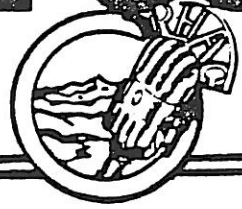


# RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado, Inc.

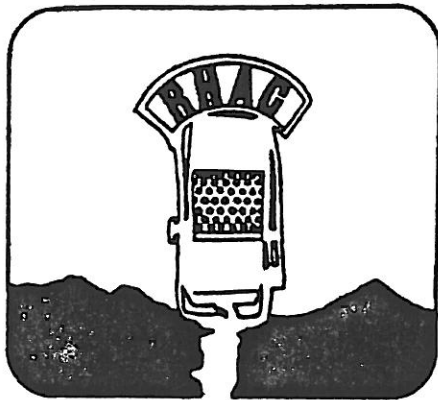


VOLUME 13 NUMBER 6

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Radio Historical Association of Colorado

## OUT OF MY MIND

Dan Decker, Editor

This is the first of a monthly column in Return With Us Now... in which I as your newsletter editor will share with you news of club meetings as well as concerns of mine and yours that may help us appreciate more the interests of old-time radio. I do urge you, therefore, to write to me and let me know your thoughts and opinions about OTR and the club. Also, let me know about what you would like to see in the newsletter. I want to serve you in the best way I know how.

We were privileged at the November meeting to hear Robert C. Dorr, a local attorney for patents and intellectual property, who talked to the club about copyright laws in general and in particular about laws that govern old-time radio. He said that the first copyright law was enacted in 1790 and revised in 1909, but it was the sound-recording act of February 15, 1972 and revised in 1978 which impacted most directly on our hobby. Actually, sound recordings were not protected before 1972 except for some states that protected recordings. These revisions of the 1970's explicated the doctrine of fair use which says that copyrighted materials can be duplicated and used in the teaching environment, for research, and in archival use. I understood this to mean that our lending libraries in old-time radio clubs do not violate the law. It is less clear, however, that OTR dealers are within legal bounds. Even though most old radio program recordings are not themselves copyrighted, the scripts are and the grandfather clause might apply to the recordings. Dorr also noted that there are individuals who are buying the rights to certain shows and are suing those who are selling them. One aspect of fair use that I found interesting because I have many handicapped friends, particularly visually-handicapped, is that audio-visual taping for the handicapped is clearly considered fair use. The laws covering sound recording were primarily concerned with protecting music when they were enacted and not old radio transcription discs, so there has not actually been any test cases concerning old-time radio.

The Christmas party was an overwhelming success, with twice as many persons attending as last year. About 40 were in attendance. The program consisted of an unforgettable musical and comedic presentation by singer-guitarist, Duncan Tuck, a new member of RHAC. Also, a new group of RHAC members who call themselves the Old-Time Radio Players gave a re-creation of an old radio show from an original script, complete with sound effects. A big thank-you goes to John Licht who once again provided the Brandy Chase Clubhouse, but unfortunately it is the last time we can hold the party there because John is selling his condo. Thank you also to John Licht, Dick and Aletha King, Herb Dunivan, and David Michael for providing the delicious meat that we enjoyed, and to John Cook for providing beverages.

Bill Stipp, cassette librarian, reminds members that the reels that are on cassette are 1-207 and 647 on up. There are no other cassettes yet. Bill also reminds us that X Minus One, The Jack Benny Show, and Have Gun, Will Travel each have many programs in the cassette library and encourages us to order these classics. Finally, Bill is looking for someone who collects sports programs broadcast on KNUS or KOA, particularly a recent interview with Jim Brown concerning his career.

Bill McCracken and Herb Dunivan have been working hard on the donated tape library which will be an alternate library, the tapes of which may or may not be of the same sound quality as the regular library. Stay tuned.

WHY MY COLLECTION OF OLD TIME RADIO SHOWS IS ON CASSETTE.....by Ron Sayles

This article is mainly to strike a blow for that often maligned minority in the wonderful world of old time radio collectors, the person who has opted to put their collection on cassette and not reel-to-reel.

I have been collecting old time radio for about 6 years. When I started, I had to make a decision as to which way to go, cassette or reel-to-reel. I chose cassette.

One might ask why I chose cassette over reel-to-reel. On the surface reel-to-reel seems more advantageous. However, the only two advantages reel-to-reel have over cassette are the cost of the tape and the storage of same. The advantages cassettes have over reel-to-reel, however, far outweigh the two advantages just listed for reel-to-reel.

