

Radio Historical Association of Colorado  
Founded 1915

# RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COLORADO

Volume 23, Number 4

November, 1997



Harold Peary created the role of 'Throckmorton P. Gildersleeve.' He was first heard on the Fibber McGee and Molly program in 1937. He grew so popular he gained his own show **THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE** on August 31, 1941 on NBC, radio's first 'spin-off' series.

# 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 DEC. 4, 1997 AT THE HOME OF THE PRESIDENT FRED BANTIN Old time radio is alive and well in Denver!

John Dunning's OTR Program ( ON STAND BY)

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 "Sunday Night Movie", Sundays 5:00 till 6:00 PM

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### 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/rhac.html>

Take a look, there is a lot of information at this sight.

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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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| #4 (5001 up) Mika Rhoden, | 3950W Dartmouth Ave, Denver CO 80236                  | 937-9476     |

## President's Message:

I address this message especially, but not exclusively, to the vast majority of members of RHAC who have not attended a Members Meeting. Please accept this as my personal invitation for you to attend the November 20th meeting. And to those who have attended meetings, I also extend a personal invitation to attend. The November meeting is the week before Thanksgiving so it should not interfere with holiday plans and incidentally a January 15th meeting is also planned for after the holidays.

As the new president of RHAC one of my goals is to develop more interest in Members Meetings. In order to do this attendance and participation are major factors. I do not expect every member who attends to become aggressively active in the association, but either by attending meetings or participating in groups much can be gained for the association and the members satisfaction in old time radio. A proposed agenda for all meetings has been passed by the RHAC Board and this agenda will be discussed at the November meeting.

In the past most Member Meetings has consisted of having celebrities from old time radio come and speak at the meetings. This is becoming increasingly hard to do. Celebrities of this vintage are becoming fewer and of the age which makes it hard for them get to a meeting. It is therefore necessary to build Members Meetings around a different format. When possible, of course, RHAC will have guests but I feel phone interviews at meetings is one solution. The first phone interview is planned for the January meeting. Other solutions are planned involving small groups. These groups would be of interest to all members but only a few members might want to participate in a particular group. Some of these currently being considered or suggested are Highlighted Radio Shows, Radio Show Recreations, Big Bands and Music on Radio, Internet Involvement, Sound Effects Recreation, History of RHAC, and Specific Radio Shows. Come hear and discuss what we can do as an association to have informative and interesting Members Meetings.

The November meeting will High-light the Great Gildersleeve Show. This will be the main entertainment for the evening. Come learn and listen to early clips of

Gildersleeve. Try your hand at Gildersleeve Memorabilia. And finally conclude with two TV programs on the Great Gildersleeve to be shown during the social time at the end of the evening. Also see what was required to listen to radio in the early 1920's. Be sure to register for the door prize and feel free to bring a guest.

Fred Bantin

## Sharing Old Time Radio

By RHAC Member Dave Clow.

Ever since I was a kid, I have enjoyed Old Time Radio (OTR). I remember my mother used to run me out of the house to play, or I would sit in the front of the radio in the middle of the living room floor and listen all day.

I really started collecting OTR in the mid seventies, and I never stopped enjoying the entertainment that OTR provides me.

My personal collection is just for me. I have collected the shows that I enjoy the most and I seldom miss a day when I play at least one of my OTR stories.

I also believe that because I enjoyed OTR others will enjoy it too. I feel that giving others

tips on how to collect OTR, or for that matter just exposing them to OTR for the first time will be enough to get them started into this enjoyable hobby.

Sometime it works and most of the time it doesn't.

The one fact that is inescapable is, **"Old Time Radio has not been financially successful in many years"**. Sure, there is a hour here or there or a Dunning or a Rayburn slice of yesteryear, but the general public prefers the tube. That's okay with me and I guess I prefer TV to radio most of the time myself.

That doesn't mean there isn't a "niche" for OTR. Members of this club and many more OTR clubs are testimony to the fact that OTR has its fans. Our libraries are filled with the sounds of days gone by and that takes lots of work and money too.

