



The

# OLD RADIO TIMES

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## Why the Radio Researchers?

Jim Beshires

When I retired in late 2000 I thought my future was planned out. I'd spend my days rocking on the back porch, cool drink in hand, listening to all the cassette tapes of old-time radio that'd been purchased over 39(?) years of collecting. My collection of about 5,000 tapes had come from a variety of sources; Radio Spirits got a lot of my money, dealers got a bunch, and the few by-mail clubs I belonged to got their share via cassette rental fees. I was very active for a number of years in the North American Radio Archives and another now-defunct group. I thought I had a fair knowledge of old-time radio.

But after spending a few days refreshing my old radio memories on the computer, I found I was woefully behind the times. Mp3s had made their debut and I was being left in the dust. My plans of rocking away a wonderful retirement enjoying my old-time radio went out the window. I had to catch up! And fast!

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## Taming the Lord of the Jungle

Jim Jones

After much work, Researcher Jim Jones has concluded that the current 1932-1933 play dates for *Tarzan* are not correct. It is possible that these incorrect dates originated from Jay Hickerson, a highly respected old-time radio historian. Communication between Jim and Jay resulted in the review of some websites containing air dates for the series. A review of the sites indicated that the New York station only aired 92 of the 286 episodes. Also, in New York the series started as a three-day-a-week broadcast, similar to *Lone Ranger*. At some point, a hobbyist took the actual start date (which did not really start in NY) and dated all the episodes using a three-day-a-week schedule, even though it was originally aired five days a week. Hence the confusion and incorrect dating on these *Tarzan* episodes.

Here is the real story according to Jim. *Tarzan* opened in Los Angeles to much fanfare. Three thousand people, including many celebrities, were in attendance at the first broadcast on KNX. In the original syndication 286 shows were produced. The first 130 were titled "Tarzan of the Apes" and the remaining episodes were called "Return of Tarzan." Seventy-seven of the first 130 are in circulation today. The show originated in Los Angeles on 09/12/32 on KNX and played five days a week at 7:45pm. On 11/28/32 the show switched to KFWB and still played five days per week but at 7:15pm. On Monday 03/13/34 the show switched to three days per week but continued to air at 7:15. It continued to play three days per week on KFWB at 7:17 through the end of the series, which was 03/09/34.

Note: The show did not air in NY (and Washington DC) until 01/16/33. It ran as a three (Continued on Page 14)

## Radio Researchers Lend a Hand

Doug Hopkinson

Back in September the Radio Researchers were approached by a gentleman who had made quite a stir within the Yahoo OTR community. This man is deeply involved and dedicated to the rather new form of audio and video distribution technique called podcasting.

From the start it was quite apparent that he was joining every OTR and media-type group available on Yahoo. His only goal seemed to be the promotion of his podcast website. He posted about this website on every group in which he had membership. Along the way he recruited several people to assist him. Many people, including this writer, initially thought him to be nothing more than a spammer and a farmer.

The few times this man actually responded to anyone asking questions about his project, his intentions, or to cease his advertising, he would become very defensive, put up weak rejoinders, or simply say that everyone was jealous of him. As the weeks passed the project progressed. He continued posting links to his site and links of articles that praised his work on the groups that had not already moderated him or banned him.

In this writer's opinion, his work was very good. I was impressed with what I downloaded and the caliber of people he recruited. At some point he contacted one or two of our moderators here in the OTRR group asking for  
(Continued on Page 16)

## Digital Revolution and Old-Time Radio

Travis Connors

This may sound obvious, but the advent of digital recording has revolutionized OTR trading already, and still has untapped possibilities. With broadband now the norm, one can even send uncompressed .wav's in a relatively short amount of time. This saves postage, time (the time of shipping), and the cost of CDs (for the person sending the file). A free service called <http://www.yousendit.com> was pointed out to me that I now use for person-to-person digital trading. I have cable, which limits upload speed, so a .wav takes me about an hour to send, but it only takes nine minutes to download. It takes a very short time for hi-quality mp3s, for both uploading and downloading times.

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## Researching Online

Jim Jones

I was asked to write an article on the Godfrey Library and techniques we are using in compiling and researching OTR logs. I am aware that logs are just a very small element of the OTR world. However, accurate logs play a critical part in sorting, identifying and cataloging OTR programs. Additionally, accurate and comprehensive Otter logs can help verify our purpose and lend credence to our overall efforts.

In preparing an OTR log one has to depend on many outside resources. Of course, the task is to sort the chaff from the wheat and find accurate and dependable resources. Your final results are only as good as your initial information. In beginning any project, most OTR researchers generally turn to and rely on the following informational resources. They are generally accurate and provide a great overview:

- Jay Hickersons "Ultimate History of Network Radio Programming and Guide to ALL Circulating Shows (need a date, check here first)

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## Making Headway on *Broadway*

David Oxford

As part of the Great Cassette Project, I was listening to about 100 cassettes and comparing them to already-available mp3s of these same recordings. I had volunteered to take *Yours Truly*, *Johnny Dollar*, *Broadway Is My Beat*, and *Let George Do It*, mainly because these are some of my favorite shows.

First, I found a mess of misinformation on many of these commercially sold cassettes. The most common problem with the *Broadway Is My Beat* cassettes was incorrect air dates. The air dates given on several cassettes were actually during the time period that Anthony Ross did the shows — 2/27/1949 thru 6/12/1949. However, the recordings all starred Larry Thor. I could not find any files with the Anthony Ross dates on the OTR Hub or the commercial FTP sites. These shows are supposedly "available" according to Jay Hickerson's 3rd "Ultimate History."

However, one of the cassettes I received was from

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## Digital Revolution and Old-Time Radio (Continued from Page 2)

You can also use mIRC (<http://www.mirc.com>). For those who don't know, mIRC is a chat program with different chat networks available to visit. There are a couple networks that have OTR chat, and if you so choose, you can trade with interested parties via DCC, which is the file send for IRC (Internet Relay Chat).

Usenet, aka the newsgroups, are also a very efficient way to share files – the only disadvantage is that you're limited to what's posted at the moment and the articles expire over time. File-sharing OTR hubs generally have the files there longer, but download times are generally MUCH slower. I get 600 KB/s download on usenet, but generally no more than 25 (mostly 5-10) on the hubs, and you're stuck if there's a long queue for the files.

There's just so many ways to swap files in digital. Try doing that with cassettes or reel!

Digital has also made it so every copy is a clone of the other – no generation loss. There's a dwindling cadre of hardcore analog people, but I feel that their arguments for the tape medium are rather weak. Do you really want tape hiss, generation loss, and the inconvenience of rewinding to find a show? Open reel on half-track at 7 ½ ips, or 15 ips is an okay backup, but there's no excuse to be analog-only. Actually, the analog camp's primary argument is that CDs supposedly don't last very long, but they're basing that on cheap CDs that came out a long time ago. For the most part, if you get a good CD brand, such as Mitsui Gold, which is generally only available through mail order, and under proper storage conditions, even normal CDs will last a long time. Cassette has absolutely no advantages. No matter what cassette-backers say, they're only sticking to it because that's what they're used to. Cassette is an inferior medium and should have only been used for dictation.

