

RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.

NOW...



Volume 16 Number 9

April 1991



EZRA STONE

President and Director of The David Library of the American Revolution
in Washington Crossing, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

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
- VICE PRESIDENT.....Jim Harmon, 3457 S. Umatilla, Englewood CO 80110
- 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 80127.. 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) Mika Rhoden
- Dan Decker (see above)
- Dave Logan, 5557 S. Sherman Cir., Littleton CO 80121..... 730-1430
- Mika Rhoden, 3950 W. Dartmouth, Denver, CO 80236..... 937-9476
- DIRECTOR AT LARGE: David L. Michael, RM 730, 820 16th. St. Denver CO 80202 830-0075
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: David L. Michael (see above).....623-1215
- BLANK TAPE SALES: Barrett Benson, P.O. Box 507, Pine CO 80470..... 838-6185
- BLANK CASSETTE SALES: Guy Albright..... 934-0184
- 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: Glen Ritter, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150
- LOGS AND SCRIPTS: Fred Hinz P.O. Box 1908 Englewood CO 80150
- TAPE DONATIONS:Bill McCracken (see above)
 - Herb Duniven, 4184 S. Syracuse, Denver, CO 80237.....773-1142



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS:

THE APRIL BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF JOHN ADAMS ON APRIL 4TH AT 7:30 PM. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND INVITED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE AT THE BOARD MEETINGS WE INVITE YOUR SUGGESTIONS.



CLUB MEETINGS:

THE APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY APRIL 18TH. MEETING WILL BE AT THE CHURCH OF THE MASTER. EAST 17TH AVE AND FILBERT COURT.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank Bill Stipp for his many years of service to the club. Bill has decided to retire from being the club librarian for the contributed series. Bill, thanks for the job well done.

We were informed Esther Geddes will not be able to attend our convention, her youngest daughter will be married on that day and it was impossible to change the wedding date. We will miss Esther but Tyler will be with us.

We have invited another actress, Jean Bates. Jean was Teddy on One Man's Family and worked on many other radio programs, more to follow.

We will need a piano player for a few chords for the bridges of our recreations. Please contact Dick King 761-4139.



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

FROM THE KING'S ROOST

By Dick and Maleta King

We were delighted to have new librarians for the #3 cassette library by the time the March newsletter was printed. Our typesetters, Mika and Adrienne Rhoden, were interested and volunteered for the position. We feel very sure that they will give our members good service when they order from that library.

Dale Morgan spoke at our March meeting about a project that he has been doing that allows him to use his skills from the broadcasting industry to benefit families that are seeking to preserve more of their family heritage. Dale has written a book that gives many details about the type of leading questions to start conversations about the family activities of the past to enable us to preserve those precious memories on tape, to be passed on to future generations. Many of our members will be attending family reunions and class reunions during the next few months and may well be able to benefit from the aids Dale gives in his book. Most of our members have recording equipment that could be used for such a project and get these stories on tape before.....Dale may be reached by calling 303-934-4750. Ask Dale about his Biographical Conversations.

Only a few days after that meeting, Fred Moldenhauer called and offered the club a transcription player from one of the Denver radio stations. The machine is a Gates with a Gray tone arm and we need a cartridge for it. If anyone knows where to get a cartridge, please let us know. While we were at Fred's, he showed us a video tape that he was working on that ties in directly to the project that Dale Morgan has been working on. Fred is able to take stills or old movies and transfer them to video. Wouldn't it be great to be able to use the tapes of family members for the sound on such a video for your family? It does take a lot of equipment to produce such a tape and lots of hours, but the finished product is priceless to the family. Fred can be reached at 303-758-1453.

We are pleased that our members are using their ingenuity and equipment to show today's world that we are not just a bunch of people living in the past. We can mix yesterday, today and tomorrow for the benefit of the younger generation.

We received a nice note from Ed Scott about our March newsletter piece about the "Quiz Kids" and the late Joe Kelly. Ed was the announcer on that program during its final year on network radio and was a personal friend of Joe Kelly.

