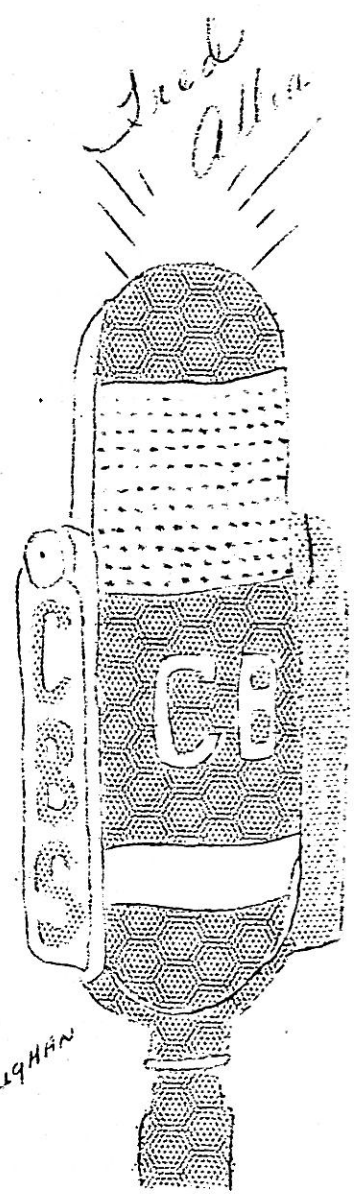
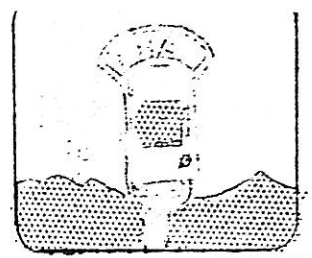


Return With Us Now...

The Radio Historical Association of Colorado
Volume 3, Number 12
June, 1978



by
IM
VAUGHAN

JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held on Monday, June 26 at Majestic Savings, 2807 S. Colorado Blvd. at 7:30 PM. That building is right across the street from the Skaggs store in the University Hills Shopping Center. Try to be there early so, we can begin on time since we have to be out by 9 PM.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Thanks to Ernie and Mary Jessen for arranging all of the meetings for the remainder of the year. You may want to write these down on your calender.

July picnic/meeting at Washington Park on July 22, from 1PM to 5 PM.

August 17 at the Bonanza Steak House at 6026 W. Alameda at 7 PM with guest speaker Pete Smythe.

September 19 at Majestic Savings at 7:30 PM.

October 19 at Majestic Savings at 7:30 PM.

November 21 at Majestic Savings at 7:30 PM.

December 17 Christmas banquet/meeting at the Old Heidelberg near Golden. (Time will be announced)

OLD TIME RADIO CHANGE.by John Adams

By now I am sure that everyone knows of John Dunning and Harry Tuft's change from KFML to KADX-FM. The change took place on May 21st and the time was also changed to 1 PM to 6 PM.

I checked with John and Harry about the change and they told me that the new station policy at KFML was to be an "All Album Station" which was in conflict with their OTR show.

The change was pleasant and the parting was friendly for both John and Harry. They will miss the many friends they made at KFML during the 5½ years they were there. Most of the local OTR listeners will not miss the cross talk with the Mexican music station that we had to live with.

KADX-FM is known as the 24 hour "All Jazz Station" and should give us excellent reception at 105.1 FM. John and Harry will be heard in living stereo while the OTR shows will be in mono, naturally.

The RHAC wishes to thank the Public Service Company for their continued sponsorship of the show and we will continue to support the sponsors (tongue in cheek). We also want to send along our best wishes to John Dunning and Harry Tuft on their "new show".

NEED YOUR HELP

Don't forget to contact Irving Hale about helping out at the exhibit at Villa Italia on June 16-17-18. Even if it is only for a few hours we need "new blood" to get involved in RHAC activities. I'll be there all three days. How about you?

Note: We are running late this month and I didn't get John Dunning's schedule but it will appear again starting next month.

