

The Cavalcade of America Series Synopsis -- V 1.0 Released January 2010

The Cavalcade of America is an anthology drama series that was sponsored by the DuPont Company. It was initially broadcast on radio from 1935 to 1953, and later on television from 1952 to 1957. Originally on CBS, then later changing to NBC, the series pioneered the use of anthology drama for company audio advertising. *The Cavalcade of America* documented historical events using stories of individual courage, initiative and achievement, often with feel-good dramatizations of the human spirit's triumph against all odds. This was consistent with Du Pont's overall conservative philosophy and legacy as an American company dating back to 1802. The company's motto, "Maker of better things for better living through chemistry," was read at the beginning of each program, and the dramas emphasized humanitarian progress, particularly improvements in the lives of women, often through technological innovation.

Martin Grams, Jr. is the author of the highly-acclaimed publication, *The History of the Cavalcade of America*, the authorized guide to the history of the popular radio/television series. The 500 page book is available from all major bookstores, including Amazon.com and Borders.com. This book comes highly recommended. It served as an invaluable resource with determining correct titles of episodes. It features an extensive episode guide. Each episode has the names of the radio actors, which allowed, in the case of repeated shows, one production to be distinguished from another.

Terry Salomonson provides valuable information at his website, <http://www.audio-classics.com>, and list the Broadcast history, air dates, Directors, Producers, Writers, Music Director, Commercial Spokesperson, Announcers, Host, ratings, and a log. The following is quoted from his website and used with permission (with slight formatting changes):

Radio Broadcast Log of The Cavalcade Of America

This anthology program had a dual purpose in its existence. To help build a better public image of the sponsoring company, Du Pont, which made large profits manufacturing gun powder during World War I, and to dramatize the history of the United States. Very detailed research went into each script and the over all production technique were first rate.

This program also made its appearance on television on the following networks and broadcast dates. A total of 197 30 minutes programs aired.

NBC 10/01/52 to 09/02/53 Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.

ABC 09/29/53 to 06/21/55 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

ABC 09/06/55 to 06/04/57 Tuesday, 9:30 p.m.

Sponsor background information:

Eleuthère Irénée du Pont de Nemours works as an apprentice in chemist Antoine Lavoisier's laboratory at Essonne, France at the age of 16. du Pont quickly gathers expertise in the manufacturing of gunpowder.

On 07/19/1802, after moving from France, E.I. du Pont purchases property on the Brandywine River in Delaware and begins construction on his own powder manufacturing plant, Eleutherian Mills. His company, with 18 shares of stock valued at \$2,000 each, is capitalized at \$36,000. On 05/01/1804 he begins the manufacture and sale of gunpowder. Not until 1904 does the company branch out into non-gunpowder related areas.

Between 1915 and 1918 DuPont supplies 1.5 billion pounds of military explosives to the Allied Forces and an additional 840 million pounds of dynamite and blasting powder to domestic American industries.

DuPont begins entry into the dye industry and rayon processes between 1917 and 1920. The 1930's is witness to the development of synthetic rubber and early nylon. 1937 was the introduction of safety glass for the automobile industry.

During World War II, the company produces 4.5 billion pounds of military explosives along with nylon for parachutes, tents and ropes. 1952 DuPont develops Mylar polyester film, which has many uses including recording tape (which we all have used in our OTR collections).

In the 1960's they helped produce space suits for our astronauts. The 1970's seen the development of

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bullet resistant Kevlar for the military and police agencies.

Broadcast History:

Network: CBS / NBC

10/09/35 to 05/29/39 CBS

01/02/40 to 03/31/53 NBC (Red)

Producer:

Arthur Pryor 10/09/35 to 06/29/38

Louis Mason 12/05/38 to 01/23/39

Larry Harding 02/13/39 to 05/29/39

Homer Fickett 01/02/40 to 06/26/44

Jack Zoller 07/03/44 to 06/27/49

Roger Pryor 08/30/49 to 06/27/50

H.L. Blackburn 08/29/50 to 03/31/53

Director:

Kenneth Webb 10/09/35 to 06/29/38

Homer Fickett 12/05/38 to 05/29/39

Bill Sweet 01/02/40 to 02/06/40

Homer Fickett 02/13/40 to 06/26/44

Jack Zoller 07/03/44 to 03/31/53

Music:

