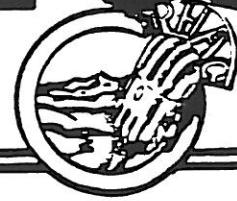


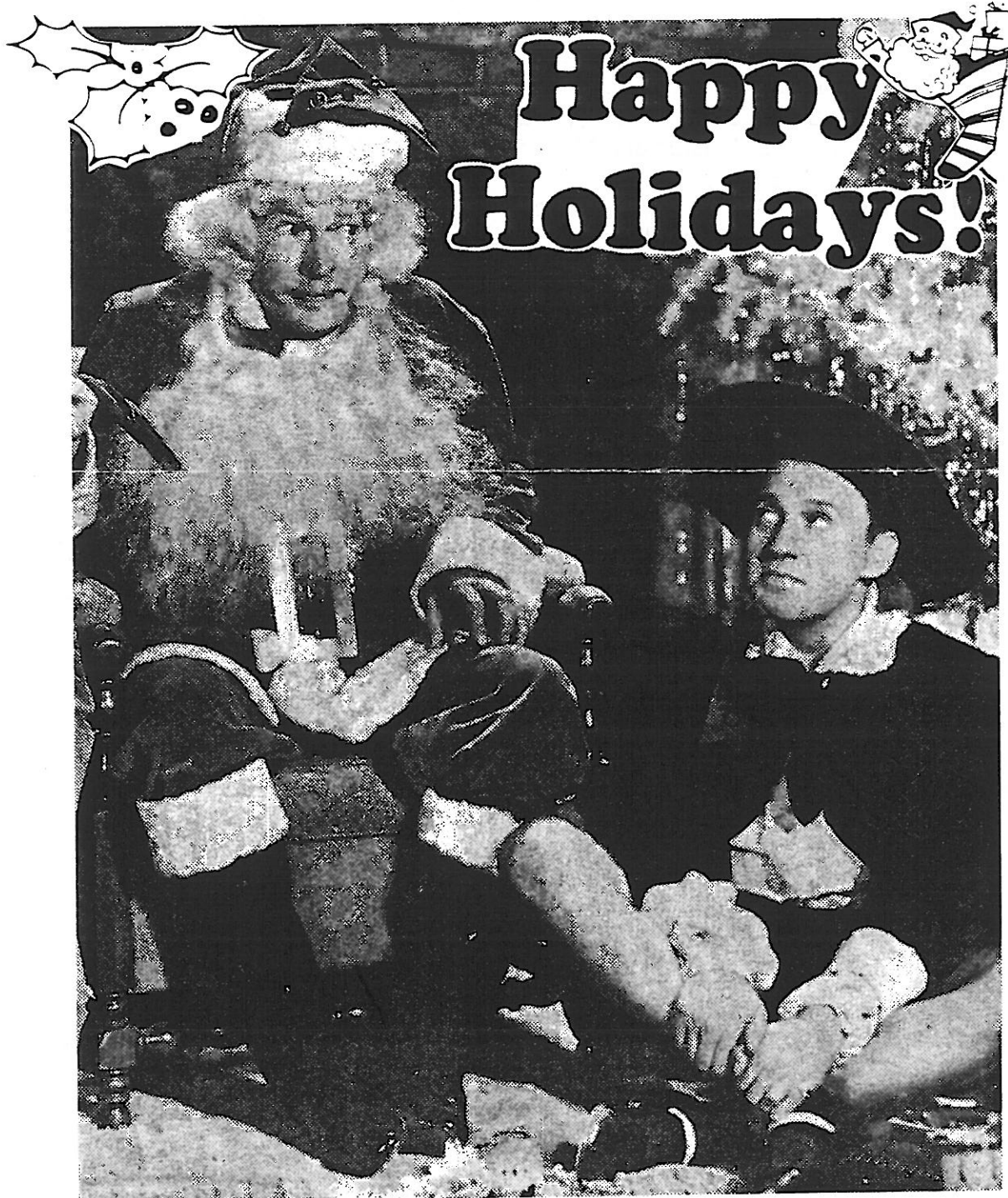
# RETURN WITH US NOW...

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado, Inc.



