

Return With us Now...

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado

Volume 4 , No. 9
March, 1979



MARCH MEETING -- As usual, the next RHAC meeting will be held at Majestic Savings, 2807 So. Colorado Boulevard at 7:30 P.M. The date is March 8, the second Thursday of the month. This arrangement will continue for several months, the next two meetings being on April 12 and May 10, same time same place.

MARCH KADX PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

- 3/4 - NBC University Theatre, "All the King's Men", Robert Penn Warren's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, based on Huey Long's life, 1/16/49
Gunsmoke, "Trojan War", 2/53 (60 m.)
- 3/11- Our Miss Brooks, "Friday the 13th", 1/15/50
CBS Workshop, "Report on ESP", 3/9/56
Gunsmoke, "Absalom", 3/7/53
- 3/18- Jack Benny, "Casting the Summer Stage Show", 4/19/53
Screen Directors' Playhouse, "Jackpot" starring Jimmy Stewart and Margaret Truman, 4/26/51 (60 m.)
- 3/25- Escape, "Taboo", 12/47
Amos 'n Andy, "The Marriage Broker", 10/48
Great Gildersleeve, "Summerfield Centennial Pageant" with Willard Waterman (first of four programs)

My thanks to John Dunning for furnishing the monthly program, when my taping apparatus breaks down, which seems to be often. If any of you want the exact date of those shows above missing that information, let me know and I'll get it from John.

FEBRUARY MEETING -- During this assembly, your Renaissance president, John Lloyd assumed no less than four (4) roles. First, he was a jovial gameshow host, administering a trivia quiz (results found in John's letter elsewhere). Then, he was chairman of the board, conducting the regular meeting. Then he became a university lecturer, setting forth the benefits of the RHAC. Finally, he once again became an auctioneer, making "Speed" Riggs look like a slowpoke. Such was the frenzied bidding that your editor wound up with five movie posters. My next job is convince my helpmeet that \$3 paid for Crime Doctor in "Just Before Dawn" is one helluva investment. Most importantly, over \$90 was raised from the auction of movie posters, which Joe Madden tells me will be spent on a printed, color-illustrated, hardback edition of Return With Us Now (would someone please revive Joe?).

MORE COVERS -- I mistakenly credited last month's cover to John and Pat Lloyd and, while it was given to me by Pat, it turns out to have been drawn by John Adams. My apologies and thanks to John. This month's is by Jim Vaughan, and Jim has kindly furnished me a supply for the future, for which my appreciation. I just may do one of my own, also.

LONG OVERDUE LIBRARY REELS -- Well, friends, as my 93-year-old maiden aunt would say, it's hit the fan. We have long threatened to list the tapes that have been out much too long, and now we are doing it. Two qualifying remarks, first. One person, no longer a member of the club, whom we suspect to have a lot of the tapes is not listed and, unfortunately, we have had to write those off. Also, where the routing list is given, it doesn't mean all of you are to blame, just one. No guilt by association here, but if your name is on the list, and the tape never got to you, let Jack Richards or me know:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reel Number and Title</u>	<u>Possible Perpetrators</u>
2/20/78(!)	#59 Let's Pretend	John Jackson
3/20	#62 Fibber McGee	Routed to Rod Button, Carl Neustrand, Dick Henry, Jim Vaughan, Chuck Hansen, Frances Zacek, Larry McDermott, Glenn Ritter, Ralph Avolio and Merritt Graham

OVERDUE REELS (cont'd):

4/20/78	#66 Red Skelton	John Jackson
"	#67 The Third Man	Routed to Button, Zacek, Hansen, Jackson, McDermott, Vaughan, Neu- strand and Joe Madden
6/29	#70 Ethel & Albert	Glenn Ritter, Dan Daugherty
"	#72 Stan Freberg	Button, Zacek, Hanse, Jackson, McDermott, Vaughan, Neustrand & Madden
7/17	#64 Chandu	Dan Daugherty, Dick Hozduke
8/10	#69 Lux Radio	Hozduke, Ritter, Zacek and James Snyder
9/5	#68 Rogers of the Gazette	Daugherty, Ritter

I haven't seen so many suspects since a Charlie Chan movie. Notice that one of them is the Associate Editor of this newsletter. We play no favorites. Please help us locate these reels.

JOHN LLOYD'S MESSAGE:

I was pleased with the February meeting. It was a lot of fun for everyone. We opened the meeting with a taped trivia quiz. It was won by Scott McCoy and the prize was a Pete Smythe album. Thanks to Ernie Jessen for doing the taping of the trivia quiz.

The auction of the movie posters produced \$90 for the treasury. That will certainly help with postage and printing costs of the newsletter. If there is enough interest, we will try to get more posters to auction this summer.

