

National Radio Trader

Volume 3 No. 3

National medium for the old-time radio devotee . . .

LONE RANGER. Want to trade reels only. Have about 350 programs to offer. Joe Salerno, 9407 Westheimer #311-A, Houston, Texas 77063. 6/79

LET'S TRADE BY THE SHOW. I have 5000 plus shows, all types including some rare ones. Many documentary and BBC. Send your catalog for exchange. Dr. Al Hirshoren, 185 Crestwood Dr., Athens, GA 30605. 6/79

WANTED ILAM, Heavenly Days, Gildersleeve, Lum and Abner. Also movies on video tape. Beta format. Max Salathiel, 4712 Spiva Drive, Del City, Okla. 73115. 6/79

OVER 2000 OTR SHOWS to trade. Also 300 motion picture sound tracks. Interested in big band remotes, Lux Radio Theater, comedy, mystery, and variety. Would also like to swap Beta video cassettes. Will provide catalogue on request. Specify your interests. Jack Dodel, P.O. Box 2172, Mission View, CA 92675. 6/79

OLD TIME RADIO AND TV. Cassettes, eight-tracks, and reels. Low prices. Catalog free. Imagine That Bookstore, 58 Dalton Ave., Pittsfield, MA 01201. 3/80

NEED SOURCE for occasional Sears and mystery theatres without commercials. Will make custom reels in exchange. Looking for new traders. Contact by cassette letter is invited. Will trade for blank reels. David Reznick, 1411 Trollman Avenue, San Mateo, Calif. 94401. 6/79

HAVE HUNDREDS of radio shows on cassettes. Large selection, Mystery Theater, Lone Ranger, Shadow, Comedy. Looking for trades. Also those interested in forming OTR club in northern California please contact. Robert Miller, 119 Topaz Way, San Francisco, Calif. 94131. 6/79

HAVE LARGE COLLECTION of THE JOHNSON FAMILY written, acted and produced by Jimmy Scribner over Mutual starting in 1937. Will trade even for other Johnson Family episodes, please list what you have for comparison. Also looking for Joe and Batiste programs from many years ago on radio. Mainly in Boston and New England area. Louis A. Poirier, 3760 Montour St. Apt. 22, Harrisburg, Pa. 17111. I am not a collector of other programs. 6/79



WANTED: Chicago Radio Theater - "Rogue Moon" 2/5/79 and "The Dark Tower" 10/16/78. Have most other CRTs for trade also 11,000 other shows. Sol Feldman, 119 Pooler Ave., DeKalb, Ill. 60115. 6/79

THE TOM MIX Ralston Straight Shooters are on the air! Send your list of shows today (tomorrow for sure). Will trade programs or will trade Ralston premiums for such programs. Also pay cash. Gene Bradford, 21707 Rosedale, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080. 6/79

BEFORE SELLING your discs how about giving me a chance to buy them. Before trading contact me. Have some network and a lot of AFRS. Want Westerns and Kid shows. Edward Carr, 216 Shaner St., Boyertown, PA 19512. 6/79

TRADE by the show reel to reel 550 reels. Want Whistler, Lone Ranger, Green Hornet, Counterspy, Lux, Escape. I have many shows to choose from. H.A. Stewart, P.O. Box 189, Smiths, Alabama 36877. 6/79

BRC OTR DISTRIBUTORS

17173 WESTBROOK · LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48152

We know the difference between good sound and bad!
As a matter of fact, we won't even list a reel if the sound isn't the best available.
Write for a free copy of our current old time radio sales flyer (we do not sell by catalog).

Also, see our ads appearing regularly in Collector's Corner. For a sample of CC send \$1.25.

EDITOR'S REEL



Several months ago we predicted that at least one old time radio publication would go out of business in 1979. Well it's happened already. *Airwaves* has ceased publication. We suspect that this was not a surprise to any *Airwaves* subscriber because the delivery of the issues has been falling farther behind over the last year. This seems to be a sure sign of pending disaster.

We're all sorry to see *Airwaves* and the fine work of Jerry Chapman go. But there is something good about this event. For the first time in our hobby's history, as far as we know, the subscription obligations and rights to the publication have been acquired by another old time radio publication. *Collector's Corner*, already achieving note among hobbyists with their new monthly, has taken over *Airwaves* and intends to make good on the unexpired subscription fulfillments. We think that this gives all the O.T.R. publications a boost. It's certainly the responsible thing for Jerry to have done. Let everyone take note that the best of the free enterprise system can happen in our hobby, with a little thought, effort, and devotion to honor. Cheers to Bob Burnham and Joe Webb. Let every fast-buck artist who has taken money for publications or tapes that were not delivered or were grossly misrepresented take note. The clubs and the pubs are all working together to put an end to such happenings. This purchase seems to us to be a giant step in the right direction.

