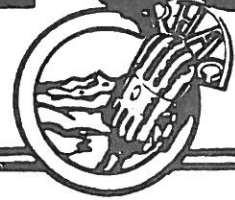


RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.

NOW...



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 8

MARCH 1987

"Let's Dance"



The Leaders of the Three Orchestras (L. to R.) Benny Goodman, Kel Murray and Xavier Cugat.

To the right is a reproduction of poster for dealers'



RETURN WITH US NOW.....is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc., a non-profit organization. The cost of membership is \$15.00 per year which entitles the member full use of the Club's resources. For further information, please contact one of the following Officers or Board Members:

- PRESIDENT.....JOHN COOK...3344 So. Jasper Ct..Aurora, Co. 80013..690-5827
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- TAPE DONATIONS.....ELMER WESTBROOK, JOHN COOK, HERB DUNIVEN
- AT LARGE.....HERB DUNIVEN..4184 S. Syracuse..Denver, Co..80237..773-4122
- CHAPTER DIRECTOR COLORADO SPRINGS...MIKE FIELDS...4652 Ridgeglen Rd..Colo. Springs, Co. 80907
598-0253

Address all correspondence to: R.H.A.C., P.O. BOX 1908, ENGLEWOOD, CO. 80150
(Please note the new address for Vicki Blake)

NEXT MEETING

Mother Nature did it again!!! The February 19th meeting with Pete Wehner as guest speaker, was snowed out. However, Pete has consented to come back in May. Look for the announcement.

The March meeting will be held Thursday, the 19th, at 7:30 pm. at the Church of The Master, 5152 E. 17th Ave. The church is located between Filbert and Forest Streets.

Our guest speaker will be Holly Krigel of KOA Radio. She will bring a program on marketing in radio and the direction radio is going these days. Following Holly, we will have a program on the history of bi-naural recording and a demonstration of how it works and how it should be heard.

Keep your fingers crossed. We are heading into the two snowiest months of the year. Let's hope we don't get snowed out again.

By the way. Does anyone remember when we held our last meeting????

*****PLEASE PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE TAPE LIBRARY ARTICLE. IT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFO****

ABOUT THE COVER

When the three hour program of dance music over 55 stations of the NBC coast-to-coast chain began on Saturday, December 1, 1934, it set a new record in radio history. Never before had a solid three hour radio program been scheduled and never before had a single sponsor presented three brilliant dance bands from one studio in New York on a single program.

Over a thousand people witnessed the opening of the greatest dance program ever presented. In dance parlance the three bands consisted of a sweet unit; a hot unit; and a tango unit. The bands were selected by a jury which picked them from several hundred orchestras without knowing to whom they were listening. The hot unit: Benny Goodman; The sweet unit: Kel Murray; and, the tango unit: Xavier Cugat. What an evening!!!!

(Photo and text courtesy of Nabisco...)

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE ARTICLES....

-a letter from Nick Carter, Master Detective...
-an article submitted by Joel Visser.....
-important Tape Library news.....
-the talking newsletter.....
-great new tape donations.....

THIS 'N THAT

The following is a few noteworthy items gleaned from Sperdvac's RADIOGRAM I hope will be of interest to you:

CBS has given approval to William Conrad to begin work on a new TV series called THE FAT MAN. The show is scheduled to air late this year or early 1988.

A major article about OTR written by Sperdvac member Leonard Martin will appear in the March issue of Smithsonian magazine. Look for it at your favorite newsstand.

The Senior Fair will be held March 7th and 8th at the Merchandise Mart. KEZW has graciously offered us a share in their booth on Sunday, March 8th to plug OTR and RHAC. If you would like to help "man" the booth, contact Dick King. We will be handing out info and talk to folks about what we are doing.

Lest we forget, the famous Voice of Lucky Strike, L. A. "Speed" Riggs, passed away recently at the age of 79 in Goldsboro, N. C. For 33 years one could hear his sing-song chant selling the American Tobacco Company's products. The famed auctioneer's chant, ending with a resounding "Sold American!!", was heard during broadcasts of Lucky Stikes's YOUR HIT PARADE.

If you've any bits of information you would like to pass along to our members via our newsletter, please drop me a line or give me a call. Editor

TAPE LIBRARY NEWS

Hold the phone, Folks!!!! In last month's newsletter it was prematurely announced that the reel library would split and be in operation by March 1st. Not so!!! Due to further developments, it has been decided to delay the split until details can be worked out for a smooth transition. It is extremely important that the library be functioning in a manner that would allow your tape orders to be processed expeditiously and, to also insure that the library maintains its excellent sound quality and the condition of the tapes. We are extremely proud of our Tape Library, thanks to Elmer Westbrook, and consider it to be one of the best sound libraries in the country.