Volume 18 Number 5

December 1992







Radio Historical Association of Colorado

# FROM THE KING'S ROOST

By Dick and Malettha King

We had a very pleasant evening November 10th visiting with a very active group in Arvada that we did not know existed until they called us last year: Mile High Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War. Most people attended with their spouses, and although it was starting to snow outside, the atmosphere inside was very warm. We gave a presentation of Old Time Radio shows from the 40s era, including comedy

and adventure shows. The group seemed to enjoy it and answered with many smiles. We were sure we had brought back some pleasant memories to them. We have been American Legion members for years but had never before heard of this chapter.

In late Nov. & early Dec. we plan an extended trip through the Southwest and include the SPERDVAC convention, Nov. 20-22, in Los Angeles.

Next spring we plan to tour the Northwest and visit the Puget Sound Radio Enthusiasts in Seattle, Washington. We'll bring you updates later as these events unfold.

The reel-to-reel library is still a very active part of RHAC services! Even though all the same shows are available in the cassette libraries! We have heard comments in other clubs that they were considering dropping reel-to-reel in favor of cassettes ONLY. You can be certain that RHAC DOES NOT PLAN TO CHANGE FORMATS! RHAC will continue to maintain two libraries, reel-to-reel AND cassette, into the known future.

At the moment, the reel-to-reel library has 780 hours of shows checked out. The cassette libraries have an even larger number checked out. This is the purpose of RHAC! --- to circulate these shows and make them available for your pleasure.

**Some** members are returning library tapes wrapped securely with clear tape. Please, don't do this! The clear tape is very difficult to remove without damaging the box. It defeats the purpose of these specially designed boxes, which are intended to be reused many times in order to reduce rental costs and shipping costs. Here is the correct box-handling method:

The library shipping boxes are sent to members sealed with filament tape; this tape can be (and should be) pulled off to open the box without cutting the tape. When returning the tapes, this same box SHOULD BE SEALED ONLY WITH FILAMENT TAPE!

Thank you for your help.

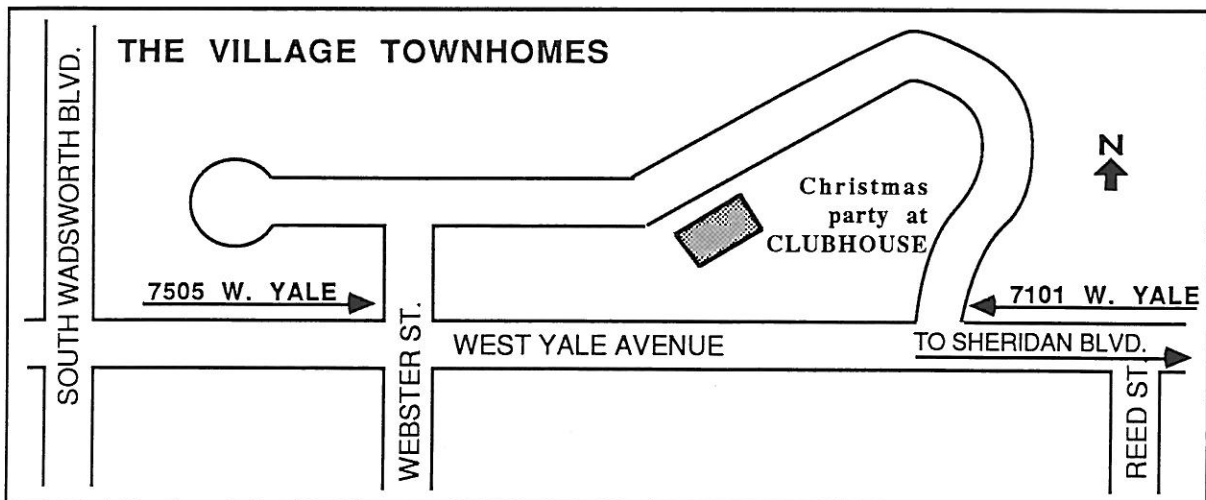
We hope to see a lot of you at the Christmas Party, December 12th.

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## R.H.A.C. is known far and wide...and it's about time YOU also know!

