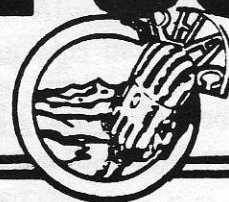


# RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado, Inc.

# NOW...



Volume 19 Number 11

June, 1994

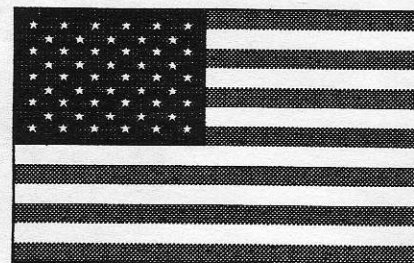
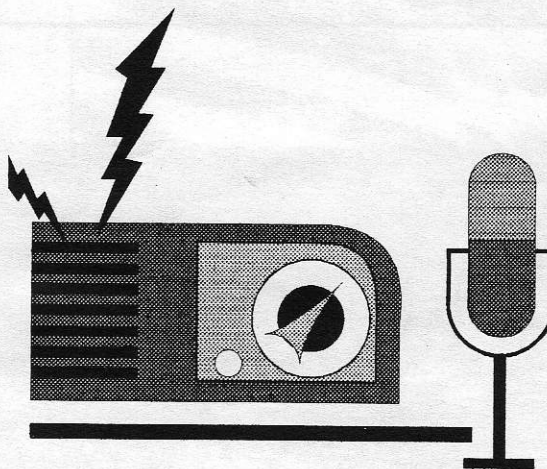




**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:** There will be **NO** board meeting in June, 1994.  
 ALL MEMBERS are welcome and invited to attend and participate at the Board of Directors Meeting.



There will be **NO MEETING on June 16, 1994!** 7:30 p.m. The Church of the Master at 17th Avenue & Filbert Court (Filbert Ct is between Forest & Fairfax Sts).

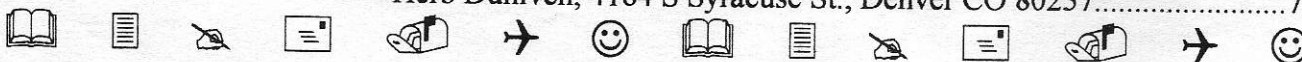


**RETURN WITH US NOW...** is the official publication of *The Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc.* a non-profit organization. Cost of membership is \$20.00 for the first year with \$15.00 for renewal. Each member has full use of the club resources. For further information contact anyone listed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



Phone numbers are in the (303) area code except where indicated.

- PRESIDENT.....Dick King, 900 W Quincy Ave., Englewood CO 80110.....761-4139
- VICE-PRESIDENT.....Guy Albright, 786 S Quitman St., Denver CO 80219.....934-0184
- SECRETARY.....Glenn Ritter, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150.....377-4798
- TREASURER.....Maletha King, 900 W Quincy Ave., Englewood CO 80110.....761-4139
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR...Glenn Ritter, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150.....377-4798
- R.H.A.C. HISTORIAN.....John Adams, 2811 S Valentia St., Denver CO 80231.....755-9185
- TAPE LIBRARIAN for OPEN REELS: Dick & Maletha King, 900 W Quincy, Englewood CO 80110.761-4139
- TAPE LIBRARIANS for CASSETTES:
  - #1 (1-599) Dan Decker, 10587 #G W Maplewood Dr, Littleton Co 80127.....933-4232
  - #2 (600 up) Dave Logan, 5557 S Sherman Cir., Littleton CO 80121.....730-1430
  - #3 (5001 up) Mika Rhoden, 3950 W Dartmouth Ave., Denver CO 80236.....937-9476
- DIRECTOR AT LARGE: David L Michael, 1640 Grant St., Denver CO 80203.....830-0075
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: David L Michael (see above).....830-0075
- TALKING NEWSLETTER: Mike Fields, 1207 Ruth, Longview TX 75601.....(903)758-6319
- REFERENCE MATERIAL: Bill McCracken, 7101 W Yale Ave.#503, Denver CO 80227.....986-9863
- MEMBERSHIP: Glenn Ritter, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150
- LOGS & SCRIPTS: Fred Hinz, P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150
- TAPE DONATIONS: Bill McCracken, 7101 W Yale Ave. #503, Denver CO 80227.....986-9863  
 Herb Duniven, 4184 S Syracuse St., Denver CO 80237.....773-1142



