

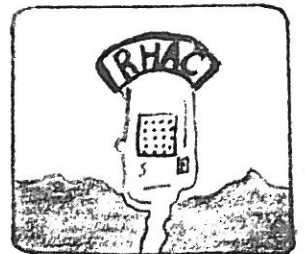


THE Shadow

Return With Us Now ...

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado

Volume 4, No. 7
January, 1979



JANUARY MEETING -- The January meeting of the RHAC will be on Thursday, January 11 at Majestic Savings, 2807 So. Colorado Blvd. It will start promptly at 7:30 P.M. Starr Yelland will be the guest speaker. In addition, all members interested in active trading should bring copies of catalogs for exchanging. Finally, there will be a tape clinic after the meeting, conducted by Jerry Appleman, and possibly Scott McCoy, to help any of you having problems with your players. Because of all the events going on, the new-member orientation session will be postponed to February.

KADX SCHEDULE:

- 1/7 - CBS Radio Workshop, "Nightmare", Produced, Directed, Written by and starring Elliot Lewis, 5/5/57
Suspense, "Joker Wild", starring Elliot and Cathy Lewis, 12/8/52
Jack Benny, Jack Visits Phil Baker in the Hospital, 1/10/43
Interview with Vincent Price, Second Part, 10/31/78 (Note: This may come after 3:00 P.M.)
- 1/14- NBC University Theatre, "1984" by George Orwell, starring David Niven, 8/27/49 (one hour)
Jack Benny, Oscar Levant is guest, 1/17/43
- 1/21- Inner Sanctum, "Death Demon", 7/15/48
Family Theatre, "Outcasts of Poker Flat" by Bret Harte, starring Ward Bond and Howard Duff, 5/17/50
Life With Luigi, "Income Tax Trouble", 3/11/52
- 1/28- X-Minus One, "Junkyard", 2/28/56
Molle Mystery Theatre, "Close Shave" (yeech), 5/14/48
Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show, Frankie Gets Fired, 2/6/49 (Note: John Dunning had planned a series of four Phil Harris shows, with this **one** the first, since they followed right after the Truman Inaugural program John played a while back. Since he has run them before, however, he may play a different batch.)

An excellent lineup from John Dunning, with two additional Jack Benny programs from the Grape Nuts era, and, as mentioned, the first of four Phil Harrises.

PAYMENT OF DUES -- An out-of-town member chides us for not sending dues reminders. Wrong. Our treasurer is far too busy accounting for cash to be concerned with notices. But the best reason is economic. At current postage rates, sending out notices to some 100 paid members would cost \$15, which buys a lot of tapes. The July, 1968, Return With Us Now lists all members and when their memberships expire. It will be brought up to date before long. If you are in doubt, contact Joe Madden, and you can send payments to him at 8356 Ea. Princeton Ave., Denver, 80237, if you don't attend meetings regularly.

SEARS RADIO THEATER -- The Denver Post reports this series will premiere Feb. 5, but that KOA hasn't yet decided if they will carry it. It might be a good idea to call or write KOA, expressing your support. Not only would it bring another new series beside CBS Radio Theatre, it would help Vincent Price, who is introducing and starring in some of the plays. He was kind enough to give us an excellent interview, and we can reciprocate.

NEW FORMAT -- Cost economies force us to consider a cheaper edition of Return With Us Now. The current thinking is reduced size, which cuts down on copying charges and postage. A few items, such as crossword puzzles and cartoons, would probably be kept full size, but everything else would be half size. If you have any other ideas, please bring them up at the meeting, or mail them to Irving Hale.

NEW LIBRARY RELEASES:

REEL 087 LUX RADIO THEATER 1200ft
1L MOONTIDE 4-20-45
2L JOHNNY EAGER 1-21-46
1R THE WONDER MAN 3-25-46
2R GASLIGHT 4-29-46

REEL 088 LUX RADIO THEATER 1200 ft
1L LOST ANGEL 6-19-44
2L CHRISTMAS IN JULY 6-26-44
1R STANDING ROOM ONLY 10-30-44
2R IT STARTED WITH EVE 11-20-44

REEL 089 LUX RADIO THEATER 1200 ft
1L THE GREEN YEARS 1-13-47
2L CLUNY BROWN 1-27-47
1R JOHNNY O'CLOCK 5-12-47
2R IT HAPPENED ON FIFTH AVENUE 5-19-47

REEL 090 LUX RADIO THEATER 1200 ft
1L DEADLINE AT DAWN 5-20-46
2L MUSIC FOR MILLIONS 5-27-46
1R STATE FAIR 6-24-46
2R BARRETT'S OF WIMPOLE STREET 9-9-46

REEL 091 LUX RADIO THEATER 1200 ft
1L TALE OF TWO CITIES
2L WAKE UP AND LIVE
1R STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN
2R O.S.S.

ANSWERS TO JIM VAUGHAN'S QUIZ NO. 6 (JACK BENNY):

1. Benjamin Kubelsky
2. May 2, 1932 on NBC Blue Network
3. Eddie Anderson (Rochester)
Don Wilson, Announcer
Dennis Day, Singer
Phil Harris, Principal Band
Leader
Mary Livingston, Jack's Wife
4. "Hello again."
5. Sadie Marks
6. Marty Sperzel, Max Smith
Gurney Bell and Bill Days
(earlier, John Rarig)
7. "Yes, please."
8. Grape Nuts Flakes (the sponsor for
John Dunning's current run)
9. May 22, 1955
10. The Horn Blows at Midnight

FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY. Part II, The Characters (Continuing Roles)
by Roger S. Smith

This list includes characters with speaking roles in consecutive, or near consecutive programs over a period of time, as distinguished from one-time appearances:

APPEL, HERBERT (BUD STEPHAN): Hardware clerk Dec. '49 - Jan. '50

BESSIE (CLIFF ARQUETTE): Old Timer's girl friend Nov. - Dec. 1949

BEULAH (MARLIN HURT, a man): McGees' maid and cook 1944-45

BOOMER, HORATIO K. (BILL THOMPSON): Character patterned after W. C. Fields, appeared fairly regularly between 1939 and 1950, except for the years when Bill was in military service.