At the next board meeting a decision will be made on the best method by which the library can be split and moved in the least amount of time and at the least amount of inconvenience to you.

You will be notified in the next newsletter of any changes, etc. In the meantime, please continue to send your tape orders to Elmer until further notice.

Now that you all agree that we need to get our act together, please refer to your tape catalog and mark the following reel numbers with a "C". The following reel numbers are now available in cassette:

Reel numbers 184 thru 191

Reel numbers 673 thru 677

To summarize: you should have by now marked Reels 1 thru 191 and reels 647 thru 677 as available in cassette format. Remember, there is no cassette catalog. Your current reel catalog is the same for the cassette library. Order your cassettes in the same manner as you would reels. Also, all cassette orders go to Bill Stipp and all reel orders go to Elmer Westbrook. (See address inside front page of newsletter)..

TAPE DONATIONS

I have some very good news regarding the recent tape donations from three of our members. (I hope all you Jack Benny fans are seated cause, this is going to blow your speakers!!).

From Ray Stanich of Brooklyn, N.y. we received 2 reels...a BBC documentary on Singer Vera Lynn and a seldom-heard mystery series, SLEEP NO MORE....

From Thomas Salome, also of Brooklyn, we received the complete series (all 106 shows) of HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL in excellent sound and, several reels of the JACK BENNY SHOW...

The tour-de-force, however, was performed by Sam Kriegel of New Jersey, who sent us nearly 400 Jack Benny shows including the first show aired in 1932!!!

The tape committee, who reviews all the donated tapes, was very pleased with this newest group of reels and will make every effort to see that they are gradually filtered in the tape library for your listening and collecting pleasure.

Many, many thanks to Ray, Thom and Sam for your thoughtful and generous contribution to our organization. It's folks like you who help us preserve this wonderful art form.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Directors met February 12th at the home of Herb Duniven with the following results:

...Unanimously approved the appointment of Mike Fields as Chapter Director of Colorado Springs. Mike is to assume duties upon notification.

... Unanimously approved the "Newsletter for the Blind" proposal submitted by Mike Fields. Mike is to proceed with the project.

....Dick King reported on the progress of the '87 Convention. Proposed theme will be centered around comedy pairs. Letters have been sent to various comedy personalities inviting them to participate.

....Elmer Westbrook announced the donations of reels of Jack Benny and Have Gun, Will Travel and a couple of reels, a BBC Documentary and Sleep No More from three of our members. Letters of appreciation will be sent to these individuals.

....The remainder of the meeting was spent deliberating the status of the Reel Library and the proposed split. Certain proposals such as ordering, in what manner reels will be shipped and received, and the manner the library is to be maintained were discussed. These methods were to be decided on at the next Board meeting.

....The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting to be held on March 12th at the home of John Cook at 7:30 pm.

....Board members present: John Cook, Dick King, Vicki Blake, Elmer Westbrook, Herb Duniven and Bill McCracken. Excused absences; John Licht and Bill Stipp. Not present; Reid Hansen

The RHAC Board of Directors are open to the general membership. We invite your attendance and/or input. If you are unable to attend, please contact any one of the board members with your ideas and suggestions to which fullest consideration will be given.

WANT-ADS

For sale: A Sanyo RD-7 stereo cassette deck. Brand new with full factory warranty; still in box. \$75.00. Technics M-6 stereo cassette deck: good condition; \$25.00. Coustic HEQ-7005, 10-band per channel LED equalizer; brand new with full factory warranty; still in box. \$125.00

Call or write: John Cook (see address inside front page of newsletter).

Our friends at Second Sound have a good many items in audio equipment priced right for the pocket book. They have many brand-named cassette and open-reel decks both new and used. Drop in and visit with Kathy, Dave or Jerry. If they haven't got it, they will try to get it for you. Remember, RHAC members receive a 10% discount on cassette and open-reel equipment.

SECOND SOUND
1875 So. Broadway
Denver, Co. 80210
(303) 777-4449

Have anything for sale or trade? Looking for that special OTR show or audio equipment? Drop me a line. Advertising does get results. It doesn't cost you a thing.

CORRECTION

It was reported in last month's newsletter in the article covering the BOD meeting of January 8th about the Board voting to not add any additional reels due to the extra expense as a part of our efforts to curtail further capital expenditures until further notice.

