

# RETURN WITH US

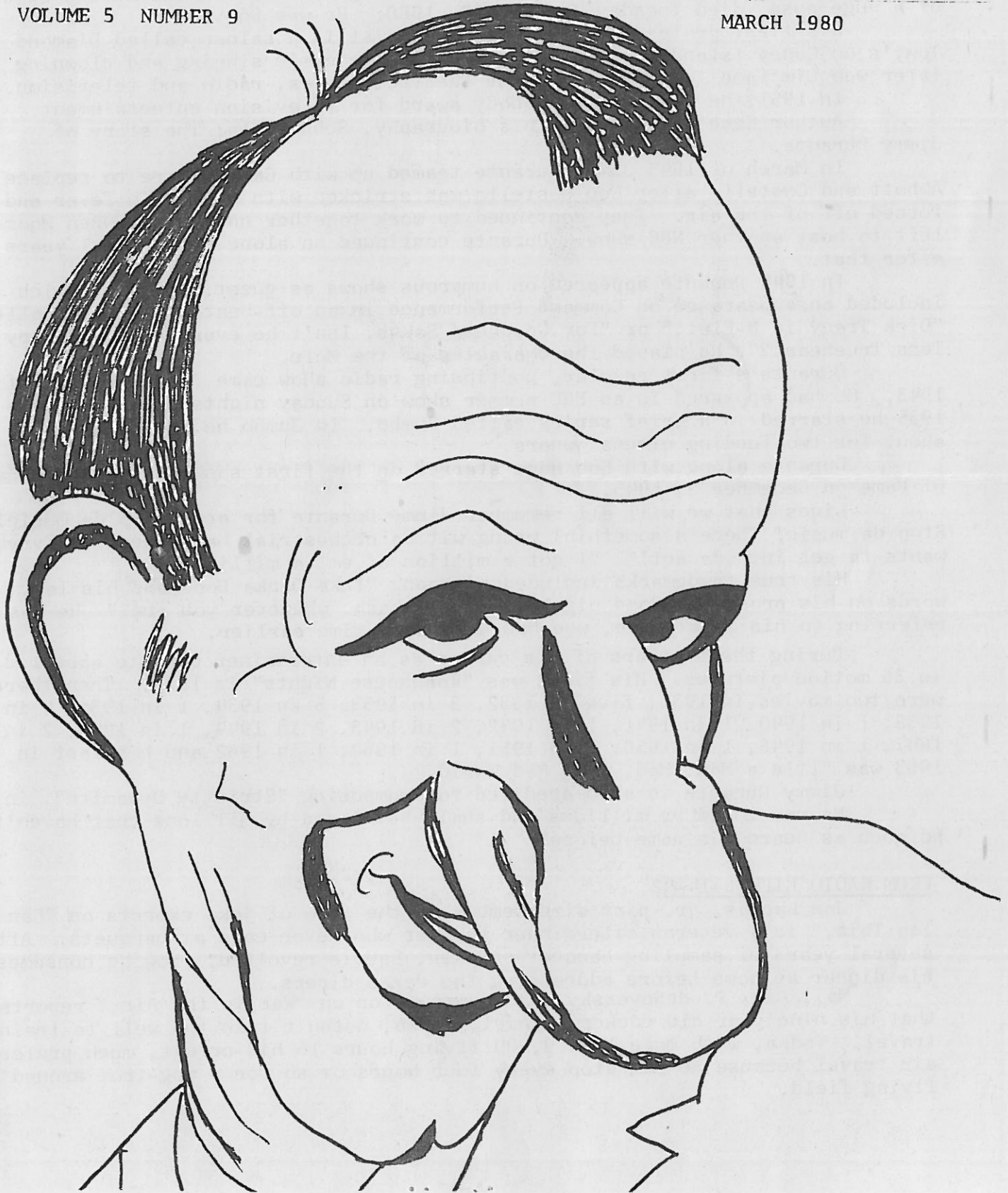
The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado

# NOW...



VOLUME 5 NUMBER 9

MARCH 1980



JAMES FRANCIS DURANTE.....