CARSTAIRS, MILLICENT (BEA BENADARET): Bea played the wealthy neighbor of the McGees. She lived, with her husband, at Wistful Vista and Oak Streets (March 26, 1946). The character was probably conceived in an effort to create a role similar to "Mrs. Uppington". 1943-46

DARLING, ALICE (BEA BENADARET): Young war plant worker, who rented the McGees' spare room. Took a job as clerk at the Bon Ton after the war ended, but was written out of the script shortly thereafter. 1943-45

DEPOPOLIS, NICK (BILL THOMPSON): Proprietor of a candy kitchen and restaurant, who appeared fairly regularly up until WWII, but less frequently after Thompson's return from the service. 1939-?

DRISCOLL, UNCLE DENNIS (RANSOM SHERMAN): Molly's uncle. Also mentioned frequently throughout the series. Oct-Nov., '43

GAMBLE, DR. GEORGE (ARTHUR Q. BRYAN): Lived on Wistful Vista, a couple of doors from the McGees. He was the rival of Mayor Latrivia for the affections of actress Fifi Tremaine, whose nickname for "Doc" was "Willie." Appeared regularly from 1943 through May, 1950.

GILDERSLEEVE, THROCKMORTON P. (HAROLD PEARY): Lived next door to the McGees at 83 Wistful Vista (May 27, 1941). Gildy's middle name was "Philharmonic" (October 22, 1940). He was the manager of the Bon Ton Department Store (December 5, 1939). Owned "Gildersleeve's Girlish Girdles" factory (January 23, 1940). 1939-41

LATRIVIA, MAYOR (GALE GORDON): This character was introduced shortly after the departure of Hal Peary and his Gildersleeve role. A running comedy situation was written around the Mayor's inability to control his exasperation when the McGees deliberately misinterpreted his words. Latrivia appeared regularly from 1941 through May 23, 1950, except for the 1947/48 season, when the "Foggy Williams" character was substituted, and during Gordon's military service, December 1942 - October 1945.

LENA (NEVER HEARD THE LAST NAME)(JEAN CARROL): Lena was the McGees' cook and maid. Evidently she was a short, unsuccessful attempt to reintroduce the "Beulah" role as a non-black. It may have been stimulated by the departure of Bea Benadaret at the end of December, 1946, which left no female roles except Molly's. Lena had been "Miss Shaker Heights of 1926." February - May, 1947

MERKLE, ELSIE (BEA BENADARET): Elsie was a beauty operator patronized by Molly, who appeared in several shows between October and December, 1946

MILTON (BUD STEPHAN): The nephew of Ed Kramer. Worked in his uncle's drugstore as the soda jerk and delivery boy (April 12, 1949). Made a number of appearances through the rest of that season. 1949

OLD TIMER (BILL THOMPSON): Ancient graybeard and teller of tall tales. Stated his real name was "Rupert Blasingame" (January 29, 1946). Appeared regularly throughout the series, except when Bill was in the service. 1939 - May 23, 1950

OLE (DICK LEGRAND): Ole was a Swedish character, Elks' Club janitor (March 15th 1949) He appeared regularly after joining the cast. 1949 - May 23, 1950

TEENIE (MARIAN JORDAN): Teenie was the little girl who lived across the street from the McGees, and appeared regularly except during Marian Jordan's illness. Prior to May 2, 1944, she was addressed only as "Little Girl" or "Sis". On that date, she explains her father had given her the nickname as a baby, because like a martini, she was never dry enough to suit him. Her given name was "Elizabeth (December 21, 1948). Her last name was never revealed. Teenie's little boyfriend was Willie Toops. Her pet dog (male) was named "Margaret". 1939 - May 23, 1950

UPPINGTON, MRS. ABIGAIL (ISABELLE RANDOLPH): Wealthy widow, Society matron, and neighbor of the McGees. She lived at 97 Wistful Vista (January 23, 1940). "Uppy" appeared regularly until her departure from the series in the spring of 1943. 1939 - 1945

WELLINGTON, SIGMUND (RANSOM SHERMAN): Became a regular during WWII while Gale Gordon and Bill Thompson were in the military service. Wellington was the manager of the Bijou Theatre and also an official of the Elks Club. 1943 - 1945

WILLIAMS, F. OGDEN "FOGGY" (GALE GORDON): "Foggy" was the weather forecaster who lived next door to the McGees. The role replaced that of Mayor Latrivia during the October 1947 - June 1948 season; the switch was reversed the following season.

WIMPLE, WALLACE (BILL THOMPSON): "Wimp" was the henpecked milquetoast, bird watcher, and writer of greeting card verses, who lived at 1345 Oak Street (April 15, 1941). His first appearance was also on April 15th 1941. He appeared regularly thereafter, except for years that he served in the Navy. He always referred to his wife as "Sweetie Face". 1941 - May 23, 1950

THE CHARACTERS (ONE-TIME ROLES):

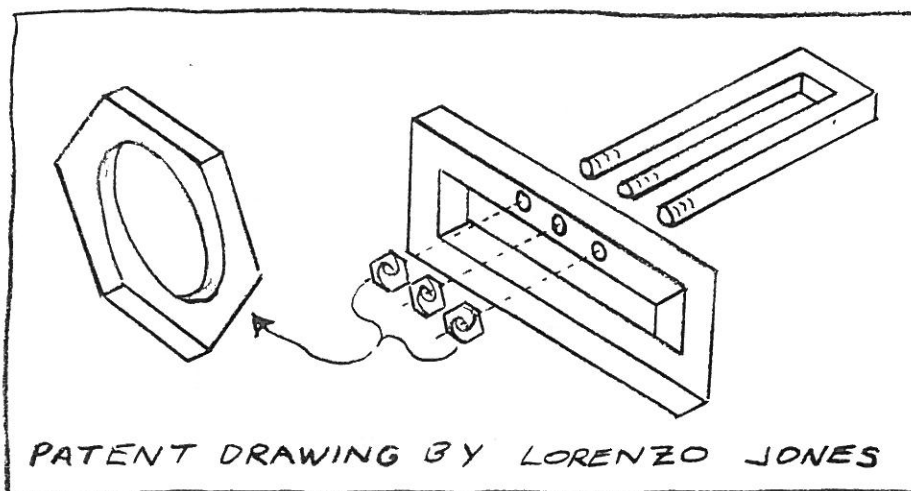
The following list is made up of characters having one-time speaking parts, plus several whose rare appearances were widely spaced.

