

# Old Time Radio **DIGEST**

No. 119

Fall 2007 \$3.75



## **CENSOR RADIO?**

The story of  
HORROR  
PROGRAMS  
FATHER  
COUGHLIN  
W.C. FIELDS  
WALTER  
WINCHELL



# Old Time Radio DIGEST

No.119

Fall 2007

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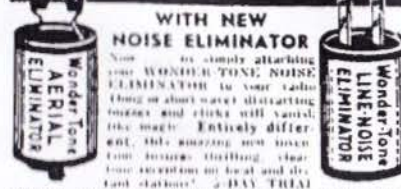
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## Do you want radio censorship?

A CAMPAIGN for full government censorship of radio confronts this congress. Thirty senators and representatives will try to push bills through. Most articulate is Sen. Clyde L. Herring, of Iowa. His proposed Amendment to the Communications Act, which now grants freedom from official federal censorship, would create a radio censorship board. Broadcasters under the Herring bill would not necessarily have to submit scripts for approval, but would have

to answer to the Federal Communications Commission if uncensored matter proved objectionable. The anti-Jewish crusade of Father Charles E. Coughlin and the Orson Welles "Men From Mars" hullabaloo have spurred this drive to put government further into radio. Without excusing the Mars incident or Jew-baiting, Loco( believes most Americans prefer the occasional wrongs of self-regulation to the greater wrong of government censorship of radio.

### Were their broadcasts censored or edited?



"I've Learned what , you can say," declares Walter Winchell, radio's most closely edited star.

**Senator Vandenberg** got the gong when he tried to debate the President, using FDR's speech records.

**Gen. Smedley Butler** agreed to use only two "hells" and three "damns" every 10 minutes on the air.

Because of Anti-Semitic Broadcasts, the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, Detroit's crusading radio priest, is again the storm center of the controversy over radio censorship.

Station WMCA (Manhattan), following a speech in which he had criticized the Jews, announced that Coughlin had "uttered certain mistakes of fact." George Cardinal Mundelein, archbishop of Chicago, rebuked him by declaring: "Father Coughlin is not authorized to speak for the Catholic church,

nor does he represent 'the doctrine or sentiments of the Church."

Newspapers all over the country received letters discussing the Coughlin broadcast. Some held that Father Coughlin is a dangerous firebrand and that the Federal Communications Commission should take action to restrain him. Others approved of him. Unable to buy time from either CBS or NBC, Father Coughlin broadcasts over a 45-station network arranged by himself.

### What Some Radio Personalities Say About Censorship

"I cannot finish this editorial because NBC has deleted it."-Walter Winchell.

"It would be unfair both to myself and my sponsor to continue under censorship."-Alexander Woollcott.

"All that you hear over the networks is merely parroted news."-Boake Carter.

"I can't talk soldier's language over these deodorizers (microphones) so prepare

yourself for 17 minutes of tripe and bedtime stories."-Gen. Smedley Butler.

"No reference to strikes is to be made in news broadcast from this station."-An Official of WLW.

"The only possible answer to the question, 'Is Radio Censored' is an unqualified 'yes'."-Adams Bellows, former FCC member.



WHEN WE HAVE GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF RADIO



Cartoonist J. N. (Ding) Darling Forecast in 1932, in this humorous vein, that radio would someday become a political spoil in the United States.

Political Influence Over Radio



The Radio Is Adolf Hitler's, and other dictators', best means of distributing propaganda. Nazi Propaganda Minister Goebbels has divided the world into six zones, and each receives German radio programs adapted to its psychology. To keep foreign broadcasts out of Germany,

Hitler has ordered the 40,000 German radio dealers to feature low-powered sets, which receive only local programs. Radio also is dictator-controlled in the U.S.S.R., Japan, Italy; is government operated in Great Britain, Canada, South Africa.



A President of the United States could, if he desired, wield a whip over the radio industry through the Federal Communications Commission. The party in power always has a majority on the Commission. It is no more swayed by political considerations today than in the days of Coolidge and Hoover. Except for unnecessary internal bickering, the pres-

ent commission is doing a good job of seeing that all parts of the country get adequate broadcasting service with the minimum of government direction. Despite its faults, the American system of commercial broadcasting is superior to any suggested by politicians or educators as a substitute.





**Boris Karloff** Made Opponents of radio horror broadcasts doubly mad by dramatizing Edgar Allen Poe's terrifying story, "The Tell-Tale Heart," near supper time, when mothers were in kitchens and children around the radio.



**The Radio Horror Hour**, then nightmares: John J. DeBoer, in an experiment leading to a University of Chicago Ph. D. degree, found that "children often have violent physiological reactions to radio programs."



**Fred Allen** Was Criticized for announcing that "Next Sunday Rev. Dr. Jones will preach on 'Skiing on the Sabbath' or 'Are Our Young Women Backsliding on Their Week Ends?'" He emphasized "ends."



**Tommy Dorsey** Is One of several orchestra leaders who distress music purists by "swinging" Bach and other classic compositions. The New Jersey Bach Society has asked FCC to suspend stations which permit such "offenses."

## You can't say a damn thing on the air... says W.C. Feilds

They won't let me say anything—not a damn thing—on the .1 air. I wanted to tell a joke about doctors, but right away the sponsors said, "Better not say anything about doctors or hospitals, they might not like it."

When I object to changing my gags around, the radio censors always try to come back with, "Bill, it won't make any difference, anything you say will be funny." That's a lie. A man's only as good as his material. What we need in this business, both on the air and the screen, is somebody with guts. They're going to ruin every good show if it keeps up.

### You Can't Say That!

Why hell's bells, I can't even say that Claudette Colbert is the most beautiful and best actress in the world unless I get special permission direct from Miss Colbert. Look what they let that so-and-so Jimmy Fidler get away with. A few months ago, he said over the air that I was in the hospital ready to die; that I never would be back on the air or in pictures again. How does he get away with that?

But when I get back on the air and want to take a crack at Fidler, the answer is "No, you can't do that, Bill. He'll sue you for a couple hundred thousand." Even when I was willing to omit his name and just say something about that radio columnist who talks through one nostril, they still wouldn't let me do it.