MAJESTIC RE-RUNS—Best source of custom recorded vintage radio programs. \$3, refundable, brings catalog. Post Office Box 13128, Sacramento, California 95813. 5-79

Contributing Articles?

National Radio Trader welcomes manuscripts, pictures, information and other contributions. Most of our articles are donated. We have a limited budget to purchase pictures.

Articles submitted must be legibly typed, double-spaced, and not have been previously published, unless the publication information is provided with the material. All materials become the property of **NATIONAL RADIO TRADER** upon receipt, whether used or not and may not be published elsewhere without written permission.

Dear Phil:

I want to thank you for running the article on the advantages of cassettes. It has been long overdue. I belong to the Milwaukee Area Radio Enthusiasts. I am one of a very few who collect on cassettes. I have given much thought about converting to reel-to-reel, but I have always vetoed the idea and I think I always will. For one thing, I am too deeply committed to cassettes. I have 1500 cassettes now and the job of converting them to reel-to-reel would be enormous.

As your article pointed out, I like the convenience. I know cassettes are more expensive. But I feel the ease in handling far outweighs the cost factor. Hobbies should be fun. All the hassles about reel-to-reel listening takes away some of the fun for me. I am quite willing to pay for the convenience of cassettes. With cassettes I can listen to my programs anywhere I please, all it takes is an inexpensive portable cassette player.

I realize the 3000 shows I have would take up far less space if they were on reels, but I have not found that to be a serious problem. I have sturdy cardboard boxes that hold 102 cassettes. They store quite nicely in my closet.

I have listened to many shows on reel-to-reel and I feel the quality is no better or worse than the quality of my cassettes. For me it all boils down to convenience.

All your articles are great, but this one on cassettes particularly pleased me. Keep up the great job.

Ron Sayles
Milwaukee, Wis.

Dear Phil:

Volume 3, Number 2 of **NATIONAL RADIO TRADER** really has me buzzing. So much so that I am going to write.

First, there was a terrific bunch of ads in the issue. They will keep me going for quite awhile, just answering them all. Second, your article on the Legend of ILAM hit the nail on the head. Jack Packard was, indeed, a real person. Michael Raffetto (bless his heart) was listed as playing Jack only because Jack was too modest to take the credit!

Please sign me up for the "devout group of cultists" who are trying to pry loose ILAM programs from the vaults. My money, time, and energy are at the cult's disposal for this task.

Further, the article on cassettes was enlightening, as was Charlie's Newsgram column. I was pleased to read about Shamrock tape and about Omega Magnetics who do so much to supply our hobby with needed items.

Buddy Thompson's fine article on

Kay Kyser should get special mention. The Kyser band, by the way, had more big hits than any other band including the oft mentioned Miller, Goodman, and Dorsey bands. Kyser could neither read nor play music, according to my information. That makes his success all the more spectacular to me.

I have gotten many responses to my ad in **NRT** asking for fans of *Straitshooters* shows to contact me. The programs are slowly coming to the surface.

Gene Bradford
St. Clair Shores, Michigan

Dear Phil:

It is a real pleasure to see interest in *Old Time Radio* grow. Thanks to your fine publication, my collection of shows has grown with the help of a great guy known as Jim Snyder from Saginaw, Michigan.

Now I have been able to build a 100 tape cassette collection for use here at our Jr. High Library and now another librarian in the tri-cities has contacted me to help her start a collection.

With the tapes we are sending her, I have recommended your excellent publication. I am hoping you will send a sample copy with subscription information to help their school build a collection and at the same time, encourage their interest in OTR.

Your assistance will be appreciated ... keep up the good work!

Monte Wilson
Learning Resource Specialist
Pioneer Jr. High School
Walla Walla, Washington

Dear Phil:

I read the comments about the Pioneer RT 701 in the last two issues of **NATIONAL RADIO TRADER** with interest. Judging from the literature that I have on this reel-to-reel recorder, it would not be possible to record each channel separately so as to use all four tracks for programs as most OTR buffs do. I found a Sony recorder for \$288 here at Pacific Stereo of San Bernardino.

