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**100 Years of Children's Radio:
Its Beginnings as "Radio-Phone"
Bedtime Stories**

James R. Stewart Jr.

"Dear Man In the Moon
How Happy I'd Be
If you would name

A Star For Me

I'm quite tiny

But I am four

I go to school

And what is more

I love your stories

I hear at night

Now what do you

Suppose? Last night

A dear little star

Wasn't twinkling bright

And I knew right away

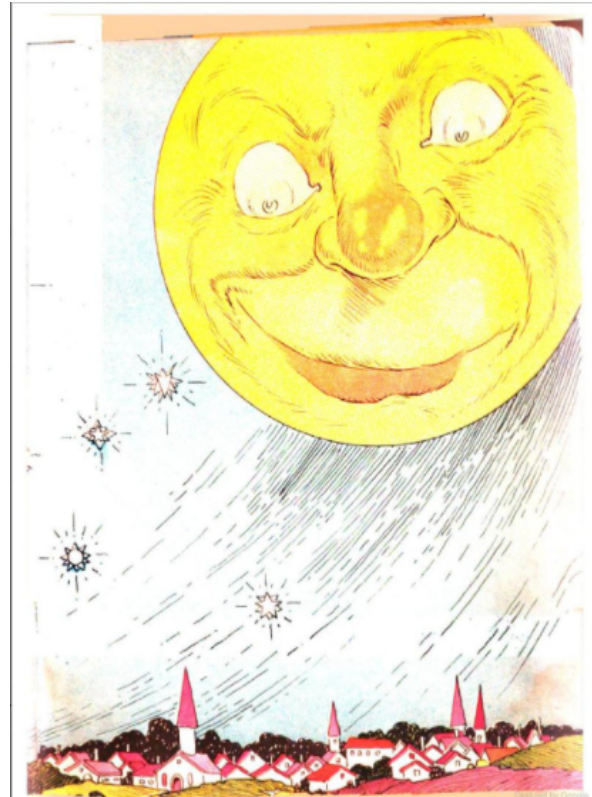
In my heart it might be a

Little bit lonesome,

Won't you call it Dorethea"

- Dorothy Watson, *Newark Sunday
Call*. February 12, 1922.

[*Italic emphasis added by article
author*]



Inner cover page of "Man In The Moon
Stories Told Over The Radio-Phone," 1922.

A long, long, time ago, before
Nickelodeon, *Scooby-Doo*, or even *Howdy
Doody*, children listened to the radio. From
the Golden Age of Radio, many people still
know the names of *The Lone Ranger*, *Little
Orphan Annie* and *Let's Pretend*. Even
before those series premiered, all broadcast
(and streaming) programs geared for
children had their roots in one whimsical
program that debuted 100 years ago, *The
Man In The Moon*.

The Man in the Moon was a fantasy bedtime storytelling program that was first broadcast from WJZ in Newark, New Jersey in October 1921. The exact premiere date is lost to time, but it was likely between October 1 and October 4, 1921. While there were experimental “juvenile talks” in 1920, and stories over the “telephone herald” services a decade earlier, WJZ's bedtime series was the first recurring feature in all radio broadcasting specifically for children. The impact of *The Man In The Moon* and the first children’s programs is worth a second look after a century.

Little Dorothy Watson of Kearny, New Jersey was one of thousands of children who were spellbound by the newest ritual of bedtime; listening to a story over the radio every Tuesday and Friday evening. Mr. Man In The Moon, as the host was sometimes referred to, would greet his

young audience with a line like “Hello children, are you listening? It is the Man-in-the-Moon talking. What do you suppose I saw today?”

He would tell whimsical folk and fairy tales, with music in between, reportedly with a moral lesson. A novelty feature of the program was a child having a star named for them. Children like Dorothy wrote letters to station WJZ hoping that The Man In The Moon would call their name next. Parents would also request stars for their children for good behavior. Reportedly over 1,800 letters a week were coming to the radio station in less than a year. For the first time in the history of childhood, someone may have received more letters from children than Santa Claus, at least in the American northeast.