### How They Treat Me

But now and then I get something by. My eyes have a habit, unfortunately, of wandering off the script now and then. Once when we were rehearsing a show

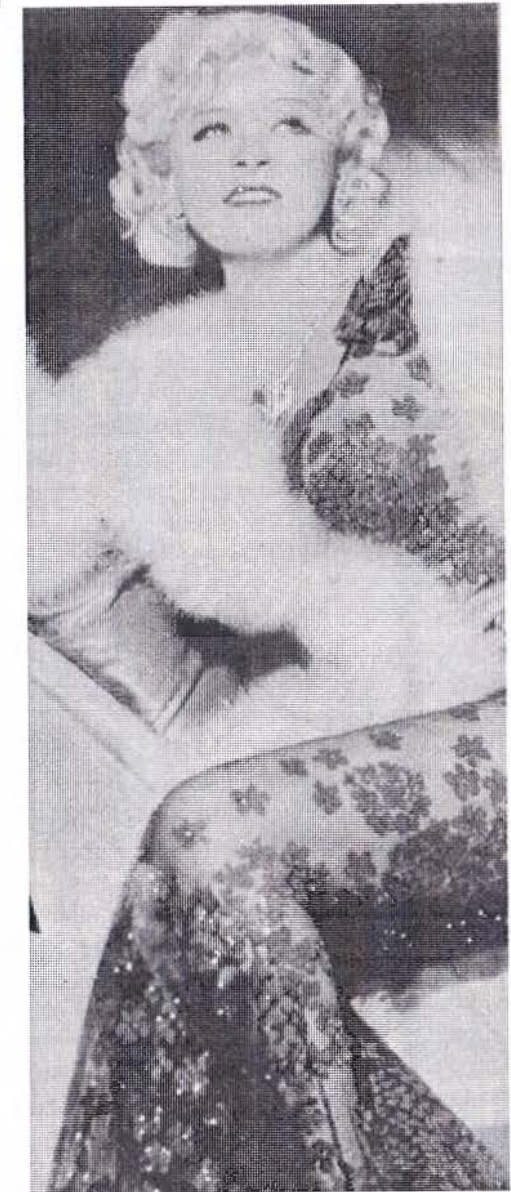


with Dorothy Lamour, this one happened: Dorothy walked out and was supposed to complain to me: "I walked out on the stage and dropped my glove and just as I stooped over to pick it up, your dachshund ran right between my legs and bit me on the fetlock." My reply was, "Lady, you were lucky it wasn't my Newfoundland." At this point the censor interrupted with: "Bill, that would never do, you'll have to change it. We can't use the word 'stoop' there." "All right," I said, "I'll use 'bend,' but you've ruined my gag."



"At this point, we interrupt the performance to inform the radio audience that the script of our play now calls for a revolver shot. We wish to assure all who may be listening in that the shot will be fired by our sound man, using an ordinary prop revolver and BLANK cartridges. There is no cause for alarm."

**This Cartoon by Earl Rose** appeared in the New Yorker following the Orson Welles broadcast.



Mae West Caused one Of radio's most indignant waves of protest by turning the Biblical story of Adam and Eve into a burlesque act. NBC apologized for it. She was banned from radio.



## The Story of Vic and Sade by Bill Idelson

A review by Rodney Bowcock

For a few years now, I've been trying to talk Ben Ohmart (the proprietor of Bear Manor Media) into a book on Vic & Sade. It's my favorite show, and it's certainly a worthy subject to write about. Well, around a year ago, Ben told me that not only was that Vic & Sade book finally coming out, but it was going to be part of a duo of books, written by none other than Bill Idelson, who of course, played the part of Rush Gook on the original program. This fall, those books, *The Story of Vic & Sade*, and *Gibby*, a largely biographical story of a young radio actor in the Second World War were published by BearManor.

The Vic & Sade book seems to be the one that folks get the most excited about, and rightfully so. It's comprised of about 300 pages, mostly the words of Paul Rhymer, which, while Idelson is a fine writer on his own, is certainly a good thing. Readers are treated to many, many script excerpts, some nearly complete, along with letters written to Idelson by Rhymer through the years that show the different sides of the author's personality. It's through these that we learn more than ever why so many people thought so much of Paul Rhymer. The scripts are funny, and extremely fresh. The letters, while very funny in their own right, display a side of Rhymer that some readers may find shocking. Crude language regarding sexual matters abounds, and while it may not mean much by today's standards, the reader should be aware of what to expect.

If one is to find anything to complain about, it's that the book doesn't really tell the full story of Vic & Sade. The character

of Uncle Fletcher is shown on the cover, but he's never mentioned in the text, and there are no script excerpts from after 1937. Idelson also barely mentions the character of Russell Miller, who replaced his own Rush character when he joined the Navy. In this listener's opinion, Russell, was a fresh character, different from Rush, and while he was no Rush Gook, it's awfully harsh to blame the downfall of the program on the existence of that character, as Idelson does in the text.

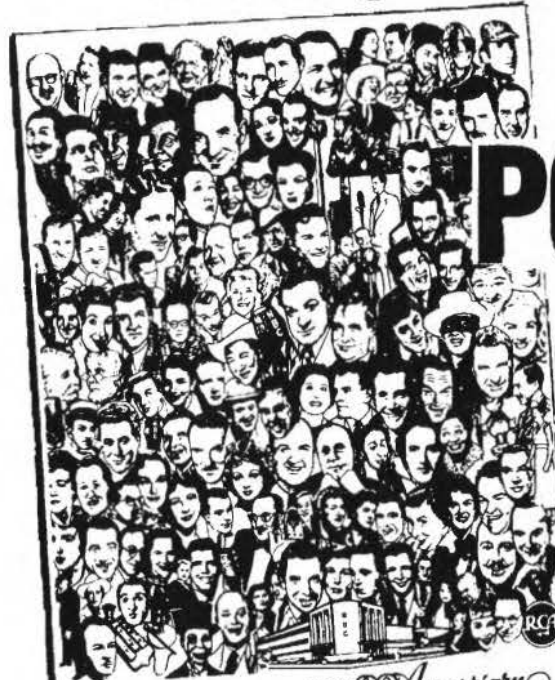
The other book is a short 92 page work, called *Gibby*. *Gibby* is a thinly disguised biographical account of Idelson's early life. We read the story of a young man whose father was a bootlegger in early 30's Chicago, who against his will, accepted a role in a daytime radio program. The bulk of the book is spent focusing on *Gibby's* career in the Navy during WWII. It's an interesting account, with letters from Paul Rhymer (some are also repeated in the Vic & Sade book) sprinkled liberally throughout.

Overall, both of Idelson's new books are real treats for the old-time radio fan, as long as you're expecting to be entertained more than informed. Neither book is really a complete history, and seems to be written more with the casual fan in mind, but everyone will enjoy these books. I found myself laughing out loud several times at Rhymer's prose and the script excerpts are a real gift. Kudos to Bill Idelson for taking this project on, and to Ben Ohmart for publishing it! Now we just need volume two.....

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## The Adventures of Sam Spade: **The Fourth Wall**

by Martin Grams, Jr.

The term "breaking the fourth wall" is used in film, theatre, television, and literary works when a character or other device makes the audience explicitly aware that they are viewing a work of fiction. The term originated from Bertolt Brecht's theory of "epic theatre" that he developed and in contrast to Konstantin Stanislavski's drama theory. Most often, the fourth wall is broken by a character directly addressing the audience, although the same effect can be achieved by breaking character, through dialogue, or by the characters interacting with objects outside the context of the work (example: a character is handed a prop by a stage hand).

Various episodes of The Adventures of Sam Spade have used this jarring effect to add a little humor to the program, something rarely accomplished on radio programs of the forties (with the exception of an occasional comedian laughing instead of playing their role, or commenting about the script they held in their hands). For dramatic programs, this was a rarity.

