

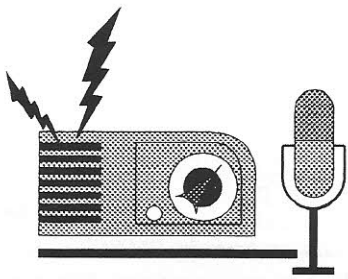


RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 25, Number 11

June, 2000



Greatest Moments in Old-Time Radio

by Elizabeth McLeod
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60. We Hold These Truths 12/15/41

An eloquent paean to the Bill Of Rights by Norman Corwin, featuring a cast of big-name stars and heard over all networks becomes one of the most-heard single broadcasts of the entire radio era, with an estimated audience in excess of sixty million. Coming just a week after the US entered the Second World War, the program sets the tone for Corwin's wartime output -- programs stressing a uniquely populist brand of patriotism.

59. Sorry Wrong Number 5/25/43

It's lost a lot of its impact from constant repetition -- is there anyone out there who doesn't know how it ends? But Agnes Moorehead's hand-wringing, tour-de-force performance in Lucille Fletcher's tight little murder story is, in many ways, the essence of the radio suspense drama. Its notoriety helps land CBS's sustaining *Suspense*

series a big-budget sponsor, and helps lay the foundation for a twenty-year run.

58. Light's Golden Jubilee 10/21/29

Radio joins the nation together in tribute to the fiftieth anniversary of the invention of the electric light bulb. Thomas Edison himself is the guest of honor in an elaborate ceremony broadcast from Dearborn, Michigan under the auspices of Henry Ford, and President Hoover heads a long list of dignitaries on hand for the festivities. Even Albert Einstein joins in by shortwave from Germany. Graham McNamee, at mikeside for NBC, and Ted Husing for CBS, give a stirring descriptions of the highlight of the evening -- the re-enactment of the lighting of the first electric bulb. The entire event is one huge publicity gimmick, orchestrated for General Electric by PR mastermind Edward Bernays -- and points the way for a long succession of self-congratulatory Corporate Media Events to follow.

57. The Rise of Information Please Summer/Fall 1938

Bright people sitting at a table talking. No scripts at all -- just questions sent in by listeners, the sort of things we'd call "trivia" today. It doesn't sound like a particularly promising idea -- but *Information Please* proves to be the surprise radio hit of 1938. It's a highbrow show that even a lowbrow can love, with questions ranging from Shakespeare to baseball, and panelists able to cover all that ground with energy left over for sparkling repartee.

Continued on Page 3

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 Thursday, June 8, 2000 - 7:30 PM

At

Larry Weide's 5270 E. Nassau Cir. Englewood, CO

303-758-8382

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 1430 AM *When Radio Was* weekdays from 7:00 - 8:00 PM *Radio Movie Classics* Sundays 5:00 - 6:00 PM

KFKA 1310 AM *Radio Memories* Sundays 6:00 to 12:00 PM

KUVO 89.3 FM *Destination Freedom* 3rd Sunday of the month 7:30 PM - **BROADCAST LIVE!!!!**

RHAC WEB SITE

The RHAC web page and catalog is on the World Wide Web:
<http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>

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 1st year with \$15.00 for renewal. Each member in good standing has full use of the club resources. For further information contact anyone listed below.

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Reference Material:	Bill McCracken, address above	303-986-9863
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 (1-499)	Ron Gallagher 880 South Dexter #607, Denver, CO 80426	303-692-0531
#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	303-730-1430
#4 (5001 up)	Mika Rhoden 3950W Dartmouth Ave., Denver, CO 80236	303-937-9476

New Librarian Steps Forward

We want to thank Ron Gallagher for taking over as Librarian for Cassette Library #1. Because of Ron's willingness to volunteer, this popular library will continue to be available to our members. We also want to thank the other members who volunteered to be the librarian.

If you are ordering from Cassette Library #1, be sure to use the new form on page 7.

