

AUGUST MEETING

The next meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held on Sunday, August 15 at 6 PM at the Wyatt's Cafeteria in the Cherry Creek Shopping Center.

There may or may not be a guest speaker, but we hope to have a good attendance in any case. There are some important items of business for the agenda such as the possibility of buying Ampex blank tape on a contract basis.

Available in the circulating library this month will be such reels as Halls of Ivy, Gisele MacKenzie, Air Time, Columbia Workshop, a variety reel of crime and adventure shows including two "Rogues Gallery" and some outstanding BBC shows. The sound quality of all these reels would be rated as very good to excellent by anyone.

WARNING

The postal rates have increased, the postal efficiency hasn't. It may be wise if you are trading with out of town collectors to work out an arrangement to contact each other when tapes arrive at their destination. Recently, I heard from a trading friend of mine in Michigan that he received my tapes on July 26 and that they were postmarked in Denver on May 3. That is exactly 12 weeks to go halfway accross the country or the equivalent time to carry them by hand there. Dick Mullins and Jerry Appleman have also had bad luck lately with the postal system so beware.

COMBINED NEWSLETTER

The OTR Club of Buffalo suggested that we put out a combination newsletter with them. It sounds like a fine idea and if it goes over the first time we could do it more often. I sure could use some contributions in this effort.

TYPIST WANTED

The stencils that we have of past newsletters can only run so many copies before they lose their effectiveness. Lately we have had many requests for back issues of the newsletter and I would appreciate it if someone would type all the newsletters on bond paper so they would be run off on a copier. Because of the blue print of the current newsletters it is impossible to get a clear copy. The RHAC would appreciate your help.

BOOK CORNER by John Dunning

Editor's note: For the next several issues of this newsletter, we will review books read by John Dunning and his comments on them. Many of these books are now out of print, but may be found in local libraries and found in second hand book stores.

WEBSTER'S AMERICAN BIOGRAPHIES, Merrian-Webster, 1253 pages of thumbnail biographies of famous Americans, many from the radio era. Among the radio stars covered are Tallulah Bankhead, the Barrymores, Fanny Brice, Bing Crosby, W.C.Fields, Judy Garland, Will Rogers, Frank Sinatra, Orson Welles, Ed Wynn, Fred Allen, Jack Benny, Edgar Bergen,

Milton Berle, Eddie Cantor, Jimmy Durante, Arthur Godfrey, Bob Hope, George Jessel, Al Jolson, Danny Kaye, Groucho Marx, Kate Smith, Rudy Vallee and others. The book also contains bios of such real-life radio heroes as Tom Mix, the journalists Franklin Adams, Hedda Hopper, H.V. Kaltenborn, Elsa Maxwell, Edward R. Murrow, Louella Parsons and Walter Winchell.

THE BIG BROADCAST, by Frank Buxton and Bill Owen, Viking 1972. The first show-by-show listing of casts from the "golden age" of network radio; 301 pages with black-and-white plates and a comprehensive index. Though somewhat brief in its narrative passages and limiting itself to shows heard before 1950, "The Big Broadcast" is a must book for radio connoisseurs. A number of errors mar the text, mainly mistakes in dating shows.

THE SERIALS: SUSPENSE AND DRAMA BY INSTALLMENT, by Raymond William Stedman, University of Oklahoma Press, 1971. An interesting, documented look at serials of radio, television and film, with perceptive comments by the author. 514 pages, title and name indexes, plus a year-by-year account of radio soaps. Stedman brings a lifelong interest and more than ten years research to the writing, and the result is a solid addition to the radio history library.

GUNSMOKE. . .how "Townsmen" was christened "Chester Wesley Proudfoot"
.....by Jerry Appleman

On the first broadcast of Gunsmoke (4-26-52) there was a character referred to only as "Townsmen" played by Parley Baer that was developed in subsequent broadcasts. William Conrad said "Townsmen... I can't be calling him Townsmen," and he dubbed the character "Chester". The character of Chester developed into a regular and for many shows he was known only as "Chester"(no last name). This continued for several shows until Chester received his last name by accident at a rehearsal. Chester had what is called a "broken speech", that is, a speech that was to be interrupted. "I'll(do that) as sure as..." at this spot Matt Dillon was supposed to interrupt Chester, but as was the case of the high-jinks in many rehearsals (remember "New Hotel"?) Bill Conrad said nothing. Silence! Forced to improvise, Parley Baer handled the situation thusly: "as sure as...(silence)...as sure as my name is Chester Wesley Proudfoot." "Chester Wesley Proudfoot!" exclaimed Bill Conrad, "Where on earth did that come from?" Parley replied, "Well, if you had interrupted me where you were supposed to..." So, from that day on, the character first known only as "Townsmen" had been christened "Chester Wesley Proudfoot".