He was born James Francis Durante in New York City on February 10, 1893. The son of an Italian barber, he quit school between the sixth and seventh grades and began selling newspapers.

The famed "Schnozzola" was one of show business' most beloved people. The brash, raspy-voiced comic who joked and sang his way to fame at the expense of a huge nose, died Tuesday January 29, 1980. He was 86.

His first professional job was a pianist in a saloon called Diamond Tony's on Coney Island when he was only 17. His comic singing and clowning later won him fame in vaudeville, the theatre, movies, radio and television.

In 1951, he recieved a Peabody award for television entertainment.

Author Gene Fowler wrote his biography, Schnozzola; The story of Jimmy Durante.

In March of 1943 Jimmy Durante teamed up with Garry Moore to replace Abbott and Costello after Lou Costello was stricken with rheumatic fever and forced off of the air. They continued to work together until 1947 when Moore left to host another NBC show. Durante continued on alone for several years after that.

In 1945 Durante appeared on numerous shows as guest. Some of which included an appearance on Command Performance in an off-beat production called "Dick Tracy in B-Flat," or "For Goodness Sakes, Isn't he ever Going to Marry Tess Trueheart?" He played the character of the Mole.

Durante's first regular, continuing radio show came in the spring of 1943. He had appeared in an NBC summer show on Sunday nights in 1934 and in 1935 he starred in a brief series called Jumbo. In Jumbo he played a press agent for two fueding circus owners.

Durante along with Bob Hope starred on the first show of the Radio Hall Of Fame on December 5, 1943.

Lines that we will all remember Jimmy Durante for are "Stop da music! Stop da music! There's somethin' wrong wit da orchestrial harmonics!" "Evrybody wants ta get into da act!" "I got a million of em, a million!"

His true trademarks included his song "Inka Dinka Doo" and his last words on his programs "Good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are." He was referring to his first wife, who had died some time earlier.

During the 64 years of his career as an entertainer Durante appeared in 36 motion pictures. His first was "Roadhouse Nights" in 1930. Then there were two movies in 1931, five in 1932, 3 in 1933, 5 in 1934, 1 in 1935, 4 in 1938, 1 in 1940, 1 in 1941, 1 in 1942, 2 in 1943, 2 in 1944, 1 in 1946, 2 in 1947, 1 in 1948, 1 in 1950, 1 in 1951, 1 in 1960, 1 in 1962 and his last in 1963 was "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World.

Jimmy Durante is also credited for composing "Strictly Dynamite", in 1934.

He was loved by millions and shall be missed by millions that haven't so much as heard his name before.

FROM RADIO LIFE 6-14-42

Joe Laurie, jr. pint size member of the trio of joke experts on "Can You Top This," is a veteran afterdinner speaker who never eats at banquets. After several years of sampling banquet chicken, Laurie revolted. Now he consumes his dinner at home before addressing the dazed diners.

Maj. Alex P. deSeversky, NBC commentator on "War in the Air," reports that his nine year old cocker spaniel, Vodka, doesn't take too well to train travel. Vodka, with more than 9,000 flying hours to his credit, much prefers air travel because he can stop every four hours or so for a dog-trot around a flying field.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.....

Starting with this month there will be a monthly contest of the Trivia variety. The quiz will consist of four extremely difficult questions. All of the questions will be radio related. In order to win, one must correctly answer all of the questions. The winner will be determined by the earliest postmarked correct set of answers. All participants must mail their answers to me, Jim Vaughan 218 Mesa Verde St. Golden, Co. 80401. Everyone who receives this newsletter is encouraged to participate, everyone but myself since the brain busters will be of my own making.

The prize will be a two dollar credit from the tape library. The prize will be the same every month for twelve months. Bonus-- at the end of the twelve months the one person with the most wins over one, will receive the big prize, one year's free membership for the RHAC, a \$10.00 value.

Duplicate prizes will be awarded in the event of a tie.