Don Voorhees 10/09/35 to 11/24/41

Robert Armbruster 12/01/41 to 10/13/47

Ardon Cornwell and Donald Bryan 10/27/47 to 04/25/49

Ardon Cornwell and Donald Voorhees 05/02/49 to 03/31/53

Writers:

Arthur Miller, Norman Rosten, Robert Tallman, Peter Lyon, Robert Richards, Stuart Hawkins, Arthur Arent, Edith Sommer, Halsted Welles, Henry Denker, Priscilla Kent, Virginia Radcliffe, Frank Gabrielson, Margaret Lewerth, Morton Wishengrad, George Faulkner, Irve Tunick

Host:

Walter Huston 09/18/44 to 02/12/45

Announcers:

Dwight Weist 10/09/35 to 07/08/36, 05/06/46 to 06/24/46

Frank Singiser 07/15/36 to 06/29/36

Thomas Chalmers 12/05/38 to 04/23/40

Basil Ruysdael 05/07/40 to 06/25/40

William Spargrove 10/02/40 to 11/20/40

Floyd Mack 11/27/40

Richard Stark 12/04/40 to 07/28/41

Clayton Collyer 08/04/41, 10/06/41 to 08/30/43

Carl Frank 08/11/41 to 09/22/41

Jim Bannon 09/06/43 to 06/26/44

Roland Winters 07/03/44 to 09/11/44

Gayne Whitman 09/18/44 to 04/09/45

Frank Graham 04/16/45 to 08/27/45

Tom Collins 09/03/45 to 04/29/46

Bud Hiestand 09/02/46 to 06/16/47

Frank Bingman 08/18/47 to 10/13/47

Bill H. Hamilton 10/20/47 to 12/08/47, 05/16/50 to 09/05/50

Ted Pearson 12/15/47 to 05/09/50

Ryan Halloran 05/16/50 to 06/27/50

Stuart Metz 09/12/50

Cy Harrice 09/19/50 to 03/31/53

Commercial Spokesman:

Frank Singiser 10/09/35 to 07/08/36

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Fred Uttal 10/14/36 to 10/21/36
Craig Stevens 11/04/36 to 06/30/37
Dwight Weist 09/29/37 to 06/29/38
Gabriel Heatter 12/05/38 to 01/09/39
Basil Ruysdael 01/16/39 to 04/23/40
Clayton Collyer 10/02/40 to 07/28/41, 08/11/41 to 09/22/41
Gayne Whitman 09/06/43 to 06/26/44, 04/16/45 to 12/08/47
Ted Pearson 07/03/44 to 09/11/44, 05/06/46 to 06/24/46, 12/15/47
Bill H. Hamilton 12/15/47 to 05/09/50, 09/12/50 to 03/31/53

Sound Effects:

Bill Brown (CBS), Al Scott, Jerry McGee (NBC)

Sponsors:

E.I. duPont de Nemours Company (1935 to 1939), Du Pont Chemical (1940 – 1953)

Theme:

“March Theme” from “Cavalcade Of America,” and “Glory Of America.”

Cast:

Hundreds of major and minor Broadway and Hollywood stars

Seasons:

First Season: 10/09/35 to 09/30/36
Second Season: 10/07/36 to 09/29/37
Third Season: 10/06/37 to 06/29/38
Fourth Season: 12/05/38 to 05/29/39
Fifth Season: 01/02/40 to 06/25/40
Sixth Season: 10/02/40 to 09/29/41
Seventh Season: 10/06/41 to 09/28/42
Eighth Season: 10/05/42 to 09/27/43
Ninth Season: 10/04/43 to 09/25/44
Tenth Season: 10/02/44 to 09/24/45
Eleventh Season: 10/01/45 to 09/30/46
Twelfth Season: 10/07/46 to 09/29/47
Thirteenth Season: 10/06/47 to 09/27/48
Fourteenth Season: 10/04/48 to 09/27/49
Fifteenth Season: 10/04/49 to 09/26/50
Sixteenth Season: 10/03/50 to 09/25/51
Seventeenth Season: 10/02/51 to 09/30/52
Eighteenth Season: 10/07/52 to 03/31/53

