The Old Time Radio Club

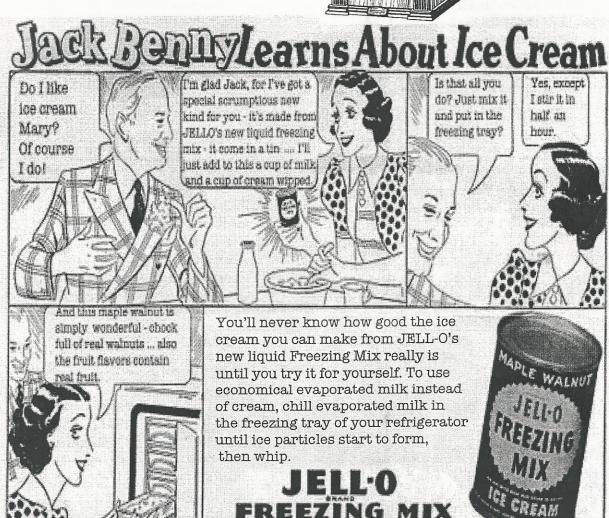
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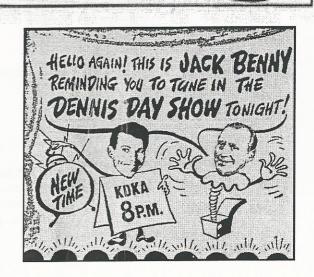


Established 1975

November 2013







# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Club Membership: \$18.00 per year from January 1st to December 31st. Members receive a media library listing and a monthly newsletter. Memberships are as follows: If you join January-March, \$18.00; April-June, \$14.00; July-September, \$10.00; October-December, \$7.00. All renewals should be sent in as soon as possible to avoid missing issues of the newsletter. 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 p.m. 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 a Club picnic in August.

Anyone interested in the Golden Age of Radio is welcome. The Old Time Radio is affiliated with the Old Time Radio Network.

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS Old Time Radio Club 56 Christen Court Lancaster, NY 14086

All submissions are subject to approval prior to actual publication.

DEADLINE FOR THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS IS THE 1ST OF EACH MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLI-CATION.

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Library Rates: Audio cassettes and CD's are \$1.95 each are recorded on a club supplied cassette or CD which is retained by the member. Rates include postage and handling and payable in U.S. funds.



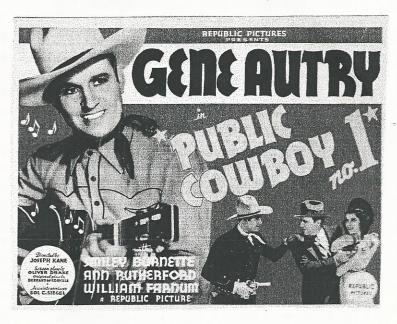
Greetings to all my old time radio fans. Our October meeting went well. The weather was still in the 70s. My little Lone Ranger Trivia Quiz went well. I played possibly the best classical piece from the Lone Ranger - No not The William Tell Overture, but Von Reznieck's Les Preludes. This is the piece that leads into the first break and then opens up the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. It has a tremendous crescendo. Peter Bellanca came up with the correct answer and won a priceless CD. Anyway VP Rich Simpson conducted the meeting and informed us of his recent procedure of having a pacemaker implanted in him. He looks great and said he felt fine, and we all hope he continues that way. I did speak with Jerry Collins and he has left the Autumnview in Hamburg and will rehab at home. As soon as he is able to be up and around he will then join us. Believe it or not, our Christmas Party is only a month away. As always guests are welcome to attend. We ask that you bring a dish to pass. We will start with a brief meeting at about 6:30pm and social to follow. Hope to see all of you.

## Message From Dick Oldav:

Due to rising costs, our club is raising annual dues to \$20.00 effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Also on that date, the cost for cassettes and CDs will increase to \$2.00. The new price will still include postage & handling. Please note that small orders (10 or under) of cassettes may still be converted to CDs if you request. The good news, however, is that you may renew for 2014 at the present rate of \$18.00. Also send in your orders for shows prior to January 1st to take advantage of present rates! Dick Olday. Membership Chairman.