Following are the states of R.H.A.C. members followed by the number of members: (Total: 387)

AL 1	IL 10	ND 1	RI 1	Alberta 1
AR 2	IN 3	NE 3	SD 1	B.C. 1
AZ 2	KS 3	NH 1	TN 3	New Brunswick 1
CA 34	KY 1	NJ 7	TX 7	Ontario 2
CO 209	LA 2	NM 2	UT 2	Saskatchewan 1
CT 3	MA 4	NY 14	VA 5	
DC 2	MD 3	OH 7	WA 6	
FL 1	MI 4	OK 4	WI 6	
IA 1	MN 4	OR 11	WV 1	
ID 1	MO 1	PA 6	WY 2	



# RADIO'S OWN LIFE STORY

1933: Petting had become necking. The Century of Progress Fair opened in Chicago and Sally Rand and her fan dance became famous. Anthony Adverse was published, a record-setting 1224 pages that set the book business on its ear. The best selling non-fiction was Life Begins at Forty. Jigsaw puzzles became a craze. A new kind of publication, comic books, was invading the newsstands. On December 5th the Twenty-first Amendment repealed prohibition. In the movies, Mae West swiveled her hips, ogled a feature player, Cary Grant, and bit off the line that was to take the nation by storm. "Whyn't yuh cum-mup 'n' see me sometime, tall, dark 'n' handsome?" A chain letter fever broke out--a chance for those now really rocking under the depression to dream of money. Technocracy, another evidence of the same longing, filled the papers. There were 15,000,000 unemployed. More banks were closed.

The new president took over a terrified, collapsing country on the verge of panic. His inaugural speech went out went out over an international hook-up, and the nation steadied when it heard those words quoted so many times since, "All we have to fear is fear itself."

On March 12 there was something new in radio and in government. It was the first Fireside Chat. The president spoke clearly and simply about the bank "holiday" and told exactly how banks were going to be opened. The fourth Fireside Chat, on October 22, was a report of progress. There was a lot of it, the most important being emergency help for the farmer facing bankruptcy, and NRA with its clear permission to management and labor to bargain collectively.

All of this went out over the radio to the biggest listening audience in the history of broadcasting. (What is little realized is that President Roosevelt did not "take over" radio. President Hoover made ninety-five radio speeches during his term of office, only nine less than FDR made in his first term). However, radio took on new stature. Suddenly the government no longer seemed detached, walled away in distant Washington, unapproachable by the "forgotten man." With lightened hearts everybody spun the dial to new shows, and there were plenty of them.

There was the dazzling Kraft Music Hall, for instance, an hour long program featuring Paul Whiteman, Al Jolson, Helen Jepson and Lou Holtz. Through the years it was to present a stunning run of talent: The Pickens Sisters, Bing Crosby, Jimmy Dorsey's orchestra, Victor Borge, Oscar Levant among the many, not forgetting the ineffable Bob Burns who was one of its stars before he became its master of ceremonies in 1936.

Even more fantastic is the fact that Fred Waring had a hard time starting on the air, though by 1933 his Pennsylvanians were a wildly acclaimed dance band. They had been starred in "Syncopation," first musical film, with great success, but still nobody rushed to sign them for radio. Waring did thirty-two auditions trying to crash the air, and no takers. Finally, Old Gold decided to take a chance on his highly distinctive style ("Collegiate, collegiate, yes we are collegiate") and suddenly he was the rage of the year. People couldn't get enough of him on the air or in his many movie house dates. His boys jumped up and down, put on absurd hats, flashed signs, changed coats and in addition he had Rosemary, Lola and Priscilla Lane as vocalists. (Remember the girls who went to Hollywood to do "Three Daughters?")

In Chicago, Don Ameche was working up fast. He had studied law at Marquette, Georgetown and Wisconsin universities, but college dramatics took him into stock, a vaudeville tour with Texas Guinan and then radio. In 1933 he was the matinee idol of Chicago, playing in four daytime serials. (Including the trail-blazing Betty and Bob, which talked of divorce and another woman, and in which a child died. This changed the whole atmosphere of the daytime serial, and after that came office wives, mistaken identity, amnesia and many other plot devices which took these dramas out of the doldrums.)