I don't miss analog at all, and I'm glad I'm young enough to have been there on the tail end of analog. Can I have a 42nd generation dub of *Crime and Mr. Collins* – is that possible please? Nope – don't miss it at all! FYI, it's almost impossible to find clean copies of certain shows such as *Crime and Mr. Collins*, thanks to analog.

Starting in 2004 I began to make a hi-quality (generally 80/44 mono) mp3 of it of each of my recordings. It's a wonderful convenience format and it's great on the go. My Creative Zen can also handle .wav files, if one chooses to do it that way, also. Each day, I make a playlist, and with the touch of a button, I'm whisked off into OTR-land.

Until next time, I wish you good listening.

### Cassette Tape Project Ed Sehlhorst

The Cassette Tape Project began earlier this year when the club was contacted by a collector of OTR on audio cassettes. This Boston resident had been collecting for many years and was ready to give away his material. However, he wanted his collection put to good use.

The anonymous donor discovered the group's website, liked what he saw, and chose the Old-Time Radio Researchers to receive his tapes, which consist of approximately 2,300 cassettes (5,000 episodes). He contacted Jim Sprague to see about donating.

Researchers member Brian Allen volunteered to ship the tapes from Boston to Tennessee, where I volunteered to oversee the distribution of the cassettes to club members for further processing.

Volunteers were asked to listen to each episode to see if the quality of the tape exceeded the quality of the currently circulating mp3. They were also asked to identify any previously uncirculated episodes. So far, two episodes have been identified as possibly uncirculated, including an episode of *Broadway is My Beat* which is discussed in David Oxford's article

Once identified and compared to the appropriate mp3, each tape is either encoded by the listener or returned to me to send to another volunteer for encoding. All of the encodes will eventually be returned to me and I will prepare a distribution of the shows in .wav and mp3 formats to all the volunteers.

This process is expected to take several months to complete because of the collection's size. Included are significant runs of some series, including 300 *Great Gildersleeve*, 159 *Suspense*, and 139 *Lum and Abner*.

There are still 200+ various tapes needing listeners. If this is a project that interests you, please contact me at [ed.sehlhorst@gmail.com](mailto:ed.sehlhorst@gmail.com).

## A Diamond in the Rough

Roger Hohenbrink (Series Certification and Final Compiler)

Get set for *Richard Diamond, Private Detective*, the next hot certified series soon to be released by the Old-Time Radio Researchers Group. *Richard Diamond, Private Detective* came to NBC in 1949. Diamond was a slick, sophisticated detective, with a sharp tongue for folks who needed it. Diamond enjoyed the detective life, but not as much as entertaining his girl, Helen Asher. After each show, he would croon a number to his Park Avenue sweetheart. Dick Powell, a former song and dance man, was perfect for the role of Diamond. He added an extra dimension to the 40's hokey private-eye drama.

Diamond was a rough gumshoe that would often get knocked on the head with a revolver butt or other blunt object. His counterpart on the police force was Lt. Levinson who often accepted Diamond's help reluctantly. Levinson claimed to get stomach trouble whenever Diamond called him and took bicarbonate to settle his aching stomach. Although they always seemed at odds with each other, Diamond and Levinson were best friends.

The plot theme remained fairly constant throughout the entire run of the show; Diamond getting beat up and solving a tough murder case with the support of the police department. Remarkably, for all the gunfights, Diamond never got

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### Old-Time Radio Memories

Roger Hohenbrink

Roger Hohenbrink is my name and I live in Lima, Ohio, a small town of about 50,000 in northwest Ohio. Age 65 - I worked for Sprint but am now retired.

Yes, I remember listening to OTR shows on the radio. My dad took a chance on a radio for \$0.25 and won a small table radio. The reception was not great and the snap, crackle and pops were not all Kellogg, but we would all sit around and listen to radio shows. All the kids in our neighborhood would order some kind of premium giveaway off the radio and we would anxiously wait for the mailman. We all got an atomic bomb ring from the Lone Ranger and if you looked into it you would see the atomic bomb go off, though I don't think any of us really saw the bomb. However, I still have the ring and I am still looking.

I always wanted a flying belt from the Superman show so I could fly but I never had the \$0.25 and the right box top to send in. So I was grounded. If I had it now I could fly back and forth to the store.

As for jobs, I had many. After high school I worked as a carpenter, when into the Army, studied electronics and passed a test for my first-class FCC license. With this I worked as a broadcast engineer at a TV station. From there I moved on to Westinghouse where I worked on an Ion Rocket engine for NASA before being called back into the Army. Finally, I left for the telephone company where I took care of the microwave equipment and the fiber optic equipment.

Hobbies – Old-Time Radio, stamps, comics, and cartooning. I've had panel cartoons published in *Field and Stream*, *Ontario Out Of Doors*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Woman's World* and other magazines.

I also like country line dancing and go dancing on the weekends. Love two-stepping with all the cowgirls. In addition, I'm into breeding southern Flying Squirrels that I sell over the internet.

My focus for this group is working as the final compiler for the Final  
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### Editor's Corner

Ryan Ellett

Welcome to the premier issue of the *Old Radio Times*. Every month you'll find the latest discoveries, research updates, and general happenings in the Old-Time Radio Researchers. Whether you've been around the group since the beginning or just joined yesterday, I hope the *Times* entertains, informs, and enlightens.

This publication has three goals: 1) To provide a centralized platform for group members to share about their research and learn about current work in the many areas of the group, 2) To establish a forum where the collective scholarship of the Old-Time Radio Researchers can be shared with the greater old-time radio community for both education and dialog, 3) To increase the sense of community within the Radio Researchers and foster our shared interest in old-time radio.

Research is really a two-part process. This group has been very successful at the first, the actual work of digging through old records and listening to countless shows to make discoveries such as those that Jim Jones (**Taming the Lord of the Jungle**) and David Oxford (**Making Headway on Broadway**) report in this issue. We have

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# Librarian's Shelf

## New Releases

### Big Show

Accurate Ver. 2

### Richard Diamond

Accurate Ver. 1

## Other Certified Sets

### 50 Years of Radio on NBC

Complete Ver. 1

### Absolute Power

Complete Ver. 1

### Adventures By Morse

Complete Ver. 1

### Alka Seltzer Time

Complete Ver. 1

### Black Museum

Accurate Ver. 2

### Blue Beetle

Complete Ver. 1

### Box 13

Complete Ver. 1

### Bright Star

Accurate Ver. 1

### Candy Matson, Yukon 28209

Accurate Ver. 1

### Chet Chetter's Tales from the Morgue

Complete Ver. 1

### Cinnamon Bear, The

Complete Ver. 1

### Crime Classics

Accurate Ver. 3

### Dark Fantasy

Accurate Ver. 1

### Dimension X

Complete Ver. 1

### Dr. Kildare

Accurate Ver. 2

### Family Doctor

Complete Ver. 1

### Frontier Gentleman

Complete Ver. 1

### In the Name of the Law

Complete Ver. 1

### Incredible, but True

Complete Ver. 1

### It Sticks Out Half a Mile

Complete Ver. 1

### Luke Slaughter of Tombstone

Complete Ver. 2

### Magic Island (2 discs)

Complete Ver. 2

### Mr. Keen, Trace of Lost

### Persons

Accurate Ver. 3

### Mystery House

Accurate Ver. 1

### Philo Vance

Accurate Ver. 1

### Planet Man, The

Accurate Ver. 1

### Rocky Fortune

Complete Ver. 1

### Rogue's Gallery

Accurate Ver. 2

### Six Shooter, The

Complete Ver. 4

### Smiley Burnette (4 discs)

Accurate Ver. 2

### Sam Spade, The Adventures of (2 discs)

Accurate Ver. 2

### Victor Borge Collection

Accurate Ver. 1

### You Can't Do Business with Hitler

Accurate Ver. 1

**Complete** – Set includes complete series.

**Accurate** – Set includes all known episodes in existence.

\*These series are available on compact disc, via Streamload online delivery, and on our very own Internet Hub. Contact Doug Hopkinson, librarian ([atoning2003@yahoo.com](mailto:atoning2003@yahoo.com)) for more details.\*

