

RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.



VOLUME 13. NUMBER 3

OCTOBER, 1987



TUNING IN

SCHEDULE OF KEVIN SHIELD'S OTR SHOW ON KCMN IN COLORADO SPRINGS

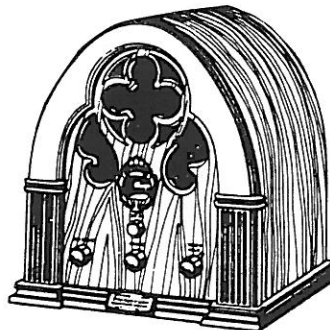
- 10-17 Red Skelton Show "Paying Debts" (4-2-45)
Phil Harris, Alice Faye "Sponsor's Daughter Loves Phil" (4-3-49)
Mysterious Traveller "Behind a Locked Door" (no date)
The Shadow "Black Rock" (11-13-38)
Gangbusters "Case of the Ape Bandit" (11-1-40)
- 10-18 Coca Cola Victory Parade Jimmy Lunseford (11-23-45)
Milton Berle Show "Let Yourself Go" (6-6-45)
NBC University Theatre "An American Tragedy" (1948)
CBS Radio Workshop "Subways Are for Sleeping" (8-3-56)
- 10-25 Mel Blanc Show "Postman's Ball" (10-15-46)
Fibber McGee and Molly "Fibber Invents New Fishbait" (6-6-51)
Inner Sanctum "Till Death Do Us Part" (1945)
Haunting Hour "Assignment Death" ----
Weird Circle "Frankenstein" ----
- 11-1 That's Rich - High Noon Spoof ----
Kraft Music Hall Al Jolson (11-16-47)
Mercury Theater Three Short Stories (12-6-38)

SCHEDULE FOR KNUS, DON TUCKER, HOST

- 10-11 Mercury Theater "Tale of Two Cities" (7-25-38)
Phil Harris "Sponsor's Daughter Loves Phil" (4-3-49)
- 10-18 Victory Parade Jimmy Lundesford (11-23-45)
Escape "Two Came Back" (8-8-50)
Gunsmoke "Kentucky Tolman" (8-9-52)
- 10-25 NBC University Theatre "An American Tragedy" (1948)
Haunting Hour "Assignment Death" ----
- 11-1 Kraft Music Hall Al Jolson (11-16-47)
Boston Blackie "Case of Dynamite Thompson" ----
Weird Circle "Frankenstein" ----

BOARD MEETING is Thursday, October 8 at John Licht's home, 617 Detroit, Denver.

NOTE ABOUT NEW LIBRARY PAGE inserted in this issue: the pagination is numbered 187 and 188 and skips pages 185 and 186. Those will come next month.



Radio as a Tool for Instruction:
the Role of Radio in Learning

Many people believe that in spite of such electronic marvels as color television and video tape recorders, nothing matches radio in its capacity to entertain and inform. As a matter of fact, only a few decades ago, in the 1930's and 1940's, often referred to as the "Golden Age of Radio," an entire generation of Americans relied primarily on radio for information and entertainment. It was not uncommon for families in the '30's and '40's to spend long winter evenings gathered around a radio in the living room listening to nationally broadcast programs such as Inner Sanctum and Fibber McGee and Molly. Radio, however, was also a major means of information also. For instance, it was from the radio that the majority of Americans learned on December 7, 1941, that Pearl Harbor had been bombed, and it was from radio that they would hear in the next four years news of World War II in "live" broadcasts such as those of Edward R. Murrow of CBS from London.

Radio has changed a great deal, of course, in its formats, with today's programming often having all-news, talk-show, or music formats; it still is an important means of entertainment and information for many people however. In this paper, we shall examine how radio since its inception in 1922 as a commercial broadcast medium, has been a force in education, both formally and informally. By "informal," we mean the kind of learning that occurs in a non-academic setting. Let us look first at the role that radio has played in informal education in America.

