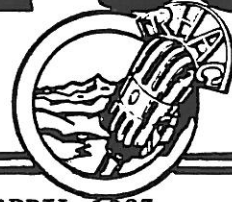


RETURN WITH US

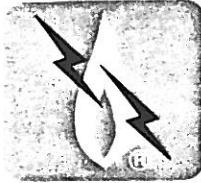
The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado

NOW...



VOLUME 8, NUMBER 10

APRIL 1983



Public Service Company of Colorado

January 21, 1983

Dear Reid:

Thanks for the note on "Old Time Radio." Notes such as yours are what have kept us sponsoring John's show. They really do make a difference.

I wish more members of the RHAC would do the same.

Sincerely,

Dan Danbom
Public Relations



an investor-owned utility

Public
Service
Company
of
Colorado

P.O. BOX 840 • DENVER, COLORADO 80201

Reid Hansen
1205 Carr St.
Lakewood, CO

APRIL MEETING

The April meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will begin at 7:30 p.m. on April 21. The club meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

The RHAC meets monthly to discuss Old Time Radio and also just to have a good time.

WE HAVE ANOTHER CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR THE APRIL MEETING. WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET THE MOORE REALTY BUILDING. FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS (APRIL AND MAY) THE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CHURCH OF THE MASTER
5152 East 17th Ave.

7:30 p.m. April 21

The Church of the Master is located between Forest and Fairfax Streets. Please use the (side) Filbert Street entrance. Special thanks to Guy Albright for the meeting place.

JOHN DUNNING'S OTR SCHEDULE FOR APRIL - KNUS - 710

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

APRIL 2 PEOPLE ARE FUNNY 1-17-50
RICHARD DIAMOND, PRIVATE DETECTIVE 5-15-49 "Ralph Chase's Stepdaughter"
JOHN STEELE, ADVENTURER 8-22-50 "Comeback"

APRIL 9 PEOPLE ARE FUNNY 1-24-56 "Mental Telepathy"
STUDIO ONE 5-20-47 "Alibi Ike"

APRIL 16 Pre-Empted
APRIL 23 Pre-Empted

APRIL 30 LET GEORGE DO IT 6-14-48 "The Death Defying Devores"
SCREEN GUILD THEATRE 1-7-40 "The Petrified Forest"
SUSPENSE 5-31-55 "Beirut by Sunrise"

SUNDAY SCHEDULE 2 P.M. until April 17, when the show shifts to 11 a.m.

APRIL 3 THE STEVE ALLEN SHOW - 10-26-49
SCREEN DIRECTORS PLAYHOUSE - 12-2-49 - "All My Sons"

APRIL 10 MATINEE WITH BOB AND RAY - 10-22-49 - "U.S. Steel Presents Bob and Ray"
THE RED SKELTON SHOW - 9-17-46 - "Barbers"
SCREEN DIRECTORS PLAYHOUSE - 2-27-49 - "The Night Has a Thousand Eyes"

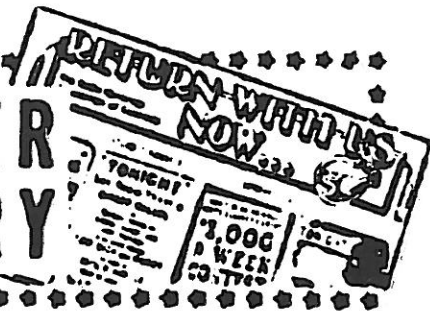
NOTE: OLD-TIME RADIO MOVES TO 11 A.M. on APRIL 17.

APRIL 17 SUSPENSE - 3-22-51 - "Three Lethal Words"
THE JACK BEENY PROGRAM - 12-4-38 - "Murder at the Movies"
THE RED SKELTON SHOW - 10-1-46 - "People Who Think The Things They Do Are Unimportant"

APRIL 24 GUNSMOKE - 2-12-56 - "Kitty's Outlaw"
THE DAMON RUNYON THEATRE - 8-8-50 - "Little Miss Marker"
THE RED SKELTON SHOW - 10-8-46 - "If You Have a Beef, Don't Eat It, Roast It"

SPECIAL SHOW. A live radio drama, "The Cool Breeze", a story of international intrigue and suspense, produced in the KNUS studios, and written and directed by Pete Wehner. This will take the place of the usual interview segment.

COVER STORY



The subject of our cover article this month is John Dunning. We listen to him regularly, but few of us know some of the details which have brought him to the fore as an old time radio authority and connoisseur. Some of his interesting story is related in the following paragraphs.

