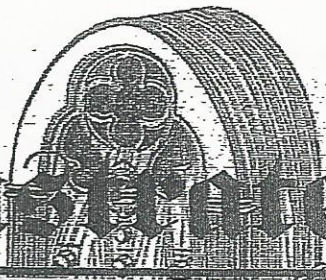


The Old Time Radio Club

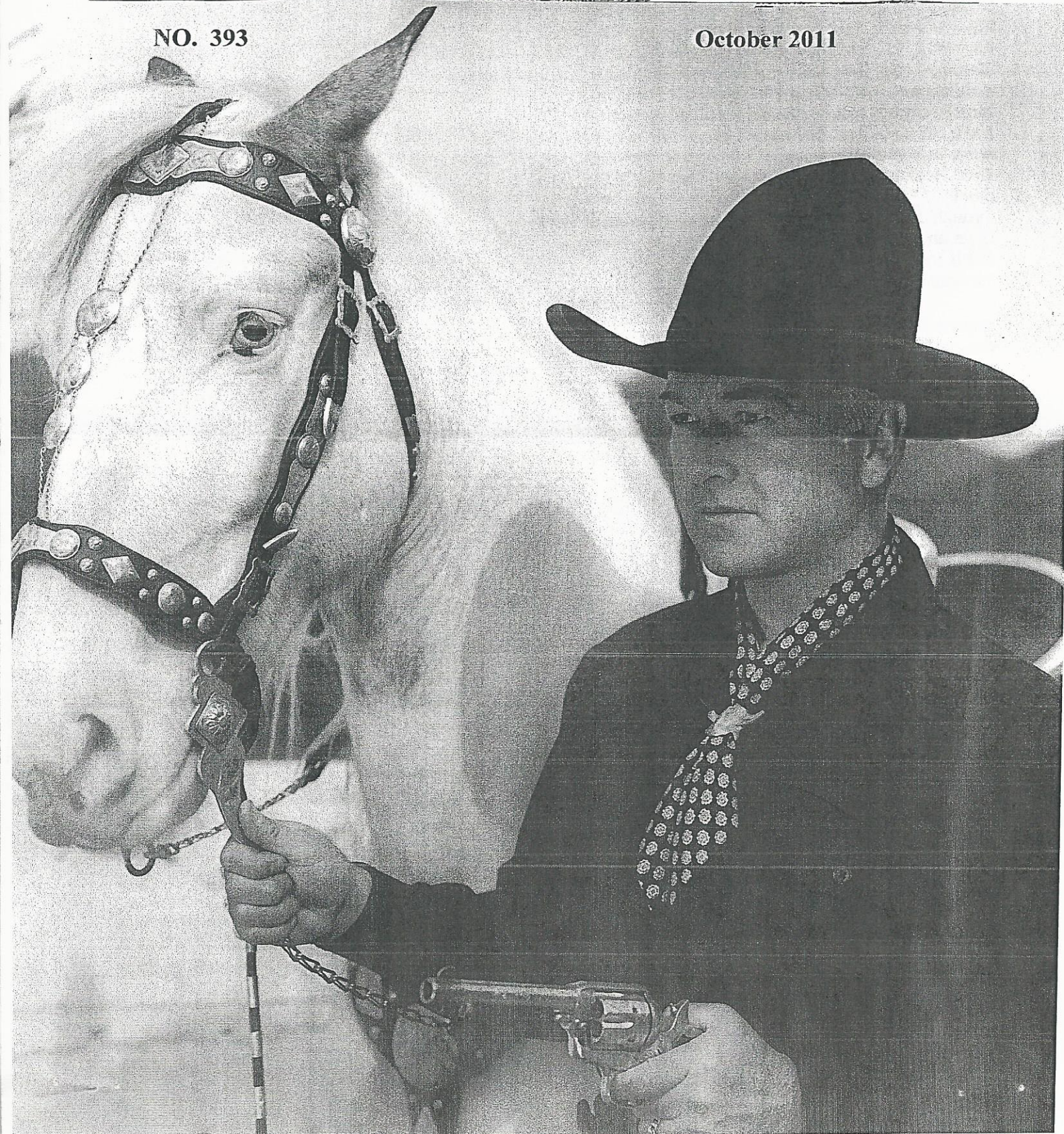
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The Illustrated Press



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October 2011



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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.

