

RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.

NOW...



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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, contact any of the following Officer's or Board Members:

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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of RHAC will be Thursday, May 21st at 7:30 pm. at the Church of The Master, 5152 E. 17th Av. The church sits on the lot between Filbert and Forest streets.

The guest speaker will be Pete Wehner, noted radio personality in the Denver area and script writer and producer. Pete will bring us a program on radio production and just exactly what goes into building a script for a radio play. Many of you have had the opportunity to see Pete in action at our last two OTR Conventions writing and directing a couple of radio plays written especially for our conventions. Please come and hear more about this multi-talented personality.

Thanks for the excellent turnout at last month's meeting which featured Mr. Bill Dorn, noted Sherlock Holmes expert. Bill brought an excellent program about the famous sleuth and providing some very interesting and little know facts about Holmes' creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Bill brought along some fascinating Holmes' memorabilia to share with us, as well.

Our many thanks to Bill for spending an evening with us and entertaining us with a super program. Bill was presented with an Honorary Membership in RHAC and we hope that he will be able to use some of our resources in his pursuit of his interesting hobby.

ABOUT THE COVER

Francis Langford made her radio debut in 1932 on a Tampa radio station. It was Rudy Vallee who introduced her to network radio, and she was a frequent guest singer on variety shows as well as a regular on THE BOB HOPE SHOW in the late Thirties. With Don Ameche, Miss Langford created the comedy routine of THE BICKERSONS on THE CHARLIE MCCARTHY SHOW, and the two took THE BICKERSONS to NBC in 1946 and CBS in 1947. Later, Langford teamed with Lew Parker to perform as THE BICKERSONS on CBS in 1951. Her extensive film career, which began in 1935, did not equal the stature of her radio work.

Source: GREAT RADIO PERSONALITIES by Anthony Slide

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For the past two months Vicki Blake has been quite busy, thanks to the plugs on Don Tucker's OTR show on KNUS and the exposure our club received on Larry Cox's NRA show on KOA. As a result, the following have elected to become a part of our OTR family:

Renewing for April and May: Patrick Hilleary, James Albert, Sharon Begam, Vicki Blake, Jeffrey Blum, Steve Ferrante, Gordon Spiering and Joel Visser. Rejoining are Jim Bergquist, Rod Button, Duff Campbell; New members include Robert Finnerty, Mark Hagood, Phillip Inglee, Robert Lane, Tony Wink, Tas Richardson (Canada), Joe McCain, Robert Kohri, Barry Kegebein, Scott Jones, Roland Ines, David Gatch, Louie Garramone, Nancy Casey, Ralph Bartlett, Michael Schulman, Burton Cohn, David Riffle, Don Lindsley and Glenn Haller.

Thanks to all of you for your support of OTR. We will do our dead-level best to make your membership with us as pleasant and rewarding as possible. If we can be of help, please contact one of our officers or board members for assistance or with your comments and suggestions.

Good Listening!!!

TAPE LIBRARY NEWS

The library is nearing its completed move. All orders have been brought up to date thru April and any subsequent orders have been turned over to Dick and Maletha King for shipping.

You can expect a slight delay for any orders sent in during the month of May. Those will be filled as tapes are available. By June, the library, at its new location, will be in full swing. You may now send your reel orders to Dick and Maletha. (see address page 1 of this newsletter).

Elmer Westbrook's capacity as Tape Coordinator will be that of reviewing new tapes, dubbing new cassettes, indexing and doing any necessary repairs. We all thank Elmer for his excellent service to RHAC as Tape Librarian for the past three years. The quality of tapes has never been better and his meticulous record keeping has kept the library in a very orderly fashion... a manner in which Dick and Maletha have pledged to follow in order to continue service to you the members on a timely basis.

Again, our heart-felt thanks to Elmer, and our wish for a successful operation to Dick and Maletha.

