


RETURN WITH US NOW...

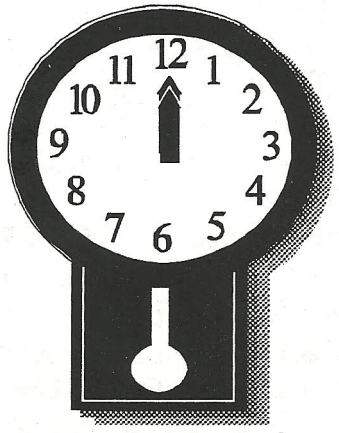
RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO



Volume 23, Number 9

April, 1998

Mur-der A-a-att Mid-night!



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 Apr. 2, 1998
 AT THE HOME OF HERB DUNIVEN SEE ADDRESS BELOW
 Old time radio is alive and well in Denver!

KRMA Channel 6 Secondary Audio Program, RHAC's show "Tribute to OTR" Sunday 2:00 PM
 KEZW has syndicated OTR weekdays from 7:00 till 8:00 PM 1430 on the dial.
 KFKA 1310 AM "Radio Memories" Sundays 6:00 to 12:00 PM

The 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 site.

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.

Phone numbers are in the (303) area code except where indicated.

President:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------|
| Vice-President: | Guy Albright, | 934-0184 |
| Secretary: | John Stevenson, PO Box 1908 Englewood, CO 80150 | 573-7558 |
| Treasurer: | Maletha King, address below | 761-4139 |
| Newsletter Editor: | Stewart Wright, 725 Moore St #4 Lakewood, CO 80215
E-Mail: stewwright@worldnet.att.net | 237-4055 |
| R.H.A.C. Historian: | John Adams, 2811 S Valentia St., Denver CO 80231 | 755-9185 |
| Talking Newsletter: | Mike Fields, 243 S. 1100 E. Greentown, IN 46936 | |
| Membership: | Dick King, PO BOX 1908 Englewood, CO 80150
E-Mail: dick.king1@worldnet.att.net | 761-4139 |
| Tape Donations: | Bill McCracken, 7101 W Yale Ave #503, Denver CO 80227
Herb Duniven, 4184 S. Syracuse St., Denver CO 80237 | |
| Directors at Large: | David L Michael, 1999 Broadway, Lowery Suite, Denver CO 80202
Herb Dunniven See Above
Dick King See Above | |

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, 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood CO 80110 | |
| Cassette Tape Librarians: | | |
| | #1 (500-999) David Egan, PO Box 70 Eden Haven, CO 80532 | 970-577-0805 |
| | #2 (1000-2000) ave Logan, 3337 S Sherman St., Littleton, CO 80121 | 730-1430 |
| | #3 (1000-2000) ave Logan, 3337 S Sherman St., Littleton, CO 80121 | |
| | #4 (5001 up) Mike Rhoden, 3950W Dartmouth Ave., Denver CO 80226 | 937-9476 |

President's Message:

Due to work and other commitments, our President, Fred Bantin has resigned. His resignation is effective immediately. We would like to thank Fred for his fine work.

Articles Still Needed!

As you will see in this issue, some members have supplied articles for the Newsletter. For this Newsletter to remain a means of disseminating information, articles from our members MUST be received on a regular basis.

We have about 550 members. If each member would write an article once every five to ten years, we would have more than enough articles.

I can be reached by telephone, regular mail, and E-Mail. See the inside cover of this month's Newsletter for all the pertinent information.

Stewart Wright - Editor

Murder at Midnight

At the May meeting the RHAC Players will entertain us with a re-creation of the radio show

production "The House That Time Forgot". This is a "Murder at Midnight" radio show that the RHAC Players did in the past, but was so well remembered that they want to do it again as their first production after being reunited. This production will have sound effects — both recorded and actual from equipment that is in the development stage.

