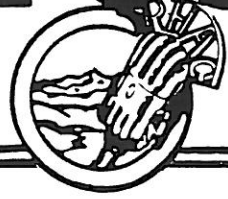


# RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado, Inc.

# NOW...



VOLUME 15 NUMBER 2

SEPTEMBER 1989



RETURN WITH US NOW..is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc. a not for profit organization. The cost of membership is \$20.00 for the first year with \$15.00 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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RHAC PLAYERS.....Ed Hendrickx 366-1505

Address all correspondence to RHAC P.O. Box 1908 Englewood CO 80110

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS 7:30 P.M. (Usually first Tuesday of each month)

September 5th meeting...At Herb Dunivan's home. See above.

October 3rd meeting..At Dick King's. See above.

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We take this opportunity to welcome the following new members: William Wendt, Wendell Longnecker, Robert Simpson, Jeffrey Shuldner, Thomas Barber, David Lillie, Keith Jones, John Schambou, Thomas Richards, Bobbie Pepper, Jerald Strauss, Violet Imhoff, and Mike Rhoden.

#### CASSETTE LIBRARIES

Each member received a mailing of new order forms for the newly formed three cassette libraries, each one color coded. The order form attached to this issue of the newsletter is that for Cassette Library #2, c/o Dave Logan. Please note that his address was wrong in the mailing that went out but is corrected on the attached sheet.

#### ABOUT THE COVER

We just observed the 50th anniversary of the making of The Wizard of Oz movie, so it is appropriate that we feature Judy Garland's picture on this month's cover. Did you know that Miss Garland made a radio version of the story for Lux Theatre in 1950? She also did radio work for Screen Guild Theatre and The Bob Hope Show.



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

FROM THE KING'S ROOST

Dick and Maletta King

As summer nears its end, we can only look forward to a very busy fall and winter. We have split the cassette library and entered all of the Contributors Series into a third cassette library. Many thanks to good old Elmer Westbrook who has spent so many hours dubbing all of our reel tapes onto cassettes for the pleasure of the members that will and are now using

the cassette libraries.

Please note that the address for Dave Logan on the order forms that were sent out was wrong. We tried to move him to Lincoln Street, but Dave wanted to stay on Sherman Circle. The correct address is 5557 South Sherman Circle, #6, Littleton CO 80121.

Our August meeting was a great event! Willard and Mary Ann Waterman joined us as well as the Gassmans and several others from out of state. Willard joined the RHAC Players in a First Nighter and later was interviewed by Larry Gassman. Many members had questions that Willard handled easily. The following day Willard was at the grand opening of Mike Field's Gildersleeve Restaurant in Pueblo. All went well for the day's events and we all hope that the Fields family will have a successful venture there,

Our September meeting should give us another side of the business of radio and what it took to get the shows we all enjoyed on the air. This may not have been on our minds when we were listening to the shows, but it was very basic that someone had to pay the bills.

We will see you at the RHAC picnic on September 16th at 900 West Quincy. Please bring a cold dish for four or more, your own place settings, and any tables or chairs that you can. It should be a pleasant outing with the RHAC Players doing one or two shows for us. It will begin at 2:00 P.M. (approximately). With luck, we may also have some slides from Elmer's collection, of his trips into the high country and old ghost towns.

#### OLD-TIME RADIO GOES TO SEA!

RHAC member, John Rayburn, will be presenting his old-time radio show on board the beautiful Crown Odyssey luxury liner on a cruise to Hawaii, with departure set for February 5, 1990. There will be stops at Maui, Kauai, the big island of Hawaii, and at Honolulu on Oahu. It will be possible to cruise to Hawaii and fly home or return on the Royal Curise Lines vessel. John will be doing his program at sea both directions and promises to have some great material from the terrific shows of yesteryear, with each program completely different. Gateway Travel is handling all arrangements and will be happy to supply any information. Gateway Travel can be reached at (303) 421-4077. Just tell them you want to know about John Rayburn's Old-Time Radio cruise to Hawaii. There is a special \$5.00 early reservation program in which you can reserve the stateroom of your choice for a month for just \$5.00 per person.

