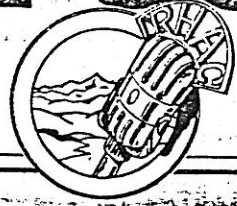


RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado

NOW...



VOLUME 7, NUMBER 12

JUNE 1982



DON WILSON

JUNE MEETING - JOHN DUNNING

The June meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held at the Southwest State Bank, 1380 S. Federal on June 17 at 7:30p.m. John Dunning will be the guest speaker so make sure you are on time because he will be speaking at the first part of the meeting. As a reminder, the RHAC holds its meetings on the third Thursday of each month, unless otherwise notified by the bank of a change. Hope to see you there.

JOHN DUNNINGS OTR SCHEDULE FOR JUNE - KNUS 1090 AM - 2-5PM.

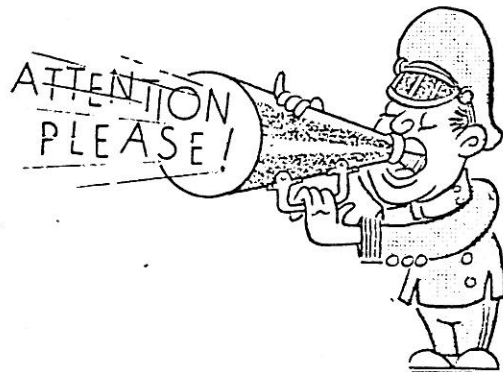
- JUNE 6 D Day for Anniversary Show of CBS News 6-6-44 (Approx. 45 min. of news coverage)
Jack Benny - Drive in Movie 10-24-54
On Stage - Statement of Fact 5-14-53
Interview - Janet Waldo
- JUNE 13 CBS Special Report - General MacArthur Farwell address April 1951
Little Orphan Annie - Isolated chapters - 10-21-35
On Stage - The Man of Independent Mind 07-09-53
Interview - John MacVane (War correspondent)
- JUNE 20 Frontier Gentleman - Claim Jumpers (1st of 2) 03-09-58
Baby Snooks - The report card 05-01-51
On Stage - Penny Ante 1953
Interview - Alice Frost
- JUNE 27 Frontier Gentleman - The Actress 03-23-58
Lux Radio Theatre - All About Eve 10-1-51
Interview - Parley Baer

MAY MEETING

At the May meeting we tried something different in that there was no formal business meeting. The May meeting was a get together of old and new members to talk about Old Radio. There was punch, coffee, and snacks. The meeting was a great success and everyone had a good time. We would like to do this again in the future. Your comments and suggestions would be appreciated.

JOHN DUNNING WILL
BE AT THE JUNE MEETING!

This promises to be a
fun filled and informative
meeting.



RETURN WITH US NOW is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado. The club was founded for the preservation and enjoyment of Old Time Radio shows by its members. To join or for more information, write or call one of the following:

President - Barrett Benson - 5931 Ellis Ct., Arvada, CO 80004 - 422-6442
Vice President - Glenn Ritter - P.O. Box 20061, Denver, CO 80220 - 377-4798
Treasurer - Dick Henry - 440 S. Pierce, Lakewood, CO 80226 - 922-2767
Tape Librarian - John Migrala - 7213 W. Roxbury Pl., Littleton, CO 80123 - 979-0755
Blank Tape Sales - Dave Tysver - 841-5910 ***** Barrett Benson - 422-6442
Newsletter Editor - John Callor - 9265 Pierce St., Westminster, CO 80020 - 429-4639

OOPPS*

I would like to start this newsletter by saying that I'm sorry about the mystery cover on the May issue. In a world taken over by "video" it is easy to forget that radio was a medium that depended so heavily on one's imagination. When ten people listened to a radio show each person had their own idea of what the star looked like.