ABERNATHY, MISS; Receptionist for X-Ray lab.	December 19, 1939
ALGERBRIGHT, WALTER M.: Governor of the state	DECEMBER 28, 1948
ALLEN, MR.: Manager of bowling alley.	November 16, 1948
BABB, JERRY: Bus Driver	January 28, 1947
BACHRACH, MR.: Photographer	JUNE 10, 1941
BEETLETRIM, MISS: Buyer for Bon Ton	October 22, 1946
BOOMER, CEDRIC: Nephew of Horatio K. Boomer.	October 15, 1940
BUTLER, CORDELIA BLAKEWELL: Society editor for Gazette	January 27, 1946
CADWALADER, OTIS: Molly's old boyfriend. (also frequently mentioned)	December 26, 1939
CALLAHAN, REBECCA: Prop. W.V. Friendly Credit Jewelers	February 11, 1941
CARSTAIRS, MR.: Millicent's husband.	June 12, 1945
CHELTENHAM, VIRGINIA: Literary agent	January 26, 1943
CLAMMER, MRS. (ELVIA ULLMAN): Lived at 82 Wistful Vista	January 17, 1950
CLANCY: Police officer	October 8, 1946
CHIEF CONNELLY: FIRE CHIEF.	October 14, 1941

CORPUS, MR.: Partner in Corpus and Habeas Law Firm.	February 13, 1940
CORRIGAN, FRED: Proprietor of Christmas Tree Lot.	December 18, 1945
CREEVUS: Mayor Latrivia's butler.	February 22, 1949
CUFFINGTON, WALDO (CLIFF ARQUETTE): Clothing salesman	January 24, 50
CYCLOPS, DR. CHARLES: Treated Fibber's Cold	February 27, 1940
DAFNE: Milton's girlfriend	September 29, 1949
DAVENFORT, DR.: Doctor for insurance company	June 24, 1941
DAWSON, BUSTER: Circus owner, Fibbers' old boss	May 28, 1940
DONOHUE: Police Officer.	November 14, 1939
EAGER, MISS: Worked in telephone company's public rel.	November 18, 1947
FBI AGENT:	May 12, 1942
FLANLESS, STANLEY WHITTINGTON, III: Architect.	January 21, 1947
FLYLEAF, K. STANLEY: Collector of rare books.	February 17, 1948
FREDDIE: Prop. Freddie's Radio & Video Studio.	October 19, 1948
GILDERSLEEVE, DR. DONALD (HAROLD PEARY): Eye doctor.	April 25, 1939
GILDERSLEEVE, DR. WILBUR (HAROLD PEARY): Dentist.	June 20, 1939
GOLDFARB, MRS. PATRICIA: Quiz show contestant.	January 23, 1940
GOLDFARB, MRS. Proprietor of Goldfarb's Delicatessen	June 4, 1940
GOLDFARB, MRS: Gildersleeve's secretary at Bon Ton	December 5, 1939
GOOEY FOOEY: Chinese laundryman.	May 23, 1939
GORDON, CAPTAIN: Morale and recreation Officer	May 6, 1941
GRAHAM, THELMA: Molly's girlhood chum.	April 29, 1947
GRAN'MA: Female "Old Timer". (see Mrs. Weedeldeck)	1939
GRIFFT, J. WORTHINGTON: Publisher "Man-of-the-Year" book.	Dec. 13, 1949
GUS: Proprietor of Puff Cigar Store.	January 16, 1940
GUS: (BILL THOMPSON): Proprietor of Gus's Restaurant.	November 22, 1949
GUSSETT, MR.: Proprietor of tailor shop next to Bon Ton.	February 12, 1946
HENRI: Couturier.	March 23, 1948
HIGHWATER, HELEN: Piano teacher.	January 21, 41
HOGAN & DUBINSKY: Two crooks masquerading as cops	May 16, 1944
HOUTENTOUT, MR.: Owner of Wistful Vista Dry Cleaners	February 26, 1946
JONES, MRS.: Patient of Dr. (Harlow) Wilcox.	April 25, 1939
JORDAN, GORDON: Fish and game Warden	May 7, 1946
KEITH, BILLY Owed Fibber money.	February 24, 1948
KELLY: Police Officer.	January 30, 1940
KINGS MEN: Vocal Group, can't find any speaking parts but they started	194 (
KNOX, HARVEY: TAILOR: Cousin of Alice Darling	June 26, 1945
KNUCKWINKEL, ELROD (CLIFF ARQUETTE): City forester.	March 21, 1950
KRAMER, ED: Owner of Kramer's Drug Store	December 14, 1948
(frequently mentioned; also a couple other appearances)	
KRANDLEDANCE, ELLSWORTH (CLIFF ARQUETTE):	March 14, 1950
LONGFEATHER, MISS: Aunt Sarah's maid.	January 3, 1950
LOUIE: Proprietor of furniture store & Upholstery shop	November 9, 1948
MADAME X: Fortune teller.	December 15, 1942
MAHONEY: Police Officer	November 26, 1946
MAHONEY: Police Officer	January 28, 1947
MARSHALL, GEORGE: Secretary of the Elks Club	March 16, 1948
MAURY: Proprietor of the cigar store.	
McDONALD, MR.: Manager of the Third National Bank	March 19, 1946
(first name was "Ed" (October 14, 1949)	
McDONALD, GENEVIEVE: Ed's wife.	December 28, 1948
McGinty, SLUGS: Buster Dawson's bodyguard	May 28, 1940
MILTON: Delivery boy for the Drug Store.	
MORAN, RICHARD "BULL": Old classmate of Fibber's	October 8, 1946
MORRIS, CHET (JEFF KIRKPATRICK): Proprietor of Magic shop.	Jan. 6, 1948
MULCANAY: Police Officer	October 22, 1946
NELLIE (MARIAN JORDAN): "Old timer's" sister, Pony Express Rider	Dec. 10, 40
NITNEY, ANITA: Daughter of Fibber's old vaudeville partner.	Oct. 12, 1943
OGLESBY: AUNT SARAH'S Butler.	January 30, 1950
O'HALLORAN, MR.: Jury commissioner	March 2, 1948

