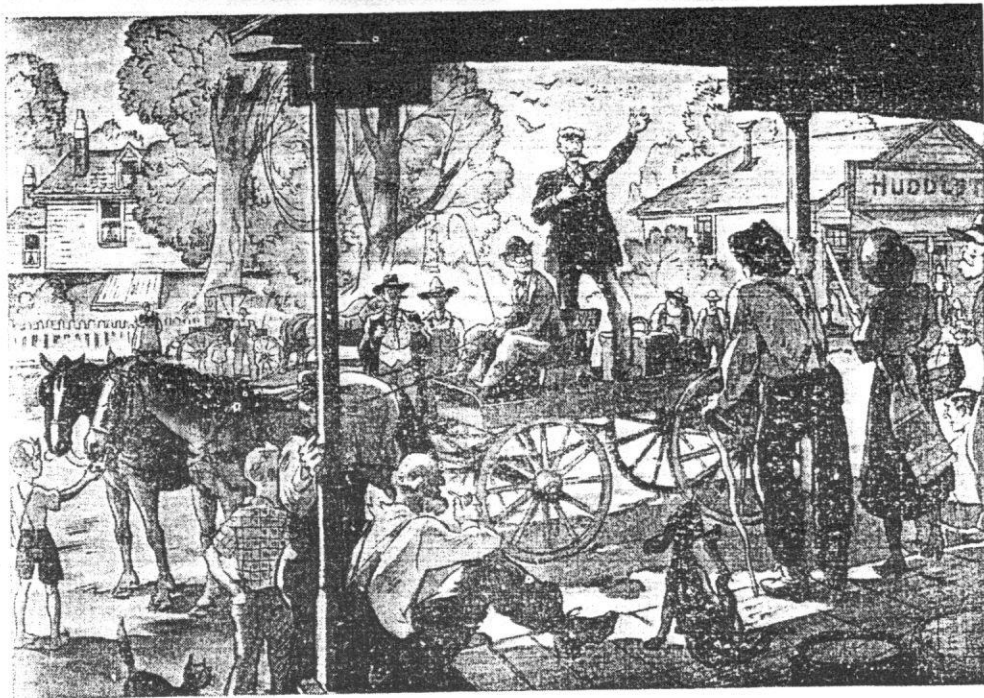


THE OLD-TIME RADIO GAZETTE



★ ★ WE LEAVE PINE RIDGE ★ ★

BY ABNER PEABODY

I-GRANNIES, our lives has just been changed all around ever since the day that Lum reminded hisself that he was a great actor. 'Course, Lum allus was awful good at out-loud talkin', never needed much excuse fer makin' speeches or clecutin'. Made all the Fourth of July addresses and has allus been a outstandin' figger in our community. Then when he saw the advertisement in the magazine about "Do You Want to be a Actor", there warn't no stoppin' him. He sent away fer the book and practised actin' on everybody he met. Then he got the idy nothin' would do but he was goin' to go into the movin' pitchers. Said it would be mighty fine to jist set around all day and let 'em take pitchers of you and you git paid fer it. Mose Moots kept encouragin' him and sellin' him lots of hair tonic and moustache dye, and a drummer he met in Mose's barber shop, he told him he was a natural born ham actor if he ever seen one. It got to where Lum jist wasn't fit fer no other kind of work—so there warn't nothin' else fer us to do but go to Hollywood. Before I knowed it we was gittin' ready to leave and we never seen such excitement in Pine Ridge. You'd a thought everybody in town was goin' along with us stead of jist Cedric and

Squire Skimp. All the stores closed down jist like it was a holiday. Made us feel mighty big and importance. Fokes was givin' us names and addresses of friends and relates to look up fer 'em in Californy. Wanted us to be sure to see the Arkansas fokes that's been doin' right well there. Dick Huddleston loaned us a valise and Lizbeth packed all our clothes and hitched up the team to drive us down to the County Seat. When Lum seen all the people crowdin' r'ound the buggy to say goodbye, he figgered it was a good chance to practise up on his actin' once more fore he got to Hollywood, so he started to clecute "Friends, Romans, and Countrymen" and some other silly talk about lendin' him their cars. And then he stumbled around and couldn't recollect the rest of it, so he jist natcherly give his speech he allus gives about the "Harp strings of memory strike a tender chord as I leave the beautiful city of Pine Ridge." I-grannies, he went on and on and took so long with his speech-makin', that we had to resh to git to the County Seat where the bus station is at and where Squire and Cedric was waitin' fer us. The bus was jist gittin' ready to leave when we got there and first thing we knowed we was on our way to Californy. *Turn over*

February, 1994

Volume 2, Number 7

COMING IN MARCH!