There is one other advantage reel-to-reel has, if one speaks to a devotee whose collection is in that mode. Sound quality. I emphatically suggest that there is no difference between the sound on cassette versus the sound on reel-to-reel. Maybe in the past there was, but today's cassette players are precision instruments. Also, remember that old time radio shows for the most part were broadcast for the first time twenty or more years ago when fidelity was not what it is today.

What are the advantages of cassette?

First and foremost is convenience. When one wants to listen to a program, all that needs to be done is to find the proper cassette and place it into a player. Now, compare that to reel-to-reel. If one wants to listen to a specific program, one must go to their catalog to look that show up to see what reel it is on. This may prove difficult since most collectors catalog by reels rather than by program. Once the program is found, the collector must, by trial and error get to the proper spot on the tape. While all this is going on, the original burst of enthusiasm to listen to old time radio more often than not has left.

The second advantage to collecting on cassette is versatility and portability. A cassette can be played anywhere. In the car, boat, train, or even on the job. Try that with a reel-to-reel.

The third advantage to having program on cassette is that it is much easier to interest one's friends in our fascinating hobby. The reasoning here is that your friends are more likely to have a cassette player than they are to have a reel-to-reel. We can give them some shows or they can go to the library where there are many cassettes to choose from.

The fourth advantage of cassette is safety. If a reel-to-reel gets lost or damaged, six hours of programs are lost, but if a cassette is lost or damaged, only one hour is lost.

Admittedly reel-to-reel tapes are less expensive to collect on. The cost per program is less. Keep in mind, however, the initial cost of getting the recorder is more. Also, storage of cassettes can be a problem, but with a little thought it does not have to be a serious problem.

I collect old time radio programs because it is fun and I enjoy listening to them. I firmly believe a hobby should be fun. It is more fun to collect on cassette because it is easier.

**EDW.G. ROBINSON  
with CLAIRE TREVOR  
IN 'BIG TOWN' TONIGHT**

**Thrill Nation in Tense  
Drama of Newspaper Life**  
HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 4.—Edward G. Robinson continues his stirring characterization tonight in "Big Town"—the smashing Rinso dramatic program. Lovely Claire Trevor of the screen appears with Mr. Robinson.

--8:00 P. M.



**"MEET MR. MEEK"**  
THE IDOL OF MILLIONS



7:30 on WGR



**THRILLS, CHILLS  
—AND ALL TRUE!**



**FLOYD GIBBONS' TRUE ADVENTURES**  
America's ace headline hunter brings you the amazing, hair-raising true adventures of people in everyday life! "Dramatized real life spine-chillers!" Presented by the makers of Colgate Tooth Powder and Colgate Hand-Shave Cream  
**WKBW** 10 to 10:30 p.m. THURSDAYS



THAT'S WHAT A MYSTERY RADIO VOICE IS TELLING  
**PHIL BAKER**  
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT ON  
**THE ARMOUR HOUR**  
Enjoy a laugh of Phil's Espionage  
TUNE IN YOUR NEAREST  
RADIO STATION AT 9:30 P. M.



(A continuation of the editor's graduate thesis follows.)

the New York Times first learned of the attempted assassination of President Reagan from its London bureau which had heard it from a television news bulletin. Instantaneous news broadcasting, however, came early in the history of radio. It is possible that the two most memorable broadcasts of the 1930's were King Edward's abdication speech in 1936 and the explosion of the von Hindenburg airship in 1937, the description of which was picked up and miraculously recorded from a remote relay broadcast which in those days was very laborously done with bulky equipment, usually from the back of a truck. Also memorable, and heard on recordings by many people since the initial broadcast, was Orson Welles's famous broadcast of H. G. Wells's War of the Worlds on Halloween night in 1938, which caused widespread panic because the Mercury Theater players, broadcasting on the CBS network, presented the play in the format of interrupted news bulletins interspersed with dinner music supposedly being played from a hotel rooftop. Although many studies have been made and books written to explain the panic of many people across the United States, it is, nevertheless, clear that radio by that time had a wide listenership and had great influence.

During the 1930's and 1940's, radio gained national and international importance. One of the most effective politicians to use the medium was President Franklin D. Roosevelt. His "fireside chats" calmed a nation beset with deep economic depression and with war clouds forming over Europe. On the other hand, equally adept at using radio for political ends were the fascist leaders, Hitler and Mussolini, who used radio to mesmerize their people and to soften the neighboring countries for conquest.

