

# RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado, Inc.



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1

761-5135

AUGUST 1986

IN MEMORY OF .....



KATE SMITH....1909 - 1986



RUDY VALLEE....1901 - 1986

RETURN WITH US NOW...is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, a non-profit organization. The cost of membership is \$15.00 per year and allows the member full use of the Club's resources. For further information, contact one of the following Officers or Board Members...

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TAPE DONATIONS	:Elmer Westbrook (See Above)
	:John Cook " "

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

#### AUGUST MEETING

The August Meeting of RHAC will be held at the Church Of The Master, 5152 East 17th Ave. Denver. The church sits on the southside of 17th ave. between Filbert and Forest streets. Enter from the Filbert street side and go downstairs. This looks like this location will be a more permanent meeting place for the time being. It is more centrally located and should not be a problem for most members as far as driving time. The meeting will be August 21, at 7:30 pm.

The RHAC wishes to thank Dick and Maleetha King for their generosity in allowing us to meet at his place of business for the past several months. They both are two of the most active members in our organization and their participation and support is greatly appreciated.

#### GUEST SPEAKER

We are proud to announce that Mr. Russell Colburn a former radio personality in the late 30's and early 40's, will be our guest speaker at the August meeting. He will relate his experiences in radio from that era. Please make an attempt to attend. I know you will be entertained as well as informed as to what it was like back in the "good ole days".

Attempts to have other people associated with this media will be made for future meetings.

#### ABOUT THE COVER

OTR Fans were saddened to hear of the deaths of two of the most famous and popular radio and movie personalities, Kate Smith and Rudy Vallee.

Kate Smith began her career in radio in 1931. That first broadcast on May 1, Kate adopted what was to become her signature song. "When The Moon Comes Over The Mountain" Her opening and closing greeting of, "Hello everybody" and, "Thanks for listenin'", were the best known on CBS. Of the singer who introduced on November 11, 1938, "God Bless America", President Roosevelt once said, "This is Kate Smith, and Kate Smith is America".

Rudy "Hi-Ho everybody" Vallee came to network radio on NBC in 1929. His show, The Fleischmann Hour, featured his unique style of talk, jokes and music. He also introduced many well-known names to broadcasting, including Eddie Cantor, Beatrice Lillie, Alice Faye, Edgar Bergen and Red Skelton, to name a few. He also introduced in 1940, John Barrymore as a regular on his show and who was with Rudy until 1942. As late as the sixties, Rudy Vallee was still to be heard on local radio.

Although these great stars are gone, they will not be forgotten because of the hours upon hours of enjoyment they brought to the world of radio and its listening audience..

(Source: Great Radio Personalities by Anthony Slide)

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Vicki Blake reports the following new members who recently joined the OTR Family. They are, Ken Douglas of Boulder, Co. and Ken Hoffman of Omaha, Ne. We hope you will make RHAC a part of your OTR enjoyment by using the many resources available to you.

The following decided it was worth another go-around with us: Thanks for renewing, Paul Anderson, Daniel Holcomb, Edward Carr, and Phil Scott.

WANT-ADS

Dick King is desperately seeking a hardback copy of John Dunning's TUNE IN YESTERDAY. If any of you out there have an extra copy you would not mind parting with, please let Dick know. (I am sure Dick would accept a soft-bound version if available). You may contact him at Colorado Diesel and Purifiers, 2061 West Hamilton Pl., Englewood, Co. 80110.

I (John Cook) am still looking for shows from the "Straight Arrow" series and, also, some programs from the "Witch's Tale". My collection is not large compared to those I have seen so far but, I will be willing to trade or send blank tape to someone who has several of these shows. Let me know. Thanks. (See address, page 1).

Remember, if you are looking for that special show or series, drop me a line. Your request will be printed and, hopefully you will get a response. Ask Chuck Barton.

TAPE REVIEW

Elmer Westbrook has a special interest in this month's Tape Review. He particularly enjoys the "Frontier Fighters" series. This 15 minute series follows the events that made history and the individuals who played a great part in the early development and expansion of our Country. You can follow the adventures, intrigue and excitement of historical figures who helped to shape our Land. Go along with Wild Bill Hickock, John C. Fremont, Lewis and Clark, Buffalo Bill et al, and you will learn a great deal about these folks. These shows are recreations of actual events. As Elmer put it, you can take a map and follow right along with Lewis and Clark and the route they took to the Northwest. You will find this interesting series on tape #342 and 505. Good Listening.