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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 !

Greetings to all. Our first meeting went just fine. Peter had some old time local radio questions. I was stumped, but Lester Dean nailed just about all of them. Way to go Les! No prizes were awarded, but I am offering a great DVD of early Bing Crosby in his Mack Sennett days in the early 1930s. He is featured in some movie shorts and does a few songs. It's great for any Crosby fan. The question is- Who appeared in the most Alfred Hitchcock movies, Not counting the great one Alfred, himself. I should get an answer at the meeting, but then again, who knows? Well as you can see, William (Hoppy) Boyd is on this month's cover. I can assure you that another cowboy star will not be on November's cover. Once again, I would like to thank Ted Davenport for his overwhelming generosity to our club. We appreciate all the materials he has given us. Ted can be reached at radio memories.com. In order to get a few more articles rolling my way I am using a ploy one of our other club uses. Anyone who sends in a worthwhile article I will award them with one of my library's tape collection. It does make it easier for me and I thank all who have contributed. Next month's cover girl is someone who starred in 7056 episodes of her show. **Also on Sat Oct 9th we will hold another Spag. Dinner in school Hall.** Pre-sale tix available next meeting.

Bet'sha Didn't Know:

Since I featured Bing Crosby and William Boyd this month I will direct the page mainly on these two individuals. We all know Bing's theme song was "Where the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day." Anyway, Bing Crosby had a hand in writing this number along with Roy Turk and Fred



Many times on his radio show, Bing would sing the song "When the Blue of the Night", instead of "Where the Blue of the Night." Bing also composed "At Your Command" in 1931. It rode the record charts at NO #1 for many weeks. Son Gary was named after best friend, Gary Cooper. On son Gary's deathbed he revealed he lied and fabricated much about his father's disciplinary measures in his "Going My Own Way" book.



Did you know Hoppy had 11 sidekicks, one being Jimmy Rogers, son of Will, and also George (superman) Reeves.

William L. Boyd
(Hoppy)
By Tom Cherre

To my best recollection, it had to be about the summer of 1952, and we still didn't have a television set yet. That blessed event would come later that year. There was older boy named Sheldon from Philadelphia who came to visit his grandfather every summer. He never had anyone to play with so he invited my brother and me to his grandfather's saying he had a TV and we could watch Hopalong Cassidy. We didn't need much persuading, and off we galloped to watch something I had only heard of. I was amazed to watch a hero who dressed all in black. He had a white horse like Silver, but you actually got to see his full face. I've been a Hopalong Cassidy fan ever since. I have written about William Boyd in a previous edition of the IP, but I've managed to come up with some fresh new ingredients to add to this wonderful underrated super star hero William L. Boyd had what you might call, a roller coaster ride, maybe a life like the current stock market, plenty of ups and downs. Boyd was born in Cambridge Ohio June 5th 1895. The Boyd family moved to Tulsa Oklahoma in 1902. His father Charles Boyd, a laborer for the water department, was killed trying to rescue a fellow employee in an explosion when a 20 inch water main seal blew up and broke his neck. William quit school working at various jobs to help support his family. When he was 20 he moved to California. Because of his good looks and charming personality he was soon noticed by the film industry. His first job in the movies he was cast as an extra in *Why Change Your Wife* in 1919. Producer Cecil B. DeMille noticed Boyd

and thought he was star material and signed him to a seven year contract. He was the lead in *The Volga Boatman* 1926 and *King of Kings* 1927. William Boyd also had a



