

R W A C

THIRD
ANNIVERSARY

RADIO
HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION
OF
COLORADO

RETURN WITH US NOW

JULY 1978
vol 4 no 1

JULY MEETING-The July meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held on Saturday, July 22. It will be a picnic/meeting and President Irving Hale promised to keep the meeting portion very short. The location is Washington Park and we have the pavilion by the lake at the north end of the park. The picnic is a "bring your own" picnic since the RHAC will not be providing anything. We cordially invite our Honorary Members to join us and also those members who are not able to attend meetings. Come and have some fun. The time is 1 PM until 5 PM. Bring the entire family!!

GOOD LISTENING- John Dunning's schedule for the month of July on his KADX-FM Old Time Radio Show is as follows:

- 7/2 Whistler-Masquerade from 1946
Night Beat-Fear
Life of Riley
- 7/9 On Stage-With Cathy and Elliott Lewis
Mercury Summer Theater-The Apple Tree
Life of Riley-Junior the Coward from 1947
- 7/16 Academy Award Theater-Portrait of Jenny with Joan Fontaine
Richard Diamond
Life Of Riley
- 7/23 Mel Blanc-From 1946
Richard Diamond
Suspense-Nightmare with Gregory Peck from 9/1/49
- 7/30 Lux Radio Theater-Swanee River with Al Jolson from 1945
Hyde Park Newscast from 1940
Romance-From 7/4/50 (The first of 5 Romance shows)

LIBRARIAN WANTED AND FOUND- Rod Button announced at the last meeting that he would be unable to continue as cassette librarian. He has done an excellent job in getting the cassette library off the ground. Chuck Barton has volunteered to take over the library and I hope that all of the cassette collectors pitch in and give Chuck a hand when he needs it.

FUTURE MEETINGS- For your convenience, here is a list of the upcoming meetings:

August 17 at the Bonanza Steak House at 6026 W. Alameda at 7 PM.

The guest speaker that night is Pete Smythc so be sure to get there early.

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 to be announced.) We will have to guarantee 50 members for the Christmas dinner so if you have some friends that might like to come be sure to mention it to them.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY- June 29th marked the third anniversary of the RHAC. The three years have been very busy and we have accomplished many things. We had nothing but an idea when we started and take a look around now to see what we offer. There are many benefits in membership and we have provided many happy hours of listening to many people. We are still a very young organization and we will accomplish many more things in the future. Congratulations to all of those members who have helped us achieve all that we have.

INFORMATION LIBRARY- Several months ago I mentioned that I was looking for a copy place where we could run many copies and pay by time rather than by copy. Well, I never found one and the least expensive place I found was 6¢ a copy. My idea would be to invest about \$100 in copying these great radio articles and set up a reference or information library for the RHAC. Anyone wanting information about a show or star would have access to this reference library. An investment of \$100 would give us over 1500 pages of information. The treasury is in good shape and I wouldn't want to waste money foolishly but I think this is a worthwhile project.

COMBINATION NEWSLETTER- I sent out letters to other clubs and independent newsletters asking for their participation in this fall's combination newsletter. We will keep you posted as different clubs accept our invitation. Today I heard from Jay Hicker-son and he is sending an article. The Buffalo club, naturally, is in, as is the RHAC. I know I can rely on some of our local members to submit outstanding articles.

THANKS FOR THE HELP- Thanks to Ray Stanich of New York for sending many radio logs for our newsletter. We have two of them as part of this newsletter and will be printing more interesting logs in the future. John Adams contacted Ray and he was glad to help. There are also interesting articles by Scott McCoy, Mary Jessen and Jim Vaughn. I have interesting articles for next month from Joe Madden and John Adams.

As this issue of Return With Us Now was set to print, we were saddened to learn of the sudden death of RHAC member LAVON M. WIMMER. Lavon was an active member of the RHAC, with a warm, friendly and cooperative personality and we all shall deeply miss her. The RHAC membership expresses it's deepest sympathy to her husband, Tom, and to her family and friends.

WATCHING OLD TIME RADIO.by Mary Jessen

Listening to a 1947 Your Hit Parade broadcast recently really triggered some emotions; my own voice is on the tape! I was 13 years old at the time, and on that Feb. 17th, like most Saturdays, I arrived at the CBS Vine St. Theater early in the morning even though the Hit Parade didn't go on the air until 6 PM, and again at 9 PM. It seems odd now; they did two identical live shows, one for the East and Central time zones and another three hours later for local reception at 9 PM. At least that's how it was done during my year in the RUSSELL SPROUTS, the Hollywood contingent of singer Andy Russell's fan club. He and Joan Edwards headed the cast at that time. Looking back, I can see that I joined the club more for the benefits than for admiration of Andy Russell (although I became more dedicated in time). The group had reserved seats in the first two rows for both of Saturday's broadcasts and knew how to get into other studios before and between Hit Parades. One girl I got to know was related in some way to a CBS executive; she arranged for us to sit in on a recording session of the Whistler, in the sponsor's booth, no less! There was no audience, of course, but the Whistler, the person who did the whistling, was concealed behind a screen to keep his (or her) identity secret.

