

# RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado, Inc.

# NOW...



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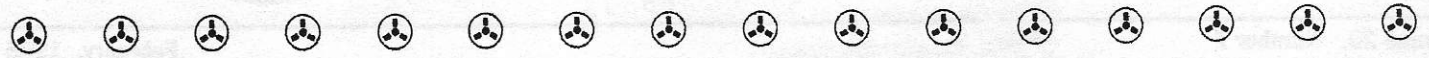
Bob Elliott and Ray Goulding created many memorable characters and, beginning in 1946, brightened radio with their comedy.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:** There will NOT be a board meeting February, 1995.



There will NOT be a regular monthly meeting in February, 1995



**RETURN WITH US NOW...** is the official publication of *The Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc.*, a non-profit organization. Cost of membership is **\$25.00** 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.



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*From the*

## *King's Roost*

For the first time in over eight years (we don't remember exactly) we are increasing our rental charges on tapes and cassettes. We have been severely hit by the recent postal increases.

For some weight classes, these postal rate increases have been as high as 71%. We pay the postage on tapes going out and the member pays the postage for the return.

Our catalogs for new members now cost a lot more to print and to mail. Hence, we have had to increase the starting membership fee. However, we have **NOT** increased the membership renewal fee.

We do not like to have to go through the process of having to raise fees. Ours is a non-profit organization . . . which also means that we cannot absorb losses.

We just want to be able to continue to enjoy the work we do and help others enjoy the pleasures of hearing our old time radio tapes.

Denver has had "June in January" this year. Gratefully, here in very late January, we now have just slight relief with a couple of inches of

snow. Although there have been frequent and plentiful snows in the mountains, Denver and the surrounding area has had no snow. We are very dry and the farmers are hoping for moisture. We had a bit of drizzle this week but remain way below normal for this area. We see and read of floods in Texas, in the Southeast and in California but we stay dry and wishing for moisture of some kind.

The reason I say this is because it has been so warm and dry for most of January that we were hoping for rain. Many people who know of our skiing in the mountains and

### *Many people prefer old time radio to television because . . .*

*"the pictures are better."*

think that Denver, being the gateway to the Rockies, must be covered with snow all winter. That is not the case. Normal years, we will have a little snow most weeks, but it is usually gone before the next snow arrives.

Today we went for a nice horseback ride in the Chatfield State Recreation Area near our farm. The weather was starting to move in as we were returning. We were joined by another rider and rode together for a short time on property adjacent to ours.

We flushed out some goose hunters that tried to say they had a lease on property that belonged to a friend of ours. They were, however, willing to pack up and leave when it was suggested that we knew better and that the sheriff might be notified.

We found the band of deer that frequents our area. We also rode by a den that is probably a coyote den, or it might have been a red fox den. It is interesting that the wildlife does not pay any attention to the horses or riders. However, they certainly were watching a man who had a camera and was crouching near a bush. He had assumed a pose similar to the predators they watch for. The same animals gave us only a glance as we rode by. We watched as the deer moved slowly toward a fence, then quietly hopped over it. One of our riding party had never before seen deer jump and was properly impressed by the deer's strength and agility.

Perhaps, with winter coming, we will be able to listen more frequently to our tapes of old time radio shows. We have many new members who are just beginning to taste the treasures our club offers. We always encourage these new listeners to make it a family affair whenever possible.

# He Grew Up To Be Presidents

## Edward Arnold Finds His Niche in Radio Portraying All Presidents

By Joan Buchanan

Thursday, 9:30 p.m., ABC

As Johann Sutter in "Sutter's Gold," Edward Arnold started the gold rush in California; in the title role of "Diamond Jim Brady," he founded a financial empire; as Jim Fisk in "The Toast of New York," he caused an American depression; as Daniel Webster in "The Devil and Daniel Webster," he set the pattern for great oratory by engaging "Scratch" himself in a battle of wits. It took radio, however, to make him president—and, by golly, it made him all forty-eight of 'em!

As "Mr. President" Arnold is required each week to portray a different American president. Each "Mr. President's" name is carefully hidden and at the end of the show, Arnold reveals who it was. Of course, if you're up on your history you may be a step ahead of him, but many of the dramatized incidents are the little-known ones and even a student of Americana might find himself surprised at the end of an Arnold program.

Arnold, himself, has a knowledge of American presidents — Roosevelt and Truman, to be specific. As one of the founders of "I Am An American" day, Arnold met both the leaders about eight years ago.