Last month Goodman Ace past away, so I thought a cover featuring Goodman Ace and his wife Jane would be appropriate. The picture was donated by a new member, Duff Campbell of Panorama City, California. The picture includes, Goodman Ace and his wife Jane, to the right, and their best friend "Marge" played by Mary Hunter. Again sorry about the mystery and Thanks to Duff Campbell.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ANY SHOWS?

If you are looking for any trades or just those few shows to finish off what you have, please let me know so that I can print it in the newsletter. In this way someone may have just what you are looking for.

WANTED

I am interested in obtaining copies of the "Music Makers" currently being aired on KEZW. Contact: Mike Wotovitch at 798-0284.

WANTED

Phil Harris singing "The Preacher and the Bear". There was an older version done by someone else, but it was on an Edison cylinder recording and I doubt that anyone would have it....but. Contact: Janet Braden, 449 W. 4th, Loveland, CO 80537.

CHASING SHADOWS?

I am interested in adding to my collection of "The Shadow". Also, if you have any Shadow comic books or "pulp" magazines I would also be interested. I am willing to trade for shows in good sound. Contact: John Callor, 9265 Pierce St., Westminster, CO 80020, or 429-4639.

Radio announcer Don Wilson dies

News staff and wire reports

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — Former Denverite Don Wilson, the rotund announcer on "The Jack Benny Show" for more than 30 years and the butt of many of the comedian's jokes, has died of an apparent stroke, it was disclosed Monday. He was 81.

Wilson was found unconscious by his wife Sunday afternoon in their home in Cathedral City. He was rushed to the emergency room of Eisenhower Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead at 6:51 p.m., hospital spokesman John Millrany said. The cause of death was listed as a cerebral vascular accident or stroke.

Wilson was a 1919 graduate of Denver's North High School.

"It was a massive stroke," said his wife, former actress Lois Corbet, in a telephone interview Monday. She said she had been at the hospital visiting a friend and found Wilson when she returned home.

Wilson and his wife moved to the Palm Springs resort area in the 1960s after Benny's show went out of production.

The Jack Benny show began on radio in 1932, and Wilson became Benny's announcer in 1934. The show moved to television in 1950. It ended in 1965.

"I'm not really an announcer for Benny in the sense that fellows are on other shows," Wilson once said in an interview. "The reason for that is because Jack worked me into the cast over the years."

Benny, who died in 1974, often joked on the show about Wilson's weight. The 6-foot-2 announcer weighed about 240

pounds, but the comedian made him sound huge.

"Jack had me built up fat as Andy Devine," Wilson once said. "He had everybody believing I weighed at least 300."

His wife eventually became a character on the radio and television shows, along with Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, Dennis Day, Phil Harris, Mary Livingston, Artie "Mr. Kitzel" Auerbach, Mel Blanc, Bea Benaderet, Verna Felton, Frank Nelson and all the rest.

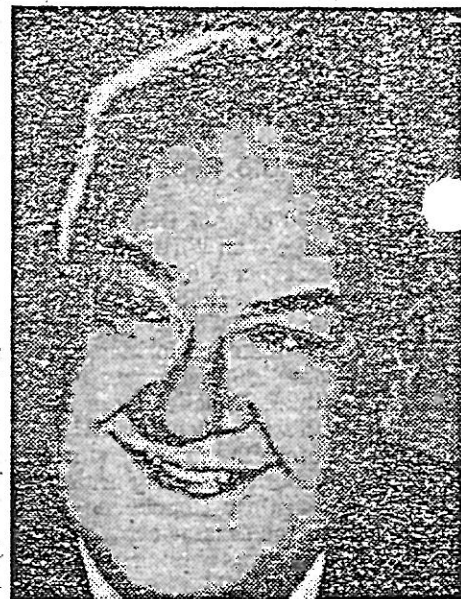
"He was a great foil for Jack," said Irving Fein, a producer and long-time associate of Benny.

