

JANUARY MEETING-The January meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 16th at 3 PM at the parish hall of St. Barnabas Church. The church is located at 1280 Vine (corner of 13th and Vine). Vine is 21 blocks east of Broadway. Our special guest will be John Dunning and he will autograph your copy of his book "Tune In Yesterday". He will also be our guest speaker in a question and answer format.

MORE ON THE NEXT MEETING-St. Barnabas has been very generous in allowing us to use their parish hall at no charge. I asked the people there if we could make a donation for their parish hall to show our appreciation, but since the RHAC is not financially able to do so, my wife and I are donating a coffee pot for their use. If you are able to make a donation for the hall, please let me know. It will be greatly appreciated by them and the RHAC. Also, a raffle will be held at the next meeting in order to raise money for our treasury. The big raffle will be a 33 page script of a Fred Allen Show with guest Jack Benny from 6/27/48. A second raffle will be a 16 page I Love A Mystery script, "The Blue Phantom Murders" episode #2 from 6/5/50. Also to be raffled will be five 5 page CBS Radio Mystery Theater lead-ins and promotional copy scripts for the week of 3/31/75 to 4/6/75. Many thanks to the generosity of Jerry Appleman for the donation of these scripts. It will really help us financially and I hope you will all take an active part in these raffles.

GOOD LISTENING-John Dunning's schedule for January on KFML is:

1/2/77-Mercury Theater, "Tale of Two Cities" from 1938

Bob and Ray Show

Terry and the Pirates

1/9/77-Johnny Dollar, "The Rasmusson Matter" from 1956

Suspense, "Lady Killer" from 1950

Bob and Ray Show

Big John and Sparkie

1/16/77-Screen Directors Playhouse, "The Big Clock"

Land of the Lost

The Romance of Helen Trent

1/23/77-Michael Shayne

Screen Directors Playhouse, "Blind Alley"

X Minus One

1/30/77-CBS Radio Workshop, "Jimmy Blue Eyes"

Green Hornet

I Love A Mystery, "The Richards Curse"

WOW ! What a great lineup of shows for the start of another great year with John and Harry. Did you ever stop to think about how lucky we are to live here in Denver and have OTR on every week? There are a lot of people who would gladly change with us since they don't get any OTR except through trade. How about thanking John when you see him at the next meeting.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS AND MAY 1977 BE A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR YOU INDIVIDUALLY, FOR THE RHAC AND FOR OTR.

TUNE IN YESTERDAY- We are happy to announce that John Dunning's book has been an overwhelming success. Waldenbooks' and B. Dalton bookstores tell me that sales have been very good so far. John has been getting a lot of publicity on the book and has been interviewed on KOA and KVOD as well as book reviews in the Post, News and Playboy magazine. It is a very entertaining and informative book and has been picked up by several book clubs for future sales. Best of all, this success couldn't happen to a nicer guy. Our heartiest congratulations, John.

TRADING IDEA- Len Lawson has sent two copies of the reels available from his lending library. It is up to about 360 reels now. There is a lot of great new material. I went through the list and found about 30 reels I'd like to trade for. Here is something I'd like to do with some of the newer members. If you sign up with Len's Lending Library and get some of the tapes I'd like to trade for, I will trade anything in my collection for them. You will get what you order from Len and also what I will trade you for them. I think it is a good way to get started and increase the size of your collection. Let me know if you are interested.

NAMING THE NEWSLETTER- I have only heard from two members with ideas for the newsletter name. Here are the entries so far: TUNING BACK, WAVES, PRESERVATION, LOOKING BACKWARD, LISTEN BACK, PAST TENSE, CHRONOGRAM, RETURN WITH US NOW, THE AUDITOR, VOICE OF THE RHAC, ECHOES OF THE PAST, AM(RADIO), THE CRYSTAL (as in crystal set), CAT'S WHISKER(as in crystal set), YESTERDAY, YESTERYEAR, REMEMBERING, ON THE AIR, GOLDEN DAYS and GOLDEN AGE. These are just some of the choices that we have. Write down any that you might have. We will vote on this at the January meeting and be under a new name for the February newsletter.