"Harry Truman," laughed Arnold, "never misses out on that daily walk. When he first moved into the White House, he drove the intelligence men wild—they were supposed to guard him, but they could never find him. He'd sneak out of the house and go for a walk!" Arnold also revealed that Truman is the possessor of a well-developed sense of humor. It seems that Arnold, after stumping for Dewey during the last election, was invited to a banquet in Washington. The vacant seat next to him was taken by President Truman. "It's too bad that you

made those speeches for Dewey, Eddie," Truman told him, "otherwise, he might have won!"

Arnold has spent much time in Washington and has observed the workings of our Congress at close range. He thinks that the thing that most people don't take into consideration about the representatives is that "they're very human, after all. They'll argue like mad during a session and then all settle down and have lunch together afterward!" Arnold told us of attending a breakfast that included guests of such diverse political beliefs as Senator Connelly, Senator Clark of Missouri, Speaker Bankhead and Henry Wallace.

Arnold, as head of the Motion Picture Permanent Charities Committee, has as much on his mind as a busy Congressman. He has an office in Beverly Hills where he does his work for this organization. As we chatted with the amiable actor (who, incidentally, has just had a tooth pulled!) we noted on the wall documents given him for his various services. There were awards from the China Relief Legion, the War Agencies of the U. S. Government War Activities Committee, the Legion of the Flag, the Treasury Department, the American National Red Cross, Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Screen Actor's Guild Board of Directors (for Arnold's service as President) and a citation conferring on him the status of Arkansas Traveler from the State of Arkansas.

The actor calls himself fascinated by his new radio job. As soon as he finds out each week what president the coming script will be about, he looks up the subject in his library at home. He thinks that perhaps the lesser known men who have headed our government such as Presidents Tyler, Polk and Buchanan might furnish some of the most unusual stories. Also Jackson, Andrew Johnson and Thomas Jefferson because of the dramatic circumstances that surrounded their presidencies. Arnold has visited Jefferson's home, Monticello, and told us of seeing Jef-

erson's invention, the original dumb waiter!

To the wit who asked Arnold how he was going to do Coolidge, Arnold said, "I don't make any attempt at characterizations—they are all 'Edward Arnold'—or else there would be no guessing game on the show."

On the personal side—Arnold looks exactly the same off screen as on. He laughs a lot and then looks suddenly serious as he clamps on his glasses. He is a good listener and a good raconteur. In a one word description, you'd call him "benign." He calls "Come and Get It" and "The Devil and Daniel Webster" his favorite roles. He is a lover of classical music and he listens to the Gas Company program instead of collecting records. He was a trustee of the Symphony Society for eight years. He admits he plays safe and says "hello" to everyone, because so many people mistake actors for people they know. He has two married daughters, Betty and Jane, and a son, William, who was a war-time pilot. He has portrayed "Daniel Webster" three times. He says some of his fans "like to see me dirty," others write their approval when he does a father role. After being a screen "strong man" for many years, he gets his first cinema bawling out in "The Hucksters"—and it takes Clark Gable to do it. He was born on New York's lower East Side and triumphed over a tragic childhood to become a fine actor and the *presidents* of the United States.

RADIO LIFE September 7, 1947

## EDWARD ARNOLD: The President's "President"

By Evelyn Bigsby

Monday, 9:00 p.m., ABC

A quiet little joke has been carried on now for some time between Chelios, maitre d' at the Vine Street Brown Derby, and Edward Arnold. Whenever the estimable actor appears at the restaurant door, Chelios addresses him as "Mr. President," while Arnold reciprocatingly calls the dapper headman "Mr.

Speaker." Flitting fun though this may be, it betokens the solid regard with which Edward Arnold is viewed even in Hollywood itself. His three year mikestance as ABC's "Mr. President" is accepted as a perfect piece of casting in and outside the industry.

Perhaps Arnold's acting has a more convincing ring because of his deep interest in politics. He labels himself a "liberal Republican," though he admits having voted twice for Franklin D. Roosevelt. He readily confesses he is "intrigued by Congress and our government" and went so far last election as to file for Senator on the Republican ticket.

"Taking his radio role seriously!" some Hollywoodites kidded, but actually the idea struck many as excellent. They were soon plunged into disappointment, however, when Arnold withdrew his name.

Asked what prompted this he said: "I didn't have time to organize my campaign." Asked whether he might file some time again he answered: "I think I am too old for a political career. Besides, I guess I love show-business too much to leave it. But I'm too big a ham not to like politics!"