The Man In the Moon was voiced by Newark *Sunday Call* & Newark *Morning Call* editor and reporter William F. B. McNeary (1891-1934). Under



McNeary's direction, the *Call* was the first American newspaper to include radio features. McNeary was reportedly one of the first announcers to cover sports on the radio. The person most credited with writing the children's radio stories was Josephine Lawrence (1889-1978), children's editor for the *Sunday Call* since 1915 and a budding children's book writer.

There are two accounts on how *The Man In The Moon* originated. The first and most famous story was recalled by WJZ announcer Tommy Cowan (1884 - 1969). In accounts and interviews published in 1930 and 1954, Lawrence was supposed to read the stories that she had written for the *Sunday Call* over the air. Unfortunately she struggled greatly with the 15 foot ladder that ascended to the radio station. The ladder went through a hole in a factory roof, the only way to access the rooftop shack studio. McNeary was asked to fill in for Lawrence. Since the children were expecting a woman and not a man, and McNeary wanted to remain anonymous, Cowan looked up in the night sky and named McNeary "The Man in the Moon".



Press portrait of Willam F. B. McNeary "The Man In the Moon." *Battle Creek Enquirer*, June 15, 1924.

The second account from a 1922 edition of *Popular Radio* claims that McNeary learned folk and fairy tales while being stationed in Russia and Poland in the secret service. Therefore, McNeary began telling the stories he had learned during the Great War on the air. When new stories were needed, Josephine Lawrence was hired to write additional stories. This account was republished widely in newspapers.

There may be truth in both accounts, and it is unfortunate that no personal papers of McNeary, nor any from Lawrence before 1928 are known to exist. What is undeniable is the popularity of having a radio bedtime story. The first broadcast was so successful that it became a regular feature of WJZ. By the end of 1921, the stories were being read twice a week.

McNeary, according to accounts of the time, proved to be a "sympathetic" voice for children. Lawrence continued to write *The Man in the Moon* stories while McNeary read them. The pair continued on station WOR beginning in 1923 and the series lasted until 1925. A full page in the *Sunday Call* was dedicated to "Man In The Moon" letters and stories. Children loved *The Man In the Moon*, as evidenced by reading several of their letters published in the *Sunday Call* and reprinted in *Popular Radio* magazine.

While no recordings of the program are known to exist, vestiges of what the broadcasts were like can be found in the 1922 book *Man In the Moon Stories Told Over the Radio-Phone* written by Lawrence. This book is now in the public domain and can be found in Google Books (the author still wants an original). Google has also digitized several of the *Newark Sunday Call* papers which featured a full page section for their groundbreaking radio program. The 1922 book could be considered the first licensed merchandise from any kids broadcast program. Based on its contents, Lawrence and McNeary were able to captivate children in a whimsical world with characters like Baby Twinkle Star, and even sequel stories to Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk.

MAN ⁱⁿ ^{the} MOON STORIES

Told Over The

RADIO-PHONE

By

JOSEPHINE LAWRENCE

First Stories For Children Broadcasted By Radio

Illustrated By

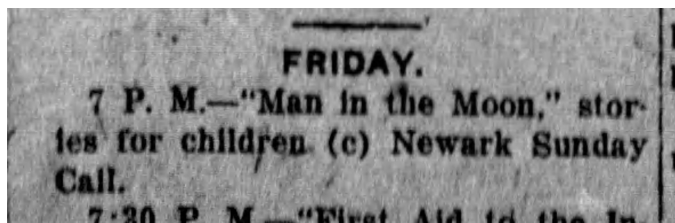
JOHNNY GRUELLE

Author of "RAGGEDY ANN" and "RAGGEDY 'ANDY'"



Title page of "Man in the Moon Stories Told Over The Radio-Phone"

The WJZ series wasn't just innovative in children's media. *The Man in the Moon* could have been the first program to have an imaginary host/storyteller. Far from being a simple "uncle," he was a character radio suggested came from beyond the stratosphere. This is amazing as 1921 was a full decade before Street & Smith's "The Shadow" first cackled over the airwaves. As the Golden Age of Radio progressed, the storyteller could be the child friendly *Singing Story Lady* Irene Wicker or a mystery character like "The Man In Black" of *Suspense* or *The Mysterious Traveler*.



