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ON

THE

AIR



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PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY by the GOLDEN RADIO BUFFS OF MARYLAND, INC.



"LEAPIN' LIZARDS!, SANDY.
.... AFTER BEIN' ON THE
RADIO, THEY PUT ME IN THE
NEWSPAPERS, THEN IT WAS A
BROADWAY SHOW. NOW LOOK
AT ME, I'M A
COVER GIRL!
MERRY CHRISTMAS.
EVERYBODY! ... RIGHT,
SANDY?"

COVER DESIGN: O.L. POMEROY

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• ON THE AIR •

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A PUBLICATION OF THE GOLDEN RADIO BUFFS OF MARYLAND, INC. FOUNDED 1972

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PLEASE NOTE: If a red star appears after your name on the address label, your membership has expired and this will be your last issue of On The Air until your dues are paid for the coming year. Due to the increased cost of mailing out renewal notices, this will be the only notice you will receive. So, "Look for a Star." and if one appears on your newsletter, please renew your membership now.

Gene Leitner

Treasurer/Membership Chairman

We wish to thank the following organizations, publications, OTR radio clubs, radio stations, and individuals for submitting articles for this edition of On The Air: The Movie Buffs of Md., Inc., The Sunpapers, The New-American (Oct. 30, 1931), Weekly Variety, Billboard, The Hearst Syndicate, Radio Guide (May 1934), Radio Mirror (April 1940), The Other Side of the Microphone, GRB members Joe Knight, Dave Sickles, Lee Rotter, W. J. Ryan, and Mr. Will Rogers of Claremore, Oklahoma (posthumously).

On The Air is the bimonthly publication of the Golden Radio Buffs of Md., Inc. All articles, graphics, and drawings, except where indicated, are (c) 1981 by the Golden Radio Buffs of Md., Inc. All other rights are hereby assigned back to the contributors. Comments, contributions, and inquiries should be sent to the Editor, On The Air, 3613 Chestnut Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21211. Membership renewals should be sent to Gene Leitner, 7506 Iroquois Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21219.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Pomeroy,

I am in my second year of membership in the GRB and have been enjoying the newsletter. I wish I could get over there for the social events but I have difficulties. I have enclosed the questionnaire. Also please find a check enclosed for the "general fund." Would like to insert an ad in the classified column of the next issue for a radio program I am anxious to find out about. It would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,
Dave Sickles

(Ed. Note: Look for it, Dave, on the back cover of this issue.)

Dear Mr. Pomeroy,

Please send me the Lux Radio Log. Does the club have all of them? It would be great if I could add to my Lux collection.

Sincerely,
Lee Rooter
Brookville, Md.

(Ed. Note: Lee's request brings the total number of Lux Logs mailed out so far to 40.)

Dear Owens,

Our local club is doing an incredible job! Keep up the good work.

Best regards,
Joe Knight, WCBM

Dear Owens,

We have a great club and a great newsletter! My only regret is that I cannot spend more time on club activities.

Take care,
Auggie Levero
WBFF-TV, Channel 45



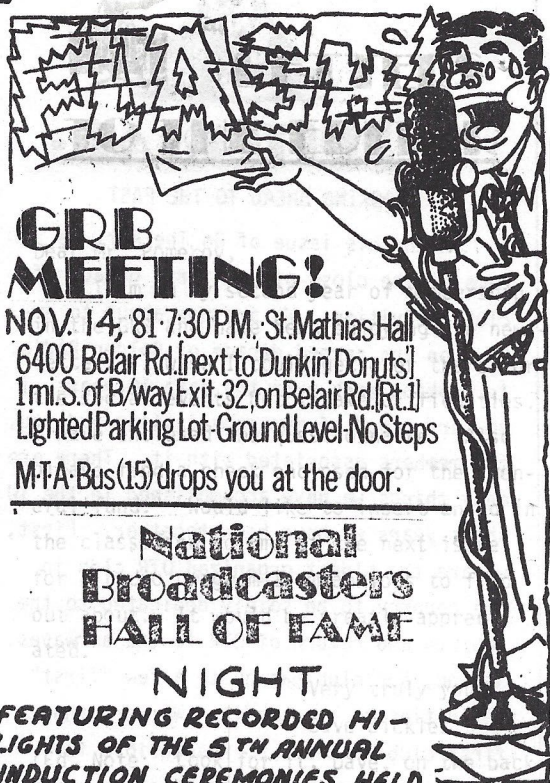
EDITORIAL

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE PAST

With this issue of On The Air, we come to the close of our first decade of club activities. We are now about to embark on the second decade of Golden Radio. In looking back over the past 10 years, I am very proud of our organization and you, the members associated with it. There are many things we have accomplished in the 10 short years we have been together. First, we are the oldest organized OTR club in the country to be solely dedicated to the rebirth and return of OTR to the airwaves. Second, our club has quite a few "first" activities to its credit. We were the first club in the U.S. responsible for bringing, in a small but effective way, OTR programming on a five-day-a-week basis in the Baltimore, Washington, and Virginia area. We were the first OTR club to welcome, as members, personalities from the network and local broadcasting industry, both past and present.

We are proud to say that we are the only club in the U.S. that has the chief executive of our city as one of its charter members. We are the first OTR club to establish a traveling "Radio Road Show" appearing throughout the state at hospitals, nursing homes, senior centers, and civic organizations. And last, but by no means least, some shows from our tape library will be heard in the forthcoming MGM film, "Diner."

