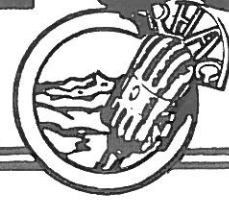


RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.



VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3

SEPTEMBER, 1984



In the early 1940s Bonnie and Orrin Tucker made a movie called *You're the One*.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meetings of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc. will meet on the 3rd Thursday's from now on! This will be September 20th at 7:30 pm. The meeting place is.....CHURCH OF THE MASTER - 5152 East 17th Ave. It is located between Forest and Fairfax streets just south of 17th. Please use the Filbert street entrance. We will be meeting there for the rest of the summer.

We hope to see everyone there. Please bring a friend!

 John Dunning's OTR schedule for SEPTEMBER, KNUS 710 on your AM dial.

SUNDAYS 2 TO 5 PM SHOWS 623 - 627

- | | | |
|----------|--|----------|
| SEPT 2: | DESTINATION FREEDOM. The Tiger Hunt. Story of the 761st tank battalion. | 9/11/49 |
| | THE WHISTLER. That Physical Fact. | 6/19/49 |
| | FORT LARAMIE. The Captians Widow. Starring Raymond Burr, | 2/26/56 |
| SEPT 9: | HOLLYWOOD STARTIME. A Tree Grows In Brooklyn, | 1/27/45 |
| | ROGERS OF THE GAZETTE. Lance O'Neill, | 7/8/53 |
| | FORT LARAMIE. Shavetail, | 3/4/56 |
| SEPT 16: | NBC UNIVERSITY THEATRE. Portrait of the Artist as a Youngs Man, by James Joyce. 60 min | 5/11/48 |
| | FORT LARAMIE. Hetty Pelfrey, | 3/11/56 |
| SEPT 23: | STUDIO ONE. Wine of the Country, Robert Mitchum, Mercedes McCambridge. 60 m | 5/11/48 |
| | FORT LARAMIE. The Beasley Girls | 3/18/56 |
| SEPT 30: | THE LUX RADIO THEATRE. The Old Maid, Loretta Young, Miriam Hopkins. 60 min | 10/30/39 |
| | MURDER BY EXPERTS. The Case of the Missing Mind, | 12/26/49 |

As I mentioned last month, John is no longer doing a Saturday program.

MILES TO GO



7-31
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RETURN WITH US NOW is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc., a non-profit corporation. The cost of a membership is \$15.00 per year, and allows the member full use of the clubs resources.

For further information contact one of the following:

- PRESIDENT: John Lloyd - 2667 E. 99th Ave., Thornton, CO 80229 - 451-7890
- VICE PRESIDENT: Guy Albright - 786 S. Quitman St., Denver, CO 80219 934-0184
- TREASURER: John H. Licht - 617 Detroit, Denver, CO 80206 321-6269
- TAPE LIBRARIAN: Elmer E. Westbrook - 855 S. Corona, Denver, CO 80209 778-7426
- SECRETARY: Reid Hansen - 1205 Carr, Lakewood, CO 80215 - 232-8068
- BLANK TAPE SALES: Barrett Benson - P.O.Box 1690, Arvada, CO 80001 - 422-6442
- EDITOR: John Lloyd - 2667 E. 99th Ave., Thornton, CO 80229 - 451-7890
- MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: John Callor - P.O.Box 1109, Westminster, CO 80030 - 429-4639
- REFERENCE LIBRARY: Charles Barton - 190 E. Geddes Ave., Littleton, CO 80122 - 795-2146
- TAPE DONATIONS: Charles Smith - 2760 N. Academy Blvd., #103, Colorado Springs, CO 80907

The RHAC would like to welcome the following new members:

- Carson Hall 4910 Sanford Circle, W Englewood, CO 80110 8/85
- Stanley M. Steinberg 3611 Fieldstone Road Randallstown, MD 21133 8/85
- William Coombs P.O. Box 770273 Houston, TX 77215-0273 8/85

If any of the officers or members of the club can help in any way, please let us know!

