

# RADIOLA

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## A NINTH MESSAGE TO ALL CUSTOMERS AND FRIENDS OF THE RADIOLA COMPANY

Hello once again, and best wishes for 1974 from all of us at the Radiola Company. We have some really interesting new records for you this time. We're putting out more comedy records than usual, because more reaction surveys asked for them than any other kind of radio memory. Release #25-26, another Radiola two-set, is called, "The Amos 'n' Andy" story. It features the 25th anniversary program of the series where Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll tell the story of their careers on radio in their own voices. This 2 hour long collection includes rare Amos 'n' Andy broadcasts back to 1929 as well as a complete show from 1953 when they switched over to CBS. Plus a fine example of their daily show, "The Amos 'n' Andy Music Hall". It seems they could well be called, "Radiola's All Time Favorites" as well as "Radio's All Time Favorites". "The Amos 'n' Andy Story was inspired by the following folks (among many others): Hal Thompson (W. Chicago), James Joslyn (Santa Barbara, CA.), Wallace Davis (Phoenix), Robert Hancock (Tallahassee, FLA.), M.D. Outram (Kenmore, NY), Frank Daly (Memphis), Dr. William Gausman (Lompac CA), Jose Quiapo (Puerto Rico).

Release #27 is another in our infamous "Horror Series". The "Lights Out" show features dead bodies, a madwoman, and a gloomy mansion filled with death traps. You'll love it, I'm sure...and no fair listening with the lights on. On the other side, "The Witch's Tale" contributes to energy conservation by also demanding the lights be shut off. Old Nancy, the Witch of Salem, deserves a hand for this story...a severed hand. What is it...clutching in the darkness for the throat of an evil one? Both are really fine stories, you'll find they hold up well today and aren't just quaint period pieces. PLUS: a little gem by Boris Karloff to end the album. Need I say more? Yes! This album was issued thanks to: Bill Heeran (Rensselaer NY), Roger Tropf (Waterloo, Iowa), Sherman Dennison (Newtonville, Mass.), J.M. Eletto (Falls Church, VA), Clarence Cooper (Port Huron, MI), Dave Zuchowski (Joliet, ILL), Richard Smith (St. Paul, MINN), Glenn Kerfoot (Lexington, KY) and others who wanted "Lights Out", and a tip of the Rohone Windscreen to Ted Parker (Manteno, ILL) for the "Witch's Tale" idea. I seem to remember calling the show "Witch's Tale" only while in mixed company.

Release #28 features the two and only...George Burns and Gracie Allen. On one side, a complete Burns and Allen show. With Bill Goodwin, Paul Whiteman Orch., Jimmy Cash, and of course George and Gracie. George becomes a bit jealous about Gracie's old boyfriend who's stopping by for a visit. And who wouldn't be! Listen also for Henrietta the Duck, a running gag on the show. Don't forget, "Say Goodnight Gracie" on the other side. Starting way back in Vaudeville, George and Gracie developed these corny routines with George the straight man and Gracie pulling the punch lines. You'll find the Allen tree bore many a fruit when you hear the antics of all those sisters, cousins, and aunts. I personally listened to hundreds of Burns and Allen broadcasts to pick these out as the funniest and most typical. Enjoy! Those asking for Burns and Allen included M. Rubin, Mr. & Mrs. George Basch (Jamaica, NY), Russ Phillips (Humboldt, TENN), Albert Fleet (Jacksonville, FLA), Phyllis Barker (Terre Haute, IND), and Christopher Hawley (Andover, MASS). My thanks to all who took the time to send in our Reaction Surveys, whether or not your name was mentioned.

A moment here to announce some of the winners of the final Radiola "Who's-the-guy-on-the cover" contest. There were a lot more winners than we had with the first Radiola Contest, and I was delighted to send out so many free records (who am I trying to kid?). Jim Drummond (Placentia, CAL) said, "I'll go easy on you rather than opening my own record store and cleaning you out". He was one of the many who guessed silent comedian MONTY BANKS as our mystery man on the cover of Radiola #21-22. Some of the other winners were: Paul Freda (Plainview, NY), Vincent Bonica (Staten Island, NY), Robert Towers (Woodland Hills, CAL), Ted Larson (Moorhead, MINN), Stuart Blau (Old Bethpage, NY), and many others. I won't ask who's on the cover of Release #27, from now on, you'll have to buy your records. A special Thank You to R. L. Heintz (Spencer, Iowa) for sending in a page from the 9/24/45 issue of "Life". It's a picture story of Agnes Moorehead actually performing "Sorry Wrong Number" on CBS (Radiola Release #3). Terry Farrell (Highland, IND) asks, "What does sustaining mean?" A radio show was "sustaining" when it didn't have a sponsor. NOT every show was sponsored (most weren't). It DOESN'T mean the commercials were cut out, it had no commercials to begin with.

