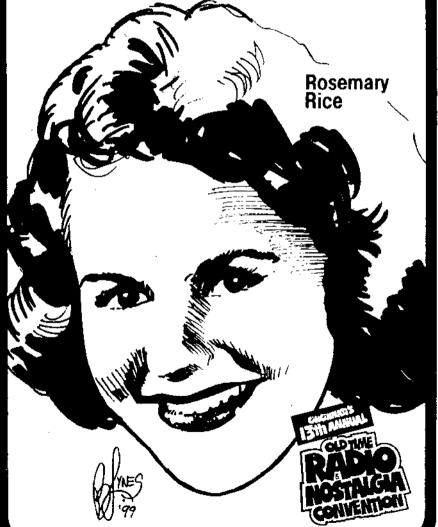
# Old Time Radio ODIGEST

No.91

Fall 1999 \$3.00



# Old Time Radio

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# THEY LAUGHED when he predicted

\$1.00 butter

Years ago Dr. Hugh H. Bennett foresaw what soil erosion and depletion would eventually mean in our food prices, and for years people scoffed at his campaign on SOS—"Save Our Soil."

But Dr. Bennett was devoted to this cause and in 1935 his efforts led to the establishment of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service which he heads today.

Called the "Tar Heel Moses" because of his missionary work in soil conservation in his native North Carolina, Dr. Bennett has devoted his life to this basic natural resource.

The thrilling story of Dr. Bennett's great works... the democratic and effective operation of local Soil Conservation Districts... and how this all effects your well-being and the prices you pay, are dramatically portrayed on tonight's broadcast of "Generation on Trial."

Next week's program is concerned with another resource everybody's talking about these days— OIL. Be sure to hear every broadcast of—

# GENERATION ON TRIAL

SATURDAY 7 PM EST

WLW DIAL 700

Saturday, February 21, 1948

# Old Time Radio

BOOKS AND PAPER

We have one of the largest selections in the USA of out of print books and paper items on all aspects of radio broadcasting.

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### ORDER OUR CATALOG

Our current catalog includes a large number of new books and paper items not seen in previous catalogs. It contain over 600 items including a large selection of Radio Annuals (both U.S. and BBC), Radio related sheet music, much NBC material and the usual wide selection of books on shows, performers and broadcasting techniques. If you are not on our mailing list and wish to receive a catalog, send us two \$.33 stamps with this ad.

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### 13th Annual Convention Review by: Bob Burchett

Sitting down to write a review of our 13<sup>th</sup> Convention was a little tougher after just reviewing our 12<sup>th</sup> after the 13<sup>th</sup> had happen. What I should have done was combined the two reviews in one and had only one Convention Issue. Then again that might have been confusing and even harder to write.

After a couple of years, we were happy to see Fred Foy back in Cincinnati. We had done all of his "fill in performances for Brace Beemer, but we were able to keep him busy in other re-creations.

Rosemary Rice was our new guest this year. She has an impressive list of Radio, TV, and Broadway Credits, Let's Pretend. Cavalcade of America, Two Soap Operas, NBC Playhouse and Archie Andrews with Bob Hastings. Like Bob, she's the best known for a TV Role, on CBS - TV's Award Winning "I Remember Mama". No Bob Hastings was not on "I Remember Mama" He was best known for the role of LT. Elroy Carpenter on TV's "McHales Navy. Rosemary & Bob teamed up in a "Richard Diamond" re-creation. The script called for Diamond and his griffriend (Rosemary) to play Mr. And Mrs. Appleknocker, Hillbilly's. Rosemary did a great "Howdy". It was our first opportunity to hear Bob Hastings sing. He started out a young age singing on the "National Barn Dance". If anyone has one of those shows, that he was on, he would very much like to have one. Bob was also "On Coast-to-Coast On A Bus" with host. Milton Cross, in his early radio days

As most of you know **Peg lynch** doesn't just pull out the old scripts and do them - she rewrites them. She said it is different writing for a live audience, because you write to get laughs. Her 4 new amiable travails of a recognizable



Rosemary Rice

suburban couple (Ethel & Albert) were very well received again by all.

This year WVXU instead of just interviewing our guest like in the past years Peg & Bob did an Ethel & Albert skit. Peg was worried about how long it take and still have time for some interview time for Rosemary and Fred. We usually have ½ hour live on the air. They got the skit down to about 10 minutes which would leave 20 minutes for interviews. We walked in and Mike



Peg Lynch, Bob Hastings

Martini said we would have an hour this year. Peg gave me a look that could have killed!

WVXU has seating in the studio where our interviews take place and the public is invited to come. This year in the front row, with his mom and sister, was a 12 year old boy dressed in a western outfit. He had come to meet Fred Foy. Caleb Hawkings (great name for a cowboy) listens to the old radio shows that WVXU plays. He also visits many local libraries that have old radio shows to lend. His gun and holster set were hand made. Caleb did an excellent job of hand carving his gun out of wood. He reminded me and a few others of our selves at 12 years old. By not having a TV at home means he is growing up like we did, listening to radio. A very lucky 12 year old as we were (girls too). Several dealers donated shows, so we had a big bag of tapes for him to take home. He's spreading the word about OTR to his friends and is lending tapes so they can

listen.

Clive Rice (not related to Rosemary Rice) was our second new guest. Clive played Bobby Benson, a popular kid's western adventure program, from 1951 - 1955. We can thank Jack French for getting Clive to Cincinnati as a guest. He and his wife travel around the country in their RV.

On our schedule we only list the "Boogie Woogie Girls", because of space, at the beginning of the Saturday evening program. Anyone who has been to a Cincinnati Convention knows they entertain before each re-creation along with Ed Clute. As I said in my review of our 12<sup>th</sup> they not only sing great, but look great in their vintage outfits. They have seventeen different outfits at last count.

Beside working with the girls **Ed** and his wife **Nana**, team up to provide live music bridges for all the re-creations. The after dinner program of **Ed Clute's** request time, **The Boogie Woogie** 

Girls, 2 Ethel & Albert and a full 1/2 hour radio show re-creation is a hard to heat evening of great nostalgia. entertainment. You don't have to attend the dinner to enjoy the program.

Would like to clear up one thing in the photo of the Boogie Woogie Girls. the one with the jacket is not one of the girls, it's me! Forgot to add my name to the photo credit line.