KRMA-CHANNEL 6- Here are some of the highlights for January, 1977:

- 1/16/77 8PM-Evening at Symphony with Seiji Ozawa conducting the Boston Symphony
- 1/16/77 9PM-Upstairs, Downstairs starts it's 4th and final season
- 1/17/77 8PM-Meeting of Minds with Steve Allen interviewing historical figures played by Jayne Meadows, Joe Earley and others
- 1/18/77 8PM-National Geographic Special, "Voyage of the Hokule"
- 1/22/77 8PM-Lowell Thomas Remembers the Year 1965
- 1/23/77 9PM-Upstairs, Downstairs, Part 2
- 1/26/77 9PM-Arthur Rubinstein conducts the London Symphony at age 90
- 1/29/77 8PM-Lowell Thomas Remembers the Year 1966
- 1/30/77 9PM-Upstairs, Downstairs, Part 3

(EDITOR'S NOTE- KRMA is the local educational station and they offer many excellent programs. They are supplying us with advance information in their programming for which we are very grateful. We will give the highlights to you. Also, remember that you can tape these programs from your FM receiver. It is the lowest station that you will hear on the FM dial.)

The History of the NBC Radio Network, Part 6 (1960's and 1970's)

By 1960, the advent of color TV seemed proof again that whatever radio could do to attract audiences, television could do better. By the 1960's, NBC had cancelled all of its daytime and nighttime entertainment programs, but was still going strong with its weekend "Monitor" service. Stars like Fibber McGee and Molly continued to do comedy skits on "Monitor" even after their own 15 minute series on NBC had gone off the air. A few shows were brought back in shorter formats like "Encores from the Bell Telephone Hour." In 1964, Edgar Bergen and Charley McCarthy did a one hour special on NBC honoring the 100th anniversary of Chase and Sanborn coffee, their old sponsors. It was so popular, they came back in 1965 and 1966 with a tribute to Fred Allen and NBC's 40th anniversary. In 1973, a short lived revival of NBC's "X Minus One" series came back, first as part of "Monitor" and then later as a sustained program by itself. During October and November of 1976, NBC ran five one-hour specials called "The First Fabulous Fifty" for five consecutive weeks in honor of NBC's 50th anniversary. Like the first specials in the 1960's, these were very informative, well put together shows, that discussed radio's early days and gave listeners a good sample of why radio was once the king of the airwaves.

In March of 1975, NBC announced it was cancelling all formats that ran over five minutes (Monitor, X Minus One, etc.) and beginning in June of that same year would offer a "All News-All Day" service to non-NBC affiliates. Called News and Information Service (NIS), it became one of the most refreshing ideas in modern radio. The service broadcasts 24 hours per day (except all day Sunday) and is available from seven minutes past the hour til the half hour and from twenty three minutes til the hour until on the hour. The fourteen minutes it is not on the air is reserved for NBC hourly news, other NBC programs lasting five minutes or less in length, news feeds or closed circuit information. The non-NBC stations carrying NIS use the fourteen minutes for local news and etc.

Both NIS and NBC formats come down the same network line to stay in the FCC limitations that no company will operate or own two or more networks. But what will happen someday when the top brass runs out of good ideas for network radio? Will they scrap them and concentrate solely on television? Some people say the government would never allow the radio networks to be dissolved as in national disasters, they would be far superior to the TV networks in geographical reach alone. NBC for one isn't ready to get out of the radio business as there ads for the "First Fabulous Fifty" stated, "Listen this week and at the same time next week, because it will be 50 years until there is another series quite like this."

COMING NEXT MONTH: A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ABC RADIO NETWORK

(EDITORS NOTE: Since the time Tom wrote the above article, NBC announced it was going to discontinue the NIS service by the middle of 1977. Jack Thayer, president of NBC radio division said a year-end review of the NIS operation "Clearly indicated that despite our best efforts to provide an innovative national all news service and to support it with heavy promotion, NIS has not reached the levels of station subscription or national audience which would have made it possible

for us to recommend continuation." The service started on June 18, 1975, and NBC's projection was to have about 150 stations and 750,000 listeners by the end of 1976. In fact, there are less than 70 stations and only about 250,000 listeners. NIS is heard in Colorado on KDEN in Denver and KRDO in Colorado Springs.)

