

SPERDVAC

RADIOGRAM

Vol. XVI, No. 5

The Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and Comedy

May 1990

Computer Virus Can Erase OTR Files

Our files of programs are not immune to the computer virus!

By Bob Burnham

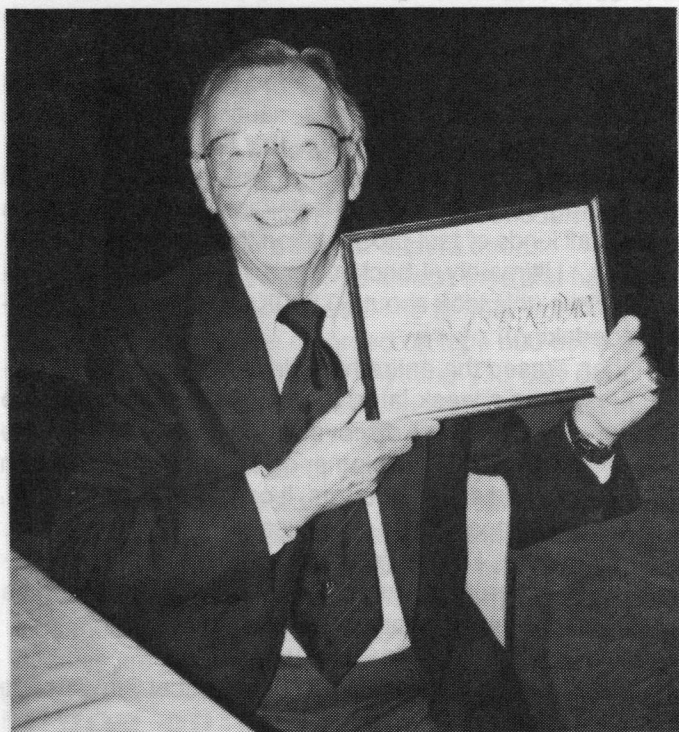
It would be safe to say that today, most radio show collectors with larger collections are already using a computer to catalog their programs. The advantages of using a computer are already well known. The disadvantages, however, and the potential hazards that exist are often overlooked.

During the past few years there has been a great deal of discussion among old time radio collectors regarding using micro computers to help catalog their collections. There have been a number of "computerizing your collection" workshops presented at conventions, as well as articles in various publications outlining different approaches to accomplishing this.

The major components of a computer are: (1) The input device (such as a keyboard, mouse or optical scanner), the microprocessor which is the part that does useful work with data entered. (2) The random Access Memory, which is where the microprocessor stores the information while it's working with it, and (3) The permanent storage device, which is usually a floppy disk drive and/or a hard disk drive. There is also a monitor and output devices such as printers.

Files Easily Lost

The complexity of how these various parts work together is beyond the comprehension of many, and certainly beyond the scope of this article. The bottom line is they do work together perfectly most of the time, but sometimes sometimes they don't. Any number of things can go wrong, depending on the quality and condition of the hardware, the compatibility of the software with the hardware or with other software that's running at the same time, the quality and condition of the magnetic media (disks) used, and operator error. If the integrity of all these variables can be preserved, listings of thousands of programs could be considered as safe as if they were printed on paper and sealed in an air tight vault. Right? Wrong! There is one last factor that could spell disaster for magnetically stored OTR listings.



Actor Jimmy Lydon, already a SPERDVAC honorary member, was presented a "Friend of SPERDVAC" certificate after discussing his acting career at our April meeting.

Computers are so complex that it is likely that many activities are going on at one time within the silicon chips, many without the user's knowledge whatsoever. The various keys you press which are causing blocks of the RAM to be modified in various ways and at the same time displaying data on a screen that corresponds to what the user is doing. What would happen if certain functions you were doing were causing UNDESIRABLE things to happen completely without your knowledge?

Normally, this will not happen unless there is defective software or hardware. But what if an "alien" program somehow were able to enter your system, and it was written so that, for example, every time you hit a capitol letter "L" it automatically ERASED two random paragraphs on the previous page all without your knowledge? Ultimately, you could end up losing most if not all of your hard work.

This is an example of one kind of MILD damage a com-

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Computer Virus Cont. . .

puter virus can do. Undetected, such a virus can and will infect a hard drive and every single floppy used. If an "infected" floppy disk is put in someone else's computer, it will spread itself to that system. If a user sends files over a modem to a collector friend, it can infect whatever is connected to the opposite end, and ultimately an entire network. Some viruses are malignant and cause destruction others are just invisible files that just take up space. But both types can and will cause anyone's system to malfunction sooner or later.

Personal Experience

As publisher of *Listening Guide Newsletter* and an old time radio dealer, I had developed a very sophisticated subscriber/ customer database over a period of years. Major additions were made to this list this past year amounting to hundreds of hours of work. Much to my dismay, recently, many of my programs started displaying problems such as unexpected shut downs, causing damage or partial loss to files I was working on at that time.

To try to correct the situation, I had replaced copies of all my programs and system software with virgin copies and ran all kinds of test programs on the hardware, without success. Ultimately, I backed up my entire hard drive to floppy disks (this took about 50 800K disks, so it was a major undertaking!)

I then erased the entire hard drive and started rebuilding. Less than a week later, the problem returned. In the process of rebuilding I discovered my floppy disks were loaded with errors. My customer database which I used on a daily basis had so many errors, it could not be recovered. My two other recent back up copies were equally trashed. Up to that point, I did not suspect a virus was present, because four different programs I had run to detect viruses all told me there were none present.