TURNING THE DIAL AROUND TOWN

Mary Peacock will be having a class for children and it will deal with trucks and farming and would appreciate your help in finding some shows which deal with either cows or trucks....Harral Peacock would like to have a copy of John Dunning's show of July 25....John Lloyd has a home entertainment unit for sale (6' long X 2½' high), dark oak finish, excellent for equipment and tapes and records. Asking \$20.

WHATEVER BECAME OF.by Jack Richards

The following series is taken from the short sketches from Richard Lamparski's book of the same name. Jack Richards has volunteered to run this column for us.

Whatever Became ofThe Shadow

During the twenty-four year run, from August 31, 1930 to December 1954, change was the name of the game for the Shadow. Not only actors who played the characters, sponsors, networks, program titles, but also the role of Lamont Cranston changed over the years.

The man, who "learned the power to cloud mens minds so that they could not see him", only hosted the program when it first began. It wasn't until 1935 that the Shadow emerged as the chief character in all scripts. The character was originated by Jack LaCurto and passed quickly to Frank Readick, then Robert Hardy Andrews, who was replaced by Orson Welles, then by Bill Johnstone. Then, in 1944, the part passed to Bret Morrison. Bret now lives in Palm Springs.

The name originally was "Detective Story Hour" but became the "Blue Coal Musical Revue" in 1931. It began on CBS, moved to NBC, then went back to CBS, and finally ended for most of its run on Mutual.

All in all, old time radio buffs have much to thank for that famous "trip to the Orient" where it all began for Lamont Cranston.

Whatever Became of.....Eddie Anderson

Jack Benny's radio show included a cast of stars lead by a superstar. One of his most well known stars was introduced on Easter Sunday, 1937, as Rochester Van Jones, a Pullman porter. Soon the Van Jones was dropped and he became Jack's valet. He continued in that role until 1958 when he suffered a heart attack during a TV rehearsal.

Anderson was born on September 18, 1905, to parents who had a circus aerial act. He now lives in Los Angeles.

His last professional appearance was in the movie "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World" in 1963

PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM.by John Adams

PBS has many things to offer for OTR collectors. Besides the many plays that are very well done, there are many musical shows and OTR is not forgotten either.

I talked to the program director at Channel 6 and learned that this fall we will see many shows of interest. In October they will air the one hour show of old radio stars which we thought was to be aired this spring.

This fall will also see the return of SOUNDSTAGE, BOSTON POPS, AT THE TOP and many other musical shows. Denver's PBS station will carry more jazz than any other PBS station in the country.

For the collector who doesn't know how to find PBS on the FM dial it is at 88.1 and it will allow you to watch the show on TV and tape from your receiver.

The Boston Pops is not always classical but has many guest stars such as Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald and Bergen and McCarthy and half of the program is devoted to the guest star.

TRIVIA QUIZby Mary Nueske

Many radio shows used classical music as their themes. Can you match the shows with their theme music?

