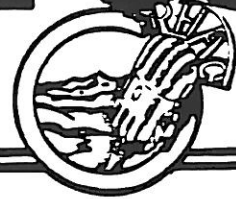


RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado, Inc.

NOW...



Volume 18 Number 3

October 1992

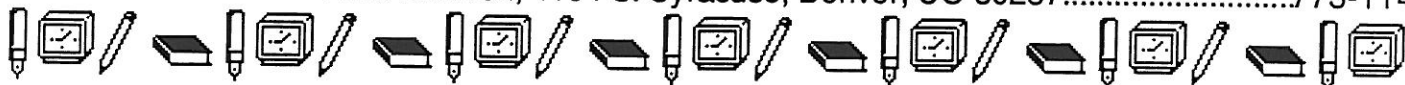


RETURN WITH US NOW... is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc., a non-profit organization. Cost of membership is \$20.00 for the first year with \$15.00 for annual renewal. Each member has full use of the Club resources. For further information contact anyone listed below.



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THERE WILL BE A BOARD MEETING IN OCTOBER! NEXT BOARD MEETING OCT. 1ST, 1992.
ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AND INVITED TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING. The October 1st meeting is at the home of John Adams at 7:30 P.M.



THE OCTOBER 1992 R.H.A.C. MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 15TH, 7:30 PM, AT THE CHURCH OF MASTER, LOCATED AT 17TH AVENUE AND FILBERT COURT.

The results of the September election are shown above.

WANT AD: 16" Transcriptions of dance bands! Buy, sell or trade! Also want any copies of "Night Editor". Send your list or phone Bob Loudon, 2574 Britannia Pl, Eugene OR 97405 (503) 484-1506

Dick DeFore is traveling all the way from Pueblo, Colorado to speak to R.H.A.C. at our October 15th meeting. This promises to be a real treat for us! Dick has a wide and varied background and is still very active in radio. Working first in radio as a teenager in the 1950's, Dick DeFore has worked in every job category one might imagine at these stations and locations:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| W R E X, Duluth MN | W C B L (now KUNC), Greeley CO |
| W J M C, Rice Lake WI | K S S U, Superior WI |
| W K L K, Cloquet MN | K A Y K, Pueblo CO |
| W V S H, Huntington IN | |

Currently, Dick DeFore is Producer/Host of "Clubroom" segment of WAXWORKS, a weekly 3-hour nostalgia radio show, nationally syndicated.

Join us in welcoming this capable, versatile and active radio personality!



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

FROM THE KING'S ROOST

By Dick and Maleta King

Summer is now history and we have had snow in the Colorado high country. It is now too late in the year to do all of those things that you had planned to do this summer. So, don't worry about it, just get started on the winter jobs you had in mind. It may well be a long winter, which is a great time to listen to Old Time Radio shows and do inside chores that have been put aside.

The great blue herons left the Denver area in early August, headed for their winter grounds. Now the Canadian geese are honking noisily as they head in toward local grain fields to get charged up before the next lap south. Many Canadian geese enjoy Denver's mild climate and choose to spend the winter grazing Denver's city parks and golf courses. Many golfers, and others, make unkind comments about the calling cards the geese leave behind on the lawns. We have seen fresh signs of beaver cutting saplings in preparation for their winter. So, we must take heed of their warnings and be sure our tape players are in good condition for a long season of use.

We have been listening to Whitehall 1212 shows that are going into the library for October. We do not remember any of them. But we could only listen to one station at a time during those years. We don't even know if the show was aired in this area. Whitehall 1212 is really a very interesting series and is presented in a very calm and factual manner; it's not presented to glorify criminal activities and tries to express a little sympathy for the victims.

The Kings plan to fly to Newark for the "Friends of Old Time Radio" convention October 22 thru 24th. Flying will permit us to return early enough to get caught up with things before we leave for California and the "SPERDVAC" convention November 20 thru 22nd. We have heard from several Colorado members who plan to attend "SPERDVAC" but we have not heard from anyone else planning to attend in Newark.

