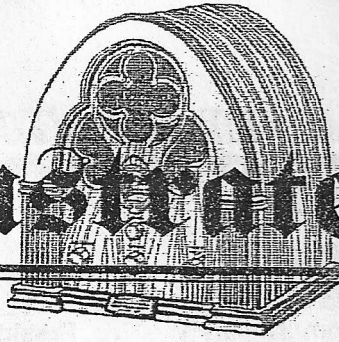


The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

# The Illustrated Press



Number 381

June 2010

# RADIO ALBUM

FALL  
25c

MAGAZINE



*Frank Sinatra*



## Membership Information

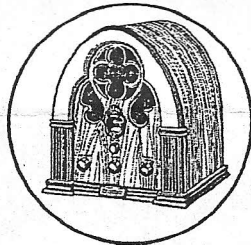
Club Membership: \$18.00 per year from January 1 to December 31. Members receive a tape library listing, reference library listing and the monthly newsletter. Memberships are as follows: If you join January-March, \$18.00; April-June, \$14; July-September, \$10; October-December, \$7. All renewals should 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](mailto: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](mailto:skylark68_1999@yahoo.com)

Web Page Address:

[members.localnet.com/~robmcd](http://members.localnet.com/~robmcd)

## Club Officers

### **President**

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

### **Technical Manager / CD and MP3 Librarian**

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

### **Cassette and Reference Librarian**

Frank Bork (716) 601-7234  
10 Dover Ct.  
Lancaster, NY 14086  
[frankbork2009@yahoo.com](mailto:frankbork2009@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

Before I go any further, I'd just like to make mention of a few things. First, our club picnic will be on Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> in the church parking lot near the gazebo. Members may bring a guest. They should also bring a dish to pass. Hot dogs, burgers, and drinks will be provided. It would also help if you brought a lawn chair. Rich Olday notified the club of a media super sale on June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> on 1199 Harlem Rd Cheektowaga. The time is Fri. 8-4pm and Sat. 8-2pm. Rich says a good deal could be had by all. One final note. Frank Bork wanted to mention that books in the library can only be taken out by local members. There is no mailing for obvious reasons. Hope you like the Sinatra cover and story. No crooner next month. I will feature probably, the best news journalist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. That can only be Edward R. Murrow. It didn't take long to get a winner for our quiz last month. Almost before the gun sounded, Computer Bob came up with Kate Smith as the correct answer. I assure you this month's quiz will not be as easy. Good luck to all Happy radio listening to all and hope all have a good summer. Hope to see everyone at the picnic on Monday August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

As Edward R. Murrow will be our cover story in September our trivia will be about him. Murrow was popular for his familiar catchphrase "This is London". This is how he started his nightly broadcast from overseas. His more familiar catchphrase that would live with him for the rest of his career was his ever popular "Good night and good luck". It got its start from Ed living in London when the city was virtually being bombed every night by the Germans during the early part of the war. Neighbors and friends would bid their good byes saying good night-and good luck. Many were the days when after a heavy night's bombing they would not see their neighbor alive the next morning. When he heard the young Princess Elizabeth address her subjects the same way over the radio one day he felt it would be fitting to do the same. Those closing five words would be his calling card for saying good night for the rest of his life. As I promised, this quiz will be tougher. Who is this in the picture below. First person with the right answer wins a beautiful CD of Perry Como and The Fontaine Sisters. Good night and good luck!





**Frank Sinatra: Early Days**  
By Tom Cherre

This month's cover is a picture of a "Young Blues Eyes". I think I know a little bit about music, so I think it's safe to say that we'll never have another singer that will ever have the appeal of Frank Sinatra. I wasn't always a big fan of Sinatra. When I got married my wife Sandy more or less convinced me he was the greatest. I had the pleasure of seeing the great one live three times. The two times at the old Aud were both pleasurable and unforgettable. The last time was at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton. Frank was in his late 70s and sad to say he was not at his best. He needed large monitors to read the lyrics. Even with the visual aids he missed a