The Daily Record, February 18, 1922.

The Man in the Moon was one of the earliest examples of a program for children to generate participation, as they hoped that a star would be named after them, or that they would be remembered on their birthday. Having a star turned a child into one of his "Star Children" an early transparent version of the many membership clubs to come. In early newspaper radio logs and listings, the program was copyrighted to Lawrence, McNeary and the *Newark Sunday Call*, possibly as the first radio program to have a copyright.

Out of the air come daily news bulletins, lectures, sermons, vocal and instrumental concerts, operas, market reports, government time signals, shipping news, weather forecasts, fashion tips, agricultural reports, church services and children's bed-time stories.

Middleton Transcript (Delaware) August 19, 1922.

In 1922, a widely circulated press article divided radio programs into 13 genres: news bulletins, lectures, sermons, vocal and instrumental concerts, operas, market reports, government time signals, shipping news, weather forecasts, fashion tips, agricultural reports, church services, and children's bedtime stories. Only "operas" and "children's bedtime stories" are a form of narrative or fictional storytelling. From this perspective, children who heard those bedtime stories were among the first audiences to experience radio as the "theater of the imagination".

Within a year of its debut *The Man in the Moon* was rivaled by a growing line-up of radio "bedtime stories." The historic KDKA station in Pittsburgh, PA, began readings of Thornton Burgess' Uncle Wiggily stories in November 1921. WJZ Newark followed the success of the *Man in the Moon* with David Cory's *Jack Rabbit Stories*, and *Animal Bedtime Stories* in 1922. Ethel Rose Taylor, a school teacher over KLX, the station for the *Oakland (CA) Tribune* (later KKSF), may have been the first children's radio storyteller on the West Coast. The pioneering Eunice Randall was the "Lady of the Lamp" for WGI in 1922. Also conveying a fantasy host were the "Dreamtime Lady," "Daddy Winkum," and the "Radio Godmother". The earliest religious

series for children may have been the *Children's Bible Stories* ready by the Rev. W. A. Logan over station KDKA in 1922.

In radio histories, the most famous storyteller of radio's early days was Georgene Faulkner, *The Story Lady* for WMAQ Chicago beginning in 1922. Faulkner was also the first person to do children's record albums as early as 1913, and is also credited as the first woman children's storyteller on radio. Val McLaughlin was reportedly the first children's storyteller west of the Mississippi. Known as "Radio's Original Sandman", she appeared on *The Sandman's Visit* on WOC (Davenport, IA), and later as the *Lullaby Lady* on WLS in Chicago. McLaughlin did a series of kiddie albums for Brunswick Records in 1924. From those records McLaughlin and Faulkner may be the only children's personalities of the 1920s who can be heard today.

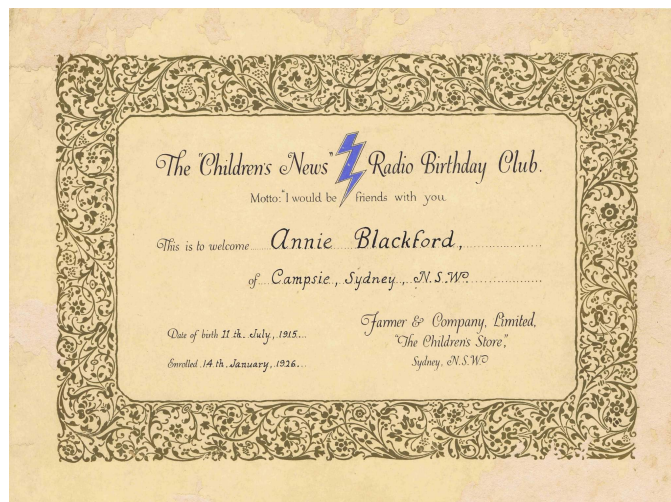


Val McLaughlin in *Radio Digest*, January 24, 1925.

Nations around the world had their notable pioneers in children's radio. The long running BBC *Children's Hour* first aired in 1922 while Australian children grew up with *The Australian Kids Radio Clubs* around 1926.

