

THE OLD-TIME RADIO GAZETTE

December, 1993

Volume 2, Number 5

Bing Crosby



Editor's Comments

I hope you like the "new" revised newsletter! Because of the new version, the subscription rate is now \$10.00 to give you more reading and a better format. **This is the sole reason** why the price has risen some, and it is hoped that you, the subscribers, will like the OTR Gazette. **As of 11/20 subscriptions are \$10.00. Renewal subscribers: If your renewal time is past 11/20, you will pay \$10.00.**

Next Month: In January's issue, a special article on Lum & Abner will be the cover story, along with re-prints of Lum & Abner's Hollywood adventures.

Looking ahead: In February's issue, a special story on *The Thirteenth Juror* radio series, starring Vincent Price, will be featured. If you have anything to contribute on *The Thirteenth Juror*, please send it to us. Information received will be printed.

Happy Holidays ... have a great holiday season!!

--Tom C. Miller, Editor

Arthur Godfrey year comes to an end...celebrations this past year included Robert Brunet's "Arthur Godfrey Dinner" in New York, held on August 31...part of the fun included playing some of the Red-head's radio broadcasts.



ARTHUR

Christmas Past on Radio

By Janet Vittorio Corica

The old-time Christmas shows...what wonderful memories they evoke!

There were so many of them, with such a variety of singers and musicians, that choosing a favorite show to listen to usually meant sacrificing an equally good one on another station.

But, if Bing Crosby were hosting one, such as the "Philco Radio Time", one could be sure that a large majority of radios throughout America were tuned in and listening for his "golden voice", his soothing tone, and his relaxed chatter, with Ken Carpenter, his featured radio announcer.

One such show, on Dec. 18 1946, showcased Bing Crosby doing a poignant rendition of "The Old Lamplighter". Skitch Henderson and band played softly in the background. And, indeed, softly is the key word here. One could here and clearly understand every word Bing Crosby sang. Featured guests were The Charioteers singing "For Sentimental Reasons" and Peggy Lee singing "Everything is Moving Too Fast", her own composition. And, of course, Bing thrilled the audience with his moving version of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas".

As my mind drifts back to cozy evenings in front of our console radio, I can envision listening to his Christmas shows while I played "Jacks", drew on my easeled blackboard, painted with watercolors in a coloring book, popped popcorn balls with my 3 sisters, trimmed the huge balsam Christmas tree with both sisters and brothers while Mama busied herself with kitchen chores and Pa read the paper and kept a watchful eye on the progress of decorating the tree in the living room.

Yes, with radio, the Yuletide Season was an enchanting time for me, filled with joy and excitement, which only a child's heart can know!

Listening to the radio at Christmas time was relaxing. One could wrap presents and still not miss a bit of the beautiful music. After all, RADIO WAS MEANT

FOR LISTENING! And, when there was dialogue, one could enjoy it and still wrap presents, because, unlike television, our fertile imaginations provided imagery...no need to sit and stare at a particular spot. And, I feel confident in saying that, should you ask the majority of old-time radio listeners, they'd tell you that their imaginations conjured up scenes that, perhaps, even excelled anything that any TV producer can present. Further, the most fascinating thought of all is that, even a small child, such as I, who had barely been more than 8 blocks from home, could visualize places, scenes, and events which I had never experienced. I could fairly intrude into the scene and mentally become part of it without ever having known what the world was like before that all-encompassing magic radio moment.

And, listening to Philco Radio Time, which was produced in Hollywood, makes me feel grateful to have lived during this beautifully historic period.

Yes, indeed...The old-time musical radio musical radio shows...WHAT WONDERFUL MEMORIES THEY EVOKE! And may I NEVER LOSE THEM!

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA

- 1.) In the past, Bing Crosby's Christmas show starred his own family. **Can you name each family member?**
- 2.) Jack Benny's Christmas tradition was to go shopping for Don Wilson. It was at this time that Jack would drive the store clerk nuts with his ability to change his mind on Don's Christmas gift. **Can you think of at least four of these "odd" and inexpensive gifts that Jack attempted to purchase?**
- 3.) In what early and long-running radio comedy series did a father explain the Lord's Prayer to his daughter at Christmas time? (**Hint: this series was probably the greatest series ever--everyone listened to it!**)

Answers on the next page.

"The Cinnamon Bear"

The Cinnamon Bear was a yearly radio series that featured a boy and girl searching a Christmas tree ornament with the help of the Cinnamon Bear.

Continued on page 4.

Radio "Tid-bits"

S.P.E.R.D.V.A.C. (The Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety, and Comedy) held its convention November 12-14 in California.