REFERENCE LIBRARY AND NEWSLETTER NEWS

Due to other activities I must give up several of my duties with the RHAC. They are the Reference Library and the Newsletter. I have enjoyed doing both of these activities very much over the last couple of years. The comments and praise have all been very appreciated. I hope that you will help out the new people doing the jobs in the near future.

The newsletter will be taken over by John Lloyd and the Reference Library will be taken over by Charles Barton. Both of their names and addresses are listed above in the list of officers. By next month the library should be set up with Chuck and he will be taking orders. The Reference Library has many new books and a few changes, so please remove the back page of your newsletter to keep track of the changes.

Again thanks to everyone for all the help on the newsletter and continue to send your articles and comments to the new editor John Lloyd. It has been fun and we must do this again sometime!!!

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

The following people were nominated for offices in the RHAC:

Pres - Barrett Benson; Vice Pres - Guy Albright and Herb Dunniven; Treas - John Licht; Secret - Reid Hansen. September is the last chance to nominate your favorite person for office!

Due to the overwhelming response to the offices, we will not send out ballots to the out of town members. But for those who would like to participate, please send your ballot before the October meeting so that it can be counted. We hope that many of you will participate in the election, perhaps next year we will have enough people to make a ballot worth while.

CHRISTMAS IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!!!!

Now is the time for everyone to think about where to have the annual RHAC Christmas meeting! Please bring your ideas on where to meet at the next meeting. This can be at a dinner playhouse or just a nice places to meet and have a good meal.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Dave Clow 8606 S. Yarrow Littleton, CO 80123

BLANK TAPE SALES

All members--blank tape is \$1.50 per reel, \$60.00 per case of 40. This is good quality Ampex 1.5 mil 1200' tape. Out of town members who want to order tape please send \$70.00 per case to cover postage and material and indicate if you want insurance to: Barrett Benson...P.O. Box 1698...Arvada, CO 80001...(303)422-6442. Please make ALL CHECKS payable to BARRETT BENSON as he pre-pays for the tape himself. Any excess from shipping will be sent to you with your order. Special orders are welcome, but only in case lots!

WANTED

I am interested in obtaining shows that starred Martha Raye. I am friends with Martha Raye and told her that I would try to get some of the shows in which she starred in. If you can help me out please contact: William Coombs P.O. Box 770273 Houston, TX 77215-0273.

I am looking for a log of the PHILIP MARLOWE show. If you know where I can obtain one please contact: Phil Scott 601 Four Mile Road #123 Alexandria, VA 22305. The RHAC log library would also be interested in a copy if one exists. Please contact John Callor P.O. Box 1109 Westminster, CO 80030

PHOTO'S OF YOUR FAVORITE OTR STAR

Now you can have photo's of your favorite OTR personality.. The selection is great and the price reasonable. The cost is \$3.00 per 8 X 10 photo plus 50 cents for postage and handling per order. The following are those available: (1) Bing Crosby (early), (3) Fibber and Molly, (5) Bruce Beemer, (9,10,11) Amos and Andy, (25) Marlaime Detrich, (26) Al Jolson, (33) Ed Wynn (early), (34) The 4 Marx Brothers, (53) Lum and Abner, (59) Clayton Moore (The Lone Ranger of tv and movies), (62) Jack Benny and Mary Livingstone, (75) Jack Benny (early), (87) Basil Rathbone (Sherlock Holmes), (89) Crosby and Hope, (91) Abbott and Costello.

Please send your orders to:

John Callor P.O. Box 1109 Westminster, CO 80030.

There are more titles available, if you do not see your favorite please write me and I will see if I have it. I have many others available!



Turning POINT

by George McEvoy

Her friends know her as Mrs. Bonnie Gailey. But in the era of bobby socks and bandstands, she was Wee Bonnie Baker, a Texas teen whose rendition of "Oh, Johnny" catapulted her to fame.