Arnold has more than nodding acquaintance with Washington's top echelons, and though the actor modestly refuses to discuss his Capitol friendships at every opportunity, it is known that President Truman regards radio's "Mr. President" highly. Naturally, Arnold calls Truman "Mr. President," but surprisingly more fun is the fact that the executive calls the actor "Mr. President," too.

Disparity in their party connections does not seem to mar the "Mr. Presidents" friendship. When Arnold swung by Washington during his straw-hat circuit this last summer, he was told Truman would be hurt if he passed by without making a call. For forty-five minutes, the chief-executive entertained the radio chief without once mentioning serious politics. The President, according to Arnold, displayed keen interest in his air series

and suggested that President Coolidge be dramatized on the program. When Arnold demurred, observing that Coolidge was not considered a particularly colorful character for treatment. Truman disagreed and pointed out examples of Coolidge's rare sense of humor. One of these was Collidge's prank with six or eight pushbuttons which he would ring under his desk to summon his staff en masse. Then, according to Truman, Collidge would quickly run away to watch the wholesale and bewildered influx.

Arnold appreciatively accepted the tip and some time may be starred in a "Mr. President" show incorporating this example of a Collidge facet few have known.

Occasionally, the President has jovially needled Arnold about his Republicanism, notably one time subsequent to the actor's making a speech on behalf of Dewey for president. Shortly after, Arnold was invited to the White House for luncheon, and somewhat uncertain as to how Mr. Truman might interpret his stumping for a rival candidate, felt reluctant to accept the invitation. He finally did, though.

Seated at the table, President Truman blithely started the conversation by saying: "Mr. President, what's this I hear about you making a speech for Dewey?"

"Yes, I did." Arnold admitted.

"He'd have had a lot better chance if you hadn't," Truman countered.

Were Edward Arnold persuaded to assume a political career, speech-making would be but one strong point in his favor. To millions he would represent individual American achievement at its best. He is what the press would latch onto as "a striking example of a poor orphaned boy from New York's lower East Side Settlement House, where his performance attracted John D. Barry, instructor at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. In between acting roles, Arnold worked in a meat shop, a jewelry store, an upholstery shop, in the engine rooms in the basement of Columbia

University, selling papers and as a bell hop. He seems never to have lost the common touch, though today he is a wealthy man and a respected leader in the picture and radio industries. Last Christmas, when he heard that his magazine's editor was heading a project for needy families, "Mr. President" freed himself from his multiple duties long enough to push a grocery cart around one of Hollywood's big markets, where he personally selected the cans and packages he wanted his donation to include.

It pleased Arnold on a recent Washington visit when Vice-President Barkley informed him he always listened to "Mr. President."

"But you sometimes make mistakes," the "veep" continued.

"Like what?" Arnold wanted to know.

"The other day you had 'Nearer My God To Thee' as McKinley's favorite hymn and it was 'Lead Kindly Light'"

"Well, now and then we make a mistake," Arnold replied. "We do it on purpose, just to see if you fellows are listening."

RADIO-TELEVISION LIFE, January 5, 1951

## The Mysterious Traveler

*The Mysterious Traveler* first rode the rails on Mutual in 1943 as a Sunday-night sustained show. The series ran on Mutual for nine years, bowing out in 1952, never having had a sponsor.

All memorable radio characters had their distinctive entrees. The Whistler came whistling out of the night; Captain Midnight came zooming down in his airplane; The Shadow was just there suddenly, knowing all evil that lurked in the hearts of men. *The Mysterious Traveler* came on a train. "This is a Mysterious Traveler, inviting you to join me on another journey into the strange and terrifying. I hope you will enjoy the trip, that it will thrill you a little and chill you a

little. So, settle back, get a good grip on your nerves and be comfortable—if you can . . .

Maurice Tarplin brought just the right amount of morbid mischief to the Traveler's voice. Like the Whistler, he never appeared in the stories; he narrated from on high, from an omniscient perch within the soul of his hero. The stories ran from wild "end-of-the-world" science fiction to straight crime. In some ways, *The Mysterious Traveler* was as close to *Escape* in story content as it was to *The Whistler*.

"Behind the Locked Door," the all-time classic *Mysterious Traveler* show, was requested again and again by listeners. A pair of archaeologists found an old cave buried behind a landslide. Blasting away the rubble, they saw the remains of an ancient wagon train. Gradually Professor Stevens pieced together the story. The pioneers, pursued into the cave's mouth by attacking Indians, were sealed alive. But what if they hadn't all died? What if some thrived underground, reproducing themselves through the ages? What if people still lived in this dark world, five generations removed from civilization? What would they look like?

