

# RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado, Inc.

# NOW...



Volume 16 Number 2

September 1990



**RETURN WITH US NOW...** is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc., a non profit organization. Cost of membership is \$20.00 for the first year with \$15.00 for annual renewal. Each member has full use of the Club resources. For further information contact anyone listed below.



Phone numbers are in the (303) area code except Mike Fields (719).

PRESIDENT.....Dick King, 900 W. Quincy, Englewood, CO 80110.....H 761-4139  
 W 761-5135  
 VICE PRESIDENT.....Herb Duniven, 4184 S. Syracuse, Denver, CO 80237.....773-1142  
 SECRETARY.....Glenn Ritter, 750 Niagara, Denver, CO 80220.....377-4798  
 TREASURER.....Maletha King (See Above)  
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR...Dan Decker, 10587 G, W. Maplewood Dr. Littleton, CO 80120..933-4232  
 GRAPHIC ARTS: Ron Cramer  
 TYPESETTING: Adrienne & Mika Rhoden  
 CLUB HISTORIAN: John Adams, 2811 S. Valentia, Denver, CO 80231.....755-9185  
 TAPE LIBRARIAN: (open reel) Dick and Maletha King (see above)  
 TAPE LIBRARIAN CASSETTE: #1 (1-499) Dan Decker.  
 #2 (500 up) Dave Logan  
 #3 (5001 up) Bill Stipp

Dan Decker (see above)

Dave Logan, 5557 S. Sherman Cir., Littleton, CO 80121.....730-1430

Bill Stipp, 6289 Yarrow, Arvada, CO 80004.....422-1144

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: David L. Michael, RM 730, 820 16th. St. Denver, CO 80202.....623-1215

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: David L. Michael (see above)

BLANK TAPE SALES: Barrett Benson, P.O. Box 507, Pine, CO 80470.....838-6185

TAPE COORDINATOR: Elmer Westbrook, 855 S. Corona, Denver, CO 80209.....778-7426

TALKING NEWSLETTER: Mike Fields, 7925 Sanger, Colo Spgs, CO 80920.....719 598-0253

REFERENCE MATERIAL: Bill McCracken, 7101 W. Yale #503, Denver, CO 80227.....986-9863

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON: Vicki Blake, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood, CO 80150

LOGS & SCRIPTS: Vicki Blake (see above)

TAPE DONATIONS: Herb Duniven and Bill McCracken (see above)

RHAC PLAYERS: Ed Hendrickx.....366-1505



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS:**

THE OCTOBER 4TH BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE KINGS HOME SEE ABOVE.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND INVITED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE AT THE BOARD MEETINGS;

WE INVITE YOUR SUGGESTIONS.



**CLUB MEETINGS:**

THERE WILL BE A REGULAR CLUB MEETING THURSDAY EVENING SEPTEMBER 20TH AT 7:30 PM.

BEN AVERY WILL BE OUR GUEST SPEAKER AND HE MAY BRING AN ASSOCIATE.

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE CHURCH OF THE MASTER, 17TH AVE AND FILBERT COURT.

*We are printing a copy of an article from the Los Angeles Times about a rather wide spread problem. Many Radio personalities have contributed their works to colleges and received tax benefits for the materials value, but that also is often removing them from public access. We urge all of you that know of any such material to encourage the owners to allow a club, such as ours, to copy it before it is lost forever.*



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

## FROM THE KING'S ROOST

By Dick and Maetha King

Dick just returned from a business trip into the far corner of Montana. He commented about traveling with OTR on cassette. The only thing offered on the radio was either Rock & Roll or Country Western. The PBC offered was political to the radical side - - but he had a good alternative with the cassettes he took with him.

September in Colorado is the time of the Aspens turning, just as the Oaks and Maples turn in the Eastern part of the US. It is also time for us to be sure that we have plenty of good OTR material to listen to on the days that we really don't want to go out. We are so fortunate to have available the wide selection of shows to suit everyone's tastes. All of the libraries are showing increased activity as our members are getting ready for winter.

