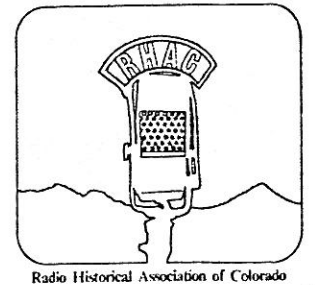


# Return with us now...

The Radio Historical Association of Colorado

Vol. 3, No. 1

July 1977



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

## RADIO NEWS

Five years ago, when everybody had a little more hair and nobody felt so old admitting they actually could remember old time radio, Denver radio station KFML took a giant step backward when it brought on a program called "Old Time Radio."

As far as RHAC is concerned, that "giant step backward" was one of the best things ever to grace the airwaves.

The show's co-hosts, a then Denver Post reporter named John Dunning and Harry Tuft, the founder of the Denver Folklore Center, have since run nearly nine miles of tape through their machines and given us nearly 800 shows. And though in its

early days, at least, the show was pretty much "touch and go," KFML has stood behind John & Harry and avoided the temptation to cancel "Old Time Radio" in favor of something more standard, commercial or lucrative.

In the five years they've been doing the show, John no longer is gripped with "mike fright", and Harry hardly ever asks the same question twice anymore.

So congratulations, John & Harry, and thanks for turning so many of us on to the joys of radio as it used to be. And thank you, KFML, for your support of OTR and your belief that different is better.

It really is.



The Gleeeful Twosome, Olsen & Johnson. They were among the foremost exponents of hilarious stunt comedy. This is a promotional picture for the All Star Revue of 9/15/51.

## OTR DENVER

Our June meeting was lightly attended probably because it was on Father's Day, so here's a summary of what happened.

Ernie Jessen said the picnic area will be open by noon. We have a shelter available with electricity, a ball diamond and outside picnic tables. Our official meeting will be at 3.

Irving Hale's still working on our shopping mall project. We may be able to get that accomplished this summer.

Bruce Carteron has some great attention-getting posters which we can use in the shopping center project, we'll have some shows playing, and we'll have our flyers ready. But we'll need everyone's help.

The August meeting will be held on a Wednesday evening at 7:30 because of summer weekend activities by many members. Date and place will be announced.

Harv Bishop is selling his entire cassette collection at \$2 each.

Remember that the picnic is BYOF & BYOB. If you can bring any outdoor games, do so. We'll get more details to you soon.

# KF/MIL

Here's the schedule for KFML for July:

## FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

July 3: CBS RADIO WORKSHOP  
"1489 Words"

ESCAPE  
"Journey Into Fear"

YOUR HIT PARADE  
(1938 show, 45 mins.)

July 10: QUIET PLEASE  
"Valentine"  
2/14/49

HALLMARK PLAYHOUSE  
"The Prairie Years"  
2/3/49

COLUMBIA PRESENTS CORWIN  
"The Lonesome Train"  
3/21/44

July 17: LUM N ABNER  
"Lum The Bulldozer"  
1948

STANDARD SCHOOL BROADCAST (3/3/50)

ROMANCE  
"A Quiet Little Party"  
12/29/56

July 24: X-1  
"A Pail Of Air"  
3/28/56

TOMMY DORSEY  
Remote from the Capitol Theatre  
in Washington, D.C.  
8/18/42

BILL STERN  
10/11/46  
7/6/45 with H.V. Kaltenborn

July 31: SCREEN GUILD THEATRE  
"Champagne For Caesar"  
10/5/50

VIC & SADE  
"A Quiet Morning At Home"  
1944

BAUKHAGE NOON REPORT  
7/7/44

BIG SISTER  
1944

AMOS 'N' ANDY  
"Andy Gets Married"  
4/3/39

BUCK ROGERS IN THE 25TH CENTURY  
4/46 (last show)

JACK BENNY  
with the Colemans  
1946

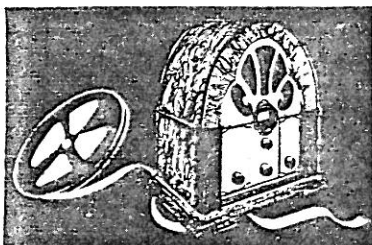
SUSPENSE  
"The Long Night"  
11/18/56

HOLLYWOOD STAR PLAYHOUSE  
"Hour Of Truth"

FIBBER MCGEE & MOLLY  
"Fibber Rides A New Fire Truck"  
4/19/49

CORWIN  
"Document A/777"  
(Broadcast for United Nations  
radio in 1948 with many, many stars)

SPECIAL NOTE: The show of the 31st will  
begin at 10 a.m. and end sometime around  
5 p.m.