And so, with these accomplishments behind us, and speaking for myself and Gene Leitner as founders, and for Fred Young, your president, let's look ahead to the past as we continue to preserve that Golden Era of Radio by remaining firm in our belief that there is a place today for good radio entertainment. We shall continue to pursue our goal that was established by your founders to gain the admiration and respect of the industry as we remember that wonderful era known so affectionately as...Radio's Golden Age.



GRB MEETING!

NOV. 14, 81 7:30 P.M. St. Mathias Hall
6400 Belair Rd. (next to Dunkin' Donuts)
1 mi. S. of B/way Exit 32, on Belair Rd. (Rt. 1)
Lighted Parking Lot - Ground Level - No Steps
M-F-A-Bus (15) drops you at the door.

National Broadcasters HALL OF FAME NIGHT

FEATURING RECORDED HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 5TH ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONIES, HELD ON OCT. 25TH 1981. AT FREEHOLD, N.J. YOUR HOST: GENE LEITNER.

— PLUS —
"THE WAR YEARS" ON RADIO
REFRESHMENTS: APPLE CIDER, PUMPKIN PIE, COFFEE & TEA.
YOU CAN BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE ALSO.

Important Notice

I wish to apologize for the many typographical errors in last month's issue of On The Air. Our typist and proofreader had to give up her job, and the burden of typing, as well as that of editing copy, graphics, rewrite, lettering (by hand), and artwork fell on the shoulders of "ye old editor." When you have to type as well as do all these other chores that go in to make up this newsletter, and when you're typing at 3:00 A.M. in order to meet our deadline, sometimes things do not come out the way you would want them to.

Fellow member Spence Coleman, who is a technical writer by profession, has kindly consented to edit and type copy for our newsletter. For this your editor thanks him. However, we could use more than one typist. Any volunteers?

I hope this clears up any questions you may have had as to why there were so many errors in the last issue. Again I say "thank you" one and all for taking the time and interest to call our "hot-line" number and comment on this problem. The comments have been noted and the problem has been solved.

Owens L. Pomeroy
Editor

PLEASE POST AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

FINAL MEETING OF THE YEAR:
November 14

The next newsletter deadline for all articles, photos, ads, and contest entries is December 15, 1981 (Jan.-Feb. issue).

NO TIME TO WRITE?
Phone in your OTR news story. Our newsletter "hot line" is:
(301)388-1976

RE-CORDially Yours
(Continued from page 3)

Md. We look forward to adding his new album to the several original 78's we already have in our collection, recorded back in the acoustic era, with accompaniment usually provided by Jack Shilkret. (Remember Nat Shilkret, long a mainstay of the Victor label?)

Finally, back during the latter part of September, we had the pleasure of meeting and hearing another gentleman whose name is synonymous with the recording industry: John Hammond. He came to Baltimore on Sep. 23 to speak at the Peabody's Music in American Life lecture series. His career is most interestingly chronicled in the book "John Hammond on Record," which I understand is still available in paperback.

Our apologies for deferring our story on the labels of the Thirties and Forties; we'll get to that next month. Meantime, get out those old records, and keep 'em spinning.

RE-CORDially Yours,
Guy Travers

"WILL ROGERS

Seq....."
by
Will Rogers



Hi, folks. Time to start writin' agin, 'bout this 'an' that... You know, I'm an Indian. A full blooded Cherokee, and I am very proud of that fact. But! I ain't so proud of what the white man did to us. Every white man that killed 10 Indians or more in our history has got a statue built for him! The Indians are the only real born Americans...because they were here to meet the boat when the Pilgrims landed. And speakin' of the Pilgrims, if it were not for the extreme generosity of the Indians, them Pilgrims would never have been able to land....I like to write a few words now about Mr. Roosevelt, our new President. Mr. Roosevelt is a plain-spoken man who don't mess around with a lot of big words. Take that speech he made the other night. ...That speech was a detour sign where our depression turned back. It was a speech of the people, for the people, and delivered so that confidence would not perish from the earth. We elected him because he was a Democrat, and now we honor him because he's a magician! The Houdini of Hyde Park. He's a fast worker. He was inaugurated last Tuesday at noon in Washington, and they started the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, and before it got halfway down there he closed every bank in the United States.

'Nuff said for now.
Yours truly,
Will Rogers

CORRECTION!

The phone number for the Movie Buffs of Maryland should have been (301)435-6641. On The Air regrets the error.

-Ed.

RE-CORD rally YOURS, Guy Travers



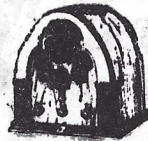
3

Next time you visit your favorite record shop and are browsing in their "nostalgia" bins, you may come across a new and most unusual album by a most remarkable gentleman who has been away from the recording studios for over 55 years: Brooke Johns, of Rockville, Md. Its title is "Broadway's Favorite: Then - And Now!" And it is indeed unique. One side is devoted to a reissue of some of the songs he recorded back in the Twenties. (He cut his last record in London in 1923.) The reverse side is given over to songs he recorded a few months ago.

