



# RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COLORADO

Volume 26, Number 06

January, 2001

## *The Shadow*



# RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

PO BOX 1908, Englewood, CO 80150 303-761-4139

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

## RHAC Board Meeting Thursday, February 8, 2001 - 7:30 PM

At: Dick and Maletha King 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood, CO 80110 303-761-4139s

Old time radio is alive in Denver!

KLZ 560 AM	Music of the 1930's - 60's with John Rayburn	2 PM - 6 PM, Weekdays
KRMA Channel 6	Secondary Audio Program, <i>Tribute to OTR</i>	Sunday 2:00 PM
KEZW 1430 AM	<i>When Radio Was</i> weekdays	7:00 - 8:00 PM
KFKA 1310 AM	<i>Radio Memories</i> Sundays	6:00 to 12:00 PM
KUVO 89.3 FM	<i>Destination Freedom</i> Tuesday, January 16th	9:00 PM "Negro Cinderella" - (The story of Lena Horne)

RHAC WEB SITE <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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### LIBRARIES

<b>Reference Material:</b>	Bill McCracken	7101 W Yale Ave #503 Denver, CO 80227	303-986-9863
<b>Logs &amp; Scripts:</b>	Fred Hinz	c/o RHAC P O Box 1908 Englewood, CO 80150	
<b>Open Reel Tape:</b>	Maletha King	900 W. Quincy Ave. Englewood, CO 80110	
<b>Cassette Tape:</b>			
#1 (1-499)	Ron Gallagher	888 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

## RHAC Calendar of Events

*Watch here for upcoming events*

March, 2001	Possible RHAC visit to a "Live" <i>Destination Freedom</i> Broadcast
August, 2001	RHAC Picnic
December, 2001	RHAC Christmas Party

### Conventions

#### 15th Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention

Apr 20 - 21, 2001 at the Radisson Hotel in Cincinnati.

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

#### National Audio Theater Festival

June 18 - 24, 2001, William Woods Univ., Fulton, MO;

Contact: Sue Zizza, 115 Dikeman St., Hempstead, NY 11550 (516) 483-8321 [Suemedia1@aol.com](mailto:Suemedia1@aol.com)

#### Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound Radio Showcase IX

June 29 - 30, 2001 at the Seattle Center, Seattle Washington.

Contact: Mike Sprague, Box 723, Bothell, WA 98041 (425) 488-9518 [HRRMIKES@aol.com](mailto:HRRMIKES@aol.com)

#### 26th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention

Oct 25 - 28 at the Holiday Inn-North, Newark, NJ

Contact: Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 [JayHick@aol.com](mailto:JayHick@aol.com)



Fuzziwig. Francie Masel is our beautiful little boy asking Scrooge, "The turkey as big as me?" Sophia Ernst played two young boys plus the ever loveable, Tiny Tim.

## Articles Needed For: YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Your Newsletter has enough articles for a **ONLY ONE OR TWO MORE ISSUES**. We will need articles throughout the coming year. Your help is needed and would be appreciated. To keep the RHAC newsletter interesting, articles from our members are needed on a regular basis.

You don't have to be a professional writer to submit an article. Write about your favorite Old-Time Radio series, personality, or on what-ever radio-related topic you want. *But, please write!*

Send your articles to Stewart Wright, Newsletter Editor. My addresses, regular & E-Mail, are listed on page 2 of the Newsletter.

## RHAC Christmas Party

The Annual RHAC Christmas Party was held at the Country Buffet restaurant, Villa Italia Mall. Over 80 RHAC members and their guests braved very cold weather to attend. The Party started with a social hour and dinner. Next, was series of Christmas carols played on the violin by Sophia Ernst. RHAC President Larry Wiede presented awards to Club Librarians and conducted door prize drawings. Surprise treats of gold-foil wrapped, chocolate coins were made by Esther Campbell were handed out to all attendees.