Here it is, brain buster number 1.

- 1) What is the combination to the safe in Jack Benny's vault?
- 2) Name the celebrity who at the age of 14 had formed his own orchestra. Later he graduated from Rutgers College with a law degree. He also married a lady named Peggy Lou Snyder.
- 3) What was the name of the cafe that Rocky Jordan ran on the show "A Man Named Jordan?"
- 4) Mark Trail was a man of the woods and was involved with adventures dealing with the wilds. Who were his two friends that helped him battle crooks and outlaws?

ANSWERS AND THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEXT MONTH.

JACK BAILEY DIES

Jack Bailey, who crowned more than 5,000 women in 20 years of hosting the "Queen for a Day" show both on radio and television, has died in a Santa Monica, Calif., hospital at the age of 72. He died Friday, February 1st of complications of pneumonia after being in the hospital for about a month. Bailey was a fair barker in the Midwest in his early years.

DEATH VALLEY DAYS.... from Radio Life 7-20-41

Flaming in history with as intense a heat as marks its furnace temperature days is Death Valley, a long funneled crevasse between the Panamint and Telescope Mountains in southeastern California. Through the torrid defile that is Death Valley in years past lumbering the twenty-mule team borax wagons, through it passed eager-eyed hopefuls whose heat-ached lungs gasped in fiery blasts. Along the scorched valley fell the less hardy, their bones soon vulture-cleaned and whitening on the chalky gray valley floor. Prospectors and hoodlums, gunmen and ministers, card sharps, wealth seeking men and women, heroes and heroines of the West's struggle for self realization are memory-pictured against the heat-waved Panamints and the Telescopes that tower above the valley.

Rich is Death Valley with much that has contributed to the winning of the west. Into these riches for the past 11 years Ruth Cornwall Woodman has been delving to provide upwards of 600 stories for the program "Death Valley Days."

The stories range in plot from fast-moving melodrama to simple, human comedy-but every one is based on fact, diligently traced to source and carefully checked. Because of its reputation for accuracy as a dramatic history of the development of the West, "Death Valley Days" is frequently recommended by teachers to supplement school work.

DEATH VALLEY DAYS cont.

"Death Valley Days" has been written by Mrs. Woodman since the first program in 1930. She is the wife of a banker and mother of two children, a native New Yorker, knows Death Valley almost as well as any old-timer of the West.

She spends several months each year in the Death Valley region of California and Nevada, interviewing old prospectors, tracking down leads suggested in fan mail, going through newspaper files, and visiting ghost towns and museums.

JOHN DUNNING ON KOA??????

For those of you that did not get the opportunity to listen to Radio KOA at 8:00 PM on the 28th of Jan. missed out on a special live broadcast of the show "Dead Man Switch." The show that preceded that production was equally entertaining. It featured not only John Dunning but three of our own members as well. It was a trivia type of show where listeners called in and tried to stump the expert panel that consisted of Jerry Appleman, John Lloyd and our very own president Jack Richards. Both of the shows were very good and for all that listened we hope that this type of programming will continue to be heard on KOA.

It wouldn't hurt to let KOA know just how we feel about this and that can be done by writing to Jim Hawthorne at: General Electric Broadcasting Co. of Colorado, P.O. Box 5012TA Denver, Co. 80217. The sooner the better.

MARCH MEETING

Same place, same time and station. Due to weather conditions our guest speaker for last month was unable to meet with us but we do hope to have Mr. Jack Fitzpatrick with us this coming month. See you on the 13th of March at Majestic Savings on 2807 S. Colorado Blvd. at 7:30.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Next month we will start a membership drive to attempt to increase our membership. Any Ideas like gift subscriptions will readily be taken. Mail them to me as soon as the bulb lights above those eager minds out there. A prize for the member who signs up the most new members will be awarded. At the time of this writing the prize has not been decided upon.

