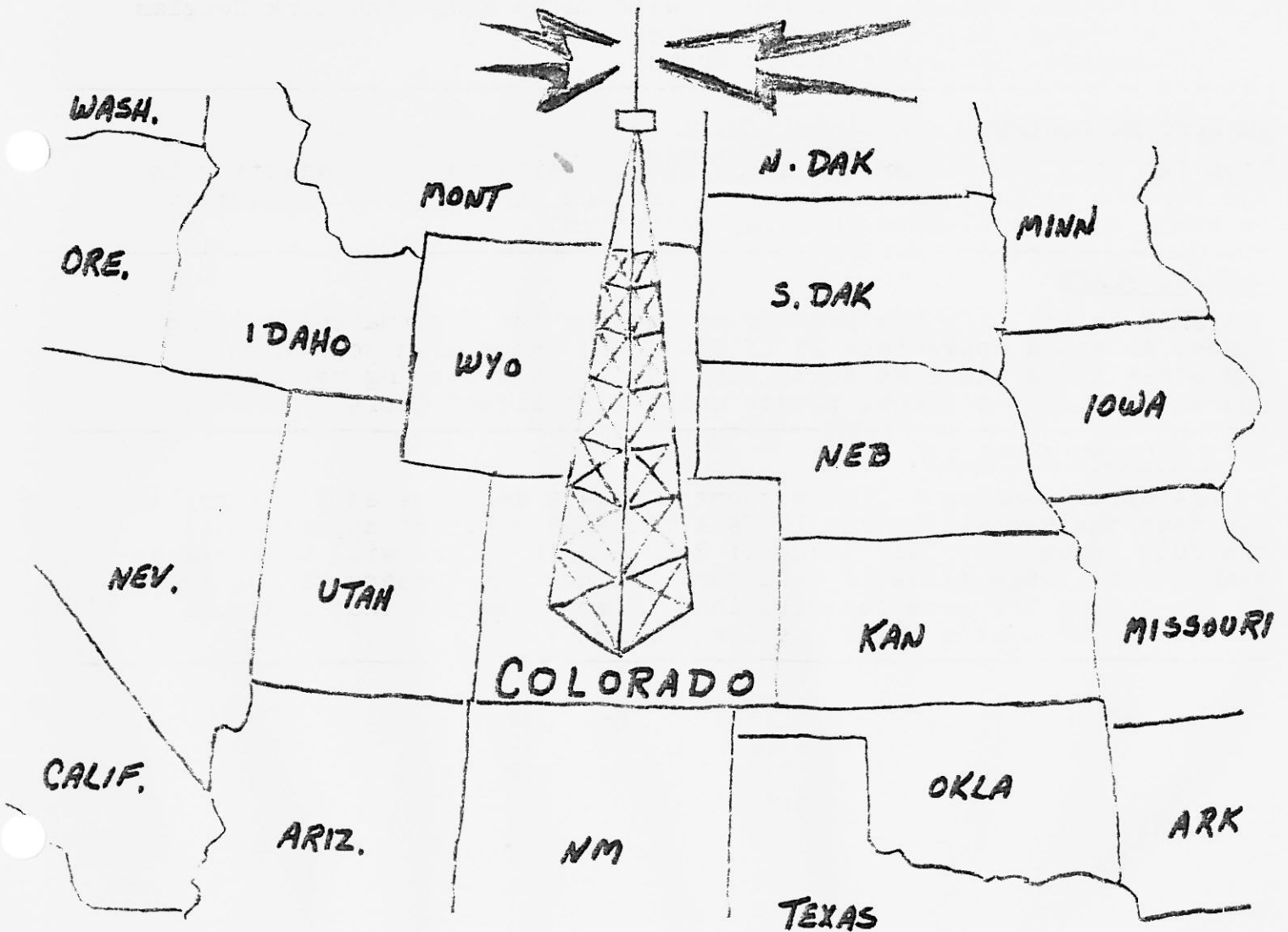


# RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado



VOLUME 6, NUMBER 12  
JUNE, 1981



## JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held on Thursday evening, June 18th, 1981 at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Southwest State Bank, 1380 S. Federal Blvd. The regular portion of the meeting will be held first and be followed by the final round of the Trivia Bowl.

