



This is

O T R

Denver

VOLUME I NUMBER NINE

APRIL 1976

"Good morning, breakfast clubbers, Good morning to yah. We got up bright and early, Just to how-dy-do yah". Opening theme from the Breakfast Club.

FIRSTS AT THE NEXT MEETING

The Radio Historical Association of Colorado will meet at 6:00 PM on Sunday, April 25 at the Wyatt Cafeteria in Cherry Creek Shopping Center (off E. 1st Ave.). This will be our first dinner meeting, it will be necessary to go through the line for food and then carry your tray to the meeting room. Please try to arrive at 6:00 PM so that the majority of our group can go through the line together. The manager assures us that the line is slim on Sunday evenings. Everyone, of course, will be responsible for his own meal check. Immediately after dinner, which should be before 7:00 PM, Mr. Bob Lee will address the club. It would be better if we do no trading or signing up for library reels until after the structured portion of the meeting.

OUR GUEST SPEAKER

We are fortunate to have as our guest speaker, Mr. Bob Lee, a radio and television professional at KOA. His long list of radio announcing and acting credits include "The Lone Ranger" and "Challenge of the Yukon" series in about 1954. Mr. Lee, undoubtedly, will be able to give us many interesting insights into radio broadcasting.

WELCOME HONORED MEMBERS

The Radio Historical Association of Colorado is extremely pleased to announce the selection of two new Honorary Members, Mel Blanc and Don Wilson. These two outstanding gentlemen were selected because of their valuable contributions to radio entertainment and their interest in our club. More details appear later in the newsletter.

LITERARY LIBRARY

My apologies for a misunderstanding in the last newsletter. It is the clubs intention of starting a library of clippings from books, magazines, newspapers etc. dealing with old time radio. We will still try to have attachments with the newsletter if it is possible for the contributor to make enough copies.

FOR SALE

Doug Stone is selling some tape equipment. For sale are 4 Sony units. They are a TC366, TC 355, TC155, and TC660. Make Doug an offer for all four or individually. Call 232-7158. (The operator will have to give you Doug's new number since he will have moved by the time this newsletter is printed.)

TURNING THE DIAL AROUND TOWN

BRUCE CARTERON would like to find some Fibber McGee, Gunsmoke, and anything with Orson Welles... HARV BISHOP is looking for some Thin Man, Jimmy Durante and movie adaptations such as Lux Radio Theater... DICK I'ULLINS says that he should have some tapes available at the next meeting from the purchase made with money from the discs he uncovered... JERRY APPLEMAN states that CBS Mystery Theater will present seven shows based on Shakespeare's plays during the week of April 19-25... If anyone is trading with out of town collectors, please look through their catalogs to see if there is much of a collection of Fibber McGee. If so, we have at least 7 members who would like to know (MANN, LLOYD, DEAN, APPLEMAN, PEACOCK, DANIELS, AND CARTERON). Change of pace: I recorded the entire soundtrack from the movie The Sound of Music from TV last month. Let me know if you want to borrow it.

GOOD LISTENING

John Dunnings Schedule for the balance of April is:

- April 11, 1976 Escape-The Time Machine
Broadway is my beat-Julia Roland Story 7-18-54
People are Funny 1954
- April 18, 1976 The Croupier-The Roman 9-1-49
Johnny Dollar-Guide to Murder Matter 11-19-61
Innauguration address of FDR 1937
- April 25, 1976 Lux Radio Theater-Maytime with Jeannette McDonald
and Nelson Eddy 9-4-44
Chapter One of a serial to be announced later

MORE ON OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Mel Blanc has gained international recognition by circling the world with humor for many years in a variety of performing arts... first in radio, then via animated cartoons in motion picture theaters, followed by recordings and television. In radio's heyday, Mel starred with such performers as Jack Benny, Judy Canova, Abbott and Costello and Burns and Allen. Some of Mel's credits include his vocal sound effects of Jack Benny's Maxwell, star of Point Sublime, Mr. Twiggs on the Major Hoople Show, Pedro ("Pardon me for talking in your face, Senorita") on the Judy Canova Show, Hubert Peabody on the Jack Carson Show, Professor LeBlanc, the violin teacher and the train announcer ("Anaheim, Azusa, and Cuc-a-monga") on the Jack Benny Show, Pan Pancho on the Cisco Kid, the Happy Postman on Burns and Allen as well as having his own show. Remember "Uga, uga, boo, uga, boo, boo, uga"? Even after a time span of four-plus decades, Mel's voices of Bugs Bunny, Sylvester and Tweety, Speedy Gonzales, Porky Pig (plus a string of other distinctive character favorites) are still delighting an estimated 30 million persons daily throughout the world. Americans have also encountered the distinctive Blanc "touch" in commercials created by the staff of Mel Blanc Audionedia for a variety of advertisers. Today, Mel and his wife, Estelle, who co-starred with him on early radio shows live near Hollywood. Their son, Noel, is President of Mel Blanc Audionedia.

