



The

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The Story of the 1945 Captain Midnight Code-O-Graph

Stephen A. Kallis, Jr.

One of the most famous features of the *Captain Midnight* radio shows was its cryptological radio premiums, called Code-O-Graphs. The Code-O-Graph concept came from the sponsor, which issued equivalent radio premiums on its previously sponsored OTR serial, *Little Orphan Annie*. The Radio Orphan Annie (ROA) cryptological premiums were called Decoder Pins, and were used to decipher messages, sent once a week at the close of an episode. Such messages were always clues to the upcoming episode, Jean Shepherd monologue to the contrary.

Ovaltine took over the *Captain Midnight* program on 30 September 1940. The program started two years earlier as a syndicated radio program sponsored by Skelly Oil. The hero was portrayed as a highly skilled aviator who was more or less an independent operator who performed heroic deeds. Skelly Oil had sponsored a previous aviation oriented show, such as *The Air Adventures of Jimmie Allen*, and one of the company's subsidiaries was the Spartan School for Aeronautics. However, in the last season of the Skelly programs, the show dropped from five episodes a week to three.

By 1940, World War II had started in Europe, and the Japanese Empire had begun military expansion in the Orient. The United States was in those days officially neutral, but even before entering the war, the country was becoming aware of the deterioration of conditions throughout the world. Many felt that the United States would become involved in the war one way or the other, and Ovaltine decided to look for a more heroic figure than a



Radio Orphan Annie Decoder Pin. This model had a secret compartment.

subteen girl like *Little Orphan Annie*.

With Ovaltine sponsorship came two concepts from the *Little Orphan Annie* show: one was an in-group. The group on the Annie show was the Radio Orphan Annie's Secret Society. For the *Captain Midnight* program, this morphed into the Secret Squadron. The Radio Orphan Annie Secret Society Decoder Pins became Captain Midnight Secret Squadron Code-O-Graphs.

Both additions to the *Captain Midnight* program were winners. In the show, Captain Midnight was recruited to head the newly formed Secret Squadron, and listeners could "join" the Secret Squadron by sending in a proof of purchase from an Ovaltine tin (the inner seal). By return mail, they would receive a Code-O-Graph and the accompanying Secret Squadron manual.

The first two Code-O-Graphs were undated: neither showed its year. The 1942 units, though, were impacted by World War II, as were many radio premiums.

The attack on Pearl Harbor propelled the

United States into the war, and this in turn shifted the manufacturing priorities of the country. Effectively manufacturing materials were prioritized, with some being primarily dedicated to the war effort. Chief among these was copper, and, consequently, the copper alloy, brass. These were named as “critical war materials,” and many nonessential items, including novelties such as radio premiums, were not authorized to use copper or brass in their manufacture.

Fortunately for listeners of *Captain Midnight*, the 1942 Code-O-Graph had been manufactured in the summer of 1941, before the attack. This was not because of any prescience of the impending attack (though, curiously, the show in the Fall of 1941 was involved with a story concerning some plans for Pearl Harbor being discovered in Japanese occupied China), but because it took a significant amount of time to make them all.



1941 Mystery Dial Code-O-Graph

At the beginning of World War II, the initial radio premiums were, like the Code-O-Graphs, manufactured before the war began. However, as the war ground on, the materials remaining available for radio premiums were paper, cardboard, cloth, and wood. Normally, the *Captain Midnight* program would have issued a Code-O-Graph annually, but Ovaltine decided not to issue paper Code-O-Graphs, so the show continued to use the 1942 model. (*Little Orphan Annie* was picked up by another sponsor, Quaker Puffed Wheat [or Rice] Sparkies, and the program issued two “decoders,” both cardstock products. Neither was at all rugged, and the show ended after a two year run under Quaker sponsorship.) The 1942 Code-O-Graph was

the premium with the longest service life, running for three years – 1942, 1943, and 1944.



1942 Photo-Matic Code-O-Graph. Pilot’s photo was to be replaced with the owner’s

But tradition is hard to buck, and Ovaltine apparently wanted to issue a new Code-O-Graph. However, copper and brass were both critical materials, and many other materials had at least some restrictions on them. What follows is fact, followed by some speculation.

In late 1944, the *Captain Midnight* program announced a new cryptological premium, the Magni-Magic Code-O-Graph. It was a badge, but it had two significant differences from its predecessors. One was that it had a year date, prominently sweeping across the top of the badge body. The second was that the central element, referred to as the “dial,” was made of molded plastic.

The badge was described as being made of “special materials,” with no details, something often done during the war. Its body was actually made of stamped sheet steel that was coated with “gold” paint to look brassy, like its predecessors. The central “dial” (rotor) was made of injection-molded clear plastic, with the ring that held the mixed letter (cipher) alphabet painted red for easier reading.

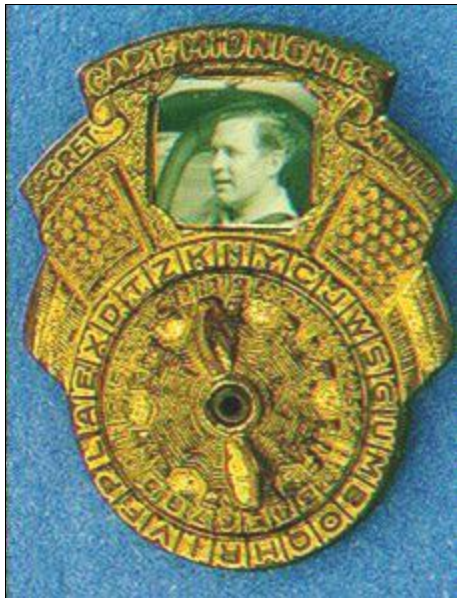
When the new Code-O-Graph was announced, it was broadcast that the supply was limited. In time, the sponsor’s supply was exhausted. On the show, the announcer finally pleaded with listeners to stop sending for them. Those whose requests came in after they’d run out of the supply of the Code-O-Graphs got substitutes of older *Captain Midnight* premiums, along with a letter of apology indicating that the substitution was the best the company could do under the wartime conditions.