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## GOOD LISTENING

John Dunning's schedule for Old Time Radio for the month of June is as follows:

- 6/7 Our Miss Brooks-"Revolt at the Cafeteria" from 3/49  
Michael Shayne-"Case of the grey eyed blonde"  
Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show-"Entertaining the school principal"  
from 4/49
- 6/14 Arch Oboler's Plays-"Him or Me" (Story about rats)  
Jack Benny Show- with Fred Allen from 1944  
Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show- "Phil's movie role" from 4/49  
Beginning of 12 week series of the complete library of the Dorsey-Sinatra years
- 6/21 It Pays To Be Ignorant  
Richard Diamond-"Ice Pick Murder"  
Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show-"Chimney Sweeps" from 5/1/49
- 6/28 Suspense-"Community Property" with Cathy Lewis and Kirk Douglas  
Let George Do It- with Bob Bailey  
Gunsmoke- The first of six shows
- 

## NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Thus far only one member has submitted anything to the newsletter in the current contest for stories, covers and OTR cartoons. Naturally, it would be nice to have more participation.

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## MEETING PLACE

The RHAC is still in the process of looking for a permanent meeting place. We would appreciate it if you would check with your bank or any other place where we could have our monthly evening meetings. If you know of such a place, please contact President Barrett Benson.

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## JACK RICHARD'S PUZZLE

We are still running a little short of space and time so I'm sorry to say that the revised puzzle by Jack Richards will not appear until the July issue. The July issue of Return With Us Now will be a bigger than normal issue since it will mark the 6th anniversary of the RHAC. We are hoping for some contributions of articles for that issue to make it an enjoyable milestone for the RHAC.

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## TRIVIA BOWL RESULTS

Round Two of the Trivia Bowl was held at the May meeting. It was a very close, well played contest throughout. The team of Carol Roe, Dave Tysoer and Larry McDermott (also known as the Rushville Center Rowdies) came from behind to edge the team of Chuck Barton, Ernie Jessen and Dick Henry (also known as the Dodge City Disasters).

The final round of the Trivia Bowl will be held at the June meeting when the May winners listed above meet the April winners (John Adams, Barrett Benson and Chuck Hansen). It should be a very good match and we hope to have a good turnout.

Whatever way the Trivia Bowl turns out, the RHAC would like to thank all the members who participated either as a panelist, scorekeeper or the tough job of judge. We all had a good time and some laughs. We will be happy to try it again whenever the membership desires.

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## HELP WANTED

The Radio Historical Association of Colorado is still seeking a member to assume the job of editor of Return With Us Now. I will be glad to assist anyone in getting started in this position in any way that I can. We are also looking for someone to handle the Reference Library. There hasn't been much play lately in the library so it wouldn't be all that tough a job. There has to be somebody out there willing to help.

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## GREAT MUSIC

The attachment to this issue of Return With Us Now is the column of Rocky Mt. News columnist Dusty Saunders (also an RHAC Honorary Member). He was kind enough to allow us to use the column which he wrote on KEZW. I was going to do an article on this station but I knew I couldn't come close to the expertise of Dusty's column. It is an absolute joy to listen to the Sounds Of Your Life each morning and evening on the way to work. I hope that you give it a try if you can receive it in your area and drop them a line of thanks if you can.

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## WHO TO CONTACT

If you have any questions or problems concerning any of the activities of the RHAC, the following list of officers and other responsible members is provided for your information:

President.....	Barrett Benson....	422-6442
Vice President.....	Glenn Ritter.....	377-4798
Treasurer.....	Dave Clow.....	693-1044
Tape Librarian.....	John Migrala .....	979-0755
Blank Tape Sales...	Glenn Blair .....	756-8130
Newsletter Editor..	John Lloyd .....	451-7890
Time and Temperature.....		639-1311
Fibber McGee.....		Wistful Vista 3871
Operator.....		0



Why didn't you return those tapes when they asked?