Now 67, this petite woman, now of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, still has the perky smile and personality that melted young men's hearts. Today, she is wracked by arthritis, but despite her pain, Wee Bonnie Baker is a happy woman. She has found

her own kind of love song. "We didn't make much money, and it was a long, bumpy trail, but, gosh, we had fun!" she says merrily.

The trail began in Galveston, when Bonnie was still Evelyn Underhill, a youngster in convent school. "Show business shocked my parents," she admits, "but I just had to sing."

At 18 she began singing with a local band. In 1938 Orrin Tucker, leader of a dance band enjoying modest

success, was looking for something unique to capture the public's fancy. When he heard Bonnie, he knew he'd found it. He said that her voice was like a delicate silver bell.

"Most girl singers in those days were belters," recalls Bonnie. "Here I was with this little-bitty voice. I joined the band in Saint Louis. I had to learn fifty songs immediately."

The tunes were mostly standards. Bonnie sang them well, but the band still wasn't making it big. One day, shuffling through old sheet music, Orrin came across a 1917 ditty called "Oh, Johnny." Orrin and



Above, Bonnie as singer of the year. Right, she and Billy do the "Bongo Song."



rigors proved too much for the tiny Texan.

"We covered sixty-thousand miles in ten months," she says. "It was all one-night stands."

When they returned home, they accepted a job at an elegant supper club. "I was in the middle of a song when the heart attack hit me," Bonnie says. "They rushed me to the hospital. I thought, So this is how the long trail ends."

But Bonnie's trail didn't end there, it only forked down another of life's paths. After a week in the hospital, she spent three months convalescing at home. She dreamed of returning to the stage. Though weak from her ordeal, Bonnie was soon back behind a microphone.

It was too much too soon. On her doctor's insistence, Bonnie stopped performing. No more applause, no more limelight. For the next six years her only audience was the folks who called at North Beach Medical Center, where she was a telephone operator.

"Sometimes I miss singing," admits Bonnie, "but it wasn't that glamorous. It was mostly hard work—living out of suitcases, sleeping in the band bus. Any-

way," she adds, with a pixie grin, "I had a good run didn't I?"

Recently Bonnie was offered a second chance. Big bands were making a comeback. Orrin Tucker and his orchestra were touring California. He wrote Bonnie, asking her to sing. But the little lady with the silver-bell voice refused.

"It was a temptation," she says wistfully. "But I'm happy with my life. I just wasn't ready. I couldn't handle a tour, physically or mentally. I said no to Orrin and then I cried a little—in private. I quit while I was ahead."

When she gets an urge to sing, Bonnie accepts one of the many requests she receives to perform at local charity benefits. "I'm having fun doing housewife stuff," Bonnie reports. "I take sewing classes, I like to cook. Now I have the chance to do all the things I never had time for."

On Bonnie's birthday, Billy wrote this touching tribute to the lady he calls his precious Wee Bird: "Small lady with a giant heart, who's shared my problems and pain, no one could be more loving."

Bonnie read it and smiled, lifted her glass and said, "Here's to all the fun we had, to all the people we made happy."

NEXT WEEK: The Child with So Much Love to Give



Left, Bonnie and Billy have made all the love songs come true. Above, Bonnie shares her scrapbook of memories with daughter Sharon.

Bonnie's 1940 version sold more than six million copies. You couldn't turn on a radio without hearing that lovely voice crooning, "Oh, Johnny, Oh, Johnny, how you can love."

Bonnie, making \$35 a week, was paid \$10 for recording the hit that made others rich. "I never felt cheated," she says. "That was the going scale. Frank Sinatra got only ten dollars for 'I'll Never Smile Again.'"

The song made them famous. When the band played at the Palmer House in Chicago, people lined up around the block. "They threw roses at me," Bonnie remembers. "We broke all attendance records." The owner of the Palmer House gave her a mink coat. Orrin presented her with a \$1,000 bond.

