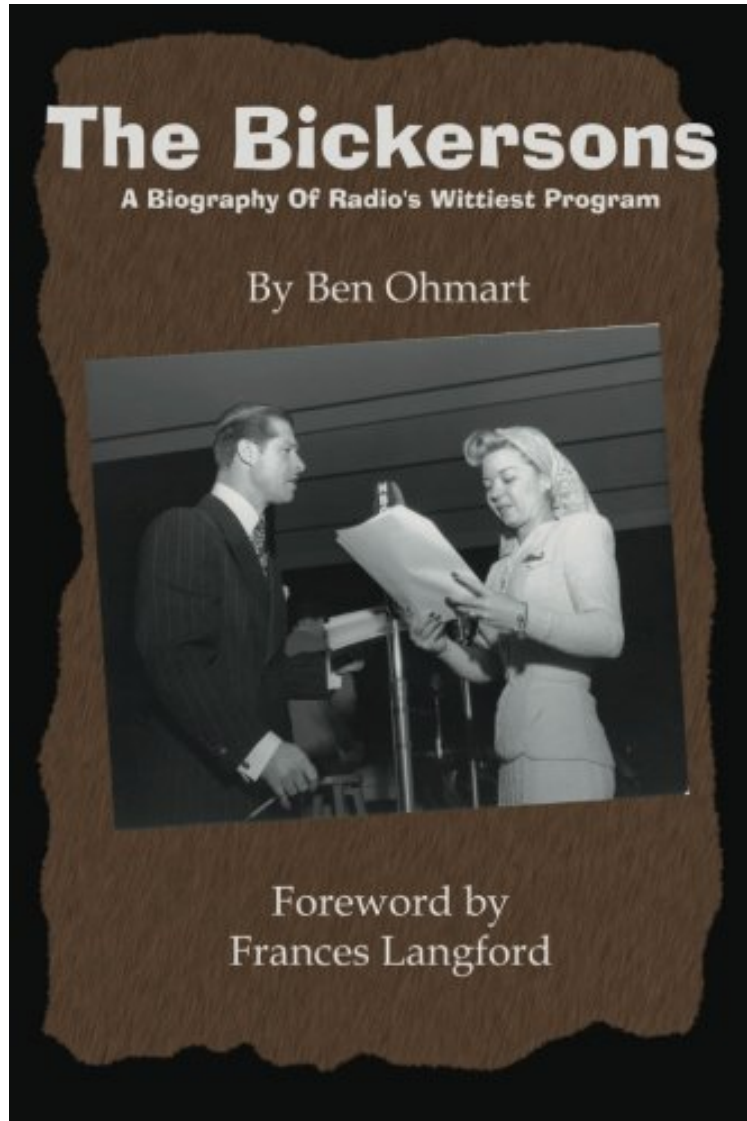


[Mobile book] The Bickersons: A Biography of Radio's Wittiest Program

## The Bickersons: A Biography of Radio's Wittiest Program

*Ben Ohmart*

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**Ben Ohmart : The Bickersons: A Biography of Radio's Wittiest Program** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bickersons: A Biography of Radio's Wittiest Program:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. How It All BeganBy Joe AlbaneseFor the past 20 years or so, television has introduced situation comedies about married life where the couples are anything but happy (Married With Children, for example) or not even married. We move with the times. But in television's infancy, all couples kissed at night, never quarreled but had a little "spat" and by the final fade out, money never seemed to be an issue.The Honeymooners seemed to break out of that mold more than any other sitcom. But how did it begin?Well, I was