"Friends of Old Time Radio" is getting ready for their convention Thursday thru Saturday, October 18th thru 20th, at Holiday Inn-North, Newark, NJ. The list of guests from both coasts is very impressive. We really believe they offer a great program for Friday and Saturday, starting at 9:00 in the morning and continuing thru the evening. Thursday will give attendees a chance to shop at the dealer's tables and meet over cocktails and dinner and meet with other fans of Old Time Radio. Friday and Saturday will have many activities and dealer tables open, offering a lot of memorabilia and cassettes of programs. This convention is not put on by a club, but by a group of active individuals that work hard to provide those attending a good two days of entertainment. Anyone interested should call Jay Hickerson at (203) 248-2887, or write to Jay at Box 4321, Hamden CT 06514. It is worth the trip.

SPERDVAC will have their convention in November. We both plan to attend. The clubs on both coasts have a great advantage because of the number of radio stars that reside in their areas, so they do not have to cover the air fares that RHAC does to bring in OTR participants. We will have more on SPERDVAC next issue, but for those that are thinking about it, the dates are November 9th and 10th at 2:30pm. We do have a few retired radio people in our area, but too many are reluctant to come forward and be recognized. Many even have bitter memories of the ruthless way they were handled by management. We can only grow by remembering the good things and file away the other things and keep them in proper perspective, lest we become sour ourselves.

Speaking of growing, have you introduced someone new to your club? You will find that your pleasure will increase by sharing with someone else. John Dunning refers many people to us, and as we have the pleasure of talking to them and encouraging them to enjoy the libraries of the club.

Tom Monroe is the US Director of Operations of Orca, a group that offers extensive British material. This is a growing group that is building the library of shows rapidly for the use of their members. Anyone interested in British shows would find this a good group to join. Contact Tom Monroe, 2055 Elmwood Ave, Lakewood, OH 44107 or phone (216) 226-8189. Tom is also the Cassette Librarian for NARA, (North American Radio Archives). NARA offers both cassettes and reel to reel tapes, but they do not duplicate their offerings for each form.

---

Pearl Bailey, 72, the actress and singer with the sexy throaty drawl and droll sense of humor who once was called America's "ambassador of love," died in Philadelphia. The entertainer had a history of heart problems. "Pearl Baily was the mother of the world," said Stan Irwin, her manager for 25 years. "She was a very spiritual woman and she never recognized color. Her ideology was 'we are humans.'" Last month Bailey underwent surgery to replace her arthritic left knee with a metal and plastic joint. She left Pennsylvania Hospital on July 30, intending to continue visiting two sisters for a week while undergoing physical therapy. She then planned to return home to Arizona with her husband, jazz drummer Louis Bellson. Bailey, who has been performing 57 of her 72 years, was one of the few entertainers who could still be called a trouper in the classic sense. She was born in Newport News, Va., on Mar. 29, 1918, and moved with her family as a child to Washington and later Philadelphia, where she made her debut at age 15, winning an amateur contest by singing *Poor Butterfly*. Perhaps best-known for playing Dolly in the black version of the musical *Hello, Dolly!* in the late 1960s, she also enjoyed a long film career, with her movies including *Carmen Jones* and *Porgy and Bess*. She also served as a delegate to the United Nations under the Ford, Reagan and Bush administrations.

# RETURN WITH US TO...

by Bill Owen  
Don Hollenbeck  
57  
Snowwood

# You Are There

THE RADIO FORERUNNER OF TELEVISION'S *YOU ARE THERE* BEGAN OVER CBS IN 1947 UNDER THE TITLE *CBS IS THERE*. THE PROGRAM LATER WAS CHANGED TO *YOU ARE THERE*.

