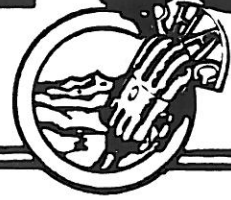


# RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado, Inc.

# NOW...



VOLUME 14 NUMBER 5

DECEMBER 1988



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:

- PRESIDENT.....John Cook, 3344 S. Jasper Ct., Aurora CO 80013 690-5827  
VICE-PRESIDENT.....David Michael, 820-16th St., Rm. 730, Denver CO 80202  
623-1215  
TREASURER.....Maletha King, 900 W. Quincy, Englewood CO 80110 761-4139  
SECRETARY.....John Callor, 1298 S. Newland Ct., Lakewood CO 80226  
934-6776  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....Dan Decker, 1955 Ulster #156, Denver Co 80220 377-4764  
CLUB HISTORIAN.....John Adams, 2811 S. Valentia St., Denver CO 80231 755-9185  
TAPE LIBRARIANS.....Dick and Maletha King (See above)  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON/  
LOG LIBRARIAN.....Vicki Blake, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150  
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN.....Bill McCracken, 7101 W. Yale #503, Denver 80227 986-9863  
BLANK TAPE SALES.....Barrett Benson, P.O. Box 507, Pine CO 80470 838-6185  
TAPE COORDINATOR.....Elmer Westbrook, 855 S. Corona, Denver 80209 778-7426  
AT LARGE.....Herb Dunivan, 4184 S. Syracuse, Denver 80237 773-1142  
CHAPTER DIRECTOR/TALKING  
NEWSLETTER.....Mike Fields, 7925 Sangor, Colorado Springs CO 80920  
598-0253  
TAPE DONATIONS.....Herb Dunivan and Bill McCracken (See above)

Address all correspondence to R.H.A.C., P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150

Note: Inadvertantly, the name of our cassette librarian, Bill Stipp, has been deleted from the above listing, and it will be corrected next month. His address is 6289 Yarrow, Arvada CO 80004, phone (303) 422-1144. He would like to hear from our members who listen to radio shows on cassettes. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a notice of which shows are available on cassette.

#### COMING EVENTS

The Christmas party takes the place of our December meeting. See in this newsletter more information about the Christmas party.

January 18 meeting--our own Don Tucker.

February 16--Fred Hobbs, long-time radio personality.

March 16--"Show and Tell"--members are asked to bring and show their favorite piece of radio memorabilia to swap or sell.

*A very merry  
Christmas!*



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

## A TRIBUTE

by Dan Decker, Editor

There are many people who have given countless hours to make the Radio Historical Association of Colorado what it is today. But, there is one person who is giving so many hours of service today that we want to recognize him particularly today. That person is Elmer Westbrook. Elmer, who is the tape co-ordinator of the club, gives many waking hours of dubbing our reel-to-reel library onto cassettes. Just recently, I had the pleasure of talking to Elmer with the purpose in mind of writing this article.

Elmer Westbrook is a 75-year-old retired photographer who has been a member of RHAC almost from the beginning of the club's formation 13 years ago. His wife, Helen, died a year ago in June and Elmer says that if it weren't for the club, he would not have been able to make it. He credits the work for RHAC as giving him the diversion and activity to help him cope with his wife's death. Also helpful in his dealing with his grief has been his daughter who lives in Denver. He actually has had two children, but his son died an untimely death at the age of 25, just at the time of his life when he had accomplished a great deal by becoming a professor of anthropology and leaving a wife and child.

Elmer became interested in old-time-radio by hearing the John Dunning Show which played old radio shows and hearing the announcement that an organization existed, RHAC, which had other people in it which had similar interests. He quickly became a member and subsequently one of the club's most valued members.