John Kiesewetter, the Radio and TV Editor for our Enquirer newspaper, let it be known there could be a chance for some to become radio stars at our casting of the re-creation roles. We had a record turn out for the tryouts.

Sorry to say Barney Beck couldn't make it, but his wife Joan, came with "his stuff". Dave Davies and Jerry Williams did a great job with the sound effects. Maybe by using Barney's "stuff" some of Barney ribbed off on them.

Special thanks again to Robert Newman and his wife Barbara. Over



Clive Rice





Dave Davies, Jerry Williams

the years when I've ask him for something, I've never known him not to not have what I needed. There's a lot of what Robert does that no one ever sees. For one updating our convention mailing list is a time consuming job.

One thing we do see is the excellent way he handles the auction and raffle drawing. No one has any trouble hearing their name when called. I'm sure it takes a few days after the convention to get his voice back to normal.

Also much of what our other "committee", member, Don Ramlow, does no one sees. Script preparation starts long before he arrives in Cincinnati. He has a even larger job once he gets here of casting and rehearsing without much time to spare. Over the years Don has a heavy investment in audio equipment to make sure all his hard work sounds as good as possible. Don also directs re-creations at the Newark, an Sperdvac, and Pulp Conventions.

He wasn't present to receive his

Barney Beck



Parley E. Baer Award, but Barney Beck was there in spirit. Barney played a key part in the growth and success of our convention.

We gave our Stone/ Waterman



Bob Burchett, Robert Newman, Don Ramlow



Fred Foy, Caleb Hawkins





Ed and Nana Clute

award this year to three special people who help preserve OLD TIME RADIO by keeping it alive again with their talents - Fred Foy, Bob Hastings and Peg Lynch. They all have been very generous with their time and efforts.

Start making your plans now to attend our 14th Annual Convention on April 28 and 29 in the year 2000. As always, it should be another great

weekend of Old Time Radio and Nostalgia.

Myself and people who attend our convention owe a big thanks to a group of people who make it possible to have a convention - the **dealers**. They will again be able to set-up Thursday night to do business and be ready Friday morning.



### Letters

Dear Bob:

Right after last years convention in Cincy I decided to go back. Thought others would like to come in early to take in the Air Force Museum. One by one Chuck Thompson, Fritz Ritterspach, Ted Theodore, and Dave Warren opted out. Well, I thought at least I would go and stay at the Radission with Ted. As time approached Ted thought he would go to Lum & Abner instead and Peg was sounding iffy and so was Ron Lackmann. Fine I thought, nobody I know will be there and it won't be much fun. WRONG.

A couple of weeks before time Dave Warren calls and says he would like to go up to Davton. About a week before when I received the riverboat deposit from you he calls and says maybe he could get us on the boat. I enjoyed Mike Fink's but Dave said it would be good. So, on Tuesday before the convention I checked into the Motel 6 around the corner from the Radisson and called Dave to set the morning trip to Dayton. Well, he says he has the opportunity to get 5 reservations on the boat. So I suggest Ted and then Peg & Odd. I gave him their number and then rag off. thinking they had an early flight from Boston and probably would be pissed at being called in the night and would never speak to me. In the morning Dave came by at 9 and said they thought it was a good idea so he called in to the boat. Sounded like too many things had to happen for it to work so I just let it go

The Air Museum was great and Dave was able to see a lot of aviation art that was on display too. Then when we stopped by the Radisson to see who was there, low and behold Peg & Odd were about to go to the Bombay Bicycle. Great Day. The next day I picked up Ted at the airport at 5:45AM and we were able to rendezvous at the hotel for the trip to the boat. Thought I would have to walk a couple of miles to park the car,

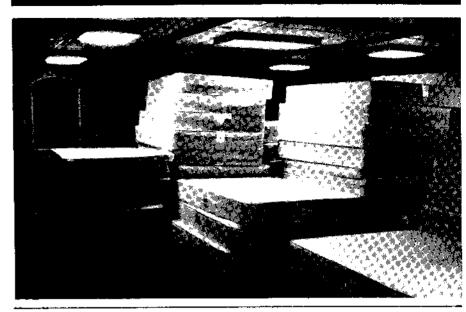
but found they parked cars for us seniors. Good lunch and ride and able to get **Peg** back in time for her nap and back to the bus station to pick up **Derek Tague**. Then back to the hotel and time for another trip to the **Bombay**, where now every face was familiar and in good spirits. Another good day.

The next was down to the station for an hour of live radio - who could ask for anything more. Then Dave directed us to the OmniMax theater (indescribable) to somebody from the sticks. And then we looked at the radio museum (which Jerry Williams enjoyed) and looked at the park and some black walnut ice cream on the way back for recreations and another trip across the street, etc. Another great day!

Saturday we went to breakfast at Frisch's (didn't know about Ken Piletic's problem) but didn't have the buffet and survived. Gary Yoggi told us about the problems at the meeting for FOTR and Dave Swingler (should be such a civilized hobby). Then we were able to pig out on the dealers room and recreations and the banquet and champagne with the Boogie Woogie Girls, another perfect day.

Sunday, **Rosemary Rice** arranged that I would be at her room a 5 till 7 to deal with her luggage which I miraculously did. We had breakfast with **Ted** and **Fred Foy** and then proceeded to the airport. I thought she was a shy and retiring lady. WRONG. She is very much alive and funny and feminine. I slowed the trip to enjoy the conversation. Another great day.

Now, yesterday I find your package in my mail with the **Xavier** radio hour that we were privy to. What a nice thing to do. **Bob**, you put on one hell of a great convention. The internet digest is full of accolades, especially and maybe next year will be another happy convention. **Dave** is so proud of the **Cincinnati** area and makes a tour guide. I hope your still not mad at spiriting **Peg** away from **Mike Fink's**, it was strictly a chance opportunity and their call. If



there is a next year, I'm sure the garden clubbers won't have a lock on the boat and it will again be an option.

Thanks again for the tape and for the best convention I've been to since '79 back in **Bridgeport**.

Cheers, Steve

From: **Dan Hughes** <dhughes@prairenet.org>

Just got home from the Cincy show, and I loved every minute. It was awfully hot (it will be moved back to April next year), and I left my tripod at home so I had to balance my VCR on my shoulder for two days (I'll be sore for a week), but it was worth it.

This year my daughter Karen brought her best friend with her. Karen got to play Betty in the Archic show, her friend Emily got a couple of small parts in the Green Hornet, and I had a small part in Pat Noyak.