Now the speculation: where did Ovaltine get the sheet

steel for the 1945 badge bodies? The Wander Company, Ovaltine's manufacturer, supplied Ovaltine in tins for decades. But during the war, the company shifted to glass jars. By doing so, much of the sheet steel ordinarily used to make the tins would be saved: only the jar top would need the steel; the rest could be conserved.

It's my suspicion that the sheet steel allocated to the Wander Company was diverted to make the badge bodies for the Code-O-Graph. Even so, only a limited number of these badges could be squeezed out of the available sheet metal, which may be why from the beginning, the program indicated that the badges would be in short supply.

It also explains a little-known fact about the 1945 Code-O-Graph. Each Code-O-Graph used an alphabet scale with the letters in scrambled order, called the *cipher alphabet* by cryptologists. The cipher alphabet on each Code-O-Graph was unique to the model, meaning that in order to decipher a message, the listener needed the current model. However, and unlike any other Code-O-Graph ever made, the cipher alphabet on the 1945 model was very close to that on the 1942 unit. They were identical, save that the **P** on the earlier model was exchanged for the **B** on the newer unit, and the **E** on the older model was exchanged for the **F** on the newer, and vice versa.



1942 Photo-Matic with owner's photo

Also, the first two Code-O-Graphs used windows on the back to align letter and number scales by a key setting. For instance, if a message was sent in "Master Code 3," the listener would turn the rotor until the number **3**



1945 Code-O-Graph. The figure 5 is sometimes mistaken for a 9. Note eroded paint

appeared in the window labeled "Master Code" (both the 1941 and 1942 models had such a window). But for the 1945 model, the key setting was a letter-number pair: for instance "Master Code C-3" would be set by turning the rotor until the letter **C** was next to the number **3**, which would align the number scale and the cipher alphabet scale.

With nearly identical cipher alphabets, those who didn't have the 1945 model could use the 1942 unit if they figured out the new key setting technique. A message with the two letters interchanged could be understood. For instance, the message, BAIL OUT ABOVE OCEAN, using the other unit would come out as PAIL OUT APOVF OCFAN. Particularly since the cipher alphabet was all capital letters, a listener could get the gist of a message without much of a strain.



Ovaltine tin

I suspect that this was done deliberately so that those without the newer unit could still be part of the Secret Squadron.

The 1945 Code-O-Graph was called the Magni-Magic model, since the rotor had a built-in magnifier. It was the only badge made during World War II, and the next-to-last badge.



Ovaltine jar

Adventures by Morse Re-Certified

Adventures by Morse was one of the first series certified by the Old Time Radio Researchers Group back in June of 2004. The earlier series did not include many of the additional features that later releases included, and so, as time permits, these earlier series are being brought up to the standard set by the group.

This series takes its place alongside *I Love A Mystery*, *One Man's Family* and other works by prolific author Carlton E. Morse. Produced after *I Love A Mystery*, this transcribed and syndicated show continued the earlier program's preoccupation with the eerie and the exotic.

Captain Bart Friday and his trusted companion Skip Turner ranged throughout the world in their quest for dangerous challenges to overcome. Undaunted by Nazis, murderers, vampires, deadly serpents, zombies and disciples of the dark arts they made their way through story lines with such titles as "Land of the Living Dead" and "Cobra King Strikes Back." John Dunning notes in *On the Air* that "there was usually a near-rational explanation" for the events that took place. Seldom did it come, however, until the listener's imagination had been enthralled by instances of the dreadful and even unthinkable.

All told, there were eight serials comprised of a total of fifty-two episodes, each thirty minutes in length. They originally aired in syndication for a year beginning in October, 1944. All have been preserved in high quality sound for those enticed by the show's signature opening to enter a world of "high adventure," "the stealth of intrigue" and "blood and thunder."

The Old Time Radio Researchers would like to thank the following people for their assistance in the re-certification of this archival series -

Series Coordinator - Jim Beshires

Quality Listener(s) - Brian Motsuk, Geoff Loker, Terry Caswell

Series Synopsis - Larry Maupin

Audio Briefs Announcer(s) - Ed Martin, Fred Bertelsen

Audio Briefs Compiler(s) - Larry Maupin

Pictures, other extras - OTRR Members

Artwork - Brian Allen

Stars Bios - Jim Beshires

And all the members of OTRR for their contributions of time, expertise, funds, and support in the release of this series.



Dangerously Yours/Matinee Theater Declared Archival Series

More old time radio series were declared 'certified' on June 26, 2007. The latest sets are *Dangerously Yours* and *Matinee Theater*. Although it appears that these might be two separate series, they are actually only one.

The series began as *Dangerously Yours*, which was a one-half hour show first broadcast on June 20, 1944, and was sponsored by Vicks. Under this title the series ran for 16 weeks, ending on October 15, 1944. Eleven of the 16 episodes are in circulation. The sound on some of them is not up to the OTRR's usual standard, but as of this date, they are the only ones in existence. A text document is included with the series denoting problems.

Each episode seemed to star Victor Jory as the leading man, and concentrated heavily on romance, with much airtime being devoted to lovers murmuring sweet nothings at each other, and the action and adventure being relegated to backdrop status!

On October 22, 1944, the show made a somewhat dramatic change in direction and became known as *Matinee Theater*. CBS made a serious attempt to provide quality dramatic programming for its' Sunday afternoon listeners. Now the view was toward presenting "a greater range of stories."

