

RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.



Volume 20, Number 3

October, 1994



Peg Lynch with some of the millions of words of scripts she wrote for shows such as Ethyl and Albert

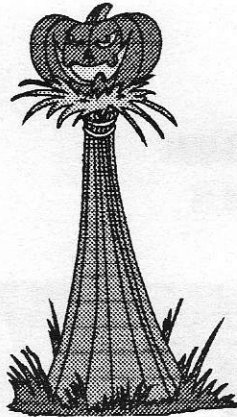


BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: There will be a board meeting **October 6**, 1994, 7:30 p.m., at the home of Dick King, 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood CO. ALL MEMBERS are welcome and invited to attend and participate at the Board of Directors Meeting.



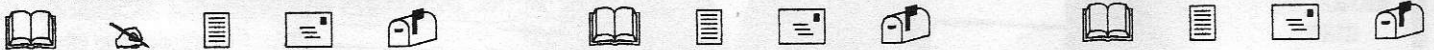
A PLANNING MEETING! We need to talk about where RHAC is NOW and where we want to go with RHAC in the FUTURE! **YOU NEED** to be there! The monthly meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on **October 20**, 1994, at The Church of The Master, 17th Ave. and Filbert Court, Denver.

1995 R.H.A.C. Officers: The staff of R.H.A.C. officers was elected.



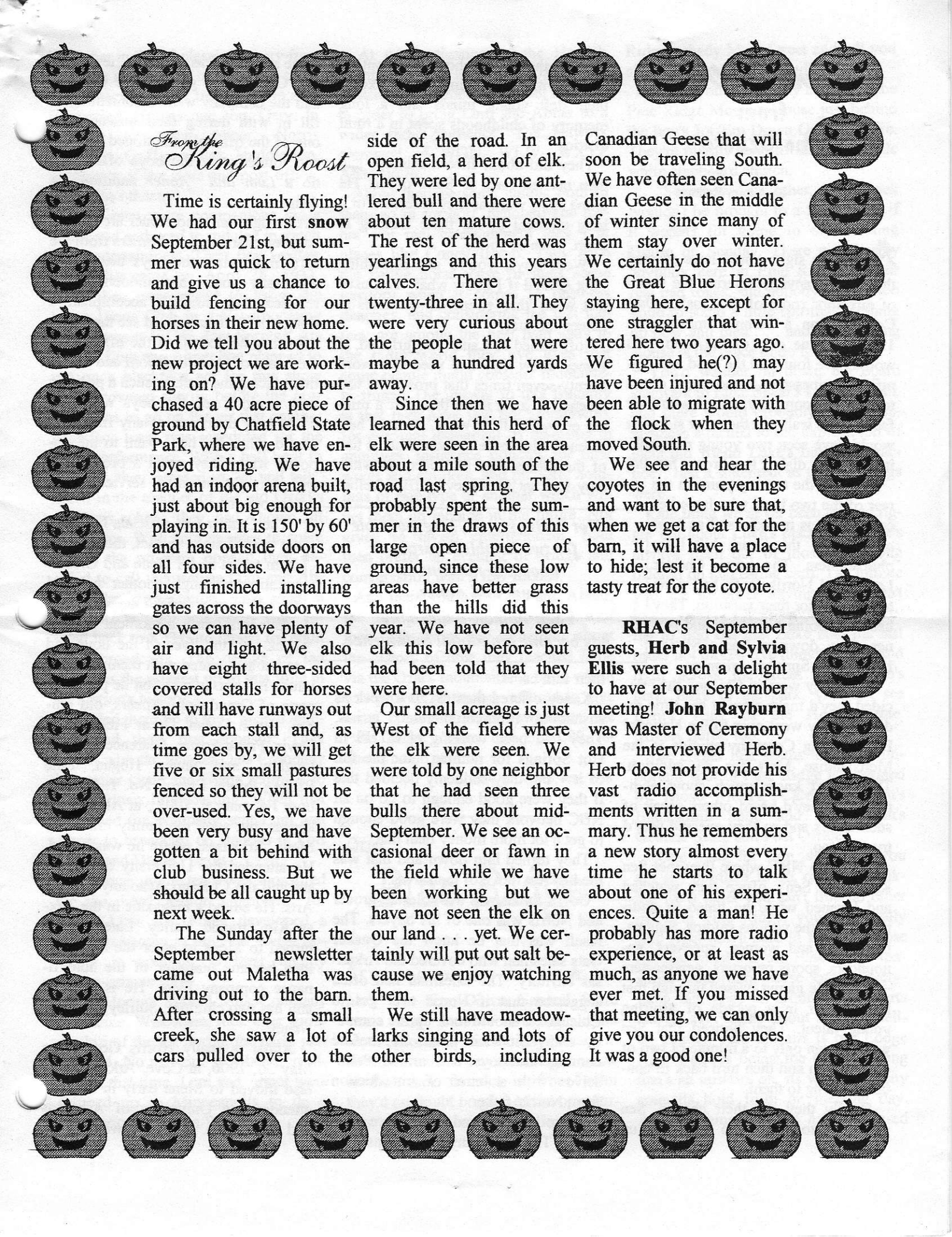
RETURN WITH US NOW. . . is the official publication of *The Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc.*, a non-profit organization. Cost of membership is \$20.00 for the first year with \$15.00 for renewal.