"We did some rather outrageous things sometimes," recalled Howard Duff, "especially during the summertime when the writers were getting a little dingy. We were all getting a little dingy. So we had a two-headed guy in the shower singing harmony a capella. Other characters were almost Dickensian. Bill Spier had quite an antic sense of humor. I thought they went too far quite a few times, but it was basically a fun time for all of us."

Such examples include "The Homicidal Husband Caper," broadcast March 5, 1950, when Sam questions a doctor about the

status of a client.

**DEVERAUX:** In short, it was all in her mind. Not an uncommon diagnosis this hectic day and age . . . You've heard of things like this, Spade?

**SPADE:** I have, Doctor. Almost every week, same time, same station.

Another example is "The Firebug Caper," broadcast February 6, 1949. Shortly before the middle commercial break for this episode, Sam stops dictating to Effie.

**EFFIE:** Yes, Sam?

**SPADE:** Did you keep that script those radio people sent us?

**EFFIE:** Of course. I filed it under "M" for men, women, and children, too.

**SPADE:** Well, tear out the commercial and put it in here.

**EFFIE:** But why, Sam?

**SPADE:** You're asking? Why, indeed!

**MUSIC:** (RESUMES AND TO CURTAIN)  
In "The Wedding Belle Caper," broadcast January 22, 1950, Spade questions why his client approached him, when there were dozens of other private detectives in the phone book to choose from.

**GASPARD:** I have chosen you after considerable thought. Bertillon, he is dead. Pinkerton, he is dead. Sherlock Holmes...

**SPADE:** Another network.

In "The Color Scheme Caper," broadcast June 11, 1950, Spade questions a model, Miss Blue.

**BLUE:** A lot of people will be there, and I'd like you to come.

**SPADE:** Well, thanks. Maybe I can find out something. Advance the plot.

In "The Homburger Sandwich Caper," broadcast July 3, 1949, Spade tries to dictate his caper to Effie.

**EFFIE:** What?

**SPADE:** Old Crow . . . one case, attention Lieutenant Dundy.

**EFFIE:** You mean you bribed him?

**SPADE:** Not exactly, sweetheart. I just returned the case he sent me for letting him take the bows in last Sunday's Wildroot Ad. Now, if you're ready I'll draw up the bill of particulars to go along with it, okay?

**EFFIE:** Yes, sir.

In "The Bay Psalm Caper," broadcast March 26, 1950, Spade reminds the listeners that the program is heard weekly on Sunday evenings.

**BACHRACH:** Sam Spade? Of a detective agency? Mundane occupation.

**SPADE:** Yeah, even on Sundays.

In the beginning of "The Elmer Longtail Caper," broadcast June 18, 1950, Sam visits his office, tired because of a lack of sleep. Effie suggests Sam dictate his caper later, after going home to catch a few winks of sleep. Sam informs her that he has to tell his story because if he went home to sleep, "We wouldn't have a show if I did."

In the "Caper with Too Many Clients," broadcast August 27, 1950, Spade tries to figure out who is using their real name and who is using an alias.

**FLETCHER:** Her real name is Marie Murphy. And that man who was following her . . . the one you distracted, is not really Charlie Rourke. His name is Mike Yablonski.

**SPADE:** Yeah, well suppose you tell me your real name, Mr. Lee.

**FLETCHER:** George Fletcher.

**SPADE:** Well mine's Howard Duff.

Perhaps the best is Spade's discussion with his client, a fashion designer named Andre, in "The Caper with Marjorie's Things," broadcast May 7, 1950.

**ANDRE:** Why, just last week, I designed a foundation garment that will revolutionize womanhood. An invisible plastic called "Gasp." Why, you'd never even know it was there unless-

**SOUND:** PHONE RINGS

**ANDRE:** I wonder who that could be.

**SPADE:** Perhaps the NBC Censor.



Howard Duff and Lurene Tuttle

Martin Grams Jr. is the author of numerous books on old-time radio and old-time television including *The I Love A Mystery Companion*, *The Railroad Hour* and *The Radio Adventures of Sam Spade*.



## New Book Explores Jewish Stereotypes on Radio

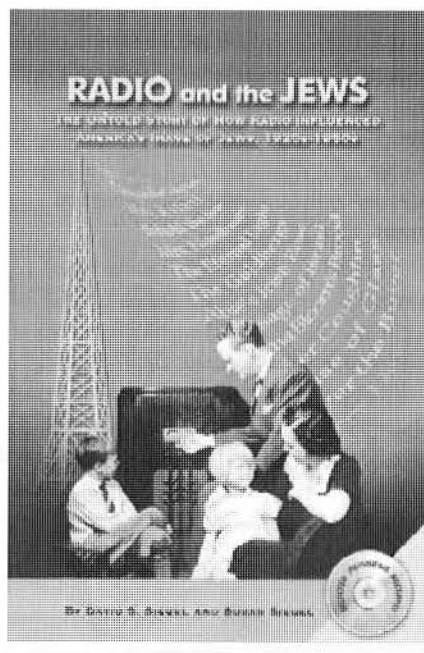
Like the famous 1960s ad campaign, "You don't have to be Jewish to enjoy Levy's rye bread," old time radio fans know that the radio audience didn't have to be Jewish to enjoy *The Goldbergs*, or African-American to enjoy *Amos 'n' Andy* or Italian to enjoy *Life With Luigi*. For better or worse, ethnic and racial stereotypes were very much a part of radio's golden age.

In a provocative new book, ***Radio and the Jews: The Untold Story of How Radio Influenced America's Image of Jews***, radio archivist David Siegel and his wife Susan Siegel explore how radio influenced a nation's perception of a minority group. Depending on which program/s listeners tuned in to, they were exposed to both positive and negative stereotypes of Jews.

The 283 page book examines more than 100 programs that featured Jewish themes and/or characters. While several books have been written about Jewish performers on radio, such as Jack Benny, Eddie Cantor and George Burns, ***Radio and the Jews*** is the first in-depth look at the Jewish image on radio across all program genres, from comedy and drama to soap opera, religious oriented programs and World War II era programs.

The book includes:

- Jewish themed series, from the familiar *Goldbergs* to long forgotten programs such as *Meyer the Buyer* and *Potash and Perlmutter*.
- Mainstream programs with Jewish themes such as *The Fleishmann's Yeast Hour*, *The Lux Radio Theatre*, *Columbia Workshop* and *Mr. District Attorney*.
- Special broadcasts such as *Behold the Jew* and *Operation Nightmare* as well as



short-wave broadcasts from Europe during World War II.

The book sheds new light on the popular program, *Abie's Irish Rose*, and why its writers experienced the same conflict that Gosden and Correll faced when *Amos 'n' Andy* came under attack from segments of the African-American community. With access to 65 year old correspondence and internal memos, original scripts and audio of episodes, the authors detail the controversy and how each side viewed the issue.