KCME Radio Writing Contest

KCME, the Cultural Voice of the Pikes Peak Region, will conduct its annual Radio Playwriting Contest to mark the fifth season of the Radio Theatre series. The winning script will be produced and broadcast in the *KCME Radio Theatre* season on March 8, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three original radio scripts about the life and times of a classical composer or the background surrounding the writing of a major classical music work.

Scripts will be accepted at KCME on or before November 1, 2000 and can be delivered or mailed to KCME - 88.7 FM, 1921 N. Weber, Colorado Springs, CO 80907. For a script to be returned a self-addressed stamped envelope must be included. Prize winners will be announced during the January 11th *Radio Theatre* broadcast.

Submissions must conform to several conditions to qualify for judging. The script must be original, written for radio, a half-hour in length and typed. Script formats written for theatre, film or television will not be accepted.

A panel of three judges experienced in radio drama will evaluate submissions by various criteria including classical music theme, characterization and dialogue and others listed in the following rules. Decision of the judges is final. Everyone is eligible except the judges and KCME staff. Questions may be directed to Clay Roehl at (719) 471-3866.

Contest Rules

Prizes:

The 2000-2001 *KCME Radio Theatre* Playwriting Contest will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Cash Prizes for original scripts with the following content:

- The life and times of a classical composer,
- The background surrounding the writing of a major classical work, and
- In story form with characters and not narrative alone with music inserts.

Deadlines:

Scripts must be received and/or postmarked on or before

November 1, 2000

Scripts are to be delivered or mailed to:

KCME 88.7FM

1921 N. Weber

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Prize winners will be announced on the January 11, 2001

Radio Theatre broadcast

Broadcast of the winning script will be in the *Radio Theatre* schedule March 8, 2001

Scripts:

Must conform to the following conditions to qualify for judging:

Scripts must be original

Half-hour in length

Typed, 1-1/2 or 2 spaces between lines

Must have all music and sound cues included and underlined

Lines numbered on the left

Title and page number in the upper right corner of each page

Number of characters limited to 10 maximum

Scripts written for theatre, film or television will NOT be judged

Judging:

A panel of three experienced in radio will judge each script. Among the criteria will be:

Does the script deal with a single idea or theme?

Is characterization generally simple, direct & sharp?

Is the dialogue crisp, sure, telling and relatively brief?

Does the script have "audience appeal"?

Does the script move with absolute freedom in time and space?

Does the plot develop rapidly & the action move swiftly?

Does the script give insight into the characters?

Do the music and sound effects set the mood and location of the story?

Eligibility:

Everyone is eligible except contest judges & KCME staff.

Radio's Moments Of The 20th Century

Continued from Page 1

The series spawns a number of forgotten imitators -- *So You Think You Know Music? Fun in Print* -- as well as a sort of precocious little niece known as *The Quiz Kids*, but none of the imitations ever rise to the level of the original. And one could argue that in the unscripted, spontaneous *Information Please* format one finds the true ancestor of the modern talk show.

56. *Mrs. Wicker and Miss Mack. 1930-31*

Radio for children splits into two directions at the dawn of the 1930s -- the heavily commercialized and hyperactive adventure serials, and the quieter, more contemplative sort of entertainment best represented in the works of Irene Wicker and Nila Mack. Both come to prominence as the 1930s are getting underway: Wicker as NBC's *Singing Story Lady* and Mack as the director of CBS's *Adventures of Helen and Mary*, a precursor to the better known *Let's Pretend*. There are formatic differences between the two -- Wicker is essentially a solo performer, while Mack works behind the scenes of a fully-dramatized production -- but they share a similar outlook on the sort of entertainment they offer to youngsters. And together, they blaze a trail to be followed in later years by such thoughtful creators as Paul Tripp, Bob Keeshan, Shari Lewis, and Fred Rogers: a trail that leads to a world of gentle imagination.