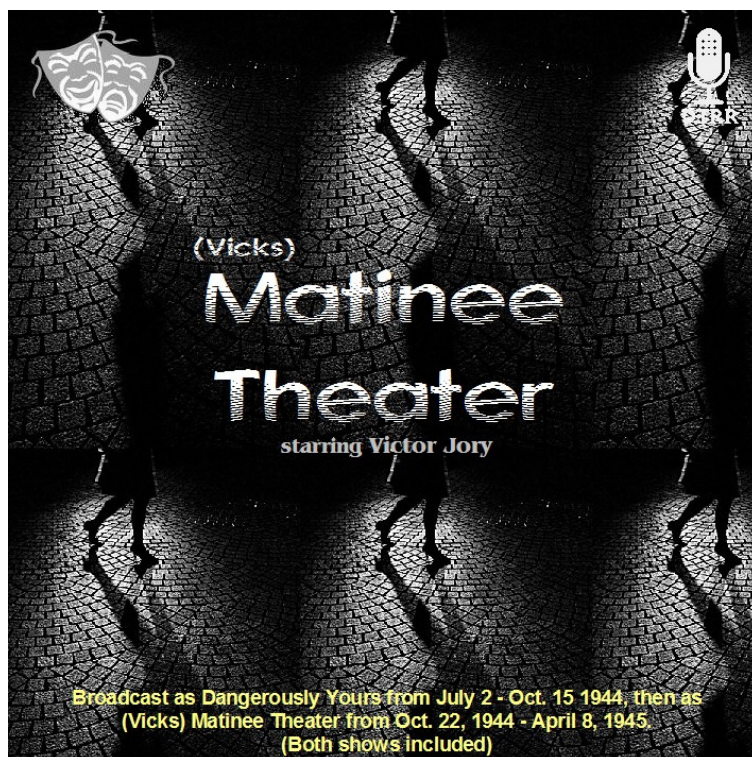
That broader scope was able to accommodate such episodes as "Beautiful Dreamer" (the Stephen Foster story) and "The Love Story of Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning." It did, however present a number of stories taken from it's former existence as *Dangerously Yours*.

Victor Jory and several different female stars paired to bring classics like "Wuthering Heights," "Jane Eyre" and "The Scarlet Pimpernel" to the audience, as well as a number of more contemporary works. Twenty-five of these thirty-minute broadcasts aired October 22, 1944 with twenty-three of them being available and the final one on April 8, 1945. The Vick Chemical Company sponsored throughout.

The Old Time Radio Researchers would like to thank the following people who worked to bring these series to a 'certified' status.

Series Team Leader - Jim Beshires
Quality Listener(s) - Paul Urbahns, Geoff Loker
Series Synopsis - Larry Maupin, Jim Beshires
Audio Briefs Announcer(s) - Fred Bertelsen, Andrew Sernekos, Jim Beshires, Sue Sieger
Audio Briefs Compiler(s) - Larry Maupin, Jim Wallace
Pictures, other extras - Terry Caswell
Artwork - Brian Allan
Stars Bios - Jim Wallace

And all the members of the OTRR for their contributions of time, knowledge, funds, episodes and other support.



Frontier Fighters Achieves Archival Status

The Old Time Radio Researchers announced that they have officially certified **Frontier Fighters**.

Frontier Fighters was a syndicated series that ran sometime during the 1930's. There were 39 episodes broadcast. Each show dealt with some bit of history about the early West and ran for approximately 15 minutes. From Robert La Salle's navigation of the Mississippi River, to Lewis and Clark's challenge of reaching the West Coast of North America, *Frontier Fighters* will take you on an exciting voyage of the taming of the wild west. This is American history at it's best!

One of the exciting features of this certified series is the addition of a picture that either is of the people the episode is about or an illustration that describes the episode. Additionally a historical text file is included for each episode. These two features would make this series an excellent reference tool for American history teachers. Each episode would capture the attention of the most disinterested student, and the text file would provide extra information. We urge all parents to bring this to the attention of teachers in your area. Teachers are always looking for ways to make their lessons more attractive and *Frontier Fighters* would certainly fill the bill!

The OTRR would like to thank these people who helped make this series a certified one.

Series Team Leader - Jim Beshires

Quality Listener - Geoff Loker

Series Synopsis - Jim Beshires

Audio Briefs - Fred Bertelsen, David Schwegler

Pictures, other extras - Jim Beshires

Artwork - Brian Allan

And the members of the Old Time Radio Researchers for their contribution of funds, time, software, episodes knowledge and other support.



Daddy, Me & the Beatles Debby Delmore

When I turned 8 years old my daddy bought me a record player. He decided I was educated enough by then to start listening to music I liked. He took me to a variety store and gave me a dollar bill and told me to buy me all the 45's I could with the money.

I protested, a bit slightly confused. I didn't know what he would let me have. He was always very strict about music; if it wasn't to his liking he wouldn't let me listen to it. So, needless to say, I was a little bit scared to pick out the music I really liked because I didn't want to displease him. However, he convinced me he would not get mad at me that he would only tell me if he didn't like it. He knew I had been listening to the radio so he knew I probably had some favorites, he was just curious what I would buy.

At that time you could get 20 - 45 rpm records - for \$1.00. Some of the records I picked out were: Fabian-(Lend Me Your Comb), Beach Boys, Dion, Bobby Vinton, Paul & Paula, Bobby Vee, Bobby Darin, Ray Charles, Connie Francis, Temptations, Four Tops, Sam Cooke, Chubby Checker, some of the songs were: "Wolverine Mountain," "Purple People Eater" and one was a gospel song called "On the Wings of a Dove."

When we got home daddy stayed in the other room while I played my new records. When I got through & he came into the room. He was genuinely satisfied with all my selections, boy was I proud!

The big trial came right before my daddy died in 1964, the Beatles had appeared on the *Ed Sullivan Show* and everyone was a Beatles fan, including me and in a real strong way. I had every Beatles picture, card, magazine and record that I could get my hands on. Before daddy knew it, I had a Beatles album. At first he got kinda upset because he didn't really know if he wanted me to hear their music or not! He informed me that he was gonna listen to the album and if he didn't think I should listen to it, he would throw it away.

I got so upset, I just knew he was gonna throw my album away! Anyway, he assured me he would be real fair about it and if he didn't think I should listen to it he would explain to me why, that made me feel a little bit better but I was still afraid he wouldn't like it. The next day I went to my girlfriend's house and Daddy called over there and said he was gonna pick us up to go shopping.

We got so excited, that was not something that happened every day, little did I know what he was about to do. He pulled up, we ran outside got into the car and daddy hands me a \$5 bill and says "Here, go buy you one of those ol' Beatles records!" You cannot believe my joy.

