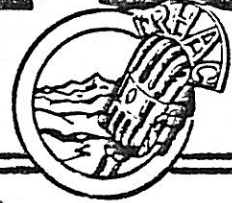


RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado

NOW...



VOLUME 7 NUMBER 8

FEBRUARY 1982

LUM and ABNER *Back Again* ON YOUR RADIO



COAST-TO-COAST
**MON. TUE.
THUR. FRI.**

EVENINGS

Sponsored by **ALKA-SELTZER**

Check RADIO GUIDE listings on the
following pages for station and time

FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held on Thursday evening, February 18, 1982 at 7:30 PM, at the Southwest State Bank, 1380 S. Federal Blvd. The regular business meeting will be held first followed by the second round of the triva bowl. As a reminder, the RHAC meetings will always be held on the third Thursday meeting of each month in 1982, unless we are notified by the Southwest State Bank of a change.

JOHN DUNNING'S OTR SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

John will begin his first full month of broadcasting on KNUS, 71 on the AM dial, this month. We are extremely happy that he is again on the air after a short layoff. His shows begin around 2 PM on Sundays and run to 5 PM; Public Service Company continues to sponsor this series.

- February 7: SCREEN DIRECTOR'S PLAYHOUSE. "The Killers" by Ernest Hemingway, starring Burt Lancaster and Shelley Winters. 6-5-49
- FRONTIER GENTLEMAN. "Kendall's Last Stand" with John Dehner. 2-23-58
- OUR MISS BROOKS. "Advice From Dorothy Daily" with Eve Arden, Jeff Chandler, Gale Gordon, Dick Crenna. 4-3-49
- FIRESIDE CHAT. England has just declared war on Germany, and FDR goes before the microphones to inform the American people. 9-3-39.

- February 14: FRONTIER GENTLEMAN. "The Lost Mine". 3-2-58
- SUSPENSE. "Murder For Myra" with Lloyd Nolan. 8-9-45
- THE PHIL HARRIS-ALICE FAYE SHOW. "Hot Merchandise". 5-8-49

- February 21: X MINUS ONE. "Mr. Kostello, Hero" 7-3-56
- MYSTERY IN THE AIR. "The Marvelous Barastro" with Peter Lorre, 8-7-47
- THE PHIL HARRIS-ALICE FAYE SHOW. "Sponsor's Party" 5-15-49

- February 28: CAMPBELL PLAYHOUSE. "Beau Geste," with Laurence Olivier, Noah Beery, Orson Welles. 3-17-39 (60 Minutes)
- GUNSMOKE. "The Mortgage," with Wm. Conrad. 10-24-52

In addition to the shows listed above, John conducts live telephone interviews with the people involved with OTR; these interviews are very informative and entertaining and worth airchecking for your collection.

RHAC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	() NEW	\$15.00
	() RENEWAL	\$15.00

Send dues to:
RHAC
c/o John J. Migrala
7213 W. Roxbury Place
Littleton, Colorado 80123

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO: _____

RETURN WITH US NOW
EDITOR: John Lloyd
2667 E. 99th AVE.
THORNTON, CO. 80237

RETURN WITH US NOW is the official publication
of the RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO.
To join or for more information, write or call
one of the following:

PRESIDENT	Barrett Benson	422-6442	
VICE PRESIDENT	Glenn Ritter	377-4798	
TREASURER	Dick Henry	922-2767	440 S. Pierce, Lakewood 80226
TAPE LIBRARIAN	John Migrala	979-0755	7213 W. Roxbury Pl. Littleton
BLANK TAPE SALES	Dave Tysver	841-5910	5814 N. Irish Pat Murphy, Parker
	Barrett Benson	422-6442	

NEW RHAC NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Paul Anderson's typewriter broke last month and he appealed to the previous newsletter editor for help. John Lloyd will prepare RETURN WITH US NOW for the next several months until Paul gets his machine fixed. Unfortunately, John had to be out of town when this newsletter was being prepared and typed, so I was "elected" to prepare and type it this month. We had several contributions to the newsletter this month and Paul had set up the articles, so the job was not too bad, and hopefully this will be the last time the publication is late. Submit all articles to John Lloyd until further notice. BARRETT BENSON