surprised but Mr. Ohmart wrote a short and sweet history of the first "realistic" look at married life where things were not always rosy. Don Ameche and Frances Langford portrayed the characters of John and Blanche Bickerson (sometimes known as The Battling Bickersons) on radio. The segment was captured as "The Honeymoon Is Over" and on radio, it did its best to shake up American listeners. Gone were the "more juice, darling?" conversations while junior came home late from a date. The Bickersons were deeply etched, quite complex characters who were way ahead of their time. And radio audiences loved them! It is to Mr. Ohmart's credit that he gives us a very liberal sampling of the scripts which, even without the actors' voices leading the way, show how sharp and witty the writing was. Furthermore, the author traces the history of the radio program both forward and back in time. It seems that some variation of the Bickersons existed until the early 70's! Cable radio is rebroadcasting some of the episodes and this book (although quite good as a stand-alone) is an excellent companion to a fantastic, nearly forgotten, series. I of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Biography of Radio's Wittiest Show ... THE BICKERSONS ... Ben Ohmart (Author) (2004)" By J. Lovins BearManor Media presents "THE BICKERSONS: A BIOGRAPHY OF RADIO'S WITTIEST PROGRAM" (Paperback), by Ben Ohmart (Author) with a foreword by Frances Langford. As our author remarks: "Even after more than 50 years on radio, records and CDs, THE BICKERSONS are just as popular now as they were then, exciting new generations to laugh at John and Blanche and the woes of marriage. And to laugh at themselves. Timeless comedy, without a doubt". Believe this is the essential biography of THE BICKERSONS. Illustrated nicely, with a foreword by the actress Frances Langford who portrayed the character Blanche. Much of this material, I've never seen before, as I have been a fan for decades (I'm Old, you know). Some nice never before seen photographs, which is a plus for my taste. The author goes into depth on early radio and many of the programs that were influenced by THE BICKERSONS. You know it's almost impossible not to laugh at these routines, they were at the top of their game. Don Ameche and Frances Langford as John and Blanche Bickerson in The Honey Moon Is Over... Agree with the "Foreword" as Langford remarks: "I think families are just the same now as they were in the 1940s. Maybe everyone isn't married to a Bickerson, but every upcoming generation that listens to the Bickersons seems to get quite a chuckle out of that shrew Blanche, and poor husband John. But as long as the shows keep circulating, and new fans continue to write me and share the laughs, it's a foregone conclusion that The Honeymoon Will Never Be Over". Very reasonable and a good value for the price --- For product description and editorial review check this out on the site above my review. TABLE OF CONTENTS: (Chapter, Title and Page Numbers) Foreword by Frances Langford --- Introduction --- 1 John and Blanche Bickerson --- 5 The Honeymoon Is Over: A History of The Bickersons --- 23 It's Star Time! --- 69 The 1951 Series --- 111 The Honeymoon(ers) Is Over --- 115 Bickering and Pitching --- 125 Recording Stars --- 133 "Match Please, Darling" --- 147 And More Commercials --- 167 Very Animated --- 173 The Final Years and Beyond --- 177 Philip Rapp --- 195 Don Ameche --- 199 Frances Langford --- 203 Lew Parker --- 209 Marsha Hunt --- 215 Virginia Grey --- 219 Danny Thomas --- 223 Unused Material --- 225 Index --- 253 BIOS: 1. Don Ameche [aka: Dominic Felix Ameche] Date of Birth: May 31, 1908 - Kenosha, Wisconsin Date of Death: December 06, 1993 - Scottsdale, Arizona 2. Frances Langford [aka: Frances Newbern] Date of Birth: 4 April 1914 - Lakeland, Florida Date of Death: 11 July 2005 - Jensen Beach, Florida Big thank you to Ben Ohmart and his staff at BearManor Media, a small press that publishes BIG books. They pride themselves on publishing quality entertainment biographies, so they often put out the first book on unique subjects -- plus specializing in books with nostalgic themes and keeping classic Hollywood alive not only thru his publishing house, but thru his own books. Perfect coffee-table book. Highly recommend - a good read! \* Special footnote: -- If you're a fan or not, this book will give you "the chuckles", from page to page. Ben Ohmart has captured the lives, the times and yes, the feel of what it was like to hear and enjoy THE BICKERSONS, Total Page: 244 Pages ~ BearManor Media #ISBN-13: 978-1593930080 ~ (July 2004)

Finally - the definitive biography of The Bickersons! Lavishly illustrated, with a foreword by Blanche herself, Frances Langford, this book unearths material never before published: A complete history of the program Biographies of the cast Scripts from Star Time, Old Gold radio commercials A history of John, Blanche, Nature Boy those grasping relatives The infamous Honeymooners/Jackie Gleason court case Unused material And much more!

About the Author Ben Ohmart is the author of biographies of Judy Canova, Mel Blanc, Don Ameche, Paul Frees and many others. He runs BearManor Media and lives in Japan.