I was glad to read about Basil Rathbone's Sherlock Holmes show being found. This is one of the series that got me into collection in the first place. Some of my other favorite shows are also scarce, such as "It Pays to be Ignorant" and "Life with Luigi."

Frank Occhipinti,
Hemet, California

We asked Jerry Perchesky of Watsonville, California, regarding the problem you mentioned with the RT 701 and 707. Jerry advised us that you are correct with regard to the RT 701. It is a stereo machine that cannot be used in mono function. However, the RT 707 can be used in mono by only depressing one record button at a time. It also has the OTR valued speed or pitch control for correcting the speed of tapes. We checked Pacific Stereo

in California for this machine and found that the price has gone from \$399 when Jerry bought his, to \$529 due to manufacturer's price increase (see *Tape Ends and Splices* for more information). We checked over the last two issues of *NRT* to see which recorder was being discussed. It was the RT 707, not the 701. Thanks, Frank, for pointing this difference out to our readers so that they don't buy the wrong recorder. (See Page 3 of Volume 3, Number 1 of *NRT* for more information.)

Do you have the eight "Life with Luigi" shows from February 26, 1952 through April 22, 1952? We have these in excellent quality sound. If enough people are interested, we will make them available for rental through the *NRT TAPE RENTAL CLUB*.

Dear Phil:

Recently I fell heir to a box of old newspapers. I found a copy of a 1939 issue of *Milwaukee Sentinel* which contained the enclosed article about Charlie McCarthy. It sheds some light on Frank Breese's comment about kidnapping which appeared in a recent article in *NRT*.

Ed Fintak,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Bergen Is Worried Kidnapers May Get Charlie McCarthy

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 11 — (AP) — Kidnaping, even as a gag, can have no place in the life of Charlie McCarthy, if Edgar Bergen and an alert bodyguard have anything to say about it. And they have.

As a space garnering idea, a press agent suggested a continuance of the W. C. Fields-McCarthy feud. He thought it would be a good idea for Fields to kidnap Charlie and hold him a week or so.



Charlie

Bergen nixed the stunt before the fellow had spoken his piece. He said he didn't want any suggestion of kidnaping in Charlie's life for the simple reason that it might give somebody an idea.

A correspondent once informed Bergen he had overheard "two tough looking customers in Chicago" talking about stealing the famous dummy.

Dear Sir:

I am going to take a week's vacation to California in early June or in August and, thinking about my general interest in old radio, the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters came to mind. In the Winter 1977 issue of *NRT*, there was an article on the PPB which maintains a nostalgia room in the NBC studio at Sunset and Vine. I would like some information on it. The article was written by Mr. Jerry Perchesky who offered to answer questions about PPB.

Would you please send me Mr. Perchesky's address or the address of the PPB. Thank you.

Bill Donham,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Letters to Jerry and to other columnists may be sent c/o *NRT*. We will forward them.

Horn Sounds

by Buddy Thompson

VICTORY PARADE OF SPOTLIGHT BANDS

The Victory Parade of Spotlight Bands was first heard on the Mutual Broadcasting System in November of 1941. At that time it was a fifteen-minute, Monday-through-Friday format with a special edition on Saturday nights. The sponsor was Coca-Cola.

Each program began with the series theme which was faded out under the sound of the live audience applauding and screaming as the theme music of the featured band began. The program was broadcast live from the stages of armed service camps, bases, and hospitals. Some shows emanated from defense plants and factories where production was in full swing. At least one was broadcast from a Navy war ship!

During the week nights, the series featured a different name band each night. On Saturdays, the band with the highest record sales for the week was spotlighted. During the first five shows of the series Kay Kyser, Guy Lombardo, Sammy Kaye, Tommy Dorsey, and Eddie

STAIRWAY TO THE MOON. New I.L.A.M. style adventure thriller, by Phil Cole. For copy of feature length story appearing in summer issue of **NORTHWEST BOAT TRAVEL** magazine, send cover price of 95¢ plus 30¢ postage and handling now. 5-79

RATE INCREASE advance notice: Rising costs force us to increase our subscription rate 50¢ per year, effective July 1, 1979. Present subscribers may renew before July 1 at the old rate. Add one, two, three years to your present expiration date, see mailing label, for \$6.50 per year. 5-79

Duchin appeared with their orchestras.

