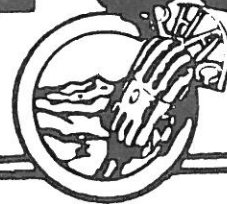


RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 4

NOVEMBER, 1936



.....to Old Time Radio's

"H O R N O' P L E N T Y"

...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 which entitles the member full use of the Club's resources. For further information, please contact one of the following Officers or Board Members....

PRESIDENT.....JOHN COOK...3344 So. Jasper Ct...Aurora, Co..80013...690-5827
VICE-PRESIDENT.....DICK KING...900 W. Quincy..Englewood, Co..80110...761-4139 or 761-5135 (work)
TREASURER.....JOHN LICHT...617 Detroit..Denver, Co...80206...321-6269
SECRETARY.....REID HANSEN...9362 W. Floyd Pl...Lakewood, Co...80226 ..985-7141
TAPE LIBRARIAN...(R TO R)....ELMER WESTBROOK...855 So. Corona...Denver, Co...80209...778-7426
" " ..(Cassette)...BILL STIPP...6289 Yarrow...Arvada, Co...80004...
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN/
LOC LIBRARIAN.....VICKI BLAKE...P.O. Box 440139...Aurora, Co...80044...690-0048
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN.....CHARLES BARTON...5330 S. Washington...Littleton, Co...80121....781-6287
BLANK TAPE SLAES.....BARRETT BENSON...P. O. Box 507...Pine, Co...80470....838-6185
TAPE DONATIONS.....BILL McCracken....7101 W. Yale Av. #503... Denver, Co 80227...986-9863
ELMER WESTBROOK....(See Above)
JOHN COOK..... " "
NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....JOHN COOK

NEXT MEETING

To accommodate our special guest speaker, the next RHAC meeting will be held one week earlier on Thursday, November 13th, at 7:30 p.m. at the Church Of The Master, 5152 E. 17th Ave. located between Filbert and Forest Streets. (Enter church from Filbert St. side and go downstairs). Please make note of this special meeting night.

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Jim Hawthorne, local radio personality, who hosts a weekend radio show..Those Were The Days... on KOA. Jim has had considerable experience in radio in Denver and the West Coast and was a big hit at the '86 OTR Convention held last June.

You can be sure of a wonderfully entertaining evening. Spread the word, bring you friends and neighbors and get set for a fun-filled evening.

Those of you who missed last month's RHAC meeting passed up an entertaining and educational program given to us by John Adams who spoke to us on the history of recording from cylinders to video cassettes. John put in a lot of time gathering information about a favorite subject of his and brought along some old recorders, magazines, etc, and put them on display.

Many thanks to you, John, for taking the time to talk to us.

John is a good example of what you may have to offer the club. I am sure there are a number of you who have had some experience and/or interest in radio-related topics who could bring us a program covering your favorite subject. Please let me know.. We would love to hear from you. This is, indeed, one way of contributing your talents for the betterment of our club.

ABOUT THE COVER

This is the time of the year when we all can sit back and enjoy the fruits of our harvest and be thankful for the results of our efforts. The end of a harvest is the time we reflect back on memories of a hopefully, fruitful and successful summer despite some set-backs some of us may have experienced. It is a time for rest and relaxation and Old Time Radio.

The memories of an era gone by are still with us. Radio's "Horn o' Plenty" brought us many fine evenings of entertainment and laughter with evening after evening of your favorite programs. Now, thanks to YOU...yes, you, we still have the pleasure of a relaxing evening, gathering around the old tape recorder and reliving those happy hours. For, without you, we do not have a club, we do not have a tape library and, we do not have folks like yourself who share with others what we are fortunate to have today.... OLD TIME RADIO!!!

RHAC's wish is that you have a dining table heaped with the fruits of your harvest and the blessings of happy times to come. HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!!

WE GET LETTERS

Dave Clow writes:

In The October 1986 issue of RETURN WITH US NOW in the article "Tape Library News" I found an error.

I quote,..."although it is not stated per se, we discourage trading of tapes amongst our members."

The error is "we" in your statement.

My view of the RHAC is not as a money making organization but, as a promoter of "Old Time Radio"! If the dues of club membership must be increased to finance the Tape Library or other RHAC costs, so be it!

My collection of Old Time Radio is willingly shared with others who enjoy and/or promote Old Time Radio and I especially resent anyone telling me who I may share my collection with.

It is my view that the best way to promote Old Time Radio is to make the collection as easy as possible. If it were possible not to charge rental fees for the RHAC Tape Library, I would favor that kind of lending system.