55. *And Now Get Ready To Smile Again... 1932*

Husband-and-wife situation comedies first show up in the late twenties, with shows like *The Jenkins Family* and *Graybar's Mr. and Mrs.* They're all pretty much the same sort of thing: harassed white-collar husband dealing with a more-or-less ditzy wife. Even bright spots like the urbane *Easy Aces* are simply variations on this standard format. But in 1932, an NBC-Chicago staff writer named Paul Rhymer takes this cliché and turns it sideways. *Vic and Sade* isn't a sitcom, isn't a drama, isn't really a serial. It's easier to say what it isn't than to figure out what it is -- a fun-house-mirror held up to a quiet Midwestern family that manages to be both profoundly ordinary and awesomely bizarre. And it echoes down thru the years in the works of such performers as Jean Shepherd and Bob Newhart.

54. *Little Orphan Annie and the rise of Juvenile Adventure. 1931*

With a new decade comes a new approach to childrens' programming -- rollicking, rousing, blood-and-thunder serialized adventure: epitomized by a blank-eyed frizzy-haired funny-paper heroine. On radio, Annie loses the harsh ultra-right-wing political overtones of Harold Gray's comic strip -- and becomes the personification of an aggressive childhood: solving mysteries, exploring the world, and horrifying Concerned Parents for more than a decade. From the drooling hard-sell of the Ovaltine commercials to the endless send-away-premium offers, *Annie* sets the tone for an entire genre: *Jack Armstrong*, *Tom Mix*, *Captain Midnight*, *Hop Harrigan* -- they're all her children.

53. *The Lone Ranger Hits The Big Time: January 1934*

The Mutual Network wasn't founded by *The Lone Ranger*, no matter what they claim at WXYZ. But when the Masked Rider Of The Plains rides onto stations in Cincinnati, Chicago and New York -- by arrangement of the Gordon Baking Company -- he strengthens the links that already exist between WOR and WGN, stations that are already on the way to becoming the nucleus of that new chain. And more important, The Ranger goes on to become radio's most enduring contribution to American popular culture -- and one of the best-known fictional characters of all time.

52. *Dr. Brinkley almost wins the Kansas Governorship Fall 1932*

Today, we see him as a quaint sort of quack -- a bearded face right off a patent medicine bottle, a twanging Kansas voice offering up spicy barnyard metaphors. To the AMA, he was a dangerous fraud -- parlaying a phony medical degree and an eccentric idea for revitalizing impotent men into a national reputation over his radio station KFKB. But to his heartland followers in the 1920s and early 1930s, John Romulus Brinkley is a champion -- fighting for their interests against them slickers from the Big City, and their support makes KFKB, for a time, the most popular station in the United States. Following investigations by the AMA and the Kansas City Star, Brinkley's fraudulent background is made public -- but that doesn't stop the Doctor. Eventually, from an ultra-high-power radio station just over the Mexican border, Brinkley blankets the entire nation with his graphic condemnations of Internationalism, the Medical Establishment, and prostate massage. On the strength of his down-home line of patter -- and his unstoppable signal -- he comes within 30,000 votes of winning Kansas' highest office. Brinkley's station is finally muzzled by Mexican authorities in 1941, and he dies bankrupt in 1943 -- but his tradition of medical/political charlatanism is alive and well today on dozens of shortwave and small-time AM stations.

51. *Orson Welles becomes The Shadow 9/26/37*

It isn't great art. It's never a ratings blockbuster. But this Sunday-afternoon superhero saga has captivated generations of listeners. And many of those listeners will tell you that the 22-year-old Welles was the greatest Lamont Cranston of them all. Others (including me) may find him a just bit too callow compared to the more mature Bill Johnstone. But no one will dispute that Welles makes an impression in the role -- and even more important, the part helps pave the way for even more impressive roles to come.