great speaking voice, and blended very well into the soon to arrive "Talkies". Things couldn't be better until disaster hit. There was another actor by the same name William Boyd who was involved in a drinking and gambling scandal. William Hearst Newspaper chain spread the story all over the country putting the wrong Boyd at fault. By the time Boyd cleared himself he had lost his huge movie contract, and his career was just about over. Luck shined on Boyd and opportunity came knocking in 1935 when producer Harry "Pops" Sherman was looking for an actor to portray Clarence Milford's fictional cowboy hero "Hopalong Cassidy. Sherman

wanted Boyd for the supporting role. Sherman wanted Buck Ward for the Cassidy role. After Boyd looked at the script he knew in his heart he could be the star. Milford's character in his novels was portrayed as a mean foul mouth, cigarette smoking whiskey guzzling cowboy with long red hair. Boyd persuaded Sherman to cast Hopalong as an easy going clean cut "Robin Hood" type cowboy who was a perfect gentleman never throwing the first punch. After much of Bill Boyd's persistence, he won Sherman over, and as they say, the rest is history. His last wife Grace Bradley Boyd just recently passed away only a year ago. She was 97. They were married for over 35 years. Grace Bradley recalls when her mother took her to the movies when she was 13 she first set her eyes on William Boyd telling her friends she had a crush on the handsome star and she would marry him someday. When her father died Grace worked as a model during the day and did some dancing at clubs and theaters at night. It was during the "Depression" years and she and her mother were just trying to make ends meet. A producer from Paramount happened to see her dancing at the Paradise Cabaret in New York. With a little help from a fellow stage actor named William Frawley, (sound familiar?) she managed to get a

Grace Bradley



Hollywood contract. She got an interview with Cecil B DeMille. One of her early films was a lead role in *Too Much Harmony* in 1933. It also starred Bing Crosby and Jack Oakie. De Mille introduced Grace to William Boyd and she became his fifth and last wife. They were married over 35 years until his death in 1972.



Cecil B DeMille had chosen William Boyd to play Moses in his *Ten Commandments*, but Boyd felt his identification as Hopalong Cassidy would make it impossible for viewers to accept him as Moses. His last movie was a cameo in DeMille's classic, *The Greatest Show on Earth*. In his later years he suffered from Parkinson's disease, and refused doing interviews and public appearances. He didn't want to disillusion his many fans that remember him as a screen idol. Boyd passed away in Laguna Beach California from complications from Parkinson's disease and heart failure. Boyd was the perfect gentleman cowboy. His wife Grace only recently passed away in September of 2010. She was 97.

Rube Appleberry Part 2 by Ryan Ellet

By early January, 1933, the Panthers football season was over so Appleberry turned his attention to boxing where he faced off with one Shanty Hogan in his first bout. Hogan was a real life baseball catcher who played for the Giants between 1928 and 1932 and had just a few weeks earlier been sent to the Braves. As February, 1933, rolled around Fogarty, having run Appleberry and the gang through every professional sport, looked for new subject matter to liven up the sketches. He decided upon theatrical stage and Rube tried his hand at singing before departing for spring training in the southern ball club camps. With Malloy as his sideman the duo tried the tune "Posey Country Moon" but finally settled on a new song, "Big League Rookie Blues." Their singing careers were short-lived and in March the boys joined their Panthers teammates for training in Florida. Appleberry took his mind off the game, however, and wound up in trouble. First he picked up a questionable new girl, MaryLou, on the train ride down to Florida and once there fell for the first pitch of a shyster real estate salesman. By May 1933, after a year on the air, Fogarty dropped the unwieldy title Big Leaguers and Bushers in favor of the simpler Rube Appleberry. Information about the series after this point becomes much, more scarce. Evidence suggest that stories strayed from the sport themes which predominated during the first year. In September Appleberry soon found himself in trouble with the law and termed a kidnapper. He had only just gotten out of that predicament by capturing the true criminals when a suspicious character named Tom Byron approached Rube with a new