We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Johns about five years ago and have kept in touch with him regularly, enjoying a number of visits to his lovely home, near Olney, which is a veritable museum of memorabilia from his days in show business. He still appears from time to time on both radio and television in the nation's capitol, and was featured only last year on Baltimore public television on Rick Breitenfeld's popular weekly series, "In Person," over channels 67 and 22. Also, in the past year, he has appeared as a guest on Lou Adler's senior citizen series, "Look Ahead," a weekly feature of Towson University's WCVT-FM. A Broadway headliner for many years, Brooke Johns appeared in the famed Ziegfeld Follies in the Twenties and worked with such stars as Will Rogers, Eddie Cantor, Clifton Webb, Fannie Brice, Buddy Ebsen, W. C. Fields, Ann Pennington, Al Jolson, and Ginger Rogers. As we noted, he still plays the banjo; in fact, he has quite a collection of them, but one in particular is pretty special. It was personally autographed by the Prince of Wales.

At 87 (he'll be 88 come Christmas Eve), after more than 70 years in show business, Brooke still loves to perform, to sing and play, and he does so frequently in the Washington suburban area where he resides. Not too long ago he joined us when we took our informal "Down Memory Lane" program to the Homewood Retirement Center in Frederick,

(Continued on page 2)



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON RADIO

ON THE DIAL

BALTIMORE

- * WFBR-AM (1300 kHz)
- * WBCB-AM (680 kHz)
- * WBAL-AM (1090 kHz)
- * WBJC-FM (91.5 MHz)
- * WCVT-FM (89.7 MHz)
- * WITH-AM (1230 kHz)

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- * WAMU-FM (88.5 MHz)
- * WETA-FM (88.9 MHz)

ARLINGTON, VA.

- * WEAM-AM (1390 kHz)

WEEKDAYS

WITH-AM

- * (All Day) ; Music of Your Life (hits of 40's through 60's).

WAMU-FM

- * 12:30 P.M. (Mon.), 12:45 P.M. (Fri.); Play It Again, Ed.
- * 8:00 P.M. (Tues., Thurs.); The Fred Fisk Show.

WCVT-FM

- * 10:00 A.M. (Mon.), 12:00 Noon (Thurs.); Concert Hall.
- * 10:00 A.M. (Fri.); Opera House.

WBJC-FM

- * 7:00 P.M. (Fri.); Bobby Short Show (music from Broadway).
- * 10:00 A.M. (Mon., Tues.); Carousel.

WETA-FM

- * 1:00 P.M. (Wed.); Centerpiece.
- * 7:00 P.M. (Tues., Wed., Fri.); Music at Seven (dinner music).

WBAL-AM

- * 9:00 P.M. to Midnight; Alan Christian Show.

WFBR-AM

- * 12:00 Midnight; CBS Radio Mystery Theatre.

WEAM

- * 6:00 to 10:00 A.M.; The Big Bands with your host, Al Ross.

SATURDAY

WCVT

- * 4:00 P.M.; The Import Show, with Dave Stevenson.

WBAL

- * 9:00 P.M. to Midnight; Alan Christian Show

SUNDAY

WBJC-FM

- * 6:00 P.M.; Star Wars.
- * 8:00 P.M.; Philadelphia Orchestra.

WAMU-FM

- * 7:30 to 11:00 P.M.; The Big Broadcast, with your host, John Hickman.



Yesterday's RADIO LOGS

DIAL WHEC TONIGHT!



STAATS COTSWORTH
Stars in
CASEY, CRIME PHOTOGRAPHER
9:30

"This is Bing Crosby" Starts Monday 4 p. m.

DON'T MISS IT—And DON'T MISS...

- * 7:00 DEULAN
- * 7:15 JACK SMITH
- * 7:30 CLUB 15
- * 7:45 EDW. R. MURROW
- 8:00 THE F.B.I.
- 8:30 MR. KEEN
- 8:00 SUSPENSE
- 10:00 HALLMARK PLAYHOUS

WHEC THE STATION LISTENERS BUILT! TONIGHT



CRIME PHOTOGRAPHER
9:30 P. M.

This mystery series, starring Staats Cotsworth as a dogged newspaper columnist, is now in its eighth year of broadcasting! It is sponsored by Philip Morris. Don't miss it!

And Don't Miss!

- 6:00—Loren Thomas
- 7:00—Gory Moore
- 7:45—Larry Lessor
- 8:00—PBI in Peace & War
- 8:30—Dr. Christian
- 9:00—Suspense
- 10:00—Johnny Dollar
- 11:00—A & C News

Do dreams come true?



Ben Alexander, grantor of heart's desires.

YES! Find out how you can get your fondest wish. Fabulous gifts awarded daily.

Listen to

"HEART'S DESIRE"

Daytime—Mon.-Fri., M.B.S.

DRAMA HUMOR LOVE

Do you want your dreams to come true? Read the HEART'S DESIRE feature in this month's

TRUE ROMANCE MAGAZINE

WHEC THE STATION LISTENERS BUILT! TONIGHT



PHILIP MARLOWE
10:00 P.M.

William Wrigley Jr. Co. presents another hair-raising adventure with Gerald Mohr star of stage, screen and radio, in the title role.

And Don't Miss:

- 6:00—Goodrich—Band News
- 6:15—MacMillan—Sports
- 6:30—Journal of the Air
- 7:00—Gory Moore Show
- 8:00—Dr. Christian
- 8:30—Dr. Christian
- 9:00—It Pays to be Ignorant
- 9:30—The ABC's of Music

Sam Spade

colorful adventures with the greatest detective of them all



8:30

The Magnificent Montague

starring the souful, acid-tongued, and completely delightful Monty Woolley



9:00

Duffy's Tavern

Archie and the Tavern regulars make merry where the elite meet to eat



9:30

Life of Riley

William Bendis sparks a riot of family fun



10:00

Sports Newsreel

BH Stern tells colorful stories from the world of sports



10:30

Three chimes mean good times on NBC

A page from....