New Virus

A call to my database software Technical Support line brought the answer:

A NEW VIRUS is currently sweeping the nation which escapes detection from all but the very newest anti-viral detection products. I eventually was referred to the product I had to buy (which is excellent and I recommend. It carries an \$80 price tag. . . that actually is a very small price to pay considering what is at stake).

I ran the tests with the new product, and it confirms the presence of a virus called W-DEF. It also got rid of it, but by then, the damage was already done. While I was making my hard drive back ups to floppy disks, the virus was corrupting the data as it was being transferred from one media to another. I ended up going to a back up that was over a year old before I caught the "bug" and lost everything I had done to the customer database since then.

The only positive thing was that I had THAT copy, and that my cassette and reel files were not affected.

This was a hard lesson to learn. I thought I knew my machine pretty well, and to have things like this happen is a very humbling experience. If there are collectors who think they are computer wizards, think again. Do you

REALLY know everything that is going on inside there?

Use Multiple Layers


Here are some words to the wise. Floppy disks are INEXPENSIVE. Make back ups in multiple layers. Do not erase your older back up. What if there is some bad data on your more recent back ups, and they are really worthless? Back up on a DAILY basis if you use certain files daily. Your daily back ups can be erased and reused daily. Once a week or once a month or on an annual basis make a MASTER back up set of disks. DO NOT ERASE those. Just keep adding new sets. There are products available that can automate and greatly speed up the back up process, and make it as painless as possible.

Finally, if you are connected to a modem, regularly purchase new commercial programs, public domain programs or "shareware" or you use disks used in your computer on someone else's system, be sure to ALWAYS have the latest anti-virus programs running, test every new disk you receive. Some collectors exchange catalogs on disk. This is also a risky situation.

If you use your disks on a printer's system (such as I do), it would be wise to (A) "Lock" your disk before inserting it into his equipment (which prevents his computer from modifying it, and makes it impossible for the virus to infect your disk) or better yet (B) BULK ERASE the floppy disk after having it in someone else's system if you're going to use it again on your computer.

The ANTIVIRUS programs are effective only on the

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SPERDVAC

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We are so grateful to the many Friends of SPERDVAC who have contributed \$50 or more to help defray costs of the society. The above members have donated funds during the past year.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Larry Gassman

Thanks to all who attended our planning meeting on April 14. You will read of some of our decisions in this issue of the *Radiogram*. A big thank you to Richard and Jill Glasband for allowing us into their home.

One item discussed at the April Planning meeting was our meeting schedule. For years we have met on the second Saturday in the Valley and the third in Orange County.

We would again like to be consistent across the board. Depending on availability, we may change the meeting dates in 1991 so that they all land on the same Saturday of each month. If you have a preference please let me know immediately so that we can begin making plans.

Charles Michelson, Inc. announced that beginning May 15 the syndicated Jack Benny program heard in many cities throughout the United States will be heard in Australia. The Australia Broadcasting Company will air these gems from radio's past.

A Change in Membership

Three years ago Duane and Jean Harding assumed the duties of membership chair. Unfortunately for all of us, they recently presented SPERDVAC with their resignations.

In a day and age where the word class is overused, it is in the case of the Hardings an understatement to use the word to describe what their efforts have meant to us over the last three years. When we meet people of their caliber it should make us realize that the radio shows are the common bond of this hobby but it is the people who draw us together and make it worthwhile. We are happy to report that Duane and Jean have volunteered to help us in our dubbing process to get the libraries up to speed.

Carrolyn Rawski has been helping the Hardings with membership for the last six months. She has volunteered to take over the membership chores for SPERDVAC effective June 1990. Thanks to Duane and Jean Harding for making the transition such a smooth one. And thank you again to Carrolyn Rawski for all of her past efforts as well as for her acceptance of her new job as membership chair.

Member Corey Harker has formed a new club called The Minnesota Old Time Radio Club; anyone interested in getting in on the ground floor as it were can write Corey Harker; PO Box 664, Dodge Center, MN 55927.

Convention 1990

Our next convention will take place at The Viscount Hotel on November 9 and 10. If you would like to help us with the convention, please contact me soon. If you worked as part of radio and would like to be a part of our workshops or recreations, call John Gassman at (213)947-9800. We have made a few changes in our format for 1990. We hope to do three recreations as a part of our SPERDVAC 16th anniversary convention.

SPERDVAC's board voted to hold its 1991 convention near the end of June pending some logistical items which still need to be worked out.

We Need a Librarian

The Library of Cassettes for 1001 and up is still vacant. We have had many inquiries from those wishing to order from this library. At this point we still need someone to take the position. If you have the time let me hear from you.

If you would like to form a club, or just get to know other members in your city or area, give us your name and address and permission to print it in the *Radiogram*. We frequently have requests for the names of people living in a particular city or state. Our policy continues to be that we do not release the names of our members in order to protect their privacy without their permission.

New Reader Sought

Shortly after our mother passed away in November 1988 Carol Pearce became a reader of SPERDVAC-related material for us. She was invaluable to us in our preparation for the broadcast of the Rose Parade. Since then she has read countless radio newsletters plus correspondence relating to SPERDVAC's day to day operations.

Some people will do anything to get our of reading for us. Carol has accomplished this by selling her house and she is moving to Washington State. Seriously, we can't thank her enough for all of her superb efforts.

