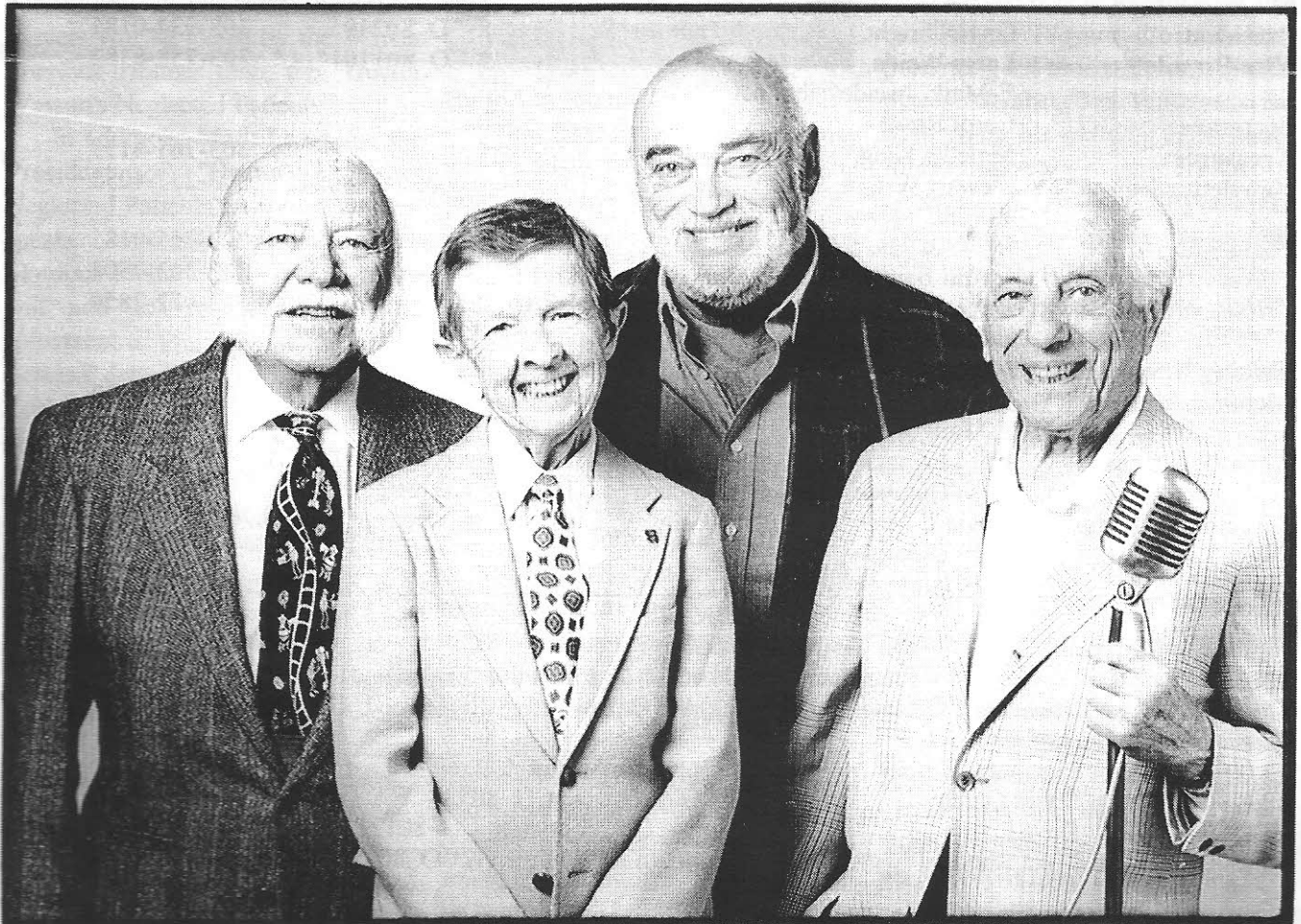


Volume 25, Number 4

November, 1999

## Who Are These Guys and What Do They Have in Common?

See Page 4



# 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, December 2, 1999 - 7:30 PM

At

John Adams, 2811 S Valentia St., Denver, CO 80231

303-755-9185

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 - 8:00 PM *Radio Movie Classics* Sundays 5:00 - 6:00 PM

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

KUVO 89.3 FM *Destination Freedom* 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month 7:30 PM - **BROADCAST LIVE!!!!**

### RHAC WEB SITE

The RHAC web page and catalog is on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>

*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 1st 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.

