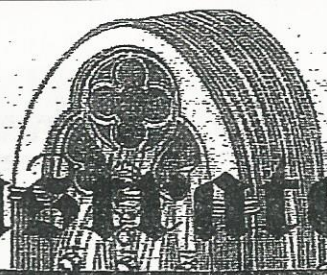


The Old Time Radio Club

Established 1975

The Illustrated Press



Number 405

December 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.

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All Submissions are subject to approval prior to actual publication.

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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 Two Cents:

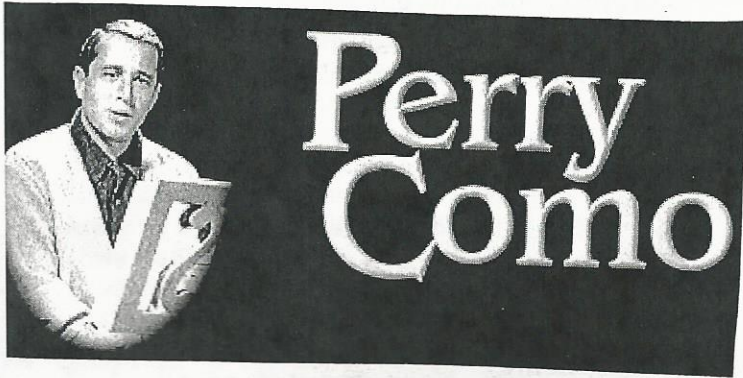
I trust everyone had themselves a great Thanksgiving Day. I did, and also had another birthday that day also. I'm catching up to Frank. Anyway I would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. With the new year approaching it's also time for membership dues which will be due by the end of January. You can pay Peter at the next meeting if you're in attendance, otherwise send Peter a check. There is no reminder notice sent out---This is you're reminder. A new catalog disc is due out very shortly. It includes many new shows we have recently received. Our continuing article of The Shadow by Jerry Collins resumes in this month's issue. Fr. Dave Baker also has a timely article in this issue also. As I have said many times articles for the newsletter are both encouraged and wanted. Thank you for those contributions during the past year. At last count our membership is currently running around 72. This includes dealers and media people. I hope the club will continue to grow or at least maintain the same great core group that we are lucky to have. I'm trying to come up with some new ideas for next year If anyone has any suggestions I'm always open to them. As for our cover boy, Perry Como displays the perfect picture for this festive season. So again Merry Christmas to all the club and families

It's Christmas time again, and its time for the annual trivia quiz. It isn't as hard as the question Jerry and Rich throw out at the monthly meetings. This is a Who said it, or what show does this quote come from. Put your thinking caps on. The answers are on the bottom. No cheating now:

1. Saints preserve us.
2. What a revolting development this is.
3. I'll just wiz over there.
4. For corn sakes.
5. T'aint funny
6. This case is closed
7. This looks like a job for....
8. May the good Lord take a lik'en to ya.
9. Item number one.
10. Let's go big fellow.
11. Well!
12. It's a chanced job.
13. Coming mother
14. This is high adventure
15. George why don't you introduce the next couple.
16. This is a gimme for people who get none right. The host of the above show always gave a no-brainer ...The story you are about to hear is true only the names have been changed to protect the innocent.

Ans:1.Mike from Mr. Keene
2.Chester A Riley
3.Lightning Amos n' Andy
4.Leroy Gilldersleeve
5.Molly McGee
6.Sgt Preston
7.Superman
8.Roy Rogers
9.Yours Truly Johnny Dollar
10.Lone Ranger
11.Jack Benny
12.Matt Dillon
13.Henry Aldrich
14.Escape
15.You Bet Your Life
16.Dragnet Dum De Dum Da