From *Tune In Yesterday* *Murder at Midnight* was a series produced by KFI, Los Angeles, and syndicated in 1946. It featured tales of the supernatural and macabre by radio's top writers and performers. Elspeth Eric, Mercedes McCambridge, Berry Kroeger, Betty Caine, Carl Frank, Barry Hopkins, and Lawson Zerbe were *Murder at Midnight* regulars. The stories were wild tales of death and the uncanny — of severed hands coming to life, of death appearing as a man in a black beard. It told of "the witching hour... when the night is darkest, our fears the strongest our strength at its lowest ebb. Midnight — when the grave gapes open and death *strikes!* Thus comes *Murder at Midnight!*" This show tried to do what *Inner Sanctum* did so memorably on the networks; the stories were often the equal of *Inner Sanctum* yarns, but the format wasn't in the same ballpark. Writers included

Robert Newman, an old *Inner Sanctum* alumnus, Joseph Ruscoll of *Mollé Mystery Theatre*, Max Ehrlich of *Suspense*, and William Morwood of *Bulldog Drummond*. Charles Paul contributed the creepy organ music; the director was Anton M. Leader. And that sinister-voiced narrator whose voice dripped "MURRR-DERRR —A-A-ATTT MID-NIGHT!" was none other than Raymond Morgan, a former Long Island minister who had given up the cloth for the excitement of radio.

Ed. Note: There were 50 episodes of *Murder at Midnight*; 2 were recorded, but never broadcast. Of these 50 episodes, at least 33 are in circulation. The RHAC libraries have 25 episodes; see the Tape Library Index.

Favorite Radio Series Recollection of Sherlock Holmes

by Dr. Charles Beckett
"Elementary, my dear Watson!" How those words still ring in my ears. Spoken in the crisp, clipped tones of Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holes, they brought me to full attention in front of my radio during my youth in the 1930's & 40's. Nigel Bruce, as

Holmes friend Dr. Watson, with his bumbling and mumbling, seemed to me the perfect foil and counterpart to Holmes "no-nonsense" character.

Watson never failed to get my sympathy when Holmes directed one of his frequent impatient or sarcastic remarks toward him. However, Holmes made up for his sarcasm with the occasional "That's it, Watson!" when his devoted friend uttered something seemingly trivial that set Holmes' mind racing, and resulting in a critical clue he needed to solve a crime.

On rare occasions the proud Holmes was humbled in some small way. One such instance occurred in "April Fool's Adventure," broadcast April 1, 1946." After knowing Holmes for only a short time, Watson was talked into helping two of his former school chums play an April Fool's joke on the young detective, whom they felt took himself too seriously. They were enthusiastically assisted by Lady Anne, owner of a priceless emerald. She hired Holmes on the pretext of having him retrieve the jewel that she claimed had been stolen from her wall safe. Watson and his fellow conspirators planted phony clues in her home that caused Holmes to unknowingly

describe his own features and characteristics when identifying the thief. However, after overcoming his wounded vanity, he solves the actual theft of the emerald and retrieves it. He also identifies the real thief, one of the joke players, James Murphy - later to become better known as Professor Moriarty, Holmes' lifelong antagonist, until Moriarty's death during "The Final Problem" at Reichenbach Falls.

Holmes' could also occasionally find himself at the mercy of others. One occasion, on the May 21, 1945 program, "The Paradol Chamber," Professor Moriarty had trapped Holmes and Watson in an airtight Teleportation Chamber. The hero in their rescue unexpectedly turns out to be Dr. Watson's wife, Mary, who did some fancy deductive sleuthing of her own, freeing Holmes and her husband and saving them from certain death.

The series, with Rathbone playing Holmes, aired from October 2, 1939 through May 27, 1946 - initially as *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and later as *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. The last broadcast in which Rathbone appeared was "The Singular Affair of the Baconian Cipher." Tom Conway replaced him in the fall of 1946 and the 1947 season,

with Bruce staying on as Dr. Watson, & receiving top billing.