The show was dropped from Mutual at the end of its first season. In the fall of 1942 **Spotlight Bands** was heard on the Blue Network of NBC. Beginning in 1943, the Saturday night version was discontinued and the weeknight shows were expanded to thirty minutes each. In 1945, the series moved back to Mutual as a three-times-a-week show. Finally, the series ended in 1946.

Dates for many of the individual programs are difficult to identify. Readers who would like help in assigning dates may write to us c/o *NRT*. We would also be glad to answer questions concerning other big band shows or to feature reader's favorite bands.

40,000 OLD RADIO SHOWS on tape. World's largest dealer. Jazz band remotes, country western, disco graphics, anthologies, chronologies. Send \$2 for huge catalog, refundable, to **McCoy's Recording**, Post Office Box 1069 T, Richland, Washington 99352. 5-79

THE GOLDEN DAYS OF RADIO



By Frank Bresee

AMOS 'N ANDY

August 19, 1979 is a milestone in the history of radio. It is the fiftieth anniversary of the first network broadcast of the Amos 'n Andy Program, which starred Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll.

The program had begun on Chicago station WMAQ a year and a half earlier, but it wasn't until the Pepsodent Company brought them to the NBC Network on that August day, that listeners to NBC could hear them live in their local area. It was several years after the beginning of the network, but it was most certainly the beginning of a regular daily comedy/drama program.

I recently talked with Freeman Gosden (Amos) who is retired and living in Beverly Hills, California. He filled me in on the background of their first meeting and the beginnings of their first radio program Sam and Henry.

Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll first met sixty years ago. They were both working for the Joe Bren Company, an organization that was producing the Follies of 1919. For six years, until 1925, Freeman and Charlie traveled with the Bren Company performing in their Follies Shows.

During these years, they became inseparable friends and because the Bren Company was headquartered in Chicago, the boys took an apartment together and

since they were both musicians (Charlie played the piano, Gosden played the ukelele), they spent evenings together and worked up a comedy/song routine.

With radio just coming into its own in the Spring of 1925, the boys decided to try out at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, Station WEBH. Although their first program wasn't a smash, they were given a radio job singing one night a week without pay. It was during this time they were offered a regular staff job at WGN, the radio station of The Chicago Tribune. A few months later, Gosden and Correll joined the WGN staff. They were asked if they would be interested in developing something in the nature of a comic radio serial; a comic strip adapted to broadcasting.

The station wanted something like the "Andy Gump" newspaper serial but neither knew much of the ups and downs of married life. Their slant on life was not adapted to this style of broadcasting.

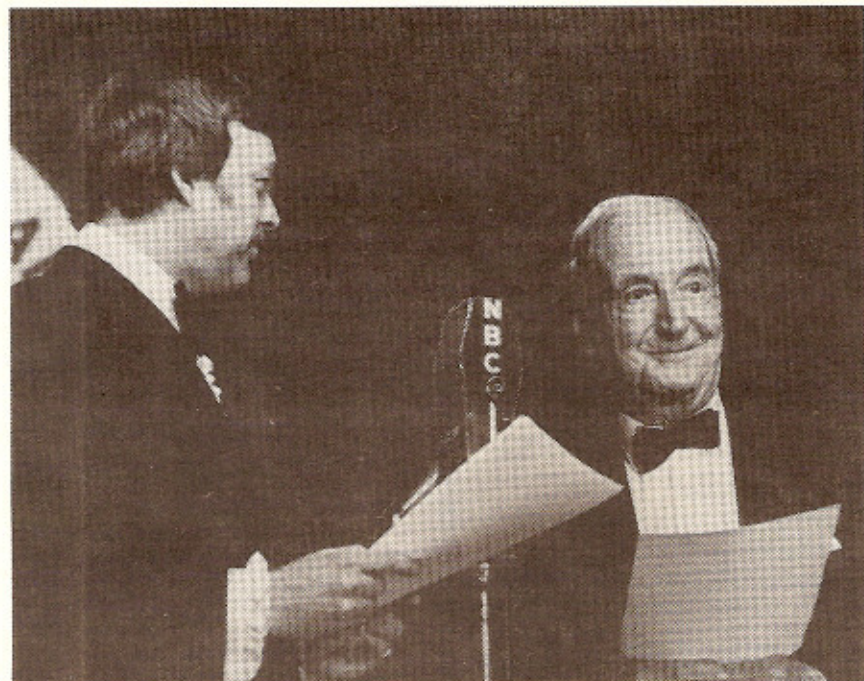
They did, however, know Negro characters, which were popular in the minstrel shows of that time. So they suggested a comic serial based on the lives of two fellows they called "Sam and Henry". In January of 1926, they presen-

ted their first episode of "Sam and Henry". It was the first of its kind ever presented on radio.