Perry Como
By Tom Cherre



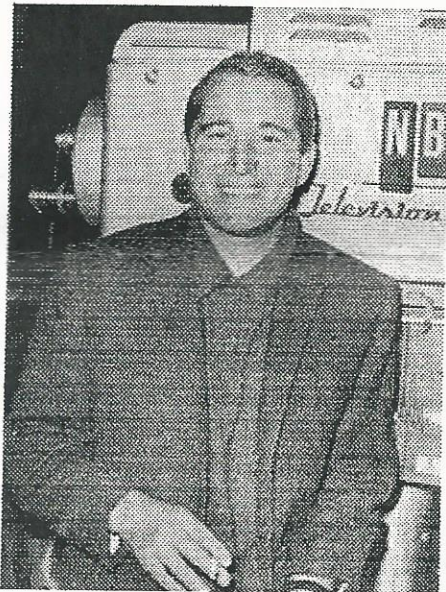
A funny thing happened a few days ago. I don't mean funny funny, but funny interesting. I was taking care of a young fellow at work probably somewhere around 20 years old. The radio was on, and Perry Como was singing "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas". I said "I guess Christmas time is here, they're playing Perry Como". The kid looked at me funny and said excuse me. I said, "Perry Como, you've heard of him haven't you"? He said the name didn't sound familiar, but maybe his parents might have heard of him. I said to myself, I wonder if he knows who Bing Crosby is. Anyway, before I digress, outside of "Der Bingle" and Frank Sinatra, my favorite singer is Perry Como. I had the unique pleasure of seeing and hearing him perform at the convention center in Niagara Falls in 1990 or 1991. His voice sounded as smooth as vibrant as it ever did. At one point in his act he took time out to answer questions from the audience. He mentioned the fact that Dean Martin wasn't doing too well. His son Dino had recently died from a jet crash, while in

the reserves. Dean was taking it pretty hard. Como had true compassion and sympathy for his fellow artist and friend. You could tell he was sincere. Perry Como was a regular every day guy. He was the same way on stage as he was in the supermarket, bowling alley, or church. Frankly speaking he was a legitimate nice guy who had a great voice and matching personality. He had quite an interesting career growing up in Canonsburg Pennsylvania. He was one of 13 kids in an Italian family. As soon as he was barely able to walk he would play the family organ, pumping the bellows and cranking out songs he played by ear. As he was older he played the guitar, and also played a pretty good trombone. He played in the town's brass band and also played the organ at church. Coming from a large family all the kids would have to pitch in and do odd jobs to help the family. At age 10 he helped out at Fragapani's Barber shop. By the time he hit 13 he got his own chair, though he needed a box to stand on to take care of his customers. At age 14 Perry Como could play a couple instruments, and also had a pretty darn good voice, but his main concern was to be the town's best barber, and that he was too. In 1929 17 year old Perry



Como in 1939, when he was with the Ted Weems Orchestra.

Como met his true love, Rosella Bellene at a picnic. They married in 1933 and raised three children Ronald, Daniel, and Terri along the way. All through his life he kept his family out of the entertainment world, never publicly putting his family on display. In fact he turned down repeated requests from Edward R. Murrow to be on his *Person to Person* show. Bing Crosby once described Perry Como as "the man who invented cool". Imagine hearing that from someone who really knew how to be casual. Anyway being married Como had to make a big decision, whether to quit his thriving barbershop job, making



\$125 a week or join Freddy Carlone's band as singer making \$28 per week. His father said take a chance, you could always get another barber shop. After working with Carlone for awhile he latched on with a bigger and more popular band of Ted Weems. He received national attention with the band appearing on radio shows such as *The Jack Benny Show & Fibber McGee and Molly*. After appearing on the episode of

Fibber McGee it was reported he caused cardiac flutters with his crooning. Como was featured on NBC's *Beat the Band*. Eventually he got his own radio show on CBS with band leader Mitchell Ayers,



