



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 23, Number 6

January, 1997



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

Dedicated to the preservation of old time radio programs and to making those programs available to our members.

RHAC BOARD MEETING FEB. 5, 1997 AT THE HOME OF DICK AND MALETHA KING Old time radio is alive and well in Denver!

John Rayburn's "Reminiscing with Rayburn" Saturday evenings 6:00 till 11:00 PM KEZW 1430

KEZW has syndicated OTR weekdays from 7:00 till 8:00 PM 1430 on the dial.

KEZW "Sunday Night Movie", Sundays 5:00 till 6:00 PM

KFKA 1310 AM "Radio Memories" Sundays 6:00 till 12:00 PM

E MAIL ADDRESSES CHECK HERE FOR NEW E MAIL ADDRESSES

RHAC web page and catalog is on the world wide web. <http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>
Take a look, there is a lot of information at this sight.

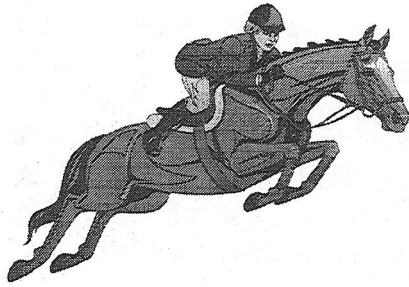
RETURN WITH US NOW... is the official publication of the *Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc.*, a nonprofit organization. Cost of membership is \$25.00 for the first year with \$15.00 for renewal. Each member has full use of the club resources. For further information contact anyone listed below:

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LIBRARIES

REFERENCE MATERIAL	Bill McCracken, address above	986-9863
LOGS & SCRIPTS	Fred Hinz, c/o RHAC, P O Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150	
OPEN REEL TAPE LIBRARIAN:	Maletha King, 900W Quincy Ave, Englewood CO 80110	
CASSETTE TAPE LIBRARIANS:		#1
(1-499)Terry Hamilton, 9393 E Colorado Ave, Denver CO 80231		696-8196
#2 (500-999)David Gatch, PO Box 70 Glen Haven, CO 80532		970-577-0805
#3(1000-2000)Dave Logan, 5557 S Sherman Cir, Littleton CO 80121		730-1430
#4 (5001 up) Mika Rhoden, 3950W Dartmouth Ave, Denver CO 80236		937-9476



THE KINGS ROOST

Now that 1998 is here, we can all take stock of what our club had done in 1997 and how we have all benefited from the club .

Our new president, Fred Bantin has lots of ideas to make our meetings interesting for our Denver area members, and how we can better serve some of our long-distance members. It will all take a bit of time, but we will announce new things as we go on in the new year.

In the mean time, our friends in the Sherlockians club "Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients" are putting on an original Sherlock Holmes play on Saturday, Feb. 21st at the Centura Senior Center, 1601 Lowell Blvd., West Entrance, at 10:00 AM in the morning. Better plan to be there about 9:30AM. The author of this script is our own John Licht, and may need a few extra voices if the Sherlockians

don't fill the roles. If interested call John at 757-7500.

We have sent out new catalog indexes to all members that have the older catalogs. Please be sure to update your catalogs with these new pages. We are still getting a few checks made out to the librarian that members are ordering from. Please be sure that you make out checks to RHAC.

New entries to the library include some very interesting stories about "Soldiers Of The Press" and one reel of Chevrolet Musical Moments. Many of our members are especially interested in the music shows and for those of you that are adventure advocates, "No Place To Hide" and "Soldiers Of The Press" should be of interest to you

It has been a cold month for us in December, and although we all say that January is our coldest month , we can remember lots of Januarys that gave us mild and shirt sleeve weather. Our version of June in January, right here in our own backyard. In fact, we often have to try to protect our plants from thinking it is spring and time for them to start growing and blooming. This year they should be protected, since there has been lots of snow to cover the ground. We remember lots of

years that we rode on the hunt and referred to the event as "skiing on horseback". We are just not up to doing many of the things we did in our younger years, but we weren't members of a club such a RHAC that keeps us very busy and we can only look back and we have our pleasant memories of times past.

Now that the Christmas mail rush is over, reels and cassettes should be moving easily and you should all get your orders to help you fill your many hours available for listening to OTR shows. We have always been glad to see December 22nd, as the days seem to grow longer at a rapid rate and gives us a chance to get out and do more evening activities.

We need to acknowledge the shipments of reels to the contributor's library by new member Jack Mandick.. He has sent lots of material that will be entered in the library in the future. Jack sent a very good cross-section of material that has something for everyone. We certainly thank him for sharing his OTR with all of us.

We are in a bit of a quandry about four Canadian members that have not renewed. We know that the mail service up there was on strike for quite a while, but how long should we wait for them to renew.

Presidents Message:

Now that all the holidays are over for awhile, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and was able to enjoy a lot of old time radio with a holiday theme. Now its time to look forward to the new year and I hope a lot of you made resolutions to attend some of the Members Meetings in 1998. Your first opportunity will be January 15th at 7:30 PM at the Church of the Master.