(This is page one of the editor's graduate thesis which he wrote at the University of Northern Iowa in 1986. Our plan is to run a page or two of it in subsequent issues of Return with Us Now...)

OUT WEST | The Lone Ranger

"NOWHERE IN THE pages of history can one find a greater champion of justice," echoed the radio announcer as he introduced the daring and resourceful "masked rider of the plains," the Lone Ranger.

Those same pages would be hard-pressed to chronicle the exploits of the Masked Man, and his "fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust, and a hearty hi-yo Silver!" He was a prime example of how the West was fun. Return with us now, to those thrilling days of yesteryear. . . .

In the summer of 1932, radio executive George W. Trendle of Detroit's station WXYZ severed his association with the CBS network to go independent. At a staff meeting shortly after Christmas, he outlined his new vision. What he wanted to create was a Western hero who combined the best features of Robin Hood and Zorro. He would be a clean-living, correct-speaking, tall-in-the-saddle type whose main purpose for living was to do good deeds, righting the various wrongs Out West. One staffer suggested a mask, another an affiliation with the Texas Rangers. Trendle wished his Don Quixote to be a "lone operator," and before the gathering adjourned, the Lone Ranger was born.

Trendle next called free-lance writer Fran Striker in Buffalo, New York. He had created "Warner Lester, Manhunter." Striker reworked some scripts he'd entitled "Covered Wagon Days," and, in the process, came up with some great character "hooks" including silver bullets, a white horse called "Silver," and a faithful Indian companion. Tonto's nickname for his best buddy came from director James Jewell, whose father-in-law had established "Camp Kee Mo Sah Bee" on Michigan's Mullet Lake in 1911.

"The Lone Ranger" debuted January 30, 1933, with George Seaton in the lead. Rossini's *William Tell Overture* became the theme for the program because the 1829 composition was in the public domain, and WXYZ had a copy on hand. The show was a smash.



Keeping the airwaves safe: Silver, Clayton Moore, Scout, and Jay Silverheels.

Three months later an announcement offering popguns to the first 300 letter-writers brought 24,905 requests.

Striker, who in his spare time had created the Lone Ranger's grand-nephew "The Green Hornet," enhanced his character with an unbeatable origin. In the scenario, Ranger John Reid was left for dead after an ambush from bad guy Butch Cavendish wiped out five other rangers, including brother Dan. Tonto came along before it was too late, dug six graves to fool the murderers, and nursed Reid back to health. Tonto then told him about a great horse ("him look like silver") galloping around in Wild Horse Valley. Reid fashioned a mask out of his dead brother's vest, and it was open season on the cowboy criminal element.

The Ranger's radio ride lasted 21 years. By 1939, the show was heard on 140 stations. Parents appreciated the wholesome hero, and kids loved the action as well as the show's tangible assets. Sponsor-oriented "premiums" were offered on a regular basis: masks,

decoders, even a "Lone Ranger Atomic Bomb Ring" to celebrate the end of World War II.

A Republic movie serial appeared in 1938, with bizarre results. Trendle had not demanded that the details of the original story be retained, and the end product was a mesh-masked Ranger (Lee Powell), a stone-faced Tonto (Chief Thunder-Cloud), and a plot that had little to do with the radio version. An ill-advised sequel even showed the star, gasp, without his mask.

The radio Ranger managed to keep his credibility. Actor Brace Beemer assumed the role in 1941; he was acknowledged as the best of the bunch. Striker penned the daily newspaper comic strips as well as 18 novels. By 1949, the Lone Ranger was ready for the screen again.

Beating out the hundreds who auditioned for the television role was 34-year-old Chicagoan Clayton Moore, an actor in peak physical condition with perfect voice and diction. A heavy in films such as *G-Men Never Forget*,

Moore took to the Lone Ranger role better than most ducks to water. Jay Silverheels, a 29-year-old Canadian Mohawk and ex-professional lacrosse player, was chosen to play Tonto.