Actually, watching radio broadcasts began several years before membership in the fan club; my grandmother got me started, with Art Linkletter's House Party. Our big favorite was Lux Radio Theater. Tickets were hard to get; it was necessary to write to the network and take whatever was available. But it didn't matter; we lived twenty minutes away by streetcar, and in those days of modest income, a free live show with movie stars was our major form of entertainment. It didn't matter, either, if the actors merely stood and read from scripts, we liked it, and laughed and applauded on cue. However, of all the Lux Radio Theater plays I've seen, "The Jazz Singer", with Al Jolson, is the only one I can truly remember. He sang his songs to the audience, with his usual down-on-one-knee showmanship. After the broadcasts, a group of autograph collectors, including me, would form at the studio stage door exit by the parking lot. Most of the stars would cordially scribble in our books, but some took advantage of the time gap between their "Goodnight, Mr. Keighley" and sign-off to avoid that part of stardom and get to the Brown Derby, where the party was already in progress.

Back in the 40's, living in Hollywood and going to radio broadcasts was nothing special, it was just convenient, routine. Now, as a member of the RHAC, I wish I'd taken notes and pictures, and had kept my autograph book. At least I'm there on the Hit Parade tapes. If you have one from the Andy Russell era, play it, and listen to the screaming girls. One of them is me!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks so much, Mary, for allowing us to share in these great memories. . . . We all hope you will share more of those great times with us.

MORE OF THE BEST FROM TIME MAGAZINE

April 22, 1940 FIBBER AND COMPANY

Tops for popularity among all weekday radio entertainers (just behind Sunday toplineers Jack Benny and Edgar Bergen), are the old-time, tank-town vaudeville couple from Peoria, who 15 years ago were considered washed up-Jim and Marian Jordan. By radio alias they were known as Fibber McGee and Molly of 79 Wistful Vista. This week they celebrate Fibber and Company's 5th season on the air for Johnson's Glo Coat floor wax.

Last week they made their debut in the dramatic big time, playing "Mama Loves Papa" (a Charles Ruggles-Mary Boland movie story) on CBS's Lux Radio Theater. They let the characterization pass, but no one minded.

A year ago Fibber and Company were metaphorically down among the acrobats in popularity. This season they were booked into a select spot in NBC's Tuesday night bill. The result has been as gratifying as a season at the Palace.

In post-war vaudeville, low slung Jim and Marian Jordan (he is 5'6", she is 5'4"), a married musical pair, never got near the Palace. They never got far in radio until they met a fat, frustrated but weary cartoonist named Don Quinn, who gagged better than he drew. Quinn devised a skit called Smack Out, in which Jim ran a grocery that was always "smack out" of everything but the proprietors tall stories. The program earned the Jordans and Quinn \$125 a week all together. Out of it developed Fibber McGee and Company.

To some 20 million radio listeners, Fibber's garrulous tarradiddles, the broguish come-uppances Molly metes out to him, dated didos of his numerous stooges, are as familiar as the pattern of the living room rug. Fibber is an incorrigible blowhard, but a game guy to boot. With nonpareil confidence he tries his luck at anything, from barbering to running an army.

On the air Fibber is always Fibber, but Molly plays many recurring script characters- Grandma, frustrated Mrs. Wearybottom, Teeny, a neighbors child famed for throwing Fibber for a minor loss every time she pops in.

Next to her, "Taint funny, McGee", the most reliable line in the weekly Johnson's Wax act is the "deef" old timers' topper for Fibber's gags: "That's pretty good, Johnny, but that ain't the way I heard it....". The old timer, Mr. Depopolis (a resteraunteur), and Horatio K. Boomer who acts and sounds like W.C.Fields in carnival pitch, are various voices of radio actor William Thompson.

The man who keeps the funny bones of Fibber and Company ribbing the customers in the old fashioned way is still Don Quinn. He and Jordan split the radio salary 3 ways, a weekly net of something like \$4000. As top-line radio salaries go, this is small potatoes. Tip-off to the Johnson Glo Coat bargain rate with Fibber and Company is that S.C. Johnson and son own the names Fibber McGee and Molly. Without these air-inflated cognomens, Jim and Marian Jordan might now be back in Peoria. As it is, they live on a Peoria scale. In Chicago, when they first crashed the four-figure level, they built a new house. But it was a duplicate in most

respects of the \$70 a month house they had rented, and they built it on the next-door lot. In 1939 they moved to California for Molly's health, after a nervous breakdown at 40 which kept her off the air for almost 2 seasons. The California home is a modest eight room Ensenado bungalow with screen shutters, and rooms for the 2 young Jordans, Jim Jr., and Katherine. Out back, Jim Sr., now about 45, has a workshop and a vegetable patch, just like Fibber has at radio's 79 Wistful Vista. But off the air Jim Jordan is everything that Fibber is not. He is handy with tools, his garden produces, and on the side, he runs two lucrative, if Fibber-style ventures. One is a factory making sand-blasting equipment. The other is the Kansas City bottling plant of Hires Root Beer.