Soon after the show went on the air, The Chicago Tribune signed them to a contract for their services, as "Sam and Henry". At the expiration of the contract, they signed for another year. At the end of their second year as "Sam and Henry", the team had written and delivered a ten minute episode each night for 586 nights. About six months before the expiration of their second year, Gosden and Correll conceived the idea of recording the program and sending it to the stations all over the country. This would mean that the show could be heard in many other cities, in addition to the Chicago area.

Their idea was turned down by WGN and since the boys felt that they had a marketable product, they decided to move to a station which would be willing to record and syndicate the program. Although they had spent two years building up the characters of "Sam and Henry" they were notified that the title was the property of The Chicago Tribune and they were not allowed to use it on any other station.

Thus, they created the name of



Bill Hay and Frank Bresee on Command Performance December 8, 1977. The ninety-one year old Hay passed away the following October.

—Courtesy Frank Bresee

"Amos 'N Andy" for their new program. Bill Hay was the announcer during the "Sam and Henry" days and continued through more than 10,000 broadcasts of "Amos 'N Andy". I joined him for his 91st birthday on April 19th last year and he reminisced about the "Amos 'n Andy" shows.

Bill told me that for over 10 years, Gosden and Correll wrote all of their own scripts and very often they would finish writing just 15 minutes before they went on the air.

In those early days, the program was broadcast 6 nights a week, Monday through Saturday for 15 minutes. It was hard work, but they were paid well. They each received \$1,000 a week; 52 weeks a year; which was a salary unheard of in those early radio days.



Freeman F. Gosden



Charles J. Correll

Here They Are!

Amos 'n' Andy

Every night except Sunday, "Amos 'n' Andy" are brought to you in person by The Pepsodent Company of Chicago. Every night millions of people follow the troubled lives of these black face characters of the radio world. So many radio listeners have asked "who are they... what do they look like... and where are they from... that we have prepared the brief story of their lives.

The Announcer

W. G. HAY, better known as "Big" Hay, has announced "Amos 'n' Andy" from the time this feature first went on the air. He is one of the most popular radio announcers in the country. The Pepsodent "Amos 'n' Andy" program would not seem complete without Bill Hay's introduction.



Freeman Gosden, Charles Correll, and Bill Hay pictured in ad for nightly 15 minute series of Amos 'n' Andy.

— Courtesy Frank Breesee

Bill Hay also told me that he only made one mistake during all of his years as announcer for "Amos 'n Andy" and that was on purpose. At the end of each program, Bill would say, "Use Pepsodent twice a day, and see your dentist twice a year." The president of the Pepsodent Company claimed that listeners did not stay tuned to the end of the program and would shut off the radio as soon as the skit was finished, thus missing the closing announcement. Bill Hay thought differently and asked permission to broadcast this closing, "This is Bill Hay reminding you to use Pepsodent twice a year, and see your dentist twice a day. Good Night." That was on a Friday night and by the following Monday morning, 58,000 letters had been received mentioning Bill Hay's error. This proved that the fans were loyal and were listening to "Amos 'n Andy" to the very end.

The program continued in the 15 minute format until 1943, when Correll and Gosden segued to a weekly half hour "Amos 'n Andy" show. From 1943 through 1948, their program was in the Top 10 of the Hooper rating. Even when the rating dropped below the top 20, the show continued to be heard as a weekly half hour sitcom. In the latter years and up until 1960, Freeman Gosden and Charlie Correll continued with the "Amos 'n Andy Music Hall" on the CBS radio network.

Bill Hay passed away last October, ending one of radio's longest careers. He will be missed by all of us who knew him, and by the millions who listened to his friendly voice, every evening for over two decades.

As a tribute to Bill Hay, and the "Amos 'n Andy" show, my Golden Days of Radio Program will pay tribute to the 50th anniversary of these performers and one of America's greatest programs, with interviews, recorded especially for my show, plus excerpts from some of their most remembered programs.

These shows will air around the world on the American Forces Radio and TV Service the Monday, August 13th through August 17th.