Perhaps I should explain exactly what was intended. This move did not refer to a discontinuance of adding reels to the tape library each month but rather, not adding additional reels to the regular eight or so, reels that we currently offer.

The reels that are added to the library each month come in duplicates; the originals to the master reel library and the other half for the circulating library. Any additional reels would have to be duplicated as well hence, the additional expense.

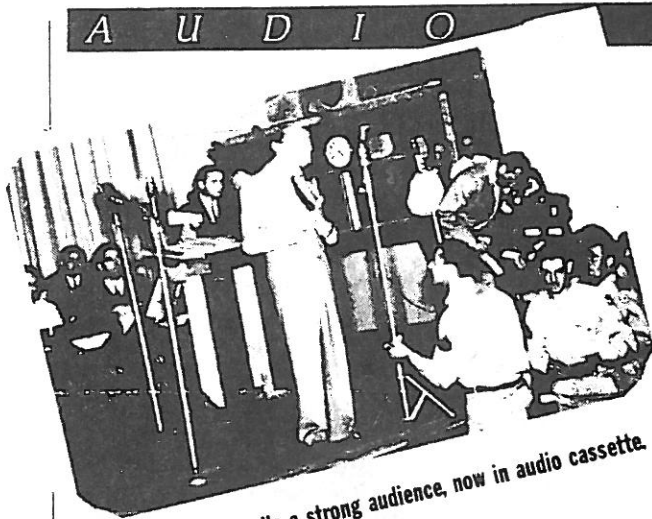
As our membership grows and the orders increase, it may well be that we will be in a position to offer additional reels in the near future.

I hope that this will clear up any misunderstanding that several of you have had and who were concerned enough to call and write to me. I apologize for not making it clear enough.

TRENDS IN PROGRAMMING

Old-Time Radio and Offspring Doing Fine

A U D I O U B L I S H I N G



Jack Benny still pulls a strong audience, now in audio cassette.

Almost 20 years ago, old-time-radio buff Jim McCann was in the blank audio-tape business. When customers ordered a certain volume of tapes, Jim would throw in a couple of old-time-radio (OTR) cassettes as a premium.

Soon he was getting so many requests for the premiums that he and partner Phil Levine went into a mail-order business selling OTR tapes. By 1978 business was so good they started selling the "golden oldies" wholesale to retailers—and pushed the audio-publishing business into the national marketplace.

McCann's company, Metacom, is still the leading supplier of OTR cassettes. But although the genre is still popular, legal and technical problems, along with increased competition from other spoken-word audio products, have hamstrung OTR sales.

The battle over contractual rights to OTR material is fierce. Several law suits have been filed, and Metacom has gone so far as to "declare war" on companies it contends are infringing on its copyright licenses.

"Several people will sell you the rights to the same property—the personality, the broadcaster, the sponsor..." says Gary Pike, vice president of marketing for Great American Audio Publishing. Great American has been legally restrained by Metacom from distributing its version of Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds* broadcast, licensed by

Metacom.

A publicity war of sorts was waged over the action, and Metacom thinks such publicity will help buyers keep a wary eye out for unlicensed product. "Buyers are put in the middle," says Sharon Begam, Metacom's director of marketing. "They are becoming more careful about what they're buying, which is good. Retailers shouldn't sell unlicensed product."

The legal problems surrounding some OTR product has put off some buyers. With so many of the golden-age performers offered by several different manufacturers, it is difficult to determine who has which rights, and what is in the public domain. (For example, all of Will Rogers' radio material is in the public domain, as is everything more than 56 years old.)

Yet another problem for producers of OTR cassettes is the sound quality of the original tapes. Much of the best material sounds scratched, often with a background hiss, which renders it unusable for audio-cassette reproduction.

These problems aside, the major reason for OTR's topline is the growth of other audio genres, particularly contemporary radio, such as Minnesota Public Radio's series of tapes by Garrison Keillor, and Simon & Schuster's *The Mist*.

The biggest seller in OTR today is Metacom's "Superstars Gift Set." Each set comprises six, hour-long cassettes packaged in a gift box designed like a cathedral-style radio. The \$24.95 sets sold well through the holiday season, according to Metacom.

The company also offers single-tape series, such as "Radio Reruns," "Blockbusters," and "Audio Library Classics." Metacom has been less successful with its contemporary radio series, "Cape Cod Radio Mystery Theater," originally broadcast on National Public Radio.