Wilson and his wife occasionally appeared in the theater. He was last in "The Big Broadcast of 1944," which toured in the East with Dennis Day, who had been the singer on the Benny show, Gordon MacRae, and Harry James and his orchestra.

After moving to Palm Springs about 10 years ago, Wilson was host of "Town Talk," a celebrity interview show on KMIR-TV. For six months in 1975 he and his wife were hosts of "The Don and Lois Wilson Show" on KTLN-TV, now KESQ-TV.

Wilson also spent a year as the announcer on "The Kraft Music Hall" and on "The Tommy Riggs and Betty Lou Show," both on radio.

Wilson, born in Lincoln, Neb., in September 1900, moved to Denver as a boy and graduated from North High. He began his career as a singer with a male trio that made its radio debut in 1924 on Denver radio station KFEL. The trio toured the mountain states until 1927.



Don Wilson
Butt of many Benny jokes

"I've written a book about it called 'From Piggly Wiggly to Jack Benny,'" his wife said. "He started out in Denver, his hometown, as a baritone in a trio. They were sponsored by a chain of grocery stores called the Piggly Wiggly stores."

She said Wilson went to San Francisco in 1927 and sang on radio there, then got into announcing and moved to Hollywood, where he started doing Rose Bowl games.

"NBC was very much impressed his work and they took him back to New York in 1933," she said adding that the next year Benny held auditions for a new announcer and Wilson won the job.

Wilson married Corbet in 1950, one year after divorcing his third wife, Marusia Rudunska, a dress designer and former Polish countess.

No funeral services were planned, said a spokesman at the Wiefels and Son Mortuary, adding that his body will be cremated.

SOMETHING QUICK AND EASY

TROPICAL FRUIT FREEZE

SERVES 4

- 1 6 oz. can frozen orange juice, thawed
- 3 cups pineapple juice
- 1 banana, pureed
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 12 oz. can ginger ale
- Sugar to taste (opt.)

Place orange juice in a 48 oz. container. Add pineapple juice and stir. Puree banana with lemon juice in a blender and add to orange mixture. Seal container and freeze for several hours until slushy. Stir in ginger ale when ready to serve. If a sweeter refreshment is desired, add sugar to taste.

MY INFATUATION WITH "I LOVE A MYSTERY" AND ANYTHING RESEMBLING IT
By Reid Hansen
Part II

Recently I began a "stories" class in which I could do almost anything I wanted. I started reading some stories out loud--and that was enjoyable, but when I brought in some old time radio tapes the interest really picked up. I had secured the tapes to "Temple of the Vampires," (perhaps the best of all "I Love a Mystery" serials) some time ago, and since the complete scripts were available I ordered them and set about to use both the tapes and the scripts in my class. Of course, I tantalized the students with a few choice bits of the exciting story before hand--such as a discussion of man-eating plants or a consideration of the question of whether or not vampires exist. I had them eating out of my hand by the time we began the serial.

The story consists of twenty chapters of which nine episodes are missing from existing tapes. My plan was to follow or read aloud the missing taped chapters and fill in with the eleven recorded episodes. The first nine speeches aren't among the lines of any chapter I found out when I prepared and compared the scripts with the tapes. They seemed to be a bridge--as I later found out--they were the first lines of another "I Love a Mystery" called "The Richard's Curse," which chronologically and in story line preceded the "Temple of the Vampires." Why it was included on my reel of "Temple of the Vampires" I don't pretend to know.