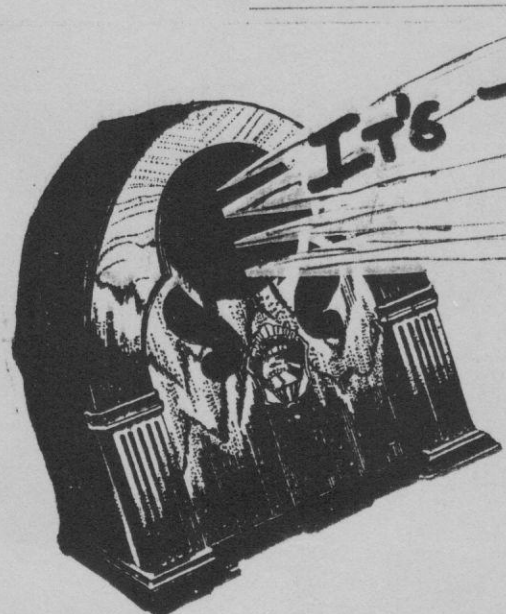
The Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention was brought in Newark, New Jersey October 21-23. Our publication appeared in an ad in the convention program.

in other OTR news...

Robert Brunet recently donated his large collection of 8,000 radio programs to the East Stroudsburg University. Bob has given some of the reels to the school of communications and will provide the rest of the shows for student listening and broadcast. Included in the collection is 200 miles of tape with a variety of shows from the Golden Age of Radio. Bob began to obtain the shows in '50s and his collection has grown to about 4,000 hours.

If you are interested in subscribing to Robert Brunet's Daily Sentinel newsletter, which is published every other month, write to Robert Brunet, Editor, 21 West 74th Street, New York, NY 10023. The subscription rate is \$9.00 for six issues.

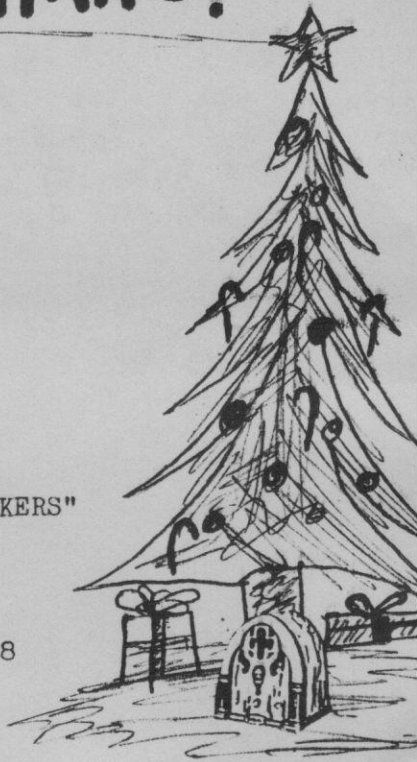
Ralph Doty's Radio Memories Special will be held sometime in December with, perhaps, some Christmas shows. AM 610 KDAL, Duluth, Superior will keep you posted.



IT'S TIME FOR AN OLD TIME RADIO CHRISTMAS!

CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING CASSETTES!!!

- CS-1 GRAND CENTRAL STATION
"MIRACLE FOR CHRISTMAS"
SUSPENSE
"BACK FOR CHRISTMAS" 12/23/43
- CS-2 BURNS AND ALLEN SHOW
"GRACIE'S CHRISTMAS EVE DREAM"
OUR MISS BROOKS
"THE MAGIC CHRISTMAS TREE"
- CS-3 DORIS DAY SHOW
"THE STOLEN SANTA SUIT" 12/23/53
BOB HOPE SHOW 12/24/53
"BOB AND FRANK SINATRA ARE FLOORWALKERS"
- CS-4 MY LITTLE MARGIE
"THE CHRISTMAS PARTY MIX UP"
HALLMARK PLAYHOUSE
"THE STORY OF SILENT NIGHT" 12/23/48
- CS-5 LIFE WITH LUIGI
"LUIGI'S CHRISTMAS MONEY" 12/20/48
JACK BENNY PROGRAM
"THE CHRISTMAS CAST PARTY" 12/19/54



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*OFFER Good Thru 12/31/93

“The Cinnamon Bear”...Continued from pg. 3.

The show was brought to children in serialized form in the late 1930s and continued as a Christmas tradition.

If you have heard the **Cinnamon Bear** before, you might want to find out more about it. Chuck Schaden has released *The Cinnamon Bear Book*, which includes a re-print of a **Cinnamon Bear** coloring book and Chuck Schaden's memories of the nostalgic era. To receive **Chuck Schaden's** catalog, from which you can obtain this book, write **The Hall Closet, Box 421, Morton Grove, IL 60053.**

Trivia answers from page 3:

- 1.) **Dixie Lee Crosby**, Bing's wife; **Gary, Dennis, Philip, and Lindsay** were their sons.
- 2.) Whether it's **cuff links, a gopher trap, or water colors**, Jack always seemed to find the same clerk every year.
- 3.) **Amos and Andy** was probably the greatest show ever on radio. And this particular moment was, perhaps, the most serious part of the long-running series.