line and caught up with the melody when he could. Never the less, it was a friendly crowd and we gave him a warm support. There was one in the audience who started heckling Frank, and for that he was given a quick escorted exit out the door. It was like seeing Mickey Mantle not being able to run out a ground ball, or maybe Babe Ruth falling down after striking out. Frank Sinatra is one of the elite trinity of entertainers. The other two being The Beatles and Elvis Presley. It is said that this trinity of entertainers will have eternal longevity. As far as I'm concerned Frank Sinatra wrote the book on music. His delivery of lyrics will never be matched. Success did not come easy for Frankie. Until 1940 Frank Sinatra was virtually an unknown. Let me start at the beginning and acquaint you with how Sinatra became an icon. Frank Sinatra was born in Hoboken New Jersey December 12 1917. His parents had visions of their son being a civil engineer. Frank was not what you call a model student. He skipped school 47 times and was expelled from high school for rowdy behavior. He bounced around jobs as copy boy for a Jersey newspaper. He was a riveter at the Tietjan and Lang Shipyard. His inability to settle down prompted his father to ask what are you going to do with your life. He told him he wanted to sing. He would tell his high school sweetheart Nancy he wanted to be like his idol Bing Crosby. She was the only one who believed he could make it. In 1934 he joined a group called "The Three Flashes". They then became "The Hoboken Four". Their appearance on "The Major Bowles Talent Show", a precursor to something like American Idol attracted 40,000 votes winning first prize. They were awarded a six month contract to perform on stage and on



radio stations across the country. They returned home in late 1935. After expenses of room and board, food, and transportation they were all broke. Frank's mother got him a job at a place called The Rustic Cabin, a nightclub restaurant in Englewood New Jersey. Frank got \$15.00 a week for singing. This job didn't seem too promising so Frank went to every radio station he could in New York City almost begging them to let him sing on the air for almost any price at all. Sometimes the price was nothing. For awhile Frank had about 16 singing dates a week paying him just enough for carfare back to Hoboken. There was a young trumpet player in the Benny Goodman band named Harry James. James heard him singing on the radio a couple times and was known to have said "I like the way that kid Sinatra sings a song. If I ever start my own band I'm gonna hire him". Eventually Harry James started his own band in 1939. He was waiting for Sinatra to come out of one of the radio stations and offered him to be vocalist for his newly formed band.

Frank didn't have to think about it. He just asked "When can I start"? It was in June of 1939 and Frank Sinatra signed on for a year with Harry James for \$75 per week. The first track he cut with the band was a song called "All Or Nothing At All". It had weak sales, but just a year later, the song would skyrocket. Then in November of 1939 something happened that would change his life forever. Frank was in Chicago at the Palmer House and Tommy Dorsey approached him with the job of lead vocalist as a replacement for Jack Leonard who was leaving to go out on his own. At that time Tommy Dorsey had one of the top bands in the country. Frank was still under contract to James, but Harry felt this was the break Frank needed to catapult him to the top. Harry James tore up his contract, and was on his way. Frank never forgot the kind favor he did, and paid him his due respect upon his death in 1983. Sinatra said " Harry James is the one who made it all possible. I have him to thank for all my fame". *I must note that at one of the concerts I attended Frank echoed the same compliment. He also said that Buffalo was the last night he played with Harry James before he joined up with Tommy Dorsey.* Frank made his first appearance with Dorsey at The Coronado Theater in Rockford Illinois on January 26<sup>th</sup> 1940. His first year with Dorsey he released more than 40 songs including "I'll Never Smile Again" topping the charts for 12 weeks. His "All Or Nothing At All" was also a hit. Sinatra was doing quite well with the Dorsey Band, but there was one problem. In Frank's contract, it generously rewarded Tommy Dorsey one third of all Sinatra's lifetime earnings in the entertainment industry.