I visited Elmer recently and enjoyed seeing the efficiency with which he works dubbing the entire reel-to-reel RHAC library on to cassette tapes. Sitting at a desk, he can readily reach about 6 different tape recorders, and not a movement is wasted as he adjusts volume, tape speed, and checks meters. I also enjoyed a tour of his pleasant brick house in an older part of Denver, during which he showed me his collection of thousands of records, both 33 rpms and 45's, and his own tape collection of both reel and cassette recordings. What he didn't show me but which I hope to see on a return visit is his large collection of slides and books on Colorado ghost towns, of which he is an authority. Many club members have had the pleasure of hearing Elmer tell about ghost towns in Colorado which he has photographed all except for about three,

I think I speak for most of the members of the club when I say that no member of RHAC has given more of his time and energy to the advancement of RHAC as has Elmer Westbrook. We hope that he has many more years of happiness and enjoyment of old-time-radio. We are deeply grateful for this wonderful man!

### THE NOVEMBER MEETING by David Michael

Although the attendance was disappointingly small, the program was gratifyingly great. Richard Ray, the production director of KBCO, and Jeremy McCaleb, music director of KCFR, presented their award-winning program Intervention Day 2027.

McCaleb and Ray excerpted from their 16-hour production a 45-minute tape for our enjoyment of their longer program which was broadcast over KBCO and which generated 6000 letters and calls. Who says that radio drama is dead!

In each issue, at this place to the right, there will be a reminder to our members what are the current reel numbers in the three tape libraries that are available for loan.

Also in this space, in each issue we will have a feature, "Remember When?" The answer to each question will be in the following issue. Our thanks to Bill Stipp, cassette librarian, for this feature.

#### REMEMBER WHEN?

A color went to war. During the Second World War, a color went to war. What national company (American) or product was this associated with and what was the color? The answer will be in next month's newsletter.

#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

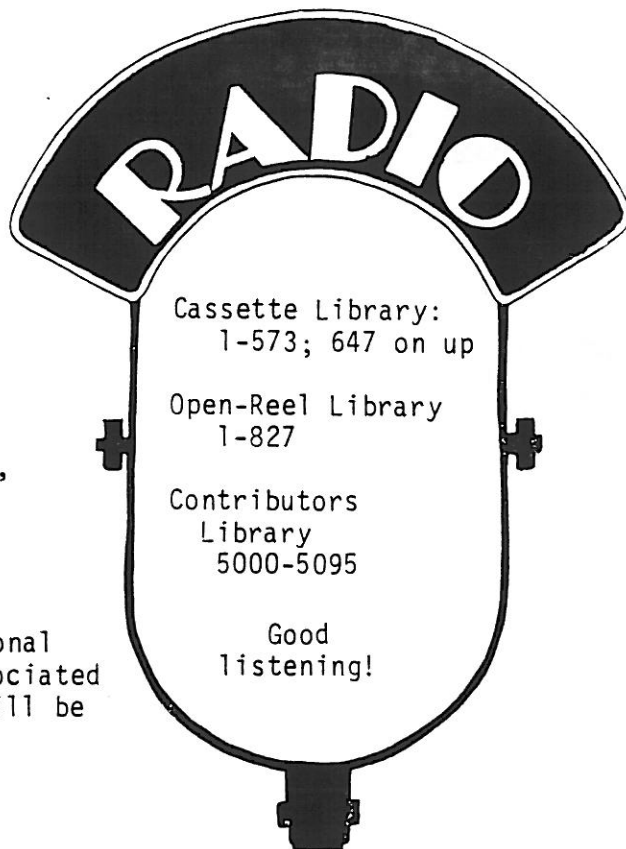
On behalf of myself and the entire board of directors, may I extend to each and every member a most joyous Holiday Season. Hard work and marvelous co-operation has made this one of the best years yet. I look forward to just as good or better in the year ahead. Merry Christmas to one and all!

#### CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual RHAC Christmas party is being held this year at the Hiland Hills apartment complex club house, thanks to former RHAC treasurer and valued member, John Licht. A map was in last month's newsletter, but here are further directions on getting there: starting at the intersection of Mississippi Avenue and Parker, go east one fourth mile and then turn in at Hiland Hills. The Hiland Hills project is built in a square with the living units and an access road around the perimeter. The club house is in the center. The party is from 6 to 10 P.M. Please bring card tables, chairs, and a dish to pass. Beverages and meat will be provided, but please bring your own table setting. We hope to see you there! The date is Saturday evening, December 10.

