


# Old Time Radio **DIGEST**

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*Old Time  
Radio*



**HERB BRANDENBURG**  
DIGEST PUBLISHER

# Old Time Radio DIGEST

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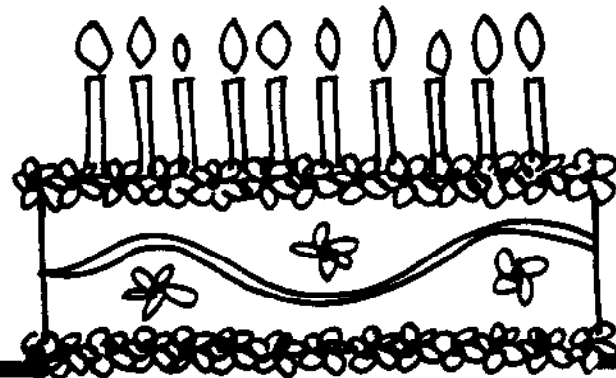
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# Letter-To-The-Editor

Not that it matters and not that anyone, even me would be very interested in my love life 53 years after the fact, nevertheless, I want to thank you for the flattering reprint in your March-April 1993 Old Time Radio Digest of Norton Russell's "Henry Aldrich Is In Love" January 1940 article from the Radio and Television Mirror.

In true fan magazine reportage, Russell took a set of basic facts and converted them with dubious accuracy into his fantasy. Now that "show biz" has retired me, I am today in the "history biz" for as long as I can manage to function physically and mentally for what's left of my life. I am serving as President/Director of the David Library of the American Revolution at Washington Crossing, Bucks County Pennsylvania succeeding my father, Sol Feinstone (1888-1990) who was the library's founder and first director. Nepotism, like charity, should always begin at home.

My friend, Jack Webb as Sgt. Friday on Dragnet, was often heard to state, "The facts, ma'am! Nothing but the facts!" So here are my corrections of Russell's facts as I try to retrieve them from my cluttered and cloudy memory bank regarding the Ezra Stone and Ann Lincoln love story.

"I wouldn't want to bet a week's pay that they won't be Mr. and Mrs. Stone..." Russell predicted and he

would have lost a week's pay, probably about \$75 dollars back in 1940. Ann and I never tied the knot nor did we ever seriously consider the knotty question. Actually, had my beloved, talented wife Sara Seegar (Mrs. Wilson on "Dennis The Menace") lived beyond August 12, 1990, we would have celebrated our legal 48th wedding anniversary on October 5th of that year. It would have been our 50th counting our two year courtship which began when we met in the Shubert's Broadway flop, "Horse Fever" in 1940. The show was a terrible turkey and I guess we looked good to each other in comparison.

The name of the first girl I wanted to marry now escapes me and I am sure it's mutual. I was 3 years old and I am told, that I proposed to the tiny temptress who lived next door to us on Vyse Avenue in the Bronx. Our row house porches were separated by a handrail which was taller than we were. I withdrew the proposal when her father asked me if I was prepared to support his daughter in the manner to which she was becoming accustomed.

Since it is titillating and fun at age 75 years to remember all the lovely young ladies who now happily for them never became Mrs. Stone, allow me to share them with you.

In the seventh grade of the Oak Lane Country Day School in Philadelphia, there was sloe-eyed,



*Ezra & Sara Seeger Stone - IBM Golden Circle, Maui '85 - Celebrating 25 years of service as Consultant and General Director of Recognition Events*

bubbling Virginia Faith Davis, the eldest daughter of the renowned society orchestra maestro, Meyer (and Hilda) Davis. Ginny, now retired in Maine from her years of international renown as a concert singer. She is happily married to a former Philadelphia lawyer, Morris Wexler and remains a dear friend.

In high school, I was ga-ga over a bright, brainy, beautiful artist and athlete, Ruth Fleisher (Kohn) who has raised a large and wonderful family and who is also a cherished friend to this day.



Dorothy Sparks

In 1934 while a student at the now 108 year old American Academy of Dramatic Arts, I was smitten by a very talented young lady from Chicago. She was Dorothy Sparks who had gorgeous gray-blue eyes set in a face that rivaled Sylvia

Sidney's. Sadly we lost track of each other some two years after our graduation. I can only hope that she has had as full and happy a life as the one with which I have been blessed.

Stella [Clausen] Sanders was a pert and pretty dancer in the chorus of the Theatre Guild's "Parade," starring Jimmy Savo and featuring Eve Arden back in 1935. It was staged by my beloved, martyred, teacher and friend, Philip Loeb, who is remembered fondly by many television viewers as Molly's husband Jake on "The Goldbergs." It was my first Broadway show as a brand new life member of Actors Equity. I played a Keystone Kop along with our male octette in the opening number. This was my favorite bit since it gave me the excuse to visit Stella in the chorus girls dressing room before each performance and to get her and Polly Rose (Billy's sister) to plant big, wet, shiny red lipstick kisses all over my face. During our two week tryout in Boston, I saved the cost of a hotel room by bunking with my best friend from high school, Charles Moos, Esquire in his freshman dorm, Hallworthy Hall, in the Harvard Yard at Cambridge. One Saturday Night after two performances, a late supper and some pub crawling, Stella and I feeling no pain climbed over the locked gate and sneaked past the campus guard for a nightcap in Charles' dorm rooms. We were emulating the current comedy hit "She Loves Me Not" where Burgess



George Abbott's "Brother Rat" NYC 1936 l. to 4. Dick Jones. Barry Sullivan (replaced Joe Ferrer) Ezra Stone (as "Mistol Bottome").

Meredith and John Beal were hiding Polly Walters in their Princeton dormitory. "Parade" closed after 32 performances and so did the Ezra & Stella romance.

My next very serious flame was Helen Gillette an actress from Asbury Park. She had a Jean Arthur voice, a Heather Angel face and a Sandy Duncan figure. I was then a production and casting assistant in the George Abbott office while playing the juicy role of "Mistol Bottome" the hazed plebe in "Brother Rat" where Frank Albertson, Eddie Albert, and Jose Ferrer wacked my bottom with a broom eight performances a week.