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| 1. The Big Story | A. "Dream of Olwen"-Charles Williams |
| 2. Challenge of the Yukon | B. "Night on Bald Mountain"-
Mussorgsky |
| 3. The Count of Monte Cristo | C. 1st Movement, 6th Symphony
(Pathetique) Tchaikovsky |
| 4. Escape | D. Brahms "Lullaby" |
| 5. The FBI in Peace and War | E. "Ein Heldenleben"-R. Strauss |
| 6. The Goldbergs | F. "Omphale's Spinning Wheel"-
Saint-Saens |
| 7. The Green Hornet | G. "None but the Lonely Heart"-
Tchaikovsky |
| 8. Hallmark Playhouse | H. "Moonlight Sonata"- Beethoven |
| 9. Hilltop House | I. Toselli's "Serenade" |
| 10. I Love a Mystery | J. Drigo's "Serenade" |
| 11. Kitty Keene | K. "Donna Diana Overture"-Reznicek |
| 12. The Lone Ranger | L. "Flight of the Bumble Bee"-
Rimsky-Korsakov |
| 13. The Longines Symphonette | M. "William Tell Overture"-Rossini |
| 14. The Road of Life | N. "The Sylvia Ballet"-Delibes |
| 15. The Shadow | O. "Valse Triste"-Sibelius |
| 16. When a Girl Marries | P. March from "Love for Three Oranges"
Prokofiev |

THE JACK ARMSTRONG MURDERS(PART 2) by Chuck Seeley of the OTR Club of
Buffalo, N.Y.

"Look, Shadow, I know I didn't kill Jack Armstrong because he isn't real. And neither are you."

The Shadow's voice became more urgent.

"Listen to me, Kyle Foster. This is reality, not your reality, but a reality, my reality. I do not know how you came to be here, but you are. And you will die for Armstrong's death if you remain here."

He paused, for effect I suppose.

"I can help you, Foster, and you can help me. Do you wish to leave this place?"

I thought about it. I still don't believe it, but I figured, what the hell.

"Sure," I answered. "Make with your magic".

The Shadow chuckled softly.

"I shall return, my friend."

"OK, I'll wait here."

A little while later, I saw a key ring floating by in mid-air. One

key picked itself out and inserted itself into the lock on my door. The door opened.

"Quickly, Foster. Here, take my hand."

"Hey, wait a minute. Won't somebody see us?"

The Shadow chuckled again.

"No one will see us. I have made you invisible to the guards as I am invisible to you."

"Far out"

Sure enough, I was invisible. We waltzed by the guards right in their plain sight, but they didn't see us. There was a long, low-slung black car waiting at the curb when we reached the street. The back door opened, we entered swiftly, and the car zoomed off. The back and side windows were covered by black drapes and I was sitting behind the driver. She had a lovely head of black hair. There was a depression in the seat next to me so I knew the Shadow was there.

"Uh," I said. "What do we do now."

"We're going to San Francisco," the Shadow replied, "for two reasons. First, I will arrange for you to have a bodyguard, yes, I'm afraid you will need one. I will not be able to be at your side constantly. Second, we take ship there for Singapore."

"Singapore!"

"Yes, Singapore. There, we will pick up the trail of--tell me, Kyle Foster, have you ever heard of...Fu Manchu?"

I just groaned.

"Yes. I have heard of Fu Manchu. I've read the books, seen the movies, hell, I've even heard the radio show. But he is not real!"

"He is all too real, my friend. Please bear with me, I shall explain it as well as I can. It seems that, according to the scientists, there is more than one universe, or reality. This is as yet not general knowledge. Further, travel between the universes is theoretically possible, more than that, it is possible. A man named Clay Collier invented a 'door' to other universes. Unfortunately, he never was able to use it. Two weeks ago, he was kidnapped, his notes and the 'door' stolen. Evidence points to the Si Fan of Fu Manchu. The immense fortune of Warbucks Industries was put to use to no avail, except for Jack Armstrong. He sent a message in code to Warbucks that said--you must believe this, Foster, it becomes really incredible now."

"Whole thing's incredible," I sniffed. "But go on."

"The message said that Fu Manchu had indeed kidnapped Collier and he was using the 'door'. Manchu has conspired with criminals of other universes in a plan for world domination! He has joined forces with the Emperor Ming of the planet Mongo, from our own far future, and a man named Lex Luthor, from an alternate reality. All these men are criminal geniuses and have agreed to help each other."

I considered. If it was a dream, it wasn't bad. Exciting, anyway. If I was dead, and this was Hell, it could be worse. I decided to play along.

"Alright, but what's this all got to do with me?"

"I beleive that you are a crux, maybe the crux of the whole affair. I can't beleive that it was a mere accident that transported you from your world to this one, especially to Armstrong's apartment, minutes after his murder. However, I am really not sure what to do with you, so I will take you to Singapore where some...colleagues of mine are gathering. You may be most important in our fight against the evil of Fu Manchu.