Come to find out, daddy had done his investigative work on the group and found out they had been influenced by the Everly Brothers which in turn had been influenced by my daddy and uncle. He also had really listened to their music and was very impressed! I was so proud because they were my very favorite group.

When my daddy passed away, their music helped me with my great loss. I never did get to see them perform together, but I did get to see Ringo when he performed a concert in Huntsville, AL. I was not disappointed. He could still rock after all those years. He had an All-Star band with him, Billy Preston and his son Zack on the drums. I will never forget that wonderful concert! My husband even caught me a towel from one of the band members that was thrown in the crowd. I felt like I was 12 years old all over again!

New Country/Gospel Series Unearthed

One of the goals of the Old Time Radio Researchers is to locate, preserve and make freely available old time radio programs. Some of the ways we do this are to scour the internet, receive donations of reel-to-reels and cassettes and make purchases from dealers and individual collectors.

In the fall of 2006, we purchased a collection of country/western cassettes from a private collector in Canada. Now not many people are interested today in this type of programs, but in the early days of radio these were highly popular, especially in the South and West. Not many of the series in this collection were in general circulation.

As I was encoding these cassettes, I began to run across some that were entitled *The Delmore Brothers*. I am an avid fan of country/gospel, but have to admit that I'd never heard of this group. Neither Jay Hickerson's book "The Ultimate Guide" nor Dunning's "On The Air" had any information about this series. Turning to the internet, I discovered very little information, only one website devoted to them and three or four others that mentioned them, and none that mentioned a radio series.

I did discover the e-mail address of Debby Delmore, who was the daughter of Alton Delmore, one half of the team, the other being Rabon. I e-mailed Debby explaining what I'd found and asked her if she had any information on her daddy's radio series. Her reply was that she had no idea that copies of this radio series even existed, and was extremely excited when I shared the fact that the OTRR group had 36 quarter hour episodes out of at least 63 that

were broadcast!

Debby stated that the group (which included Wayne Raney on the series) had virtually stopped performing by 1950, due to the failing health of her uncle. We know from research that they were performing by themselves in 1945, so the series is probably within the window of 1945-50. It also appears to have been syndicated, as they mention people writing in to the radio station to which they were listening.

The program appears to have been broadcast on a daily basis and consisted of Southern gospel songs by the trio interspersed with offers of their 150 page song book which sold for \$1.00. Such songs as 'The Old Country Church', 'Just Over in the Glory Land,' 'He Set Me Free,' and 'Turn Your Radio On' filled the program

A 1946 issue of Billboard magazine had carried an ad featuring their latest song 'Hillbilly Boogie,' which according to Jim Henke, Chief Curator of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, "directly anticipated the development of rockabilly, and, later, rock and roll. With their close-knit harmonies and their guitar playing, the Delmores influenced the Everly Brothers and countless other country, rockabilly and rock and roll artists."

Bob Dylan has this to say about them, "The Delmore Brothers, God, I really loved them! I think they've influenced every harmony I've ever tried to sing."

The sound quality on some of these cassettes is not the best, and one of our sound technicians is currently working to try to improve it. But for a fan of this type music, close listening will pay off. As I was encoding this series, I was transported back to my childhood when the church that I grew up in sang this type of songs. It was a joy to hear them again after 50 years.

OTRR will be releasing this short series as a special archival set very shortly. Look for it in your groups' distros. You can find more information on the Delmore Brothers at

http://www.cmt.com/artists/az/delmore_brothers/artist.jhtml





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Treasury Report



The Old-Time Radio Researchers currently has \$1120.47 in the treasury.

Disbursed during the month of June for postage reimbursement was \$21.10 to Curt Jensen, \$16.05 to Rod Gowen, and \$22.50 to David Gibbs, \$90.00 to Ryan Ellett for expences incurred on behalf of the group, and \$44.50 to Dr. Joe Webb for transcription disks purchased on behalf of the group.

Many thanks to everyone who has agreed to make made a monthly contribution in 2007. They include Tony Adams, Del Ahlstedt, Dale Beckman, Jim Beshires, Robert Booze, Krys Building, Scott Carpenter, Pete Cavallo, Greg Coakley, John A Davies, Dee DeTevis, Lisa Fittinghoff, Allan Foster, Mike Galbreath, Gary Mollica, Allan George, David Gibbs, Archie Hunter, Roger Hohenbrink, Tony Jaworowski, Dave Johnson, Jim Jones, Ben Kibler, Robert Lenk, John Liska, Tom Mandeville, Henry Morse, Jess Oliver, David Oxford, Robert Philips, Leonard Price, Ron Schalow, David Shipman, Gary Stanley, Gregg Taylor, Daryl Taylor, ClorindaThompson, Lee Tefertiller, Alan Turner, Joe Webb, and Gordon Whitman. If anyone has been left off please let us know.

One time contributors include Mike Galbreath, Bill Barille, Michael Moles, John Affayroux, Pat Patterson, William Hartig, Gerald Anderson, Archie Hunter, Keith Allan, Louis Shepherd, and John Liska.

If you are interested in becoming a monthly supporter of the OTRR, please contact the treasurer, Tony Jaworowski at jaworowski@ameritech.net. Support is \$5.00 per month. Monthly supporters receive advance releases of all purchases, either encoded at 128, 64, or WAV.

If you would like to assist in bringing new series and better encodes to the OTR community, or otherwise support the work of the Old-Time Radio Researchers, please mail any amount to:

Tony Jaworowski
15520 Fairlane Drive
Livonia, MI 48154

or send via Paypal to

jaworowski@ameritech.net



Scrounging for OTR Resources

Ryan Ellett

Like many of you, I am constantly on the lookout for books and magazines that provide information about old time radio. A search for an article by Marvin R. Bensman led me to the 12(2) Fall, 1979, issue of *The Journal of Popular Culture*. Thanks to the stacks at the local university library I found his article easily. I was pleasantly surprised, however, to find that that entire issue focused on radio's Golden Age. Because most of you likely have not come across this particular publication, I wanted to provide synopses of each article within it so some of you could use them for future reference. I assume most libraries could get copies of individual articles through inter-library loan.