The Mind's Eye is another major player in the radio-on-cassette field. The company sells an impressively diverse catalogue of OTR and radio-style dramatizations.

In OTR, comedy usually sells best, and The Mind's Eye has capitalized on

“ The legal and technical problems of some old-time-radio product has discouraged buyers. ”

this with an interesting format. Among the more innovative releases from the company is the two-cassette, *Canned Laughter* package (\$9.98). These tapes come packaged in lithographed tin cans and feature bits and skits from W.C. Fields, Mae West, and other comedic greats.

Great American Audio Publishing also promotes comedy classics, keying off the heightened public awareness generated by the television revivals of Jack Benny, Burns and Allen, and Groucho Marx. Tapes come in several package formats. For planograms, 12 titles are available in individual blister packs. Multiunit gift packages for bookstores and department stores are available in a variety of configurations, carrying suggested retail prices of \$11.95 and \$22.95.

Bantam Audio Publishing has released *Edward R. Murrow: Reporting Live*, a compilation of some of the great reporter's best broadcasts. However, the tape is being cross-promoted with Bantam's paperback edition of E.M. Sperber's book of the same title, and thus does not indicate a move into the radio-on-cassette field by Bantam.

Holding steady while other categories

are growing, OTR now represents approximately 15 percent of the audio-publishing market. The 1986 holiday season confirmed that this category is still an important part of most retailers' spoken-word audio mix. But the glory days of OTR cassettes, like the glory days of radio itself, now seem in the past.

Nonetheless, the high profile of Minnesota Public Radio's Garrison Keillor could bode well for a resurgence in the variety-show genre. The man has been on the cover of *Time* magazine, after all.

Earlier releases, *News From Lake Wobegon* (1983, \$34.98) and *Gospel Birds* (1985, \$16.98), were monologues from the show recorded later. Last year's *Ten Years On The Prairie: A Prairie Home Companion 10th Anniversary* (\$13.98) is a direct recording of that two-hour anniversary broadcast. The new *Lake Wobegon Days* (\$29.98) features Keillor reading his book of the same name. Minnesota Public Radio has a smattering of OTR releases, including a compilation, *Radio's Greatest Comedies*.

Newman Communications, which has distributed most of the Keillor tapes,

does not produce OTR cassettes. However, Newman does distribute the "Duck's Breath Mystery Series," another National Public Radio program.

Among the most noteworthy radio-on-cassette stories of 1986 was *The Mist*, from Simon & Schuster. Originally produced by the ZBS Foundation and broadcast on National Public Radio, *The Mist* is one of the finest audio productions on the market. Produced in "3-D sound," this radio drama was adapted from the story by Stephen King and was one of last year's top sellers.

Simon & Schuster has also released tapes based on the BBC production of Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy*.

The future surely holds more success stories for radio-on-cassette, but these sales are most likely to be of contemporary material. It seems that sales of OTR will stay flat unless clever marketing and/or resolution of the legal and technical problems put it on the rise.

— Joey Berlin

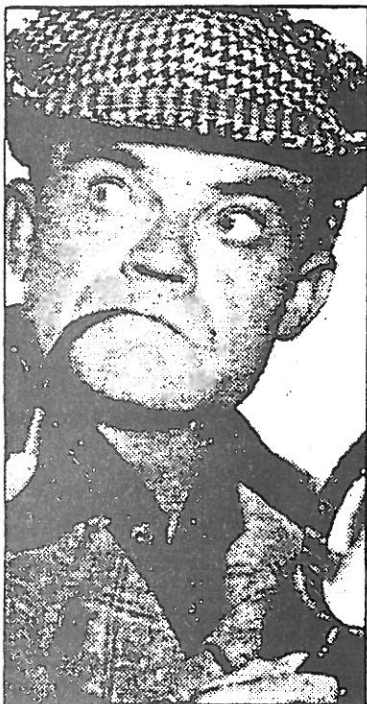
Joey Berlin is a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist and radio/audio producer based in New York.

Thanks, to Joel Visser for sending this article.

By JOHN S. WILSON
New York Times service

Chloe! Spike Jones' sound is back

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The revival of the musical mayhem perpetrated by Spike Jones and his City Slickers in the 1940s and 50s, now going on Tuesdays through Saturdays at Michael's Pub in New York, took much more preparation than, say, putting a symphony orchestra together to play Beethoven's Fifth.



