

PARADOXICALLY, there is one realm where crime does pay. That is in radio! Dozens of radio actors commit crimes almost every day of the week—and make a living out of it. But though they blackmail, torture, murder, steal, burn, they're always within the law. Others thrive on crime indirectly, as racket-busters and detectives.

It's been going on for more than ten years now, since the bloodcurdling "Shadow" broadcast started the aerial cops-and-robbers cycle, with such shockers as Orson Welles playing The Shadow. Today the air is full of murderers and gangsters, who are brought to time by a corps of district attorneys, detectives and supermen of various ilk.

One of radio's most unusual crime profiteers is Raymond Edward Johnson on the "Inner Sanctum Mysteries." Neither criminal nor crime-cracker, Mr. Johnson plays Host, and it is his business to scare the daylights out of listeners with such interlocutory tidbits as "Can you stand another knifing?" or "Did that make your blood curdle?" Searing pays, too.

Radio's newest crime-mystery program is the "Adventures of the Thin Man," borrowed from the William Powell-Myrna Loy movies. Proving that there's almost unlimited scope for crime on the air, this Dashiell Hammett creation has enjoyed almost instantaneous popularity. "Thin Man" broadcasts, like others, are strewn with make-believe lawbreakers working at AFRA rates—or higher.

The "take" for twelve leading network mystery programs amounts to a juicy \$400,000 weekly. And the crime profiteers include writers, actors, musicians, directors by the dozen. Crime pays and pays well in radio!

SCARING LISTENERS is Raymond Edward Johnson's stock in trade on "Inner Sanctum Mystery." At right, Host Johnson invites you to enter realm of crime—the only kind of crime that pays

"I LOVE A MYSTERY" is a profitable venture for actors Michael Raffetto, Barton Yarborough and Walter Paterson (left to right in the picture at far right). Their crime stories cost \$2,400 weekly



CRIME DOES PAY

Crime and Mystery
Dramas Make Big
Haul in Radio



"MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY" scripts are strewn with dastardly crimes, a bonanza for actors specializing in crime dramatizations. Principals in the show's cast are (left to right) Lon Doyle, Jay Jostyn, Ed Byron and Vicki Vola. Cost: \$4,000 weekly



"THE SHADOW" (Sun., MBS), with its terrible unseen hero, pioneered crime on the air years ago, has outlived dozens of imitators. "The Shadow" currently stars Bill Johnstone as The Shadow and Marjorie Anderson as girl friend



COMIC TOUCH in radio crime is supplied by the new "Thin Man" series transplanted from films. Stars are Lester Damon as Nick, the Thin Man, and Claudia Morgan as his wife. But Asta, the pooch, is played on the air (NBC, Wed.) by—a man!



"FAMOUS JURY TRIALS" (NBC, Tues.) thrills listeners with dramatizations of famous trials, is obviously mixed up with things criminal. Here actor Maurice Franklin is the judge and Ted de Corsia has role of defense attorney