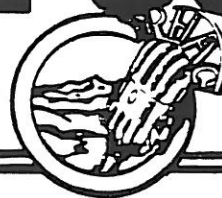


RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.

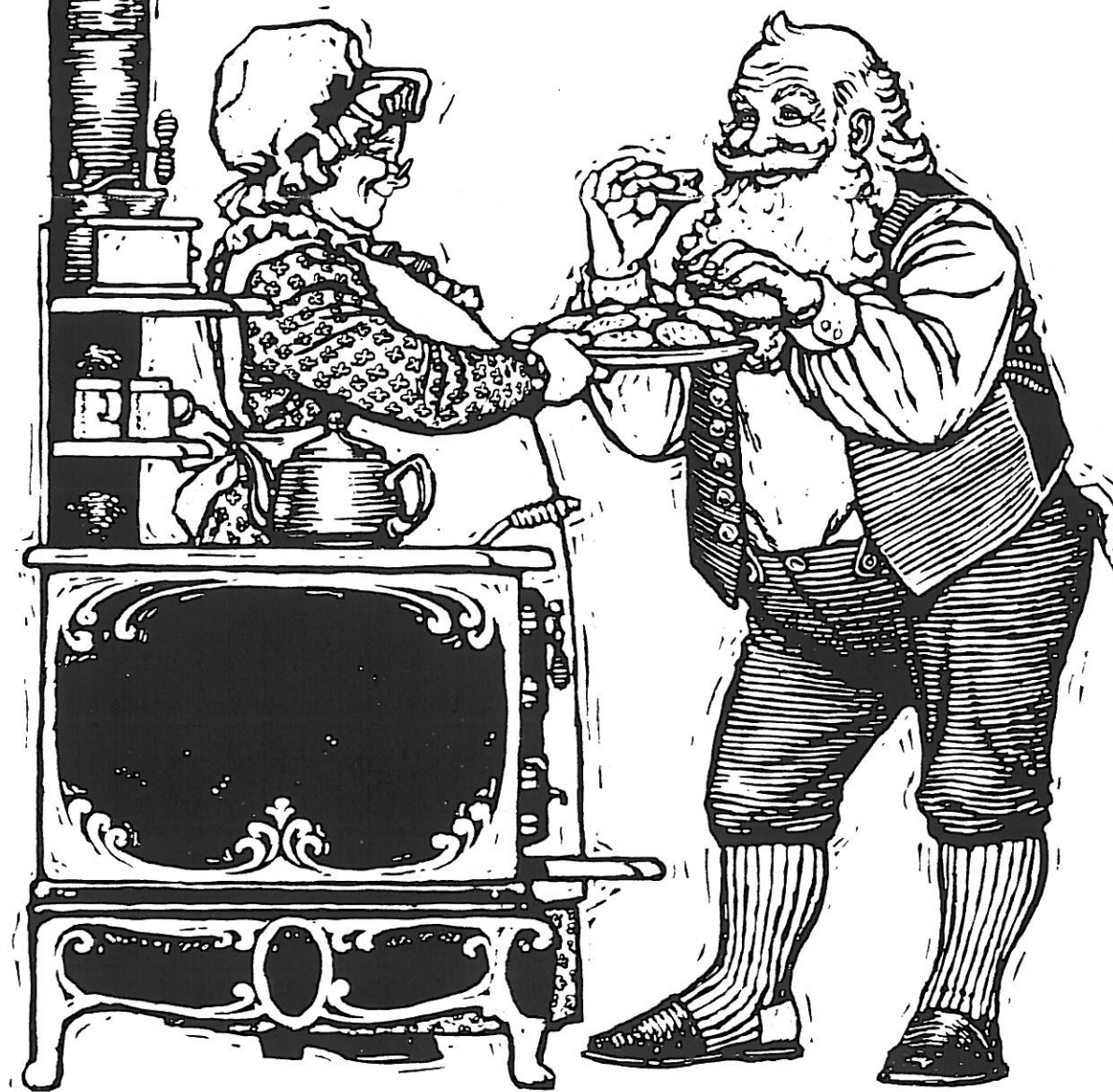
NOW...



Volume 17 Number 5

December 1991

Season's Greetings



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 as indicated.

