

RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.



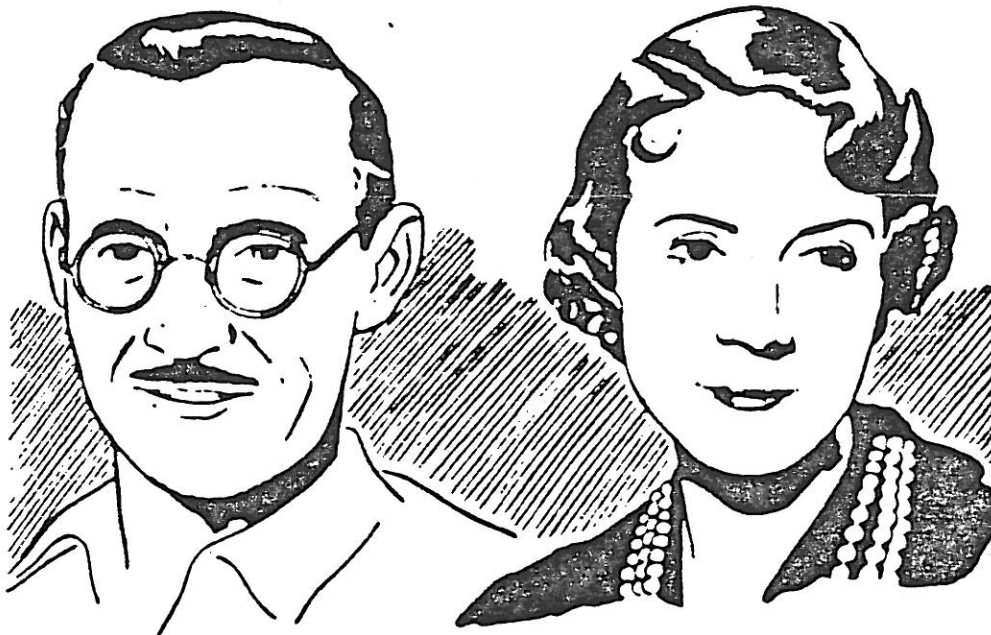
VOLUME 10, NUMBER 12

JUNE, 1985

RETURN WITH US TO...

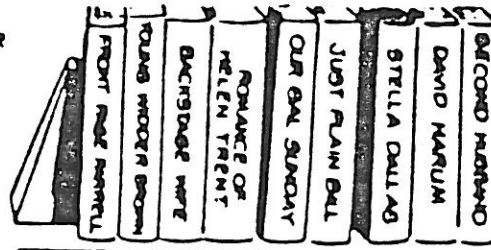


The Hummerts



FRANK AND ANNE HUMMERT WERE A HUSBAND-AND-WIFE TEAM WHO PRODUCED LITERALLY DOZENS OF RADIO SHOWS, FIRST FOR BLACKETT-SAMPLE ADVERTISING AGENCY, THEN FOR THEIR OWN COMPANY CALLED AIR FEATURES INC. MOST OF THEIR SHOWS WERE COMPLETE PRODUCTIONS, INCLUDING SPONSORSHIP, READY FOR SALE TO THE NETWORKS.

THE HUMMERTS ARE REMEMBERED FOR CREATING MANY TOP SOAP OPERAS, BUT THEY ALSO PRODUCED SUCH MUSICAL PROGRAMS AS *MANHATTAN MERRY-GO-ROUND* AND *THE AMERICAN ALBUM OF FAMILIAR MUSIC* AS WELL AS THE MYSTERY SHOWS *MR. CHAMELEON* AND *MR. KEEN, TRACER OF LOST PERSONS*.



THE HUMMERTS WOULD NOT BE COMFORTABLE IN TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT WORLD OF LOWER MORAL GUIDELINES. THEY INSISTED THAT THEIR WRITERS ADHERE TO A RIGID MORAL CODE. EVEN THEIR ACTORS WERE EXPECTED TO LEAD UPRIGHT PRIVATE LIVES.