My mentor Mr. Abbott (now 106 years old) to whom I owe my career, and all the resultant good things in my life, gave me the assignment to help cast his London company of "Room Service." Helen got the Betty Field role and I waved good-bye to her from the pier. I thought we were really engaged (no ring) and I was making plans to take three weeks off from "Brother Rat," catch a boat to "blimey," marry Helen, a weekend honeymoon in Paris, and sail back to New York from Cherbourg. (This was pre-transAtlantic air travel, of course.) All plans were cancelled when I received word that Helen had become Mrs. William Mendreck, the

"Room Service" stage manager. Years later, Sara and I were bringing our kids, Josef and Francine (both born on March 29th, two years apart, models of perfect production planning) to Seaview, Fire Island to spend the summer with my folks at their beach house. On the ferry boat from Bayshore, Long Island we bumped into Helen who was alone and headed for Ocean Beach. Caught off guard, I tried to introduce her to my family. I got her first name out okay but I couldn't come up with her current last name since I wasn't sure how many times she had been divorced and remarried. Sara loved to tease me about not remembering the name of the gal I was about to marry. Sara and I were wed secretly in Washington, DC on October 5, 1942 by a Judge Mattingly in his home. He was a marrying judge brought out of retirement to handle the wartime wedlock traffic. I was literally hooked. He had no right hand — just a hook.

Sara was appearing on Broadway at the Plymouth Theatre in "Vickie," starring Jose Ferrer and Uta Hagen with Red Buttons and John Forsythe in small parts. They were playing two performances on Sundays and were dark on Mondays. Meanwhile at the National Theatre in Washington, I was in "This Is The Army," the Irving Berlin soldier show which I had assembled and staged. We were dark on Sunday nights.

Once again to save money, I was bunking with my friend Charles Moos, now a young lawyer in the

Department of Labor. As a jawbone Staff Sergeant, my army pay was still only "\$21.00 a day — once a month." I picked up Sara at the Union Station around 3 O'clock on Monday, October 5th, and we took a cab to Judge Mattingly's in Chevy Chase, all the needed papers and arrangements having been made before hand by Charles, pro bono. I told the cab driver to wait, that we were only going to get married and we'd be right out.

Before I knew it the Judge was rattling the official words, while referring to the marriage license for our names, "Do you, E.C. Feinstone take Sara Frances Seegar...," I realized I was being married with my ever present Marsh Wheeling stogie in my mouth. I took a step away to place it on the Judge's mantle with the ash end safely hanging over the edge. The Judge's hook shot out to my wrist and drew me back to the marrying marks in time for the "I do's." He signed the papers, collected his fee and one for his wife who served as witness and we were back in the cab with my retrieved cigar still lit.

We had a fast twosome wedding dinner at the Shoreham. Sara dropped me at the stage door of the National just in time for half hour before our evening performance. She checked into the Willard just down the street from the theatre and was supposed to leave a message with our room number with the stage door man. I never got the message. We almost spent our wedding night separately. She had registered as Mr.



and Mrs. E.C. Feinstone. The night manager finally agreed to ring the room to have Sara verify that S/Sgt. Ezra Stone and E. C. Feinstone were the same. Tuesday morning Sara was back on the train for her show that night and I had to report to the ellipse by the Washington Monument for drill and calisthenics.

That was a very important week in my life; married on Monday the fifth, the FDR command matinee performance on Thursday the eighth, promoted to Master-Sergeant on Friday the ninth and after the show that evening our entire company were supper guests of the President and Mrs. Roosevelt at the White House.

As the years compounded, unlike most husbands, I never forgot my

wedding anniversary. I just couldn't remember whether it was October 5th, 8th, or 9th, until our number one grandchild Kimberly Joyce Stone, was born on October 5, 1979. That happy event carved the October 5 date in Stone.

Now, after this long digression and a guided tour through my pre-marital relationship years, let me return to my corrections of Norton Russell's 1940 article

End of Part 1 - Part 2 to come.

*Editor's Note: Late in 1994, McFarlane Press, in Jefferson, North Carolina, will publish. . . "Starring Ezra Stone as Henry Aldrich". . . by Kenn Stilson.*

# Mount Carmel Lone Ranger Radio Recreation

by Terry Salomonson

This past April 30 and May 1, 1993 was the first celebration by the Mt. Carmel, IL Chamber of Commerce commemorating the birthplace of Brace Beemer. Brace Beemer was the last of several radio actors to portray the famous fictional character, and by far the most remembered one. Whenever THE LONE RANGER program is talked about, virtually the only name that comes to mind is that of Brace Beemer.

Don and Mary Ramlow and myself drove the distance together to help recreate a LONE RANGER broadcast. My day had started at 3:30 a.m. when I left Detroit for Kalamazoo, MI. We left the Ramlow's Kalamazoo, MI estate on Friday, April 30th about 7:30 a.m. for our six hour trip to Mount Carmel, IL. Located in the Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky area, the drive was interesting and long. Mostly open farming country, we did not have the convenience of quick expressway driving. The trip from the Chicago area south was all two lane highway, but the trip was uneventful except for rest stops.

We arrived in Mt. Carmel about 2:30 p.m. and checked into our motel rooms and spent some time exploring around the town and visiting the Chamber of Commerce, where they had a large Lone Ranger display set up. Many Lone Ranger items had been gathered from various collectors for the public to view during the weekend's activities.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Director, Diane Partee, were kind enough to provide our accommodations and meals while we were there. We unpacked and checked our equipment. Barney Beck, retired radio sound effects man, came in from New York to do the sound effects

during the recreation.

Fred Foy, narrator/announcer so many of the broadcasts, also arrived on Friday afternoon. He only appeared as THE LONE RANGER once on radio. Brace Beemer had laryngitis during the last few months of original live broadcasts. On 03/29/54 Fred Foy stepped up to the microphone for broadcast #3309/2529, "Burly Scott's Daughter." and "rode" Silver for Brace Beemer. After the broadcast, Fred stated that Brace told him that he "would never lose his voice again."

To make this weekend broadcast interesting, we decided to perform the exact same script again. I provided an original copy of that broadcast and wrote the script. I sent these two items to Don Ramlow. He added a few items to the script to help him direct this recreation. Don had sent copies of the original broadcast and the script to Mt. Carmel earlier, so that local residents could try out for parts and rehearse their roles before the 60th anniversary weekend.

Between Don and Barney Beck, the music cuts and various sound effects were worked out weeks before the recreation. Friday evening, we talked about various problems that came up. Naturally, you can never walk into an auditorium and not have problems to deal with. Cables with adaptors that do not match, microphone hums and shorts that cause audio nightmares. We needed two 78 rpm turntables, and they did not have one there. CD player, no problem, but who uses 78's anymore? Well, of course, if you recreate old radio scripts, a 78 is a must; two if you are going to do sound effects at a professional level.