Editor's Note: Elizabeth's Radio's Moments Of The 20th Century will be taking a one month's hiatus and will

resume in the August issue of *Return With Us Now*. . . Elizabeth McLeod is a journalist, researcher, and freelance writer specializing in radio of the 1930s. She is a regular contributor to *Nostalgia Digest* magazine and the *Internet OldRadio Mailing List*, maintains a web site, Broadcasting History Resources, and is presently researching a book on Depression-era broadcasting. Elizabeth is always looking for 1930s radio recordings in all formats -- uncoated aluminum or lacquer-coated discs, vinyl or shellac pressings, or low-generation tape copies.

You can contact her at:
lizmcl@midcoast.com



By JoAnn Bantin

The *RHAC Players* & the *DWNP Players* produced "The Iron Box" on Sunday, May 7, 2000 at the VFW Hall on 9th & Bannock. Again it was a great success and the audience was wonderful.

We received 42 letters from Hinkley High School students thanking the *Players* for the performance of "Murder at Midnight" which we did the last of April for their Literacy Day Celebration. They seemed to enjoy seeing how a radio show was done and especially the acting, the electronic sound effects, and the mechanical sound effects. They hoped that we would return next year with another show for them.

We are now going to begin a new set of plays beginning with "The Amulet of Nefertiti." This play has been written by Larry Weide and will be produced on Thursday evening, July 20th as a dinner theater at Country Buffet Restaurant at Villa Italia. Dinner will begin at anytime at your arrival, the meeting will begin in a private dinning room at 7:p.m. The play will begin immediately after the business meeting. We want everyone to be there and to bring your friends. This will be our first original play and it is full of mystique and adventure. You will actually be in Egypt and hear all the sounds and echos of that place so far away. Put on your safari clothes and come with us for a great time. Please RSVP if possible. Call Larry Weide at 303-758-8382 or email him at lweide@ibm.net.

Announcements and dates will be made in the next Newsletter about the upcoming play in October, "Arsenic & Old Lace," transcribed by Francie Maesel and directed by John Licht. This is a very enjoyable and enchanting play. Dates of readings and productions will be

announced next month.

Again, anyone out there who is interested in becoming part of the *Players*, please give us a call. We very much are looking for female actors, technical staff and writers. Hope to see all of you soon..

Radio Spiral Puzzle

By Jack Richards

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This time we have a slightly different type of puzzle. You can start it at square 1, on the upper left-hand corner and work your way in or at square 101 near the center of the puzzle and work your way out. There are separate sets of clues for working Outside to Inside or Inside to Outside.

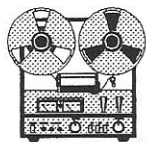
Answers can be found on the back page of this month's issue.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	11
37	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	47	12
36	67	90	91	92	93	94	75	48	13
35	66	89	RHAC			95	76	49	14
34	65	88				96	77	50	15
33	64	87				97	78	51	16
32	63	86				101	100	99	98
31	62	85	84	83	82	81	80	53	18
30	61	60	59	58	57	56	55	54	19
29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20

Clues - Outside to Inside

- 1-6 Johnny _____, Pier 23
- 7-10 Boy/Girl Meeting
- 11-14 He was Chester in *Gunsmoke*
- 15-19 Proofreading mark
- 20-24 One who runs
- 25-31 Surgical term
- 32-37 What kittens loose
- 38-43 Vegetable bed
- 44-46 *The Halls of* _____
- 47-55 A map
- 56-63 Smelly vessel
- 64-67 From _____ this place
- 68-71 Bambi was one
- 72-75 _____ Morrison was *the Shadow*

- 76-82 Clifton _____ hosted *Information Please*
- 83-88 Indian attack
- 89-92 Sort
- 92-96 Work
- 97-101 Within the law
- Clues - Inside to Outside**
- 101-99 Behind
- 98-92 He played Remley
- 91-88 Not fowl
- 87-82 Less than human
- 81-78 Among
- 77-73 Next
- 72-68 Reproduce
- 67-65 To turn
- 64-61 At the apex
- 60-56 Yarn activities
- 55-51 *The Shadow's* girlfriend
- 50-46 Chester Gould's detective
- 45-42 Long plant
- 41-35 OTR police show
- 34-31 *March of* _____
- 30-27 Empty weight
- 26-23 Small opening
- 22-17 Was a Master Detective
- 16-13 Land measure
- 12-9 Incite
- 8-4 Love
- 3-1 River construction



New in The Tape Library

By Maletha & Dick King

Radio is a great tool for stimulating the imagination and this month we are offering a wonderful cross-section for every taste.

