



This is

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Denver

Volume 1. Number Seven

February, 1976

"Cisco, the sheriff and his posse...they are coming closer". Pancho to Cisco at the opening of THE CISCO KID.

NEW TIME, NEW PLACE

The next meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held on Sunday, February 15 at 7 PM. We are happy to announce that we have been approved for the use of the Community Building in Thornton. We have been to this building and it is large enough for our meetings and will allow for the future growth of our club. We will be able to use this facility on the third Sunday of each month at no charge. DIRECTIONS: North on I-25 to the 84th Ave. exit (North Valley Shopping Center). Right on 84th to Washington. Left on Washington and go north to Eppinger Blvd. Eppinger is about 9200 North and there is a 7-11 on the corner of Eppinger and Washington. Turn right on Eppinger and go almost one mile east to Gaylord. Turn left on Gaylord, past the tennis courts and the street will lead right into the parking lot of the Community Building. Follow the signs to the swimming pool which is next door.

NEW OFFICE HOLDERS

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bruton. Lee has recently been elected President of the Rocky Mountain Antique Wireless Association and his wife, Carolyn, has been elected Secretary-Treasurer of the same organization. (Husband and wife officers are commonplace in radio clubs).

TURNING THE DIAL AROUND TOWN

PAUL CARRIER is looking for some Ellery Queen.....STEVE MORRIS is looking for "War of the Worlds", the broadcast in which Abbott and Costello did their "Who's on First" routine, Lone Ranger and Pat KovakLAWRENCE NOSER would like to find some Shadow and Gangbusters..... JOHN NICHOLSON is interested in the Greatest Story Ever Told (except the Room At the Inn) and a show called Old Fashioned Revival, John also has some traders in England and would like to know who is interested in BBC shows.....BILL MAAS would like to find someone who has some of the early John Dunning programs and a Hall of Fantasy show called "Steps that follow me". I hope someone can help them out.

AN EXPERIMENT

A new idea has been presented that sounds like a lot of fun for all members. For the next meeting, record some of your good sounding shows and bring the tape and trade it with another member for their tape. You will probably get a tape with some shows you have been looking for or some shows in better sound than you have already. If the idea catches on we can do the same at future meetings. This will not affect the lending library and the limit will be bringing no more than two tapes.

GOOD LISTENING

John Dunning's schedule of Old Time Radio for the month of February is:

- Feb. 8 - Man From Homicide with Dan Duryea
Lassie (15 minutes)
Man Named Jordan (45 minutes)
- Feb. 15- UNKNOWN
- Feb. 22- CBS Radio Workshop - "When the mountain fell"
The Fat Man
Tommy Dorsey with Frank Sinatra from 1940
- Feb. 29- Lux Radio Theater- "The Voice of Bugle Ann"
A. L. Alexanders Mediation Board

FOR SALE

Dick Mullins is selling a TC 355, three head Sony tape deck. Dick says that he put new heads on it 8 months ago. It is six or seven years old and he is selling it for \$65. The mechanism is in good condition and will only need minor shop work which shouldn't amount to more than \$25. Dick also has just purchased 32 transcription discs which he will sell for \$5 each. These will make excellent souvenirs for collectors. Dick is going to use the money as part of the purchase of some newly released Suspense or CBS Radio Workshops. The \$5 paid for the discs will allow you to have access to about eight to ten reels of those new shows as well as the programs on the discs. Dick will present this package deal at the next meeting.

PUBLICATIONS AND LIBRARIES

Jay Hickerson, the editor of the national newsletter "Hello Again" has an updated log of all Suspense shows on sale for \$3.50. This is a terrific newsletter for collectors. Jay prints the names of other collectors and is a good source for out of town traders, new books and products.

Don Lawson has recently added six full pages of tapes to his lending library.

Jerry Appleman has recently purchased an in-depth book on old radio called "A 30 year history of programs carried on radio networks in the U.S. (1926-1956). Author is Harrison B. Summers. Publisher is Arno Press. Cost is \$10. Order it at any good bookstore.