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 where indicated.

- PRESIDENT.....Dick King, 900 W Quincy Ave., Englewood CO 80110.....761-4139
- VICE-PRESIDENT.....Guy Albright, 786 S Quitman St., Denver CO 80219.....934-0184
- SECRETARY.....Glenn Ritter, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150.....377-4798
- TREASURER.....Maletha King, 900 W Quincy Ave., Englewood CO 80110.....761-4139
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR...Glenn Ritter, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150.....377-4798
- R.H.A.C. HISTORIAN.....John Adams, 2811 S Valentia St., Denver CO 80231.....755-9185
- TAPE LIBRARIAN for OPEN REELS: Dick & Maletha King, 900 W Quincy, Englewood CO 80110.761-4139
- TAPE LIBRARIANS for CASSETTES:
 - #1 (1-599) Dan Decker, 10587 #G W Mapewood Dr, Littleton Co 80127.....933-4232
 - #2 (600 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, 1999 Broadway; Lowery Suite, Denver CO 80202.....296-1456
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: David L Michael (see above).....830-0075
- TALKING NEWSLETTER: Mike Fields, 1207 Ruth, Longview TX 75601.....(903)758-6319
- REFERENCE MATERIAL: Bill McCracken, 7101 W Yale Ave.#503, Denver CO 80227.....986-9863
- MEMBERSHIP: Glenn Ritter, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150
- LOGS & SCRIPTS: Fred Hinz, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150
- TAPE DONATIONS: Bill McCracken, 7101 W Yale Ave. #503, Denver CO 80227.....986-9863
- Herb Duniven, 4184 S Syracuse St., Denver CO 80237.....773-1142



*From the
King's Roost*

Time is certainly flying! We had our first snow September 21st, but summer was quick to return and give us a chance to build fencing for our horses in their new home. Did we tell you about the new project we are working on? We have purchased a 40 acre piece of ground by Chatfield State Park, where we have enjoyed riding. We have had an indoor arena built, just about big enough for playing in. It is 150' by 60' and has outside doors on all four sides. We have just finished installing gates across the doorways so we can have plenty of air and light. We also have eight three-sided covered stalls for horses and will have runways out from each stall and, as time goes by, we will get five or six small pastures fenced so they will not be over-used. Yes, we have been very busy and have gotten a bit behind with club business. But we should be all caught up by next week.

The Sunday after the September newsletter came out Maletha was driving out to the barn. After crossing a small creek, she saw a lot of cars pulled over to the

side of the road. In an open field, a herd of elk. They were led by one antlered bull and there were about ten mature cows. The rest of the herd was yearlings and this years calves. There were twenty-three in all. They were very curious about the people that were maybe a hundred yards away.