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO.by John Adams

Starting on May 12, 1978 and for the following 12 weeks, KCFR-FM, the National Public Radio Station, will run "The Great Radio Comedians" on Friday nights from 10-10:30 PM. The first broadcast was a 1949 Jack Benny Show, complete with original Lucky Strike commercials. The sound quality was excellent. Others scheduled are Abbott and Costello, Fred Allen, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, Eddie Cantor, Martin and Lewis and six other comedians. The original dates will be given and shows are broadcast intact. These shows would be a fine addition to your collections.

BITS AND PIECES

OTR Convention:Place-Holiday Inn, Bridgeport, Conn. Date-10/7/78. 9 AM to 11PM. Cost-\$15 which includes a buffet supper. We will remind you of this great event again in future newsletters. For any specific information contact: Jay Hickerson, Box C, Orange, Conn. 06477. Frances Zacek of the RHAC attended last year and she will be able to answer many of your questions, too....Many thanks to Jim Vaughan for photo work which will appear shortly and submitting covers and trivia quizzes for the newsletter.....John Adams seems to always come through with interesting information about local radio and TV events.....I am keeping in touch with Joe Crawford of SPERDVAC and Chuck Seeley of Buffalo by cassette letters and will shortly be taping to Dave Easter of the Golden Radio Buffs of Maryland. I sit at a desk all day writing so taping seems the best way of keeping in touch rather than writing letters.....Does anyone know Gene Dutton's whereabouts?.....Irving Hale will be starting another series shortly and I know we are all looking forward to it.Where are all the Sherlock Holmes shows that were promised for the library?.....Neil L'Heureux will be moving to Phoenix in July and Stan Whicker will be moving to Tucson. They both stocked up on "old" and "new" library material so they will have things to trade other Arizona collectors. We hope that you both keep in touch with the RHAC and continue your memberships.....Dick Mullins sure has done a great job keeping us supplied with Ampex tape. Hats off to those running the libraries, too. Jack Richards, Rod Button and Ernie Jessen have done a super job.....John Nicholson and Paul Carrier are both taking flying lessons. If the mail situation doesn't improve with this new increase maybe they would help out by buzzing your neighborhood and dropping out your newsletter and tapes..... Claud Pettit: How is your OTR show going on KCMP, Brush, Colo?..... How about saving Irving Hale a lot of phone calls by calling him and volunteering for the exhibit.....Remember Irving Hale's series on Sam Spade? It will be reprinted in Buffalo's quarterly publication, MEMORIES. Remember Jack Richards article "Ten Cents and a Boxtop"? It will be reprinted in the annual SPERDVAC magazine. Congratulations to Irving and Jack.....Allen Rockford and Don Richardson are also to be congratulated for the great work they have done in the Nostalgia Radio News. It is a fine OTR newsletter.....I received several issues of the newsletter of the Milwaukee Radio Enthusiasts and they have some great articles. I will ask Ken Fabst who wrote them and where they got the information.....Ernie Jessen would like to find a log of Suspense shows. Who knows where he can get one?.....

A N O P E N L E T T E R

We have set a deadline of September 1 for submitting articles for the combination newsletter which will be published this fall. This will give everyone three full months to send in something really good.

We all know the great writing abilities of some of our local members. Members like John Adams, Dan Danbom, Jack Richards, Irving Hale and John Nicholson have been great in the past with their articles and I am sure they will help once again. But how about others locally that I know can write? Members like Harral Peacock, Glenn Ritter, Jerry Appleman and Jim Vaughan hopefully will help out also.

How about local radio personalities Bob Lee, Jim Hawthorne, John Dunning, Harry Tuft and Claud Pettit? Maybe they can come up with an interesting story. Maybe Catherine Johnson of the Colorado Historical Society will check the files of Colorado history and come up with something good. Hopefully, our great friends Dusty Saunders and Clark Secrest can give us some inside stories of some radio personalities.

We have some fine writers from our out-of-town members, too. Don Koehnemann (a fine article in this newsletter), Roger Smith and Jim Snyder could forward something of interest.