## Acquisitions

### Recent Additions to Radio Researchers' Library

Proudly We Hail 51-07-22 (146) Nightmare.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-07-29 (147) Deadly Passage.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-08-05 (148) Prelude For Eva.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-08-12 (149) From West To East  
To West Again.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-08-19 (150) The Last Chance.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-08-26 (151) Border incident.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-09-02 (152) Edge Of The Curtian.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-09-09 (153) Weekend At Kolenkov's.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-09-16 (154) The Key And The Clock.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-09-23 (155) The Last Trap.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-10-14 (158) Lady On The Run.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 51-10-21 (159) War Path.mp3

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## Treasury Update

On November 1 the Old-Time Radio Researchers Purchasing Group had \$1,357.96 in their account. Dues collected during the month totaled \$54.72. One group member was reimbursed \$100 for money spent on shipping for the Tape Cassette Project (see **Cassette Tape Project**). This left the Group with \$1,312.68 in their account at the end of the month. In addition to cash-on-hand, the group has approximately \$800 in credit with Ted Davenport.



## Acquisitions (Continued from Page 5)

Proudly We Hail 52-07-13 (197) Special Mission.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 52-07-20 (198) Man Of Genius.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 54-05-16 (293) Window in the Curtain.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 54-05-30 (295) Tower Team.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 54-06-06 (296) The Long Jump.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 54-06-13 (297) When No Birds Fly.mp3  
Proudly We Hail 54-06-20 (298) Skyhook One.mp3  
Proudly We Hail Series G xx-xx-xx (100)

Rogue's Gallery 46-05-16 Bodyguard For A Judge.wav

Romance 47-04-30 Island Of Spice And Lilies.wav  
Romance 52-07-14 This Above All.wav  
Romance 52-07-28 Paradise Package.wav  
Romance 52-08-04 Return To Tomorrow.wav  
Romance 52-08-11 Den Of Thieves.wav  
Romance 52-08-18 Old Man's Bride.wav  
Romance 52-08-25 Barrier Reef.wav  
Romance 55-05-07 The Second Time Around.wav  
Romance 55-05-14 A Wonderful Little Guy.wav  
Romance 55-05-21 You Really Ought To get Away For A While.wav

Romance 55-05-28 Heatherstone Revisited.wav  
Romance 55-07-02 Summer Song.wav  
Romance 55-07-09 Last Summers Love.wav  
Romance 56-02-25 Jackhammer Leg.wav  
Romance 56-03-03 Riviera Story.wav  
Romance 56-08-25 The Caddis Fly.wav  
Romance 56-09-08 Bill Gunns' Mermaid.wav  
Romance 56-09-15 The Man From Venus.wav  
Romance 56-10-06 Earthquake.wav  
Romance 55-07-16 Transport To Terror.wav  
Romance 55-07-23 Home On Approval.wav  
Romance 55-10-08 Sir Henry - Pt 1.wav  
Romance 55-10-15 Sir Henry - Pt 2.wav  
Romance 55-10-22 The Mission.wav  
Romance 55-11-05 The Bear.wav  
Romance 56-01-14 The Loup Garou.wav  
Romance 56-01-21 Old Army Buddy.wav  
Romance 56-01-28 Julia.wav  
Romance 56-02-04 San Francisco Incident.wav  
Romance 56-02-11 The Enchanted Voyage.wav  
Romance 56-02-18 The Other Side Of Johnson.wav

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## A Diamond in the Rough (Continued from Page 4)

shot. And for all his bravado, he had a serious case of vertigo.

Helen Asher was portrayed by Virginia Gregg, who also played the part of Brooksie on *Let George Do It* and Betty Lewis on *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*. Blake Edwards wrote the early shows and also directed a few. Music was composed by David Baskerville and later by Frank Wirth.

In January of 1951, the series moved to ABC under the full sponsorship of Camel cigarettes. Then in May of 1953, the series moved to CBS but all shows were repeats from the 1950-51 Rexall sponsored season on NBC.

Richard Diamond was one of the radio shows which successfully moved to television, with David Janssen, later of *Fugitive* fame, in the title role of Richard Diamond. The opening scene of the television show often featured the long lovely legs of Mary Tyler Moore, who went on to fame in the *Dick Van Dyke Show* and *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. Mary was replaced on the Richard Diamond show when it became known that she owned the mystery legs.

This series was compiled by Ed Sehlhorst and will have all the available episodes. A lot of work by a great group of researchers when into this series and some of the things to be

included with this set are three audio briefs: a great series introduction of the series, a biography of Dick Powell, and also a biography of Virginia Gregg.

This set will be four CD's and have some of the best episodes encodes available at this time, many at 128kbit/s. Approximately forty episode upgrades were supplied for the series after I received the series to complete certification. Also on the set will be many Richard Diamond radio scripts, a Wiki first line file of many of the shows, a new log renumbering of the series, and my jewel case artwork for members to print out.

These are the members who worked long and hard on this series. A big thanks goes out to:

Ed Sehlhorst (Series Compiler)  
Victor Loberger (2<sup>nd</sup> Listener)  
Robert Gilroy (Series Coordinator)  
Doug Hopkinson, Ed Sehlhorst & Roger Hohenbrink  
(Episode Upgrades)  
Doug Hopkinson (Audio Briefs Announcer)  
Roger Hohenbrink (Audio Briefs Descriptions & Moderator)

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# An Introduction to the Old-Time Radio Researchers Wiki Page

Menachem Shapiro

When researching, cataloging, and collecting Old-Time Radio, one of the biggest problems people face is mislabeled episodes. Mislabling includes wrong episode titles, wrong airdates, and wrong episode numbers. Episodes have been mislabeled for a number of reasons, including repeat performances of the same shows (e.g. *Gunsmoke*), syndicated shows having different air dates in different cities (e.g. *Bold Venture*), no definitive titles (e.g. *Bold Venture*, *Boston Blackie*), and dealers trying to make a series look bigger.

When the title is announced in a show, it becomes much simpler to figure out which show it is. Just match the title of the show up to the correct episode and all is well (unless of course, the show was performed again at a later date). When the episode's title is not announced, it becomes much more difficult to ascertain which show it is. Context clues are used to try narrow down the range of dates the show could have been aired and hopefully figure out which show it was. Who was the announcer? Who was the actor? Did they announce next week's episode title? Was there a time-sensitive commercial? All these are context clues that can, and have, been used to try and figure out what the correct title and airdate of the episode is.