TRIVIA QUIZ- Match the location with the show and good luck.

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|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. A New York townhouse | _____ a. I Love A Mystery |
| 2. A fix-it shop | _____ b. Hannibal Cobb |
| 3. Wheeling, W.V. | _____ c. Our Gal Sunday |
| 4. Echo Valley Farm | _____ d. Seth Parker |
| 5. Jonesport, Maine | _____ e. Lum 'n' Abner |
| 6. A shop on Beacon St. | _____ f. Ethel and Albert |
| 7. Tremont Ave. | _____ g. The Musical Steelmakers |
| 8. 17 South Jackson | _____ h. Ma Perkins |
| 9. A submarine | _____ i. The Mel Blanc Show |
| 10. Chicago | _____ j. The First Nighter |
| 11. The Jot'em Down Store,
Pine Ridge, Arkansas | _____ k. Stella Dallas |
| 12. 79 Wistful Vista | _____ l. Night Beat |
| 13. Just off Hollywood Blvd.,
and one flight up | _____ m. Red Hook-31 |
| 14. The Crystal Studio | _____ n. The Roxy Gang |
| 15. Rushville Center | _____ o. The Goldbergs |
| 16. Black Swan Hall | _____ p. Adventures of Nero Wolfe |
| 17. The Capital Theater, NYC | _____ q. Joyce Jordan, M.D. |
| 18. The Little Theater off
Times Square | _____ r. Make Beleive Ballroom |
| 19. The town of Preston | _____ s. Latitude Zero |
| 20. Sandy Harbor | _____ t. Fibber McGee and Molly |

CIRCULATING LIBRARY- One of the benefits of being a member of the RHAC is the availability of the tape library. In order for the tape library to sustain itself it is necessary to make at least \$25 per month in sign ups. In October we had \$41 but in December we made \$14. This is partly my fault for not having the tapes available before and after each meeting. They will be in the future. We hope to have the entire library listed by the January meeting. At least half of it will be. It will definitely all be ready by February. There is something which bears repeating here. When you sign up for reels from the library try to sign at different places so you don't receive several tapes at the same time. It causes delays. If you finish a reel about a week before the next meeting, send it on because the next person might be able to complete it by the meeting. Since our meetings have always been on Sunday, the next person might have all day Saturday to finish it. If you finish a few days before a meeting, call the next person on the list to see if he will be at the next meeting and that you will bring it for him. These are not rules. It is just common courtesy. Think of the next guy. He may have more free time than you. If you can't do it right away, put your name at the end of the list and you will get it later. Support the library and be courteous to the next member. Thanks.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
OF COLORADO

Of all the organizations of which I've been a member, I've never had the enthusiasm for any that I have for RHAC. I suppose some of that enthusiasm is attributable to the fact that RHAC, more than any other of my associations, is fun. But most of that enthusiasm is because I view RHAC as trying to preserve something I think is worth preserving.

I think we all share that wish that Old Time Radio be preserved, but I often wonder if we're doing all we can, not only to preserve interest in it, but to interest others in what we're doing, too.

For instance, it would be a tremendous blow to us were KFML's Old Time Radio program to be discontinued. If a sponsor doesn't think his sponsorship of a program will result in higher sales, he'll rightly conclude that his sponsorship is a waste. Every time OTR gets a new sponsor, tell him we appreciate his sponsorship by writing him, not calling that sponsor, and pledge to patronize his business. And we should twist the arms of friends to do the same. Last spring, I asked a dozen or so of my friends to write the sponsors of OTR and the management of KFML. One of those sponsors to whom we wrote is still sponsoring the show (Eaker's), and I can't help but think that our efforts had some effect. And when you go into an Eaker's or another of the show's sponsors, tell somebody--preferably the manager--that you're in their store solely because of their sponsorship of OTR.