Continued on page 177

JUNE MEETING

The June meeting of the Denver Chapter of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held on Thursday, June 20 at the Super 8 Motel, 6th and Federal. The main item of business will be the summer convention. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM

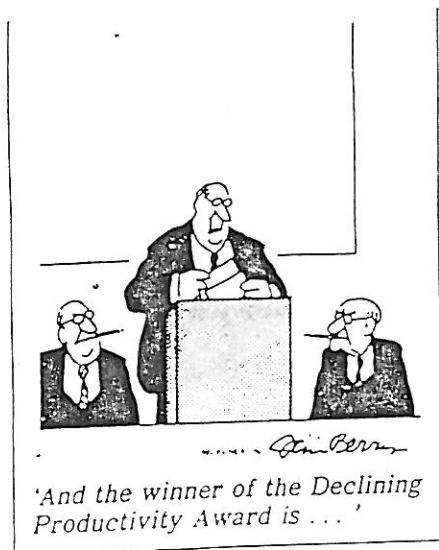
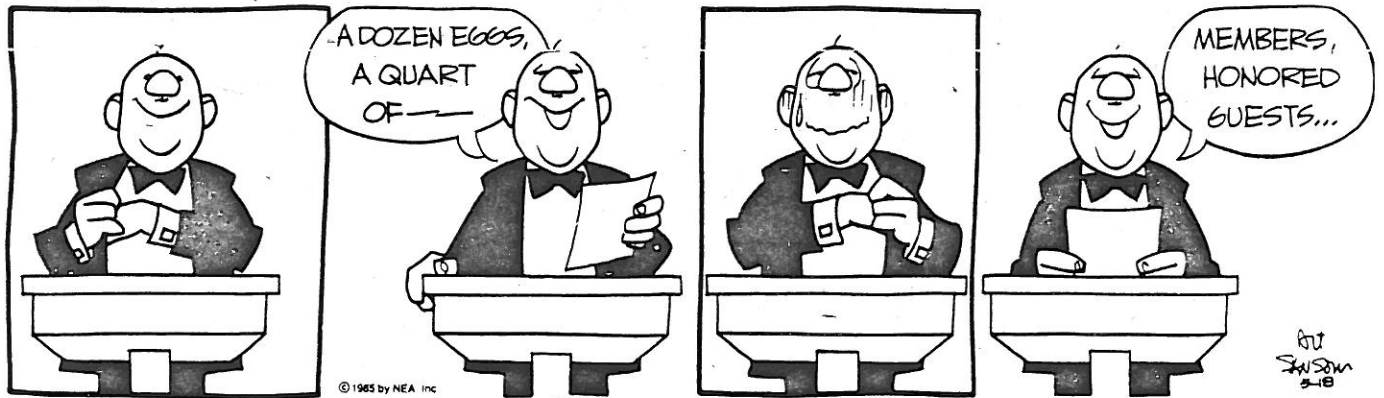
The Colorado Springs Chapter of the RHAC has discontinued meetings for the summer months.

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

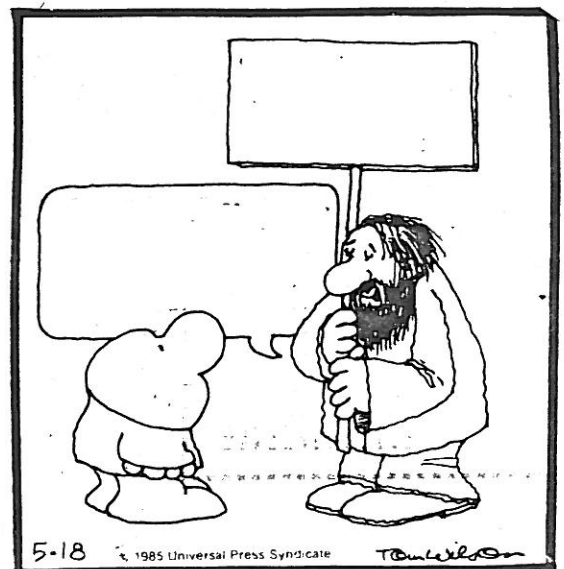
For further information contact one of the following:

- PRESIDENT :Barrett Benson....PO Box 507...Pine, CO 80470....838-6185
- VICE PRESIDENT :Herb Duniven....4184 S. Syracuse St...Denver, CO 80237...773-1142
- TREASURER :John Licht...617 Detroit...Denver, CO 80206...321-6269
- SECRETARY :Reid Hansen...1659 S. Lee St. Apt. D...Lakewood, CO 80226...985-7141
- TAPE LIBRARIAN :Elmer Westbrook...855 S. Corona...Denver, CO 80209...778-7426
- BLANK TAPE SALES :Barrett Benson...PO Box 507...Pine,CO 80470....838-6185
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR :John Lloyd...2667 E. 99th Ave...Thornton,CO 80229...451-7890
- MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN :John Callor...PO Box 1109...Westminster, CO 80030...429-4639
- REFERENCE LIBRARY :Charles Barton...5330 S. Washington...Littleton, CO 80121...798-3741
- TAPE DONATIONS :Charles Smith...2760 N. Academy Blvd...Colorado Springs, CO 80907

We thank you for your support of the RHAC. We hope that all of our members utilize the many resources of the club and enjoy them to the fullest. Any comments, suggestions, and donations are greatly appreciated.



Fill this one in yourself and send me a copy for a future issue



CONVENTION UPDATE

For the past several months most of the free time of several Denver RHAC members has been devoted to organizing the first OTR convention in Denver. The event has been titled: RETURN WITH US NOW: A CELEBRATION OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO.

The date will be Saturday, July 27, 1985. The location will be at the Super 8 Motel which is at 6th and Federal in Denver. A map of the location is enclosed for your convenience.

Things are really beginning to take shape now. Those involved in the organizing have done an outstanding job. Here is the way things are now planned.

You may pre-register by mail (see last page of this newsletter) at a savings of \$2 per person. If you do not pre-register and decide to pay at the door you may not get in since only the first 200 people will be accommodated and pre-registrations will come first. There will be a registration table outside the convention ballroom where each person will be issued a convention pass (color coded to show those who will be having dinner with us), a convention agenda and a copy of the July club newsletter.

A room has been set up to display old time radio memorabilia, club information, antique radios, stereo equipment, photos, posters, etc. The room will be opened at all times between convention programs for everyone's enjoyment.

Registration will be from 1 PM to 2 PM. The first program will feature a panel discussion on national old time radio and will include panel moderator John Dunning, our special guest Sam Edwards (from Gunsmoke and Corliss Archer) and Nancy Healy Davis who appeared in many old time radio shows. That panel discussion will be from 2 PM until 3 PM and will be followed by a short question and answer period and a break. At 3:30 PM the next panel discussion will begin and feature panel moderator Dusty Saunders of the Rocky Mt. News, Jim Hawthorne of KOA and a noted collector, Don Roberts of KEZW and an old time radio personality himself and Dick McDaniel of KNUS, another old radio personality here in Denver and with the AFRS.

The second panel discussion will be from 3:30 PM until 4:30 PM and will be followed by a short question and answer period. These panel discussions promise to be extremely entertaining as you can see from the names of those attending.

At 5 PM we will break for dinner which will be buffet style. The buffet tables will be set up outside the convention ballroom and you will return to your table for dinner. Each of the celebrity guests will be at a separate table so that more conventioners will get to mingle with them.

After dinner is over we have been asked to leave the convention room for a short period so that the staff may clean the tables. This will also serve a second purpose for us to arrange our sound system and for last minute changes in our final convention program. Pete Wehner, who has written several radio dramas here in Denver, has written a story especially for the convention and it will be performed "live" before the audience, just as if it were being performed on radio. There is word that it will be a western but don't hold me to that. Sam Edwards has agreed to play a part in it. Some of our other guests may play parts and some of our RHAC members may play small parts. That should be a great conclusion to a fun filled day.

As you can see, a lot of work has been done already and we hope that all of our members who are within driving distance will come and spend the day reliving the golden age of radio. We already have several members who are coming in from out of town. Those of our members who live in the Denver area have a definite advantage in coming to this convention since it is so centrally located.