**NEXT MONTH PART 2 EARLY DAYS OF SINATRA**

### The Case of the Holy Scepter By Frank Bork. Conclusion....

Now that's settled. Mr. Johns we will leave you to your business Holmes said. Yes, of course Mr. Johns replied. I have a busy work list to handle today Mr. Holmes. Please keep me informed as to your progress in the case. It will be kept confidential I assure you, Mr. Johns added. Yes, Holmes said, I will stop by personally and keep you informed. Then we left Mr. Johns office and walked several blocks when Holmes said, Well Lestrade I would imagine you also have a busy day planned, is that not so? Yes it is Mr. Holmes, right as rain it is. With that Lestrade called a cab and departed from Holmes and myself. Watson, Holmes said, Watson, do you think that you could follow undetected, Alf and his new partner Jack? Why, yes of course I replied. But what ever for I asked? I want to know if Alf tries to contact Crown and tell him of the change in his work partner. Crown will still need several men to move the Cross to whoever he has hired to strip the cross of its jewels before he can dispose of them. I really doubt that Crown would want another man to have knowledge of theft of such a rare and valuable artifact Watson, Holmes told me. Yes I see your point Holmes, I replied. Good, Holmes said. Bye the bye Watson, you can catch a cab here and go to Wickshire Lane where cabbie Moreham has his stand. He has worked with us many times in the past and proven himself to be loyal to both you and I, and needless to say he is well adapt for this type of work, Holmes said. Yes I replied. Moreham will follow Alf and Jack, and they will never know he is doing so. Very well Holmes, I raised my cane as a Hansome came into view and was off to the chase. The game's afoot I called to Holmes as the Hansome pulled away. I informed the driver to take me to Wickshire Lane. Once there, I was pleased to see Moreham, pipe in hand talking to another cabbie. As I walked over to where he stood, he called out, well Dr. Watson, what brings you here. Oh, I thought

, I would like to see a friend this day I replied. This day, was a code we used to inform him we were on a case. A nice little ride in the country perhaps Moreham asked. He realized I was on a case for Holmes, and that was his way of telling me he understood. We went directly to get the route Alf was using from Mr. Johns. Once that was done it was no problem. We followed Alf for hours. When he stopped near a pub Jack got out and went into the pub, but Alf drove on. This must be the time he will inform Mr. Crown, I thought. Sure enough, he drove to a warehouse near the India Docks. He jumped off the van and went into the warehouse. The sparks will fly now I said to myself. Ten minutes later when Alf came out of the warehouse he did not look very pleased. We waited for five minutes before we drove on. I rapped on the roof with my cane. Don't follow him now I told Moreham. Take me back to Baker Street. Right you are Doctor he said. Once at Baker Street I reported to Holmes about Alf's activities this morning. Ah! Good Holmes said. The game's afoot. Now we'll want to hear from Lestrade of the progress of Constable Perkins. When we are sure, Bill will join us in our effort to catch Mr. Crown. We can spring our trap. Come Watson, we'll go and see Mr. Edwards and explain to him just what we plan to do to get the Cross of the Holy Scepter returned to him. I truly think he will be lenient on Bill's part when he sees how Bill will help us in putting Alf and Crown behind bars. When Bill puts himself in jeopardy to do the right and just thing, well Watson, don't you think Mr. Edwards will be a little more considerate with Bill? Yes I do Holmes, I answered. When he has the Cross in his possession I'm sure he will, at that. We had better dress warm Watson, for it's quite cold, with a light snow falling covering the street. I hailed a passing Hansome and we were on our way. With my heavy coat and a scarf around my neck, and my hat pulled down on my head, warm gloves, I was very comfortable. There is one thing that troubles me Watson. Oh, what is that Holmes, I asked. The third man Watson, the third man,