Once the show has been positively identified, there remains a need for an easy way to identify the show. Without an easy way to identify the show, anyone else who wants to figure out what the show is has to go recreate the same research in order to come to the same conclusions. Also, when researching and cataloging a series with a lot of episodes (especially if a lot of the episodes have multiple titles/labels), the researcher needs an easy way to compare two different episodes to see if they are the same. This is where a log of the first lines of dialog in an episode comes in handy. By recording the first (unique) lines of dialog of an episode, an easy way of identifying the episodes in a series is created. This also makes it easy for the casual collector to verify the episodes in his/her collection.

Many collectors have recorded the first lines for certain series, including (but not limited to) Walt Pattinson (<http://www.wjp-otr.com/openings/>), Frank Passage, Dick Judge, et al (<http://www.old-time.com/otrlogs2/>), and others.

The Old-Time Radio Researchers Group First Line Project is an attempt to create a systematic way of cataloging the first lines of dialog for various series. The First Line Project uses the Otter Log for a series as a basis for a First Line Template. Due to the rigid structure of the Otter logs, it becomes easy to convert the otter log into a First Line Template.

For example, a line taken from the *Abbott and Costello* Otter

Log:

\* 42/10/15 15 Bank Robbery with Marlene Dietrich

Becomes:

Date Aired : 42/10/15

Episode Number : 15

Available : YES

Title/Plot/Host: Bank Robbery with Marlene Dietrich

First Line :

The First Line Project is unique in two ways. First, it is based on the Otter log for that series and therefore includes all the episodes. A lot of other first line pages only list the first lines for the episodes they have. This makes it difficult to figure out how many available episodes have not had their first lines cataloged. By including all the episodes in the First Line Template, the person researching the show and cataloging the first lines ends up with a clearer picture of his/her progress. Also, because the Otter Log is used as a basis for the First Line Template, any mistake the researcher finds in the episode information can be corrected in the Otter Logs.

The second way the First Line Project stands out is by using a Wiki to host the First Line Templates. A Wiki is a web page that anyone can edit. Because it is centrally stored, it makes group collaboration easy. Multiple people can work on the same series without having to wait for one person to send information to another. As soon as a change is made on the wiki it is visible to everyone. This makes dialog between two or more researchers much easier. The Wiki's informal nature lets researchers not only add information, but (if necessary) explain the reasons behind their decisions.

Of course, the accuracy of information in the Wiki depends on the researcher. The Wiki could easily become a place a place of misinformation. Stewart Wright has written about this at length and reading what he has to say is highly recommended. Check it out at

<http://otterprojectonline.info/pmwiki/FirstLines/StewartMessage>.

The Old-Time Radio Researchers Group Wiki is located at

<http://otterprojectonline.info/pmwiki/>. The First Line Project can be found at

<http://otterprojectonline.info/pmwiki/FirstLines/HomePage>. We hope to see you there!

## Why the Radio Researchers (Continued from Page 1)

Ryan Ellett, the originator of Ryan's Discs, was a godsend. I was able to get lots of programs for almost nothing via Streamload. But the habit was increasing its hold on me. I needed a bigger fix. I had to have more and better series and better sound and higher encodes. So I turned to E-Bay and some now defunct Yahoo Groups.

I was sadly disappointed by the results; Discs full of Jack Benny labeled program #1, program #2, program #3. Distros full of duplicated, triplicated, misnamed episodes. It was all very frustrating to a perfectionist like me. It appeared that "anything goes" was the motto of most OTR collectors. Sound condition didn't matter. It didn't matter that one might have the same episode under six different titles. Mis-dated, mis-named or poorly labeled didn't matter. All that mattered was quantity.

There has to be others out there, I thought. I'm not the only odd person. Surely there were others who were not happy with the - lets face it - trash that was being circulated in the OTR community. So, being an impulsive imp, I decided to just start up a group with like-minded fans who were interested more in getting things right than in just getting "stuff". Boy, this would be easy! What a foolish lad I was!

Towards the end of November, 2003, I began sending out e-mails to selected people I thought might be receptive to forming a group dedicated to putting together series that were as complete, accurate, and high-quality as possible. The Complete Series Group, as we were known then, was born.

Response was more than was planned for. I was not the only quality-OTR junkie. Lots of others began coming out of the woodwork. Some of the early included Robert Bratcher, Jim Wood (our first librarian), Ed Morrison, Gary Stanley, Bob Dickson, Bill Hartig, Bernie Czerwinski, George Imm (who was of great help to me in organizing my Streamload account), Uncle Sycamore, and Alan Kleinberger. There were a lot more who are still with us.

In early 2004 we were joined by Archie Hunter (the prime mover behind Otter), Roger Hohenbrink (an indispensible part of this team), Dee Detevis (without whom we could not operate), Clorinda Thompson (my gal Friday), great team members like Ernie Cosgrove, Andrew Steinberg and a whole host more. Valuable people, great workers, wonderful friends. The list goes on and on.

These were were exciting and heady times. Membership climbed within a few weeks to nearly 600. We were going to remake the OTR community into a paradise for collectors. We started issuing "certified" sets left and right and promptly fell right on our faces.

The easy job of which we dreamed, it turned out, was going to be long, hard work. We had to plan for the long haul. We had to back up and regroup! Part of that regrouping was trimming the fat from the membership rolls. Turmoil developed within the group and we lost some valuable members. Very shortly we were down to under 300, compared to a current membership of 520. Still, we persevered. New plans were formulated and new guidelines were drawn up.

We wrote a certification manual and laid down rules that put series through a series of rigorous tests. Slowly but surely, certified series began coming out of which we could be proud. Further, we were not afraid to admit mistakes and

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## Old-Time Radio Memories

(Continued from Page 4)

Series Certifications and also making OTR labels, Jewel Cases and round CD labels. These are regularly uploaded to the photo section for others in the group to use. I will enjoy reading everyone's "OTR Memories."

The internet is great for collecting OTR shows and I also love shows like the *Goon Show* from England that I never would have been able to listen to.

The best thing for my wife and me was finding OTR shows on the 'net. We love them. I used to download shows from the net with my 56K modem and it would take about 25 to 30 minutes to get a show and then at work we got high speed internet and I could download a show in under two minutes. I would listen to *Fibber McGee and Molly* at lunchtime. When we travel we listen to OTR shows and it's like traveling with an old friend

I then found this group and WOW what a find. So thanks to all the people and their generosity.





## A Diamond in the Rough (Continued from Page 6)

Doug Hopkinson & Jim Beshires (Audio Brief for OTRR Information)

Victor Loberger, Menachem Shapiro, Diane Hull,  
Jim Beshires, Art Chimes, Andrew Steinberg,  
Dan Brusven, & jbjerk (Wiki First Line)

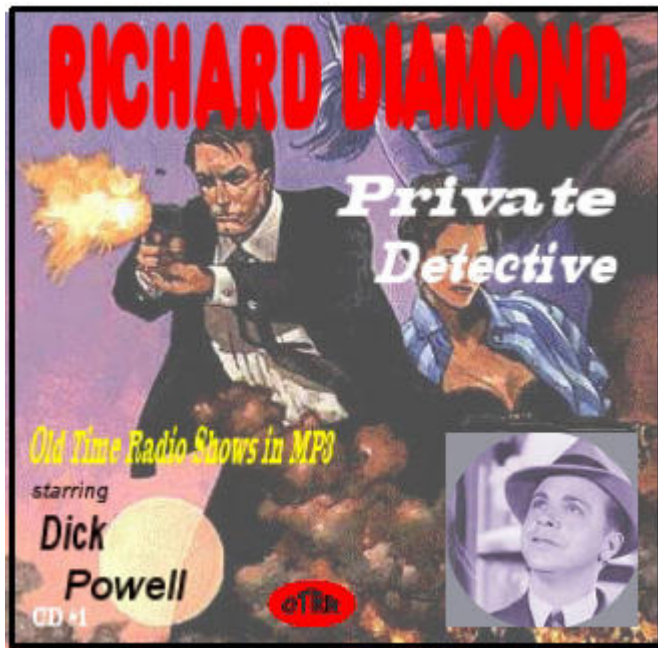
Jim Jones (otter log researcher)

Roger Hohenbrink (Jewel Case CD Label Artwork)

Roger Hohenbrink (Final Compiler)

And all the members of the OTRR group.

