

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. Cost of membership is \$20.00 for the first year with \$15.00 for annual renewal. Each member has full use of the Club resources. For further information contact anyone listed below.



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ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND INVITED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. The Sept. 5th meeting is at John Adams' home at 7:30 PM.



CLUB MEETINGS:

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 19TH AT THE CHURCH OF THE MASTER, LOCATED AT 17TH AVE AND FILBERT COURT. OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE DICK DEDRICK. DICK WILL TELL US ABOUT HIS CAREER IN RADIO AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION WORK. WE WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER FASCINATING SPEAKER.

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS FOR MIKE FIELDS: HE HAS MOVED TO TEXAS AND WE WISH HIM WELL IN HIS NEW VENTURE.

TAPES OF THE 1991 RHAC CONVENTION ARE NOW IN THE LIBRARIES. ORDER BY :
 #978 & #979

ELECTION of RHAC 1992 Officers WILL be held at OUR September 19th MEETING! BE THERE!

FROM THE KING'S ROOST

By Dick and Maleta King



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

We're back! 28 days with no old time radio sounds (or activity). Facing now a mountain of orders and returned tapes...hope to get all orders shipped by end of August...thanks for your patience.

No old time radio to be heard (at least when we checked the airwaves) in Canada or Alaska.

We plan to travel to both the Newark and SPERDVAC conventions. We, like you, lament the almost daily loss of those wonderful persons who

were radio actors. Old time radio conventions provide us the opportunity to meet those actors in person...and to thank them personally for all the many hours of entertainment they provided us in their day and, as importantly, NOW!

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BOOK NOTES

Within the last two years, two biographies have been published detailing the lives of two of radio's funniest antagonists, Jack Benny and Fred Allen. Of the two, Fred's biography is far and away the better written and researched, but both are musts for their fans.

FRED ALLEN, HIS LIFE AND WIT by Robert Taylor; *Little, Brown & Company*; 1989.

Fred was a much more complicated person than Jack and undoubtedly more creative. Author Taylor brings out the era in which Fred lived so the reader feels as if he were standing beside Fred as his life evolves. A wonderful picture is painted of life in the time in which Fred lived, helping the reader to realize the achievements, and advancements, Fred brought about in each medium in which he worked: Vaudeville, Theater, Radio, Film (not much here).

SUNDAY NIGHTS AT SEVEN by Joan Benny; *Warner Books, Inc.*; 1990.

Joan Benny's book on her father, Jack, is entertaining and an easy "read." It incorporates what she describes as Jack's "autobiography"; something she found in a shoebox on a shelf in Jack's home after the death of Jack and Mary. Incidentally, Mary does not come off well, as a person, wife, or mother.

The portion of the book which is attributed to Jack is interesting for what I believe it reveals...a not particularly literate man (as opposed to Fred); a genuine man with no pretensions; a man completely the opposite of the "character" he played; a man who enjoyed the talents of others and allowed them to be displayed (Dennis Day, Phil Harris, Mary, Mel Blanc) with no sign of jealousy. The book has very little depth dealing with either Jack (save perhaps as a father) or the era in which he lived.

Laughs MAKE A STAR OF PEARY

"You're a hard man, McGee," he said. And millions of people laughed. The laughs came loud and long, those laughs of the American radio audience, and they inspired a new program.

For Fibber McGee and Molly's "chum," Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve, has graduated to stardom, and a big-time radio program built around him (to be called "The Great Gildersleeve") goes on the air August 31, 1941 (NBC, 2:30 p.m.). It is believed to be the first time a character created on one radio program has been transplanted to become the star of another.

It's a success story about which everybody's happy. Fibber and Molly (Jim and Marian Jordan) were the first to offer congratulations. The day the news was public property the NBC parking lot attendant met us with, "Did you hear about Mr. Peary's new show? Isn't that great for him?"

We walked along NBC's humming corridors and heard a nameless radio actor say to a guide: "Hal Peary's made the grade. I knew he would."