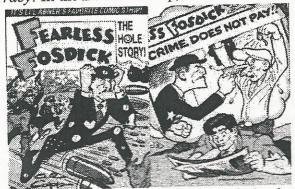
#### For Sale! For Sale!

I have a copy of Public Cowboy #1 paperback for sale. It is used but in very good condition. It is a true and factual biography of Gene Autry. This is a must for your library if you are a Gene Autry fan. I'm only asking five bucks. If I have to ship, I could probably do media mail for under \$2.00. Let me know at meeting or E-mail. I take checks. Tom Cherre.



### LI'L ABNER - PART 2

Capp's famous strip within a strip was bumbling detective Fearless Fosdick, a takeoff of Chester Gould's popular detective strip *Dick Tracy*. In the *Lil Abner* strip, Abner would read



about Fosdick's adventures in a comic book or newspaper. Introduced in 1942 as Abner's "ideel" Fosdick became so popular that he continued as a regular for 35 years. Dick Tracy fought criminals named Flyface, Pruneface and Flattop while Fosdick fought Bombface, Anyface and Rattop. In the strip Fosdick was the creation of cartoonist, Lester Gooch, who worked for the Squeezeblood Cartoon Company.

Fosdick like most cartoon characters could not be harmed no matter what was done to him. Bullets and cannon shells would perforate him and he would end up looking like a piece of Swiss cheese, but otherwise not injured. His salary was twenty-two dollars and fifty cents per week, lived in a run down apartment and was unshakably loyal to righting the wrongs of the world. He was engaged to Prudence Pimpleton for seventeen years, but never married. Fosdick became so popular that he had his own NBC TV Sunday program from June 1, 1952 to September 2, 1952. Some of the villains he battled on the program were Harris Tweed, Swenn Golly and Frank N. Stein. The program was a combination of animation and marionettes.

The Wildroot Company, makers of hair products, used Fosdick as their spokesman for

many years. They ran comic strips in national magazines that pitted Fosdick against various bad hair villains. At the end of the strips Fosdick would tell bad hair guys to "get Wildroot Cream Oil, Charlie," to which the culprit would reply, "but my name is ..." He also appeared on signs and posters in barbershops nationwide.

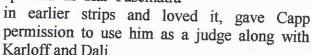
On April 4, 1946 Capp introduced the country of Lower Slobbovia to his readers. Slobbovians had distinct Russian accents and were shown in waist deep snow with icicles hanging off them. They were always in a state of starvation while their children read *Ice-Sop's Fables*, *Coldilocks and the Three Bares* and *Liddle Blue Ridink Hood*. Lower Slobbovians were the classic have-nots of the world and were ruled by King Stubbornovsky the Last, referred to by his subjects as Good King Nogoodnik.

Out of this ice world came one of Capp's most popular parodies, Lena the Hyena, the ugliest woman in the world. The Lower Slobbovians had arrested Lester Gooch, the creator of Fearless Fosdick, because he had seen Lena's face, became mentally unstable and would not marry her. A lower Slobbovian law stated that, "if a young man sees a girl's face, he must marry her, since it stands to reason that no man will willingly marry a Slobbovian girl, once he's gotton a look at her." Abner decides to go to Lower Slobbovia to marry Lena so Gooch would be freed to continue to draw Fosdick and he brings Lena back to the U.S. for their wedding in a large wooden crate.

Anyone who looked at her face became incoherent so no one was able to tell what she actually looked like. Whenever she appeared in the strip a censored or deleted sign hid her face. At other times a message from the editor stated the paper would delete any material not fit for family readership. The public begged to see her face so Capp invited readers to draw what they thought she looked like and promised the winner would be awarded \$525. The

Draw Lena The Hyena Contest generated over one half million entries. Local newspapers also held their own contests and invited readers to

submit drawing. Amateurs and professionals submitted drawings and in the October 21, 1946 strip, contest judges **Boris** Karloff, Frank Sinatra and Salvatore Dali announced the winner. Both Sinatra and Dali pass out while looking at Lena's picture and Karloff staggers to the window to show waiting crowd what Lena looks like. Sinatra who was spoofed as Hal Fascinatra