April 29, 1940 NOSES COUNTED

Movie and Radio Guide, after quizzing 880,118 of its readers to find out what radio personalities made the deepest and most enduring impressions in 1939, this week published the results of its seventh annual popularity poll; elected:

Star of Stars: Baritone Nelson Eddy (for the second consecutive year).

Comedian: Jack Benny (replacing Edgar Bergen and his mouthpiece Charlie McCarthy)

Actor and actress: Don Ameche, Barbara Luddy (First Nighter star replacing Claire Trevor)

Singers and singers of popular songs: Bing Crosby, Kate Smith

News commentators: Lowell Thomas, Dorothy Thompson

Announcer: Don Wilson (for Jack Benny and Jello)

Variety Program: NBC's multi-sponsored Breakfast Club (replacing Chase and Sanborn's Bergen-McCarthy)

Children's Program: The Lone Ranger

Dramatic Series: One Man's Family

Sports Commentator: Bill Stern

Educational Program and Quiz: Information, Please (replacing, in the first category, CBS's American School of the Air)

Dance Orchestra: Wayne (Waltz) King (for the sixth time)

May 20, 1940 PERCENTAGE OF BOX OFFICE

When Chase and Sanborn early this year cut their expensive, expansive, one hour variety show with Charlie McCarthy to 30 minutes and still kept its drawing power, they started something. Onto the chopping block last week went Bristol-Meyers wry-faced comedian Fred Allen; others will probably follow him at expiration of their contracts. Allen refused to pare his Town Hall to half its former length; looked around for a new backer. Into his place hopped pop-eyed Eddie Cantor, signed a contract that was something new in the big time. In the hey day of vaudeville two types of acts got a percentage of the box office—those that were so uncertain that nobody wanted to pay them much, and those that were good enough to draw crowds. The nearest thing that radio has for a box office is a tele-

phone-polling Cooperative Analysis of Broadcasting (Crossley) surveys. Comic Cantor's pay, based upon his C.A.B. reading, will fluctuate with his audience. He will get a minimum of \$10,000 per week for his whole show, will receive some \$200 for each point he can add over a base rating of 20, equal to a \$40,000 bonus if he averages 25 points or more for the 39 weeks of the season.

RADIO QUIZ KID.by Jim Vaughan

1. Two friendly ghosts complicated the life of Cosmo Topper. Name this lovable couple. _____
2. Professor Jason Allen, his wife Margaret, their children Christy and Siri, and Christy's husband Philip Cameron, were the main characters of what unusual soap opera that premiered on NBC, October 16, 1939? _____
3. The Aldrich Family was the creation of what playwright? _____
4. The opening of the program "You Bet Your Life" began as follows "The one, the only..." and the audience finished with "Groucho". Name this familiar announcer. _____
5. Name the program that ended the career of Fred Allen. _____
6. Gordon MacRae was the host of this blockbuster musical show that premiered with an unusual 45 minute format on October 4, 1948. Name that show. _____
7. Life With Luigi was a situation comedy with dialect humor. Luigi was sponsored into this country by Pasquale, who owner a spaghetti palace in the 'Little Italy' section of Chicago. Pasquale also had a 300 pound daughter with a squeaky voice and horrid laugh that belched out whenever Pasquale called her name. What was this little delights name? _____
8. First heard on January 25, 1943 as a test on limited East Coast networks, it later premiered on the entire NBC network. This program told, in soap opera form, of the trek along the Oregon Trail made by pioneers in 1865. The main character was Prudence Dane, Wagon Train Heroine. What show was it? _____
9. Vic and Sade lived on Virginia Avenue in Crooper, Illinois, where Vic worked as a bookkeeper for what company? _____
10. Lothar and the beautiful Princess Narda battled evil elements with what character that was based on the King Features comic strip by Lee Falk? _____

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Scott McCoy and I were talking about a pretty good idea while we were at the exhibit that you may want to get in on. There is a company that sells reels for about \$10 each and if you order \$100 worth of reels you get 2 bonus reels. We figure if 11 members each put in \$10 and choose one reel, we will all get to record 13 reels. Only the first 11 members to put in their \$10 will be included. Let us know if you are interested.

THE LADIES OF SUSPENSE.by Scott McCoy

"starring the first lady of Suspense, Agnes Moorehead". So opens many a Suspense show as most OTR collectors know. The title was well deserved; no other actress approached the number of her performances. Ms. Moorehead starred in 34 shows during the 20 year run of Suspense, including eight exhaustive performances of the one-woman show "Sorry, Wrong Number". Her roles were varied and she wasn't always the helpless victim. In "The Thirteenth Sound" she murdered her husband while in "The Evil of Adelaide Winter" she preyed on the grief of the families of war dead. In a change of pace, in "The Death Parade", she played the part of a bystander caught up in a situation where she tried to save the life of a potential murder victim, only to be the direct cause of the victim's death at the final denouement. With every performance, Ms. Moorehead displayed the virtuosity that earned her the title of "first lady of Suspense".