If you live in the Whittier-La Mirada area and have a little time on your hands, we would like to hear from you. Any reading done could be recorded on tape and done at your home and returned to us. Anything you can do to help would be appreciated. Call Larry or John Gassman at (213)947-9800.

And to continue about blindness and our blind members, Bob Herman asks that we announce that he has been receiving requests for Audio catalogs from sighted persons who do not read the directory with care. The audio catalog is only for blind members. Any extra print catalogs must come through Carrolyn Rawski. Her name and address are also in the directory.

BOB BRUCE GUESTS MAY 12

SPERDVAC will present radio voice man Bob Bruce when we meet at a new location on Saturday, May 12.

Mr. Bruce began his radio work in Minnesota in 1932, moved to Chicago in 1936, then worked in New York Radio. He came to Hollywood in 1938.

His radio credits include *Nero Wolfe*, *Let George Do It*, *Glamour Manour*, *The Life of Riley*, *Straight Arrow*, *Fibber McGee and Molly*, *Red Ryder*, and *Richard Diamond, Private Detective*. During the annual presentations of "A Christmas Carol" on *Mayor of the Town*, Mr. Bruce portrayed the Ghost of Christmas Past.

Our new meeting location, which we will also use on June 9, is the United Methodist Church of Sepulveda, 15435 Rayen in Sepulveda. From the 405 Freeway, take the Nordoff offramp. Go east on Nordoff, then right on Sepulveda and right again on Rayen. You'll pass a Lucky market and spot a nursery across the street from the church.

MAY MEMORIES OF KATE SMITH

By Hugh Anderson

May 1st was a very important day in the life of Kathryn Elizabeth Smith because she was born on that day in Greenville, Virginia, in 1909. On her 22nd birthday she began a sixteen year run with CBS. After a 1939 *Time Magazine* reference that stayed, she was known as "the first lady of radio."

She went to New York in 1926 to sing, was "discovered" by Eddie Dowling and appeared as songstress Tiny Little in "Honeymoon Lane" opening September 20th of that year. She played the road and went back to Broadway in 1929 and did "Flying High" with Bert Lahr. Being rather large - 235 pounds - she became miserable being the butt of Lahr's fat jokes and ridicule. Columnists also jumped aboard the overweight bandwagon with their jeering. She was about to leave show business in 1930 when one Ted Collins entered her life. The young singer became "the Songbird of the South" and was known to all as Kate Smith.

Collins worked for the Columbia Phonograph Company as recording manager. One of his responsibilities was to look for and develop new talent. He was impressed by Kate's voice when he was in the audience of "Flying High" one evening. He visited her after the show and suggested she try recording. She agreed and the two formed a partnership to last a lifetime. Collins became her guide and mentor; she followed his advice completely. Her warmness blossomed and her show would be one of the top rated. Her sponsors were The Hudson Motor Car Co., A & P and for ten years, General Mills. She introduced "When The Moon Comes Over The Mountain" on her first show and it became her theme song, associated with her as much as her weekly greeting, "Hello, everybody. This is Kate Smith."

In November, 1931 the New York *World-Telegram* polled 132 radio editors for their selection of the most popular radio shows and personalities. Guy Lombardo and Paul Whiteman were the leaders of the "foremost dance orchestras." Morton Downey, Bing Crosby and Rudy Vallee took honors as the "foremost male singers of popular songs." Kate Smith, Ruth Etting and Mildred Bailey won as their female counterparts. Bert Parks was a warm-up man and applause-cuer for Kate's "A & P Bandwagon." Henry Youngman, then a young man, appeared on the "Bandwagon."

Kate was once called "radio's own Statue of Liberty."

In 1936, Ted Collins became the host of her show and Andre' Baruch was the announcer. In 1938, Collins signed Smith for a daytime folksy talk show, **Kate Smith Speaks**, which started April 4 and ran until 1947 on CBS for General Mills. Her audience for this show was a solid ten million. In the late 30's, she displaced Rudy Vallee as the airwaves' number-one attraction.

Ted saw Abbott and Costello at Lowe's in N.Y. in 1938 and asked them to appear on Kate's show. Their old vaudeville routines featuring plays on words was an immediate success and they stayed with Kate for over a year before moving on to Hollywood films, guest appearances

and their own show beginning October 8, 1942.

"The Aldrich Family" skits appeared on **The Kate Smith Show** for forty weeks before Collins heard a skit written by Clifford Goldsmith, the creator of Henry Aldrich, on **The Rudy Vallee Show** in 1938. From Kate's show, Henry went on to his own program where he went through one hilarious adolescence crisis after another for fourteen years. John Dunning notes that in the late thirties Kate and Jack Benny had the only noncancellable contracts in radio. Legally, only war could force Kate off the air.

She was so popular she succeeded in obtaining exclusive rights to Irving Berlin's classic "God Bless America," which she introduced on her show in the fall of 1938. She alone sang the song, week after week, making it so famous that there was talk of it becoming the national anthem.

As WW II developed, Kate was everywhere and on every airwave, supporting her country, asking for all of us to help with scrap iron drives, paper drives, saving fat, writing letters to our servicemen and reminding American to "Buy Bonds!"