That article, from the Milwaukee Journal, was sent to us by Steve Scalzo,



HOW TO PRESERVE PRICELESS FAMILY MEMORIES

A PROFESSIONAL INTERVIEWER'S STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE
TO RECORDING FAMILY HISTORY

INCLUDES FORMAT AND OVER 100 QUESTIONS AND TOPICS BY

DALE F. MORGAN

not Scott Jones, as originally noted. Scott sends us many articles and books, so we can give both members our thanks. Steve sent us another article from the same Milwaukee Journal that we are using this month. We certainly appreciate such contributions to be shared with our members.



Newsday photo

Jackson Beck will not disclose his age

Voice of Ages

Man who spoke for Superman and others is still jabbering away

By DONALD P. MYERS

NEW YORK, N.Y. - He's a wrinkled old rooster from the radio days with a lot of sock left in his cock-a-doodle-doo. Jackson Beck is the Voice, and it's still got the kick of a couple of fingers of bourbon, which he splashes into a glass at sundown, 15 floors above a busy Metropolis. He was Superman's sidekick 50 years ago, and his was the voice of the Cisco Kid and Popeye's archenemy, the bully Brutus. So he's not impressed by any old hero. "Woody Allen's a genius, but he's been a jerk," Beck growls, his Camel dangling. "And besides, he's no taller than I am."

Maybe mild manners don't rub off on anyone wearing blue tights.

"Woody Allen never said hello, never said goodbye," says Beck, who narrated "Take the Money and Run," Allen's first film. "Four months of shooting, the only thing the _____ ever said to me was, 'Do it again, only faster.' when I walk the hell out, I'm livid."

If a tarnished old hero walks on feet of clay, like the rest of us, his shoes are size 13s. "For a little guy, he's got the biggest feet in the broadcast business," says Peter Magelof, an NBC producer. "When he walks into a room, his shoes come in five minutes before he does."

When you meet Jackson Beck, you understand that he's a little like Superman, an American myth. Nobody leaps tall buildings at a single bound anymore - at least not on New York's Upper East Side.

His first job was impersonating stars like Fredric March and Edward G. Robinson for recorded dramatizations of the now movies. His first running radio show was a soap called "Myrt and Marge," in 1931.

If Beck has been in the business for 60 years, how old can he be?

"I won't tell you," he says, "because I don't want to be the victim of age discrimination. If I want a two-year contract, someone might think I won't be around that long. I don't feel my age anyway. I look in the mirror every morning and I see Cary Grant."

The man who sold us Kellogg's Pep - plus truth, justice and the American way - is still a salesman, just trying to make a buck. Like Willy Loman in Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," Beck is way out there in the blue, riding on a smile and a shoeshine.

"I can sell anything, anywhere," the old rooster crow, ker-thunking around in his kitchen. "I've sold everything from US Steel to Ex-Lax."

Yesterday's man of steel may be a little rusty now, but if you listen closely these days to radio and television, you'll hear Jackson Beck selling everything from cough syrup and cockroach killer to pizza and bellyache medicine.

"Look! Up in the Sky! It's a bird! It's a Plane! It's Superman!" he used to tell us every day after school. Now he tells a different story: "My job is to sell a carload of whatever the hell it is, to clean out the supermarket shelves, and get them replenished. People like me are responsible for thousands of jobs, because if we don't sell that merchandise, the company goes to hell. I'm an advertising man, and I treat my voice as a business. People who treat it as art don't make any money."

When we sent in all those box tops to get all those secret decoder rings that turned our fingers green maybe we should have known that the buck was behind it. Beck says that he made \$11.88 for a 15-minute radio show 53 years ago. Now he rides the red-eye from coast to coast, making commercials and a lot of money.

"I'd swap checks with him," says one of his agents Peter Sawyer, vice president of Fifi Osgard Associates, a New York talent agency. "He's one of four or five prototype male sounds in the broadcast advertising industry. Everybody wants the Jackson Beck sound."

Power is part of it. "We want the tough-guy sound," says 34-year-old Peter Magelof of NBC, where Beck promotes National Football League telecasts and network boxing. "When you hear his voice get way, way down,

you expect someone who's six-foot-eight and three hundred pounds. But when he opens the door, there he is, this little guy who worked at NBC before I was born."