The first of this month's entries will please our members that like war-time stories that are very well presented in the *Proudly We Hail* reels that start us off remembering that we had men left in the war areas helping to secure the peace after WWII. Nothing seems to change, we are still doing it.

The members who enjoy the "far out" shows will enjoy the *Orbit One Zero* and also the *Devil and Mr. O* series by Arch Oboler. They are true masterpieces of bone-chilling stories.

For those looking for adventure shows they remember from teenage years, we have a whole reel of shows for them. *Alice In Wonderland* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass* are classic that were used in classrooms

and schools because they were such great works of literature.

Yes, this month we have something for everybody! *The Horn Blows at Midnight* or *The Thing on the Fourble Board* both of which are classics that have been copied by many player groups for years.

Did You Know That...?

This monthly column features little-known facts about Old-Time Radio.

Red Ryder

Not only was Art Gilmore an announcer for *Red Ryder*, he also whistled the theme song - "The Dying Cowboy."

Anne Whitfield played Little Beaver for a few weeks on *Red Ryder* when the boy in the role suffered the fate of all young male actor's - his voice changed.



OTR On The World-Wide Web Yesterday USA

Yesterday USA is a radio station that broadcasts actual radio shows and vintage music from the 1920's - 1950's, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The purpose of *YUSA* is to preserve the history of radio broadcasting. The service is available free of charge to all. The station is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from listeners and anonymous donors. In order to receive *YUSA* you must have either: access to the Internet via a computer equipped with a modem and sound card, a C-Band backyard satellite system (not the new RCA DSS system), be served by a cable TV system that carries *YUSA*, or be in range of various low-power AM & FM stations that broadcast *YUSA*.

Yesterday USA operates on a two week programming schedule. Individual programs are hosted by volunteers and are repeated at different times during each two week period. Programs broadcast on *YUSA* include: *The Golden Days Of Radio* hosted by Frank Bresee and *This Is Radio* with hosts John and Larry Gassman. John and Larry also conduct live interview of Old-Time Radio personalities on *YUSA*.

You will find lots of information and news about the station, and its programming at the *Yesterday USA* Web site: <http://yesterdayusa.com>

Yesterday USA
2001 Plymouth Rock
Richardson, TX 75081
Phone: (972) 889-YUSA

WWWAudio:

<http://www.broadcast.com/radio/oldtime/yestrday>

Members' Meeting & Dinner Theater

Where: The Country Buffet at the Villa Italia shopping center, 7200 W. Alameda Ave., Lakewood Colorado

When: Thursday, July 20th

See *RHAC Players* article on page 5 for more information.

Spiral Puzzle

Answers

Outside to Inside		Inside to Outside	
1-6	Madero	101-99	Lag
7-10	Date	98-92	Elliott
11-14	Baer	91-88	Fish
15-19	Caret	87-82	Subman
20-24	Racer	81-78	Amid
25-31	Operate	77-73	After
32-37	Mitten	72-68	Breed
38-43	Garden	67-65	Yaw
44-46	Ivy	64-61	Atop
47-55	Cartogram	60-56	Knits

Outside to Inside

56-63	Stinkpot
64-67	Away
68-71	Deer
72-75	Bret
76-82	Fadiman
83-88	Ambush
89-92	Sift
92-96	Toil
97-101	Legal

Inside to Outside

55-51	Margo
50-46	Tracy
45-42	Vine
41-35	Dragnet
34-31	Time
30-27	Tare
26-23	Pore
22-17	Carter
16-13	Acre
12-9	Abet
8-4	Adore
3-1	Dam

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