- PRESIDENT.....Dick King, 900 W. Quincy, Englewood, CO 80110..... 761-4139
- VICE PRESIDENT.....David Michael, 1640 Grant St. Denver, CO 80203..... 830-0075
- SECRETARY.....Glenn Ritter, 750 Niagara, Denver, CO 80220..... 377-4798
- TREASURER.....Maletha King, 900 W. Quincy, Englewood, CO 80110..... 761-4139
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR...Temporary triumvirate David Michael, Glenn Ritter, John Adams
TYPESETTING: Adrienne & Mika Rhoden GRAPHIC ARTS: Ron Cramer
- CLUB HISTORIAN: John Adams, 2811 S. Valentia, Denver, CO 80231.....755-9185
- TAPE LIBRARIAN for OPEN REEL: Dick and Maletha King, 900 W. Quincy, Englewood....761-4139
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 - #2 (500 up) Dave Logan, 5557 S. Sherman Cir. Littleton, CO 80121..... 730-1430
 - #3 (5001 up) Mika Rhoden, 3950 W. Dartmouth Ave. Denver, CO 80236..... 937-9476
- DIRECTOR AT LARGE: David L. Michael, 1640 Grant Denver, CO 80203..... 830-0075
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: David L. Michael (see above)..... 830-0075
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- REFERENCE MATERIAL: Bill McCracken, 7101 W. Yale #503, Denver, CO 80227.....986-9863
- MEMBERSHIP: Glenn Ritter, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood, CO 80150
- LOGS AND SCRIPTS: Fred Hinz P.O. Box 1908, Englewood, CO 80150
- TAPE DONATIONS:Bill McCracken, 7101 W Yale #503, Denver, CO 80227.....986-9863
Herb Duniven, 4184 S. Syracuse, Denver, CO 80237.....773-1142



THERE WILL NOT BE A BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER!

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND INVITED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. The January 9th meeting is at home of Dick King at 7:30 PM.



CLUB MEETINGS:

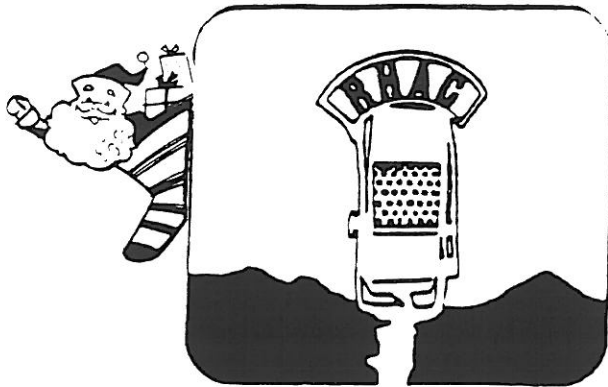
THE DECEMBER MEETING WILL BE OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY! THE PARTY-MEETING WILL BE AT THE SAME LOCATION WE HAVE USED FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS:

The Village Townhouses, 7101 W. Yale Ave., Denver. Saturday, December 14, 1991, 4:30 PM.

If you haven't attended this R.H.A.C. Holiday Party then please do so! R.H.A.C. has arranged for a turkey, a ham, beef and assorted beverages. The remainder of the menu will be filled in by each person attending bringing a dish of their choice. So, bring a dish of something that will be good with ham or turkey ... and it would help to bring along a folding chair or two. IF it is not convenient for YOU to bring a dish ... or a chair, then be sure to bring YOURSELF! The time is 4:30 PM for the club house to open, which will allow you to get there before it is completely dark. We'll begin eating at 5 PM or shortly after. And eating will continue until everybody has his fill! If your schedule is a problem, please, come by when you can!



See MAP at bottom of King's Roost.



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

FROM THE KING'S ROOST

by Dick and Malettha King

We were delighted to hear from Tasman Richardson in Alberta, Canada about the OTR available on 770 AM in Calgary. They play OTR shows seven nights a week from 11:00 PM to midnight. The University Station in Edmonton, with various repeater transmitters around the province plays old BBC comedy and panel shows every Saturday night for an hour. They also play records prior to 1955 on "Play It Again" on Saturday mornings for an hour, together with an hour of Big Band Music from the early 30's to the early 50's. On Sunday afternoons "THE OLD DISC JOCKEY" plays music with lots of background information. We wonder if

Tasman would send us information on a regular basis so we may be informed about our northern neighbors.

Denver has only the satellite pick-up of the big bands and no OTR shows are now on the air here. We used to have a program that played OTR very late at night but even that is now gone. Should you have satellite dish you are in luck, here is the information. Tune your dish to F4 Transponder 15 or 21, Audio 6.2 and G3, Transponder 7, Audio 5.76. There are OTR programs broadcast 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Our cassette librarian Dan Decker, has advised that he will be closing the #1 cassette library (reel numbers 001 to 449) from December 15th thru the first week of January. The other libraries will be open, so you may want to shift your orders over for a month.

