



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 28, Number 8

August, 2003

An Announcer's Dilemma

By Danny Goodwim, (Reprinted with the author's permission from www.old-time.com)

Only on live radio can the radio listeners expect the unexpected. One of the most bizarre events to air live over the microphone occurred on the May 26, 1946 broadcast of *THE FRED ALLEN SHOW*. Since his return to NBC, the relationship between

Allen and the management of the network was strained at best. One of the network's pet peeves was that Allen would have his program run beyond the 30-minute time limit. When that happened, the program was cut off in mid-sentence by the sounding of the NBC chimes. To Allen's delight, the listeners would get mad at the network for cutting his

program off. The May 26, 1946 broadcast was almost one of those long running broadcasts had it not been for the closing commercial and the quick narration of announcer Kenny Delmar.

The broadcast featured "Mary Livingstone's husband" (Jack Benny) as the special guest. If you know your old time radio, you already know of the

long running "feud" between Fred Allen and Jack Benny. When the two men got together in front of the microphone, fireworks would usually follow.

On this particular broadcast, Allen was unusually subdued. Both he and Benny would get in some cracks at each other, but it wasn't anything unusual. The final routine on the program was a skit called *King for A Day* with Allen as the M.C. and Benny as the contestant under the alias of "Myron

Proudfoot." To the

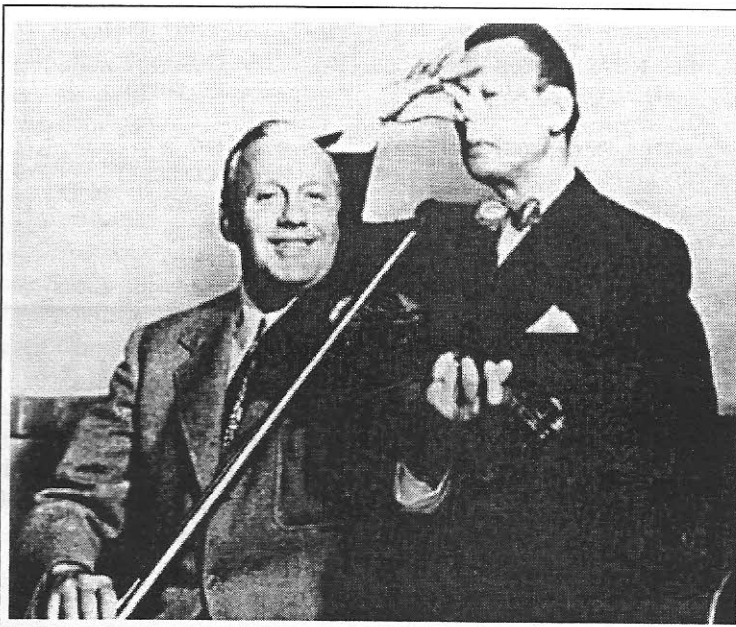
surprise of absolutely no one, Benny won the contest and was King for A Day. Allen presented him with some cheap gifts. The final prize was to have Benny's suit cleaned and pressed ---

AT THAT VERY MOMENT!

Two men grabbed Benny while a third man pulled off his pants in front of the studio audience, who couldn't believe what they were seeing.

With the audience laughing hysterically and Benny yelling for his pants, there was a small problem --- one that could get Allen in trouble with his sponsor, *Standard Brands*. That problem was one more commercial had to be presented --- with only seconds left! Delmar had to read the closing commercial for *Tender Leaf Tea* so fast, the listeners could barely

(Continued on Page 3)



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

PO BOX 1908, Englewood CO 80150 (303) 761-4139

Dedicated to the preservation of old-time radio programs, and to making those programs available to our members

Old-Time Radio is Alive and Well in Colorado!