OTR DISPLAY A SUCCESS

Gerald Piacitine once again put together a fine group of individuals who displayed the wonderful collections of radio memorabilia at the June OTR Convention.

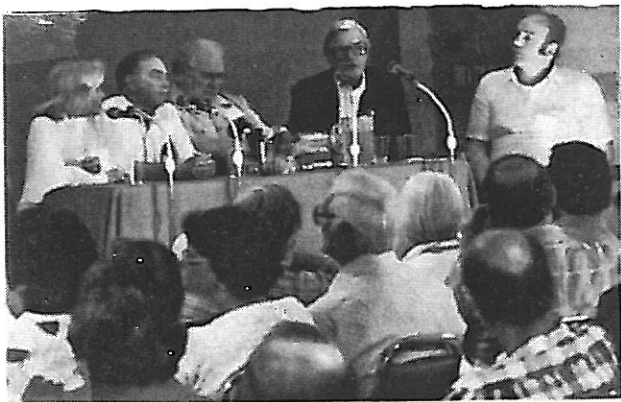
Bob Wilkinson, again, brought his priceless and "working" radio studio equipment down from his home in Boulder. Chuck Barton set up a display of RHAC reference materials that are available to members at a very modest rental fee. Practically all of the books from the reference material are out-of-print. Larry Cox donated several magazines from the Golden Years of Radio. Also, included were photos of OTR favorites. Second Sound, one of the Convention sponsors, displayed several pieces of audio equipment they have in their store at 1875 So. Broadway. Irv Hale brought in his fine Sherlock Holmes collection which was the envy of Yours truly. John Adams played his video cassettes of OTR stars as well as a cassette presentation of "Suspense" brought to us by California visitor and Spervac's RADIOGRAM editor, Barbara Watkins.

All of these folks who took time to share with us the years and efforts to obtain these valuable items in their individual collections certainly deserve a big THANKS!!! You too, helped to make this event a success.

Editor's note: The above article was omitted from lastmonth's issue of RETURN WITH US NOW due to lack of space. My apologies for not mentioning the above individuals sooner. (to IRV..... See September '85 issue RETURN WITH US NOW and the article by John Lloyd).... I hope my memory has served me well and I have not overlooked anyone. If so, please let me know.

(Convention picture highlights are on following page)





FORAY, EDWARDS, BAER, FOY, JOHN DUNNING  
National Panel



METRO STATE PLAYERS.. "SORRY, WRONG NUMBER"



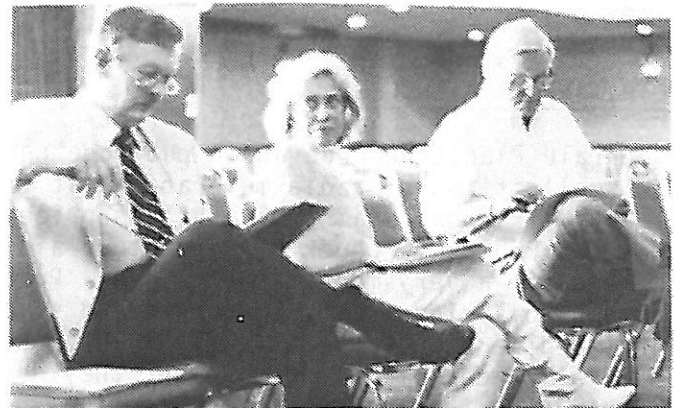
PETE WEHNER'S "SO GOOD TOGETHER"



SAM AND PARLEY - rehearsal



HAWTHORNE, MCDANIELS, ROBERTS, SMYTHE, SAUL  
Denver Radio Panel



TONY LARSON, FORAY & FOY - rehearsal



CURTAIN CALL



JOHN LIGHT & KEEBLER DOLL PRESENTED TO  
PARLEY

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Additions by Vicki Blake 3/86

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"KEY" OR "QUAY" - A Reader's Opinion

I find that I must disagree with the "experts" cited by Jack Richards in the June issue of Return With Us Now ... Jack said that these people felt that the ESCAPE story, "Three Skeleton Key", should really be "Three Skeleton Quay".. They are correct that both words are pronounced the same ("key"), and that a quay is a wharf or unloading dock. But, while possible, and properly nautical, I think that this is an unlikely meaning for the story. (By the way, my dictionary gives "key" as a variant spelling for "quay", so, even if a wharf is what the author intended the "key" spelling would not be incorrect).