The classic portrayals of Rathbone and Bruce as Holmes and Watson were backed by the contributions of a first-class supporting team, including Harry Bartell (announcer), Dennis Green and Anthony Boucher (writers), and Dean Fosler (music).

I am sometimes saddened knowing that the Holmes and Watson of my youth are gone forever. But are they? Whenever I slip a Rathbone/Bruce Sherlock Holmes tape into my cassette player, I am again magically transported back to the charm of Victorian London, or the damp and foggy moors of Scotland, or to so many other picturesque places that still live on in my mind. And once again, I can hear Holmes' voice above the decades, exclaiming, "Come Watson, the game's afoot!"

Ed. Note: There are several episodes of *Sherlock Holmes* from various vintages in the Libraries, see the Tape Library Index. Many *Sherlock Holmes* episodes of the Rathbone/Bruce era are available commercially.

Radio Quiz

Member David Michael has submitted several quizzes on old-time radio. Ten questions will a month appear in the

Newsletter.

Who resided at or in, or what program was set in, or what was at?

1. 79 Wistful Vista
2. Summerfield
3. 1879 Rogers Road
4. Yale
5. 14th & Oak (at least two)
6. Town Hall
7. Monroe
8. Glenn Falls
9. Big Town
10. Havana

Tune in next month for the answers to this month's quiz.

Ordering Tapes

The cassette tape libraries often experience a high volume of orders, many tapes are out on loan to members. When you place a tape order, please list 12 alternate selections in the space provided on your order form. If you only put primary selections on your tape order and one or more of your selections is currently out to another member, your order will be delayed.

New In the Library

This month's additions to the library include many fine CBC music and drama programs.

There music tapes are from the *CBC Jazz from Canada* series recorded during 1962 and the *Folk Singers of Canada* series recorded in 1963. The recent additions to the library from CBC drama series include *Tales of the Red Men*, *Sunshine Sketches Of A Little Town*, *Canadian Short Stories*, and *Radio-Canada Playhouse*.

Old-Time Radio and the World-Wide Web

How can you quickly and easily find:

program logs for hundreds of radio shows; program scripts; recent articles on specific Old-Time Radio (OTR) shows and topics; book reviews and bibliographies; commercial tape and equipment vendors; radio-related clubs and organizations; radio programs that you can listen to any time you want; information on conventions, tape and radio collecting; answers to OTR questions; and meet people who share your interests in Old-Time Radio?

You can find all of this information and much more by accessing the World-Wide Web.

This column will not be for

answering technical questions relating to computer software and hardware, but rather to provide information and answer questions our members have relating to Old-Time Radio on the *World-Wide Web* (or *Web*). This month's column will cover some basics on the *Web*. Future columns will deal with specific topics relating to OTR and the *Web*.

What is the *Web*?

A graphical interface to access the Internet system of computer networks. The *Web* is like a large electronic library.

What do I need to access the WWW?

A computer with modem and sound card, a telephone line, communications and browsing software, and an online or Internet service provider. All of the preceding except the service provider come with most computers. A modem is a device that allows the computer to transmit and receive information over telephone lines. Your existing home phone line will probably be satisfactory for Web use. A service provider gives you access to the Web. Many libraries, colleges, and universities have on their premises computers with WWW access set up for the public to use.

Where can I learn about the WWW and getting on-line?

Lots of places. Many senior and community centers, continuing education programs, libraries, and colleges and universities offer low-cost or no-cost classes on how to use the WWW. The American Assoc. of Retired Persons is sponsoring more than 500 seminars in 30 cities during the next few months to introduce their members to the Internet and computer technology.

What is a *URL*?

A *Uniform Resource Locator*, an address to a specific *Web* site or document. This address or *link* allows you to access a specific Web location or site. Browser software allows you to maintain an list of URL's.

What are some good *Web* Sites on Old-Time Radio to start with? Any sites listed in this column do not represent an endorsement by RHAC or this writer.