The highpoint of the evening was a RHAC *Players* production of "A Christmas Carol." The production was patterned after the radio shows done by Lionel Barrymore in the late 1930's and early 1940's. This year's production was directed by Helen Lozynsky and produced by JoAnn Bantin. Larry Weide was the Sound Director and Dave Clow and Fred Bantin were the Technical Directors. Ernie Witte did a fine job in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge. Larry Weide took the parts of Bob Cratchit and the Narrator. Forrest Ernst played Scrooge's nephew Fred. Scrooge's deceased partner, Jacob Marley, was done by Dennis Masel. Guy Albright and John Stephenson were the gentlemen trying to get a Christmas donation from Scrooge. Helen Lozynsky played the Spirit of Christmas Past, Esther Campbell was the Spirit of Christmas Present, and Kathy Melies was the Spirit of Christmas Future and the good-hearted, Mrs.



## Sound Equipment Training

By Dave Clow

There is new gear for sound reinforcement purchased by the RHAC. The new Mixer and Equalizer were used in the Christmas dinner meeting and from all comments we have heard was a "Best Of Series" event.


Since the new equipment belongs to RHAC members, we will hold classes on how to use it and hopefully some new member will man the sound system for our future productions.

The first class will be held at Larry Weide's home on Wed. Jan 17, 2001 at 7:00 PM. These classes will continue until nobody shows up.

It is expected that you don't have to know a thing about sound or electronics to run this equipment. And your teachers won't laugh at questions, or if you forget last week's class. Fun is the key word and if you want to step it up to running the audio at the RHAC players shows – YOU ARE WELCOME. Members, family and friends are welcome but please call Larry Weide (303 768-8382) So we can plan for crowd size.

Instruction by Sound (Engineer) Dave Clow, (Mr. Software Audio) Larry Weide, and possibly the world-famous (Professor) Fred Bantin.

## E-Mail Information Please



Hopefully you've had a chance to read the December Newsletter and saw the results of our membership planning meeting. One of the items discussed was how to communicate better to the membership. One way would be to e-mail important messages. To this end I've taken on the job of building a

RHAC group in my e-mail browser address book.

Having done this, I sent a message to all members with a known e-mail address. However, there were many messages that came back to me essentially indicating an error in the e-mail address. There are two possible reasons for this. Either these addresses are no longer good ones, or unfortunately there was a "typo" created when they went into the membership records. In either case, I would appreciate that all members who have e-mail addresses (and DID NOT receive my e-mail message) and want to receive RHAC bulletins and other information to please send me a short message so that I can record your correct addresses. Of course this would also include those who have e-mail now but the address has never been placed in the club records.

I also want you all to know that I encourage you to write me with ideas, suggestions or anything else that's on your mind that's pertinent to the successful operation of our club. My e-mail address is:  
lweide@attglobal.net.

Be aware that there are NO PLANS to have the e-mail system replace our Newsletter. Those who do not have e-mail, for any reason, will still have the Newsletter to rely on for all information, stories, and library updates.

I wish all of you happy holidays and the best for the new year.

Larry Weide - RHAC President

## ***The Shadow***

By Paul Barringer

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"Who Knows What Evil Lurks In The Hearts of Men?  
*The Shadow* Knows!"

In 1929 when fictional crime was popular in Pulp Magazines (magazines so named because of the soft paper and wood fibre they were printed on) Street and Smith Publishers produced "The *Shadow* of Wall Street" in the February, 1929 issue of *Fame And Fortune Magazine*. Thus was the first introduction of the mysterious *Shadow*.

Visualized in the magazine as a hooded figure in green, with glittering eyes, sinister laugh, and the ability to just vanish.

The pulp readers loved it and wanted more, but the Great Stock Market Crash occurred and erased the *Fame And Fortune Magazine* as well as *The Shadow* character.

In the meantime, Street and Smith has a mystery series on the radio, titled *The Detective Story Hour*. The show broadcast an evening crime drama narrated by a haunting mysterious voice with a coercive laugh known only as *The Shadow*. It was the narrator's voice that captivated the listening audience. To protect their character, Street and Smith copyrighted the character in a magazine, the magazine called *The Shadow*.

*The Shadow Magazine* dated April-June, 1931 contained a 75,000-word novel titled "The Living *Shadow*" written by Maxwell Grant, the pseudonym of Walter Gibson.

The character of *The Shadow* on the radio evolved from *The Shadow* in the magazine.