Then there are the editors of the independent newsletters. Jay Hickerson of Hello Again, Allen Rockford and Don Richardson of Nostalgia Radio News, Phil Cole of National Radio Trader and Jerry Chapman of Airwaves (a double bonus here since Jerry's wife is also a fine writer). They are all excellent writers and I hope they will submit some good articles.

Then there are the other OTR clubs. Chuck Seeley says the OTR club of Buffalo is ready to go. Joe Crawford will push for SPERDVAC to be included. Dave Easter would like to participate with the Golden Radio Buffs of Maryland. I have been in touch with Ken Fabst of the Milwaukee Area Radio Enthusiasts and with William Davies of the Indiana Recording Club and Chuck Seeley has been in touch with the North American Radio Archives from Reno, Nevada and we hope they will participate also.

So, if we get something from all 7 OTR clubs, all 4 independent newsletters and anyone else interested in submitting an article we will have reached a milestone: THE FIRST COMPLETELY NATIONAL NEWSLETTER. Wouldn't you like to have taken part in that?

It will probably be printed in October or November. Each club will get every article submitted as will each independent newsletter. They can then use it as their regular newsletter (printing it in their own format), or we will send them extra copies of the completed newsletter to show their members.

We are hoping for 100% participation from everyone. I know we are all busy but we do have three full months to get it done. Send articles in early and they will be held for the combination newsletter.

LET'S PROVE THAT WE CAN DO IT ! ! !

RADIO QUIZ KID.by Jim Vaughan

1. The show 'G-Men', first heard on July 20, 1935, became what popular show on January 15, 1936 and lasted until 1957?
2. Alan Ladd portayed what character in the show that ran this ad in the 'Star Times': "Adventure wanted; will go anywhere, do anything-Box 13"?
3. What was the name of the 15-minute show that discussed recipes, food possibilities, and menus. Sponsored by A&P Food Stores, it ran on NBC Red and Blue from 1930 to 1932?
4. Name the singing trio from Minneapolis who made a test record for Decca, "Bei Mir Bist Du Schon", that earned them only \$50. (Hint: Only eleven years seperated them)
5. The license plate number 4X8861, appeared on what famous comedians classic automobile?
6. Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce are probably the best remembered Holmes-Watson combo. Who were the first to play these roles?
7. Premiering in April, 1924, this 'country entertainment' program was a Saturday night regular for more than 20 years?
8. Name at least 4 programs that starred Jack Webb.
9. True or false. George Burns and Gracie Allen were married.
10. What was the first name of 'Young Dr. Malone' and in what city was he a physician?

ANSWERS APPEAR LATER IN THIS NEWSLETTER

THANKS, LAVON

My thanks to Lavon Wimmer for coming forward to help out on RHAC correspondence. More and more people are contacting us for information about our club and it is difficult for me to keep up with individuals, other CTR clubs and put out the newsletter.

THANKS, RAY

The RHAC wishes to thank Ray Stanich for sending us some of his logs. That is a lot of hard work putting them together. John Adams wrote to Ray and he was more than cooperative. He will try to get us an article about logging, too.

THANKS, DAVE

Thanks to David Easter, newsletter editor of the Golden Radio Buffs of Maryland for his letter and suggestions about improving our newsletter. I will definitely take his suggestions into consideration.

PRESENTING THAT AMUSING, LAUGHABLE TRIO OF LOVABLE HOUSEWIVES:
CLARA, LU 'N' EM.by Don Koehnemann

"Clara, Lu 'n' Em was a homey, topical and humorous radio serial which originated from Chicago during Radio's Golden Age. The idea for this series was conceived by three sorority sisters at Northwestern University. For their plots, they drew on the news of the day tied to the everyday life situations of "typical mid-America" families. Their characterizations as unsophisticated, ungrammatical "small town" ladies made their political and other topical commentary all the more appealing to their nation-wide audience.

Clara, Lu 'n' Em began as a daily serial in 1930 on WGN and the NBC network, and it ran until 1937. CBS revived it in 1942. In 1945, the program ended because, as Mrs. Helen King Mitchell ("Em") said, the country became so serious about topical and political humor that it "became impossible to write our spontaneous brand of it".