A MEMBER IS LOOKING

Jim Reeb of 8392 Inspiration Dr. Parker, Co. 80134, is looking for the "Six Shooter." He has a copy of the reel that was in the old library but would like to find the rest. Anyone that has these shows please contact him at your earliest convenience. His phone number is 841-3993.

1933 A Year To Remember

"We have nothing to fear but fear itself," declared F.D.R. in his inaugural address in 1933.

At the time, 25 percent of the country's labor force were unemployed.

It was the year Roosevelt began his "fireside" chats on radio. It was also the year that Prohibition was repealed and booze was flowing in saloons.

OUR THANKS TO THESE MEMBERS WHO RENEWED THEIR DUES

William D. Gore	9-80	Edward Sly	11-80
Bruce Rittenhouse	1-81	Alf H. Walle	1-81

WE ALL WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR CLUB

Scott and Barbara Meade	Route 8, Box 423A	Chapel Hill, N.C.	27514	2/81
D.L. Bowman	8195 Barton Rd.	Roseville, Ca.	95678	2/81

OOPS FROM LAST MONTH

Address correction: Bruce Rittenhouse 2399 N. Emmons, Rochester, Mich. 48063

Name correction: Bruce Carteron

Zip correction: Edward Sly, 80005

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly.....by Jack Richards

Whenever a group of OTR buffs get together, the conversation always seems to drift into a heated debate on what or who was the best on radio. To add a little more fuel to this fire, here are my nominations for these honors.

By far, the "goodest" hero ever to fill the air-waves was a pure American invention. He was fathered a trio of radio and business personalities: Trendle, Striker, and Cambell. By that hint, you know that he was none other than that "daring masked rider of the plains - "The Lone Ranger."

After terminating its affiliation with CBS, station WXYZ of Detroit was faced with a severe scheduling problem. George W. Trendle, a lawyer turned showman, defined a childrens show to fill the schedule void. It was Trendle who defined the need for an action-packed show without the emphasis on violence and bloodshed; one that would entertain as well as quietly instruct and inspire. It would be a childrens show but would not be "written down" as other juvenile shows were.

Trendle decided that a Western show which gave a true picture of early America was what was required. He gave explicit instructions that the hero was to be realistic, serious and soberminded but still carry an air of mystery. He was not to be the swashbuckling, movie cowboy which spoke and/or sang in a Texas drawl. Above all, Trendle insisted that the hero be one which the kids could and should emulate. He also insisted that the actor who played the part should conduct himself as befitting the part.

It was up to a young writer from Buffalo, Fran Striker, to fan the spark of life into the image created by Trendle. This he did with superb results. In fact, his Lone Ranger novels are still being reprinted in paperback form today.

With the creation of the Lone Ranger by Trendle and Striker, it fell to brilliant advertising salesman, H. Allan Campbell, to see that he didn't meet a premature death. Campbell sold the show in Detroit, then Chicago, and then in New York. This three-way hook-up (WXYZ, WGN and WOR) was to form the Mutual Broadcasting System. From there with other eastern stations and the Don Lee Network on the west coast, Mutual became a coast-to-coast network.

The first Lone Ranger show was heard on Jan. 30, 1933; the last on May 27, 1955. The original ranger was Jack Deeds, followed by George Stenius (or Seaton as he later was called), then Earle Graser, and finally Brace Beamer. Actually Beamer had the part after Seaton but quit, came back as the announcer and assumed the role after Graser was killed in an auto accident on 4-8-41.

John Todd, a small bald Irishman, was Tonto thruout the run on radio. Todd was actually a very accomplished actor. He carried the show alone for several programs after Graser was killed, with the excuse that the Lone Ranger was "ill". However, in the last few years of the run, Todd, who was

then over 80, would fall asleep during the broadcast. All Beamer could get was a grunt when he kicked the chair.

Trendle and the current owners, Wrather Corp., were always careful that the image should not be tarnished. Clayton Moore, TV'S Lone Ranger, (Jay Silverheels was Tonto) is now involved in discussions over the image. Wrather claims Moore at 64 is too old to be associated with the name, Lone Ranger. Moore who started as a movie stunt man maintains he has a right to represent himself as the actor who played the Lone Ranger for 19 years. Let me say that I hope I look as good as Moore when I'm 64 (or 47).

