale's Pizza Parlor to finance Luigi's trip to the United States and establish him in the antique business. Pasquale's ulterior motive was to convince Luigi to marry his daughter Rosa. John Dunning feels the show proved the show to be very successful because it effectively used dialect humor

To be continued next month.

This is an article Anne Wainman passed my way. It deals with WNY.

The Allegany County roots of Clifford Goldsmith by Richard Kellogg

Long before the advent of cable television and the internet, families would gather around large console radios during the evening hours. Parents and children would use their imagination while listening to a wide variety of entertaining programs. For those craving excitement and drama, favorite shows included "Gangbusters", "The Lone Ranger", "Sherlock Holmes", and "The Whistler." Those looking for a good laugh selected programs such as "Jack Benny", "Bob Hope", "Fred Allen", "Baby Snooks", and "Fibber McGee and Molly". Those of a certain age may still recall the introduction to a popular comedy show of that era. The program was titled "The Aldrich Family" and it commenced with Mrs. Aldrich calling "Henry! Henry Aldrich! Her teenage son, the brash and crisis-prone Henry, replied in a squeaky voice with "Coming mother" Loyal fans know that Henry and his best friend Homer Brown would soon be involved with mischief and hijinks typical of the high school population. Listeners also sensed that all would turn out well. After all, Henry had good intentions and he was supported by responsible and caring parents, Sam and Alice Aldrich. Listeners who faithfully followed the exploits of Henry Aldrich and friends may not have realized that Clifford Goldsmith (1899-1971) was the creator and writer of this radio program. Even fewer would have known that the writer spent considerable time residing in Allegany County, New York during his formative years. Some of the characters and events portrayed in the radio show are based upon Goldsmith's own experiences in the Rushford and Centerville areas of the Southern Tier. It is not by chance that Henry Aldrich and his friends were proud students of Centerville High School!! Henry and his family were even prepared when the new medium of television appeared on the horizon. The televised series of the Aldrich Family ran concurrently with the radio show in the early 1950s. The television program remained on the air for a little over three years. During the 1940s Goldsmith ranked among the highest paid writers in radio. Times reported in 1943 that he earned as much as \$3000 a week for writing each episode of The Aldrich Family. Later in his career Goldsmith made the transition to writing comedy shows for

television. He consulted or collaborated in the writing for programs such as Leave it to Beaver, The Donna Reed Show, Petticoat Junction, and Dennis the Menace. When reviewing the life of Clifford Goldsmith, one can speculate that Henry Aldrich is the alter-ego of his creator. Indeed, the adventures of Henry and his friends are derived partially from the author's own experiences as a teenager growing up in Western New York. Charles Goldsmith (1857-1909), the father of Clifford Goldsmith, was an educator from East Aurora, New York. Charles married his first wife, Rosa Oltoff (1861-1894) of Rushford New York in 1890. Charles and Rosa had one daughter, Margaret. Following Rosa's death Charles married Edith Henshaw (1869-1907) and they had one son, Clifford. Clifford Goldsmith was born on March 29th in 1899 in East Aurora. He grew up in the same neighborhood as craftsman and Roycrofter Elbert Hubbard. Clifford and his half sister Margaret were orphaned when their father died in 1909. Clifford was ten and Margaret was seventeen at the time. In subsequent years Clifford and Margaret spent considerable time in Rushford with their Aunt Dee Oltoff, who was married to merchant John James. Goldsmith continued his Allegany County connections when he married Margaret Towell (1897-1987) of Rushford on July 2nd 1921 in New York City. Margaret graduated from Rushford High School in 1914. It is interesting to note that Margaret's sister Katherine Towell, also wed a famous author. Katherine who graduated from Rushford High School in 1915, married Arch Merrill. A reporter for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, Merrill penned a series of history books about the Genesee Valley and the Finger Lakes of upstate New York. Before achieving fame as a writer, Goldsmith worked as an actor and attended classes at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. During the 1920s he worked as a vaudeville performer and even labored as a trimmer of store windows. He was employed for several years as a lecturer for the National Dairy Council. Clifford always advised his high school audiences to drink lots of milk. It was a long and hard climb from the streets of East Aurora to the bright lights of Broadway. Concluding a long and productive life, Clifford Goldsmith died on July 11th 1971 at a hospital in Tucson Arizona. The obituary appearing in the New York Times reported that the writer was survived by his widow Cathryn, four sons, and a daughter. Those interested in the Goldsmith legacy will find interesting comments in The Spirit of