Mary Ramlow and I would help

Barney with sound effects during the broadcast, which was broadcast live over local radio there and a delayed television broadcast over a PBS channel. Barney and I went over many issues Friday night.

Saturday morning we awoke and had breakfast. That was followed by the entire town turning out for a parade. The parade included everyone and everything. Marching bands, fire trucks, local dignitaries, school kids, scouts, antique and custom cars, celebrity guests and even the "radio crew." It was well video taped all along the route. Although, if you get to view the video of this parade, you may not be able to recognize anyone. Hundreds of black Lone Ranger masks were worn by almost everyone there.

Saturday's luncheon was extremely good and the guest keynote speaker was Richard Beals. Richard played Dan Reid, nephew of the Lone Ranger, and other children voices on THE LONE RANGER program and many other shows over the years. His talk was extremely uplifting and humorous. He is a very friendly, nice person and talented personality with interesting insights to "the business," and life in general.

After the luncheon, free ice cream and a 60-foot long cake was provided to everyone in town. Fred Foy talked briefly about "the man behind the mask." Barbara Beemer Daniels (Brace Beemer's daughter) and Fred Foy did the honors of cutting the cake. A light rain did not dampen anyone's spirits. The afternoon was spent seeing all the different areas that were available for sale, as was special post office cancellations of stamps and envelopes.

Saturday night dinner was hosted by the City of Mt. Carmel and the Chamber of Commerce. A small silver bullet engraving mounted on wood was at each place setting. Dinner was good if not better than the luncheon. We were very impressed by both of these meals. Usually, meals for several hundred people are not well

remembered. Not so here.

Fred Foy was the keynote speaker. His talk about his career and how he went from a boy who faithfully listened to the program to become announcer/narrator, and, of all things, the understudy for Brace Beemer, was truly not boring. He talked about how great it was to work with all the cast members of the production, and that those were "some of the greatest days of my life."

The surprise of the evening was when Diane Partee, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, was awarded the Spirits Award. The way the presentation was worded, before announcing Diane's name, it sounded like her husband was going to be recipient of the award for the hundreds of hours she put in on this celebration away from home and family. Diane Partee was completely shocked and genuinely surprised.

Barbara Beemer Daniels was presented a scrapbook of items related to her father. Newspaper articles, birth certificate, etc. She was very moved with the gift.

After breakfast Sunday morning, Barney Beck, Don and Mary Ramlow, and myself headed to Brubeck Arts Center Auditorium on the Wabash Valley College campus where we would do the recreation. We set up and worked through audio and electronic problems for several hours. Our largest problem was getting rid of footsteps on the stage that were being picked up by one of six microphones we would use during the program.

We had several run-throughs with the entire cast, "fine tuning" timing, speaking parts, sound effects, etc., without too many problems. Then the public was let in to the auditorium and we gave a performance that I think would have received Brace Beemer's approval. The audience certainly enjoyed it, and it came off without a hitch.

After the broadcast, the entire cast posed for a single cast photo and gave

each other our thanks and good-byes. Equipment tear down and the long drive home completed this weekend. I finally arrived back in Detroit about 3:00 a.m. on Monday morning. A long, but rewarding weekend. Along with the local newspaper articles, some wire service stories from the Chicago newspapers, and the audio recordings from this weekend, I have yet another good memory involving Old Time Radio.



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Announcer: "Abraham Lincoln visited Council Bluffs years ago, before he was assassinated."—Mrs. A. Dyson, Salix, Iowa (July 22: KFNF: 12:25 p.m.)

Ted Husing: "Here comes Johnny Woodruff, a man known to only a few of his friends." Jane Nelson, Herkimer, New York (August 4: WGY: 12:55 p.m.)

Allie Lowe Miles: "So listen in and we will tell our listeners how to get flies out of the house on Wednesday." Mrs. Chas. A. Myers, York, Pennsylvania (July 13: WOR: 2:55 p.m.)



Announcer: "Due to line difficulty over which we have no control, the Vincent Lopez orchestra will be heard over this station in a few minutes." Hilton Lysons, Seattle, Washington (July 20: KOL: 8 p.m.)

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# A friendly reply to Mr. Bob Burnham

by George Wagner

First of all, it is really a pleasure to see Bob Burnham back in the pages of the DIGEST again. His commentary and his experience in OTR have both been sincerely missed. Bob, a goodly number of us have been disappointed in not seeing you at the Cincinnati Old Time Radio Conventions the last few years, and we genuinely look forward to seeing you there again.

But I must fault Bob's statement that "for every one great show, there were 20 mediocre shows and maybe 50 really bad shows." Bob, do you really believe that only a little more than one percent of the radio shows of the "Golden Age" are really worth listening to and preserving? Or that fully 70 percent of all OTR shows were "really bad?" Gee, I'm surprised that you ever discovered OTR at all. I doubt that I would have under similar circumstances.

I do remember the Golden Age of radio broadcasting, but not all that well. I was born about two months before the attack on Pearl Harbor; my real radio listening days were from about ages four to seven — by early 1949 (six months before my eighth birthday) I had been seduced by that living room cyclops, television. My parents were convinced that I was dying (severe tonsillitis) and cheered me up with the very first set on our block. Less than five percent of my radio collection has any reference to "nostalgia" or "remembering."

Bob, I believe that THE LONE RANGER is GREAT radio drama, and I can prove to you that my belief has nothing to do with how I "remember" it. As a child I hated Westerns, and I still don't care for 'em all that much (my preferences ran to SUPERMAN and science fiction). As a kid I avoided the Ranger on the radio, had no interest in the related toys, never read the comic book versions, and only watched the television program a few times when I

was "trapped" with other children who insisted on viewing it. In other words it was ONLY as an ADULT that I really discovered the program.

I have written and sold magazine fiction, articles and poetry; have critiqued other people's novels and non-fiction book manuscripts prior to publication; have worked as an editorial assistant for a major midwestern publisher; in addition, have worked for 33 years in the new, used and rare book field. While I realize that this doesn't exactly make me Charles Dickens or Stephen King, it does give me some authority to comment on the literary content of THE LONE RANGER. And so, Bob, I have to tell you that the writing is EXTREMELY good. I collect the Ranger today precisely BECAUSE of the truly superb writing and plotting. You are free to love the show or to hate it, but neither your love nor your hatred makes the show "mediocre."