KEZW 1430 AM	"When Radio Was", with Stan Frieberg	Weekdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
KFKA 1310 AM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:00 - 12:00 PM
KNUS	"Radio Revisited"	Weekdays, 10:00 - 11:00 PM
KRMA TV Channel 6	Secondary Audio Program (SAP), "Tribute to OTR"	Sunday, 2:00 PM
KUVU 89.3 FM	"Destination Freedom"	9:00 PM

RHAC WEB SITE <http://www.rhac.org>

RHAC OTR WEB PAGE <http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>

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Reference Material:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503	Denver, CO 80227	(303) 986-9863
Logs & Scripts:	Fred Hinz	c/o RHAC PO Box 1908	Englewood, CO 80150	
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Convention Schedules

The Friends of Old-time Radio 28th Annual Convention Oct 23 – 26, 2003 at the Holiday Inn-North, Newark NJ. Our web site will keep you up to date. For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 email: JayHick@aol.com, web site: <http://www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/fotr>

SPERDVAC Annual Convention Nov. 7 - 9, 2003 at Hacienda Hotel, Los Angeles, Ca. For additional information visit the SPERDVAC web site at www.sperdvac.org or write the club at : P.O. Box 7177, Van Nuys Ca. 91409

18th Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention, April 16 – 17, 2004; Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence KY 41042 (859) 282-0333 haradio@hotmail.com

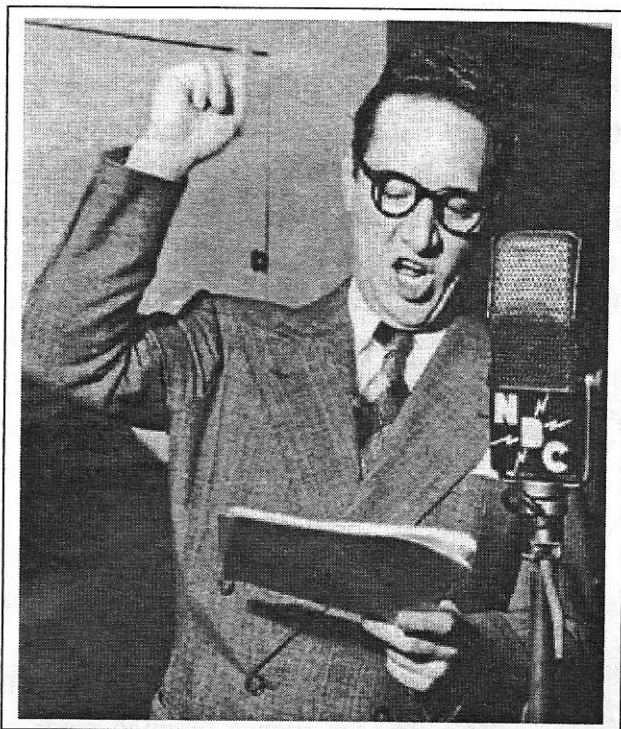
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keep up with him. To his credit, Delmar got the entire *Tender Leaf Tea* commercial on the air before the NBC chimes sounded. He also narrated the commercial with all the commotion happening right in front of him --- and that had to take considerable concentration in order not to become distracted.



Announcer Kenny Delmar

From the small mill town of Lincoln, Maine (about 50 miles north of Bangor), **Danny Goodwin** is among the first generation of the "New Generation" old time radio fans. He didn't have the opportunity to hear the radio programs firsthand because he was born in 1954. Despite this minor problem, he would become a fan of old time radio with the help of his mother, Kathryn B. Goodwin. When Danny was about 11, his mother would tell him about the wonderful things she heard on her radio. She also mentioned how much she loved the commercials for Lifebuoy Health Soap--- complete with the foghorn and "B.O." sound effects. This was when a small bud began to blossom in young Danny's head concerning the subject of old time radio.

His interest would take on a new dimension when he heard his first old time radio program on cassette tape in 1977. As time went on, he would collect more cassettes of many different radio programs. He began to research and accumulate information on OTR programming and advertising.