Fox publicity photo of Perry Como

who would eventually remain with him throughout most of his radio and TV career. Chesterfield sponsored his radio show and soon he signed a recording contract with RCA. It was the beginning of a 44 year relationship with the record company. He became a very successful performer in theater and night-club engagements. Como's first two weeks at the Copacabana in June turned into two months, working well into August. There were times when Frank Sinatra would ask Como to fill in for him at his Paramount Theater performances. With Frank Sinatra being the number one crooner in the country, Como was number 2. In fact a swooners' club voted him "Crooner of the year" in 1943. The line for a Perry Como Paramount performance was three deep and wound around the city block. Como's popularity also extended to a more mature audience when he played the Versailles and

returned to the Copa. On April 5, 1946 Perry Como made history with the first known instance of a radio show (The Chesterfield Supper Club) being broadcast 20,000 feet in the air from an airplane. Como, Jo Stafford, and The Lloyd Shaffer Orchestra and the entire Supper Club crew made the flight for the show. There was even a small piano on board. Like Frank Sinatra, Como credit's Bing Crosby for influencing his voice and style. Como is known for his



many popular novelty songs such as, "Hot Diggity", "Hoop Dee Doo", "Papa Loves Mambo" and many others, but Como had another side where he did so many romantic ballads. Perry Como made the move to TV on Christmas Eve 1948. NBC simulcast the *Chesterfield Supper Club* radio show on TV. The show turned out well and what was originally an experiment led to Como having his regular weekly show. I remember his weekly show when he had "Dream Along With Me" as his opening theme. When he wasn't wearing his usual suit and white tie he dressed in his trademark cardigan sweater. At this

point of the show he did requests from the thousands of letters he received each week. The show's closing theme was "You Are Never Far Away From Me". I had many fond memories of Mr. C. Not many singers come around the likes of a Perry Como in one's lifetime. He was a genuine classic. In fact with Andy Williams passing only Tony Bennett has a hint of the last semblance of the old time singers. Perry Como entertained till he was 85. He died in 2001 at the age of 88. Mr. C was also Mr. Class, and there's no better time than Christmas season to enjoy his truly delightful voice. Getting back to the beginning of this article where the young fellow never heard of Perry Como. I asked another young employee, a girl of 21 if she ever heard of Perry Como. She said the name sounded familiar, but she couldn't place it with a face. Instead of getting upset I just put it aside and thought I'm the one who should be happy and glad because I knew his music and could still enjoy it. **Merry Christmas to all, and may you get all the blessings and gifts you deserve. Ed**

Perry Como



Perry Como on *The Perry Como Show* set, 1956.

The famed John J. Whetherby checked himself into a sanitarium in "Assignment with Murder." His reason was that he was suffering terrible nightmares in which he was committing murders.

High in the snow covered Adirondack Mountains is the setting for "Death Prowls at Night." When Lamont and Margot arrived they discover that a werewolf had killed a number of local residents. Dr. Vandaine established a hypnotic hold on Margot until a local policeman killed him with four silver bullets intended for the werewolf.

"Death Gives an Encore" featured Gondo an insane biologist and physician who believed in living surgery for grafting vital organs from one person to another.

In the "Man who bought Life" Calvin Marks is inflicted with an incurable disease. He paid Dr. Otto Helmuth \$500, to come up with a cure. It is discovered that Helmuth is a fake and that no true cure is available. A healthy duplicate is found, while Marks was thrown into a vat of acid. The hoax failed but not before the duplicate was murdered and Helmuth accidentally fell into the acid.

In the Island of Ancient Death Dr. Madeira attempted to drive his wife mad while performing unethical and frequently fatal experiments on her and natives and servants on the island.

Dr. Richards, the actual killer, Peter Dorn who had already been electrocuted, Joe Borelli, Mama Lagretto and a West Indian Voodoo cult were all key figures in "The Walking Corpse." Richards died when accidentally falling into a tank wired with high voltage electrical current. The Shadow pushes Borelli out of the way but knocking Richards of balance causing him to fall to his death in the tank.