The winner of the contest was Basil Wolverton who had submitted seven entries. His submission won over such well known artists



Lena the Hyena

as Carl Banks who drew Donald Duck for the Disney Studios and Jack Cole the creator of Plastic Man. One week later Life Magazine

published Wolverton's Lena and called the contest, "the ghastliest art competition in the history of U.S. newspaper promotion." When the contest ends Lena doesn't marry Abner and goes back to Lower Slobbovia. She never reappeared in the strip but was in the movie, Who Framed Roger Rabbit as Lena Hyena and is still part of the American Pop Culture.

Two Years later Capp introduced the Shmoos and they took America by storm. Abner discovers the Shmoos in the forbidden Valley of the Shmoon. Ol' Man Mose the

reportedly hundred year old sage warns him that the Shmoos, "is the greatest menace to hoomanity th' world has evah known because

they're so good!"

The bowling ball shaped Shmoos were the answer to world hunger. They generated eggs in dozen cartons, produced butter, gave milk in bottles and lived to be eaten by humans. Fry a Shmoo and it tasted like chicken, grill it and it tasted like steak, roasted like pork, bake them and they tasted like fish, in fact they tasted like anything you wanted them to taste like. There was no waste and they were boneless. Everything on the Shmoo was useful, Its eyes made

buttons, its hide cut thin made leather, cut thick it was lumber, their whiskers were toothpicks. There was a never-ending supply of them because they multiplied asexually at an incredible rate and did not require food as they received their nourishment from the air. They lived only to be enjoyed by humans.

Innately gentle they were ideal playmates for children and so entertaining that people stopped listening to the radio and going to the movies. As the Shmoos spread

across the world people stopped working, food production and manufacturing Society begins to break down. A Shmoo crises develops and the "Captains of Industry" fearing another Wall Street crash of 1929 had the Shmoos declared a threat to national security. The government sent out Shmooicide squads to destroy the Shmoos. All Shmoos are eliminated except for two that Abner saves and sends back to the Valley of the Shmoon to form a new colony.

The Shmoos became a national craze and created a licensing bonanza in the late 1940's and early 1950's. Over one hundred items were produced including comic books, ashtrays, clocks, salt & pepper shakers, dolls, wallpaper, belts, jewelry, games, masks, phonograph records, ear muffs and they even appeared on boxes of Grape Nuts cereal. In 1948 Shmoo merchandise generated over \$25,000,000 in revenue. They became so ingrained in the culture of the day that they made the cover of the November 6, 1950 issue of Time Magazine and Simon & Shuster published, The Life and Times of the Shmoo that sold over 750,000 copies. Other publications and newspapers including Newsweek, Life and The New Republic ran Shmoo articles.

During the 1948 Berlin airlift candy filled Shmoos were dropped to the West Berliners. In the same year Presidential candidate Thomas Dewey accused incumbent President Harry Truman of "promising everything including the Shmoo" and in 1949 the U. S. Treasury Department issued a Shmoo Saving Bond with a picture of a Shmoo on it. At the unveiling ceremony both Al Capp and President Truman were on stage.

In 1949 trying to replicate the success of the Shmoos Capp introduced the Kigmies. The Shmoos who unequivocally supplied all human needs without cost were a statement on human laziness. greed. materialism, and indulgence. The Kigmies in turn represented an outlet for societies to take out their anger, aggressions and hostilities. They described themselves as, "we is a nice, safe li'l minority to kick around - we don't kick back. We will absorb all the punishment man usually inflicts on his fellow man!!" Capp stated in a 1952 Life Magazine article that he had hoped the Kigmies would make it unnecessary for people to kick each other around.