From the

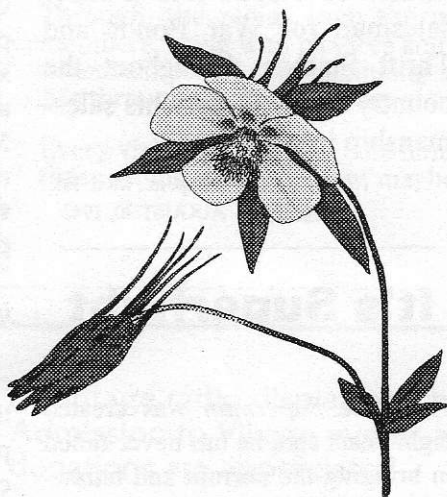
## King's Roost

Things around here have been very busy. Now we have still another major project started for R.H.A.C. We have been sorting a large collection of reel-to-reel tapes which came to us from the estate of one of our members. We find boxes and more boxes of air-checks that are not suitable for entry into our library. We also received a lot of tapes that have shows from other collectors and similar sources that will have to be sorted to be sure we do not already have them, and if not, make entry into our library. In some cases, air checks are the only source for some very good material. Still, we have to listen to each show to be sure it is suitable for the library.

We do know that we have a lot of tapes of local news broadcasts that are not old time radio. There is also a wide range of music: concert music, opera, western music and swing bands. These **tapes are being offered to our members for just the value of the tape** only. We are **NOT** selling the shows; we are just not bothering to erase what is on the tape. We do know that most of the tapes have not been played since they were originally recorded, thus they will be suitable for reuse.

We have a good supply of this tape in 1800 ft. and 2400

ft. lengths; there are also a few 3600 ft. reels. All these tapes are in boxes and the boxes are labeled. If you should want additional plain white empty boxes at .30/each we can supply them. **We ask that you make a contribution to R.H.A.C. of \$1 per reel of tape** for the number of reels you request. A little extra contribution would help with shipping costs; most particularly if you want the tape sent via mail or UPS you'll have to include



extra money. If you detail your specific preferences, we will pull them from the various boxes when we can!

After going through some of this collection, I am prompted to remind our members that the purpose of our libraries is to keep these shows alive, not buried in a basement. We certainly hope that you share your listening pleasure with your friends, family and neighbors and not let these works of the past die.

One of our members, Marilyn LaRonde, sent us a note that some Old Time Radio shows

are being aired in the Houston area on Saturday & Sunday after 9 p.m. Also from Chicago after midnight, but that does limit the listening audience staying up that late.

In Denver we are now receiving some OTR at 7 p.m., but all these shows are from an agent who has chopped out all of the original commercials and now sells them to the stations that are willing to pay his prices.

One of our members was late in returning his reels to the library and included his "extended use fee." That's a pleasant way to express the charge rather than to call it a fine.

R.H.A.C.'s May meeting featured Harry Bartell giving us some insight on his varied and interesting career in radio, TV & movies. The meeting was well attended and many members expressed their pleasure with the presentation.

Harry was interviewed by John Rayburn, who was well prepared and did an excellent job.

John Rayburn and his wife Carol are busy assembling and circulating their newsletter, *Thrilling Days of Yesteryear*. They put out six issues a year at a cost of \$15. They are now mailing to over half the states. Mailing address for subscriptions:

Old Time Radio, Inc.  
P.O.Box 36106  
Denver CO 80236

# Superman

Juvenile America's lusty demand for its hero on radio is answered! With a triumphant flourish Superman will return to the air, Monday, August 31, standing before the microphone on the firm foundation of a five-year Mutual Network contract! His appearance on the air is a combination of two things—the answer to thousands of children clamoring for their mythical idol and an astute recognition of a good radio show. However, the miracle man's identity, as well as the identity of his cast members must remain a mystery. Following the footsteps of the early "Lone Ranger", the actors will be anonymous.

After a scant three years in a newspaper comic strip and recent appearance in movie cartoons, "Superman" could win a kids' popularity contest hands down any time. He has acquired an unbelievable horde of enthusiastic followers in the South American countries, Canada, England, Australia. His readers are up in the top figures, 50,000,000 — yes fifty million is correct!

However, *Superman* of radio puts one over on *Superman* of the comic strips, whose absence from active war service was answered by his creators with the explanation that *Superman's* eyes saw through things, often proving a handicap as well as an asset.

Therefore, he was exempt from army duty.

Radio *Superman*, on the other hand, marks his air return by going to battle on every plane of the 44th Bombardment Squadron of the U. S. Air Corps, that is each carries his picture. His name is also loaned to the Superman Company of Company D, 4th Ordinance, Training Battalion, U. S. Army, an item to be featured on the radio program. *Superman* has further developed into a super salesman for War Bonds and Thrift Stamps throughout the country and will carry his salesmanship into radio.