Of the different subjects, putting the radio jingles, sayings, and excerpts into print is Danny's personal favorite, because his mother loved the Lifebuoy commercials. With his keen awareness of radio sponsors, Danny would develop himself into an expert on radio advertising. His expertise would lead him to a nationwide audience of old time radio fans. His articles and sketches appear on various OTR websites.

Today, Danny has dedicated all his research on radio advertising to the memory of his mother.

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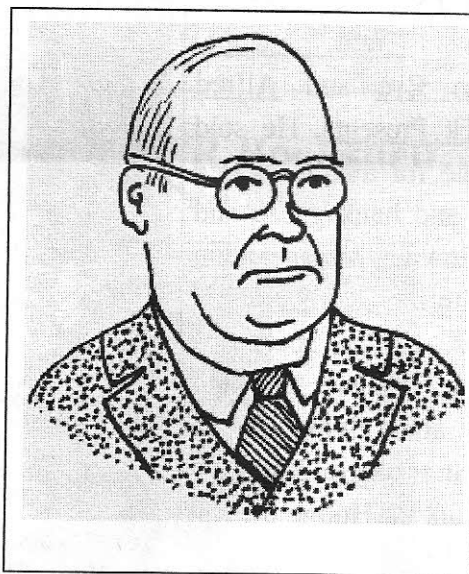
THE GREEN HORNET

(Part Two) by Paul Barringer

(Continued from the June, 2003 issue of RWUN)

After many years of toiling at very modest pay, Trendle's creative staff and talented actors saw most of the profits from the merchandising of books, movies and eventually TV, as well as large royalties, all go into Trendle's back pocket.

Fran Striker, the talented writer, not only did the daily scripting of The Lone Ranger and THE GREEN HORNET, but also authored an 18-volume book series of The Lone Ranger published by Grosset and Dunlap between 1937 and 1956. Volume one was written by Gaylord Dubois and revised by Striker whose name was listed as the author on all of the subsequent books. Striker also wrote The Lone Ranger's creed and authored the Tom Quest series of books.



George Trendle

In 1954 when Trendle was 70 years old, he sold the total rights to The Lone Ranger to the Wrather Corporation for \$3,000,000. Out of the money derived from the sale, Trendle gave Fran Striker \$4000.00 as a bonus. Only \$4000 for twenty-one and a half YEARS??

Al Hodge, the voice of THE GREEN HORNET on radio from 1936 to 1943, also played Captain Video (leader of The Video Rangers) on The Dumont Television Network. A natural athlete, he had been a star high jumper on the Miami University track team. Like Clayton (Bud) Collier (radio's

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Superman), Hodge used slightly different voices for Britt Reid and THE GREEN HORNET. In the 1939 movie serial, Hodge was used to dub all Gordon Jones' GREEN HORNET lines, because his voice was so closely identified with the character. Because Trendle was such a cheapskate, Hodge eventually organized a Detroit local of the American Federation Of Radio Artists (AFRA) union, campaigning for deserved reparation of wages for radio and TV artists. At WXYZ he also worked as a disc jockey, narrated football games, was a director on The Lone Ranger, scripted and delivered editorials, and acted as a producer.

Hodge served as a naval officer in WWII. During his service, he was restricted to bed for a year with pleurisy. Later in life, Hodge did a few commercials and found work in a few TV series, such as, Mannix, Tight Rope, Hawaiian Eye and Alfred Hitchcock Presents. He sold real estate for awhile, was a security and bank guard and held down lesser-paying jobs. With increasing alcohol problems, Hodge spent his last few years drinking heavily and living in a run-down room in Midtown Manhattan. Al Hodge died in April of 1979.

Keye Luke (Kato in THE GREEN HORNET movie serials) was probably better known for his portrayal of Lee Chan, number one son of Charlie Chan in the Charlie Chan movies. He was also the blind Master Po on the KungFu TV program. Born in China, Luke spent his childhood in Seattle and started his motion picture career as a caricature and billboard artist. Working for over 60 years, Luke made many appearances on TV. He was the voice of Charlie Chan on a Saturday morning children's cartoon show. He appeared in the

Broadway musical, Flower Drum Song and in both Gremlin movies. Keye Luke was also one of the founders of The Screen Actors Guild.