I tend to agree with Bob regarding PLANET MAN, although even here I would describe it as being on the low edge of mediocre rather than as "horrible." THE ROY ROGERS SHOW falls under my general dislike of Westerns (the only ones I've ever really liked have been the radio versions of THE LONE RANGER and GUNSMOKE, plus the movie GUNFIGHT AT THE O. K. CORRAL), but I think Bob is a trifle unfair with his "Dale Bakes a Cake" quip. Think how many great movies could be capsulized this way: "Rick Runs a Restaurant" (CASABLANCA); "Psychologist Receives Short Note" (CURSE OF THE DEMON); "Girl Takes Trip" (THE WIZARD OF OZ); "Music Teacher Takes Basement Apartment" (THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA); "Man Thinks Too Much" (FORBIDDEN PLANET).

Surely I cannot be accused of

nostalgia in enjoying SPEED GIBSON, since this was broadcast approximately four years before I was born. When I remastered some of these episodes in a homegrown, ersatz but still fairly effective Stereo, I found them in demand by collectors 15 and 20 years my junior. Personally, I find this series well-written, well-acted, well-paced and downright exciting. While JERRY OF THE CIRCUS has never been one of my favorite shows, I apparently like it about ten times better than Bob does. After I listened to roughly the first half of this series, I found myself sufficiently involved with the characters that I tracked down the remaining episodes.

There are many shows in my collection that I have listened to once and will almost certainly never listen to again. Surely GUEST STAR and

PINTO PETE fall heavily into this category. But is this any reason to erase them? Bob tells me that I should, and let somebody else preserve them. For the Good Lord's sake, haven't we had ENOUGH in this century of the "somebody else" philosophy? I want to be my OWN "somebody else!!!"

Most larger libraries preserve simply immense runs of daily newspapers in bound volumes or on microfilm. Bob, think of all the space they could gain by simply burning all the newspapers from "slow news days" — surely at least 75 percent of the time. Who in the hell cares what the news was on June 27, 1875?

I believe my own philosophy can be most succinctly summed up this way: When we destroy things, Bob, we don't have them anymore.

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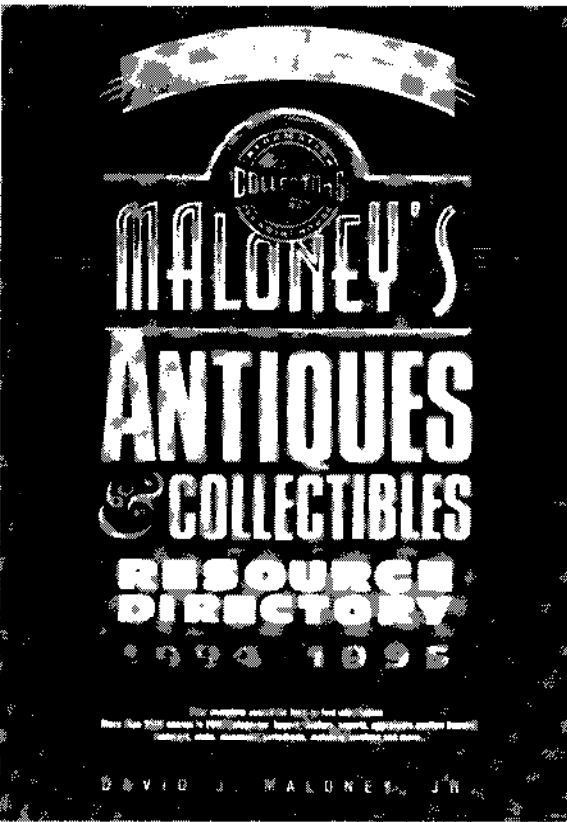
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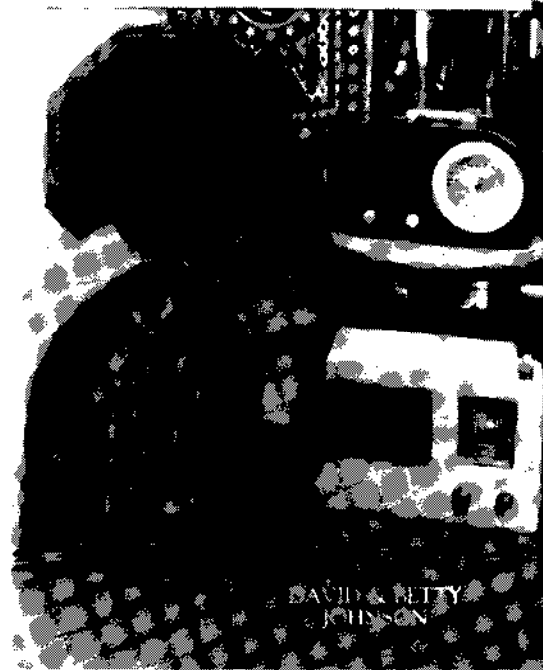
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The new edition of David Maloney's now-famous directory contains even more precedent-setting features. It still contains the most comprehensive listings of buyers, dealers, experts, appraisers, auction houses, restorers, clubs, museums, periodicals, matching services, and many other types of contacts involved in the antiques and collectibles industry. However, this new edition also has:

About the author: David Maloney is a nationally known appraiser, author, radio talk-show guest, and lecturer. His reputation is based on 20 years of practical experience, extensive academic and personal study, teaching, and lecturing.

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The price guide, which has descriptions of over 3,300 separate models, is organized by manufacturer and model number, making it extremely easy to use. All the common models and many of the rarer examples are covered. Also included is information on secondary material such as amplifiers, paper ephemera, test equipment, speakers and repair manuals. The Guide to Old Radios is the first book to include price information on this important radio-related material.

David and Betty Johnson are antiques dealers specializing in radios and 78-rpm records. David is a licensed radio engineer who prefers fixing old radios, while Betty researches the history and personalities of manufacturers and broadcasters. Their Antique Radios: Restoration and Price Guide (Wallace-Homestead: 1982) has become a classic. Guide to Old Radios is built upon that tradition of excellence.

**Royal Promotions 4114 Montgomery Rd Cincinnati, Ohio 45212**

# The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: A Rebuttal

by Jack French

The September/October 1993 issue of the Old Time Radio Digest contains a literary appearance by Bob Burnham, consisting of approximately three pages of his enlightened criticism of our hobby. Burnham claims that since he wasn't "on the planet" during the Golden Age of Radio, he doesn't feel nostalgic about THE LONE RANGER, a show he terms "...from a writing/plot standpoint, pretty mediocre... actually that's being polite, as far as my personal assessment of that particular show." One has to wonder what Burnham says about the Masked Rider of the Plains during his impolite moods.