One of the great things about the show is that it introduced a lot of kids to fine music. Of course, classical music was used because of cost consideration but who can deny that Rossini's "William Tell Overture" or Liszt's "Les Preludes" created a mood much better than anything else. Ken Piletic and Graham Newton (in Collector's Corner) have identified 44 different selections used in the show. Several pieces were not classical but came from Republic Serials.

Finally for you trivia buffs, here's a few good ones. What was the Lone Ranger's real name? What does Kemo Sabe mean? Who was the only person besides Tonto to see the Ranger without his mask?

Enough of the good stuff. Let's get on with the bad guys. Ready? Here's my nomination - Dr. Fu Manchu. However I must admit I haven't had the pleasure of hearing any radio show. My acquaintance with Fu Manchu is from Rohmer's novels. I am aware of only one series of radio shows available, namely the first 39 chapters from the "Shadow of Fu Manchu" (plus one other chapter, #138).

Dr. Fu Manchu (or Fu if you prefer) was the creation of an Englishman, Arthur Sarsfield Ward. He was better known by his pen-name of Rex Rohmer. Ward (of Rohmer) was born in Birmingham, England and died June 1959 a very productive writer having published over 54 books, 13 of which were on Fu alone.

The evil, Oriental genius Dr. Fu constantly plotted to overthrow the governments of the world. He was ancient, being kept alive by an elixir of youth. His nemesis was a retired Scotland Yard inspector named Sir Denis Nayland Smith. Smith's Dr. Watson was a Dr. James Petrie. Fu also had a beautiful daughter, Fah Lo Suee, who was after Smith for quite different reasons than the evil Dr. was. Fu's criminal organization was known as Sci-Fan and they used a mixture of modern and futuristic science plus some Oriental black art to battle the good forces of Smith and Petrie.

Judging from book jacket covers, Rohmer tried to mold himself into a composite of the characters he created. Although not an expert on the East, he never-the-less surrounded himself with Oriental art objects, smoked a large smelly pipe, and dressed in a long, flowing silk Chinese robe. He carefully guided the radio scripts into following faithfully the characters he created in his novels. Rohmer himself appeared in a Collier Hour serial version of "Ya'an Hee See Laughs."

According to John Dunning, Fu graced the air-waves in three different shows. The first was the previous mentioned "Collier Hour." They presented at least three 12 chapter serials from 1927 to 1932. Arthur Hughes played the title role of Fu.

Next came "Fu Manchu" which ran from Sept. 26, 1932 to April 24, 1933. John C. Daly was Fu, Charles Warburton was Smith, and Bob White was Petrie. Later Harold Huber took over the role of Fu.

The last series was the "Shadow of Fu Manchu" which was on in 1939-40. The leads of Smith and Petrie were taken by the most unlikely persons imaginable: Hanley Stafford (Baby Snook's Daddy) and Gale Gordon of "Our Miss Brooks" fame.

All-in-all, Dr. Fu Manchu was one of the most evil villains on radio or on paper.

Now for the third and last category, that of ugly. Have you looked

AL GOODMAN

Al Goodman was born on August 12, 1890 in Nikopol, Russia. He Died Jan. 10, 1972 in New York, N.Y.

Al was a Composer-Conductor of Broadway musicals in the 20's. In the 30's and 40's he was very active in radio.

As a young boy he studied at the Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. After reaching his teen years he began to play in nickelodons and also performed a vaudeville act with his brothers. During the same time period he played piano in various movie houses.

Things began to happen for Goodman when he went to work for show producer Earl Carroll in California in 1915. He was the conductor for Al Jolson awhile, then with Shubert musical productions.

Among the list of Broadway musicals which he conducted the orchestra were Blossom Time, My Dream Girl, Good News, The Band Wagon, The **New** Moon, as well as the Ziegfield Follies and George White's Scandals shows.