I sincerely hope that the point "hit home" that we need more help from our members. Election of officers is still 8 months away but if you are interested in running for any office we will be glad to work with you to show you how things are done. We would have a smooth transition after election. by doing that. This also holds true for the newsletter and tape library.

We have run into a snag in getting the copies done for our reference library. Here is what is being done at the present time.

I have contacted IBM but they are unable to let us use a machine even if we supply the paper and fluid. (small wonder they are so rich). I have written a letter which we will send to about 25-30 Denver companies to see if they will back us. In appreciation for their support we will donate 25 reels of tape to the blind and give them 5 free one year memberships. It will be awhile before we have any answers from them.

If that fails we will have to do it ourselves. I feel very strongly about this endeavor. An 8000 page reference library would be a great benefit for all of us.

The minimum amount we think to get this done is about \$300. The treasury cannot afford it. We would need backers from the RHAC. If 60 members backed it with \$5 each we could do it, or 50 backers at \$6 each, or 30 backers at \$10 each. I wouldn't want to go any higher than \$10 each for the backers.

Only those who supported the project would have access to the library. That is only fair. If anyone wanted to have access to it later, there would be a fee for joining the library backers. Since we would only have one copy of each topic it is doubtful if we would allow any of it to go through the mail, since it would be so costly to replace.

If anyone has any ideas on this library I would welcome your comments.

See you March 8th!

THE RANKS THIN -- Those of you that follow the daily papers closely know that, sad to say, two more OTR veterans died during the past month. William Gargan, best-known for his role in "Martin Kane, Private Eye" died at the age of 73. The article mentioned, of which I was not aware, that this program carried over to TV and, indeed, was the first detective series on the tube. John Dunning points out, which I also didn't know, that Gargan returned to radio in 1951 as "Barrie Craig: Confidential Investigator", which lasted four years.

Also dead is character actress Jody Gilbert, who played Rosa on "Life with Luigi". The writeup mentioned that she was also Marie Wilson's partner in "My Friend Irma". Cathy Lewis played her best friend Jane, so either Ms. Gilbert had a more minor role, or played the part on the TV version of the program.

My thanks to Jim Vaughan, who not only also noticed the article on William Gargan, but sent an ad for Fred Waring who is appearing in Denver, the night of our meeting. It's too bad he wasn't here another night, so someone could interview him, unless someone wants to skip the RHAC meeting and try to catch him. Trivia question: what did Fred Waring call his orchestra (that can be repeated)? I remember (1) his Pennsylvanians, (2) half a hundred Pennsylvanians and (3), after inflation set in, fifty-five Pennsylvanians.

UNITED WE BUY -- A while back, Scott McCoy organized a group purchase of a number of tapes. This was very successful, resulting in the participants getting a large number of varied programs, for a per capita contribution of \$10. John Lloyd points out there is no reason this can't be done again, so think about joining the next "pool". You might also make your interests known, since there is a good chance one of the tapes could be the programs you like.

FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY -- It is with great pleasure that we reprint the third and concluding part of Roger S. Smith's detailed study of Fibber and Molly:

THE CHARACTERS (NON-SPEAKING ROLES):

In addition to human characters, this list includes the names of a few pet animals. Some characters received frequent mention throughout the series; for these, the abbreviation f/m is given instead of a reference date.

APPELPUSS, MAYOR: Mayor of Wistful Vista at this time	November 14,	1939
BARKWELL, HARRY: Dogcatcher; Wellington's nephew.	May 30,	1944
BARTON, JUDGE:	March 2,	1948
CONNELLY, WILL: Neighbor of the McGees.	May 27,	1947
COUNTESS OF CHUMLEY: Aunt Sarah's Great Dane	March 14,	1950
CRUPP, TIFFANY H.: Wistful Vista Postmaster	January 14,	1947
DIXON, ROSS: The "man behind the mayor"	May 30,	1944
DRISCOLL, AUNT SARAH: Molly's aunt.	f/m	
DRISCOLL, NOREEN: Uncle Dennis' sister		
DUGAN, LILY: Waitress at Joe's Gravy Bowl.	February 19,	1946
EILEEN: "Old Timmer's" sister.	October 20,	1942
FIDITCH, MISS: Fibber's Old school teacher	f/m	
FIDITCH, MRS. Teenie's 2nd grade teacher.	June 11,	1940
FIFI: Mrs. Uppington's Pekingese.	June 2,	1942
FINKELSTEIN, MR.: Manager of Bijou Theater.	June 23,	1942
FRIPPI, MISS: Substitute teacher for Mrs. Tanner	September 27,	1949
GILDERSLEEVE, MRS.: Throckmorton's wife (Indirect ref.)	May 6,	1941
GRIMES: Mayor Latrivia's Cook.	February 22,	1949
GUSTAV: Ole's cousin.	March 21,	1950