Amy Henderson in *On The Air*, referring to Kate's endeavors to help in the war effort in the forties, reports: "During the war Kate Smith tirelessly performed for the troops in the United States and Canada and did a phenomenal job of raising money for war bonds. She traveled nearly 520,000 miles and raised \$600 million in bonds - more than any other single person. In one marathon radio bond drive, she collected \$105,392,700, the largest sum ever amassed in a single effort." In 1942, WABC, New York, credited Kate with promoting more than \$2 million in bond sales in one day by personally answering phone calls. On September 21, 1943, as host of the CBS War Bond Day broadcast, during the 18 hour show, she raised close to 40 million dollars by stressing the theme of self-sacrifice.

One by-product of her show was Jerry Devine a comedy writer who turned serious and created, produced and directed *This is Your FBI*, beginning April 6, 1945 on the Blue network (ABC).

In 1950, NBC signed Smith to a five year capital gains contract. She starred in *The Kate Smith Hour*, the first daytime TV show to be shown coast to coast. It continued into 1954. Peg Lynch and Alan Bunce, as "Ethel and Albert", first appeared on TV on Kate's evening show, *The Kate Smith Evening Hour*, 1951-52. "The World of Mr. Sweeney" starring sweet old Charlie Ruggles was a segment on *The Evening Hour* in 1953. Charlie had his own "Mr. Sweeney" show the next year. After 1954, she returned to CBS for a short evening run in 1960 with *The Kate Smith Show*.

Amy Henderson concludes: "At one point in the mid 1950's, she had an hour-long TV program in the afternoon, an hour variety show on Wednesday nights and a forty-five minute daily radio program at noon.

"She never tried to be the perky, girl-next-door kind of



WANTED: Any episodes of THE HALLS OF IVY with Ronald and Benita Colman (1950-51 on radio, 1954-55 on TV) or any other Ronald Colman material. Contact: Milt Ferguson, 1500 El Paso Lane, Fullerton, CA 92633.

FOR TRADE: Looking for anyone who wants to trade old time radio programs. I have many hard to find shows. On reel-to-reel or quality grade cassettes only! Send list or catalogues for trade. Contact: Wally Stall, Box 22141, Oklahoma City, OK 73123, (405)728-2429 after 6 pm.

WANTED: I am a former member of the AFRS Orchestra under the direction of Meredith Willson and worked all those great shows starring everyone in Hollywood. I'm trying to find the shows we did from the Hollywood Canteen and also the shows that were done at C.P.

McGregor's on Western Avenue. I don't recall the names of those shows; hopefully someone out there can help. Contact Bill Sherman, 695 Temple Hills Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651, (714)494-1359.

WANTED: I would like to contact people with IBM compatible computers to trade software and form a buying group. Contact Ron Baron, 63-09 108th St. #2P, Forest Hills, NY 11375.

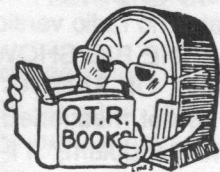
WANTED: Does anyone out there have anything of I LOVE A MYSTERY other than the half-dozen or so generally available programs? I am also searching for videotapes of two I LOVE A MYSTERY films from Columbia Pictures: "The Devil's Mask", 1946, and "The Unknown", 1946. Will buy or trade. Contact John L. Woodruff, 145 Park Avenue, Randolph, NJ 07869-3442, (201)927-0224.

FOR SALE: I have 35 radio program albums; all are 33 1/3 RPM. Some are George Garabedian Productions and others are by Radiola, Pelican, and Leo. Please send S.A.S.E. for a complete list of all that's available. Contact: Mel Swingrover, Box 262, Avalon, CA 90704.

This is a free service for members and subscribers. If you would like to contact new trading partners, or are looking for some particular radio-related item, send your ad to McGee's Closet, c/o Barbara J. Watkins, P.O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031.

Radio in Review

By Chris Lembesis



GUNSMOKE: A COMPLETE HISTORY AND ANALYSIS OF THE LEGENDARY BROADCAST SERIES. By Suzanne & Gabor Barabas. McFarland & Co. Inc. (Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640). 1990. Clothbound. \$45.00.

If there ever was a program from radio's past that could be described as a classic in the truest sense, it would be **Gunsmoke**. This is the long awaited, superb account of that program from radio and TV.

With respects to the TV version and its cast and the 20 years of enjoyment it brought to millions, this review will concentrate on the radio version of that series. The authors, lifelong fans of the series, begin by setting the scene for the first adult western on radio by reviewing the previous western programs on the air. We find out about the real Dodge City, and then how **Gunsmoke** came to radio. We meet writer John Meston and producer-director Norman MacDonnell and the others who played such an important part.

The principal and supporting cast members are introduced and many of them contribute their thoughts on being a part of **Gunsmoke**.

The quotes from the principals are numerous. From Parley Baer, - "Some of those Saturday recording sessions seem as though they were just yesterday, and I wish they were tomorrow." Announcer George Walsh, - "I felt ashamed to take money for it because I enjoyed it so much." And from Larry Dobkin, - "The few of us who are left keep telling each other that we never had it so good."

There are two wonderful highlights of this book that



Frequent Gunsmoke Players included Parley Baer (Chester), Antony Ellis (Author of many scripts), George Walsh (announcer), Charlotte Lawrence, Larry Dobkin (Standing) and Herb Ellis.

make its high cost worth it. First, there is an 85 page log of the entire radio series. It includes program titles, plot summaries, cast, air dates, repeat broadcast dates, and an anecdote about the story or cast member that makes for interesting reading. The second highlight is a section of photographs of the cast in rehearsal and publicity shots. But the real surprise is the group of photos that Harry Bartell took at Knott's Berry Farm in 1955. They are beautiful. They catch the radio cast, in costume, in exquisite character studies. To wrap up this book, the Appendices are a fascinating set of statistics. They include a listing of all the writers (Bill Conrad even wrote one!), awards, all the supporting performers from Lynn Allen to Will Wright, and the principal stars' credits in other radio, film and TV work.