By 1923 radio was slowly being proliferated by "uncles" and "aunties" like Aunt Peggy, Aunt Betty, Uncle Don, Uncle John at KHJ and several others. One of the first examples of programs geared toward kids with sponsorship was "Uncle WIP" a kids' host from the Philadelphia radio station owned by Gimbel's Department Store. The Uncle WIP series was so popular that the toy department at Gimbel's became "Uncle WIP's Toyland." A children's series sponsored by a store was a foreshadowing of the commercially sponsored children's radio programs

that OTR fans are more familiar with today. The path from *The Man In The Moon* to adventurous, cliffhanging, product selling programs like *Little Orphan Annie* which premiered in 1930, includes scores of forgotten programs ready to be unearthed 100 years later.



Certificate for The Children's News Radio Birthday Club of Australia. Courtesy of Ian Grieve.

Any child of yesteryear who could recall radio's infancy would be a centenarian today and exceptionally rare. The author would like to know the whereabouts of any scripts by Josephine Lawrence, children's letters addressed to the "Man In the Moon," and the personal collections Mr. William F. B. McNeary.

James R. Stewart Jr. is an archivist, blogger, researcher and a co-moderator of the Old-Time Radio Researchers (OTRR) Facebook Group with a background in digital collections and a lifelong love of radio history. James has conducted research on regional agricultural broadcasting as the archives librarian at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC. In his spare time James is constantly researching the history of children's media in the early 20th century and Bible-based storytelling media. James periodically publishes histories in his blogs, [Family Bible Storytelling Media](#) and [Children's Media Archive](#).

Contact: archivebuilder@gmail.com

The Shadowed Circle: The Premiere Issue

Steve Donoso has created a new non-fiction, quality fanzine with articles, profiles and interviews about the pulp-radio-comic book character known as *The Shadow*. His first issue arrived in my mailbox and I tore into every article written by fans, collectors, and historians.

The articles vary from collectibles to the film shorts from the 1930s, zombies as portrayed on the radio program, to *The Shadow* novels of Bruce Elliott. James Patterson, who is credited as author for the latest novel to be published, was interviewed exclusively for this periodical.

Steve Donoso made his publication known through a crowdfunding source known as Kickstarter and fans of *The Shadow* quickly jumped in to subscribe to the fanzine, which totals 50 pages and has a gorgeous color cover. What makes this unique is that fanzines for decades were sheets of paper stapled in the corner or along the side. Thanks to print-on-demand, these are professionally printed like a paperback.

For subscription info contact Steve at theshadowedcircle@yahoo.com



What is the "Joe Hehn Memorial Collection"?

Dr. Joe Webb

This is an edited version of what was posted on the Old Time Radio Researchers Facebook page on October 17, 202

Today [October 17] is the anniversary Joe Hehn's passing on this date last year. He was 88. The Old Time Radio Researchers has participated in the transfer of his collection and its posting on archive.org for everyone to enjoy.

The collection (to date) is at <https://archive.org/details/joe-hehn> and all of the audio files are available in FLAC or mp3. Our group of 25 collectors has transferred discs and reels, researched and organized the material, and funded the transportation and storage of the original recordings. We have made an effort to post only those recordings that are "new" or fell out of circulation, ore are equal to, better than, or more complete than currently circulating recordings.

Many of the reel-to-reel tapes had dried out and we all had our "home cures" for getting one last good recording out of them. Our members who dubbed the transcription discs are among the best our hobby has to offer. All of it has had the benefit of today's incredible computer audio processing tools. What those early collectors considered excellent sound often had severe disc rumble, tape hiss, improper speed, etc., but they cherished the recordings because they saved each of them from certain oblivion.

There's more to come over this next year in terms of audio. Most of Joe's recordings were already in circulation among collectors for a long time, but we were able to find some very nice sound upgrades, and in some cases, significant sound upgrades to what has been around. The disc recordings are still being worked on - they're all recorded but many are still awaiting proper sound processing.

Some discs were very fragile and, unfortunately, just didn't make the trip in the mail - we knew that would happen to some of them - but nothing of great significance was lost.