This series has been a long time coming and a lot of work for all, so when it is released be sure to sign up for the distro, you won't be disappointed.



## November Web Report

Jim Beshires

November was, as usual, a very busy month for activity on our website. It continues to attract new visitors and hold old ones as we steadily add to it and update features there. There were 7,022 visits to the site, which was the third highest for the year. Visitors came from 225 countries. This indicates that we have a great potential for attracting new members. It counted 117,396 hits, which indicated that people were looking at a lot of things. 4,272 people visited the art gallery, which was the most popular feature of our site. While the art gallery is relatively new, over 10,400 pieces were downloaded by visitors. The gallery features great labels for your OTR discs, pictures of radio personalities, covers from pulp magazines, print ads for old time radio shows, pictures of premiums given away by OTR shows, and a new section - old movie posters. 870 people visited the forum. This is one of the least attractive parts of the website in that we don't get a lot of posts there, even though information

(Continued on Page 10)

## Technician's Toolbox

Stefan Wood

This is a brief overview of the program Amadeus II, a sound editor for the Macintosh. I don't consider myself an expert on the program -- I am more of a "dabbler," one who uses the program as a tool to fix certain audio problems, insert track markers, clip blank spaces, and noise reduction. Amadeus handles these functions easily and quickly. Basically, I can open a sound file in the program, which, in less than a minute, brings up a visual file representing the sound. The menus provide options for selecting sound, even providing markers for different sections, changing the pitch, sound enhancement or correction, even creating fading effects. I have never used this, but there are nine different forms for analyzing. When done with the file, one can save it in a variety of formats, including AIFF, WAV, Mp3, Ogg Vorbis, Mp4, FLAC, and more. It works in both OS 9 and OSX (CoreAudio support). It is less than 5MB but carries quite a punch for the amateur sound editor, and it is available on [www.hariersoft.com](http://www.hariersoft.com) for \$30 shareware. You can download a full featured trial version for free, which will work for 14 days.

## Why the Radio Researchers? (Continued from Page 8)

errors. Some sets have gone through several revisions as new information, better encodes, and new episodes have come to light.

Other Yahoo OTR groups began to look to us to set the standard. They began to circulate our certified series within their groups. Across the hobby you began to hear phrases like "It's an OTRR certified set," "What does OTRR think?" and "According to OTRR..."

Very early in 2004 Project Otter was spun off from the parent group. This group concentrated on improving series logs and promoting the Otter database program, which we adopted as our own. That group has now grown to over 660 members and continues to provide new logs, upgrade old ones, and correct mistakes. When we inherited Otter, the database consisted of approximately 400 series and about 45,000 episodes, mainly lifted from Jerry Haendige's site. Today, the database consists of 1,457 series and nearly 140,000 episodes and it continues to expand. Almost every collector today utilizes this valuable asset to help manage their collections.

Our researchers have attracted the attention of many of the experts in the field of old-time radio, and now we share with them the information that we uncover. We have become one of the best known OTR-themed Yahoo groups and are slowly but surely gaining the attention and respect of the entire OTR community.

Our OTRR Distro Group was spun off in October 2004 to handle the increasing demand for the certified series produced by the parent body. It currently has 686 members and is the third largest group in the Yahoo OTR community. In May of 2005 the Distro Group spun off the OTRR Distro II Group, which re-schedules

distribution of series that have already made their way through the Distro Group. It has 221 members.

Additionally in 2004, we created a website to bring our work to the attention of others in the internet world who might not be familiar with old-time radio. It has proved to be a huge asset and receives about 6,000 visits each month. One fan was so impressed by our site that he donated his collection of about 2,000 cassettes to the group so that we could insure their preservation.

December 2004 saw the creation of the OTRR Purchasing Group. Their primary function is to locate and purchase series and episodes not currently available in mp3 for those working on certifying series. It currently has 29 members who contribute a small dollar amount each month. During 2005 they've purchased about \$2,000.00 worth of material. Few other groups can match this for service to the community in general.

So there you have it. OTRR, like Topsy, just grew. Today, an excellent group of moderators run the various groups like a well-oiled machine. I don't hesitate to say that, in my opinion, this is the premier old-time radio group around. The great group of members who volunteer their time, support and money have made it what it is.

Now the rocking chair is gathering dust, the cool drink is warm, I have uncovered series and episodes to sniff out, new materials to encode, updates to the Otter database to work on and new friends to talk to.

## November Web Report (Continued from Page 9)

is available there that is not available anywhere else. Any suggestions for improving traffic to the forum would be appreciated. Otherwise, we might have to shut it down, as it is very disappointing, compared to several of the other otr forums. Otter continues to be a big draw for the site, with 164 people downloading the program and 425 downloading the database. The Wiki is proving to be a huge success as 379 people visited there and a lot of other sites have direct links to it. We continue to improve in the ratings in the various search engines. Currently we are-

#17 in Alexa

#17 in AOL

#5 in Ask Jeeves

#17 in Google

#8 in Hot Bot

#18 in Yahoo

#21 in Web Crawler

These are excellent standings, given the number of OTR sites and the fact that we are the new kid on the block. If 'Otter' is put into the search engine, we come up either #1 or #2 in all of them. The fact that we are #2 in some is due to the fact that there is a database program for the animal 'Otter'! A check of the various search engines shows that about 5,000 other sites have links from them to us!

Our website is proving to be a big draw and we would really like to improve it. Any suggestions would be welcomed and anyone with web design experience is encouraged to volunteer! Contact [jimbeshires@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbeshires@yahoo.com).