proposition. It appears that Rube Appleberry began to adopt the more standard thriller stories and cliffhangers common among serials of the time. During the spring of 1934, after two years on the air, the program picked up a sponsor, the identity of which remains elusive. Rube Appleberry left the air some time next year, 1935. The three year run was not the end of Appleberry, however. In 1936 the gang was introduced to the funny pages in a syndicated comic strip drawn by Al Demaree, himself a former baseball player. The comic ran until 1937. On August 30, 1937, Rube Appleberry returned for one last aural trip around the bases. All the principle players were back, with Read once again taking Appleberry's part., Sprague as Malloy, and Fogaarty as manager McConnell. Connie Will took Jeannette deLee's place as the female interest. The new series was aired not just on WGN this time but over the Mutual Broadcasting Network. Within a month it picked up a



TEXT OF THE ORIGINAL CAPTION FROM THIS UNDATED PHOTO: Miss Marion Elisberg, 5529 Hyde Park boulevard, receives from Kay Kyser a "victory" trophy to commemorate her reign as Betty Co-Ed over the recent homecoming festivity at the University of Chicago. Third in the trio is Paul Fogarty, creator of "Rube Appleberry" and co-author (with Ted Fio Rito) of the college song hit "Betty Co-Ed." Kyser made the presentation yesterday (October 31) afternoon at the Blackhawk as a part of the first of a series of salutes to various Greek letter organizations on the campuses of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University.

sponsor that, as with the original run, remains unknown. The rejuvenated Rube appears to have been little changed from the original, even transitioning to football later in the fall. Records of the show end in the fall of 1937 indicating the series left the air after a short run. Only one episode of Rube Appleberry is known to exist, as documented on Dave Goldin's website. Dated 1937, it is likely from this second series but the broadcast is not known to be in general circulation. Concerning the series primary actors, nothing is known of Wolf and Sprague beyond their participation in this series. Of DeLee there is evidence she also performed on WBBM's Chickie and Myrt and Marge at the same time she worked Big Leaguers. Just a bit more I know of lead performer Read. Born around 1895, Lawrence Read, the voice behind Rube Appleberry, was bit by the performing bug early in life while a boy in Kentucky. With a ragtag quartet he earned his first singing job with a traveling circus, a gig that lasted four years before he managed to get in vaudeville and finally, with Appleberry, radio. It is Read's only known radio work. He died in 1960. Of all the cast members Paul Fogarty's career can most fully be documented. Fogarty graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1917 whereupon he went to officers training school located at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Indiana. During the last year of the first World War and for some time after (1917-1923) he served as an infantry captain and instructor of calisthenics and bayonet work to various officers training schools around the country. After being discharged from the army Fogarty taught military science at Culver Military Academy before he attempted a career in Florida real estate. Finding no success

there he began publishing poetry in the Chicago Tribune in 1928 and by 1930 was announcing over KFKX while booking entertainment for the Edgewater Beach Hotel. Two years later he made a small name for himself composing the song "Betty Co-Ed" in 1930, a tune made popular when it was recorded by Rudy Vallee that same year, eventually reaching #4 on the recording charts. The next year he composed "Charlie Cadet" with Vallee, a song that did not achieve the same success as the earlier effort. Fogarty joined WGN in 1932 and soon began writing Big Leaguers, believed to be his first attempt at writing for radio. In 1941 Fogarty joined John Griffin and the Tribune's Bob Elson to bring Sports Desk to WGN listeners and several weeks later began producing a quiz show put on at various military bases. Called Ask-It-Ball, the program quizzed soldiers about sports, motion pictures, geography, and military topics. During this time he wrote a comic strip called Draftie which ran until the end of the war. Later in 1941 he served as producer for an hour long program which featured sports broadcaster Bob Elson and musician Bill Anson. His main work continued to be on the production end with such programs as Your Chapel in the Valley, The Deacon, and Chicago at Night. By 1948 Fogarty was working as the sports reporter for WGN-TV. He wasn't done with fitness however, and in 1950, now about 50 years old began a television calisthenics series called Your Figure Ladies. The program chugged on and in 1957 was renamed The Paul Fogarty Program because of the number of men who had become regular viewers. Fogarty retired from WGN in 1963 and passed away in 1976.