Through the graciousness of the family of Mrs. Mitchell, who died in 1970, several recordings of the "Clara, Lu 'n' Em" program have been made available in tape copies. The recordings are, so far as is known, the only ones in existence. All are tape copies of recorded air-checks, disc-to-tape transfers made full-track at $7\frac{1}{2}$ i.p.s., second generation duplicates made on half-track tape at both $7\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{3}{4}$ i.p.s.

"AND NOW, JUST FOR FUN, LET'S LISTEN TO 'CLARA, LU 'N' EM' "
1930, '34, '35, '36, '42

Approximately 3 hours of broadcasts of "Clara, Lu 'n' Em" are available for listening. Included is an excerpt from the "girls" first year on the air; four complete broadcasts from 1934-36 (sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive-Peet Co. products); and seven near complete broadcasts plus two shorter excerpts from the CBS revival in 1942 (sponsored by Pillsbury Mills). Also included is an excerpt from NBC's 'Recollections at 30' series broadcast in 1956-57 which features still another excerpt from "Clara, Lu 'n' Em".

The cast for the series consisted of Louise Starkey (Clara), Isobel Carothers (Lu) and Helen King (Em) in the 1930's. Isobel Carothers died in 1937, and the program was not heard again until 1942 when Harriet Allyn (as "Lu") joined the others in the CBS revival. As yet, no programs from the 1945 "re-revival" (featuring Fran Allison, Harriet Allyn and Dorothy Day) have been located.

Announcers for the various broadcasts were "Tiny" Ruffner, Jean Paul King (1930's), Bret Morrison (also the voice of the "Shadow") and Dan Donaldson in 1942.

The musical theme for these programs was played by Walter Blaufuss' string ensemble and by organists, one of whom was Porter Heaps.

Other members of the cast (appearing in the 1942 series) are not identified as yet.

The sound quality of the broadcasts varies. Many of them (especially the 1942 series) sound like well-worn 78 rpm records. There are some programs with openings or closings missing, some without beginning or ending commercials, some with breaks in continuity (the records used for the air-checks lasted for a maximum of 4 minutes); but in general the program material is quite understandable. The 1930's programs are almost complete; the 1942 programs, although shorter in length, have more story content per program.

One of the features which set this series apart from other programs of the day was its topicality. In this present day "Era of Nostalgia", the "girls" topicality is all the more precious to us. Those programs with the most commentary on the "news of the day" are from 7/5/34, 1/6/36 and the entire 1942 series (and the Pillsbury commercials were also topical, even unto the date of the broadcasts.

I wonder which will be your particular favorite program.

Editor's note: Don Koehnemann is an active RHAC member from Westchester, Illinois. He is a true authority on "Clara, Lu 'n' Em" and "Vic and Sade". He has been a guest on Chuck Schaden's OTR show in Chicago discussing the histories of these shows. We are certainly happy to have him share these stories with us. Don tells us that these shows are indeed available and we will make an attempt to trade with Don and add some of this material to the RHAC library. Thank you, Don.

ANSWERS TO RADIO QUIZ KID

1) Gangbusters; 2) Dan Holiday; 3) Our Daily Bread; 4) LaVerne, Maxine and Patti-The Andrews Sisters; 5) Jack Benny's Maxwell; 6) William Gillette as Holmes and Leigh Lovell as Watson; 7) The National Barn Dance; 8) One Out Of Seven (early '46), Pat Novak, For Hire (mid '46), Johnny Madero, Pier 23 (summer of '47), Jeff Regan, Investigator ('48 to '49), Dragnet ('49 thru '56) and Pete Kelly's Blues (summer of '51); 9) True. On January 7, 1926 they were married by a Cleveland Justice of the Peace; 10) Jerry. Three Caks.

IT IS STARTING TO LOOK BETTER

Things are beginning to look better for the combination newsletter this fall. We have set a date of September 1 as the deadline for all articles. The Buffalo OTR club and the RHAC are definitely in and SPERDVAC and the Baltimore OTR club have shown a lot of interest. We are still waiting to hear from the Milwaukee and Indiana clubs. I would be especially pleased if the NARA club would join in, as well as Jay Hickerson, Allan Rockford, Jerry Chapman and Phil Cole. Wouldn't it be great if every club contributed at least one article. It would be the most complete national effort ever done. I'll keep you posted.

