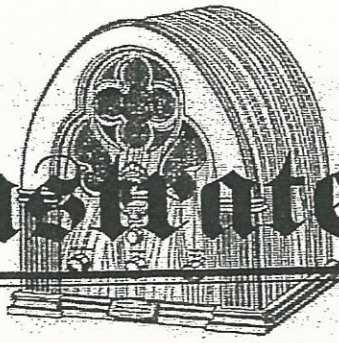


The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

# The Illustrated Press



No. 403

October 2012



# 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

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All Submissions are subject to approval prior to actual publication.

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

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.

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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.



### Message From The Editor:

Welcome back everyone from a very hot summer. I hope it was enjoyable for all. Our first meeting of the new season went well. Everyone appeared to be in reasonable health. A few things to mention, our Knight's Council is having a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>. Cost of the dinner is \$7.00 at the door and \$6.50 presale. So if any of you can make it we would appreciate your support. Jerry Collins has a new book out about local pro wrestling in Buffalo covering the years 1930-1970. My son Nick also has a new children's book out entitled "A Giraffe in Buffalo". Both books can be had at the next meeting for \$23.00 and \$10.00 respectively. Rich Olday mentioned the passing away of Rosemary Rice and the personal experience he shared with her at recent conventions. Next month at our November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting at our Knight's of Columbus meeting we will feature a night of Old Time Radio with speakers from our club entertaining our council. Radio club members are welcomed. Cider and doughnuts and plenty of old time radio talk and some giveaways will be featured.

In addition to losing Rosemary Rice, the Old time Radio and recording industry lost another legend. Dorothy McGuire, of the McGuire Sisters passed away September 9<sup>th</sup>. Dorothy was one of the little Godfreys, as they were affectionately referred to on the Arthur Godfrey Show. Songs like Sincerely, Sugartime, Picnic, Goodnight Sweetheart, and many others catapulted the girls to stardom and placed them among the best girl groups ever.

### Dorothy McGuire, of Singing Sister Act, Dies at 84

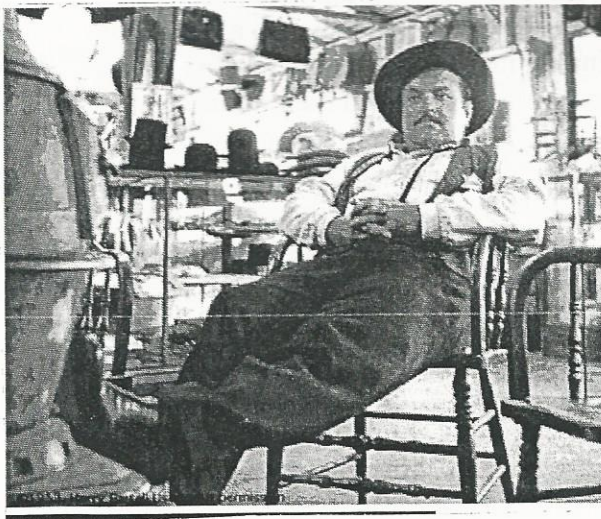


Dorothy was born on February 13<sup>th</sup> 1928 in Middleton, Ohio. She and her sisters discovered early on they had a knack for singing in harmony, and their first public performances were in their mother's church. Their first top ten recording was "Good Night Sweetheart" in 1954. They had 30 hits that found their way up the charts. Dorothy's cause of death was complications of Parkinson's disease. She was 84. Dorothy McGuire was almost 10 years to the day younger than Patty Andrews of The Andrew Sisters, who is now 94. Both groups were loaded with talent and are still a pleasure to listen to.