Bill Stipp reports a very successful response the first quarter of the year with the Cassette Library and urges everyone to participate in its operation with your continued support. With additional cassettes being added each month, Bill will be a busy librarian. On the back page of this month's newsletter you will find an order form for the Cassette Library for your use. Additional forms will be sent to you with each tape order. A similar form will be in next month's newsletter for the reel library.

Because of the library move, no new cassettes will be added this month to the Cassette Library. Preparations are being made to replace existing reel numbers whose material has been eliminated due to tape consolidation and deletions due to poor quality sound with new material from recent donations. Once this has been completed, you will be receiving catalog supplemental pages containing the replacement material.

DONATIONS

We have recently received from Ray Stanich of Brooklyn, three reels of THE RAILROAD HOUR and miscellaneous shows.

As mentioned before, we are deeply grateful for the response several of our members who so generously donated to our Library reels from their collections. We are constantly looking for new material and we know that out there, somewhere, exists a goodly number of rare shows. And, thanks to you folks, you are helping us find it for the use and enjoyment of our members. Thank you very much, Ray.

Pat Hilleary is looking into a source who has some 20 years of LUM 'N ABNER in allegedly good sound. If Pat is successful, our many fans of these Pine Ridge residents will delight in hearing a sizeable number of these shows. Let's wish Pat a bit of good luck..

TUNING IN COLORADO SPRINGS

Mike Fields, Chapter Director, reports that the Talking Newsletter is going well for our visually impaired members. The tape catalog is completed on tape and is now available to our members. It is recorded on 5 C-90 cassettes. Those of you who wish copies of the Tape Library catalog on cassette, please send 5 C-90 cassettes to Mike and he will copy the catalog for you. As new material is added, Mike will update the catalog on additional cassettes. Be sure to mark your cassettes FREE MATERIAL FOR THE BLIND when you send them to Mike for dubbing. Mike's address is on page 1 of this newsletter. Thanks, Mike for all your efforts in providing a service for our members.

Here is Kevin Shields' OTR schedule for the month of May heard on KCMN, 15;30 AM on Sundays in the Springs area from 4 til 7 pm:

- May 10 - The Bob Hope Show w/ Rosemary Clooney AFRS
The Bing Crosby Show w/Jack Benny - '53
Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet - "An Evening Alone" - 11/14/48
Gunsmoke - "Thirsty Hero" - 9/6/53
Adventures of Phillip Marlowe - "Angry Eagle" - '50
Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar - "The Tears of Night, Matter" part 1 - 5/21/56
- May 17 - Our Miss Brooks - Board of Education Speech"
The Phil Harris/Alice Faye Show - 3/13/49
The Milton Berle Show - '47
Fort Laramie - 7/8/56
Escape - "Yellow Wake" - 7/21/50
Johnny Dollar - "The tears of Night" part 2 - 5/22/56
- May 24 - Amos 'N Andy - "Mountain Cabin" - 5/16/48
Bing Crosby - '53
Can You Top This? - January of '47
Nick Carter, Master Detective - "Death After Dark" - 2/19/44
The Whistler - "Married to Murder" - 9/25/44
Johnny Dollar - part 3 - 5/23/56
- May 31 - The Bell Telephone Hour - Encore - Fred Allen Narrates Peter And The Wolf"
Fibber McGee and Molly -"McGee Builds a Model Airplane" - '46
Philco Radio Time - w/Jerry Colona - '46
Suspense - "A Good and a Faithful Servant" w/Jack Benny - '49
Frontier Gentleman - "Bill Bascomb" - 2/16/58
Johnny Dollar - part 4 - 5/24/56
- June 6 - Jack Benny - "Guest; Robert Taylor" - 5/16/48
Dunninger - no date
Life With Luigi - "Luigi Has Income Tax Trouble" - 3/11/50
NBC University Theatre - "1984" - 8/27/49
Johnny Dollar - conclusion-part 5 - 5/25/56

On Don Tuckers show on KNUS heard in the Denver area on Sundays from 3 til 5 pm, he will have the continuing adventures of CHANDU, THE MAGICIAN - "The Search For Robert Regent" He will also conclude the I LOVE A MYSTERY series. The remainder of his schedule was not ready by press time, so, tune in and be surprised.