Bruce Lee (Kato on the TV GREEN HORNET) was born in San Francisco in 1940. When he auditioned for the part, he was a martial arts instructor for many Hollywood stars. After his success on THE GREEN HORNET, Lee became an icon in many martial arts movies. He also appeared on a couple of other TV shows, such as Longstreet and Ironside, and appeared twice with Van Williams on the Batman TV show as Kato and THE GREEN HORNET. As a child actor in Hong Kong, Lee had

previously appeared in some 20 films using the name Lee Siu Loong (The Little Dragon). In fact, when THE GREEN HORNET aired in Hong Kong, it was known as "The KATO Show". Bruce Lee died July 19, 1973 in Hong Kong. A very short life for such a talented actor and martial artist.

Van Williams, who played Britt Reid and the HORNET in the TV version, had followed both the Lone Ranger and the Green Hornet on the radio and in the comics, but was unaware of their "family" connection until he was signed for the part.

On THE GREEN HORNET TV show, THE BLACK BEAUTY was a customized 1966 Chrysler Imperial Crown. Built by Hollywood customizer Dean Jefferies, it was estimated to cost about \$50,000. Jefferies also built the Monkeemobile for the TV show, The Monkees. Jefferies was originally supposed to craft The Batmobile for Dozier's BATMAN TV show, using a 1959 Cadillac, but Dozier, eager to get the project going, and unable to tolerate Jefferies' meticulousness and methodical attention to detail,



turned to George Barris, who used a 1955 Lincoln Futura. Due to the short run of the GREEN HORNET TV program, many of the devices incorporated into the customized version of THE BLACK BEAUTY never reached the screen.

In 1992 Universal Studios started to develop THE GREEN HORNET film project for the big screen, but after spending a decade developing the project, they abandoned the task, whereupon Miramax Films obtained the licensing and options to THE GREEN HORNET, but as yet have not progressed to filming. George Clooney and Jet Li were considered for the parts of THE GREEN HORNET and KATO, but are no longer connected to the film. At present, Miramax still holds the option to co-finance. George Trendle, not the creator of the HORNET but his son, controls the rights to the GREEN HORNET character and will be the executive producer if the project ever reaches the point of filming.

Author's note: As I write this article I am watching the 1944 film "The Purple Heart", a film about a group of 8 American flyers who are captured and tortured by the Japanese and put on trial for war crimes after they bomb Tokyo and their plane crashes. This captive movie has become a minor classic. The U.S. Navy ship that the airmen were from was the U.S.S. Hornet. During WW11 the Naval ship, USS HORNET CV-12 kept a running scoreboard on board ship detailing all planes and ships destroyed during battle. Planes shot down 668. Planes damaged on the ground 742. Tonnage of ships sunk 1,269,710. Also 4 Hornet-based torpedos hit the Japanese super battleship Yamato. Today, crew members of the Navy ship USS Griffin AS-13 wear a GREEN HORNET patch.

I had originally planned this to be a short article on the Green Hornet, but as I did the research, I found so many interesting facts about the character, actors, and creator that I probably put too much into this article. However, I thoroughly enjoy finding out information on the programs I listened to while I was growing up, and as I want to expand my knowledge as much as I can, it is my hope that you find this interesting as well.

From the Desk of the Editor by Carol Tiffany



"In the good old summertime", or maybe this year we should say, "in the hot old summertime". Anyway, in these "dog days" of August, most of us try to think of ways to keep cool. One of the best suggestions I've heard is to relax in front of the air conditioner or fan, pour a long tall glass of lemonade or ice water, and put on a good OTR tape or CD. Check out the new selections in the CD and tape libraries for some great summer listening!