# Wiki Updates

## Menachem Shapiro

FirstLines.VicAndSade  
— Lisa Fittinghoff  
— December 08, 2005, at 12:00 PM

FirstLines.TheGreenHornetPageTwo  
— Revgen  
— December 08, 2005, at 02:57 AM

FirstLines.AldrichFamily  
— menachem  
— December 07, 2005, at 06:58 PM

FirstLines.AbbottAndCostello  
— menachem  
— December 07, 2005, at 05:40 PM

FirstLines.BarryCraigConfidentialInvestigator  
— menachem  
— December 06, 2005, at 07:35 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenTownHallTonight  
— menachem  
— December 06, 2005, at 04:11 PM

FirstLines.AmosAndy  
— John Liska?  
— December 03, 2005, at 09:03 AM

FirstLines.AbbottAndCostello  
— Andrew Steinberg  
— December 02, 2005, at 02:45 PM

FirstLines.FrontierGentleman  
— menachem  
— December 02, 2005, at 01:06 PM

Profiles.Sefsdf?  
— ploppy?  
— December 01, 2005, at 11:55 AM

FirstLines.FredAllenFredAllenShow  
— Lisa Fittinghoff  
— November 29, 2005, at 07:15 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenShowOneLog  
— Lisa Fittinghoff  
— November 29, 2005, at 07:14 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenHourOfSmiles  
— menachem  
— November 29, 2005, at 05:40 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenTexacoStarTheater  
— menachem  
— November 29, 2005, at 05:38 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenFredAllenShow  
— menachem  
— November 29, 2005, at 05:35 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenSalHepaticaReview  
— menachem  
— November 29, 2005, at 04:19 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenSaladBowlReview  
— menachem  
— November 29, 2005, at 04:18 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenLinitBathClubReview  
— menachem  
— November 29, 2005, at 04:17 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenShow  
— menachem  
— November 29, 2005, at 04:16 PM

FirstLines.FredAllenShowOneLog  
— menachem  
— November 29, 2005, at 04:07 PM

FirstLines.TheManCalledX  
— Revgen  
— November 27, 2005, at 01:08 PM

FirstLines.VicAndSade  
— louie johnson?  
— November 26, 2005, at 08:25 AM

FirstLines.Box13  
— otrCker?  
— November 25, 2005, at 09:53 PM

FirstLines.LukeSlaughter  
— otrCker?  
— November 23, 2005, at 08:43 AM

FirstLines.Box13  
— menachem  
— November 20, 2005, at 11:49 PM

FirstLines.RichardDiamond  
— menachem  
— November 20, 2005, at 09:22 PM

FirstLines.DuffysTavern  
— Mike Bennett?  
— November 20, 2005, at 08:45 PM

## Editor's Corner (Continued from Page 4)

been less successful at the second part, that of summarizing and publicizing our work.

My vision is that a contribution to this newsletter will be the final piece of every project completed by members of this group. Feel free to continue posting a summary of your work in the Yahoo! group forum, but write up your results for publication here.

As evidenced by the contents of this first issue, a wide variety of subjects is valued. Some articles, such as Jim Beshire's (**Why the Radio Researchers?**) and Roger Hohenbrink's (**A Diamond in the Rough**), will appeal to a large number of readers while other articles, such as *Technician's Toolbox* and the Wiki and Otter updates will appeal to a much smaller group with specialized interests. No matter the potential audience size, however, each contribution will add to the collective knowledge of the old-time radio community.

With the release of new issues at the end of each month, I expect the look of these pages will change, spurred by your suggestions and contributions. So, read on, share this newsletter with any OTR fans you think might be interested in it, and consider how you can be a part of the *Times* in the future.

## Otter Updates

<b>Show</b> Most recent update		
<b>Aldrich Family, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Funny Side Up, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Mysterious Traveler, The</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Baby Snooks</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Garroway At Large</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Mystery is My Hobby</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Bickersons, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Gay Nineties Revue, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>National Barn Dance, The</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Bing Crosby - Crosby Clooney Show</b> 11/27/2005	<b>General Electric International Hour, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Night Beat</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Box 13</b> 11/27/2005	<b>General Motors Symphony Of The Air, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Once Upon A Time</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Burns and Allen Show, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Ghost Corps</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Our Land Be Bright</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Cafe Istanbul</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Grand Marquee</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Pacific Story, The</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Calling All Detectives</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Great Days We Honor</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Peter Quill The Crimson Wizard</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Caltex Theater - AU</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Great Expectations</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Philip Morris Playhouse, The</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Casey, Crime Photographer</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Greatest Sports Thrill</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Philo Vance</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Chet Chetter's Tales From The Morgue</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Green Hornet, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Recollections at 30</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Cisco Kid, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Hallmark Playhouse</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Request Performance</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Comic Weekly Man</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Harry Worth - BBC</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Richard Diamond, Private Detective</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Command Performance</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Hermit's Cave, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Rogue Male</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Crime Letters From Dan Dodge</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Information Please</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Science Magazine Of The Air</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Dad and Dave From Snake Gully</b> 11/27/2005	<b>It Pays To Be Ignorant</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Singles And Doubles Show Collection, The</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Destination Venus</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Jack Armstrong</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Sleep No More</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Dr. I.Q. Jr</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Jack Berch Show, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Sleepy Joe</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Dr. I.Q. The Mental Banker</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Jive Patrol</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Soldiers Of The Press</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Dragnet</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Johnny Mercer's Music Shop</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Squibb Show, The</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Drene Time</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Jump Jump And The Ice Queen</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Stories Of Pacific Powerland</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Duffy's Tavern</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Kate Smith Show, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Suspense</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Elgin Holiday Specials</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Keep Em Rolling</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Tarzan</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Epic Casebook</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Korn Koblbers, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Tell It Again</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Exploring Tomorrow</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Kraft Music Hall</b> 11/27/2005	<b>This Is Jazz</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Father Flanagans Boys Town</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Laugh Til You Cry</b> 11/27/2005	<b>This Is Our Enemy</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Fibber McGee And Molly</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Leonidas Witherall, The Adventures of</b> 11/27/2005	<b>This Is The Story</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Forecast</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Lone Ranger, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Tonight At Nine Thirty</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Foreign Bodies - BBC</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Man Behind The Gun</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Trouble With Father</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Forty Million, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Man Called X, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Up For Parole</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Forward March</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Marine Story</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Vanished Without A Trace</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Frank Sinatra - Songs By Sinatra</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Meredith Wilson's Musical Revue</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Vernon Cranes Storybook</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Frankie Carle and His Orchestra</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Mirth Parade, The</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Vic and Sade</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Frontier Gentleman</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Molle' Mystery Theater</b> 11/27/2005	<b>WCRS Radio Stage</b> 11/27/2005
<b>Fun With Books</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Mr and Mrs. Blandings</b> 11/27/2005	<b>We The People</b> 11/27/2005
	<b>Mr. Moto</b> 11/27/2005	<b>White Coolies - AU</b> 11/27/2005
	<b>Mr. and Mrs. North</b> 11/27/2005	<b>Yankee Yarns</b> 11/27/2005
	<b>Much Binding In The Marsh - BBC</b> 11/27/2005	<b>You Bet Your Life</b> 11/27/2005
	<b>Murder at Midnight</b> 11/27/2005	

## Researching Online (Continued from Page 2)

- Jerry Haendiges fabulous web site “Jerry’s Vintage Radio Logs” (need a title, check here first)
- Dave Goldin’s huge site “Radio Goldin Index” (need a summary, check here first)
- John Dunning’s popular “On the Air, The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio” (need detailed show data, check here first)
- Frank Passages’ OTR logs
- Jon Swartz’s “Hand book of Old-Time Radio”
- Otter
- Google

In addition to these often-used and generally relied upon resources, today’s modern internet libraries have provided new and virtually untapped OTR research opportunities. These libraries are yielding vast amounts of NEW radio programming data and providing new OTR discoveries on an almost daily basis. Several in this group have signed up and are using the Godfrey library, which unlike many local libraries, offers a variety of archived newspapers that can be conveniently accessed from the comfort of your own home. However, unlike many local libraries, the Godfrey is a fee-based service charging \$35 per year.