The authors have written an 850 page work we should all add to our OTR libraries. Readers interested solely in the radio series should be aware that this work's major emphasis is on the television version, but it includes a thorough review of the radio series. Copies of this work will be at SPERDVAC meetings, and available by mail. The authors plan to attend all the OTR conventions this year, and look forward to meeting fans of **Gunsmoke**.

SOUNDS LIKE YESTERDAY: A RETURN TO RADIO'S "GOLDEN ERA" . . . AGAIN. By Owens Pomeroy. Privately Published. (3613 Chestnut Ave., Baltimore, MD 21211). 1989. Softbound. \$8.00.

Here is a fan's look at Old Time Radio, from the co-founder of The Golden Radio Buffs of Maryland, Inc. A warm and yet humorous forward by Ezra Stone sets the tone for this work. The author takes a look at the various types of programs we heard back then. Original artwork is

ACQUISITIONS UPDATE

Recently SPERDVAC has received inquiries concerning the criteria for donating radio shows to the General Library. The criteria are simple:

1. The shows must be in excellent sound quality, unless the show in question is rare and not likely to soon surface in better sound quality.

2. The show must not already be in the library. To aid you in checking this out, you can write me and I will check our files, or write to Chester Allen and request information on the condensed indexes. When material is ready for donation, SPERDVAC will either provide the tape for the recording, or contributors may send the material to us and we will do the recording.

Please remember that original transcription discs, radio scripts and tapes are tax deductible when donated to SPERDVAC. Loaning material to SPERDVAC is also common. In either case we have and continue to make copies of discs and reels of tape for those who donate or loan materials to SPERDVAC.

Contact Acquisitions chair John Gassman at Box 1163, Whittier, CA 90604 or phone the SPERDVAC line at (213)947-9800.

supplied by SPERDVAC's own Bobb Lynes, along with xeroxes of photos from radio's past. An epilogue by Barbara Watkins completes this work, and it is a thought provoking commentary on the lack of new creative radio programming today.

A problem arises with this book in that there are numerous misspellings and incorrect data about programs, but that should not take away the enthusiasm that the author projects in his book. It is self published, and perhaps a later edition will be free of errors. As a service for the blind and vision impaired OTR fans, the author has prepared a cassette version on his work, recorded by an Orson Welles sound alike, for \$9.95 (postage paid).

POE IN THE MEDIA: Screens, Songs, and Spoken Word Recordings. By Ronald Smith. Garland Publishing, Inc. (136 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016). 1990. Clothbound. \$33.00.

Here is a look at one American author, Edgar Allan Poe, and how his works have been adapted to the various entertainment media over the years. Poe's works are best remembered as screen adaptations, yet radio played an important part in his classic tales of horror.

The format of this volume is to analyze each Poe story as it appeared in a particular medium, including radio. It's an ambitious undertaking, but this reviewer felt that there was not sufficient research in some radio-related areas. For example, in "The Cask of Amontillado," the author indicates no radio version, yet it was performed by Peter Lorre on THE BIG SHOW on 3-9-52, and was a production of HALL OF FANTASY on 1-19-53. Some other works of Poe not mentioned are from SUSPENSE: "The Pit and the Pendulum," 11-10-57 and 6-7-59, and "The Mystery of Marie Roget," 2-7-60. From THE CBS RADIO WORKSHOP: "Never Bet the Devil Your Head," 7-28-57.

This indicates that additional research IS required, especially if a later edition is published. Where the author has done his work really shows in some fascinating commentary of Poe's work performed on the air. For example, from ESCAPE of 10-22-47, we have a two page analysis of "The Fall of The House of Usher," starring Paul Frees and Ramsey Hill. For radio buffs who enjoy horror and mystery, hold off on this work until an updated later edition is released.

A NATIVE'S RETURN. By William Shirer. Little, Brown & Co., (205 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10016). 1990. Clothbound. \$24.95.

This is the third and final volume of the memoirs of former CBS correspondent and journalist William L. Shirer. The years 1945 to 1988 are covered, when the author returned home after his years of service as the CBS correspondent in Berlin.

"Life is full of good luck and bad luck, but we tend to remember the bad luck more," the author recalled when he discussed in detail his firing from CBS in 1947. The former war correspondent was viewed as too liberal in his commentaries, and it was Edward R. Murrow who let him go. Shirer said the scene recalled his days of radio work in the Third Reich, when Nazi censors sat opposite him, following his script, word for word. He countered with voice inflections.

Cont. on page 8 . . .

R H A C

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

Announces a convention honoring its 15th Anniversary

SATURDAY, JUNE 9TH, 1990

Rossi's Catering Hall - - 4301 Brighton Blvd., Denver, Colorado

FEATURED GUESTS

**WILLARD WATERMAN
SAM EDWARDS
HARRY ELDERS**

**SHIRLEY MITCHELL
TYLER McVEY**

**RAY ERLINBORN
ESTHER GEDDES
and others**

Registration from 10:30 AM. Activities start at 11:00 AM. Lunch available on site (not included in ticket price). Morning, afternoon and evening activities will include workshops, panels, sound effect demonstrations and recreations. There will be an evening buffet dinner.