When Burnham starts rating the shows he hates, it gets a little confusing. There's the group of shows he says are "so bad, they're good (in a campy sense)", for example, THE PLANET MAN, or they're "good, in a bad sense" which includes THE ROY ROGERS SHOW. Burnham dumps SPEED GIBSON into the "trashola" category and then he concludes that most of the kids' serials fall into this group also.

Getting his second wind, Burnham next defines the "worthless" category, into which he lumps PINTO PETE, GUEST STAR and an "equally trashy-series, JERRY OF THE CIRCUS." Reflecting upon his indictments, Burnham admits his opinion might be different if he were older, but he reassures us that he's "not too far out of line" since he is "in good position to learn about the likes and dislikes of other people, as far as OTR is concerned."

If most of the above seems just a little vindictive and complex, Burnham offers us a simple mathematical formula for determining just how many bad shows that radio produced: for every one great radio show, he insists, there were 20 mediocre ones and 50 really bad ones. So, according to Burnham's Law, over 98% of everything we collect in this hobby is junk.

Let's put this in perspective to demonstrate just how reckless his dictum is; we'll take the category of mystery show.

Certainly SUSPENSE, LIGHTS OUT, ESCAPE, and QUIET PLEASE could be termed the best of this genre. OTR fans can add or subtract to this short list (I LOVE A MYSTERY, INNER SANCTUM, etc.) but let's assume there's only four great mystery series. So that means that there were 80 (20 X 4) mediocre ones and 200 (50 X 4) really bad ones. Well, there's probably a few below-average ones, maybe WEIRD CIRCLE, MYSTERY IS MY HOBBY, WITCH'S TALE, THE HAUNTING HOUR, THE CLOCK, and MYSTERIES OF THE MIND. But can anyone name another 200 lousy mystery shows?

Perhaps Burnham meant us to apply his Law on the basis of a series, not a genre. If so, we can examine the comedy shows to evaluate his declaration. Most people would probably agree that JACK BENNY had a funny and very enjoyable show. But if we apply Burnham's Law to this weekly series, BENNY rates one great show, 20 mediocre ones and 50 really bad ones over a 17 month period. The same standard could equally apply to a year and a half season for FRED ALLEN, AMOS 'N ANDY, and BURNS AND ALLEN. Can any reasonable person contend that the above comedians had only one great show of seventy-one?

But let's give Burnham the benefit of the doubt—maybe he didn't mean one genre or one series, maybe he meant the totality of all radio shows ever aired. To test his "trashola" theory on everything aired, why not start by suggesting a group of "great" shows. For argument's sake, we'll begin with twenty superior shows: (Any OTR fan can debate this selection, but we have to start somewhere) GUNSMOKE, FRED ALLEN, FT. LARAMIE, HELEN HAYES THEATRE, JACK BENNY, THIS IS MY BEST, FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY, VOICE OF FIRESTONE, AMOS 'N ANDY, VOYAGE OF THE SCARLET QUEEN, COLUMBIA WORKSHOP, BURNS AND ALLEN, MERCURY

THEATRE OF THE AIR, ARCH OBLER PLAYS, INFORMATION PLEASE, KRAFT MUSIC HALL, SUSPENSE, TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR, QUIET PLEASE, and DRAGNET.


So, assuming those are twenty great shows, can someone now name 400 (20 X 20) mediocre shows, or tougher yet, identify 1000 (20 X 50) really BAD shows? Of course not! In fact, if there were any validity to Burnham's accusation that 70 out of every 71 radio shows was junk, it would mean that in Jay Hickerson's Ultimate Radio Log of about 6,000 network shows, all of them, save 120, would be mediocre or worthless. And, of course, that's pure nonsense!

Most fair-minded people subscribe to the old adage that "One man's trash is another man's treasure." There's room in this broad community of OTR collectors for people who like any radio show. And, in the unlikely event that there's one fan who collects only PINTO PETE, GUEST STAR, PLANET MAN, and JERRY OF THE CIRCUS, that's OK too. But none of us has the right to tap that fellow on the shoulder and say, "Pardon me, but your entire collection is trashola."

The point is simply that collecting radio shows, like collecting anything else, is a matter of taste. For example, I like soap operas and kids' adventure shows, and while not too many other OTR collectors do, most respect my opinion, as I do theirs. I respect whatever choices Burnham makes in selecting his "great" shows, but none of us should be evaluating each other's collections.

If Burnham had been on the planet during the Golden Age of Radio, he'd realize that he is merely re-hashing the complaints of the 1930s. In those days literary editors, particularly those of Scribner's Magazine, regularly protested what they perceived as the lack of merit in many popular shows, including nearly all of the kids' serials and the soap operas. One would hope that 60 years later, we'd be more tolerant of other people's choices, and we would cheer, not jeer, the diversity of our OTR hobby.

**TONIGHT  
DIAL 700 FOR**

Fun in  
Harlem  
  
**Amos & Andy**  
**9:00 PM**

**Fibber  
McGee**  
  
AND  
**Molly**  
**9:30**

America's  
No. 1 Comic  
  
**Bob  
Hope**  
**10:00 PM**

**WLW**

## **The Collected, The Rejected, A Different View** by Terry Salomonson

I'm not into bass fishing, or listening to and collecting Country/Western music, but a lot of other people are. If I owned a sporting goods, or music store I couldn't very well overlook these areas that I do not have interest in. What does this have to do with OTR? I just finished reading "OTR shows ... which ones are the good, the bad and the ugly," and felt a friendly counter view is needed.

Most of the programs mentioned in the article were written and produced for the juvenile set. As an adult, if you don't listen to these programs from that point of view as a child would, they won't hold up as they were intended. Also, one must remember, that these particular programs were produced when radio, and indeed it's audience, was not as sophisticated as it is today. Stations, networks, writers, producers, and the audiences were still developing and maturing. Today we have matured so much we now have laugh tracks to tell us when something is funny and we should laugh. So much for entertainment today.

Bob did nail THE LONE RANGER among other programs. Sure, there is a certain amount of formula to the program, but does that mean that once you've heard one DRAGNET, you've heard them all. The same with SUSPENSE, JACK BENNY, etc. I don't think so. In fact, after 45 years, THE LONE RANGER is still on television and enjoying as much popularity as ever before. I wrote THE LONE RANGER log for radio and over the years over 450 copies have gone to collectors. Most collectors do not buy logs, so just think of how many more collect and enjoy the audio programs.