If the RHAC has financial problems, lets solve them without contamination of our RHAC purposes.

Thank you for pointing out what has appeared to be an error. My mistake. I neglected to include in the statement, ..."we discourage the trading of club tapes amongst our members." My fault for thinking that our readers understood the implication of "club tapes". I do not personally object to trading tapes amongst members. I do so, because I cannot wait till a particular show hits our Library. Forgive my editorial faux pas if you interpreted that I or the RHAC is telling you how to manage your personal collection. Since you share with your friends, try to encourage some of them to join our little family where more programs can be had.

Thanks for your thoughts, Dave.....Editor

Your thoughts and comments can help to make our club a little better so, SPEAK OUT..as Dave did.

We wish to extend a special thanks to Barbara Watkins, Editor of SPERDVAC's "Radiogram" newsletter for the fine article covering our '86 OTR Convention held last June. Barbara, along with Sol Pavlosky, Secretary; Larry Gassman, President; and, Bobb Lynnes attended our event and we are grateful for the recognition.

We wish them the best with their convention coming up the second weekend this month. (note: the article appeared in the September issue)

MEMBERSHIP

Vicki reports an error. Thomas Salome is a new member instead of a renewal. Sorry for that. Thanks to those of you who chose to stick with us for another year. Ray Cook, Steve Dolter, Lorry McDermott, Billy Stipp, Vernon Barker, Ron Cramer, Jack Richards and Richard Williamson.

Thanks, so much, for your support. Good Listening.

TAPE LIBRARY NEWS

Elmer has nearly completed the first 100 reels of our tape library transferring the programs onto cassette. Cassette Librarian, Billy Stipp, will have a good number of cassettes from which you may choose.

The rental rates have been set for cassettes. They are \$2.00/reel and \$.50/reel/week late charge. You will order the cassettes the same as you would from the Reel library. When ordering by reel number, you will receive all the cassettes dubbed for that particular reel. Please, do not ask for a particular cassette from any one reel. As the time draws near for the grand opening of the Cassette Library, more particulars will be available in the December issue of RETURN WITH US NOW regarding rules for ordering.

Take the time to spread among your friends and interested folk the news about the new library. RHAC vows to make it work for you and provide you with a quality product.

TUNING IN COLORADO SPRINGS

Mike Fields reports that a re-organizational meeting will be held on Tuesday October 28th at 3120 E. Dale St. at 7:00 p.m. At that time they will set up a November meeting and, if possible, they will let us know about the date and time. They hope to have Harry Elders as the guest speaker for the 28th but, as yet, that has not been confirmed.

All your Springs OTR fans, get out and support the Springs Chapter. A lot can be done in support of Old Time Radio in your community.

An idea was mentioned by Mike at our last RHAC meeting concerning the newsletter. They wish to try a 'talking newsletter' for the visually impaired. Each month's issue would be recorded on cassette and made available to our blind members and subsequently kept in a library for future use or reference. This is an excellent idea which I am sure the BOD will take under consideration.

Here is Kevin Shields OTR schedule for November:

- 11/2 The Lifebouy Show w/Bob Burns "Last show of season" 1944
- The Amos 'n Andy Show "Andy's Fake Suicide" 12/15/44
- Chandu, The Magician "Episode #45 & 46 "The Search..... 8/30& 8/31/48
- Screen Directors Playhouse "Next Time We"Love" 3/29/51
- 11/9 Fibber McGee & Molly "Date Unknown"
- The Jack Benny Show "No Script For Show" 1/16/55
- Chandu, The Magician Episode 47 & 48 "The Search..... 9/1 & 9/2/48
- Screen Director's Playhouse "The Big Lift" 1/18/41
- 11/16 Judy Canova Show "Judy's Life Story In a Magazine" 9/20/47
- The Jack Kirkwood Show "Date Unknown"
- Chandu, The Magician Episode 49 & 50 "The Search....9/3 & 9/6/48
- Screen Director's Playhouse "Hired Wife" 4/12/51
- 11/23 Judy Canova Show "Magazine Article" 11/29/47
- Life Of Riley "Thanksgiving Show" 1948
- Chandu, The Magician Episode 51 & 52 "The Search.... 9/7 & 9/8/48
- Screen Director's Playhouse "Humoresque" 4/19/51
- 11/30 Your Hit Parade 3/21/48
- Woody Herman Band live remote 1/7/40
- Chandu, The Magician Episode 53 & 54 "The Search.... 9/9 & 9/10/48
- Lux Radio Theater "Dark Victory" Date Unknown

Kevin's show can be heard on KCMN radio , 1530 AM on Sundays beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Thanks, Mike, for keeping us in tune with the Springs

THIS 'N THAT

Got a call recently from Ken Douglass in Boulder supporting Carl Neustrand's vote for more Jack Benny shows, particularly from the early to mid forties. ...We will do our best, Ken.