The "Unburied Dead" featured a dentist named "The Deacon." "He used a Port of Peace Burial service as a guise for a fatal accident insurance racket.

Lamont and Margo visit a private sanitarium in Plumfield in the episode "Death by Imagination". They discover that the head doctor had been killing patients to gain their insurance money.

In "Death and the Throttler of Havenmoor" Lamont and Margot helped Dr. Pompton search in the remote stretches of Justin County for a crazed killer known as the Throttler of Havenmoor. Lamont attempted to prove that Pompton is the real killer. Failing in his attempt to operate on Margot he tries to escape. The police kill him with tommy gun fire.

Mary Granger, Margot's former secretary suspected that she was going crazy. The Shadow discovered that Dr. Felix Hoffman, the parole Board doctor and his assistants have illegally experimented on corpses in the morgue. They have attempted to create exact images of those that are still alive.

The "Case of the Santa Claus Killer" featured Dr. Bond, who thinks that he is the killer of Lizzie Bond. When a Santa Claus is killed, The Shadow proved that Dr. Bond was the killer. The case also involved gambling debts and hidden money.

"The Face of Death" featured famous plastic surgeon Dr. Hagen and his nurse Nora Adams who have been kidnapped and forced to perform plastic surgeries. The doctor gained his freedom and that of his nurse when he inserted a poison capsule in the skin graft. He would only remove it under police supervision at the hospital.

In "Death Is a Quack" Dr. Glass and his wife Myrna operated a racket where they sold medical miracles that were useless and sometimes dangerous.

Gregor poses as a psychiatrist in the episode "A Mind for Murder," his assistant Irene is hired as a social secretary for many of the richest women in the city. Some of this information resulted in suicides.

At least two of the Shadow shows feature blind men, the ever popular "Blind Beggar Dies" and Blind Man's Folly. Singing Jim, "The Blind Beggar" is beaten to death. All of his friends form a mob that forced Spike to confess.

In an unusual twist a gangster named Adam had recently been released from prison after serving a three-year term. Adam is blind.

I have nothing but fond memories of the many professors that taught me at Canisius and Buffalo State. Then there were others who did not teach me, but whose books I read like Selig Adler and Mark Goldman. This was not always the same for Lamont Cranston.

Seven Shadow episodes featured mad professors. Lamont returned to his alma mater in "Death under the Chapel." He meets with one of his favorites Dr. Quelima. While there he learns that the crippled philosophy professor had been fired because his doom and gloom philosophy had led to a pair of suicides. It was also learned that Quelima had planned to blow-pup the school's chapel during graduation.

"Professor X" featured Professor Kramer who had perfected a machine that would completely destroy anything placed in it. Kramer is then killed by Joe Martin, a bootlegger from prohibition days.

Professor Kroll of the State University of Anatomy plotted a murder using a stolen corpse from the cold storage room. The episode was "The Curious Corpse."

Lamont and Margo traveled to upstate New Hampshire to visit Margot's aunt Miss. Susan Prentice. While walking in the woods they encounter Professor Alexander Sirghoff, who is searching for an animal that had escaped from his lab. The professor kidnapped Margot to be used as food for his animal. The shadow rescued Margot before she is killed in "The Gibbering Thing."

Four law-abiding and prominent member of a social club go berserk, Commissioner Weston is also a member of the club in "Club of Doom." The top pupil of a chemistry professor is Joe "Acids" Raymond. He had suffered a spinal injury during a hazing incident. His goal is to observe the death of all members of the class.