An interesting statistic has come to our attention: RHAC now has members in forty states and five Canadian provinces. We knew we had a wide membership but didn't know this before. Which reminds me, members who need a new updated catalog may obtain one by sending \$15. to the "RHAC Catalog", P.O.Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150.

Our October speaker will be Dick DeFore, an enterprising entrepreneur in radio who now lives in Pueblo, Colorado and is still giving pleasure to listeners around the country. Dick grew up during the era in which "home" transmitting was not frowned upon, and young people could use their imaginations to be creative.

CONVENTION NEWS!

The "Friends of Old Time Radio" convention, October 22, 23, 24. Newark NJ. Featuring "Dragnet" and "Inner Sanctum" and many other events. Contact Jay Hickerson, PO Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514. (203)248-2887.

"SPERDVAC" convention, November 20, 21, 22. Los Angeles, CA. Featuring Jack Webb and "Dragnet" and many other activities. See application on page 9 of this newsletter.

MORGAN THE MALEFICENT

When Henry Morgan, of WOR's slap-happy program, announced to his radio audience that he would no longer permitted to give out his customary weather forecasts, it marked the first time in his turbulent career that he had ever been forced to throw in the sponge to authority. It took Adm. Adolphus Andrews, commandant of the Third Naval District, to gag Morgan. Until then, no one had been able to do it.

For nearly two years now, Morgan has poked unrestrained gibes at his listeners, his competitors, his sponsors, the products they advertise, and the big-wigs of radio--his own bosses of the Mutual System receiving an ample portion of his insults. The ether waves have seldom heard anything like the voice of this brash young man.

His fifteen minute program, beginning at 6:45 P. M., Eastern War Time, is an outlandish potpourri zany mockery, whimsy and unveiled barbs. Morgan goes on alone, but being an accomplished dialectician, he is able to play many roles with startling reality.

Sponsors are sometimes warned that their commercials are coming and that they should cover their ears. The agency handling Adler shoes delivers to Morgan each day a carefully conceived script which has been submitted beforehand to advertising experts for their opinion. Then they tune in and listen fearfully for the commercial to come over the air. Sometimes it doesn't come over at all. More than once, radio's bad boy has audibly torn up the script before the microphone and substituted his own screwball version of a sales talk. He tells his listeners he doesn't want to bore them with the drivel he's been given to read. Sometimes he doesn't mention the product at all, preferring to sulk. At other times he may devote more than half the allotted fifteen minutes to his commercials.

Rule No. 1 for radio performers is: "Don't kid the product. You can kid the announcer making the commercial, but not the product." Morgan not only kids the product, he openly abuses it.

It's the claim of the Adler Shoe Company that their Elevator shoe for small men "makes you two inches taller the instant you put them on."

"Their claim is correct," Morgan said. "You can be two inches taller the instant you put the on if you're able to stand up in them." Then followed a lengthy discussion of what would happen to a man's trousers with the additional two inches. Would they stretch too? "What about it, Adler?" Morgan wanted to know.

Old Man Adler, as Morgan calls Mr. Jesse Adler, the president of the company, cares little of what is said of himself or the shoes, as long as sales increase. Not always, however, has Morgan encountered such serenity among his sponsors.

Once a candy manufacturer listened to his broadcast and canceled Morgan the following morning.

"He would have done it that night," says Morgan cheerfully, "but the sales department was closed and he had to wait until nine A. M."

A cancellation fails to perturb the uninhibited Morgan. He is apt to put what he considers the unfairness of it before his audience and invite public discussion. A sponsor once decided he was too flippant, that he lacked the dignity the product required. That night Morgan gave a detailed and sarcastic account of the objections to his listeners. The executives of WOR immediately cabled him on the carpet. Unperturbed, the following night Morgan related the conversation verbatim between himself and his bosses. Once more he got the "tut-tut" from WOR, this time with a more severe wag of the finger. Instead of be chastened, the unharnessed problem boy used the warning as fodder for the next night's program. Again he told his audience what had happened, and with a what's-the-use-any-more attitude he auctioned off the station. He got \$23.56 for WOR, and his boss, the manager, went to Columbia for thirteen and a half cents. Realizing they had a tiger by the tail, the radio executives decided not to pursue the matter further.