The BIG BAND SCRAPBOOK

by Vernon Bell

Benny Goodman's contract with the National Biscuit Co. lasted only 26 months, and his orchestra was beginning to make some type of reputation. Willard Alexander, his agent, thought Goodman was now ripe for an engagement in New York. He booked him in the Grill Room of the Roosevelt Hotel where Guy Lombardo usually held forth. B.G. also had been in his first month of a contract with RCA, and had already two recording sessions in April of 1935, when 10 numbers were released.

Opening night in the Grill Room was anything but a success. Only 12 people showed up, and the band was given its two weeks' notice. It was a tough blow for Benny, but Alexander still believed in the band so it was booked for a cross-country tour. Great artists such as Teddy Wilson, Bunny Berrigan, and Jess Stacy joined the band on this tour, and together they played some of the greatest of swing tunes ever heard. But it was little received on the trip west, where in Denver the manager of the ballroom where the band was booked wanted Benny to start playing some waltzes when the customers began demanding their money back.

B.G. was just about to break up the band and head back to New York when an engagement in Oakland, California, changed all that. The National Biscuit Broadcasts were reaching the West Coast at 8:30 P.M., a time when everyone could hear the band. People waited outside before the engagement and cheered each number. From there Benny went to the most famous of all West Coast ballrooms at that time, the Hollywood Polamar. Following the Polamar, the band started east with successful one-nighters, finally winding up in New York, where Benny formed the famous Goodman Quartet.

When we get together next issue, the Manhattan Room, Harry James, Ziggy Elman, and the Carnegie Hall Jazz Concert will be mentioned, as we explore another page from ...the Big Band Scrapbook.



AIRWAYS

by Gene

MEMBERSHIP and CLUB NOTES

Had a nice visit with Tom White, columnist for the News-American. His column appears each week and is full of info and nostalgia. I learned that Baltimore's own silent movie star, Francis X. Bushman, was the first star featured on a nationally broadcast radio program. (Tom's articles will appear in our newsletter occasionally.) Heard from member Col. Sam Pierce, Jr., via an article he sent from the Wall Street Journal of 9/10/81: Nostalgia Lane Inc., a maker of phono records, using material from classic radio shows, has branched out with lines of greeting cards depicting the Lone Ranger, the Shadow, and others. Some cards wrap around cassette versions of the recordings. (This article was on page 1.) Thanks to Guy Travers for the following info, I will be attending the 5th Annual Induction Ceremonies of the National Broadcasters Hall of Fame in New Jersey this Oct. 25 (full report next issue). A testimony dinner for founder Sol Taishoff of Broadcasting Magazine by the Broadcast Pioneers was held in D.C. Oct. 15. A congrats telegram for 50 yr service to the industry was sent by us to this invaluable organization. Will be attending the Md. Association of Fan Clubs Convention to be held Nov. 14 and 15 at the Holiday Inn - Downtown (report next issue). Tracy Bagli, daughter of the veteran radio broadcaster (now on WBAL-TV), is following in her dad's footsteps. She'll be doing general assignment reporting for WBOC in Salisbury. Did you know corporate legend has it that Muzak originated during WW I? An American officer supposedly had ditties played in the trenches to get his boys in the mood to give their all. But the George Washington of Muzak was Gen. G.O. Squier. Around the turn of the century, Gen. Squier served at Fort McHenry, where he got the idea that live trees could be used as radio antennas (a brilliant theory in 1905). Later he invented a way to broadcast radio signals over power lines and in the process laid the groundwork for Muzak's modern-day delivery system. According to Thomas Tinsley, the president of Baltimore Muzak, "We'll be getting Muzak from the Muzak Satellite soon. We'll be picking up broadcasts full time in a month or two." Mr. Tinsley has been around Baltimore radio for many years. He owned station WITH in the early 40's, but sold it after WW II when he heard about Muzak. (Copies of the full Muzak article are available upon request.) Hope to see all of you at our Nov. 14 meeting. Note: Member Bob Thompson is supplying radio reading service with OTR shows. Au revoir.

- Gene

ALLAN'S... *MEMORIBILIA MANOR*



Greetings, students! This is Allan Caplan, P.M. (Professor of Memorabilia), welcoming you to another session of Memorabilia Manor. This class will be devoted to a 1944 G.E. ad for FM radio.

Georgia Carroll, the young lady shown here, sang for Kay Kyser's band, and later became his wife. At the time this ad was published, the FM radio band was from 42 to 50 megacycles. However, after the war this was changed to the current 88 to 108 megacycles. Of course, this made the few FM receivers sold up to that time obsolete.

Well, I see by the old clock on the wall that class is just about over. So, 'til our next session, this is the ol' professor, Allan Caplan...thinkin' of you.

Burns & Allen Sidekick Bravely Battling Cancer



Harry von Zell
No quitter

by ELLEN GOODSTEIN

Veteran radio and television star Harry von Zell - best known for years as the sidekick of George Burns and Gracie Allen on both their radio and TV show - is locked in a courageous battle against cancer.

"Harry is very ill. He has a tumor in the lower abdomen," says his wife of 55 years, Mickey von Zell. "He's already had 3 operations but the doctors weren't able to arrest it (the tumor's growth) "But Harry's a fighter - and he's not going to quit now. He has always had a positive outlook on life and it certainly is helping him through this."

