

Foreword and Acknowledgments

Many individuals have contributed to this certified series of **Suspense** by the Old Time Radio Researchers and we'd like to give credit and to say "Thank You" for their contributions.

The **Suspense** series has been one of the most revered in the hobby of collecting radio programs. Over the decades, there have been many collectors who have shared their recordings of transcriptions and over-the-air recordings with other collectors. Most of those collectors are nameless today because so many years have gone by. Over time their independent efforts were shared with many other collectors in the nearly 50 years since **Suspense** was on the air. Through those years of trading tape recordings, today over 900 of the nearly 950 episodes of **Suspense** exists. This collection stands on the shoulders of those collectors, many of who have passed away or are no longer collecting. We wish to express our gratitude to these nameless collectors for their efforts and for their love of the hobby.

Many of those collectors provided the only copies of the programs that exist today as home recordings made in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Without their affection for radio drama, many of the shows of that period would have no audio record of their performance.

Joe Webb was a catalyst in accumulating many of these files from his collecting over the last 30 years with many of those collectors and fans. In pursuit of this project, with the assistance of other collectors, a small number of transcription discs were bought with private funds. While this project may have started with Joe's gathering and evaluating shows for sound quality and content, numerous others assisted and augmented his work. Joe provided the final set of "ears" for determining which files were included and which were cast aside.

A number of transcription discs were transcribed by **Doug Hopkinson** and **Randy Riddle** from purchases made by a group of collectors that included Joe, **Jim Blackson**, **Don Ramlow**, **Charles Salt**, **Ben Kibler**, and others. **Jim Blackson** also transferred several shows from reels that are included in the set. The best sounding recordings in this set are from their labors and skill in handling those old recordings, compensating for the damages of storage and time, and applying the right degree of audio processing based on their recording knowledge built over many years.

David Oxford served as project manager to keep the files organized and coordinate the volunteers. He also provided a few recordings from his reel-to-reel and cassette tapes. He also did the final audio editing for the set. Other volunteers who assisted with audio editing were **Henry Morse**, **Steve Smith**, **Robert Johnson**, **Max Schmid**, and **Rod Gowen**. Rod also provided files and assistance in equalizing difficult files that proved too much for DO.

Veteran collector **Dave Siegel** allowed Joe to review his collection, which provided access to a few recordings that were superior to their commonly circulating copies.

Some of the other collectors who participated in this, or sent their portions of their collections for evaluation and comparison, were **Ben Kibler, Archie Hunter, John Liska, Art Sjostrom, David Taylor, Bob Burnham, Stuart Weiss, Gary Smith, Don Frey and Clorinda Thompson.**

Thanks to the many collectors who make their collections available to others online through hubs and forums. Not everyone can be mentioned here, but even in their passive sharing, many of the shows in this final set were upgraded through their participation in these venues.

Andrew Steinberg was of great assistance in identifying misdated programs through his dependable documentation and analysis.

Terry Salomonson kindly allowed us to include his copyrighted "Broadcast Radio log of Suspense." from his website at: <http://www.audio-classics.com/welcome.html>

James Widner gave permission for inclusion of his copyrighted article, "**Suspense: An Appreciation.**" At <http://www.otrsite.com/articles/widner003.html>

Martin Grams for writing his book: *Suspense: Twenty Years of Thrills and Chills* (1998) that has served as an invaluable reference. Mr. Grams also kindly answered a few emails (by DO) when a clarification was required.

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