Old Time Radio A Preacher's Best Friend

By Fr. David Baker

Pow! You have to start with a bang. If you don't grab the congregation's attention right away, you'll have to fight for it the entire time. I never try to start a homily with a phrase like, "In today's readings, we hear...." or "our Old Testament scripture reminds us that..." Instead, I use onomatopoeia. Words that express a sound effect. These are great attention getters—a lesson I learned from Batman. Everyone's favorite part of the old TV series was when the Caped Crusader got himself into a fistfight, and those giant words would leap out onto the screen: Bam! Zing! Blooey! In fact, I started this article with just such a word. Did it attract your notice? The best homily starters of all, though are gag lines from Old Time Radio. This year on All Saints' Day, my homily began with



Digby O'Dell, the friendly undertaker: "You're looking fine, Riley, very...natural." Some people recognize these quotes right away, and it takes them back to a simpler time in their life.

Others have no idea what I'm talking about, but the line is goofy enough to make them listen and find out. It doesn't matter if the people are OTR fans or not; the quote grabs them. What other lines have I used as homily starters? Tons of em! On the feast of Corpus Christi, I began with the introduction from an episode of Tarzan: "From the black core of dark Africa, land of enchantment, mystery, and violence, comes one of the most colorful figures of all time, transcribed from the immortal pen of Edgar Rice Burroughs. Note the athletic grace of Tarzan as his leaps and catches propel him from vine to vine." What was the point of that? For the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, the Gospel reading was John 15, "I am the vine, you are the branches." On the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, I began with this litany: "Item one, three dollars eighty-seven cents, taxicab to airport." "Item two, ninety-five cents, breakfast and coffee." "Item three, 130 dollars and 58 cents, flight home from Cancun, Mexico." "Yours Truly Johnny Dollar." This introduced the parable from Luke 14, "Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build, but did not have the resources to finish.'" Calculating the cost of Old Time Radio Club dues, it's a small investment that has repaid me many times over in my preaching. More stories to come in the future....

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Bits 'n Bytes By Computer Bob McDevitt

It's been a while since my last report so I have a little catching up to do. First of all, the cassette catalog is up to over 9200 cassettes, but it is a work in progress. The audio CD catalog has over 1800 discs. The MP3 catalog has over 300 discs. By the first of the year, the IP CD will be caught up to the end of 2012. Those are available for \$10.00. It has all back issues of The Illustrated Press from 1975 through 2012, as well as back issues of Memories. We still have an OTR show which is broadcasting over Yesterday U.S.A. and changes every two weeks. We are in our 6th year of producing them. Incidentally, you can find it on tape 6 at Yesterday U.S.A. .com On the back burner in the reel catalog which will be offered soon. The reason for those is for archival purposes. There are quite a few programs on the reel that have never been converted to another format for listening. Any program on any medium mentioned can be converted to, most likely a digital format. Any CD that members request cost \$2.00 and that includes shipping. You get to keep the CD that you request. As time permits we will convert these programs to modern formats. I'm hoping to have the catalog CD ready for December or January mailing. There are three separate catalogs, audio CD, MP3CD, and cassettes listed by CD or cassette number, and by series to make browsing easier. Catalogs are in the Excel format. An Excel viewer is provided on the disc. Also there is a read me file on the disc wheel that will tell you just what is included on the disc.