NOSTALGIA FANS!

Nostalgia fans will be happy to know that a new publication, titled *Classic Film & Television: It Still Lives*, will be published every other month, starting in March!

Classic Film & Television: It Still Lives! Yes, it does, and we will prove it to you...

In the March - April issue, an article on **The Fugitive will be presented.

**A "character sketch" on the people who were part of classic movies and television will be featured each month.

look for Maxwell Smart's character of TV's **Get Smart!**

We will also include an article on **Gang Busters and the 1990s...and **MORE!**

To subscribe to six issues and become a charter subscriber, send your check or money order for \$12.00 **TODAY!**

If you have questions, please call 715-398-7280 and ask for Tom C. Miller.

Classic Film & Television: It Still Lives!

2004 East 6th Street
Superior, Wisconsin 54880-3632

THE THIRTEENTH JUROR!

Are these shows lost?

Many programs have been lost since radio's golden age, and such is probably the case with **The Thirteenth Juror**. **The Thirteenth Juror** might have been aired as a summer replacement series in 1949 on NBC. Perhaps, only eight programs were ever broadcast, starting with the **only known existing show**, titled "What Happened to John Wilkes Booth," which was aired on April 23, 1949. Vincent Price opened the show with "time is the judge, history the jury of these mysterious men whose stories have no ending. And you seated there beside your radio--you sitting in judgement on this mystery--you are--THE THIRTEENTH JUROR! Vincent Price went on, dramatically, explaining the John Wilkes Booth story and stated, "this much we know, but what happened after this (Lincoln's assassination) to John Wilkes Booth...is shrouded in mystery."

Some may say that **The Thirteenth Juror** is similar to the 1936 radio series **Unsolved Mysteries**, as "unsolved" cases of Marshal May, Judge Crater, Hitler, and others were portrayed.

The Thirteenth Juror was written and directed by Arnold Marques, who created **Unlimited Horizons**, **The Pacific Story**, and **The Fifth Horseman**, all aired on NBC. Henry Russell was the music composer on **The Thirteenth Juror** and the announcer was John Stern.

The Thirteenth Juror may be remembered by a few, but, however, we are, as of now, unable to re-live the past. There is only one known existing show from the "series." The shows could have been easily and carelessly destroyed, or maybe someone does have them, and for some odd reason, is not releasing them. Maybe **The Thirteenth Juror** is waiting to be discovered. If anyone has information on this series, please contact OTRG today! Useful information received will be included in a future issue. **Hopefully, we can find The Thirteenth Juror...**

Technical input from others:

Carl Froelich, Jr. was asked about the series...he can remember the series being aired. (Carl taped shows off the air during the time that this series was being aired.) He said that, although young at the time, did not think much of the series, thus made no effort to tape them off the air on his reel-to-reel tape deck.

Jay Hickerson suggests the possibility of **The Thirteenth Juror** being broadcast as an East or West Coast series. He also adds the April 23, 1949, is a little early for a summer replacement. (Although, the audition could have been aired on April 23, 1949, but the series aired in the summer.)

We need your input!

Carol Russell sent the following: The 13th Juror was a unique show which invited listeners to be The "13th" Juror and make up their "verdicts" on great mysteries from history. It was a 1949 summer series on NBC. Hans Canreid and Vincent Price starred in the opener, which explored the possibility that John Wilkes Booth did not die in that farm after he was tracked down for assassinating Lincoln, but, rather, was seen and spoken to by witnesses for many years--even as late as post-1900! Kids and adults alike could enjoy a history lesson while having thin

Continued on page 4.