There were some things that Joe had that were not in wide circulation, such as some episodes of *MGM Theater of the Air*, the soap opera *Road of Life*, the



Joe Hehn from the May 16, 2011 *Upper Saucon Patch*.

kids' serial *Land of the Lost* and some incidental recordings of more popular programs. There were "new" recordings of the soap opera *Ethel & Albert*. The show was written by Peg Lynch, who was incredibly prolific in writing the series that also went to TV. Her granddaughter was extremely pleased to have copies of the programs that had not been heard since they were first broadcast in the early 1940s. [A special "thank you" to collector Gary Smith who helped coordinate that].

All of the correspondence, photos, scripts were scanned. The correspondence and the notes were often heartbreaking for me. Most had damage from moisture which blurred many of the signatures and such.

Hehn was planning a history of the juvenile serials, which if published, would have been a monumental early work for the hobby but also for radio history in general. It was not to be. He wrote letters, made phone calls, pounded the streets of New York City after hours of train rides and car drives from northeast Pennsylvania, got people to vouch for his honesty and passion, had a commitment from Scholastic publishers, and then . . . nothing.

Joe kept all of his carbon copies of letters he sent to prominent radio people, ad agencies, stations, and such. Much of the correspondence was follow-up for their non-response. I kept picturing him coming home from work and opening up the envelopes to just see yet another turndown from someone. It got to me a bit and there were times I could not look at the box of letters for weeks, but I did narrow things



Joe Hehn from the 1990-10-18 *Allentown PA Morning Call*.

down to the most important ones. There were a couple of bright spots. He got an incredibly nice letter from the woman who wrote the serial he enjoyed so much, *Chandu the Magician*, with lots of details about the production.

He also had a multi-month correspondence with writer/director/producer Jack Johnstone. The day when *Suspense* and *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar* went off the air, September 30, 1962, has long been known among some collectors as "the day radio died." Johnstone wrote both scripts, including a usual *Johnny Dollar* episode as he had been director and producer when it was in Hollywood. Then Jack walked away and retired after 30+ years doing some prominent radio work.

It dawned on me that Jack wrote to Joe because he retired and was away from it, and had the free time to do so. By this time Johnstone had developed some distance and perspective that endeared him to the era as much as Joe was.

Most everyone Joe was writing to was still in the business in some way. They didn't have the time to savor what they did. It was still a job for them, just like it was when they did it decades before. The letter he got from Himan Brown, producer of the legendary *Inner Sanctum* and kids serials like *Dick Tracy*, stated his opinion succinctly:

Frankly, what anyone would want with a history of the shows you are trying to gather together is beyond me.

Brown wished him luck at the end of the letter. What an awful way to get Hi Brown's autograph.

As I met – or at least knew about - many of the people whom he wrote to in the mid-60s, at radio conventions in the 1970s and 1980s, it was only at that time that they had developed an appreciation of radio drama's Golden Age. It was as their friends were passing away that they finally wanted to talk to people and fans about it. Joe was too early, but he had a passion for the material that they could not sync with at that moment. It hurt me to see it all. It seems like the whole effort to his correspondence came to an end in 1967 or 1968.

Despite the disappointment, Joe continued to appear on radio talk shows and local television. His biggest legacy is the thousands of presentations he made to local clubs and religious organizations, and especially senior living facilities of all levels. As his age advanced, those twice-weekly visits to residents kept him going. The COVID lockdown in 2020 meant there could be no more visits. The imposed lack of social interaction was overwhelming. The isolation ended up affecting his day-to-day routines and his health started to spiral downward.



ADDING TO RADIO LIBRARY — Joe Hehn of 422 N. 9th St., Allentown, is shown above reviewing another shipment of tape recordings of old-time radio programs, including rare episodes of "Chandu . . . the Magician" and "I Love a Mystery." Hehn, an independent researcher in broadcasting, is one of the country's most successful collectors of old-time radio adventure serials.

Pictures from the July 6 and 13, 1969 *Allentown PA Morning Call*.