Steve Morris has found a place that sells Sherlock Holmes books and records. It is Publishers Closeout, Dept. 418, 1 Champion Ave. Avenel, N.J. 07131. Sherlock Holmes records are \$5.99.

TAPE ORDER

The tape order, bought with the money from the lending library, will be a fine variety. The selections include: Eddie Cantor, Whispering Streets, Let's Pretend, Colgate Sports Newsreel, Bob and Ray, Columbia Presents Corwin, Gene Autry, News Broadcasts, You Are There, Philip Marlowe, Sam Spade and Lux Radio Theater. We all look forward to have them in the lending library.

BITS AND PIECES

Dick Mullins still would like tapes for the blind. Jerry Appleman still would like to sell some DAK tape (1200' each, \$6 for 5 reels). Marral Peacock says we will keep business to a minimum at the next meeting. Let me know if you get some rare shows so we can let more people know via the newsletter.

TRIVIA QUIZ

1. The catch phrase "What a revoltin' development this is" was from what show? a) Life of Riley b) Henry Morgan c) Iun and Abner
2. Lucille Ball and Richard Denning starred in what comedy program? a) Bringing Up Father b) I Love Lucy c) My Favorite Husband
3. Nick and Nora Charles were characters on what series? a) The Thin Man b) Backstage Wife c) Texaco Star Theater
4. Harlow Wilcox was the announcer for: a) Amos and Andy b) Fibber McGee and Molly c) Ben Bernie d) Truth or Consequences
5. Lamont Cranston was: a) The Whistler b) The Shadow c) Superman
6. Welcome Traveler originated from: a) New York b) Chicago c) Hollywood
7. Which cowboy urged his horse on with the words "Roll, Thunder, Roll"? a) Tom Mix b) Red Ryder c) Hopalong Cassidy
8. Who spent most of his time at the Blue Note, talking to Ann Williams and the bartender, Eichelbert? a) Casey, Crime Photographer b) Sam Spade c) Richard Diamond
9. Ronald Colman played the lead in what show? a) Mayor of the Town b) Man Against Crime c) Halls of Ivy
10. Who were "America's Favorite Young Couple"? a) Phil Harris and Alice Faye b) Fibber McGee and Molly c) Ozzie and Harriett
11. Smilin' Ed McConnell appeared on what children's show? a) Buster Brown Gang b) Let's Pretend c) Frank Merriwell
12. Senator Claghorn, Titus Moody, Mrs. Kussbaum and Ajax Cassidy were all regulars on who's program? a) Jack Benny b) Phil Harris c) Fred Allen

NOTE: Answers appear later in this newsletter

SPOTLIGHT ON OLD TIME RADIO

FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY

Fibber McGee and Molly had its early beginnings as a program called the Snackouts, which Don Quinn wrote and the Jordans played as a five-times-a-week serial over NBC. The Snackouts lasted for four years. Fibber and Molly were created in 1935 for Johnson's Wax, which was looking for a new program to sponsor. The company became the long time sponsor, and its commercials were the first to be integrated into the show itself with the announcer playing a character in the story. "Fibber" often addressed announcer Harlow Wilcox as "Waxy". Wilcox to Fibber's consternation, invariably steered his casual conversations with Fibber

into a commercial for Johnson's Wax.

Actually there was no story to the programs. Usually a situation was established and then various characters would enter the McGee home at 79 Wistful Vista and help or hinder the action. Many of the characters, situations and catch phrases became familiar nationwide. A weekly occurrence was Fibber's opening of the hall closet door, much to the horror of Molly. As soon as the door opened, everything in the closet fell out, ending with a small tinkly bell. The crash would be observed by Fibber, who would then declare "Gotta straighten out that closet one of these days".

Each character was a distinct individual. "Doc Gamble" and McGee argued all the time and Doc was usually the victor. "Sis" was a little girl from next door who harassed McGee. "Mrs. Uppington" was always one up on McGee in repartee. "Wallace Wimple" was a henpecked husband who referred to his wife as "Sweetie face, my big fat wife". There were several characters who never appeared but were referred to frequently such as "Myrt, the telephone operator" and "Fred Hinky of Starved Rock, Illinois".