After two seasons, Moore requested more money, and Trendle balked. John Hart donned the mask for a time, but lacked the charisma of Moore, who returned to the role in 1954. On August 3 of that year, Trendle sold the Ranger rights for \$3 million to Texas entrepreneur Jack Wrather, who began shooting the series in color. Two feature films received favorable reviews.

The second of those movies, 1958's *The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold*, shot in Tucson, Arizona, heralded the masked rider's silver anniversary. Publicity experts came up with astounding figures: In his time, the Lone Ranger had nabbed 21,734 outlaws with a total of 12,684 silver bullets, though he never killed anyone. Moore hung up his guns after a 33-city tour, as the television series ceased production, passing into the never-ending world of syndication. David Rothel's definitive work, *Who Was That Masked Man?* (Barnes, 1976), appeared to be the last word on the subject.

A legal shootout ensued in the late 1970s when the aging Moore was unmasked in court. The Wrather Corporation wanted the public to identify with a younger man, Klinton Spilsbury, in the upcoming *The Legend of the Lone Ranger*. Moore wore dark glasses while the 1981 film came and flopped. On January 14, 1985, he was informed by the Los Angeles Superior Court that the Wrather Corporation "had requested a dismissal of the entire action," clearing the way for him to resume personal appearances.

And so, the "fight for law and order in the early Western United States" never ended. The committee-created character became one of the most recognized American personifications — mask, silver bullets, tight breeches, and all. Time will only tell whether or not the Lone Ranger rides again. ▲

from The Denver Post
Magazine, 7-23-'85

HOW I GOT INTERESTED IN OLD-TIME RADIO

By Corey Harker, age 14

Basically, I am a typical teenager: I have my favorite rock groups, and I love vacations. My friends think that I have an unusual hobby: old-time radio collecting. I got interested in old time radio on 1984 when I found John Dunning on KNUS. The next week I started collecting. Since then I have gotten over 200 hours of shows off the radio. Now, I am starting over, dubbing from the RHAC tape library.

I think that the most thrilling day of my life was on September 12, 1987, when I went to the RHAC third annual convention. I now can see the importance of keeping and preserving these shows.

Editor's note: Many thanks to Corey for sharing his thoughts with us. We are delighted to have him as a member of the club and to have had him at the convention. We were also most happy to have Zo Miller, age 11, at the convention with his father, Al Miller. Having such bright youngsters as Corey and Zo interested in OTR says, I think, that enjoyment of old radio is more than nostalgia. It is, instead, an appreciation of an art form which has been called "theater of the mind" and which enables the listener to imagine to an extent which can be equaled possibly only by a book. Thanks again, Corey and Zo, for reminding us all what a unique and wonderful hobby we have!

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Member Michael Holt, 27357 Bronco Dr., Pueblo CO 81006 requests that anyone who has copies of CBS Radio Mystery Theater programs contact him.

Vicki Blake asks that the person who called her about the missing catalog pages call again; she has misplaced your name and address.

Vicki also wonders if anyone has page 13 of the "Gunsmoke" script from the log library.

(Are you looking for information or particular shows? Please feel free to write to me, Dan Decker, Newsletter Editor, 895 Laredo, Aurora CO 80011, and it will be put in future newsletters. Indicate which tape format that you prefer: open reel or cassette.)

Moore & Duranie ★
10:00 P. M.



RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 739 JACK BENNY (C)</u>		1200'
1L	11-29-42 Three Men In A Tank 11-5-44 The Great Dunninger	
2L	11-12-44 Jack Hires Larry Stevens 11-19-44 History Quotes	
1R	11-26-44 Thanksgiving Dinner At Mary's 6-20-48 From Cleveland, Ohio	
2R	10-10-43 First Show Of Season-From NYC 6-4-44 Last Show Of Season-From NYC	
<u>TAPE 740 JACK BENNY (C)</u>		1200'
1L	2-27-44 Show From Hollywood Canteen 3-5-44 Jack Tells About The Dream	
2L	3-12-44 Show From Livermore Air Station 3-19-44 The Dennis Day Show	
1R	5-21-44 Split Personality 5-28-44 Life Of Jack Benny	
2R	10-19-41 Trip Home On The Train 10-26-41 Dive Bomber	
<u>TAPE 741 JACK BENNY (C)</u>		1200'
1L	11-2-41 Halloween Pranks 11-9-41 Guest: Leo Durocher	
2L	11-16-41 Football Play 11-23-41 Thanksgiving Dinner	
1R	5-2-32 Jack Benny's First Show 11-3-35 Kenny Baker's First Show	
2R	3-22-42 Jack And Phil Play Golf 3-29-42 Minstrel Show	
<u>TAPE 742 JACK BENNY (C)</u>		1200'
1L	4-12-42 New Quiz Show-Try And Get It 4-19-42 Meal At Drugstore Before Show	
2L	4-26-42 Opening Of New NBC Studios In San Francisco 5-10-42 Sponsor In Town, Wants To See Jack	
1R	5-24-42 Phil Harris Becomes A Father 5-31-42 Cavalcade Of Eight Years With Jello	
2R	10-4-42 First Show For Grape Nuts 10-11-42 Air Force Cadets Visit Jack At Home	

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

TAPE 743 JACK BENNY (C) 1200'
 1L 10-18-42 Jack Gives Maxwell To Scrap Drive
 10-25-42 Tales Of Manhattan

 2L 3-21-43 Orson Welles Subs For Jack - Visit Movie Studio
 3-28-43 Orson Welles Subs For Jack - Murder At Midnight

 1R 10-17-43 Casablanca - From NYC
 10-24-43 Algiers - Train To Hollywood

 2R 10-31-43 Sponsor Visits The Show - Brazil
 11-7-43 Show From Mojave Marine Station - Gold Queen Mine

TAPE 744 JACK BENNY (C) 1200'
 1L 11-14-43 The Gold Rush
 11-21-43 Turkey Nightmare

 2L 11-28-43 Dennis Wants A Raise
 12-5-43 Driver's License Test

 1R 12-12-43 Dennis' Mom Bugs Jack
 12-19-43 Visit Mary - Christmas Shopping

 2R 12-26-43 Christmas At Jack's
 1-9-44 Jack's Camel

TAPE 745 JACK BENNY (C) 1200'
 1L 1-16-44 Jack To Make A Movie
 1-23-44 Taking Alexis Smith To An Army Camp

 2L 1-30-44 To Warner's About The Horn Blows At Midnight
 2-6-44 Driving To Roosevelt Island

 1R 2-20-44 Gilroy Murder Case
 10-22-44 Captain O'Benny, Murder Detective

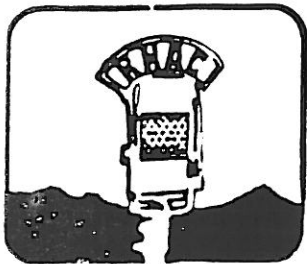
 2R 12-3-44 Guest: Walter Winchell
 11-25-45 Candy For Mary - New Contest Preview

TAPE 746 JACK BENNY (C) 1200'
 1L 12-9-45 Jack Invited To Coleman's For Dinner
 10-13-46 Guests: Bergen And McCarthy

 2L 11-3-46 Friday Night Meeting Of Cast
 11-10-46 Jack Gets A Haircut - Blows Up At The Sportsmen

 1R 11-17-46 Guests: Leo Durocher, The Colemans
 11-24-46 The Killers

 2R 2-2-47 It's A Wonderful Life
 2-9-47 Jack's Birthday On H. V. Kaltenborn



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Reel Number	Title
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Alternates:

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

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(area code) phone number

I do hereby agree to abide by the R H A C rules and agree not to sell or use library materials for monetary gain.

 Signature

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