Luckily, fortuitous circumstances led to the securing of his reels and papers that – other than being moved from one storage space to another - had not been viewed for 20 or 30 years. They would have been thrown out. The generous cooperation of many people came about at the right time. There are details to the story that even they are not aware of that will stay private, for now.

One of the things I like to preserve from the era of Joe's collecting are the catalogs that hobbyists made of their collections. All of them thought that they were in a race against time because everything was literally being thrown out at the stations and ad agencies. They prepared their catalogs with great care and with detailed descriptions of almost every single recording. They are great resources for the history of our hobby.

Keith Scott, a collector friend of mine in Australia, and key figure in the modern hobby, is a voice actor and impressionist who was brought to the states to work on the *Bullwinkle* movie around 2000. It was then that Scott met Skip Craig, the head of production for Jay Ward and all those *Rocky and Bullwinkle* cartoons that had some of radio's greatest voices (especially William Conrad!). Craig himself was a famous old radio collector at the time (John Dunning dedicated *Tune in Yesterday* to Skip).

So all these years later, Skip Craig's catalog was found in Joe's papers; Keith was thrilled to get it as he had never seen it before (shhhh! don't tell anyone that Craig had his collection on punch cards and ran his catalog on Jay Ward's mainframe and line printer - it's just between us!)

In the end, Joe's collection turned out to be rather small in comparison to the collections that we can have today, and even smaller once the items that were already circulating in better sound were cast aside. But that small collection has been so rewarding to work on for what was there, untouched and re-discoverable; these pioneer collectors still affect our hobby today. Series like *Road of Life*, *MGM Theater of the Air*, *Big Story*, *Whistler*, have all had new "lost" recordings brought to our hobby in this process, and there are still more to come with lots of upgrades of numerous series, and lots of broadcasting curiosities.

Joe, and his family and caretaker made it clear that they wanted his collection to be available to everyone. We came to an understanding that it would

be best done that way through the Internet Archive (archive.org) and that there would be a "Joe Hehn Collection" there. I arranged it all through email with them. Joe passed away a week later. It became the "Joe Hehn Memorial Collection" and it is there, and being added to, and will outlive all of us as electrons. This is all far beyond what Joe could have imagined.

I only spoke to Joe Hehn twice in my life. Once as a college kid starting in the hobby, probably around 1977. And then a few days before he died over FaceTime. It wasn't the best of conversations because of his health but he was happy that he was remembered by one of his fellow collectors after all those many years.

There are many collections of 1960s and 1970s collections that have been lost, but many are still to be saved. The digital revolution in our hobby in the 1990s and early 2000s was the encoding of reels and cassettes that were far removed from their early recordings and had built up generations of tape noise and hiss and speed variances that are best solved by getting as close to the original source recordings and transfers as possible. If you have never volunteered for getting involved in an OTR restoration effort such as this, it is worth considering.

I have been involved in this hobby in one way or another since high school, in the early 1970s. This hobby has never been as enjoyable and rewarding as it has been for me in these past few years. The effort needs more volunteers for all kinds of tasks, with no real experience necessary.

Take some time today to enjoy the Hehn collection, and to thank all those pioneer collectors from the mid-1960s and forward to today, whose sweat and time and skill created all of the recordings of that brief age of radio.

<https://archive.org/details/joe-hehn>

Purchasing Groups

The Old Time Radio Researchers Purchasing Group:
Contact Jim Wood at OTRPG@Bookfixer.com
Dues: 5\$ per month.

Ted Davenport Purchasing Group:
Contact Ted at tedotr52@gmail.com
Dues: 35\$ per month for 18 hours of both circulating and uncirculating material from transcription disc.

Doug Hopkinson Purchasing Group:
Contact Doug at auditorium117@gmail.com
Dues: \$30 for 7.5 hours.

Support the *Old Radio Times*

Since its debut in December 2005, the *Old Radio Times* has been offered free to the old-time radio community. It is the only free group publication in the hobby and it will remain so. However, as a way to help readers show their appreciation for the zine, we've created a Patreon page where you can pledge a regular donation to the upkeep of the zine and the work of the Old Time Radio Researchers in general.

Visit [the Times' Patreon page](#) to become a subscriber, paying \$1 (or \$2) to our dusty coffers each time a new issue is published. We are currently on a bi-monthly schedule so the total annual cost could be as little as \$6.