#### SPERDVAC CONVENTION NOTES

RHAC officers, Dick King and David Michael, had the pleasure of attending this year's SPERDVAC convention on November 11-12 in Los Angeles, and give us this report. The dealers' room was an interesting place with Jay Hickerson selling complete logs of Jack Benny and Gunsmoke as well as autographed copies of 3 mystery novels by Carleton E. Morse. One dealer, moreover, was selling autographed copies of Mel Blanc's new book and George Burn's new book. On Saturday, there was a "Meet the Authors" panel that included David Holland, author of a new book, From Out of the Past, a pictorial history of The Lone Ranger. Also on the panel were Mr. and Mrs. Barnabas who are writing a definitive study of Gunsmoke on both radio and TV.





Bob Hastings, third from left, rehearsing for his portrayal of Superman during the Friends of Old-Time Radio's annual convention. With him were, from left, Bob Dryden, Joan Shea, Barney Beck, Gil Mack and Anthony Tollin.

The New York Times/Kim Garnick

## Turn That Dial Backward: Superman and Co. Return!

By JAMES BARRON

Special to The New York Times

NEWARK, N.J., Oct. 23 — Look! Up in front of the Holiday Inn! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's Bob Hastings!

Yes, it's Bob Hastings, who can change the course of mighty rivers, bend steel in his bare hands and fight the never-ending battle for truth, justice and the American way — all while standing calmly at an ordinary-looking microphone, wearing his everyday corduroy jacket and his dark, open-necked sport shirt. No red cape, blue tights or telephone booths for Bob Hastings.

Some 300 radio buffs seemed unconcerned that this "Superman" was heard not on AM or FM, but on the P.A. system at the Holiday Inn at Newark International Airport.

### 'The Lone Ranger' Rides Again

For at the Friends of Old-Time Radio's annual convention, it was almost as if the Man of Steel were still on the air. Right on cue, Jackson Beck, the announcer on the original "Superman" show, delivered the introduction: "Faster than a speeding bullet... more powerful than a locomotive... able to leap tall buildings at a single bound."

Right on cue, the conventioners oooooohed, ahhhhed, laughed and cheered. And right on cue, Mr. Hastings and his supporting cast began talking their way through a re-creation of a 1946 "Superman" episode.

Supermania was not all there was to this convention. There were Kate Smith fans and Kate Smith impersonators. There were cassettes of lost episodes of shows like "The Lone Ranger" and "The Green Hornet" being sold and swapped. There was even talk of a dachshund named Shadow. (Where is that bone buried? Shadow knows.)

But somehow, it all came back to "Superman," with his spellbinding magic conjured up the old-fashioned way: He was, after all, radio's first superhero. For Saturday's performance, the cast had the original scripts, and the sound effects were made by a sound man, Barney Beck. The wind machine whooshed when the script said Superman was zooming through the sky. Cap pistols made deafening pops when the bad guys had murder on their minds. And many of the voices were the same as those heard on the original "Superman" or other old shows.

### Calling 'Superboy'

Anthony Tollin, a New Jersey radio buff who organized the convention, had invited Kirk Alyn to be Superman. But Mr. Tollin said Mr. Alyn, who played the part in the first "Superman" movie, had heart bypass surgery in California several weeks ago.

This sounds like a job for...

Bob Hastings, who was the voice of "Superboy" in a cartoon series in the 1970's. "You know, I thought I was too young to play Superman," Mr. Hastings said later. "I always played juvenile delinquents. Now I'm 63. Superman would be dead at my age."

But there are those who consider Superman — and oldtime radio — ageless. Mr. Tollin contends that listeners want something other than all-news, all-talk or all-preprogrammed



# Superman and Friends Return



The New York Times: Kim Garnick

Collectors browsing during the Friends of Old-Time Radio's annual convention.

disk jockeys. The thing is, Mr. Tollin, at 38, is too young to remember what radio was like before all-news, all-talk and all-preprogrammed disk jockeys.

"I was born in the TV generation," he said. "I was 9 or 10 when 'Gun-smoke' went off the air on radio, so I could have heard it, but I never listened. I loved 'Have Gun, Will Travel' on TV, but my parents never pointed out that after the TV show went off the air, it continued on radio with John Dehner instead of Richard Boone."