HAZEL: "Old Timer's" landlady. January 25, 1945
 HESS, MELLUVA "MEL": Wimple's brother-in-law; farmer January 11, 1949
 IRA: Beulah's boyfriend.
 JASMINE: Ole's new baby. January 3, 1950
 KLADDAHATCH, MRS.: Wife of one of Doc Gamble's Patients f/m
 (spelled with a "K" (October 18, 1949) - Called "Doc" at the
 McGees' frequently, setting up a Myrt/Fibber type of gag.
 LARS: Ole's oldest son. May 17, 1949
 LATRIVIA, WALDO: Mayor's brother; guard at 1st Nat. Bank. October 19, 1948
 LILLIAN: Fibber's horse. February 24, 1942
 MARGARET: Teenie's dog (male) f/m
 MARGIE: Milton's girlfriend. she spoke 10/4/49 show May 3, 1949
 McCLATCHY, PUNCHY: Boxer; lived next door to McGees.
 McGEE, ELLSWORTH: Fibber's late cousin. June 23, 1942
 McGEE, Ichabod; Fibber's millionaire brother; blacksheep. December 9, 1941
 McGEE, ROY: Fibber's cousin in Portland, Oregon April 25, 1944
 McGEE, RUSSELL: Fibbers, brother March 2, 1948
 McGEE, SPUD: Fibber's late uncle in Pocatello, Idaho February 13, 1940
 McGEE, UNCLE SYCAMORE: Fibber's uncle; rancher February 1, 1949
 McGEE, TICONDEROGA: Fibber's late uncle. March 28, 1939
 MYRT: Telephone operator. f/m
 NELS: Ole's middle son. May 3, 1949
 NITNEY, FRED: Fibber's old vaudeville partner f/m
 OL' MULEY: Wily old bass in Dugan's Lake. May 30, 1944
 OLGA: "Old Timer's" girlfriend. May 5, 1942
 PETERS, PAUL "YOUR PAL": Prop. W.V.WHOLESALE OUTLET STORE Dec. 9, 1941
 PERKINS, GEORGE H.: General manager of Bon Ton. October 4, 1949
 PFEISTER, ALF AND IDA: Doc Gamble's hunting companions November 23, 1948
 SIMMONS, WALDO: Caretaker of Elks' Club. February 8, 1949
 SKUTAMUZIAN, ABDUL: Proprietor of turkish bath. June 2, 1942
 SMATHERS: Mrs. Uppington's Former butler. May 6, 1941
 SMITH, LUKE: Locksmith; next door to Kramer's. June 23, 1942
 SVEN: Ole's youngest son. December 20, 1949
 "SWEETIE FACE": Mrs. Wimple. f/m
 TANNER, MRS.: Teenie's teacher. September 27, 1949
 TOOPS, MORT: Friend and neighbor of McGees. f/m
 TOOPS, WILLIE: Mort & Mabel's son; Teenie's boyfriend. f/m
 (The Toops' lived three doors from the McGees, Jan. 25, 1944)
 TREMAINE, FIFI: Actress; object of rivalry between mayor f/m
 and Doc Gamble.
 UNDERWOOD: McGES' mailman. February 16, 1943
 WALDENAR: Beulah's boyfriend. April 25, 1944
 WIMPLE, CORNELIA: Mrs. Wallace Wimple. f/m April 29, 1941

BUSINESS FIRMS, INSTITUTIONS, LANDMARKS, ETC.:

ACME COAL COMPANY November 12, 1946
 ATLANTIC AND FRANTIC R.R. DEPOT September 29, 1942
 BACHELOR APARTMENT BUILDING
 BIJOU THEATER October 7, 1947
 BILTMORE HOTEL March 6, 1945
 BON TON DEPARTMENT STORE: (vic 14th and Oak) f/m
 BOOK NOOK: Bookstore next door to Bon Ton
 CASSIDY HOT FOOT: Dance hall. January 25, 1944
 CENTRAL HARDWARE COMPANY December 20, 1949
 CLUB FLUSH: Night spot. January 25, 1944
 COMMERCIAL HOUSE: Hotel.
 DUGAN'S LAKE: Rec. area: Boating, fishing, ice skating f/m
 EAST WISTFUL VISTA: Suburb 12 miles from Wistful Vista December 27, 1949