I really love the Cincinnati show everybody is so friendly. To prove it, I've posted some fuzzy photos (dubbed down from video tape) on my home site. When you get there, click on the Cincinnati page (near the bottom of the home page): http://www.soltec.net/~dan From: Fred Berney <a href="mailto:serif"><a h

The Cincinnati OTR Convention was the very first OTR convention that I have every attended. It was impressive to say the least. I also enjoyed meeting a number of people who are either in my round robins or have purchased tapes from us. I also met two people who I used to trade with back in the 70's. In all those years we never met and it was a pleasure meeting them and everyone else.

Satellite Video Production http://www.fred.net/berney

From: SAH@GNV.IFAS.UFL.EDU

I'm probably adding to the comments about the Cincinnati OTR convention but have just returned. Bob Burchett and his friends put on one fine convention. They showcased the city and made all the out-of-towners feel right at home. John Rayburn "the King of Denver Radio" was on hand to make all the recreations and most of the bridges go on professionally. To one and all I can recommend this fine convention which will occur at its usual April month next year.

## OLD TIME RADIO PROGRAM SERIES REVIEWS

#### ACADEMY AWARD THEATER:

For the past seven decades the

measure of a motion picture's success has embodied in the annual Academy Awards. For one short season, between March 30-December 18, 1946, the House of Squibb, a pharmaceutical corporation, sponsored Academy Award Theater, half hour radio adaptations of notable Hollywood films. The distinguishing characteristic of the program was that one or more of the players or the film on which the radio script was based had won or had been nominated for one of the coveted

During the first three months, the program was heard on CBS on Saturday evenings at 7:00. Later the day and time was switched to Wednesdays at 10.00. Because of the nature of the series only the best, and often highest priced Hollywood performers stepped before the CBS microphone. Unfortunately, the high costs associated with production caused the series to end after a 39 week run.

Oscars.

Radio Memories has excellent cassette reproductions of all 39 programs that comprised the Academy Award Theater series. High spots in this distinguished series include: Stagecoach (#6) from 5/04/46 with Claire Trevor & Randolph Scott; The Maltese Falcon (#15) from 7/03/46 with Humphrey Bogart & Sydney Greenstreet; and Suspicion (#32) form 10/30/46 with Cary Grant. A fine anthology of great movie stories.

THE ADVENTURER'S CLUB: (a.k.a. THE WORLD ADVENTURER'S CLUB) The dull grind of life during the Great Depression was broken each week, if only for 15 minutes, by the tabloid dramatizations of adventures, of exotic people, by a group of world travelers and adventurers who met each week to swap tales. This interesting transcribed radio drama. titled The World Adventurer's Club, a syndicated anthology was broadcast in 1932. Each episode had a member of the club recalling one his adventures. Thirty-two quarter hour programs comprised this series, and listeners were whisked away to fascinating places such as Manchuria, rural Mexico, Borneo, India, Norway. Africa, the frozen Polar regions, and even to the jungles of Cambodia. During these "safaris of the imagination" the listener met bandits. "doomed souls," "hair wild men." zombies, "living mummies" and even a mad monk. A later series with the same title, hosted by Ken Nordine. was aired over CBS from 1/11/47 to 1/03/48, but this later day version never quite captured the quest for the adventure found in the 1932 offering. The sound quality of the 32 fifteen minute episodes of The Adventurer's Club found in the Radio Memories complete collection is quite good. This is remarkable when one considers the early vintage of the disks from which this series was obtained. High spots in this very interesting series include: Pancho Villa's Treasure(#3), Land of the Black Hand (#9), And The Mad Monk of Angkor Wat (#30).

### ADVENTURES OF JUNGLE JIM:

Alex Raymond's comic strip hero Jungle Jim. moved easily from the Hearst newspaper's Sunday supplement of Puck, the Comic Weekly, into a 15 minute once-a-week radio serial in 1935. Within two years, this adult action adventure serial was popular nation wide in at least a dozen major American cities. The leading role of Jim Bradley (a.k.a. Jungle Jim), was played by Matt Crowley, a well-known radio actor of the era. The radio program which started over Mutual radio on 11/02/35 followed the story line of the comic strip closely. The episode appearing in the Sunday comic had been broadcast the previous week as a 15 minute "preview." The main characters and storvline of this adventure series were quite interesting. Jim Bradley was an American explorer-adventurer who trekked the vast region known as "East of Suez" helping people in need of protection from organized forces of evil. Jim was aided in his exploits by Kolu, his faithful Malay companion. and a sultry lady friend, Lilli deVrille (a.k.a. Shanghai Lil). Prior to World War II. Jungle Jim was an apolitical person and his crime fighting abilities were directed against international criminals-pirates, bandits, kidnappers, and all manner of cutthroats who preyed on missionaries, ranchers, traders and other law abiding folk. As a world conflict drew near, Jim was recruited by the American government as a special agent to protect our national defenses in the Caribbean region against foreign operatives. On March 22, 1942, just a few months after Pearl Harbor, Jim and Kolu were assigned to Southeast Asia to disrupt the Japanese military with a

multinational (UN) commando force operating in Malaya, Java and the islands of the South China Sea. Following the end of World War II Jim and Kolu were reunited with Lil and together they ventured forth on a new series of adventures in various exotic locales.

Jungle Jim had remarkable durability as a serial drama. Over a 19 year time span 961 syndicated episodes were broadcast. Radio Memories has a fine collection of 706 of these 15 minute serial dramas. High spots include: "The Purple Triangle" (#23-52) from 4/04/36 to 10/24/36, "Afghan Hills" (#97-#124) from 9/04/37 to 3/12/38, and part of the "War time Adventures" (#334-348) from 3/21/42 to 6/27/42.

### ADVENTURES OF PHILIP MARLOWE:

"From the pen of Raymond Chandler, outstanding author of crime fiction" came his most famous character as radio presented The adventures of Philip Marlowe. The hard boiled private detective came to the airwaves over NBC in 1947 with Van Heflin in the title role, but in 1948 the program switched to CBS with Gerald Mohr as the star. This outstanding series, produced and directed by Norman MacDonnell, remained on the air until 1951. This was a no nonsense "blood and guts" crime drama. The opening lines by Mohr sent out a strong message to all listeners-"get this and get it straight, crime is a sucker's road, and those who travel it end up in the gutter, the prison, or an early grave."