The headlines might have announced that JOHN DUNNING ARRIVES IN TIME FOR THE 1965 FLOOD for there is some truth in the fact. John found himself in Denver after having moved a bit while he broke into the writing field. He was working at the time for the Centennial Race Track and remembers rounding up horses during the flood that reached Colorado's capital city. Shortly after, John found work at the Denver Post where he became a rather credited investigative reporter. In the short time that had elapsed since he left South Carolina and the end of his formal public schooling, he had entered the work force in various capacities until he settled on the type of career he really wanted: writing.

Among his writing assignments for the Post were several on old time radio. He remembers listening to radio during the time he was growing up and among his favorites were GUNSMOKE, SUSPENSE and YOURS TRULY, JOHNNY DOLLAR. Like many people, John says he had deserted radio for TV, but these articles revived his interest in old programs.

While at the State Capitol's press room one day in 1969, he quite offhandedly asked Fred Dressler (then a reporter for KBTB and now an executive for Mile High Cablevision) if he knew if any network broadcasts of old shows were still available--did any local stations keep their 16" disc transcriptions? Fred replied that he didn't, but he did remember that KOA Radio had recently commemorated its 45th Anniversary and had played some old shows as part of the celebration. So John called KOA and inquired about the availability of some old shows. He remembers talking to a lady who referred him to George Fowler, the proprietor of a company called Great Radio Shows, Inc.

She also warned him that George was rather expensive to deal with. John ended up making a personal visit to him and saw a collection of some 400 reels which John felt must be about the extent of the old time shows available. John remembers making up his mind to get into collecting because of the interest it held for him. He had no tape decks or any other equipment worth mentioning, but since he had told his wife this was really something he wanted to do, John ended up purchasing \$300 worth of tapes and also a tape deck. Since his first venture had proved to be so expensive, he made up his mind to let this opportunity be his last.

The sound quality of this first acquisition was quite poor, but the exhilaration of hearing such things as the LUX RADIO THEATER theme or the sounds of DR. CHRISTIAN and LIFE WITH LUIGI did something to him--call it a kick or whatever--to hear something he hadn't heard in 25 years!

George was charging \$4.00 an hour for custom dubbing with a discount for an order over \$100. That price seems rather reasonable, but John was interested enough to try his hand at trading, so he asked George to pass along the names of some of the collectors he knew of. George gave him about a half dozen, all of whom John wrote. Among the names was that of Bob Vito who was publishing a fan magazine back East called STAND BY, YOU'RE ON THE AIR. Bob did some trading with John (but like many of John's early finds, he has since located better sound). Although a number of the referrals didn't pan out, there was among the group one name--Skip Craig--whom John feels was a golden contact. Skip wrote John a long letter and complimented him on his interest and sincerity. He also agreed to start trading with John and sent ADVENTURES BY MORSE. John's earlier commitment to start and end with the initial purchase had been put aside and he purchased another tape deck for dubbing purposes. The two continued to trade with John sending blank tape to Skip who would dub the shows. The next trade included some ACADEMY AWARD THEATER shows and some HALLMARK PLAYHOUSE shows which were at that time completely uncirculated. These programs really helped John get started because they were the first big find of top Hollywood shows with famous guest stars in starring roles. They had been found by some collector in a Salva-

tion Army store. As far as he is aware, John was the first to list these shows and offer them for trade. All of a sudden, as if the sun were breaking through the clouds, John was contacted by innumerable collectors who wanted the shows. One fellow was Charlie Hunt from New Jersey. He traded John a season of BING CROSBY SHOWS for the ACADEMY AWARD shows. Someone else traded him the first season of the PHIL HARRIS/ALICE FAYE SHOW. Like any good trader, John traded the PHIL HARRIS shows back to the fellow who had traded the BING CROSBY's for something else and John found himself with almost more than he could do.

Luckily for John he became sound conscious very early in his collecting. So many shows were showing up so fast that he decided to accept only shows in good sound unless he was convinced that it was a rarity that was not going to be available in any better sound. The quality control in collecting is quite important, and John has stuck to this standard.

Another collector he made contact with was Karl Amundsen from Brooklyn. He was a very early collector with rare shows which no one else had. Carl was trading with Joe Hehn who at this time had close to 20,000 shows, most of them from "source" (from the original disc). In this way John found out about some possible leads he could follow to enlarge his collection. He was referred to Barry Brooks, a Massachusetts dentist who played shows from his collection while he attended to patients. Barry's growing collection was said to contain 50,000 shows! Another collector, Dave Amaral, was from San Francisco. John reports that he made friends on both coasts and acting as a middle man passed shows from collectors from one coast to the other, keeping the best of the material for himself. Some of the trading was accomplished by shipping master tapes to the trader who was responsible for his own dubbing. John continues to trade with Skip. In fact, recently he obtained most of THE WHISTLER shows--some 300 episodes--beginning with the first show in 1942 and running until 1949. He has confidence that he'll get the missing shows as soon as they are made available.