CBS CORRESPONDENTS DESCRIBED FAMOUS HISTORICAL EVENTS AS IF THEY WERE ON THE SCENE AT THE TIME...



WASHINGTON IS CONFERRING WITH HIS TOP AIDES NOW... WE'LL TRY TO GET A WORD WITH HIM.

GUY SOREL WAS THE ONLY PERMANENT ACTOR IN THE CAST... CORRESPONDENT DON HOLLENBECK WAS FEATURED AS A CBS REPORTER AT THE REENACTMENTS.

I HEAR YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR NEXT WEEK, GUY.

RIGHT, DON... AND I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHAT KIND OF AN ACCENT I SHOULD HAVE.



From Los Angeles Times

# Sounds of Radio Fading at UCLA Archive

Media: Archivist says his pleas to save preservation effort have been turned out by a university more concerned with films and television.

By GREG BRAXTON  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Several radio buffs who already feel that not enough respect and attention is paid to old-time radio now fear that their wishes to save what they call a valuable historic radio resource is falling on deaf ears.

Starting today, the UCLA Film and Television Archive, which specializes in the preservation and research of visual media, is temporarily discontinuing the development of its radio archive, which has been developed and nurtured over the past 13 years by Ronald Staley, a fan and collector of old radio programs.

The shutdown is mostly academic, since the archive has never been open to the public. But plans to further develop the archive have been put off for at least three years.

Although university officials say they hope someday to open the radio archive for research, Staley and others have doubts about whether it will ever be resurrected.

"I've always felt that radio has been given short shrift, and this proves it," said Staley, 43. "I've built this over 13 years of my life. My one concern is what is going to happen to these materials."

He fears that the 50,000 old-fashioned aluminum, acetate-coated radio disks that were used by studios to play programs over the airwaves, and the archive's more than 10,000 tapes of radio from 1933 to 1983 will deteriorate if not properly cared for during the archive's inactivity.

UCLA officials said budget cutbacks and the importance of the film and television portion of the archive prompted the move.

"The money is tightening, and, in terms of our priorities, we find television and film preservation to be more pressing at this point," said Geoff Stier, assistant to the director of the archive. "We have highly developed activities in those areas. Film is deteriorating, and can't wait."

Operating and developing the archive costs about \$50,000 a year, Stier said, adding that the longterm cost is much higher.

"In order to continue and develop the archive, we would have to have fund-raising activities that would take lots of staff time, and we would need hundreds of thousands of dollars to properly make the archive accessible," he said.

The archive is housed in a vault in the old Technicolor complex at Santa Monica and Cahuenga boulevards. Highlights range from 1940s productions of "Hallmark Playhouse" programs featuring Ronald Reagan, Deborah Kerr and Ann Blyth to Edward R. Murrow reports of the Korean War and the Germans bombing England. Also in the collection are shows by Jack Benny, "Fibber McGee and Molly," "This Is Your FBI" and numerous variety shows.

Staley said the UCLA had repeatedly resisted his requests to make the archives public, and to bring in equipment that would make the shows, news programs and other material available for general research.

"I have **appealed** to the university, but have been tuned out," Staley said. "They would rather devote more resources to film and television."

Stier **stressed that the shutdown was not permanent**. "We are fully committed to bringing the archives back and **making them** accessible when we can find a way to do it," he said. "But we have to find out the best way to do that. We would like to be able to develop it as a complement to the film and television archive."

But Staley and other radio buffs aren't so sure.

Don Aston, a collector who has donated several hundred discs and tapes to the archive, said he was disturbed by the shutdown. "I think it's a tragedy," he said. "The shortsightedness of the UCLA people is incredible. Most of your old-time movie stars come from radio-Lionel Barrymore, Alan Ladd, William Conrad. They should see the tie between movies and radio. But they're just not interested."

Another donor of material, Michael Dorrrough, said that he tried five years ago to build a studio at the archive that would allow some of the old discs to be transcribed onto tape. But the facility was dismantled without warning or explanation, he said.