NEW MEMBERS

Margaret A. Heline
4865 Elm Ct.
Denver, Colorado 80221

Roger Gnagy
PO Box 963
Aurora, Co. 80040

Dan Haefele
6957 N. Figueroa
Los Angeles, Ca. 90042

DUES AND TAPE RENTALS INCREASED

The club officers recommended at the January meeting to raise the annual dues from \$10 to \$15 and the tape rental fee from \$1 to \$1.25 per reel. These recommendations were made because of printing and mailing increases. The dues are used to print the monthly RETURN WITH US NOW and the first class mailing fee, fund special projects such as photocopying reference material or providing tapes to charitable organizations, etc., while the tape rentals are used to purchase blank tape and high quality radio shows. The officers felt that the increases were necessary to keep RHAC solvent. The membership voted for both increases; there were no negative votes. Effective January, 1982, the annual membership dues will be \$15 and the tape library rental fee will be \$1.25 per reel.

CORRECTION TO THE LIBRARY MAILING RATE

Last month the mailing rate increase was reported to be 32¢ for every "ounce" when it should have read "pound". The new rates are: 32¢ for the first pound, and 11¢ per pound thereafter.

TRIVIA BOWL

John Lloyd again provided the questions for the first round of the trivia bowl. The team of Jessen-McDermott-Richards defeated the team of Henry-Callor-Tysver by a score of 20 to 19. It was a better contest than the SUPER BOWL held in Detroit, and the score was closer keeping the suspense high. John Lloyd will have additional questions ready for the February meeting for round two. We need two more teams for February; the playoff will be in March between the two winning teams. So bone up on John Dunning's book and enter the contest. The prize is either a free 1200' blank tape, or a free selection from the tape library.

A TRIP TO PINE RIDGE AND GUIDED TOUR BY LUM AND ABNER

Some day when you're touring through the Ouachita National Forest on the Western edge of Arkansas, slip over to Highway 88 (Lum and Abner State Highway) and head east from the Polk County Seat of Mena; twenty two miles out you'll turn off and find a tiny cluster of stores and a few homes. That's Pine Ridge.

If you were to stop at Lum and Abner's Jot 'Em Down General Store, you'd probably find the boys smack in the middle of an "argyment about a new hitchin rack fer out front". But they'd no doubt be glad of the opportunity to walk with you down Pine Ridge's shady Main Street and tell you about their small friendly town.

First off you'd probably be shown the Pine Ridge Meeting House just behind the the boys' Jot 'Em Down General Store. They're mighty fond of the pretty little white clapboard church. "Somehow or another, the week wouldn't be brought to a fitten' close if it weren't fer going to the Meeting House on Sunday. There ain't hardly anybody here in Pine Ridge that air real bad folks, and nobody that air too good to stand a little spiritual breshing up now and then...and the Meeting House is the place to do it in."

You'd wander on down the board sidewalk to Luke Spear's Lunch Room, and there would probably be no peevishness attached to the explanation of their old friend Luke's business practices. Just a statement as to how things were:

"One thing we never been able to figger out about Luke's place is how he's always fresh out of most everything offered on that eating card. The minute you try to order anything that ain't baked beans or ham sandwich you're going to find out that Luke sold the last order no moren five minutes ago! And right across the street from Luke's here, there in the park, you kin see Lum's 'King of the Hogs' statue. Mighty purty, too."

The corner that seems to be the important spot in Pine Ridge is bounded by Mose Moot's Caleb Weehunts Blacksmith Shop and Huddleston's General Store and Post Office.

"One thing for sure, whenever you got any politickin' to do, or you're looking fer a feller you can't find no other place in Pine Ridge, you'll generally find him right down here in front of Mose Moot's. Mose's is our Pine Ridge tonsorial emporium. Mose knows everything that goes on around these parts and he ain't tetchy about telling a feller, neither. And upstairs is our Lodge Hall. Besides being the only building that's an upstairs on, it's where our city councils hold forth on meeting day. Another thing the hall gets used fer is band practice by our Pine Ridge Silver Coronet Band. The band was first organized to help Lum out in the campaign for president.

"Now across the street south there is Caleb Weehunt's. When it comes to free and fancy weight-lifting, general shoeing or fixing up things, there ain't nobody in Pine Ridge can come up to Caleb, our blacksmith."