Harold Peary is Gildersleeve's creator. We decided then and there to investigate him, to see what there was about him that had prompted a sponsor like Kraft to single him out. Above all, we wanted to find out for ourselves what there was about him that radiated such universal goodwill.

We nosed the old jalopy toward the Valley, to Encino, where the Peary's recently built a ranch home. Greeting us was a medium-tall fellow, rotund and jolly, with thick jet-black hair and a mustache and humorous brown eyes. It was Hal Peary and right away we knew what we had gone to find out.

Peary is pleased to heaven about his good fortune but he's taking it in his stride. There is nothing that is not solid and substantial about him. His voice is on the air but his feet are on the ground. Radio is his business--has been for 13 years.

It was 1928, Peary told us, that he first went into commercial radio. Previous to that time he was gaining his experience in stock as a singer and actor. His first rung of success was achieved when he became known as "The Spanish Serenader" over NBC in San Francisco.

Radio was young then. There was a shortage of radio actors, so young Hal Peary volunteered to fill in gaps. He clicked and achieved wide popularity among Pacific Coast listeners. His first program with name recognition was the "Spotlight Review" in which he and Charlie Marshall, cowboy singer, presented "Mr. Marshall and Mr. Peary."

From San Francisco to Chicago and back to Los Angeles went Peary, finger-printing every type of radio program conceivable. He is a natural dialectician and that ability, plus the flexibility of his voice, has made him in demand for a wide diversity of roles. Often he played as many as four or five (once it was eight) different characters in one show.

"I was a radio utility man," he laughed. We think no more literal description could be made. One of the few radio actors of Portuguese descent, he speaks both Portuguese and Spanish fluently. The Americanese dialect of other languages need only be heard once by him and he can reproduce them, like a musician who plays by ear.

If someone is in need of an actor for any kind of a man's voice, he need only call Peary, who can play them all--and their sons, too. Once in Chicago, he was lightly known as the "man who carries colored pencils." Having to keep up with himself as

four different people, he had devised the scheme of marking each role on the script with a different colored pencil--red for the Chinese cook, blue for the Cockney bar-keeper, green for a Mexican peddler and black for a "heavy."

Peary, himself, finds it difficult to remember all the different types of characters he's played, but it was as "Gildersleeve" the great big guy with the booming voice and the distinctive, heavy laugh that he reached the peak of interpretation.

"Gildersleeve" was born in the mind of Harold Peary in 1937. The actor had migrated to Chicago for big-time radio. The West Coast, particularly Los Angeles, had yet to achieve its present recognition as a broadcasting center. Most transcontinental shows were still emanating from New York or Chicago. In Chicago Peary had taken part in numerous big shows, such as "Flying Time" and "Madame Courageous." Then he joined up with Fibber McGee and Molly, a funny, homespun production beginning to make its big impression on radio audiences.

Peary was playing different parts on the McGee show when one of them struck his fancy. He began thinking of it when he was having his morning coffee or waiting for his cues at rehearsals. Gag lines popped into his head and before he knew it he had visualized for himself, and the show, a new character, a big guy with big ideas and menacing undertones but a heart as simple and warm-hearted as Fibber himself--a perfect sparring partner for the star.

He presented his idea to Writer Don Quinn. Quinn incorporated lines into the script for the new regular character, after tacking on to it the most humorously pompous name he could make up, and Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve made his debut to the airwaves. He was an instantaneous hit, proof of the pudding being that little boys began mimicking the famous laugh.

The Fibber McGee and Molly show moved to Los Angeles a short time later, and Peary returned to California with it. It was quite apropos that Peary's chance came on the West Coast, for he is a Californian, born and bred. He was born thirty-five years ago in San Leandro and is descended from a pioneer California family, holders of a great Spanish land grant. Being in Encino, it is conveniently near NBC's Hollywood Radio City, and it provides an outlet for the love of the land that has been handed down to him for generations.