"Giving the Devil His Due" by Leslie Fiedler. Not sure how this piece fit in with the issue's overall theme; Mr. Fiedler waxes philosophical on what constitutes pop culture, the focus of the journal itself.

"Leslie Fiedler" by Daniel Walden. A short review of Mr. Fiedler's work. Neither of these first two articles would be of interest to OTR fans.

"The Private Eye: From Print to Television" by Maurice Charland. Explores the hard-boiled private eye in media starting with the pulps. Little attention is paid to radio, though Marlowe, Hammer, and Spade receive a good bit of attention.

"Beyond Nostalgia: American Radio as a Field of Study" by Alan Havig. Havig contemplates why a wide field of serious scholarship never developed for radio history, just as many OTR fans have wondered. He comments that *The Journal of Popular Culture* is guilty of ignoring radio, publishing fewer than a dozen articles on the topic in its ten-year history.

"Radio's Debt to Vaudeville" by John E. DiMeglio. The author reviews the many radio stars who transitioned from vaudeville to radio.

"Black Pride and Protest: The Amos N' Andy Crusade" by Arnold Shankman. Reviews the early and significant black backlash to the radio serial, a topic covered in a number of books on *Amos 'n Andy*.

"Radio's Home Folks, Vic and Sade: A Study in Aural Artistry" by Fred E. H. Schroeder. An insightful look at the popular *Vic and Sade* program. Schroeder explores four themes:

1. Its context against the Depression and World War II
2. Its genre, which was not typical non-serial dramatic fare, yet was clearly not within the

daytime serial mold, many of which "operate in a milieu of upwardly-mobile wish-fulfillment figures for trapped and frustrated ordinary American listeners." Schroeder compares *Vic and Sade's* unique qualities to *One Man's Family*, though the latter was not a comedy.

3. Its technique is simple – all action is related through dialog in the home setting. He argues the show should be considered as falling in the folk-narrative tradition, with its low-keyed atmosphere and repetitive qualities of writing and dialog.

4. Its function is to entertain the average housewife. In Schroeder's opinion, Sade is clearly the main character and heroine, albeit in a very different vein than other serial soaps.

"The Home That Radio Built" by Jay K. Springman and Carol Pratt. Reviews radio's role in funding the construction and maintenance of the Motion Picture Country House, a retirement home for ailing veterans of the motion picture industry.

"Education Unit in World War II: An Interview with Erik Barnow" by David Culbert. In a discussion with Barnow, Culbert explores educational material produced for distribution through the AFRS.

"Government Propaganda in Commercial Radio – The Case of Treasury Star Parade, 1942 – 1943" by J. Fred MacDonald. An in-depth review of this program, indispensable for any *Treasury Star Parade* fan.

"Women Radio Pioneers" by Catharine Heinz. Identifies several female broadcasters from the early 1920s to 1930s.

"Daytime Radio Programming for the Homemaker 1926 – 1956" by Marleen Getz Rouse. This interesting piece reviews the many program types aimed at homemakers. Rouse identifies many sub-categories:

1. Shows That Did Everything – *Housekeeper's Chat* and *The Heinz Magazine of the Air*
2. Talk/Variety Shows – *Don McNeill's Breakfast Club* and *What's Doin' Ladies?*
3. One-on-one Heart-to-Heart Shows – *Mary Margaret McBride* and *Elsa Maxwell's Party Line*.
4. Raising the Children – *Parents Magazine of the Air* and *Two A.M. Feeding*.
5. Specific Skill Show – *Let's Make a Dress*.
6. The Cooking Shows – *Our Daily Food* and *Crisco Cooking Talks*.
7. Fix-It With Frills Show – *The Wife Saver* and *Household Hints*.
8. Women on Women Show – *Women in the Making of America* and *Gallant American Women*.
9. Husband and Wife Show – *Tex And Jinx* and

10. *Breakfast with Dorothy and Dick.*
 11. Domestic Problem Show – *The American Women's Jury.*
 12. The Soap Operas – *Ma Perkins* and *Stella Dallas.*
- “Critics From Within: Fred Allen Views Radio” by Alan R. Havig. This piece reviews Allen’s famous habit of critiquing the radio industry.

“Boake Carter, Radio Commentator” by Irving E. Fang. A short biographer of Boake Carter.

“The Bad Boy of Radio’: Henry Morgan and Censorship” by Arthur Frank Wertheim. Reviews Morgan’s famous run-ins with network censors.

“Radio Drama: No Need for Nostalgia in Kalamazoo” by Eli Segal. An overview of WMUK’s audio drama efforts in the mid-70s.

“Obtaining Old Radio Programs: A List of Sources For Research and Teaching” by Marvin R. Bensman. This is surely the source for the 1977 *Airwaves* piece by Joe Webb exploring the roots of the OTR hobby. It gives a short history of OTR collecting then identifies some university collections, libraries and museums with OTR collections, collector’s publications, clubs, and sellers.

Friends of Old Time Radio Convention

Holiday Inn North, Newark, NJ
 October 18-21, 2007
<http://www.fotr.net>

Note to Editors: Interviews with Stars Available on Request.

Contact: Sean Dougherty: (201) 739-2541 (cell – 24/7)
 SeanDD@optonline.net

Friends of Old Time Radio Counts Down to Blast-Off with Tribute to Science Fiction Classic *X-1*

Ernest Kinoy and George Lefferts To Reunite at 32rd Annual Convention; Bil Idelson to Make FOTR Debut

NEWARK, N.J., August 1, 2007 –The Friends of Old Time Radio, the world’s largest and longest-running old time radio fan convention, celebrate 32 years of reliving the Golden Age of Radio, gathering the performers and professionals at the Holiday Inn North, Newark Airport for a four-day convention to be held Thursday October 18 through Sunday, October 21, 2007.

Ernest Kinoy, a broadcast legend who wrote the Emmy-award winning script for the “Roots” television mini-series will reunite with his *X Minus One* co-author George Lefferts for the first time on any stage to discuss their work on the 1955-1958 radio series. Bob Hastings, the actor who appeared on more episodes of the series than any other will also appear in a live recreation on Lefferts’ script “Junkyard” on Saturday night. The episode also will feature Simon Jones, star of the BBC radio and television series “Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy.”

