



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO



Volume 31, Number 5

May, 2006

Old Time Radio Moments of the Century (Part 10)

Over the last nine months Ms. McLeod has listed 90 of her "top 100" 20th Century Radio Moments. This month we are featuring her final "top ten" selections. Your editor is of the opinion that most of these would be on everyone's list.

(The following article by broadcast historian Elizabeth McLeod is reproduced here with her permission.)

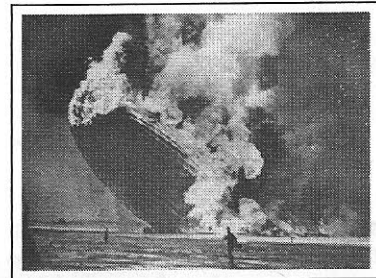
10. War Of The Worlds 10/30/38

Like a lot of legends, the story of Orson Welles and his Martian Invasion has grown with the telling. It's probable that no more than six million people heard the broadcast, and Professor Hadley Cantril in his landmark study of the "invasion" estimated that at most only about a million people were actually fooled -- out of a total population of around 150 million, and compared to the 35 million Americans who went on blithely listening to Charlie McCarthy, unaware that anything was out of the ordinary. But the numbers, in the end, don't really matter. What matters is that Welles and company provide a graphic demonstration of just how powerful the audio medium can be -- and even more significant, the post-mortem public response to the broadcast reveals just how unprepared Americans really are for the brave new Media Age ahead.

9. FDR's First Inaugural 3/4/33

The winter of 1932-33 may have been the most grim in our nation's history. The economy was in ruins, the banking system was collapsing, tens of millions were hungry, with no money, no jobs, and no hope. But on a chilly March afternoon, a newly inaugurated President reaches out with his voice to calm the panic, to convince a terrified America that, indeed, the only thing it has to fear is fear itself.

8. The Hindenburg Description 5/8/37



Is there a living American who *hasn't* heard WLS staff announcer Herbert Morrison's sobbing account of the explosion of the legendary German dirigible? Without doubt the most famous actuality recording of all time, Morrison's description of the disaster is so vivid that it becomes the first notable exception to NBC's prohibition on the airing of recordings. It only aired twice over the network -- and never in its entirety -- but Morrison's recording has nonetheless transcended the original event to become one of the most familiar audio documents of the twentieth century.

7. FDR's first Fireside Chat 3/12/33



"My friends. I want to tell you what has been done in the last few days, why it has been done, and what the next steps are going to be." In a calm, reasoned, thirteen-minute talk, the new President outlines the steps taken to prevent a full-scale collapse of the nation's banking system -- explaining the complexities of industrial economics in terms that any citizen can understand. This gentle, informal approach projects the atmosphere of a man talking to his neighbors by the fireside -- and CBS-Washington manager

(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
Pirate Radio 104.7 FM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:30 - 12:00 PM
and, Pirate Radio internet streaming at http://www.pirate1047.com		Sunday, 6:30 - 12:00 PM
KNUS 710 AM	"Radio Revisited"	Weekdays, 10:00 - 11:00 PM
KRMA TV Channel 6	Secondary Audio Program (SAP), "Tribute to OTR"	Sunday, 2:00 PM

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

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Reference Material:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503	Denver, CO 80227	(303) 986-9863
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#4 (5001-up)	Mika Rhoden	3950 W. Dartmouth Ave.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 937-9476
CD Library:	Thomas Woessner	9693 W. Euclid Dr	Littleton CO 80123-3192	(303) 936-4643

Convention Schedules

17th Annual Radio/TV Classics Live will be held May 5 & 6, 2006 at The Buckley Performing Arts Center, Brockton, MA., Contact: Buckley Center Box Office, 1Massasoit Blvd., Brockton MA 02302, (508) 427-1234, www.radioclassicslive.org

31st Old-time Country and Bluegrass Contest and Festival, Aug 28 – Sep 3, 2006 at Harrison County Fairgrounds in Missouri Valley, Iowa. For information contact Bob Everhart at Box 492, Walnut, IA, 51577 (712) 762-4363 bobeverhart@yahoo.com

Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Convention, Sep 14 - 17, 2006 at Four Points Sheraton, Aberdeen, MD Web site is www.midatlanticnostalgiaconvention.com, For information call Michelle or Martin at (717) 456-6208

31st Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 19 - 22, 2006 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 JayHick@aol.com or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

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Harry Butcher coins an enduring phrase to describe the style: a "fireside chat."