That may be at least a partial solution to our insuring that OTR stay on the air. But how do we go beyond that? How do we involve others in what we're doing for our mutual benefit and enjoyment?

The answer to those questions, I think, comes down to a matter of public relations. We're fortunate to have a kind ear at the Rocky Mountain News in Dusty Saunders, and at the Denver Post in Clark Secrest. But to involve others in what we are doing, we have to do a better job of bringing ourselves into public view. That means publicity, not only for our meetings, but for our members. I've found collectors of old time radio shows to be extremely interesting, if a bit eccentric, and I think others would find them likewise. Your local newspaper (Post zone edition or Sentinel newspaper) would probably be more than pleased to be given a story about a local resident with an admittedly unusual hobby. Of course, the best advertising is word-of-mouth. Talk up old time radio. Your enthusiasm may be contagious.

Certainly, one of the most noble undertakings, at least as I understand it, was our effort to share our shows with old folks' homes. Such charity, if you will, makes for great newspaper material, great radio material, even great television material. Efforts such as our nursing home ventures should be expanded.

Lest you think I'm telling while you're doing. I gladly volunteer to do whatever I can for our cause.

Sincerely,
Dan Danbom

DECEMBER MEETING- We had a splendid turnout for our December dinner meeting. Our guest speaker was Dusty Saunders of the Rocky Mountain News and he was especially entertaining and informative. I've heard nothing but raves about his appearance. Thanks again, Dusty and Anita. I also would like to thank Joe Madden for all of his hard work in organizing the meeting and dinner. There was a great deal of time spent in calling everyone for an exact count. Thanks, Joe.

KVOD-THE JOHN, JOHN AND JOHN SHOW- On Wednesday, December 15, I had the good fortune of representing the RHAC on John Wolfe's noontime talk show on KVOD. It was a fun hour talking OTR with John Wolfe and John Dunning. John was interviewed about his book and I was asked about the RHAC. John Wolfe played excerpts from about 5 or 6 shows which John Dunning supplied him with.

(EDITOR'S NOTE- We are going to put a reel in the library consisting of Jim Hawthorne's evening with us, Dusty Saunders evening with us, an hour long interview that was done about the RHAC for Allan Rockford's radio show in Syracuse and the above hour long interview. It will be free for anyone who wishes to borrow it.)

COMBINATION NEWSLETTER- The combination newsletter that was done with the Buffalo OTR club was a lot of hard work but a lot of fun too. I have had very little response to it. It was mentioned in the latest edition of Hello Again for which I thank Jay Hickerson. I received a nice letter from Len Lawson about it and a nice letter from Don Koeheemann for which I thank them. I had hoped to share, with Chuck Seeley of Buffalo, some of the reaction to this endeavor, but I have not received one card from a Denver member. I am open to compliments or complaints. I hope I can learn from both what you want.

NATIONAL RADIO TRADER-This is a new publication for the OTR trader. I received a copy of the first issue and it looks like it is going to be very good. It looks like the classified ads in the paper and has some good stories. The cost is \$8 per year for 4 issues and you get \$12 worth of free advertising with a subscription. If you would like information or a subscription write: NATIONAL RADIO TRADER, attention: Phil Cole, PO Box 1147, Mount Vernon, Washington 98273.

COMING NEXT MONTH- Next month's newsletter will have many interesting features. Besides the conclusion of the Jack Armstrong Murder, we will have Tom Daniels fine column, a great story sent by Mary Neuske on sound effects in radio, a book review which is very informative by Harv Bishop and exceptionally well written, a "far out" radio story by Tom Daniels which will blow your mind, a current membership list, a page of other OTR club happenings from around the country and other interesting articles. Stay tuned because we are getting bigger and better.

ANSWERS TO THE TRIVIA QUIZ

1-p, 2-i, 3-g, 4-m, 5-d, 6-k, 7-o, 8-b, 9-s, 10-l, 11-e, 12-t, 13-a, 14-r, 15-h, 16-c, 17-n, 18-j, 19-q, 20-f.