In another first, the authors document the history of the longest running Jewish themed program, the *Message of Israel*, which aired from 1934 to 1986.

The book also includes the darker side of radio and how the airwaves were used to spread the anti-Semitic messages of

people like Father Charles Coughlin, Charles Lindbergh and Gerald L. K. Smith.

***Radio and the Jews*** retails for \$24.95, plus \$4.00 for media mail shipping, and includes a CD with samples of many of the programs featured in the book. Copies can be ordered directly from the publisher, Book Hunter Press, [www.bookhunterpress.com/radio](http://www.bookhunterpress.com/radio), via email, [bookhunterpress@verizon.net](mailto:bookhunterpress@verizon.net), or by phoning (914) 245-6608 or faxing (914) 245-2630. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

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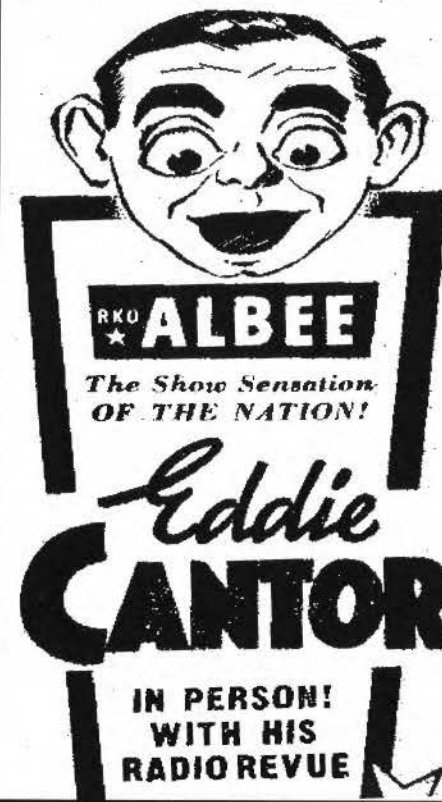
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## Truth or Consequences PIC April 24, 1945

At eight thirty every Saturday night millions of solid citizens move closer to the radio to enjoy, by car, the spectacle of other solid citizens cutting the sort of capers usually encountered in dreams. Inhibitions temporarily discarded, they ride elephants, crawl through the studio on their hands and knees, plunge into tubs of water and generally make spectacles of themselves. In return for their efforts they are awarded a certain amount in cash and a box Of the sponsor's product, and they all seem to consider the whole thing well worth it.

The gentleman responsible for these shennanigans is Ralph Edwards, Master of Ceremonies on the program "Truth or Consequences," who thought up the whole idea back in 1940 and who has been steadily gathering a phenomenal number of fanatically devoted followers ever since.

Not only do his listeners make every effort to obtain tickets to the studio performance (he is deluged by thousands of requests) and to tune in faithfully every Saturday night, but he seems to exert over them a profound emotional power of suggestion which results in an overwhelming response to any slight appeal on his part. This has proven invaluable during numerous drives sponsored by the government and various charitable organizations. "T. or C." has, in fact, become a radio phenomenon with a success story second to none.

Perhaps the most impressive illustration of results brought about through a brief appeal by Edwards concerns the annual "March of Dimes" for the benefit of the victims of infantile paralysis. During the drive Bobby Riggio, a ten-year-old victim of the disease appeared on the program, where

he sang "Over the Rainbow." Following Bobby's song Edwards told his listeners to send in contributions for the fund aside from those which they were making through other channels. If \$10,000 was received. Edwards would give Bobby a \$1,000 War Bond and turn over all contributions to the "March of Dimes." The \$10,000 quota was reached three days after the broadcast. A week or so later little Bobby had the honor of personally presenting Mrs. Roosevelt with the first check for \$50,000, and at latest returns \$135,858.75 had been counted.

Ralph has made numerous appeals on behalf of the War Bond drives. On Sept. 18, 1943, one of the contestants on the program was tuned in by "remote" from St. Albans Naval Hospital where he was recuperating from wounds received in action. He was Gunner's mate 3rd class Mickey Costa, and his "consequence" was to sing "Wait For Me, Mary" over the phone to Mary, his girl friend who lives in Pennsylvania. Edwards then told the radio audience that if they would go out and buy bonds, and write him giving the serial numbers and denomination of the Bond (insuring that these would be absolutely new sales) and if the Bond sales totalled \$500,000, he would give Mickey a \$1,000 War Bond. This was a bit risky, for the broadcast was on a Saturday night when it is practically impossible to buy a Bond on the spur of the moment, and the same held for Sunday. By Monday there was a good chance that the enthusiasm for the effort might have evaporated. But it seems that the enthusiasm of a confirmed "T. or C." listener consists of sterner stuff, for the



LITTLE BOBBY RIGGIO, infantile paralysis victim, takes a look at some of the cash (total \$135, 858.75) which rolled in after Edwards guaranteed Bobby, who sang on program, a \$1,000 War Bond if listeners would send a total of \$10,000 to be contributed to the "March-of-Dimes" drive.

mail brought in the serial numbers of more than \$5,000,000 worth of Bonds.

Another, less direct contribution to the War Bond drive was made when Edwards, in a facetious moment, suggested that his listeners mail a penny to Mrs. Dennis Mullane of Staten Island, who had just muffed her question. Mrs. Mullane received more than 330,000 coppers, which she put into War Bonds for her Marine son.

"Truth or Consequences" did its bit for the waste-fat salvage campaign through the medium of a Dallas broadcast. Irving Arkin, a restaurant owner who weighs 260 pounds, had to "take the consequences," which turned out to be internment in the

Dallas City Hall until his fellow citizens produced a sufficient quantity of waste fat to equal Mr. Arkin's weight. Before the night was over crowds converged on the City Hall, the government had its 260 pounds of fat and Mr. Arkin was a free and famous man.

Probably the longest-drawn-out (and still interesting) radio gag in history cost Edwards personally over \$6,000, resulted in an avalanche of free publicity and kept the radio public in suspense for months. It all began innocently in May, 1944, when one of Edwards' idea men suggested that on each program the m.c. stop suddenly and ask: "Is there a Mr. Wickel in the audi-





*MICKEY COSTA, Gunner's mate 3rd class, recuperating from battle wounds in St. Albans Naval Hospital, is given \$1,000 Bond promised to him by Edwards if listeners would purchase \$5,500,000 worth of Bonds and send him their serial numbers and denominations. Total was \$5,000,000.*

ence?" Wickel was chosen as the name because it was uncommon. Some weeks later NBC tipped off Edwards that a Mr. Rudolph J. Wickel of Verona, New Jersey, had written in asking for tickets. (It turned out that people had been plaguing Mr. Wickel to find out what it was all about.) Thereupon Edwards made arrangements with the Mayor of Holyoke, Mass., to bury \$1,000 in silver in a vacant lot in that city, and Mr. Wickel would be sent to dig up the fortune left to him by a mythical uncle. When this was announced over the air, Holyoke citizens grabbed hats and shovels and made for the site, and the treasure was a 1400-pound safe for which he did not have the combination, and told

that the money would be found inside. With located before poor Mr. Wickel arrived. This was unforeseen, but it made the gag even better. Next Mr. Wickel was informed that \$1,000 had been deposited in a bank, in his name . . . but was not given the name of the help of a policeman friend Wickel finally got the safe open, only to find half of a thousand-dollar bill. A talking parrot, who knew where the other half was hidden, was loaned to Wickel for a week, but proved of no help. Finally, Edwards announced that he would mail the rest of the bill to Wickel in a book . . . and suggested that all the listeners send books, too. Wickel received more than 17,000 books, all of which went to the