Some shows John has upgraded for the third time because the sound which he first obtained, thinking it good, has been improved upon by later finds. He states that the sound quality of old time radio shows

is continually improving. Today's modern equipment and steadily improving know-how is yielding quality sound from the old discs.

Of course, not all the programs in John's collection have come from trading. Recently John received some ZERO HOUR shows from a fellow locally. Evidently the fellow's brother-in-law had worked for a radio station back East and had obtained 13 master discs containing the rare 5-part shows. The fellow wanted to trade them for some missing episodes of THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY (which has run recently on KCFR). So John traded him an air check, pointing out that since the trade wasn't equal he could pick up some additional shows any time he wanted.

John is now more than a collector. The story of how he got into broadcasting is rather unique--or typical. His research into the beginnings of many radio stars shows that many came along quite by accident. Jim Jordan, for example, came along and said that he could do a better job than someone he had heard and proved himself right. Or perhaps someone is there just when a no-show situation arises. An act is put on because it's there and a successful career is launched. John had amassed a collection of about 1,000 shows when he was contacted by a KFML salesman named Herb Neu. A follow-up letter dated May 22, 1972, is in John's collection. He had had absolutely no radio experience--he was simply a collector. Herb rehearsed to John that the station had been running THE LONE RANGER and SHERLOCK HOLMES from Charlie Michelson's collection with rather good results. However, the station felt that they had pretty well used up all its resources and wanted to do something new. Thus John was about to get into broadcasting because he was at the right place at the right time. He set up an interview with Joe McGoey, the stations owner and general manager at the time. The session had a positive outcome and John suddenly found himself on live radio for the first time. The date was Sunday, August 6, 1972. He was teamed with an engineer who ran the board. The show ran for one hour and according to agreement John was bound by a couple of guidelines: he could not play anything controversial (such as AMOS 'N' ANDY) and the shows were to be aired without commercials. Tom Campbell wanted runs of one show similar to the format

KFML had been using, but John's instinct told him differently and he was finally allowed to play what he felt he should.

John's first program included the "Maltese Falcon" program from ACADEMY AWARD THEATER and an INNER SANCTUM MYSTERIES--either "The Wailing Wall" or "The Hitchhiker." The second program included the other. John now keeps a log of everything he plays in order to avoid a too frequent repetition, but he does not record the program as it is aired. Initially he hated the sound of his voice and was afraid he would be too self-critical were he to listen to his own voice. The show was expanded to its familiar two hour format sometime later, enabling him to air complete shows--at John's request. John recalls that the first show was bad, at least to him. He was terrified and so very nervous that he remembers driving around town hours before the first show just being scared--arguing with himself about why he was doing it in the first place. He was well compensated, however, and that was a plus. Having an income was important to him and his family because a writer doesn't have a regular amount he can apply to family needs. He liked the challenge of being made to stretch himself and grow. He describes himself as an introvert and so the sudden jump into broadcasting was terribly frightening for him. Moreover, the conditions at KFML were unusual, to say the least. He mentioned the weird, wild people around the station with hairy contenances, open drinking while they were on the air, pot smoking and the like--not to mention the frequent equipment breakdowns. But he was able to play what he wanted to, eventually even AMOS 'N' ANDY, without fear of repercussions.

About six months into the show Harry Tuft came aboard. A literal zoo of personalities preceded him, almost shocking to John's traditional upbringing. Harry looked like the rest: wild, freaky, and hairy. One Sunday he appeared, requesting the opportunity to do the show with John since his background included at least parttime experience as a KFML staff announcer and a liking for old time radio. The partnership was worked out and lasted some ten years, both at KFML and then KADX. The station change occurred about May of 1978 and lasted until the KADX switch to country music in December of 1981. By that time Harry made the decision to do other things on Sunday afternoon and didn't follow John

to KNUS. Since then John has been on by himself except for his old time radio guests. The innovation of being on a talk show which allows him to talk to outstanding radio personalities all over the country has been an absolutely fantastic experience for John.

The days at KNUS have not been without incident, however. A sequence of different producers has again given him some headaches because of an obvious lack of expertise in handling the technical aspects of the show, but John is proud to contemplate the start of his 12th consecutive year of old time radio broadcasting. During that period of time he has enjoyed what he is doing but has never had the feeling of having it made and assured of a future. It's as if he must always be prepared with his bags packed.