If you would have listened to JACK BENNY in the beginning, you never would have continued the relationship over the years. And without collecting those early "bad" shows, you can't really appreciate his development to the polished performer we remember.

Listen to SUSPENSE's "100 In The Dark". Not a good example of SUSPENSE at it's best, but it helps to make the others so much more enjoyable to listen to. If each episode or series were to be great with each broadcast, you'd end up with boredom, a cookie cutter approach to broadcasting and indeed our memories.

Most of the shows that were trashed have appeared in Bob's catalogs in the past. I guess, if he feels this strong about the subject of his article, he now has dumped 980 out of every 1,000 of his mater reels and those programs are no longer available from him. With reel-to-reel recording tape getting harder to find, he may be a good source in the future if you need blank tape. As a dealer, there is a mystery as to why he would trash his customers' collections. That gets to a personal level to many people. I kept waiting for "Oh, and by the way, I don't like your dog either." I don't mean to be critical, but the article probably reads not the way he meant it to. Maybe he should have waited a couple of days and re-read it first. Once something like this appears in print, it's hard to retract.

Half the country's population wasn't alive when Kennedy was killed 30 years ago and can't relate to the experience. Bob pointed out in his article that, "I hadn't arrived on the planet yet," and that may be the key to the article and his feelings. If we were to apply the 98% ratio to his article (1,063 words), then only 21.26 words are good. But which ones are?

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## Audio 2100: A new idea in OTR

by George Wagner

Over the past few years I've received numerous postal and telephone communications from younger OTR and/or Big Band fans. These messages have one overriding common denominator: each one of these people believes that he or she is the only young OTR collector, or the only young Big Band collector, in the world.

I mentioned this in late 1992 to Warren Durham, the former CBS Radio announcer who currently hosts the satellite (and Channel America) television program BIG BAND DAYS. Warren informed me that fully one-third of his mail is now coming from younger people!!!

Because of these things, I am forming an organization which has been at the back of my mind for nearly two decades — from a time when I myself easily qualified for membership. **AUDIO 2100: THE ASSOCIATION OF YOUNGER CLASSIC RADIO AND BIG BAND FANS** will utilize a newsletter to network these younger collectors together. This new organization will NOT interfere with or detract from any established OTR club or society; it will, rather, evangelize OTR to entirely new audiences, and thereby supply new members to existing clubs.

Active, voting memberships will be limited to collectors under age 35. Members would be eligible to receive a one-time five-year extension of voting rights (to age 40) if approved by the rest of the membership.

Older collectors can join as advisory or associate members. They will receive the newsletter, but will have absolutely no voting rights. Let me add that I myself will only be an associate member, with NO voting rights.

Dues will be kept as low as humanly possible — \$5.00 to \$10.00 a year (at the very most) should be sufficient to cover printing and postage of a two- or three-sheet (four to six page) monthly

newsletter. I believe we should also offer reduced-rate or even free memberships to younger collectors who genuinely can't afford the going rate. In any case, no money is wanted now, at this preliminary discussion stage. A treasurer (NOT me!!!) will be appointed in due course.

Professor R. Joel "Joe" Senter and his wife Carolyn have agreed to be on our advisory board. Joe Senter is a respected psychologist, recently retired from the University of Cincinnati, and his wife is herself an educator and an expert on remedial reading. Both are veteran radio program collectors, experienced participants in OTR dramatic recreations, knowledgeable Sherlockians, NARA members, organizers of the Old Time Radio Defense Fund, and genuinely nice people. Richard Opp has also come aboard. "Rick" Opp is a co-founder of the Cincinnati Old Time Radio Club and that organization's perennial treasurer. He is one of the undisputed "good guys" of OTR.

I need your input and suggestions on this project. Please contact: George Wagner, AUDIO 2100, 2411 Ohio Avenue (Apartment 2), Cincinnati, Ohio 45219. Thank you!



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By the way, The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound (REPS) is more than a purveyor of Tee shirts.

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- \*Annual REPS Radio Showcase—an intimate and dynamic convention.

Dues are \$22 first year and \$18 thereafter. We'd love to hear from you. Write our membership chair, Dick Zornes, 12837 109th NE, Kirkland, WA 98034. We'll respond at once!



THE RADIO ENTHUSIASTS OF PUGET SOUND

## Classified Ads

RADIO SHOWS ON CASSETTE, also radio/tv related material. Catalog \$1, Phil Kiernan, 30235 Cupeno Lane, Temecula, CA 92592

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

Steve Dolter, 577 West Locust, Dubuque, Iowa 52001. (319) 556-1188  
200 reels, comedy, mystery, drama, Fred Allen, Jack Benny, Suspense, I Love a Mystery, interested in books about OTR or OTR performers.

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 Coscarelli, 2173 Willester Ave., San Jose, Calif. 95124

RADIO ITEMS BEFORE 1935, sets, speakers, tubes, parts, literature & advertising. Schneider, 9511-23 Sunrise Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44133

WANTED: To hear from anyone with Baby Snooks programs. Buy, sell or trade. Will buy or exchange catalogs. Lynn Wagar, Box 202 B.C.A., St. Cloud, MN 56301.

Celebrity Address File with nearly 9,000 addresses of movie, television, sports, music, and other personalities. Obtain personally autographed pictures and letters from them. Guide with instructions only \$20.00. Jim Beshires, 1111 Clairmont, J-1, Decatur, GA 30030.

WANTED TO BUY: Tape recordings of Jay Roberts' Nightflight show on WJR-AM. Please send prices to Jeff Jonlzen, 21465 Detroit Rd., #205A, Rocky River, OH 44116

OLD RADIO SHOWS on cassettes. Rare Big Bands and Vocalists too! The absolute best quality. Free catalog. 2732-R Queensboro Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Tom Monroe, 2055 Elmwood, Lakewood, Ohio 44107/(216) 226-8189 Cassette and reel, mystery, adventure, sci-fi, westerns, drama, some comedy.

MORNING MEN wanted on cassette—older 1940s style especially: Bob Steele, John Gambling, etc. Lieberman, Hazel St., Tunkhannock, PA 18657.

Wanted: Juvenile adventure serials, Mysterious Traveler, Gangbusters, Fred Allen, 2000 +. Cassettes only.  
Ken Weigel, 7011 Lennox Ave. #126, Van Nuys, CA 91405

Nelson Eddy and Bing Crosby Research; send data Box 724, Redmond, WA 98073-0724

Have 488 archival quality sound Cavalcade of America shows. Will buy or trade for more.  
Murry Schantzen, 207-B Lynn Ct., N. Aurora, IL 60542

Wanted: 1st Nightbeat program (2-6-50) as well as one where William Conrad appears. Victor Padilla, Jr. 104 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211.