Since then we have learned that this herd of elk were seen in the area about a mile south of the road last spring. They probably spent the summer in the draws of this large open piece of ground, since these low areas have better grass than the hills did this year. We have not seen elk this low before but had been told that they were here.

Our small acreage is just West of the field where the elk were seen. We were told by one neighbor that he had seen three bulls there about mid-September. We see an occasional deer or fawn in the field while we have been working but we have not seen the elk on our land . . . yet. We certainly will put out salt because we enjoy watching them.

We still have meadow-larks singing and lots of other birds, including

Canadian Geese that will soon be traveling South. We have often seen Canadian Geese in the middle of winter since many of them stay over winter. We certainly do not have the Great Blue Herons staying here, except for one straggler that wintered here two years ago. We figured he(?) may have been injured and not been able to migrate with the flock when they moved South.

We see and hear the coyotes in the evenings and want to be sure that, when we get a cat for the barn, it will have a place to hide; lest it become a tasty treat for the coyote.

RHAC's September guests, **Herb and Sylvia Ellis** were such a delight to have at our September meeting! **John Rayburn** was Master of Ceremony and interviewed Herb. Herb does not provide his vast radio accomplishments written in a summary. Thus he remembers a new story almost every time he starts to talk about one of his experiences. Quite a man! He probably has more radio experience, or at least as much, as anyone we have ever met. If you missed that meeting, we can only give you our condolences. It was a good one!

Rural Wits from The Ozarks

By Aubrey Rodman

A strange sight would have greeted the eyes of anyone entering the board of directors' room of the Quaker Oats Company on a Summer morning in 1931. On one side of the room you would have found all the staid and dignified businessmen, who were directors of the company, seated with their faces to the wall. On the other side you would have seen two young men talking hill billy dialect to a broom handle!

That was the turning point in the career of the two boys who have become famous in radioland as *Lum and Abner*, the Ozark hill billy philosophers. The boys, Chester Lauck and Norris Goff, had gone to Chicago for their vacation. They had been doing their Lum and Abner show down at Radio Station KTHS, Hot Springs, Arkansas.

While they were in Chicago they decided they'd make a try at big time radio. So they went over to the National Broadcasting Company studios in the Merchandise Mart for an audition. They didn't know much about auditions but they'd heard others speak of such things and so they guessed they'd try one, too.

And so to NBC where they met Sen Kaney. In Sen's office they watched and listened while he tuned in auditions from the various studios. Singers, both men and women, speakers, announcers, sports reporters, newscasters — the whole gamut passed through that loudspeaker in a parade of aspiring young talent. They noticed that Sen would listen only to a minute or two of each person and then turn back to continue talking to them.

Finally they got their chance. Sen promised to listen. So they got up

before the microphone without a script, without anything in fact except their deft young minds and a long memory of childhoods spent in a rural district.

They did about fifteen minutes and then hurried back to Sen's office. He didn't say a word as they entered. For a long moment he sat there looking at them. Then he spoke.

Well, boys, you've got something — but darned if I know what! You used that word 'thar' twenty-seven times in fifteen minutes.

Goff turned to Lauck and grinned. If Kaney knew they had used that word twenty-seven times that proved he had listened to a lot more than just a minute or two of their work. At least he'd listened a lot more to them than he had of the others who had been on while they had sat in Kaney's office before

*Hot Springs, Ark., is responsible
for two lovable characters
known to millions as
Lum and Abner.
Their homely philosophy
has become a national indulgence.*

their turn came.

Kaney offered them \$150 a week as sustaining (non-commercial) artists. They had been working at KTHS in Hot Springs for nothing — for the fun of it — but they suddenly decided that if they were good enough to go on an NBC network they were good enough to get a lot more money than that.

They turned him down and that was the luckiest move of their lives.

Goff's father was a wholesale grocer and Norris was one of his buyers. The result was that he knew the Quaker Oats salesman who covered the Arkansas territory. The salesman had often suggested that if Norris ever got to Chicago he should look up the company and visit their plant. So, before coming the boys had armed themselves with a letter of introduction from Norris' father.