Abner inherited them from his Australian uncle Honeysuckle Yokum. Uncle Yokum in his last will and testament stated that the Kigmies were, "a handy-sized li'l creature I have developed, who likes to be kicked. A Kigmy is built for kicking – they yearns for it. They will absorb all the punishment man usually inflicts on his fellow man!! It's the end of trouble-it's the end of war!!" They loved

to be kicked and abused. Fearing a threat to their existence the ammunitions producers, lawyers and

generals determine that the Kigmies were disrupting the natural order of society and they are trapped in large underground cellar. In retaliation they become anti-social, go on a rampage and began kicking back at humanity. They are then rounded up and sent back to Australia never to be heard of again.

The strip's characters advertised every thing from Ivory soap to Nestle cocoa to Fruit of the Loom underwear. Every type of conceivable merchandise that could be linked to the strip was



exploited. In 1956 the strip was made into a Broadway musical. The musical featured lyrics by Johnny Mercer with music by Gene DePaul with Michael Kidd doing the choreography. It ran for 693 performances and starred Peter Palmer as Lil Abner and Edie Adams as Daisy Mae. Both Kidd and Adams won a Tony Award for their work and Palmer took the Theatre World Award for his. Paramount Pictures released a film version in 1959, with most of the Broadway cast reprising their roles. RKO also produced a movie version of the strip in 1940 with Buster Keaton and the title song written by Milton Berle.

A Day at the Races: Milky Way Winners
By Ryan Ellett

Horse racing, a sport which had gone into severe decline during the early decades of the 20th century, was rebounding in popularity during the 1930s as state governments, starved of revenue by the ongoing Great Depression, re-legalized betting at horse tracks in exchange for high taxes on revenue. It was only natu ral, then, that horse racing themes should appear on radio. A prime example of this was Milky Way Winners, a five-days-per week serial which debuted over Chicago's WGN on September 28, 1935. Milky Way Winners was sponsored by the Mars Candy Company as a way to promote their Milky Way candy bars. Frank Mars, senior founder of the company, and his wife Ethel Mars, had a strong interest in horses outside of their candy business interests and this hobby served as the basis for the radio program. The couple owned a nearly 3,000 acre horse farm in Tennessee on which they built the real-life Milky Way stables. There they poured money into breeding, rasing, and training thoroughbreds for the revived racing industry. Mars money provided high quality care and expert trainers. This hobby turned into a lucrative business in its own right, producing top flight thoroughbreds during the mid-to-late 1930s. The stable's horses earned over \$200,000 in 1936 and produced 1940's Kentucky Derby winner Gallahadion. Tragically, Fraank Mars died in 1934 before the ranch was fully up and running so he never got to appreciate the fruits of his equine investments, nor did he hear the radio serial inspired by his horses. Ethel carried on the project, however, and threw her support behind 1935's radio

effort. The serial was a dramatic, romantic storyline set against the background of a big-time racetrack. Milky Way Winners starred Betty McClean as Mrs Claudia Darrell, the owner of a fictional horse stable. McClean (whose real name was Besse Kenner Kendrick) was an occasional Chicago radio actress who married Alfred Kendrick, general manager of the city's World Broadcasting Co. division, but died unexpectedly in 1938 as a result of surgical complications. She had earlier starred in WGN's Milligan and Milligan alongside Frances X. Bushman and Don Ameche which debuted in 1933. Angie Hedrick, a minor local radio actress, was cast as Patsy Darrell, Claudia's daughter, and active member of the family's stable. Bob Jellison, a prolific Chicago actor who stayed busy on the airwaves throughout the medium's golden age, played Petey the Jockey. Busy radio actor Fank Dane was Frank Doughty, owner of a rival racing stable and the subject of storyline plots. Other players included Vincent Coleman, Gene McGillan, and Bob Blakelee. Herert S. Futan penned Milky Way Winners with the cooperation of numerous horse professionals provided through the Mars' family contacts. A reviewer for *Billboard* magazine was very enthusiastic about the series after hearin the debut episode. The storyline introduced a young horse trainer who comes to the attention of the Darrell women and relationships begin to form. The broadcasts made a point of interweaving topics such as conditioning, breeding, and training thoroughbred horses into the plots. It also incorporated more obscure aspects of horse racing include jockey education and conduct around racing tracks. To drum up listener interest, one month into