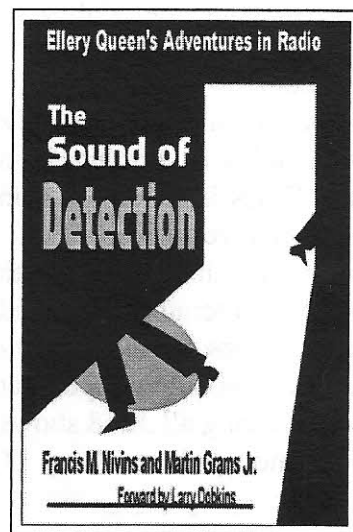
If you have any ideas for articles or stories for our newsletter, this is a great time to jot them down and send them off to your editor. We would also like to hear from you about the contents of the newsletter. Do you like the articles we are featuring? Is there a particular show or personality you would like to read about?

As always, comments, criticisms, and suggestions are welcome.

Keep cool and keep listening....

On the OTR Bookshelf...

by Carol Tiffany



New on the OTR bookshelf this month are two books by prolific OTR author Martin Grams, Jr. The first, The Sound of Detection (Ellery Queen's Adventures in Radio), written in collaboration with Francis M. Nevins, boasts a forward by Larry Dobkin, three Anthony Boucher synopses, and an unusually complete episode guide.

What makes The Sound of Detection stand out as a "must read" for OTR fans and for those interested in detective fiction are the meticulously researched chapters on the writers, actors, and production personnel involved in the long-running show. The book features a well-written chronological history of the Ellery Queen saga, including the evolution of the series and the effect on the series of the input of various writers.

This reviewer in particular was impressed with the brief biographies of the celebrity "armchair detectives" presented in Appendix D. Another unique feature of the book is an appendix dedicated to "the competition" which lists the shows appearing on rival networks at the same time as Ellery Queen was being aired. Overall, this book is one which has a broad appeal and is a pleasing and informative read.

Mr. Grams' second new book, Invitation to Learning, concerns what is arguably the most unusual show ever to be presented on radio. Invitation to Learning was a half-hour show that was never rehearsed, never had a sponsor, had very low ratings, and yet enjoyed a twenty-four year run presenting over 1200 episodes. The show was the brainchild of Dr. Stringfellow Barr, a Maryland college president who wanted to rekindle interest in the great books which were and are the foundation of Western civilization and Philosophy. The basic premise was that a group of three or four diverse people would come together to have a spontaneous discussion about a particular book. Over the years, these books included everything from the Bible to Grimms' Fairy Tales and authors from the Ancient Greeks to Shakespeare to Karl Marx. For 24 years, from 1940 to 1964, this forum continued to bring discussions of great literature to the radio audience.

This book includes a brief history of the show, a discussion of its' continuing appeal, and a complete episode guide covering all 1218 shows. Overall, this is a very welcome addition to any OTR collector's library.

The Sound of Detection - OTR Publishing, P.O.Box 252, Churchville, Md. 21028 \$24.95 + \$4.00 S&H

Invitation to Learning - OTR Publishing, P.O.Box 252, Churchville, Md. 21028 \$14.95 + \$4.00 S&H

Books are also available through the publisher at www.otrpublishing.com or on Amazon.com

RETURN WITH US NOW...



New in the Tape Library

by Dick and Maletha King

Over the years we have received many phone calls from members asking about some of the church broadcasts that were on the air every Sunday. This month we have three reels of "The Old Fashion Revival Hour" with Charles Fuller. Fuller was based in California, but traveled through out the nation spreading his very sincere religious beliefs.

We are also offering two reels of "Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street". These reels of good swing music of that time (1941) will give all of us a little bounce to the days of hum-drum chores.

The rest of the shows being offered this month, both comedy and mystery, are typical of what was offered in their day.

We feel sure that our members will enjoy the cross-section of shows being offered this month.

have
a
great
Summer!