Other hits followed for Bonnie and the band—"You'd Be Surprised" and "Billy." But in Detroit, Billy Gailey, a fervent jazz man and Dixieland guitarist, didn't like any of it.

"They had nothing but Orrin Tucker records on the jukebox. They'd play 'em every time we got a break," complains Billy. "I couldn't

stand that Elk's Club tempo. I got so sick of 'Oh, Johnny,' I used to run across the street to another saloon to play Sinatra."

But Bonnie was so hot that she starred in two movies, *You're the One* and *Spotlight Scandal*. Then fate threw Bonnie and Billy together.

In the late 1940s they were both performing in Detroit. The man who ran across the street to avoid Bonnie's songs fell in love with her at first sight. They immediately teamed up, musically and romantically.



After doing shows in Las Vegas and California, the couple moved to Fort Lauderdale. Pregnant, Bonnie continued crooning through her seventh month. Their daughter, Sharon, was born in 1948. They continued touring, leaving baby Sharon with relatives and later enrolling her in boarding school. By 1961, though, the



Left, Bonnie went blond for her movie roles. Above, she and Charlie Spivak open a Florida mall. Right, she and Orrin on radio show *Hidden Stars*.



Bandleader Fred Waring dies after 'massive stroke'

DANVILLE, Pa. (AP) — Bandleader Fred Waring died of complications from a "massive stroke" early Sunday at the Geisinger Medical Center, according to a hospital official. He was 84.

Waring, whose career spanned seven decades of radio, television, Broadway and film performances, died at about 1 a.m., said hospital spokesman Mike Kauffer. He suffered the stroke at his rented summer home in State College, Pa., on Saturday.

He was taken to Centre Community Hospital in State College and later transferred to Geisinger Medi-

cal Center, Kauffer said.

The maestro of choral music had just completed a summer session of the Fred Waring Youth Choral Workshop, directing students in concerts at Penn State University, his alma mater.

Waring has been called the "man who taught America to sing." He was also an engineering whiz who developed and marketed the Waring Blender.

His musical group, the Pennsylvanians, has recorded more than 2,000 songs since their first hit, "Sleep," was produced in a tiny studio in Camden, N.J., in 1923.



Joe Riddle

Radio oldies alive and well in Tulsa

By BILL DONALDSON
Tribune Entertainment Writer

JOE RIDDLE hadn't even been born "When Radio Was Young." But you can hear the 22-year-old as master of ceremonies for a radio program of that name from 3 to 7 p.m. Sundays on KRMG am740.

It began for Riddle when he visited his grandmother's house when he was 14. About 6:20 p.m. that day, Riddle heard an old 30-minute "Lum and Abner" show on radio station KGGF in Coffeyville, Kan.

"I became fascinated with radio drama," Riddle says. "I saved money from my paper route to tape old shows off KGGF. My favorite was 'Lum and Abner.' Through listening to those shows, I decided to go into radio. I tracked down Chester Lauck, who played Lum, in Hot Springs, Ark. He said, 'Go for it.'"

Riddle began working at KRMG while he was a junior at Edison High School. He began as morning producer, but after two weeks became both morning producer and producer for Sportsline and Nightline in the evening.

Riddle left KRMG for six months in 1980 for a radio job in Florida. When he returned to KRMG, he was mid-day producer and was on the air weekends. "When Radio Was Young" resulted from an idea for a nostalgia-type show.

In the meantime, Riddle's personal collection of recordings of old radio shows continued to grow.

"I trade with other private collectors of radio shows across the country," he says. "And I find old 16-inch transcription disks — some even on wax although most are metal and acetate."

There are no copyright problems, Riddle says, because the programs broadcast then now are a part of the public domain.

Riddle's collection, played on KRMG, include Westerns such as "The Lone Ranger" and "Gunsmoke" (with William "Cannon" Conrad as Matt Dillon); adult comedies like "Lum and Abner," "Fibber McGee & Molly," "Duffy's Tavern," "The Great Gildersleeve," "Our Miss

Brooks," "Eddie Cantor," "Jack Benny," "Fred Allen" and "Amos and Andy."

