

Radio Blurbs

First Contact

by Murray Leinster

As man ventures out into space, it is a safe bet that sooner or later he will make first contact with another race of intelligent beings-- perhaps in a chance meeting of two ships whose paths cross while exploring the Galaxy.

Such an encounter would certainly be a momentous day in the history of two worlds, but what happens when it's time to leave? How could the Earthmen be certain that the aliens were really friendly? How could they be sure that the strangers wouldn't follow their ship back to Earth as the prelude to a sneak attack. For that matter, how could the aliens be certain that the Earthmen wouldn't do the same to them?

Would anyone ever be able to go home?

First broadcast on the Mutual Broadcasting System c.1950.

Chicken Heart

By Arch Opler

Good things come in small packages. So do evil things, too. Sometimes the most dangerous threat is that which seems tiny, harmless and even absurd. An atomic bomb can destroy a city, but a flea can wipe out a civilisation.

As an example we present this frightening little tale less than eight minutes long about how the world was brought to an end and mankind exterminated by the unstoppable menace of... a chicken heart.

First broadcast on NBC's Lights Out on 10 March 1937.

Tunnel Under the World

by Frederik Pohl

“On the morning of June 15th, Guy Burckhardt woke up screaming out of a dream.”

There is no greater relief than having a frightening dream come to an end with the dawn of a new day, but when Guy Burckhardt wakes on this June morning he discovers that his nightmare is only beginning. He finds himself trapped in a terrifying, yet familiar world of secrecy and manipulation that is literally without a tomorrow and where the ultimate horror is to be found in the tunnel under the world.

First broadcast on the NBC radio network on 14 March 1956.