And our two guides would be generous in their praise of their competitor. "That over there is Dick Huddleston's General Store, and on top of runnin' about the best store in these parts, Dick is postmaster. Being hooked up with the government that way, Dick has got to know more about politicks than most any

other feller hereabouts, and most everybody stops to talk with Dick about who to vote fer in any kind of an election. And ever once in awhile the givernment sends Dick a new batch of pictures and descriptions about fellers that's wanted. Dick could keep all those pictures hissself if he wanted to, and when one of these fellers comes along, Dick could collect the reward. But he don't do that. No siree, he plasters those pictures out in plain sight all over town!"

"Wished you could see up the street to the new Pine Ridge School House. When they first started at the same school the children had to set on seats made out of rough pine boards, and not them smooth maple slats the children use nowadays."

"Glad you came this way. Since last time a city feller was here, Abner was elected Mayor of Pine Ridge, and I, Lum, always has the best interests of the community at heart, so any way you look at it we're kind of a Chamber of Commerce for Pine Ridge."

A town was born--to old time radio followers of Lum and Abner, the little town in Arkansas named Pine Ridge is an astonishing place, akin in its homely, old-fashioned way to the fabulous country of Shangri-la, and just as mythical. The villagers get involved in amusing situations, but tragedy rarely appears. All in all, it's the sort of place you or I would like to keep in mind for spending our declining years-if such a place existed.

When Chester Lauck and Norris "Tuffy" Goff first hit upon their rural characters for the air, the village 22 miles from the county seat was known as Waters. But the value of publicity is not unknown, even in the remotest districts--and civic pride burns as brightly in the Ozarks as in the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Five years to the day after Lum And Abner first hit the airwaves, dignitaries from all over Arkansas gathered at the crossroads of Waters and read a proclamation from the U. S. Post Office Department. By virtue of two garrulous old characters who didn't exist, the wheels of government turned ponderously--and Pine Ridge won its place on the map.

Lum and Abner were air headliners in their day because they were late for their very first broadcast! Lum and Abners failure to follow Ben Franklin's pet maxim made them one of radio's top acts since their beginning on April 23, 1931.

In those days of the industry, seconds weren't so precious as today, and all the boys figured what they lost that afternoon in Hot Springs was their place in line for a benefit program. What they gained was a million dollar idea. When Lauck and Goff chugged over to Hot Springs from Mena for their first airing they meant to do a blackface act. But being not only conscientious but gregarious by instinct, they stopped to rehearse their act every time they met an acquaintance on the road. By the time they arrived the broadcast was underway. They sat down to listen.

A blackface act was at the mike. It wasn't very good. Chet and Tuffy looked at each other and called the announcer over.

"How many blackface acts you got booked today?"

"Four, confound it!"

Lauck and Goff turned a trifle green and began whispering. The announcer looked at his list. "What are you fellows doing?"

Chet hemmed: "we're gonna talk like two hill fellers--I think." (He hoped the field was open).

"What's the name of the act?"

Chet and Tuffy went into another huddle. Said Lauck: "Call me Lum."
Chimed Tuffy: "I'm Abner (know an old guy at Waters named Abner)."

"O.K.," said the announcer, "I'll bill you as 'Lum & Abner'." Thus casually are history's pages sometimes flipped.

And how did that catch-all Jot 'Em Down General Store get in the picture? Well, that goes back to a mouse in the Goff Wholesale Grocery in Mena, and young Tuffy's weakness for the hunt. Tuffy's dad owned the wholesale house, so in the natural order of things, Tuffy was put to work doing odd jobs in the concern. Tuffy dutifully kept his sling-shot in his hip pocket and did very well until the morning a careless mouse strolled in his path. Out came the sling-shot, off went the mouse, bop! went the rock against the big plate-glass window. And Tuffy was called into conference in the back room. The senior Goff saw that Tuffy's nature called for more elbow room than the wholesale grocery house afforded, so as soon as possible he sent Tuffy off visiting the retail grocers in the hills. Tuffy's first stop was always at the home of his pal, Chester, and the pair became familiar peddlers of the Goff wares--which were usually forgotten while they swapped yarns with the hill folks at the crossroads.

Their heads became crammed with the outlandish expressions, idioms, and humor of the hills, and when they looked for a locale for their radio counterparts, it was inevitable that they put the old codgers in a grocery store. And there they are today, preserved in the minds of their fans and in our tape libraries.