It's hard to imagine a grown man with gray hair perched by his living-room window and saying, "Up, up and away!" But there he is, surrounded by 14 potted plants, rerunning his radio days that started when he answered an ad in the New York Graphic.

In those days, radio was the medium of popular culture. Radio held the family and the country together. "We know that the bad guy was going to take the rap and the good guy was going to win and then walk off into the sunset - and please tune in tomorrow," Woody Allen told the Manchester Guardian three years ago when his film "Radio Days" was released, in the interview when he talked about Beck. "Those were wonderful times, and they're gone forever."

Beck learned the radio business in the days of Tammany Hall. "We were better off back then," he says now. "They stole a helluva lot, but at least you got something for your money."

Yesterday's boy or girl was glued to the radio, just as they're stuck to the tube today.

"It was elemental theater," Beck says. "Acting had to be bravura, black and white, simple - pure-white heroes and heroines, all virgins. You knew when you picked up a script that you were going to be a hero or the villain by the name of your character. The hero was always John Noble. You avoided recognizable locales because there might be somebody from there who'd sue. So the heroines always came from Greendale or Fort Mudge. And if you were playing Banker Blackstone, you know you were a bastard from the word go."

They were knocking off people right and left in those days, and there were only a few basic plots and motives. Beck says it's the same thing today on TV.

"I'm amused when I watch 'Murder, She Wrote,' because they use the same damned plots I played 40 and 50 years ago in radio - sex, money, jealousy, revenge, the butler did it. It's easy to figure out, but you've got a half-hour to fill, so you drag it out."

Television may have helped kill radio drama, but Beck says the new medium doesn't match up with the old one. "Listening to radio was like group meditation or a moment of silence in church. You don't get the same effect with TV, unless you're very drunk."

They call Milton Berle "Mr. Television" and some say Beck is "Mr. Radio." He'd like to resurrect radio drama, but he doesn't think that will happen. "There's an audience for it. Public radio has proved that. WNYC has a drama series now. WBAI plays that old shows on Sundays. Radio drama got frozen out because it doesn't pay. People just aren't going to leave their tubes, their VCRs - in their cars, yes, but not at home. "So Jackson Beck - who's national vice president of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists - is left with some memories:

- Popeye was a wimp. "He died a couple of years ago, fellow named Jack Mercer. He was the cleverest voice man I ever knew. He could do more than Mel Blanc. He played animals. He did motors. He was a little wimpy guy who never had the guts to ask for the money he deserved. I had to do it for him."

- The actor who played Superman on the radio took catnaps on the piano. "Bud Collyer was a brilliant guy with a dark side, politically. He was one of the major movers in the blacklisting of actors in the '50s. In the studio, if we had 10 minutes off, he'd go sound asleep on the piano, then he'd wake up ready to take on the world. That's what Superman was supposed to do, I guess."

- Beck was best man at the Gramercy Park wedding of the man who would up playing Superman on TV. "A friend of mine thought it would be a good idea if I stood up for an actor named George Reeves. I'd never seen him before. The wedding takes about 10 minutes. The next day he flies out to the West Coast. Six months later, he's flying around on the TV screen, I never saw him again. Seven years later, he killed himself."

- On the soap "Joe and Ethel Turp," based on characters created by Damon Runyon, Beck played a few scenes flat on his back on a bed. "My wife on the show had to wake me up for breakfast, so the director thought it would sound more realistic if he hung a microphone over the bed. When I turned over, you could hear the bedsprings creak. It played like a dream."

- On "Mark Trail," Beck was the announcer whose opening became the show's best-remembered feature - long before the Environmental Protection Agency was created: "Guardian of the forests! Protector of wildlife! Champion of man and nature! MAAAARRRRKKKK TRAIL!"

It's a good thing the wrinkled old rooster from the radio days still has a lot of sock left in the cock-a-doodle-do. If he didn't stay busy, he says, he'd go crazy at home at night. "There are times when I wish I had somebody to talk to," Beck says, "and if there's one thing I like to do, it's talk."