**RADIO NOSTALGIA:** KBXG's John Dunning, who probably has radio transcripts of Eve offering Adam an apple, dips into his electronic nostalgia bin Sunday to air a 1940 interview with 23-year-old John F. Kennedy, following the publication of his book, *While England Slept*. The interview, aired on an unnamed Boston station, concentrates on Kennedy's warning about "waiting too long to prepare for war." When asked what the future held, Kennedy says: "I'd like to work for the government someday." Dunning's show airs 1-4 p.m.

Rocky Mountain News

Aug. 4, 1989, Weekend/Friday—**35-W**



**RHAC MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED  
TO REMEMBER THE ASSOCIATION**

Radio Historical Association of Colorado is a non-profit organization composed of persons having an interest in the preservation and enjoyment of old-time radio, that is, radio as it existed in its often called "golden age." Our organization is one of the largest and most active of its kind.

Members are encouraged to help RHAC continue that part of its mission devoted to "preservation" of old-time radio. While we can all be very proud of our libraries which continue to grow, many members have in their own libraries material not in the Association's Libraries (regular or donors).

Your donation of material to RHAC during your lifetime, or through your Will, will allow RHAC continued growth and the ability to maintain its place among the leaders of such organizations. Your donation is a tribute to those wonderful people who were a part of radio's golden age. Your donation honors "radio"!

A donation to RHAC is tax deductible. Your donation, be it one reel (cassette) or many, one script, one log, one disk, or any memorabilia, is sought. Help RHAC. Contact Dick King, President, (303) 761-5135 or Bill McCracken, (303) 986-9863.



# People

Monday, August 14, 1989

## Durkee on your radio makes life much easier

He's the voice of Denver. You can't mistake it. Kind of smooth, but not lounge lizardy. Kind of big city, but peaceful. He says, "My friends" a lot.

Like after a Fats Domino record. "Now there my friends, is a gentleman."

It's Ray Durkee. The Duke of Durk. Mr. Oldies.

Fifteen years of Sundays he's been hosting *Sunday at the Memories* on radio station KHOW.

Bringing you the winners of spinners, waxes to watch, wild child, mounds of sound designed with you in mind. A gentle voice of nostalgia and class.

He's the original oldies deejay in Denver. He started doing the oldies back when the other stations were mired in disco.

I started listening to him in 1973 when I was a downtown kamikaze driving armored trucks for Wells Fargo. Durkee was spinning oldies, and I was fighting traffic on 17th and Cherry.

He'd play *Satisfaction* and I couldn't get any.

I way a young dude with the rage. I could splash an entire block of Christmas shoppers waiting for the bus on 16th Street to the tune of *Wild Thing*.

They'd freeze in place, fists and fingers aloft.

But you can only listen to *Greenback Dollar*, so many times. Then you have to play it. So after I got fired from Wells Fargo I bought a guitar and hit the road.

I'd miss the Durk.

Luckily, Sundays are traveling days for musicians. Driving down from Canada, blasting through Montana, singing at the windshield, busting my knuckles on the radio knobs trying to find some decent music, the Beach Boys came on. And the voice. My man the Durk.

The home voice. The syndicated home voice that is. He was everywhere. Syndicated on 80 stations. Wherever I was on the road, the Durk and I would spend Sundays together. Him on the radio and me driving. Pounding *Wipeout* on the steering wheel. Stomping out *Locomotion* on the floor of Big Red the traveling GMC pickup.

In the Virgin Islands I'd listen to the Durk count down the top 500 songs of all time. In alphabetical order.



Colorado People

by Beau

In New Orleans he'd play the tops by year of release. In South Dakota he'd count them down by artists.

For 12 years it was me and the Durk.

Oldies were my life. Still are. Every show was a time capsule back to my high school days.

After all these years of listening to him, I swore if I ever got a writing job, I'd write a story about him.

I've always wanted to "do" dinner with a show-biz type, so the Durk and I did dinner at a joint on 120th Avenue.

I told the guy at the cash register I was meeting Durkee for dinner and the guy lit up.