Visit Our Blog

Another little-known resource for the Old Time Radio Researchers is our blog, found [here](#). It was dormant after the death of Jim Beshires but in recent months we have reactivated it. Please subscribe to be automatically notified of new posts.

A Reminder

The Old Time Radio Researchers online library remains one of the most valuable sources of downloadable OTR programs available freely to the wider public. Many newer members appear unfamiliar with this resource. [Visit here!](#)

Wistful Vistas

From the Editor's Desk
Ryan Ellett

I super excited to welcome researcher James Stewart to the pages of the *Old Radio Times*. If you spend any time on our [Facebook group page](#) you'll recognize his name. James is regularly posting his discoveries related to early children's radio programming and I finally convinced him to write some of it up for publication here. I hope we'll be seeing a lot more from Mr. Stewart in the future!

The big news of the month is the one-year anniversary of Joe Hehn's death, marked by the completion of the Joe Hehn Memorial Collection online. We've covered this project in the past year since its undertaking, but our goal was to have it completed (except for some small cleaning-up tasks) by the one-year recognition of Mr. Hehn's death. Thanks to countless hours by fearless project leader Joe Webb, the goal was met!

As usual, the *Old Radio Times* is always looking for new content. Book reviews, reminiscences, and historical articles are eagerly accepted. No professional writing experience necessary!

Edited by Ryan Ellett

Title font by Joe Adams

OldRadioTimes@yahoo.com



Newark Sunday Call, February 12, 1922, a banner from part of the full page for WJZ's popular radio series.



Stay Tuned America Schedule

(All times are Central Standard Time)

Monday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/
Greg Bell (Classic Episodes)
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell
(Current Episodes)
19:00-20:00 - Make Believe Ballroom w/Jeff
Bressler (Repeat)
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/
Wyatt Cox

Tuesday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/
Greg Bell (Classic Episodes)
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell
(Current Episodes)
19:00-21:00 - Same Time, Same Station - w/ John
and Larry Gassman
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/
Wyatt Cox

Wednesday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/
Greg Bell (Classic Episodes)
17:00-18:00 - Anything Goes!! w/ Lise Avery
(Repeat)
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell
(Current Episodes)
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/
Wyatt Cox

Thursday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/
Greg Bell (Classic Episodes)
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell
(Current Episodes)
19:00-21:00 - The Sounds Of Sinatra w/ Sid Mark
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/
Wyatt Cox

Friday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!
12:00-13:00 - Anything Goes!! w/ Lise Avery (Repeat)
16:00-17:00 - When Radio Was! ENCORE! w/ Greg
Bell (Classic Episodes)
18:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell (Current
Episodes)
19:00-21:00 - The Great Music Club w/ Mike Shannon
21:00-23:59 - USA Classic Radio Theater w/ Wyatt
Cox

Saturday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!
07:00-12:00 - Swing Thing w/ Fred Hall
12:00-14:00 - Old Time Radio Classics w/ Jerry
Haendiges
14:00-15:00 - Make Believe Ballroom w/ Jeff Bressler
15:00-17:00 - Memories In Melody w/ Matt Taylor
17:00-19:00 - Seems Like Old Times w/ Craig
Orndorff
19:00-21:00 - American Standards By The Sea w/ Dick
Robinson
21:00-23:00 - The Sounds Of Sinatra w/ Sid Mark
23:00-23:59 - WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour

Sunday:

06:30-07:00 - Unshackled!
07:00-08:00 - The Roaring 20's
08:00-09:00 - Sound Ideas w/ Clay Ryder
09:00-10:00 - Jazz Rhythm w/ Dave Radlauer
10:00-11:00 - Juke In The Back w/ Matt The Cat
11:00-12:00 - Rhythm Sweet And Hot w/ Mike Plaskett
12:00-19:00 - When Radio Was! w/ Greg Bell (Current
& Weekend Episodes)
19:00-19:30 - Imagination Theatre
19:30-20:00 - Golden Days Of Radio w/ Frank Bresee
20:00-21:00 - Powder River (Colonial Radio Theatre)
21:00-22:00 - Anything Goes!! w/ Lise Avery
22:00-23:59 - Archives Theater w/ Wally Stall