Remember, only the first 200 to sign up will be able to attend. We have 41 already paid as I write this. Once we start publicity spots on the radio stations and in the papers the convention room will fill up quickly so better send in your pre-registration money now. If you have to cancel after you have paid you will be able to get 100% returned if you cancel prior to July 10.

FOR SALE

John Callor is selling an Akai 4000GX reel-to-reel tape deck for \$175.00. He is also selling three antique Victrola's. The price range on these are \$200.00 to \$700.00. Contact John for further information at 429-4639.

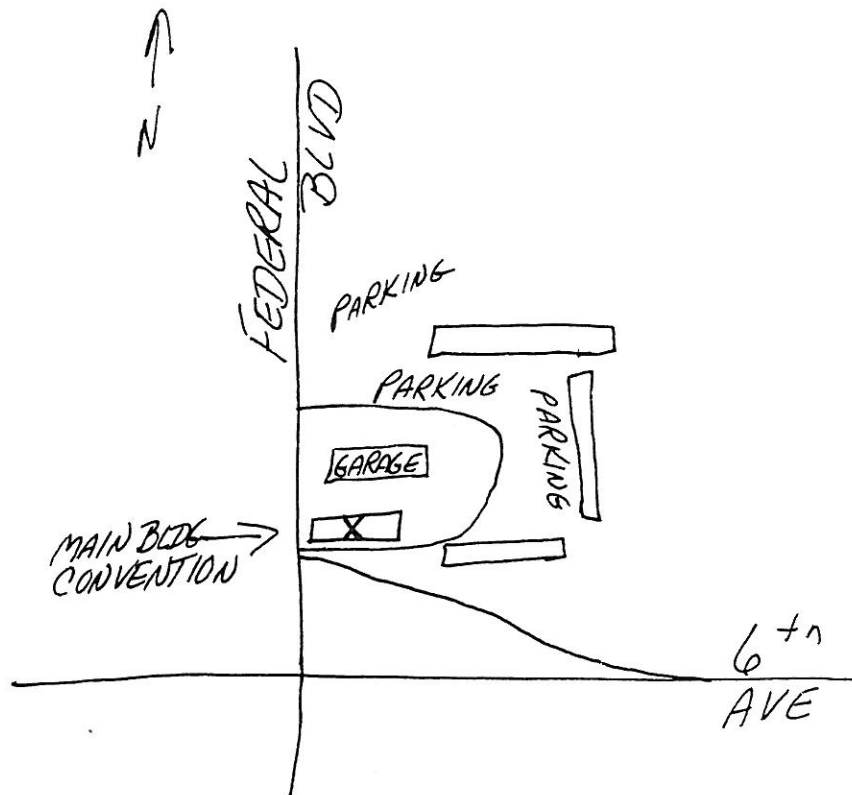
CONVENTION DISPLAY ROOM

Jerry Piacentine has done a fine job in organizing the display room for the convention. Jerry asks those who have radio memorabilia to contact him if you would be willing to loan us anything to exhibit. We are really counting on your generosity for this display room. Jerry also needs one more person to help pick up the memorabilia when it is available. Please offer your assistance.

CONVENTION DIRECTIONS

This will be the last time we get to promote the July convention in the newsletter so again I urge you to make every attempt to support the 10th anniversary celebration of the RHAC. A LOT of work has been put into organizing this convention FOR YOU. We have a lot of extremely interesting personalities discussing radio, a nice dinner with other OTR buffs and a "live" radio drama presented in front of an audience. There is something for everyone.

The best way to get to the convention center is by I25 and then heading west on 6th Ave. Keep to the right and turn north on Federal Blvd. The motel is right on the corner of 6th and Federal so you turn immediately into the parking area as you turn north on Federal. There is plenty of parking throughout the motel area. The convention is in the main building on the second floor.



IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The July newsletter will be passed out at the convention on July 27. This will enable us to save a lot of postage and also to try to persuade local members to attend the convention. Those who do not attend the convention will have their newsletters mailed the following week. Since you will be getting your newsletter so late in July we have decided that we will not have an August issue. This will also give us a month to write up our reports on the convention and get some film developed for use in the newsletter.