But what of the other ladies of Suspense. During the 'star years' of the show (1942-54 and 1956-59) most of the reigning queens of Hollywood made an appearance on the show. Maureen O'Hara played a courageous, if perhaps foolhardy heroine in "The White Rose Murders". Barbara Stanwyck's shady lady character received her just reward in "The Wages of Sin". Judy Garland barely escaped with her life in "Drive In" as did Bette Davis in "Goodnight Mrs. Russell". Ethel Barrymore had to cope with Gene Kelly's mental instability (as Agnes Moorehead had to do earlier with Frank Sinatra) in "To Find Help".

Most of the roles offered a real change of pace for the actress. Typical of these were Deborah Kerr as leader of a theft ring in "The Lady Pamela", Eve Arden as a fugitive murderess in "The Well Dressed Corpse" and Merle Oberon working for the wartime underground in "Bluebeard of Bellac". The roster of stars reads on and on like a Who's Who of Hollywood stardom. Other feminine stars making a single appearance were Mary Astor, Jeanne Cagney, Olivia de Havilland, Margaret O' Sullivan, Lena Horne, Myrna Loy, Rita Hayworth, Lili Palmer, Ava Gardner, Ann Sothorn, Madeleine Carroll, Ann Blyth, Jane Wyman, Joan Fontaine, Martha Scott and Betty Grable. Others were Dorothy McGuire, Marlene Dietrich, Loretta Young, Ginger Rogers, Jeanne Crain, Linda Darnell, Dinah Shore, Ethel Merman, Rosemary Clooney, Mona Freeman, June Lockhart, Nina Foch, Ruth Hussey, Gloria Swanson and Lillian Gish.

Very few actresses appeared on the show more than once. The "two-timers" were Susan Hayward, Margaret O'Brien, Lana Turner, Joan Bennett, Joan Crawford, Greer Garson and Mercedes McCambridge. Geraldine Fitzgerald, Fay Bainter, Virginia Duprez and Rosalind Russell each appeared three times. Dame Mae Whitty, Margo and Anne Baxter starred in four performances. Claire Trevor, Virginia Bruce and Margaret Whiting each appeared five times; Lucille Ball and Ida Lupino six times; and Nancy Kelly seven. Cathy Lewis appeared many times; at first in supporting roles but later receiving star billing of her own.

Then too, there were the female halves of the husband and wife teams. Harriet Hilliard appeared three times with Ozzie Nelson. Marian and Jim Jordan of Fibber McGee and Molly fame did two performances of "Backseat Driver". Alice Faye, a star in her own right, appeared with Phil Harris in "Death on My Hands". Pamela Krelino starred with husband James Mason several times.

These then were the ladies of Suspense. Ladies of glamor, drama and comedy trading it all for murder, mayhem and terror for at least one night in "a tale well calculated to keep you in..... Suspense".

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

The following reels have been added to the RHAC library:

- #068 ALL ROGERS OF THE GAZETTE 1200'
Do It Now 11/18/53; The Princess Theater Reopens 11/25/53; The Longest Week of the Year 12/2/53; Pastel Christmas Trees 12/9/53; A White Christmas in Elyria 12/23/53; Investigative Reporters-twins 12/30/53; The Lovelist 1/6/54; Something Going on in Elyria 1/13/53.
- #069 ALL LUX RADIO THEATER 1200'
O.S.S. with Alan Ladd and Veronica Lake 11/18/46; Magic Town with James Stewart and Jane Wyman 12/15/47; She Loves Me Not with Bing Crosby and Joan Blondell 11/8/37; Swing High, Swing Low with Rudy Vallee and Virginia Bruce 2/26/40.
- #070 ALL ETHEL AND ALBERT (EARPLAY) ADULT MATERIAL 1200'
Going to an X Rated Movie; Betsy's College Boyfriend??; Albert Keeps House; Jennifer's Ecology Project; Plane Hi-jacked; At Grand Canyon-Sick dog at home; Alen, the dog, is sick; Dog Food Commercial; Power Failure-Storm; Teddy's Dirty Books-Spiders; Taking Albert's Mother to Lunch; Albert Took "The Pill"; Watching TV Chef; French Restaurant; Albert Dyes His Hair; Department Store and Her Chair; Excerpt:Phoning Birthday Wishes.
- #071 ALL SCREEN DIRECTORS PLAYHOUSE 1200'
Love Letters with Joseph Cotton 10/24/49; Remember the Night with Barbara Stanwick 10/31/49; Body and Soul with John Garfield 11/11/49; The Uninvited with Ray Milland 11/18/49; Spiral Staircase with Dorothy McGuire 11/25/49; All My Sons with Edward G. Robinson 12/2/49; Call Northside 777 with James Stewart 12/9/49; The Affairs of Susan 12/16/49.
- #072 ALL RARE STAN FREBERG MATERIAL 1800'
KNBR Interview 8/19/66; Monitor Interview 8/66; Tempo III Interview; Here's To Vets 1957; Excerpt from Henry Morgan Show 1947; The Great American Dream Machine; Dick Cavett TV Show 1971; Johnny Carson Show 1965; Al Hirt TV Show 1962; Commercials (Terminex, Pittsburgh Paints, Misc Companies); Who Listen's to Radio?; Join the Army; And All That Jazz; Bubble Up Spots; Omaha (Butternut Coffee); Freberg Underground Radio #1; Freberg with the original cast; Introduction to Oregon, Oregon; Longshot CBC Canada TV; Commercials(Bekins, American Insurance Company); Abe Snake for President; Ball, Ball and Chain; That's My Boy.