The opening of this story speaks of the "bare black rock" on which the lighthouse sits. The rock is covered up at high tide thus, no wharf. At least in the dictionary sense. One of the definitions of "key" however, is a reef or low island (such as the Florida Keys). As mentioned above, we know that the lighthouse is in such a location. So, in all respects, it would appear to me that "key" is the correct word.

By the way, while "Three Skeleton Key" was broadcast three times on the ESCAPE series, it was also later broadcast twice on the SUSPENSE program. Four of the five broadcasts of this show are currently circulating in trading circles. The only one I have been unable to find is the November 11, 1956 SUSPENSE version with Vincent Price. While I find this show listed in many trading and dealer's catalogs, they are really the October 19, 1958 version which has been misdated in all those catalogs..

I think the key to this situation has now been found and that the quay experts have been locked out.

JIM SNYDER - Saginaw, Mich.

(If any of you know where Jim can find the version he mentioned above, I'm sure he would be happy to know as we are happy that he took the time to write this interesting response to the article by Jack. It's this sort of information that hopefully makes for interesting reading and all of you out there have something to say. Let me hear from you and, thanks, Jim .....Editor).

TAXING TAPE RECORDING - Stereo Review - August '86

A U.S. Senate subcommittee has passed S 1739, a bill to put a royalty tax on all audio tape recorders. If the full Senate approves the bill, manufacturers' prices could be increased by up to 25 percent. The proceeds are to be given to record companies.

Subcommittee members who voted for the tax are Senators Charles Mathias (Maryland), Edward Kennedy (Massachusetts), Arlen Spencer (Pennsylvania), Orrin Hatch (Utah), Patrick Leahy (Vermont), and Alan Simpson (Wyoming). If you oppose the tax, you should make your views known immediately to committee members and - more important - to your own senators. You can get their names addresses, and telephone numbers by calling the Audio Recording Rights Coalition: 1-800-282-TAPE.

This means US, folks. We will be paying more for recording tape and, very likely, a higher rent on reels and cassettes ordered from tape libraries around the country.

Please, speak out!!!

IN MEMORIAM

The members and Board of Directors of RHAC extend their deepest sympathy to John Adams who recently lost a dear friend of 40 years. Those of us who knew Mack Watson, will miss him dearly. Mack passed away June 23 after a long illness. To you, John, our thoughts and prayers are with you in the hope that it will help ease your sadness.

PICNIC REMINDER

At this point in time, there has not been a very big response to the summer picnic to be held at Barrett Benson's home near Pine Junction. The date is Saturday, August 16th at 4:00 pm. til 10:00 pm. Bring your own table setting, food and drink and at least one dish for potluck. Grills will be provided for barbequing. Elmer Westbrook will show some slides of little-known Colorado Ghost Towns that he has visited over the years.

Call Dick King at 761-4139 with your response and come join us in the mountains.

(See map on last page for directions to Barret's home)



## RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 623 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>			1200'
1L	2-27-40	Fibber Is Catching A Cold	
	3-5-40	Cleaning Fibber's Closet	
2L	3-12-40	Make A Pal Of Your Wife Week	
	3-19-40	Dog License	
1R	3-26-40	Planting A Hedge	
	4-9-40	Coming Home After Doing Lux Radio Theatre	
2R	4-16-40	Fifth Anniversary Show For Johnson's Wax	
	4-23-40	Art Museum - How To Hang A Picture	
<u>REEL 624 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>			1200'
1L	4-30-40	Fibber The Director	
	5-7-40	Women's Club Play - Stuck In A Suit Of Armor	
2L	5-14-40	Water Grass - Fight With Gildersleeve	
	5-21-40	The McGees Mind The Hardware Store	
1R	5-28-40	The Circus	
	6-4-40	Spaghetti Dinner	
2R	6-11-40	Wallpaper	
	6-18-40	McGee Models A Dress	
<u>REEL 625 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>			1200'
1L	6-25-40	Packing For Vacation	
	10-1-40	Home From Vacation - Unpacking	
2L	10-8-40	Fibber Quits Smoking	
	10-15-40	Fibber Needs A Screwdriver	
1R	10-22-40	Gildersleeve's Diary	
	10-29-40	Trip To Football Game	
2R	11-5-40	Election Officials	
	11-12-40	Fibber's Black Eye	
<u>REEL 626 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>			1200'
1L	11-19-40	Trip To See Uncle Dennis	
	11-26-40	Uncle Dennis Visits The McGees	
2L	12-3-40	Raffle Ticket - Five Tons Of Coal	
	12-10-40	Mailing Christmas Packages	
1R	12-24-40	Radio - Phonograph	
	12-31-40	Fibber Finds A Watch	
2R	1-7-41	Hundred Dollar Bill	
	1-21-41	Piano Lessons	

## RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 627</u>	<u>FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>	1200'
1L	2-4-41 Fibber Buys A New Suit 2-11-41 Fibber The Watch Salesman	
2L	2-18-41 Early To Bed 2-25-41 Bottle Collector	
1R	4-1-41 Molly Loses A Fender 11-18-41 Mayor LaTrivia Visits And Won't Leave	
2R	11-25-41 Investment In Cosmetic Clay 12-2-41 Fibber Grows A Moustache	
<u>REEL 628</u>	<u>FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>	1200'
1L	12-9-41 40% Discount 12-16-41 McGees Cut Own Christmas Tree	
2L	12-23-41 Sponsor Sends Door Chimes - Gildy Visits 12-30-41 Fixit McGee	
1R	1-6-42 Night Out 1-13-42 Uppy's Broken Window - Part 1	
2R	1-20-42 Uppy's Broken Window - Part 2 1-27-42 Blizzard	
<u>REEL 629</u>	<u>FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>	1200'
1L	2-3-42 Molly's Lost Diamond Ring 2-10-42 Valentine's Candy For Molly	
2L	2-17-42 Fibber's Home Movie 2-24-42 Fibber Buys A Horse	
1R	3-3-42 Boomer's Suitcase 3-10-42 Fibber Builds A Footstool	
2R	3-24-42 Fibber Writes A Song 3-31-42 Lathering Soap Contest	
<u>REEL 630</u>	<u>FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>	1200'
1L	4-7-42 Cleaning Out The Hall Closet For The Scrap Drive 4-14-42 Spring Festival Parade	
2L	4-21-42 Take Me Out To The Ballgame 4-28-42 Fibber's Straw Hat	
1R	5-5-42 Fibber Tries To Create A Sugar Substitute 5-12-42 The Spy	
2R	5-19-42 Fibber To Be Rich 6-9-42 Pot Roast For Dinner	

PROPOSED REVISION OF BY-LAWS, PASSED

If you will recall, the May issue of RETURN WITH US NOW featured the old and a revised RHAC By-laws. John Licht re-worded the By-laws into simpler language, if you will. At the last membership meeting, the revised version of the by-laws was passed with an exception. In the Amendment of these By-laws any changes will be made by a two-thirds majority of the members attending a meeting in which a ratification is pending. This changes any amendments made by a similar majority of the Board in the original proposal.

A copy of the revised By-laws will be printed in next month's newsletter.

ELECTION TIME

The September meeting will be devoted to the election of new officers and any appointments to the supporting positions. At this time we have two nominees for office. Dick King and Bill McCracken have indicated an interest in serving..

Should you have any one person or persons in mind for an office, please contact one of the Board Members . Or, if you have a personal desire to serve, please let this be known.

CASSETTE LIBRARY

The establishment of a new cassette library is progressing well. We have received many ideas and have heard from individuals with excellent ideas on its operations and what gremlins to expect. Tom Monroe was very helpful since he is responsible for the cassette library of The North American Radio Archives Club. He had the duty of setting up this library single-handedly. So, his experiences will be valuable. Thanks, Tom, for your interest in helping with your ideas..

The target date for lending is January of '87. However, we do have a lot of fires to put out before we get under way.

One suggestion by Tom is to accept any cassette donations to help build the library. This is an avenue you the member can take to help us out. If you have anything that we can use, please let us know.

