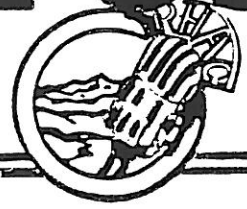


RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.



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*Best
Howard Deff*

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 \$20.00 for the first year with \$15.00 for renewal, which entitles 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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ABOUT THE COVER

Once again this month we are pleased and grateful to Duane Harding for drawing this delightful picture of Howard Duff as Sam Spade. Last month, you will recall, Duane drew for us the realistic and creepy picture of Vincent Price. Duff, who was a guest at the February 13, 1988, meeting of SPERDVAC, is well-known as Sam in The Adventures of Sam Spade which began on CBS in 1945. More recently, he appeared in the 1973 syndicated radio series, Zero Hour, which are in our lending library, both on reels and cassettes.

THE NEXT MEETING

The August meeting of RHAC will be held at 7:30 PM at the Church of the Master, 5152 E. 17th Ave., between Filbert and Forest Streets. Please enter from the Filbert Street entrance. Our speaker will be RHAC member, Ed. Hendricks. Ed had a career in radio as an announcer and was associated at one time with The Arthur Godfrey Show. He also was involved in AFRS radio during the Korean War and has also spent part of his career in television.

We are very pleased that Ed has consented to tell us of his career, so please make an effort to attend.

Thanks to much work by David Michael, John Cook, and others, our programs are getting better and better and our attendance and membership are rapidly growing.



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

OUT OF MY MIND

Dan Decker Editor

Haven't you noticed that when you are excited about something, it is hard to keep quiet about it? That's the way it is with me and old-time radio. I sometimes wonder, in fact, if I talk too much about it to my friends; I do think however that they find the subject of OTR as fascinating as I do, especially if they too lived through that wonderful era. Well, naturally, the people who did live through this era were certainly senior citizens and that gave me the idea to go to our local senior center and suggest a "course" to be offered to any seniors who might be interested in listening to programs of a dramatic or literary nature. Consequently, we will be putting the following announcement in the fall program guide of the Aurora Senior Center:

If you remember the days of old-time radio, you may be interested in a course entitled, "Return with Us Now...", a course that will teach literature by listening to recorded programs of old radio shows of literature. Participants may also if they wish, read the stories that will be listened to and afterwards discussed. The course will be taught by Dan Decker, instructor of English and literature at Community College of Aurora.

My hope is that this experience for seniors will be both intellectually stimulating and nostalgic. I hope that in a future issue, I can report a favorable response. And, might I dare hope that the idea might strike you as interesting enough to try something similar in your community?

Last month in this column, I reported about the fascinating and unique new book, Radio Dial: Radio Station Guide, by Alicia O'Drago (AMP Publishing Co., 456-46 Corona St., Denver CO 80218). I hope that at a future RHAC meeting, we might get Alicia to speak to the Club. In the meantime, here is an excerpt from a recent review of the book by Mr. Maeyma of Chicago cable channel 19:

This straightforward directory to radio stations across the country is a treasure. Even if the most driving you do is from work....But this book is especially useful for those who drive great distances. When you are cruising along I-90 through South Dakota, you may listen to something other than religious or country/western stations. Using this handy book, you can simply flip open to the page with South Dakota entries and find call numbers...

Stay tuned.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We had a super turnout at last month's meeting. Two separate persons counted 50 people in attendance, which at this point, is a record for our monthly meetings. Those of you who couldn't make it missed a fun meeting, if I do say so. I'm pleased to say that the turnout for our OTR Players performance bettered the previous high of 47 who heard Fred Arthur back in April. That says a lot, considering the caliber of person that Mr. Arthur is.

Many thanks to those who participated in the radio recreations: Duncan Tuck for his performance of both Lum and Abner, supported by Anne Malachi with Ed Hendricks as the announcer. And to John Licht for his visual sound effects antics that added even more humor to the program. Also to Ed Hendricks, Jeannette Dran, Ron Johnsen, (15 years old), Vicki Blake, Dick King, and Terri Waffensmith for character portrayals. And last, to John Licht for his directorship and to Roland Ives for his technical knowledge and skill in creating the music and digital sound effects for the Murder at Midnight presentation. In future productions, you will get to hear even more of Roland's creativity. Thank you to all who made kind comments and words of appreciation for the efforts of the OTR Players!

While many of you were suffering from the heat in the Metro area last Saturday, many of us were enjoying a cool and comfortable evening at our annual picnic at the Barrett Benson home in the mountains. The food was excellent, especially Dick and Maleta King's smoked turkey and Pattie Benson's strawberry pie. The conversation was above par and the camaraderie unequalled. But, there is always next year!

There are several events coming up that are worth mention:

August meeting--	Ed Hendricks, speaker
September--	Annual election and OTR Players--"War of the Worlds"
October--	Surprise guest speaker
November--	Guest speaker--Richard Ray of KBCO
December--	Annual Christmas party and entertainment

More details of each of these events are forthcoming.

Until next month, remember, cooler times are a comin'!