Now, here, put on these clothes. Your prison outfit is a dead give away."

He handed me a brown suit, with wide lapels. I shrugged and took them, saying, "Thank you, Mr. Cranston."

The Shadow hissed.

"What did you say?" His voice seemed particularly ominous.

I talked while I changed.

"I said, 'thank you Mr. Cranston.' Sure, I know. You're Lamont Cranston, wealthy man about town and you have the power to cloud men's minds so that they cannot see you. You got it in the Orient somewhere. And, oh yeah, our driver up there must be the lovely Margo Lane, the only one who knows your secret and close companion and so forth."

Margo spoke up for the first time.

"You may as well tell him, Lamont, he knows now anyway and it would be better if we didn't have to keep the secret from him."

"Hmmm," the Shadow said. "Very well, Foster. What you say is true. But I must have your solemn vow never to reveal it to anyone."

"Sure," I said. "You got it."

I looked down to tie my shoes and when I looked up again I was sitting next to Lamont Cranston. He looked like a young Orson Welles. I should have known.

"Far out," I said. "By the way, what's the name of this bodyguard we're going to see?"

"Samuel Spade," he answered

I guess I should have known that, too.

The sign on the frosted glass of the door said "SAMUEL SPADE, PRIVATE INVESTIGATIONS." Cranston walked in, followed by Margo and me. The trim little secretary looked up.

"Yes, may I help you?" she asked. Only Effie had a squeaky voice like that.

"Yes, we'de like to see Mr. Spade," Cranston said smoothly, "On a matter of some urgency."

"Oooh, just a minute, please." she squealed and bounced through a door into Spade's inner office. After a moment she bounced back out.

"Go right in," she held the door coyly for us. She sniffed at Margo, who always looked spectacular.

TO BE CONTINUED

ANSWERS TO THE TRIVIA QUIZ

1-E, 2-K, 3-N, 4-B, 5-P, 6-I, 7-L, 8-A, 9-D, 10-O, 11-G, 12-M, 13-H
14-C, 15-F, 16-J

LETTERS FROM OUR FRIENDS

I had been in touch with Vicki Vola and was very excited when I heard that she would be in Denver. Unfortunately, she came during the week at I went to Las Vegas and Grand Canyon. So not only did I lose a lot of money, but lost a chance to meet one of the great radio stars and a very fine person. My apologies to her and the RHAC for not giving her some other names to contact since I wasn't in town.

My letter to Bing Crosby was answered by his secretary since he is in Europe for the summer but she will bring it to his attention when he returns.

Also had a very nice letter which reads: "Dear John, Thank you so much for your letter. All your kind words are most gratifying and I appreciate your taking time to write. My best wishes to you, and congratulations to you and your club for all the fine generous work you are doing. Love, Lucy. (Lucille Ball).

It is always most gratifying to hear from the radio stars that we are still enjoying in OTR.

BIG NEWS

The RHAC owes many thanks to Dick Mullins for his efforts on our behalf in finding what I beleive to be a great benefit in tape buying. Dick called me and told me that we will be able to purchase Ampex tape at very good prices. The price breakdown is as follows: (In lots of 12 reels)

	<u>1200 feet</u>	<u>1800 feet</u>
Shamrock	\$11.00	\$14.00
Medium quality (291-292)	\$18.00	\$22.80
High quality (631-641)	\$30.00	\$39.60

Dick tells me that the High quality tape is about the same as Scotch 228-229. We have the same opportunity as we had with DAK, in that we are able to return any tape of poor quality. This is a tremendous deal and we will be able to buy the medium grade tape at the same price that local retailers are selling poor quality tape. I really hope that we all take advantage of this deal since we will be able to upgrade our quality of trading tapes. Several other things that Dick mentioned were that Glenn Ritter was having a difficult time with getting Capital tape and it may be a problem in ordering it on a regular basis. The salesman that Dick has been in contact with also states that Shamrock may be dropped in the not too distant future but I doubt if very many of us would have used it anyway. Dick will explain in more detail at the next meeting and possibly begin taking order. I also understand that KFML will be purchasing with us. Any others interested from our out of town friends please contact me if your club or you are interested.

