



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 22, Number 9

April, 1997



The Texaco Fire Chief Ed Wynn (1886-1966)

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

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

RHAC BOARD MEETING APRIL 3rd

AT THE Duniven's RESIDENCE 7:30 PM SEE ADDRESS BELOW

Old tme radio is alive in Denver

- ◆ John Dunning's OTR Program on KHOW 630 Saturday evening 9:00 till 11:00 PM
- ◆ John Rayburn's "Reminiscing with Rayburn" Saturday evenings 6:00 till 11:00 PM KEZW 1430
- ◆ KEZW has syndicated OTR weekdays from 7:00 till 8:00 PM 1430 on the dial.
- ◆ KEZW Imagination Theater Sundays 5:00 till 6:00 PM

E MAIL ADDRESSES CHECK HERE FOR NEW E MAIL ADDRESSES

RHAC web page and catalog is on the world wide web. <http://www.old-time.com/ffiles/rhac.zip>
take a look there is a lot of information at that sight.

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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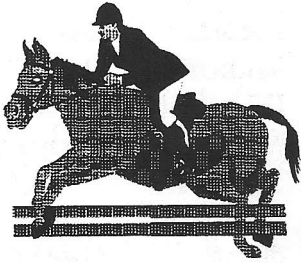
TAPE DONATIONS

Bill McCracken, 7101 W Yale Ave #503, Denver CO 80227
Herb Duniven, 4184 S. Syracuse St., Denver CO 80237

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: David L Michael, 1999 Broadway, Lowery Suite, Denver CO 80202

LIBRARIES

REFERENCE MATERIAL	Bill McCracken, address above	986-9863
LOGS & SCRIPTS	Fred Hinz, c/o RHAC, P O Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150	
OPEN REEL TAPE LIBRARIAN:	Maletha King, 900W Quincy Ave, Englewood CO 80110	
CASSETTE TAPE LIBRARIANS:		
#1 (1-499)	Terry Hamilton, 9393 E Colorado Ave, Denver CO 80231	696-8196
#2 (500-999)	David Gatch, 606 S Jersey St, Denver CO 80224	331-9521
#3(1000 & up)	Dave Logan, 5557 S Sherman Cir, Littleton CO 80121	730-1430
#4 (5001 up)	Mika Rhoden, 3950W Dartmouth Ave, Denver CO 80236	937-9476



THE KINGS ROOST

Before we get into other matters and forget two important items that we need to mention. Former member John Guthrie of Aurora, CO donated a box of his tapes to RHAC. John was following some of his advise to us that we all get our treasures in the right hands before family members dispose of them as they settle your estate. Not nice to think of, but it's the truth, Not everyone enjoys the same things we enjoy.

The second gift to the club came from Dick DeFore, who is moving to New Mexico and wanted the club to have the benefit of his years of collecting tapes and equipment. Dick donated two 16" transcription players and a 12" player to the club, along with several arms for them. He also had many transcription discs that he donated. These will be transferred to tape and entered into the library in due time.

We are getting more offers of shows from members that have collections that contain shows we do not have. We ask that you contact Herb Duniven about such gifts. Herb and Bill McCracken work together to assemble the Contributor's Library. It takes a long time for them to get shows together in order to enter in an organized pattern.

This month's entries are more Heartbeat Theater. We listen to them while making cassettes and find they are very interesting and well done stories of the Salvation Army. If you have not tried any of these programs because your interests are more for adventure, mystery or other shows we offer, we encourage you to try at least one reel, and you will be hooked! The acting in these shows is some of the best you will hear.

We hear via a grape-vine that another club has decided to close their library, which will take many good shows out of circulation to the hobby. We hope their closing is only temporary as the more clubs and libraries are, the more people will begin to realize the pleasures we offer. Competition is not the name of our game, rather, co-operative sharing of our treasures. If there were only one or two clubs that had

libraries, the members would be waiting indefinitely to hear the shows of their choice. We are consistently growing in the number of users of all of our libraries, and certainly cannot let an occasional bad apple such as we had that would not return our tapes limit the enjoyment of the rest of the members..

RHAC is not going to have a convention this spring, but we are inviting several OTR personalities to come to Denver in May and present a few shows for our members and the general public. May 23rd and 24th will be the time of our program and we will have a low-key presentation of a high-powered group of shows. There will be no hype, but just pleasure entertainment for all attending. We will have the lady who's picture we ran on the cover of last months newsletter. Rosemary Rice and we will do a "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" featuring Rosemary, who played in the original radio presentation in 1947. We also have Peg Lynch, Writer director and star of "Ethel and Albert". We will have the shows on Friday evening at 7:00 and Saturday at 11:00 AM in the morning. This should make it possible for those members who do not want to go out at night, although it will be early enough that you might find it

worth your while for this "once in a lifetime" chance to see these radio personalities at work. The Saturday show will be entirely different from the Friday evening show Parley Baer, Sam and Beverly Edwards and Herb and Sylvia Ellis. If any of our local people would be help with the load, we sure would be glad to hear from them. We could use a few more voices, and lots of other jobs for members to do.