## THE NUMBERS GAME

I was going over some of the old membership lists from the RHAC several weeks ago and found that in the first six years of the RHAC's existence we have had about 175 men and women join the club. Of that figure, less than 40% ever renew their membership.

We have about 65 paid members at this time, but luckily, about 45 of them have been in for more than a year.

When the trend of a big turnover like this was discovered a few years ago, we thought something ought to be done to find out why so many members came and went so quickly. Was it something we were doing wrong? Should a group be established to solve any problems we had in keeping members?

A look at the members that have left over the years leads me to believe that, although they have been fine people, we have not lost any of the strength of our organization. They were basically non-participating members. They rarely used the tape library, reference library nor contributed to the newsletter or attended meetings.

The backbone of the RHAC is still very active and I think it always will be there to do the things that must be done. We have never been stronger so the outlook is very good for the future.

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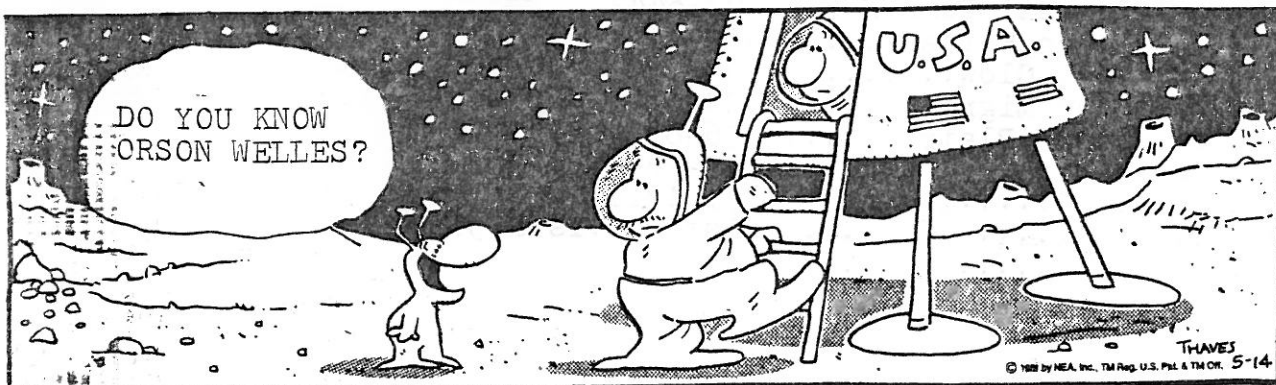
## FOR SALE

We have several items for sale this month. The first is a Docorder 8010A, 4 reel dubbing system. The speakers on this unit are not operational but probably could be used through a receiver or amplifier. The asking price is \$300 but it may go to the best offer. This sounds like an interesting machine. Also available are 50 reels of recording tape (maker unknown) at \$1 each. If interested call John Cusamano at 433-7015. He is a co-worker of RHAC member Bob Elfstrand.

Another unit for sale is a Wollensak 6150. It needs work and the asking price is \$50. If interested call Bob Elfstrand at 428-3973.

Editor's Note: The newsletter more than welcomes items for sale by our members. Many of our members are looking for equipment and it would really help them out if you advertised in Return With Us Now.

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REEL 181 JACK ARMSTRONG (ADVENTURES IN THE PHILLIPINES) 1800'

1L 1-29-41 Episodes #1603 Through #1608  
 2L 2-6-41 Episodes #1609, #1628 Through #1632  
 1R 3-12-41 Episodes #1633 Through #1637;  
 Easter Island Adventure, First Chapter  
 2R 9-27-40 Easter Island Adventure, Last Chapter  
 4-21-42 Land Of The Sky Adventure: Cave Of The Glacier  
 5-6-42 Lost Inca City: Stealing The Ruby  
 8-7-43 Black Vulture: Counterfeit Ration Stamps Stolen  
 3-11-48 Clear The Tracks