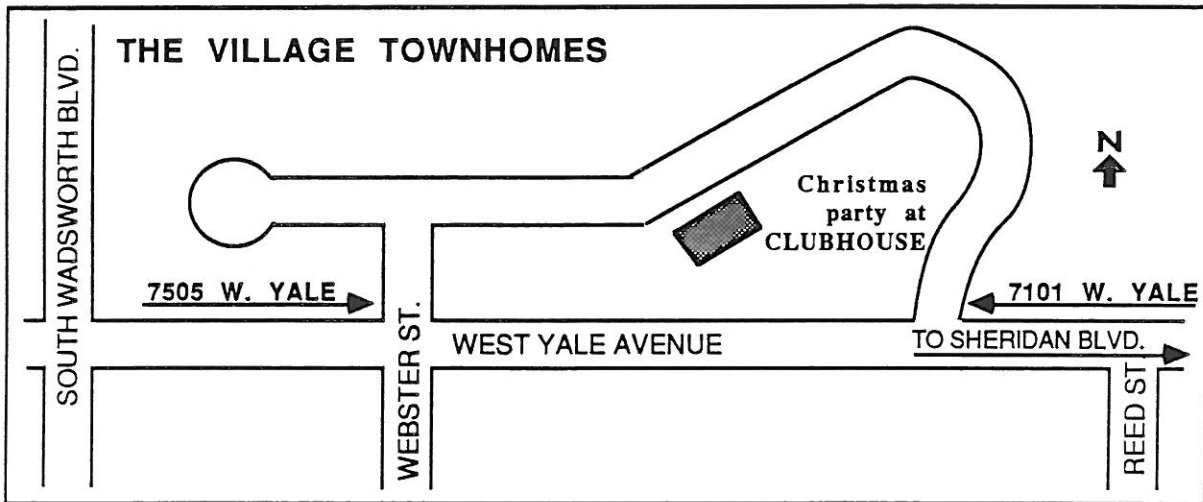
We had a great four weeks traveling thru some of the eastern states and visited many historical sights. The autumn leaves were beautiful, but almost all gone when we started our return trip. We spent several days in Newark and enjoyed the "Friends of Old Time Radio" convention in October. Jay Hickerson and his group changed the format a bit and each daily program was offered without conflict with another program. That was a great improvement over past years. The whole atmosphere in Newark is quite different from the casual Western approach, but it was very well done. Dealers were there by the dozens offering many old books, memorabilia, and cassettes. There were many tables covered with cassettes of OTR shows and people were buying them @ 10 for \$25.00. I guess they don't know about clubs where they can rent shows and dub their own for a fraction of what they pay there. We met many interesting people and with the help of Tom Monroe, we picked up some new members from this trip. Although all of the recreations were excellent, we have to give our praise to Peg Lynch and Bob Dryden for their presentations, that we are still repeating and laughing about. Video and audio tapes will be available after the first of the year. There was an excellent Gunsmoke with Jackson Beck, Parley Baer and Sam Edwards, Jackson Beck had the voice that was needed to make it sound right.

We visited the Broadcast Museum in Chicago and also the Museum of Television and Radio Broadcasting in New York City. Both are preserving and cataloging old time radio shows, and storing them away from the destructive hands of the public. You may sit and listen to many shows, but you may not copy any of them. It is too bad that these shows will never be available to the majority of Americans that are not able to visit the museums. We parked in a parking garage in NYC for three hours the fee was \$26.00. We also visited the Norman Rockwell museum in Philadelphia. They will allow you to purchase copies of the great covers that Norman Rockwell made for the Saturday Evening Post. They also said that when they had a Rockwell cover they had to print 400,000 extra copies. They have a different approach, and the funds help support the museum.

After spending a few extra days in Kansas because of an ice storm, we tried to ship as many library orders as we could before flying out to Los Angeles for the SPERDVAC convention. We will talk about that next month.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Christmas Party, December 14th at the Village Townhouse Club House, remember bring your favorite covered dish to share, remember to bring chairs if you have them. See the map on another page. Come along and have some fun with others that share your interests.

We have heard from the Illinois Recording Club about a gigantic undertaking of compiling lists of all the radio shows available from dealers and clubs. It will be a while before they have some offerings, but they plan to list by show type and/or category and offer lists (for a fee) to help collectors find the source of the shows they are looking for. We wish them success with this massive undertaking and we will let you know more about their project when they have an offer.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENT:

Collector has four albums for sale or trade: The Maltese Falcon, Murder My Sweet, The Bickersons Rematch & Saturday Morning Heroes. Anyone interested please call David at (303)331-9521.