ELECTRIC SHOP: (vic 14th and Oak)	March 18,	1947
FISH MARKET: (Vic 14th and Oak)	December 14,	1948
FOURTEENTH NATIONAL BANK: 14th and Oak	January 7,	1941
FREDDIE'S RADIO & VIDEO STUDIO: REPAIR SHOP	October 19,	1948
GAY PAREE: Night Club	January 25,	1944
GILDERSLEEVE'S GIRLISH GIRDLES: Factory.	January 23,	1940
GILDY'S JEWELRY STORE: (on 14th)	JUNE 9,	1942
GOLDFARB'S DELICATESSEN:	June 4,	1940
HAGARTY'S SNUGGERY TOGGERY: Men's shop.	December 2,	1941
HAMBURGER WAGON: 14th and Oak.	December 15,	1942
HAVE YOU WRITTEN TO YOUR MOTHER TODAY GREETING CARD AND CALENDAR COMPANY: Wimple's place of employment.	September 27,	1949
HOW KUM CHOP SUEY PARLOR:	February 8,	1949
J. EDGAR HOOPER DETECTIVE AGENCY:	January 18,	1944
JOE'S COKE AND SMOKE SHOP:	June 1,	1948
JOE'S GRAVY BOWL: Restaurant, on Oak Street.	February 19,	1946
KRAMER'S DRUG STORE: 14th and Oak.	f/m	
LAWYERS' TRUST BUILDING: Office building.	February 13,	1940
LOUIE THE FOURTEENTH STREET FURNITURE MAN: Furn. store	November 9,	1948
MIGHT & MAIN: St. intersection "1 block S of 14th & Oak"	Jan. 16,	1940
PELICAN CLUB. Night spot.	January 25,	1944
PLUMMER'S HARDWARE STORE:	May 21,	1940
PRINCESS THEATER:	October 7,	1947
PUFF CIGAR STORE:	January 16,	1940
RALPH YOUR FRIENDLY FLORIST: Flower shop.	January 18,	1944
RHINESTONE HORSESHOE: Night spot.	January 25,	1944
RITZ VISTA HOTEL:	January 4,	1949
ROBINSON CRUSOE CASTAWAY CLOTHES SHOP	January 30,	1940
SUDS-O-MAT: Laundromat.	January 25,	1949
THIRD NATIONAL BANK: 14th and Oak	March 19,	1946
TURKISH BATH: 14th and Oak	June 2,	1942
VACANT LOT: 14th and Oak; site of carnival.	April 22,	1947
WAIKIKI HOLE: Night spot	January 25,	1944
W3KDC: Foggy William's ham radio call letters.	February 24,	1948
WALTS MALT SHOP: 14th and Oak.	January 10,	1950
WHITE HOUSE HAMBURGER HUT: 14th and Oak.	February 16,	1943
WISTFUL VISTA AMUSEMENT PARK:	June 17,	1941
" BEAUTY SALON:	October 1,	1946
" BROADCASTING COMPANY	January 23,	1940
" BUSINESS COLLEGE:	December 28,	1948
" COUNTRY CLUB:	December 28,	1948
" DRY CLEANERS:		
" FINANCE COMPANY:		
" FRIENDLY CREDIT JEWELRY: 14th & OAK.	February 11,	1941
" FURNACE COMPANY	October 13,	1942
" GAZETTE: Evening newspaper.	f/m	
" GRAMMAR SCHOOL		
" HOME MOVIE SHOP:	February 17,	1942
" LAUNDRY:	January 27,	1948
" PENITENTIARY:		
" PHOTO STUDIO: 14th and Oak.	June 10,	1941
" PLAZA: Hotel.	March 30,	1948
" POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY,	March 25,	1947
" RECORDING STUDIO.	May 27,	1941
" TRANSIT COMPANY.	November 1,	1949
" WHOLESALE OUTLET STORE.	December 9,	1941
WVIS: Call letters of Wistful Vista's Radio Station	June 1,	1948
WVPD: Call letters of Police Radio Station.	January 13,	1948

This ends my labor of love for Fibber McGee and Molly. It's been fun but in no way should be considered a bible of such.

undoubtedly misspelled many names. Did you notice how crowded the corner of 14th and Oak must have been, I doubt very much all those business places could have been in the same location, but it was a fun series and that's what it's all about.

RADIO, IS A WORLD, THAT HAS TO BE BELIEVED, TO BE SEEN.

Roger S. Smith

UPDATES TO MEMBERSHIP LIST:

NEW MEMBERS

Greco, Pauline	8920 W. 74th Ave.	Arvada, CO 80005	424-6944	2/80
Migrla, John J.	7213 W. Roxbury Pl.	Littleton 80123	979-0755	2/80
Normand, Phillip	868 So. Emerson St.	Denver, CO 80209	744-7559	2/80

RENEWALS

Barbara Bell, 2/80: Herbert Schlegal, 12/79.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Urschel, J. William, P.O. Box 841, Denver, CO 80201, 665-6500 (new phone no.)