REEL 182 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY 1200'

1L 3-4-41 The McGees Hold A Buffet Supper  
 3-11-41 Buffet Guests Quarantined At McGees  
 2L 3-18-41 Fibber Gets Drafted  
 3-25-41 Fibber Wants To Change His Name To Ronald  
 1R 4-8-41 Fibber Discovers A Comet  
 4-15-41 Fibber Goes To The Occulist  
 2R 4-22-41 Fibber's Night Out With The Boys  
 4-29-41 Fibber Gets Stuck In The New Pavement

REEL 183 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY 1800'

1L 5-6-41 Giving Games To The Army Camp  
 5-13-41 The Salmon From Molly's Old Flame  
 5-20-41 Fibber Bakes Molly A Birthday Cake  
 2L 5-27-41 McGee And Gildy Quarrel Over Ladder  
 6-10-41 A Portrait For Aunt Martha  
 6-17-41 McGee Takes Little Girl To Amusement Park  
 1R 6-24-41 Fibber And Molly Leave For Hollywood  
 9-30-41 Back From Alaska-Gildersleeve's Last Show  
 10-14-41 McGee Is Acting Fire Commissioner  
 2R 10-21-41 McGees Read Old Love Letters  
 11-4-41 McGees Buy New Living Room Furniture  
 11-11-41 Edgar Bergen And Charlie McCarthy Come To Town  
 To Join The McGee's For Their Movie Premiere

## PROFILES OF OUR MEMBERS

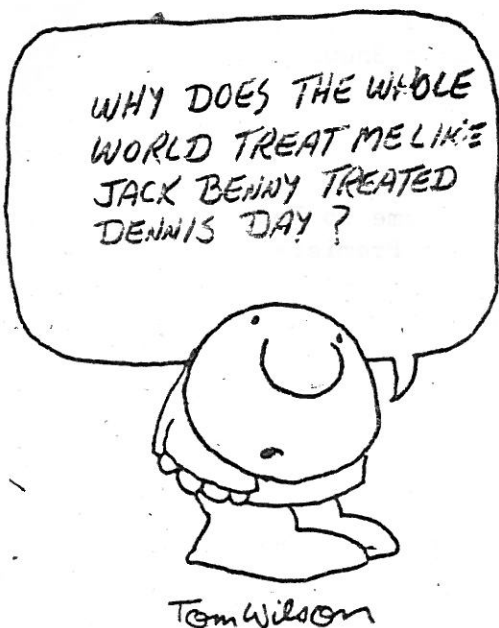
Beginning in the July issue of Return With Us Now, we will start a special series of profiles of our members. We will be contacting each of you to see what you collect, how and if the RHAC has helped you with your collecting and contacts, what you would like to collect in the future and anything else you would like to pass on to our other members. We hope that you enjoy the series. We will start with our members who have been in the RHAC the longest and work all the way up to our newest members. John Adams has offered to help with this project.