We are still running short of articles for the July newsletter. Not one of our out-of-town members has contributed to the newsletter. Luckily, most of our regulars have made an effort to contribute like I knew they would. How about it, RHAC members, we can't do it by ourselves.

If any of our local members would like to undertake being editor of the newsletter this fall, please let me know and we can go over a lot of the information that you will need.

OTR LISTENING SCHEDULE

We will not be able to publish John Dunning's schedule for the month's of June, July or August due to the late printing of the newsletter or lateness of our receipt of the schedule. We also are unable to publish Kevin Shields' schedule since he is now on a daily program and he is trying to get caught up with his dubbing shows for the noon time show in Colorado Springs. We hope that you listen to these shows and make your own schedules for listening and we all hope to be back printing these schedules in the fall.

VIDEO CASSETTES AVAILABLE

Irving Hale called and said that he had all of the Public TV episodes of Sherlock Holmes available on cassette. If you would like to know more information, please contact Irv at 333-8414.

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Richard Lewis.....PO Box 15745....Colorado Springs, CO 80935.....4/86
Richard J. Nudge.....4839 S. Zang Ct.....Morrison, CO 80465.....4/86
Paul Anderson III.....1858 N. 13th....Laramie, WY 82070.....4/86
Jim Harvey.....PO Box 1567.....Largo, FL 34294.....4/86
Sharon Begam.....8617 Hopewood Lane....New Hope, MN 55427.....4/86
William McCracken...7101 West Yale Ave #503....Denver, CO 80227..4/86

We would like to thank the following members for renewing with us for another year:

Dan Danbom.....3/86, Gene Thurber....3/86, Robert Hawkins....4/86, Bruce Hetzel.....4/86
James Snyder.....4/86, Jacob Tustin....5/86, George Cofrank....4/86, Tom Monroe....4/86
Jerome Weber....3/86, David Tomlin....4/86, Walter Niebuhr....4/86, Joel Visser....4/86
Steve Scalzo....5/86, Harold Ryan....5/86, James Albert....4/86

The following members thought they could hide from us by changing their addresses:

Barrett Benson.....PO Box 0507.....Pine, CO 80470
Charles Barton.....5330 S. Washington....Littleton, CO 80121

REMINDER: ALL NEW MEMBERSHIPS, RENEWALS AND ADDRESS CHANGES GO TO JOHN CALLOR. THANKS.

If you know of others who might like to join us, let John Callor know their address.

CONVENTION RECORDING

The RHAC will be recording the entire convention on tape, therefore, we ask that you not bring any recorders to the convention. With several hundred collectors there you can imagine the confusion and disorder. Thank you.

Famed for Role in 'The Millionaire' Series

Radio-TV Actor Marvin Miller Dies

By JACK JONES, Times Staff Writer

Marvin Miller, whose half-century as an actor, announcer and narrator is best recalled for his television role as the man who gave away million-dollar checks, died Friday in Santa Monica Hospital.

The 71-year-old Miller suffered complications from a diabetic condition and went into a coma after a heart attack Sunday, his wife, Elizabeth, said.

Miller began in radio in St. Louis as a Washington University freshman and then went to Chicago to launch a network radio career that eventually took him to Hollywood and into films and television. He was active until several months ago.

Even after he officially retired in December, Elizabeth Miller said, he narrated a couple of industrial films. Last fall, he was heard with numerous other long-time performers on a special Halloween radio show.

Mysterious Billionaire

Although he acted in, announced for or narrated countless radio and television shows and appeared in several dozen films, Miller was best known as Michael Anthony, the "ever-faithful" executive secretary to mysterious billionaire John Beresford Tipton on "The Millionaire."

Each episode of the television series, which made its CBS network debut in January, 1955, started with Miller's character passing out a million-dollar check to startled recipients.

Asked in 1982 what that role had done for his career, Miller replied: "It killed me. I never did another important part in a movie or television series. I'd go in with an agent to a casting director and he'd say, 'Hey, the audience would expect you to give away a million dollars.'"