The story begins as our heroes, Jack Packard, Doc Long, and Reggie York are flying in a plane especially designed for them into the deep jungles of Central America. They take Sunny along since she has begged them to take her away from the Southern California town where so many of her friends have died so tragically. At first the trio was dubious, but Sunny proves herself a good traveling companion. The flight bring them over an unbroken tropical jungle en route to San Jose, Costat Rica. They now have a fifth passenger, for a blue-eyed, freckle-faced kid of seven emerges from the luggage department to announce he is hungry. Apparently his father had stowed him away and then abandoned him. The motors of their private plane, on which they have spent all their reward money, go dead over the jungle, but Jack brings the plane down in a crash landing on the edge of the lake without injury to anyone. Through the windows of the plane they can see a magnificent stone temple, and beside the path leading to it they find the body of an Indian in loin cloth who has been drained of his life blood, although there is no wound on his body. Finally they come to the Temple itself, which stands a hundred feet in the air above the jungle floor. Upon entering Doc sees something as big as a man sail through the air from one great wall to the other--without wings! Jack and Reggie examine some stone stairs which lead up the side of the all only to have Hermie and then Sunny disappear while they are gone. Shortly the three conrades find her semi-conscious on the stone steps outside the door of the Temple. Sunny tells them that she was approached by a man in a long, black cloak. In a soft voice with Spanish accent, he told her that this was the Temple of the Vampires, and that none of the foreigners should have come. He vanishes, and then Hermie suddenly reappears. He has been talking with a pretty lady with very red lips and sharp white teeth. She thought he had the nicest, whitest skin she'd ever seen. Jack, Doc, and Reggie, the girl Sunny, and seven-year-old Hermie make themselves as comfortable as possible for the night in a curious old monks' cell, reached by climbing narrow stone steps built along the inside wall to a great height. In front of the row of cells runs a three foot ledge and then a sheer drop opens to the fflow below. Shortly after they reach the cell, Doc, standing alone on the ledge in the

dark, encounters the same girl Hermie described. He grabs for her, but she simply eludes him by vanishing off the ledge. Later, during the dark hours of early morning, one of the vampire priests dropped down to roost beside them. Continuing our story, Morse recaps the action:

As he talked in a soft warm dialect, Hermie came out of the monk's cell, said he couldn't sleep and snuggled down beside Doc. Hardly had he appeared when out of the dark came another voice: the soft feminine voice of the priestess of the temple, talking urgently to the little boy. Jack warned her away, but suddenly she grabbed Hermie out of Doc's arms and leaped off the ledge. Hermie's protesting voice could be heard floating away in the darkness. Jack threatened the priest with his revolver and he, too, leaped out into the darkness and was gone.

Until the scripts were found recently, this is the point in the action where the story stopped. But here's what happens, chapter by chapter, in the development of the story:

Chapter 8. Manuel, the high priest, returns Hermie to Jack, Doc, and Reggie and offers to let them go without receiving any harm in return for their attractive companion, Sunny. When his offer is rejected, Manuel floats off with the threat that "the vampires shall feast as they've never feated before!" While Doc remains out on the ledge to guard the others who are asleep inside the cell, Angelina, the lovely vampire priestess, reappears apparently out of nowhere and attempts to seduce Doc. He plays along with her and when she asks about Texas men, Doc says, "Sugar, us Texas boys is just plain death on women." Death is just what she is an expert in and she soon has her arms wrapped around Doc and is dragging him off the ledge with her when Jack rescues him. As Angelina flies off, Jack inquires: "Why'd you let her get that close to you. A piece of lace will be the end of you yet!" Doc responds: "A piece of lace with a girl inside it? Why, son, that's a beautiful death"

Chapter 9. Very early the next morning the three adventurers are found outside the temple in the tropic sunshine, birds madly singing all around. After a cheese and cracker breakfast, they walk off down the jungle path to the wrecked plane and spend the day working on its undercarriage. At twilight Jack spots movement among the vines at the jungle's edge but nothing interrupts the evening.

Chapter 10. By 9:00 p.m. it has become incredibly hot and humid. Jack, nevertheless, gives orders for everyone to bed down inside the plane while Reggie stands guard on the ground. Soon Sunny, unable to sleep in the sweat box interior, joins him and the two chat until Reggie's voice ceases suddenly. Sunny then cries out, "Something's got me!"