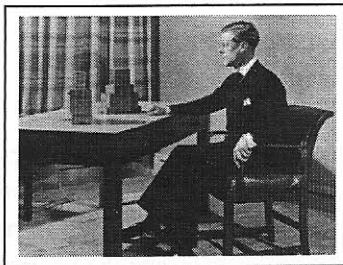
6. **The European Crises: 9/38 and 8/39**

Mounting tensions in Europe work to a peak over a year's time -- beginning with the Sudetenland crisis in September 1938 and culminating in the dispute over control of the Polish Corridor and the free city of Danzig the following August. The Sudeten crisis proves to be the first great international challenge for radio news -- still hamstrung by the terms of the 1933 Press-Radio Agreement. But the medium rises to the occasion, making household voices out of CBS's Ed Murrow and William Shirer, NBC's Max Jordan and Fred Bate, and Mutual's John Steele -- and above all, CBS's H. V. Kaltenborn, who provides a continuing stream of concise and well-reasoned commentary as the crisis unfolds. Following the agreement at Munich -- the "peace in our time" accord -- radio documents the continuing deterioration of European peace, until the German invasion of Poland leads to the declaration of war. The tired voice of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announcing that declaration early on the morning of September 3, 1939 is evidence of a terrible lesson, learned too late: if you sit down at table with Hitler, prepare to be the main course.

5. **Farewell Speech of the former King Edward VIII 12/12/36**

The "Love Story Of The Century" transcends national borders, as the American people join with all the rest of the English-speaking world in listening to the thin, weary voice of a man who gave up the throne of the world's most powerful empire for the woman he loves. The poignant broadcast by Edward, Duke of Windsor, is the single most-listened-to moment of the 1930s.

4. **Pearl Harbor 12/7-8/41**



A typical Sunday afternoon by the radio -- light music, sustaining drama, public affairs programs, pro football. But at 2:22 pm, a one-line bulletin flashes over the Associated Press wire, shattering the tranquillity. Within minutes, the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii is being relayed by all four networks -- and all the debate between Isolationists and Interventionists is suddenly and terribly rendered moot. Radio covers the story in depth -- and perhaps the most chilling moment is the voice of an unnamed staff announcer at NBC's Honolulu affiliate, proclaiming "This is no joke! This is war!" The following day, record audiences tune in as President Roosevelt's message to a joint session of Congress sets the tone for the next four years.

3. **The Rise of Toll Broadcasting 1922-23**

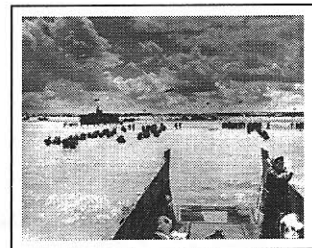
Radio advertising didn't just suddenly spring into being one afternoon in August 1922 at WEAF. There's evidence to suggest paid commercials had aired on stations in Massachusetts and Washington state several months before

the WEAF landmark, and barter advertising goes back at least as far as 1916 and Lee deForest's experimental station 2XG. But WEAF doesn't have to have been the birthplace of the commercial for it to have been the most important station in the evolution of modern broadcasting -- for it was indisputably the first station to be established for the specific purpose of selling time to advertisers. WEAF's success leads in October 1924 to the formation of the first permanent radio network -- and the concept of "toll broadcasting" proves to be the foundation on which the entire structure of American radio -- and later, television -- would be built.

2. **End of the War 8/14/45**

V-E Day on May 8th was just the beginning of the end -- and the enthusiasm that greets the end of the war in Europe is tempered by the realization there's still a war to be won in the Pacific. But the use of atomic weapons against Japan changes the whole complexion of the conflict -- and beginning with the dropping of the Nagasaki bomb on August 9th, radio listeners anxiously wait for word on Japan's imminent surrender. August 10th goes by -- the 11th -- the 12th -- the 13th -- all with a steady stream of bulletins, but no official statements. Unofficial reports come in early on the morning of the 14th -- and at 4:18 that afternoon, NBC's Max Jordan reports from Berne, Switzerland with the first word confirming that the intermediaries have received a message from the Japanese Government. "I myself," announces Jordan in his distinctive clipped voice, "am going to a party of the American consulate here to celebrate V-J Day!" Shortly after 7 pm, official word is released by the White House -- and the long-delayed celebration finally erupts. Radio paints an unforgettable sound picture of celebrations in Times Square, outside the White House, and in towns and cities all over the United States as the nightmare of the Second World War finally draws to a close.