Barbara Watkins also sent us her ideas and suggestion to help our library along, and we thank her for her interest.

In time we will have a functional library operating at minimal cost. That is our goal. Bear with us in the next few months and hopefully we will have a product you will be proud to use.

DONATIONS

Recently three of our members graciously donated part of their personal collection to the RHAC Tape Library. Bill Bales of Gulfport, Miss. sent us 30 reels of The Lone Ranger in good to excellent sound. Some of his shows date back to 1933 and feature George Seaton. Ken Kellor also donated approximately 300 cassettes of John Dunning's Old Time Radio shows dating back to 1973. John, author of TUNE IN YESTERDAY, has a weekly OTR show on a local radio station. He is in his 13th year as host of this series. Lastly, Fred Foy, one of our guest stars at our recent convention, donated some copies of his booklet, FRED FOY ... From XYZ to ABC. I have had the opportunity to read it and I found it very entertaining. It is in the Reference Library and can be rented through Chuck Barton.

To all of these generous members, a hearty THANKS!!!...for your support.

The tapes are being dubbed onto master reels and will be introduced to the Library some time in the near future. You will be notified when they are available. It will take some time so, please bear with us.

LONG WINDED

As you probably have noticed, this issue has more pages than usual. This was due to the number of items that needed to be sent out. I hope you don't mind the extra reading.

NOSTALGIA...From August '78, Volume 4, Number 2 RETURN WITH US NOW

THEY WEREN'T SO FARFETCHED, AFTER ALL..... John Adams

Little did we know back on April 4, 1939, when Buck Rogers In The 25th Century premiered on radio, that many of the ideas in the scripts would ever come of age.

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Just 39 years later we have laser beams, cloning, organ transplants, nuclear energy, a man on the moon, exploring Mars and living in outer space. We have weather satellites, solar heating and they are working on space stations. Television has come of age with instant world-wide news events. We will soon have two-way TV phones. The computer does the job it took many men to do.

If things keep progressing at the pace that they have in the past 40 years, then "1984" will be more than just a fictional book. It may be a fact and almost on schedule by the year 1984.

It is a shame that only a handful of Buck Rogers' shows exist. I think there may be one reel of Buck Rogers sponsored by Popsicle and it is only in fair sound. Flash Gordon, the other kiddie serial, can't even boast of that many. Ray Stanich tells me that there are only 3 shows. An East Coast collector has the entire set but will not circulate them.

As a kid, I remember going to the movies on Saturday. It was a full day's adventure for a dime. We had a double feature, cartoon, newsreel and a trailer short on travel. Then came the coming attractions and a serial in 12 parts. The serial was in 10 minute episodes. The first five minutes was a preview of the previous episode and the next five minutes was the current episode which always left you hanging at the most exciting point. That is what brought you back the following Saturday.

Flash Gordon was one of the serials and featured Buster Crabbe. It was the "Star Wars" of that period. When I look back now, the scripts were childish, the sets cheap and the total production costs probably weren't over \$1000.00 an episode. But, since I was just a kid, they sure were exciting. By the way, the popcorn was only a nickel (a dime if you wanted butter on it) and it sure helped durin the long hours of sitting in the theater.

During Popsicle's sponsorship of Buck Rogers, there was a gimmick like they were on most of the kiddie shows. Every so often you would get a Popsicle stick with the work "FREE" on it and you took it to the store for your free Popsicle. So, all of you parents, don't think that yesterday's sponsors didn't use questionable means of selling, like they do today.

Buck Rogers' rocket gun could be the laser beam of today. The next war might just be fought by space ships. Flying saucers aren't too far fetched anymore. Someday we may get to another planet where things are as developed as they are here. Why should our planet be the only one able to sustain life? Maybe there is another Killer Kane out there, somewhere.

The next 40 years might just bring changes so advanced that the minds of today can't comprehend them.