*Mrs. Dennis Mullane, of Staten Island, is shown in her home with only a small portion of mail she received (containing 330,000 pennies) after Edwards suggested that listeners mail her a penny for muffin question. Mrs. Mullane bought War Bonds with them for son in Marines.*

Victory Book Campaign, but somewhere among the first few thousand lie found the other half of the bill, on page 13 of "Blood, Sweat and Tears."

Ralph Edwards' own story sounds like Horatio Alger. He, came to New York in search of a career, ran through his nest egg and slept on park benches, and then just as, he was about to give up he landed a part-time job. Eventually he became an announcer on the networks. Then, in 1940, he conceived the idea for "Truth or

Consequences," which quickly climbed the position of favorite among quiz shows in the Crossley survey, and there it remains. Edwards is 32, he is 5' 10" tall, weighs 160 pounds, has red hair and brown eyes and an engaging personality. He is married and father of two. His lucky sponsor is Proctor & Gamble, if you did know.



*In the Wickel basement are piled some 17,000 books received when Edwards said he would send other half of bill in a book, asked listeners to mail books, too.*

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## SUNDAY EVENING

### 6 P. M.

WLW: Those Websters (m)  
WSAI: News, Drew Pearson (a)  
WCPO: News  
WKRC: Family Hour (c)  
WCKY: News  
WZIP: Sunset Melodies (r)

### 6:15 p. m.

WSAI: News, Gardiner (a)  
WCPO: Nat Brandwynne (r)  
WCKY: Daily Hit Parade (r)  
WZIP: Sign Off

### 6:30 p. m.

WLW: Hollywood Preview (n)  
WSAI: Greatest Story (a)  
WCPO: Chuck Foster  
WKRC: Percy Faith Orch. (c)

### 7 P. M.

WLW: Jack Benny (n)  
WSAI: Frank Devol Orch. (a)  
WCPO: Sherlock Holmes (m)  
WKRC: Gene Autry (c)  
WCKY: News

### 7:15 p. m.

WCKY: Waltz Time (r)

### 7:30 p. m.

WLW: Phil Harris-Alice Faye  
WSAI: Exploring Unknown (a)  
WCPO: Behind Front Page (m)  
WKRC: Blondie (c)

### 8 P. M.

WLW: Charlie McCarthy (n)  
WSAI: Detroit Symphony (a)  
WCPO: Loveliness For You (r)  
WKRC: Sam Spade (c)  
WCKY: News

### 8:15 p. m.

WCKY: The Jamboree (r)

### 8:30 p. m.

WLW: Fred Allen (n)  
WCPO: Music As You Like It (r)  
WKRC: Man Called X (c)

### 8:45 p. m.

WCPO: Newscope (m)

### 9 P. M.

WLW: Merry-Go-Round (n)  
WSAI: Walter Winchell (a)  
WCPO: Meet Me At Parky's (m)  
WKRC: Corliss Archer (c)  
WCKY: News

### 9:15 p. m.

WSAI: Louella Parsons (a)  
WCKY: The Jamboree (r)

### 9:30 p. m.

WLW: Familiar Music (n)  
WSAI: Theater Guild (a)  
WCPO: Jim Backus Show (m)  
WKRC: Star Theater (c)

### 10 P. M.

WLW: Take It Or Leave It (n)  
WCPO: Save Your Money (m)  
WKRC: Escape (c)  
WCKY: The Jamboree (r)

### 10:30 p. m.

WLW: Horace Heidt (n)  
WSAI: Evening Concerts (r)  
WCPO: Private Citizen 13  
WKRC: Strike It Rich (c)

### 11 P. M.

WLW: Walter Winchell (a)  
WCPO: News  
WKRC: News and Analysis (c)  
WCKY: News

### 11:15 p. m.

WLW: Louella Parsons (a)  
WCPO: Gospel Singers (r)  
WKRC: The Newsmakers (c)  
WCKY: Jamboree (r)

### 11:30 p. m.

WLW: Ray Eberle Orch.  
WCPO: Shorty Sherlock (m)  
WKRC: Harriet Cohen (c)

### 12 P. M.

WLW: News and Moon River  
WSAI: News; Sign Off  
WCPO: News  
WKRC: News (c)  
WCKY: News

### 12:15 a. m.

WCPO: Tommy Carlyn Orc. (m)  
WKRC: Eddy Howard Orch. (c)  
WCKY: Music To Read By (r)

### 12:30 a. m.

WLW: Platter Time (r)  
WCPO: Dance Orch. (m)  
WKRC: Woody Herman (c)  
WCKY: Sign Off

### 1 A. M.

WLW: Platter Time (r)  
WCPO: News; Sign Off  
WKRC: Sign Off

February 29, 1948

**X**  
**MINUS**  
**ONE.....**

**.... AND OTHER STUFF OUT OF THIS WORLD AT THE 32<sup>nd</sup> FRIENDS OF OLD TIME RADIO CONVENTION OCTOBER 18-21, 2007 IN NEWARK, NJ**



## Old Time Radio Series Reviews

by Bill Kiddle

### AMAZING INTERPLANETARY ADVENTURES OF FLASH GORDON

In 1935 two of Alex Raymond's popular comic strip characters, FLASH GORDON and JUNGLE JIM made their way from the Sunday comic strip supplement of the Hearst newspapers to a quarter-hour adventure serial on the Mutual network. On Saturday 4/27/35, the first weekly episode of FLASH GORDON was aired, featuring Gale Gordon in the title role. Over the years, several other attempts were made to bring the character of "Flash" to life for a juvenile audience, but this effort is considered to be the best and most widely known. Radio Memories has the complete run of the 26 episodes found in the first series.

### AMAZING MR. TUFF

In the summer of 1948, veteran character actor Will Wright was cast in the role of "Ephriam Tuff", a clever old New England attorney who uses his skills and experience in a comedy drama titled THE AMAZING MR. TUFF. The program, originated by Arthur Train, written by Arnold Perl, and produced /directed by Anton M. Leader was heard over CBS on Monday evenings for only two months, between July 5 and August 28. Unfortunately, listeners did not consider the show to be "amazing"

### AMERICA LOOKS ABROAD

In the early years of the 21st century, America faces new political and economic challenges. In the winter of 1940, NBC, in cooperation with the Foreign Policy Association in Washington, presented a weekly program that focused upon some of the most challenging problems facing our

nation in a war-torn world. The "key person" each Sunday was a research associate of the Association. The topics were many and varied --from food rationing, to Japanese foreign policy (months before Pearl Harbor), America's neutrality, and the war in various parts of Europe. As a result of this fine program, Americans were given the facts they needed!