This meeting will Highlight the Jack Benny program and a telephone conversation is planned with Larry and John Gassman from SPERDVAC, known authorities on Jack Benny. Also at this meeting Larry Weide, a club member, plans to enlighten us on Armstrong. Not Jack Armstrong but rather Major Edwin Howard Armstrong an early major contributor to radio inventions. He is responsible for such things as the Superhetrodyne, FM, FM Stereo, and the Sniper Scope .

He was a contemporary of David Sarnoff of RCA and Lee DeForest of the triode vacuum tube. But I'll leave all that for Larry Weide to tell you about and explain. Also there will be a display of

crystal sets and anyone wanting to come early, say 7:00 PM can have a chance to tune a crystal set and play with a cat's whisker. And don't forget to register for the drawing.

The telephone conversation with Larry and John Gassman will take place at the meeting sometime between 8 and 9 PM. Bring to the meeting any questions that you might have about Jack Benny, his career, the show, Carmichael and the gas man, Jell-O or Lucky Strike, Rochester, the "feud" with Fred Allen, the Maxwell, "Love in Bloom" and the violin, the dual theme songs, and especially the saying "Your money or your Life".

It appears from the Members Interest Sheets from the last meeting that there is the most interest in Radio Show Recreation and Sound Effects. Perhaps we can reactivate the RHAC Players. If you are interested and did not fill out a Members Interest Sheet, give my wife JoAnn a call. Since her degree is primarily in Theater and nobody else wanted to be Chairman as long as all decisions are made as a group. Our number in Aurora is 303-343-7508 or in Greeley 1-970-356-8862. Other interest from the meeting were Early Denver Radio, Big Bands, Internet,

and History of RHAC. If you did not fill out a Members Interest Sheet at the November meeting, sheets will be available at the January meeting.

Looks like Sherlock Holmes will be the Highlighted show in March. Looking forward to an enjoyable January meeting and seeing many of you there.

Jack Benny

From the Big Radio Comedy Program.

Fred Allen called Jack Benny "the best-liked actor in show business," and this affection was shared by the millions of listeners who made *The Jack Benny Program* one of the most popular shows in broadcasting history. Benny's undeniable livability on microphones as well as off seems curiously at odds with the character he portrayed. On the face of it, there would seem to be nothing particularly lovable about a vain, rather pompous and fussy cheapskate so touchy about his age that he could never admit to having reached his fortieth birthday. Yet that is how we felt about him. We loved him. Perhaps it had something to do with the universality of his failings. With any objectivity at all, we

would have to recognize them in ourselves. Perhaps it also had something to do with the familiarity air. The merest allusion to his penny-pinching or his toupee or the pride he took in his blue eyes and dubious skill on the violin was enough to set all America laughing.

Jack Benny was the master of the running gag, and the best and most durable of those gags was the Benny character itself. It expressed itself in any number of ways: in the predictability of his responses; in such fantastic devices as the underground vault where he hid all his money and the ancient Maxwell automobile he was too cheap to retire; in the catchphrases - "Oh, for heaven's sake!" or "Now cut that out" - we looked forward to hearing him say every Sunday evening. The fact that we didn't hear them every week but maybe only three or four times a season was a tribute to his perspicacity about what makes a show work and keeps an audience interested. *The Jack Benny Program* was perhaps the most carefully crafted of all comedy shows; John Dunning calls it in *Tune in Yesterday* "one of the best-oiled piece of precision work on the air. "Benny made a particular point of rotating the running gags so they wouldn't be overplayed, and he was

always quick to abandon those that didn't really work or had worn out their welcome. He also made a point of backing himself with standbys to fill up his weekly half-hour.

The front line of support consisted of a quintet of first-rate performers who all had their own carefully defined comic personalities. Mary Livingston, Benny's wife in real life, was a breezy, ironic deflator of the star's ballooning ego. Orchestra leader Phil Harris played a caricature of the flashy, hard-drinking, woman-chasing barely literate dance-band musician. Rochester, acted to perfection by Eddie Anderson, was Benny's put-upon chauffeur and housekeeper, who always seemed to get the better of his boss. Tenor Dennis Day was the naive, impressionable kid role he continued to fill even after he had eleven kids of his own. Portly announcer Don Wilson was the victim of everyone's fat-man jokes and had his own comedy turn in the humorous commercial at the middle of the program, a Benny innovation designed to keep the comic mood intact while the product was being sold.

All five of these performers joined the show in its early years and remained with it until the end. (Dennis Day was the last to arrive-in 1939,

when he replaced Kenny Baker, who had signed with Fred Allen.) They were an important part of the show's success, and Benny generously allowed them a large share of the laughs. Irving Fein, Benny's producer, tells us in his biography of the comedians that on one program Benny went so far as to let them take over the entire half-hour. Limiting himself to a single line at the end. He regularly let himself be the butt of their humor, an unusual reversal of the standard relation between star and hired help.