There luck entered the picture once again. That company was sponsoring

Gene and Glenn as a radio series. Gene and Glenn were going on a vacation and the company wanted something to fill in with during their absence. So one of the officials mentioned the fact and immediately the boys offered to do a *Lum and Abner* audition for them.

Although Lum and Abner are strictly hayseed characters, old timers from the rural mountains, the boys themselves are really young and modern. They realized they couldn't accomplish a thing if the officers could see them.

So they herded all of the officials in the board of Directors room and seated them facing the wall. In such a position they couldn't see the boys work but could hear them just as any radio fan would. Then the boys went to the opposite wall. They spied a broomstick and brought it into service as a microphone.

The Quaker Oat officials liked the act immediately. In fact, they signed them to fill in for Gene and Glenn's vacation although another act had already been promised the job.

But let's pause a moment to look back into the lives of the boys and to get acquainted with them. Chester Lauck is Lum. In addition he plays the parts of Grandpappy Spears, old citizen, Butch Dolan, Oscar Fields, Dan Davis, Frank Foster, Clarence O. Willoughby, and Snake Hogan, Pine Ridge's Public Enemy No. 1. He was born February 9, 1902., at Allene, Arkansas, but soon the family moved to Mena, Arkansas, where he was raised. He attended the University of Arkansas and the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. He edited a magazine in the Texas Rio Grande Valley. Later he returned to Mena to enter the bank and then became manager of the auto finance company there. He is married and has two children, Shirley Mae and Nancy.

Abner is really Norris Goff, born May 30, 1906, at Cove, Arkansas. He also moved to Mena early in life. He attended the University of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Later he worked for

his father in the wholesale grocery firm in Mena and finally became the company's secretary and treasurer. He also is married. He has one son, Gary. In addition to being Abner, Norris (Toughy) Goff is Dick Huddleston, proprietor of the store and post office, and some others.

Both men were companions since childhood and used to indulge in much local entertainment. Their first venture into radio came on April 26, 1931, when they were asked to assist the Mena Lions Club in a town-boosting program over KTHS, Hot Springs, Arkansas. Lum and Abner had planned to put on a blackface act for this show but discovered shortly before the program was to go on the air that another blackface team was scheduled for the same performance. With a half hour to work in, they decided to "sit and talk" much in the manner of the old Ozarks residents whom they had known all their lives. With five minutes to spare before the program opened they decided to call themselves Lum and Abner. The presentation was such a success that Lum and Abner were invited back to KTHS to repeat for eight more broadcasts. The deluge of fan mail was the greatest up to that time in the station's history.

That led them up to the Chicago audition and their first sponsor. They stayed with the Quaker Oats Company long after Gene and Glenn returned to resume their broadcasting. When that happened the company sent Lum and Abner to broadcast on stations in Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas.

Subsequently the team was sponsored by the Ford Motor Company, for whom Lum and Abner developed a program known as the *Pine Ridge Sociable* in addition to their nightly fifteen-minute show.

The Horlick Malted Milk Company of Racine, Wisconsin, took over sponsorship of the act during the early part of 1934. No network spot being available at that time, Lum and Abner were shipped up to Minneapolis to do a one-station stand via WCCO.

At the instigation of the Horlick Company, the Mutual Broadcasting System was formed in the fall of 1934 in order to bring Lum and Abner to a wider radio audience. The network consisted of WGN, WLW, WXYZ AND WOR.

About their personal habits: both of them go in for golf, handball and tennis. For real entertainment they visit places like Coney Island. They have the native horse-sense of their home territory when it comes to business dealings, and considering the fact that they are among the best paid stars in the radio world they live lives that some people might consider moderately frugal. The answer to this frugality is that they have laid the groundwork for eventual retirement by investing in annuities, insurance policies for their wives and children, and property holdings of one type or another which will net them an income in the future. Not given to lavish entertainment, both men prefer an evening of bridge and conversation with a few friends.

And there you have Lum and Abner, the men themselves, the characters of their radio series and something about the history of how they reached fame via the Ozark mountains—a fame which was proved when they offered to give away copies of their newspaper, the *Pine Ridge News*, and 350,000 requests came in!