It is generally agreed among historians that radio played a big part in getting the American people to support the war effort during the Second World War. However, most broadcasts were not particularly truthful

but rather gave a distorted and prejudiced picture of the enemy. The government of the United States apparently felt it necessary to stir the American people to a patriotic fever pitch, and the networks seemed to have no compunction about producing programs that accomplished just that but at a terrible cost of distortion and untruthfulness in picturing Germans, and the Japanese particularly probably because fewer Americans had that ancestry, as monstrous. J. Fred MacDonald, writing in the Journal of Popular Culture, says that one government-sponsored program in particular, Treasury Star Parade, was especially propagandizing in nature:

Above all, the program was a propagandistic (sic) triumph which blended patriotism, dire warning, entertainment, and technical artistry in an emotional melange reflective of the urgency of the time. The principal goal of the series was clear: to compel or persuade Americans to sacrifice spare cash by loaning it to the war effort through the purchase of bonds. To accomplish this, the series utilized several methods of approach. In analyzing these methods, it becomes clear that in Treasury Star Parade the federal government more blatantly than ever in its history manipulated a supposedly free and responsible mass medium, commercial radio, in order to disseminate the message it wanted. (287)

MacDonald also says that most of the programs of the Treasury Star Parade pictured the German people as good but having "bad Leaders," while on the other hand referring to the Japanese with blatant racism:

While propagandists in Treasury Star Parade differentiated the German people from their governmental leaders and philosophy, no similar distinction was made with the Japanese.

Jan. 1988

## RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

- TAPE 755 FRONTIER GENTLEMAN/FRONTIER TOWN (C) 1200'
- 1L 10-12-58 FG: Aces And Eights  
11-16-58 FG: Random Notes
- 2L FT: Pgm #1: Chad Remington's Father Murdered  
FT: Pgm #2: Bank Held Up By John Smith
- 1R FT: Pgm #3: Rocky Carew, Claim Jumper  
FT: Pgm #4: Marie Hocksee And The Lost Continent Map
- 2R FT: Pgm #5: Lefty Slaughter  
FT: Pgm #6: Tim Brackett Needs Money To Help Sister
- TAPE 756 WESTERNS (C) 1200'
- 1L FRONTIER TOWN: Pgm # 7: Quade Dunssten, State Senator  
FRONTIER TOWN: Pgm #13: Valley Of Lawless Men
- 2L FRONTIER TOWN: Pgm #14: Guns Of Wrath  
TALES OF THE TEXAS RANGERS: Open And Shut
- 1R 8-2-46 HAWK DURANGO: Brazos John And The Eastern Bride  
5-17-47 HAWK LARABIE: Fred Collins Shot
- 2R 7-18-47 HAWK LARABIE: Race To Build Two Railroads  
9-6-47 HAWK LARABIE: Return Of Edwin Crane
- TAPE 757 JOHN DUNNING INTERVIEWS (C) 1200'
- 1L 7-28-85 Sam Edwards  
7-28-85 Sam Edwards And Janet Waldo
- 2L 1-12-86 Carlton E. morse
- 1R 1-26-86 Anne Whitfield  
6-8-86 Sam Edwards And Parley Baer
- 2R 6-8-86 Sam Edwards And Parley Baer (concluded on Tape 758)
- TAPE 758 JOHN DUNNING INTERVIEWS/RHAC 3RD ANNUAL CONVENTION (C) 1800'
- 1L 6-8-86 JOHN DUNNING: Parley Baer - concluded from Tape 757  
9-12-87 RHAC: Introduction; Sound Effects Sketch, Denver Radio Panel  
w/ Pete Wehner, Charles A. Bennett, Bill Saul, Dan Hopkins
- 2L 9-12-87 RHAC: Women's Radio Panel w/ John Dunning, Peg Lynch, Jeanette  
Dran, Michelle Clark, Doris Shoemaker
- 1R 9-12-87 RHAC: WHISTLER RECREATION "The Wedding Gift" by Metro State Players  
12-10-47; Men's Radio Panel w/John Dunning, Lon Clark, Fred Foy  
Jim Hawthorne
- 2R 9-12-87 RHAC: ETHEL AND ALBERT RECREATION "Dutch Treat" w/Peg Lynch,  
Fred Foy, "Ethel Is Driving Albert To Work" w/Peg Lynch, Fred  
Foy, Lon Clark. NICK CARTER, MASTER DETECTIVE RECREATION "The  
Case Of The Man Who Died Laughing" 11-13-49 w/Lon Clark, Fred  
Foy, Michelle Clark, Jeanette Dran, Reid Hansen, John Licht, Mike  
Fields, David Gash. Close Of The Convention

## RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

TAPE 759 THE CHARLIE McCARTHY SHOW (C) 1200'

- 1L 9-28-47 Guest: Michael Romanov  
 10-12-47 Guest: Linda Darnell
- 2L 10-19-47 Guest: Jane Wyman  
 10-26-47 Guest: Richard Widmark
- 1R 11-23-47 Guest: Carmen Miranda  
 11-30-47 Guest: Edward Everett Horton
- 2R 12-14-47 Guest: Gary Cooper  
 12-26-48 Last Show For Chase And Sandborn