The Godfrey library offers what I consider two levels of research. The first and highest level is through a portal called PROQUEST. PROQUEST is an organization (business) which has scanned and archived ALL editions of the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post and LA Times back to the 1800s. PDF is the general format used by most archiving services. For the OTR researcher it is important to note that all radio logs and entertainment pages from these newspapers can be accessed. PROQUEST’s search engine is excellent. Compared to some of the other newspaper searches it is easy to use, fairly quick and offers several different search variables.

However, it is also important to realize that these newspapers have been electronically scanned and then processed with an OCR program. This means that you are looking at a picture of the words and not the words themselves. The search engine actually works through the OCR program; hence your search is only as good as the original scan. Since your actual search is of the OCR document, all instances of your search may or may not appear (depending upon the quality of the scan). Also, OCR programs often have difficulty with very large or

(Continued on Page 14)

## Making Headway on Broadway (Continued from Page 2)

Radio Yesteryear #373 and dated 1991. The label read: 3/27/1949, ”A Fixed Prize Fight.” A check on the web at Radiogoldindex gave this information:

8672. Broadway Is My Beat. March 27, 1949. CBS net. Sustaining. Danny suspects a fix when the odds on a welterweight fight swing suddenly in the wrong way. Anthony Ross. 1/2 hour. Audio condition: Excellent. Complete.

In listening to the tape, I found reference to two other shows being broadcast later that night. One of these was *Our Miss Brooks* and concerned a “raiding party” from a rival high school using as bait a handsome male teacher. A second reference was to *The Electric Theater* starring Helen Hayes in “The Farmer Takes A Wife.” I could not find any reference to this show. Again a check at Radiogoldindex for *Our Miss Brooks* gave:

17909. Our Miss Brooks. March 27, 1949. CBS net origination, AFRTS rebroadcast. An attempt is made to steal Miss Brooks to Clay City High School with a “secret weapon.” Mr. Boynton tries a “Sam Spade” technique to keep her at Madison. Frank Nelson plays the part of Mr. Brill, the competing principal. See cat. #49756 for a network, sponsored, quality upgrade version of this broadcast. Eve Arden, Frank Nelson, Jane Morgan, Richard Crenna, Gloria McMillan, Gale Gordon, Jeff Chandler, Gerald Mohr, Larry Berns (producer), Al Lewis (writer, director), Wilbur Hatch (music). 1/2 hour. Audio condition: Very good. Complete.

I tried to find a log to corroborate this air date. The usually reliable Jerry Haendiges’ site did not list the Anthony Ross run but began with the Larry Thor 7/7/1949 date. The Frank Passage site did not list the series at all. It was only at Terry Salmonson’s Audio Classic Archive that I could find a log. Here’s what was listed: 03/27/49 # 5 The Eugene Bullock Murder Case.

What???? As I listened to the Larry Thor episode dated 11/19/1949, it was apparent this was an entirely different story. So, the date of 3/27/1949 seems to be correct. This would make Terry Salmonson’s log entry incorrect. There is no official title for this episode.

Of course, I’m now on the trail of the elusive Anthony Ross episodes and trying to confirm the correctness of Terry’s Log. Without a radio log or some other primary source, there will never be a definitive answer. Perhaps some of the shows might give references to their dates by announcing other programs broadcast that night. Any help or additional information would be appreciated.



## Researching Online (Continued from Page 13)

very small text. Therefore, many tricks such as searching by station (WOR – NY, KNX –LA, WGN – Chi) and date instead of by show title is often more productive. Also, using a page search instead of an article search can yield more hits. More on search techniques in another article.

The second level of research is through a portal called EBSCO. The EBSCO search engine is not as refined as PROQUEST. It is slower and can only search by a specific date or year. The results are not chronological and, therefore, take more time to interpret. Additionally, the newspapers are from smaller-markets (Huron Reflector, Titusville Morning Herald, etc.) and do not cover major radio markets. However, on nationally syndicated shows, sometimes additional information can be obtained from this level of search (Last week I obtained several new titles for *Mr. and Mrs. North* and *Barrie Craig* from EBSCO).

The Dallas Morning News is also available through the Godfrey library. Ben Kibler has had excellent results utilizing this resource. I have had mixed results and generally prefer the major radio markets covered by PROQUEST.

One down side in doing an internet search is the time involved. Even the faster search engines are time consuming and tedious, especially when trying to verify every episode play date of a long series. Each search takes about one to two minutes. This includes searching, downloading the appropriate log, and then scrolling the log to find the appropriate show. Verification of a long-running show can be an exceedingly arduous task.

To expedite this search process we have begun to save radio logs. Using Windows Explorer to access these logs provides a much quicker platform than through a Godfrey search. Presently we have 8,000 radio logs saved. Our eventual goal is to save all NY, LA, Chicago, and Washington radio logs (about 40,000) from 1930 to 1960. Once these logs have been collected we can run our own OCR scan. This would provide us an invaluable easily researchable database of all radio logs for all shows in all the major markets for a time frame of 30 years.

As previously mentioned, this is a new research resource. The database is huge and we are just beginning to organize and catalog the pertinent OTR data available from it. Because of its' enormous size, I believe this type of research will continue to be productive for quite some time.

I am available for questions anyone may have on how to access or how to use the search engines at Godfrey Library.

## Taming the Lord of the Jungle (Continued from Page 1)

day a week on WOR at 7:45pm until 04/21/33. After these 42 episodes aired there was a two-month break, then the show resumed on 06/19/33 (WOR 5:45pm) and ran as a five-day-a-week for another 55 episodes.

Note: In Chicago the show probably premiered on 09/12/32 (same as LA). It appears that the entire run (130 episodes) of the first series "Tarzan of the Apes" aired. It ran on WBBM at 5:15pm five days a week. The first 26 episode dates can not be confirmed because the Chicago Tribune did not carry the complete daily WBBM schedule until 10/18/1932.

Jim has forwarded this information to  
- Jay Hickerson - who will probably make these changes in his book  
- Jerry Haendages - who now only lists 1932 - 1933 as play dates and seemed genuinely pleased to receive this information  
- Frank Passage - who was glad to receive this data to post a log with it.

In response to Jim's work on the Tarzan series, the Official Tarzan Web Site recognized him for his excellent work on the Tarzan series.



Dick Powell – Rich Diamond (*Richard Diamond, Private Detective*)

# Newspaper Research Update

Jim Jones and Ben Kibler

As reported in **Researching Online** (Page 2), the practice of researching scanned archived newspapers is a fairly new process to those of us in the OTR collecting field. This vast and previously unavailable database is providing a virtually untapped resource of OTR data. New broadcast dates, episode titles and show times are being uncovered from archived newspaper logs. Discoveries of forgotten series with new dates and episode titles are being found daily.

Most of this new information confirms older data obtained from previous sources. Some conflicts with older information, making us realize the need to update some previously acquired data.

Finally, some of this information is brand new and further enhances our total knowledge of the overall OTR picture. Please read the item on internet library (Godfrey) research for a more detailed discussion on how this newspaper research is being performed.

The following is a brief outline of some of the discoveries recently made by researching archived newspapers.

## *Mr I.A. Moto*

Confirmed all east and west coast play dates. Updated Otter. Notified Jay Hickerson.