Don Wilson has long been regarded by many as the best radio announcer. Don was the announcer for Kraft Music Hall for one year but is most widely remembered for his long association with Jack Benny. The Benny show was voted as the best radio show of all time and Don Wilson played a very big part in the show's success. One of the most popular shows is the show in which Jack holds Don prisoner until he signs his contract. Who will ever forget the annual show where Jack is looking for a Christmas present for Don? Today, Don Wilson and his wife, Lois, live in Palm Springs, California and co-host a talk show, "The Don Wilson Show". He also MC's reruns of the "Jack Benny Show" on KPLM-TV, the ABC outlet in Palm Springs.

The RHAC sends along their warmest wishes to these two fine gentlemen and their families. We are honored to have you as members of our association and we sincerely thank you both for your contributions to radio entertainment.

TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Who was the long time star of "The Fleischmann Hour"? _____
2. What news commentator was known for his "voice of doom" approach to the news? _____
3. The "Straight Shooters Club" for young listeners was associated with what cowboy? _____
4. What did Jimmy Durante say at the conclusion of his weekly program? _____
5. Who were the characters portrayed by Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll just before the two became Amos and Andy? _____
6. Bud Collyer played the title role in an adventure program for children. What was the role? _____
7. Who was the man who did the voice of Beulah? _____
8. On radio, who was Yukon King? _____
9. Who portrayed the Bickersons? _____
10. Who was the first star of the "Shell Chateau" show? _____
11. What kind of news did Jimmy Fidler report? _____
12. Name the show that featured dramatized stories of newspaper reporters? _____
13. In 1930, the "Town Crier" went on the air. Who was the Town Crier? _____
14. Dexter Franklin was whose radio boyfriend? _____
15. Virginia Simms and Harry Babitt were regulars on what popular program? _____

GUNSMOKE HISTORY. FROM JOHN ADAMS

Editors note: In the latest issue of HELLO AGAIN, Jay Hickerson stated that John Adams was probably the most knowledgeable collector on the history of Gunsmoke.

Gunsmoke had its audition on July 13, 1949 with Howard Culver as Mark (not Matt) Dillon, but there is no record of this pilot disc ever being aired. It was called "Cheatin' Wheel". Time magazine's March 23, 1953 issue stated that the first network show was aired on April 26, 1952 with William Conrad as Matt Dillon in a show called "The Dutchman".

Gunsnoke ran over CBS for 9 years. The final show was called "Brandon Teaks land" and was broadcast on June 17, 1961. There were over 400 shows aired, since they didn't take a summer break. Some shows were repeated as many as four times and some shows used the same plots as others while only changing the names of the characters.

Kitty didn't appear in the story until May 10, 1958. The show was called "Will Thompson-The Silver Spur" and her part had about 12 words. At first Kitty is connected with the Texas Trail and later is in the Long Branch Saloon. There are two shows available concerning Kitty's connection with the Long Branch. In one, she buys the Long Branch while in the other she buys only half interest. John Dahner plays her father in one and John McIntire plays her father in the other.

In the early Gunsnoke shows, Matt Dillon has a chip on his shoulder but he mellows as the story develops. Chester carries the humor in the show and throughout the series, Chester and Doc are friendly but at each others throats. Kitty is always sweet on Matt but it never develops into much. In the summer of 1957, the listeners pick 5 shows as the "Best of Gunsnoke". The four main characters are: William Conrad as Matt Dillon, Farley Baer as Chester Proudfoot, Howard McNear as Doc Adams and Georgia Ellis as Kitty Russell. Many other stars appear throughout the series such as; John Dahner, Virginia Gregg, Jeanette Nolan and John McIntire.

On September 10, 1955 Gunsnoke went to CBS-TV for 30 minutes but in the early days TV used radio scripts word for word. James Arness replaced William Conrad since Conrad was heavy and didn't look like a lawman and Dennis Weaver replaced Farley Baer as Chester for the same reason. Doc and Kitty were replaced by Milburn Stone and Amanda Blake for TV. John Weston directed and wrote many scripts but Gunsnoke was most noted for its sound effects. John Handley and Bill James did most of the effects. AF picked up the disc for airing from 1953 thru 1959 for the troops in Europe and Japan. Many of these shows are showing up now as well as shows that were taped when recorders became popular around 1953. One of the most popular shows is the dress rehearsal of the "New Hotel". The cast really cuts up and cusses during the run through of the script and the sound effects men have a good time with many effects.

Gunsnoke didn't title the scripts so it is common practice to use the name of the characters as identification. At present, all dates are not known since AFRS never dated the shows in circulation.

JOHN ADAMS is looking for 3 shows that he knows about: 1) The White Buffalo 2) Load of Buffalo Bones and 3) a dress rehearsal in which the sound men build a picture of the dance hall girls taking the customers upstairs for business. The dress rehearsal is mentioned in the TV Guide article of February 21, 1976.

The early Gunsnoke shows were directed by John MacDonald. MacDonald developed the idea for Gunsnoke and was associated with the show its full run. John Weston took over as director and writer in the middle 50's but MacDonald acted as consultant.

THANKS, JOHN, FOR THIS FASCINATING BIT OF HISTORY!