With the pulp magazine prosperity, Blue Coal, sponsor of *The Detective Story Hour* would produce a show with *The Shadow* as the main character, but with a deviation. *The Shadow* on radio would have the ability to cloud men's minds so he could not be seen by them. That fact could be inserted into the opening of the radio program.

Before the show officially started with *The Shadow* as the main character, and before Gibson wrote "The Invisible *Shadow*," *Detective Story Magazine* and its radio counterpart started a contest for readers and listeners to figure out what *The Shadow* looked like, by printing and broadcasting a series of weekly clues.

The clues and correct conclusions were as follows:

"By the mark of the cobra on my chest."

(*The Shadow* has a cobra tattooed on his chest.)

"Prison bars? Ha! Ha! A tight squeeze, perhaps, but it can be done."

(*The Shadow* is slender.)

"Artistic hand have I, and at my will, a pack of cards is twain."

(*The Shadow* has long, slender hands, with tapering fingers, and strong ones.)

"Tis hard for me to disguise features akin to those of the winged terror of the barnyard, an inky dye must I apply to hide my Nordic forbears."

(*The Shadow* has hawk-like features, and is blond and light complexioned.)

"As the unrelenting hound is on the fox, so am I to malefactors. Bu, a whippet gait I take when on the trail."

(Hound is another name for detective. *The Shadow* is a detective and "unrelenting." Also fast when on the trail.)

"A dove to those I love; a jungle thing that cannot change its spots to those whose wicked hands I'd stay; and oft like a bird, I take to the air when seeking out a lair."

(*The Shadow* is gentle to those he loves, but treats those who have wronged himself and others as a leopard; and uses an airplane when seeking out his lair.)

"8 Triple A; the salesman say, and Beau Brummell's tastes are mine, but forty ways I look and forty persons am mistook."

(*The Shadow* has a slim foot, is a fastidious dresser, and wears forty different disguises.)

"Twenty years ago, for me, precocious youth, B.A.; and let those from any clime converse nearby, and

their secrets will be mine."

(*The Shadow* being precocious, got his B.A. when he was twenty, thus he's now forty. He knows all languages.)

"Low doorways please me not, and in college I stroked my crew."

(*The Shadow* is tall, an athlete.)

"Many have I brought to durance vile, and made to sit where chained lightning strikes."

(*The Shadow* has sent many men to jail and to the electric chair.)

A gentleman from Chicago won the \$500.00 first prize for his deductive explanation of the clues.

When Gibson began writing "The Living Shadow," he was told not to digress from the description very much. Gibson only got rid of the cobra tattoo and blond hair.

In the magazine, *The Shadow* protected his identity from mothers by using Lamont Cranston as his alias, but in reality, he was Kent Allard, an air ace known as The Dark Eagle during the First World War, who feigned being shot down behind hostile lines.

This is where the story gets very confusing, so I won't go into everything, but having met the real Lamont Cranston earlier, Allard, after spending years in the Xincas, returned to civilian life to become an aviator, but decided to point his many skills to the quelling of organized malefactions and assume the identity of Lamont Cranston.

With the advent of the radio show and its vast audiences, and Street and Smith wanting their readers to believe *The Shadow* actually existed, and with the radio program emphasizing the identity of Lamont Cranston as *The Shadow*, Allard made an abrupt disappearance from the magazine, and only reappeared for definite emergencies.

And many people did believe *The Shadow* was real, including some of the Underworld gangsters, so much that they had spies try to find out the identity of *The Shadow* on *The Detective Story Hour*, but the producers of the show kept his identity pretty well hidden. They even had a fake room where *The Shadow* was to have broadcast from but no one, not even the real criminals that had infiltrated the studio, ever saw any one go in or out of the room.

Eventually, in July of 1931, a reporter for Boston newspaper reported the mystery solved, *The Shadow* was played by character actor Frank Readick who had taken over the role after his predecessor, James LaCurto, quit and went to star on Broadway.

Thus we have some insight into the establishment of *The Shadow*.