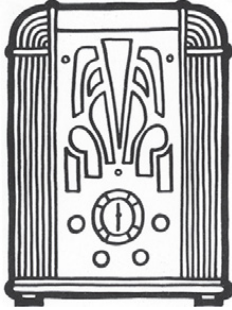
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 - *Founded and managed by Bob Burnham, Detroit based broadcast engineer, and host-producer of "Radio Vault" on WHFR.FM 89.3*
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Created in 1984, the Metro Washington Old-Time Radio Club is the second largest old-time radio club in the United States. Club members enjoy monthly club meetings, an annual luncheon, and a bi-monthly newsletter. You do not have to live in or near Washington, D.C., to become a member. The newsletter, RADIO RECALL, is mailed to members from all over the country and loaded with fascinating articles, news of what is happening in the hobby, recently-discovered “lost” programs and more. Why not join the hundreds who enjoy the newsletter, which can be sent via email in PDF format, or be mailed to you through the post office?



You can sign up to become a member on the club website.

www.mwotrc.com

Old-Time Radio Researchers Acquisitions: New Episodes and Upgraded Sound Encodes

Please note that our distributions are available to OTRR Purchasing Group members first, and then made available to the public after about six months.

Distro 136, 137

This distro consists of the best sounding .mp3s currently available of CBS Radio Mystery Theater. About half of the recordings come from Ken Long's site <http://cbsrmt.thelongtrek.com> and the other half are from reel to reel recordings made over the air by David Oxford's good friend John Edwards. They are from radio station WBBM in Chicago. He purchased the reels from John in 2008 and worked like the devil to digitize 479 recordings on his Pioneer RT-707 reel deck before giving up in frustration and exhaustion. He had to wait 12 years before he could face the task again. He now has a Pioneer RT-909 and a Teac A-4300SX to join the 707 in recording the reels.

David had been aware of Ken Long's CBSRMT site for some time and decided to download Ken's entire site and comb it for the best sounding file of each episode available. This quickly proved to be too big and daunting a task. He recruited Tony Adams of our group to help him compare the numerous files in December 2018. They soldiered on month after month going through the files. Once they had selected Ken's best files, they compared them to David's recordings and chose what they felt were the Best of Available recording - abbreviated {BoA} in the mp3s.

This choice could be a little fickle at times. David preferred a recording with commercials and news left intact. Sometimes the best sounding file was stripped of everything except the story. A very close second file may have all the commercials and news - but not quite as good as the first. What to do? David collaborated with Tony and sometimes chose the stripped version and sometimes the very close second depending on the quality difference in the recording's sound. So, a little fickle! David will elaborate on the contents and statistics of this and future distros in a future communication.

A special thanks to Dave Tysver for creating an excel spreadsheet with actors and writers for me to import into the artist field in these mp3s. He'll release this when he's finished tweaking a bit more and we'll include it with the other files in a near future distro. David will give thanks

to all the second listener's down the road when I make more formal acknowledgments.

David plans to distro all his recordings (1393 files) to the group as Flac in RAW & Cleaned files in future distros to follow this one. About 611 of these he considered as Best of Available. He'll distro Ken's BEST of Available files in flac format but there are only 191 of these - most are mp3s with no lossless parent. There were many flac files available. However, these weren't considered the best recordings, unfortunately. The radio call letters are given for each file: KIXI, KIRO, KQV, WUWM, WBBM. John Edwards files are WBBM JE. TC is Time Corrected, SS = Sound Soap (an audio editing program for removing hiss, noise), EQ is equalization.

All Files were time corrected using two notes in the closing theme music (if available and not abruptly cut off my a damed commercial!). This music is present at the beginning of each act but is often "Talked Over" and more difficult to measure. By experimenting with measuring all these notes in an episode, one finds some variation in playback of about 40 seconds if the slowest part of the tape is used over the fasted speed of the recording. Still, pretty good and your ears can't hear the difference over a 52 minute show.