“The Thirteenth Juror,” continued from page 3.

reasoning skills--not to mention their healthy skepticism. Why don't we have shows that teach and entertain on TV today? These shows were for the “masses”--not just the better educated, as public TV is today! I sure would treasure cassettes of 13th Juror!

Editor's Note: Carol also mentions that she sent for the tapes. Maybe she is talking about The Thirteenth Juror shows. I let OTRG readers know... Thanks, again, Carol!

Radio ‘Tid-bits’

Vintage Broadcasts, 42 Bowling Green, Staten Island, NY 10314 [Phone/Fax (718) 727-4885], is offering a Smackout show with Jim Jordan. Smackout is a very rare radio program that started Fibber McGee and Molly in their great radio career. Write Vintage Broadcasts today, and ask about tape #3259 and other Smackout radio shows.

Adventures in Cassettes, 5353 Nathan Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55442-1978, as released a new catalog with many, many close-out tapes and discount offers. Call 1-800-328-0108.

Special thanks to Rob Imes for the nice write-up on the OTRG! Rob is the editor of *Tune In*, a newsletter published for \$9.00 per year. The December issue includes an article titled “The Radio Career of Alan Ladd” and A Dark Corner Radio Theatre Mystery Theatre Presentation of the script “Murder in the Black Trunk.” To subscribe to *Tune In*, write to Rob Imes, 1844 East Longmeadow, Trenton, MI 48183.

Time-Life Music, 1450 E Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23280-9989, is selling Your Hit Parade songs from 1945 and other years on CD or cassette. Write Time-Life Music for further details.

East Stroudsburg University is in need of old-time radio broadcasts. Robert Brunet's donation of his collection of radio shows provided the idea of starting a library for student access and broadcast over station WESS (90.3 FM), their campus radio station. Collectors interested in donating shows, memorabilia, etc. can contact the following: Rob McKenzie, Ph.D, Fine Arts Building, East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301; (phone) 717-424-3886.

Deaths in Radio

Pat Buttram, Gene Autry's side-kick, died on January 8. Buttram starred as Gene Autry's partner on radio and television, with his Andy Devine-type voice. Other fond-remembrances include his character of Mr. Haney on TV's *Green Acres*, starring Eddie Albert and Eva Gabor. Buttram was 78 when he died of kidney failure.

Cesar Romero died on January 2 at age 86. Romero made many television appearances, and he made many “romantic” films in the '40s. His death was cooperated with a blood clot.

What WE Can Do...

Yes, many of our radio characters pass-on...it comes to many of our radio personalities. It's difficult to see it, however. Pat Buttram, Cesar Romero, Garry Moore, and Don Ameche are just a few of our favorite nostalgic figures that have passed-on.

Continued on page 5.

“What We Can Do,” continued from page 4.

OTRG is going to make an effort to contact some of the radio personalities of the '30s, '40s, and '50s, by mail. If we succeed, we will print interviews in up-coming issues. Phil Harris and Alice Faye will be receiving OTRG at their home. (Other stars will be added in future months.)

Show these great stars how much you enjoy their work by sending your “hello’s” and “tributes” to OTRG. We will print them! (See more info on page 9.)

Let’s pay our tribute to these people by sending in your messages. After all, why would this publication be published if it were not for them?? **Send today to...**

“What We Can Do,” 2004 East 6th Street, Superior, Wisconsin 54880-3632.

**Rise
The of the Radio Announcer
“Reviewing” done by
Ryan Mihalak**

The Second in our “review” of *The Early Days of Radio Broadcasting*, by George H. Douglas

Anyone that listens to the radio knows that the announcer or disc jockey has gone through some form of training to do the job right. But, obviously in the early days of radio, there were not any schools to train people in the field of communications. So, that meant that anyone that wanted to do on the air work could just walk down to the local radio station and ask for a job, and most likely they would get one.