Chapter 11. When Jack and Doc awaken, they discover Reggie unconscious, barely alive, and with a piece of rawhide around his neck. Sunny, of course, is gone. Leaving the still unrecovered Reggie locked in the plane with Hermie, the two comrades are off to the rescue. Returning to the temple ledge, they witness a sacrifice in progress below, but the victim is an Indian, not Sunny. Meanwhile at the plane, Reggie has revived and learns from Hermie that someone or something is prowling outside.

REFERENCE LIBRARY REMINDER

Ever wanted to know who starred in that radio program, but could never think of his or her name? Have you ever wondered what, where, and when that show got its start? Have we got a deal for you. The RHAC has had and continues to upgrade a fabulous reference library. It contains some 780 individual titles. The library is also at your disposal for such worthwhile projects as material for researching articles for your newsletter. Even special projects for school or other clubs. The cost to you is only two cents per page rental, plus postage. The library is a loaner library, so we ask that you try to return the material within 30 days after you receive it. In this way everyone can have a fair chance to use the material as close as possible to the time that they request it. If you have any books or articles that you feel would be of interest to the club members, the club would be interested in adding to its library. Any material would be copied and returned to you and would be greatly appreciated. Hope to hear from you soon!

TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) Jack Packard, Doc Long, Reggie Yorke. The first team of actors to play this trio were Michael Raffetto, Barton Yarborough and Walter Paterson.
- 2) Gerry Booker. She was played by Gloria Blondell, Joan Blongell's look-alike sister.
- 3) The A-1 Detective Agency.
- 4) "No Job to Tough, No Mystery too Baffling".
- 5) Carlton E. Morse.

MORE TRIVIA QUIZ QUESTIONS FOR I LOVE A MYSTERY

- 6) What was the theme song?
- 7) The show opened with what sound effect? (a) Machine gun fire (b) Fog horns (c) A train whistle (d) Police sirens.
- 8) Each episode was introduced by: (a) The sound of footsteps (b) The chime of a clock (c) Laughter (d) A whistled tune.
- 9) Name the original sponsor.
- 10) The hero's were reunited in a short-lived 1948 series, called?



LOGS

There has been a new log added to the club's long list of available logs. The log that has been added is log #50, "Bill Stern Sports News Reel Friday". Interested parties should contact John Migrala, Tape Librarian for copies of this new log or any other logs. The price for a copy of the log or any other log will be twenty-five cents for the first page and five cents for each additional page.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The RHAC would like to welcome their new members and hope that they will enjoy their memberships with us. The following new members are:

Richard Rondinelli, 6482 S. Birch Cir., Littleton, CO 80121	5/83
Elmer E. Wistbrook, 855 S. Corona, Denver, CO 80209	5/83

RENEWALS

The following members have renewed their memberships for another year of Old Time Radio fun. The following renewals are:

Jim Blouch, 4370 E. 112th Pl., Thornton, CO 452-0108	5/83
William Ahring, 1801 Buffalo Ave., Odessa, TX 79762	6/83
Irving Hale, 1642 Ivanhoe St., Denver, CO 80220	10/82
Carol Roe, 9900 E. Florida #19, Denver, CO 80231	3/83
Steve Scalzo, 8800 W. Greenwood Terrace, Milwaukee, WI 53224	5/83
Joel Visser, 1331 Franklin St. #21, Denver, CO 80218	4/83

Wednesday, April 28, 1982

VARIETY

OBITUARIES

DON WILSON

Don Wilson, 81, sidekick and announcer for Jack Benny on radio and television for 35 years, died April 25 of a stroke, having collapsed at his home in Cathedral City, Calif. He was found by his wife and taken to Eisenhower Medical Center in Palm Springs, where doctors were unable to revive him.

A hefty man with a ready laugh, Wilson was hired by Benny as his radio announcer in 1933, but soon became part of the comedian's performing family and emerged as an effective foil for Benny's humor. Even before television revealed Wilson's dimensions to audiences, Benny could joke that his quips made Wilson "the biggest man in radio."