## THIS MONTH'S COVER

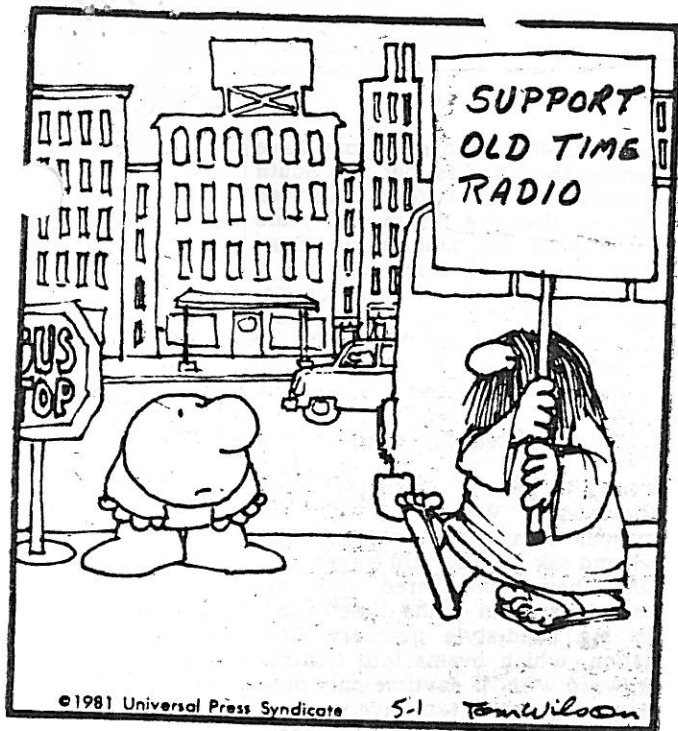
It has become increasingly difficult to come up with a different cover each month. We have also been told by our printing company that the logo that we use each month on the cover will not last too much longer if we keep changing it from cover to cover. For this reason it has been suggested that we come up with a permanent cover. This month's cover idea came from my wife, Pat. If there are no objections from our readers, we will use it from now on.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY/MEETING

It may sound funny to start talking about a December meeting while we are still not into summer yet but it is about the time to reserve a place. There are so many companies and clubs and so few places in our price range that most of the good places are gone by early summer. RHAC member Larry McDermott has volunteered to look into the problem of finding a suitable place for us. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please get in touch with Larry. If you can assist in any way, please do so.



IF YOU BOUGHT A TIMER YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO STAY UP SO LATE TO HEAR CBS MYSTERY THEATER.

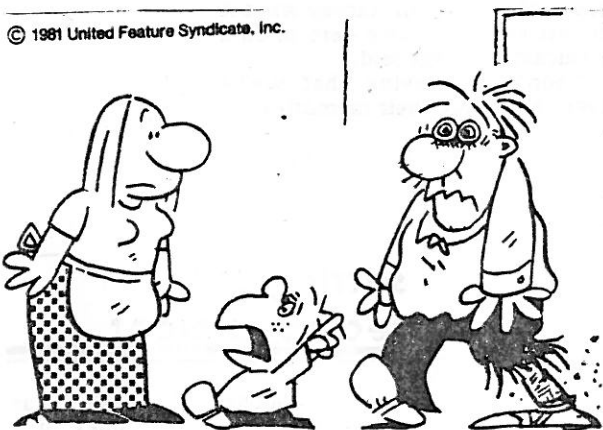


## BITS AND PIECES

The July issue of Return With Us Now will be the 6th anniversary issue of this publication. I hope that we will be able to provide you with a super issue. Please send in some articles for the issue.....The other day, at work, I had several people listening to some OTR at my desk. It grew from 3 of us to 5, then 6, then 8. Luckily, I picked out a funny Phil Harris show and did they ever enjoy it. Try it out and let us all know how it turns out..... Are there any OTR magazines or books out there that could be copied for the Reference Library.....When will more Sgt. Preston shows get into circulation?..... Is anybody interested in a shopping mall display sometime in the future. I am..... Why don't more members use the newsletter to sell

equipment or look for trades? It's free for the asking.....Should the RHAC send out more letters to OTR sponsors in the hope of landing more OTR material, such as the Casey, Crime Photographer series? If so, will you help research for the companies to send letters to?.....I'm really getting turned on by Lux Radio Theater lately. Does anyone know if the full run will ever be available?.....A new membership list will appear in the next issue, also a list welcoming our new members and renewals. By the way, it would really help, if you are going to renew your membership, to do so a month or so ahead of time so that you don't miss out on a newsletter and cause a lot of last minute phone calls to see if you renewed or not..... Has anyone tried to find a better repair shop to get our equipment serviced?.....See you all at the meeting....

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Daddy tried to listen to 'Three Skeleton Key' on the left track and 'Laningen vs. The Ants' on the right track AT THE SAME TIME !



# Broward living

3/27/80

## 2 Radio Stations, Play Bring Back Sounds of 1940s

By KITTY OLIVER  
Broward Entertainment Editor

Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear when the hairdos were upswept, the music was swing, the world was at war and radio was king.