TAPE 760 MISCELLANEOUS SHOWS (C) 1200'

- 1L IT PAYS TO BE IGNORANT: What Is A Reigning Beauty?  
 2-5-48 IT PAYS TO BE IGNORANT: Why Do Wedding Bells Ring?
- 2L 12-12-37 CHASE AND SANDBORN HOUR: w/ Don Ameche, Bergen & McCarthy
- 1R 6-14-47 SMILING ED'S GANG: Sissy And Billy Play Cupid  
 6-21-47 SMILING ED'S GANG: Jules Bovier Saves Young Prince
- 2R 7-5-47 SMILING ED'S GANG: Kula And His Genie - Camels  
 -47 SMILING ED'S GANG: Shark Island

TAPE 761 AMOS AND ANDY (C) 1200'

- 1L 10-17-48 Kingfish The Realtor  
 10-24-48 The Fur Coat
- 2L 10-31-48 Leroy's Secret Melody  
 3-13-49 Andy's Heiress - Waitress
- 1R 5-27-47 Rest Home  
 1-5-55 MUSIC HALL: Guest - Sara Berner
- 2R 7-11-55 MUSIC HALL: Guest - Les Brown  
 7-22-55 MUSIC HALL: Lodge Picnic

TAPE 762 MILTON BERLE SHOW (C) 1200'

- 1L 10-14-47 Salute To The Theatre  
 10-21-47 Salute To Good Health
- 2L 10-28-47 Salute To The Navy  
 11-4-47 Salute To Football
- 1R 11-11-47 Salute To Politics  
 11-18-47 Salute To Opera
- 2R 8-26-47 Salute To Railroads  
 9-2-47 Salute To South America



## TUNING IN

We are delighted to report that old-time radio has returned to KOA, Denver, 85 on the AM dial, Monday through Friday from midnight to 1 A. M. Jim Hawthorne is the host and the program began on January 4. The schedule each week is as follows: Monday, Sherlock Holmes; Tuesday, Hopalong Cassidy; Wednesday, Green Hornet; Thursday, Lone Ranger; Friday, Jack Benny. Please write to KOA, and to Jim, to thank them for airing old-time radio in this area.

### KEVIN SHIELD'S OTR SHOW, KCMN, 1530 AM, 4-6:45 P.M., SUNDAYS

- 1-10 Command Performance "Dick Tracy in B Flat" (9-11-45)  
Hollywood Star Time "The Lodger" (5-19-46)  
X Minus One "The Roads Must Roll" (1-4-56)  
Hall of Fantasy "He Who Follows Me" (no date)
- 1-17 Kraft Music Hall (4-11-46)  
Command Performance (1-15-44)  
The Adventures of Philip Marlow "The Dude from Manhattan" (6-2-49)  
The Man Called X "Five Ounces of Treason" (1-11-51)  
True Detective Mysteries "The Rattlesnake and the Barefoot Bride" (3-18-37)
- 1-24 Jubilee AFRS (no date)  
Command Performance AFRS (no date)  
Suspense "Marry for Murder" (9-9-43)  
Escape "How Love Came to Professor Guildea" (2-28-48)
- 1-31 The Jack Benny Show "Jack Gives the Maxwell to the Scrap Drive" (10-18-42)  
G. I. Jive AFRS (no date)  
Moon River #19 WLW (1946)  
Hollywood Sound Stage "The Dark Mirror" (9-13-41)  
The Fat Man "Window for Murder" (10-3-47)  
Beyond Tomorrow "Incident at Switch Path" (4-21-50)

### DON TUCKER'S OTR SHOW, 710 AM, 3-5 P.M., SUNDAYS "RADIO: REMBER WHEN?"

- 1-10 Command Performance "Dick Tracy in B Flat" (9-11-45)  
X Minus One "The Roads Must Roll" (1-4-56)
- 1-17 Kraft Music Hall (4-11-46)  
Hall of Fantasy "He Who Follows Me" (no date)  
Hollywood Star Time "The Lodger" (5-19-46)
- 1-24 Command Performance (1-15-44)  
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The Fat Man "Window for Murder" (10-3-47)  
True Detective Mysteries "The Rattlesnake and the Barefoot Bride" (3-18-37)

A further note about old-time radio broadcasts in this area: some time next summer, Radio Station KRYN in Colorado Springs plans to broadcast the syndicated program, "those Were the Days".

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO, INC.  
(A non-profit Organization)  
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80470-

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**Happy New Year**