Bing and Dixie
By Tom Cherre

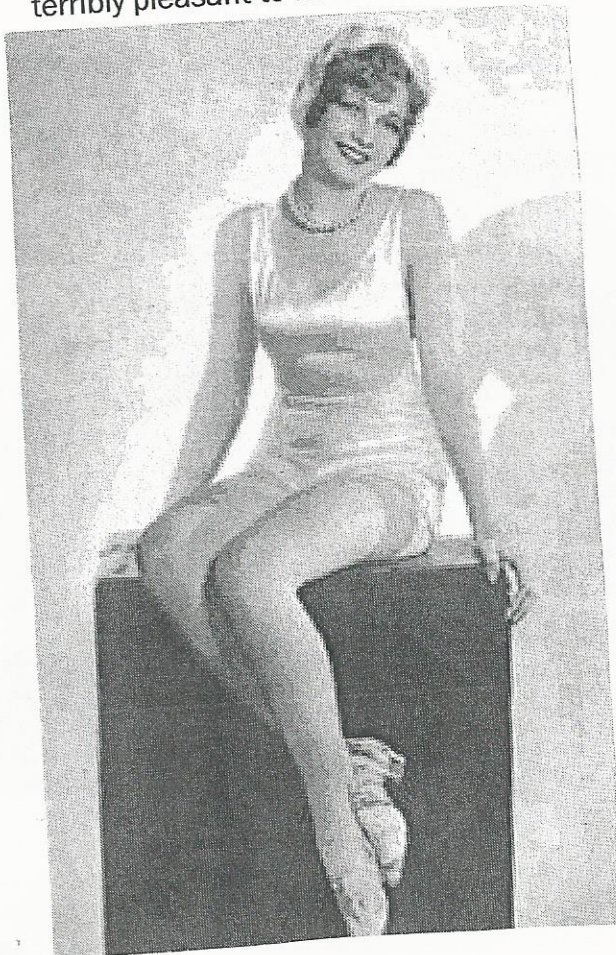


Before I go any further with this article, there is nothing I say or read about "Der Bingle" that can change my feelings towards him. I will always consider Bing Crosby one of the finest singers, actors, and entertainers of all time. I'm not saying this because I may feel the wrath of the late Ed Wannat, but I believe in what I say. Enough said! I guess after watching a couple of his 'Road Movies' and listening to about 72 consecutive Crosby radio shows, "Kraft, Philco, and Chesterfield ones, I had to write a little something about 'the Old Groaner'. Listening to his shows, especially when he had singers on as guests was great. From Al Jolson, Fred Astaire, Perry Como, Mills Brothers, Roy Rogers, Nat King Cole, Louie Armstrong to the great girl singers the show were nothing short of stupendous. Judy Garland, Rosie Clooney, Kay Starr, Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Shore, Peggy Lee, Andrew Sisters, and Theresa Brewer were some of the best singers ever. If he didn't have a singing guest he'd usually have a top movie star like Humphrey Bogart, Jimmy Stewart, or maybe his good friend Bob Hope to

entertain us. Bing was a real smoocher, if I can use that word. He was so easy going with all his guests, with announcer Ken Carpenter and band leader John Scott Trotter. He gave Trotter many a ribbing, much like Jack Benny did to Don Wilson, teasing him about his weight. Bing was flying high in the 1940s, but it was not all that rosy at the beginning of his career. On September 30th 1930 Bing married his lovely bride Wilma Winnifred Wyatt, who would later be known as Dixie Lee. The headlines in the paper read "Well Known Fox Star Marries Bing Croveny." This was probably the last time the press would miss-spell his name. At the time however, Dixie was more popular than Bing. As a teenager Wilma entered a contest to find the girl who could most sing like Ruth Etting. She easily won that distinction of sounding like the legendary torch singer and landed a part in the hit Broadway musical "Good News." She caught the eye of Fox Studios, renamed Dixie Lee, and was on her way to stardom starring in "Movietone Follies of 1929," "The Big Party" and "Cheer Up and Smile." In 1929 Bing was singing at the Cocoanut Grove night club and caught her eye.