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Denver, CO 80210.

# MEDIA

# QUIZ

Our first ever old time radio flyer is now on the presses. The flyer, being printed on legal-size paper, will soon be available for members to distribute wherever people like us might be likely to be. Specifically, we'd like to get them into antique shops, audio stores, old folks' homes, used book stores and the like. And we'll be sure to send some flyers to the sponsors of the KFML show. We'll try to distribute the flyers at the picnic, but if that somehow doesn't occur and you'd like to help out with the distribution, call Dan Danbom at 722-1846.

## PEOPLE

John Nicholson et al are gearing-up for their production of "Animal Farm." John said he's looking still for actors, production people, sound effects makers—just about anyone who'd like to get in on that sounds like one heck of a lot of fun. Call John at 753-1496.

## BE A RADIO EXPERT

**Learn at Home—Make Good Money**

Many men I trained now make \$20, \$30, \$75 a week in Radio. Many started making \$5, \$10, \$15 a week extra in spare time soon after enrolling. Illustrated 64-page book points out Radio's many opportunities, also how I train you at home to be a Radio Expert through my practical 30-50 method. Television training is included. Money Back agreement given. Mail coupon today. Get book FREE.

## COLLECTORS

Jack Richards still is looking for the following shows from GENERAL MILLS ADVENTURE THEATRE:

"2000 Leagues Under The Sea"

3/19/77

"Alice In Wonderland"

4/10/77

"Three Swords"

4/16/77

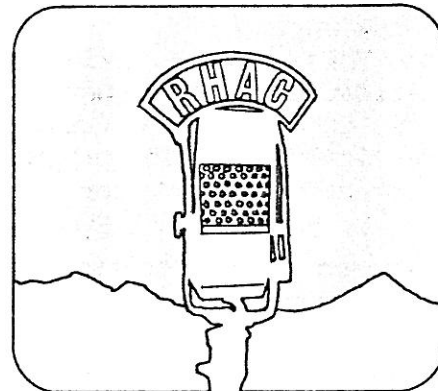
"Story Of David"

6/12/77

would like to borrow the first 10 issues of "This Is OTR."

Guess who said what:

1. Vas you dere Chollie?
2. You nasty man!
3. Leapin' lizards!
4. Miss Blue, will you buzz me please?
5. By Grannies
6. Ow wah, ow wah, ow wah...
7. Nobody home here, I hope, I hope, I hope
8. My time is your time, your time is my time...
9. The aaaaaair adventures of \_\_\_\_\_
10. I have a lady in the balcony, doctor



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

RHAC is deeply indebted to Mr. Steve Shumaker, a commercial artist who designed our new logotype. Although Steve refused money for his work, he does have a cassette tape player, and he does enjoy old time radio. A donation from a few of us would go a long way toward getting Steve to help us in the future, and to thank him for what he's already contributed. Contact Dan Danbom if you'd like to help Steve out.

### QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1-Baron Munchausen; 2-Joe Penner; 3-Orphan Annie; 4-Amos 'n' Andy; 5-Lum; 6-Amos Brown; 7-Al Pierce; 8-Rudy Vallee; 9-Jimmy Allen; 10-Dr. I.Q.

# FEATURES

RADIO DIDN'T GROW-- IT FLEW  
(REPRINTED FROM LIBERTY MAGAZINE)

"Radio didn't grow, it flew," a writer says, aptly. In 1923, the Ziegfeld Follies offered a bright song and dance novelty number titled "Listening to the Radio." A year later, radio was a novelty no longer.

Gone were the days of tinkering with elusive crystal sets, wearing clumsy ear-phones. Swan-neck loudspeakers topped 8-tube RCA Radiolas at \$275. Through it, lucky owners clearly heard Calvin Coolidge's New England twang on Inauguration Day 1925. On Sundays, they could get the inspiring sermons of Dr. S. Parkes Cadman, followed by Roxy and His Gang.

If nothing else, radio carried New York's sophistication to every part of the country. First to benefit from radio were "longhairs" music lovers. The original nationwide hook-up came on January 1, 1927, with a concert by the New York Symphony, led by Dr. Walter Damrosch. But soon radio was catering more to popular music and jazz from New Orleans or Chicago.