Audience Ratings:

C.E. Hooper Rating 6.3
C.E. Hooper Rating 5.9
C.E. Hooper Rating 7.4
C.E. Hooper Rating 6.0
C.E. Hooper Rating 6.5
C.E. Hooper Rating 7.9
C.E. Hooper Rating 11.9
C.E. Hooper Rating 13.0
C.E. Hooper Rating 11.5
C.E. Hooper Rating 11.6
C.E. Hooper Rating 10.4
C.E. Hooper Rating 10.7
C.E. Hooper Rating 11.2
C.E. Hooper Rating 8.1
A.C. Nielsen Rating 10.2
A.C. Nielsen Rating 6.8
A.C. Nielsen Rating 8.5
A.C. Nielsen Rating 4.5

The current files that comprise this Cavalcade of America series consists of 745 episodes. The episode entitled CALV 351006 000 No Turning Back is 60 minutes in length and sponsored by Bell Telephone. It may have been an audition recording. No other information is known about it. The remaining 744 episodes contain **405 new encodes** (exclusively for this version); 29 episodes are from cassettes and 376 from reel to reel. All encodes were done by David Oxford. Many volunteers assisted with the noise reduction, etc., that were used on the files. The new encodes were compared to their existing counterparts and used only if they were judged sonically superior. Many new encodes could not improve upon the existing MP3 and were discarded. Nearly all of the remaining 339 episodes are MP3s supplied from The Old Time Radio Purchasing Group. Because of the large size of the series, a 64 kps/44 kHz encoding rate was chosen for the WAV files. All MP3s at 128/44 were converted to 64/44. There was no audible difference to the Volunteer (David Oxford) who did this conversion.

All files were time corrected using the NBC chimes if they were present. If not present, the ear of the listener and "best guess" was used.

There were many repeated episodes of Cavalcade, usually with a very similar cast. In many cases, the proper title

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could only be determined by listening to the credits and consulting Martin Grams book. There were many mis-titled episodes.

The First Line Wiki will make identification possible in most cases. Transcribed first lines are available:

<http://www.otrr.org/pmwiki/FirstLines/HomePage>

There are several very poor sounding episodes in this set, irregardless of the encoding. There are still many 48 kps and 32 kps episodes in this series that do not have a better sounding replacement. At least the 24 kps and even 16 kps encodes have been replaced! If you have a better sounding recording than what you find here, please contact Ed Sehlhorst (ed_sehlhorst@yahoo.com) or David Oxford (david0@centurytel.net). We will be happy to replace our recording with yours.

The Cavalcade of America Radio Program sponsored by Du Pont has 781 episodes, plus the audition episode by Bell Telephone. The OTRR Certified Files consists of 745 files - 744 episodes of the series plus the Audition episode. There are a total of 37 missing episodes: 14 episodes "missing" (supposedly available in collector's hands), 17 episodes are considered lost, 5 episodes are uncirculated and 1 episode was never broadcast. It is believed that several of the Uncirculated episodes may soon become available. Some of the missing episodes may be found. The "Lost" will likely remain lost and the Never Broadcast will forever remain unbroadcast.