Benny's second line of support was just as strong. There was the versatile Mel Blanc, the voice of Bugs Bunny and the other Warner Brothers cartoon characters, who impersonated everything from Professor LeBlanc, Benny's frustrated violin teacher, to his parrot and wheezing Maxwell. There was Artie Auerbach, who played Mr. Kitzel ("Peek-le in the meedle and the mustard on top!"). There were Sheldon Leonard, the racetrack tout ("Psst! Hey, buddy!") and Frank Nelson, the epicene floorwalker ("Ye-ess?"). There was gravel-voiced Andy Devine ("Hiyah, Buck!"), who came in for the Buck Benny sketches that became so popular that Paramount pictures developed them into a

feature film. With all this talent, there was somehow even room for the Sportsmen Quartet and visiting stars like Ronald Colman and Danny Kaye. It had to be the fullest, most richly textured thirty minutes in radio.

Benny made his first radio appearance in 1932 on an interview show hosted by Ed Sullivan, then a columnist for the *New York Daily News*. His oft quoted opening lines were, "This is Jack Benny . . . There will now be a slight pause while everybody says, 'Who cares?'"-a bit of self-deprecation that seems to contradict the egotism of the Benny character that developed later but which is actually very much at the heart of it. Benny was already a twenty-year veteran of vaudeville and was currently starring on Broadway in *Earl Carroll's Vanities*. But he had become fascinated with the potential of radio, and when he was offered his own series as a result of the Sullivan appearance, he left the security of a high salary to try his luck in the new medium.

Irving Fein writes that, having spent years developing a seventeen-minute act. Benny was terrified by the prospect of having to come up with new material every week. his close friend George Burns solved the problem by lending

him his writer, Harry Conn. Conn stayed with Benny for four years, and when he left he was replaced by a series of other top comedy writers. Unlike Fred Allen, Benny was not a writer himself. His great talents were his timing and delivery and his skill as an editor and idea man. In his first series he introduced a number of innovations that were to become mainstays of radio comedy: the comic commercial, satires of current movies and the extensive use of sound effects.

The Jack Benny Program began broadcasting over NBC on May 2, 1932, and was an immediate hit. In 1934 Benny moved to the seven o'clock Sunday evening time spot he would occupy the rest of his radio career and began being sponsored by General Foods' Jello, a relationship that lasted until 1942. In later years sponsorship was taken over by Grape Nuts Flakes and then Lucky Strike Cigarettes. In 1949 he was paid two million dollars to come to CBS, where he remained until 1955, when he switched over to television.

Members please note:

We have had some questions about the 1/4" wide masking tape that's used to secure the ends of the reel to reel tape to keep them from unwinding during shipment in the mail.

This tape is used in the painting industry. Both standard paint stores and the automotive paint stores have it for use in making fine stripes. One roll of it will last a life time , so don't stock up.

One member phoned after receiving his new index for shows we offer. His question was are all available on cassette. Yes, that is why we have four cassette libraries. The only reels not on cassette are the sports reels. Please be sure to order from the correct library to help us expedite your order. Library #1, Terry Hamilton has cassette numbers 1 through 499. Library #2, David Gatch has numbers 500 through 999. Library #3 is handled by Dave Logan for numbers 1000 through 2000. Library #4 is Mika Rhoden for the 5000 series. Maletta King handles all of the 7" reels. Please do not order numbers from other libraries on the same order.

E-mail has now become another way of life, many of our members have subscribed. If you have an E-mail address , we would like to have it for your file. Just jot it on your renewal.

Rest assured that RHAC does not sell or otherwise distribute the names and addresses of our members.

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLORADO

ORDER BLANK FOR CASSETTE LIBRARY #3 #1000 to #2000

DAVE LOGAN

5557 S. SHERMAN CIR. # 8 LITTLETON, CO 80121

303-730-1430

Enclosed is my check or money order for the sum of \$_____ to cover the one month rental charge of **\$2.50 per set** for the cassettes ordered. You are allowed to order 5 cassette sets at one time although you may only have 5 cassette sets from this library at one time. **Minimum order is \$7.50.**

Cassette number.

Title

1 _____

2 _____

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

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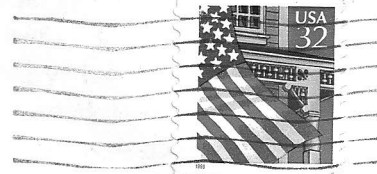
JACK BENNY

WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF THE JANUARY MEETING
THE REGULAR MEETING WILL BE AT 7:30 PM. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TICKLE
THE CATS WHISKER BE THERE AT 7:00PM. THE PLACE IS THE CHURCH OF THE
MASTER. EAST 17TH AVE AT FILBERT COURT, ENTER AT THE FILBERT COURT
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