Terry Farrell also asks, "Are there books on the old days of Radio that your company can sell?" Bless your heart Terry, and thanks for asking. I'll spare you the commercial and suggest you look over the enclosed pamphlet about, "The Pictorial History of Radio" we're offering. It's the only book offer I've ever seen where you can NAME YOUR OWN PRICE! No, we are NOT starting a book club, and you're not obligated to buy anything else. Marvin Schneider (Bronx, NY) was pleased to get Agnes Moorehead to autograph his copy of Radiola #3 (Sorry, Wrong Number), but Richard Albright (Merced, CAL) went him one better by getting Hal Peary to sign his copy of Release #20 while posing for a news photographer. You can almost hear the "Gildersleeve" laugh when you look at that smile. Leo Riddle (Spruce Pine, N.C.) says, "after the system cue, I keep waiting for another (local) announcer to follow up with 'WCAU Philadelphia, or KMOX, St. Louis' Why don't you leave them in?" I would if I could, but the recordings in our archives often come from network sources so of course wouldn't have the local I.D. But those who buy #25-26 (Amos 'n' Andy Story) will hear a local announcer on a small station in Illinois put his two cents in. Real radio!



"UNCLE GILDY" — Turning on the benevolent beam of his famous character, "The Great Gildersleeve," is Harold (Hal) Peary as he autographs the cover of a record of a 1949 broadcast of the famous radio show during his visit to Merced. Peary autographed the rare recording for owner Richard Albright, Merced movie and radio buff who has a collection of records and tapes of vintage radio shows. (Sun-Star Photo)

Dept. of Aches & Pains: Don Mueller (Baldwin City, KS) says, "Release #13-14 tremendous disappointment. Tinny and Ricky Tick!" Robert Deloe (Wheaton, ILL) points out an error on the jacket of Release #21-22. Part of Side B is really part of Side A and vice versa. He's right! Richard Waytko (Canton, Ohio) says we left out the title of Release #14 (Band Remotes) Side B, cut 6. He's right too! (It's "You're The Cream In My Coffee" that Henry Busse was playing). Karen Godel (Woodridge, ILL) found the Cliff Hangers (Release #21-22) exciting but too frustrating. Where's the next episode? Dr. Robert Williams (Cold Spring, KY) says, "you are as warped as a scalloped sea shell". Louis Harrison (Austin, TX) points out that what the announcer says (on Release #17-18) is Jean Harlow singing for the 1st time on radio isn't Jean Harlow! His carefully documented research indicated Virginia Verrill did the singing for her (Yes, but did she have that zowie blonde hair?). Frederick Tyler (Cleveland, Ohio) knew before even buying the record that we spelled the reporter's name wrong on the jacket of Release #23 (The Big Story). Should be Howard Beaufait (not Bofay). My alibi: the newspaper was out of business, I couldn't check. The gripe-of-the-week award goes to E. Waid (Las Cruces N.M.): "The recording is excellent, but the hole in the center of the record is not round". Oh well. Moral of the story: I appreciate hearing from you when you're not-too-happy with our records or service as well as when you are.

I received an eerie photocopy from Wayne Field (Meridian, ID) of a "small carved image of a human figure". It was found by a man near Nampa Idaho while drilling a well in 1899. It was found at a depth of 300 feet! If you've heard, "The Thing On The Fourble Board" (Radiola #9) about a stone-like yet invisible monster that climbs up a well, you'll be just as shocked as I was. I assume the "Nampa Image" is on display near Mr. Field's home town. Scarey.

And finally, Harry Busch (I'm-not-gonna-tell-you-where-he-lives) has the last word. He said, "Cliff-Hangers (Radiola #21-22) is a very neat record and of good quality. I wish I had ordered sooner. We live in an area where NO TV IS AVAILABLE, so we may even enjoy it more than most". And now you know why I won't say where Mr. Busch lives. I may want to retire there myself. Thanks for listening...until next time.

Sincerely,

*Michael Rophone*  
Michael Rophone

P.S. Several previous Radiola items have been deleted from our catalogue, more will follow. Buy the early Radiola Releases now or forever hold thy peace.