THE NETWORKS- - - - - by Tom Daniels
History of CBS-Part 2 , Entertainment Programs, 1920's and 30's

CBS did not present the first radio network program, as NBC beat them on the air by almost three years. CBS's first year on the air featured a man by the name of H. V. Kaltenborn who excited the public with his reports and analysis of major news events. Paul Whiteman, the King of Jazz, had a popular Tuesday night show called "The Old Gold Paul Whiteman Hour". Already on local radio around the nation, were future stars of CBS, such as Lowell Thomas, Arthur Godfrey and Kate Smith.

Popular personalities on CBS in the 1930's started with Floyd Gibbons, who had an air speed of 217 words per minute, Norman Brokenshire who, noted for his quick thinking, stuck a microphone out a studio window when a script ran short and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, the sounds of New York". Then there was Morton Downey, the Irish tenor and Tony Wons, who made women's hearts flutter when he read poetry from coast to coast.

By the end of the 30's series like Ma Perkins, Myrt and Marge, Hollywood Hotel, Milton Berle, Gangbusters, Mary Margaret McBride, Lux Radio Theater and Columbia Radio Workshop were well on their way etching their notch in radio history.

Probably the most historic night in the 30's that CBS ever had was the memorable night of October 30, 1938. The rating services had shown in previous weeks that America was listening to Charlie McCarthy on the Chase and Sanborn Hour between 8 and 9 PM EST. But that night something was wrong with the rating service because that night another program on another network (CBS) at the same hour almost scared the nation out of its wits. A young 23 year old Orson Welles, made sure that the radio audience would never again forget the name of his radio show, "The Mercury Theater on the Air" as he presented "War of the Worlds".

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ

1. a 2. c 3. a 4. all of them 5. b 6. b 7. b 8. a 9. c
10. c 11. a 12. c

—1776-1976— IT HAPPENED

Magnetic Tape Recording

1857—The principle of the phonograph record appeared and was invented by Leon Scott. His instrument was the Phonograph. He recorded a wavy line on the smoked surface of a rotating cylinder; it looked like a record groove.

1877—Thomas Edison invented the phonograph.

1925—The electric loudspeaker was marketed by RCA. It was known as the dynamic cone speaker.

1927—J. A. O'Neill received the first United States Patent for magnetic tape. It was magnetic particles on a strip of paper.

The first three polyphonic keyboard instruments (those that could play more than one note at a time) were:

1932—*The Compton Electrone*. It was rotating electrostatic generators in which wave forms were engraved.

1934—*The Hoschke Instrument*. It had vibrating reeds with electrostatic conversion and it developed and became the Everett Orgatron; then, it became the Wurlitzer.

1935—*The Hammond Organ*. It used rotating magnetic generators driven by a constant speed motor.

Stereophonic Sound

1933—The first demonstration of stereophonic sound was done by the Bell Telephone laboratories. A live orchestra performed in Philadelphia, and Bell Telephone sent the stereophonic sound through wires to Washington, D.C.

1940—Bell Telephone again demonstrated stereophonic sound, but this time they recorded it on film. It was not a live demonstration; in Carnegie Hall, New York.

1940—The first use of stereo sound commercially was Walt Disney's *Fantasia*, using a four-track optical sound system designed by RCA.

1957—First demonstration of the stereophonograph method.

Viewed from a 1976 historical perspective, the true importance of Les Paul's *Vaya Con Dios* becomes clear: it was the signal for a new era in recording and reproduction, an era of multiple sound channels. Before 1953, Les had already captured recording industry attention via his successful ideas on tempo and pitch manipulation in disk re-recording (*Lover*) and his ensuing idea of sound-on-sound overdubbing on single channel tape (*Tennessee Waltz*). But Les had been imagining multiple tape channels simultaneously tracking a multiple tape head. So during 1951-53, aided by Ampex engineers, he developed his idea into the first eight-track tape recorder. And as important as his previous records had been, it was on *Vaya Con Dios* that Les Paul finally achieved his definition of the processes of the modern stereo-quad recording studio. —dr. william l. fowler

□ down beat January 15 □ 41