I have yet to find him, Holmes said. I don't know who he is, or where he is, but I know beyond a doubt there was a third man on the van in this hoist. I fear he will escape our net and walk away Scot-Free. I instructed to take us to Mr. Edwards shop. Mr. Edwards was very happy to see us for I'm sure he thought we had found the Cross. Holmes explained his plan to him. Mr. Edwards was quick to agree with Mr. Holmes. Anything to recover the Cross before Christmas, if possible Mr. Holmes, he said. If Bill really repents, the poor fellow, then Mr. Holmes I will do my Christian duty and forgive him. After all Mr. Holmes, it is the Christmas Season. But I must have the Cross in my possession. Yes, of course, you shall have the Cross. We will do the utmost to have the Cross here before Christmas Eve. With that we left Mr. Edwards shop and went back to our waiting cab. Scotland Yard, Holmes called out to the cabbie as he got into the cab. It seemed like a matter of minutes and we were in Lestrade's office. As we entered we could see Bill sitting on a chair, his head down. A dejected remorseful man was the picture we saw that Bill was. Tell Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson what you have just told us, Lestrade ordered of Bill. With his hands holding the side of his down cast head Bill explained the entire system used to commit the crime of stealing the Cross from Mr. Edwards. Holmes asked Bill if he would aid us in convicting Mr. Crown? Bill thought for a moment then nodded his head yes sir I will. Good man, Holmes said. Lestrade, send a couple of uniformed constables to question Alf. Just enough to put a scare into him. I know he will run to Mr. Crown to tell him of the constables questioning him. We must be ready for, I am sure Crown will attempt to run with the Cross to avoid arrest. Then we'll have him Holmes told Lestrade. Bill was taken to a detention cell for safe keeping. Lestrade took six constables with him. We'll surround the entire building. Our Mr. Crown will have no route of escape, Lestrade said. We arrived at the warehouse long before Alf. Lestrade sent his men to cover all routes of escape. We were all well hidden when in

a half hour Alf arrived. He rushed into the building. Within an hour the warehouse doors were flung open and a van loaded with a large wooden crate came out with Alf driving and Mr. Crown sitting next to him. Lestrade's men closed in around the van stopping its forward movement. Both Alf and Mr. Crown were pulled from the van and restraining bracelets were placed on their wrists. I have never seen Lestrade happier. Well, Good Afternoon Mr. Crown, Lestrade said with a smile on his face. The Lord Magistrate would like a word with you. Both Alf and Mr. Crown looked as though they had lost their best friend. Needless to say the Cross was returned to Mr. Edwards, who was overjoyed upon its return. At Midnight service on Christmas Eve Mr. Edwards presented the Cross to the bishop. Mr. Crown was sentenced to ten years in Dartmoor Prison. Alf received five years in Southgate Prison. Lestrade had a private interview with the Lord Magistrate, after which Bill was placed in Mr. Johns custody and was instructed to report weekly to Lestrade. Bill a repented man spent Christmas with his family. Holmes and I were in our rooms at Baker Street when Mrs. Hudson announced we had a visitor. In walked Lestrade with a bottle of brandy. Christmas cheer he announced. Compliments of the season. We sipped our brandy, I looked out the window at the softly falling snow, when Holmes said, the third man escaped us Lestrade.

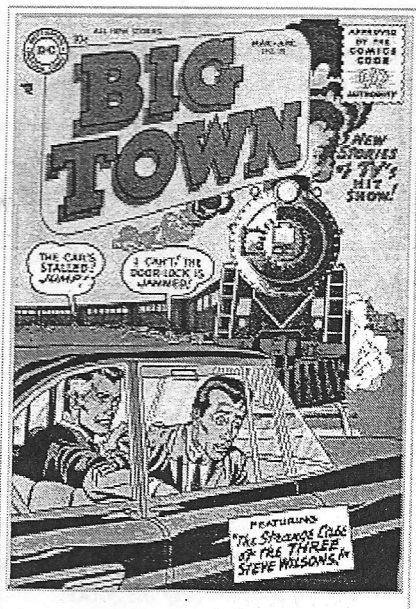
**The End**

## Old time Radio a Dieing Hobby By Jerry Collins:

We now continue with this month's installment featuring **Big Town**. The show was one of the best of all the newspaper shows on the air. Edward G. Robinson (1/26/73), Edward Pawley (?) and Walter Greaza (?) played Steve Wilson editor of the *Illustrated Press*. Clair Trevor (4/8/00), Ona Munson (2/11/55) and Fran Carlon (10/4/93) played Lorelei Kilbourne. Dwight Weist (7/16/91), one of radio's busiest performers, was Inspector Callahan. Steve had three very unique assistants; Harry the Hach, played by Mason Adams (4/26/05), Willie the Weep played by Donald McDonald (?) and Mozart played by Larry Haines (7/17/08). Other regulars on the show were Paula Winslow (3/7/96), and Lou Merrill (4/7/63). Dweight Weist (7/16/01) was the narrator and William Robson (4/10/95) the director. The show was on the air from 1937-1952.