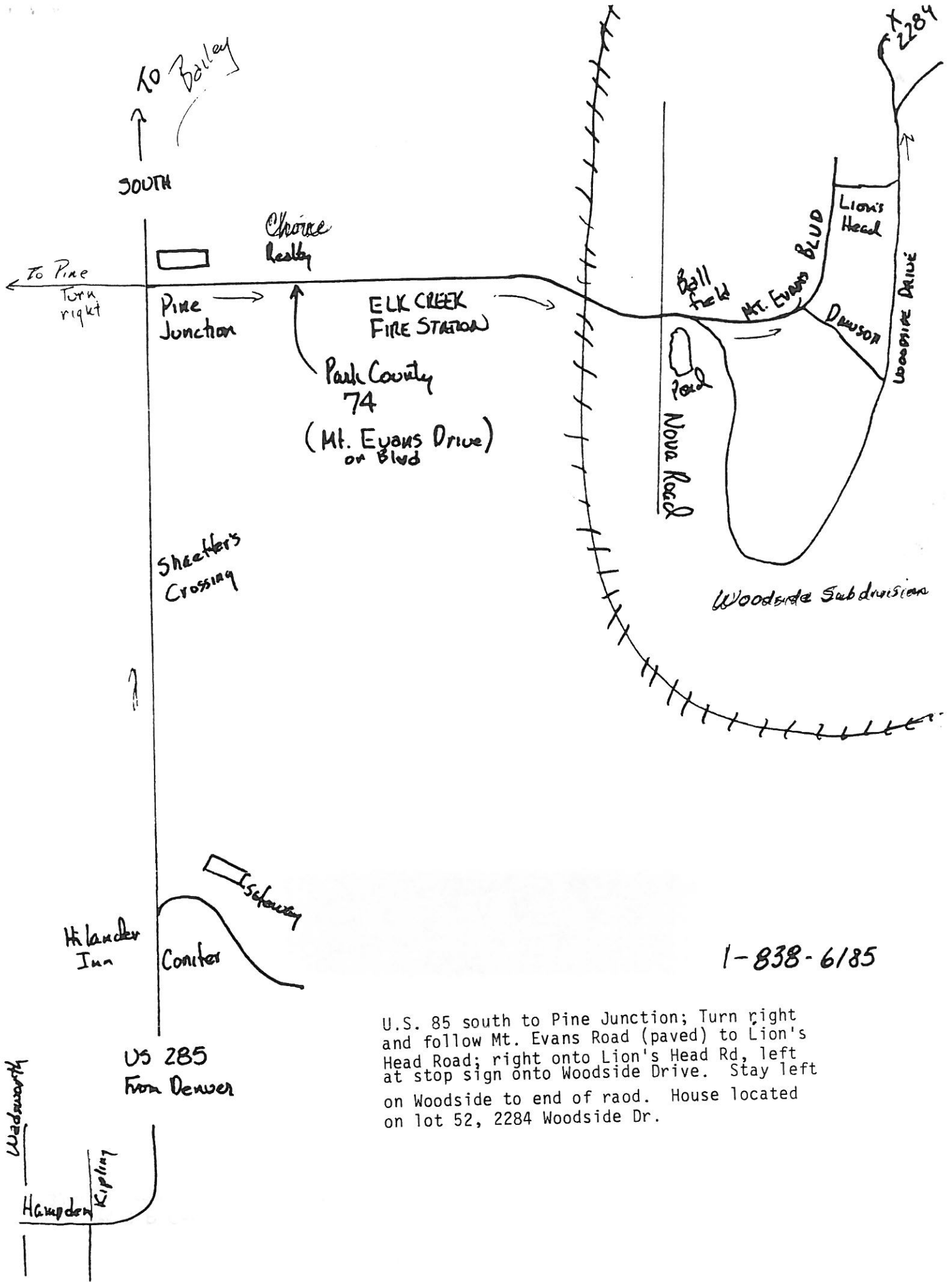
John Adams

FROM THE EDITOR

In browsing through old newsletter issues, I have come across some very interesting and informative articles written by our members past and present. I will try to re-print some of these articles for your enjoyment and information. The comments I have received about these articles I have printed recently, are encouragement enough to provide to you some interesting reading. If there is a particular subject you would like to know more about, let me know. I will research past issues for any article written on the subject. I know they are there. Of course, you could always write an article. (Sounds like a broken record).

(Picnic Map next page)





1-838-6185

U.S. 85 south to Pine Junction; Turn right and follow Mt. Evans Road (paved) to Lion's Head Road; right onto Lion's Head Rd, left at stop sign onto Woodside Drive. Stay left on Woodside to end of road. House located on lot 52, 2284 Woodside Dr.

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