"Amos 'n Andy" faded out as time changed, but the memory of one of radio's most popular programs continues to be fresh in the minds of fans everywhere.

Next: Rudy Vallee

SPERDVAC RADIO MAGAZINE #3

SPERDVAC PROUDLY PRESENTS
ISSUE #3



ARTICLES...

BY FRANK BIXTON, GEORGE PENNEMAN, FRANK ROSEN, STEVE JELF, JOHN TESTELLER, GERRY LIEBER-WACKAY & JERRY PERCHESKY

STORIES ON....

BOB IRAY, EDGAR BRESLIN & CHARLIE MC CARTHY, LES TREMMINE, GRUCHO MARX, LON L. ABNER, THE LONG RANGER, KARL SWANSON & BILL JOHNSSTONE.

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ANAHEIM, CALIF. 92806

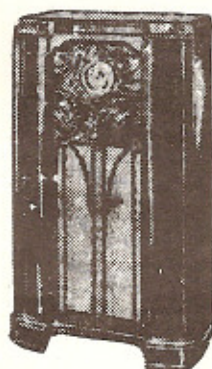
SPERDVAC IS A NON-PROFIT CLUB OF RADIO AND ONLY OLD TIME RADIO... AND NEW RADIO TOO!!

FREE CATALOG. Largest selection of old-time radio programs available. Top quality reels and cassettes. Lowest prices. Custom reels and cassettes can be yours at prices lower than most charge for ready-made tapes. Bonus and discount plan explained. Write to **Theater of the Mind**, 1161 East 84th, Brooklyn, New York 11236. 5-79

GOLDEN AGE: Radio, thousands of old radio shows on reel and cassettes at low prices. Write to Post Office Box 25215-NR, Portland, Oregon 97225. 8-79

FREE CATALOG of Old Time Radio on cassette. Quality sound, low prices, and fast service make Omega OTR your best choice. **OMEGA OTR**, Post Office Box 39253-NRT, Redford, Michigan 48329.

DO YOU ENJOY READING about the entertainers of yesteryear? Then you should enjoy **The World of Yesterday**, a magazine devoted to movies, radio, old records and nostalgia. \$1 will bring you a sample copy or send a self-addressed stamped envelope for back issue list. **The World of Yesterday**, 13759 60th Street North, Department National Radio Trader, Clearwater, Florida 33520. 5-79





TAPE ENDS & SPLICES

BY PHIL COLE

AN OCCILLATOR BY ANY OTHER NAME...

Some recent interest has been shown in old devices known as phono occillators. These were used by some manufacturers of phonographs to "broadcast" records from the turntable to radios within the home. They were mildly popular in the 1940's. Then, with the advent of "high fidelity", out went the phono occillators because of their low (AM radio) fidelity. Present interest is from old time radio hobbists who want to broadcast their programs through an AM radio to give more of a realistic impression.

The latest version of these little transmitters is a transistorized version apparently made to play portable tape players through auto radios. These gadgets are available from J.C. Whitney Company, 1917-19 Archer Avenue, Box 8410, Chicago, Ill. 60680. They operate on a nine volt battery. They are called "Cassette Broadcasters" rather than phono occillators and sell for \$7.95 plus shipping. Ask for item #90-2953R.

WHISTLE HAS POOR SOUND

Some issues ago we reported that SPERDVAC has found 150 episodes of *The Whistler*. These were to be made available to members in the club's extensive lending library. Now, John Tefeller has found that the sound quality of these shows is below par. Thus, the club will not dub them for lending. John pointed out that these shows are around, though. "It is just a matter of time before good sound copies are obtained," he said.

"HEY, CISCO"

A number of Cisco Kid programs have been donated to SPERDVAC by the widow of Jack Mather who played Cisco for a time.

FEELING MUTUAL

The Mutual Broadcasting System has purchased its first radio station, WCFL in Chicago. Yes, you read correctly. Mutual has never owned a radio station until now! The network got its start in 1934 when stations WGN in Chicago and WOR in Newark decided to join together for their "mutual" benefit. Long the largest network (if you count stations hooked together), Mutual now has over 800 stations in its system. For more details about Mutual's history see NRT volume 1 number 4.

OUT OF PRINT?

We never thought that we'd live to see it, but some stacks of NRT back issues are dwindling fast. The demand for back issues has been quite strong in recent months. There are still a few complete sets available for \$5.00 each on a first-come-first-serve basis. The scarce issues are from Volume number one (1976-77).