MEMBER PROFILE by Vicki Blake

This month's profile is a recent new member to the RHAC family: 15-year-old Ron Johnsen. Ron, who joined the Club in February, lives in Elizabeth, Colorado, with his parents, younger sister, Jennifer. Ron also tells me that he has a dozen chickens, three ducks, two cats, and a dog (and a partridge in a pear tree?). Ron will be in 10th grade at Elizabeth High School this fall. He became interested in old-time radio last summer when the car radio was tuned into a show called "Hall of Fantasy". It captured the attention of Ron, his parents, and his sister. Ron later learned of RHAC and promptly became a member. He has been building a collection of his own and became even more active in the Club by taking part in this month's presentation of Murder at Midnight". Ron played the part of John Gabriel, a butler. He showed talent from the first rehearsal and gave a fine performance. With members like Ron Johnsen, we all feel that future generations will know and love old-time radio.

A WONDERFUL MEETING by Vicki Blake

Laughs! Thrills! Excitement! In a nutshell, a good time was had by all. July's RHAC meeting on the 21st presented two radio re-creations: Lum 'n Abner, a 15-minute comedy, and Murder at Midnight, thirty minutes of suspense, performed by RHAC's own Old-Time Radio Players. Lum 'n Abner starred talented RHAC member Duncan Tuck, who played dual roles of both Lum and Abner. The story revolved around Lum and Abner trying to sell a folding cot that "can be put together in 30 seconds by a child". The prospective customer doesn't believe this claim so Lum and Abner set out to prove it. The results are hilarious. Following this presentation was Murder at Midnight, and episode called "The House that Time Forgot". Starring in this mystery was Ed Hendrickson and Jeannette Dran as Fred and Eva Jordan. Also starring was Vicki Blake (your's truly) as Vicki Smith, Ron Johnson as John Gabriel (see this month's profile on Ron), and Dick King and Terry Waffensmith as Mr. and Mrs. Holloway. This story concerned a couple who buy a house that later appears to already be occupied. I can't say too much about this plot because if I do, I'll give the storyline away. Sound effects were provided by Roland Ives, John Cook, and John Licht. Both shows will soon be available through the collector's library. I encourage everyone to listen to these productions even if you were there to see them. It is amazing to see the amount of talent that flows through the Club!

LIBRARY NOTES

Inadvertantly, too many library pages were included with last month's newsletter. Please be advised that you can only order through reel 819. No new pages of the Circulating Library will be with the newsletter until further notice. However, pages will be appearing for the Contributor's Library in the next few months.

Bill Stipp, cassette librarian, reminds borrowers that they must order at least 3 reel numbers at a time and that plenty of alternatives must be listed. Also, remember that cassettes are available on reels 1-301 and reels 647 and up.

FIBBER MCGEE'S CLOSET

Thanks to RHAC member, Martin Wyand, for this news item from the Letters to the Editor column of Time magazine of May 16, 1988:

Out of the Closet

Reading the obituary of Jim ("Fibber McGee") Jordan [MILESTONES, April 11] reminded me of stories told by my late father Ed Ludes, who set up the sound-effects department for NBC Radio in Hollywood. An early *Fibber McGee and Molly* script called for McGee to open an over-filled hall closet and for the contents to spill out. No description was given of how it was to sound. Dad used to say that a running gag had to be simple and direct, and to that end he used a set of sound-effects stairs about six steps high. On the steps, he placed pots, pans, tin cans, skates and other assorted items from the studio's "crash tubs." When the time came for the closet incident, Dad began throwing junk off the bottom step, then worked his way up, making certain that each item hit the stairs below as it fell.

When the last piece cleared the bottom step, Dad paused and then dropped a small hand bell. The routine took about 15 seconds. To the studio audience the sight of a sound man working so frantically was as funny as the resulting noise on the radio. It was a surefire formula, and "Fibber McGee's closet" entered the English language as a popular metaphor.

*Penny Ludes Alexander
Long Beach, Calif.*

1. Jim and Mary Jordan (Fibber McGee & Molly) played in a "SUSPENSE" drama titled Back Seat Driver. Who produced and directed Back Seat Driver?

Answer: Anton M. Leader.

2. Name this actor who played Willie Piper, Jughead in the Archie Andrews radio show, an evil husband in a "SUSPENSE" show called And So To Sleep, My Love, had a role in the movie "DEATH WISH" and published a book titled "Letters From An Actor".

Answer: William Redfield (he was billed on Willie Piper and the Archie show as Billy Redfield)

3. On "CAN YOU TOP THIS", Senator Ford changed his name when the show was sponsored by a rival automobile. What was that car?

Answer: Buick (Senator Ford used the name "Senator Buick" on Buick-sponsored shows).

4. A well-known actor who has been in several TV series and a former radio comedian have the same name. What is their name?

Answer: Henry Morgan (Henry "Harry" Morgan of "M.A.S.H." and Henry Morgan of "HERE'S MORGAN").

5. This man was able to retire in his middle '30s, he is a self-improvement advisor, and he played Sky King on radio. Who is he?

Answer: Earl Nightingale.