## Gunsmoke

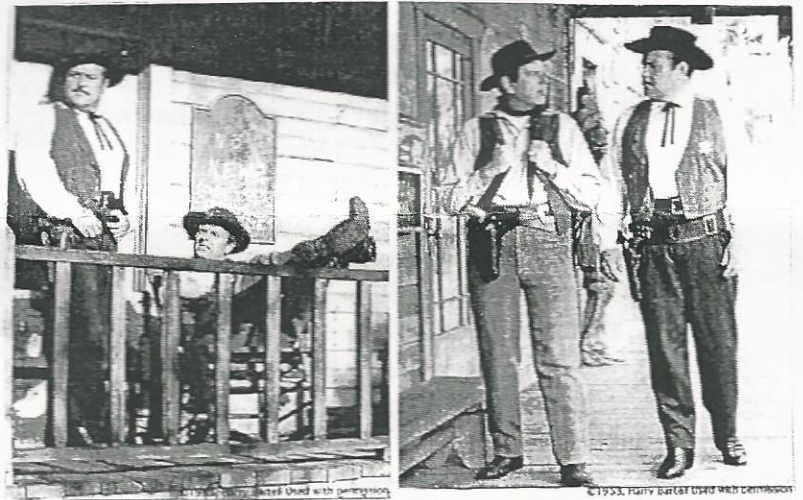
By Tom Cherre

Gunsmoke, as you may or not know was one of my most favorite Old Time Radio shows. People say it was the best western written. I would go one step further and say it was the best written show period. Like the Jack Benny Show, it had a superb cast, including William Conrad as Matt, Parley Baer, as Chester, Howard McNear, as Doc, and Georgia Ellis as Kitty. Veteran actors such as Vic Perrin, Harry Bartow, Jack Kruschen, Lawrence Dobkin, and many times John Dehner would frequently guest star on weekly episodes. Unlike The Lone Ranger, where he would many times merely just shoot the gun out of the villain's hand, Matt Dillon usually wound up killing the mangy varmit. This was no kiddie's show. In fact Gunsmoke's story lines often dealt with criteria mostly taboo for radio listening at that time. They included massacres, scalping, drugs, incest, and rape. It was not your Roy Rogers type of show.



When creators John Meston and Norman MacDonnell were looking to make an

adult western unlike the juvenile western Gene Autry and Cisco Kid type, they achieved their goal. Conrad was the last one to audition for Dillon. After MacDonnell heard Conrad read a few lines, he knew he had found his Marshall Dillon. After doing 9 years of Gunsmoke Conrad found success in TV. He did the classic intro of The Fugitive, starring David Janssen. Falsely convicted of a crime he did not commit .....is the way it went. William Conrad also starred in Nero Wolfe, Jake and the Fatman, and also Cannon. He died from cardiac arrest in 1994 and was elected to the Radio Hall of Fame in 1997.



Gunsmoke was set in Dodge City, Kansas between 1874 and 1885. It was the end of the cattle drive which enticed many a cowboy to feel his oats (or wheaties) after a few too many pops to get into serious trouble. The opening line of the show proclaimed "Around Dodge City and in the territory out west – there's just one way to handle the killers and the spoilers—and that's with a U.S. Marshall and the smell of Gunsmoke". This set the tone for an interesting and

enjoyable show. In those early frontier days, gunfire ran rampant. Even with real life lawmen such as Marshall Wyatt Earp, Sheriff Bat Masterson, Sheriff Bill Tilghman, and Sheriff Charles Bassett killings and hangings were a common and normal occurrence



Howard McNear played the often grumpy but soft-hearted Charles "Doc" Adams. His history is revealed in the episode "Cavalcade." His real name is Calvin Moore educated in Boston. He practiced in Richmond, where he fell in love with a beautiful young lady, who was also being courted by a rich man named Roger Beaugard. The two fought to a fair duel and Doc wound up killing Beaugard. Because he was a Yankee Doc had to flee. His girl left with him and they were married in St. Louis. Two months later she died of typhus and Doc wound up wandering out west until he finally settled in Dodge City 17 years later. After playing Doc Adams, he traded his scalpel in for barber shears and became Floyd the Barber on the Andy Griffith Show. He died in 1969. Parley Baer played the somewhat slow, but often dependable Chester Proudfoot, deputy for Marshall Dillon. Like many sidekicks, Chester was around to make Matt Dillon look good, but Chester knew how to handle a shot gun, so we won't put him in the same category of a Smiley Burnette. His

post Gunsmoke career also took him to Mayberry where he joined McNear and became mayor of the town.



Baer also had a successful and long run on the Adventures of "Ozzie and Harriet" playing Ozzie's friend "Darby" for 14 years. He played senior citizen Miles Dugan on soap opera "The Young and the Restless". Baer passed away in 2002.

Georgia Ellis played Miss Kitty perfectly.

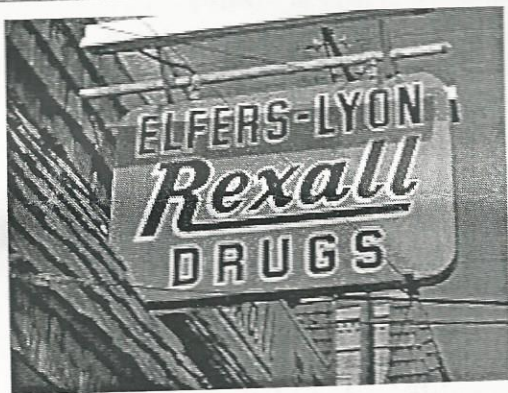
She appeared in the first episode of the show (Billy the Kid) April 26, 1952 as the Character Francie Richards, A former girlfriend of Matt Dillon and the widow of a criminal. Miss Kitty's debut came on May 10<sup>th</sup> 1952. Kitty's profession was hinted at, but never explicit. In a 1953 interview with Time magazine, McDonnell declared, "Kitty is someone Matt has to visit every once in awhile. We never say it, but Kitty is a prostitute, plain and simple." Kitty later became owner of the Longbranch Saloon, frequent watering hole for Matt and the rest of the cast. After doing Miss Kitty Ellis retired to Woodland California where she lived in peaceful anonymity as Georgia Ellis Puttfarken. She died in 1988. Truly a great show, listen to a few and you'll see what I mean.