The Missing (but available), Lost and Uncirculated Episodes		37 total
36/08/12	044 Development of Band Music in America 5	Lost Episode #01
36/08/19	045 Development of Band Music in America 6	Lost Episode #02
36/09/09	048 Modern American Orchestral Music	Lost Episode #03
36/11/18	057 The Story of Rubber	Lost Episode #04
36/12/16	061 The Man Who Had Two Careers	Missing
37/08/11	095 Cavalcade of Music - Music of Jerome Kern	Lost Episode #05
37/11/17	109 The Seeing Eye (Repeat of 36-12-02)	Missing
37/12/29	115 Ernestine Schumann-Heink	Missing
38/01/26	119 The Pathfinder	Lost Episode #06
39/05/29	167 Eluthere Irene Du Pont	Uncirculated
41/02/12	213 Abraham Lincoln - The War Years	Missing
42/02/09	265 Abraham Lincoln - The War Years	Missing
42/03/02	268 Accent on Youth	Uncirculated
42/03/09	269 Wait for the Morning (Repeat of 41-01-22)	Missing
42/03/16	270 Dear Brutus	Lost Episode #07
42/03/30	272 The Silent Heart	Lost Episode #08
42/04/27	276 This Side of Hades	Lost Episode #09
42/06/01	281 Clara Barton	Lost Episode #10
42/06/15	283 The Lady and the Flag	Uncirculated
42/06/29	285 Hymn from the Night	Missing
42/07/13	287 Man of Iron	Lost Episode #11
42/08/17	292 Theodore Roosevelt	Lost Episode #12
42/12/07	308 The Road to Victory	Lost Episode #13
44/05/29	385 Sing a War Song	Lost Episode #14
44/11/06	408 Jane Addams of Hull House (Repeat of 40-05-21)	Never broadcast
45/04/02	429 My Wayward Parent	Uncirculated
48/11/22	587 Us Pilgrims	Missing
48/12/20	591 The DuPont Chorus	Missing
49/02/28	601 Pink Lace	Lost Episode #15
49/03/21	604 Letter from Europe	Lost Episode #16
49/10/04	624 The Lady Becomes a Governor	Missing
49/11/22	631 Us Pilgrims (Repeat of 47-11-24)	Missing
49/12/20	635 The DuPont Chorus	Missing
50/05/09	655 Never Marry a Ranger	Lost Episode #17

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51/01/02	681	An American from France	Missing
52/09/16	754	Man of Great Importance	Uncirculated
52/12/02	764	A Thousand to One	Missing

A breakdown of Missing, Lost, Uncirculated, and never broadcast shows follows:

<u>MISSING</u>	14
36/12/16 061 The Man Who Had Two Careers	Missing
37/11/17 109 The Seeing Eye (Repeat of 36-12-02)	Missing
37/12/29 115 Ernestine Schumann-Heink	Missing
41/02/12 213 Abraham Lincoln - The War Years	Missing
42/02/09 265 Abraham Lincoln - The War Years	Missing
42/03/09 269 Wait for the Morning (Repeat of 41-01-22)	Missing
42/06/29 285 Hymn from the Night	Missing
48/11/22 587 Us Pilgrims	Missing
48/12/20 591 The DuPont Chorus	Missing
49/10/04 624 The Lady Becomes a Governor	Missing
49/11/22 631 Us Pilgrims (Repeat of 47-11-24)	Missing
49/12/20 635 The DuPont Chorus	Missing
51/01/02 681 An American from France	Missing
52/12/02 764 A Thousand to One	Missing

<u>LOST</u>	17
Lost Episode #01: 36/08/12 044 "The Development of Band Music in America 5"	
Lost Episode #02: 36/08/19 045 "The Development of Band Music in America 6"	
Lost Episode #03: 36/09/09 048 "Modern American Orchestral Music"	
Lost Episode #04: 36/11/18 057 "The Story of Rubber"	
Lost Episode #05: 37/08/11 095 "The Cavalcade of Music"	
Lost Episode #06: 38/01/26 119 "The Pathfinder"	
Lost Episode #07: 42/03/16 270 "Dear Brutus"	
Lost Episode #08: 42/03/30 272 "The Silent Heart"	
Lost Episode #09: 42/04/27 276 "This Side of Hades"	
Lost Episode #10: 42/06/01 281 "Clara Barton"	
Lost Episode #11: 42/07/13 287 "Man of Iron"	
Lost Episode #12: 42/08/17 292 "Theodore Roosevelt, Man of Action"	
Lost Episode #13: 42/12/07 308 "The Road to Victory"	
Lost Episode #14: 44/05/29 385 "Sing a War Song"	
Lost Episode #15: 49/02/28 601 "Pink Lace"	
Lost Episode #16: 49/03/21 604 "Letter From Europe"	
Lost Episode #17: 50/05/09 655 "Never Marry a Ranger"	

<u>THE FIVE UN-CIRCULATED EPISODES</u>	5
39/05/29 167 "Eluthere Irene DuPont"	
42/03/02 268 "Accent on Youth"	
42/06/15 283 "The Lady and the Flag"	
45/04/02 429 "My Wayward Parent"	
52/09/16 754 "Man of Great Importance"	

<u>NEVER BROADCAST</u>	1
44/11/06 408 "Jane Addams of Hull House"	