Spike Jones, searching for the melody

Like Beethoven's effort, Jones' works have scores with instructive notations such as "sputs," "tweets" and "idiot babble." They require such instruments as tuned cowbells, razer, Klaxon, and a variety of whistles — slide, cuckoo, bird, police, siren, train, steamboat and penny.

Once the scores had been found (and deciphered) and the instruments had been located or made, musicians had to be unearthed who could play them with split-second virtuosity (the lead in Jones' orchestrations often changes from half-measure to half-measure) and do so with a comic sensitivity that is, seemingly, sadly lacking in today's musicians.

In Jones' day there were a number of comedy bands — Freddie Schnickelfritz Fisher, the Korn Koblbers and Milt and Frank Britton, who played collapsing violins.

"New York musicians today are too serious," complained Eddy Davis, who assembled the Spike Jones revival and built all the instruments that could not be located in junkyards.

In order to play authentic Spike Jones treatments of "Cocktails for Two," "That Old Black Magic," "Chloe" (whose lover slogs through a swamp shouting, "Chloe, you old bat you, where are you?") and, of course, the first Spike Jones World War II hit, "Der Fuehrer's Face," Davis has found two off-center virtuosos, Todd Robbins and Cynthia Sayer.

Between them, Robbins and Sayer play the crashophone (bags of metal balls dropped into a metal washtub to resemble breaking glass), brake drums (Davis went through 50 brake drums before he found a Chrysler that he liked), tuned gongs (an octave and a ninth in B-flat), fire bells, duck

calls, telephone bell, bicycle bulb horns and bicycle bell, ratchet, pop gun, six pistols (numbered so the musician knows which ones still have bullets in them), washboard, glass clinks (for toasts) and kazoo, as well as those mentioned above.

The group also includes such familiar instruments as saxophones, piano, xylophone, orchestra bells, Chinese gong and drums. Simon Wettenhall and J.J. Silva, who play cornet and trombone, were chosen for their ability to play a "fonk," a loud, blatty noise. The tuba player is Dave Grego, who is described by Davis, with an air of disappointment, as "a legitimate musician."

(I borrowed this article printed in the Milwaukee Area Radio Enthusiasts newsletter to pass along to those of you who are Spike Jones fans).

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

TAPE 675 THE ADVENTURES OF JUNGLE JIM 1200'

1R 9-2-39 #201
 9-9-39 #202
 9-16-39 #203
 9-23-39 #204

2R 9-30-39 #205
 10-7-39 #206
 10-14-39 #207
 10-21-39 #208

TAPE 676 THE ADVENTURES OF JUNGLE JIM 1200'

1L 10-28-39 #209
 11-4-39 #210
 11-11-39 #211
 11-18-39 #212

2L 11-25-39 #213
 12-2-39 #214 Hunt For The Real Peter Stone
 12-9-39 #215
 12-16-39 #216

1R 12-23-39 #217
 12-30-39 #218
 1-6-40 #219
 1-13-40 #220

2R 1-20-40 #221
 1-27-40 #222
 2-3-40 #223
 2-10-40 #224

TAPE 677 THE ADVENTURES OF JUNGLE JIM 1200'

1L 2-17-40 #225
 2-24-40 #226
 3-2-40 #227
 3-9-40 #228

2L 3-16-40 #229
 3-23-40 #230
 3-30-40 #231
 4-6-40 #232

1R 4-13-40 #233
 4-20-40 #234
 4-27-40 #235
 5-4-40 #236

2R 5-11-40 #237
 5-18-40 #238
 5-25-40 #239
 6-1-40 #240

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 675 THE ADVENTURES OF JUNGLE JIM</u>			1200'
1R	9-2-39	#201	
	9-9-39	#202	
	9-16-39	#203	
	9-23-39	#204	
2R	9-30-39	#205	
	10-7-39	#206	
	10-14-39	#207	
	10-21-39	#208	
 <u>TAPE 676 THE ADVENTURES OF JUNGLE JIM</u>			1200'
1L	10-28-39	#209	
	11-4-39	#210	
	11-11-39	#211	
	11-18-39	#212	
2L	11-25-39	#213	
	12-2-39	#214	Hunt For The Real Peter Stone
	12-9-39	#215	
	12-16-39	#216	
1R	12-23-39	#217	
	12-30-39	#218	
	1-6-40	#219	
	1-13-40	#220	
2R	1-20-40	#221	
	1-27-40	#222	
	2-3-40	#223	
	2-10-40	#224	
 <u>TAPE 677 THE ADVENTURES OF JUNGLE JIM</u>			1200'
1L	2-17-40	#225	
	2-24-40	#226	
	3-2-40	#227	
	3-9-40	#228	
2L	3-16-40	#229	
	3-23-40	#230	
	3-30-40	#231	
	4-6-40	#232	
1R	4-13-40	#233	
	4-20-40	#234	
	4-27-40	#235	
	5-4-40	#236	
2R	5-11-40	#237	
	5-18-40	#238	
	5-25-40	#239	
	6-1-40	#240	



The Episcopal Actors' Guild of America, Inc.