LIBRARY ADDITIONS (Continued)

#073 ALL FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY 1800'

Soap Box Derby Car for Teeny 4/24/51; The Hitch Hiking Bureau 5/1/51; Fibber, the Artist 5/8/51; Hole In One 5/15/51; Fibber Turns Himself In 5/22/51; Letter Trapped in Mailbox 5/29/51; Fibber Invents New Fish Bait 6/5/51; The Businessmen's Symphony 6/12/51; Trip to Omaha 10/2/51; Community Chest Rally in Omaha 10/9/51; Teeny Stays With the McGee's 10/16/51; Molly's Birthday-Fibber Cooks Dinner 10/23/51.

That brings us right up to this month's selections. They are getting better all the time and we hope that you continue to support the library.

ANSWERS TO RADIO QUIZ KID

1)George and Marion Kerby, 2)Against the Storm, 3)Clifford Goldsmith, 4)George Fenneman, 5)"Stop The Music", 6)The Railroad Hour, 7)Rosa, 8)Women of America, 9)Plant #14 of the Consolidated Kitchenware Company, 10)Mandrake the Magician.

VILLA ITALIA EXHIBIT

Despite the fact that the tables were not assembled, nor the skirting available, nor the posts nearby, nor the location the same as promised, we did get the exhibit started on Friday, June 16. The Mall wasn't too busy Friday but we did get a good turnout on Saturday and Sunday. Many people stopped by and asked questions. Many people took the information available and we hope to have some of them join us.

President Irving Hale deserves a lot of credit for organizing the exhibit and I think he spent 16 of the 18 hours we were open at the exhibit. Other RHAC members who worked at the booth were: John Adams, Chuck Barton, Dan Daugherty, Chuck Hansen, Neil L'Heureux, Gary Lindberg, Scott McCoy, Joe Madden, Dick Mullins, John Nicholson, Gerald Piancentine, Don Reeves, Jack Richards, and myself. (I sure hope I didn't miss anyone). Thanks also to the members who contributed memorabilia especially Reverend Dallenbach of KPOF for the use of the old microphone and my wife Pat's aunt and uncle Mr. and Mrs. Leo Loughman for allowing us to use their 1930 Crosley radio.

For future exhibits we have been thinking about trying to get some plexiglas that we could use with the valuable photos under it. We also hope to find some glass display counters. If anyone knows of articles that we could use for our exhibits, please let us know.

THE RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO. . . .by John Lloyd

Note: I've taken the liberty of using some of the information from a newsletter of two years ago. Harral Peacock gave us a history of ourselves in a very good article.

Mary Peacock asked the question "How would you like to start an old time radio club?" Her husband, Harral Peacock replied: "Yes, I think that's a good idea". It was as simple as that and so started the groundwork for the RHAC. This was followed by announcements on John Dunning's OTR show, telephone calls and personal discussions with other interested collectors. On June 29, 1975 the first meeting was held at the Peacock's home.

There were 27 people present at that first meeting. It was decided that a club should be formed. A second meeting was held and it was agreed that a tape library should be formed as an experiment. An initial 10 reels were put in the library and any member could sign up for them for a 50¢ service fee.

At the third meeting, officers were elected. Harral Peacock was elected President; John Adams was elected Vice-President and Mary Peacock was elected Secretary-Treasurer. For the first six months the meetings were held in different member's homes. As the membership grew we soon ran out of room and had to find larger meeting places. We had meetings at the Thornton Community Center and also at St. Barnabas Church. The library grew very fast, as did the newsletter.

In the second year, I was elected President; John Adams was again elected as Vice-President and John Nicholson was elected as Secretary-Treasurer.

During the second year we began to have some financial problems and the dues were fixed at \$8, which seemed to end the money problems. Dan Danbom took control of the newsletter and gave it a very professional touch. The library continued to grow and the membership increased drantically from all over the country.

Irving Hale was elected as our third President. Ernie Jensen was elected Vice-President and Joe Madden was elected as Secretary-Treasurer and are serving there at the present

time. A cassette library was begun and the members now are able to get stereo repairs at discount prices as well as reduced prices on blank recording tape. So here we are, three years old, and the future looks bright, indeed.