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<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	
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#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	303-730-1430
#4 (5001 up)	Mika Rhoden 3950W Dartmouth Ave., Denver, CO 80236	303-937-9476



## You're Invited to the RHAC 1999 Christmas Party!

As you regulars know, the RHAC has an annual Christmas party for all members and their invited guests. This year's event will be especially interesting in that, along with dinner, we are going to present a re-enactment of a seasonal 1945 radio drama of Sherlock Holmes called "The Iron Box" (see the announcement of this play under **RHAC Players**). This presentation will include live music and sound effects. What makes it particularly exciting is that the RHAC Players will be joined by the Denver Sherlock Holmes club, the "Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients".

In addition, Mark Langston, the President of "Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients" will be our guest speaker, and will also perform as Sherlock Holmes this evening. Mark will add to our knowledge and enjoyment of this most famous of all fictional detectives, and of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the author who brought him to life.

This year the party is being held in a private dining room at "The Country Buffet" in the Villa Italia shopping center in Lakewood. So, put a star on your calendar to mark the club's gala event of the year, invite your family and friends and here are the particulars:

**Where:** The Country Buffet at the Villa Italia shopping center  
7200 W. Alameda Ave.,  
Lakewood Colorado -  
between Sheridan and

Wadsworth

\* Lots of close in, well lit free parking

**When:** Saturday, December 11th -  
6:00 reception, 6:30 dinner

**Cost:** Adults (13 - 59) \$9.71  
Seniors (60 - +) \$8.96  
Children (12 & younger) Age  
times \$0.55 - i.e. a 6 year old  
pays \$3.30

Flyers will be going out to those within reasonable driving range of this event. In any case, all orders for tickets, along with your check, must be received no later than Friday, December 3rd. For further information contact Larry Weide RHAC VP at (303)758-8382 or lweide@ibm.net



By JoAnn Bantin

The RHAC *Players* are busy again with several plays being produced within the next few months. To begin we were honored by an invitation from The Center For The Book to do a children's show for their seventh annual convention. This is the third year for children and we understand there should be around a thousand or more children. This is one of our goals to promote old time radio to young people and gain their interest. Our performance will consist of an introduction to radio, an overview of a couple of old-time children's shows, a short discussion about the theater of the mind while a huge storm will be brewing with rain, wind and thunder. There will then be a production of the "Three Little Pigs" and then a hands-on-workshop for the children to ask questions, try out the sound equipment, etc. This event will be November 18, 1999 (Thursday) at

the Merchandise Mart at Interstate 25 and 58th Ave. Show time is 10:00 and 11:00 A.M. Admission is \$4.00 per person. Our cast includes those day-time retired but very busy people.

Next, and very important is the Christmas Party production, "The Iron Box", on December 11, 1999. This show is an adaptation of an episode of *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, which was broadcast on Dec 31, 1945. The script was written by Anthony Boucher and Dennis Green and recently transcribed by Dennis Hogarth. We have a wonderful cast of about 16 characters, a fantastic director, John Licht, a holiday story with a real ironic twist that will really keep you on the edge of your seat, and a wonderful restaurant with lots of good food. December 11th is a must, please invite a friend and make your reservations early. See you there.

One last note to let you know that our RHAC *Players* are still busy promoting old-time radio even in other places. Member, Dick Williamson has been doing his old-time radio show, *Radio Memories* on KFKA in Greeley, Co. for over 10 years. His show airs every Sunday night from 6:00 to 12:00 p.m. Because of Dick, many people up there have showed lots of enthusiasm for old time radio and recreating shows. Fred Bantin and myself offered to help and a new players group has formed in Greeley. This group has no connection with RHAC or any radio group. The first production, Johnny Dollar in the "Larson Arson Matter" will be November 14, 1999 at the United Methodist Church in Evans, just south of Greeley. Lets wish all the players and Dick the very best of luck.