### AMERICAN FAMILY ROBINSON

In 1812 a Swiss clergyman, Johann David Wyss, wrote an interesting novel, THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON as an object lesson to teach his four sons about family values, good husbandry and self reliance. One hundred and twenty-eight years later, Marjorie Barnett and Douglas Silver combined their writing talents, and with the support of the National Industrial Council, produced AMERICAN FAMILY ROBINSON, an interesting quarter-hour situation comedy that was often broadcast "back to back" on the same Sunday evening in 1940-1941. "Myra and Luke Robinson", the two main characters in the series, start out operating an emporium in Birch Falls, but switch to a newspaper enterprise in Centerville where a host of personal problems present themselves. The family gets involved in a movie making scheme go to Hollywood by way of some strange "backroads settings." In the program #157, the finale, they return to Centerville. They have gained some practical wisdom!

### AMANDA OF HONEYMOON HILL

Frank and Anne Hummert created, wrote, and produced more than 125 different radio series. Many of them were quarter-hour daytime melodramas. AMANDA OF HONEYMOON HILL, one of their least remembered creations, was the story of a lovely young redhead--a common girl who marries into a rich aristocratic Virginia family.

Her handsome husband, "Edward Leighton", is an artist, forced by the circumstances of war to take over the operation of a family factory in a distant city--leaving "Amanda" alone at the country estate. All this was very commonplace in the Hummert tales.

### ANALOG

When we look at the face of a traditional clock we see the hands move continuously around the face. Such a clock is a typical analog device capable of indicating every possible time of day. For over three years, between 1/03/68 and 4/02/71, CBS presented ANALOG a program designed to present changing values in our American society. Each week two guest participants would air their perspectives on a topic to which each was a major participant. In the first program in the series Whitney Young and Sterling Brown discussed civil rights and in the second half-hour program Elston Howard and Joe Garagiola considered changes in major league baseball. Political leaders and clergymen were often participants. Radio Memories has an outstanding collection of these fine programs for your listening enjoyment.

### ARE THESE OUR CHILDREN ?

Juvenile delinquency and crime are a specter hanging over many American homes today. Back in the late 1940's the public was becoming more aware of the dramatic rise in the crime rate among teenagers thanks to programs like ARE THESE OUR CHILDREN? This half-hour drama heard over ABC on Sunday nights for 16 months, between 9/29/46 and 1/19/48, was a study of various cases involving youthful offenders. John Galbraith was the host to the series.

### AMERICAN CHALLENGE

Western Europe and the mainland of Asia were blazing with

World War in 1939-1940. The flames of conflict had not yet reached American shores. The history texts suggest that the USA was technically neutral, but our national leaders had taken the first steps toward a strong national defensive posture. The AMERICAN CHALLENGE was a syndicated series of dramas devoted to the Allied cause. One episode, "Bombers For Britain" tells of an underemployed American stunt pilot who joins the Canadian Royal Air Force and flies war planes across the Atlantic in a dangerous ferrying mission. In "Lafayette", another story in the series, an old American WW-1 vet tells of his flying and fighting for the French Flying Corp prior to the US entry into the conflict.

### A TRAIL OF BLOOD

"A good person once said, that where mystery begins religion ends." This reflection by the 18th Century Irish philosopher Edmund Burke makes an interesting prologue to an afternoon BBC production titled A TRAIL OF BLOOD. This 90 minute drama by Alan Scott, broadcast on February 1, 1984, relates a fictional "event" from the year 1535 during the reign of Henry VIII. The king has used his royal powers to force the submission of the clergy and the subservience of Parliament to his will, yet a young priest finds himself carrying out a royal decree to search the records of a remote abbey for some "important information." The BBC weaves an interesting drama from this footnote in history!

### ALAN YOUNG SHOW

Most American audiences remember Alan Young as the star of the popular MR ED television series. In reality, this Canadian-born comedian had been for four seasons, between 6/28/44 and 7/05/49, the star of his own half-hour situation comedy program titled THE ALAN YOUNG SHOW. Mr.



Young's style of humor was more intellectual than many of the other "in your face" comedy routines. The program typically opened with a monologue by Young, followed by some musical numbers by Peter VanSteeden (later George Wyle). Comedy skits by Jean Gillespie, Ed Begley, Louise Erickson or Jim Backus were featured each week. Sal Hepatica, Ipana & Tums were some of the sponsors of this fine comedic series.

#### **AMERICA ON THE MARCH**

The Office of Price Stabilization in Washington syndicated a quarter-hour program designed to help consumers cope with the difficult choices in the post war economy of 1952-1953. The program stressed the need for thrift, careful buying habits, and the importance of ceiling prices to curb inflation. During its short run William Santelman and George Shelton were the directors and Ron Rawson was the announcer. In 1953 a weekly message was given by Tighe Woods, director of Price Stabilization. Excellent music was supplied first by the US Marine Band and later by the US Air Force Symphony Orchestra

#### **AMERICAN PORTRAIT**

Over the past 400+ years many interesting persons have been part of the American scene. For six short months, between March 16 and September 14, 1946, CBS presented a well-written and produced series of half-hour biographical sketches. The program titled AMERICAN PORTRAIT was aired on Saturday evenings at 6:15. The stories in the series included: Richard Dana, Cotton Mather, Jane Addams, Samuel J. Tilden and Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. Howard Barnes directed the drama series that included Don Baker as the announcer & Milton Bacon as the narrator.

#### **AN AMERICAN IN ENGLAND**

The considerable talents of writer/director Norman Corwin and news analyst Edward R. Murrow were combined as a special documentary dramatic offering of the COLUMBIA WORKSHOP between August 3 and December 22, 1942. AN AMERICAN IN ENGLAND was in reality the story of Mr. Corwin's visit to wartime Britain. The program, which originated in Britain and was heard in the US via shortwave, was in many ways a "landmark experiment produced under wartime conditions." The storyline covered many aspects of wartime life in a nation under seige, from the bombing of London to the events in the once sleepy English countryside. Joseph Julian was the narrator and Lyn Murray was the composer, conductor, and arranger of most of the musical score.