On Sunday, the 26th of September, 1937 and after *The Shadow* program had concluded the 1934-35 season

and left the air, Street and Smith reluctantly agreed to the new characterization of Lamont Cranston as *The Shadow*. A new series started, broadcast before a live audience, on the Mutual and Yankee Networks starring Orson Welles, the young surprise of the airways.

After playing *The Shadow* for twenty-six episodes sponsored by Blue Coal, and fifteen more for the then Summer sponsor, Goodrich Tires, Welles left the series and you all know what happened then.

The show would eventually lose Blue Coal, its East Coast sponsor when the bituminous market fell in 1949. The show has various sponsors until the final season when it aired as a sustainer — aired without a sponsor.

With the exit of Welles, Bill Johnstone assumed the role of the imperceptible man with the haunting laughter, when Johnstone vacated the program in 1943, Brett Morrison, beating out more than one hundred other actors, assumed the role. To most listeners, Brett Morrison was *The Shadow*.

*The Shadow's* agents from the magazine never made the change to the airways, although Harry Vincent, the most varied and capable of *The Shadow's* agents did appear in the first episode on radio.

There were a few different opening and closing proclamations on the radio, such as, "As you sow evil, . . . so shall you reap evil . . . crime does not pay," "The weed of crime bears bitter fruit. . . crime does NOT pay! . . . *The Shadow* knows!"

During the original run the radio program introduced the lovely Margo Lane, (who was not in the pulp magazine) portrayed by the gifted Agnes Moorehead.

A number of women portrayed Margo Lane after Moorehead, including Grace Matthews who was pregnant during some of the broadcasts. The producers not wanting to place *The Shadow* in a bad light because of her pregnancy, remember this was broadcast before a live audience, found it necessary to move the broadcast into a secluded studio.

Almost twenty-five years after the introduction of the mysterious Shadow on *The Detective Story Hour*, in December of 1954 in an episode titled "Murder By the Sea", with Brett Morrison as *The Shadow* and Gertrude Warner as Margo Lane, *The Shadow* was heard for the last time.

Well, that may not be true. In the back of my mind, I seem to remember reading something in the sixties about a gentleman who had been associated with the production of the radio program, acquired the original transcription discs and obtaining syndication rights to them, sold the programs to various stations throughout the country, starting the reintroduction of many other programs of the past, on cassette tapes.

Don't quote me on this because it's only from my memory bank, and sometimes the bank is closed.

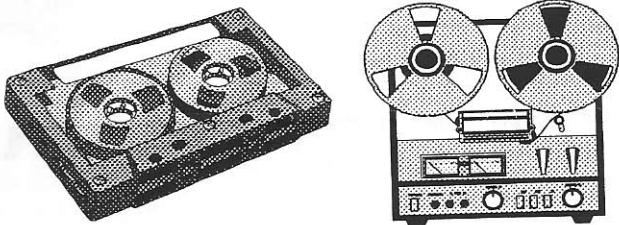
*The Shadow* also appeared in movies, movie serials,

comic books, paperback books, hardbound reprints, and big little books.

Also many radio premiums were offered and there was even a *Shadow* club you could join. A *Shadow* game that was given away free if you subscribed to *The Shadow Magazine* in the Christmas season of 1940. There were also capes, masks, hats, rings, blotters, and matchbooks. Today the most valuable premium today is the Blue Coal Ring with raised images of *The Shadow* around a lump of Blue Coal. This is also the most difficult premium to find today. You could get most of these premiums back then for ten cents. I don't remember having to send in a lump of coal in lieu of a box top to receive them either. (Time joke — laugh when you get the time.)

As I finish this up, I am listening to an episode of *The Shadow*, and as I hear the eerie and haunting music of "Omphalea Spinning Wheel," the voice of the invisible *Shadow* once more says, "The weed of crime bears bitter fruit. . . crime does NOT pay! . . . *The Shadow* knows!"

Research and excerpts for this article taken from "The Duende History of *The Shadow*," Jim Steranko's "History of the Comics," the public library and memory.



## New in The Tape Library

By Maletha & Dick King

January's entries into the libraries are destined to arouse the spirit of adventure in our members as they start out with great stories in *Dangerous Assignment* with Brian Donlevy traveling all over the world to solve international crises and promote world peace. These are modern-day adventure stories that are very intriguing and will keep your interest from start to finish. The series is not in the best of sound, but that does not diminish from the stories and the roles are all very well played.