A native of Nebraska, Wilson grew up in Colorado, was a star on

the University of Colorado's football team and entered show business as part of a vocal trio. After touring the Mountain states, the group ended up in San Francisco and was heard throughout 1927 on KFRC.

In 1929 Wilson moved to Los Angeles and became an announcer on KFI. He soon became chief announcer, covered the Rose Bowl from 1930-'33, and in 1933 was invited to move to New York to cover sports for NBC.

Almost immediately, however, came Benny's offer, and from then on he joined such other Benny regulars as Dennis Day, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson, Phil Harris, Mary Livingstone, Mel Blanc, Verna Felton, Frank Nelson and Artie Auerbach as a character in skits, as well as performing as

straight man and announcer.

Wilson only occasionally made outside appearances, having worked a series of concerts with Harry James and performing on-stage in "The Big Broadcast Of 1944."

Wilson and his wife, Lois Corbet, who also appeared on Benny shows, moved to the Palm Springs area in 1967, and he hosted the "Town Talk" show until 1975, when the couple did another talk show, "The Don And Lois Wilson Show," for six months.

His wife survives.

See this month's cover!

REEL 255 DRAGNET

1200'

1L	12-7-52	Secret Room
	1-4-53	The Big Mask-Part 2 (Con't From Reel #60)
2L	1-11-53	Old Lady Forger
	3-15-53	Hansen And Market Robbing
1R	2-1-53	Meyer's Car Stripping
	2-8-53	McLean And Forging
2R	2-15-53	Schroeder's Wife Disappears
	2-22-53	Stone Killed

REEL 256 BILL STERN/PHIL RIZZUTO/DIZZY DEAN

1200'

		<u>BILL STERN SPORTS NEWSREEL</u>			
1L	10-3-47	#418	Bucky Harris	2L	7-15-49 #507 F. Sinatra
	10-10-47	#419	Gene Autry		8-19-49 #512 Dizzy Dean
	1-9-48	#432	Eddie Cantor		10-28-49 #521 Red Grange
	6-17-49	#503	Connie Mack		12-23-49 #529 Joe Lewis
1R	1-20-50	#533	Sammy Kaye	2R	<u>DIZZY DEAN SHOW</u>
	2-10-50	#536	Bob Feller		7-3-48 # 1 Lefty Gomez
			<u>PHIL RIZZUTO SPORTS CARAVAN</u>		9-4-48 # 10 High Batting Avg.
	-54	# 1	Bill Stern		9-11-48 # 11 Ewell Blackwell
	-54	# 2	Mel Allen		9-18-48 # 12 All-Stars

REEL 257 ON STAGE

1200'

1L	1-28-53	Cargo
	2-18-53	The Party
2L	3- -53	Call Me A Cab
	4-1-53	Dig The Thief
1R	4- -53	Bunch Of Violets
	5- -53	The Hanging At Four Oaks
2R	8-20-53	Canary Yellow
	9-30-53	Loving

REEL 258 SUSPENSE

1200'

1L	10-11-45	Beyond Good And Evil
	11-8-45	The Bet
2L	12-6-45	I Won't Take A Minute
	2-14-46	The Lucky Lady
1R	5-2-46	Crime Without Passion
	6-27-46	Return Trip
2R	10-3-46	Three Times Murder
	10-24-46	Dame Fortune

REEL 259 LUX RADIO THEATRE

1200'

1L	4-18-38	Mad About Music
2L	3-19-39	It Happened One Night (Dress Rehearsal)
1R	4-16-39	Bullets Or Ballots (Dress Rehearsal)
2R	9-18-39	Wuthering Heights

MR. & MRS. JOHN J. CALLOR
9265 PIERCE STREET
WESTMINSTER, COLO. 80020

Barrett Benson
5931 Ellis Ct.
Arvada, CO 80004

1/83