John has some regrets that his program has been guided away from old time radio music--indeed, the station did not even apply for such a license. This he knew when he began on KNUS. He carefully considered the opportunities when he no longer was a part of KADX. None of the offers included any of the band shows. To be able to interview guests, play old time radio, and include big band music would be like dying and going to heaven. He felt his best opportunity was at KNUS since offers of almost no money excluded band music anyway.

John's ace in the hold has been his sponsor, Public Service Company of Colorado. He is not quite willing to say that he wouldn't have been on without their sponsorship, but right now they've been with him four years, and he knows of no one in town who's has a sponsor that long on a regular week to week basis. In fact, even having a single sponsor on much of old time radio for that long was an exception rather than a rule. One reason for the Public Service commitment is the volume of mail the program generates and, of course, the type. Their usual mail can best be described as "hate" mail. To receive positive comments because of their support of old time radio is unusually refreshing. In terms of support through mail, KFML must have received thousands when the station announced that John's program was being dropped and might leave the airways.

The "John Dunning Story" is not complete since our sketch is necessarily brief. Perhaps the future will permit us another glimpse. -Reid G. Hansen

CREDITS: This month's cover is a layout by Reid G. Hansen using a letter received from the Public Service Company of Colorado and is used by permission. We appreciate the sponsorship and support Public Service has extended to all of us through John's program. The Cover Story is the result of an interview with John Dunning in his home the afternoon of February 26, 1983. John allowed us time to talk about many things and much of that interview is included in the article. We thank him for sharing his collection of old time radio programming with us via his bi-weekly program on KNUS. We find his story most interesting.

RETURN WITH US TO... *by* Bill Owen
a
Don
Shewwood

THE LONE RANGER'S
FAITHFUL COMPANION

TONTO



JOHN TODD, AN EX-SHAKESPEAREAN ACTOR, WAS THE VOICE OF THE BIG BLACKFOOT INDIAN. AS CONVINCING AS HE SOUNDED, TODD WAS NOT INDIAN, BUT IN REALITY WAS AN IRISHMAN. HE HAD CELEBRATED HIS 80th BIRTHDAY BEFORE THE LAST LIVE LONE RANGER BROADCAST.

FRED FOY, THE ANNOUNCER-NARRATOR FOR THE LONE RANGER, HAS FONDLY RECALLED HOW DURING THE LAST YEARS OF THE RADIO SHOW AGE WAS CREEPING UP ON "TONTO." JOHN TODD HAD A SPECIAL CHAIR IN THE STUDIO AND OFTEN AFTER FOY HAD READ THE LEAD-IN NARRATIVE AND "THE LONE RANGER" DELIVERED HIS OPENING LINE, THEY WOULD LOOK OVER AT THE CHAIR FINDING "TONTO" HAD NODDED TO SLEEP.

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 310</u>	<u>JACK BENNY PROGRAM</u>	1200'
1L	4-24-55 Jack Rents His 1923 Maxwell To Movie Studio 5-1-55 Rochester Finds Jack's Old Loveletters	
2L	5-8-55 A Day At The Beach 5-15-55 Jack Meets An Old Friend At Union Station	
1R	3-27-55 The Shooting Of Dan McGrew 4-3-55 Ed Comes Up From The Vault	
2R	11-14-54 Dinner At Don's 11-7-54 Jack Visits The Doctor	
<u>REEL 311</u>	<u>CBS WAR NEWS/H. V. KALTENBORN EDITS THE NEWS</u>	1200'
1L	9-17-40 Two Morning Attacks Follow All-Night Bombings 9-18-40 Another 10-Hour Attack On London 9-19-40 Registration Forms Ready For Conscription 9-20-40 Von Ribbentrop To Talk With Mussolini	
2L	9-21-40 No Word From Kidnapper Of Child Heir 9-23-40 Japan, China Preparing For Clash 9-24-40 More Bombings By England And Germany 9-25-40 Another All-Night Assault On London	
1R	9-28-40 Japan Taking Tough Stance Toward U. S. NBC SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Poem And Prayer For Invading Army 5-8-45 KING GEORGE VI SPEECH 9-21-39 H. V. KALTENBORN: Bucharest-Army Chief Named Premiere	
2R	9-25-39 H. V. KALTENBORN: Foreign Relations Committee Adjourns 9-27-39 H. V. KALTENBORN: Warsaw Has Surrendered 9-29-39 H. V. KALTENBORN: FDR-U.S. Will Stay Out Of War 10-2-39 H. V. KALTENBORN: Passing Of An Outstanding Church Leader	
<u>REEL 312</u>	<u>X MINUS ONE</u>	1200'
1L	1-27-73 The Iron Chancellor 4-10-57 Something For Nothing	
2L	5-1-56 Sea Legs 5-22-56 The Defenders	
1R	8-8-57 The Scapegoat 8-1-57 End As A World	
2R	10-10-57 Death Wish 4-24-58 Prime Difference	