RADIO NEWS, July, 1938

Cities . . .

Pine Ridge

If you were to stop at "Lum & Abner's" Jot 'Em Down General Store some lazy summer afternoon, you would probably find the boys smack in the middle of "a argyment about a new hitchin' rack fer out in front." But they'd no doubt be glad of the opportunity to walk with you down Pine

Ridge's shady Main Street and tell you all about their small friendly town.

First off you'd probably be shown the Pine Ridge Meeting House just behind the boy's Jot 'Em Down General Store. They're mighty fond of the pretty little white clapboard church.

"Somehow or other, the week wouldn't be brought to a fittin' close if it weren't for going to the Meeting House on Sunday. There ain't hardly anybody here in Pine Ridge that air real bad fokes, and nobody that air too good to stand a little spiritual breshing up now and then . . . and the Meeting House is the place to do it in."

You'd wander on down the board sidewalk to Luke Spear's Lunch Room, and there would probably be no peevishness attached to the explanation of their old friend Luke's business practices. Just a statement as to how things were:

"One thing we never been able to figger out about Luke's place is how he's always fresh out of most everything offered on that eating card. The minute you try to order anything that ain't baked beans or ham sanrich you're going to find out that Luke sold the last order not moren five minutes ago! And right across the street from Luke's here, there in the park, you can see Lum's 'King of the Hogs' statue. Mighty purty, too."

The corner that seems to be the important spot in Pine Ridge is bounded by Mose Moot's, Caleb Weehunt's Blacksmith Shop and Huddleston's General Store and Post Office.

"One thing for sure, whenever you got any politician' to do, or you're looking for a feller you can't find no other place in Pine Ridge, you'll generally find right down here in front of Mose Moot's. Mose's is our Pine Ridge ton-sorial emporium. Mose knows everything that goes on around these parts and he ain't tetchy about telling a feller, neither. And upstairs is our Lodge Hall. Besides being the only building that's an upstairs on, its where our city councils hold forth on meeting day. Another thing that the hall gets used

fer is band practice by our Pine Ridge Silver Cornet Band. The band was first organized to help Lum out in the campaign fer president.

"Now across the street south there is Caleb Weehunt's. When it comes to free and fancy weight-lifting, general shoeing or fixing up things, there ain't nobody in Pine Ridge can come up to Caleb, our blacksmith."

And your two guides would be generous in their praise of their competitor.

"That over there is Dick Huttleston's General Store, and on top of runnin' about the best store in these parts, Dick is postmaster. Being hooked up with the government that way, Dick has got to know more about politics than most any other feller hereabouts, and most everybody stops by to talk with Dick about who to vote fer in any kind of election. And ever once in awhile the government sends Dick a new batch of pictures and descriptions about fellers that's wanted. Dick could keep all those pictures hisself if he wanted to, and when one of those fellers come along, Dick could collect the reward. But he don't do that. No siree, he plasters those pictures out in plain sight all over town!

"Wished you could see up the street to the new Pine Ridge School House. When they first started at that same school the children had to set on seats made out of rough pine boards, and not them smooth maple slats the children use nowadays.

"Glad you came up this way. Since last time a city feller was here, Abner was elected Mayor of Pine Ridge, and I, Lum, always has the best interests of the community at heart, so any way you look at it we're kind of a Chamber of Commerce for Pine Ridge."

(Now we've never been to Pine Ridge, Arkansas, the real life town named after "Lum and Abner's" creation, and maybe if you were to go there you'd dig up a lot of different history and pictures. This impression came out of the same spirit of good fun that Chester Lauck and Norris Goff, the creators of "Lum and

Abner", use in preparing their broadcasts.)

RADIO LIFE, July 6, 1947

The Discovery of

"MR. KITZEL"

By Arlene Garber

One day seventeen years ago, when Artie Auerbach of the New York Daily News was toting his press camera around, he stopped in at a Bronx drug store to call about his assignment. He has never been quite the same since. That was the day his sensitive ear caught and captured the voice that was saying . . . to the tune of the then popular hit song "Yes, Sir, That's My Baby" . . . to the lady at the drug counter, "Mercurochrome? Yes, we got it—would you like a small or a large one? . . . Yes, lovely day today." From the moment cameraman Auerbach looked at the "little man whom no one could hurt, whom everybody owed money," and heard his Yiddish dialect, he "fell in love with him."

