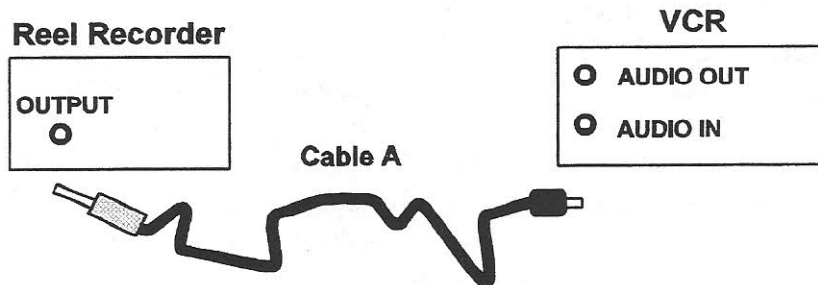




Volume 24, Number 1

August, 1998

Duplicating Old-Time Radio Shows On A VCR



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 Thursday, August 6, 1998

At Dick and Maletha King's, 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood CO

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 1430 AM *When Radio Was* weekdays from 7:00 till 8:00 PM

KEZW 1430 AM *Radio Movie Classics* Sundays 5:00 till 6:00 PM

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

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.

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 in good standing 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:	Guy Albright, 786 South Quitman St., Denver, CO 80219	934-0184
Vice-President:	Vacant	
Secretary:	John Stevenson, PO Box 1908 Englewood, CO 80150	573-7558
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Talking Newsletter:	Mike Fields, 243 S. 1100 E. Greentown, IN 46936	
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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	
Directors at Large:	David L Michael, 1999 Broadway, Lowery Suite, Denver CO 80202 Herb Dunniven See Above Dick King See Above	

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, 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood CO 80110	
Cassette Tape Librarians:		
#1 (1-499)	Maletha King, 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood CO 80110	761-4139
#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

RHAC PICNIC!

Make sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, August 15th. The RHAC picnic will be held at the King's - 900 W. Quincy Ave, in Englewood. The picnic will start at 2:00 PM. The Kings will provide the hamburgers and corn. Members should bring a covered dish or salad to share. Also bring something to drink and a chair.

The RHAC Players will be performing a very special presentation. See the next article for all the details.

See you there!

FROM THE RHAC PLAYERS

By JoAnn Bantin

August is fun time and that is just what the RHAC Players are planning for the RHAC August 15th picnic at the Kings. If you like to laugh and poke fun at situations and our society, this play will bring you a thousand laughs. The title is, *A FLAW IN THE OINTMENT*, written by Pete Wehner and was produced at the Third Annual RHAC Convention.

Basically, it is the story of a very deaf sound man, played by Dennis Hogarth, an irritated and astounded announcer, played by Larry Weide, a devious Major, played by Fred Hinz, a prank director, played by John Licht, a beautiful scandalous Candy who rises from streetwalker to Surgeon General played by Dorothy Weide, The cast continues with John Stevenson at the organ and as a barking dog, Jim Hollingsworth as the opening announcer, Priscilla Licht and Fred Bantin on sound, Guy Albright and Dick King on technical, and Fran Hogarth and Jo Ann Bantin as co-directors. All sound is done physically with fun in the air---it is a must, be sure to see it.

The exciting RHAC Players fall

production will be that person "who is an enemy to those who make him an enemy; a friend to those who have no friends," the fabulous *Boston Blackie*. Anyone who is interested and is not currently an RHAC Player, please contact JoAnn Bantin at 303-343-7508.

Duplicating Old-Time Radio Shows On A VCR

By Jack Mandik

Yes, you can duplicate your OTR shows on a video recorder using video tape as the tape. Using the extra-long play mode (SLP or ELP) mode, you can get six hours of recording with no flipping of reels and using switches to left and right tracks.

First you must get the proper cables with the proper jacks on the cable ends; connections can vary! Look at the AUDIO OUTPUT jack on your reel recorder. (See drawing on the front cover.) The VCR input jack is the standard RCA jack. Buy a cable at Radio Shack or other electronics store which matches these jacks. You put the RCA plug into the AUDIO IN jack on the VCR. The other end, of course, goes into the reel recorder OUTPUT jack.

