



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 22, Number 3

October, 1996



Franklin D. Roosevelt

His mastery of radio helped revolutionize American politics.

Radio Historical Association of Colorado

Dedicated to the preservation of old time radio programs and to make those programs available to our members

Old time radio is alive in Denver John Dunnings OTR Program on KHOW 630 Sunday PM from 1:00 to 3:00
 John Rayburns Reminiscing with John Saturday Evenings 6:00 till 11:00 PM KEZW 1430
 KEZW has syndicated OTR weekdays from 7:00 till 9:00 PM 1430 on the dial.

RRSR (Radio Reading Service of the Rockies, Inc.) is in need of volunteers to help with their radio shows for the blind, being produced at their Boulder studios, 5290 Arapahoe Avenue, Unit G Boulder, CO 80303 phone number is 303-786 7777 or contact RHAC member David Clow at 303-972-2850 for further information.

This would be a great chance for someone that wants to be a board operator, reader or what ever they might need help with this would give you the chance to do the real thing and be helping the blind and give you a better feeling about yourself.

RHAC member Dave Clow has been working over some RHAC material for RRS broadcasts every Sunday afternoon. This service is presented as a side band to channel 6 and heard all over the US.



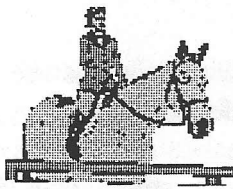
RETURN WITH US NOW... is the official publication of the *Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc.*, a nonprofit organization. Cost of membership is **\$25.00** for the first year with \$15.00 for renewal.

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.

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- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: David L Michael (as above)



From the
King's
Roost

Summer is back to the mile high city, and the trees have had a good reminder that they had better start their dormancy or get caught in the same kind of problem they had last year, when we had OTR guests in and did a recreation at the old school house at Belmar.

We have finished the cassettes for the new entries into the libraries and certainly find a lot of variations in the new entries. Grand Marquee, People are Funny, Truth or Consequences, You Are There, Crime Classics and

more. Just take your choice, but be sure to give the librarians plenty of alternatives. Our club has been having a big surge of new members, so we need the help of all of you by giving the alternates so your orders can be completed without delay.

Election of officers was held at the September meeting and we now have a new secretary, Fred Bantin. It would certainly help if more of our members were willing to shoulder a bit of the responsibility for the club, even if only for a short time.

John Rayburn presented some of his microphones at the meeting and described the evolution of those important pieces of equipment for the broadcast industry. John has a very extensive collection, and was only able to bring a

couple of suitcases full to share with us. It made for an interesting evening for all.

John Rayburn is celebrating 50 years of radio broadcasting.

John's September/October newsletter mentioned an interesting bit of how the OTR programs and actors all helped in the war effort. Be sure to catch page 6, but the whole newsletter refers to many of the happenings of the thirties and forties, so it will all tie in with the FDR article and help to remind us all that we are AMERICANS.

Just in case you think we are slanted in either direction politically, the FDR article is just to remind that politicians are still the same today as when radio was young, and most of what we are hearing today is just the same stuff.

1996 SPERDVAC Old-Time Radio Convention

Name _____ Non-member Member # _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ Day phone _____ Evening phone _____

Special diet requirements: _____

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

Convention rates: (Prices are for members, spouses, member's guests)

- 1. Complete convention package (Friday-Sunday) \$110/ \$125 preregistered non-members ... _____
 - 2. Friday dinner & program \$35/ \$40 preregistered non-members _____
 - 3. Saturday daytime activities (9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.) \$15/ \$20 preregistered non-members. _____
 - 4. Saturday evening banquet & program \$50/ \$55 preregistered non-members _____
 - 5. Sunday brunch & program (9 to 11:30 a.m.) \$15/ \$20 preregistered non-members _____
- (There is no charge for the Friday afternoon activities.) TOTAL: _____

Check here if you were a professional in early radio.

Cancellation deadline is November 4, 1996

Send checks or money orders, made 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.** Your cancelled check will serve as your receipt. Requests for refunds will be honored until Nov. 4, 1996. Convention rates will increase to \$145 for the entire convention package for members and non-members who arrive without prior registration. Walk-up rates for individual convention events will be \$5 above the non-member rates indicated above. Walk-up rates apply to members and non-members.

