

Angels We Have Heard on...Radio?

Tom Feller (September 2011)

In the 1940s (you'll have to trust me on this) there was a very popular news commentator by the name of Gabriel Heatter who was on the radio (e-mail me and I'll explain what a radio was) every evening just about suppertime. It was a nightly ritual in my house for my father and grandfather to gather around the radio (see note above) in our living room to listen to Mr. Heatter while we kids had to sit quietly on the floor. I maintain that, being prescient, I would face the empty corner where only years later our 12-inch black-and-white TV would stand, but my siblings dispute this.

Nonetheless I do remember the time in first grade when Sister Jeanne Ann (I attended parochial school) asked the class if anyone could name an angel. Loren (last name omitted to spare him further embarrassment) immediately piped up "Gabriel Heatter"...and I laughed out loud. What's more I was the only one in the class who did laugh as Sister later related to my mother. And from then on (at least for the entire eight years of grade school) I was marked as "different." Looking back, I must say that the advantages of being so marked far outweighed the disadvantages. And with this my younger siblings, who had to follow in my footsteps at the same school, do definitely agree.