There are such suspense shows as "Suspense," "Escape," "The Shadow," "Inner Sanctum" and "Dimension X." Programs of particular interest to children include "Superman," "Captain Midnight," "Jack Armstrong," "Little Orphan Annie," "Don Winslow of the Navy" and "Sgt. Preston of the Yukon." Then there are shows such as "First Nighter" and "Screen Guild Playhouse."

Riddle sometimes airs vintage news broadcasts. Last Sunday, for example, listeners heard "Walter Winchell's Jurgen's Journal" for July 15, 1945.

Riddle says his greatest satisfaction comes from telephone calls from listeners of all ages — including many young people — who either remember the shows or are just discovering them.

"I get requests for shows by Jack Benny, Fibber McGee or Superman," he says.

The greatest advantage of radio drama for Riddle is that it is "a creative thing — letting people use their minds."

Riddle's greatest disappointment? "I have heard all the shows before," he says. "Unfortunately I don't get to listen to them when they are on the air — like regular listeners."

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 446 THE CINNAMON BEAR</u>		1200'
1L	Chapter 1: The Adventure Begins Chapter 2: The Trip To Maybe Land Chapter 3: Ambushing The Crazy Quilt Dragon Chapter 4: Captured By The Inkaboos	
2L	Chapter 5: Wesley The Wailing Whale Chapter 6: Adventure In The Root Beer Ocean Chapter 7: Presto The Magician Chapter 8: Captured By Pirates	
1R	Chapter 9: The House Of The Wintergreen Witch Chapter 10: Through The Magic Picture Chapter 11: The Magic Signal Ring Chapter 12: Crazy Quilt's Alibi	
2R	Chapter 13: Captured By The Wintergreen Witch Chapter 14: The Silver Star Is Broken Chapter 15: Instructions For Repairing The Silver Star Chapter 16: Snacker Snick The Crocodile	
<u>REEL 447 THE CINNAMON BEAR/ORPHAN ANNIE/FAMILY THEATRE</u>		1200'
1L	Chapter 17: Adventure In The Wishing Woods Chapter 18: Saved By The Lollipop Cowboys Chapter 19: Search For The Singing Tree Chapter 20: Power Of The Wintergreen Witch	
2L	Chapter 21: The Land Of Ice And Snow Chapter 22: Santa Claus Chapter 23: Jack Frost Mends The Star Chapter 24: The Silver Star In Hands Of The Bad Dolls	
1R	Chapter 25: Crazy Quilt's Last Chance Chapter 26: The End Of The Adventure	
	12-21-49 FAMILY THEATRE: The Littlest Angel	
2R	10-18-35 ORPHAN ANNIE: Annie's Birthday Party - Birthday Ring Offer 10-21-35 ORPHAN ANNIE: Ring Offer Continues 10-22-35 ORPHAN ANNIE: Ring Offer Continues 10-23-35 ORPHAN ANNIE: Ring Offer Continues	
<u>REEL 448 STUDIO ONE</u>		1200'
1L	5-20-47 Alibi Ike	
2L	6-10-47 The Red Badge Of Courage	
1R	7-1-47 Baby Cyclone	
2R	7-15-47 Ah Wilderness	

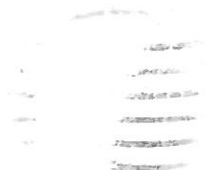
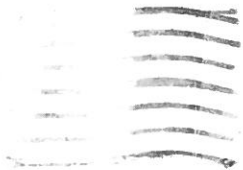
RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