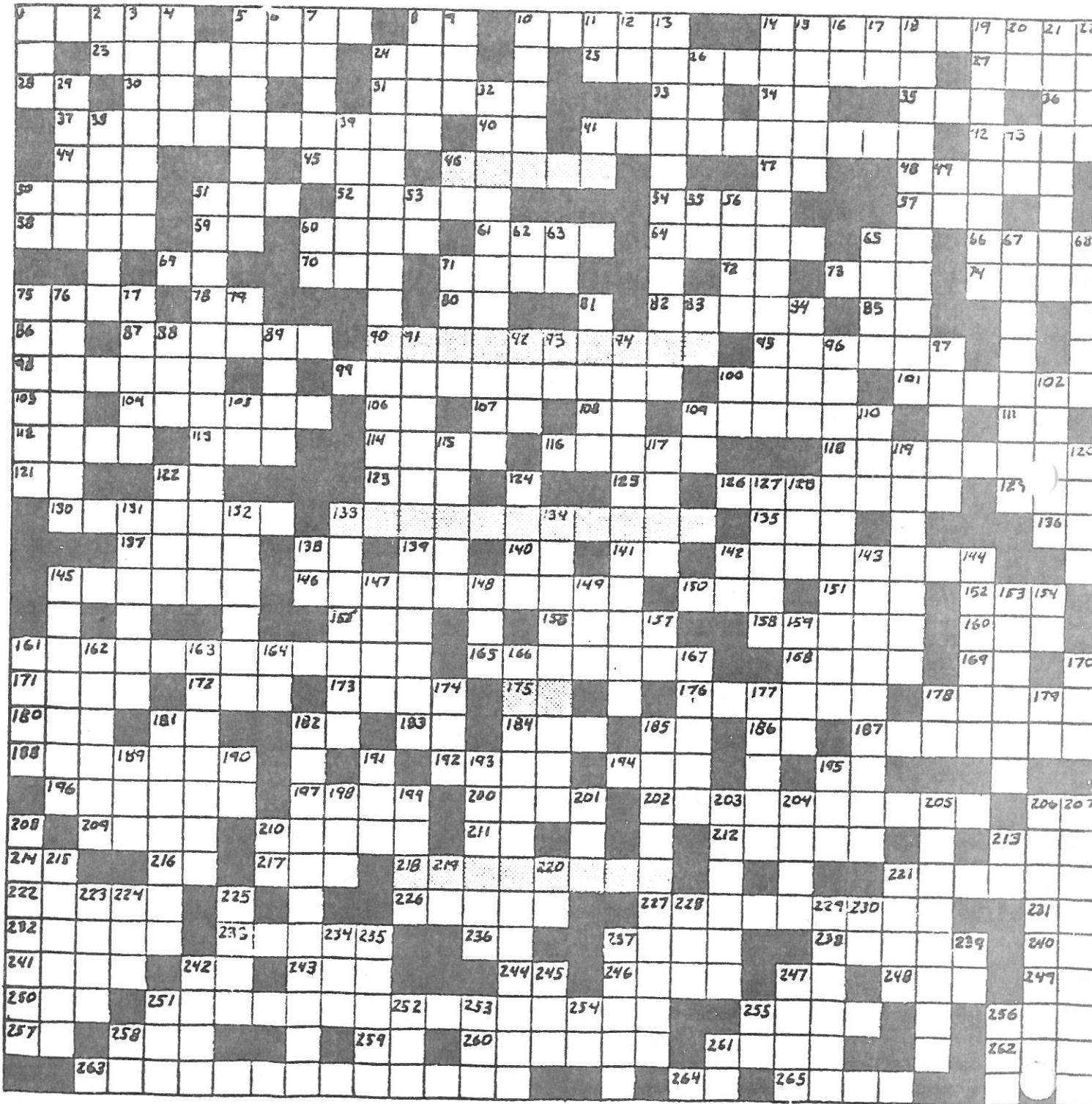
OMAHA: One of Fibbers' pet names for announcer Harlow Wilcox.	
O'SHEA: Police Officer	November 12, 1946
Ouster, Mr.: Aunt Sarah's attorney.	January 3, 1950
PEABODY: Elks' Club porter.	April 22, 1941
PERKINS, MR.: Finance company representative.	November 28, 1939
PITTMAN, PROFESSOR: Professor at Wistful Vista University.	May 4, 1948
PLUMMER, MR.: Operated Gildy's hardware store	May 21, 1940
QUIGLEY, HAMILTON: President of Wistful Vista Business College	Oct. 7, 41
RICHARDS, ROBERT: New neighbor of McGees.	May 9, 1941
ROEBUCK,: Carstairs' butler.	March 19, 1946
SEDGEWICK, HARRY: Latrivia's brother-in-law from Canada.	February 22, 1949
SNARL; CARL: Manager of Wistful Vista Finance Co.	October 21, 1947
STREETCAR MOTORMAN: (Frank Hemingway):	November 1, 1949
STUTZ; STANLEY: Used car salesman	October 9, 1945
SUDSBERGER, MR.: Operated Wistful Vista Laundry.	January 27, 1948
SUZY: Waitress at Joe's Gravy Bowl.	February 19, 1946
TATE, ASA M.: Manager Wistful Vista Recording Studio	May 27, 1941
TAYLOR, BERT: Alice Darling's boyfriend.	May 9, 1944
TEITLEBAUM, MRS.: Proprietor of Wistful Vista Jewelry,	December 12, 1939
We Fix Watches, & Do You Need Glasses Company.	
THREADBAUM, MR.: Tailor; Prop. cleaning & pressing shop	October 5, 1948
TOLLIVER, MR.: New neighbor; owns hamburger stand.	December 15, 1942
TWOMLEY, MR.: Furniture salesman at Bon Ton.	November 4, 1941
VICKERY, HOMER: Old friend of Fibber's.	June 17, 1947
VON ZELL, HARRY (by himself): (had substituted for	January 11, 1944
Wilcox the week before, and wants his money)	
WALT (CLIFF ARQUETTE): Proprietor of Walt's Malt Shop.	January 10, 1950
WAXY: Most used pet name of Fibber's for Harlow Wilcox	
WEARYECTION, MRS.:	March 12, 1940
WEEDLEDECK, MRS.: Patient of Dr. Gildersleeve.	April 25, 1939
WILLIAMS, MRS.: Wife of Foggy Williams	January 20, 1948
WOLFE, MR.: Finance company representative	December 31, 1940