CORRECTION

Craig Anderson's apartment number should be 103

QUIZ TIME -- Jack Richards and Jim Vaughan have furnished me enough quizzes to rate a separate supplement like the one on automobiles recently in the newspapers. Here's one from Jim:

WILLIAM POWELL

He was born William Horatio Powell in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1892. After receiving many compliments for his performance in a Christmas school play, Powell was hooked on acting. With the help of money lent him by a wealthy aunt, he was able to go to The American Academy of Dramatic Art in New York City, where his classmates included Edward G. Robinson and Joseph Schildkraut.

From 1912 to 1916, he appeared on Broadway and in touring companies in such plays as "The Ne'er Do Well" and "Within the Law." It was then he met and married Eileen Wilson in 1915. They were divorced in 1931.

The real love of Powell's life in the thirties was Jean Harlow, whose untimely death in 1937 sent him into a long period of deep depression. Since 1940, Powell has been married to Diana Lewis, a former actress.

Questions:

- 1) The Adventures of the Thin Man was produced and directed by the same man. Name him.
- 2) In the movies, Nick Charles was played by William Powell and Myrna Loy played Nora Charles. Who occupied the radio roles?
- 3) William Powell was a guest on a 15-minute program that was extremely patriotic in theme. The series consisted of informative dramas about aviation. Name this program, first heard on CBS, November 9, 1942 (Hint:

each guest star was asked to sign a miniature P-38 "Lightning" fighter plane which eventually was auctioned off at a War Bond sale.)

4) Who wrote, directed and produced the above program?

5) Dick Powell was master of ceremonies of this first major network show to come out of the West Coast. William Powell was brought in as a star and host of this program that premiered on CBS, October 5, 1934, and ran until 1938. Name this program.

6) William Powell and Myrna Loy starred in a radio version of the "Thin Man". On what radio show was this program aired? (Hint: the show was moved from New York to Hollywood on June 1, 1936, and "The Thin Man" was broadcast one week later. This is the show so well reconstructed by Michael Berg recently at Metro College.)

7) In 1931, while filming "Man of the World", Powell met and married which famous actress?

8) What famous gangster came out of hiding to see Powell, Loy and Clark Gable in the motion picture "Manhattan Melodrama" showing at the Biograph Theatre in Chicago in 1934? He was shot down by Federal agents as he left the theatre.

9) Myrna Loy co-starred with Powell in all of the Thin Man movies except one. Who was his co-star in "After the Thin Man" (1936)?

10) Name Powell's last and one of his best films, made in 1955, in which he played the ship's doctor.

Rocky Mountain News Jan. 29, 1979
Two elected to radio hall of fame

WASHINGTON (AP) — Commentator Paul Harvey and actor Orson Welles have been elected to the broadcasters' radio hall of fame, the National Association of Broadcasters has announced.

The two were elected by radio broadcasters from across the country to be represented in the radio hall of fame, created in 1976 to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the industry.

Harvey has been a newscaster and commentator for more than 30 years; his current program is carried by some 700 radio stations. Welles is best known in radio for his 1938 broadcast of H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds." Depicting a mythical invasion from Mars, the program in-

duced nationwide panic and perhaps more than any single incident demonstrated the power of the electronic media.

Election to the radio hall of fame is not grandiose. It consists of a gallery of portraits at the association's headquarters here. The previous winners:

Fred Allen, Edwin Armstrong, Gene Autry, Jack Benny, Milton Cross, Arthur Godfrey, Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll, better known as Amos and Andy, Herbert Hoover, Bob Hope, Ted Husing, Jim and Marian Jordan, known as Fibber McGee and Molly, Guglielmo Marconi, Graham McNamee, Edward R. Murrow, William Paley, David Sarnoff, and Walter Winchell.

Sat., Jan. 20, 1979, Denver, Colo.

Rocky Mountain News—109

FUNKY WINKERDEAN



THE PHANTOM OF THE GREY SKELETON MINE

Part 2

The Pit of Horror

The phantom of the grey skeleton! What kind of horror could that be? The girl put her hands over her face, and with a great effort tried to compose herself. Her right hand became a fist, and she brought it down hard against her thigh.

I'm sorry. I. . . I'm not talking very rationally, am I? I was afraid, so afraid I couldn't think straight. I could only remember. . . but I'd be dead if it weren't for you fellas. I was loosing control of the truck--the emergency brake couldn't stop it, it hasn't worked very well for some time--and. . . oh, I'd hate to think what would have happened if I'd gone off the road!"