That's thirty from the Springs...

WANT-ADS

Steve Ferrante is looking for a broadcast of WE, THE PEOPLE, aired on NBC, January 13, 1950. If you happen to have this particular program in your collection, please contact Steve. I know he will appreciate it. You may write to Steve at R.D. #1, Box 67B, Mifflintown, Pa., 17059 or, call (717) 436-8085. Let's see if we can help him.

EDITOR'S NOTE

My apologies for a late newsletter this month. I was on vacation in Arkansas canoeing down the Buffalo River and fishing with our Treasurer, John Licht. Needless to say, it was a pleasurable trip. A week of OTR and "Brownies" -(in Arky Lingo - smallmouth bass).

His Secret Squadron
keeps the faith

Where Have You Gone, Captain Midnight?



By George Eldred Morgan



The lowest point in Little Orphan Annie's peril-fraught life as a popular heroine probably came in 1940 when her radio show, *Adventure Time With Orphan Annie*, was dropped by its longtime sponsor, Ovaltine, in favor of a show called *Captain Midnight*.

True, Annie continued to live on in Harold Gray's comic strip, and even her radio show eked out an existence for a time on behalf of Quaker Puffed Wheat Sparkies.

Nevertheless, it must have been a terrible blow to be thrown over for Captain Midnight, a macho type who zoomed onto the air with a roar of machinery and a clamor of bells—the sort of paraphernalia that Annie never needed.

Well, you all know what happened to Little Orphan Annie. She went on to the glamour of a Broadway show and now of a Hollywood movie. She doesn't need any more articles about her—before she's through, she'll probably earn more cash than Daddy War-

bucks ever dreamed of.

But Captain Midnight—he needs to be remembered. So this article is about him. You probably think he's gone for good, and since there have been no shows or movies about him for nearly a quarter of a century, maybe he is. But he's not forgotten. In fact, there are faithful members of his Secret Squadron—which once numbered more than 500,000 children—dedicated to keeping his memory alive. They remember how the Captain, spawned in steel and weaned to the whistle of bullets, dazzled radio fans in 1940 and flooded the land with decoder badges and secret messages. Now they pass on his story to their children and invite Dick Webb, the actor who portrayed the Captain on television, to speak to the kids at school.

Webb recalls the superhero's beliefs for a new generation of youngsters who have never heard or seen a *Captain Midnight* show. "I talk about the values of people helping one another, which Captain Midnight did all over the planet," says Webb, who now lives in California.

Parents often accompany their children to these events, for they are the ones who remember Captain Midnight after all these years, Webb points out.

Why does Captain Midnight continue to hold such a fascination for fans so long after he disappeared from radio and television? Consider the glorious origins of the Captain; listen to his message.

Kids in those days did not need to be pure in heart to join the Secret Squadron. They simply mailed their address with the inner seal from a jar of Ovaltine. After a few anxious weeks, they received the official membership kit, including a 12-page manual, a membership card and the all-important decoder badge. They could use the badge to communicate secretly, expressing frank opinions about teachers and plotting the overthrow of dancing class instructors.

The intrepid adventurer got his name one night, says a radio script, when his commanding officer reported that "a certain young captain flew across enemy lines, taking a thousand-to-one

chance that he would return." But, of course, the young captain did return—at midnight, as the scriptwriters would have it—"earning the title by which all men who love freedom and justice know him so well: Captain Midnight!"

Each radio broadcast opened with the sound of an airplane engine over the dozen chimes of a steeple clock while the announcer proclaimed: "Ca-a-ap-tain Mid-d-n-night!"