Lucie Arnez, the daughter of radio star Lucille Ball (*My Favorite Husband*) will appear to talk about her mother’s radio and television careers.

More than 40 special guests sure to bring back memories of radio and early television in anyone who attends, along more than 20 memorabilia dealers, authors, historians and approximately 700 fans.

Another extra-special performance will feature Bill Idelson, who played Rush Gook on *Vic ‘N Sade*, explaining how his character was introduced on the radio soap opera – in his first Friends of Old Time Radio Convention appearance.

Other special guests confirmed to attend are Gil Stratton Jr. and Gloria McMillan of *My Little Margie*, Shirley Eggelston of *Crime Letter with Dan Dodge*, Cliff

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Carpenter, Arthur Anderson, Don Buka, and Rosemary Rice of *Let's Pretend*, Jean Rouverol of *One Man's Family* (and a prominent victim of the red scare blacklist in the 1950s), tv stars Chuck McCann, Jeff David and Will Hutchins and Elaine Hyman of *The Lone Ranger*.

Other shows to be re-created include teen sitcoms *My Friend Irma* and *A Date with Judy*, horror classic *Lights Out!*, science fiction pioneer *2000+* and the *Screen Director's Playhouse* version of movie classic "Stagecoach."

Eddie Carrol, the nation's foremost Jack Benny impersonator and star of the one-man show "Laughter in Bloom," will appear as well.

A panel of singers will highlight Saturday afternoon, with invited stars including Kay Armen; Sue Thompson; Mitch Murray; Marilyn Michaels; Carleton Carpenter; Ron Dante and Buck Biggers

The daytime programs feature panels and live performances from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for \$25 at the door (\$20.00 in advance), and separate evening programs of live performances and special guests, plus a buffet supper, ranges in cost from \$45 to \$63. A Sunday breakfast buffet and panel discussion with the stars is \$20.00. Special package rates are available.

Throughout the convention dealer rooms are open to sell audiotapes, CDs and MP3 disks of radio programs and other memorabilia -- a place to start or expand a collection of the classic radio shows.

For complete schedule, prices and directions, please point your web browser to: <http://www.fotr.net>. The Friends of Old Time Radio is a non-profit organization that hosts this convention annually. To register in advance for FOTR 2007, please contact Jay Hickerson at 27436 Desert Rose Ct., Leesburg, FL 34748, (352) 728-6731 or e-mail: JayHick@aol.com.



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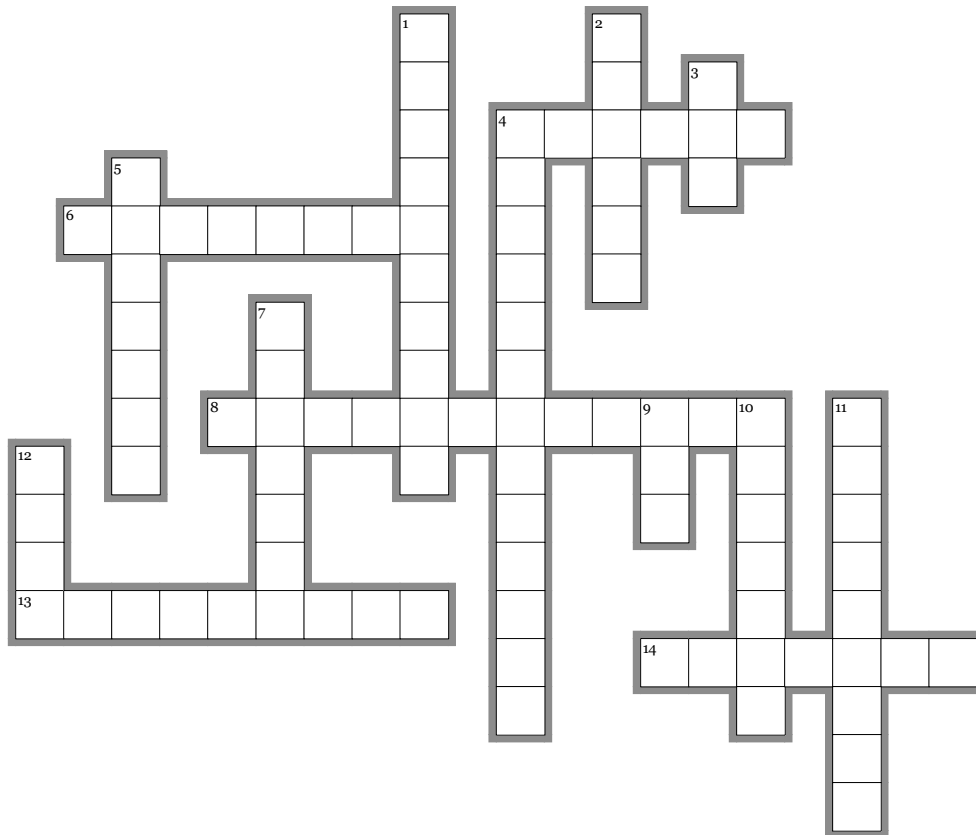


Old Time Radio is alive and well in the pages of **The OLD TIME RADIO DIGEST**. Our recipe is to have a nice mix of current articles by collectors with material from old radio publications of the past. We are in our 20th year. Oldest OTR publication without a club association.