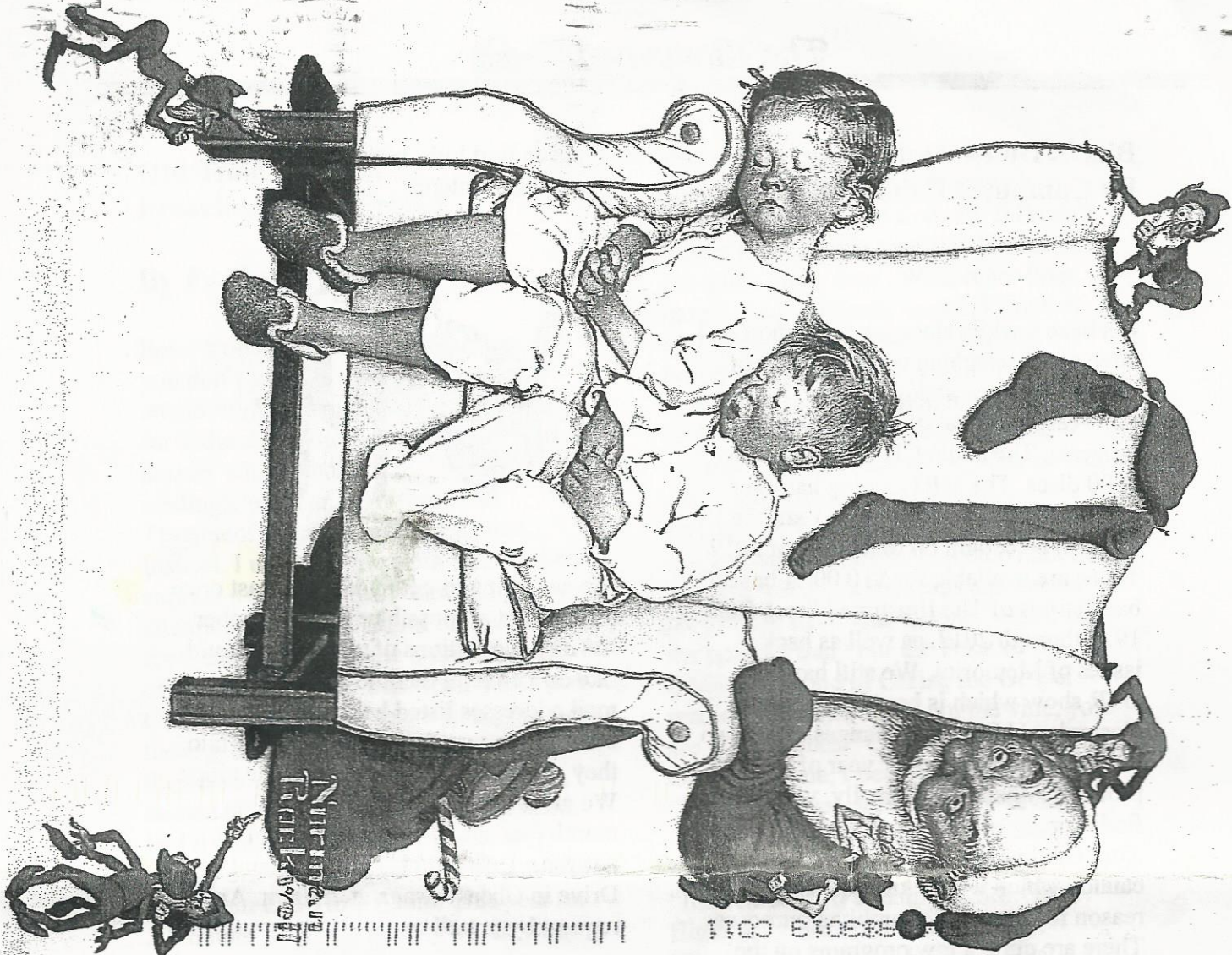
You can find logs, pictures, and other materials of interest.



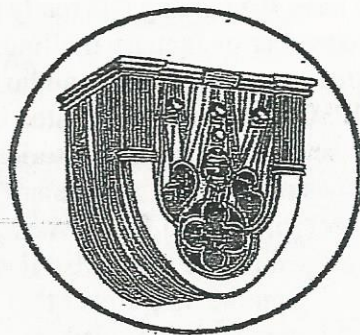
We are trying to get updates at least once a year, if at all possible. If any member has any suggestions of what they would like on CD send them to any of the e-mail addresses listed below. If any of our out of town members can get to Buffalo, they are welcome to attend our meetings. We meet on the first Monday of the month (except July and August) at St. Aloysius RC Church 157 Cleveland Drive in Cheektowaga at 7:30pm. Any request by e-mail to

, or any officer listed on page 2 I the IP. We will work out the mechanics. Any questions can be answered also. From all of us at radio production, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





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The Old Time Radio Club

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