#### **CIRCUS DAYS**

A life of romance and adventure under the Big Top was the dream of many a struggling individual. CIRCUS DAYS was an old drama series heard over NBC twice a week (Friday and Saturdays) in a quarter-hour format at 7:30 for three short months, between 11/03/33 and 2/10/34. The cast included: Jack Roseleigh as "Shoestring Charlie" (the Owner), Walter Kinsella (manager), Betty Council (equestrienne), Bruce Evans (trapeze artist), and Frank Wilson (lion tamer) Ben Grauer was the announcer

#### **THE CLOCK**

"The whole drama of life is written in the sands of time" chimed the voice of William Conrad as ABC presented another episode of THE CLOCK. This program written by Lawrence Klee, was an interesting anthology in which a clock or span of time was the primary focal point of a 30-minute drama. The series aired for three seasons, between 11/03/46 and 5/23/48. During the

1946-1947 season, the program originated from New York. In 1948 the production moved to Hollywood and a West Coast talent pool assumed leading roles. Radio Memories has a very representative collection of these fine episodes.

#### **CLYDE BEATTY SHOW**

Wild animals brought into captivity and exhibited before a human audience have been popular with circus partons for many centuries. Clyde Beatty, "the world's greatest wild animal trainer", traveled the globe in a quest for fine specimens for his circus acts. The fictionalized accounts of his adventures were broadcast on the CLYDE BEATTY SHOW, a children's adventure program sponsored by Kellogg cereals, and heard over the Mutual network three times a week at 5:30 for three years, between 1950-1952. Radio Memories has 52 of these interesting shows for your listening pleasure.

#### **CITY HOSPITAL**

The enviorns of a major medical facility was often the site of a interesting melodramas. Santos Ortega played the role of a doctor and Anne Burr that of a nurse in CITY HOSPITAL, an anthology of medical tales heard over CBS for seven years, between 10/06/51 and 11/08/58. For several years, the program was heard on Saturdays at 1:30 for Carters Pills.

#### **CITY DESK**

Newspaper journalism, sometimes known as the Fourth Estate, had a major impact on life in America. For nine short months, between January 2 and September 27, 1941, CITY DESK was a newspaper drama that centered upon the exploits of "Jack Winters." First, James Meighan, and later Donald Briggs, were cast in the leading role, with the part of "Linda Webster" played by Gertrude Warner. This half-hour

show was heard over CBS.

#### **CLOAK AND DAGGER**

The Office of Stragetig Services(OSS) was America's primary military intelligence agency against the Axis Powers in World War 2. CLOAK AND DAGGER, an anthology of true stories of the men and women recruited to go behind enemy lines and conduct espionage operations, were dramatized on CBS over a 22 weekperiod, between May 7 and October 22, 1950. This excellent half-hour program, aired Sunday afternoons at 4:00, had a cast of some of the top names in New York radio, yet the series never gained the recognition that it richly deserved. Radio Memories has a complete run of these real spy dramas.

#### **ALL-STAR WESTERN THEATER**

Western music, known to some as "cow-boy" music, helped to chronicle an important time and place in American history. For two years, between 8/11/46 and 8/14/48, a CBS station (KNX, Los Angeles) was the home to ALL-STAR WESTERN THEATRE, an interesting mixture of Western music, mostly by Foy Willing and the Riders of the Purple Sage, and a short drama that had a decided western flavor to it. Weber's Bread sponsored this half-hour program that featured such notables as Tex Ritter, Dale Evans, Jimmy Wakely and Tim Holt. Monte Montana was the host and Cottonseed Clark the announcer.

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**ADVENTURES OF SAM SPADE**

- 00494 08/02/46 # 4 Sam And The Psyche  
10/05/47 # 67 The Adam Figg Caper
- 00495 11/09/47 # 72 Bow Window Caper  
06/20/48 #104 Deathbed Caper
- 00496 06/27/48 #105 Bail Bond Caper  
07/04/48 #106 Rushlight Diamond
- 00497 07/11/48 #107 Wheel Of Life Caper  
07/18/48 #108 Missing Newshawk
- 00498 07/25/48 #109 Mad Scientist Caper  
08/01/48 #110 Dry Martini Caper
- 02150 08/08/48 #111 Bluebeard Caper  
08/15/48 #112 Critical Author Caper
- 02151 08/22/48 #113 Vaphio Cup Caper  
08/29/48 #114 Lawless Caper
- 00500 09/12/48 #116 Lazerus Caper  
09/19/48 #117 Hot 100 Grand
- 00501 09/26/48 #118 Dick Foley Caper  
10/24/48 #122 Insomnia Caper
- 00502 10/31/48 #123 Fairley-Bright Caper  
11/07/48 #124 S.Q.P. Caper

**FATHER COUGHLIN**

- 00811 03/23/37 New Book & Easter Story.  
"The Meaning Of Easter." A Non-Political Address On The Meaning Of Easter Sunday. Also, An Announcement Of Coughlin's New Book, Available Free To Anyone Who Writes In To Request A Copy (30 Minute Program)  
04/11/37 "Relief Which Failed To Relieve." A Denunciation By Coughlin Of New Deal Relief Efforts. He Rails Against The "Wave Of Socialistic Filth" Who Have Come Forward With

Unconventional Proposals For Ending The Depression, And Insists That Christianity Does Not Support The Cause Of "Collectivism." Final Program Of The Season.  
(30 Minute Program)

- 05258 11/20/38 "The Jew, The Christian, And Persecution" The First In A Series Of Increasingly Inflammatory Speeches By Coughlin Concerning The Ongoing Persecution Of Jews In Germany. This Broadcast Is Followed By An Strongly Worded Disclaimer From Station WMCA Stating That Coughlin Has Made "Many Errors Of Fact," And The Station Terminated Its Contract With Coughlin As A Result Of This Program. Coughlin Himself Was Censured By His Archbishop For This Broadcast, And For That Of 12/11/38. Aircheck Of WMCA, New York. All programs from this point forward are airchecks of WHBI, Newark, NJ.

- 05259 11/27/38 "Let Us Consider The Record" Coughlin Responds To Criticism Of Previous Week's Talk By Playing A Transcription Of That Presentation And Reiterating His Claims Of Ties Between "International Bankers" And Soviet Communism.

**FRED ALLEN**

- 14315 06/12/40 #37 Hillbilly Skit
- 14316 01/01/41 Amateur Of The Month

- 14317 01/08/41 All Is Not Gold That Glitters
- 14318 01/15/41 #15 The Specialist's Quandry
- 14319 01/22/41 #16 They Almost Junked The Junket
- 14320 01/29/41 #17 A Stay At Home Cruise
- 14321 02/05/41 #18 Mountain Justice
- 14322 02/12/41 #19 Truth Or Subsequences
- 14323 02/19/41 #20 Milk
- 14324 02/26/41 #21 Western Union
- 13672 04/09/41 #27 Shortcut To A Nervous Breakdown

**LIGHTS OUT (C-90)**

- 13454 12/09/36 Nobody Died  
10/13/42 Revolt Of The Worms  
08/31/43 Immortal Gentleman
- 13817 05/12/37 #176 Organ  
12/22/37 #198 Uninhabited - Christmas Story (1918)
- 09309 03/23/38 #210 The Dream w/Boris Karloff  
04/06/38 #212 Cat Wife w/Boris Karloff