Her speech was somewhat rambling, and didn't answer the question uppermost in the minds of the three companions; but the girl needed time to calm down. She had already begun to, and Jack thought it was a good time to interrupt.

"No need to thank us, miss, but we would like to know your name."

"Oh, of course. I'm Aurora Ashe."

"And I'm Jack Packard. This shy cowboy beside me is Doc Long, and. . ."

"Shy? Why Jack, you make me sound like some kind of a bashful, tongue-tied preacher's son."

Reggie, who had crawled under the pickup to examine the brakes, at this point muttered, "Oh, I say, never that, Doc."

"Miss Aurora," Doc continued, "like Jack said, Doc Long never needed no thanks for helpin' out a pretty little ol' gal like you. But next time you get in some trouble, don't let yourself be rescued by anyone but me."

"Calm down, Doc," said Jack. "You're not giving me a chance to introduce Reggie. Miss Ashe, this is Reggie York, the least talkative of our group." Jack gestured towards the truck, and Reggie, getting back up to his feet right on cue, said, "Uh, hello Miss Aurora. I say, Jack, I'm not too familiar with cars as old as this, but the brakes failed because a bolt on the brake pedal, under the chassis, came loose."

"Any signs of it being tampered with?"

"That's what I'm not sure of, Jack. It could have been, but there's no way I can be sure."

Jack turned back to the girl. "I'm afraid you're going to have to tell us about this phantom who's trying to kill you."

"Boy, I'll say. I was wonderin' if you'd ever ask," Doc added.

The girl's mood changed suddenly. She became perceptibly more frightened again. "It's just a silly story they tell back in Foley's Folly. At least I thought it was silly until dad was killed."

"You say your dad was killed?" Doc put in. "Gee, that's tough--especially for a poor little gal. How'd it happen?"

"I'll tell you what, Miss Ashe," said Jack, telling Doc, with a look that spoke plainly as words not to interrupt again, "why don't you start this from the beginning. Who was your father, and what's Foley's Folly?"

"My dad was Jim Ashe. He moved up here from Kansas with grampa and I about a year ago. Foley's Folly is an old town about two miles up the road to Battle Mountain. Gramps used to have a cabin there when he was younger, and that's really the only reason we're living in Folly now. The town is old, practically a ghost town. It had a population of two thousand back in 1890, but there's only thirty people left in town today. They're mostly older folks, except for Dan--Dan Macon."

"Why did you leave Kansas, Miss Aurora?" asked Reggie.

"Our farm there was torn apart by a twister. It killed my mom. The crops were destroyed and most of the livestock killed. The bank wound up repossessing the farm. I don't think dad wanted to stay there anyway. The only way he could keep going after mom died, was just to go someplace completely different. Like I say, gramps used to live in Folly, and that seemed like the only place to go. It's been a nice place to live, really. Dad and I find interesting rocks in the mountains--geodes, amethyst, rose quartz and the like--then we polish them and sell them to the tourist shops in Durango. 'Buy a pretty piece of the Rockies' you see. We also find. . . (her face grew sadder) I forget. . . we used to find old relics in the town and mines. Lanterns, pickaxes, gold pans, things like that. We did all right, and I think dad was as happy as I've seen him in a long time. Then he decided to go looking around in the Grey Skeleton Mine. He said he was going to look for relics and minerals, but I don't know--maybe he hoped there'd be a little silver ore in the mine, too. Anyway, all the old folks in town told him that the Phantom of the mine would never let him go into the place, but Dad just laughed at them."

Suddenly the girl stopped, as though unwilling to go on. Doc prompted her: "What happened when your pa did go up to the mine?" "We found him the next day at the bottom of Stonewall Gap. The trail up to the mine leads along one wall of the gap, and everyone said how dad must have slipped and fell, or that a rock slide got him. I can't believe it. Dad wouldn't have fallen from any trail, he was as sure footed as a bighorn ram. There wasn't any sign of a landslide, either."

"What do you suppose happened to him, then?" Reggie asked.

"I don't know, but I know what the people of Folly think. They don't come right out and say it, but deep down they all figure the phantom killed dad. They think the phantom will do in anyone who tries to go into the Grey Skeleton. Well, I couldn't believe that! I had to prove to myself it wasn't true, so I told everyone yesterday that I was going to the mine to go rock hunting myself. I don't know, I guess I just wanted to prove to myself that dad really had died accidentally, that there wasn't any phantom responsible for it. I wasn't really as sure of myself as I let on, but I said I was going to go, and I went. I can be as stubborn as an old mule sometimes. Gramps says we both have more mule in us than human. I wouldn't even let Dan Macon go with me when he offered to, but had to do it alone."