It wasn't until almost two years later that "Mr. Kitzel," now famous for his Jack Benny show characterization, was born. They were years in which Auerbach continued being a newspaper cameraman without any aspirations about going into show business and became a close friend of Maurice Adolff, the Bronx druggist. His first appearance came in some comedy sketches Auerbach had written to submit to Broadway producer Lou Brown. When Lou Brown heard Auerbach give his sketches, all in the cameraman's effort to sell his writing, not his acting talents, he agreed to take sketches, but only if the author would do them on stage for his Broadway show. That was the beginning of "Mr. Kitzel" and the beginning of Artie Auerbach as a comic, with more than one voice in his repertoire. Later he was asked to bring to radio his "Kitzel," whose name, by the way, means

merely "to tickle or make laugh" in Yiddish. In front of the mike he worked as an actor on the Phil Baker show, "Rise of the Goldbergs," with Eddie Cantor, Jack Haley, Al Pearce, Abbott and Costello, and, of course, Jack Benny's air show. After he got to Hollywood in 1937 there was some picture-making for Auerbach, too.

When you talk with Artie Auerbach you begin to see how much of him has become "Mr. Kitzel" of Jack Benny's show . . . the odd little man with the odd name from the odd place . . . Switzerland. You see, too, why "Kitzel" became more than a dialect. The druggist, who is now seventy-six years old but looks only fifty-five, and the radio comedian are still close friends and meet very often. Auerbach said about Mr. Adolff, "This is a wealthy man . . . a man who has found peace of mind . . . the thing we're all battling to find."

With a constantly growing video audience, "Mr. Kitzel," too, is taking to TV. Artie Auerbach is planning the series to be entitled "Here Comes Mr. Kitzel," but hasn't decided whether the Bronx character will be at home best in a drug store or a delicatessen. Because "Kitzel" is a whole person, not merely a voice, his creator believes viewers will not be disappointed in the visual characterization. Whether it's TV or radio there are few who can forget "Mr. Kitzel's" . . . "Pickle in the middle with the mustard on top . . . just the way you like them and they're all red hot."

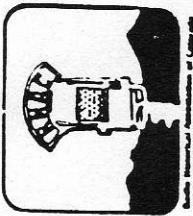
As a master of myriad native tongues and a comic who uses dialects to create his warm-hearted lovable, laugh-provoking characters for radio and personal appearances, Auerbach is the first to point out that "Mr. Kitzel" is more than a dialect. He is all the humanism, a projection of a soul, found deep inside the sort of man who listens to his neighbors problems . . . shares their tears and laughter . . . the true neighborhood druggist whether he lives in the Bronx or Los Angeles.

RADIO-TV NEWS, October 5, 1951

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

C/O DICK KING
 OPEN REEL LIBRARY
 900 WEST QUINCY AVE.
 ENGLEWOOD, CO 80110

OPEN REEL ORDER FORM



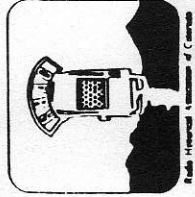
Enclosed is my check or money order in the amount of \$_____ to cover the one month rental charge of \$1.50 per reel for _____ The reels ordered. You are allowed to order as many as 10 reels at one time, although you may only have 10 reels outstanding at one time.

Reel Number	Title
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

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

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

(area code) _____ phone number _____
 I do hereby agree to abide by the R H A C rules and agree not to sell or use library materials for monetary gain.
 _____ Signature



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

Cassette number	Title
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



HALLOWEEN FUN & PLANNING MEETING
R.H.A.C. OCTOBER MEETING will be
October 20th, 7:30 p.m. at
The Church of The Master
17th Avenue and Filbert Court



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

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U S POSTAGE
PAID
DENVER CO
Permit No.
2929

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