"The Little Church around the Corner"
.. Headquarters ..

1 East 29th Street, New York, N.Y. 10016
Telephone 685-2927

February 11, 1987

Dear Friends:

Thanks for sending me Vol 12, #7 of "Return With Me Now". I enjoyed it thoroughly. You're doing a splendid job of bringing back good memories.

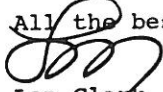
I note the February 15 date scheduling "Casey Crime Photographer". "Casey" was Staats Gotsworth my very close friend with whom I shared birthdays and Christmasses etc. I often was in the Casey cast as he often played on "Nick Carter" with me.

He was incidentally an excellent photographer in his own right as well as in "Casey". One of my most treasured photos of my two sons as little boys is in sight as I write this. (Staats was the photographer.)

I also note mention of my name as interested in attending your September convention. I hope it can be worked out.

It's been a long time since I've had good trout picked from a tank and shortly thereafter come to my table in Denver. That's when AFRA had its first convention in Denver 1938 or 1939. (?)

Saw "Radio Days", Woody Allen's film last night. A fun movie but not the radio as we did it. You fellows and girls are better at it.

All the best

Lon Clark
"Nick Carter"

KNUS 710 AM Sundays 3-5 pm.
3/1 Edgar Bergen & Charlie McCarthy Hour w/Jack Benny: Dragnet.....
3/8: Eddie Cantor; Big Town Chandu The Magician.Pt.1..
3/15;Mr. First Nighter; The Great Gildersleeve; Chandu, the Magician, Pt. 2.....
3/22: Dangerous Assignment; Milton Berle Show, Chandu, the Magician, Pt. 3.....
3/29: Blondie; Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar; Chandu, The Magician, pt 4.....
Tune in to Don Tucker's Show each Sunday.

KCHN-Colo. Springs 1530 AM
Sundays 4-7 pm.
3/1:Stan Freburg; Red Skelton; Buster Brown; BBC-Day of the Triffids, pt 1; Escape; Jack Armstrong.....
3/8: Stan Freburg; Let's Pretend; Philco Radio Time, Day of Triffids, pt 2; Escape; Jack Armstrong.....
3/15: Stan Freburg, Jack Benny; Philco Radio Time; Day of Triffids, pt 3; Gun-smoke; Jack Armstrong.....
3/22: Stan Freburg; Band Remote; Arther Godfrey; Day of Triffids, pt 4, Inner Sanctum, Jack Armstrong....
3/29: Stan Freburg; Fibber McGee & Molly; Arther Godfrey; Day of Triffids, pt 5 House of Mystery, Chicago Jazz.....

Those of you who can, tun in to Kevin Shields' show each Sunday in the Springs area.

Thanks to Mike Fields for this month's OTR Schedule.

Many thanks, Lon, for your letter.

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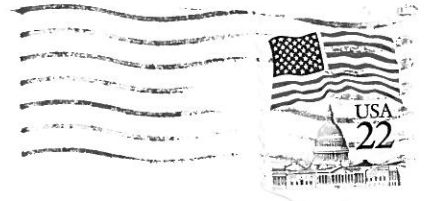
TALKING NEWSLETTER

Beginning this month our visually impaired friends can now hear the monthly newsletter recorded on tape. Here's how....

Send a good quality C-90 cassette to Mike Fields, 4652 Ridgelen, Colorado Springs, Co. 80907. Be sure you use a two-sided address label with your address on one side. Mark the cassette FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND. Mike will then send this cassette back to you with the monthly newsletter recorded on it. You can then make a copy and send the cassette back to Mike for the following month's newsletter.

Also, you may order the RHAC Tape Library Catalog by sending Mike two 90 minute cassettes. The entire tape library will then be recorded on the cassettes. Return one cassette each month for the additional reels added each month. Follow the same procedure for the Newsletter.

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO, INC.
A Non-profit Organization
POST OFFICE BOX 1908
Englewood, Colo. 80150



BENSON, BARRETT
BOX 507
PINE, CO
80470-

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