### Big Town

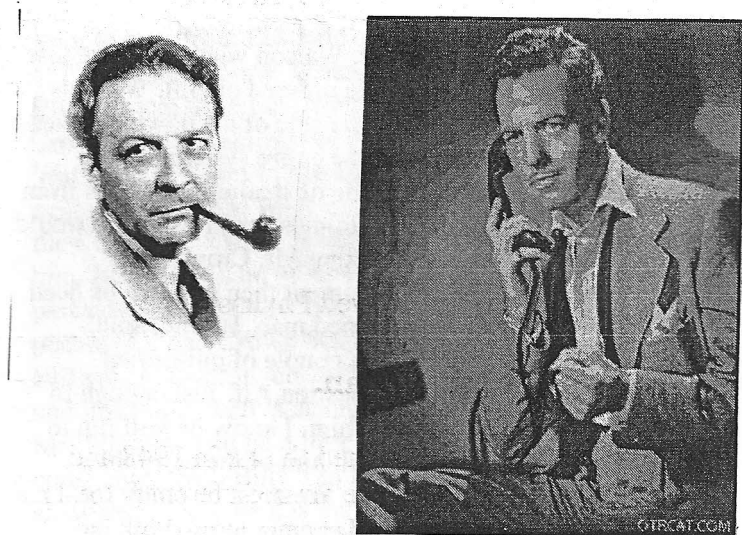
Big Town  
#38  
(March-  
April  
1956)



## The Adventures of the Falcon.

The Falcon premiered in 1945 and lasted until 1951, with Mike Waring portrayed by Les Damon (7/21/62), Les Tremayne (12/19/03), Berry Kruger (1/4/91) and George Petrie (11/16/87). Nancy was portrayed by Joan Banks (8/18/98). The announcer was Ed Herlihy (1/30/99). The show is also remembered for its commercials for Gem Razors and Blades. "Avoid five o'clock shadow, use Gem Blades."

**The Philip Marlowe Show.** The show based on the character created by Raymond Chandler (3/26/59) premiered in 1949. Marlowe was played by Gerald Mohr (11/10/68). Lou Krugman (8/8/92) was a semi-regular on the show. The show was produced and directed by Norman MacDonald.



Gerald Mohr

*Get this and get it straight. Crime is a sucker's road and those who travel it wind up in the gutter, the prison or the grave.*



## The Adventures Of Michael Shayne.



Jeff Chandler as Mike Shayne



Donald Curtis as Michael Shayne

Michael Shayne like Philip Marlowe was one of radio's hard-boiled detectives". Shayne was played by Jeff Chandler (6/17/71) and wally Maher (12/27/51). The show premiered in October of 1944. It was directed by Bill Rousseau (5/2/72). Cathy Lewis (11/20/68) played Phylliss.

### Rocky Jordan.

The show reached the air in 1948 and remained on the air in different formats until 1950. Jordan was played by Jack Moyles (1/16/73). In addition to being a Middle Eastern Adventurer, he was proprietor of the Club Tambourine, originally located in Istanbul and then moved to Cairo. Jay Novello (9/2/82) played Captain Sam Sabaaya in the final format. Dorothy Lovett (4/28/98) and

Paul Frees (11/2/86) were also regulars on the show.