### ADVENTURES OF SAM SPADE:

William Spier, a master producerdirector of radio mystery drama, brought Dashiell Hammett's famous hard-boiled San Francisco detective to the airwayes on July 12, 1946 in the Adventures of Sam Spade. Howard Duff, an actor with "an almost perfect voice" and polished delivery, was cast in the title role for the series during the first four years when the program was heard first over CBS and then NBC, on Sunday evenings at 8:00. Steve Dunne took over the role of Spade in November 1950 and the series concluded on April 27, 1951. The program was sponsored by Wildroot Cream Oil during this long run. The character of Sam Spade on radio was modified from the role portrayed by Humphrey Bogart in the classic Hollywood film, Maltese Falcon. The writers, including Bob Tallman and Gil Doud, portrayed Spade as a hard drinking, pragmatic professional for hire. Each case developed in the same way, as a report (numbered, signed, and delivered) all dictated by the super sleuth to his faithful, yet slightly addled, secretary, Effie Parine (played by Lurene Tuttle). A free-wheeling style no other show was able to master.

The Adventures of Sam Spade was one of the best loved, and most successful radio private investigator programs of all time. The Radio Memories catalog contains a large collection of excellent tapes spanning the whole period form 1946 to 1951. Listeners are encouraged to compare the work of the "two Sam Spades," (Howard Duff or Steve Dunne) and decide for themselves who, in their opinion, did the best job.

### ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN

He was "faster than a speeding bullet. able to leap a tall building in a single bound." Superman was quintessence of the super-hero for over half a

century. From the pages of comic books, to afternoon movie serials, to radio, and finally to television, Superman was the world's favorite visitor from another planet. For a complete decade, between 2/12/40 and 3/01/50 The Adventures of Superman were broadcast as a juvenile adventure serial for his many fans. During the first nine years of the series Bud Collver was cast in the title role. Most of the over 1600 transcribed syndicated episodes were in a 15 minute format, and were broadcast several times each week. The radio version of Superman portraved the "Man of Steel" as a laidback, low keyed individual. He was quiet, seldom seen, and an almost never acknowledged force for good. In his dual role as Clark Kent, "mildmannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper" he had uncanny knack for showing up in the nick of time to save good people from bad situations. During World War II and the early post-war years, Superman was a powerful patriot who "led a never-ending battle for truth. justice, and the American way." Radio Memories has one of the most complete, well-documented, collection of the first 325 episodes (1940-1942) in this fine adventure series for young and old alike.

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# YOKEL BOY

### BY JAMES STREET

May 13, 1939



# MAKES GOOD

BOB BURNS, the world traveler who got rich acting a hick, reckoned the jig was up in 1930 when he flopped as flat as a Snazzy batter-cake in his first picture. But his counselor, Will Rogers, saw that he got a few bits in some Rogers pictures. He picked up a few dollars in "The Connecticut Yankee" and "Young As You Feel."

Brother Burns wasn't feeling so young. He was thirty-four and broke and he had a wife and a son. The family was in Lancaster with Mrs. Burns' fo'ks. And if Robin Burn, the Arkansas gypsy, wasn't a failure then neither was Napoleon after Waterloo.

Fox couldn't use him any more and didn't lift his option. Over at Universal, they were making a shanty-boat picture, "Heaven on Earth." It reminded Bob of the Arkansas River, chock beer, the Ozarks, Van Buren, and heaven on earth. He got a job as dialect coach for the picture and soon could afford coffee with his hamburgers. He sent for his family and they got a \$22.50-amonth apartment in Hollywood and were very happy. It didn't take much money to make Bob happy, only enough to keep his stomach from growling. He never had been rich and was content with a living.

At Universal, he made many friends, including Lew Ayres, who still is a close friend. His friends didn't know Bob was worried. He never told his troubles. But he knew he couldn't last teaching folks his brand of humor and, sure enough, Universal washed him up and he soon was broke again.

Somebody told him to try radio. But radio said he was no good. He got an audition at KNX in Los Angeles and tried a mess called "Gawkin' Around." It was the same humor you hear from him now. The radio head man said, "We'll let you, know if anything turns up." It didn't. Not there. Recently the studio sent Burns the record file of his audition. That station could have grabbed him for a meal ticket.

He got placed at Station KFI, but with no salary. He was called Colonel Blaine in a sort of a showboat revue. The sponsors didn't pay any attention to the Colonel. He also broadcast, for nothing, with the Sunday Night Fun Factory. He was having fun, all right, but try and eat it!

His boy was getting big. Mister Robin Burn was skidding down the ladder and was passing the bottom rung when he reached out and got another toe-hold. The Fun Factory began paying off. Bob got \$5 a performance. A fat fellow named Don Wilson was emcee. He made more. It took more to keep him ticking. Homer Canfield was on the show, too. He got \$7.50. Burns' show was just as it is now—a few stories and the bazooka spasm.

His wife never came to the studio. She stayed home and listened and criticized him when he got home. The Burnses lived in a duplex, property of the Foster family, and Harriet Foster was Bob's landlady, sort of. She and Betty Burns were always running around together. They were closer than sisters, for they never fussed. Bob liked Harriet, too. They kidded each other a lot, and she ate snacks over at the Burns' side of the duplex after Bob's broadcasts. Sometimes the Burnses stepped to the next door and ate with the Fosters.

The Gilmore Circus picked him up in 1932 and got him a blackface role on its KFI show. He was called Soda Pop and collected \$20 a week! He also played at clubs, or anywhere, to make ends meet. Duke Attebury, now Burns' writer, remembers those days. Attebury was making \$225 a week putting the circus together. He and Bob were at a party one night and Bob didn't have time to get into blackface before his appearance, and, at Attebury's suggestion, went on straight. He clicked. Soon thereafter Rudy Vallee was in town, auditioned him, tagged him as

okay, and then forgot about him. Vallee was having lady-troubles and had to get back to New York.

Bob went back to his \$20 job. Next he got a little work in a program called "High Jinks" and Andy Devine heard him. He and Devine were pals. Bob had just finished work one night when Devine called him. "I'm over at Bing Crosby's and he likes you swell. He wants to meet you tomorrow."

Bing was plugging Woodbury Soap. He plugged Bob, too. But Woodbury said he wouldn't do. "We want names," said the soap boys, "Burns is not a name." (There was a poet by that name who did all right. He probably would have flopped on radio, too.)