5:15 p. m., Mon.-Fri.

RADIO LIFE, AUGUST 30, 1942

## It's Superfight

Since *Superman* was created eight years ago, he has never failed in bringing the corrupt and unlawful to a sometimes fearful justice. Children first and adults second gobbled up his adventures — in the papers, out of comic books, and on the air. Last week, *Superman* on the air (Mutual, Monday-Friday, 5:15-5:30 p. m., EST) set himself a real task. He took up the fight for racial and religious tolerance. Staged primarily for the children, *Superman's* fight will also include a punch or two for the 40 per cent of his audience that is grown up.

The first sequence involves *Superman* with a tough bunch of intolerants who gang up on an effort to establish an Inter-Faith Community House. For mortal assistance, *Superman* is supplied with a

Catholic priest of the Crosby-Father O'Malley type and a young Jewish rabbi, a former lightweight boxer at his seminary. If the first six weeks' sequence proves a happy combination of entertainment and enlightenment, *Superman* will take up juvenile delinquency and follow in the fall with a swat at school absenteeism.

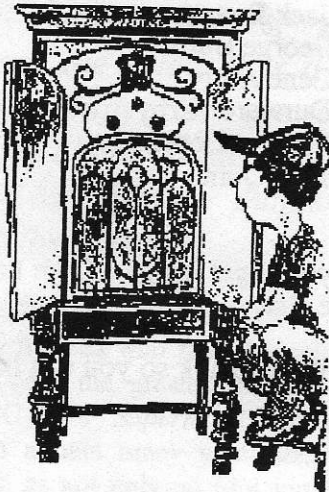
*Superman* is the first children's program to develop a social consciousness. To do it, Superman, Inc., the company that controls the Man of Tomorrow in all his media, had to sell the idea to Kellogg Co., sponsors, and Mutual—two perpetual worriers over the response of Southern and reactionary listeners. Currently Robert Maxwell, radio director of Superman, Inc., feels he has won a strong point. "Tolerance is rampant in Battle Creek," he says. "Every bit of pep in Rice Krispies is tolerant."

Even the handsome, slim, and extremely mortal Clayton Collyer, the radio actor-announcer who plays *Superman*, has taken up the cudgel. Although Collyer previously has jealously guarded his double identity, he is now thinking of making personal appearances at meetings held to fight intolerance. How this switch will affect women listeners who weekly flood *Superman* with mash notes is yet to be discovered. But both Collyer and Superman, Inc., are anticipating their greatest opposition from the same group that during the war sent them an average of 20 to 30 Nazi letters a week, always anonymously.

NEWSWEEK, April 29, 1946

# "The Magic Box"

(Do you remember Grandpa's radio?)



Lakewood's Historical Belmar Village and the Colorado Radio Collectors antique radio club present a history of the invention that brought the world into our living rooms - RADIO!

Through the radios from the private collections of the club members, along with pictures and documentation, you will be taken back to the very beginning of radio production in the early 20's through the golden years of the 40's and 50's.

Every visitor will want to take home the brochure that describes these radios, and you know, maybe Grandpa had one of them!

- **WHAT:** A Vintage radio display and history  
Admission to Village events are free,  
donations are appreciated
- **WHERE:** City of Lakewood's Historical Belmar Village  
Visitor Center - Follow the signs from the parking lot  
797 S. Wadsworth Bl. - corner Wadsworth and Ohio  
Lakewood CO 80226
- **WHEN:** The month of July 1994  
Monday through Saturday, 10:00AM - 4:00 PM
- **INFORMATION:** Belmar Historical Village - 303-987-7850  
Colorado Radio Collectors - 303-758-8382



# NEWSLETTER

*Thrilling Days of Yesteryear* delivers the goods!!!

This is a newsletter designed for the sole purpose of helping keep alive the great memories of the Golden Age of Radio. Articles and information about the stars and the shows perpetuate the recollections of a bygone era so they're equally great for those who remember and those who missed out on the memories.

With this presentation, you'll find the first page of the initial two issues. In addition to the great quotes from Himan Brown and Norman Corwin, two of the giants of the industry, there are stories and items in those issues about the following:

Morton Downey  
Fred Allen  
Peggy Lee  
Boswell Sisters  
Lum and Abner  
Jack Paar

Major Edward Bowes  
Charlie McCarthy  
Arthur Anderson  
Florence Williams  
Fibber McGee & Molly  
Clem McCarthy  
Stoopnagle & Budd and others.