THE SCAPS.by Jim Vaughan

In the "good ol' days" of radio, ladies anxiously tuned in to their favorite soaps to be a part of the "goings on" of the families who lived in an entirely different world. It may have seemed real, but "soapland" had a character and uniqueness all its own. In spite of the vast occurrence of violence in the various plots, there was always a pleasantness that kept us smiling. Evil was always defeated, and our favorite underdog or hero/heroine eventually emerged victorious!

There were a variety of people in "soapland". Women were generally warm-hearted and good while the rich, foreigners and mobsters were the evil doers. The men ranged from weak, spineless characters to the staunch, upright citizen or hero-type.

These characters were, however, more complex than they were given credit. Even the most innocent were capable of great evil. Male characters, even though they caused more trouble than the women, had to be indispensable, wise, strong and understanding if the situation called for it. Even mothers-in-law were given the chance to be nice. The doctors were always ready to brave the elements to make a house call--especially after surviving an exhausting ordeal of death or illness. Women, too, were often called upon to be depicted as admirably selfless.

Most of the "towns" were small where everybody knew each other, and a general love of home and community existed. Children almost always returned "home" to ply the trade or talent they had developed in the big city. A newcomer from the city always seemed to fall in love with his new-found, peaceful town and usually decided to settle there permanently. The "good" people always came from these small towns while the mobsters, home-wreckers and general trouble makers always came from the outside.

Religion on the soaps was one that asked only simple goodness and kindness toward their fellow man. These qualities held extreme importance and were frequently demonstrated on soaps--but without reference to religion as such.

Rehabilitation was an emphasized aspect in the soaps. The outsider would try hard to conform, but for a long period there would be personal involvement that would hinder his progress and success. Finally a major trauma would occur that would magically resolve all his problems.

A central "helping hand" character was used as a device for making a continuing story possible.



This character would connect numerous sub-plots convincingly. Suspense would ebb and flow without ever really being resolved-yet continuity was maintained.

There were soaps that never had a true listener until something scandalous occurred. Involvement with a married man or woman whose spouse was ill or insane was always a good audience draw. It seemed that a necessary qualification for a good soap was marriage, divorce or even widowhood. Singles, especially young girls and boys, never proved to be too interesting. If a young woman was introduced as an inexperienced girl, one could count on events that would age her quickly.

Parenthood was always rewarding in "soapland". This referred mostly to motherhood despite the fact that it's demands were immense and sacrifice was often called for. One favorite drama was when a mother had to choose between romance and motherhood. Regardless of their children's ages, mothers always felt the need for mothering. Then there was the continuing involvement of mothers in their children's lives that were far from admirable. They were not content to soothe or advise their children. Instead, they attempted to break up their romances and marriages.

In the early days of soaps, total dedication to parent-hood at the expense of all else was seen as necessary. Children could never be entirely banished from a soap, although some writers would have liked to have completely written them out! But children were important to the heroine's image. She loved children--mostly her own--but any child would do as long as he needed mothering. "True" love of her man was demonstrated by her longing to have "his" child. Even the woman who knew her love would never be returned had thoughts of having "his" baby.

Neglected or abused children was another variation on the plot. Somehow the child always managed to be directed to a pseudo mother who had love enough for them all.

"Good" men loved babies too. It was not often that a man built his life around a child (like the mother would do), but he always showed signs of being the proud father.



Divorce was, of course, rejected in the ethics of the soaps-- more in principle than in fact. The first argument concerned the effect divorce had on children. Even if no children were involved, the subject was never taken lightly. Marriage was very important, demanding sacrifice and compromise. Even a mediocre marriage had its compensations. Nor was marriage tossed lightly aside for a newer, more promising romance.

Soaps have been with us since the beginning of radio and are still holding the audiences of today on television. Comedy, variety and suspense shows may come and go--but the soaps must go on!!!

FOR YOU BEGINNERS

I have noticed a lot of our newer members using the tape library which is great. In talking with many of the newer members and also noticing on your questionnaires that all of the shows in your collections are from our library and John Dunning's show. In order to help you build your collections here is some advise from myself and from several of our other members. Len's Lending Library is run by Len Lawson of Livermore, California and he rents out tapes the same as we do, except that he has many things not available in our library. This would give you something to trade with. Awhile back, I advised Jack Richards and Ernie Jessen to try this service and they have been pleased and it gave them reels that I wanted to trade for.

Len will send you two tapes at a time, for a fee of \$2 per reel. You pay a \$6 joining fee which is refundable when you quit. You can rent up to 30 reels at which time you should be able to be on your own as a trader.

This is how many of our members got started. It is a very good deal and it will bring new material into the club. The only way we built up our library was to go out and get new material. We have done that, now it is up to you newer members to start contributing to the library.