Mrs. Burns and her husband sat up late that night. They were at the end of their rope. She said, "If you have to have a name, go to New York and get one. I can go home. Bob (the son) and I will be all right."

"Okay, honey," said Bob.

But Betty didn't go home. With Harriet Foster next door, she knew she and the boy could make out. Bob got a third-hand automobile and headed for New York. He had his bazooka. He also had a card and the name of a J. Walter Thompson agency man. He had bumped into the man and the fellow had said, as they do, "Call me up if you ever get to New York."

Bob had memorized the telephone number, quite a feat, and called it one day by accident. But a nickel investment wasn't to be ignored, so he asked for the man and got him. The fellow remembered Bob, also that Rudy Vallee

had okayed him.

"VE come to New York to go on the Rudy Vallee program," said Bob. "Swell," said the agency fellow, and Burns almost collapsed.

But he went on-and chalk up another discovery for Vallee.

He got \$150 for the appearance. His first crack was:

"My folks down in Arkansas will be disappointed. You see, I came to New York to get on one of these here amateur shows. But it's so darn hard to get on one of them amateur programs unless you are known."

He blew the bazooka, and Fortune orinned.

The next day he appeared at the agency and tossed some papers on the desk of Vallee's producer. "That's my script for the next show," said Burns. He was used on four Vallee shows. Paul Whiteman was selling Kraft cheese in those days and hired Bob for eight weeks. Bob had bazookaed for Paul before, when he was fresh from France.

Then bingo! Bing Crosby and Paul Whiteman swapped sponsors and Crosby telephoned Bob. "Come on out here. You are on my show. Pay you \$500 a week."

An agency took him under its wing. It's the same agency that had given him the go-by before, the same folks to whom Bob had said, "Just wait, boys. You'll want me some day."

The team of Crosby and Burns, of course, made radio history. Then the movies snapped him up and whooped that the wise men had made another discovery! Ho hum.

There is no doubt that at first Bob was slated to take Will Rogers' place. He knew it couldn't be done. "Nobody can do-that," he said.

He also was typed as a foil for Crosby.

Then somebody really had an idea, cast him as the Arkansas Traveller, and he has been traveling ever since. He is the Arkansas Traveller.

The next time he returned to Van Buren, he could have had the place, wrapped in cellophane. He was our boy! The tourists were coming. His parents had died. The governor of the state, who was president of the University when Bob had flunked there, welcomed him and made a speech, a humdinger, too. He said Bob was a fine boy. He had always known it. Bob Burns was past forty then! The high school said he was a fine boy, too. The high school even gave him that diploma.

In 1936 he was on top of the heap. He and Betty Burns moved from that \$22.50-a-month apartment. For the first time in her life, Mrs. Burns didn't have to worry. Then she died suddenly.

Bob couldn't tell his son at first. Bob

and his boy had never been very close, neither had Bob and his father. Burns had been so busy trying to get ahead that he hadn't taken very much time with the youngster. They got close together the day Mrs. Burns died. "We are all each other has got," Big Bob told Little Bob. "We've got to stick together."

And they have.

A year later, he married Harriet Foster. It was natural. Harriet and Betty had been very close. She had helped Bob with his early struggles and had become his secretary.

"Some folks wonder why I married my secretary so soon after Betty's death," Bob said. (It's none of "some folks" cock-eyed business, Mr. and

Mrs. Burns.)

"I was the loneliest man in this town after Betty died. Betty and Harriet had been mighty close friends. Harriet kept working with me, as my secretary. When my boy needed a mother's hand; Harriet gave it to him. When we decided to get married, I told her, 'We can keep Betty with us always, in our hearts.' And we have."

He-had bought his swanky Bei Air home. He was on top, all right. He and his son were close. He had all the

money the family needed. He and Harriet had a baby. The only regret he had was that Betty hadn't lived to share his triumph. She had worked hard with him, and it was mean of the fates to snatch her just before things got easy for her.

He enjoys his radio work. The Kraft program is the happiest show on the air. Everybody works together and has fun. There is no jealousy, no bickerings. Bob reports for rehearsals about 2 p.m. on Thursdays and runs through the script with Bing. Then he goes through the music with John Scott Trotter and rehearses his bazooka solo. At about 4 p.m. he goes into a huddle with his writer, Duke Attebury, and they think up something for Bob to say. He takes a few notes, just in case. Three hours later he is on the air.

A recording company records his chatter and his wife transcribes it, in case he should need it later.

He is a very careful dresser and

Below: Burns is proud of his one-year-old daughter, Barbara Ann. She does all kinds of tricks, such as the old Ozark custom of chawin' a seegar — or pretending to.



kept his pants pressed even back when he had to sleep on them. He buys his own clothes and his taste is conservative. His favorite expressions are "Sometimes I get so discouraged"-"If I live to be a thousand years old" -"Well now, I'll tell you." His newspaper column is called "Well, I'll tell you."

HE INSISTS on his bazooka-case standing at his right side when he broadcasts, and as he talks his fingers beat a tattoo on the case. He purses his lips and sticks his tongue in his left cheek when he begins to tell a whopper. He is a left ear-lobe scratcher, an inveterate pipe-smoker and a feet-onthe-desk fellow.

He is very even tempered, but will fight if a man wants trouble. He's a tough bargainer. Bob cannot eat sweets of any kind. They throw him. A trick stomach makes him sick if he takes even one bite of candy. He enjoys barbecue, and often cooks his own meats outside. He goes for detective stories and hobby-books, and his hobbies include bugs, sailing and hunting. He sleeps well. He golfs in the 80's. and is a good fisherman.

Burns' pets include a Yorkshire terrier, a couple of black Irish terriercocker crosses, a half-dozen Angora rabbits, a donkey and the bazooka.

He is honorary mayor of Canoga Park, where he owns a ranch. He owns another ranch in San Fernando Valley and several farms in Arkansas. He and his wife invest their money in real estate. They are shrewd traders and watch the papers. When they see a good piece of land facing foreclosure. they grab it. Usually they improve it and rent it. They try to keep their rents low. Bob's ambition is to own a string of small houses to be rented to deserving people at low rent.

His radio income is approximately \$4,000 a week. Paramount pays him \$60,000 a picture for three pictures a year, and he generally picks up another \$75,000 from another company. His syndicated column is supposed to ietch him \$25,000.