Mark your calender May 23rd and 24th.

HEARTBEAT THEATER

The devastating floods in the west and northwest of our country and now in the drainage basins of the Ohio river and other rivers in that part of the country have again brought the Salvation Army into play helping folks that have suffered hardships they never imagined possible. This month's tapes being entered into the Contributor's Library feature stories about the work of the Salvation Army that is not as seasonal as flood relief but points out that it does not have to be a national disaster for that dedicated group to show their merit. The sound on some of the shows is less than perfect, but the story is good and entered for your listening pleasure.

The stories are warm and help us remember some of the activities of groups working for the good of their fellow man

instead of the riots and war news that we get on today's media.

Heartbeat Theater maybe found in RHAC libraries under the following: 423, 424, 5326-5330 and 5369 thru 5375.

You will find the early "Heartbeat Theater's" (1955) were hosted by C. P. MacGregor and that's an interesting story.

From John Dunning's "Tune in Yesterday"

C.P. MacGregor had been producing shows on transcription discs since 1929, but throughout the early years there was widespread prejudice against "canned" entertainment .MacGregor used his most logical argument against the opposition: he believed that only a transcription enabled him to produce a flawless show. Stars could simply retake if the first effort was not up to par. For his *Skippy Hollywood Theater*. He lined up top film stars, cast them in original dramas, and emerged with professional shows that equaled most live network offerings. He also lined up Skippy Peanut Butter as a sponsor, and syndicated the series as a complete-with-commercial s package to stations around the country. The show boosted Skippy from obscurity into a national product. The show's format was patterned after the great success of *The Lux Radio Theater*-Macgregor was the host, and after each play he interviewed his stars a la DeMille. The guests usually got in a plug for the product and everyone went home happy.

Joan Bennett, Herbert Marshall, Anita Louise, Paulette Goddard, Jane Withers, Vincent Price, and Dana Andrews were a few of MacGregor's Skippy stars. The scripts were by True Boardman: Les Mitchell was director in the later run, with Bud Lesser serving as story editor, music was by Mahlon Merrick and later Del Castillo. The show was still going strong in 1950.



Richard K. Hayes (Archivist/Technician Kate Smith Commemorative Society. PO Box 3575 Cranston, RI 02910) Wrote, "I was a friend of Kate Smith for the last two decades of her life, and I wrote her biography, published by McFarland in 1995. It's called *Kate Smith: When the Moon Comes Over the Mountain*" You can order the book directly from Richard for \$39.50 postage paid. Also there is a Kate Smith Commemorative Society and you can be a member of that group for \$10.00 per year address above.

Here are a couple of corrections to the article about Kate Smith in our February newsletter. She was born in Washington, DC (not Greenville, VA. Richard said the error was not his in the Reminisce article we copied. She was in "Honeymoon Lane" from 1926 to 1928. Her 1931 radio show competed successfully against "Amos and Andy" but did not force NBC to move their time slot. They

According to the Gassmans, there still exists a sizable and loyal audience for these radio shows in Southern California. For instance, a nightly hour of old time radio drama is a big ratings winner for KNX-AM (1070). Larry Mantle, the program and new director at KPCC, says the public-radio outlet is very pleased with "Same Time, Same Station" and feels the show nicely complements the station's new weekday emphasis on talk radio.

But the brothers also realize that support for vintage radio programs figures to diminish significantly in the years ahead. Most fans are older people who first enjoyed these shows when they were initially aired. The radio personalities the Gassman interview are usually far more surprised by the relative youth of the siblings than their blindness.

John and Larry thoroughly enjoy "watching" vivid scripted TV programs like "Mash" and "ER." But they also believe that the growth of visually oriented entertainment, has paralleled a diminution of language and imagination skills in society.

"Today it's the visuals that count," Larry says with a sigh. "The more time that elapses from the days of radio, the less you're going to find people who use their imagination on a regular basis. That in itself has a lot of problems built into terms of focusing and creativity. People were a lot more articulate back then; they could put thoughts and sentences together."

But as long as there exists a suitable audience for "Same Time, Same Station," the Gassmans can be counted on to deliver the show with the same in-depth knowledge and subtle humor that has always marked their folksy style.

To Mantle, they are also an inspiration.