Radio Historical Association of Colorado. The URL is:
<http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>

The Original Old-Time Radio (OTR) WWW Pages. The granddaddy of *Web* sites, information on lots of OTR topics. The URL is:
<http://www.old-time.com>

Jack's List of Old Time Radio Page. *Links* to lots of OTR

Web sites. The URL is:
<http://www.pe.net/~rnovak/jack.htm>

Upcoming Conventions

Watch this column for the latest information on Old-Time Radio Conventions and special events. Listings will be updated as information is received.

12th Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention 05/29-30/98

Location: Cincinnati, OH
Contact: Bob Burchett
10280 Gunpowder Rd,
Florence, KY 41042
(606) 282-0333

There will be recreations of *Ethel & Albert*, *Archie Andrews*, *The Green Hornet*, and *Pat Novak For Hire*. Also scheduled are programs on the Golden Age of Radio and Sound Effects. See the March Newsletter for a listing of guests attending.

RadioActivity 98 Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Festival

06/2-4/98
Location: Laurel, MD
Contact: Brian Belanger
(301) 258-0708 or
e-mail BCBelanger@aol.com

Radio Showcase VI
06/19-20/98
Sponsored by Radio

Enthusiasts of Puget Sound
Location: Seattle, WA
Contact: (425) 488-9518 or
e-mail HRRMikes@aol.com
See the March Newsletter for particulars.

3rd Old-time Music and Radio Conference

06/2-4/98
Mt. Airy, North Carolina.
Contact: Surry Arts Council
Box 411
Mount Airy, NC 27030
1-800-286-6193 or
336-786-7998

14th Annual Lum and Abner Society Convention

06/26-27/98
Mena, Arkansas
Contact: Tim Hollis
81 Sharon Blvd.
Dora, AL 15062
(205) 648-6110

23rd Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention

10/22-24/98
Holiday Inn-North
Newark, NJ
Contact: Jay Hickerson
Box 4321
Hamden, CT 06514
(203) 248-2887
JayHick@aol.com

15th Annual SPERDVAC Convention

11/13-15/98
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles;
Contact: Larry Gassman
(562) 947-9800

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLORADO

ORDER BLANK FOR CASSETTE LIBRARY #1 001-499

SEND TO: TERRY HAMILTON
9393 E. COLORADO AVE. DENVER, CO 80231-3006
303-696-8196

Enclosed is my check or money order for the sum of \$ _____ to cover the one month rental

This file including all text and images are from scans of a private personal collection and have been scanned for archival and research purposes. This file may be freely distributed, but not sold on ebay or on any commercial sites, catalogs, booths or kiosks, either as reprints or by electronic methods. This file may be downloaded without charge from the Radio Researchers Group website at <http://www.otrr.org/>

Please help in the preservation of old time radio by supporting legitimate organizations who strive to preserve and restore the programs and related information.

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

Ship to: _____ Date _____

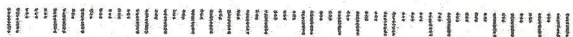
Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I do hereby agree to abide by the RHAC rules and agree not to sell or use library materials for monetary gain and *I will return the tapes on time.*

SIGNATURE

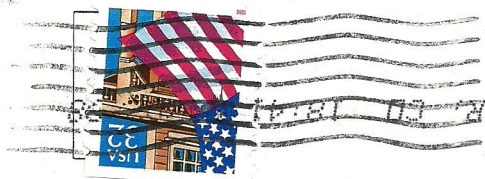
PHONE NUMBER



99212-3258 25

99212
TOM BROWN
1402 S. KAHUNA DRIVE
SPOKANE WA
09/01/1998

FIRST CLASS MAIL



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLO.
P O BOX 1908 ENGLEWOOD, CO 80150



Murder At Midnight & **John Dunning's New Book**

Will be the Subjects of the May Meeting

The Regular Meeting will be on Thursday, May 21st at 7:30 P.m. The place is as usual, the Church of the Master — East 17th Ave. at Filbert Court. Enter at the Filbert Court door.

Filbert Court is between Colorado Blvd. and Monoco.