The Falcon

by
Fred Bertelsen



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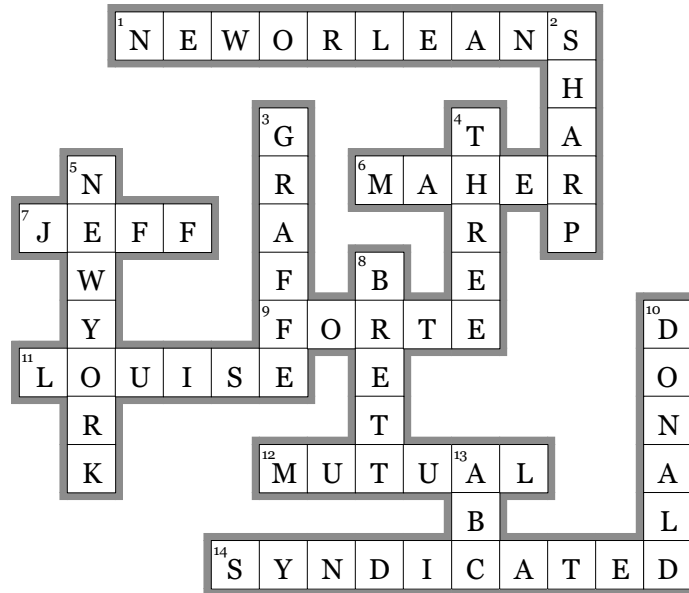
Across

4. In the second run of the series, 1945-50, the series was carried by the _____ Network.
6. Bernard L Schubert was the radio series _____.
8. The Falcon was created by _____ (2 wds) in 1940.
13. During the Les Damon run, The Falcon Worked overseas solving crimes of _____.
14. Ed _____ and Jack Costello were the announcers for the series.

Down

1. There was also an _____ series using local cast members.
2. Four _____ played the Falcon.
3. As originally written, The Falcon, was played by George Sanders and was known as ____ Lawrence.
4. For the radio series, The Falcon's real name was _____ (2 wds)
5. Berry _____ was the first to play The Falcon.
7. Another radio actor who played The Falcon was James _____.
9. ____'s Tremayne and Damon also played The Falcon.
10. This series originated from _____ (2 wds)
11. The Falcon was a notorious _____.
12. The Falcon debueted on the _____ Network on April 10, 1943.

Last Month's Answers Michael Shane



Wistful Vistas Ryan Ellett

Thanks for checking out our July effort. It's a bit smaller than you might be used to seeing, but there are many things going on at my end that have limited the time I could devote to this month's Times. Hopefully that will change in the near future.

We're pleased to present another piece by OTR premium guru Stephen Kallis. He is the go-to guy for information on this offshoot of the OTR hobby.

Jim Beshires has been faithfully slaving away at some obscure "hillbilly" series, a favorite niche of his. He presents some of his findings on the Delmore Brothers this month. Luckily he's taken a hankering to these old country and western series because there are few, if any, other OTR fans willing to spend much time with them.

Along that line, check out Debbie Delmore's reminiscences of her father, one half of the Delmore Brothers team discussed by Jim.

I hope to bring you a closer look at the group's scanning efforts in the next month or two, but, in brief, we're putting together the most exhaustive collection of

OTR fanzines known to be available to the public. Our most recent coup was obtaining permission from Bob Burchett and Chuck Schaden to digitize and make public the entire runs of their decades-old magazines, The Old Time Radio Digest and Nostalgia News respectively.

As any of you who have attempted to track down these old publications knows, there is a treasure trove of valuable information contained in their yellowed pages but very little opportunity to access it because the remaining magazines are far and few between.

In addition to the 511 r2rs that Kevin Shields recently donated to us, we have received a donation of several more hundred r2rs and 500 cassettes from Robert W Newman of the Radio Listeners Lyceum from Forest Park, OH. Robert has several thousand cassettes that are going to be donated to the club as well. Robert was brought to Jim B's attention by Jim Widner at the Cincy Con held in April. Many thanks to these great guys!

Stay cool during these summer months; get out to the pool and enjoy kicking back with your favorite OTR and drink of your choice.

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Adventure is Your Heritage 5x-xx-xx The Invisible Century.mp3

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Baptist Hour 41-02-09.mp3

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Between the Bookends 45-06-14 Writing of "The Star Spangled Banner".mp3

Between the Bookends 45-09-20 Letters from Servicemen.mp3

Big Show 50-12-17 Guest - Bob Hope.mp3

Board of Missing Heirs 46-03-31 Estate of John B Fontaine.mp3

Breakfast Club 53-06-22 Guest - Dennis James.mp3

Breakfast Club 41-12-08 Britian Declares War On Japan.mp3

Breakfast Club 43-xx-xx Don arrives Late To Show.mp3

Breakfast Club 45-06-21 Guest Curley Bradley.mp3

Breakfast Club 45-06-22 Louisiana Lark.mp3

Breakfast Club 45-06-23 Whitfield Day.mp3

Breakfast Club 53-06-22 20th Anniversary.mp3

Breakfast Club 56-xx-xx Dick Has Strep Throat.mp3

Breakfast Club 58-04-28 Guest – Bob Hope (no op).mp3

Breakfast Club 58-xx-xx Don McNeil is on Vacation.mp3

Breakfast Club 58-xx-xx Guest - Emmett Kelly.mp3

Breakfast Club 5x-xx-xx 5000 Reporters in Town.mp3

Breakfast Club 5x-xx-xx First Song - Dream Your Troubles Away.mp3

Breakfast Club 5x-xx-xx First Song - Live Til I Die.mp3

Breakfast Club 5x-xx-xx Guests From Northbrook.mp3

Breakfast Club 5x-xx-xx Gulf Coast.mp3

Breakfast Club 5x-xx-xx Methodist Youth Fellowship Group.mp3

Breakfast Club 5x-xx-xx Temperature is Falling.mp3

Breakfast Club 60-09-06 Christmas Show.mp3

Breakfast Club 61-xx-xx Secretary Week.mp3

Breakfast Club 65-06-17 Porter Michigan High School Girls.mp3

Breakfast Club 68-11-28 Thanksgiving Show.mp3

Breakfast Club 68-12-27 Final Show.mp3

Breakfast Club 6x-xx-xx High School Senior Classes.mp3

Breakfast Club xx-xx-xx Christmas Show.mp3

Breakfast Club xx-xx-xx College Park, Ga Skit.mp3

Britain Speaks 42-06-11.mp3

Broadway Talks Back 46-12-09 Guest - Moss Hart.mp3

CBS Open House 44-06-19 Guest - Howard Culver.mp3

Candid Microphone 47-xx-xx Guest – Bella Lugosi.mp3

Captains of Industry 38-xx-xx Andrew Carnegie.mp3

Captains of Industry 38-xx-xx George Westinghouse.mp3

Catholic Hour 41-12-07.mp3

Christopher Program 5x-xx-xx.mp3

Committee On Constructive Government 3x-xx-xx Guest - Charles Coburn (no op or cl).mp3