"They're outstanding radio personalities and they're so self sufficient," Mantle says. "It's hard for a sighted person to understand how well one can adapt to not having sight as they have done. Whatever needs to be done. Whether it has to do with transportation or whatever, they find a way to take care of it. They are also very unself-conscious [about being blind]. During a station fund-raiser one of them said: 'If you don't pledge, you'll get a couple of blind guys come stumbling around your yard! It was very funny.'"



From Radio Guide
Good Listening for Tuesday
Tuesday January 10, 1939

Morning
9:30 PST Farm & Home hour
Afternoon
5:30 PST Information Please
Evening

6:00 PST We the People
6:30 PST Fibber McGee
7:00 PST Bob Hope
7:30 PST Jimmie Fidler
8:00 PST Mr. District Atty
8:30 PST Johnny Presents
9:00 PST Al Jolson

Good Listening for Wednesday
Morning
9:30 PST Farm & Home hour
Afternoon

5:30 PST Hobby Lobby

Evening

6:00 PST Star Theater
7:00 PST Kay Kyser
7:30 PST Quiz Program
8:30 PST Paul Whitman
9:00 PST Fred Allen
9:30 PST Lights Out

Good Listening Thursday

Morning

9:30 PST Farm and Home hour

Afternoon

2:15 PST Hans Christian
Anderson's Fairy tails
5:00 PST Rudy Vallee
5:30 PST Joe Penner

Evening

6:00 PST Major Bowes
6:30 PST America's Town
Meeting
7:00 PST Bing Crosby
8:15 PST Standard Symphony
8:30 PST Kate Smith Sings

Good Listening for Friday

Morning

9:30 PST Farm and Home hour

Afternoon

5:00 PST First Nighter

Evening

6:00 PST Campbells Playhouse
7:00 PST Guy Lombardo
7:45 PST Jimmy Fidler
8:30 PST Burns and Allen
9:30 PST Jack Haley

Good Listening for Friday

Morning

9:30 PST Farm Bureau

Afternoon

5:00 PST Tommy Riggs

Evening

6:00 PST Phil Baker
6:30 Mary Eastman
7:00 PST Hi Parade
7:45 PST Night Editor
8:00 PST National Barn Dance
8:30 PST Johnny Presents

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLORADO

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3 _____

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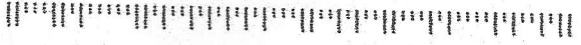
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I do hereby agree to abide by the RHAC rules and agree not to sell or use library materials for monetary gain

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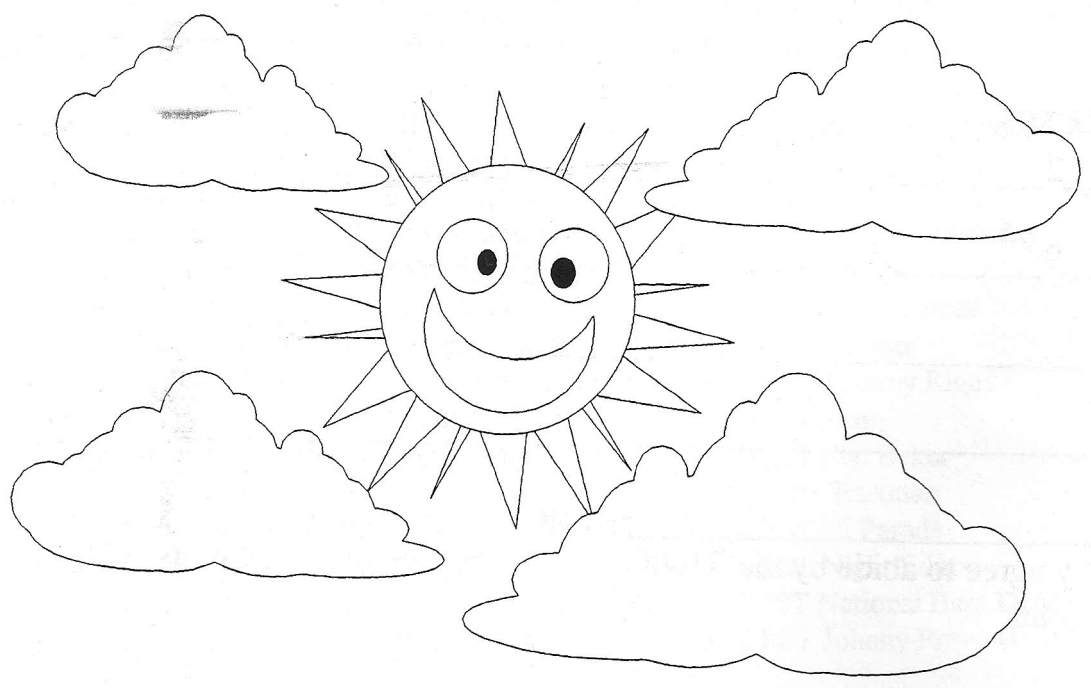
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