So that's it. Start your reel recorder and VCR (set on ELP or SLP.)

To play back the audio you have options (with a remote control yet!): Option 1 Rewind the video tape and play back through your TV using the usual RF cable.

Or

Option 2 Use CABLE A and switch the plug from the AUDIO IN jack to the AUDIO OUT jack on the VCR. You can feed this signal to a separate amplifier or you can feed it into the reel recorder AUDIO INPUT jack. Now set the recorder in the RECORD

position. If your recorder has a speaker enclosed, you'll hear the audio.

If you want to duplicate cassettes, just follow the same directions assuming you have an EARPHONE OUTPUT on the radio/cassette unit. You can play back the sound also though the radio unit if it has a microphone jack. Again set the radio/recorder to RECORD position and sound should be heard. (Some radios are designed so no sound will be heard.)

If your radio has an output jack which says PHONE (HEADPHONES) OUTPUT or SPEAKER OUTPUT (EXTERNAL SPEAKER) you can record any radio shows the same way. Just connect CABLE A into PHONE OUTPUT and feed this into the AUDIO INPUT of your VCR.

Remove all audio cables from the VCR when using it for regular TV use.

Tape Librarian Needed

July brought forth a big change in our Cassette Library #1. Terry Hamilton has had a change in his personal life and no longer will handle our cassette library.

Maletha King will handle your orders until we get a new volunteer for Library number one. ANYONE INTERESTED? Just give Dick or Maletha a call if you want to know about what is required and how heavy the job is.

It was no problem for Maletha to just fill in on a TEMPORARY BASIS, but she already has enough on her hands and wants a another member to step up and handle the job. Just call the Kings' at 303-761-4139. Denver area members are preferred, but David Gatch, who handles Library #2 has been a very satisfactory Tape Librarian and he lives at

Glen Haven, CO, in the mountains.

New Library #1 Order Blank

We ask you to replace your order blanks for Tape Library #1 with the one at the back of the this month's newsletter. Using the old order blank with Terry's address will delay your order.

New in The Tape Library

By Maletha & Dick King

Mystery fans will enjoy this month's entries of *Nightfall*, all mystery stories written by various Canadian authors and aired in Canada in 1980 and 1981. Some of these are interesting and full of suspense, while others are just plain gory. For those of you who enjoy this genre of radio programs, these should be a must for your listening and collections. These are in the Contributors' Library reels 5415 - 5423. Reel 5414 was entered into the library last month.

Despite phone calls and letters, Preston Chambers, 1616 Cherry Hills Ct., Conyers, GA 30013 has had cassettes from Library Number 1 for many months and has not returned them. If anyone in his area will give him a call at 770-483-8176, maybe he will get the message that he is being unfair to other members. Your help in this matter will be appreciated.

Needed: Articles

The last few months have brought several articles from our members. This is a good start, but articles from the membership are needed on a regular basis. Your article can be on any topic related to Old-Time Radio or New-

Time Radio. Send your articles to Stewart Wright at his regular or E-Mail address listed on the inside cover of the newsletter.

Radio Quiz

This month we have a quiz from a member who wishes to remain anonymous. David Michael's quizzes will return next month

Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar

The subject of this month's OTR quiz is "America's fabulous free-lance insurance investigator with the action-packed expense account."

- 1 Who was the very first *Johnny Dollar*? (Hint: He also played *Richard Diamond*.)
 - 2 Which actor was the last *Johnny Dollar*?
 - 3 Who did a *Dollar* audition show that never made it to the air? (Hint: he played a detective created by Raymond Chandler.)
 - 4 What city was Johnny's home base?
 - 5 Which organization gave Johnny many of his cases?
 - 6 Who usually represented that organization?
 - 7 Who was Johnny's girlfriend?
 - 8 What was Johnny's hobby?
 - 9 Who was the longest-running *Johnny Dollar*?
 - 10 Name the actors played *Johnny Dollar*. (Hint: there were eight.)
- Tune in next month for the answers

July Answers

Characters Appearing Regularly on Old-Time Radio Programs

Listed below are names of characters regularly appearing on Old-Time Radio programs, the name of the program and the actor who played the part.