The 75 year old entertainer's tumor was discovered last December. Now von Zell - a top, national radio announcer in the late 1930's and 40's - is living at the Motion Picture and Television Hospital while battling the disease.

"He gets up and walks around, but he's not very strong," said his wife. "He's lost a lot of weight. But he's spirits are good. He's always making jokes and trying to make me laugh."

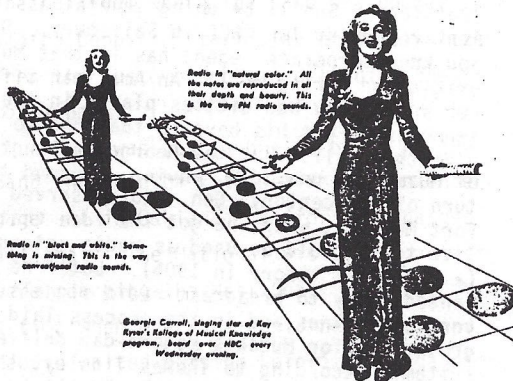
Von Zell - his voice still retaining that famous giggle that endeared him for many years said: "I, a strong and of sound mind. My outlook is good, and I want it to stay that way."

"I don't worry about my state of health. I worry a lot more about the members of my family who are a lot younger than I am."

For some ten years, until he became ill, von Zell remained active as spokesman for the nation's largest savings and loan association, noted an admiring friend.

"Instead of being put into mothballs like some old-timers, he followed his good friend George Burns' example and kept on going," said the friend. "He's never been a quitter. His cherry manner, infectious giggle and bright

(Continued on page 10)



Your favorite programs sound even better on an FM "NATURAL COLOR" radio!

A new kind of radio is ready to open a whole new world of entertainment for you!

Conventional radio loses two-thirds of the total range as music travels from the station to your home. But General Electric FM (Frequency Modulation) radio receives the overtones that bring music to life—music in glorious "natural color."

When FM sets are available,

you will hear special programs, planned for FM alone, that you can't get otherwise!

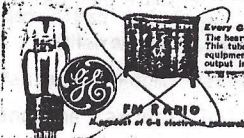
General Electric built the first FM radio receivers used by Major Edwin H. Armstrong, the inventor of broad-band FM, in perfecting this new kind of broadcasting. G-E has built more FM broadcasting equipment than any manufacturer.

No other manufacturer offers you so much FM experience.

SEE: "YOUR COMING RADIO—as forecast by General Electric"—56 full-color pages of facts about the newest in radio: radio-phonograph, self-charging portable with its own rechargeable battery, and television! Section 8-D, Electronics Dept., General Electric, Schenectady, New York.

* Tune in General Electric's "The World Today" every evening except Sunday at 8 to 9 P.M. over CBS network. On Sunday evening listen to the G.E. "All Girl Orchestra" at 10 P.M. on NBC. Buy more War Bonds—and hold on to those gov. bonds.

RADIO • TELEVISION • ELECTRONICS
GENERAL ELECTRIC
1944



Every General Electric radio is an electronic instrument. The heart of every General Electric radio is the electronic tube. This tube is similar to electronic tubes used in G-E television equipment, and in G-E electronic apparatus that speeds war output in thousands of industrial plants across the continent.

RADIO... AS RADIO USED TO BE

by Owens

PLUCKING MEMORY STRINGS

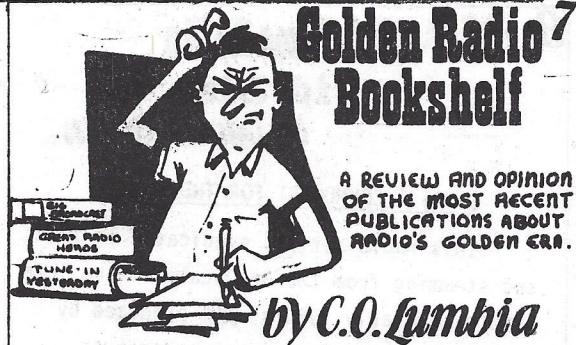
(Conclusion)

One of the problems with writing about those heydays of radio is the endless parade of progress that comes to mind. How can you write about those days without mentioning the Singing Lady, Terry and the Pirates, Let's Pretend, Frank Crummit and Julia Sanderson, Paul Robeson's Ballad for Americans, L-A-V-A, L-A-V-A, Rinso White, Gangbusters, Fibber McGee and Molly, Ed Wynn, Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Bob Hope (a fellow GRB member), and Red Skelton. If we could only walk down Allen's Alley again and hear Titus Moody, Senator Claghorn, Mrs. Nussbaum and "mine husband, Pierre," I'd gladly trade all the so-called situation comedies on TV for the privilege.

Of course, my favorites might not have been your favorites. Maybe you didn't care for Easy Aces and the malaprops of Jane Ace. (Remember when she wanted to go into acting: "I get the smell of the old goosegrease; I want to get behind the footnotes; I want to see my name up in tights.") Or perhaps you were one of the few people in the United States who didn't stop everything to hear the Amos 'n' Andy Show. (One night Andy had bought a house and he asked Kingfish what he thought of the deal. "Andy," he said, "that is a stucco house...and you is de stuckee.")