## Rexall Drugstores:

Whatever happened to Rexall Drugstores. In the 1950s Rexall was the largest chain of drugstores. The franchise had 11,158 operating stores in 1958. To give you a comparison, there are fewer than 12,000 McDonald's restaurants in the U.S. today. At that time Rexall comprised of 20% of all the drugstores in the country. They were the proud sponsor of the "Amos 'N Andy" show for a number of years. Their closing line for the show ended with "Good health to all from Rexall."

### Rexall

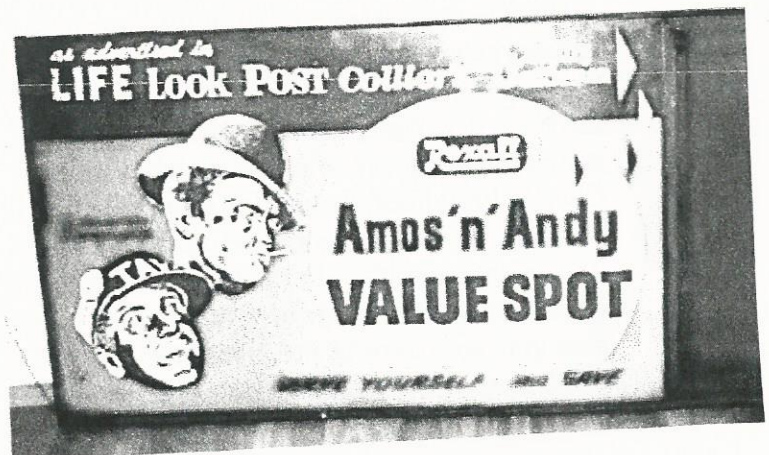


Other shows they sponsored were "The Phi Harris-Alice Faye Show", "Jimmy Durante Show", and also the "Richard Diamond Show". In some of the Gildersleeve programs. Druggist Mr. Peavey makes reference to Rexall a few times. Rexall had its start in 1902 when Louis K. Liggett persuaded 40 independent drug stores to invest \$4000 in a retail co-op called United Drug Stores, which sold products under the Rexall name. After World War I the stores adopted the name of Rexall. The company had its headquarters and home base in Boston Massachusetts. The area is now occupied by Northeastern University. In 1946 Rexall launched the

opening of the Owl Superstores chain. In 1947 the company held a gala opening for their new headquarters and first store in Los Angeles. The new Hollywood Owl was reported in Life magazine as 'the World's Biggest Drugstore'.



By the late 1950s, Rexall's unitary type of franchised store, with each store owned independently by the pharmacist, was starting to come under attack by the discount chains, such as Thrifty and Eckerd. Down the road they would have to contend with other chains such as Rite-Aid, CVS, Walgreens, and many many others. As time went by the Rexall name became less visible giving away to its fierce competition. There a very few stores still left that contain the Rexall name, many of them in Canada. I still remember the penny day ads in the Courier on Sunday mornings. I guess I may be dating myself, but it doesn't seem like it was that long ago. So I'll just say "That's all from Rexall".



## Messages From Rich Olday:

Our library has received a very large donation of programs from various people and especially from Radio Memories. We have several new MP3s, CDs and hundreds of cassettes. I can't give you an exact number that will be available in our new catalog when it comes out in January because my wife is entering them in the catalog in her spare time and due to the huge amount of new cassettes (over 1,000) she will not have them all entered into the new catalog, but they will be there next year. Please note that small orders from the cassette library can be put onto CD if you want. These have to be converted in real time so we must limit the number to under 10 at this time. Also, if you have a request for a program not listed let us know as it may be in our members' collection and we would be happy to share with you. Some of the new listings include The Lone Ranger from 1938-39, The Great Gildersleeve, Lux, Jack Benny, Red Skelton, Philip Marlowe, numerous BBC shows of various themes among many others. Those are only the new cassettes. CDs include Phil Harris, The Shadow, Fibber McGee & Molly 15 minute shows along with many other favorites. It is a great time to be an old time radio fan with such a large number of programs available. Don't forget to look for the new catalog in January.