Jack Benny  
George Burns  
Gene Autry  
Durward Kirby  
Vincent Lopez  
Don Quinn

Interviews with stars of the past are planned for every edition and you'll get insights from them about the delightful days of radio's past that are not available anywhere else.

The other side of this page contains more information and also an order blank so you can have the personal enjoyment provided by:

## *Thrilling Days of Yesteryear*

Subscribe now to:

*Thrilling Days of Yesteryear*

One year (6 issues)...\$15.00

Make your check payable to:

Carol T. Rayburn  
P. O. Box 36106  
Denver, CO 80236

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please type or print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Please have my subscription start with the issue checked.

January/February, 1994 \_\_\_\_\_  
(So I won't miss an issue)

March/April, 1994 \_\_\_\_\_

May/June, 1994 \_\_\_\_\_

## What You Don't Know About "Superman"

*To the youngsters, "Superman" is one of the favorite TV characters. But to George Reeves, who plays the role, it is a responsibility. Here are some facts about "Superman" — and Mr. Reeves — published for the first time.*

GEORGE REEVES is that sterling he-man who flies through the air with the greatest of ease on ABC TV's "Superman," but he is also a man many youngsters regard as not only an idol but as a friend.

Few people know of George's work in behalf of underprivileged youth, for example, and yet he has quietly gone about doing great work for some Spanish-American boys and girls on the east side. He has meant a lot to them because he has proved that any youngster, no matter how underprivileged he may be, will find a renewed interest in life if someone takes an active interest in him.

The club which George sponsors, along with his friends, Henrietta Natividad Vacio, is called the Mambo Club. George became involved with the group in a rather accidental way.

"About two years ago," George commented, "when I was in motion pictures, Natividad, who is a close friend of mine, was telling me about the youngsters at the school. He mentioned that no one ever came to see them—no one of

any kind of prominence, that is—so he asked if I would come over and talk to them. I said I'd be glad to. I spoke the Spanish language, which is probably unique for an Irishman like myself. Anyway, I brought my guitar along and Natty and I not only talked to the boys and girls but we also put on a show for them.

From that moment on I became interested in these young people. Recently, I was supposed to attend a meeting of the club—and there was some interest among the boys and girls in seeing *Superman*. Since there were about 150 in the club I was totally unprepared for the mob that greeted me when I went to the school. There were about 3000 children waiting for me. I managed to get to the recreation hall and I talked to them until the police finally had to come and send the kids home. There was just too much of a mob to handle.

"While I was there I signed autographs—some on little girls shoes—and I answered a lot of their questions. Some of the questions I'm always asked are "Are you going to fly home?" ... "Where are your glasses?" ... etc. I also had to lift up several kids and let many of them feel my muscles. To the older children, I answered the questions about my flying through the air on the show by telling them that this trick is done through an elaborate rig—and not by wires. We discarded wires when I fell thirty feet — once. As for my jumps, which I'm always taking, I explained that they are done with the help of a springboard from which I took my dives. I didn't say that I usually land in a net. Occasionally, I miss the net, but there are always two or three Supermans warming up in case I don't come out of a dive too well.

"I do all my own stunts, which consist of going through windows and walls and, of course, jumping. The highest jump I ever did was twenty feet. To keep physically fit, which is hard for me since I'm Irish and lazy, I do tumbling and calisthenics, primarily to learn how to fall without being hurt.

In '*Superman*' we're all concerned with giving the kids the right kind of show. We don't go for too much violence. Once, for a big fight scene, we had several of the top wrestlers in town do the big brawl. It was considered too rough by the sponsors and producer so it was toned down.

"Our writers and the sponsors have children and they are all very careful about doing things on the show that will have no adverse effect on the young audience. We even try, in our scripts, to give gentle messages of tolerance and to stress that a man's color and race and religious beliefs should be respected."

George is a bachelor, although in his multitudinous mail he has received fourteen proposals of marriage from girls of eleven and under. He recently came back from Mexico where he took a course in bullfighting—but he didn't finish his lessons.

"It's the darndest experience in the world to see an infuriated bull to come charging at you," he commented with a wry grin. "I decided that while I love the sport I could do without it as a career. If I want to get banged up, I can do that very nicely on '*Superman*'."

From all accounts, if the kids want to idolize *Superman* it's okay. Not many heroes of childrens shows combine moral values and blood and thunder the way this series does.