6. Some radio daytime serials such as "THE GUIDING LIGHT" and "THE BRIGHTER DAY" moved to TV and remained soap operas. Which radio daytime serial later became a TV series but did not remain a soap opera?

Answer: "PERRY MASON".

7. The "William Tell Overture" was the signature theme for "THE LONE RANGER". What other show on radio used the "William Tell Overture" as its theme?

Answer: "JUNGLE JIM".

8. Two immensely talented men, Harry and Leslie, were big names in radio who also made it big in other areas of show business. Who do we know Harry and Leslie as?

Answer: Bing Crosby and Bob Hope (Harry Lillis Crosby and Leslie Townes Hope).

MISC. BRITISH PROGRAMS Reels 5076 through 5080

Reels 5076 and 5077 contain a wide variety of mostly British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) produced programs from the 1950's and 1960's.

One of the most famous of all BBC productions was the Goon Show, here on Reels 5078 and 5079. This mad-house comedy centered around Peter Sellers in the role of Neddy Seagoon. Supporting Sellers were Harry Secombe and Spike Milligan, who also did many of the scripts. Music was supplied by the Wally Stott Orchestra, the Ray Ellington Quartette, with vocals by Max Geldrey. Wallace Greenslade announced. Producers included Peter Eaton, Pat Dixon and Ray Spear.

According to Jay Hickerson the program was broadcast May 28, 1951 to January 28, 1960. Syndications of the Goon Show have appeared in the U. S. most notably on National Public Radio (NPR).

The BBC is also widely known as a producer of documentaries. In addition to several on Reel 5077, the four part production on the career of singer Vera Lynn comprises Reel 5080.

Goon Show programs may be found in the Regular Library on Reels 821 822 and 823. Other British programs in the Regular Library include Reels 005 013 078 087 414 427 512 513 656 and 657.

Timings to the nearest minute are on the index sent with each reel.

Reels 5076 through 5079 were donated by RHAC member Jack Arthur. Reel 5080 was donated by complimentary RHAC member Ray Stanich.

REEL 5076 MISC. BRITISH PROGRAMS

1200'

- 1L SECRETS OF SCOTLAND YARD: Lord Haw-Haw
SECRETS OF SCOTLAND YARD: Smoke Clings to the Hair
- 2L THEATRE OF THE AIR: Odd Man Out
THEATRE OF THE AIR: Double Identity
- 1R THE QUEEN'S MEN (CBC): McKee Robbery
LIFE WITH DEXTER: Gallagher's Crime
- 2R DANGER WITH GRAINGER: Murder by Hypnosis
THEATRE ROYALE: When Greek Meets Greek

REEL 5077 MISC. BRITISH PROGRAMS

1800'

- 1L MANY A SLIP: BBC word guessing game
SING SOMETHING SIMPLE: BBC sing-along show
SOUND: About development of sounds and recordings
- 2L MARK MY WORD: BBC panel guessing game
A HOUSE FULL OF ORGANS: About mechanical organs
OLD TIME MUSIC HALL: BBC sing-along variety show
THE TENNIS ELBOW FOOT GAME: BBC panel word game

(Issued August, 1988)

REEL 5077 MISC. BRITISH PROGRAMS (Continued)

1800'

- 1R SCRAPBOOK FOR 1936: BBC documentary on events of the year
THE SOUND HUNTERS: Amateur tape hobbyists
- 2R TWENTY QUESTIONS: BBC version of panel game
WALK SOFTLY, PETER TROY (AFRS): The Wistful Witch
A NIGHT AT THE MUSIC HALL: BBC variety show

REEL 5078 THE GOON SHOW (BBC)

1200'

- 1L 2-15-55 The Sinking of Westminster Pier
2-22-55 The Fireball of Milton Street
- 2L 2-1-55 The Lost Music of Purdum
3-15-55 The White Box of Great Bardfield
- 1R 3-1-55 The Six Ingots of Leadenhall Street
3-8-55 The Yorkshire Yehti
- 2R 3-22-55 The Confessions of a Secret Genopod Drinker
-57 The Giant Bombardon

REEL 5079 THE GOON SHOW (BBC)

1800'

- 1L The Tomb of Genghis Khan
10-18-55 A Strange Case of Diplomatic Immunity
The Sleeping Prince
- 2L 11-15-55 The Great International Christmas Pudding
Robin Hood and his Merry Men
1-31-56 The Castle of Missing Teeth
- 1R 2-21-56 The Great Tuscan Salami Scandal
3-6-56 The Fear of Wages
10-4-55 Nasty Affair at the Bahrani Oasis
- 2R 10-11-55 Drums Along the Mersey
11-1-55 In Honor Bound
1-17-56 The Rent Collectors

REEL 5080 BBC DOCUMENTARY: CAREER OF VERA LYNN

1200'

- 1L -73 Part 1 - Childhood to Band Vocalist
2L -73 Part 2 - Wartime Years
- 1R -73 Part 3 - World Acclaim, Years of Consolidation
2R -73 Part 4 - The Star Next Door, Her Career to 1973

(Issued August, 1988)



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
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10	

Alternates:

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2 _____	5 _____	8 _____	11 _____
3 _____	6 _____	9 _____	12 _____

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