Chicago was also enjoying the start of one of the oldest and most famous of the early morning shows, Don McNeill's Breakfast Club. There had been other programs designed to take the curse off waking up but this program became quickly irresistible because of its fascinating guests, from Blackstone the Magician to General Doolittle.

The National Barn Dance had been heard on Chicago's WLS since 1924 and this year it took to the NBC network with its happy jigs.

Late in the year a new voice was heard all over the nation. It was Walter Winchell, biting off at his inhuman speed, "Good-evening-Mr.-and-Mrs.-America-and-all-the-ships-at-sea-let's-go-to-PRESS!" and signing off with a typical Winchellian pun, "--with lotions of love," for Woodbury-Jergens.

His rise to fame is quite a story. He was born in a poor sector of New York in 1897. When he was 13, he went to work as a singing usher. Fellow warblers were Eddie Cantor and George Jessel. What a trio! It was not long before all three were signed for vaudeville by Gus Edwards, who picked Winchell as the most promising stage material of the three in their first tryout! Winchell's first coined word was "Newsense." He used it as title on a couple of typewritten pages of gossip that he pinned on the bulletin board of each

theater he played in when he returned to vaudeville after serving in the Navy in World War I. This led to his first column of Broadway gossip.

He made his first broadcast in 1930, but not until this year did he begin to intersperse opinions on national affairs with inconsequential exclusives about who was middle-aisling and who was expecting a bundle from Heaven. It is impossible to underestimate this man's impact on our current decade, though, like all forceful characters, his listeners are hotly divided for and against him. There are those who think he ought to be president. There is a much smaller group that disagrees with some emotion and makes an indoor sport of checking up on his "exclusives" that do not come off. What no one can fail to respect is his organization of the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund which has raised over three million dollars to date, every penny of which has gone to research, with not a dime spent for administration. A great achievement.

Jimmy Fidler, who rounds out the Sunday night trio of Winchell and Parsons in the immensely interesting gossip department, went on this year, too. He started as an actor after winning a screen test in a movie magazine contest. In 1920 he began writing for the Hollywood News, became a press agent and found his real vocation when pressed into service as a pinch-hitter on the old Hollywood on the Air series.

In the east, Jimmy Durante was grinding out "Inka Dinka Doo." George Givot, born in Russia and reared in Omaha, became the Greek Ambassador of Good Will and the proprietor of the "Acropolis Number Seven." Ken Murray made his first air appearance, later went to Hollywood and staged "The Blackouts" which led to his own TV show in 1949. Lily Ponds was heard in "Mignon" with the Metropolitan opera, and after that it seemed that she was always singing the "Bell Song" from "Lakme" somewhere on the air. Warden Lewis E. Lawes started his absorbing Twenty Thousand Years in Sing Sing which he continued until 1939. Dr. Fu Manchu began his derring-do adventures. Dr. William Lyon Phelps, known as "America's most beloved professor" after his many years at Yale, began a series of air lectures. The University of Chicago Round Table, on the air since 1931, took to the NBC network.

Until this year--1933--radio had depended on the press almost entirely for the gathering of news. There were few exceptions, the reports of Frederick William Wile and other Washington airmen, and some eye-witness accounts of sports events. For the main body of news the networks had an arrangement with the great wire services, AP, UP and INS, for use of their material, with the firm understanding that it was not to be broadcast until after the newspapers were out.

Independent stations didn't bother to buy these services, and the newspapers were setting up cries of "piracy!" This was a pretty accurate description, as a matter of fact. In 1932, the thing came to an open fight when someone made a mistake. The news that FDR was elected was broadcast as soon as the flash came over the wire-service tickers. By the time the newspapers were on the street the news was cold. The press was furious. The wire services clamped down and for a while there was practically no timely news on the air.

Then Paul White, news director of CBS, formed the first radio news bureau. With only ten full-time reporters he undertook to cover the whole world. The press snickered up its sleeve. It stopped laughing, however, when White signed up several hundred part-time reporters all over the country and began to give newspapers a run for their money. At NBC, A. A. Schecter, news director, was spending a fortune on long distance calls, but his staff was managing to get good hot news for Lowell Thomas's broadcasts which were becoming very popular. The fight came to an end in 1935 when press and radio worked out an agreement for interchange of facilities.