Jim Hawthorne sent us a note thanking us for plugging his new store. (See last month's issue and drop in for a visit).

Elmer Westbrook called to say that a few of the recent orders from the reel library were at the wrong rates. The new rates went into effect October 1st. Once again, they are \$1.50/reel. Please make note of that when you next order.

TAPE REVIEW

Does the name "Broadway" ring a bell? No, not the commonly named street you will find in most cities. It's a character named "Broadway" with a Brooklyn accent. Yes, this is Damon Runyan's lovable character narrating stories of New York life with as much warmth and appeal as you could ask for. According to John Dunning, "Runyan's hoods weren't real, but they were interesting and funny". John Brown played the role of Broadway and was supported by the likes of William Conrad and Frank Lovejoy, a pair of actors I know you will recognize.

We are fortunate to have a few of the Damon Runyan Theatre in our library. Please give them a listen. You will find them on tape #292,334,335,336,337 & 338. You will find them extremely entertaining.

GOOD LISTENING.....

A Pompous Skinflint Who, at 39, Became an Idol



This is part 2 of an article sent to us by Carl Neustrand and written by Gary Giddens. Many thanks for sharing this feature article with us, Carl.

Some jerk. Everyone knows a few things about radio's Jack Benny: he was eternally 39, cheap, bald, self-admiring, drove a dilapidated Maxwell (is there any other kind?), lived alone with a valet named Rochester, and had irresistibly blue eyes. With the possible exception of the last, none of this was true of the real Jack Benny; in fact, he had to eliminate the bald jokes when he moved to television. Henri Bergson wrote, "The comic comes into being just when society and the individual, freed from the worry of self-preservation, begin to regard themselves as works of art."

Benny honed that generalization to a lunatic specificity: he made himself a clown by acting the part of an artwork. No matter how many humiliations he had to endure, his self-esteem remained untouched like cartoon characters who fall off cliffs, are momentarily flattened and quickly restored, Benny and his vanity were emboldened by adversity. The better the audience knew that, the less he had to do for laugh. He was the laugh. All he had to do was trigger a few buzz-words. A carnival pitchman promises him a quarter if he can correctly guess Benny's age, and guesses 39. Benny

simply gazes helplessly, and the audience is right with him, agonizing over his hopeless choice between the quarter and his vanity.

Most of Benny's character traits evolved accidentally. If a certain joke worked one week, he played a variation on it the next. The age jokes, for example, didn't start until he was 55 and a nurse in a sketch asked him his age; he paused and said 36. It got a big laugh, so he remained 36 for the rest of the season. The following year, he was 37; in the next, 38. He decided to freeze at 39 because it's a funnier number than 40.

Of course, his most fertile subject was his stinginess, an angle that produced countless variants. Here is a small garland of them:

He pays his agent 9 percent.

He keeps Mary's fur in his refrigerator: it's "a better deal than the storage company."

He plays a \$100 Stradivarius—"one of the few ever made in Japan."

For 15 years, he drove a 1927 Maxwell—sound effects by Mel Blanc—which he reluctantly sacrificed to the wartime need for scrap metal. Reborn as a bomber, it made the same sputtering noises.

(cont next page)

When traveling, he pawns his parrot rather than leave it at the pet shop at 75 cents a day.

He stays at the Acme Plaza in New York—the basement suite, which “underlooks the park.”

The act of pulling a dime out of his pocket produces suction.

He discovers his tux is stained. Rochester: “That’s what you get when you rent a dress suit.” Benny: “Well, let’s be careful who we rent it out to.”

When Fred Allen visits him in the 1945 movie “It’s in the Bag,” Allen finds a hatcheck girl in the closet and a cigarette machine in the living room. “This guy wouldn’t give you the parsley off his fish,” Allen mutters.

Benny’s secretary calls a cab for him, and is told it’ll take two hours. “Are they that busy?” he asks. “No, they say they’d like time to think it over.”

A terrorist throws a rock through Benny’s window with a note that warns, “Get out of town before it’s too late.” “Hmmm,” Benny mused, “just a note, no ticket.”