For those from out of town, arrangements have been made at The Travel Lodge - Viscount Hotel for a special convention rate of \$39.00 plus tax. The hotel is located at 200 W. 48th Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80216, Phone (303) 296-4000 and is very convenient to the convention site. Airport transportation is available at no charge. RHAC members will provide transportation back and forth to the convention site. Please let us know if you need this service.

SPECIAL PLUS FOR MEMBERS AND CONVENTION ATTENDEES:

Informal reception on Friday evening, June 8th, at a private clubhouse where everyone can meet, talk and mingle with our guests. Food and libation to be provided by members; out of town guests may contribute as desired.

Admission for the convention, including buffet dinner, \$25.00 per person if pre-registered; \$30.00 at the door. Send registrations to: RHAC, PO Box 1908, Englewood, Colorado 80150
Phone: (303) 761-5135 or (303) 761-4139.

Please reserve ___ Places for the RHAC June 9th Convention in the name of:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE

ZIP

PHONE:

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR \$



by Barbara
J. Watkins

Those of you living in the Southern California area should circle Saturday, June 2, 1990 on your calendars. On this date, one of the great organists of our century, Gaylord Carter will perform in Sexson Auditorium on the campus of Pasadena City College during the showing of the 1924 silent film "Thief of Bagdad," starring Douglas Fairbanks. Carter played the organ on radio shows during the golden age of radio, including the AMOS AND ANDY program. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a classic film in the way it was meant to be seen, and to hear the magic of Gaylord Carter. Tickets for the performance, which begins at 8 pm, may be purchased by sending a check payable to LATOS (Los Angeles Theater Organ Society), to Gaylord Carter Concert, 10432 Tiara St., North Hollywood, CA 91601. Prices are \$9.00 general admission, \$8.00 seniors and students. Please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope. For further information, call (818)766-0466.

Two radio-related conventions are scheduled to take place in June. The first, on June 9 in Denver, sponsored by the Radio Historical Association of Colorado. (See Memos for Members, last issue.) The second one is the 6th Annual National Lum and Abner Society Convention, to be held in Mena, Arkansas on June 30th. The theme of this convention will be the 50th anniversary of Lum & Abner's first movie, "Dreaming Out Loud", which had its world premiere in Mena on September 6, 1940. The special guest will be Bob Watson, a former child actor who played a pivotal role in the film. If you would like to attend this year's event, please write to Tim Hollis, Route 3, Box 110, Dora, AL 35062. Send a S.A.S.E. if you would like more information about the convention or the Society. For room reservations, call the Best Western Lime Tree Inn (501)394-6350.

Thanks to Bobb Lynes for sharing with us some information a listener of his "Old Time Radio Show" sent to him. According to the clipping, a series of three films featuring our radio hero Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy is being planned. The first will start shooting in late June. It will begin with Jack at age 15 "on a fact-based adventure centering on a group of neo-Nazis, which in 1939 reportedly plotted to assassinate the former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during a visit to Mexico."

General Mills Inc. granted Bertz Cohen, president of Jack Armstrong Products, Inc. licensing rights, and will have an option to fund the second and third films. Merchandising rights will likely see many of the promotional items from the radio show be made available again, including the whistle ring, and telescope and flashlight. If the movies are successful, a TV series may follow.

Member Misty Dawn Lane has the following message to share: "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Currently being sold and in circulation are at least 8 reels of CHALLENGE OF THE YUKON (SERGEANT PRESTON). The

impression given is they are original broadcasts. After listening to 4 of the reels, I realized most are the syndicated version dressed up to give the impression they are the complete original broadcast. The October 1950 broad-

Cont. on page 10 .

SPERDVAC DIRECTORY

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RADIOGRAM EDITOR: Dan Haefele, 4366-D, 136th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250, (213)973-5060

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GENERAL LIBRARY - Cassettes 501-1000: Gene Ward, Box 635, Tujunga, CA 91043-0635

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AUDIO RADIOGRAMS: Send C-90 cassette in returnable mailer to Stuart Lubin, 627 N. Fuller Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90036, (213)653-2548

AUDIO SPERDVAC CATALOGS: Contact Bob Herman, 1329 Garrison St., Port Orchard, WA 98366 (206)876-4809

MEMBERSHIP BADGES: Send \$5.00 each to Don Keith, Box 5861, Glendale, CA 91221

ACQUISITIONS: (Discs and Tapes): John Gassman, Box 1163, Whittier, CA 90604, (213)947-9800 for both the General and Archives Libraries.

CATALOG PAGE & LIBRARY ORDER FORMS: Carolyn Rawski, 7430 Gaviota Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406

SPERDVAC MERCHANDISE: Michael Plett, PO Box 3101, Van Nuys, CA 91407

Radio in Review cont. . .

Unable to find work at another network, Shirer turned to writing, and after a slow start, wrote *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich*, which became a best seller. This is a fabulous look back at radio journalism by a pioneer of that medium. Shirer also freely comments on the state of news coverage today with a critical look at TV, "which takes all the time of the child, and most of the time of the parent - and of course there's no reading anymore."

Shirer was 30 when he was assigned to Berlin in 1934. Before he left in 1940, he learned to fence with the censors of Nazi Germany and he learned that news gathering in a dictatorship can be tough. "If you report what's really happening, they throw you out. If you don't, you're playing on their side." He learned to toe the line.