Since Amos 'n' Andy went over to CBS, Bob's material is the only stuff broadcast over NBC that is not first submitted to the continuity department. They know Bob's stories will be clean. He never gambles or drinks. He spends most of his spare time with his family. He hates sham and he and his wife just don't mix with the Hollywood folks.

Lew Ayres and Bob have been fast friends for eight years. "Bob is much more humorous in real life than on the screen or radio." Avres savs. "He's keenly interested in anything alivecreatures, insects, microbes, fish, plants and trees. He had the first ant palace I ever saw. He made it himself. He'll sit there for hours watching his ants.

"He is very phlegmatic. He makes friends easily and holds them."

Evans Plummer of Hollywood's Ra-DIO GUIDE staff paid Burns the best tribute. In gathering material for this piece, he wrote, "Bob's closest friends are Abe Lastfogel of the William Morris office, Duke Attebury, Bing Crosby, Andy Devine, Lew Ayres and Ben Alexander. I can't find any enemies."

And that, folks, is a mouthful-in Hollywood.

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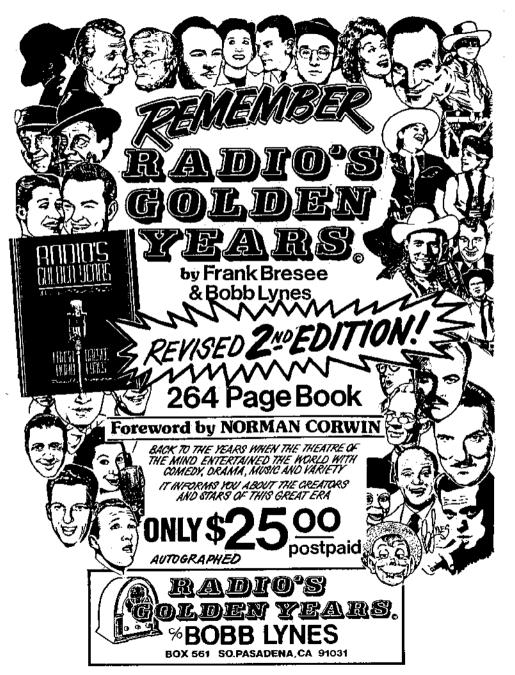
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WANTED ON CASSETTE: Shows with Basil Rathbone. Will trade or buy. Also trade Lux Radio, suspense, others. Bob Minerley, 2 Silvia PL, North Arlington, NJ 07032.

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WANTED ON CASSETTE: Cavalcade of America for sale or trade. I have about 600 to trade; also other programs. Contact Bill Yunick, 1241 Poaceable St., Ballston Spa, New York 12020

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WANTED ON CASSETTE: The following Broadway's My Beat Shows: 4/7/51; 8/12/51; 8/19/51; 12/1/51; 12/29/51. Gene Dench, 53 Faraday St., Hyde Park, MA 02136

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WANTED: NBC, CBS, and ABC Network newscasts from the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Will generously compensate. George F. Miller, 9733 S. 51st Ave., Oak Lawn, IL 50453

WANTED FOR TRADE: OTR "sit coms" on 60 minute cassettes. Mail me your catalog and I will send mine. To: Joe Barrow, 7345 Honey Dale Dr., Northfield Ctr., OH 44067–2611 (216–467–9204).

WANTED: 16" transcriptions, for cash or trade. Joe Salerno, Box 1487, Bellaire, Texas 77402.

WANTED: Radio Transcription Discs. Any type, any subject, Gilbert Smith, 248 South 36th St., San Diego, CA 92113–1613

WANTED TO BUY: Red Ryder broadcasts on cassette. Contact Jerry Nicolay, 1401 Suburban Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

WANTED: Amos & Andy radio program items, puzzles & stand-ups. Bob Morgan, 4005 Pitman Rd., Coflege Park, GA 30349.

WANTED: OTR programs: Mandrake The Magician; Pat Novak For Hire; Children's Serials of the 1930s and 1940s; Johnny Modero; Pier 23; Jeff Regan. Will buy or trade. W. F. Frier, 2951 Fairhill Dr., Jackson MS 39212-2822

Radio books, parts wanted prior 1950 from radio repair shops. Send price list. Richards, Box 1542-D, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

CAPTAIN MiDNIGHT ITEMS wanted, DeWayne Nall, P.O. Box 555, Cleburne, TX 76031

Want these Lux shows: Red River, Alice in Wonderland, Paradine Case, Kent Coscarelly, 2173 Willester Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95124

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ALLAN SHERRY, 5410 Netherland Ave., Riverdale, NY 10471 is trying to locate the last date for Prescott Robinson on the air plus any other information about him.

THOMAS HEATHWOOD, 22 Broadlawn Pk., Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 looking for Portia Faces Life, especially July 1948 and April 1949.

WANTED: Instruction booklet copies for reel recorders: Allied TH-1035. Telefunken 5-in. Megnetophone 300 Huck\_Enterprises @ hotmail.com Harry Goldman, RR6, Box 181, Glens Falls, NY 12801 wants Kraft Music Hall of 12-11-47 (Al Jolson) Jack Benny "The Bee", Fiorello LaGuardia tribute to Nikola Tesla over WNYC on Jan. 10, 1943.

WANTED: Kid Shows, Serials, Big Band Remotes, Transcription Recordings on Reel to Reel only please. Write to Wally Stall, 8408 N.W. 101, Oklahoma City, OK 73132.

Phil-Evans, Box 136 Downtown Station, Bakersfield, CA 93302-0136, Looking for any info in the Candlelight Hour Broadcast from NYC in 1931.

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WANTEDTO BUY: Books and magazines about OTR programs, performers and stations 1920–1948 and RADIO DIGEST, WHAT'S ON THE AIR, VARIETY RADIO ANNUAL, 1937, 1938, 1939. Luther F. Sies, 101 West 23 Street, New York, NY 10011.

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WANTED ON CASSETTE: Basil Rathbone, Your Hollywood Parade 12/8/37, The Circle 1939, Duffy's Tavern 8/6/44, Which Is Which 10/25/44, Columbia Masterworks, Robin Hood, Treasure Island, Peter & The Wolf, Murder of Lidice, Great Themes in Poetry, Little Jesus, Night Before Christmas, Spike Jones Show, Sootland Yard, Tales of Fatima, Monitor Rado, Dinosaurs 1965, and any other radio programs and memorabilia with Basil Rathbone. Reply Id: Bob Minerley, 2 Silvia, North Arlington, NJ 17032

Collector buys original tickets from live network radio and television broadcasts pre-1970. Reply to, Tickets, OTR, 1078 Cross Country Drive, Worthington, Ohio 43235

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WANTED: (Cassette or Reel) Copies of That Other Generation program hosted by Rudy Vallee (a series of shows). State price and condition. Luther F. Sles, 101 West 23 Street, New York, NY 10011.