Morgan traces his chronic combative manner to an unpleasant childhood. He recalls his early days with some bitterness, admitting that he was extremely unpopular with his playmates. Born Henry Van Ost twenty-seven years ago, he was reared in the Bronx and attended the public schools of that borough. His father was the proprietor of a small grocery store and the family income was so meager young Henry left school and got his first job when he was sixteen--as page-boy at WMCA for eight dollars a week. Bright and aggressive, Henry plagued his employers for a chance to become a staff announcer. He won a vocal competition, and a year later he was making eighteen dollars a week as the youngest announcer in radio. Jobs with various stations followed. He went to Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Duluth and Boston. In Boston he found time to take a few courses at Suffolk Law School, but before completing them he was back in New York, this time as a staff announcer at WOR. It had been a tough school, this knocking around like a theatrical trooper, working at odd hours, staying with the microphone indoors and out, and playing bit parts in radio shows. The experience added sharpness to his already keen wit. It became apparent when Morgan was put on "remotes" that he was no ordinary announcer. A "remote," to the trade, is a distant and obscure locality from which a broadcast originates, generally at an hour when nobody cares. Often the

spot is a roadhouse, far from the city, employing a third-rate band. The hour is late.

Morgan, consumed by ennui at the unfriendly hours, the drab joints and the difficulty of transportation, began interjecting a few wise cracks into his announcements--more to brighten himself up than for any other reason. The patrons liked it and the young man took more liberties.

Right away he was in hot water with WOR. The station's first complaint was caused by what he said one night in a tavern, a spot somewhere in New Jersey. The tavern's slogan was: "Forty-five minutes from Broadway." According to Morgan's reckoning, it took a great deal more than that to get to the tavern--he had made the trip several times by bus.

"Just forty-five minutes from Broadway," said our hero, as the proprietor looked on, beaming. Then he added, "if you use a fast motorcycle with a triple overdrive."

That crack was really the start of Morgan's career. He persuaded WOR to give him a spot on the air, so that he could let off steam. They let him have fifteen minutes Saturday mornings at ten-thirty, with no increase in salary. He was to keep on with his regular duties as staff announcer.

Those fifteen minutes were easy for Morgan. He rambled on as he does today, inanely chattering on any subject that popped into his head. Not having a commercial to kick around, he seemed less insolent. It was such a soft touch, the ambitious young man asked for three spots a week. His spiel had developed a small following and the station agreed to let him have his head. He could go on at 9:30 A. M. thrice weekly. Morgan instantly rebelled at the absurd suggestion. "A ridiculous hour. I don't rise until after nine-thirty," he told the boss. A compromise was reached and he was allowed three programs a week at 6:45, alternating with Superman. It wasn't long before Morgan had crowded the comic-strip character into another hour. He now had six nights a week to himself. At quarter past seven he went on again, rebroadcasting his monologue over the Mutual network, minus the commercials.

These days he appears Mondays through Fridays, he doesn't have to rebroadcast and he's on vacation the entire month of August. He employs a writer to help him with suggestions, although the stuff is 90 per cent Morgan's. He makes between \$250 and \$400 a week, depending in the number of sponsors who purchase the one-minute announcements. The limit is three, at Morgan's insistence.

There is a fast growing cult of Morganmaniacs, currently numbered at about half a million, who follow the colorful comedian with the passion of a Brooklyn ball fan. He has a strong appeal to highbrows, professional comedians, writers and people of the radio world. His fanatics include Robert Benchley, Ben Hecht, James Thurber, Fannie Brice, Carl Van Doren, Will Cuppy, and Cooper Goldsmith, creator of Henry Aldrich.

Not everybody who hears Morgan falls off the chair in a paroxysm of laughter. There are those--and their number is legion--who cannot stand him. To them Morgan is a smart aleck whose malevolent humor is antagonistic, whose whimsy is asinine. People do or don't on Morgan. Nevertheless, his rating increases with each survey.

