



# RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COLORADO

Volume 23, Number 8

March, 1998



# 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 Apr. 2, 1998  
AT THE HOME OF HUGH DUNIVEN SEE ADDRESS BELOW  
Old time radio is alive and well in Denver!

KRMA Channel 6 Secondary Audio Program, RHAC's show "Tribute to OTR" Sunday 2:00 PM  
KEZW has syndicated OTR weekdays from 7:00 till 8:00 PM 1430 on the dial.

KFKA 1310 AM "Radio Memories" Sundays 6:00 to 12:00 PM

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The 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 site.

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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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## LIBRARIES

<b>Reference Material:</b>	Bill McCracken, address above	986-9863
<b>Logs &amp; Scripts:</b>	Fred Hinz, c/o RHAC, P O Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150	
<b>Open Reel Tape Librarian:</b>	Maletha King, 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood CO 80110	
<b>Cassette Tape Librarians:</b>		
#1 (1-499)	Terry Hamilton, 9393 E Colorado Ave., Denver CO 80231	696-8196
#2 (500-999)	David Gatch, PO Box 70 Glen Haven, CO 80532	970-577-0805
#3 (1000-2000)	Dave Logan, 5557 S Sherman Cir., Littleton CO 80121	730-1430
#4 (5001 up)	Mika Rhoden, 3950W Dartmouth Ave., Denver CO 80236	937-9476

# President's Message:

Plans are about complete for the March and May Members Meetings. March we will Highlight the "Sherlock Holmes" radio show and in May "Murder at Midnight". At both of these meetings we will be entertained by a radio show production. March will be "The Final Problem" a production by The Sherlockians with some RHAC Players in it. May will be "The House That Time Forgot". This is a "Murder at Midnight" radio show that the RHAC Players did in the past but was so well remembered that they want to do it again as their first production after being reunited. Both of these productions will use sound effects both recorded and actual sound from equipment that is being developed. For those that attended the February 21st production of "The Final Problem" it was a great production and enjoyed by all. If you missed that performance, be sure to attend the March 19th Members Meeting and see the production.

The March meeting will as usual have a door prize drawing along with some kind of English delight to eat and tea of

course along with coffee and pop. A collection of RCA Nipper Dogs will also be displayed. The May meeting along with the play will have a special guest, John Dunning. This is contingent on his publisher having his new book out. He will sell and autograph books at this meeting.

I know that up to this time, I have concentrated on developing the Members Meetings here in Denver. It would be nice to hear from some of you outside of the Denver area and your thoughts about RHAC. Stewart Wright, the new newsletter editor, wants to have a section in the newsletter for members to send in articles. Please use this as a means to input your thoughts about the organization. Stewart now has e-mail, [stewwright@worldnet.att.net](mailto:stewwright@worldnet.att.net); so either write or e-mail him. Along the same line, the board is presently revising the By-Laws and any input you have about needed revisions, please let us know. A copy of the old By-Laws was sent to you with your initial catalog. If you need a copy of the old By-Laws send me a SASE and I'll send you one.

The next most interest from the Members Interest Sheet was Big Bands and Music on Radio. I would like to see this

group get started. What is needed now is a chairman. Anyone having interest please contact me. See you at the March 19th meeting.

## Your Help Is Needed!

As you may know, I have become the Editor of the Association's Newsletter. I would like to thank Maletta and Dick King for all of their fine work on the newsletter.

Your help is needed! I do not believe that the Newsletter should be a one- or two-person operation; it is a publication for all RHAC members. As such, we need regular articles from the membership. Here's your chance to see your thoughts on Old-Time Radio in print.

Some of the ideas I have for regular, recurring article series in the Newsletter are: Members' Favorite Radio Series or Actors (the first of which appears in this edition), Old-Time Radio on the World-Wide Web (a non-technical series), articles on specific aspects of radio such as sound effects production, and reminiscences of our members about Old-Time Radio.

A contributor need not commit for an entire series; they might just do one of the articles.

I am not looking just for series of articles, one-time articles on any topic relating to Old-Time Radio are actively encouraged. A Bibliography of In-Print Books on Old-Time Radio is one possible idea.

The above thoughts are only one member's ideas. The Association has over five hundred members, so there must be a lot of ideas for articles out there. I realize that not every members will wish to contribute, but I hope that many of you will.