NOTE: MY APOLOGIES FOR THE BLEED THROUGH FROM THE FRONT COVER. WE OCCASIONALLY HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE THICKNESS OF THE PAPER.

MORE OF THE BEST FROM TIME MAGAZINE

March 18, 1940 CANDIDETTE

One presidential pretender out to outstump Tom Dewey and all the rest is the Surprise Party's nominee-Gracie Allen, witting half of the radio and cinema team of Burns and Allen. Unannounced to audiences, last week Gracie sashayed into a half-dozen other peoples radio programs to air her politico-comic aims.

Ken Murray (Texaco) asked what party she was affiliated with. "Same old party", replied Gracie, "George Burns". Murray tried to be more explicit. Politicians always try to pick a political party, he said, and then get affiliated. "Well," said Gracie, "I may take a drink now and then, but I never get affiliated."

Fibber McGee (Johnson's Wax) told Gracie he has heard whispers about Dewey, Hull, Taft and Garner all heading for the White House. Were they just rumors? Said Gracie: "They are not. I'll be running for the White House, and I'm not taking in any roomers."

This sort of prattle all over the networks, on programs ranging from Jack Benny's Jello half hour to Dr. I.Q. (Mars, Inc.), and even in Washington (whither Gracie flew from Hollywood to attend the Woman's National Press Club dinner and announce her convention: in Omaha, May 15-18), was a new twist to an old Gracie Allen stunt. In 1933 Gracie raised Cain on the air, popping up on countless programs in search of her supposedly missing brother. The search went on for months, got to be a coast to coast gag. It also boosted Burns and Allen radio popularity tremendously.

The Surprise Party's platform is redwood trimmed with "nutty pine"; its emblem is a kangaroo for Leap Year. She has a song which goes:

Vote for Gracie,
To win the presidential race...
Vote for Gracie,
Keep voting all day long.

For routine questions, she read answers from cards. Samples:

Q-"What do you think of the Neutrality Bill?"

A-"If we owe it, let's pay it."

Q-"What do you think of the national debt?"

A-"We ought to be proud of it-it's the biggest in the world."

Q-"What do you think of the Dies Committee?"

A-"We've got to keep it going. Who'd color the Easter eggs?"

For her Omaha convention, which coincides neatly with the Union Pacific's golden spike celebration, Gracie will travel over the U.P. lines in W. Averill Harriman's private car, will have a torch-light parade of 25,000 whiskerinos. Meanwhile she intends to continue barging in on other radio programs, plans to campaign right up to elections. In campaigning, she plans to kiss baby girls only, to wait until the boy babies grow up.

Gracie Allen's dippiness is a stage prop which accounts for most of the Burns and Allen's reported \$9000 a week radio salary. Off-mike, she is not always so dippy. As a guest on Information, Please, last summer, she stacked up favorably with the most select experts. On one Screen Guild show she played opposite James Cagney in a serious Irish playlet and did it well. One year USC's psychol-

ogy students, professing to find considerable sense behind Gracie's nonsense, voted her as Hollywood's most intelligent actress.

Gracie is Irish (full name: Grace Ethel Cecile Rosalia Allen), 35, petite, blue-eyed, auburn-haired, and San Francisco born. Her father was a song and dance man. Gracie joined the act, in top hat and red sluggers (whiskers), at 3½. She got her convent schooling, but at 13 or thereabouts joined three older sisters in vaudeville as a hooper and singer. In 1922 she teamed with George Burns (Nathan Eirnbaum, a Manhattan east sider who had been doing variety turns since he was 12) and her career of professional daffiness began. She and Burns were married in 1926. In 1931 a guest turn on Eddie Cantor's program paid off. A radio contract, and Burns and Allen have been on the air and in the movies ever since.