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 313 CBS RADIO WORKSHOP</u>		1800'
1L	1-27-56	Brave New World - Part 1 (Premiere)
	2-3-56	Brave New World - Part 2
	3-9-56	Report On ESP
2L	3-16-56	Cops And Robbers
	2-17-57	The Space Merchants - Part 1
	2-24-57	The Space Merchants - Part 2
1R	2-17-56	Season Of Disbelief/Hail And Farewell
	4-27-56	The Record Collectors
	11-25-56	The King Of The Cats
2R	5-4-56	The Toledo War
	11-11-56	Report On The We'uns
	12-2-56	The Day The Roof Fell In
 <u>REEL 314 AMOS AND ANDY</u>		1200'
1L	3-30-45	Easter Hat
	4-6-45	Andy Moves In With Kingfish
2L	4-20-45	Ride Red, Ride
	4-27-45	Let Me Call You Sweetheart
1R	5-4-45	Baby Picture
	5-11-45	Double Indemnity
2R	5-18-45	German Boullion
	5-25-45	Andy Impersonates A Sailor
 <u>REEL 315 NICK CARTER/MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER</u>		1800'
1L		NC: Case Of The Careless Employees
		NC: Case Of The Lucrative Wrecks
		NC: Case Of The Luminous Spots
2L		NC: Case Of The Missing Thumb
		NC: Case Of The Wandering Macaroni
		NC: Case Of The Bearded Queen
1R		NC: Case Of The Sunken Dollar
		NC: Case Of The Crystal Prophecy
		NC: Case Of The Chemical Chickens
2R		NC: Case Of The Two-Faced Firemaster
		NC: Case Of The Hermit Thrush
	11-6-51	MT: Behind The Locked Door

RETURN WITH US NOW is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, a non-profit organization. The club was founded for the enjoyment and the preservation of an entertaining and educational art form.... Radio.

The cost of a 1 year membership is \$15.00, and this allows the member complete use of the clubs resources.

For further information about the club or its services, please contact one of the following:

PRESIDENT: John Lloyd 2667 E. 99th Ave., Thornton, CO 80229 451-7890
VICE PRESIDENT: John Adams 2811 S. Valentia St., Denver, CO 80231 755-9185
TREASURER &
TAPE LIBRARIAN: John Migrala 7213 Roxbury Pl., Littleton, CO 80123 979-0755
BLANK TAPE SALES: Barrett Benson P.O. Box 1690, Arvada, CO 80001 422-6442
EDITOR &
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN: John Callor P.O. Box 1109, Westminster, CO 80030 429-4639

RENEWALS

James C. Albert	2732 Queensboro Ave.	Pittsburgh, PA	15226	4-84
Gene C. Thurber	3915 W. 15th	Odessa, TX	79763	3-84
Charles F. Hansen	701 S. Grant St.	Denver, CO	80209	4-84
Paul D. Bernards	2692 N. Victoria	St. Paul, MN	55113	3-84
Elmer E. Westbrook	855 S. Corona	Denver, CO	80209	5-84
Vicki Bohls	2079 S. Macon Way	Aurora, CO	80014	4-84
Jacob Tustin	510 Carson St.	Brush, CO	80723	5-84

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Ron Cramer	1800 S. Clayton	Denver, CO	80210
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WANT ADS

Remember, for no extra charge you can run an ad in RWUN. If you are buying or selling or just looking for that one show, send in your requests to the editor - John Callor P.O. Box 1109, Westminster, CO 80030.

Wanted: HELP! I need a copy of the CBS RADIO MYSTERY THEATRE entitled - THE TWELFTH JUROR from November 1982. I need it to assist a fellow collector complete a reel. Please contact: Duff Campbell Box 4371 Panorama City, CA 91405.

THANKS TO EVERYONE!

The Tape Librarian, John Migrala, would like to thank everyone for supporting the RHAC tape library. The response lately has been very good. In order to get what you want in the library, please drop John Migrala a note and let him know what you want to hear.

On the other hand, if you have any tapes or written material to share with the club, simply send it to the appropriate person and it will be copied if needed and then put to use for the entire club. We hope to see you all at the next meeting.

APRIL MEETING

There is going to be a Trivia Quiz at the April meeting. Come and join the fun. See you there!!!!!!