FRANK ANSWERS: (1) Rudy Valle (2) Gabriel Heutter (3) Tom Mix (4) Good Night, Mrs. Galabach, wherever you are (5) Sam and Henry (6) Superman (7) Harlin Hunt (8) An Alaskan husky who belonged to Sergeant Preston of the Northwest Mounted Police on "Challenge of the Yukon" (9) Don Ameche and Frances Langford (10) Al Jolson (11) Hollywood gossip (12) Big Story (13) Alexander Woollcott (14) Corliss Archer (15) "Key Kyzer's Kollege of Musical Knowledge"

THE NETWORKS by TOM DANIELS

THE HISTORY OF CBS, PART 4 - ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMS 1960-70's ... By the time 1960 rolled around, CBS was down to an even dozen entertainment programs which consisted of 4 drama shows, 4 soap operas, 3 music variety, and 1 comedy. November 25th was the first black Friday of the 60's as *Ma Parkins*, *Young Dr. Malone*, *The Second Mrs. Burton* and the *Edes N' Andy Music Hall* aired for the last time. Two days later on Sunday, *Have Gun, Will Travel* was over also. CBS also suspended *Suspense*, but it would resume on June 25, 1961. However, to make room for it, CBS cancelled the the last remaining western, *Sunsmoke* on June 17, 1961. *Suspense* and *Yours Truly*, *Johnny Dollar* were brought to an end on September 30, 1962. Two music shows: *Mitch Miller* and a *Garry Moore-Bing Crosby-Rosemary Clooney* show were taken off in October of 1963, and the great veteran himself, *Arthur Godfrey* called it quits on April 30, 1972, after a 28 year run. The main reason for all the programs coming to an end, as far as CBS was concerned, lay in the fact that local station affiliates didn't want that much network time taken out of their day or night anymore as they had adopted new and modern formats that clashed with the established network formats of the past. On December 28, 1968, CBS ran the attached ad in all the major news magazines (*Time*, *Newsweek*, etc.) hoping that by decreasing Godfrey's airtime per day by 30 minutes, but adding him for an hour over the weekend would pacify the affiliates in to keeping him on the air for a while longer and encourage some stations not to play him at five AM in the morning as some affiliates were doing. Godfrey announced on September 27, 1971, that he would no longer be on the air after April 30th of the next year and by April 1st, only a handful of stations were carrying his show for the last 30 days; none in Colorado.

But the network didn't want to go the way of the buggy whip, so in the early 60's, CBS developed their *Dimension* series, which were short little five minute programs that dealt with just about every thing from cooking to love advice. The affiliates loved them, the listeners loved them and the networks soon realized they were back to being just more than a hourly news service. Denver listeners will now get a chance to hear some of these formats for the first time in a number of years now that KOA has taken over CBS and become a full network service affiliate.

On January 6, 1974, CBS took a giant step backwards (as *Time Magazine* put it) and once again brought drama back to it's network after a 12 year absence with the premier of the *CBS Radio Mystery Theater*. The five minute programs taught the networks you had to sell the show every day instead of once a week, so *RMT* is on seven nights a week, with the networks idea that if they can catch the same listener two or three times a week, it is a success. Must be - it's still going strong.

NEXT MONTH: Mechanics of the Networks or "How It Gets From Them To You, The Listener".



FOR CHRISTMAS
WE'RE GIVING YOU
ARTHUR GODFREY.
TWO MORE
DAYS A WEEK.

Starting on December 30th, the CBS Radio Network is giving all of Arthur Godfrey's friends a Christmas present. Saturdays and Sundays with Arthur Godfrey Time, as well as Monday through Friday. Every week of the year.

Millions of people all over the country think of Arthur Godfrey as far more than an entertainer. He has become a friend of the family. Someone known, loved, trusted.

That kind of friend is more than a weekday companion. He's a seven day a week friend. And now he will be.

Check your local CBS Radio Station (listed opposite) for the exact time of the new Arthur Godfrey Time schedule. And have a happy Christmas 365 days a year.

CBS RAD 

Where what you want to know comes first.

Halloween- Our Kind of Holiday.

Of all times of the year, Halloween is when the CBS Radio Mystery Theater makes its most spirited effort to spook you. So don't miss this array of deliciously shivery hour-long tales, leading up to The Night itself.

Monday October 27

A Living Corpse

Stars Robert Dryden and Kurt Peterson.

An eerie combination of hypnotism and slow death.

Tuesday October 28

The Storm Breeder

Stars Michael Tolan and Fred Gwynne.

A man doomed to wander forever, followed by a strange black cloud.

Wednesday October 29

Ghost Powder

Stars Michael Wager and Marian Seldes

Weird indeed, this problem of a ghost who steals state secrets.

Thursday October 30

Triptych For a Witch

Stars Margaret Hamilton.

A great grandmotherly witch and a psychiatrist fight it out.

Friday October 31

It's Hell To Pay

The Piper

Stars Ian Martin.

A chilling Sir Walter Scott classic about a Scotsman who travels to Hell.

CBS
Radio
my
Stery
theater



Exciting entertainment every day of the year.
Check local listings for time and station.