"Did you convince yourself there was no phantom?" put in Jack.

"Just the opposite," the girl answered. "I convinced myself that there really is a phantom up there in the mine. This accident with the truck can't be a coincidence! The phantom's got to have something to do with it. That's all I keep thinking about--the phantom's responsible. He killed dad, and he won't rest until he's killed me now, too!"

"Whoaie!" exclaimed Doc Long. "You may be a little gal, but you've got enough troubles for any ten men."

"One of which is to get back to Foley's Folly safely," added Jack Packard. "Reggie, think we can tow the truck back up this mountainside?"

"Be a bit tricky, Jack, but I think I did see a chain in the back end of it."

Aurora seemed happy with the change in the conversation. "Yes, there is a chain back there. It's about ten feet long. I suppose it'll be enough to hook the truck up to your car."

Twenty minutes later, the foursome were heading back up the road searching for the turnoff that led to the town. Jack, Reggie and Aurora were in the men's seaman, while Doc handled the wheel of the pickup. He hadn't liked the assignment, probably because the girl was going to be in the car, but Jack pointed out that the young lady (not to mention all the rest of them) would be in trouble indeed, if no one took the

wheel of the truck. "After all," he reminded Doc, "you were the one who insisted on coming to the rescue whenever fair damsel was in distress."

They had only been under way a few minutes when Reggie spoke up. "I say, Miss Aurora, I'm simply dying to know what happened when you went up to the mine yesterday."

"Yes," Jack added, "I've been wondering about that myself. What convinced you that there really is a phantom?"

The girl shuddered. "I shouldn't have mentioned it. You boys will think I'm crazy when I tell you, and I won't blame you. I'll probably agree with you--I think I am going crazy!"

"Not a bit of it. I think you're doing remarkably well, all things considered."

"Thank you, Reggie. If I don't go crazy, it'll be because I've got you boys around me. Well, I was a little late starting up the trail to the mine. I tried to act casual, pretending to everyone like I was in no hurry because I didn't think there was anything to worry about anyway. Really, I was scared, and kept wishing I could talk myself out of going. I couldn't. But as I walked along, I had a terrible, strange feeling. I was sure that someone was following me, stopping to watch me now and then. I hoped it was just Dan, trailing behind just to make sure I was all right, but not wanting me to see him, since I had told him not to come along. When I got to the mine, it was getting pretty dark, and I lit a lantern I had brought along. I went up to the front of the mine, and just listened for a few minutes. I thought I heard some scuffling sounds inside, but I told myself it was just nerves. I even looked along the walls, and dug at them here and there with a hand pick, as though I really had come to look for minerals. I don't know who I thought I was kidding--certainly not myself! Anyway, every time I turned to look at the walls of the tunnel, I got this terrible feeling that a hand was reaching out, about to grab at me. I couldn't stand it! I finally gave up any pretense of looking for gems, and just kept walking down the tunnel." The girl paused. "Oh, it's just too terrible to think of it! Please, let's just forget about it. Please!"

"Go on, Aurora," said Jack, with a tenderness somewhat out of character for him. "It'll be better if you talk about it."

"Yes. Yes, I think you're right. Oh, how can I explain it? Old mines are dangerous places, you know. Dad and I have explored some before, and I've seen how tricky they can be. I knew darn well they have old shafts that are dug, then abandoned and boarded over. Sometimes they lead downward from the main tunnel, and when the boards get old and rotten, they won't hold a person's weight anymore. I knew that, but right then I was worried about other things, you see. I fell right through the floor into one of these diggings. I should have broken my neck, by all rights, but I didn't. I only bruised myself some. But I couldn't climb back up to the main tunnel again. I just sat down on the dirt floor of the shaft and felt like crying, except I didn't because I knew it wouldn't do me a bit of good."

"It was about twenty feet up to the main tunnel, as far as I could tell, and if I'd had my handpick, I could have dug out some hand and toe holds, and made it back up. But I had dropped the pick and lantern, too, when I fell; the pick didn't follow me down, and the lantern was hopelessly smashed to bits. Or at least I figured it must be, but I started to feel around in the dark for it anyway. I finally found it,

and cut my finger on a piece of glass in the process, but there was no way I could relight it. It was too badly damaged.

"I was really frustrated by then; I just laid back on the ground, but my head struck something and it fell over with a rattling sound, like sticks knocking together. I felt with my hands to see what it was, and while one hand touched an old jaw bone, a finger of the other went right through an empty eye socket! It was a skeleton!