MEMBER PROFILES

Harral Peacock, a charter member of RHAC, was the first president. His wife Mary called John Dunning in June, 1975 and talked about forming an OTR club for Denver. Harral was out of town at the time and returned to learn what Mary had done to him. The first meeting was held at the Peacock's home and some 15 people showed up. Until the club grew in size, meetings were held at members homes. Because of Harral's tight schedule, he had not attended meetings, but is still a member in good standing. One of the first things the club decided to do was start a club library and members donated tapes to that first library which grew to some 125 reels. The quality of some of the material was border line and the library was started anew with only first quality material. Harral and Mary were editors of the first news letter which was a four page Hictagraphed publication run off at Harral's school. There were no dues to start and donations were taken for postage. Library reels were rented to members at that time for 50¢ a reel. The library soon had \$100 which went to the first purchase of outside material from Blalock. John Dunning was mase the first honorary member of RHAC because of all that he did to promote the club, as he still does each month.

BOB CROSBY IN TOWN

Bob Crosby and his Orchestra will be at the Regency Hotle's Grand Ballroom Saturday, February 13 from 9 to 11 PM. If you are interested in going to this Valentine's dance party, call Carol Roe, 695-8187, between 7 and 9 PM during the week. Carol says that Bob is a fun guy and is interested in OTR.

FREE RINGS 'N' THINGS

Did you ever see an atomic bomb ring?
 In 1947, Tom Mix and Kix cereal offered
 them for fifteen cents and a boxtop.
 In a dark room you could see it sparkle.
 Most radio shows made similiar offers.

In the 30's listeners to Buck Rogers
 could get pictures of the main characters
 from that series if they sent in a metal
 strip from a can of Cocomalt. Later, on
 other shows, there were offers of bomb-
 sights with toy bombs, rings with whistles,
 sirens, or magnifying glasses on them,
 secret decoders, Ovaltine shake-up mugs,
 a pedometer, badges, and medals.

These items were used on the programs.
 For example, Tom Mix used the whistle
 ring offered on his program to summon
 help from across the valley. Kids were
 disappointed when they found that their
 whistle ring could not be heard in the
 next room.

These special offers and gifts were an
 important part of old-time radio. They
 made kids feel as if they belonged to a
 program and this loyalty made them
 keep listening and, the sponsor hoped,
 buying his product.

Today, adult collectors pay high prices
 for these items they once had as children.
 For example, a RADIO ORPHAN ANNIE
 DECODER (a badge which permitted you to
 read a message in code) is now worth
 several hundred dollars.

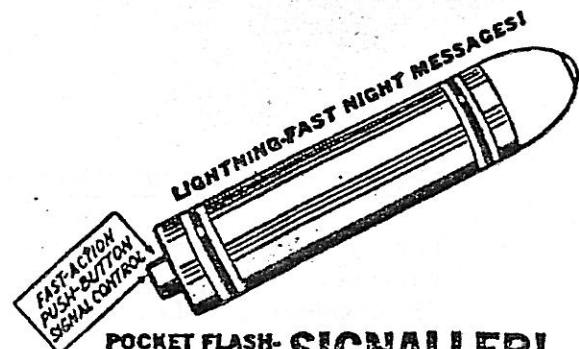
After each program, Captain Midnight gave
 a secret code which could be decoded with
 the code wheel combination like this:

J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

A B C D E F G H I
 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

The announcer read a message to be decoded
 like this (go ahead, try to decode it)

20-18-5 16-6-12 9-22-18-21 11-25-26-10



POCKET FLASH-LIGHT AND SIGNALLER!

Best way to send secret night messages! Handy pocket-size flash, only 3 in. long—yes casts bright beam a long way! Easy to flash accurate messages with push-button control. Also for hiking and scouting. Bright colored metal, with silver and black bands. Comes complete with bulb and battery.



1941



THERE'S GOLD IN THOSE RADIO LOGS by John Adams

Have you ever wondered why the club is offering radio logs and John Dunning's reference library for our use as members. It's not only to check the dates of broadcasts. Let me give you an example of how I used the material.