1. Kitty -- *Gunsmoke* -- Georgia Ellis
2. A. J. Calhoun -- *Amos & Andy* -- Johnny Lee

3. Uncle David -- *The Goldbergs* -- Menasha Skulnick
4. Maggie Jackson -- *Pete Kelly's Blues* -- Meredith Howard
5. Janet -- *Young Love* -- Janet Waldo
6. Mr. Higgins -- *Baby Snooks* -- Hanley Stafford
7. J.C. Dithers -- *Dagwood* -- Hanley Stafford
8. Professor Kropotkin -- *My Friend Irma* -- Hans Conried

Radio Show Web Sites

By Doug Hacker

Unable to connect with Jim French's *KIRO Mystery Playhouse* through the URL provided in the July issue of *Return with Us Now...* I browsed OTR on the trusty computer and found OTRS . . . OLD TIME RADIO SHOWS. It's produced by Makodon Communications and provides half a dozen shows in RealAudio 5.0 format. Delivered via RealPlayer, it doesn't require those downloads of audio files that seem to take forever.

The shows, updated every Sunday, also offer a bonus - two serials that run Monday through Saturday. This evening I found *Bob and Ray* and *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*; and as with other OTRS shows the audio quality was comparable to what you might expect with an over-the-air AM signal. A convenient log previews programs to be offered over the next several months.

Programmed in Seattle by Misty Dawn Lane, a lady who reminisces about her northern Idaho roots, OTRS was added to a Web site that was originally developed as a sales and marketing tool. However, Old-Time Radio has since taken over and has become the primary activity on the Internet address. Since

mid-March 30,000 OTR fans from 39 countries have found their way to OLD TIME RADIO SHOWS at

<http://makodon.com/otr/>

And, by the way, among the web site's extensive list of related links, I found one to the *KIRO Mystery Playhouse*.

<http://www.kiro710.com>

I didn't even care that the show was running late because of the rain delay of a Seattle Mariners baseball game. The following evening I listened to a fine original drama produced by French, the program's producer/announcer, and starring Harry Anderson, taking a break from "that visual medium" for the fun of "The Theater of the Mind."

Editor's Note: I accidentally listed an incorrect URL for the *KIRO Mystery Playhouse* in last month's newsletter.

Science Fiction on Radio BBS on The Web

By Jim Widner

Welcome to the Science Fiction on Radio Bulletin Board System. I want to introduce myself and just why I am moderating this BBS. My name is Jim Widner and I have been involved and around the OTR community for about ten years. I have been a collector for about 25 years, but was pretty uninvolved for the first 15. I was very active for a time in an Old-Time Radio BBS on Genie years ago, where I first encountered Lou Genco who was also on that board. As the Genie group began to disappear, I was invited by Lou to join the newly formed OTR Digest on the Internet. I came to his digest around issue #9 and immediately re-activated myself among a gradually growing group of on-line enthusiasts.

During the last five years I began work on a book with Meade Frierson

III about Science Fiction on Radio. There were a few X Minus One and Dimension X logs available, but nothing about the whole subject of Science Fiction on Radio. The book was published several years ago appropriately enough under the title "Science Fiction on Radio: A Revised Look at 1950 - 1975." Though the focus was on those years, we also covered SF previous to 1950. I also began a web site within the last few years called Radio Days which tries to provide a soundbite history of broadcast radio during the age of radio drama. You can find it at: <http://www.otr.com>

This BBS is designed to focus strictly on radio and Science Fiction. Comments should be about those combined subjects whether Old-Time radio or New-Time Radio. But definitely on any aspect about that combination including the storylines, the broadcasts, the writers and other personnel. It can include both adult and juvenile science fiction on radio. My main interest is on the adult arena and it is there you will see most comments from me. The address for my site is:

<http://www.old-time.com/sfradbbs/sfradbbs.cgi>

Editor's Note: If you find an interesting Old-Time Radio-related Web site, why not tell our readers by writing a short article on it for *Return with Us Now...* like Doug & Jim did. Send the article to Stewart Wright at his E-Mail or regular address listed on the inside cover of the newsletter.