His fan mail of 200 weekly letters is as bizarre as the young master himself. One read, "You will doubtless be flattered to learn that your program is extremely popular at the above address, which happens to be an insane asylum. I am an employee and not, therefore, quite as enthusiastic about you as the inmates."

Another letter Morgan cherishes is an epistle from the New York School for the Deaf.

Opposing Morgan nightly at the same hour are Lowell Thomas, the news commentator, and sports announcer Bill Stern. Morgan ranks between the two in number of listeners, Lowell Thomas being far and away in the lead. The fact creates no joy in Morgan's heart. One time after laying a particularly large egg before the mike, he said, "All right. You can't be funny every night. If you don't like me you can tune in to Lowell Thomas on WJZ right now." Only what Morgan considers a silly rule has prevented him from bringing along a portable radio and tuning in on the commentator for his own audience.

Sensitive in the extreme, and vain, Morgan cannot stand having his leg pulled by anyone. The master kidder doesn't like it when the tables are turned. "I can dish it out, but I can't take it," he says with rare honesty.

His vanity concerns his person, rather than his achievements. A natty dresser, the six-foot comic is unduly conscious of his appearance. Not long ago he had his face remodeled, a face that was by no means unseemly. Yet Morgan thought so--enough to storm the publicity department of WOR and destroy all the photographs he could get that dated before the nose bobbing.

Morgan gets up around noon, telephones his writer and discusses the topic and gags for the evening's program. At four-thirty he sits down before his typewriter and turns out a couple of pages of notes which are the basis of his broadcast. The program is entirely unrehearsed and a good part of it is ad-lib. Morgan will not permit an audience while he broadcasts. The only person who sees him at work is Samuel F. B. Morse, a studio engineer and descendant of the inventor of telegraphy. Morgan plays to him. When Morse laughs at his stuff, Morgan is apt to break down with him. When Morse is unresponsive, Morgan knows he's laying eggs. Once or twice during the fifteen minutes Morgan breaks up his

monologue by having a phonograph record played. The selection has no bearing on the evening's theme. He once played three records simultaneously from the movie, Kiss the Boys Good-bye, because Paramount had sent him the records, asking for a plug, but not giving him any tickets for the show. Morse sometimes puts on a disk Morgan has never heard before. One time a record was playing:

*Let's have that kiss again,
We mustn't miss again.*

Morgan abruptly stopped the music and cried, "Miss again! What did they do--start at opposite ends of the room and run at each other?"

Not all of Morgan's comedy is that spontaneous. He is capable of offering, after an elaborate and rambling buildup, the most insufferable of puns. A typical example is Morgan's yarn about the Nigerian chief who wanted to trade his wife to another chief in exchange for goods and chattels. They agreed to meet on the left bank of the river at an appointed time to close the deal, but the first chief showed up on the other side of the river. At this point comes the punch line when Morgan exults, "He didn't know which side his bride was bartered on."

Morgan takes full advantage of the leniency Mutual permits. His most recent eyebrow lifter was a monologue on the chain's loss of The Lone Ranger to a rival network. He made gleeful comments on The Strange Disappearance of the Mutual Network, embossed his program with a flow of razor-edged remarks about his bosses and wound up saying that the manager might be "forced to wear fifty-nine-cent shirts again."

Morgan is still seething over the removal of his nonsensical weather forecasts, which used to end his programs. He considers it a vast injustice that he's no longer able to say such innocuous things as, "Squalls, followed by quickly changing mothers," or "Hailing fellows well met," or his fanciful "Snow, followed by little boys with sleds."

When the Navy clamped down, Morgan got around it for a while by hinting. He'd say, "They won't let me talk about the weather any more, but--well, listen carefully:

*"All darkies am aweepin',
Massa's in de M-M M-M ground."*

"Get it?" Morgan asked. They got it. So did the Navy, and told him, once and for all, there were to be no more weather forecasts. That stopped Morgan. But it took the Navy to do it.