THE JACK ARMSTRONG MURDERBY CHUCK SEELEY OF THE OLD TIME
RADIO CLUB OF BUFFALO

Margo was a little broken up about the Shadow. We tried to cheer her up, but now that she had time to brood about it, she became more melancholy.

Nothing much happened for the rest of the morning. There was some food aboard, so we ate. There was no sign of pursuit.

I thought a little about home. I figured that I had been gone about five days. I doubted that anyone would be concerned about me, except my boss, who had probably fired me by now.

It was mid-afternoon when I began tingling. It was strange, like pins and needles. I had felt it before.

"What's the matter, Mr. Foster?" asked Terry. "You look funny." I agreed. I looked at my hands and watched my skin shimmer. And then the waves of cold passed through me, the waves I had felt five days ago on the back porch of my fishing cabin in Michigan. I heard a scream from far away and then it was over.

I wasn't in the scow anymore. I looked around. I was sitting on the ground in the middle of a barren valley. It was cold. I saw the rocket ship when I looked behind me. It was a stubby ship, matching the description of the ones Pat Ryan had told me about. It rested on its belly, smoke curling from the rocket tubes in the rear.

A hatch on the side of the ship opened, and two oddly dressed men and a girl stepped out. The girl saw me first and cried out. The bigger of the two men, the blond giant, whipped out a strange looking pistol and leveled it at me. The other man, older, slightly flabby, with thin dark hair, put a hand on his arm.

"Wait, Flash," he said. "He may be friendly."

Man, was I friendly.

"Hello, Flash Gordon," I said.

The well-muscled blond giant covered me with a ray pistol. I did not know then that it was a ray pistol, but it certainly didn't look like any gun I'd ever seen before. And, sure enough, he looked like Buster Crabbe.

"Who are you?" he demanded.

I proceeded to tell him who I was, how I knew who he was, and all that I knew about the Fu Manchu/Ming/Lex Luthor alliance. Dr. Zarkov stopped me now and then to question me more closely. They seemed satisfied with my story; apparently it jived with some facts of their own. The really incredible part was the fact that they had come from yet another world, a world where characters of movie serials exist. I was still on the radio world.

"So you came through with a Door of your own invention?" I asked.

"Yes," replied Zarkov. "It's something I had been working on for some time, and the recent space-time disturbances helped me to calibrate the device. You say a man named Clay Collier developed the inter-dimensional door here?"

"Yeah. And for his efforts he was kidnapped by Fu Manchu. Listen, I've got to do something to stop Manchu but---"

"Don't worry," said Flash. "We'll help you."

"Terrific. Hey, how come I'm here, I mean, why did I disappear from the boat and end up here?"

Zarkov scratched his chin.

"Somehow," he began, "you are connected to the Door phenomenon. Our passage across the fabric of inter-dimensional interstices must have set up sympathetic vibrations in your body which drew you along with us."

"Do you mean I'm going to pop around all the time?"

"No, no...hmmm...yes, I have something in the ship that I can alter into a personal neutraliser for you."

"Better make it snappy, Doc," said Flash. "You're going to have to go back and get Prince Barin and King Vultan and their fleets. Meanwhile, Dale, Kyle, and I will pick up his friends from that boat and begin searching for Ming's base."

"Very well, Flash," agreed Zarkov, and he quickly put together a bracelet-like gizmo for me. He said I couldn't travel through a Door now unless I switched it off, and he was right. When he shimmered off back to the serial world, I stayed put. This was also the first time I actually saw a Door device. I was expecting, well, a door. Actually, it was a box-like affair, about a foot by a foot-and-a-half by half-a-foot, with all kinds of knobs, gauges, and antennae on it. Zarkov put a headset on, flipped a switch, and disappeared. Wierd.

Minutes later, Flash was flying Dale and I towards the Bay of Bengal. He had landed in a Himalayan valley, so we were heading south. It didn't take long to spot the little steamboat containing my friends, the craft a black spot on the stark blue expanse of the Bay. Flash landed us on the beach and I yelled and waved until they saw me and headed in to shore. They were not a little surprised and confused. Introductions and explanations were made in short order, we all boarded the rocket ship, and Flash took off again.