Perhaps you preferred Morton Downey or Perry Como, Fanny Brice or the Great Gildersleeve. Whatever your favorite was, use your imagination as you play your favorite program tape. Pretend you are now seated by your old Atwater Kent, or was it an old RCA Radiola? You have just made up a big bowl of hot popcorn and your family is gathered around you as you turn back the years and listen...and listen...and listen.

(This article was taken from the introduction to a new book on old-time radio, "The Other Side of the Microphone, A Radio Buff Remembers the Memory Years," by Yours Truly.)



"THOSE RADIO COMMENTATORS!"

By Irving E. Fang (***)

This book comes complete with two records so that you can hear those famous voices of yesterday, today. It captures the bravado and power of radio journalists like Kaltenborn, Gibbons, Thomas, Pearson, Carter, and many more. In all, 15 commentators are treated in depth with a lively text and plenty of rare, never-before-published photos. Although news programs were not among my favorite listening fare, I give it a 3-star rating only because of the recordings accompanying the book. This alone may prompt you to buy it to add the recordings to your tape library. (Crown Publishers, 341 pages, illustrated, \$14.95)

"RADIO'S GOLDEN YEARS"

By Vincent Terrace (****)

(The Encyclopedia of Radio Programs, 1930-1960)

Here is a detailed guide to radio programs and performers, one of the most complete reference works ever published on the subject of Old Time Radio. Vincent Terrace has collected an impressive amount of information on nationally broadcast network and syndicated entertainment programs from 1930 to 1960.

In all, 1,500 radio programs are alphabetically listed and thoroughly described. Each entry provides storyline information, announcer and music credits, sponsors, program openings, network and/or syndication information, and the length and date of the broadcast. This book is far superior to the more recent publications using this same theme. Mr. Terrace lived through the era and knows of what he writes. This reviewer highly recommends (****) this book for any buff's library. But! -- this is just one man's opinion. (A. S. Barnes & Co., 300 pages, 89 photos, \$15.00)

Old-Time Radio Tid-Bits by Dana R. Dalfin

I WAS A COMMUNIST FOR THE FBI

This radio series, syndicated in 1952, and stemming from the Red scare of the late 1940's and early 1950's, was produced by and starred Dana Andrews as undercover agent Matt Cvetic, who infiltrated the high echelon of the Communist Party and reported back to the FBI.

Mr. Cvetic was an authentic double agent who had written his story in national magazine articles and books in the late 1940's, and Dana Andrews gave a convincing performance in the radio version. (Mr. Andrews cast top-notch actors in the lead-roles, one being the late Olan Soule, who portrayed Cvetic's FBI contact man.)

The stories were packed with tension which produced plots within plots as Cvetic and his relationship within the party changed. The Commies, stereotyped, much as Hitler's Nazis had been some years before, were cold, humorless people whose every working-day thought was to enslave the world. That man behind the newspaper -- was he a party spy? Cvetic could never be certain. Party spies were everywhere, and he by his membership was an outcast from his family and all that mattered in his "real" life. The show was good entertainment, drumming in its anti-Red propaganda right down to Cvetic's inevitable parting shot: "I was a Communist for the FBI -- I walk alone."

NBC changed to
WFBR.



Maybe you
should, too!



THE SILENT MICROPHONE

*Gone.... but not
Forgotten*

Lowell Thomas dies of heart attack at 89



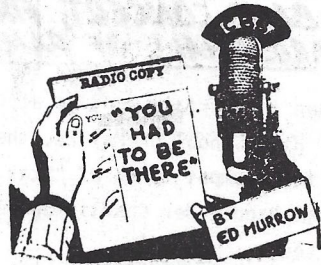
LOWELL THOMAS
Journalist, adventurer

PAWLING, N.Y., AUG. 29, 1981 (AP)

Lowell Thomas, one of the "giants" in news broadcasting and an early pioneer of the broadcast industry, whose broadcasts from the four corners of the globe brought the world closer to America, died today at his home of a heart attack. He was 89 years young.

During his career, Thomas interviewed some of the world's most famous and powerful men. In WW II, Thomas as a newscaster toured both the European and Pacific theaters of operation and broadcast on-the-spot from close to the scenes of action. During the war's closing days, he flew over Berlin in a reconnaissance plane, viewing the Nazi capital in flames.

Thomas continued lecturing and broadcasting for CBS and authored more than 50 biographical, travel, and adventure books. On May 14, 1976, he quit his nightly news show to devote more time to other projects. He was recording "The Best Years," a radio series he was doing, at the time of his death.



Ladies and gentlemen, good evening. I'm Ed Murrow, and the name of the program is "You Had To Be There." Where? On a gray, spring afternoon, somewhere in England, 1944. The atmosphere has the consistency of a wet sponge; the weather is lousy all the way to the continent and beyond. There will be no round trip to Germany today. You tap your foot to "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and relax.

Major Glenn Miller, his trombone held casually in his left hand, fronts his orchestra on the makeshift bandstand. It's not the same group as it was back home two years ago -- Tex and most of the old guys are gone -- but it sounds good, as good as ever. How can it miss with musicians like Sgt. Ray McKinley on drums and Sgt. Mel Powell playing piano?

The audience fills the cavernous maintenance hangar, some standing, some seated on jerry cans, wooden crates, engine stands, and along the graceful wing of a grounded Fortress. Flight crews from the airbase squadron, nurses from a nearby base hospital, assorted RAF types, and even some brass down from London -- over 1,000 in all -- stand with you as Miller gets the "Choo Choo" safely into the roundhouse, applauding wildly as the band re-emerges, its golden reeds singing "Serenade in Blue."