It was far from love at first sight. Dixie was only 17 at the time and her family hardly approved of a night club singing crooner. It was a hectic courtship, and Bing's many proposals of marriage were turned down. Bing was relentless and Dixie finally accepted his proposal over a chicken dinner at the Coconut Grove and became his bride at the tender age of 18. Bing recounted in his autobiography "Call Me Lucky" the first time he had heard the name Dixie Lee, it rolled off my tongue like honey. Bing also said in an interview, "Her love and the family she gave me slowed me down very much." Dixie appeared in three more films and recorded "The Way You Look Tonight" and "A Fine Romance" with Bing before she called it quits on the entertainment business. Bing expressed it was a shame she gave up on singing. Bing went so far to say that she had a great style and a marvelous voice, a voice that was terribly pleasant to listen to.



In 1933 the first of four sons, Gary was born. Twins, Dennis and Philip would follow in 1934. The last son Lindsey came along in 1938. Tragedy was averted in 1943 when Dixie and the boys emerged without harm after a Christmas tree fire destroyed their house in Toluca Lake. Bing had been at work, which was par for the course. It was the radio show, movies, or tours or entertaining the troops. Of course Bing was also an avid golfer, and had a thing for the horses. With Dixie home alone most of the time she found solace with alcohol. This tended to cushion her chronic depression. Dixie Lee Crosby died November 1st 1952, only three days before her 41st birthday. Bing was devastated. In his book Call Me Lucky Bing wrote "I'm going to miss her love, her steadfast and constructive support. She was the most completely honest person I've ever known, and one of the most courageous. I don't want anything more in life than the memory of all she did for me." And until Hell freezes over or my hair grows back Bing is still # 1.

Whatever Happened To?
(Blue Coal Company)



Blue Coal was the trade name of the coal sold by the DL&W Coal Mine. DL&W stood for Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western. They actually dyed the coal blueish with a dyed fuel oil. When antitrust actions forced DL&W to slim down, Glen Alden bought out their coal titles. DL&W focused on its rail lines but remained the exclusive retailer of coal mined and processed by the Glen Alden Coal Company. When I was a kid growing up on Colvin Avenue many years ago, we had a coal room. I recall it was dirty and dusty. Our furnaces originally were coal burning, but were converted over to gas while I was still quite young. I do remember the coal truck unloading through the window shoot. Boy was that ever messy. I remember we still had the coal just sitting there for quite a few years. I guess it was pretty hard to get rid of it. In July of 1930 CBS brought us the Detective Story Hour and we heard the Shadow for the first time. They then dropped the show for a year and in 1931 the Blue Coal Company relaunched it. The Shadow was on the CBS, NBC, and the Mutual networks and Blue Coal was its main sponsor. I remember listening to

one February episode of the mid 1940s, and they mentioned our fair city saying, "the people of Buffalo know how to stay warm with Blue Coal" or something to that effect. In 1953 the DL&W Coal Company was sold to the Moffat Coal Company. As more and more people tuned to gas and oil fuel the demand for



coal dramatically declined. You young timers can't imagine stoking the furnace every night so you wouldn't wake up to a cold frigid morning. If you happen to go away for a weekend or even a day you had better have someone feed the furnace for you, or you entered a cold house. In 1966 Glen Alden sold its remaining titles to the new Blue Coal Company thus going the way the likes of the milkman, wringer washer, and the penny postcard. By the way I hear the demand for coal is coming back. There's still tons and tons of it in our country and they're using it for many utility companies. If one still had a coal furnace it would be considerably less than oil and natural gas. Hmnnnnnnnn. OK