(Conclusion of Part II)



Drawn by Jack Richards

REALLY BIG CROSSWORD PUZZLE -- Speaking of Jack Richards, what follows is a truly immense effort of our estimable librarian. What I ought to do is put estimated solution time at 3 minutes, 18 seconds, and give you all a tremendous inferiority complex. Seriously, though, any of you solving it before the answers next month will be mentioned either at a future meeting or in this newspaper.



ACROSS

1	ORDEAL	90	OF THE PAST
5	TRUTH	95	STABLE
	81 ST ELEMENT	98	DIGIT
10	MUSEUM	99	KEMO SABE
14	FIBBER'S SPONSOR	100	VALLEY IN CALIFORNIA
23	POPEYE'S FOOD	101	INTERNAL ORGAN
24	STANDING ROOM ONLY	103	THAT THING
25	SADE'S GIRLFRIEND	104	SUCCEEDED
27	CAKE DECORATOR	106	LEEDS AND NORTHRUP
28	PAYNE'S ROLE	107	PREPOSITION
30	AFTERNOON	108	UNIT OF ELECTRICAL INDUCTION
31	HOME	109	TO THE POINT
33	NORTH	111	— TU, BRUTE!
34	HIS HOLINESS	112	NEAT
35	A FISH	113	LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE
36	88TH ELEMENT	114	LUNCH OR DINNER
37	BRITT REID	116	UPSTAIRS ROOM
40	TYPE OF TRANSISTOR	118	NOT MEATY
41	BREAKFAST CLUB HOST	121	PRINTING MEASURE
42	GREETING	122	THE TWO OF US
44	RACED	123	UNIT OF ENERGY
45	NEITHER	125	READING IS ONE
46	BETTER THAN T.V.	126	WEAKENED
47	NEAR	129	SYMBOL
48	BOB HAWK COINED IT	130	THE LIMIT
50	DISPATCH	133	ORGANIZATION
51	HAVE	135	FAINT
52	BENNY'S MAXWELL	136	LOWER CASE
54	REBEL	137	INSECT HOME
57	AFFIRMATIVE VOTE	138	ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD
58	TRACY'S GIRLFRIEND	139	ARTICLE
59	PREPOSITION	140	SPANISH FOR THE
60	SPOT	141	TYPE OF TRANSISTOR
61	CORRECT	142	FIBBER'S RIVAL
64	MUSICAL COMPOSITION	145	WITH SHOES
65	ELECTRICAL CURRENT	146	BABY SNOOKS
66	PLAYERS	150	PRESENT TENSE OF TO BE
69	13TH ELEMENT	151	INDIAN TRIBE
70	SECOND	152	HER MAJESTY'S SHIP
71	POEM	155	CHRISTIAN WAS ONE
72	NEGATIVE	156	PRETTY
73	COMPUTER IN MOVIE 2001	158	A BIRD
74	TOY	160	AN EVERGREEN
75	MY FRIEND —	161	KING OF SOAP OPERAS
78	MISTER DISTRICT ATTORNEY	165	PRECIOUS JEWEL
80	LOUISIANA	168	CROOKED
82	DISORDERLY	169	PHYSICIAN
85	73 RD ELEMENT	171	SUBMIT
86	LEAVE	172	ELECTRICAL MEASURE
87	ANIMAL SOUNDS	173	BEAT

ACROSS

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| 175 | PREPOSITION | 255 | FURNITURE |
| 176 | TO BURDEN | 256 | PERMIT |
| 178 | NET | 257 | CAPT. MIDNIGHT'S GRO. |
| 180 | NEITHER | 258 | SHELLAC BASE |
| 181 | DECILITER | 259 | CONNECTICUT |
| 182 | MINE | 260 | REMOVER |
| 183 | ONESELF | 261 | SORROW |
| 184 | RESEARCH LOCATION | 262 | EMPLOY |
| 185 | PREPOSITION | 263 | ALL-AMERICAN BOY |
| 186 | PRONOUN | 264 | YES |
| 187 | DAILY GRIND | 265 | NICK AND NORA'S DOG |
| 188 | SCHOOL COST | | |
| 192 | SKILLFULLY | | |
| 194 | CREATIVE WORK | | |
| 195 | GEORGIA | | |
| 196 | DISTROY | | |
| 197 | CLEANING AGENT | | |
| 200 | AFFIRMATIVE VOTES | | |
| 202 | LORD'S CREATION | | |
| 206 | WEIGHT | | |
| 209 | CRIPPLED | | |
| 210 | SILLY | | |
| 211 | LARGE | | |
| 212 | REACENTLY | | |
| 213 | GREEK LETTER | | |
| 214 | SUN GOD | | |
| 216 | PREPOSITION | | |
| 217 | SEED | | |
| 218 | CENTENNIAL STATE | | |
| 221 | COOLED | | |
| 222 | FRED _____ | | |
| 226 | GONG | | |
| 227 | COMEDY TEAM | | |
| 231 | LAUGH | | |
| 232 | SABER | | |
| 233 | _____ JAMES | | |
| 236 | DOCTOR OF DIVINITY | | |
| 237 | HOOD | | |
| 238 | AGREEMENT | | |
| 240 | THIRD DAY OF THE WEEK | | |
| 241 | KEEP | | |
| 242 | 57TH ELEMENT | | |
| 243 | EVIL | | |
| 244 | BACHELOR OF ARTS | | |
| 246 | AWAY FROM THE WIND | | |
| 247 | MAYBE | | |
| 248 | COVER | | |
| 249 | 49TH ELEMENT | | |
| 250 | PART OF THE FACE | | |
| 251 | DEMILLE'S SHOW | | |