You sit down and lose yourself in the sound, your heavy flight jacket hung loosely over your shoulders to ward off the damp English chill. Out on the line a crew chief runs up one of the Wright Whirlwinds, its muffled roar blending unevenly with Johnny Desmond's voice. For the moment you fight back the reality, allowing the music to seduce you with its bitter-sweet visions of a world that...has ceased...to exist.

This has been Ed Murrow. Good luck, and...good night.

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Philadelphia

**Selectivity—Distance—Volume
and Ease of Operation**

Listeners can tune in a distant station without interference and obtain clear reception with an Atwater Kent Receiving Set. Selectivity—range—volume and simplicity of operation have made it the choice of families everywhere. The clearness with which the Atwater Kent Loud Speaker recreates will give you a new conception of tonal fidelity.

ATWATER KENT MANUFACTURING CO.
 409 STENTON AVE., PHILA., PA.

The above ad was submitted by fellow member Bill Ryan of Fair Lawn, N.J. Thanks for the contribution, Bill. Glad to see you have an interest in the club and its publication. Keep them coming!

ED.

JUST FOR FUN! by *Bob Thompson*

- 1) Who lived at 24 St. Anns Place?
- 2) Who played Mr. Fathers?
- 3) Who played the lead in "Murder and Mr. Malone"?
- 4) What musical show did Bret Morrison host?
- 5) Who played Mrs. Obets on "My Little Margie"?
- 6) Who was "the girl" on the radio show "99 Men and a Girl"?
- 7) Who created the show "Nobody's Children"?
- 8) What married couple earned the title of "Mr. and Mrs. Radio"?
- 9) What story was the most requested on the radio program "Mysterious Traveler"?
- 10) Name the soap set in the fictional town of Royalton.

NOTE: Although Bob intended this to be "just for fun," On The Air will offer a prize for the first person to send in all 10 correct answers to the quiz. The prize? Get them all correct and find out. Mail all entries to

"Just for Fun" c/o On The Air
 3613 Chestnut Avenue
 Baltimore, MD 21211

10 Simply Nostalgia

MAXENE (ANDREWS) NOW SINGS TRIO'S HITS AS A SOLO ACT.

To millions of men and women of one generation, the Andrews Sisters -- Laverne, Maxene, and Patti -- represented a way of life and a part of growing up in America. Around the late Thirties, but especially during the war years, at least one of their songs was playing on the radio. As a trio, they recorded an incredible 1,800 songs, starting with "Bei Mir Bist Du Schoen" in 1936.

Their version of "Rum and Coca Cola" sold 7 million copies, and more couples marched down the aisle to the Andrews Sisters' "Apple Blossom Time" than to the traditional wedding march.

But now Laverne is dead, Patti isn't speaking to Maxene anymore, and Maxene is going it alone and doing quite well as a solo act.

The original Andrews Sisters last performed together in 1966. Laverne died of cancer in 1967, and for awhile another woman (Laverne's daughter) sang her part, but it didn't feel right, so in 1970 they went into semiretirement.

After Bette Midler hit with "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," Patti and Maxene teamed up again in 1974 to appear in the nostalgic Broadway musical "Over Here!" It ran for a year, and the opportunities to take it on tour poured in, but, according to Maxene, Patti no longer wanted to work with her.

There were 1,800 Andrews Sisters songs between 1937 and 1966, 21 movies, and numerous radio and television appearances. Maxene has said in summing up her career: "I'm having more fun now than I've ever had because I'm not looking for success anymore. I've had that. I'm just happy singing the songs for the people that remembered us during those Golden Days of Radio."

BIG BAND CONCERT, FIRST STEP TOWARDS HALL OF FAME.

When the curtain went up at Catonsville Senior High School on May 28, the crowd heard the trumpet tones of "Star Dreams," old-time-bandleader Charlie Spivak's theme song.

Taking the trumpet solo was Nelson Knode, a Catonsville music store operator who has been a trumpet player for 40 years and a music teacher for 34 years. Mr. Knode is the leader of the 14-piece ensemble that recreated through original arrangements the songs and styles of Miller, Goodman, the Dorsey brothers, Ellington, Spivak -- the Big Band sound of the Thirties and Forties.

The concert was the first step in what Mr. Knode hopes will be the establishment of a Musical Hall of Fame, a library and museum for researchers or simply big-band buffs who want to sit down, put on some headphones, and listen to some tapes of old recordings.

A feature of the concert was a presentation of an award to Harley Brinsfield, former fast-food entrepreneur who for more than four decades has spun jazz records on Baltimore stations.

(Continued from page 6)

outlook have always been an inspiration to everyone who knows him. If it depended on mental attitude alone, I know Harry could lick this. And I know Harry is giving it one heck of a brave fight!"