The problem that OTR faces is limited exposure. We need to most exciting weekend of my life." That echo's quite succinctly, I believe, the feelings of many of us find the 1% of the population who enjoys OTR enough to help us preserve and perpetuate our hobby. All they have to do is join our club!

If we are to maintain the club, and the library and the membership each of us is needed to recruit new members.

.....  
From the RHAC newsletter 10/87 edited by RHAC member Dan Decker.

Reflections on RHAC'S on RHAC'S Third annual Convention, 9/12/1987

We reported in last month's Return With Us Now that the club's youngest member, 14 year old Corey Harker of Fort Collins, said that RHAC's convention this year was "the most exciting weekend of my life." That echoes quite succinctly, I believe, the feelings of many of us. In the lines that follow, I will summarize what I remember of this year's convention and perhaps it will recall some memories for you as well.

In the first place, our guests this year were unforgettable: Lon and Michelle Clark, Fred Foy, Peg Lynch and her husband Odd Ronning, Jim Hawthorne, John Dunning, Jeanette Lynn Drann, and Doris Shoemaker. We heard them in unforgettable old-time radio re-creations of The Whistler and Ethel and Albert, ably assisted by some of the Metro State Players and some of our club members. In addition, we heard them recall old radio as our guests participated in panel

discussions. And, who can forget Fred Foy position himself in front of that microphone and with his strong, vibrant voice introduce The Lone Ranger, or Lon Clark doing Nick Carter, Master Detective with a voice that many of us have heard hundreds of times from recordings and which we will never tire of hearing again and again and, thanks to the existence of RHAC, will have that privilege often.

The Club's appreciation of our guests was apparent in the rapt attention, the abundant questions, and the sincere applause that followed the presentations. However, the appreciation was also extended to RHAC by the guests of for our efforts in preserving old-time radio. Lon Clark summarized these feelings best, I think when he said, "You are not letting that remarkable era be forgotten." While that is no doubt true, our task is made so much more enjoyable by the generosity of these wonderful actors, announcers, and writers who came to us from California, New York, and Connecticut. By the way, it will be a long time before those of us who were at the convention will forget that day and those guests!

As is always the case at OTR conventions, many fascinating facts about old radio are

learned. Lon Clark, for example, told about the difference between the programs that originated in Los Angeles from those which originated in New York. He said he could always tell from where a show originated by just listening to the voices of the actors, because the voice quality was different. This was so, he said, because radio actors in California received their training from motion pictures, whereas those in New York received their training from the stage. Lon said that the latter learned to project their voices much more effectively and it was apparent by the way they read their lines.

Fred Foy, who announced The Lone Ranger for nearly ten years, said he got locked into announcing even though he started out as an actor and could easily have followed that vocation as a career. Fred also announced for The Challenge of the Yukon and The Green Hornet and occasionally acted, especially when a last minute replacement was needed. Lon Clark spoke of the opportunities for actors and announcers when he said, "Radio was the only artistic medium in which actors' possibilities were unlimited.

One panel discussion concerned contemporary

radio. One person said that radio is much like fashions: it runs in cycles, and right now the fashion is talk shows and music formats. Will radio drama ever come back? The consensus was. "Not in the foreseeable future, because the advertising money is just not there." The best example of efforts of revival was CBS Radio Mystery Theater a decade ago.

Answering the question about whether shorter dramatic programs might be a possibility, Peg Lynch, writer of and actor in the daily Ethel and Albert program from 1938 to 1950, said that experience has shown that stations do not want fifteen and thirty minute formats of drama.

Clearly, RHAC's third annual convention was a smashing success and will live in our memories for a long time to come.

### *The Great Gildersleeve*

The subject of our November meeting..

John Dunning Wrote:  
*The Great Gildersleeve* was created by Harold Peary while he was working on the *Fibber McGee and Molly* in Chicago. The basic ingredients of the character began to fall together in 1937, and by 1939

*Gildersleeve* was turning up in almost every McGee script.

"The character became so popular that, on August 31, 1941, *Gildersleeve* broke away for his own Sunday-night NBC slot.

