

## HERB BUTTERFIELD

Born in 1895 in Rhode Island, Herbert Butterfield first entered Radio in 1926, appearing in several east coast serial melodramas and revues. His first credited roles came in the late 1930s with frequent appearances as a character actor in most of the more popular dramas of the era. Herb Butterfield also directed the Chicago NBC Key Station's productions of *The Story of Mary Marlin* (1934). Butterfield's early recurring role as Preacher Jim in the serial drama *Kitty Keene, Inc.* (1939) first established him as an attractive and reliable co-star.

Upon relocating to California, Butterfield soon proved himself one of the West Coast's finest, most reliable and durable performers, Herb Butterfield became a fixture in most of the early detective and suspense dramas of the Golden Age of Radio. A Mutual-Don Lee player for many years, Herb Butterfield was a regular performer in many of the network's earliest syndicated West Coast productions.

Indeed, Herb Butterfield's very recognizable voice was most associated with virtually every radio noir detective and crime drama aired over Radio. A favorite of Jack Webb, Herb Butterfield appeared in virtually every Jack Webb Radio and Television vehicle he ever produced, invariably playing either a crusty detective or a world-wisened, sympathetic tough. In *Ellery Queen's* eighth season, Herb Butterfield appeared as Inspector Queen.

A regular on Radio's popular *Halls of Ivy*, Butterfield portrayed Ivy College Chairman of the Board Clarence Wellman for twenty episodes with the series' stars Ronald Colman and Benita Hume. By then a frequent CBS player, Herb Butterfield appeared in seven of the CBS Radio Workshop (1956-1957) experimental radio broadcasts in a wide variety of roles.

During his career in Radio, Herb Butterfield appeared in over 4,000 episodes. He compiled another forty appearances on Television during a career cut short by his death in 1959 at the age of 64. His last appearance in Television was in the Colgate Theatre comedy production starring Claudette Colbert, September 28, 1958.

One of Radio's more ubiquitous performers, Herb Butterfield's distinctive voice lives on through the thousands of Radio episodes that have survived from the Golden Age of Radio. Consistently endearing, no matter what roles he appeared in, the characteristic fatherly tone of most of his performances hearken back to a time when American society was far more basic, forthright and genuine. Herb Butterfield fit that description to a tee.

This bio is by courtesy of Digitaldelitoo.

For the Old Time Radio Researchers, I'm your announcer, \_\_\_\_\_. Now on with the show