The Saturday Evening Post, September 19, 1942



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

- ☀ Success is getting what you want.
Happiness is wanting what you get.
- 😊 Here is a good reason for not worrying.
You feel like a fool when things turn out all right!
- ♣ Poker is a game in which a good deal depends upon a good deal.
- 👤 Exercise is good for you, but so is laughter — and you don't have to see the doctor before you start!
- 🏖 A vacation is what you take when you can no longer take what you've been taking all along.
- 🌐 Some years ago, a returning astronaut told of this new restaurant on the moon. It had great food, but no atmosphere!

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

TAPE 1009 MISCELLANEOUS SHOWS 1200'

1L 7-3-49 THE GREEN LLAMA: The Last Dinosaur
 11-23-39 THE GREEN HORNET: The Smuggler Signs His Name

2L PHILO VANCE: The Argyle Murder Case
 PHILO VANCE: The Muddy Murder Case

1R 4-16-42 HERE'S MORGAN: Baseball Game
 5-7-42 HERE'S MORGAN: Take A Number
 5-19-42 HERE'S MORGAN: Leafing Through LOOK
 6-4-42 HERE'S MORGAN: Recipe For Success

2R 7-9-42 HERE'S MORGAN: Rumor Mongers
 7-28-42 HERE'S MORGAN: Class Program Tonight
 8-28-42 HERE'S MORGAN: Peter Donald Subs For Henry Morgan
 9-1-42 HERE'S MORGAN: Tonight's Guest Is Peter Donald

TAPE 1010 MISCELLANEOUS SHOWS 1200'

1L 2-26-47 HENRY MORGAN SHOW: The Invention Of Work
 5-28-47 HENRY MORGAN SHOW: Salute To The American Dentist

2L 2-11-41 LATITUDE ZERO: First Episode
 CHRISTOPHER LONDON: The Price Of Sugar

1R 3-26-50 PURSUIT OF PEACE: Document A-777

2R 4-19-51 GENERAL MacARTHUR SPEECH: Old Soldier's Never Die

TAPE 1011 CALLING ALL CARS 1200'

1L PGM 252: The Black Cat
 PGM 253: The Barking Dog

2L PGM 219: Case History Of Dallas Egan
 PGM 233: The Pattering Parrot

1R PGM 236: The Greasy Rail
 PGM 242: The Man Who Talked

2R PGM 243: A Murder Has Been Arranged
 PGM 244: Life, Liberty, And The Pursuit Of Parker

TAPE 1012 THEATRE FIVE 1200'

1L The Wrong Arm Of Justice
 The Arithmetic Of Honor

2L The Man Who Loved Jellyroll
 Captain Gamble's Uniform

1R Including Murder
 The Sacrifice

2R The Prodigal Son
 The Second Chance

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

TAPE 1013 THEATRE FIVE

1800'

- 1L Annie Is Watching/Land Of Milk And Honey
April Snowfall/Last Ride On The Mery-Go-Round
- 2L Just For Kicks/Broken Image
Publish Or Perish/The Janitor
- 1R Divorce, American Style/Any Port In A Storm
Across The River To Grandfather's House/If The Spirit Moves You
- 2R They Call Me Howie/Bad News For Mrs. Bristol
The Hazelton Story/A Very Private Phone Call

TAPE 1014 THEATRE FIVE

1800'

- 1L Incident At Simburundi/Country Boy
The Banana Ball/The Roper
- 2L The Pigeon/Goodbye, Matt
Ride With Death/You Can't Fight City Hall
- 1R Method In The Madness/Devotion
Jailbreak/Don't Hesitate To Call
- 2R A Matter Of Appearance/Ed's War
Casualty Of A Small War/The Marked Man

TAPE 1015 THEATRE FIVE

1800'

- 1L Discotheque/Blank Check
The Corporation/Don't Call Me, I'll Call You
- 2L The Delinquent/The Button Stealers
Across The River From Grandma's House/A Dream Of A Scheme
- 1R The Imposters/The First Weekend
Where Art Thou, Romeo?/Mr. Horn's Holiday
- 2R Tomorrow, 61212/The Hostage
I've Got Your Number/The Boy