Hit tunes, hitherto heard only via phonograph records or player pianos, now came winging through the air, played by Paul Whiteman, the king of jazz; Vincent Lopez ("This is Lopez speaking"); Jan Garber, the idol of the airwaves; Wayne King, the waltz king; or others like Jean Goldkette, Ted Weems, Isham Jones, Paul Tremaine, and Leo Reisman.

Meanwhile, news and sporting events produced new celebrities in radio announcers like Graham McNamee, Norman Brokenshire, Ted Hussing, Milton Cross, David Ross, Frank Knight and pioneer news broadcasters Lowell Thomas, Floyd Gibbons, and Walter Winchell.

Radio quickly developed its own special talents. No one was ever funnier or breezier than the Happiness Boys, Billy Jones and Ernie Hare: "We two boys without a care/entertain you folks out there." With them came the Gold Dust Twins, Singin' Sam, the Barbasol Man, Jessica Dragonette, Vaughn de Leath, Smilin' Ed McConnell, Little Jack Little, Phil Cook, Arthur Tracy the Street Singer, and Wendall Hall, the Red Headed Music Maker.

In 1929 the stock market crash saw some top Broadway entertainers lose per-

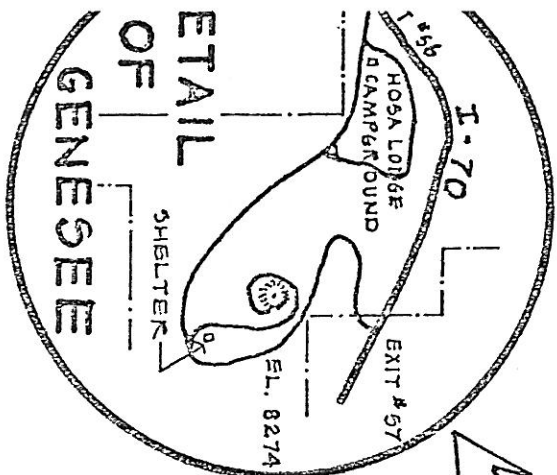
sonal fortunes and turned to radio to recoup-- or just play to a vast audience: Eddie Cantor (who made desperate fun of his market losses), Ed Wynn, Jimmy Durante, Milton Berle, Will Rogers, Burns and Allen, Jack Benny, Jack Pearl and Ben Bernie.

Even so, the Golden Age of Radio began as a depressed nation found its main solace in the loudspeakers now in every family parlor. At night people ate dinner early and pulled up chairs to listen to Amos 'n' Andy-- Local phone companies reported almost no calls made between 7 and 7:15. Other choices were Bing Crosby, introducing crooning to the world, and Kate Smith; not to forget Russ Columbo and Morton Downey. Major Bowes Amateur Hour became a weekly sensation, as did the musical Hit Parade. A spate of superior singing hours featured Grace Moore, Lawrence Tibbett, Richard Crooks, Lily Pons, and John Charles Thomas ("Goodnight, Mother"). During the day, people heard their lives reflected humorously in Easy Aces, One Man's Family, Fibber McGee and Molly, Myrt and Marge, Vic and Sade, The Goldbergs, and even Stoopnagle and Budd.

Rudy Vallee's Fleischmann Hour brought subtle comedy and top-drawer talent. W.C. Fields (and even Mae West) traded rowdy cracks with Charlie McCarthy and Edgar Bergen. The Columbia Workshop, with Arch Obler, offered superior drama, and Orson Welles terrorized the country with his Men-From-Mars broadcast. Growing kids had the Lone Ranger, Shadow, Superman, and Dick Tracy. Young and old thrilled to Gangbusters.

As Hitler grew in power, the knowing voices of H.V. Kaltenborn, Raymond Gram Swing, Lowell Thomas, Boake Carter, Basil Heatter analyzed the news on a nightly basis. With the advent of war, the brooding voice of Ed Murrow sounded from bomb-torn London.