"It's so stupid what they're doing," Dorrrough said. "It's the most wonderful library, probably the best around. I'm really scared everything's just going to get stacked and squeezed, and that will not do it any good. It angers me."

From Los Angeles Times

## Saving Radio's History From the Ravages of Time

Re "Sound of Radio Fading at UCLA Archive," July 29: Greg Praxton's article contains many good points, but one is severely misleading and tends to minimize the importance of broadcast "records" held by such archives as the one at UCLA: During radio's classic age, recordings were never, *never* "used by studios to play programs over the airwaves." The networks, and most of the larger stations, allowed only programs that were *live*-- a term that has almost lost its meaning in this age of synthesized, digitized, predigested entertainment. ("Live" did not mean "recorded before a live audience" or "recorded live for delayed broadcast." Most shows were even performed twice or more, for broadcast in the different time zones.)

Only a precious few programs were ever recorded. Many series have disappeared completely.

In 1972 Phil Cohan, producer of those wonderful Friday-night Jimmy Durante-Garry Moore shows, pried apart the bars of UCLA's archives to allow me brief access to Jimmy's personal collection. One of the first items to catch my eye was an uncoated aluminum disc-signaling an "aircheck" made before acetate-coated transcriptions became the standard in the mid-'30s. From those crude grooves came a treasure: A Maxwell House program of 1933, with a young Jimmy composing "Inky Dinky Doo" (later called "Inka Dinka Doo") on the air. Not an earthshaking historical moment, perhaps, but the birth of a tune upon which the hat of a decades-long career was hung.

My master tape is carefully hidden in a cave behind a waterfall, but those original grooves may soon be crushed when the UCLA radio archive is consigned to horizontal stacks in a dusty warehouse.

There are lessons to be learned from the shortsightedness at UCLA: First, we must not trust bureaucracies to care for the history of this country's culture. Their preservation may only be as long as the next budget cut or policy waffle, and access to their collections is often impossible.

Secondly, if **anyone** has radio transcriptions to donate, make sure they go to an *industry* archive, such as the Pacific ~~Pioneer~~ Broadcasters or SPERDVAC (the Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety and **Comedy**), where they will be given long-term care and attention.

I like movies too, but when the magic of radio entered our living rooms 70 years ago, it became a very personal friend. When that friend died in the '50s, those dusty grooves marked "for reference only" lingered as our only historical record. If you're over 45, it's an era you will never forget. Those under 45 need to know what they missed.

JOHN PRICE  
Pasadena



*NOTE: John Price is in SPERDVAC's home area and knows of their work, but our club, RHAC also offers to preserve and make copies available to the members so the valued contributions to our culture will not be forgotten.*

## RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 907 BING CROSBY PHILCO SHOW (C)</u>		1200'
1L	12-24-47 Christmas Show 12-31-47 Guest: Danny Thomas	
2L	1-7-48 Guests: Walter O'Keefe, Brace Beemer 1-14-48 Evelyn Knight, George Burns	
1R	1-21-48 Guests: George Burns, Gracie Allen 1-28-48 Guests: Ester Williams, Red Ingle	
2R	2-4-48 Guests: Mark Hellinger, Jimmy Durante, Dick Haymes 2-21-48 Guests: Oscar Levant, Joe Venuti, Peggy Lee	
<u>TAPE 908 FRONTIER TOWN (C)</u>		1200'
1L	#15: Bourbon Kate #16: Trouble Is His Target	
2L	#17: Land Grab #21: All Trails Lead To Trouble	
1R	#20: Valley Of Varmints #22: Forest Fire	
2R	#23: Thunder Over Texas #25: Branding The Badlands	
<u>TAPE 909 DRAGNET (C)</u>		1200'
1L	9-15-49 The Wolf 8-18-49 Sixteen Jewelry Thefts	
2L	3-8-53 Benson Borrowing Money From Women 6-17-49 Ther Werewolf	
1R	3-22-53 Safe And Burglaries And The Watch 3-29-53 Jefferson And The Liquor Store Robbery	
2R	2-23-50 Charlie Wallace, Confidence Man 3-2-50 Policeman Killed For Revenge	
<u>TAPE 910 DRAGNET (C)</u>		1200'
1L	3-13-52 Daniels And Arson 5-3-51 Mrs. Robertson's Death	
2L	2-1-51 Hungry, Wealthy Children 2-8-51 Missing Men	
1R	2-22-51 Huberts And Swindling 5-17-51 Mother Shot In Bed	
2R	8-16-51 Television Repair Racket Martin Latimer Suicide	

## RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 911 DRAGNET (C)</u>			1200'
1L	3-9-50	Forged Parole Papers	
	3-16-50	Killer Gang And Their Puppy	
2L	3-23-50	The Big Gangster - Part 1	
	3-30-50	The Big Gangster - Part 2	
1R	4-6-50	Obscene Literature	
	4-13-50	Army Officers Beaten And Robbed	
2R	4-20-50	Hit And Run	
	4-27-50	Alfred Garvey, Escaped Criminal	
 <u>TAPE 912 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	6-19-47	Dead Of Night	
	7-10-47	Murder By The Book	
2L	7-31-47	Mortmain	
	8-7-47	Quiet Desparation	
1R	8-14-47	Smiley	
	8-21-47	Murder Aboard The Alphabet	
2R	8-28-47	The Argyle Album	
	9-11-47	The Twist	
 <u>TAPE 913 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	9-25-47	The Blue Hour	
	10-16-47	Self Defense	
2L	10-23-47	The X-Ray Camera	
	10-30-47	Subway	
1R	11-20-47	Riabouchinska	
	11-27-47	The Pit And The Pendelum	
2R	12-5-47	The Clock And The Rope	
	12-12-47	The Man Who Couldn't Lose	
 <u>TAPE 914 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	11-22-45	Nineteen Deacon Street	
	12-13-45	The Argyle Album	
2L	12-20-45	Double Entry	
	1-3-46	Angel Of Death	
1R	1-24-46	My Dear Neice	
	3-7-46	Black Path Of Fear (AFRS)	
2R	3-14-46	No More Alice	
	3-21-46	The Lonely Road	



# RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



**CASSETTE LIBRARY #3  
C/O BILL STIPP  
6289 YARROW  
ARVADA, CO. 80004**

Enclosed is my check or money order for the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the one month rental charge of \$2.00 per set for the cassette ordered. You are allowed to order 5 cassette sets at one time although you may have only 5 cassette sets outstanding at any time.

Minimum Order is \$6.00

<u>Cassette number</u>	<u>Title</u>
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____

Alternates:

1. _____	4. _____	7. _____	10. _____
2. _____	5. _____	8. _____	11. _____
3. _____	6. _____	9. _____	12. _____

Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Date

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

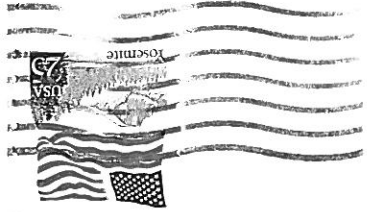
I do hereby agree to **abide** by the RHAC rules and agree not to sell or use library materials for monetary gain.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**REMEMBER**  
**THIS FORM IS FOR CASSETTE REELS 5001 UP**

BARRETT  
BENSON  
P O BOX 507  
PINE  
1/91

CD 80470



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO, INC.  
(A non-profit organization)  
POST OFFICE BOX 1908  
ENGLEWOOD, CO. 80150

**BEN AVERY WILL BE OUR GUEST  
SPEAKER THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH  
THE CHURCH OF  
THE MASTER 7:30 PM  
17TH AVE AND FILBERT COURT**