For further information contact Jack or Ernie. Better yet, don't wait. Join Len Lawson's library by sending a \$10 check (remember, you get \$6 of that back) to: Len Lawson

1206 Notre Dame Ct.
Livermore, Calif. 94550

FOR SALE- A one year old Sony, Model 350, 3 head tape deck, for \$275. A reconditioned Sony for \$75. A Sankyc movie projector, sound on sound, will record, 8 months old for \$300. Contact Harv Bishop at 985-5841.

WANTED- Chuck Barton is looking for a show called Jason and the Golden Fleece. I haven't heard of it but Chuck says it is very much like Bold Venture. Can anyone help??

E D I T O R I A L

WHERE IS THE HELP?

The Villa Italia exhibit, like last year, was successful in gaining new members and publicity for the RHAC. But, like last year, the support of the membership was very poor.

Those that helped this year, with a few exceptions, were the same ones that helped last year and help in almost everything else that we do.

We all benefit from the work of too few members. In return we ask for your occasional help but rarely get it. Was it asking too much to come out and help for a few hours? Was it asking too much to even show an interest in what we are doing and come out to see the exhibit? I don't think so.

We are supposed to be a club "dedicated to the preservation of Old Time Radio" but it sometimes appears we are turning into a retail outlet for your OTR needs.

A short time ago I asked for help in answering letters from interested OTR buffs. No offers until Lavon Wimmer stepped forward. I also asked for help in doing the Time Magazine articles. Again nobody responded until Glenn Blair offered to help. When Paul Carrier stepped down as tape librarian nobody offered to do it until Jack Richards took over. The questionnaire that was sent out was a disaster. Some weren't returned for 4 months and 16 weren't returned at all (one member told me it was none of our business). I then spent several hours typing up a detailed list of shows and all you had to do was check the ones you liked. Very few were completed.

We have gained over 40 members in the last year and I really thought things would improve but very few show any eagerness to help. Of the 21 out-of-town members in the RHAC, only one, Don Koehnemann, has taken the time to write anything for the newsletter. There are a lot of interesting stories about your collections, radio background or other information that would help.

Those who have radio material and not shared it, those who have reels not available in the library, and those who have time they could spend on projects are not contributing to the betterment of the RHAC.

If you enjoy the newsletter, and the ability to buy blank tape at very low prices, and the selections offered by the various club libraries, and the benefit of getting your stereo repairs at discount prices, then you owe the RHAC your cooperation and support. Many of us worked very hard to get all the benefits we all enjoy and now it is your turn to start contributing instead of making a few people do all the work.

I made a promise to you all about a combination newsletter. I also worked hard in getting it organized and made a promise to the other OTR clubs that it would be done. That will be my last issue as editor. After that, it is up to you.

THE WHISTLER DATED RADIO PROGRAMS IN CIRCULATION. .by Ray Stanich

<u>1942</u>		<u>1946</u> continued
6/27	Notes in the Night	9/11 Brief Pause for Murder
8/22	Death Has a Thirst	?/? Death in Minor Key
8/29	The Letter	
9/5	House of Greed	<u>1947</u>
9/20	Fog	3/12 A Woman's Priviledge
9/27	Jealousy	4/2 Seven Steps to Murder
10/4	Mood to Kill	4/23 Backlash
10/11	Malice	6/18 The Ambassador of Death
10/18	Death comes at Midnight	6/25 The Gentle Way
10/25	The Alibi	7/9 Two Lives of Colby Fletcher
11/15	Apparition	7/16 Letter from Yesterday
11/22	Avarice	11/21 Lovely Look
12/13	The Accounting	12/3 Professor & The Fox
12/27	Double Cross	12/31 First Year
<u>1943</u>		<u>1948</u>
1/3	The Weakling	4/7 What Makes a Murder
1/10	The Nemesis by P. Monash	4/14 Till Death Do Us Part
1/17	The Thief	4/28 Tough Guy
1/24	Mind over Matter	5/12 Chain Reaction
1/31	The Confession	5/19 Murder on Margin
2/7	In The Dark	6/2 Stranger in the House
2/14	Legacy of Death	7/7 Fatal Appointment
2/21	Fool's Gold	8/18 Bright Future (West Coast)
4/13	Fear Paints a Picture	8/18 A Question of Murder (East Coast)
5/8	Death has a Thirst (repeat)	
5/15	Man Who Waited	9/15 Uncle Ben's Widow
6/5	Shadow of a Mind	<u>1949</u>
6/12	Justice	3/20 Death of Mr. Penny
6/19	House of Terror	3/27 Beyond the Wall
6/26	The Blank Wall	4/3 Rawhide Coffin
7/2	The Avengers	4/10 Murder at Twin Pines
7/9	An Eye for an Eye	5/1 Solid Citizen
8/13	Death in the Air	5/15 Golden Opportunity
9/10	Tangled Web	7/10 Front Man
9/24	Blind Alley	7/17 Death in 16mm
<u>1944</u>		8/7 Trigger Man
6/11	The Dr. Prescribes Death	12/25 A Letter From Cynthia
9/18	Black Magic	<u>1950</u>
10/2	Not if I Kill You First	1/1 Evening Stroll
11/27	Death Walks a Tightrope	1/22 The Go-Between
<u>1945</u>		1/29 Burden of Guilt
5/21	Man Who Brought Death	2/5 Lady's Man
10/29	Final Returns	4/30 Gratitude
12/17	Lucky Night	5/14 Blue Alibi
<u>1946</u>		7/16 Attorney for the Defense
3/11	Boomerang	7/30 With Mine Own Eyes
4/4	Panic	10/1 Dear Diary
6/3	Judas Face	12/24 Three Wise Monkeys
8/21	Broken Chain	<u>1951</u>
		3/11 High Death
		5/27 Seattle, Take Three