Los Angeles Times-Washington Post Service.

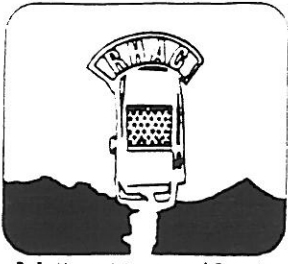


RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 938 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	1-18-51	The Well Dressed Corpse	
	1-25-51	Arai From Murder	
2L	2-1-51	Fragile, Contents Death	
	2-8-51	The Windy City Six	
1R	2-15-51	The Death Parade	
	3-1-51	The Gift Of Jumbo Brannigan	
2R	3-8-51	A Vision Of Death	
	3-22-51	Three Lethal Words	
<u>TAPE 939 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	3-29-51	Death Pitch	
	4-5-51	Murder In C Flat	
2L	5-3-51	When The Bough Breaks	
	5-10-51	Death On My Hands	
1R	5-31-51	Overdrawn	
	6-7-51	Tell You Why I Shouldn't Die	
2R	6-14-51	The Truth About Jerry Baxter	
	6-21-51	The Greatest Thief In The World	
<u>TAPE 940 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	2-11-52	Odd Man Out	
	2-18-52	The Track Of The Cat	
2L	2-25-52	A Killing In Las Vegas	
	3-3-52	The 39 Steps	
1R	3-24-52	A Murder Of Necessity	
	4-14-49	Mate Bram	
2R	4-21-52	The Diary Of Captain Scott	
	5-5-52	Frankie And Johnnie	
<u>TAPE 941 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	5-19-52	Flight Of The Bumblebee	
	5-26-52	The Death Of Me	
2L	6-2-52	A Good And Faithful Servant	
	6-9-52	Concerto For Killer And Eyewitnesses	
1R	9-22-52	Jack Ketch	
	10-20-52	Death Of Barbara Allen	
2R	10-27-52	Allen In Wonderland	
	11-3-52	Frankenstein	

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 942 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	11-10-52	The Frightened City	
	11-17-52	Death And Miss Turner	
2L	12-8-52	Joker Wild	
	12-22-52	Arctic Rescue	
1R	1-5-53	The Mystery Of Edwin Drood - Part 1	
	1-12-53	The Mystery Of Edwin Drood - Part 2	
2R	1-19-53	Gold Of Adomar	
	2-2-53	Plan X	
<u>TAPE 943 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	2-9-53	The Man Who Cried Wolf	
	2-23-53	St. James Infirmary Blues	
2L	3-2-53	The Dead Alive	
	3-30-53	Tom Dooley	
1R	4-6-53	Around The World	
	4-20-53	Public Defender	
2R	4-27-53	The Man Within	
	5-25-53	Pigeon In A Cage	
<u>TAPE 944 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	6-1-53	A Vision Of Death	
	9-21-53	The Empty Chair	
2L	9-28-53	Hellfire	
	10-5-53	Action	
1R	10-26-53	Dutch Schultz	
	11-2-53	Ordeal In Donner Pass	
2R	11-9-53	Needle In The Haystack	
	11-30-53	The Wreck Of The Maid Of Athens	
<u>TAPE 945 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	11-16-53	The Moonstone - Part 1	
	11-23-53	The Moonstone - Part 2	
2L	12-14-53	The Mystery Of Marie Roget	
	12-21-53	Twas The Night Before Christmas	
1R	12-28-53	The Queen's Ring	
	1-4-54	On A Country Road	
2R	1-11-54	The One Man Crime Wave	
	1-18-54	The Face Is Familiar	



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**CASSETTE LIBRARY #3
C/O MIKA RHODEN
3950 W. DARTMOUTH AVE.
DENVER, CO. 80236**

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: _____

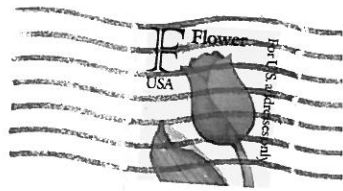
State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone (____) _____

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

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



BARRETT BENSON
P O BOX 507
PINE CO 80470

1/92