Dr. Frank Chorba lectured here in Denver last September (only five club members attended the lecture) on Orson Welles. After the lecture, we got to talking and later I decided to write this article for RETURN WITH US NOW.

Dr. Chorba was looking for everything he could find on Welles; his interest got me wondering what there was about this man that was so interesting.

I started to check through my radio logs on all the radio shows that he could have appeared in and just by checking I learned some very interesting facts about Welles.

The MOST shocking thing was to learn that he never lasted more than one or at most two years as guest. Not that at the time he was tied up with a movie or was in a Broadway show, but that Welles would not take direction from others. Mr. Welles had to be the BIG CHEESE or nothing.

First, I checked Lux Radio Theatre and found that he made only four appearances. All of these were early to the middle run of Lux. It is possible that C. B. DeMille and Orson Welles could not see eye to eye on how a show should be directed and his services were soon terminated.

The next log I checked was Suspense; again Mr. Welles can only be found in a few shows.

There was nothing under Escape; The Shadow run was only for a year and a half. Both he and Agnes Moorehead left the cast at the same time, and this was mid-run of the season (October I think).

Orson only appears in a few other shows in the 30 years of Radio drama. He appeared in series that he directed such as The Third Man, The Wonder Show, Mercury Theatre (Campbell Playhouse), and Mercury Summer Theatre, plus one other series made in England while he was living abroad.

I had the pleasure in 1946 to meet Orson Welles back stage after a performance of Around the World in 80 Days. The meeting was short and very cold. The fact that I was a fan and was then into OTR with my disc recorder did not seem to impress Mr. Welles. By the way, his show was poorly received by the critics and public and it closed after a very short run on Broadway.

Unless I had checked my logs, I would have not learned these facts about the man. The crowning glory to this man's acceptance to others direction can be found in a 4 minute commercial tape made in England. The engineers had left the tape machine running while Welles ranted and raved about the crap he had to read. Only to storm out of the studio with the statement "I would not work for you people at any price." Maybe Mr. Welles was correct in his remarks as the copy was not very good.

This is only one little piece of information that was learned from Radio Logs in my collection. There's gold in these logs, why not see what you can dig out.

<u>REEL 232 CHANDU THE MAGICIAN (SEARCH FOR ROBERT REGENT)</u>					1200'
1L	8-12-48	Episode 33	1R	8-24-48	Episode 41
	8-13-48	Episode 34		8-25-48	Episode 42
	8-16-48	Episode 35		8-26-48	Episode 43
	8-17-48	Episode 36		8-27-48	Episode 44
2L	8-18-48	Episode 37	2R	8-30-48	Episode 45
	8-19-48	Episode 38		8-31-48	Episode 46
	8-20-48	Episode 39		9-1-48	Episode 47
	8-23-48	Episode 40		9-2-48	Episode 48

<u>REEL 233 CHANDU THE MAGICIAN (SEARCH FOR ROBERT REGENT)</u>					1200'
1L	9-3-48	Episode 49	1R	9-15-48	Episode 57
	9-6-48	Episode 50		9-16-48	Episode 58
	9-7-48	Episode 51		9-17-48	Episode 59
	9-8-48	Episode 52		9-20-48	Episode 60
2L	9-9-48	Episode 53	2R	9-21-48	Episode 61
	9-10-48	Episode 54		9-22-48	Episode 62
	9-13-48	Episode 55		9-23-48	Episode 63
	9-14-48	Episode 56		9-24-48	Episode 64

<u>REEL 234 CHANDU THE MAGICIAN/THE HENRY MORGAN SHOW</u>					1200'
1L	9-27-48	Episode 65			
	9-28-48	Episode 66			
	9-29-48	Episode 67			
	9-30-48	Episode 68			
2L	2-3-49	The Black Steps (First Show)			
	2-10-49	The Village Of Thieves			
1R	2-17-49	The Man With The Photographic Memory			
	2-24-49	The Brotherhood Of The Blood Oath			
2R	1-29-47	THE HENRY MORGAN SHOW			
	2-19-47	THE HENRY MORGAN SHOW			

<u>REEL 235 THE HENRY MORGAN SHOW</u>					1200'
1L	6-11-47				
	6-18-47				
2L	6-25-47				
	9-24-47				
1R	10-1-47				
	10-15-47				
2R	11-5-47				
	11-26-47				