That was the 1940s. If you are among those who came of age during that decade, you call it simply "The Forties" and probably recall most of those years with nostalgia.

If you were born between 1940 and 1949, the fashions and the music of the period probably are a matter of curiosity.

And if you've watched the recent fashion trends, listened to Barry Manilow records or enjoyed the camp singing styles of Bette Midler and the Manhattan Transfer, you know that the '40s influence is with us — like it or not.

The 1940s Radio Hour, the current show at Parker Playhouse, has survived for the last year and a half on the current wave of public interest in '40s music.

IT OPENED on Broadway, got blasted by the critics as being more suitable for road tours than New York, and lasted just a few weeks after that.

The road company was assembled mostly from the New York cast for this limited six-week run, which included the Miami Beach Theatre of the Performing Arts, and plans are not yet firm on whether the show will go on to California when it leaves Parker Saturday.

But Broward audiences love the show, and business has been good enough to warrant holding the show over, according to the theater management. (However, Sugar is scheduled to open Tuesday.)

The authenticity of the production is the biggest appeal. Set designer David Gropman has created a dark, somber radio studio setting for the show, which focuses on what goes on before, during and after a show broadcast live in December 1942 from radio station WOV.

THE GIRL singers wear organdy gowns and flowers in their hair, the men wear baggy-pants suits, and all sing popular favorites — from Chattanooga Choo-Choo and Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy to commercials.

But the true star of the 1940s Radio Hour is a contraption that can make wind, snow, a battalion of marching soldiers or a burning house — at least as far as the show's home radio "listeners" are concerned.

Michael Stanley, a young actor-singer who understudies several roles in the show, has handled the sound effects for the show since the tour began.

"Everything was already set up in the Broadway show, so all the research was done," the actor said. He inherited a plunger he blows on to make the sound of a blizzard; a board with a tray of small, black blocks suspended at angles that, when pounded, makes the sound of 10,000 marching soldiers; a box of cornstarch that, when shaken, sounds like someone walking over snow; crushed cellophane for a bond fire; coconut shells for horses' hooves on a cobbled street; and the usual assortment of chimes, bells, a door, a window and a sandpaper board for the sound of the old soft shoe dance.

THE EFFECTS are used during a recitation of Dicken's A Christmas Carol done by the characters during the show. Stanley dashes around the contraption, clanging, ringing, shutting and pounding out his sound effects for the story.

The 1940s Radio Hour may have fanned the '40s fire, but two South Florida AM radio stations have been feeding that fire for several years by playing big band music. Business, they report, is booming.

Three years ago, Boca Raton station WFSB (740 on the AM dial) switched from an "all over the road" format of contemporary music to music of the '30s, '40s and early '50s.

"It completely turned this station around," general manager Jim Bryant said. "We started with just an hour a day, then people would call and ask for a certain singer or a song they remembered and we started extending the time" used for big band-style numbers. The station, which beams into Central Broward with its daytime-only programming, now exclusively plays big band music and standard vocalists such as Tony Bennett and Frank Sinatra.

VIC KNIGHT is owner of station WDBF (1420 on the AM dial) in Delray Beach. The station's broadcasts can be picked up by residents of North Broward. Most of his audience is in the group he calls "aware, post-40s," but he is finding a growing number of young people also interested in the big band music. Knight was a bandleader who formerly owned a chain of orchestras and some radio stations in the Midwest. He formed a 17-piece big band in Delray a year ago. That group performs benefit concerts as well as on a nationally syndicated show broadcast live from WDBS.

As for the appeal of the '40s music, "I think Paul Harvey sized it up best when he came here to do a broadcast," Bryant said.

"People are saying that we've given them back their memories."

### setting the record straight

Actor Michael Williams was identified as Michael Stanley in a story about The 1940s Radio Hour in Thursday's Broward News Section.





# Walter Saunders

## In the mood for nostalgia?

You can hear the smooth-as-velvet voice of the late Nat "King" Cole softly crooning "Too Young."