RADIO-TV GUIDE, April 20, 1954

# The Adventures of Superman

*The Adventures of Superman* was on the air within a few months of its 1938 debut in Action Comics in a series of crudely done syndications. The comics have always adapted well to juvenile radio, and what better radio subject than a man of steel, complete with X-ray vision, dependent comrades, and a distinctive swishing sound effect that carried us along in flight? In reality, he was a "strange visitor from another planet, who came to earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men, and who—disguised as Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper—leads a never-ending battle for truth, justice and the American way."

He came to earth as a child from the planet Krypton, which had been destroyed by violent earthquakes. On earth, he found that his ordinary Kryptonese powers were extraordinary; he could fly to heights never achieved by planes in those years of propeller-driven aircraft. He could bend steel in his bare hands, change the course of mighty rivers. He was

faster than a speeding bullet . . .  
more powerful than a locomotive . . .  
able to leap tall buildings in a single bound . . .

Look! Up in the sky!  
It's a bird!  
It's a plane!  
it's . . . Superman!

That ingenious opening set the stage perfectly for those 15-minute fantasies, which one month found *Superman* fighting train robbers, another battling Nazis and "Japs" at the North Pole. During the war, *Superman* was juvenile radio's best fighter for the cause. Only two things stopped him: his X-ray vision

couldn't penetrate lead and, when confronted with the element Kryptonite, he was rendered helpless. Kent, who wore glasses in his disguise as a *Daily Planet* reporter, was bullied by his boss and was barely tolerated by Lois Lane, the *Planet's* star female reporter (who adored *Superman*). If only Lois had known that in the twinkling of an eye Kent could dash into that empty janitor's closet, rip off his clothes, and dart to the window as **SUPERMAN!**

In the comics by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, we could see *Superman* fly out of that window. On radio, we had to visualize it. So we got "up, up, and away!" whenever *Superman* took off. Admittedly, it's difficult to imagine a grown man perched on a window ledge shouting "Up, up, and away!" but *Superman* could get away with a lot. The character was soon brought to Mutual, starting on February 12, 1940, as a three-a-week, 15-minute sustained serial. *Superman* was dropped in 1942, but the clamor of young listeners led to its return August 31, 1942, this time as a five-a-week show. Kellogg's Pep picked it up in 1943, remaining sponsor until 1946.

Writer Jack Johnstone and director Robert Maxwell went to great lengths to protect *Superman's* identity, on stage and off. In the scripts, anyone who discovered this well-kept secret was a dead duck. *Superman* didn't kill them; the writer simply polished them off. No matter; they were always the bad people anyway (good guys wouldn't go messing around in *Superman's* affairs like that). At the same time the producers insisted that the identity of Clayton (Bud) Collyer, the actor who gave voice to the man of steel, be stamped TOP SECRET. For six years, Collyer kept his name out of the limelight, finally stepping

forward in a 1946 *Time* interview to promote a *Superman* campaign against racial and religious intolerance. The serial became the first of its kind to tackle such heavy themes. Thus *Superman* added bigots to his list of people to fight.

In 1945, another Action Comics hero, Batman, was introduced on *Superman's* show. Batman and his sidekick Robin joined *Superman* frequently during those middle years, bounding out of Gotham City to tackle Metropolis scandal. But the inevitable comparison with *Superman* left Batman a second-rate hero. Batman couldn't fly; he couldn't even bend steel in his bare hands. Batman never did break away for a radio show of his own.

Supporting Collyer in the serial were Joan Alexander as the cynical Lois Lane, Julian Noa as crabby Perry White, editor of the *Planet*, and Jackie Kelk as Jimmy Olsen, energetic cub reporter. As in the comics, it was often Jimmy Olsen's curiosity that led *Superman* into action. One of the trademarks of the serial was Collyer's ability to change characters in mid-sentence, from the mousy Kent ("this looks like a job for . . .") to the barrel-chested ("**SUPERMAN!**") man of steel.

Jackson Beck gave a gusty delivery as announcer, too. The show is best remembered from its wartime days, under sponsorship of "that super-delicious cereal," Kellogg's Pep. Mutual again sustained until 1949. In 1949, *Superman* crossed over to ABC for a 30-minute Saturday show. Michael Fitzmaurice played the title role. This sustained version was extended to a two a week in 1950, and went off in 1951.





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

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**  
**U S POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**DENVER CO**  
**Permit No.**  
**2929**

~~1111 BROWN~~  
~~1111 KATHON AR~~  
~~SPRINGFIELD~~  
09/01/1994  
~~1111~~