FDR set the stage for today's Politicians.

By now most of you have probably heard about all of the political speeches you care to, but have you ever stopped to think about the candidate and later president that really used the radio most effectively and changed the way that today's politicians use the modern communications media to sway the public to their favor?

When radio first came into our homes, the politicians were used to ranting and shouting to crowds as was the style in those days, but one president used the radio in a different style and set the stage for today's politicians. Franklin D. Roosevelt was fifteen when Marconi took out his English patent for the "wireless telegraph." The radio and the boy came to maturity together. By the time that Roosevelt was a law student at Columbia, it was possible to transmit the human voice across the airwaves. On the night that he was defeated for the vice-presidency in 1920, the election results were actually broadcast to almost a thousand homes in Pittsburgh.

The whole world was deep in depression in the twenties and early thirties, which probably slowed the number of homes with radios, but people often shared their radio programs with neighbors and friends, so that by the time that

Roosevelt became a national figure he had been using the radio to address the New York populus as their governor and speaking to them two or three times a month. He had a gift for effective language, for metaphor and witticism. He enjoyed addressing the public in one way or another. He knew how to deliver an effective speech to a roaring crowd, but it was in his use of the radio that he was at his very best, and set the style for today's politicians. Politicians before had used the radio, but mostly in the crowd stirring manner that was the style of that day. Roosevelt changed all that as he presented his famous "Fireside Chats" to the American public during their times of duress from the financial hardships of the depression, through the slow recovery period into the great "defense" boom and on into WW11.

As Roosevelt introduced us to the world of acronyms with New Deal, SSI, NRA, WPA, CCC and similar terms, the public listened for a glimmer of hope about their future. The listeners could hear his smile and sense his anger as he talked about the state of the world and the United States. Hitler and Mussolini were on their rampages through Europe and Africa and United States was trying to look the other way, while developing the great welfare state that continues today. Big brother will take care of everyone, just hold out your hand and be sure to vote.

Government Bonds were things the banks and big business dealt

with, but as we entered into the defense era, the general public was asked to invest in their government and after "The Day Of Infamy", December 7th, 1941, they became War Bonds and a way for the new paychecks to be put aside for future rainy days. Maybe we need to remind ourselves today that we should be prepared to look out for ourselves and not depend upon the government (we taxpayers) to look out for us.

Our present day politicians are all very smooth and have learned their lessons well about speaking as your friends, not just politicians off in another world. Roosevelt never had the advantage of TV, but he was able to make everyone feel that they knew him, and he called us all "friends". He did not talk over the people, he talked to the people, using simple conversational language that everyone understood. Although his was a true politician, he was able to convince the public of his sincerity and unite the United States people at that time of war as they never had been united before, nor since.

Roosevelt's use of the radio has been the measuring standard for all of his successors. How they would rate their administration and their accomplishments would be compared to Roosevelt's first hundred days, first six months, etc. Even with the visual tool of TV, few can compare with his ability to convey his feelings and emotions to his audience. His Fireside Chats timed so that most Americans could hear them in their homes and he became their friend and neighbor.

The facts were that these broadcasts were in a room with a simple desk and lots of microphones in front of him. There would be about thirty technicians and announcers, but never the mass of reporters demanding answers to their belligerent questions as we see today. Even the media people had more respect for the president than they have today. Those of us that lived through the WW11, no matter what our politics were, openly share the regret that Roosevelt died before the war ended.

A New York writer and folklorist, Carl Lamson Cramer, wrote a poem that summed up the feelings of many Americans:

*I never saw him---
But I knew him.*

Can you have forgotten how, with his voice, he came into our house, The President of the United States, Calling us friends....

Much of the material in this article came from the 1992 book "FDR'S Fireside Chats" as edited by Russell D. Buhite and David W. Levy. Published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt; 32nd President of the United States. Practiced law in New York 1907-1910; Member of the New York State Senate 1910-1913; assistant Secretary of the Navy 1913-1920; stricken with polio 1921 Governor of New York 1929-1933; established the nation's first state relief agency 1931. President of the United States

1933-1945. The only President elected to four terms. The nation was engaged in World War 2 from 1941 until 1945.