The first man that deserved to have the title of announcer was Mr. Harold W. Arlin who got his job just by hanging around the local radio station. He attended University of Kansas and earned a degree in 1917 of electrical engineering. He was working in the East Pittsburgh plant of the Westinghouse graduate student training course. At the time that station KDKA went on the air in 1920, he was a supervisor. which would allow him to get all around the studio. He peeked in the studio one night, and, after a conversation with the man who was working at the station, got himself a job. On January 1, 1921, Arlin became the first permanent station announcer. The studio did not look like a studio-basically, the studio was anywhere you could broadcast from. A tent was set up next to the station shack that housed the transmitter, but the tent was not very helpful when any kind of bad weather came around. Also, the 8:30 PM train did not help them any, as its whistle was heard during any program that was on, and it was a major annoyance. One night a tenor was brought in to sing. When the tenor opened his mouth to sing, an insect tried to explore his mouth and the tenor said some words that you do not say on radio, let alone anytime. The engineer did not wait to cut the power.

Arlin was everything that a radio station needed. He also became the first sports announcer in the nation when, in 1921, he broadcasted a prizefight at Motor Square Garden that was broadcast via telephone to Arlin in the studio.

The first New York radio announcer was Thomas Cowan. He was given the job when station WJZ went on air. The studio was a shack on a roof at the Westinghouse plant in Newark, New Jersey. He officially started on October 1, 1921. At 8 PM he went on air with these famous words: “This is WJZ, WJZ, WJZ, the radio telephone station located in Newark, New Jersey. This is announcer Cowan. Please stand by to tune.” The station only stayed on the

Continued on page 6.

“The Rise of the Radio Announcer,” continued from page 5.

air for 2 and 1/2 hours, but that is a lot of time to a radio announcer. He decided to play phonographs on the air. He had earlier borrowed a phonograph and some records from his friend Thomas Edison. A few days later, Edison called and asked them to quit playing the records. So, they returned the records and phonographs and bought their own. He also brought in singers to go on air. After a while, Cowan did not have to request that singers go on air; they volunteered. They made a new studio with carpets, drapes, and a better piano. Limousines were rented to pick up the singers, and their photos were hanging on the walls. Cowan later resigned from being an announcer, but became a station manager and brought in Milton Cross. Milton took the job because he was a singer, and thought that singing on the radio would enhance his musical career, plus he would get paid \$40 for four nights of singing. He even read the Sunday comic strips when the Newark author didn't show up to read them. However, there was one rule on his job that probably not many announcers appreciated: they were not allowed to use their own names on the air. So, Milton Cross became AJN.

1922 came along and it was a prosperous year for radio. Station WOR was in the business of broadcasting also, and it wasn't enough for the two to fill the craving of radio for people. So, AT&T set up their own station: WEAF. WEAF brought in the best-known announcer in the decade: Graham McNamee. He was a singer, who had moved to New York from Saint Paul, Minnesota when his divorced mother did not like it when he wasn't doing much to pick up his career. So, he sang for one of the opera halls and then moved to WEAF. Like all announcers, he did what he could to pass the time while on the air. He sang, he talked, he broadcasted the news, and did what any announcer would do to pass the time. He even broadcasted major league baseball games, and could make the game exciting even when the game was slow moving and boring. He would describe everything in the game and even talk about things that were happening in the stands.

Norman Brokenshire came in a few years later and was one big name announcer but he lost his job due to his addiction to alcohol. One day, he saw an ad in the local paper advertising a job for station WJZ and its twin sister WJY. Well, he got his job and became known as AON. However, people complained, the station relented, and the announcers used their own names. People sent in a flood of letters to Brokenshire and the station manager required the letters be the property of the station, read, and then a small portion of them were given to Brokenshire. Norm, meanwhile, went to the post office and rented an oversize mail box to receive his mail. The manager was surprised when Norm's mail dropped and probably baffled when Norm's pockets bulged out with letters.

The stations began to hire people after serious interviewing and auditions when 2 major networks went on the air (CBS and NBC). CBS started the first school for announcers in the early '30's. NBC did not do it, but rather later hired a professor who promptly wrote a book on pronunciations for announcers who worked at NBC.