REEL	DATE	NUMBER	TITLE	LENGTH
<u>REEL 449</u>	<u>THE SHADOW OF FU MANCHU (BLACK POPPY SOCIETY)</u>			<u>1200'</u>
1L	5-8-39	# 1:	The Insidious Dr. Fu Manchu	
	5-10-39	# 2:	Zayat Kiss	
	5-12-39	# 3:	Zayat Kiss	
	5-15-39	# 4:	Clue Of The Pigtail	
2L	5-17-39	# 5:	Clue Of The Pigtail	
	5-19-39	# 6:	Redmoat	
	5-22-39	# 7:	Redmoat	
	5-24-39	# 8:	The Green Mist	
1R	5-26-39	# 9:	The Green Mist	
	5-29-39	#10:	Call Of Siva	
	5-31-39	#11:	Call Of Siva	
	6-2-39	#12:	Karameneh	
2R	6-5-39	#13:	Karameneh	
	6-7-39	#14:	Andaman-Second	
	6-9-39	#15:	Andaman-Second	
	6-12-39	#16:	The Golden Flask	
<u>REEL 450</u>	<u>THE SHADOW OF FU MANCHU (BLACK POPPY SOCIETY)</u>			<u>1800'</u>
1L	6-14-39	#17:	The Golden Flask	
	6-16-39	#18:	The Spores Of Death	
	6-19-39	#19:	The Spores Of Death	
	6-21-39	#20:	The Knocking On The Door	
	6-23-39	#21:	The Knocking On The Door	
	6-26-39	#22:	The Traveler From Tibet	
2L	6-28-39	#23:	Flower Of Silence	
	6-30-39	#24:	Si-Fan Move	
	7-3-39	#25:	The Joy-Shop	
	7-5-39	#26:	Talun-Mur Chest	
	7-7-39	#27:	The Golden Pomegranates	
	7-10-39	#28:	A Midnight Summons	
1R	7-12-39	#29:	The Cry Of A Nighthawk	
	7-14-39	#30:	Under The Elms	
	7-17-39	#31:	Enter Lt. Slade	
	7-19-39	#32:	The Climber	
	7-21-39	#33:	The White Peacock	
	7-24-39	#34:	Dark Eyes Look Into Mine	
2R	7-26-39	#35:	The Coughing Horror	
	7-28-39	#36:	The Questing Hands	
	7-31-39	#37:	The Silver Buddha	
	8-2-39	#38:	The Bells	
	8-4-39	#39:	The Six Gates	
	8-7-39	#40:	The Purple Shadow (New Story)	

Books available in the library.

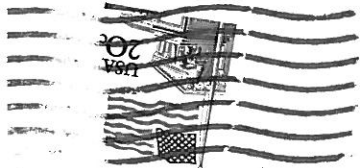
- Who Was That Masked Man by David Rothel 276 pages
Why A Duck by Richard Anobile 288
Milton Berle by Haskel Frankel (auto bio) 325
Whats My Line Gil Fates 215
My Saber Is Bent by Jack Parr 236
The Jack Benny Show by Milt Josefsberg 484
The Guiding Light by Dr. John Ruthledge 136
The Groucho Letters 319
And There I Stood With My Piccolo Meredith Willson 255
Air Time - The Inside Story of CBS News
by Gary Paul Gates 424
The Big Radio Comedy Program by Ross Firestone 250 (scripts)
The MARX Brothers Scrapbook by Groucho Marx & Richard Anobile 253
Who's On First by Richard Anobile 256
The Old Time Radio Book by Ted Sennett 152
The Pictorial History Of Radio
by Irving Settel 188
The Quality of Mercy by Mercedes McCambridge auto bio 245
The Taste of Ashes by Bill Stern 218
Vic and Sade by Mary Frances Rhymmer Scripts 238
I Never Left Home by Bob Hope 207
As It Happened by William S. Paley 398
Ozzie by Ozzie Nelson auto bio 309
Jack Benny by Mary Livingstone Benny & bio Hilliard Marx 313
The Magic World Of Orson Welles
by James Naremore 310
- Also please make the following changes for the following material.
Stan Freburg 31
Spike Jones 46

This side up



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