Goodman was as good a writer of music as he was a conductor. Musicals to his credit include Longer Letty (1919), Cinderella on Broadway (1920), The Last Waltz (two songs) and the Whirl of New York (1921), The Passing Show of 1922 and Lady in Ermine (1922), Artists and Models of 1923, Topics of 1923, Caroline and Dew Drop Inn (1923), Artists and Models of 1925 and Gay Paree (1925), Naughty Riquette (one song; 1926).

Best-known song of Goodman's is When Hearts Are Young with Sigmund Romberg, from the show "Lady in Ermine." Goodman's chief collaborators were Edgar Smith, Cyrus Woodard and Clifford Grey. In 1927 he was conductor for the Jazz Singer, the first part-sound movie starring Al Jolson.

Among his many radio credits were the Irving Berlin show 1934, Bromo Seltzer Hour, late 1934, Music at the Haydns 1935, Ziegfield Follies of the Air 1936, Show Boat, late 1936-7, Jessica Dragonette's New Show 1937, Your Hollywood Parade starring Dick Powell 1938.

The early 40's found Goodman conducting on such shows as The Fred Allen Show, Family Hour and Star Theatre.



IT'S A WHEATIES SANDWICH.  
GOT 5 BOXES TO GO TO GET  
MY NEW DECODER BADGE!

MORE GOOD LISTENING BROUGHT TO YOU BY JOHN DUNNING ON SUNDAYS OVER KADX

- 3/2 Mercury Theatre On The Air - 7-18-38  
Treasure Island. Orson Welles  
Jack Benny Program - 1st of three - 4-24-55  
Jack Rents Out the Maxwell.
- 3/9 Suspense - 6-1-44  
Fugue in C Minor. Vincent Price, Ida Lupino  
Smilin'Ed Buster Brown Show - sometime in 1947  
Story of Shark Island. (Subject to change)  
Jack Benny Program - 5-1-55  
Jack's Love Letters.
- 3/16 Frontier Gentleman - 2-16-58  
Honky Tonkers. 3rd in series.  
It Pays to be Ignorant - 2-7-44  
Jack Benny Program - 5-8-55  
A day at the beach.
- 3/23 Screen Directors Playhouse - 1-18-51  
The big lift. Edmund O'Brien, Paul Douglas  
America Today - 12-7-42  
One year after Pearl Harbor. Gabriel Heather
- 3/30 On Stage - May 1953  
Hanging at Four Oaks. Cathy and Elliott Lewis  
Nick Carter, Master Detective - 1951  
Case of the chemical chicken.  
Gunsmoke - 1st of 4 shows - 8-9-52  
Kentucky Tolmans

My thanks to John for the great selection for this and every month. If there are programs that you would like to hear, drop John a line or call him at the station on any sunday.

MARCH ADDITIONS TO THE LENDING LIBRARY

REEL 130	LUX RADIO THEATRE	1200'
1L	The Plutocrat. Wallace Berry 9-28-36	
2L	The curtain rises. Ginger Rogers, Warren Williams	10-12-36
1R	Saturday's Children. Robert Taylor, Olivia DeHavilland	10-26-36
2R	Alias Jimmy Valentine. Pat O'Brien, Madge Evans	11-9-36
REEL 131	HALLMARK PLAYHOUSE	1200'
1L	So big.	2-24-49
	Berkley Square.	3-3-49
2L	And there I stood with my piccolo.	3-10-49
	Our own kind.	3-17-49
1R	Wyatt Earp.	3-24-49
	Immortal wife.	3-31-49
2R	Morning glory.	4-7-49
	One foot in heaven.	4-14-49
REEL 132	ZERO HOUR	1800'
1L & 1R	The desperate witness. Ch. 1,2, and 3 - 9-10,9-11,9-12-73	
2L & 2R	The desperate witness. Ch. 4 & 5 - 9-13, 9-14-73	
2L	Quiet Please. Whence came you.	1947
2R	The Fat Man. Order for murder.	





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1/81

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