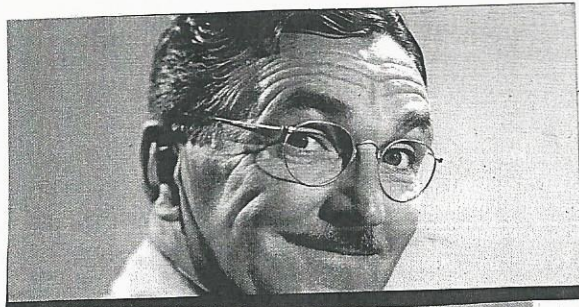
Library News:

As you know Frank Bork is our worthy club librarian. He is anxious to loan out one of the many tapes he has, to our club members. The weather's starting to cool down. You just might want to snuggle up with any of the thousands of programs we have in our collection.



Friendly Librarian (most of the time)
Franklin E. Bork

From Abbott & Costello to Our Miss Brooks for comedy, or experience one of the best written westerns and for that matter one of the best shows, period.

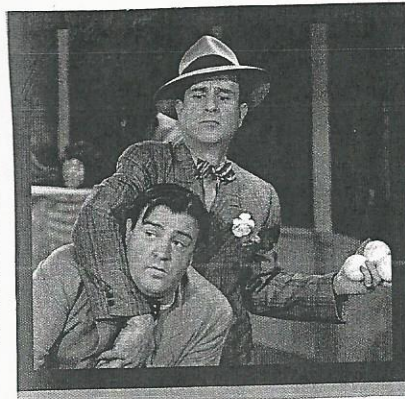


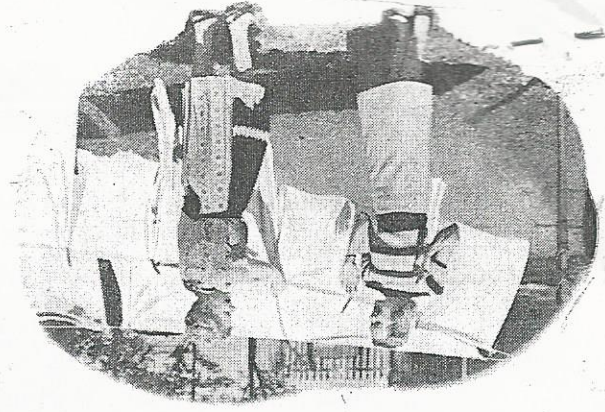
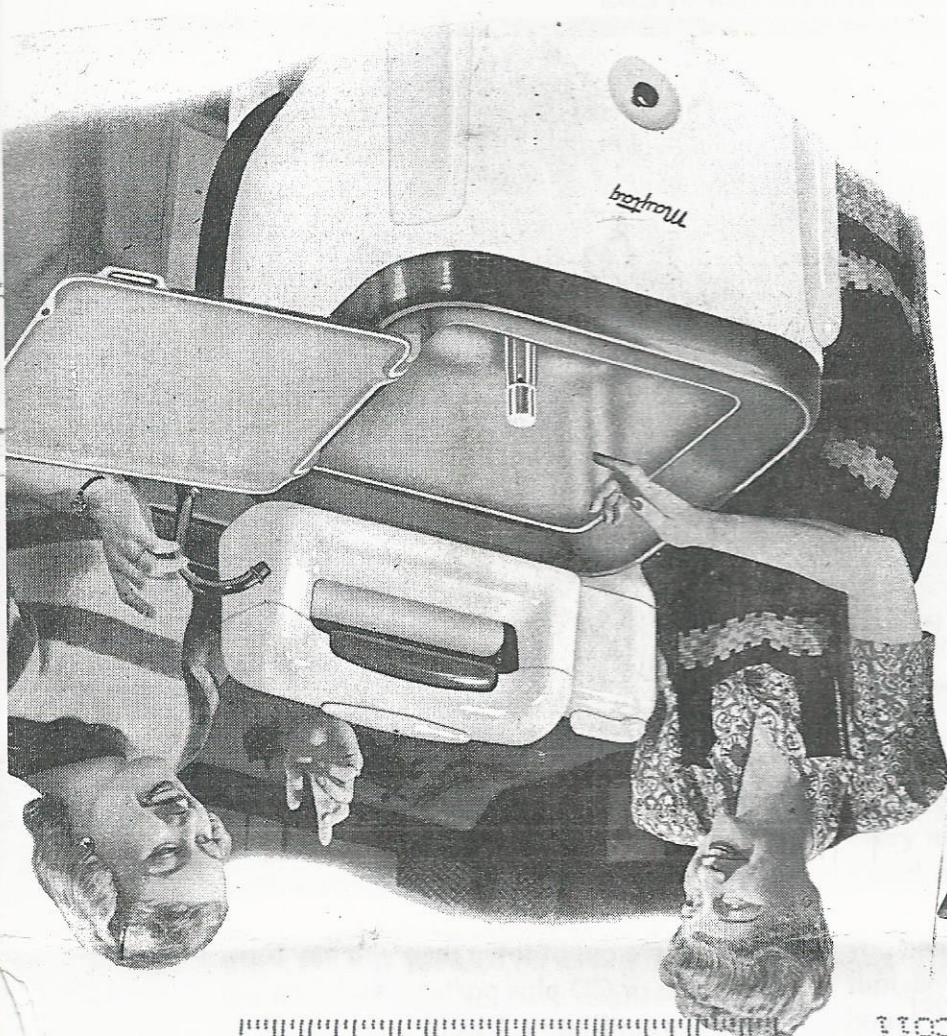
TV fans know Howard McNear as Floyd on *The Andy Griffith Show*. But, radio fans know him best as *Gunsmoke's* Doc Adams. Born on January 27, 1905, he became a regular on many prominent west coast drama and detective series, including *The Lux Radio Theater*, *Suspense*, *Family Theater*, and *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*.