The following items are offered on a "must sell" basis by Max Roby, who is closing his house.

1. 1927 Atwater Kent radio in good working condition.
2. Philco Cathedral type table radio in good condition.
3. Philco Cathedral type radio in "so-so" condition.
4. RCA Radiola #3, needs tubes and ?
5. Freshman Masterpiece with Horn -- cabinet only. Nice furniture.
6. Edison cylinder player and horn & 6 or 8 cylinders. Player works, but horn adapter needs to be replaced. (Used electrical tape as sub.)
7. 5" T.V. and another small T.V.

Quick response is urged or these items will go into a dealer's shop. Phone: (303)773-3109.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE

So important and expensive that only Uncle Sam is big enough to sponsor it!

That was the comment Bob Burns made of a special broadcast on which he and a dozen other top-flight Hollywood stars had just appeared.

The drawlin' Arkansan who parlayed a couple of plumbing fixtures into a bazooka and fame and fortune via the airwaves was speaking of "Command Performance, U.S.A."-- radio's newest and most pretentious program.

"Command Performance" is little known to U.S. Radio listeners because it is not heard on the regular broadcast band. But to the hundreds of thousands of American fighting men stationed throughout the world "Command Performance" is their radio show.

"Command Performance" is unique in broadcast annals for many reasons. Designed solely to entertain America's armed forces on the far-flung front line of World War II, "Command" not only presents the top-ranking stars of the entertainment world at the specific request of U.S. soldiers, sailors and marines, but it is not at all unusual to tune in the show on one of the short wave stations which rebroadcasts the transcriptions of "Command" to all parts of the world and hear the singing of birds, the barking of a dog, or the sound of the jack-pot on a slot-machine.

The letters from Uncle Sam's men in uniform, requesting their favorite stars, their favorite songs, the sounds that remind them of their homeland, thus become an integral part of "Command Performance" broadcasts.

One of the recent requests answered via "Command Performance" was that of an engine department crew member of an army mine planter somewhere in the south Pacific. He said:

"Before you turn all those slot machines into scrap iron for the war effort, could you get hold of one slot machine, and just let me hear what it sounds like when three bars come up and it rains nickels? I played those machines for 10 years and never hit the jack-pot."

So, in answer to that seaman's "command" a slot-machine co-starred with Fibber McGee and Molly, Red Skelton, Harriet Hilliard, Ozzie Nelson, Gloria Jean, Virginia O'Brien, Billy Mills, Truman Bradley and Tito Guizar on an edition of "Command Performance."

Adolphe Menjou, acting as master of ceremonies for the array of celebrities, dropped a specially made slug into the slot machine and pulled the handle which brought forth a stream of nickels in a perfect jack-pot.

Explained Menjou for the benefit of the seaman listening somewhere in the south Pacific:

"That was a slot machine jack-pot. Those things that just fell out of it were slugs, borrowed from Rochester, who found them in his pay envelope last Saturday. I'd like to mention in passing, S.J.C. (the seaman's initials) that the machine you're playing out there now is a much bigger one than the one we've just demonstrated. We expect you and your buddies to keep right on playing it until three lemons come up. I think you know who those three lemons are!"

Other unusual requests answered via "Command Performance" have included the grease-monkey in far away Trinidad who was lonesome for the birds that used to wake him up on the farm back in Indiana. NBC engineers recorded the singing of the birds, and Fred Allen played the record during his appearance on one of the "Command" broadcasts produced in New York. Fred thoughtfully added the famous Bronx Bird for up-town New Yorkers who might be lonesome for it. The latter was dedicated in the script to a former paper-hanger in Berlin, initials A.H.

Then there was the sergeant in Northern Ireland who told "Command" in a letter

that he was lonesome for the voice of his dog. "Queenie" was brought to the "Command" microphone to bark her prettiest for her master at the behest of Kate Smith.

"Command Performance", the brainchild of tall, energetic Glenn Wheaton of the Radio Branch of the War Department, is produced twice weekly in half-hour packages by the U.S. War Department's newest recruit from the ranks of big-time commercial radio, Vick Knight.

