

RADIO CURRENTS

SUMMER 1982

Greetings and welcome to the latest edition of RADIO CURRENTS, back after a short vacation. In actuality, two issues were written that never made it into the mail due to problems at the printing stage. To avoid similar future problems and to also improve RADIO CURRENTS' timeliness, writing, printing and mailing will all be originating from one area (Ann Arbor, Michigan).

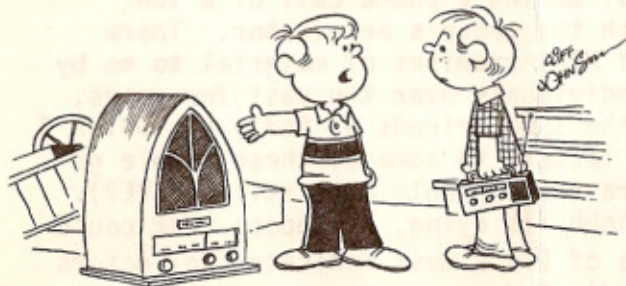
GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE STATE OF OTR:

In a recent issue of Collector's Corner/NRT, I made reference to the fact (?) that the old time radio hobby is dying a slow death. This distresses me and every month that goes by, I see more and more things happening that seem to reinforce this belief. I would find it hard to believe that I'm totally "out of it," especially after running an OTR business as a full-time occupation for a solid year and getting a number of new trade relationships underway. At one time I was a member of a highly successful and active buying group (I dropped out a couple years ago due to lack of time). I was told then by some of the members that I would be kept "on top" of any really juicy material received and perhaps I could trade for some of it...I have heard nothing of their activities since then other than a brief mention of new material during a phone call of a few months ago with the group's originator. There have been MANY MANY promises of material to me by a number of individuals over the past few years, including at the 1980 Friends of Radio-con which I attended. My letters to some of these people go unanswered (are these people even still ALIVE?). Well, if the hobby is dying, I suppose that could mean that some of OTR's most dedicated collectors just aren't dedicated any more.

I've said this before, too, but it's also my belief that the state of the economy has dealt the OTR hobby some resounding blows. But there MUST still be some active people out there somewhere, mustn't there? After all, the Collector's Corner mailing list isn't just addresses printed out by a computer, it's #1: paying subscribers and #2: "active" and enthusiastic old time radio program collectors and enthusiastic supporters, RIGHT? Please send me your comments on this c/o the BRC business address: 17173 Westbrook, Livonia, MI. 48152.

OLD TIME RADIO ON TV

Many of the old television shows from the fifties are being syndicated all over the country, run on cable outlets, etc. A few of the shows are YOU BET YOUR LIFE, JACK BENNY and MY LITTLE MARGIE-- shows and stars that owe their original claim to fame to RADIO. One of my favorites is the JACK BENNY program. I've seen the TV video and also I've heard some of the programs' audio only. And it's amazing how similar the Benny TV show is to radio (with only the absence of the classic Sportsmen routine leading up to a singing Lucky Strike commercial.). It's also amazing how much you can tell what's going on (unlike MODERN TV shows' audio). I guess early TV...much of it, it seems, anyway...was just radio with a few pictures and actors (and a few props) added... It's also amusing to watch early TV and see how primitive their camera techniques were in that era..It's almost WORTH hearing just the sound, because you don't miss much, except maybe a few laughs.



"My Mom says it's a radio. ... Boy, it must take a lot of batteries to run one that size!"

TODAYS CURRENT RADIO DRAMA

One series in production for quite some time now is Studiohouse Radio's HEARTBEAT THEATER. It's a well produced (always!), well acted (usually) series offered as a public affairs type show by the Salvation Army. That being the case, all the stories are built around how some guy from the Army helps out some guy (or girl or group) who have a problem. Surprisingly, though, despite the overall theme being of a lesson-teaching, almost-but-not-quite religious nature.... welll...they manage to pack a lot of action and even suspense into these little 25 minute gems! Studiohouse, a west-coast-based group, is to be commended for these programs...if only we could hear them do an all-out, bonafide mystery series...and use today's technology to make 'em stereo productions. For some strange reason, HEARTBEAT THEATER is done in mono. Perhaps this is done to save money, or because not enough stations carrying the shows broadcast in stereo, who knows? At any rate, hats off to Studiohouse for fine work, and to the Salvation Army for making it possible..Check several local stations and you may find one carrying it. But because of the nature of the show, stations will classify it as "public affairs" programming, and you may find the show tucked away at some strange hour on a Sunday morning or night. But believe me, it's worth staying up (or getting up) for, at least once.

UP AND COMING in Collector's Corner/NRT, the long-awaited Convention '81 issue, plus a complete guide to what you can expect at the 1982 Friends of Radio OTR-Con. That combined with the usual features should make it another terrific issue. Also, another important change may be coming about in CC/NRT which Joe Webb will be telling you about is in store for you. So until we meet again, either in Radio Currents or Collector's Corner, keep yer ear glued to yer radio, your tape heads clean, write your comments to me and hang loose!

Bob
Bob Burnham

RADIO CURRENTS is published as a special service to subscribers of COLLECTOR'S CORNER/NATIONAL RADIO TRADER by BRC OTR DISTRIBUTORS and NOSTALGIA WAREHOUSE, INC. Comments and contributions are appreciated.

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