"I screamed then, as loud as I could. My own scream hadn't even died out in my ears when I heard a hissing and rattling. You learn mighty quickly in these mountains what a rattlesnake sounds like, and what one can do to you. I screamed again and ran back to the other wall of the shaft, but I heard some hissing near that end too! I started clawing at the dirt, trying to climb up to the main tunnel, knowing that I would feel two fangs in my leg any minute, and that I would die there in that shaft. Then I felt something fall across my left shoulder from above. It was a rope! It had knots in it every foot or so, so that you could get a really good grip on it, and I was up it in a moment.

"I sprawled on the floor of the tunnel and started shaking and shuddering. I practically lost all control of my muscles, and couldn't even stand up. Then there was a sound just a little further down the tunnel. I saw a face--a terrible face with a white mist all around it. The light was very dim, but after being in the dark shaft a while, I could see it pretty well. It was old and wrinkled, with a deep scar that ran from the forehead down between the eyes and across the right side of the nose. The face spoke to me in a strange, croaky voice. It said, "Go! Get out! Is mine, only mine! I defend it, and I will throw anyone who comes here down into the snake pit. I will throw you into the snake pit, if you ever come again. Go! Go!"

"His 'go's' followed me as I ran down to the town again."

TRIVIA QUIZ: GIRL FRIDAYS. . . . Jack Richards

All our radio heroes had that something that no office can exist without. Here are the heroes. Name the Girl Friday for each.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Michael Shayne | ----- |
| 2. Matt Dillon | ----- |
| 3. Dr. Christian | ----- |
| 4. Sam Spade | ----- |
| 5. Popeye | ----- |
| 6. Lamont Cranston | ----- |
| 7. Perry Mason | ----- |
| 8. Richard Diamond | ----- |
| 9. Dick Tracy | ----- |
| 10. Britt Reid | ----- |
| 11. Captain Midnight | ----- |
| 12. Nick Carter | ----- |
| 13. Tommy Riggs | ----- |
| 14. Daniel Danfield | ----- |

(Answers at bottom of last page of newsletter)

THE SHADOW. Jim Vaughan

The Shadow, appropriately difficult to view clearly and distinctly, has two slightly different forms, two backgrounds, two different methods of operation. One long and successful history of "The Shadow" is the version presented on radio. The other, equally popular, appeared in the pages of a magazine.

The Sunday night radio series was one of the most successful melodramas ever aired. The character made his debut in August, 1930, serving as the eerie-voiced, anonymous narrator of strange tales on the "Detective Story" program. His instant grip on listeners soon resulted in the series named after him, which ran until December 26, 1954. His role had been changed to the hero of the series, battling evil-doers for thirty exhausting minutes every week.

The show had an exceptional level of creativity and imagination, but it was at its best when the voice of the sinister Master of Darkness belonged to Orson Welles (1937-1938).

The Shadow Magazine was launched in the spring of 1931 with the featured novel, The Living Shadow. During the next eighteen years, 325 issues were published, each with a short novel recounting an adventure of the Shadow.

Several writers used the Grant pseudonym, but the author of the vast majority of the adventures is Walter B. Gibson, (282, including all the early ones).

A hero of the great depression, The Shadow has outlived his time. His adventures are frequently reprinted in paperback form today, the old radio programs are successfully revived in syndication, rare showings of the vintage motion pictures and serials are filled to overflowing, and nostalgia buffs covet the fragile comic books, magazines, toys, games, radio premiums and books that are so avidly collected today--at prices that numb the soul.

The Shadow has not lost his ability to cloud men's minds.

ANSWERS TO THE 'GIRL FRIDAY' QUIZ:

1. Phyllis Knight
2. Kitty Russell
3. Judy Price
4. Effie Perrine
5. Olive Oyl
6. Margo Lane
7. Della Street
8. Helen Asher
9. Tess Trueheart
10. Lenor Case
11. Joyce Ryan
12. Patsy Bowen
13. Betty Lou
14. Rusty Fairfax

CATALOGS -- The only one received this month was from Nostalgia Lane, Inc., P.O. Box 231, Scarsdale, NY 10583. They only put out records, and only one record so far for each program, but the one I own, Sherlock Holmes, has two programs in as good quality as I have heard. One, Rathbone-Bruce "Bruce-Partington Plans" is in VG+ quality and available many places elsewhere, but the flip side is Gielgud-Richardson's "Final Problem" with Orson Welles as Moriarty, the best program of what I believe to be the best Holmes series. And the condition here is Exc-, probably as fine as available since an old English Decca LP that has been out of print for years.

IRVING HALE
1642 IVANHOE ST.
DENVER, CO 80220



Barrett E. Benson
5931 Ellis Court
Arvada, CO 80004