Knight, brainy, dynamic mite (he stands 5-ft. 5-in., weighs 142 lbs.) who during the past decade has produced and directed the shows of Eddie Cantor, Kate Smith, Rudy Vallee and more recently, Fred Allen's Texaco Star Theater, started guiding the destinies of "Command Performance" several months ago in New York while he was handling the Fred Allen Hour.

After putting the first few shows together, Knight became so engrossed in the patriotic venture that he asked Allen for a release from his contract in order to join the War Department in a full-time capacity when the origination point of "Command" was moved to Hollywood.

One of radio's highest paid producer-directors (his contract with Allen called for a weekly paycheck of close to \$1,000), Knight receives no compensation for his tireless efforts in bringing to the "Command" microphone the world's greatest "names" at the request of the boys in uniform. Vick is not even a "dollar-a-year man" as he pays all his expenses out of his own pocket.

"Command Performance" has no budget, and pays no salaries to musicians, arrangers, conductors, copyists, stars, the National Broadcasting Company or CBS, all of whom contribute their efforts and facilities.

Through the cooperation of the Los Angeles Musicians Union, Local 47, musicians of radio's most famous orchestras are able to play without remuneration. Each week Vick Knight, aided by the Hollywood Victory Committee, is able to get top personalities to appear on the show.

Only voice heard regularly on "Command" is that of Paul Douglas, tangy-toned sports commentator, who opens the show and signs it. Douglas was selected to announce the series because his voice has a certain timbre that registers as well on the short wave as the long wave band.

There is no doubt that "Command Performance" is the most expensive radio production ever put on wax. That is, if the talent and facilities were paid for instead of being "on the cuff."

The average talent costs alone per broadcast would amount to \$50,000 and upwards, depending on the calibre of the stars performing. The transcribing of the programs and the short-wave transmission facilities are other items which would run the costs up toward the \$75,000 mark.

So great is the mail streaming into "Command Performance, U.S.A." every week from fighting men all over the globe that the programs have become the most important radio effort of the entertainment industry. Stars leap to appear on the show. It has become a coveted honor to say word or sing a song on "Command."

Sammy Kaye's "Command" was the request of Private M.R., stationed at Josey Field, Puerto Rico, in which he said, "I would like to request Sammy Kaye to sing and play 'Dear Mom' please...for my own dear Mom. Thank you."

"Command Performance" is one radio program with no options. It's booked solid, for the duration.

As announcer Paul Douglas barks it as he signs each edition of "Command Performance."

"This week and every week, 'till it's over, over there!"

Radio Life, May 17, 1942

TAPE 5202 WALTZ TIME (AFRS)

1200'

1L 5-4-45 #83 First song, I Miss Your Kiss
 5-18-45 #85 First, Dream

2L 6-1-45 #87 First, Beautiful Love
 6-8-45 #88 First, Please Don't Say No

1R 6-15-45 #89 First, My Mother's Waltz
 6-22-45 #90 First, Sweetheart of All My Dreams

2R 6-29-45 #91 First, The More I See You
 7-6-45 #92 First, Love Letters

TAPE 5203 MISC. AFRS PROGRAMS

1800'

1L 6-3-45 #29 AMERICAN ALBUM OF FAMILIAR MUSIC: First song, Strange Music
 6-17-45 #31 AAFM: First, I Dream Too Much
 7-1-45 #33 AAFM: First, All the Things You Are

2L 7-15-45 #35 AAFM: First, The Night is Young and You're So Beautiful
 7-22-45 #36 AAFM: First, Out of This World
 2-24-46 #67 AAFM: First, Tell Me That You Love Me Tonight

1R 5-27-44 #1 SATURDAY NIGHT SERENADE: Gustave Haenschen Orchestra, Jessica
 Dragonette, Bill Perry
 11-29-44 #9 THE CONTENTED HOUR: Percy Faith Orchestra
 3-12-45 #48 MUSICAL AUTOGRAPHS (GUY LOMBARDO): First, You'll Never Know

2R 4-23-45 #64 MA: First, April in Paris
 4-30-45 #65 MA: First, Laura
 5-7-45 #66 MA: First, I Should Care

TAPE 5204 MISC. AFRS PROGRAMS

1200'

1L 7-6-45 #131 DOWNBEAT: Freddy Martin Orchestra
 -46 #202 D: Gene Krupa Orchestra
 -46 #203 D: Gene Krupa Orchestra

2L #162 D: Sam Donahue Orchestra
 #89 YANK BANDSTAND: Sam Donahue Orchestra
 PURPLE HEART ALBUM: Frances Langford First, Baby Made a
 Change in Me
 PHA: Frances Langford First, My Honey's Kiss