Miller was born in St. Louis on July 18, 1913. He broke into radio there when he was 18, earning \$5 a week doing a one-man show in which he performed all the parts.

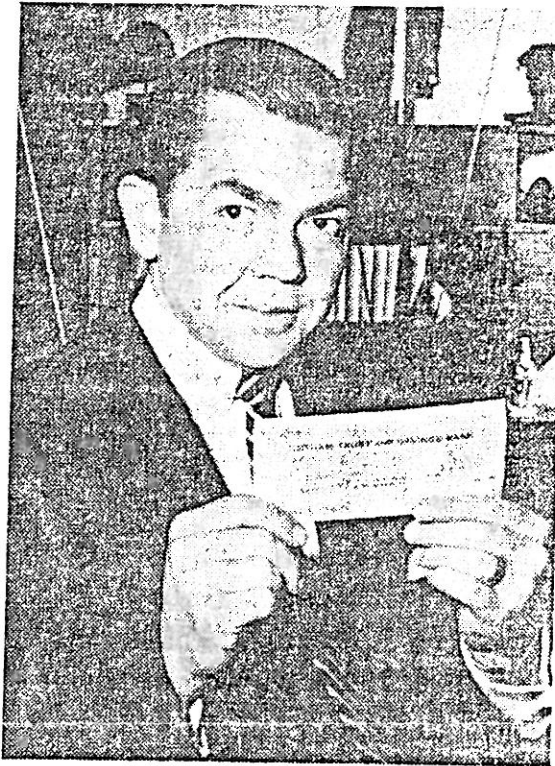
Network Center

In 1939, just after he and St. Louis artist Elizabeth Dawson were married, they moved to Chicago—then a major network radio center. He had so much work—he was heard on an average of 45 shows a week—that Variety dubbed him a "one-man radio industry."

He would announce one program, then immediately perform a dramatic role—or perhaps several—in another. On the soap opera, "Backstage Wife," for instance, he was heard as Rodney Brooks, Fritz Sterner and Edward de Manfield. Among the shows he narrated was "Armchair Adventures."

For nine years, he was the voice of "The Whistler," keeping millions of Americans glued to their table Philcos with his resonant words, "I am the Whistler, and I know many things, for I walk by night. . . ."

In 1944, Miller moved to Hollywood, where he began by announcing for the Red Skelton radio show and was radio's "Coronet Storyteller," narrating and doing all the voices for that five-nights-a-week ABC show.



Marvin Miller in "The Millionaire" TV series.

That became "Behind the Story" and then "Marvin Miller, Story Teller."

He did many shows for the Armed Forces Network during World War II and appeared in films beginning with "Johnny Angel" in 1945. Other movies included "Intrigue," "Forbidden," "Peking Express," "Deadline at Dawn," "Dead Reckoning" and "Hong Kong."

When television came into its own, one of his early roles was that of a Chinese philosopher-detective in "Mysteries of Chinatown."

Of all the work he did, his wife said Friday, he was proudest of having recorded the entire King James version of the Bible for Audio Books.

"He was meticulous about researching the pronunciations of names and places," she said. "It took him five or six years to do it," she said.

He narrated many industrial and educational films, as well as cartoons for UPA, Hanna-Barbera and Disney. In recent years, he had been the taped voice on many a museum's guided tour.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Melissa, a Century City attorney, and a son, Anthony, of Minneapolis, a toy company executive.

His wife said no funeral service is scheduled, but a memorial service will be announced at a later time.

Burial will be at Westwood Village Memorial Park.

'The Great Gildersleeve'

Harold Peary, who rose to stardom during radio's Golden Age as the pompous but lovable "The Great Gildersleeve," died Saturday of a heart attack in Torrance, Calif. He was 76.

Best known for his portrayal of Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve, the harassing next-door neighbor of Fibber McGee, Peary's character was such a hit that he was given his own radio show entitled "The Great Gildersleeve" in 1941.