THE WHISTLER DATED RADIO PROGRAMS IN CIRCULATION -continued

1949 UNDATED

Breakaway
Murder in Paradise
Shakedown
Telltale Brand

1952

4/27 Saturday Night
5/25 Charming Hostess
5/11 A Matter of Odds

MURDER AT MIDNIGHT

1946

9/16 The Dead Hand
9/23 The Man Who Was Death
9/30 Secret of XR3
10/7 Wherever I Go
10/14 Pre-empted
10/21 Death's Goblet
10/28 Trigger Man by W. Wilson
11/4 The Heavy Death
11/11 Nightmare
11/18 The Dead Come Back
11/25 The Creeper w/Arn Shepard
12/2 The Man Who Died Yesterday
12/9 Till Death Do Us Part
12/16 Murder is a Lonely Business
12/23 The House Where Death Lived
12/30 The Kassala

1947

1/6 The Ace of Death
1/13 The House That Time Forgot
1/20 Death Tolls a Requiem
1/27 Thirteenth Floor
2/3 Man With The Black Beard
w/Mercedes McCambridge
2/10 Black Curtain
2/17 Outcast
2/24 Terror Out of Space
3/3 Pre-empted
3/10 Deaths Worshipper
3/17 Death Tolls a Requiem (rpt)
3/24 Red Wheels
3/31 The Ape Song w/ Raymond
Edward Johnson
4/7 The Line is Dead
4/14 Death Ship
4/21 We Who Are About To Die
4/28 The Living Dead
5/5 Island of the Dead
5/12 Corridor of Doom w/ Santos
Ortega
5/19 City Morgue
5/26 The Dark Chamber
6/2 Death is no End

1947 continued

6/9 The Dark Cellar
6/16 Murder is Not Enough
6/23 Pre-empted
6/30 Man Who Died Yesterday (rpt)
7/7 Face of the Dragon
7/14 Fatal Interruption
7/21 The Dispossessed
7/28 Appointment
8/4 Glory Train
8/11 The Face
8/25 Deadman's Turn
9/1 Pre-empted
9/8 Mark of Cain (Last show)
Not Broadcast-Death Across the Board
Murder out of Mind

1950 WOR REPEATS

5/1 The Dead Hand by M. Bodkin
5/8 Man With the Black Beard
5/15 The Creeper by J. Ruscoll
5/22 The Line is Dead
5/29 Pre-empted
6/5 Nightmare by C. Woolrich
6/12 Secret of XR-3
6/19 Black Curtain
6/26 City Morgue
7/3 Pre-empted
7/10 Pre-empted
7/17 Terror Out of Space
7/24 Thirteenth Floor (Last show)

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The number in parenthesis is the month that you first received
 a newsletter. Therefore you must renew prior to that month of the
 next year. Examples: My dues are due in September since a (10)
 appears after my name, Gary Lindberg's dues are due in December
 since a (1) appears after his name and Michael Berg, who joined at
 the Villa exhibit will renew next June since he will receive this
 issue as his first. Let me know if you disagree with the renewal
 date or any other changes.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Reverend Dallenbach of KPOF
John Dunning, Radio Personality and author of TUNE IN YESTERDAY
Jim Hawthorne, Radio Personality
Bob Lee, Radio Personality
Walter Saunders, Entertainment Editor of the Rocky Mountain News
Clark Secrest, Entertainment Editor of the Denver Post

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Nancy Burkhart- Denver Post Clubs Editor
Jerry Chapman-Editor of Airwaves newsletter
Phil Cole-Editor of National Radio Trader newsletter
Joe Crawford-President of SPERDVAC
William Davies-Editor of Indiana Recording Club newsletter
David Easter-Editor of Golden Radio Buffs of Maryland newsletter
Sally Fall-KRMA-TV, Denver Public Television
Jay Hickerson-Editor of Hello Again newsletter
Ken Pabst-Editor of Milwaukee Area Radio Enthusiasts newsletter
Allen Rockford-Editor of Nostalgia Radio News newsletter
Charles Seeley-Editor of Old Time Radio Club of Buffalo newsletter
Harry Tuft-Co-host of KADX Old Time Radio Show

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HONORARY MEMBERS	6
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