TAPE 1016 THEATRE FIVE

1800'

- 1L He Was A Good Boy/Incident In Ceylon
You Gotta Cry Sometime/The Wonderful Stamps From El Dorado
- 2L Said The Spider/Poor Little Greek Girl
Greener Pastures/Lorna Is A Strange Child
- 1R The Beneficiary/Junior
Driver's Seat/Incident On U.S. 1
- 2R The Name Game/Reunion
The Ten Year Old Car/Nightmare At 26,000

SPERDVAC 1992 Old Time Radio Convention Registration Form

Name _____ [] Non-member [] Member # _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Day phone _____ Night phone _____
[] special diet _____

NOTE: If you wish to be seated with other guests, please send all reservations in together.

CONVENTION RATES:

1. Complete convention package (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) \$95.00 _____
 2. Friday dinner and program \$30.00 _____
 3. Saturday daytime activities (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) \$15.00 _____
 4. Saturday evening banquet and program \$35.00 _____
 5. Sunday brunch and program \$15.00 _____
- Total: _____

[] Check here if you worked in early radio.

Send checks or money orders, payable to SPERDVAC, to: SPERDVAC Convention, c/o Chester Allen, 13415 Egbert St., Sylmar, CA 91342. For additional details or to volunteer convention assistance, call Larry Gassman at (310) 947-9800.

Join us for the...

SPERDVAC 1992 OLD TIME RADIO CONVENTION

SPERDVAC's 1992 Old Time Radio Convention is set for November 20, 21 and 22. The convention site is the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, 5985 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. Friday. The dinner and the program begin at 7:30 p.m. The Collectors' Room will be in operation Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Our Saturday workshops and panel discussions run from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. There is no lunch planned as part of the convention package. However, we have allotted the 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. slot for lunch. Our Saturday evening banquet and show begin at 7:30 p.m. We plan to conclude the Friday and Saturday night presentations at about 10:30 p.m. Sunday's brunch and program will run from 9:00 until 11:30 a.m. (Check out time for hotel patrons is 12 noon.)

Scheduled activities include banquets on Friday and Saturday evenings. We will feature a re-creation of Ethel and Albert starring Peg Lynch and Parley Baer. Our salute to Dragnet and the radio work of Jack Webb will include Peggy Webber, Herb Ellis and Harry Bartell, all frequent performers on Dragnet, plus original sound effects expert Wayne Kenworthy.

During meals and presentations, SPERDVAC will observe the "First Nighter Policy"—smoking in the outer lobby only, *please!*

Admission to the complete convention is \$95. For the benefit of those unable to attend the entire weekend, we are offering rates for specific events, which are indicated on the registration form. Registration packets will be distributed at the door. Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt.

Dealers' tables will be available, for \$20 each for SPERDVAC members and \$30 each for non-members, to those who wish to sell radio-related items in our Collectors' Room Saturday. (Unauthorized sales of unlicensed radio broadcasts is prohibited.) Dealers wishing to attend events outside the Collectors' Room must register for those events. To reserve a table, contact Catherine Passarelli at 10615 Butterfield Road, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza has accommodations available for those who wish to stay overnight. The special SPERDVAC convention rate is \$73.13 per room per night, including 12.5% bed tax. To take advantage of these rates contact the hotel directly and specify you are attending the SPERDVAC convention. The hotel also offers a special \$5.50 per day parking rate for tickets validated by SPERDVAC. Campers, motor homes and trailers may park in the valet parking lot behind the hotel. Shuttle service from Los Angeles International Airport is available free by phoning the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza from the airport. Their number is (310) 642-7500. The hotel has a gift shop and a Budget Rent-a-Car counter in the lobby.

80470

BARRETT E BENSON
P O BOX 507
PINE CO

01/01/1993



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



DICK DEFORE
WILL BE OUR
GUEST SPEAKER THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 15TH, 7:30 PM AT THE
CHURCH OF THE MASTER
17TH AVE AND FILBERT COURT