I can be reached by regular mail, telephone, and E-Mail. (See the inside cover for the pertinent information.) Hope to hear from you soon - Stewart Wright.

# Sherlock Holmes Play - Live

Thursday, March 19th  
7:30 P.M.

Church of the Master  
East 17<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Filbert Court

Here's your chance to attend a

live performance of a radio play. Our friends in the Sherlockian club, "Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients" along with the RHAC Players are putting on an original Sherlock Holmes play based on the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle story the *Final Problem*. The script is written by our own John Licht assisted by Charlene Schnelker of the Sherlockians. The play is co-directed by JoAnn Bantin of RHAC and Linda Rex of the Sherlockians. Several members of RHAC appear in the cast and assist on the technical crew.

## A "Not So" *Final Problem*

Our live presentation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Final Problem" was originally meant to be the last Sherlock Holmes tale. This story was the final installment of the collection of short stories that are known as *Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*. These stories originally published as installments in the *Strand Magazine* in 1892-93.

Most accounts state that Sir Arthur was tired of the Holmes character and wanted to do

other and more serious writing. So Holmes was "killed off" during a struggle-to-the death with Dr. Moriarty, in *The Final Problem*."

The public would not accept the death of Holmes' and wanted more stories about the world's most famous consulting detective. In 1901, Sir Arthur released the prequel novel, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. In 1903, Sherlock Holmes returned from the dead in *The Adventure of the Empty House*, one of the stories in the *Return of Sherlock Holmes* collection.

Luckily for us, well over half of the Sherlock Holmes adventures were written *after* his apparent demise in *The Final Problem*.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The pen and ink drawing of Sherlock Holmes came from Dave Pack's *Holmes Place* Web Site. The artist is unknown.

## Conventions

### CINCINNATI

The dates for the Cincinnati OTR Convention are Friday and Saturday, May 29 and 30. It starts at 12 Noon on Friday and ends at 4 PM Saturday.

The convention moves to larger quarters at the re-modeled

facility within the Marriott Inn. Guests: Peg Lynch, Bob Hastings, Barney Beck, Bob Mott, and John Rayburn.

For details, please contact Bob Burchett at  
10280 Gunpowder Road  
Florence, Ky 41042.  
Phone: 606-282-0333

## SEATTLE

Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound Radio Showcase VI  
Weekend of June 19-20, 1998

The theme is Radio Families.

The Radio Actors confirmed at this time are:

Dick Beals, Stewart Conway, Larry Dobkin, Sharon Douglas, Sam Edwards, Ray Erlenborn, Barbara Fuller, Art Gilmore, Sandra Gould, Merrill Mael, Tyler McVey, Norma Jean Nilsson, Gill Stratton Jr, Ginny Tyler, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Janet Waldo, Rhoda Williams, Doug Young.  
Herb Ellis and Harry Bartell may also appear.

The program will begin on Friday afternoon, June 19th and continue on Saturday June 20th from 9 AM until 10 PM.

Features this year will be:

*One Man's Family* Reunion: with Page Gilman (Jack), Barbara Fuller (Claudia), will be joined by other actors for

this classic show. They'll do a completely new script, updated to the present time.

*Vic & Sade*: with Merrill Mael (Uncle Fletcher), a part he played briefly on the series when it was in Hollywood.

*Ellery Queen*: with Larry Dobkin.

Several other possibilities are being explored but presently undecided which include: *The Life of Riley* (with 2 or 3 original cast members), *The Second Mrs. Burton* (original cast member), *Family Theatre*, *Fort Laramie*, *Frontier Gentleman* (in episodes featuring a family theme with at least one original cast member).

This year, the Showcase will be held on the Seattle Center grounds, near the Seattle Space Needle. The downtown Seattle department stores and Westlake Shopping Mall and Food Pavilion are a 4 minute ride from the convention site via Monorail or Metro Transit electric trolley coaches.

Contact Mike Sprague for more information.

REPS Showcase VI  
P.O. Box 723  
Bothell, WA 98401

Phone: 425-488-9518  
Fax: 425-402-6988  
E-Mail: hrrmikes@aol.com

# New In the Library

This month's additions to the library include music, dramas, and medical programs. There are tapes from the *CBC Jazz from Canada* series recorded during 1963. There are also classical music tapes of the CBC recorded in 1962. Tapes from *Medical Milestones*, *CBC Frontiers of Medicine*, *Doctor Paul*, and *Dramas of Medicine* round out the recent additions to the library.