"You mean the Ray Durkee?" He asked. "Geez. I used to listen to him every Sunday back in my hometown. What's he doing in Denver?"

Syndication can disorient you.

Meeting a radio jock for the first time can be traumatic. They never look like they sound.

Their voice conjures up a cross between Paul Newman and Clint Eastwood. They usually look like a cross between Bob Newhart and Elmer Fudd.

Well, Durkee is a tall Tom Waits. He's about 6 foot 3, sort of slender, and he carries his 51 years well. He had on a red shirt and snappy pink pants. I saw by his outfit, he was kindred.

It's not always advisable to meet your heroes, because they may be less than you hoped. But the Durk is cool. He's a nice guy. As nice as they get. The gentleness you hear from the little speakers in your Walkman headphones, comes from a very big heart.

We talked of music.

We talked of life.

We talked of his beginnings. He wasn't always a music jock. For three years he was a traffic snooper and flew air cover for the freeway troops in their tin personnel carriers.

He started his Sunday at the *Memories* show in 1973 and syndication followed soon after.

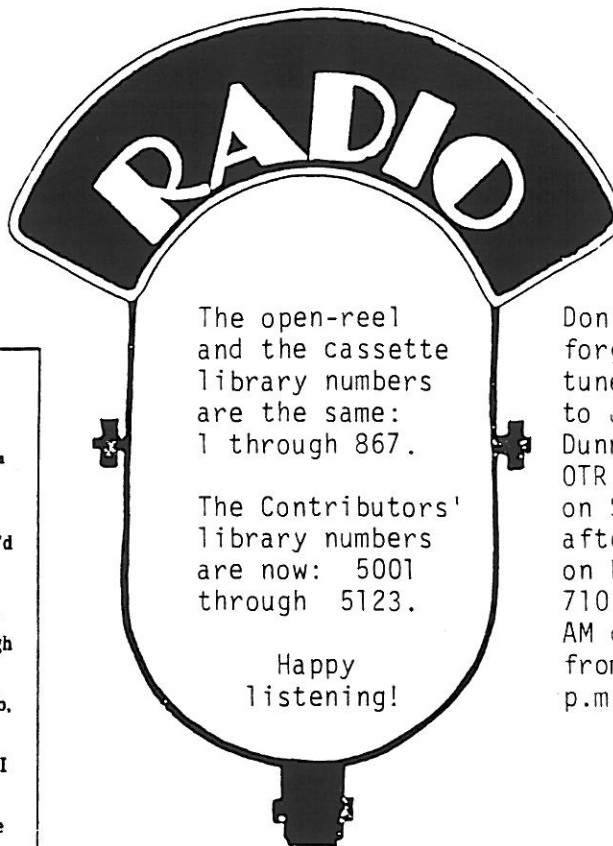
The stations are all over the world. He is easily the most famous voice Denver radio ever produced.

You can hear him spin out the *Ronnettes* in Guam, do the *Hanky Panky* in Saipan and hear *Great Balls of Fire* in Saudi Arabia.

The spread of American culture is due to shows like *Sunday at the Memories*. Ray Durkee was one of the first.

Now everyone does them. But no one does them as good.

Beau Allen is a Denver freelance writer who also works as a singer and standup comedian.



The open-reel and the cassette library numbers are the same: 1 through 867.

The Contributors' library numbers are now: 5001 through 5123.

Happy listening!

Don't forget to tune in to John Dunning's OTR show on Sunday afternoons on KBXG, 710 on the AM dial from 1-4 p.m.

ABOUT BILL HERST, SPEAKER AT SEPT. MTG. Bill Herst first found radio about 1930, when as a kid he haunted the network radio stations in New York. There were no studio audiences and anyone interested enough could roam freely through NBC (then the red and blue networks) and CBS.

Stars-to-be like Kate Smith, Bing Crosby, Raymond Knight, and others were all flattered by kids' attention and made themselves easily accessible.

Herst's first professional association with the medium was in 1944 when as part of the advertising group at Lipton Tea, he was client producer for the company's media involvement. He worked with Hi Brown and the cast of *Inner Sanctum*, and the next commitment which was *Vox Pox* with Parks Johnson and Wally Butterworth.