Committee On Constructive Government 3x-xx-xx Guest - Wilfer L King (no op or cl).mp3

Conversation 56-03-22 Talking with Fred Allen.mp3

Cowboy Church Of The Air 53-05-03 First Song - I'm Gonna Walk and Talk.mp3

Crime & Death Take No Holidays xx-xx-xx Ralph Gramm Robs Bank.mp3

Crisco Radio Newspaper 44-02-29 Sgt Louis Newbalm.mp3

Crisco Radio Newspaper 44-06-07 D-Day War News.mp3

Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (35) First Song - Glory's Coming.mp3

Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (36) First Song - The Old Country Church.mp3

Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (37) First Song - I'll Be

Somewhere Listening(record skips).mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (39) First Song - Campin' In Cannans Land.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (40) First Song - I'd Like to go Back.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (41) First Song - That Wonderful Day.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (42) First Song - Just Over in the Glory Land(record skips).mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (43) First Song - Work For The Night Is Coming (record skips).mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (44) First Song - Oh How I Love Jesus.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (45) First Song - Remember Me (skips).mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (46) First Song - In The Sweet Bye and Bye (skips).mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (47) First Song - Gathering Flowers for the Master's Boquet.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (48) First Song - I'll Meet You By The River.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (49) First Song - Glory is Coming.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (50) First Song - That Old Time Preacher Man.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (51) First Song - To That Other Place.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (52) First Song - If We Never Meet Again.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (54) First Song - A Beautiful Life (very noisy).mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (55) First Song - When God Dips His Pen.mp3
 Delmore Brothers xx-xx-xx (60) First Song - Take My Hand.mp3
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 Don't You Believe It 46-10-05 Length of the Fingers.mp3
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 Dr Christian 43-10-14 (203) Black Magic.mp3
 Dr Christian 43-10-21 (204) Miss Lizzie's Burglar.mp3
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 Dr Christian 44-10-25 (309) Fame Before Folly (distortion).mp3
 Dr Christian 45-06-20 (343) The Lady & The Wolf.mp3
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 Dr Christian 46-01-30 (375) Miss Minnie.mp3
 Dr Christian 46-03-06 (380) One for the Money.mp3
 Dr Christian 46-03-13 (377) The Hooper.mp3
 Dr Christian 46-03-13 (381) Two Notes.mp3
 Drew Pearson 36-07-21.mp3
 Face to the Future 60-xx-xx.mp3
 Farm & Garden Program 4x-xx-xx.mp3
 Five Star Final 36-03-30 First Topic - Typewriters.mp3
 George & Mary Case 51-08 xx (not complete).mp3
 Grantland Rice Sports Stories 43-12-11 The Lady was a Flop.mp3
 Grantland Rice Sports Stories 43-12-18 This Football.mp3
 Greatest Moments in Sports 58-xx-xx Guest – Gordie Howe.mp3
 Greatest Moments in Sports 58-xx-xx Guest – Herb Score.mp3
 Hollywood Roundup xx-xx-xx Guest – Kirk Bennett.mp3
 Hollywood Roundup xx-xx-xx Guest – Tim Holt.mp3
 Howard Miller Show 55-xx-xx Guest - Liberace.mp3
 John B Gambling Tribute 55-03-08 (muddled).mp3
 Jon Cameron Swayze 4x-xx-xx.mp3
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 Kate Smith Show 58-10-13 Catching a Fish With A Car.mp3
 Kate Smith Show 58-10-14 Handicapped.mp3
 Kate Smith Show 58-10-15 Small Towns.mp3
 Kitchen Club 48-10-01 Subject - Letters.mp3
 Lives of our Great Artists 40-12-31 - Eddie Cantor.mp3
 Living 1949 49-xx-xx Guest – Fred Allen.mp3
 Lone Ranger 39-03-17 (958) Lobo Lawson's Greed.mp3

Lone Ranger 39-03-20 (959) Mustang Mag Disposed - Part 1.mp3
 Lone Ranger 39-03-22 (960) Mag's Cattle Drive.mp3
 Lone Ranger 39-03-24 (961) Mag Buys Sheep.mp3
 Lone Ranger 39-05-17 (984) Fisheye Confesses.mp3
 Long Ranger 39-05-19 (985) Women for Red Fox.mp3
 Lone Ranger 39-05-26 (988) Mustang Mag & the Nesters.mp3
 Lone Ranger 39-05-29 (989) Black Hole.mp3
 Lone Ranger 39-06-09 (994) End of a Feud.mp3
 Lone Ranger 39-06-12 (995) Amos Todd's Ring.mp3

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 Magic Key 36-01-26 Chinese New Year.mp3

 Martin Agronsky News 47-07-31.mp3

 Maxwell House Good News 40-02-22.mp3

 Monitor 66-08-xx.mp3

 Open House 45-01-28 Nylon Stockings.mp3
 Open House 45-09-26.mp3

 Over Our Coffee Cups 41-12-07 Guest - Cpl James Cannon.mp3

 Passing Parade 49-xx-xx Jekyll & Hyde.mp3
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 Paula Stones Hollywood Digest 44-02-22 Guest - Jimmy Star.mp3

 Quiz Of Two Cities 44-11-05 Chicago VS New York.mp3

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 Stagedoor Canteen 42-12-03.mp3

 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (06).mp3
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 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (09).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (11).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (12).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (13).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (14).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (18).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (19).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (20).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (21).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (22).mp3
 Standard School Broadcast xx-xx-xx (23).mp3

 Stories from the American Scene 48-12-13.mp3

 Supper Club 61-02-06 Guest - George Bloom.mp3

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 This Is Your Life 50-03-xx Guest – Edgar Bergen.mp3

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 Wilkins Amateur Hour 50-12-31 (514).mp3

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