DOWN

1	MIX	84	BENNY'S COMEBACK
2	PRESENT TENSE OF TO BE	88	MAN'S NICKNAME
3	ATTACHES	89	TEN TO TWENTY
	THE TIRED MAN	91	RAYMOND'S SHOW
5	IN STYLE	92	CLUMSY PERSON
6	ELECTRICAL CURRENT	93	REGISTERED NURSE
7	STIR	94	INWARD FORCE
8	TYPE OF WALK	96	PART OF OLD RADIO
9	COSTELLO	97	GIVE WAY
10	MIX TOGETHER	100	28 TH ELEMENT
11	TO THE SAME DEGREE	102	GASOLINE
12	CONNECTICUT	105	SKYWARD
13	SENATOR CLAGHORN	109	WASHINGTON
14	INVESTIGATOR W/EXPENSE ACCOUNT	110	EXPLOSIVE
15	NOT THE SAME	115	PAIN
16	HEIGHT	117	PRESS
17	NEGATIVE	119	BREW
18	VIC GOOK'S FRIEND	120	BOY'S CLUB
19	LET'S PRETEND CREATOR	122	LEGAL PAPER
20	TOILET	124	ROW
21	AIR BLADDER	127	INACTIVE ONE
22	INTERNAL PICTURE	128	COVER
24	FAMOUS DETECTIVE	131	OZZIE'S NEIGHBOR
26	MOTHER	132	AVERAGE
9	IN ACCORD	133	SCHOOL
32	JUVENILE SERIAL	134	PHILL HARRIS'S WIFE
38	GILDERSLEEVE'S GIRL	138	MAYBE
39	BACKSTAGE WIFE	142	EITHER
41	TO ACHIEVE	143	TRIP PLAN
43	LAUGH	144	CREATOR OF VIC AND SADE
46	REGISTERED NURSE	145	SAN FRANCISCO FAMILY
49	ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	147	THIN MAN'S WIFE
50	SHORT TON	148	INSECT
51	THE WATER COMMISSIONER	149	DOG
53	PREPOSITION	153	CENTER
55	AND (LATIN)	154	COMPASS POINT
56	MONIES	157	SPANISH FOR THE
60	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE	159	MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
62	DRILL INSTRUCTOR	161	PRINTING TYPE
63	ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD	162	PART OF A RADIO
65	WITH JUDY	163	INERT GAS
67	LIGHTNESS	164	MILITARY POLICE
68	AND THE PIRATES	166	THE YOO-HOO GAL
71	EITHER	167	REPEAT
75	BURN	170	BORN
76	COMMON PLACE	174	A MEADOW
77	SPIRITUAL HOME	177	TO CALL
79	ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS	178	STREET
81	EVENING	179	NO COMMENT
83	PEARCE AND THE GANG	181	GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

DOWN

- 182 FEMALE ALLEY RESIDENT
- 185 SAID TO SIT IN DARKNESS
- 189 GOVERNMENT UTILITY
- 190 COMPASS POINT
- 191 COOL
- 193 ROLLED UP
- 195 SOLIDIFY
- 198 GRAIN
- 199 DRY MEASUREMENT
- 201 INN
- 203 CAN'T DO
- 204 COUPLE
- 205 RECREATION PERIOD
- 206 WHAT CHAMPIONS EAT
- 207 WILLIAM _____ HALL
- 208 GROUND COVERS
- 210 49 TH ELEMENT
- 213 86 TH ELEMENT
- 215 FOREVER
- 219 PREPOSITION
- 220 RIGHT LANE
- 221 WEAKEN
- 223 INTENSE LIKING
- 224 BEFORE
- 225 _____ CASSIDY
- 228 INDEBTED
- 229 _____ TAVERN
- 230 86 TH ELEMENT AGAIN
- 234 UNHAPPY
- 235 DECREE
- 237 LIKED
- 239 YARD
- 242 FORTUNE
- 245 AUTO CLUB
- 247 SMALL PART
- 251 GROUND INSECT SCALES
- 252 FAVORITE HOBBY
- 253 BIRD
- 254 THICKLY SLICED
- 255 14 TH ELEMENT
- 256 _____ AN' ABNER
- 258 LOUISIANA
- 261 MATHEMATICAL TERM

CH

ESCAPE WITH US NOW--TO THE BOOKSTORE. . . . by Daniel Daugherty

In the seven years that Escape was on the air, over 200 broadcasts were made; and if, in retrospect, the years 1947 through 1954 were some of radio's best years, this body of Escape programs is one very good reason why.

I think that one of Escape's strengths was in the careful selection of material on which the writers based their scripts. Many of the shows, especially in the 40's, were adapted from outstanding works by American and British authors. Great stories, put into radio play form by talented writers, proved to be an unbeatable formula. No show, not even Suspense, was as consistently exciting and entertaining as Escape.

I thought it would be interesting to dig through the fiction in my basement and see how many of the progenitors of the old Escape shows I could find. I followed this up with a trip to the Walden and B. Dalton book stores in the Aurora Mall, and can now recommend several books one might turn to to find some of the tales of adventure immortalized on Escape. The advantage in doing so is the inevitable discovery of stories which were not turned into radio dramas, but nevertheless provide top notch plots and exciting locales for the old time radio buff to once more ESCAPE to.