This is an autobiography highly recommended, perhaps on of the finest volumes on radio journalism ever written. Thanks to Jennifer Kittredge, Senior Publicist, of Little, Brown, for this fine work.

ARKANSAS AIRWAVES. By Ray Poindexter. Privately Published. (Mrs. Ray Poindexter, 204 West I st., North Little Rock, AR 72116). 1974. Clothbound. \$15.00.

The author, who recently passed on, was an announcer and salesman at KGMR-FM and was a former speech and English teacher.

This work took two years to produce, and it included interviews with the state's radio pioneers, researching early newspapers for information, and a trip to Washington, D.C. to sift through the files of the Federal Communications Commission. An interesting observation was a dozen stations that went on the air in the 1920's and 1930's that never bothered to apply for a federal license.

When you think of Arkansas and early radio, no doubt **Lum 'N Abner** comes to mind. This volume has perhaps the best concise history of that program and its creators, Chester Lauck and Norris Goff. This is a fascinating work, and even though it was written 16 years ago, it holds up because of its wealth of information. Well recommended. Thanks to Mrs. Poindexter for this work. As a new member of SPERDVAC, she would enjoy hearing from readers of this work.

GRAND OLE OPRY. By Chet Hagan. Henry Holt and Company. (115 West 18th St., New York, NY 10011). 1989. Softbound. \$19.95.

Before we leave the South, here is a fascinating look at an American institution, **The Grand Ole Opry**. This work presents a thorough history of the long-time radio and television program. It features over 100 photos, some in color, others in black and white.

The program started locally, over WSM, in Nashville, in 1925. It first aired from the National Life and Accident Insurance building, then later moved to the legendary Ryman Auditorium, and finally to the new Opry House. **Opry** joined NBC in 1943 for its long time sponsor, Prince Albert Tobacco. Capsule biographies of the leading performers of **Opry**, past and present, are profiled. The author, an Emmy Award winning producer-writer for NBC News, is a leading authority on country music, and

his research comes through.

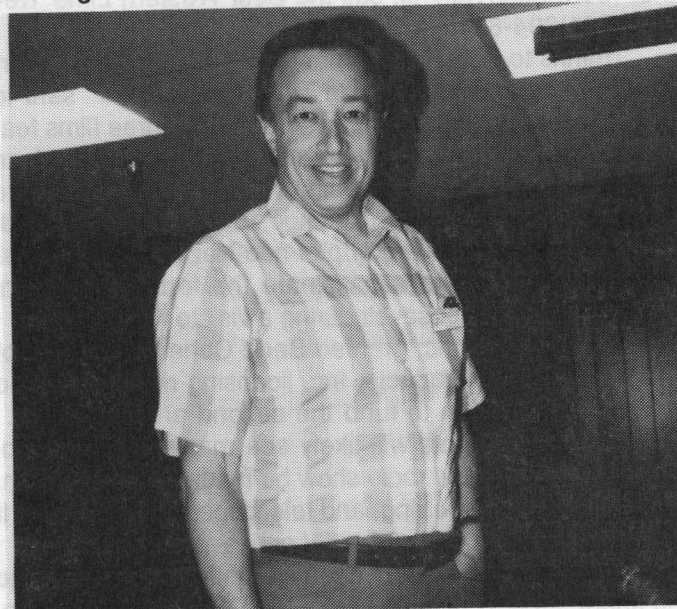
★ ★ ★ ★

For Jack Benny fans, a new log of his radio shows has just been published. The **JACK BENNY LOG**, compiled by Gary Dunn, Larry and John Gassman, is a real team effort. This is perhaps the most thorough and informative presentation of its type. Working with the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters, UCLA Archives, the National Archives Library Congress, and private collectors, data for this 70 page log was compiled over a period of two years.

Each show is correctly identified, and first known appearances of Jack's cast members or running gags are noted. It lists the original disc or master tape location, correct air dates (including day and time of broadcast), the number of shows aired each season, and the cast members for each season. As an added feature, for the first time in any log, the complete run of **THE BEST OF BENNY**, repeats of programs culled from earlier seasons, which aired on CBS from 1956 to 1958 is included. The cost is \$15, which includes postage. For those attending SPERDVAC meetings, the cost is \$12. make your check to: John Gassman, Box 1163, Whittier, CA 90604. Recommended!

From ARS Enterprises, Box 997 Mercer Island, WA 98040-0997, comes **The Directory of Radio Collectors and Suppliers and Related Activities**, for \$9.95 and **Radio Hobbyist's Handbook**, for \$10.95.

Both are spiral bound and are interesting guides, especially for the beginning fan of locating and restoring the old radios. The 70 page **DIRECTORY** lists collectors, parts suppliers, a list of publications, along with foreign entries. Museums, OTR clubs, and libraries are also listed. The author encourages corrections or additions as this is an on-going publication. The **Handbook** is a handy 65 page guide that summarizes the development of communications, a brief history of recorded sound, basic radio theory details on how to use diagrams and a list of terms. Affordably priced, these are both well worth looking into.



Richard Glasband became SPERDVAC's new vice president in March and celebrated by losing 65 pounds.