## *Mr. and Mrs. Blandings*

Established correct play dates for series. Updated Otter. Notified Jay Hickerson.

## *Ghost Corps*

Discovered actual play dates for Ghost Corps. No play dates were previously known. ALL logs merely listed the episodes as 1930s. Updated Otter. Notified Jay Hickerson and Jerry Haendiges.

## *Whistler*

Episode 55-02-20 states the show will be moving to Thursday night. All logs reflect this move. This may have been an east coast version. The LA times confirms that the show remained on Sunday evenings for the remaining 31 episodes. Dick Judge has just submitted a final copy of his log to me. Once I have time to double-check it, I will update Otter. I have already notified Jay and Jerry of the date changes.

## *Tarzan*

- Found the actual play dates for the original 286 episodes. Updated Otter and notified Jay Hickerson and Jerry Haendiges. Also notified Bill Hillman the curator of the official Tarzan site. He has updated his site reflecting these changes (<http://www.erbzine.com/mag0/0011.html>).

- Found actual play dates for Diamonds of Asher in a major market (DC). Need more discussion with Frank Passage on his play dates. Have updated Jay Hickerson. Have discussed this with Jerry Haendiges and he said he would use these dates on his log.

[Also see **Taming the Lord of the Jungle**, Page 2, Ed.]

## *Richard Diamond*

Found RD did not air on 10/01/49 (NY, Wash, or Chi)

Found RD was pre-empted on 01/29/50 (by American Forum – national health)

Found RD resumed after small break on 06/14/50 not 06/07/50

Updated Otter. Notified Jay Hickerson and Jerry Haendiges.

## *Jack French*

Have been providing Jack periodical information. Most notable was the star of *Phyl Coe* series. This information will be annotated in an updated to his book *Private Eye Lashes*. Also, gave him information that proved Bobbie Benson was produced on both east and west coast and that Bert Parks (Miss America fame) co-starred in the 30's version of that show. Now providing him with newly discovered titles for *Mr. and Mrs. North*.

## *A Man Called Jordan / Rocky Jordan*

Provided Frank Passage with missing dates for both the *A Man Called Jordan* and the *Rocky Jordan* series in mid-October (he has not updated his log as of 12/9/2005 and we have not corresponded further on this matter).

## Radio Researchers Lend a Hand

(Continued from Page 2)

permission to use our material. Specifically, he wanted to use the group's certified sets, complete with the audio briefs. I was made aware of this and thought it rather strange that the owners of the group were not contacted.

This was when I contacted the podcaster directly. We had a very pleasant few conversations. He seemed to be very concerned with spreading OTR to the masses for free. I was very excited that our goals seemed to be the same. However, I did express concerns. The OTRR group does not want to be affiliated with the selling of the materials we produce. His website was sponsored. He solicited donations on his site. He was selling advertisement space on his website. He was even attaching audio ads to the files he offers for free download. He was offering money to participants if he ever started making a profit. He informed me all this would end. I in turn tentatively agreed to partner our group with him.

It seemed this would be a great way to get recognition for the group and get our materials into wider circulation. The day after this tentative agreement it was brought to my attention that he was using a name for his website that had seemed quite familiar. It was pointed out by a few people that Ted Davenport and others had been posting to the Old Time Radio Digest that this man had stolen the name "Radio Memories."

He had not only taken the name but now he had made a good deal of people mad from his Yahoo group exploits. Combined, this caused many people to have negative feelings about the name "Radio Memories" and also had some angry people contacting Ted, whom they assumed was involved.

Ted has spent many years making the name Radio Memories a good one. He has been very generous to this group for the last two years that I have bought materials from him for our certified series. He continues to sell to us even though he knows that we will be encoding and eventually distributing the materials freely. The other vendors we have bought from also sell to us knowing this, but by far and away we have bought more from Ted than anyone else.

When I heard that this name was causing Ted some distress, I contacted him immediately. He informed me that he had contacted the man about the use of the Radio Memories name and asked him to please stop using it. In response, Ted was told that there was no copyright on it and he saw no reason not to use it. Ted tried reasoning

with him but to no avail. When asked what his future plans were, Ted said it seemed there wasn't much he could do. He never had the name copyrighted but felt that it qualified as a trademark based on information he had read.

Ted had spoken to a lawyer who wanted \$175 an hour to start work on the case but Ted didn't have it to spend. At this point I decided I would definitely need to do something about it. I contacted the podcaster. He admitted Ted had called him but claimed he told Ted that he was going to change the name of his website to Radio Memories Network. He reasoned that this would eliminate any confusion. I told him that I didn't think the addition of the word network was going to resolve anything. I told him that the OTRR group could not in all good conscience be part of his project unless the name changed. He told me that he was too far along with sponsors, including I-tunes, to make a name change.

Friends should always support friends and Ted is a friend. With the addition of this mention of I-tunes (a pay download site), it became clear our group could not be associated in any way with this project. I then spoke to several associates within our group about this issue and we all agreed that Ted needed help. We determined that the first order of business was to seek any legal help from the members of the group. We decided that if nothing else we would privately each put up 100 bucks each. I had not intended to ask for monetary donations from the group, just pro-bono legal assistance.

Having determined a course of action, I attempted to reason with the gentleman one last time. I tried appealing to his humanitarian side by pointing out how much farther he could go and how he could even change his reputation by just changing the name, being a good guy, doing the right thing. I even suggested to him that we could help him with costs involved to make the change. The logic here was it would be less money to help him than to fight him.

There was no response to that or the final appeal I sent two days later. So, I posted to our group on this subject. I posted again. I asked for any lawyers, relatives of lawyers, friends of lawyers. I asked for moderators and members of other groups to ask within the other groups for help. I asked people to email the nameless one and his sponsors.

Nothing happened as far as those appeals went. Finally, one person in our group posted that he was in Arkansas and worked in the court system there. He was going to talk to some lawyer acquaintances and would advise us what they say. There was never a follow-up to that. Other

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## **Radio Researchers Lend a Hand**

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people started emailing me privately offering donations and suggesting I propose a fund to the group. I agreed.

I became optimistic that a group of 600 people could raise a large sum for Ted by just giving a relatively small amount of money. I watched the posts. I watched my email. In total twenty-one people either posted or emailed saying they would give. In the end, twenty-four people including myself donated a grand total of \$808.12. This is a considerable amount of money and while I'm proud we collected that much, I just keep thinking that if 600 people would have thrown in three bucks each.... (I'm such a dreamer sometimes).

I saw a few posts saying that Ted had no chance fighting the Radio Memories Network. I was informed by a friend of mine Radio Memories Network had applied for

a copyright on the Radio Memories name and that the Radio Researchers were wasting time and money trying to help Ted. Figuring there is nothing wrong with trying to fight the good fight, I continued the fundraising. The donations finally stopped coming in and I sent Ted a check. Not expecting this at all, he was overwhelmed. He had no idea a collection was taken up. Ted has asked me to express his sincere gratitude to our group. As a way of repaying us, he has extended an 800 dollar credit to our purchasing group.

Ted has hired a lawyer with the funds. The first thing he found out was that no one has filed for a copyright or trademark on the Radio Memories name. . . that is until yesterday. Ted's lawyer filed the paperwork for it!! Ted informed me that there will be several cease-and-desist letters going out to Radio Memories Network and his associates in the days to come. As more happens I will keep you all advised.

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