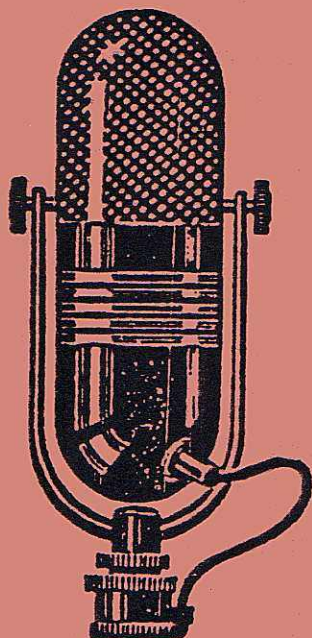


THE OLD-TIME RADIO GAZETTE

September



THE SHADOW

TRAPS A
KILLER



THE SHADOW
BY RALPH DOTY



Orson Welles &
Agnes Moorehead



One of America's favorite mystery shows was successful despite being aired at one of the most unlikely times for radio drama - Sunday afternoons. The show was The Shadow, on the air from the very early age of radio in 1930, until December, 1954, a phenomenal run of 24 consecutive years. In fact, the show was so popular that many episodes - although not all - were later syndicated and can still be purchased in novelty stores, book stores and even airport terminal shops. The Shadow, it seems, is one of America's all-time favorite shows from the Golden Age of Radio.

The Shadow radio show was an outgrowth of a series of Shadow novels written in the 1920's by Walter Gibson. It originally began

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(THE SHADOW, CONTINUED)

on CBS' Detective Story show, and kept that title until 1936. During most of that time it was sponsored by Blue Coal. But it was not until 1936 that the show hit its stride when a 22 year old newcomer by the name of Orson Welles became The Shadow, and the title of the program was changed from Detective Story to The Shadow.

Welles' faithful companion, Margo Lane, was played by another newcomer beginning with the 1936 season, and her name was Agnes Moorhead.

Without a doubt, The Shadow was the most popular mystery program on Sunday for many years. I can recall tuning into to the Duluth radio station, WREX, at 4 p.m. and being enthralled with the man who could "cloud men's minds so they could not see him." That was pretty heady stuff for a young impressionable child.

LaMont Cranston, who was the Shadow in real life, was the master detective who always took the criminal cases that no one else could solve.

Welles continued in the role of the Shadow until 1938, when he helped write, produce, direct and act in that all-time classic, "War of the Worlds" on the Mercury Theatre. The sponsors of The Shadow weren't too thrilled about Welles' overnight stardom, and they went shopping for another Shadow because they wanted their star to be a man of mystery, and one couldn't be a man of mystery if he was a major celebrity as Welles had become.

After auditioning more than 40 actors, they settled on Bill Johnstone, who was in the title role until 1943. After that there was a long list of people who starred as the Shadow, too numerous to mention here. Agnes Moorhead was Margo Lane until 1939.

Throughout the series, until 1949, Blue Coal was the sponsor, but they bowed out of the picture in that year when the anthracite coal industry collapsed. Later sponsors were Grove Laboratories and Wildroot Cream Oil.

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(THE SHADOW, CONTINUED)

In early shows The Shadow was broadcast before a live audience, but that was later discontinued because applause after a spooky mystery hardly seemed in place.

RADIO MEMORIES SPECIAL

August 29

Ralph Doty will be holding his **RADIO MEMORIES SPECIAL** on August 29! The Sunday afternoon special will be aired from 1-4 p.m. on **AM 610 KDAL**, Duluth, Superior. For three hours, many of your favorite OTR programs will be broadcast, which are the following: "I Love a Mystery," "Ma Perkins," "One Man's Family," "Lights Out," "Blondie," and the "Jack Benny Program," which was broadcast 2 hours after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Be sure to listen!!

NEW SUBSCRIBERS: Steve & Mary Ann Katzmark, Carol Russell, Judy Hultgren, Kenneth Walker, and Darrell Boomgaarden.

RENEWAL SUBSCRIBERS: Mark Miller, Mike Miller, and Ev Miller.

BIRTHDAYS: Joyce Bickford (Sept. 11); Carl Ellison (Sept. 5)

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS: Lauren Bacall (Sept. 16, 1924)

BOB HOPE'S 90TH

Bob Hope's 90th birthday was celebrated on May 14 with a 3 hour special of great reminices of Bob's past. Hope was born in Etham, England and grew up in Cleveland, OH. Before going into vaudeville, Hope had several jobs and even tried boxing. He appeared in several comedy shorts between 1934 and 1936, but was even more successful on radio. In 1932, Hope appeared on the "Showboat" radio program and later had the "Pepsodent Show," which first aired on September 27, 1938 on NBC.



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

****More Bob Hope next month.****

Bob Hope Tape Set

To receive this special tape set, be sure to state the title and catalog number (BOB HOPE SHOW, A-41). Subscribers of this publication can purchase this set for only \$6.95! Be sure to state that you are an OTR GAZETTE subscriber. Non-subscribers can purchase the set for the regular price of \$7.95.

1. w/Jimmy Durante. Bob and Doris Day leave for the airport to begin their personal appearance tour thru the South. Swan Soap commercials. (April, 1949)
2. w/Jane Wyman. Bob believes that he can become a famous singer. Hans Conried and Bob Sweeney also appear.
3. Bob goes Christmas shopping and has trouble in the department store.
4. w/Fred Allen. They discuss Jack Benny and do a skit about "Arthur Hopefry's Talent Scouts."
5. w/Frankie Laine and Hedy Lamarr. Broadcast from the Coronado Naval Air Station.
6. w/Jack Webb. They do a "Dragnet" comedy skit.

The last two programs contain some sound distortion.

MAIL TO: Carl Froelich,
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17349

Below is your "Old-Time Radio Drama" schedule. The OTR shows are aired each Sunday evening from 9-11 p.m.

OLD-TIME RADIO DRAMA

09/05/93	Dennis Day Show	Poll for the New Jail	10/01/47
09/05/93	Rocky Jordan	Journey to Nashier	
09/05/93	Bulldog Drummond	Death Uses Disappearing Ink	
09/05/93	Black Museum	The Trunk Murder	
09/05/93	Mindwebs 081	Cephes 5 by Howard Fast	10/29/76
09/12/93	Bob & Ray	Mary Backstage TV Show, etc	
09/12/93	Leonidas Witherall	Summer Resort Murder	
09/12/93	Dimension X	Dwellers in Silence	07/19/51
09/12/93	Mindwebs 080	Allegory by Wm T. Powers	10/22/76
09/19/93	Eddie Cantor	w/William Powell, Dinah Shore	09/01/48
09/19/93	Ozzie & Harriet	Boys Go Away for a Night	
09/19/93	Hollywood Star Time	The Letter	02/08/47
09/19/93	Molle Mystery Thea	The Four Fatal Jugglers	06/26/44
09/19/93	Mindwebs 079	The Imagicon/Corrida	10/15/76
09/26/93	Flash Gordon	The World Under the Earth	
09/26/93	Baby Snooks	Daddy Visits Uncle Norm	
09/26/93	Dragnet	The Big Mole	12/07/50
09/26/93	Shadow	The Phantom Voice	02/13/38
09/26/93	Mindwebs 078	The Run by Chris Priest	10/08/76

Ideas Network Stations

91.5FM WGBW	Green Bay
91.1FM WLFM	Appleton
90.7 FMWHAD	Milwaukee
970 AMWHA	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

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