Mr. Tollin traces his passion for Superman to his work as a colorist on the Superman comic books for the last 14 years. Once again, he never heard a live broadcast of the original show, since "Superman" went on the air 12 years before he was born.

The original Superman, Clayton Heermance, also known as Bud Collyer, died in 1969 after hosting such television game shows as "Beat the Clock" and "To Tell the Truth."

## 'We Were Cast for Our Voices'

"Superman" cast members told the convention that Mr. Collyer, with his all-American good looks, really did seem capable of leaping tall buildings.

"He was as handsome as the day is long," said Joan Shea, who played Lois Lane in the re-creation.

Did that have anything to do with the show's phenomenal success in a medium in which characters are heard, not seen?

"Darling, I don't think so," Miss Shea said. "In radio, we were cast for our voices."

Mr. Collyer's voice got him the job in spite of himself, Mr. Tollin said. "It was a role he did not want. He thought it was kind of silly. But it was Bud Collyer who developed that wonderful visual shorthand: 'This is a job for Superman,' and his voice would drop an octave."

## Catnaps on the Studio Piano

Mr. Collyer's identity as Superman — and also as his mild-mannered alter ego at the Daily Planet, Clark Kent — was kept secret for the first eight years of the show's radio run, Mr. Tollin said, until after the broadcast of the episode performed at the convention. In that show, Superman exposed a gang leader who had laid plans to set fire to a synagogue and had been a German spy in World War II. Time magazine wanted to interview the actor who played Superman, Mr. Tollin said, and so the cape was pulled back and Mr. Collyer's identity was revealed.

"It was a fun show," Mr. Beck said. "You might think there was a lot of pressure, but we were relaxed."

So relaxed, he said, that during scenes in which Superman had no lines, Mr. Collyer often stretched out on the studio piano for a catnap.

"That man had the ability to fall into a deep sleep for three or four minutes and still know when his cue was coming," Mr. Beck said. "If I try that, I don't wake up in time and I'm groggy."



## RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 820 LET'S PRETEND (C)</u>		1200'
1L	7-27-46 The Yellow Dwarf 8-3-47 The Goose Girl	
2L	7-12-47 The Brave Little Tailor 6-7-47 The Six Swans	
1R	4-10-54 The Magic Cuckoo 6-28-47 Thumbelina	
2R	8-30-47 Aladdin 9-13-47 The Donkey, The Table, And The Stick	
<u>TAPE 821 THE GOON SHOW (C)</u>		1200'
1L	Robin Hood And His Merry Mom The Case Of The Vanishing Room	
2L	The Greatest Mountain In The World The Castle Of Missing Teeth	
1R	The Tuscan Salami King Solomon's Mines	
2R	The Pleistocene Man Insurance, The White Man's Burden	
<u>TAPE 822 THE GOON SHOW (C)</u>		1200'
1L	Ill Met By Goonlight The Moriarty Murder Mystery	
2L	The Great String Robbery The Great Reagent's Park Swim	
1R	The Policy The Silent Bugler	
2R	I Like Claret And To Hell With Burgandy One Million Pound Penny	
<u>TAPE 823 THE GOON SHOW (C)</u>		1200'
1L	Napoleon's Piano The Mummified Priest	
2L	A Strange Case Of Diplomatic Immunity The Sleeping Prince	
1R	Scrudge Lost Horizon	
2R	The First Albert Memorial To The Moon The Great International Christmas Pudding	

## RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 824 ESCAPE (C)</u>		1200'
1L	2-29-48 The Grove Of Astharoth (East Coast Version)	
	3-7-48 Jimmy Goggles, The God (East Coast Version)	
2L	3-14-48 The Log Of The Evening Star (East Coast Version)	
	3-21-48 Misfortune's Isle (East Coast Version) AFRS	
1R	3-28-48 A Shipment Of Mute Fate	
	4-4-48 Action	
2R	4-11-48 The Brute	
	4-18-48 The Drums Of The Fore And Aft	
<u>TAPE 825 ESCAPE (C)</u>		1200'
1L	4-25-48 The Fourth Man	
	5-2-48 John Jack Todd	
2L	5-9-48 The Time Machine	
	5-16-48 The Match	
1R	5-23-48 Leiningen Versus The Ants	
	6-6-48 Beau Geste	
2R	6-27-48 The Country Of The Blind	
	7-4-48 A Tooth For Paul Revere	
<u>TAPE 826 ESCAPE (C)</u>		1200'
1L	7-11-48 She	
	7-18-48 Habit	
2L	8-1-48 The Man Who Would Be King	
	8-15-48 The Fugitive	
1R	8-22-48 S. S. San Pedro	
	8-29-48 A Diamond As Big As The Ritz	
2R	9-5-48 Dream Of Armageddon	
	9-12-48 Evening Primrose	
<u>TAPE 827 ESCAPE (C)</u>		1200'
1L	9-19-48 The Man Who Could Work Miracles	
	2-12-49 The Lost Special	
2L	2-26-49 Red Wine	
	3-5-49 Conqueror's Isle	
1R	3-12-49 He Who Rides The Tiger (AFRS)	
	3-19-49 Finger Of Doom	
2R	4-9-49 When The Man Comes, Follow Him	
	7-7-49 The Fourth Man	



## A WORD ABOUT THE RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

The RHAC is a non profit organization dedicated to the regeneration of interest and enjoyment of Old Time Radio. Radio drama appeals to young and old alike. Through clubs like the RHAC people can discover or relive the Golden Age of Radio.

Radio has the power to hold the attention of the listener. A listener can spend an evening lost in his own minds eye, cringing in terror at the sound of the creaking door of the Inner Sanctum, laughing at the exploits of Amos 'N' Andy, trying to picture in your imagination what the hall looked like after Fibber McGee opened the Closet door, and trying to figure out just how Jack Armstrong would get out of this situation.

The RHAC does not sell shows, but through a reel to reel and cassette tape library, rents show to its members. The rental fee is small and the money is placed in reserve to purchase new shows and improve the clubs libraries. The RHAC currently has over 700 reels in its open reel library and grows every month.

The RHAC publishes a fine monthly newsletter and helps notify members of the next meeting and any news of interest to the radio show enthusiast. The RHAC has monthly meetings to discuss OTR and listen to guest speakers talk about their experiences on radio.

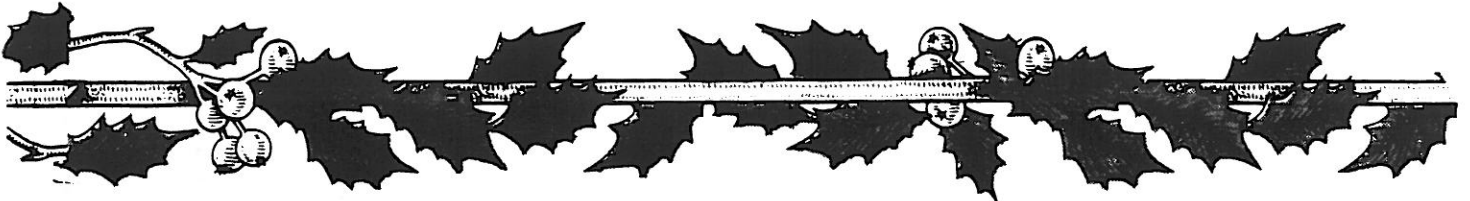
We have a fine reference library which contains over 6000 pages of old time radio material on almost every show. We also have available radio logs which gives show titles, stars and broadcast date. The reference library also has several dozen books about radio available on a rental basis for the membership to enjoy.

Membership in the RHAC is \$20.00 per year. Members receive the monthly newsletter, access to both open reel and cassette lending library, access to the reference library and the logs.

This should answer some of your questions about the RHAC. We cordially invite you to join us at our next meeting and talk about OTR. It is a fascinating hobby for us and we feel it is a definite alternative to the same old thing on television and the same songs hour after hour on commercial radio. Come join us!

For information write:

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO  
P.O. BOX 1908  
ENGLEWOOD, COLO. 80150  
(303) 761-4139



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO, INC.  
(A non-profit Organization)  
POST OFFICE BOX 1908  
ENGLEWOOD, CO. 80150



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLOR  
P.O. BOX 1908  
ENGLEWOOD, CO. 80150  
(303) 761-1178

"On  
Earth  
peace  
among  
men..."