The show ran until 1958 and was considered one of the last great comedy series of the air. Peary left the program in 1950 and was replaced by actor Willard Waterman, who sounded so much like Peary that their voices were almost indistinguishable.

Born Harold Jose Pereira de Faria, Peary was the son of a Portuguese immigrant. He began his career in 1919, as an 11-year-old boy soprano, appearing professionally at weddings, banquets, and other events in the neighborhood of his San Leandro home.

By the time he was 17, he had

become a baritone and a constant performer with touring companies performing musical comedy.

He began his radio career in the late 1920s, singing on an NBC show called "The Spanish Serenader" that was produced in San Francisco. He moved to big time radio in Chicago in 1935, where the flexibility of his voice allowed him to play as many as six parts in a radio show.

In 1937, Peary originated the Gildersleeve role — the blundering windbag whose heart of gold was usually well concealed behind a wall of bluff.

The famous line, "You're a haaaaard man, McGee," became a national catch-line, as did imitations of the famous Gildersleeve "dirty laugh."

Gildersleeve's departure from the McGee show to stake out his own prime-time territory as resident windbag and water commissioner in the mythical town of Summerville (where he was joined by a niece, Marjorie, and nephew, Leroy) was both lamented and hailed as a pioneering departure.

Many radio histories record it as the first "spinoff" — a show based upon a supporting character from another series.

Peary continued with the role until 1950, when it was taken over by Waterman, and its originator moved to a rival network where he created a similar character in a similar show, "Honest Harold."

That series, however, never achieved the popularity of Gildersleeve, and gradually faded away.

An accomplished character actor, Peary also played guest roles in many television series including "That Girl," "The Doris Day Show," and "The Brady Bunch."

His movies included "Comin' Round The Mountain," "Look Who's Laughing," "Country Fair," "Here We Go Again," "Seven Days' Leave," "The Great Gildersleeve," "Gildersleeve's Bad Day," "Gildersleeve on Broadway," "Gildersleeve's Ghost," and "Clambake."

According to his son, Page Peary, the veteran actor retired in 1961 after nearly 70 years in show business. A longtime resident of nearby Manhattan Beach, he was named honorary mayor of the city in 1956.

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 513</u>	<u>THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (BBC)</u>	1200'
1L	The Reigate Squires The Boscombe Valley Mystery	
2L	Silver Blaze The Greek Interpreter	
1R	The Six Napoleans Shoscombe Old Place	
2R	The Devil's Foot The Abbey Grange	
<u>REEL 514</u>	<u>THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE</u>	1200'
1L	11-23-49 The Jolly Boy's Band 11-30-49 New Neighbor - Two Pants Pearson	
2L	12-7-49 Bronco Bows Out For Marshall Bullard 12-14-49 Christmas Chimes	
1R	12-21-49 Marjorie And Bronco Engaged 12-28-49 Hayride	
2R	1-4-50 Gildy Meets Bronco's Family 1-11-50 A Young French D.P. Comes To Summerfield	
<u>REEL 515</u>	<u>THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE</u>	1200'
1L	1-18-50 Dinner With Kathryn 1-25-50 Dinner For Bronco's Folks	
2L	2-1-50 Gildy Tries To Learn The Samba 2-8-50 Should Marjorie Work After Marriage	
1R	2-15-50 Wedding Day Set For Marjorie And Bronco 2-22-50 Jolly Boys Election	
2R	3-1-50 Marjorie's Shower - Night Out With Mr. Thompson 3-8-50 Gildy's Blade	
<u>REEL 516</u>	<u>MISCELLANEOUS SHOWS</u>	1200'
1L	THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE: The Lafayette Escadrille THE AMERICAN CHALLENGE: Bombers To Britain	
2L	11-3-47 POINT SUBLIME: A Few Words About Taxes 10-1-48 HENRY MORGAN SHOW: Radio Serial To End All Serials	
1R	-30s POPEYE: Runaway Trolley Car -30s POPEYE: Escaped Elephant -30s POPEYE: Giant Geranium -30s POPEYE: Robin Hood	
2R	4-25-48 FITCH BANDWAGON: Remly Takes Up Sculpturing LIFE WITH LUIGI: Luigi Needs \$500 To Visit Mama LIFE WITH LUIGI: Luigi Needs \$500 (Continued)	