Through exposure to the radio community he got to know Irving Mansfield, a CBS producer. Mansfield lured Herst into a studio and insisted that he watch a new show called *Talent Scouts*. Herst got Lipton to sponsor it.

## Today and OTR

(Opinions expressed are the writer's only, no endorsement by anybody is implied.) By RHAC member, David Clow.

### Chapter 7, "Expanding the Concept"

In 1994 a dream will be realized by opening an office/store which reproduces and distributes OTR tapes. The whys and whos and hows were briefly explored in the first few chapters, now we explore new concepts for "Tapes for the Blind".

One of the obvious facets of OTR is that it was designed and built for radio transmission. What an exciting concept! "Tapes for the Blind" goes to its own radio station!

Who says it has to be 50,000 watts and operate 24 hours a day. How about two hours a day with 500 watts starting at 9:00 at night. Finance comes from donations for "Tapes for the Blind" and tape sales and now radio commercials from "Radio for the Blind". I wonder if KRFB call letters are available?

Let's kick this around a little more, the money for the transmitter couldn't be much. \$500.00 for a used

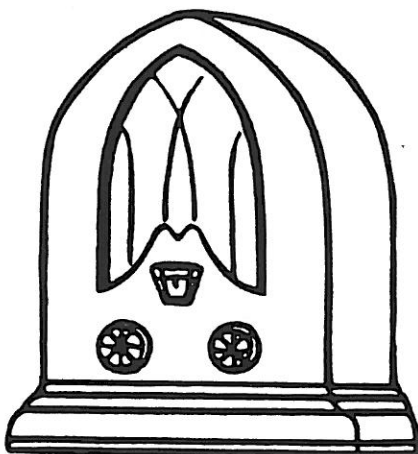
one? The office/store could serve as the studio. The tape segments and scripts could be prepared at the office/store and a studio audience would surely be welcome-- wouldn't they?

Live radio next? With casts of amateurs at the mikes and controls and sound effects. One night a week to start with and maybe---

Why not use the high school band jazz group for intros and over music and the local drama club for the players and how about a few new scripts from the members.

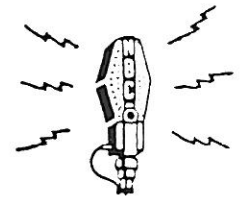
Remember there's still a sign on the office/store wall, "Enjoy Old Time Radio."

Remember also that the purpose is not to make money but to show OTR to the few who might enjoy it like I do!





# OLDE TYME RADIO PLAYERS



By Ed Hendrickx

## WILLARD WATERMAN PERFORMS WITH THE OTR PLAYERS



Ed Hendrickx greets Willard Waterman

The Olde Tyme Radio Players were honored, at the August meeting of our club, with the presence of Willard Waterman starring in a "First Nighter" production of a light romantic comedy entitled "Love and Taxes".

Jeanette Dran, John Rayburn and Dick Henry were in the supporting cast.

Our technical support crew consisted of Dick King and Guy Albright handling the sound, Fred Hinz and Jim Hollingsworth doing the sound effects. And yours truly had the honor of directing this production.

Judging from the comments that I received from the audience, our efforts were well received despite a few technical glitches.

My sincere thanks is extended to all of the OTR Players for

making this production a success.

Following the production Mr. Waterman participated in an interview and then responded to questions from the audience.

The interview was conducted by Larry Gassman, president of our sister club in Los Angeles. Larry and his brother John also host an old time radio program on a public radio station from Pasadena Community College in California.