The public, however, was much more concerned with the lighter side--such as the happy comedy of Phil Baker, who had bought a second-hand accordion when he was ten, and began his career when he was fourteen. He ran away from home in New York and won first prize in an amateur contest in Boston. Fifty cents! He was on his way, to fortune! In 1917 he teamed in vaudeville with Ben Bernie, and went on to make the word "stooge" famous. Beetle (the man in the box) was Sid Silvers. Bottle was Henry P. McNaughton, now on the panel of It Pays to be Ignorant. In 1941, Baker thought up something that was to start a craze that is still roaring. It was Take It or Leave It, featuring the sixty-four dollar question.

In 1933, Jack Armstrong, "the all-American boy," began to have his adventures in such number that no one is surprised that he still has not graduated from Hudson High. The giveaway on this show was a fine thing called a Hikometer, and the commercial was deathless:

Won't you TRY Wheaties,  
The best breakfast food in the land?  
Once you TRY Wheaties  
You'll never use another brand.  
They're crispy and crunchy the whole year through,  
The kiddies never tire of them and neither will you--  
So won't you TRY Wheaties,  
The best breakfast food in the land!

"Call for Phillip Mor-ris" rang out for the first time this year. What few people know is that Johnny is a

real little guy, not a recording. His name is Johnny Roventini. He lives in Brooklyn with his mother and father, who are average size as are his sister and two brothers. Johnny is three feet, eleven, and weighs fifty-nine pounds. He was working as a real bell-hop in the Hotel New Yorker when Milton Biow, head of the agency that handles Phillip Morris advertising, noticed him and gave him an audition by asking to page a "friend." For the next five minutes little Johnny roved the hotel shouting "Call for Mr. Morris," and hitting that true B-Flat now so well known. That was the end of working for fifteen dollars a week and tips. He now has a lifetime contract that brings him twenty thousand dollars a year.

In November, seventeen years ago, a handsome new monthly took the stands, RADIO MIRROR. Its editor was Belle Landesman. Mary Margaret McBride, a newspaper woman who was to make a great success on the air in 1934, was a regular contributor. So was Jerry Wald, now a prominent Hollywood producer, Herbert Cruikshank, and Bill Vallee, Rudy's younger brother. RADIO MIRROR'S biggest feature story of that year was a series by Thomas Cowan, great announcer since the start of WJZ, who was writing his memories of the quaint old days of radio! Ah, there, Thomas!

RADIO & TV MIRROR, July, 1951

+++++

GEORGE: "I've never seen your hair so curly."

GRACIE: "It should be. I had two permanents."

GEORGE: "Why two?"

GRACIE: "When they finished the first, I was only half way through the magazine I was reading."

--CBS' Burns and Allen Show

# SANTA'S RECIPE *for a* MERRY CHRISTMAS

Good Friends and  
Good Food



TAPE 5228 WHITEHALL 1212 (Continued)

1800'

- 1R 4-13-52 #20 Case of the Fatal Baths  
 4-20-52 #21 Case of Mrs. Minerva Bannerman  
 4-27-52 #22 Case of Francesca Nicolson
- 2R 5-4-52 #23 Case of William George Greenlee  
 5-11-52 #24 Case of Margery Tate  
 5-18-52 #25 Case of Sidney Wolfe

TAPE 5229 WHITEHALL 1212

1800'

- 1L 5-25-52 #26 Case of Maggie Roulinson  
 6-1-52 #27 Murder of Winifred Hogg  
 6-8-52 #28 Case of Donald Patrick Paget
- 2L 6-15-52 #29 Case of the Homemade Handbag  
 6-22-52 #30 Murder of Mrs. Anne Battersby  
 6-29-52 #31 Case of Weed Eradication
- 1R 7-6-52 #32 Murder of Mr. Street  
 7-13-52 #33 Case of the Ambush  
 7-20-52 #34 Case of the Unidentified Woman
- 2R 7-27-52 #35 Case of the Magenta Blotting Pad  
 8-3-52 #36 Murder of Nora Brady  
 8-10-52 #37 Case of the Missing Clarinet

TAPE 5230 WHITEHALL 1212 / PRIVATE FILES OF REX SAUNDERS

1800'