At the race track, Benny says, “I hope I win, I can sure use the money.” Mary: “Why? You’ve never used any before.”

Benny’s cast of characters was fine-tuned by the same hit-and-miss system that produced his most enduring conceits. Some performers remained with him for decades. The most celebrated was Eddie Anderson, a vaudeville star whose appearance as a Pullman porter in a 1937 episode was so successful that he was brought back as Benny’s valet. He continued as Benny’s long-suffering but shrewd and frequently impertinent sidekick until he retired 21 years later.

As Rochester Van Jones, Anderson delivered a brazenly hoarse counterpoint to Benny’s spry chatter, and usually got the best lines. On his day off, Rochester might don an outrageously gaudy smoking jacket, sprawl on a chaise sipping mint julep and smoking a cigar, refusing even to answer the phone. But he earned those days. Rochester had to dip his typewriter ribbon in grape juice because Benny wouldn’t replace it. When Benny tried to talk him out of installing his own phone, assuring him he could use his, Rochester said, “I know, boss, but look at it this way. Suppose the house is burning down and I haven’t got any change?” They didn’t quite love each other; but they were thoroughly at home in each other’s company.

It was a source of pride to Benny and his staff that when the NAACP and other groups condemned the portrayal of blacks in the media in the 1950s, there was no protest about Rochester. Nor could anyone doubt Benny’s personal feelings: In 1940 he refused to perform or board in segregated establishments, and in 1968 he returned \$17,000 rather than fulfill a touring contract that would have taken him to South Africa.

Yet his public image was utterly nonpolitical. Indeed, his refusal to link his comedy to serious issues made him especially valuable in the 1960s, when everyone else made a show of taking sides. Benny continued to fulfill the comedian’s contract to focus on manners rather than morals. I’ve been able to find only one instance of his making a political statement: “I am neither a Democrat nor a Republican. I’m a registered Whig. If it was good enough for President Fillmore, it’s good enough for me. Now don’t laugh about President Fillmore. After all, he kept us out of Vietnam.”

I don’t imagine there will ever be another generation of entertainers who can sustain the loyalties of successive generations as Benny and a handful of his contemporaries did. President Kennedy is said to have been eager to meet Benny because he recalled the Sunday evening ritual in the 1930s when his father made the whole family sit around the radio.

The tempo of life, the dissolution of family entertainment, and the increasing disposability of popular culture have imposed new imperatives and standards. Does this mean that Benny himself will simply fade away? Will the very character-induced economy that enabled him to get laughs simply by staring into the camera undermine the effectiveness of his programs when the character is no longer widely known?

One innovative cultural critic, John A. Kouwenhoven, has suggested that the strengths of American art lie in its open-endedness, in its fulfillment of Emerson’s dictum that man is great “not in his goals but in his transitions.” Situation comedies, like other American variations in high and low culture—including skyscrapers, jazz, Leaves of Grass, comic strips, the Constitution, and soap operas (to use some of Kouwenhoven’s examples)—derive their integrity not from a notion of finalization but from process and continuity. They are designed

with interchangeable parts, to be altered and disposed. What survives is the motivating idea, the germinal core.

Benny himself was a remarkably adaptable figure in the entertainment world, taking every technological twist and popular fashion in stride and refusing to wallow in sentimentality and nostalgia. Yet his radio shows are largely inaccessible to contemporary tastes, as are virtually all radio shows from the pre-TV era—except to satisfy those same maudlin longings Benny rejected.

The TV shows are another story, chiefly because we still live in a television age. Ironically, despite the visual humor and the irresistible physical presence of Benny, they are not as richly made as the radio series. But they will suffice to keep Benny from becoming primarily a show-business metaphor—much as films kept Will Rogers and W. C. Fields from becoming mere metaphors respectively of cracker-barrel wisdom and inebriated impudence. In the relaxed ambiance of Benny’s TV skits, a singular clown holds his ground—“completely relaxed, and not a worry in the world.”

The viewer who hasn’t been primed on the fine points on Benny’s world will pick them up soon enough; though even a naive viewer may find Benny’s preposterous carriage and delivery sufficient to evoke a deeply, and perhaps unexpectedly, satisfied smile. It’s not the situations in Benny’s comedy that compel attention; it’s Benny himself—or, more accurately, Benny qua “Benny”—a peculiarly durable character.

Watch for future articles on your favorite radio personalities. If you’ve a particular star in mind, let me know. I’ll do my best to dig up as much as I can.