NEW PROGRAMS

24 new "Have Gun, Will Travel" shows have surfaced. They are VG except for some volume fluctuations, which we consider to be minor. "Our Miss Brooks" has emerged on three new reels with excellent sound and new shows. "Burns and Allen" is beginning to be circulated on three new reels. Other series with new shows available are "Screen Director's Playhouse", "Richard Diamond", "Rogues Gallery", and, as announced before, "Great Gildersleeve".

BUYING EQUIPMENT

Prices on tape and related equipment seem to vary greatly from source to source. Subscriber Ron Barnett suggests trying The Sound Machine, 2836 Kennedy, Jersey City, NJ 07306. Telephone:

800-526-6070. According to Ron, this company guarantees to undersell any legitimate price quote. He was quoted \$979 on an RCA VCT 400 video tape recorder selling elsewhere for up to \$1299! A later ad from the same company offered it at \$929! We just priced and ordered the RT 707 deck for \$425 from Sound Machine! Why not share your sources with our readers?

MORE TAPE

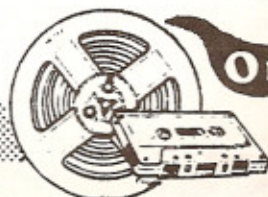
For those who want splice-free tape, try Capital Mod from Saxitone, 1776 Columbia, Washington, D.C. 20009. Priced at \$2 per reel in lots of 20 reels, this rates as a best buy along with the Shamrock from Omega Magnetics that we reviewed in our last issue.

VIDEO TAPED PROGRAM WARNING

Many sellers of video taped films and programs are now encoding the tapes with a dubbing protection pattern that makes it impossible to make copies. Collectors who are building libraries with the idea of trading tapes when they have two recorders should inquire whether or not the tapes they are buying are being thus encoded.

IDEAS WANTED

Frankly, we've had very little response beyond the inquiry stage about the NRT VIDEO TAPE RENTAL PLAN. We still think that a rental library, similar to the successful OTR rental libraries being operated by Len Lawson and by NRT, is the answer to buffs being able to watch the films and old programs they want without laying out thousands of dollars



Omega Magnetics

Post Office Box 39253
Redford, Michigan 48239
USA

WE'VE GOT IT!

AMPEX REEL TAPE
CBS REEL TAPE
HAND PICKED SHAMROCK TAPE
EMPTY BOXES & REELS
TAPE MAILING BOXES
SCOTCH & AMPEX CUSTOM LENGTH CASSETTES

Write us or call Gary at (313) 532-8103 for our latest flyers

Most orders shipped within 48 hours!

Be sure to mention **National Radio Trader**

for equipment and tapes. So how about ideas from our readers? How would you like to see such a library operate? What would be a reasonable deposit? (Unfortunately, we do find that a small number of renters do not return OTR tapes. At \$50 - \$75 each for video tapes, we think that we have got to cover our costs.) What would reasonable rental prices be? How many tapes would you want to agree to rent in the first two years? This is your invitation to design your own rental library the way you would like to see it. All reasonable ideas will be given careful consideration.

BACK ISSUES: \$1.00 each or all for \$5.00. National Radio Trader is published quarterly by Phil Cole. Sent by first class mail. Subscription rate is \$6.50 per year in U.S. funds. Address correspondence to National Radio Trader, Post Office Box 1147, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273.

Copyright 1979 by Phil Cole

YESTERDAY'S RADIO ON TAPE: Reel-to-reel and cassette. Thousands of programs. Quality Sound. Reliable Service. Giant catalog \$1, refundable with first order. Send to: **ADVENTURES**, Post Office Box 4822-NR, Inglewood, California 90302. 11-79

Have ET's, but no turntable? Will record yours on tape for discs or cash. Hy Daley, 437 So. Center, Corry, PA 16407. Satisfaction guaranteed. 6/79

OTRAFAN: Old-time radio ads from the past! Six issues \$3. Sample 50c. Rogue Press, 294 Victoria Boulevard, Kenmore, New York 14217. Telephone (716) 877-2387. 6/79

NATIONAL RADIO TRADER has more trader ads than any other old-time radio news letter. Only \$6.50 per year buys the Trader delivered by first class mail plus a free Trader ad in each issue. Subscribe or renew now before rate increase July 1, 1979. 5-79