Wanted: 1950 Summer Replacement Show "Somebody Knows" by Jack Johnstone. (8 show run) Dick Olday, 100 Harvey Dr., Lancaster, NY 14080.

GILBERT HUEY, 90 W. Triple Tree Dr., Carrollton, GA 30017 is writing an article on Flash Gordon and needs much information on the radio and tv show.

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WANTED: The Adventures of Frank Merriwell. Herb Brandenburg, 4114 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45212.

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MISSING DAUGHTER MATTER: Looking to contact Bob Bailey's daughter about possible "Johnny Dollar" article, Frank Dattilo, 3350 Wiscasset Road, Dearborn, MI 48120 (313) 271–8339

WANTED: STRANGE AS IT SEEMS, CBS radio network program. Will meet your price for a copy of the specific episode dramatizing the Cahuenga Pass Treasure legend. Probably broadcast in November or December of 1939. Call collect, Joshua Alper (818) 789–5875.

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> 01/12/49 #100 Gentlemen, Be Seated w/Rosaland Russell, Eddie Cantor

#### THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR

C02633 06/21/60 #645 The Pipers Go On A Diet 06/22/60 #646 Mr. Piper's Fruit Salad 06/23/60 #647 To Vet With Ear Mites 06/24/60 #648 Avocados And The Diet

C02634 06/27/60 #649 The Continued Mystery Story 06/28/60 #650 Turquoise Blue Paint Accident 06/29/60 #651 Betsy's Dinner Manners

06/30/60 #652 The Hardware Store Fight

C02635 07/01/60 #653 Weekend Fishing Trip 07/04/60 #654 The Two Pound Musky 07/05/60 #655 Mr. Piper's Fishing Fame 07/06/60 #656 The "Bargain" Sports Jacket

C02636 07/07/60 =657 Sports Jacket Doesn't Fit 07/08/60 #658 Diet Or Save The Marriage 07/11/60 ≠659 Taxidermist Proolems 07/12/60 #660 Newspaper And The Masky

C02637 07/13/60 #661 Newspaper Photo Mistake 07/14/60 #662 Game Warden Problems 07/15/60 #663 Trying To Pull Strings 07/18/60 =664 The Wandering Son

C02638 07/19/60 #665 Bureaucratic Confusion 07/20/60 #666 Betsy And Summer Camp 07/21/60 #667 Getting Betsy Ready To Go 07/22/60 #668 Bersy First Night At Camp

C02639 07/25/60 #669 Sneaking Out The Back Door 07/26/60 #670 Trying To Prove Ones Height 07/27/60 #67| Misplacine Diamond Rine 07/28/60 #672 Try To Call Bersy At Camp

C02640 07/29/60 #673 Talking To Betsy At Camp. 08/01/60 #674 Buving A New Washer 08/02/60 #675 Bopby Sixing in The Road 08/03/60 #676 Trouble Buying The Washer

C02641 08/04/60 #677 More Trouble With Salesmen 08/05/60 #678 Betsy Returns From Camp. 08/08/60 #679 Try To Giving Away Washer 08/09/60 #680 Owl's in The House

C02642 08/10/60 #681 Cough Medicine Problems 08/11/60 #682 (MISSING) The Give Away 08/12/60 #683 The Pipers Get Lost 08/15/60 #684 Betsy Is Hard To Take

C02643 08/16/60 #685 Car Troubles And No Money 08/17/60 #686 The Story Telling Problem. 08/18/60 #687 Member Of The Park Board 08/19/60 #688 Can't Get Rid Of Washer

C02644 08/22/60 #689 Reading "Little Women" 08/23/60 #690 Judging A Baby Contest 08/24/60 #691 Parental Interference 08/25/60 #692 Betsy Wishes Daddy Fame C02645 08/26/60 #693 Mrs. Piper Mows The Lawn 08/29/60 #694 The Baby Contest Judging 08/30/60 #695 Fed Up Waiting On People 08/31/60 #696 Yard Work High School Boy

C02646 09/01/60 #697 Betsy & Her Club Members 09/02/60 #698 Child Fair Organized-Maybe 09/05/60 #699 Invited To Go Sailing 09/06/60 #700 Getting The Fair Organized

C02647 09/07/60 #701 Property Assessment 09/08/60 #702 Problems In The Basement 09/09/60 #703 Rain Cancels The Fair 09/12/60 #704 Cat In The Washing Machine

### FLASH GORDON

C00321 04/27/35 #1 On The Planet Mongo 05/04/35 # 2 Befriends Lion Men And Stops A Wedding

05/11/35 # 3 Imprisoned By Hawkmen

05/18/35 # 4 Death Battle Won By Flash

C00322 05/24/35 # 5 Rules Over Cave World 06/01/35 # 6 Blue Magic Men Capture Flash 06/08/35 # 7 Dr. Zarkov To The Rescue 06/15/35 # 8 Aide Tal, Plants