After repeatedly engineering the defeat of Ivan Shark, the scurviest villain of all time, Captain Midnight was

Handbook disclosed secret codes and tactics



appointed by "the government" as a special agent to head an undercover organization known as the Secret Squadron. Secrecy, naturally, was vital to a Secret Squadron, so members received the Code-o-Graph, a badge for encoding and decoding cryptic messages. Ivan Shark tried desperately but fruitlessly to get his hands on one. Apparently, it never occurred to him to send in an Ovaltine seal.

A Secret Squadron, organized for television in the mid-'50s, brought new excitement. The decoder badge was molded of silver-plated plastic in the shape of Captain Midnight's new jet plane, the Silver Dart. In order to make the code absolutely secret, an "amazing visoscopic hidden message writer" was included. This was a removable stylus fitted into a cavity in the nose of the plane. When the cavity was filled with "disappearing ink"—milk or lemon juice—it became possible not only to encode secret messages, but to make them invisible.

The lure of TV proved powerful. Secret Squadron headquarters, described in the show as situated high on a mountaintop, received thousands of letters from youngsters offering to help fight smugglers, thieves and spies.

The rank of Flight Commander was invented to soak up the energy of youthful fans. Promotion to Flight Com-



Webb says people now more than ever are looking back to the values of Captain Midnight. And who would deny that, even in a time when so much has changed, the official motto of the Secret Squadron still has the ring of truth: AGZPWLN PUYFGUV ZPY-NEUPV JEM LFGYJUN—"Justice through strength and courage."

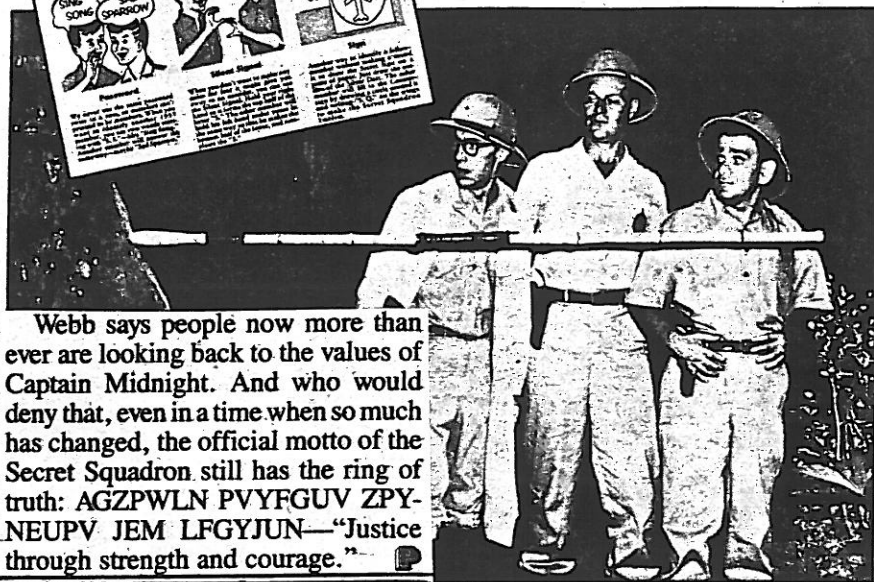
mander came when a squadron member recruited three new members and sent in their applications. Thus, the Flight Commander took charge of his (or her) neighborhood Secret Squadron Club and became privy to a whole new collection of secrets.

At the end of every *Captain Midnight* show, the Captain would read in code to his squadron. The message would go something like this: "KN CFRJC PF RFGY LFGEPYR JEM FKNR RFGY TJY-NEPZ." It translates as: "Be loyal to your country and obey your parents." The Captain was always careful about his messages.

Every member knew the hand clasp, secret identification signals and basic code, but only the Flight Commanders received the Flight Commanders' Handbook and the special plastic signal ring. The handbook disclosed separate codes, instructions for building a Secret Squadron clubhouse and directions for wig-wag communications during field maneuvers. The captain's assistants were hard-pressed to supply these directions. They leaned on their imaginations for the clubhouse and on the Boy Scout handbook for the wig-wag signals, a method of sending Morse code messages with a flag.