1R PERSONAL ALBUM: Ken Harvey First, Rainy Night in Rio
 PA: Ken Harvey, Carl Fisher First, Could Ya?
 AT EASE: First, Holiday for Strings
 AE: First, Danse Espanol

2R #219 AE: First, Over the Rainbow
 #220 AE: First, Journey to a Star
 #243 AE: First, The Way You Look Tonight
 #244 AE: First, Embracable' You

TAPE 5205 MISC. AFRS PROGRAMS

1200'

- 1L #201 TREASURY STAR PARADE: Sammy Kaye Orchestra
 #202 TSP: Lanny Ross
 #585 GUEST STAR (TREASURY): Jill Corey
 #586 GS: Dixieland Jamboree
- 2L -58 #69 STARS FOR DEFENSE (CIVIL DEFENSE): Roger Williams, Four Esquires
 -58 #70 SFD: Victor Borge
 #133 LET'S GO TO TOWN (NATIONAL GUARD): Ralph Flanagan Orchestra,
 Jill Corey
 #134 LGTT: Ralph Flanagan Orchestra, Jill Corey
- 1R -57 #95 MANHATTAN MELODIES (AIR FORCE): Roger Williams
 -57 #96 MM: Tony Cabot Orchestra
 #175 MM: Pat Suzuki
 #176 MM: Ray Conniff Orchestra and Chorus
- 2R #5 TOWN AND COUNTRY TIME (ARMY): Jimmy Dean, Homer and Jethro
 #6 TCT: Jimmy Dean
 #7 TCT: Jimmy Dean, Homer and Jethro
 #8 TCT: Jimmy Dean

TAPE 5206 YOUR HIT PARADE (AFRS)

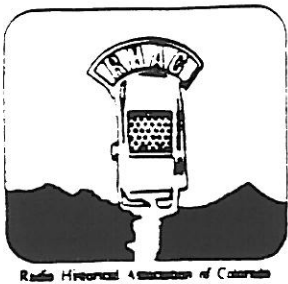
1200'

- 1L 2-19-44 #15 Frank Sinatra, Joan Edwards #1 I Couldn't Sleep a Wink Last Night
 3-25-44 #69 Frank Sinatra, Joan Edwards #1 Shoo Shoo Baby
- 2L 4-7-45 #129 Lawrence Tibbett, Joan Edwards #1 My Dreams are Getting Better
 All the Time
 7-20-46 #196 Andy Russell, Joan Edwards #1 The Gypsy
- 1R 8-3-46 #198 Andy Russell, Joan Edwards #1 The Gypsy
 12-28-46 #219 Andy Russell, Joan Edwards #1 Old Buttermilk Sky
- 2R 1-25-47 #223 Andy Russell, Dinah Shore #1 For Sentimental Reasons
 3-1-47 #230 Andy Russell, Ginny Simms #1 For Sentimental Reasons

TAPE 5207 COMMAND PERFORMANCE, USA / TO THE REAR, MARCH (AFRS)

1200'

- 1L 12-25-43 COMMAND PERFORMANCE, USA
- 2L Bob Hope, Kay Kyser, Jimmy Durante, Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall, Frances Langford, Ed Gardner, Nelson Eddy, Spike Jones and the City Slickers, Ginny Simms, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, the Charioteers, Ish Kabibble, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Dinah Shore, the Ken Darby Chorus, Jack Benny and Fred Allen. Ken Carpenter, ann.
 TO THE REAR, MARCH
 Christmas highlights of 1946, with Fred Allen, Jack Carson and Frank Sinatra
- 1R 12-25-44 #148 COMMAND PERFORMANCE, USA
- 2R Bob Hope, Xavier Cugat Orchestra, Jerry Colonna, Virginia O'Brien, Spike Jones and the City Slickers, Ginny Simms, Jimmy Durante, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, Dinah Shore, Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Kay Kyser, Frances Langford, Dorothy Lamour, Danny Kaye, W. C. Fields, Judy Garland, Spencer Tracy and the Ken Darby Chorus. Ken Carpenter, ann.



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**CASSETTE LIBRARY #1
C/O DAN DECKER
10587-C MAPLEWOOD DRIVE W.
LITTLETON, CO. 80120**

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 1 THRU 499

BARRETT E BENSON
P O BOX 507
PINE CO 80470

01-01-1992



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



R.H.A.C. CHRISTMAS PARTY

7101 W. YALE AVE., DENVER
SATURDAY DECEMBER 14, 1991
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS AND MAP