1. **D-Day 6/6/44**

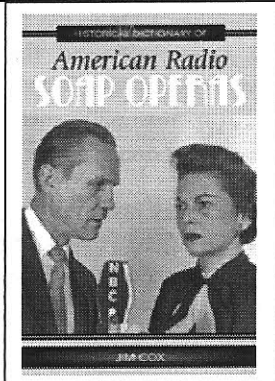


It is arguably the single most important news story of the 20th Century -- the beginning of the Liberation of Europe from a regime which has come to embody modern evil. And radio covers it from beginning to end, in depth and in person. The highlights are many: Wright Bryan of NBC describing the disappointment of a paratrooper who failed to make his scheduled drop, Charles Collingwood of CBS making his way to a Normandy beach, George Hicks of the Blue Network describing the joy of Navy gunners bringing down their first Nazi plane. But perhaps the greatest thrill comes at 3:32 am on June 6th, as Colonel R. Ernest Dupuis reads the concise, understated communiqué the entire world awaited: "Under the command of General Eisenhower, Allied naval forces, supported by strong air forces, began landing Allied armies this morning on the Northern Coast of France." History in the making-- and, for me, radio's finest moment.

Historical Dictionary of American Radio Soap Operas

By Jim Cox

A Review by Stewart Wright



The Great Radio Soap Operas by Jim Cox was published in 1999. This book focused on 31 of the hundreds of soap operas that were broadcast during the Golden Age of Radio. Cox's book whetted the appetites of Old-Time Radio fans for a more inclusive volume on Radio Soap Operas.

In late 2005 that comprehensive more book was published. Scarecrow Press released Jim Cox's **Historical Dictionary of American Radio Soap Operas** as part of their Historical Dictionaries of Literature and the Arts series.

OTR fans have come to expect informative and entertaining books from Jim Cox and they will not be let down by his **Historical Dictionary of American Radio Soap Operas**. Jim has included an amazing amount of information into his 320 page volume.

The book starts with an informative Chronology that spans the halcyon years of the Radio Soap Opera, the time period from 1925 to 1960. The Introduction covers the origins, basic plot and characterization schemas, and business aspects of Radio Soap Operas. The final portion of the Introduction provides An Overview Of The Dictionary which discusses its content and organization.

The alphabetically arranged Dictionary comprises the main part of the book, containing over 450 entries that fall into one of four categories.

Series:

There are more than of 300 essays on the individual series, obscure and famous. These entries contain information on primary series titles (and cross references to alternate titles), character and plot overview, network affiliations, beginning and

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ending air dates, and cast, crew, and sponsor information. In all probability, it is the most complete listing of American Radio Soap Operas.

Individuals:

Over 60 biographical entries deal with actors, directors, producers, writers, and announcers who prominently figured in the success of the genre. Additional entries are provided on authors who have written about the American Radio Soap Opera.

Topics:

Also, there are over 50 entries that provide the reader with instructive information on broadcasting terms, plotline concepts and devices, and Soap Opera sub-genres.

Organizations:

Finally, there are more than 20 entries that discuss major advertising and talent agencies, awards, networks, production companies, ratings services, sponsors, and unions.

The Bibliography contains much more information than just citations of reference works and periodicals dealing with radio and soap operas. Additional sources of information on major soap opera figures are listed. Information is supplied on several useful Internet websites. Finally, there is a listing of research archives with prominent collections of soap opera related materials.

As this book is a dictionary, there is no index. However, throughout the book, references to persons, series, topics, and organizations that have their own separate entries are shown in bold text.

Jim Cox has added yet another highly enjoyable and informative book to the body of literature on American Old-Time Radio. No doubt his **Historical Dictionary of American Radio Soap Operas** will become the standard general reference on the American daytime radio adult serial drama. If you are a fan of Radio soap operas or just interested in Old-Time Radio history in general, this book deserves a place in your library.