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 517 THE BIG SHOW</u>		1800'
1L	2-18-51	Guests: Fred Allen, Jack Carson, Dennis King
2L	3-4-51	Guests: Fred Allen, Clive Brooks, Frankie Laine
1R	3-18-51	Guests: Fred Allen, Phil Baker, Eddie Cantor
2R	4-22-51	Guests: Fred Allen, Joan Davis, Portland Hoffa
<u>REEL 518 THE SEALED BOOK</u>		1200'
1L		Pgm # 9: Out Of The Past Pgm #10: Welcome Home
2L		Pgm #11: I'll Die Laughing Pgm #12: Design For Death
1R		Pgm #14: Broadway, Here I Come Pgm #15: Queen Of The Cats
2R		Pgm #16: Death Rings Down The Curtain Pgm #17: 'Til Death Do Us Part
<u>REEL 519 THE SEALED BOOK</u>		1200'
1L		Pgm #18: The Man With The Stolen Face Pgm #19: My Beloved Must Die
2L		Pgm #20: Beware Of Tomorrow Pgm #21: Murder Must Be Paid For
1R		Pgm #22: To Have And To Hold Pgm #23: Murderer Unknown
2R		Pgm #24: Time On My Hands Pgm #25: Death Laughs Last
<u>REEL 520 BOSTON BLACKIE</u>		1200'
1L		Pgm #12: Larry Brown Has \$100 For Blackie Pgm #14: The Worthington Pearls
2L		Pgm #25: Westfiled Diamond Pgm #33: Construction Murders
1R		Pgm #34: Missing Pearl Necklace Pgm #37: Master's Diamond
2R		Pgm #41: Body In Blackie's Dining Room Pgm #42: Faraday Needs Blackie's Help

RETURN WITH US NOW

A CELEBRATION OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF RADIO

As we near our tenth anniversary, the Radio Historical Association of Colorado is planning an extravaganza you will not want to miss.

We are calling it "RETURN WITH US NOW : A Celebration of the Golden Age of Radio". Our featured guest will be Sam Edwards who played on "Gunsmoke" and other favorite OTR shows. Also on the program will be Nancy Healy Davis, John Dunning, Dick McDaniel, Jim Hawthorne, Don Roberts and Walter Saunders.

There will be lively panel discussions, question and answer sessions, and a live radio drama performed before your very eyes! This day promises to be a FUNTASTIC day for OTR buffs whether you are a serious collector or simply want to reminisce in the magic world of old time radio.

Mark the date on your calendars---July 27, 1985---from 2 until 8 PM and don't allow anything, that's a-n-y-t-h-i-n-g, to interfere with your attending. The cost is a very modest \$6.00 for the convention only or \$10.00 including dinner if you pre-register (\$2.00 more if you don't).

The site for "RETURN WITH US NOW :A Celebration of the Golden Age of Radio" is the Denver 8 Motel, 6th and Federal, Denver, CO. Out-of-towners may want to stay overnight and rooms can be had for as little as \$19.88 (single) or \$25.88 (double). Please call the hotel directly to arrange for rooms if you desire them. (571-1715).

PRE-REGISTER AND SAVE \$2.00 PER PERSON	<u>PRE-REG.</u>	<u>AT THE DOOR</u>
CONVENTION ONLY	\$6.00	\$8.00
CONVENTION WITH DINNER	\$10.00	\$12.00

Pre-Registration Form

RETURN WITH US NOW : A Celebration of the Golden Age of Radio

Yes, please reserve _____ places for me on Saturday, July 27, 1985.
 We (do) (do not) desire the buffet dinner. My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

 Name Telephone

 Address

Please return this form with your check to: John Callor
 PO Box 1109
 Westminster, CO 80030

Mr. & Mrs. John H. Lloyd
2667 E. 99th Ave.
Thornton, Colo. 80229

Jan 86
BARRETT BENSON
P.O. BOX 0507
PINE, CO 80470

