

# The Alabama Historical Radio Society

June 2006



## ***A NOTE FROM THE PREZ***

Well, the summer vacation urge caught up with Celeste and me, so I must apologize for the newsletter being late. We did have a relaxing trip, but were glad to get back to the matters at hand.

May was a busy month for our group beginning with the Hamfest the first weekend. Our Transoceanic radio display attracted much attention. If you haven't seen the picture Joel made of the group in front of the radios you should come by Saturday and look at it. The Glenn Miller music coming from Tom's speaker and my iPod attracted lots of queries until they found out where the music came from and the story about the speaker.

Robert delayed his teaching until the next week, but made up for it with a great session.

Marvin bought a Radiola III at the Hamfest. He had to rewind the audio transformer with #40 wire, but in no time had the radio sounding as good as new.

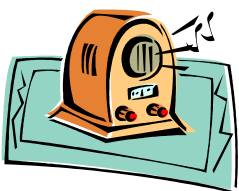
Gene Northington and I made the trip to the Dayton Hamvention in Ohio. We saw lots of "goodies," but not a lot of bargains.

Our event of the month was a birthday party for Claude, our senior engineer. Claude became 97 years of age on May 20 and, since our regular meeting was on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we had the celebration on that night. We had a cake with a cathedral radio on it, sang happy birthday and had cards and presents. He was surprised and very appreciative. We are very lucky to have Claude, since he is a walking history book about radio in the early days.

Thanks to all who helped us move our stuff from across the hall at Huffman. The Power Company was nice enough to let us use the space until they needed it, but we had to give it up finally. We have made some nice changes in our use of the space we have. If you haven't seen the new arrangement, come out Saturday and take a look.

Our summer looks like lots of activities and fun for all. Come join us.

*Dave*



## ***DEE'S RADIO SHOWS***

Good news folks, I will soon have a few old radio shows on the computer in Huffman. The two I plan to start with are Dick Tracy and Easy Aces. Most of you remember Dick Tracy from the comics in the paper, but there was a radio show. The Easy Aces was never in the comics, but was written and starred in by Goodman Ace, who had a column in a Kansas City paper. All the information below came from the web site Wikipedia, which is an internet information source where you can find just about anything you could dream up.

Easy Aces, a long-running American serial radio comedy (1930-1945), was trademarked by the low-keyed drollery of creator and writer Goodman Ace and his wife, Jane, as an urbane, put-upon realtor and his malaprop-prone wife. A fifteen-minute program, airing as often as three times a week, Easy Aces wasn't quite the ratings smash that such concurrent fifteen-minute serial comedies like Amos 'n' Andy, The Goldbergs, or Vic and Sadie were. But its unobtrusive, conversational, and clever style, and the cheerful absurdism of its storylines, built a loyal enough audience of listeners and critics alike to keep it on the air for fifteen years

If you don't know what malaprop is, look it up. I never heard the word till I started reading about the Easy Aces, but comedy of all types, including radio, is filled with it.

I have a large collection of the Easy Aces shows available now on the AHRS Huffman computer. Hopefully by now there is at least one episode available for download on our AHRS web site.

Remember last newsletter when I mentioned the Chicago studios of NBC? Well, the Easy Aces began in Chicago in 1930 at CBS, then moved to NBC in Chicago in 1935 and remained there till the show ended in 1945.

Another show I plan to have available on the AHRS web site is "The Lone Ranger." Here is a clip from Wikipedia:

"The first of 2,956 episodes of The Lone Ranger aired on radio on January 30, 1933 on WXYZ-AM radio in Detroit, Michigan and later on the Mutual Broadcasting System radio network. The Lone Ranger became one of the most successful properties on radio.

Seems that Detroit was a good place to get into radio. We will talk more about Detroit shows in a future newsletter.

Well, maybe Birmingham is going to be a good place to get into radio! Billybob Clapsaddle is still alive and well, but was on hold till after Hamfest and getting the Alabama Power Company's downtown museum set up. Now that Hamfest is behind us and we are well on the way with the downtown museum, I plan to spend much more time with Billybob. Thanks to Irene's shopping I have recently acquired two sets of coconut shells for sound effects. My closet is slowly filling up. Joel Tillman, get ready with the recording equipment. Dave Cisco, get your falsetto voice ready. Rehearsal will be starting soon. What a revolting development this may turn out to be.

That's all for now...

*Dee Haynes*

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## **MEETING TIMES**

We meet nearly every Saturday of the month at 09:00 at the Alabama Power Building on Parkway East (aka Centerpoint Parkway) in Huffman. The organization's space is accessed from the rear of the building, so park around the back (by means of Huffman Road, which runs parallel to the Parkway). Entry is via the door on the right

## **Come to the Monday Night Meetings, TOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

### **FREE ELECTRONICS CLASSES**

The first Saturday of the month, there are electronics classes free to members. Topics include test equipment, Resistors and Capacitance testing, Inductors and coil winding, to name only a few subjects!

We hope to see you there!



### **DUES**

Membership dues are \$25 a year. If you have questions about your dues, you can contact Julian at 205-879-3619.

Dues can be mailed to AHRS @ P.O. Box 130307, Birmingham AL 35213.

### **WHO TO CONTACT**

**President – David Cisco**

205.822.6759

**Member and Instructor – Robert Frye**

**Web site – Robert Matthews**

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