Peary was the son of a Portuguese immigrant; christened Harrold Jose Pereira de Faria, he had been active in radio for nine years before he hooked up with the *Fibber McGee and Molly* show. He had first worked in San Francisco radio, performing on an NBC show called The Spanish Serenader, around 1928 Peary had a natural singing voice and occasionally sang as part of the *Jolly Boys Club*."

Willard Waterman was *Gildersleeve* on September 6, 1950. Willard did *Gildersleeve* so well and he blended so well that you could not tell one from the other. Willard was an honorary member of RHAC and had attended special meetings of RHAC.

Willard as *The Great Gildersleeve* would not do the same laugh as Hal Peary did as *The Great Gildersleeve*. "Willard would always say tell me something funny and then I will laugh."

Willard Waterman was a fine gentleman.



## THE KINGS ROOST

Wow! That was a bit of snow! It was a heavy spring snow, even though it came late in October. We had been thinning our personal jungle at home, but Mother Nature did her part and took out a lot of stuff we had planned on leaving. It was rather sad to see a couple of fifty year old pines break, but they were getting too tall to fit in anyway. We just stayed home and got caught up with a lot of things that we had been putting off, so our time was well spent.

We were pleasantly surprised to get a call from Dick Beals checking on the horses, and it is a bit hard to convince city dwellers that they are out-door animals and really don't need the housing that humans need. They all have shelter from the wind and snow, but usually prefer to stand out in the

paddocks and watch the world go by.

Lots of cassettes have been made for the contributors library for the November entries. Bill and Herb have completed their series on Dr. Christian and are just starting a new series starting with the 15 minute shows done as fund raisers for the Sister Kenny Foundation. This lady's name was household word for many years during the international battle against poliomyelitis. She was a native to Australia, qualified as a nurse in 1911 and served in the Australian Nursing Service during World War I. She strongly advocated physical methods of treating polio victims and claimed that she could cure the paralyzing effects of polio if treatment was started early enough. She had a clinic in Sidney in 1935 and went on to Great Britain in 1937. From there she came to the United States in 1940 and established the Sister Elizabeth Kenny Foundation in Minneapolis, Minn. Other clinics adopting her methods were later opened in New York City, Buffalo, Jersey City, Pontiac, Mich. and El Monte, Calif.. She returned to Australia in December of 1950 and died there on November 30, 1952. The world lost a great and dedicated lady that helped change thousands of lives for the better. None of us are immortal, but very few of us

contribute as much to our fellow man as Sister Kenny. The names of radio's many greats were among the stars volunteering their time for such a worthy cause. We are sure you will get a lot of pleasure from the cassettes of these shows.

Several of our new members are sight impaired, and although many of you are now able to use a personal electronic reader, we want to remind you that RHAC offers a talking newsletter. Any requests for the talking newsletter should be addressed to Mike Fields, 243 So. 1100 East., Greentown, IN 46936. Any requests must include a C-90 cassette. If you need the catalog on cassette, you must send him 8 C-90's for that item alone.

Another thing that comes to mind, our house is being over-run with cassette decks and a few reel-reel decks. If you are looking for such equipment, just give us a call @ 761-4139. I am not even listing the area code because I don't want to bother with shipping. We are thinking of prices from \$10.00 to \$50.00.

How about giving a RHAC membership for someone you want to remember but they have everything they think they need. RHAC Christmas Party December 20, 1997.

# RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLORADO

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SEND TO: TERRY HAMILTON

9393 E. COLORADO AVE. DENVER, CO 80231-3006

303-696-8196

Enclosed is my check or money order for the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the one month rental charge of **\$2.50 per set** for the cassettes ordered. You are allowed to order 5 cassette sets at one time although you may only have 5 cassette sets from this library at one time. **Minimum order is \$7.50.**

Cassette number.

Title

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**Please help in the preservation of old time radio by supporting legitimate organizations who strive to preserve and restore the programs and related information.**

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THERE WILL BE A REGULAR  
RHAC MEETING THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20TH  
AT 7:30 PM

**THE SUBJECT WILL BE THE GREAT  
GILDERSLEEVE**

AT THE CHURCH OF THE MASTER  
EAST 17TH AVE. AT FILBERT COURT  
BETWEEN COLO. BLVD. & MONACO PKWY