Wanted: Trade or buy Tom Corbett and other SF cassettes. Mark Skullerud, 20110 21st Ave. NW, Seattle, Wash. 98177

WANTED: 16" RADIO transcription recordings. All types.—Paul Scriven, 238 West State Street, Niles, OH 44446. my40441

RADIO TRANSCRIPTION DISCS wanted. Any size, speed. — Box 724H, Redmond, WA 98052.

EDWARD HAMILTON, 933 Naismith Pl., Topeka, KS 66606 wants CBS Radio Mystery Theater; prefers cassettes...

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 Pl., Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 looking for Portia Faces Life, especially July 1948 and April 1949.

ROBERT SHEPHERD, 129 Highfields Rd., Abington, MA 02351 wants to know: who was the announcer for Suspense after Larry Thor and also during Bill Robson's era as producer.

Ted Davenport, 1600 Wewoka, No. Little Rock, AR 72116 is looking for reel traders for VG-EX material. 15,000-25,500 shows.

Wait Kunz, Box 1, Islip, NY 11751. Wants Sam 'N Henry, It Pays To Be Ignorant and Mel Blanc; also pre-1965 books and magazines on OTR.

WANTED: To hear from anyone with Baby Snooks programs. Buy, sell or trade. Will buy or exchange catalogs. Lyn Wagar, Box 202 BCA, St. Cloud, MN 56301.

WANTED: Masterpiece Radio Theater, other multipart NPR or BBC dramas. Buy or trade cassettes. Howard Lewis, 132 Hutchin Hill Rd., Shady, NY 12409

Don Berhent, 807 Glenhurst Rd., Willwick, OH 44094. The Shadow and movie serials. Books on both also.

Frank Tomaselli, 29-10 Donna Ct., Staten Island, NY 10314 is looking for 11 AM from 1939-1944; also Fred Allen's Town Hall Tonight.

Tom Heathwood, 22 Broadlawn Pl., Chestnut Hill, MA 02167. Shadow programs between 1941-44. Has supplement to his catalog for a S.A.S.E.

Chuck Juzek, 57 Hutton Ave., Nanuet, NY 10954. Green Hornet episode where Reid reveals himself to his father as the Hornet around 1943. Need log from 1936-40.

New club based in Seattle invites you to membership. Growing 700 cassette library, printed materials and newsletter. For information write Mike Sprague, Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound, 11732 NE 148th Place, Kirkland, WA 98034.

Amos n' Andy Sale: 8mm film in box—Sheet Music Perfect Song—Fresh Air Taxi Cab tin sign. Bob Morgan, 4005 Pitman Road, College Park, GA 30349

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.

Richard Pepe, Box 303, Elizabeth, NJ 07207. Looking for listing of Top-40 "Hits of the Week" broadcast on WMGM, NYC by Peter Tripp, the Curly-Headed Kid, from 1955-58 (especially 1956).

07/22/1945: Looking for ANY shows broadcast that Sunday. Network/Local. Trade/Buy. Jim Avoli, 239 Foxcroft Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15220-1705 (412) 279-4456

Oldtime Radio-Show Collector's Association (ORCA) is actively seeking members. You can remain loyal to your own local club and still belong. Write Reg Hubert, 45 Barry St., Sudburg, Ontario, Canada P3B 3H6.

Debbie Piroch, Rd 4, Box 234, Meadville, Pa 16335. Looking for any show with Nelson Eddy and/or Jeanette MacDonald.

Jim Blythe, 941 Redding Rd., Asheboro, NC 27203. Wants Lum and Abner, Magic Island, Jerry at Fair Oaks.

Marty Lewin, 8836 N. Lincolnwood Dr., Evanston, IL 60203. Looking for Sid McCoy Show (a Chicago DJ from 50's and 60's.) Also any new Phil Harris-Alice Faye Shows.

Ronald Waite, 578 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT 06511. Interested in Jack Benny.

Chuck Juzek, 57 Hutton Ave., Nanuet, NY 10954. Would like any info about Maurice Joachim who wrote the scripts for The Avenger.

Classic radio programs on cassettes. Hundreds of titles. Big catalog \$1.00 (refundable). Radio Americana Inc., Box 7431, Baltimore, MD 21227

Richard Palanik, 165 Summitt St., Plantsville CT 06479. Looking for copies of NPR's DoI Savage shows and Nightfall.

Wanted: Jack Benny show dated 12/8/46. Jack Goes Christmas Shopping and Buys Don Shoelaces. Steve Ovalline, 10214 Black Mtn. Rd. 49, San Diego, CA 92126.

Wanted: Cassette of any of the radio program "Hotel for Pets" name your price. Bruce Manschak, 6549 N. Drake, Lincolnwood, IL 60645.

Wanted: I am looking for the Green Hornet Show "Underwater Adventure" that aired 9-24-46. Chuck Juzek, 57 Hutton Avenue, Nanuet, NY 10987.

Wanted: "We The People" Broadcast 1-13-50 and any Lum and Abner shows prior to 1941. Willing to trade for anything in my catalog. Steve Ferrante, Box 153, Oakland Mills, PA 17076.

CAN YOU HELP? I am looking for programs with magic or related material. My catalogue has 48 pages, November 1976, and grows. Will trade recordings of anything and catalogue with you. Drop a line: Snader, Box 12-655, Mexico 12, D.F. Mexico.

WANTED: Classical music broadcasts, ET's, Acetates, tapes, all speeds, sizes, formats, for cash. Joe Salerno, 9407 Westheimer #311A, Houston, Texas 77063.

Vintage broadcasts, reliving radio's past. Free flyers. 42 Bowling Green, Staten Island, NY 10314.

Van Christo, 91 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116. Looking for Goldberg's Episode which was called "The Hannukah Bush."

Wanted. Copies of owner's manual for AKAI reel recorders, Models 1722W and GX-215D. Reproduced coies acceptable. Willing to pay reasonable price. Jack Palmer, 145 North 21st Street, Battle Creek, MI 49015

Trade Fibber McGee and Molly Cassettes VG/EX only. Offer 110 shows. Exchange list. Bill Oliver, 516 Third St. North East, Massillon, Ohio 44646.