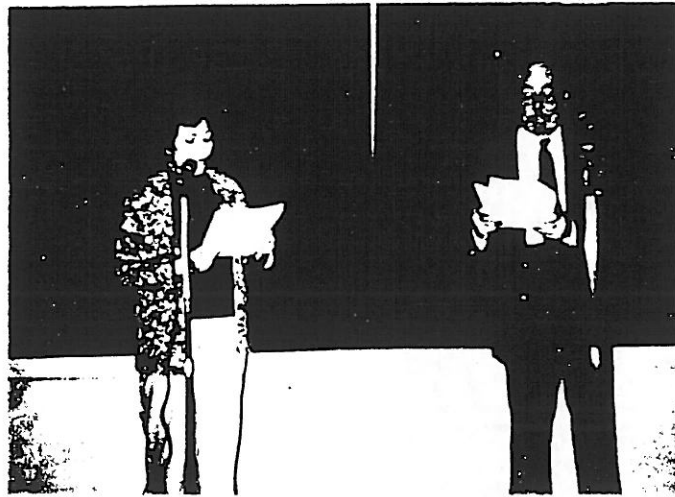
Larry interviewing Willard

The OTR players will next perform at the club picnic on September 16th. We shall be presenting a "Johnny Dollar" episode starring our own Don Tucker as Johnny Dollar.

We will be back again at the October meeting when we shall be performing with our guest speaker, Larry Cox.

There's lots of work for any one who is interested...give me a call if you want to get involved...we can use the extra hands.

THE CAST.....



Jeanette Dran and Willard Waterman



Dick Henry



John Rayburn and Ed Hendrickx

THE TECHNICAL CREW.....



Guy Albright and Dick King



Fred Hinz



REEL 5121 JACK BENNY PROGRAM

1800'

- 1L 5-30-48 I Was Framed  
 6-6-48 Cast Prepares for Twelve Week Tour  
 6-13-48 From Detroit. Don's Weight Discussed
- 2L 6-20-48 From Cleveland. Guests, Marilyn Maxwell, Bob Feller and Bob Hope  
 6-27-48 From New York. Guest, Fred Allen (last show of season)  
 10-3-48 Returning by Ship after European Tour (first show of season)
- 1R 10-10-48 Cast Listens to World Series Game  
 10-17-48 Sorry, Wrong Number; Guest, Barbara Stanwyck  
 10-24-48 Jack Invites the Ronald Colmans Over for Dinner
- 2R 10-31-48 Jack and the Beavers Go Trick or Treating  
 11-7-48 Jack Visits a Psychiatrist after Hearing an Echo  
 11-14-48 Mary Absent; Guest, Dorothy Kirsten

REEL 5122 JACK BENNY PROGRAM

1800'

- 1L 11-21-48 Jack Tries to Reach Advertising Agency  
 11-28-48 How Jack and Cast Spent Thanksgiving  
 12-5-48 Violin Lesson, Trip to Vault
- 2L 12-12-48 Jack Tries to Relax at Home; Guest, Eddie Cantor  
 12-19-48 Christmas Shopping, Jack Buys Wallet for Don  
 12-26-48 Don Named Best Announcer of Year, Last Show for NBC
- 1R 1-2-49 First Show for CBS; Guests, Amos and Andy  
 1-9-49 Jack Tries to Get Jimmy Stewart to Star in Movie  
 1-16-49 Jack Borrows from the Ronald Colmans, Colman Dreams he's Jack Benny
- 2R 1-23-49 Don Refuses to Sign Contract, Jack Visits Dentist  
 1-30-49 Don Still Hasn't Signed Contract  
 2-6-49 Guests, Fletcher Markle, Claudette Colbert and Vincent Price

REEL 5123 JACK BENNY PROGRAM

1800'

- 1L 2-13-49 Jack Turns Forty  
 2-20-49 Fletcher Markle and Jack Warner Try to Talk Jack Out of Doing Show  
 2-27-49 Violin Lesson; Guest, Claude Rains
- 2L 3-6-49 Jack and Mary at the Races; Guests, the Ronald Colmans  
 3-13-49 Jack Lost \$4.75 at the Races  
 3-20-49 Jack and Van Johnson Go on Double Date
- 1R 3-27-49 Jack Takes the Beavers Camping; Guests, the Ozzie Nelsons  
 4-3-49 Jack Prepares to Fly to New York  
 4-10-49 Dennis Dreams he's Star of Show; Guest, Barbara Stanwyck
- 2R 4-17-49 Jack and Mary Stroll in the Easter Parade  
 4-24-49 Jack Tries to Buy New Car  
 5-1-49 Treasure of the Sierra Madre