Rushford, the sesquicentennial book published in 1958. It is noted that the neighborhood of Hardy's Corner in Rushford and the town of Centerville both appear in the Aldrich Family radio show. The program also alludes to the good times that Goldsmith had in Will Rice's blacksmith shop and with the local physican, Dr. Earl Kilmer. Author Philip Wylie is a reliable authority since he was a good friend of Goldsmith and spent his summers in Rushford from 1938, the year he married Frederica Ballard, until his death in 1971. In the Philip Wylie Papers, stored in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections at the Princeton University Library, Wylie comments that the Henry Aldrich stories are based on Clifford Goldsmith's own experiences while a youth residing in Rushford. It is quite pleasant for current residents of Allegany County to recall that the Henry Aldrich character was inspired to some degree by experiences which Clifford Goldsmith had while living in this area. Although born in a near by county, Goldsmith had very deep roots in Allegany County soil. Perhaps residents of Rushford and Centerville should consider hosting a Clifford Goldsmith Day. On this August occasion, families could share in the pleasure of listening to The Aldrich Family radio programs and viewing the related films and television shows. Such a community gathering would be the ideal way to celebrate the life and career of Clifford Goldsmith, one of Allegany County's most successful adopted sons." It is certain that a wonderful time would be enjoyed by all. *Note: The author would like to thank Devi Conley, Luanne Bump, and Rebecca Cole for providing background information on the Goldsmith family. Timothy Goldsmith, son of Clifford & Margaret was most gracious in sharing memories of his family with the author.*

Thank you Anne for passing this article along to us. *Editor*

This piece was passed on to me from Rich Olday from the Yesterday USA Club:
The Old Time Radio Club on the Internet.

Your club has been doing a 90 minute show on since the early fall of 2007. We usually do an NBC University Theater that lasts one hour followed by a Sgt. Preston 15 minute show from the Michigan Radio Network in the early 1940s. We are on tape 6 and each show is heard for two weeks Monday – Friday at different times to accommodate listeners around

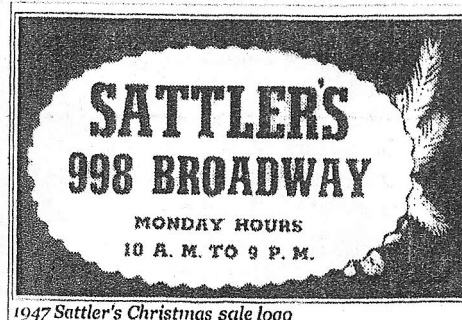
the world. Richard Olday is the host and Computer Bob McDevitt is the producer. Frank Boncore usually co – hosts the show and various club members have been heard as guests such as Ken Krug, Jerry Collins, and Frank Bork. On holiday specials, we usually substitute University Theater with spooky programs on Halloween or some other holiday themed show. Recently. We did a nine part Yours Truly Johnny Dollar show on our Christmas & New Year's shows. When our supply of University Theaters is exhausted in the near future, we may start playing Mutual Radio Theater. Please tune in and tell all of your friends and club members.

Movie Review of Sherlock Holmes

By Frank Bork

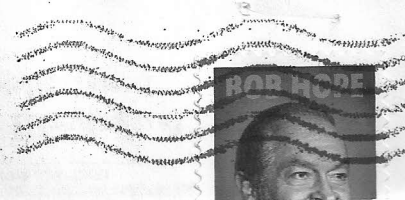
New Year's Eve Tom Cherre and I went to see Robert Downey massacre the image of Sherlock Holmes. Our ladies were lucky they decided to see a different movie, and meet us later in the lobby. Our local News Arts Editor, Jeff Simon rated the movie 2 and ½ stars, meaning fair. I personally think Mr. Simon was too generous in his rating. First of all a man on Mr. Sherlock Holmes standing would never look like a bum. He appeared more like a recluse homeless person than his familiar suave English gentleman look we are most familiar with. Throughout the movie his appearance never changed. Downey is probably the most unlikely actor to ever portray Holmes. Was Downey playing "Rambo", "Luke Skywalker," or maybe "Merlin the Magician" all rolled into one? Jude Law was fine in his role of Watson. Sir Arthur would have been proud. His accent was perfect unlike Downey sounding more Australian. All in all I did not like the movie. I can't help but wonder, did Guy Ritchie bother to read Doyle's books. If he did he completely disregarded Sir Arthur's description of Sherlock Holmes. Simon thinks there may be a sequel. I truly hope not. Well, you can go see the massacre yourself and form your own opinion. Yours for better Sherlock Holmes Movies.

Fulworth Blue, SOB aka Frank Edward Bork. I know what you're thinking. No No SOB means Sound of the Baskervilles. A Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars since 1980, based in Gig Harbor, Washington State



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144 FONTAINE DR
BUFFALO NY 14215-2038

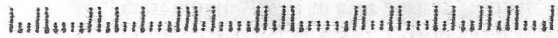
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