We will be back with an article next month to share some thoughts for productions for next year. In the meantime all of the *Players* wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

# You're Invited To: The PEMCO/REPS Radio Showcase VII

By Stewart Wright

**Cover Page Photo:** The Mystery Guys. Left to Right - Front Row - Dick Beals and Harry Bartell. Back Row - Ray Erlenborn and Larry Dobkin. These Old-Time radio performers (and many others) were guests at the PEMCO/REPS Radio Showcase VII. The photo was taken by Christopher Conrad, son of radio legend William Conrad. (Photo is from the author's collection.)

Many of our members have never had a chance to attend an Old-Time Radio Convention. Ever wonder - "What goes on at one of these conventions?" Starting with this month's issue of *Return With Us Now* . . ., you'll find out.

The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound (REPS) held their 1999 *Radio Showcase VII* on Friday and Saturday, June 25th and 26th, at the Seattle Center, home of the world-famous Space Needle. The *Showcase* began on Friday afternoon, at 3 PM and continued until about 9:30 PM in the evening. It then resumed on Saturday morning at 8:30 AM and ended at about 9:30 PM.

Every year REPS selects a theme with which to stage re-creations and panels. This year, the theme, *Mystery at the Mike* was fun, active, and highly diverse as it allowed REPS to offer a wide-range of radio series re-creations.

## OTR Guest Stars

Every year REPS invites a large contingent of Old-Time Radio personalities. Each *Showcase* allows REPS to invite several new Old-Time Radio (OTR) friends to share their talents and memories. This year's first-time attendees included:

Charles Flynn - *Jack Armstrong, The Gumps* and *We Are Four*;  
Tommy Cook - *Blondie, Red Ryder*

and *Sears Radio Theater*; and Alan Young - *Alan Young Show, Jimmy Durante Show* and *Mister Ed*.

REPS has also been blessed with a fine returning "Company" of regulars each year. This year's returning OTR personalities for *Showcase VII* included (space allows that only a few of each guests' many credits be listed.):

Larry Albert - *Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, KIRO Mystery Playhouse* and *Imagination Theater*;  
Harry Bartell - *Sherlock Holmes, Fort Laramie, and Yours Truly - Johnny Dollar*;

Dick Beals - *Lone Ranger, Speedy Alka Seltzer*; and *The Lone Ranger*;  
Bill Brooks - *KIRO Mystery Playhouse; Adventures of Harry Nile* and *Imagination Theater*;

Frank Buxton - author, actor, and director;

Stewart Conway - sound effects  
*Sherlock Holmes, Red Ryder* and *Lights Out*;

Larry Dobkin - *Adventures of Nero Wolfe, Gunsmoke* and *Adventures of Philip Marlowe*;

Sam Edwards - *Corliss Archer, Six Shooter* and *One Man's Family*;  
Herb Ellis - *Yours Truly Johnny Dollar, Dragnet* and *Broadway Is My Beat*;

Ray Erlenborn - sound effects  
*Texaco Star Theater, Blondie* and *Lux Radio Theater*;

Esther Geddes - *The Magic Garden* and *the Golden Days of Radio*;

Art Gilmore - *Adventures of Red Ryder, Doctor Christian, and Dr. Christian*;

Merrill Mael - *Vic and Sade, Breakfast at Sardi's* and *Fibber McGee and Molly*;

JoAnna March - *The Second Mrs. Burton*;

Tyler McVey - *Glamour Manor, Fibber McGee and Molly* and *Calling All Cars*;

Norma J. Nilsson - *Father Knows Best, Jack Carson* and *CBS Radio Workshop*;

Anne Whitfield Phillips - *Phil Harris, Escape* and *The Cisco Kid*;  
Gil Stratton, Jr - *My Little Margie, Life with Luigi* and *Life of Riley*;  
Ginny Tyler - Seattle radio and *Jack Benny Show*;

Rhoda Williams - *Father Knows Best, Cinderella* and *One Man's Family*; and

Douglas Young - *The Cisco Kid, Red Ryder, and The Whistler*.