REEL 5118 JACK BENNY PROGRAM

1800'

- 1L 5-18-47 From New York. Guest, Al Jolson  
 5-25-47 From New York. Guests, Fred Allen and Jack Paar (last show of season)  
 10-5-47 How Jack Spent the Summer Vacation (first show of season)
- 2L 10-12-47 Jack Takes Physical Exam for Sponsor  
 10-19-47 Jack and Phil Play Golf  
 10-26-47 Jack and Rochester Continue to Look for Lost Golf Ball
- 1R 11-2-47 Dark Passage  
 11-9-47 Jack Tricked into Dinner Invitation at the Ronald Colmans  
 11-16-47 Jack Takes Drivers License Exam
- 2R 11-23-47 Jack and Mary Go Shopping for a Turkey  
 11-30-47 Jack Dreams he's on Trial for Killing the Turkey  
 12-7-47 Violin Lesson and Trip to Vault

REEL 5119 JACK BENNY PROGRAM

1800'

- 1L 12-14-47 Jack Recovering from Sprained Ankle  
 12-21-47 Jack and Mary do Some Last Minute Christmas Shopping  
 12-28-47 The New Tenant - Hello 1948; Guest, Alice Faye
- 2L 1-4-48 Jack Tries to Get Tickets to the Rose Bowl Game  
 1-11-48 Cast Prepares to Leave for Denver  
 1-18-48 From Denver. Guest, Gov. Lee Knous
- 1R 1-25-48 Cast Returning to Los Angeles by Train after March of Dimes Tour  
 2-1-48 Jack and Mary Attend Movie Premiere; Guests, the Ronald Colmans  
 2-8-48 Nightmare Alley
- 2R 2-15-48 Surprise Birthday Party for Jack, Who Turns 39  
 2-22-48 From Palm Springs. Jack Building a House  
 2-29-48 Gladys Comes to Rehearsal

REEL 5120 JACK BENNY PROGRAM

1800'

- 1L 3-7-48 Jack Announced as "The Walking Man"  
 3-14-48 Guests, Ralph Edwards and Walking Man Contest Winner  
 3-21-48 Jack Speaks to the Beavers Club on Thrift
- 2L 3-28-48 Stolen Oscar; Guests, the Ronald Colmans  
 4-4-48 Jack Tries to Borrow Oscar; Guests, Bing Crosby and the Ink Spots  
 4-11-48 From Palm Springs. Murder at the Racquet Club, part 1; Guests, Charles Farrell and Paul Lukas
- 1R 4-18-48 From Palm Springs. Murder at the Racquet Club, part 2; Guests, Charles Farrell, Frank Sinatra and Sam Goldwyn  
 4-25-48 Jack Dresses as Charley's Aunt; Guests, Ronald Colman and Dorothy Kirsten  
 5-2-48 Jack Tries to Borrow Oscar; Guest, Frank Sinatra
- 2R 5-9-48 Cast Rehearses at Jack's Home, Oscar Found; Guests, the Ronald Colmans  
 5-16-48 Robert Taylor Subs for Jack  
 5-23-48 Jack Returns, The Egg and I



# RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

CASSETTE LIBRARY #2  
C/O DAVE LOGAN

5557 S. SHERMAN CR #6  
LITTLETON, CO 80121

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  
cassette ordered. You are allowed to order 5 cassette sets at  
one time although you may have only 5 cassette sets  
outstanding at any time. Minimum Order is \$6.00

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## REMEMBER

**THIS FORM IS FOR CASSETTE REELS 500 UP**

# WILLIAM HERST

WHO WAS THE SPONSOR'S PRODUCER FOR  
LIPTON TEA  
AND WAS INVOLVED WITH INNER SANCTUM, VOX  
POP AND ARTHUR GODFREY  
7:31 PM SEPTEMBER 21 ST  
CHURCH OF THE MASTER  
5152 EAST 17TH AVE. DENVER, COLORADO  
CHECK FOR NEW BOOKS FOR SALE AT THE MEETING

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



BARRETT  
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PINE CO 80470

SEPTEMBER