C00323 06/22/35 #9 Flash Charges lee Barricade Of Hawkmen

Seeds Of Doubt

07/06/35 #10 Dr. Zarkov Is Thawed Out 07/13/35 #11 Dr. Zarkov Shoots

Cooks With Electrodes 07/20/35 #12 Flash Regains Memory

C00324 07/27/35 #13 General Tal Rescues Azora 08/03/35 #14 General Tal Attacks

> Flash Behind Door 08/10/35 #15 Dr. Zarkov Builds Invisible Ray Machine

08/17/35 #16 Flash, The Avenging Shadow

C00325 08/24/35 #17 Azora Regains Memory 08/31/35 #18 Flash, Invisible, escapes

> 09/07/35 #19 General Tal Tries Capturing Dr. Zarkov

09/14/35 #20 Pit Of Peril And Death Dwarfs

C00326 09/21/35 #21 Pit Of Fire

09/28/35 #22 Trapped Behind Iron Door 10/05/35 #23 Flash, King Of Cave World

10/12/35 #24 General Tal Seizes Azora's Throne

C00327 10/19/35 #25 Flash, Dale &: Dr. Zarhov Crash

10/26/35 #26 Flash & Dale Married In Jungle



## Radio Memories

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### AUNT MARY

- C03024 #133 Aunt Mary & Peggy Talk About Bill
  - #134 Peggy & Bill Meet To Talk
  - #135 Peggy Tells Bill Of Her Marriage Plans
  - #136 Ben Wants Kitt To File For Divorce
- C03025 #137 Letter From Paul
  - #138 Nick Doesn't Break Engagement
  - #139 Nick Wants To Postpone The Wedding
  - #140 Ben Offers Bill A Compromise
- C03026 #141 Aunt Mary & Lefty
- Told Of Wedding Postponement
  - #142 Aunt Mary Told Of Ben's Proposition
  - #143 Jessie Suspicious Of Kirt's Motives
  - #144 Nick & Bill Talk
- C03027 #145 Lisa Regrets Giving Up Her Baby
  - #146 Bill & Jane Talk
  - #147 Bill Refuses Ben's Proposition
  - #148 Paul Is Going To Wakefield
- C03028 #149 Bill Tells Aunt Mary Of His Decision
  - #150 Paul Cromwell Phones
  - #151 Peggy & Aunt Mary Talk
  - #152 Peggy Wouldn't Want To Raise Kitt's Child
- C03029 #153 Kitt Meets With Paul Cromwell
  - #154 Paul Promises To Leave Town
  - #155 Paul Learns The Truth
  - #156 Paul Is Angry
- C03030 #157 Paul Demands To See Kitt
  - #158 Showdown Between Paul & Kirr
  - #159 Paul Intends To Tell Lisa The Truth
  - #160 Paul Tells Lisa The Truth
- C03031 #161 Paul Is Worried About Lisa
  - #162 Bill Sees The Bahy
  - #163 Lawyer Wants Bill To Accept Ben's Offer
  - #164 Bill Has No Legal Grounds
- C03032 #165 Randy Is Home
  - #166 Nick Fills Randy in
  - #167 Kitt Tries To Phone Paul & Lisa
  - #168 Lisa Sees Her Baby
- C03033 #169 Lisa Asks Kitt For Her Son
  - #170 Kitt Argues For The Child
  - #171 Present For The Child
  - #172 Lisa Doesn't Take Her Child (skips)

- C03034 #173 Randy Goes To Save Lisa (skips)
  - #174 Lisa Saved
  - #175 Worried About Lisa
  - #176 Trying To Comfort Lisa
- C03035 #177 Lisa Mentions Kitt's Name (skips)
  - #178 Bill & Aunt Mary Talk
  - #179 Lisa Admits Knowing Kitt
  - #180 Wants To Contact Dell About Lisa

### INNER SANCTUM

- C03199 03/07/43 #114 The Black Scagull 06/10/44 #180 Death is A loke:
- C03200 11/29/44 #204 The Voice On The Wire 12/06/44 #205 The Color Blind Formula
- C03201 01/23/45 #212 Death is An Artist 02/06/45 #214 Death in The Depths
- C03202 02/20/45 #216 No Coffin For The Dead 04/17/45 #224 The Judas Clock
- C03203 04/24/45 #225 The Song Of The Slasher 05/01/45 #226 The Girl And The Gallows
- C03204 05/15/45 #227 The Black Art 05:22/45 #228 Dead To Rights
- C03205 05/29/45 #229 Musical Score 06/05/45 #230 Deate Across The Board
- C03206 06/12/45 #231 Portrait Of Death 06/19/45 #232 Dead Man's Holiday
- C03207 06/26/45 #223 Dead Man's Debt 10/09/45 #240 Death By Scripture
- C03208 10/16/45 #241 Till Death Do Us Part 11/06/45 #244 The Wailing Wall
- C03209 12/11/45 #249 The Dark Chamber 12/18/45 #250 The Undead
- C03210 01/08/46 #253 The Creeping Wall 01/15/46 #254 The Edge Of Death
- C03211 01/22/46 #255 The Confession 01/29/46 #256 The Blood Of Cain
- C03212 02/05/46 #257 Skeleton Bay 02/12/46 #258 The Man Who Couldn't Die

- C03213 02/26/46 #260 | Walk In The Night 03/12/46 #262 Strands Of Death
- C03214 03/26/46 #264 Death is A Double-Crosser 04/02/46 #265 The Night is My Shroud
- C03215 04/23/46 #268 Make Ready My Grave 05/07/46 #270 You Could Die Laughing
- C03216 05/21/46 #272 Detour To Terror 06/18/46 #276 I Want To Report A Murder
- C03217 09/09/46 #283 Murder Always
  Comes At Midnight
  02/10/47 #305 The Ghost In The Garden
- C03218 06/23/47 #324 Over My Dead Body 10/27/47 #342 Till Death Do Us Part
- C03219 01/12/48 #353 Tempo In Blood 03/29/48 #364 Lady Killer
- C03220 07/05/48 #378 Death Demon 09/06/48 #387 Death Rides A Riptide
- C03221 09/27/48 #390 Murder By Prophecy 10/18/48 #392 Death Of A Doll
- C03222 12/06/48 #399 Cause Of Death 12/13/48 #400 Murder Faces East
- C03223 12/20/48 #401 Between Two Worlds 01/10/49 #404 Murder Comes To Life

#### CRIME CLASSICS

- C04530 12/03/52 Bathsheba Spooner, The
  First Woman To Be Tried For
  Murder in The United States
   Audition w/Lou Metrill
  - 06/29/53 # 3 The Checkered Life & Sudden Death Of Colonel James Fisk, Jr.
- C04531 07/06/53 # 4 The Schrapneled Body Of Charles Drew, Sr.
  - 07/13/53 # 5 The Terrible Deed Of Dr. John White Webster
- C04532 07/20/53 # 6 The Death Of A Picture Hanger 08/03/53 # 8 Mr. Thrower's Hammer
- C04533 08/10/53 # 9 The Ax And The Drutt Family, How They Faired
  - 09/30/53 #15 The Bloody, Bloody Banks Of Fall River
- C04534 10/07/53 #16 The Hangman And William Palmer Who Won?
  - 10/21/53 #18 Billy Bonnie, Blood Letter; Also Known As The Kid
- C04535 10/28/53 #19 John Hayes, His Head, And How They Were Parted
  - 11/11/53 #21 Blackbeard's Fourteenth Wife -Why She Was No Good For Him

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