Friends of Old-Time Radio Script Contest

The Fifth annual original script writing contest is now open. We would like an original 30 minute script which must be based on any of

the great radio programs of the past, such as *the Shadow*, *Jack Benny*, etc. The script can have the characters originating in their original era and time or you can update the time to today. If you have entered before and have not won in the last two years, please enter again.

The script must have all music and sound cues as well as all the spoken material. Try to arrange it in script form so it doesn't have to be retyped.

The prize for the best script will be \$150 and will have its live performance at our 1999 convention on Thursday evening after dinner. We would like you to attend our convention to participate, but it is not mandatory. You can direct it if you wish. There will be some rehearsal time. Scripts must be submitted by September 10, 1998. Send to Dave Zwengler, 319 Plymouth Rd, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 (908) 940-7639. A distinguished panel of Old-Time Radio buffs will pick the winning script. They must be very readable. All are eligible, so please spread the word.

At An OTR Convention

Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound Radio Showcase VI, 06/19-20/98

By Stewart Wright

The REPS *Showcase VI* was my first Old-Time Radio convention. I really didn't know what to expect. Here is my experience.

Let me state this up front. REPS did a **FIRST-RATE JOB** and put on a great convention! All of their volunteers were very friendly and informative. Special thanks to *PEMCO Financial Services*, Seattle for making a major financial gift to the *Showcase*.

The *Showcase* began on Friday afternoon, June 19th at 3 PM and

continued on Saturday June 20th from 9 AM until 10 PM. The theme of this year's *Showcase* was RADIO FAMILIES. This year, the *REPS Showcase* was held on the Seattle Center grounds, near the Seattle Space Needle. The convention hotel was just across the street from the Seattle Center, only a very short walk from the convention rooms. Downtown Seattle was just a short ride away via Monorail or Metro Transit electric trolleys.

The OTR guests (some of their major credits are in parentheses) included: Harry Bartell (*Escape, Gunsmoke, Sherlock Holmes, Fort Laramie, Johnny Dollar*), Dick Beals (*Lone Ranger, Gunsmoke*), Stewart Conway (*The Whistler, KIRO Mystery Playhouse*), Larry Dobkin (*Ellery Queen, Gunsmoke, Philip Marlowe*), Sharon Douglas (*One Man's Family, Life of Riley*), Sam Edwards (*One Man's Family, Meet Corliss Archer, Gunsmoke, Fort Laramie*), Ray Erlenborn (*The Bickersons, Blondie*), Barbara Fuller (*One Man's Family, Ellery Queen*), Page Gilman (*One Man's Family*), Art Gilmore (*Dr. Christian, Lux Radio Theatre*), Sandra Gould (*Sad Sack, A Date With Judy*), Merrill Mael (*Vic & Sade, Doctor Kate*), Jo Anna March (*Second Mrs. Burton*), Tyler McVey (*One Man's Family, Life of Riley*), Norma Jean Nilsson (*Blondie, Baby Snooks*), Gill Stratton Jr. (*Life of Riley, My Little Margie*), Ginny Tyler (*Jack Benny Show*), Janet Waldo (*One Man's Family, Meet Corliss Archer, Ozzie and Harriet*), Anne Whitfield Phillips (*One Man's Family, Phil Harris & Alice Faye Show*), Rhoda Williams (*Father Knows Best, One Man's Family*), and Doug Young (*Red Ryder, KIRO Mystery Playhouse*.)

There were panels and discussions on: The Gook Family (*Vic &*

Sade), Harry Bartell Presents Barbara Cook & Art Gilmore, Three Best Radio Family Shows, Three Worst Radio Family Shows, and *One Man's Family*. Ray Erlenborn and Stewart Conway gave a great presentation on Sound Effects.