**QUIET PLEASE**

- 03224 06/08/47 # 1 Nothing Behind The Door  
06/15/47 # 2 I Have Been Looking For You
- 03225 06/22/47 # 3 We Were Here First  
06/29/47 # 4 The Ticket Taker
- 03226 07/20/47 # 5 Cornecia  
07/27/47 # 6 I Remember Tomorrow
- 03227 08/03/47 # 7 Inquest  
08/10/47 # 8 Bring Me To Life

**VIC AND SADE**

- 18575 06/05/39 YY Flirch Tries To Phone Vic  
00/00/42 Phone Call From The Hinks  
08/24/42 Rush's New School Clothes  
09/14/42 Sade & Ruth Come Out Even

- 19673 04/08/40 Suing Bijou  
03/25/41 Muddled Money  
11/29/45 Phone Calls
- 18241 08/06/42 Christmas Cards COD  
08/18/42 Attic Cleaning  
04/07/44 Solo March
- 17877 03/12/42 Tea Shoppe  
09/18/42 Fred Becomes Ted  
06/08/42 Letter From Bess  
02/15/43 Letter From Chuck  
???/???/?? Scrap Drive  
10/20/42 Concrete Floor
- 18576 12/07/42 Wants To Break Up Lee Street  
01/07/43 Fred Might Join Lodge  
06/08/42 Porch Swing  
07/23/43 Lodge Robe Needs Altering

- 17878 ???/???/?? Owe \$2  
01/04/43 Honorary Title  
02/17/43 Out Of The Doldrums.  
04/05/44 Hyena Grease  
03/12/38 Russell Official Host
- 18577 10/11/43 Victor R. Gook Fontene  
04/05/44 Formula For Hyena Gre  
06/07/44 Elkskin Shoe Laces

**CAVALCADE OF AMERICA (NEW)**

- 20180 01/04/43 #312 Between Them B  
03/22/43 #323 Lfetide
- 20181 04/26/43 #328 Soldiers In High B  
05/10/43 #330 Fat Girl
- 20182 05/24/43 #332 Pharmacist's Mat  
First Class  
05/31/43 #333 Mr. Lincoln's Wife
- 20183 06/07/43 #334 The Enemy Is Listening  
06/14/43 #335 Make Way For The Lady
- 20184 06/21/43 #336 The Unsinkable Marblehead  
07/05/43 #338 Listen To The People



**ROGERS OF THE GAZETTE (NEW)**

20084 05/15/50 Audition Show  
06/10/53 Lance O'Neil -Troublemaker

20085 06/12/53 Town Council Meeting  
07/03/53 Jimmy Reynolds Story

20086 07/08/53 # 1 Newspaper Being  
Taken Over  
07/15/53 # 2 Second Hand Suit

20087 07/22/53 # 3 Dirty Politics  
07/29/53 # 4 Surprise Engagement

20088 07/30/53 # 5 That Taylor Boy  
08/05/53 # 5 That Taylor Boy

20089 08/12/53 # 6 Land Deal  
08/26/53 # 8 C.J. Griffith,  
Journalism Student

20090 09/16/53 #11 Illyria Box Lunch  
09/23/53 #12 Farm Sale Day

20091 10/08/53 #13 Leah's Eudora Notes  
10/15/53 #14 Maggie & Barbara

20092 10/22/53 #15 Eula Horner & The  
County Fair  
10/29/53 #16 The Old Cornout

20093 11/05/53 #17 Toast Of Vienna -  
Gretchen March  
11/11/53 #18 The Town Clock

20094 11/18/53 #19 Do It Now  
11/25/53 #20 The Princess Reopens

20095 12/02/53 #21 The Longest Week  
Of The Year  
12/09/53 #22 Pastel Christmas  
Trees

20096 12/23/53 #23 A White Christmas  
In Illyria  
12/30/53 #24 Investigative  
Reporters

20097 01/06/54 #25 The Novelist  
01/13/54 #26 Something Going  
On In Illyria  
01/20/54 #27 Something's  
Troubling Will

**WHISTLER (NEW)**

20148 08/13/45 #168 What Makes  
A Murderer  
08/20/45 #169 X Marks The  
Murderer

20149 09/17/45 #173 Sing A Song  
Of Murder  
10/29/45 #179 Final Return

18449 10/15/45 #177 The House On  
Sycamore Road  
12/31/45 #188 Miracle On 49th St.

20150 11/05/45 #180 Harvest Of Death  
11/12/45 #181 The Seeing Eye

20151 11/19/45 #182 Coincidence  
11/26/45 #183 The Stray Dream

20178 12/03/45 #184 Poison Is Quicker  
12/10/45 #185 The Cistern

20177 12/17/45 #186 Lucky Night  
01/21/46 #191 Treasure Hunt

**BLAIR OF THE MOUNTIEW (new)**

20207 01/31/38 # 1  
02/07/38 # 2  
02/28/38 # 5

20208 03/07/38 # 6  
C-90 03/14/38 # 7  
03/21/38 # 8  
03/28/38 # 9  
04/04/38 #10

20210 04/11/38 #11  
C-90 04/18/38 #12  
04/25/38 #13  
05/02/38 #14  
05/09/38 #15

20211 05/16/38 #16  
C-90 05/23/38 #17  
05/30/38 #18  
06/06/38 #19  
06/13/38 #20

20212 06/20/38 #21  
C-90 06/27/38 #22  
07/04/38 #23  
07/11/38 #24  
07/18/38 #25

20213 07/25/38 #26  
C-90 08/01/38 #27  
08/08/38 #28  
08/15/38 #29  
08/22/38 #30

20214 08/29/38 #31  
C-90 09/05/38 #32  
09/12/38 #33  
09/19/38 #34  
09/26/38 #35  
10/03/38 #36

**FATHER KNOWS BEST (NEW)**

20288 09/20/51 A Diet Discussion  
C-90 05/15/52 Self Reliance  
09/18/52 Weekend Activity

20289 09/25/52 Should Women Work  
10/09/52 Betty & The Crooner

20292 10/16/52 Bud Quits School  
10/30/52 Carnival In Town

20293 11/06/52 Selling The House  
11/13/52 The Missing Pipes

20294 11/20/52 The Phantom Prowler  
12/11/53 A Worried Witness

20295 12/18/52 The Kids Revolt  
12/25/52 Shared Christmas Gifts

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19398 12/08/52 #806 Strictly Dishonorable  
19399 12/29/52 #809 Westward The  
Women

19400 04/06/53 #823 Angels In The  
Outfield (VG)

19401 07/06/53 #836 Cynara  
19402 09/07/53 #845 My Cousin Rachel  
19404 12/21/54 #902 Miracle On 34th St.  
19405 01/25/55 #907 Sangaree  
19406 03/08/55 #913 The Walls Of Jericho

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07/03/38 Studio Chapel (Excerpt)  
12/24/36 Christmas Tree Lighting  
Ceremony (FDR)

07/14/45 Ronnie Mansfield Show  
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