- 1L 8-17-52 #38 WHITEHALL 1212: Murder of Capt. Dougall Henry  
 8-24-52 #39 W: Murder of Lady Madge Johnston  
 8-31-52 #40 W: Case of the Madden Family
- 2L 9-7-52 #41 W: Case of the Eaton Brothers  
 9-14-52 #42 W: Case of the Winchester Bottle  
 9-21-52 #43 W: Case of the Inoperative Wireless
- 1R 9-28-52 #44 W: Case of the Electric Torch  
 End of Series  
 5-2-51 #1 REX SAUNDERS: Lady with Hate in Her Heart *PH*  
 5-9-51 #2 RS: A Shocking Still Life *PH*
- 2R 5-16-51 #3 RS: Done to Death  
 5-23-51 #4 RS: Game with Death (rehearsal) *PH*  
 5-30-51 #5 RS: Shallow Graves

TAPE 5231 PRIVATE FILES OF REX SAUNDERS / THE SILENT MEN

1800'

1L 6-6-51 #6 REX SAUNDERS: The Plan in the Killer's Mind ✓  
 6-13-51 #7 RS: A Trip to the Death House  
 6-20-51 #8 RS: Murder Deep in a Killer's Mind

2L 6-27-51 #9 RS: Namely, Murder  
 7-4-51 #10 RS: Hidden Thoughts in a Feminine Mind, Concerned with Murder  
 7-11-51 #11 RS: Murder is Along as a Silent Companion

1R 7-18-51 #12 RS: Unto Death Do Us Part  
 7-25-51 #13 RS: Worth More than it's Weight in Murder ✓  
 8-1-51 #14 RS: The Human Game ✓

2R 10-14-51 THE SILENT MEN: The Big Sneak  
 10-21-51 TSM: The Empire of Pip the Blind  
 10-28-51 TSM: Case of the Rubber Gloves

TAPE 5232 THE SILENT MEN

1800'

1L 11-4-51	Death in the Mail	1R 12-16-51	The Bogus G.I.
11-11-51	The Trans-Atlantic Push	12-23-51	Souvenirs of War
11-18-51	Heroin Source X	1-6-52	Visas for Sale
2L 11-25-51	The Roping of Joe Landis	2R 1-13-52	Little White Lies
12-2-51	Death and Taxes	1-20-52	The Gigantic Hoax
12-9-51	Pirates, 20th Century Brand	2-3-52	The Big Kill

TAPE 5233 THE SILENT MEN

1800'

1L 2-10-52	Blood Money	1R 4-16-52	The Torch
2-17-52	Stolen Arsenal	4-23-52	Food and War
3-19-52	Confess or Die	5-7-52	Missing Masterpiece
2L 3-26-52	Murder in Vienna	2R 5-14-52	The Miracle Cure
4-2-52	Trouble at Suez	5-21-52	Sabotage
4-9-52	The University Fix	5-28-52	The Green Sedan

TAPE 5234 NOW HEAR THIS

1800'

1L 6-24-51	Fire at Sea	1R 8-5-51	Aleutian Islands Episode
7-1-51	Unification Plan	8-12-51	P. T. Boats
7-8-51	Operation Submarine	8-19-51	Fog Bound
2L 7-15-51	Hawaiian Rescue	2R 8-26-51	Seabees in Action
7-22-51	Marine Landing	9-2-51	The U.S.S. Philadelphia
7-29-51	Underwater Demolition Team	9-9-51	Ten Day Leave





# 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:

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.

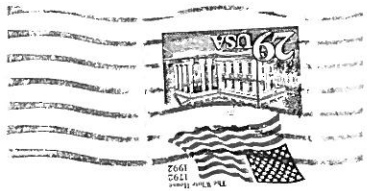
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**REMEMBER**  
**THIS FORM IS FOR CASSETTE REELS 5001 UP**

80470

BARRETT E BENSON  
P O BOX 507  
PINE CO

01/01/1993



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO, INC.  
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"On  
Earth  
peace  
among  
men..."



# R.H.A.C. CHRISTMAS PARTY

7101 W. YALE AVE., DENVER  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 1991

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS AND MAP  
**EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION!**  
**RE-CREATION OF ETHYL & ALBERT SHOW!**