Most of the year they live in a twelve-room Beverly Hills house, with two adopted children. On the side Gracie paints her own brand of surrealism, in 1938 had an exhibition in Manhattan to help out the China Aid Council. Her lost-brother stunt in 1933 proved an almighty headache for her real, unlost brother George, a San Francisco accountant. After all the ribbing he could stand, he wired Gracie: "Can't you make a living any other way?"; then really disappeared til the gag blew over.

APRIL 8, 1940 WHO LISTENS?

For a sponsor, Ethyl Gasoline, CBS statisticians last week prepared an analysis of U.S. radio listening, coast to coast: of the 33 million U.S. homes, 28 million have radios, 10.5 million extra sets. Total: 45 million.

83½% of radio homes tune in daily, for an average of 5.1 hours. The "family hours of listening" daily-119,238,000.

In each daily tuned in home an average of three members of the family hear the radio every day. Estimated U.S. total audience: 70,140,000.

In 1939, some 750 U.S. radio stations broadcast an average of 16 hours daily. Tuning families paid a total daily electric bill of \$290,000.

APRIL 8, 1940 LISTEN FLATFOOT

Besides being an enduring monument to the bare faced versatility of Producer Phillips H. (Seth Parker) Lord, the radio thriller Gangbusters is clearly the big shot rackety rax of the U.S. air. Weekly for 4 years (now via CBS, Saturday 8 PM, EST) it has tommy gunned and tough talked its way through U.S. crime files.

Gangbusters gets by broadcastings self censorship as a crime-doesn't-pay sermon, but some active law and order men think it is something else. Fiery Frank Xavier Reller, chief probation officer of the St. Louis Juvenile Court, tunes in regularly for two reasons: 1) to get a line on what tricky mischief St. Louis small fry may be up to next week; 2) to keep abreast of new twists in gangland lingo.

Last week Officer Reller totled up his juvenile catch for 1939. Forty six young law busters had literally took their cues direct

from Gangbusters. Perhaps one hundred others used it as sort of a lexicon. First Officer Keller was taken aback by such youthful belligerence as: "Listen, Flatfoot, I ain't talkin' to you coppers". Nowadays, after listening to Gangbusters himself, he knows the right answer. It is: "Well, sit down there and start talkin, or I'll pin your ears back". Out of chats like this, Officer Keller got the lowdown on a chain of filling station robberies, in which he said various Gangbusters techniques were used. One was to call the attendant by telephone to come out to fix a flat. Another was to work in three's, one to call the attendant into the washroom, another to stand lookout, and the third to rifle the till.

At the Central States Probation and Parole Association meeting this month in Chicago, Probation Officer Keller will offer a resolution condemning the program as crime-inspiring, asking the FCC to ban it and other thrillers like it from the U.S. air.

Future articles from Time Magazine include Fibber McGee, a 1939 popularity poll, Eddie Cantor, Quiz Kids, Let's Pretend, London After Dark, Lux Radio Theater, Good Will Hour and Arch Oboler. That will take us through 1940. I have asked several times for your help and haven't had one offer yet. How about some help.

ONLY ONE MORE MONTH

Thus far we have received three entries for the best cover (all from the same member); one original story; two entries for the best story from a magazine or book and two entries for the best puzzle or quiz. All these entries come from a total of four members.

There is still one month left in the contest so you better hurry. Winners will be announced at the July picnic and August issue of RETURN WITH US NOW.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

I was extremely pleased to be asked to speak to the Shepherd of the Hills Church Mariners on May 5. A group of about 60 were expected but that was the day of the big snowstorm and it kept a lot of people away (or they heard that I was speaking).

Although it was miserable outside we had a great time inside. I threw away my prepared speech and we just chatted about OTR and listened to many radio excerpts.

Here is a nice note I received from the group:

Dear John;

Our group would like you to know how very much we enjoyed your program at our last meeting. It brought back many fond memories for us particularly since all of us were raised in the pre-TV era.

Please express our appreciation to your wife, Pat, also as we realize that programs like this often are difficult on family members. You both added much to our evening.

(Signed) Ed and Shirley Herman, Shepherd of the Hills Mariners.

My wife, Pat, and I had a great evening.



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ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S TRIVIA QUIZ