Slowly the horror of their situation began to creep over them. Their guide was attacked; they found him with his throat torn out. Then their lights flicker and go out; alone, in total darkness, they prepare to meet the monsters of the cave. The story ends with a scream of terror, blending into the clackety-clack of the Traveler's train: "Oh, you have to get off here! I'm sorry! I'm sure we'll meet again. I take this same train every week at this same time . . ."

The Traveler was always pulling endings like that. We never quite saw the monster, but maybe in a

way that was better. Anyway, that's how the stories flowed from the typewriters of Robert A. Arthur and David Kogan, who also produced and directed.

As with most unsponsored anthologies, *The Mysterious Traveler* avoided "star" players and instead drew its talent from the world of the unsung radio professional. Scores of musicians, announcers and actors—representing many of the mediums best pros—worked on the show over its nine year run.

*Tune In Yesterday* by John Dunning, ©1976, Prentice-Hall, Inc.

## The Falcon

*The Falcon*, Drexel Drake's suave detective, came first to the screen in a slick series of RKO Radio Pictures. From there, it was one step to radio with Barry Kroeger playing the role on ABC in the fall of 1943. On July 3, 1945, *The Falcon* emerged on the Mutual network as a Tuesday-night mystery series. James Meighan starred as Michael Waring, "that freelance detective who's always ready with a hand for oppressed men and an eye for oppressed women." Waring, for reasons more dramatic than practical, was known to friend and foe alike as the Falcon. The format was built around the telephone. The show began with the phone ringing; inevitably there was some gorgeous dish on the other end. Waring's greeting was smooth, laced with a slight trace of British put-on, and very identifiable. Always addressing women as "Angel," he begged out of a date each week, with such excuses as, "I've got to teach some gangsters that you can't get away with murder—especially since the

murder they want to get away with is mine!" That was our entree, as the bouncy *Falcon* theme blended into an opening signature. Waring's style was somewhere between *Ellery Queen* and *Richard Diamond*. He had a fine eye for detail, but was usually on the outs with the cops. Little matter; in this show, as in many detective thrillers of the air, the cops were stupid anyway. The Mutual series was sponsored by Gem Razors and Blades, and contained one of the most memorable commercials of the era. In a whispering voice, the announcer spoke against the ticking and tolling of a clock, dropping each word between the clock's chimes:

Avoid . . . five . . . o'clock . . . shadow!

Use Gem Blades! . . . Use Gem Blades! . . . Use Gem Blades!

The show was produced by Bernard L. Schubert. Meighan played the title role for several seasons, then passed it to a succession of actors, most notably Les Damon. The Gem Razor Tuesday-night series ran on Mutual from 1945 through the spring of 1947. Then Mutual moved it to Monday in 1947 and Sunday in 1948, where it sustained until 1949. Anahist picked up sponsorship of the show in 1949. In the fall of 1950, announcer Ed Herlihy came aboard for Kraft Cheese, which sponsored the show on NBC Sunday nights until 1951. It was again sustained in 1951-52, returning to Mutual as a Monday-night General Mills series in 1952-53. *The Falcon* was last heard on Mutual in 1954. The part of Waring was also played by Les Tremayne.

*Tune in Yesterday* by John Dunning, ©1976, Prentice-Hall, Inc.

# R. H. A. C.

Radio Historical Association of Colorado

**P O BOX 1908 ENGLEWOOD, CO 80110**

303-761-4139

We regret to advise that we are going to have to increase the tape and cassette rental rates. The last increase by the Post Office was an average of 71% in postage charges on the library rate that we use for mailing. In the past, the rates only increased 5% to 10% and we did not increase our rates, although several other clubs did at that time. We cannot continue to absorb these increases.

**Reel to Reel new rental fee will be \$2.00 per reel.**

**Cassette sets new rental fee will be \$2.50 per set.**

**Our new rates will be \$.50 more for each catalog number effective March 1, 1995.**

The above rates do not include the blind as their material is sent postage free.

New memberships will be increased to \$25.00, but the renewals will remain the same \$15.00. If a present member wishes to order a new catalog, the new price will be \$20.00. We will be ordering a new batch of catalogs about April. These will all have the updated indexes and any other updates we have made, although our regular members will an updated index and other sheets in their monthly newsletters, so those of you that keep your catalogs up, will not have to order a new catalog.

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09/01/1995  
[Handwritten scribbles]

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**Happy Valentine's Day!**  
and a  
**Great President's Day!**