Editor

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 647</u>	<u>FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>	1200'
1L	3-16-43 Fibber's Horoscope 3-30-43 Washing Machine	
2L	4-6-43 Fibber Feels Ill 4-13-43 Fibber's Uncle Sycamore Is On Radio	
1R	4-20-43 Molly Tricks Fibber Into Making Her A Dress 4-27-43 Fibber Buys Black Market Meat	
2R	5-4-43 Homer K. Frink - Numerology 5-11-43 Barometer	
<u>REEL 648</u>	<u>FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>	1200'
1L	9-28-43 McGees Go To The Movies 10-5-43 Alice, The New Boarder, Arrives	
2L	10-12-43 Fred Nitney's Daughter's Commission 11-23-43 Fibber Finds Old Book Of Etiquette	
1R	1-11-44 Fibber Fills Out His Income Tax Form 1-18-44 Molly Gets Flowers From Ralph	
2R	1-25-44 McGees Celebrate The Return Of Their Laundry 2-1-44 Fibber Buys A Diamond Ring	
<u>REEL 649</u>	<u>FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>	1200'
1L	2-8-44 Fibber Wants A Bowl Of Ice Cream 2-15-44 Fibber Has His Writing Analyzed	
2L	3-7-44 Fibber Writes A Speech For Red Cross Campaign 3-14-44 McGees Hire Beulah, The Maid	
1R	3-21-44 Fibber's Old Mandolin 4-4-44 Fibber Is Recovering From Pneumonia	
2R	4-18-44 A German Spy Across The Street 4-25-44 Cannaries In Oregon	
<u>REEL 650</u>	<u>FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>	1200'
1L	5-2-44 Preparing For Aunt Sarah's Visit 5-9-44 Bert, Alice's Beau, Pays A Visit	
2L	5-16-44 Fibber Refuses To Buy Police Charity Ticket 5-30-44 Fibber Goes To City Hall For Fishing License	
1R	6-13-44 Fibber Fixes The Porch Swing 6-20-44 McGees Plan To Spend Summer On Ranch	
2R	10-10-44 Fibber Looks For His Hip Boots 10-17-44 Maple Syrup From Tree In Front Yard	

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 651 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>			1200'
1L	10-24-44	Stranger Wants To Repay Old \$4 Debt	
	10-31-44	McGee's And Doc Gamble Go Duck Hunting	
2L	11-14-44	Fibber Goes To Night School	
	12-12-44	Fibber Competes On Radio Quiz Show	
1R	12-19-44	Fibber Presents In The Hall Closet	
	1-2-45	Aunt Sarah Gives McGees 10K Diamond Stick Pin	
2R	1-9-45	Fibber Brings Home Mushrooms He Picked	
	1-16-45	Fibber Needs Hot Water To Shampoo Hair	
<u>REEL 652 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>			1200'
1L	1-23-45	Fibber Has An Overabundance Of Energy	
	1-30-45	McGee's Bring Home Young Merchant Marine For The Night	
2L	2-13-45	Fibber Attempts To Tune The Piano	
	2-27-45	Molly Collects For The Red Cross Drive	
1R	3-6-45	McGees Celebrate Golden Wedding Anniversary	
	4-3-45	McGee The Poet	
2R	4-10-45	McGee's Newspaper Not Delivered	
	4-17-45	Fibber Balances His Bank Statement - Alice On The Phone	
<u>REEL 653 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>			1200'
1L	4-24-45	Fibber Tries To Get A Ride To The Elks Club	
	5-1-45	Briefcase Bronson	
2L	5-8-45	Fibber Does A Housing Survey	
	5-15-45	Fibber Buys A Trunk At An Auction	
1R	5-22-45	The 7th War Bond Drive	
	5-29-45	Fibber Borrows Mrs. Carstairs Gas Lawn Mower	
2R	6-5-45	Cleaning Out The Hall Closet	
	6-12-45	Fibber's Magic Act For Elks Club Smoker	
<u>REEL 654 FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY</u>			1200'
1L	6-19-45	Fibber Makes A Big Deal With Mrs. Carstairs	
	6-26-45	Summer On The North Shore Of Dugan's Lake	
2L	10-9-45	McGees Buy A Used Car	
	1-1-46	Fibber Enters "Tall Story" Contest	
1R	12-11-45	McGee, A Friend Of The Governor	
	6-22-43	McGees Buy Camping Equipment For Summer	
2R	12-18-45	Fibber Paints Christmas Tree White	
	12-25-45	Doc Gamble's Christmas Gift To Fibber	

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual RHAC Christmas Party will be held Saturday, December 6th at 6:00 p.m. till ? The Party location will be the Brandy Chase Condo's Clubhouse. (See Map). For those of you who plan to attend, please bring your own table setting and a dish of your choice that will feed at least four people. If you have any folding chairs and/or tables we would appreciate it if you could bring those along. Although the clubhouse will hold a lot of folks, there just doesn't seem to be enough seating particularly for dining.