the show, the sponsor, Mrs Ethel V. Mars, offered a \$5,000 thoroughbred colt to the winner to name it. Anticipating that such a gift was not affordable and would even be a burden to most potential winners, Mars offered to feed and train the horse, hire a jockey



to race it, and cover the expenses for entering the horse in a number of races. At three years old the contest winner could either continue to race the horse at his or her own expense or sell the horse and keep the full proceeds. The birth of the serial's colt was worked into the Milky Way Winners storyline while the real life contest prize turned two on January 1st 1936, soon after the contest ended. Listeners, however, did not flock to the series as many were to the nation's race tracks and the naming contests did little to grow the audience share. Milky Way Winners appears to have run through the end of 1935 at its 6:30 timeslot and then quietly left the air upon the opening of a new year.



# The Origin of Tokyo Rose By Frank Bork Part 2

She found employment at the Domei News Agency, working as a typist, transcribing English-language news broadcasts for the agency. It was here that she saw the report containing the names of her family in America, who had been shipped to Gila River Internment Camp in Arizona. Already shocked by this news, she returned home one night, to find her room being searched by the dreaded Kempeital Military Police. At this point Iva again requested to be interned, but this too, was declined and she was told, with typical Japanese efficiency, that it would cost too much to feed her, especially when she was perfectly capable of earning a salary. Shortly thereafter, Iva was hospitalized for six weeks suffering from malnutrition, pellagra, and beriberi. In order to pay the hospital bill, she had to borrow money from her landlady, as well as a Portuguese national, Felipe d'Aquino, who shared her pro American feelings, and with whom she had struck up a friendship. In order to pay them back, she took on a second job, working as a typist for Radio Tokyo. Her job was to type up English language scripts drafted by the Japanese Propaganda Ministry, which would then be broadcast to the allied troops in the Pacific war zone. It was at this moment that she met three Allied POWs, Major Charles Cousens, an Australian and a former Radio Sydney Celebrity, who was captured at the fall of Singapore, and his two associates, an American, Captain Wallace Ince and a Filipino, Lieutenant Normando Reyes. Both of them had been captured after the fall of Corregidor. Their haggard and underfed state touched Iva and she decided she

would try to assist the soldiers who were fighting for her side. Initially, they were suspicious of her attempts at friendship and pro-American attitude, and thought she was a spy planted by the Kempeital. However, they came to trust her after she began to smuggle food and medicine to them . The result of this is that when Radio Tokyo instructed Cousens to add a female DJ to the "Zero Hour" show he immediately requested Iva by name.

# Orphan Ann wasn't Tokyo Rose

No one from Radio Tokyo knew who Tokyo Rose was because she was a name given to many of the girls broadcasting on Radio Tokyo by Allied troops fighting in the Pacific zone. At least twelve girls were used for the purpose, mostly of American or Canadian descent. Included among them were American Ruth Hayakawa, Canadian June Suyama, known as "The Nightengale of Nanking", who also broadcast on Radio Tokyo. There was also Fourny Saisho, who broadcast as "Madame Tojo", Margaret Yaeko, Katherine Morooka, Meiko Furova, Mary Ishiti, as well as Myrtle Lipton, Radio Manila's "Little Margie". However, none ever broadcast using the name "Tokyo Rose". Meanwhile the three Allied POWs had been using their "Zero Hour" to wage a covert sabotage campaign undermining the Japanese propaganda efforts. They did this by fluffing their lines on the air, and making use of innuendo double talk, sarcasm, or rushing or muffled delivery of their lines. After their overseers caught onto their ruse, they reverted to delivering their lines in a mechanical monotone to sound like they were being forced to read what was in front of them. Now a fourth member was to be added to the

team and thus their conspiracy. They needed somebody they could trust their current circumstances, That person was Iva Toguri. She agreed to join them, although reluctantly at first and on the condition that she would broadcast anonymously. However, when the authorities insisted that all announcers had to have a name, she chose Ann, taking the name from the abbreviation of announcer, ANN, that appeared in front of "her lines" in the script. Cousens added the "Orphan" and "Orphan Ann" was born. They created a personality to go with the name, combining Iva's natural bubbly personality to go with that of the popular "Little Orphan Annie" radio character and tied in with her phrase "Orphans of the Pacific", which described her audience of Marines stranded on Guadalcanal after the US Navy abandon them. Cousens genius was in managing to transform a propaganda broadcast into a joke shared between them and the GIs.