Historical Dictionary of American Radio Soap Operas, By Jim Cox, ISBN 0-8108-5323-X

November 2005, 320pp, \$70.00 Cloth

The Scarecrow Press, Inc.

4501 Forbes Blvd Suite 200

Lanham, MD 20706

301-459-366, www.scarecrowpress.com

The Trivial Matter of OTR Newsmen and Their Famous Tag lines

Most of the Newscasters and Commentators who delivered the news each day on radio had certain phrases or expressions which came to be identified with each specific individual. Try to match the catch phrase or tag line with the person with whom it was identified.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| _____ “Time...Marches...On...” | 1) Walter Winchell |
| _____ “So long until tomorrow...” | 2) Elmer Davis |
| _____ “This...is London” | 3) John Daly / Dan Hollenbeck |
| _____ “ello everyone” and “Cherrio” | 4) Westbrook Van Voorhis |
| _____ “God Bless you one and all” | 5) Lowell Thomas |
| _____ “Wellll.....” | 6) Edward R. Murrow |
| _____ “Ah, there’s good news tonight...” | 7) ‘Bob’ Trout |
| _____ “Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. North America and all the ships at sea...” | 8) William L. Shirer |
| _____ “This is Berlin...” | 9) Gabriel Heater |
| _____ “YOU are There!” | 10) Earl Godwin |
| _____ “This, ladies and gentlemen, is the end of the Second World War.” <i>(one time only)</i> | 11) Boake Carter |

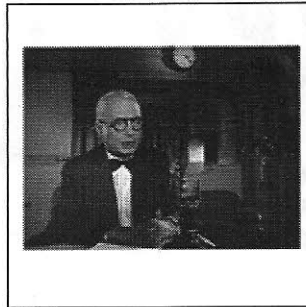
Answers on page 6



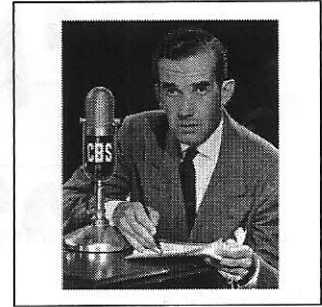
Lowell Thomas



Walter Winchell



Elmer Davis



Edward R. Murrow

From the Desk of
the Editor
by Carol Tiffany



Thanks to all of you who responded to our request for material for the newsletter. We now have several articles for future issues. If you have any more ideas, please send them on in, as we can never have too much material!

A few months ago, your editor asked for ideas or articles about your favorite OTR series. An unexpected response came from a reader in Skokie, Illinois. He wrote a piece about his LEAST favorite show. Look for this very unflattering review of one of OTR's long-running quiz shows in our June issue. (Add a tip of the editorial hat for originality and creativity to Mr. Jack Mandik.) How about it, readers? Does anyone else have a show they love to hate?

In this issue we finish Elizabeth McLeod's great article on the 100 greatest moments of the 20th century with her picks for the top ten. We hope that you have enjoyed this series as much as we have and invite your comments. Was anything left out that you feel should have been included? Feel free to send in your ideas.

Finally, we will be beginning another new series in the June issue with the first of a series of biographical portraits of OTR personalities from Stewart Wright.

Good listening to all...



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New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Maletha King

This month we're adding one "New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" and then moving on to one of America's greatest series, "Amos and Andy". The philosophy of these shows is very reflective of the times. That is, just good listening for the family about everyday people, most of whom work for a living and others that are always trying to work others - as it were. The setting may have been 1949, but it sure fits today's life.

As I spend time on the club's tapes I often think about some of our members that commit a lot of effort just collecting and not allowing themselves enough time to listen to their treasures and once again enjoy them as they were intended. Slow down, enjoy what you have, and yes, smell the roses.

Answers to Trivia Questions

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------------|
| (7) | "This, ladies and gentlemen, is the end of the Second World War." | (one time only) |
| (3) | "YOU are There!" | |
| (8) | "This is Berlin..." | |
| (1) | "Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. North America and all the ships at sea..." | |
| (9) | "Ah, there's good news tonight..." | |
| (2) | "Welllll..." | |
| (10) | "God Bless you one and all" | |
| (11) | "ello everyone" and "Cherio" | |
| (6) | "This...is London" | |
| (5) | "So long until tomorrow..." | |
| (4) | "Time..Marches...On..." | |