In 12 Stories They Wouldn't Let Me Do on TV Alfred Hitchcock supplies us with "How Love Came to Professor Guildea" by Robert S. Hichens, and "Casting the Runes" by Montague R. James. Both are entertaining stories of the supernatural, and in the 50's the latter was made into an engrossing movie, whose title I now forget, starring Cornell Wilde. Another Hitchcock collection, 13 More They Wouldn't Let Me Do on TV, contains "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell. This unusual story of hunter and hunted had already been made into a movie in 1932 (being shot at the same time as King Kong, on the same set, and with some of the same actors), and adapted for radio by Arch Obler during the war years before ever coming to Escape. The movie was remade in 1946 as Game of Death, and in 1956 as Run for the Sun. It is obviously a worthy piece of fiction. The anthology Masterpieces of Adventure, edited by Louis Morris, also contains the story, plus another selection which inspired one of the most famous of all Escape shows, "Leinengen Versus the Ants" by Carl Stephenson.

"An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge", which translated into an exceptional drama, even for Escape, can be found in Ghost and Horror Stories of Ambrose Bierce, published by Dover, and I also found it in another collection of Bierce's stories in a Walden book store. She, by H. Rider Haggard, was the author's second, and perhaps most outstanding novel, but many of its fascinating details and plot devices were left out of the 30 minute radio version. The book is readily available in a Ballantine paperback, and I highly recommend it. This story also appeared on the silver screen, twice.

"The Open Boat" by Stephen Crane is included in a Signet Classic The Red Badge of Courage and Other Stories, and the highly enjoyable "A Diamond as Big as the Ritz" is in Babylon Revisited and Other Stories by F. Scott Fitzgerald. I also found "Typhoon" in Great Short Works of Joseph Conrad, a Perennial Classic. "The Fall of the House of Usher" is often included in collections of Edgar Allen Poe's stories, and there are many of these. The Time Machine by H. G. Wells is likewise easy to come by.

All of the above stories were done on Escape at least once, and all books listed are paperbacks still available through the publishers, if not directly off the bookstore shelves. I've recently purchased two hardbacks from B. Dalton which contain reprints of stories from London magazines of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, including all the original illustrations. At \$6 apiece, I considered them to be a rather good buy.

The first of the two, Rivals of Sherlock Holmes, edited by Alan K. Russell, should not be confused with a paperback by the same title edited by Hugh Greene. The Russell book contains a completely different collection of stories, including "The Story of the Lost Special" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle himself. Sherlock Holmes does not appear in the story, nor in any of the other three Conan Doyle stories included in this collection. Still, having read "The Lost Special", I cannot help but feel that the services of London's greatest detective were sorely missed by Scotland Yard.

The Collector's Book of Science Fiction by H. G. Wells is a bonanza, containing "The Country of the Blind", which was done three times on Escape, and "The Man Who Could Work Miracles", which was done twice. Also included is a novel whose title should be somewhat familiar to old time radio fans--The War of the Worlds.

As you see, Escape's sources for stories were somewhat varied, but always excellent--just witness the number of them that attracted the attention of Hollywood script writers. I hope you'll soon be reading your way through some of the above mentioned books, and pausing now and then to say, "Ah, but wouldn't this have been a great story for Escape!"

A NEW SERIAL

The following is the first chapter of a seven chapter story which, I hope, will evoke memories of a certain Carlton E. Morse series you may have run across at one time or another. I hope Mr. Morse does not mind my borrowing his characters for a while, and I promise to treat them with the same gentle care that their creator himself would have given them--which means that Jack, Doc, and Reggie's Blue Cross had better be paid up.

I'm somewhat hogging this corner of the newsletter this month, but next month some articles by other members, and Chapter 2 of "The Phantom of the Grey Skeleton Mine".

THE PHANTOM OF THE GREY SKELETON MINE
by Daniel Daugherty

Part 1

Even Seatbelts Wouldn't Save Her

Seven o'clock in the morning along the Million Dollar Highway in Ouray County, is a lovely time and place for studying the morning glory of the Colorado Rockies. This is especially true on a mid-August morning, when the warm, clear air allows a view of mountains in sharp contrast against an incredibly blue sky, the composition balanced wonderfully by white puffs of cloud climbing over the horizon.

On this August morning however, the only white to be seen was that of glaciers and small pockets of snow clinging stubbornly to the sides of the mountains, and of a moon that seemed reluctant to turn away from the beauty of rugged peaks that its pale light could only outline the night before. Jack Packard's driving chores kept him from studying the scenery as closely as he would have liked to, for the twists and turns in the road required his strictest attention.

Reggie York, on the other hand, had only to navigate them to Durango, about 90 miles down the road; and yet, given the opportunity of letting his gaze wander to the view on the right, he kept his eyes pinned to the map spread out on his lap. Without looking up, he said, "I say, Jack, this map shows a number of old mines in the mountains around here. You don't suppose they're still extracting gold from them, do you?"

"I don't know, Reg. It hasn't been very profitable for a long time."

Reggie looked puzzled. "But see here, Jack! At thirty-five dollars an ounce, a pound of gold is still a pretty valuable thing."

Jack looked across at his companion, but a jarring rut in the road brought his attention back to his driving. "Offer me a pound of gold, Reggie, and I'll be the last to turn you down. But if I had to dig up and refine 100 tons or so of ore to get that pound of gold, I might find the stuff more trouble than it's worth."

"I see what you mean. It does sound like a beastly lot of bother to go to for a few hundred dollars worth of metal."

A yawn drifted up out of the back seat, followed by, "Hey, Reggie boy, where'd you get so much money?"

"I haven't any money, Doc. You've misconstrued my comment."

"I ain't missed construin' a dern thing, son. I heard you telling about a couple a hundred dollars worth of metal just now. Whatca mean by that anyway--gold?"

"Yes, Doc," Reggie replied, "but I didn't mean I had any gold. I was speaking of someone digging it out of the ground."

"Well, if gold's that easy to come by, I say let's go get some and fly back to California! It's a dern sight better 'n riding around on these bumpy ol' roads." Actually, the highway was in good condition, but the Colorado winters do take their toll, and at this point the car found a larger than usual depression to bang its way across. "Ow! Take it easy, Jack! My backside's sore enough after tanglin' with that Shorty Simpson fella, without you tryin' to bounce a car against it."

"Come on, Doc!" said Jack, as Reggie began chuckling at the memory of Doc's confrontation with Shorty. "It's been almost a week since that little injury of yours, and..."