He assembled a group of advisers known as the "brain trust" and developed the AAA, NRA, CCC, TVA, PWA, NYA and many, many more were referred as the New Deal, and one we all know, the Social Security Act. He also reformed the banking laws and closed the banks after a run on them had started. He also changed the credit laws, secured passage of the Lend Lease Act in 1941. He met with Winston Churchill in 1941 to draw up the Atlantic Charter, he called for the declaration of war on Japan on Dec. 8, 1941 after their attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

Convention Information

There are two 1996 conventions remaining that we know of. The first is the Friends of Old Time Radio, a private group of enthusiasts who yearly sponsor this convention. The dates are Oct., 17, 18 and 19. The convention is held at the Holiday Inn North, Newark NJ. Contact Jay Hickerson 203-248-2887.

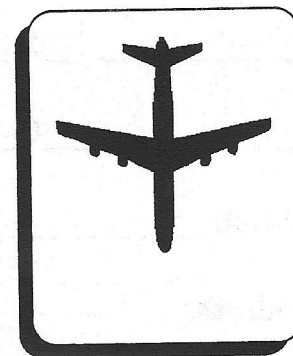
The second is 1996 SPERDVAC Old Time Radio Convention November 8-9-10 1996 at the Crowne Plaza at LAX airport. This is a first class hotel..

Both conventions will have many of the OTR actors, announcers and sound effects men.

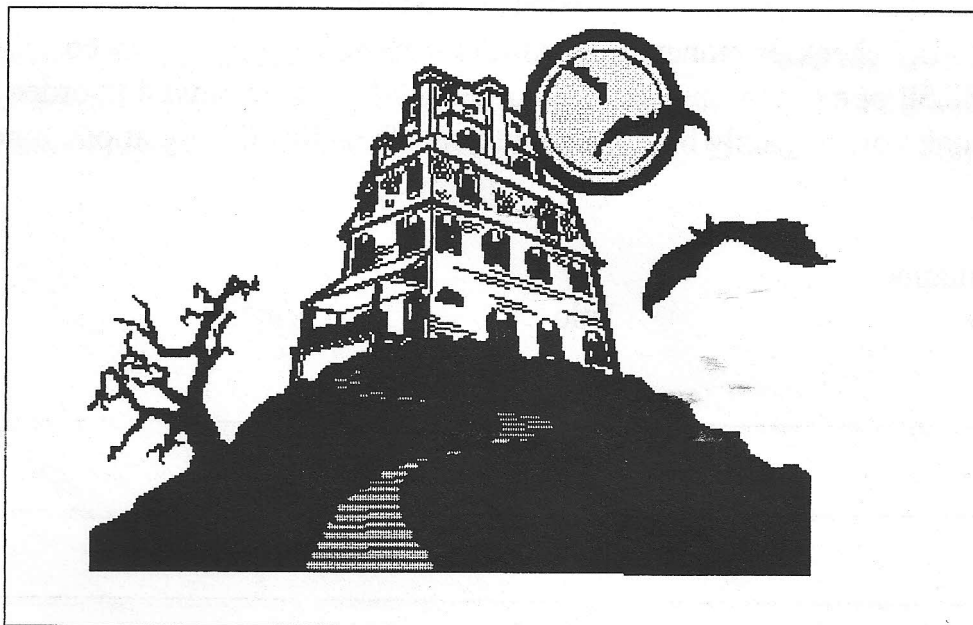
SPERDVAC Convention will include workshops, panels, collectors room (there will be no sales of unauthorized radio shows) There will be many recreations. Friday afternoon will have "Thirty Minutes to Curtain", "Ethel and Albert" sound effects demonstration. Friday evening they will do a "Cavalcade of America". Activities will go on all day Saturday, including a "Suspense" recreation.

Saturday evening they will do a "Command Performance" recreation.

The Sunday brunch will feature a tribute to "One Mans Family".

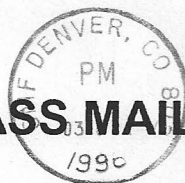


Happy Halloween!



RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO, INC.
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



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