## Rosemary Rice:

We lost another old time radio great on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Rosemary Rice played the role of Betty on the Archie show in the 1940's and 1950's as well as the oldest daughter in the TV show I Remember Mama (she opened each show) from 1949-1955. She was also in numerous

radio shows right into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. She was Theater Five in the 1960's, CBS Mystery Theater in the 1970's and most recently on Imagination Theater. I had the pleasure of seeing Rosemary perform numerous times at Cincinnati and Newark. I even had the honor of driving her to dinner in my van along with several other fans at the Cincinnati Convention a few years ago. Rosemary sounded the same over all those years and always delivered a great performance. Rosemary, you will be sorely missed. Richard A. Olday

## I Remember Rosemary Rice



On a final note, Rosemary Rice was born in Montclair, New Jersey May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1925. She played the part of Katrin on Mama. This was actually the very first TV show I laid my eyes on about 1950 when I was invited by a neighbor kid to catch what TV looked like. Katrin would go through an old photo album reminiscing to the audience touching on fond memories including the old house on Steiner Street and closing with "But most of all I remember Mama." Thank you Rich for your nice kind words of Rosemary. I agree with you that she will be sorely missed. Ed.

with his right to wear a carnation. Before his execution he promised vengeance against Bo Moley who took over Carnation Charlie's gang, the florist who had always supplied carnations to Charlie and Commissioner Weston who denied Charlie the right to wear his trademark carnation during the trial.

I have been stuck in the snow twice, but I have never been in a car that broke down, nor have I run out of gas while traveling in the mountains, through a swamp nor on a deserted road. I have been very careful to avoid driving in heavy fog, bad snowstorms and heavy rainstorms. I cannot remember driving near a deserted mansion and certainly not a haunted mansion. I have yet to pass by a medieval castle along the highway. None of these standards seemed to affect the shadow.

In the "Secret of Valhalla Lodge" Margot and Lamont were driving in the Catskills on a dark and stormy night when they realize that they are driving into a trap.

Everything seemed to go wrong in "The Werewolf of Hamilton Mansion. Ten miles from the nearest city, on a deserted road, on a snowy winter evening, Lamont ran out of gas.

"The House that Death Built" is my favorite episode of the Shadow. Lamont ran out of gas while driving in a blizzard following a skiing weekend with Margot. They stopped and sought help at a haunted house lacking in both a telephone as well as electricity. As they approach the house they encounter a pair of grave diggers at work.

In the "Hound of the Young Dead Lady" Lamont and Margot were stranded in a haunted house made famous by a five-year history of murder and other crimes.

"Rendezvous with Doom" featured Lamont and Margot being stranded in a deserted hotel on Doom Island. Gradually everyone disappeared from the island.



Driving had become almost impossible because of an approaching hurricane in "The Demon of Devil's cove." They witnessed a brutal killing and dodged bullets as they approached Devils Cove. Telephone lines were down and their tires were slashed.

In "Death in the Deep" Lamont raced to beat an oncoming hurricane in the Gulf Keys. He, Margo and Sue Collins were searching for Johnny Adams who was deep sea diving. In the midst of all this they were seeking safety in a mysterious cove

When confronted with a sudden thunderstorm Lamont and Margot take refuge in Old Flagstead Manor. Although the manor has been unoccupied for 25 year, Peter, the house servant still performed his normal duties. The episode was entitled "Death in the Darkness."

The "Hound of the Long Dead Lady" deals with three spinster sisters who live in the historic family estate at Browcrest. A series of murders took place. Now five years later Lamont and Margo find themselves stranded at the estate when their car breaks down.

During a savage wind and rain storm in the cataract Mountains north of the city Lamont and Margo are on their way to meet friends at a mountain lodge when they find themselves off the road and lost. The episode was "The Kidnapped Equation."

On a dark and stormy night in "The Horrors in the Night" Lamont and Margot ventured into the foothills of the Denmoor Mountains to reach the ancient Denmoor Arms. The purpose of their presence there is to meet William Markham who is scouting out the Arms for possible use in a movie. Almost immediately they discover two fresh corpses, one hanged, the other shot in the head.

There are shows that had somewhat of a lesser affect on Lamont and Margot were; "Mansion of Madness" (dark and stormy evening), Rendezvous with Doom" (evening storm), The House of Ravens" (stormy evening) and "The Bride

Wore Black" (thunder and lightning storm). In all cases Lamont and Margot are forced to seek refuge.