Thanks to our members for contacting Robert Hoband on the overdue tapes, most have been returned. Still nothing received from Chris Turner of Marietta, GA.

## Favorite Radio Series

This is the first in what is hoped to be a continuing series of articles written by RHAC members on their favorite radio series. The article guidelines are pretty basic: in approximately 500 words tell us a little about the series. Who was involved, its length of run, why you like the series, and the information on of a couple of good episodes.

# FORT LARAMIE

by Stewart Wright

A trip last Autumn to Fort Laramie National Historic Site in Southeastern Wyoming (just a 3 ½ hour drive from Denver) is largely responsible for this article. I have been interested in the military history of the Old West for many years. For over 40 years Fort Laramie was a major outpost during 19<sup>th</sup> Century Westward expansion. I seemed to remember that there had been a radio series that used the Fort as its locale. Recently I got some of FORT LARAMIE tapes out of the RHAC Library. After listening to one tape, I realized that I had listened to the series when it was first broadcast.

Each episode opened as follows. At the captain's command, a troop of cavalry goes to the gallop. The bugle sounds the charge and the troop thunders forward to the attack. A rousing western musical score follows and the announcer leads in with "FORT LARAMIE - starring Raymond Burr. Specially transcribed tales of the dark and tragic ground of the wild frontier. The saga of fighting men who rode the rim of Empire and the dramatic story

of Lee Quince, Captain of Cavalry."

FORT LARAMIE came to radio in 1956 and lasted only one season, 40 shows. Most people would call it an adult Western. The series gave a realistic portrayal of life on the American frontier. Attention to period detail was a hallmark of FORT LARAMIE. Characters were not one-dimensional stereotypes, many were based on actual personages from historical events. An Indian was not always the villain and was very often a protagonist. Strong roles for woman were the quite common.

The actors cast in the main roles on FORT LARAMIE were very good. Raymond Burr starred as "Captain Quince." Co-stars were Vic Perrin as "Sgt. Goerss," Harry Bartell as "Lt. Seiberts" and Jack Moyles as "Major Daggett", the commanding officer of the post.

The guest stars and supporting actors were also first-rate. These included John Dehner, Sam Edwards, Virginia Gregg, Barney Phillips, Larry Dobkin, Ben Wright, & Jeanette Nolan.

I think that FORT LARAMIE rivals GUNSMOKE as the best Western ever on radio. That's not surprising because the two series shared the same writers,

sound effects men, & producer-director. Norman Macdonnell was the director and producer. The sound effects men, Ray Kemper, Bill James, and Tom Hanley were the among the very best in their profession. GUNSMOKE writers John Meston, Kathleen Hite, Les Crutchfield, and John Dunkel wrote most of the FORT LARAMIE scripts.

The following are two of my favorite episodes. The 02-05-56 episode, "Squaw Man" gives a vivid picture of how the decimation of buffalo impacted the Plains Indians, settlers, and the military. "The Coward", which aired on 03-25-56 deals with an officer who becomes a pariah after being court-martialled and demoted for failing to come to the aid of over 200 comrades who were killed in battle.

Most of the episodes of FORT LARAMIE are in the RHAC library; see the Tape Library Index.

I would like to acknowledge the Internet article "FORT LARAMIE - ONE OF THE LAST AND ONE OF THE BEST" by Jack French © 1996 which I used as source of factual information. Jack's extensive article can be found at:  
<http://members.aol.com/edwardelec/artjf001.html>

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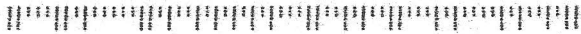
\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

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# SHERLOCK HOLMES

WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF THE MARCH MEETING  
THE REGULAR MEETING WILL BE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:30 P.M. THE PLACE  
IS AS USUAL, THE CHURCH OF THE MASTER. EAST 17<sup>TH</sup> AVE. AT FILBERT COURT.  
ENTER AT THE FILBERT COURT DOOR.

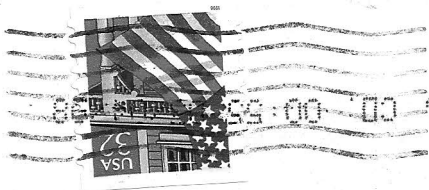
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