The Secret Squadron reached its peak during the '50s. More than half a million members delighted in the televised exploits of Dick Webb as Captain Midnight.

Secret Squadron signals helped Captain Midnight get out of scrapes on his TV show. Dick Webb, as the Captain (c), narrowly escapes a spear in one episode.



The Captain followed Orphan Annie's practice of offering premiums, such as the Ovaltine "Shake-Up Mug," which Annie had promoted by exulting, "Leapin' lizards! For a real treat, yuh can't beat a cold Ovaltine shake-up!"

Annie had also offered membership in her Secret Society, which became the forerunner of Captain Midnight's Secret Squadron. Few juveniles could resist the "secret society" approach.

But the rugged and manly Captain Midnight of radio, played by Ed Prentiss, was a far different figure from Annie. No "arfing" dogs for him. The Captain practically lived in a hail of bullets and was in constant peril from plots, explosions and plane crashes. The only way for him to escape was through his sponsor's life-giving product.

Spies and other evildoers were in disarray. In 1958, however, the show was canceled when Ovaltine decided to direct its advertising toward an older audience.

Yet Dick Webb still receives a dozen letters a month requesting information about the Captain or seeking autographed pictures.

Thanks to Ray Stanich for providing this month's article.



Secret Squadron Flight Commander's ring.

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

TAPE 683 THE ADVENTURES OF JUNGLE JIM

1200'

1L	12-20-41	#321	
	12-27-41	#322	
	1-3-42	#323	
	1-10-42	#324	
2L	1-17-42	#325	
	1-24-42	#326	
	1-31-42	#327	
	2-7-42	#328	
1R	2-14-42	#329	
	2-21-42	#330	Jungle Jim Commissioned AS Captain-US Army
	2-28-42	#331	
	3-7-42	#332	Japanese Spy Ring
2R	3-14-42	#333	
	3-21-42	#334	
	3-28-42	#335	
	4-4-42	#336	

RAPE 684 THE ADVENTURES OF JUNGLE JIM

1200'

1L	4-11-42	#337	Nazi Island
	4-18-42	#338	Escape From Nazi Island
	4-25-42	#339	Shot Down
	5-2-42	#340	Traitor
2L	5-9-42	#341	The Head - Mission Completed
	5-16-42	#342	Stolen Radium
	5-23-42	#343	Doll With Red Shoes
	5-30-42	#344	Explosions At Grayson College
1R	6-6-42	#345	Elixir Of Life
	6-13-42	#346	Threatening And Kidnapping
	6-20-42	#347	The Moulah II
	6-27-42	#348	Jim Helps Joe Tong
2R	7-4-42	#349	Army Officers Suddenly & Mysteriously Murdered
	7-11-42	#350	Hollywood Star's Chauffeur Murdered
	7-18-42	#351	In Salt Lake City - Dr. Hughlick & Synthetic Rubber
	8-1-42	#353	In San Francisco - Lt. Irving Henry Murdered

TAPE 685 ADVENTURES OF SONNY AND BUDDY (DONATED BY PAT HILLEARY) 1200'

1L	# 1	Kidnapped By Medicine Show Operator
	# 2	Stopped By Customs
	# 3	Medicine Show In Laredo
	# 4	Border Bandits Kidnap Betty
	# 5	Chasing The Kidnappers
2L	# 6	Face At The Window - The Smuggler
	# 7	Crossing The Rio Grande
	# 8	On The Banks Of The Rio Grande
	# 9	Smugglers Rob Doc
	# 10	Sonny & Buddy Decide To Leave - Sheriff Visits