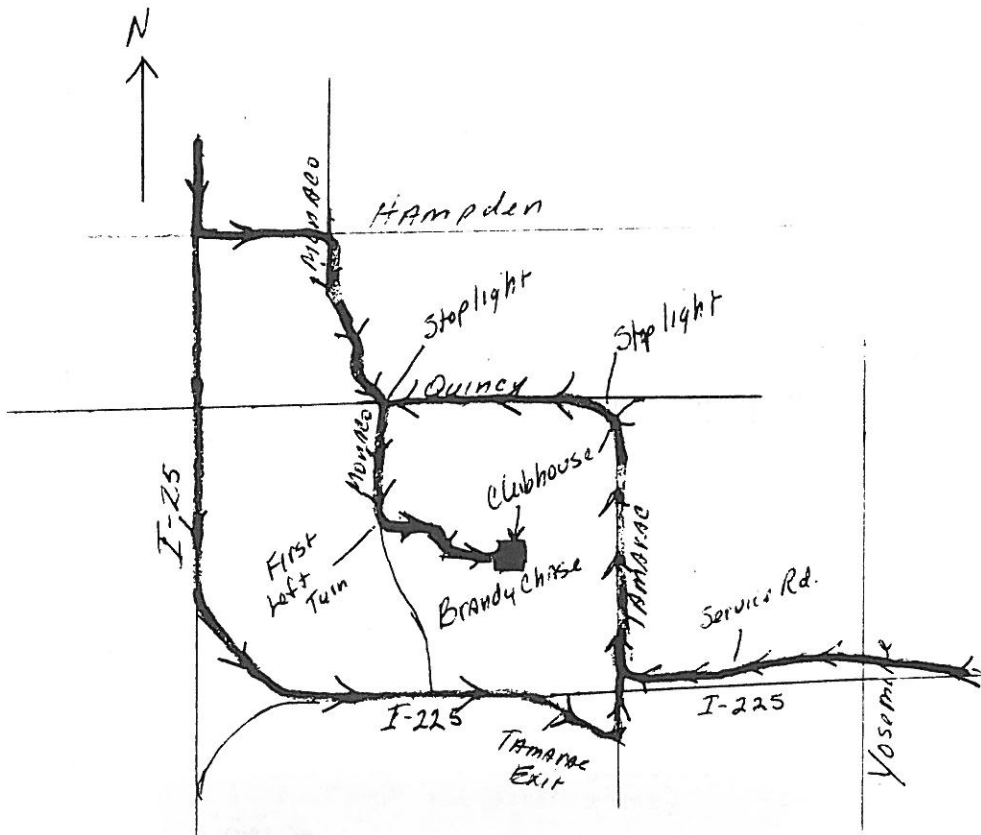
Jack King and Herb Duniven are supplying the Turkey while, John Licht is providing a ham. John will bring the drinks along with some hot-spiced cider provided by Herb.

There will be a trivia quiz, Christmas music, a sing-a-long and whatever else comes to mind. It is a grand opportunity to meet and converse with fellow members and guests. So, if you've got family in town or friends and neighbors interested in coming, bring them along.

Make your reservations in to Elmer Westbrook (See officers list for phone number) and let him know you plan to bring.

Join in the fellowship and fun with fellow OTR enthusiasts!!!!

Map to Brandy Chase Condominiums - Please Save



(If the map is not clear enough, please call me)

FINAL REMINDER FINAL REMINDER FINAL REMINDER FINAL REMINDER FINAL REMINDER FINAL REMINDER

RHAC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING!!! THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 7:30 p.m..

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER.....MR. JIM HAWTHORNE!!!!

Let's have a good turnout to hear this entertaining gentleman. Bring your friends!!!!

MR. & MRS. J. P. COOK
3344 20 192810
ANNUAL CO



BENSEN, BARRETT
 BOX 507
 PINE, CO
 80470-
 3 11/87

Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Cook
 3344 So. Jasper Ct.
 Aurora, CO 80013