Mary Sayer, 801 8th St. F5, Sioux City, IA 51105. Looking for any info on "Uncle" Jim Harkin, Fred Allen's manager.

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.

Pam Nemec, 1424 Heatherton Dr., Naperville, IL 60563 is looking for program listings of old radio stations of the 30's and 40's especially WDJ, KMMJ, KMA, KFNF and KFEQ.

WANTED: RADIO MAGAZINES before 1935, such as Radio News, Popular Radio, Radio Retailing, Short Wave Craft, etc. Gary B. Schneider, 9511 Sunrise Blvd., #J-23, North Royalton, Ohio 44133.

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.

For autobiography would like to know date (at least year/year, month better) of Superman radio episodes in which (1) S. finds Atlantis; (2) S. catches crook by following crook's discarded peanut shells. Believe first is 1945 or 6, Other '47-9. S. J. Estes/205 E. 78/ NY, NY/10021. Many thanks.

For Sale: Boxed set of six tapes from Stephen King's Night Shift. Original Price: \$34.95. My Price: \$12.00 postpaid. Five sets available. Phil Nelson, 221 Scioto, Chillicothe, OH 45601.

Would like: Mysterious Traveler, Whistler, Pat Novak For Hire on cassette. I have a lot to trade. Write to: Victor D. Padilla, Jr., 104 Marcy Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211

Wanted: Amos and Andy, Roy Rogers, and Gunsmoke. Will buy or have shows to trade in X Minus One, Dimension X, Sgt. Preston, Captain Midnight, Suspense, Escape, others. Phil Nelson, 221 Scioto, Chillicothe, OH 45601.

WANTED: Aldrich Family radio programs on cassettes, as well as information. Kenneth Barker, 874 27th Street East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 8P3

FOR-TRADE: SCRIPT-FOR-PROGRAM THE SHADOW 9/26/37, 3/20/38, (have show also) 12/3/39, 4/11/54, 4/18/54, 4/25/54, 5/30/54, 7/4/54, 7/25/54, 8/1/54, 8/8/54, 8/29/54, 9/19/54, 9/26/54, 10/10/54, 10/17/54, 10/24/54, 10/31/54, 9/30/45-or 9/3/54 (not sure which I have). Adam Trachtenburg, 1243 Knorr St., Phila., PA 19111 (215) 745-8224

WANTED: NBC MONITOR. Broadcasts from '55 to '64. I have many complete editions from '65-'75. Write to: Warren Gerbe, 42-60 Bowne Street, Flushing, New York 11355-2907

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

JACK MELCHER, P.O. Box 14, Waukegan, IL 60087 wants to buy radio premiums, games, toys, buttons, comic related items. Disney, political, gum wrappers BUY SELL TRADE 312-249-5626

WILLIAM OSOVSKY, 2501 Ivy St., Chattanooga, TN 37404. Collector of Ralston Tom Mix premiums, green 20 Grand Ate bottles with neck and paper labels intact. Octagon soap premium kites. Alaga syrup tins.

Wanted: Jake & the Kid, Hardy Family, Maisie on cassettes. N.A. McNamee, Box 602, Organ, New Mexico 88052.

Want to trade Amos & Andy or Jack Benny and other comedy shows. Also videotapes on radio or radio stars movies. Rob Cohen, 763 Oaksedge Drive, Gahanna, OH 43230 (614-478-2755)

Wanted: Hercule Poirot shows, Mutual Net, 1945; or info. on these shows. Tim Goggin, 1777 N. Vine #409, L.A., CA 90028 Thank You, Tim Goggin

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

"THERE'S A SMALL HOTEL with a wishing well... Can anyone identify the show having this theme? Michael Sprague, 11732 NE 148th Place, Kirkland, WA 98034.

Kitty Kallen is looking for radio and TV shows that she appeared on. She sang with Harry James, Jimmy Dorsey, and others. She worked on the Danny Kay radio show, David Rose shows, and her own show called Kitty Kallen Kalling. Contact Walden Hughes at (714) 545-0318 or write 2527 Duke Place, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

WANTED: Episodes of AGAINST THE STORM, TERRY & THE PIRATES, THE WOMAN IN MY HOUSE, ONE MAN'S FAMILY episodes prior to 1946, and THE VOYAGE OF THE SCARLET QUEEN programs #6, 7 and 10. Will buy or trade cassettes. John L. Woodruff, 145 Park Avenue, Randolph, NJ 07869-3442.

Wanted To Buy: Jack Benny's Christmas Shopping Shows from 12-8-46, 12-18-49, and 12-2-51. Must have perfect sound. Thanks. John Moran, 6351 Back Road, Canton, MI 48187

WANTED: Trader on Jack Benny Shows. I have 144 and growing. Send your Jack Benny list and I will do the same. Trade on cassette 60/90. Write soon to: Beth Holman, 16705 Craigmere Drive, Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

Spiros Koliopoulos, 149 Autumn Ridge Drive, Montgomery, IL 60538. Interested in news bulletins on radio such as Pearl Harbor, Hindenburg Disaster; also broadcast before and during WWII.

Bob Proctor, Box 362, Saline, MI 48176. Wants Horatio Hornblower shows with Michael Redgrave

WANTED: Radio Nostalgia & Collectibles. Books, Premiums, Photos, Advertising, Autographs, Magazines, Anything. Duffy, 625 Lost Pine Way, Absecon, NJ 08201

Alan Ropchan, 8923 84th Avenue, Edmonton Alta, Canada T6C1E3 (403) 466-2761. Have 2500 Reel of OTR for Trading.

George Olsen, Craven Community College, Box 885, New Bern, NC 28563. Wants We The People 11/25/37 and Hobby 9/20/39.


WANTED on cassette tapes. OTR shows Easy Aces and Ethel & Albert. I have over 2,200 shows. Will trade for episodes of these shows. Write to Beth Holman, 16705 Craigmere Drive, Middleburg Hts., OH 44130

AMERICANA AND COLLECTIBLES. Radio/Cereal Premiums. Jack Benny, Capt. Midnight, Lone Ranger, Hoppy, Howdy Doody, Little Orphan Annie, Sgt. Preston. Also Comic Books, Magazines, TV/Western Heroes. Send SASE for FREE Sales List. Richard Buchanan, 23 Jones St., NY, NY 10014.

WANT TO TRADE: Jack Benny, Amos & Andy, Aldrich Family. Robert E. Cohen, 763 Oaks Edge Dr., Gahanna, OH 43230-5081

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