DEADLINES FOR 1979 ISSUES: Volume 3, Number 4: September 1. Volume 4, Number 1: November 1. Quarterly issues should reach subscribers about 30 days after the copy deadlines for example, June 1, October 1, and December 1. Watch for **National Radio Trader** by first class mail. 9-79



OTR NEWSGRAM

By Chuck Seeley



Orson Welles returns to radio. But don't get excited — it's not drama. It's not in America either. Welles has narrated an eight-part BBC Radio series entitled **THE MOVIE MOGULS** which documents the lives and times of nine Hollywood giants (Zukor, Mayer, Goldwyn, etc.) using interviews and soundtrack clips. There's a good chance the series will be picked up by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

BBC Radio will also supply the core of **MASTERPIECE RADIO THEATER**, which debuted May 5 on 217 public radio stations. Like the eight-year-old TV version, it will originate from WGBH, Boston. It is funded by Mobil Oil. The series will run for 52 weeks. The first drama is "Anna Karenina" from the BBC. Following that will be an American production of "Moby Dick." Lord Peter Wimsey fans would do well to check out the series, since there's every chance it will carry radio adaptations of the Wimsey adventures (some of which having already been broadcast by the CBC).

ANNIVERSARIES: National Public Radio's **EARPLAY**, which originates from WHA Radio and

the University of Wisconsin Extension, is in its seventh season. Vatican Radio celebrated its 30th anniversary in February. The international operation carries programs in thirty-three different languages. The BBC Radiophonic Workshop is twenty-one-years-old in 1979. The Workshop does a great deal of radio work, including the excellent eight-hour adaptation of Isaac Asimov's **The Foundation Trilogy** (which by now is in most collections). The Workshop also provides electronic music and sound effects for television. Their theme music for **DOCTOR WHO**, the long-running and fascinating British science fiction series currently carried by many American public TV stations, is a hit on the English record charts.

AWARDS: The Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters honored Arch Oboler with their Carbon Mike award. Oboler recently wrote and directed a program on **SEARS RADIO THEATER** starring Elliott Lewis. The late Edgar Bergen was accorded another honor, this time at the annual membership meeting of the Screen Actors Guild on March 11. Bergen became the first

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OTR NEWSGRAM

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posthumous recipient of SAG's annual award that cites "outstanding achievement in fostering the finest ideals of the acting profession." Bergen's widow Frances and son Chris accepted the award.

Demon OTR syndicator Charles Michelson has sold a package of 52 SUSPENSE shows to over 50 radio stations.

WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN: Apparently, Lorne Green was the second choice for Western night host on SEARS RADIO THEATER. John Wayne was reportedly set to handle the hosting chores, but his surgery interfered. Wayne is no stranger to radio, having starred in his own series, THREE SHEETS TO THE WIND, in the Forties and guest-starred on several LUX RADIO THEATER efforts.

Last year, in the first installment of this column, it was noted that a TV show called THE NEW QUIZ KIDS was in production, based on the venerable radio series of the same name. This columnist recently had an opportunity to view one of these shows, produced in Toronto. Calling it poor is an understatement. Don't look for it on American TV.

VIDEOTAPERS, REJOICE: Because of the anti-violence trend currently sweeping television,

syndicators are scouring the vaults for "unobjectionable" material. Now available to local stations are 100 black-and-white half-hours culled from Jackie Gleason's CBS show, 52 half-hours of Jerry Lewis' NBC show, 26 hours of SING ALONG WITH MITCH from NBC, and 140 hours of LAUGH-IN. MCA-TV had 100 half-hours sifted from THE DEAN MARTIN SHOW, up for syndication. They withdrew the series when they found that local stations wouldn't pay the high price being asked for them. Those "pre-roast" Martin shows were fun to watch. Remember the time when Ken Lane's piano collapsed under Dean?

Groucho Marx has joined the ranks of Harry Truman, Mark Twain, and Will Rogers. There are two separate one-man Groucho shows making the rounds: reportedly, the better of the two is entitled *An Elephant in My Pajamas* and is performed by John Bay. The other is *An Evening With Groucho Marx* with Lewis J. Stadler. Both are more or less based on Groucho's life and use bits from the films.

Stan 'n Babe, a musical about Laurel and Hardy, will open in London this year.

John Wayne was set to host Western night on the Sears' series, but the star's recent surgery prevented that. **Lorne Greene**, a veteran from Canadian radio and currently playing "Ben Adams" on *Battlestar Galactica*, got the host spot instead. Judging from the first show, it was a good choice.

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