"Little injury my broken tailbone!" Doc interrupted. "You try letting a daggone three foot midget whack your rumpus with a baseball bat, and see if you don't smart for at least a week!"

"Sure Doc, sure," Jack replied. "You're just lucky that Stone Mountain Simpson didn't have a go at you with the bat. At seven-two, he'd have

swung a bit higher, and you'd still be back in St. Louis with a broken head."

Doc settled back in his seat, having apparently forgotten about Reggie's supposed treasure trove. He put his hands behind his head and said, "Whoohie! You're right about that, Jack! Shorty was as mean a fella as anyone has a right to be, but he couldn't hold a candle to his big brother. Darned if I can figure how one mother could be responsible fer two such ugly critters as Shorty and Stone Mountain."

"She was rather exceptionally ugly herself, don't you think?" observed Reggie.

"Honest to my grandma she was. Say, Jack, where's a fella to eat around here?"

Jack groaned, and replied, "Nowhere! We'll be in Durango by ten o'clock. Eat then. It's only been an hour since breakfast, anyway."

Either Doc was in true agony, or able to give a convincing impression of it. "Well I can't help that, Jack. My stomach feels flat as a Texas prairie. A pancake's got more in it...Oh! Now why'd I have to go and say 'pancake'?"

Jack answered with a wry look on his face. "Doc, your stomach seems to have a lot in common with those gold mines Reggie's been talking about."

"Gold mines?" Doc said, not following at all. "What about them?"

"They're mostly empty, too," Jack replied.

"Why then," Reggie began, "Doc's head also has a lot in common with..."

"Now be kind, Reggie boy," Doc warned.

"All right, Doc. I take it all back. Your head does have something in it."

"Darned right it does! And right now it's filled with thoughts of breakfast. When I close my eyes, all I can see are stacks of buttermilk pancakes, taller 'n those mountains--quick Jack, make a left!"

"Why should I..."

"Don't argue son, just make a left!"

The tires skidded as Jack turned onto a small gravel road that led higher up into the mountains.

"All right Doc, I've turned. Now will you tell me why?"

"Because I'd faint away from pure hunger if I had to wait two hours 'till we get to Durango, that's why. There was a sign back on the highway said this road goes to the town of Foley's Folly."

"Foley's Folly?" Jack repeated.

"Saw it plain as day, Jack."

"Doc Long's Folly more likely," Reggie put in.

"Not a bit, Reg. You just wait and see. I don't care how small the town is, it's got to have an eatin' place, else they couldn't rightly call it a town, now could they?"

"I don't see any place by that name on my map, Doc," said Reggie.

"Well, it must be an old map then, boy."

"An old town might be a better bet," Jack corrected. "Did the sign mention how far this place was?"

"No. I don't reckon they thought it was important, since the place is probably only a couple a miles down the road. Right over this rise, I'd guess."

Over the rise was a beautiful view of the San Juan Mountains--of rich green forests plunging down the rugged slopes into the Animas River--but no sight of human habitation. The road could be seen winding along the mountainside, gradually working it's way down to the river over the next few miles.

They had continued down it for about a mile when Jack spotted a black pickup truck in the rear-view mirror. It was an old model, about 1930, and it's battered coachwork was a full of deformities as the rocky terrain it was hurtling down. Jack veered to the left as much as possible, since the truck showed no signs of slowing down; but the road was too narrow, and the truck moving too fast for the inevitable mishap to be prevented. The pickup--a Ford, Jack now saw--gouged the side of the men's car as it ripped past, never slackening its pace.

Only then did Reggie realize that something was amiss. "Good Lord!" he exclaimed. "What's that bally idiot trying to do? Why is he in such a blithering hurry?"

"It ain't no 'he' Reggie boy. It's a purty little ol' female, and I'd say from the look on her face that she can't slow down none, even if she wants to. That car's no more under control than a bronc that ain't been busted yet."

Jack quickly examined the road ahead, made some swift calculations, and shouted, "Hold on, boys!" as he floored the gas pedal. The car leaped forward, and they were soon alongside the Ford. Reggie, guessing what Jack had in mind, was estimating their chances of success. "If you can get around her before the next turn Jack, we might just make it." Doc, meanwhile, was enjoying the excitement, having unexpectedly found something to take his mind off pancakes.

The Ford had picked up a good deal of speed, and it was only very slowly that Jack edged his car past it. The road was far too narrow for two cars driving side by side at such a pace; and any attempt to negotiate the upcoming turn at that same pace, would result in both vehicles ending their days at the bottom of the Animas River, with the drivers unable to avoid a similar fate. Finally Jack cleared the front end of the truck, and swung his car in line with it. Then only did he begin to brake--slowly at first, not wanting to jar the other driver too much, as front and back bumpers touched. She could ill afford to loose any more of the little control she still retained over her pickup. He studied the turn ahead, realizing that both vehicles must slow down considerably before they could make it, and hoping that the girl could handle a wheel a great deal better than most of the women he had known. The turn was not a very sharp one, but a gravel road didn't offer much traction. The speedometer read 50 now, then 45, then 40, then--the turn!

Tires ground with a terrible scraping sound against the loose surface as the truck was thrown out to the very edge of the roadway; and Jack followed, unwilling to let the pickup escape the tenuous hold he had on it. Doc felt sure that both right wheels were hanging in mid air, and quickly shifted to the left side of the car, but both vehicles held the road, and a straight section allowed sufficient time to come to a complete stop.

All three men sat still for a minute after the car had come to rest, waiting for their thoughts and stomachs to catch up to them. Doc was the first to get out and look after the girl. She sat with her forehead resting on the wheel, taking in air with great gasps. About the time Jack and Reggie walked up, Doc leaned into the cab of the truck and said, "Take it easy, honey, everything's gonna be fine. You'll be all right now."

She stared up with her eyes wide, like those of a deer caught in a car's headlights on a dark road at night. "All right? No, no I won't! Don't you see? The phantom--the phantom of the Grey Skeleton! He wants me now, and he won't stop until he's killed me!!"

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