Editor's note:...

When Walter Winchell told the nation in 1948 that Tokyo Rose was coming home and denounced her as a traitor, a clamour grew for Toguri to be tried. It was an election year and President Harry S. Truman was getting a lot of letters from angry voters accusing him of being soft on traitors. So he decided to go after her. I had the pleasure of listening to some of Orphan Ann's broadcasts. Actually, they weren't too bad. She sounded OK and played all the top tunes of the day. She usually signed off with "This is your favorite enemy "Orphan Ann", be good now and listen to me tomorrow night". A former WW2 veteran by the name of J. Richard Dick Eisenhart was a young soldier when he asked Tokyo Rose for her autograph while he was in a

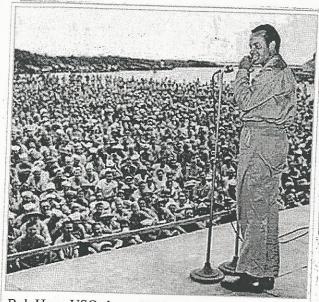
Japanese prison camp shortly after the war. The woman Iva Toguri was said to be one of a dozen female broadcasters of Japanese propaganda. Four years later that autograph landed him in the witness chair at her trial. Eisenhart recalled listening to Tokyo Rose broadcasts during the war. She used her seductive voice in attempts to demoralize allied forces. She also played the latest American music. We would laugh at the propaganda and enjoy the music.

Virtually all of us wrote it off as a bunch of baloney, or (stargazettenews).

Oddly enough Iva was the only US citizen convicted of treason and pardoned by her country. Gerald Ford, on his last day in office formally pardoned her.



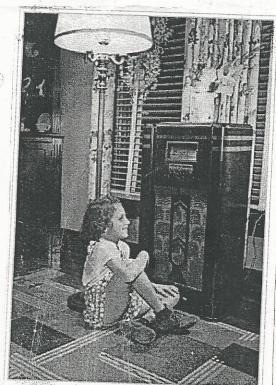
# World War 2 on the Radio Part 3 by Tom Cherre



Bob Hope USO show, 1944

The year 1944 was by far one of the most costly of World War 2. D - Day took place in June of 1944 and it caused a great amount of casualties. Virtually all radio shows were suspended or greatly interrupted for the bulk of that day's programming for front line news. I recall listening to an episode of Fibber McGee & Molly taking place on D-Day and the show was constantly broken into for the latest updates. The first report our country received was from a source of Berlin Radio telling us US and British parrot troopers had landed in France. The next report from Berlin was that the invasion of Normandy had begun. Actually the US did not send out any news flash at all. The news came from Berlin and was then transmitted thru short wave and eventually the Associated Press and then to CBS. Normally most radio stations stopped programming at about 12:00 midnight or perhaps 1:30am. However most

networks would continue to broadcast throughout the night. After the invasion was under way Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower gave a live broadcast to Western Europe that the invasion to rid Europe from Nazi power had begun. This report was then broadcast to America by all the networks. The Christmas of 1944 was the last one during World War 2. It was also the most costly one due to the heavy fighting in France, Belgium, along with The Battle of the Bulge on the way to Berlin. These were some of the toughest days of fighting. Our country was tired of war, but we felt this was to be the beginning of the end in Europe. Once France had been repatriated, a wave of Hollywood stars began to travel overseas namely Bob Hope and entertain the boys. Next month, the end of the war, and all the boys come home.



Before television, radio was the dominant home entertainment medium.

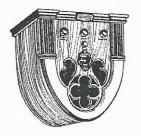


he Old Time Radio Club

BUFFALO NY 14215-2038 144 FONTAINE DRIVE THOMAS R. CHERRE

# FIRST CLASS MAIL

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