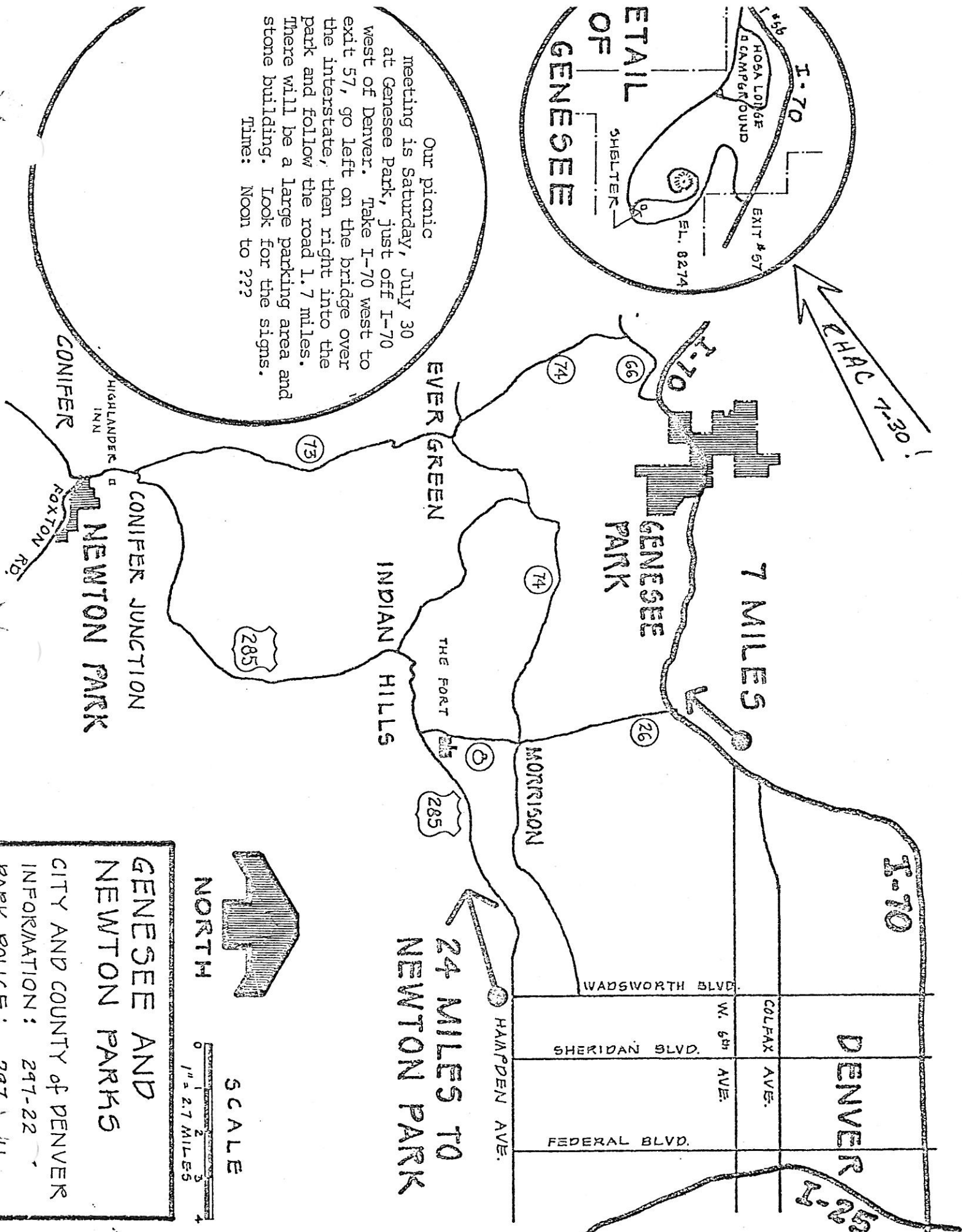
In the Forties, radio comedy scaled the heights as Fred Allen prowled Allen's Alley. It was also Arthur Godfrey's big decade. Al Jolson, his fame revived by USO tours, belted out songs with Bing. Programs grew cerebral with Information Please and its uncanny experts, the Quiz Kids, Town Hall of the Air, Alexander Woolcott as Town Crier, and information shows like Mary Margaret McBride, Arturo Toscanini led the NBC Symphony, and Burl Ives introduced city folk to folk songs. Nila Mack's Let's Pretend went on and on. Meet the Press, My Friend Irma and Our Miss Brooks were destined for TV which, in 1947, topped radio as our Number One entertainment medium.



PHAC 7-30

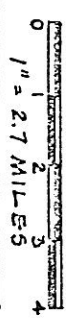
Our picnic meeting is Saturday, July 30 at Genesee Park, just off I-70 west of Denver. Take I-70 west to exit 57, go left on the bridge over the interstate, then right into the park and follow the road 1.7 miles. There will be a large parking area and stone building. Look for the signs.

Time: Noon to ???



NORTH

SCALE



GENESSEE AND NEWTON PARKS

CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

INFORMATION: 297-22

PARK POLICE: 297-111