Next up will be the Glenn Miller Orchestra playing "In the Mood," followed by the Four Lads harmonizing on "Standing on the Corner."

Then this four-part medley ends with the stylish Dick Haymes (remember him?) crooning "Little White Lies."

This is "the music of your life" format, the sound of KEZW-AM, formerly KOSI, which is playing the nostalgic sounds of the '40s, '50s and '60s, with a little bit of the '70s thrown in for good musical measure.



Nat "King" Cole

KEZW has become one of the most talked-about stations in the crowded Denver market. It will be interesting to see if talked-about can be translated into Arbitron ratings points, which, in turn, can be converted into a healthy financial bottom line.

The station offers a relatively new, yet obvious format: music for listeners in the age group roughly from 40 to 55; listeners who remember cheek-to-cheek dancing and who know that Natalie Cole had a famous father named Nat and that Herman's Herd was the name of Woody Herman's band and not CU's football team.

In some ways, KEZW is fighting an uphill audience battle, since it is an AM station competing in the music world with FM. Broadcasting experts will tell you that modern-day radio gradually is being split into FM music and AM news, sports, talk and information.

One of the obvious reasons: FM offers a purer musical sound for today's stylized, electronic ears.

Thus, KEZW is battling both AM and FM leaders in the Denver market.

In recent years, KOA, KHOW and KIMN have dominated the AM side, while KBPI, the top-rated station in Denver, heads a list of a half-dozen FM stations that offer a variety of musical sounds.

Is there room for an AM nostalgic sound in Denver? Dino Ianni, KEZW station manager, thinks so. But then what do you expect him to say? The station's relatively new format is a disaster?

Ianni says the initial response from Denverites has been "tremendously exciting."

"I think there's an adult music audience out there which hasn't been tapped," said Ianni. "I'm not predicting we're going to push the big boys

out of the top-rated spots, but . . . well, we'll see what happens."

The music of your life format is automated by the Al Ham Co. in Huntington, Conn. The firm programs the music via tape, allowing individual stations to interrupt at any time with news, weather, sports and other programming.

For example, KEZW programs its music in four-part segments most of the time. The musical segments are shorter during drive to allow for news, weather and traffic reports.

Denver is one of 70 markets using the music of your life format. Until recently, the format was used in smaller cities. But New Orleans, Dallas and Phoenix have joined Denver with this nostalgic sound.

Despite the automated format, KEZW has been conducting a survey to determine the most popular numbers. The results are being sent to the Ham organization, which is taking a national survey.

For the record, the most requested numbers have been "Stardust" by Artie Shaw; "String of Pearls" by Glenn Miller; "Sentimental Journey" by Les Brown (sung by Doris Day); and "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," the Tony Bennett classic. Another favorite is "Harbor Light," which proves, I guess, that not all musical nostalgia is worth rehearing.

The only segments of the station not formatted by the Ham organization are the Friday and Saturday night (9 p.m. to midnight) dance parties, which are programmed from KEZW's library.

A major criticism of the KEZW format is the lack of on-air, staff personality. A little nostalgic chatter by the disc jockeys would remove the sterile, almost automated sound the station now has.

Ianni admits this is a problem and promises to get more of a local feel to the station once the format gets into high gear.

For example, Ianni is talking with the Gurtler family, owners of Elitch's, to arrange a "make believe" ballroom format that would recreate the sounds of the park's famous Trocadero ballroom, which was torn down several years ago.

KEZW also is getting involved in live music promotions. The station is sponsoring a May 30 dance party in the ballroom of the Regency Hotel, featuring the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, led by Buddy Morrow.

So if I may be excused, I have KEZW on in the background. Frank Sinatra just finished singing "I Get a Kick out of You." That was preceded by Joni James (remember her?) singing "Why Don't You Believe Me?" and the Mills Brothers' famous version of "Paper Doll."

If I'm lucky, I'll hear Duke Ellington play "Take the A Train."

Who said nostalgia was for old men?

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*

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