So, now that you know how radio worked in the early days, why don't you go listen to some of the people who have helped to preserve the radio-your favorite D.J. or talk show host. As Paul Harvey says “And now you know the rest of the story.”

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I want to take this time to “push” “What We Can Do,” from page 5. I think it's a great way to show our appreciation for the radio personalities of yesteryear! **However, to do it, I need YOUR help.** YOU and I are the old-time radio fans, and these are the stars that made us fans. I, personally think that we should make an effort to support our OTR stars...for more information, see page 5.

Attention: OTR newsletter distributors! If possible, please include a message in your newsletters about the “What We Can Do” project.

Thank you very much and God bless, Tom C. Miller...

Ralph Doty's 'Radio Memories Special' In Review

Ralph Doty presented his occasional "Radio Memories Special" on AM 610 KDAL, Duluth, Superior on Tuesday, December 28, 1993. From 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., Doty aired Gene Autry's *Melody Ranch*, *The Life of Riley*, *The Shadow*, *The Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show*, and some old themes from radio soap operas. Special thanks to Ralph for mentioning OTRG on the air! Much appreciation is bestowed to Ralph for his kind words...

Ralph will be holding another "Radio Memories Special" in months to come; and we will present another article written by Doty in a future issue!

"Old-Time Radio Drama" is aired each Sunday evening from 8:30-11:00 p.m. on the Ideas Network of Wisconsin Public Radio!

02/06/94 Lum and Abner, "Truman's Inauguration," 01/00/49
 02/06/94 Superman, "Batman Has Disappeared," 03/02/45
 02/06/94 Captain Midnight, "Return of Ivan Shark," 1949
 02/06/94 Green Hornet, "A Matter of Evidence"
 02/06/94 Black Museum, "The Champaign Glass"
 02/06/94 Inner Sanctum, "Wailing Wall," 11/16/45
 02/06/94 Mindwebs 059, "Kellerman's Eyepiece," 06/04/76

02/13/94 Cavalcade of America, "Daniel Boone"
 02/13/94 Jack Benny, "Academy Awards" with Bing Crosby, 03/16/47
 02/13/94 Columbia Workshop, "The Fall of the City," 09/28/39
 02/13/94 First Nighter, "The Chinese Gong," 03/29/44
 02/13/94 Whistler, "Gateway to Danger," 02/26/45
 02/13/94 Mindwebs 058, "Knock" by Frederic Brown, 03/21/76

02/20/94 Cisco Kid, "Stop the Killers"
 02/20/94 Jack Benny, "Back from Korean USO Trip," 09/16/51
 02/20/94 Our Miss Brooks, "Everyone Needs Money"
 02/20/94 Chandu the Magician, "The Egyptian Princess"
 02/20/94 "Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde"
 02/20/94 Mindwebs 057, "The End" by Ursula K. Legoin, 03/14/76

02/27/94 Lone Ranger, "Origin"
 02/27/94 Lone Ranger, "Finding Silver"
 02/27/94 Mark Trail, "Killer Strikes from the Sky," 08/08/50
 02/27/94 Phil Harris, "Brooklyn Bridge," 02/05/50
 02/27/94 Pat Novak for Hire, "The Missing Shirts," 05/07/49
 02/27/94 Mindwebs 056, "A Draam at Noonday," 05/07/76

91.5 FM WGBW Green Bay	90.3 FM WHLA La Crosse
91.1 FM WLFM Appleton	930 AM WLBL Auburndale
90.7 FM WHAD Milwaukee	88.3 FM WHWC Eau Claire
970 AM WHA Madison	90.3 FM WHBM Park Falls
91.3 FM WHHI Highland	91.3 FM KUWS Superior
	90.3 FM WRST Oshkosh

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

First Class Mail

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Again, an Apology! We're very sorry that the Friends of Old-time Radio Convention cannot be told about until a future issue. This is beyond our control, but we will be sure to give as much informative information, when possible, as possible in, possibly, next month's issue. Thanks for your patience...

Subscriptions: Subscriptions are to OTRG are available for only \$10.00. Send your check or money order today, an 12 issues of old-time radio nostalgic reading will be sent to your address.