For the "stock" on his ranch he pointed with pride to "Ginger," a hybrid Springer and Cocker Spaniel, offspring of prize dogs belonging to the Jordans and Tuffy Goff (of "Lum and Abner"). "Ginger" had come bouncing in about that time followed by his mistress, who was carrying a plate of home-made cookies.

Mrs. Peary is dark and pretty and vivacious. They met in Arizona when Peary was just starting out in stock. She was formerly Betty Jourdain, a dancer. They have been married now twelve years.

Peary has two hobbies: Handball and collecting crime photographs. Why the latter, no one knows. However, they're being a bit neglected right now. He's too busy getting things lined up for his new program. He's going about it in that characteristic businesslike fashion, helping Producer Cecil Underwood (who's going to divide his time between the new show and Fibber McGee and Molly) and Writer Len Levinson.

The one thought uppermost on Harold Peary's mind at the moment is for the success of "The Great Gildersleeve"--the radio show the laughs of the nation built.



16th Annual Friends of Old Time Radio Convention

GUNSMOKE

Oct. 24-26, 1991 Holiday Inn North · Newark, NJ

Guests

Special Convention Guests who have given definite or tentative acceptance of our invitations:

West Coast Guests

John Archer - FBI in Peace and War
Parley Baer - Gunsmoke
Harry Bartell - Gunsmoke, Charlotte Greenwood
Lillian Buyeff - Gunsmoke, Suspense
Sam Edwards - Meet Corliss Archer, Gunsmoke
Herb Ellis - Gunsmoke
Ray Erlenborn - (sound effects artist)
Ray Kemper - (Sound effects) Gunsmoke, Straight Arrow
Tyler McVey - Gene Autry, One Man's Family
Shirley Mitchell - The Great Gildersleeve
George Petrie - The Falcon, Charlie Wild
Willard Waterman - The Great Gildersleeve

New East Coast Guests

Bob Bell - (Prod./Dir) Decision Now (Am. Legion)
Vivian Block - Let's Pretend, Wilderness Road
Eddie Bracken - Aldrich Family; Eddie Bracken Show
Oscar Brand - Folk music artist; 50 years on radio

Returnees

Arthur Anderson - Let's Pretend
George Ansbro - (Announcer) Ethel and Albert
Barney Beck - (Sound effects artist) Nick Carter, The Shadow
Jackson Beck - (Announcer) Superman
Lon Clark - Nick Carter
Bob Dryden - Superman, Big Town
Louise Erickson - Great Gildersleeve, A Date with Judy
Lucille Fletcher - (Writer) Sorry, Wrong Number

Earl George - Captain Midnight, Ma Perkins
Raymond Edward Johnson - Inner Sanctum
Peg Lynch - Ethel and Albert
Gil Mack - Chick Carter, The Thin Man
Ted Mallie - (Announcer) Many Mutual shows
Charlotte Manson - Nick Carter
Stella Reynolds - (writer) John's Other Wife, Aunt Jenny
Adele Ronson - Buck Rogers, John's Other Wife
Terry Ross - Sound effects artist
Sidney Slon - (Producer, director, writer)
Ezra Stone - The Aldrich Family
Arthur Tracy - The Street Singer
Florence Williams - Front Page Farrell
Betty Wragge - Pepper Young's Family

Hotel: \$60.00 for a single, \$65.00 for a double. Reserve rooms with me when you send in convention registration. Pay for rooms upon arrival. Rooms should be reserved by October 5th. Give me details such as names, nights, etc.