Yup, Our
Library is
Huge!



For Mystery, there are none better than *The Whistler* or *Mysterious Traveler*. You're only an e-mail away from listening to some great shows. Of course, if you live out of town then you pay for the tape or CD plus postage, and then it's in your library. I would urge all the new members to take advantage of the free borrowing. Let Frank know what you want and he will deliver at the next meeting. It's as easy as that. ENJOY!

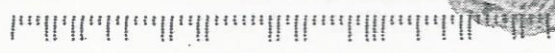




“You must be tired of listening anyway, after hearing three of us Maytag owners rave—but how we love to talk about our Maytags! Imagine! *Millions** of us—so happy that we can’t keep it to ourselves. Guess it’s no wonder Maytag’s the favorite, with all us boosters on the job. And now you skeddadle right over home for some dirty clothes, and you’ll really see what I mean.”

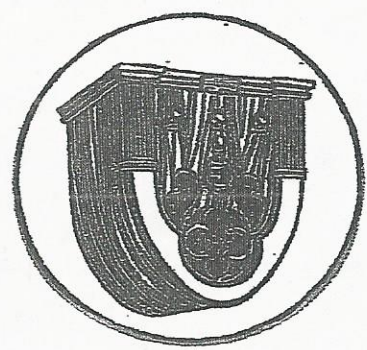
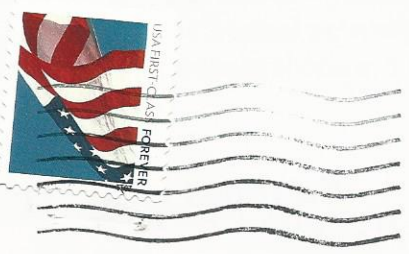
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JIM BESHIRE (C)
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SAVANNAH, GA 31419

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The Old Time Radio Club
THOMAS R CHERRE
144 FONTAINE DR
BUFFALO NY 14215-2038