COMPUTER VIRUS Cont.

viruses known to exist at the time it was created. One product called SAM, however, also monitors unexplained or unexpected changes in your computer files (such as caused by a virus) and alerts you. This is one method of detecting new "strains" of computer viruses. It should also be noted that if the virus infects the anti-virus program itself, it can render the anti-virus program as useless. By taking the precautions mentioned users can minimize their chance of infection, even if protection fails.

Why do people write these destructive programs? Cheap thrills? I don't know. To me, it's every bit as bad of a crime as if someone physically broke in and stole a file cabinet full of irreplaceable documents. It's exactly the same. Frankly, if I knew who created the virus that trashed my files, they would be hearing from my attorney rather quickly. In the meantime all we can do is protect ourselves by using these methods.

Common Viruses

Name of Virus: *W-DEF*

Nature: Infects "desktop" files on all disks used on Macintosh systems

Symptoms: Outlines of installed system fonts disappear on many applications including WriteNow, Microsoft Word, MacWrite, PageMaker, FileMaker.

Programs "unexpectedly quit" at random, displaying 3, 27 or other error codes or computer crashes.

Solution: Use one of the following products to detect and remove:

Symantec AntiVirus for Macintosh version 1.5 or later
Disinfectant version 1.6 or later

"N Vir"

Symptoms: Application beeps when launched, files disappear mysteriously, frequent system crashes, if MacinTalk is installed, your computer speaks "Don't panic!")

"Hpat"

Same symptoms as above, but this one is more advanced, and gets past detection schemes that the above cannot.

"Scores"

This was the first publicly identified Mac virus. Apple Computer has included special code with their System software release 6.0 that attempts to combat Scores.

Symptoms: Frequent crashes, Applications have difficulty printing and running, Microsoft Excel files show damage, unexplained file size increases, system slows down, Note pad and Scrapbook icons in System Folder are replaced by generic document icons.

"INT 29"

A self-replicating virus identified in 1988 that damages both applications and documents. A tell tale side effect is if you insert a locked floppy disk in an alert pops up saying "The disk needs minor repairs. Do you want to repair it?" Normally, this message will never appear with a locked disk.

"ANTI"

A benign virus discovered in 1989 that affects appli-

cations, but not the System file or documents.

Symptoms: Causes frequent crashes.

There are two other related but different types of computer diseases that cause damage but are not "contagious."

"Trojan horses"

These are programs that look like legitimate software, but when you start them, they erase or damage disk files instead of doing what you thought they would do. They are actually programs within programs, and may do no damage at all the first few times they run, but may be programmed to do damage the 10th or 20th time they are run. They may or may not alert you when doing damage. Another word to the wise: Use extreme caution when trying out new public domain or shareware programs.

"Worms"

These programs actually "burrow" their way through your files to corrupt or destroy data. So far, the Macintosh world has not been infected by "Worms."

Other Identified viruses:

nVIR A

nVIR B

INT 29

AIDS

MEV#

nFLU

Jude

nVIR-f

Sources of Information for this article:

Personal first hand experience

Claris™ Technical Support

The Apple Macintosh Book Copyright ©1989 by Cary Lu, Microsoft Press

SAM™ Symantec AntiVirus for Macintosh documentation Copyright © 1989 Symantec Corporation

MacType Net™ Macintosh users group

Special thanks to Phyllis Gay and Fifth Generation Systems, (publishers of Fastback II) for the valiant attempt to restore our trashed files.

Recommended products:

SAM™ Symantec AntiVirus for Macintosh

SUM™ hard disk protection, recovery and partitioning
Symantec Corporation, 10101 Torre Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014 (408)253-9600.

Fastback II (A powerful backup product-both IBM and Mac versions are available)

Fifth Generation Systems, Inc., 10049 Reiger Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (800)873-4384

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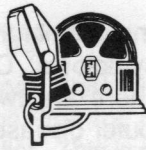
HUGH'S HUES Cont. . .

singer; she just went on stage and sang out in her vibrant contralto. There was no one else like Kate Smith. From the 1930's to the 1950's, she was America's songstress."

Kathryn Elizabeth Smith died in 1986.

"I'm goin' back to the wagon, boys. These shoes are killin' me!"

SPERDVAC



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DEADLINE
JUNE ISSUE
May 20, 1990

INFORMATION PLEASE (Cont. from page seven)

casts included commercials or promos about "Rin Tin Tin", a program that didn't reach Mutual until 1955; 'phone interview with Teresa Brewer and Bill Haley and the Comets (how old was Teresa in 1950?); and 'Baseball tickets and schedules for the season.' Why? The same 'colorization' was done to a couple of reels of the syndicated BOSTON BLACKIE. Why?!? Who ever is doing this, please stop! You're not doing our hobby any favors!!!!

At the annual planning meeting of the Board of Directors on April 14th, one of the major topics was the condition of the open reel tapes in our Archives and Hollywood Museum Open Reel Libraries. Decisions were made and a course of action planned. Next month we will include in the Radiogram a more detailed discussion of what the future plans are for our open reel libraries. Meanwhile, here in brief are two decisions which may affect you if you are an open reel borrower. The Archives Open Reel Library reels 1 to 1,000 will remain temporarily closed until further notice. The Hollywood Museum Open Reel Library will be phased out and closed permanently by the end of the year. All programs in both libraries will continue to be available in the cassette format.

If you have questions, comments or information to share in this column, please write to INFORMATION PLEASE, Barbara J. Watkins, P.O. Box 561, South Pasadena, CA 91031. Til next time, Spaceman's Luck!

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HF-90's: 20 for \$30

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