After we have had hours of mystery, we get the chance to enjoy another series of variety shows with Jimmy Durante as host. Jimmy had a lot of great stars as guests such as Dorothy Lamour, Boris Karloff, Eddie Cantor, Jo Stafford and lots more. Even though you may not be a great Durante fan, the other stars that are on the show make for very good listening.

Our selection continues with four reels, 16 hours or

32 great shows of *Nick Carter, Master Detective* as played by Lon Clark. This fictional detective is able to see his way through one mystery after another and leave the police in awe of his talents. These shows will be of great entertainment to the "detective" fans.

We close our January selections with another reel of a 1939 variety show featuring the talented Red Skelton hosting the show. We still remember Red Skelton as a comedian who did not depend upon vulgarity or roughness. *Avalon Time* is a good addition to our library for easy listening and clean entertainment.

The RHAC *Players* entertained a large gathering of members and their guests at a Country Buffet dinner house on December 12<sup>th</sup> for the 2000 Christmas party for RHAC members in the Denver area. The *Players* worked very hard preparing for this event and certainly made it worth the effort to get out even in weather that would have kept us home ordinarily. They did a great presentation of Dickens "A Christmas Carol" which is such a well-known show that it would be very hard to cover any goof, but that wasn't necessary. We did receive a nice note and contribution from one of the guests.

As we enter the new year, we would like to ask our library users to let us know what types of shows they would like us to offer them in the libraries. Just take a minute to send us a note at the club's post office box, 1908, Englewood, CO 80150. Your help will be appreciated.

## Did You Know That . . . ?

This column, written by an anonymous member, features little-known facts about Old-Time Radio. This month we feature a favorite drama: *SUSPENSE*.

### Sam Spade on *Suspense*

Dashiell Hammett's famous detective, Sam Spade, made two appearances on this classic series.

The first appearance was in the episode "The House in Cypress Canyon" which aired on December 5, 1946. Following is the cast listing.

Jim Backus (Policeman),  
Han Conried (Jerry),  
Howard Duff (Sam),  
Paul Frees (Dr. Wesley),  
Cathy Lewis (Ellen Woods),  
Wally Maher (Policeman), and  
Robert Taylor (Jim Woods).

The actors in the show were only mentioned by their names and not the characters they played. The role the actor played is shown in parentheses. They are based on listening to this show many times.

Continued on Back Page

## Did You Know That . . . ? Sam Spade on *Suspense*

Continued from page 6

The detective called Sam in this show is Sam Spade played by Howard Duff, the star of *The Adventures of Sam Spade*. In an interview Howard Duff gave years ago, Duff mentioned that William Spier was the producer/director of both series and asked him to play the part.

This tack of having a character from one series appear in character on another series was used sometimes by a network as a form of promotion for a of relatively new series as *The Adventures of Sam Spade* was at the time.

RHAC member Martin Grams, in his book "*Suspense: Twenty Years of Thrills and Chills*," confirms that Howard Duff's character "Sam" was indeed Sam Spade. "Spier decided to add a humorous

twist for the listeners during the broadcast of 'House in Cypress Canyon' by promoting his latest mystery show *The Adventures of Sam Spade*. In the drama, the part of the real estate agent was played by Han Conried. The detective was played by Howard Duff, the same actor portraying Sam Spade on the other CBS/Spier mystery radio series."

Spade's second appearance on *Suspense* was on January 10, 1948 in the hour-long episode "The Kandy Tooth." This episode had previously aired on *The Adventures of Sam Spade* as two half-hour shows - "The Kandy Tooth Caper, Parts 1 and 2." The episode is a sequel to "The Maltese Falcon" with Spade once again meeting "The Fat Man" Casper Gutman, and Joel Cairo. Sam learns what happened to the real Falcon and alludes to fate of Brigid O'Shaugnessy. In this show Spade also has a telephone conversation with another famous fictional detective - Philip Marlowe as played by *Suspense* host Robert Montgomery.

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9/1/2001