OTR Show in Review: “*It's a Wonderful Life*”

Perhaps the **greatest** Christmas classic ever is the unforgettable “It's a Wonderful Life,” starring **James Stewart and Donna Reed**. **This was the movie**, but the radio version was done on “*Screen Director's Assignment*” in 1949 (?).

You really have to accept the idea that a long movie would be more detailed. On the other hand, the radio version, also starring **Jimmy Stewart**, is exceptionally good. Can't you still hear the mellow sounds of “*Screen Director's*” theme and the distinguished sound of **Mr. Stewart's** voice? Radio does have a way of giving you something that the theater cannot give, rating this radio adaptation well done.

The story of angel **Clarence** trying to achieve his first-class wings by saving a man from suicide is easy to follow, even being scrunched into a thirty-minute radio program. “It's a Wonderful Life” is a great Christmas show for people who have seen the film religiously but have not heard the “Theatre of the Mind” version!

“Old-Time Radio Drama” is aired each Sunday evening from 9-11 p.m. on the following Wisconsin Public Radio stations:

91.5 FM WGBW Green Bay
91.1 FM WLFM Appleton
90.7 FM WHAD Milwaukee
970 AM WHA Madison
91.3 FM WHHI Highland

90.3 FM WHLA La Crosse
930 AM WLBL Auburndale
88.3 FM WHWC Eau Claire
90.3 FM WHBM Park Falls
91.3 FM KUWS Superior
90.3 FM WRST Oshkosh

“Old-Time Radio Drama,” starting January 2, will run from 8:30-11:00 p.m. Stay tuned!!

12/05/93 Frank Merriwell, “The Unexpected Game”
12/05/93 Halls of Ivy, “Building a Snowman,” 12/00/51
12/05/93 Columbia Workshop, “The Wonderful Day,” 06/30/39
12/05/93 Portrait of a Spy, “The Spy Who Wasn’t There”
12/05/93 Mindwebs 068, “Swordgame” by H H Hollis, 07/30/76

12/12/93 A Date with Judy, “Mayor for a Day”
12/12/93 Blondie, “What to Get the Kids for Christmas,” 12/15/48
12/12/93 Mark Trail, “Vampires from the Deep,” 03/06/50
12/12/93 Crime Club, “Epitaph for Lydia,” 05/01/47
12/12/93 Mindwebs 067, “When It Changed,” 07/23/76

12/19/93 Nero Wolfe, “The Slaughtered Santas,” 12/22/50
12/19/93 Norman Corwin, “Plot to Overthrow Christmas”
12/19/93 Lux Radio Theatre, “The Song of Songs,” 12/20/37
12/19/93 Mindwebs 066, “Desertion” by Richard Simak, 09/30/79

12/26/93 Meet Corliss Archer, “Dexter’s Insurance”
12/26/93 Frontier Town, “The Harry Cummings Case”
12/26/93 Cavalcade of America, “Mark Twain,” 01/30/39
12/26/93 Duffy’s Tavern, “Archie Balances the Books,” 12/28/45
12/26/93 Mindwebs 065, “The Night He Cried,” 07/16/76

Deaths in Radio

We are sorry to report that **Vincent Price** died in October at the age of 82. Price was born on May 27, 1911, and appeared in many radio programs, including *Escape*. One such show, titled "Three Skeleton Key,"-- the story of ravaging rat hordes eating themselves through an innocent lighthouse, while three men wait inside -- prominently starred Vincent. Mr. Price also starred on *Suspense*.

Vincent Price

In 1953, Price starred in *House of Wax*, and appeared in other movies like *Abbott & Costello Meet the Invisible Man*, *Son of Sinbad*, and *The Raven*.

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Raymond Burr died September 12 at age 76. He starred in western radio's *Fort Laramie*. Radio and TV lost one of the greats when Burr died of kidney cancer, but, as always, the star left us many, many things to remember him, including *Perry Mason*.

New subscribers: Allan Ropchan (Edmonton, Alta Canada), M. Tamin Yurcaba (Yeadon, PA), and Dennis Crow (Gresham, OR).

Birthdays: Robert Hron (Dec. 5), Chris Dahlberg (Dec. 6), Marlene Pattee (Dec. 11), and Laura Thompson (Dec. 22).

Subscriptions are now \$10.00 to give you more reading about the Golden Age of Radio! You will get 12 issues of the newsletter when you send your check or money order to **Tom C. Miller, Old-Time Radio Gazette, 2004 East 6th Street, Superior, WI 54880-3632**. Renewal reminders are sent one month before the final issue in the subscription.

Tom C. Miller
Old-Time Radio Gazette
2004 East 6th Street
Superior, Wisconsin 54880-3632

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The Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention Held October 21-23 in Newark, New Jersey

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We'll have more on the FOTRC next month...