Ads: Ads may be placed in our program book. See attached notice. This will be a special, enlarged, 16th anniversary book

Registration

Advance dinner reservations **must** be made. Reservations are limited (Friday 300; Saturday 400). Make checks out to FOTR or Jay Hickerson

Mail to Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514. (203) 248-2887

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 962 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	7-12-59	Eye-Witness	
	7-19-59	Occurance At Owl Creek Bridge	
2L	7-26-59	Night Man	
	8-2-59	Red Cloud Mesa	
1R	8-30-59	A Matter Of Execution	
	3-20-60	Talk About Caruso	
2R	3-27-90	A Coffin For Mr. Cash	
	4-3-60	A Shipment Of Mute Fate	
 <u>TAPE 963 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	4-10-60	Two Horse Parley	
	4-24-60	One More Shot	
2L	5-8-60	The Legend Of Robbie	
	5-29-60	The Perfect Plan	
1R	6-5-60	Two Came Back	
	6-26-60	Daisy Chain	
2R	7-31-60	End Game	
	8-21-60	Truck Stop	
 <u>TAPE 964 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	10-2-60	Ivy Is A Lovely Name For A Girl	
	11-6-60	The Green Loralie	
2L	6-25-61	Call Me A Half Past	
	7-2-61	Night Of The Storm	
1R	7-16-61	The Man Who Knew How To Hate	
	7-30-61	You Can Die Laughing	
2R	8-6-61	Bells	
	8-20-61	Murder Is A Matter Of Opinion	
 <u>TAPE 965 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	8-27-61	Sold To Satan	
	9-3-61	The Juvenile Rebellion	
2L	9-17-61	The Green Idol	
	9-24-61	The Man In The Fog	
1R	10-8-61	Dreams	
	10-15-61	Seeds Of Disaster	
2R	11-12-61	The Imposters	
	11-19-61	The Black Door	

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>TAPE 966 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	11-26-61	Man Trap	
	12-3-61	The Luck Of The Tiger Eye	
2L	1-7-62	Break-Through	
	2-4-62	Friday	
1R	2-11-62	The Man Who Went Back To Save Lincoln	
	4-29-62	Blackbeard's Ace	
2R	5-20-62	Dagger Of The Mind	
	5-27-62	That Real Crazy Infinity	
<u>TAPE 967 SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	6-10-62	Formula For Death	
	7-1-62	Black Death	
2L	7-8-62	The Sin Eater	
	7-22-62	The Next Murder	
1R	7-29-62	Weekend At Gleebees	
	8-19-62	Pages From A Diary	
2R	9-16-62	The Golden Years	
	9-30-62	Devilstone (Last SUSPENSE Show)	
<u>TAPE 968 JOHNNY DOLLAR/SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	11-8-59	JD: The Larson Arson Matter	
	11-8-59	SP: The Last Trip	
2L	11-15-59	JD: The Bayou Body Matter	
	11-15-59	SP: The Companion	
1R	11-22-59	JD: The Fancy Bridgework Matter	
	11-22-59	SP: The Thimble	
2R	12-13-59	JD: The Sudden Wealth Matter	
	12-13-59	SP: The Country Of The Blind	
<u>TAPE 969 JOHNNY DOLLAR/SUSPENSE (C)</u>			1200'
1L	12-20-59	JD: The Red Mystery Matter	
	12-20-59	SP: A Korean Christmas Carol	
2L	12-27-59	JD: The Burning Desire Matter	
	12-27-59	SP: Moonlight Sail	
1R	1-3-60	JD: The Hapless Ham Matter	
	1-3-60	SP: Zero Hour	
2R	1-10-60	JD: The Unholy Two Matter	
	1-10-60	SP: The Long Night	



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

**CASSETTE LIBRARY #3
C/O MIKA RHODEN
3950 W. DARTMOUTH AVE.
DENVER, CO. 80236**

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

<u>Cassette number</u>	<u>Title</u>
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____

Alternates:

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

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Name Date

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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 5001 UP

BARRETT E BENSON
P O BOX 507
PINE CO 80470

01-01-1992



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

DICK DEDRICK
WILL BE OUR
GUEST SPEAKER THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 7:30 PM AT THE
CHURCH OF THE MASTER
17TH AVE AND FILBERT COURT