"Where are we going?" questioned Pat Ryan.

Flash indicated an instrument on the control panel.

"This device will pinpoint large concentrations of atomic power."

"Of course," I said. "There is no atomic power here, is there?"

Pat was filling his pipe.

"If you mean the A-bomb," he said, "We used that in the second World War."

"Yeah," I said. "But your nuclear plants are still in their early stages."

"Right," Flash put in. "But you can be sure that Fu Manchu will have a working plant if he's allied with Ming."

I looked around. Margo Lane was in the rear of the cabin, huddled in the arms of Dale Arden. The terrible experiences she'd been through and the apparent loss of the Shadow was taking its toll.

We must have cruised for hours, and we were passing over the east coast of the U.S. when the detector began making noises.

"North," Flash reported, and swung the ship onto a new heading.

"Dale."

"Yes, Flash?"

"Show them how to operate the weapons. Make sure everyone is armed."

"Shouldn't we wait for Dr. Zarkov?" Flash's lady wanted to know.

"No, there isn't time. It may take hours to get the fleets assembled and we've got to stop Manchu from destroying any cities. Oh, don't worry, Dale. I've set up a radio beacon so that Zarkov can find us when he comes through."

Dale instructed all of us in the use of the ray pistol. It was quite simple really, much like firing a regular pistol, but instead of a loud report and recoil and a bullet, the ray pistol was almost soundless. There was no recoil and it emitted a terribly hot ray.

"We're coming up on Greenland," Flash told us. "Look there!"

Below us, coal-black buildings outlined against the blinding white of the snow fields, lay the headquarters of the evil three. The insignia of Fu Manchu was painted on the roof of the largest building, a challenge to anyone who would destroy him. As we looked, a flight of six or seven rocket ships, similar to ours, swarmed out of a sudden opening in the snow.

"An underground hangar. Hang on!" Flash said, grimly.

It was a good thing we did. The spaceman put his ship into all kinds of acrobatics, avoiding the rays shot at us by the enemy ships. Flash fired back when he could, sending one of them flaming to earth.

Dale was clinging to the back of Flash's pilot chair.

"Flash!" she cried. "Flash, you can't fight them all!"

"I know!" he shouted to make himself heard over the whine and the roar of the rocket engines. "There is a way, though. It's going to be a long shot, but it just might work. I'm going to land in their own hangar. When we stop, everybody get out and run for it. If we split up, we should be able to do some damage."

So saying, he put the ship into a screaming power dive. The white ground filled the forward viewscreen before he leveled off, and hurtling into the hangar, he reversed the engines. The force threw us forward, but we hung on. The ship slid to a halt inches before crashing into a parked rocket.

"Everybody out!" yelled Flash.

I was out first. A couple of armed guards and other uniformed men were running at me so I rayed them. I headed for a door off to my left. Behind me, I heard shouts and the steady hum of ray guns. The guards were armed as we were. One ray came close; its heat raised blisters on my arm. And then I was through the door, raying anyone who got in my way. I had no idea where to go or what to do except to cause as much damage as I could. I continued down the corridor I was in until I came to a large machinery filled room. I shot the people that were there and began blasting the machines. There was a terrific explosion that threw me to the floor. When I looked up again, I was staring down the barrel of a ray pistol in the hands of one of the guards.

Several more guards entered the room and dragged me off into a gigantic chamber. It was, incredibly enough, a throne room. At the far end of the chamber were three thrones on a dias. A balcony ran around three walls and a huge viewscreen was suspended from the center of the high ceiling, facing the three thrones. Two of the thrones were occupied. Nobody had to tell me that they were Fu Manchu and Ming, the Merciless.

They looked astonishingly alike, save for Manchu's yellowish skin. Also in the room, arranged before the thrones, were Sam Spade, Margo Lane, Pat Ryan, and Terry Lee. My heart leaped. Were Flash and Dale still at large? Or were they dead?

Well, readers. Tune in next month, same time, same place for the terrific conclusion of this story. We hope that you have enjoyed it and are looking forward to the action packed, surprising ending.