The radio show recreations were episodes featuring a family theme with at least one original cast member. The recreations included (in order of presentation): *Ethel & Albert, Life of Riley, Vic & Sade, The Aldrich Family, Father Knows Best, One Man's Family, Adventures of Ellery Queen, Second Mrs. Burton, Meet Corliss, and Escape*. There was a special *One Man's Family* Reunion with Page Gilman (Jack) and Barbara Fuller (Claudia). They were joined by other actors who appeared on *OMF*: Sharon Douglas (Greta), Sam Edwards (Tracy), Anne Whitfield Phillips (Penelope), Tyler McVey (Elwood), and Janet Waldo (Irene) for this classic show. They did a completely new script, updated to the present time. Especially interesting was the "cold read" of the *Ellery Queen* episode. The actors received the scripts right in front of the audience, quickly marked them, and started into a rehearsal.

The highpoint of Friday night was a *Tribute to Parley Baer* hosted by John and Larry Gassman. The Gasmann brothers involved many of the OTR guests in an upbeat, positive look at the work and the person of actor Parley Baer who is recovering from a stroke. A video tape was immediately sent to Parley so he could enjoy it. One of the great stories told during the Tribute involved Parley being stopped by the police in Burley, Idaho late one night while he was looking for — **A TRUCKLOAD OF ELEPHANTS!**

The *Just Sittin' Around and Visiting* session on Saturday morning was great fun. All of the OTR guests

were assembled up front in one of the meeting room and they just visited, with some starter questions and audience involvement. Lots of great stories and anecdotes. Hopefully, some of this session will find its way into a future issue or two of *Return With Us Now...*

All of the guest celebrities at the *Showcase* were very approachable and friendly. During the breaks and Social Hour, there were many chances to talk with them. Several of the OTR guests I talked to had fond memories of coming to Denver for RHAC meeting and/or conventions. I also had plenty of opportunities to meet other convention attendees including a few RHAC members from Seattle and California. On Saturday night there was *Dinner With The Stars*. There were at least two OTR guests at each table during dinner and you had a great chance to converse with them.

Other activities at the convention included a vendor's room (tapes, memorabilia, and such), an auction, and an OTR guest group photo opportunity.

One of the reasons I went to the *REPS Showcase* was to interview some of the performers for our newsletter, *RETURN WITH US NOW...* I had made previous arrangements over the phone with Harry Bartell, Janet Waldo, and Sam Edwards. I had also made arrangements to interview Jim French of *KIRO Mystery Playhouse* and *Imagination Theatre* at his home. I am no journalist and had never conducted an interview; I was more than a little apprehensive. I really didn't need to be. Everyone I interviewed was so friendly, sociable, and helpful.

Now for the obvious question. Am I going to next year's *REPS Showcase*? I'm already making plans to attend. See you in Seattle!

Upcoming Conventions

Watch this column for the latest information on Old-Time Radio Conventions and special events. Listings will be updated as information is received.

The convention season is in full swing. If you are going to one of them, please share your convention experiences with our members with an article in the *Newsletter*.

23rd Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention

10/22-24/98

Holiday Inn-North
Newark, NJ

Some special guests are Mason Adams, Kirk Alyn, Dick Beals, Ray Erlenborn, Bob Hastings, Bob Mott, Ted Reid, Frances Chaney, Jill Corey, Toni Gillman, Mary Diveny, and many others. If you want a flyer, please e-mail or regular mail me your mailing address.

Contact: Jay Hickerson
Box 4321
Hamden, CT 06514
(203) 248-2887
FAX (203) 281-1322
JayHick@aol.com

15th Annual SPERDVAC Convention

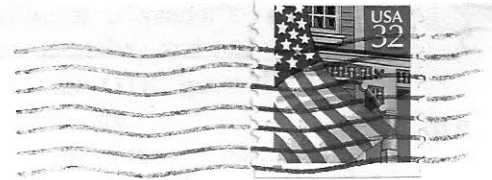
11/13-15/98

Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Los Angeles, CA

Contact: Larry Gassman
(562) 947-9800

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