### The Adventures of Frank Race.

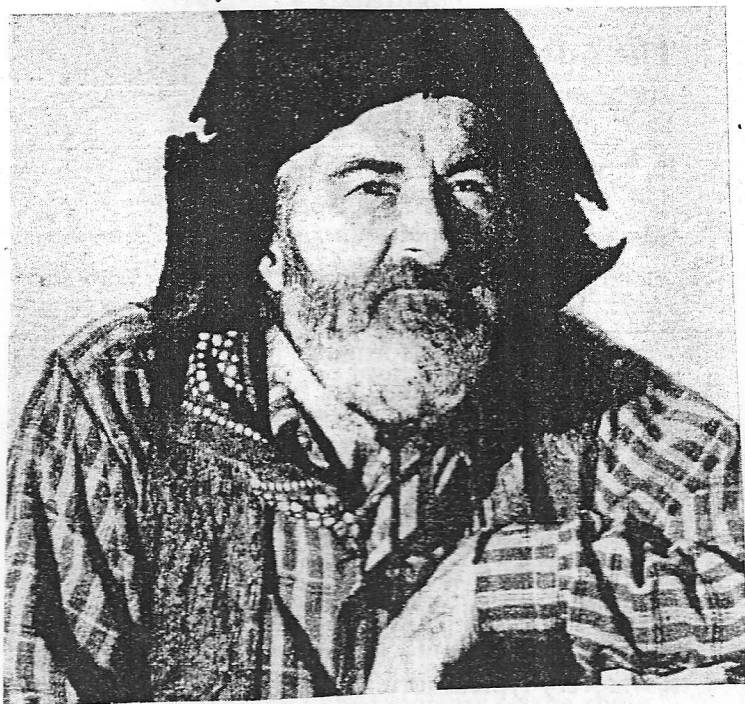
The show went into syndication on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1949. Frank Race was a lawyer prior to World War II and then joined the OSS with the beginning of the war. After the war he went into the world adventure, intrigue, and crime detection. Race was played by Tom Collins (6/17/73), who was going off his performance as Chandu. A few months later he was replaced by Paul Dubov (9/20/79). Tony Barrett (11/16/74) played Mark Donovan, Race's cab driver and assistant. Donovan was quite different than the average radio detective sidekick. He was very crafty and street wise and handy with a gun and his fists. It was very typical for him to rescue Race from a close call than the reverse. Tough and always there when you needed him, he was certainly no Denny or Dr. Watson. A lot of money was put in hiring a strong supporting cast. Such performers as Virginia Gregg (9/15/86), Frank Lovejoy (10/2/62) Gerald Mohr (11/10/68), Wilms Herbert (3/15/51) and many other West Coast stars were hired during those first months. Ivan Ditmars (9/10/97) provided the music for the show. What resulted was a very good show that became quite average after those first few months. Collins was gone and so were most of the top name supporting performers.

Next Month we continue with Boston Blackie:



George (Gabby) Hayes

by Tom Cherre



Most of us, including myself always think of Gabby Hayes as an old sod buster with a grizzly old beard with possibly a few critters crawling inside of it. Always a sidekick, he would complain about every little thing. His vocabulary included words and expressions like "consarn it", "yer durn tootin", "dadgumit", "durn persnickety female", and "young whippersnapper". Hayes in real life was the complete opposite. He was actually a well groomed, intelligent, and articulate gentleman. He once said anyone could have played his grizzled codger character he portrayed on the screen. He was born right here in Western New York in Wellsville in 1885. He never rode a horse until he was in his forties and he had to do it for his movie roles. He ran away from home at 17 and traveled with the circus. Later on he became a very successful vaudevillian. He was wealthy enough to retire at 43 in the year 1928. The following year he lost

everything and started acting. He had a chance meeting with director Trem Carr, who liked his looks, and thought he was just right for playing an old saddle tramp and side kick. He played Windy Halliday, Hopalong Cassidy's sidekick for five years. After a salary dispute he left Paramount to a new company, Republic, and a new name, Gabby Hayes and made close to 200 movies. In 1945 he entered a new medium, that of radio. He appeared with The Andrews Sisters every Sunday afternoon on the "Eight to the Bar Ranch" radio show on the Blue Network. This was his first fling at radio, and he was a little skeptical about his humor being right for radio. He said he was scared at first, but eventually he calmed down and enjoyed performing. During his off time he frequented the military hospitals visiting as many of the wounded servicemen as he could. He said it was a spiritual house cleaning. "More folks", he said should visit these boys. Then they wouldn't complain about the things they can't get. That about says it all for Gabby Hayes.