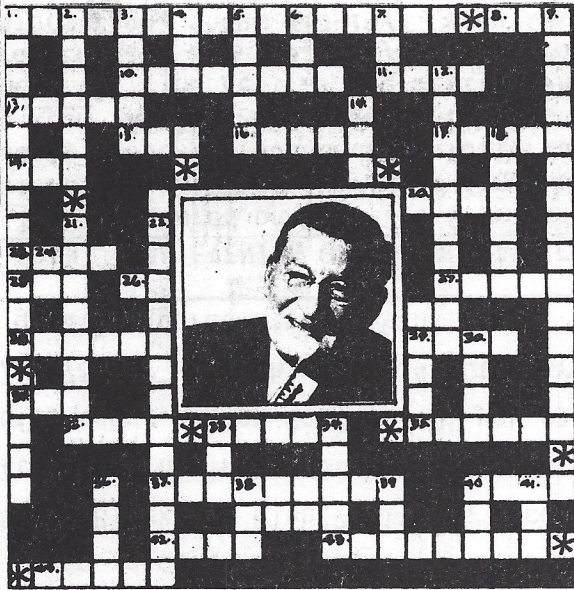
Von Zell's wife believes he could be helped in his battle by the good wishes of all his fans. "I think if people would write cards and letters, it would really cheer him," she said. "And I think it would be wonderful if they could mention Harry in their prayers."

O.K. all you Buffs, let's show Harry we remember him, and how much we care. If you would like to write this courageous entertainer, please send your cards and letters to: Harry von Zell, c/o National Enquirer Lantana, Florida, 33464.

(ED. NOTE: Our thanks to M/s Goodstein, staff writer for the National Enquirer for allowing us to reprint this article.)

PUZZLE PAGE

by C.R. Oley



ACROSS

1. (Pictured) Amateur Hour host (3 words).
8. "My Gal, ___."
10. Collier, Reeves, Alyn, et al.
11. Breed of Gene Autry's horse.
13. Local TV sportscaster, Bagley; was on radio in early 50's.
15. David Harding, for one.
16. Made radio history on 10/31/38.
17. Good luck symbol for Tonto.
19. Negative reply.
20. Star of "Fort Laramie."
23. Picture magazine popular during the 40's
25. 1978 "Goldie" winner, Clark.
26. Played Buzz Corey (init.).
27. Our cover girl.
28. Starred in "The Hardy Family."
29. Burns & Allen or Amos 'n' Andy.
31. Radio actor's signal to begin.
32. The smallest of the litter.
33. Garry Moore's comedienne partner, Joan.
35. Before TV, he barked on radio.
37. The King of the Cowboys (2 words).
40. A musical term.
42. We are all ___ OTR fans.
43. Former big band singer; starred in 7 down (2 words).
44. Mary's husband and Joan's father.

DOWN

1. Host & star of "The Whistler" (2 words).
2. His story was on page 5, last issue.
3. OTR announcer, David ___.
4. The finale to the tango.
5. Pertaining to an airplane.
6. Dead on arrival.
7. "___ of the Worlds."
9. Ruth Etting biopic starring 43 across (4 words).
12. Had male lead in the "Blondie" series (2 words).
14. Suspense thriller, "Lennigan & the ___s"
18. James Pearce created him on radio in 1931.
21. Had a popular modeling agency during the radio era: Harry ___.
22. Recently canceled long-running OTR series on WBJC, "Sounds ___."
24. Tie score.

30. Freeman Gosden.
33. Vocalist; sang on show starring 44 across.
34. Mr. Bergen's other "little woodenhead."
36. Not quite a smile.
38. Grange, Skelton, or Ryder.
39. Mr. Oliver or Mr. Hardwicke.
40. Weaver; played Bulldog Drummond.
41. At first, everyone thought radio was "just a ___!"



CONTEST

FREE RADIO PROGRAMS

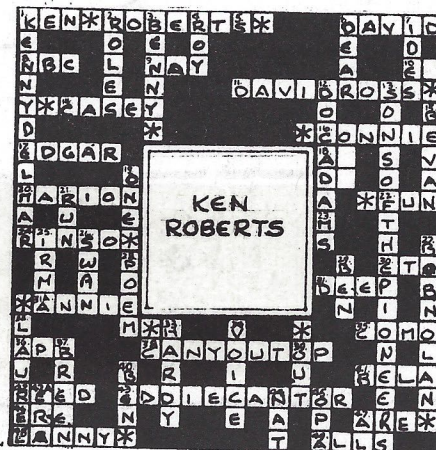
Who is in the picture above? The earliest correct answer wins **2 FREE** Radio Programs. Winner and Answer to be listed in the next issue.

THE EARLIEST POSTMARK WINS

Address all entries to: OTR Photo Contest, c/o On The Air, 3613 Chestnut Ave., Baltimore, Md. 21211.

All entries must be postmarked no later than midnight, Dec. 15, 1981.

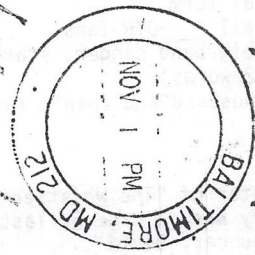
Bill Ryan has scored again. He was the first and only one to send in a contest entry for this issue. Our mystery lady was Alice Frost, who played in "Mr. and Mrs. North" on radio. Congratulations, Bill.



SOLUTION: SEPT. OCT. ISSUE

OCT. 3 1 1981

RONALD S. BARON
2475 W. 16th. STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, 11124



ON THE AIR

3613 Chestnut Avenue
Baltimore, Md., 21211



CLASSIFIED

MEMBER WANTS

Fellow GRB member Dave Sickles needs information from our membership on an OTR program he is researching. Does any member have, or know about, a show called "Detectives, Black and Blue"? It was a comedy kid's show, possibly a regional program. It had a running gag: Whenever one of the characters ate veal, he saw a vision of a demon called Goofus. If you can help Dave, please phone him at (202)347-7478, or write him at 514 10th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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