I guess I am just an ordinary person. I do not know any demented doctors, scientist, or professors.

Twenty-four episodes of the Shadow of dealt with demented or villainous medical doctors; "Murder on Approval," "The Hospital Murders," "Traffic in Death," "Shyster Payoff," "Hypnotic Prowls at Night," "Death Gives an Encore," "Death for a Messenger," "The Man Who Brought Life." "The Black Serpent," "The Island of Ancient Death," "The Walking Death," "Horror in Wax," "Phantom Fingerprints," "Murderer's Vanity," "Revenge Beyond Death," "Voice of Death," "Nightmare at Gaelsberry," "Death Prowls at Night," "The Unburied Dad," "Death by Imagination," "Death and the Throttler of Havenmoore," "The Lost Dead," "The Case of the Santa Claus Killer," "The Face of Death," "Nursery Rhyme Murders," "The Walking Corpse and "Footprints of Death. "

The most memorable of these shows was "Murder on Approval." Doctors Gregor and Dr. Harris infected a complete army base with a fatal disease to test the germs for use in war.

In the "Voice of Death" Lamont and Margo are invited to visit Arthur Whittington a former medical school classmate who lived in a rundown mansion in the Louisiana Bayou. The night of terror begins when they were attacked by vicious dogs with the vocal chords of kittens. As the evening progressed Margo discovered that Whittington was planning to trade her vocal chords with that of a Persian cat.

In "Traffic in Death" Dr. Hardwick was caught draining blood from hospital patients and then reselling it to the blood bank.

Dr. Richards lost his license to practice medicine. He then joined a West Indian Voodoo Cult with likes of Peter Dorn, Mama Lagretto and Joe Borelli in a campaign of crime in "The Walking Corpse."

Dr. Alfred Foster, the head of a private sanitarium hired Lamont Cranston to find Bert Eustace, a recently escaped patient and supposed murderer. Cranston eventually discovers in "The Nursery Rhyme Murders" that Foster is a quack and that he is the actual murderer.

"The Shadow Returns" featured the evil Dr. Vadelaw and his criminal escapades. In the guise of giving vaccinations Vadelaw inserted packets of rubies into the arms and legs of young sailors. Severe infections and eventual amputations usually occur. Lamont Cranston was selected to operate on Seaman Payne. Realizing that his smuggling racket was over Vadelaw committed suicide.

In "Shyster Payoff" Dr. John Lambert, a convicted murderer treated fellow gang members.

Dr. Darma used telepathic mental control on the mind of Lamont Cranston in "Hypnotic Death."

In the "Phantom Fingerprints" Dr. Giles from the police department stole the fingerprint from Killer Norvelli, who had died eight years ago and stabbed a knife into the skull of Kilgour who had stood in the way of Giles' promotion.

"Murderer's Vanity" features a very involved plot. Dr. Martin was dying from an incurable disease. In his will he revealed that he, not his step son Peter Elston, killed Peter's mother and sister. Peter's life was spared just hours before his execution.

Dr. Nathan Tufts escaped from the hospital for the criminally insane in "Revenge beyond Death". He then murdered his wife and those who were responsible for his commitment.

Lamont and Margot arrived at a local sanitarium, hoping to meet Blair In "Nightmare at Gaelsbury. Torfu a seven-foot tall mental giant help the patients take over the sanitarium. When Griswold, another patient, attempted to operate on Margot's head Tofu stabs Griswold before plunging to his own death.

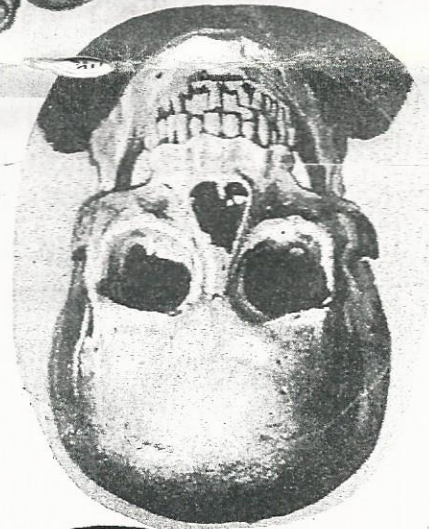
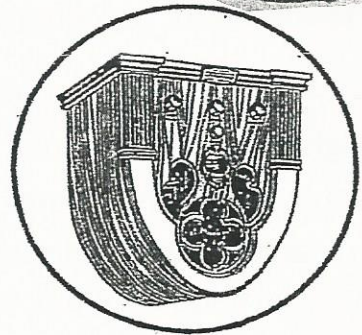
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