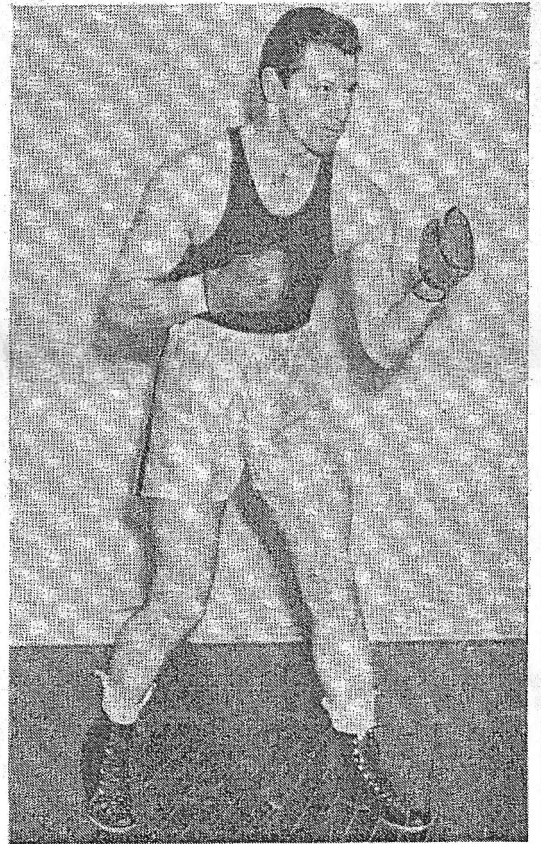
**"Yer Darn Tootin"**



### **Buffalo Radio History:**

Chuck Healy might not have been an institution like co-worker Clint Buehlman, but he was one of the best. Healy, was probably most remembered for his TV "Beat the Champ Show", but he was also a notable radio sportscaster. And he was quite an athlete too. At high school in Oswego New York he was the captain of the football and boxing teams. While at Syracuse University, he was Eastern Inter-Collegiate middleweight boxing champion in 1939, and runner up for the national title. Chuck was on the varsity football team until he was injured. After graduation Chuck became a phys-ed teacher, and coached all sports. Chuck was interested in all sports, but it wasn't until he met legendary news commentator Lowell Thomas, that he wanted to pursue sports on the radio. Chuck Healy briefly worked at stations WKIP in Poughkeepsie, and at WGNV in Newburgh before coming to Buffalo. He became what they call swing man for

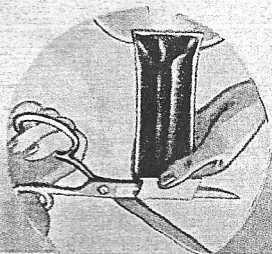
Ralph Hubbell on WBEN. Chuck's easy going personality made him staunch WBEN favorite. Healy once said "The best training for a sportscaster is playing and teaching sports". Chuck Healy met all of the criteria. Healy was soft spoken and well versed in every facet of sports. He later became sports director on Channel 4. He is more noted for his TV work, but like all the good ones, he got his start in radio.



**Made solely of SELECTED Beef  
and Pork**

Try Wieners made to new high quality standards

Open the Sack O' Sauce  
with scissors or a knife

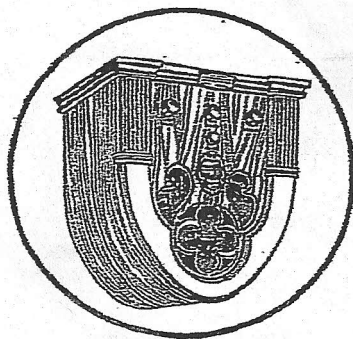


both in one can—each flavor kept separate  
in its original full richness

*Delicious Wieners*  
**and Sack of mild  
Barbecue Sauce -**



JIM BESHIRE (C)  
123 DAVIDSON  
SAVANNAH, GA 31419



THOMAS R CHERRE  
144 FONTAINE DR  
BUFFALO NY 14215-2038

**The Old Time Radio Club**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