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 685 ADVENTURES OF SONNY AND BUDDY</u>		1200'
1R	# 49 Suspects In Jim's Murder # 50 \$500 Reward Money # 55 \$500 Reward Check Found # 56 To The Cave With The Police # 57 Betty's \$900 Missing	
2R	# 58 \$900 Given Away In Old Suit # 59 Suit With \$900 In It Found # 60 Jim's Wife Confesses # 61 Mortgage Paid Off - House Car On Fire # 62 Truck Saved - House Car Burned	
<u>TAPE 686 ADVENTURES OF SONNY AND BUDDY (DONATED BY PAT HILLEARY)</u>		1200'
1L	# 67 Captured By The Gangsters # 68 Police Arrest The Gangsters # 69 Treasure In Suitcase # 70 Betty Leaves # 71 Betty An Heiress	
2L	# 72 Sonny & Buddy's Parents Make-Up # 73 Betty's Hat Found In River # 74 Leaving Mexico # 79 Boys Locate Betty's Boarding House	
1R	# 80 Doc Buys Wild Animals - Betty In Hospital # 81 Betty Found # 82 Betty Told She's An Heiress - Lion Loose # 83 Capturing The Lion	
2R	# 84 Doc To Send Telegram To Lawyer About Inheritance # 85 Going On Picnic - Telegram Undelivered # 86 On The Picnic - Boys Find Old House Boat # 87 On House Boat - Buddy Swept Into River # 88 Boys Rescued From River - House Boat Missing	
<u>TAPE 687 SONNY AND BUDDY-MISCELLANEOUS (DONATED BY PAT HILLEARY)</u>		1200'
1L	# 89 Counterfeiters Grab Sonny And Buddy # 90 Charcoal Rescues Sonny & Buddy # 91 Counterfeiters Captured-Telegram From Lawyer # 93 The Snake Escapes - Plane Lands In Field # 97 The Sheriff Returns	
2L	# 98 Lost In Desert Sand Storm # 99 Boys Saved By The Calliope #100 Final Episode - The Last Medicine Show LORNA DOONE #47: Meeting With Carver Doone	
1R	LORNA DOONE #48: Attack On Carver Doone's Valley SPOTLIGHT STORY: The Ghost Of Kellem Pond AROUND THE WORLD WITH SANTA CLAUS Episode #1 AROUND THE WORLD WITH SANTA CLAUS Episode #2	
2R	ADVENTURES OF SANTA CLAUS Episode #1 ADVENTURES OF SANTA CLAUS Episode #7	
3-16-52	DR. TIM, DETECTIVE: Mystery Of Woman Wrapped In Flame DEATH CALLING: Canon City-Lazy Driver/Co. Springs -Side Swipped DEATH CALLING: Greeley-Defective Car/Alamosa-Asleep At Wheel	



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

CASSETTE LIBRARY
 C/O BILLY STIPP 6289 YARROW ST.
 ARVADA, CO 80004

CASSETTE ORDER FORM

Enclosed is my check or money order for the sum of \$ _____ to cover the one month rental charge of \$2.00 per set for the sets ordered. You are allowed to order 5 Cassette sets at one time although you may have only 5 cassette sets outstanding at any time.

	Cassette number*	Title
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Alternates:

1 _____	4 _____	7 _____	10 _____
2 _____	5 _____	8 _____	11 _____
3 _____	6 _____	9 _____	12 _____

Ship to: _____

Name

Date

Address: _____

City

State

Zip code

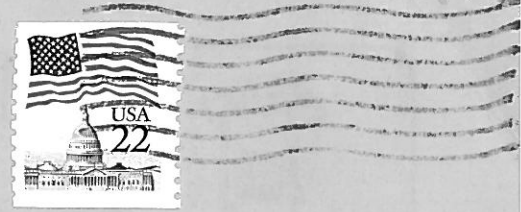
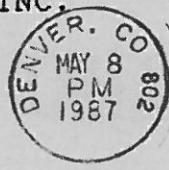
Area code

phone number

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 Signature

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