## Panels

This year, the moderated panel discussions included such topics as: "How Did These Mysteries Miss the Program," "Whatever Happened To . . . ?," and "A Mystery. . . Why Were These Kids So Darned Good on Radio?"

## Interview

This year, Ginny Tyler interviewed, first-time REPS guest Alan Young. Alan had lots of great stories. Did you know that two of the characters that were written out of *Alan Young* radio show, because the sponsor didn't like them, later became important characters on the *Fred Allen Show* under new names - Senator Claghorn and Titus Moody. Quick - What was the original name horse who played *Mister Ed*? Bamboo Harvester.

## Re-Creations

One of the main activities at any OTR conventions is the re-creation of shows. All of the re-creations at the *REPS Showcase* featured at least one actor or sound person who appeared in the original show. Each had a unique aspect.

Three of this year's guests, Herb Ellis, Larry Dobkin, and Harry Bartell, had played Archie Goodwin in the original *The Adventures of Nero Wolfe* series. In the REPS re-creation, Larry played Nero Wolfe, Harry played Archie, and Herb Ellis directed the episode titled "The Case of the Party for Death."

*The Adventures of Red Ryder* re-creation of "Border Line Bad Man" featured two actors, Tommy Cook and

Ann Whitfield Phillips, who had played the role of Little Beaver. Did you that Art Gilmore, who was the announcer for *Red Ryder*, also whistled the theme music for that series?

The *Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy* episode "Break In" featured Charles Flynn, the longest-running of the Jack Armstrongs. As a special touch, the theme song and a Wheaties commercial were performed by a barbershop quartet.

The *Vic and Sade* re-creation also fit into the mystery theme with the episode "How Does Your Garden Grow?" A *Vic and Sade* episode is featured at every *REPS Showcase*.

In *The Alan Young Show* re-creation, the mystery revolved around a French gourmet meal catered by, of all establishments, *Duffy's Tavern*.

Ten of this year's guest celebrities (Harry Bartell, Larry Dobkin, Sam Edwards, Ann Whitfield Phillips, Norma Jean Nilsson, Gil Stratton Jr., Ray Erlenborn, Dick Beals, Herb Ellis, and Tommy Cook) had appeared in the classic radio mystery series *Suspense*. Most of them also performed in the re-creation of the *Suspense* episode of "In Fear and Trembling."

Especially interesting was the "cold read" of the *Broadway Is My Beat* episode - "The Case of the Bag of Dirt." The actors received the scripts right in front of the audience. The players quickly marked their scripts and started into a rehearsal. Larry Dobkin directed this re-creation and preceded the re-creation with some very insightful comments on radio acting preparation and technique. Larry's comments will appear in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

#### ***Just Sittin' Around and Visiting***

This year, the very popular *Just Sittin' Around and Visiting* segment had a different format. Rather than just a single session, there was a session each day. Half of the OTR

guests were assembled up front in one of the meeting room and they just visited, helped by some starter questions and audience involvement. Lots of great stories and anecdotes. Some of conversations from these sessions will find their way into a future issue or two of *Return With Us Now...*

#### **Vendors**

There were several vendors of Old-Time Radio tapes - both cassette and reel-to-reel. There were also booths selling nostalgia items such as old fan magazines, record albums, and radio premiums.

#### **Up Close and Personal**

All of the guest celebrities at the *Showcase* were very friendly and approachable. During the breaks and the Saturday night Social Hour, there were many chances to talk with them, acquire autographs and take pictures. I got at least one opportunity to talk with each of the celebrities. I also had time to meet with many other convention attendees including a few RHAC members from around the country and members of several other Old-Time Radio clubs.

#### **Dinner With The Stars**

On Saturday night there was a dinner at which convention goers were seated one or more of the celebrity guests. You had a great chance to converse with them. This year, I was seated at the table with Alan Young. Alan had great stories and a delightful sense of humor. During this dinner awards to the performers and REPS volunteers were given.

#### **Silent Auction**

This year REPS had a silent auction which raised over \$1,000.00 to help pay *Showcase* expenses. Of particular interest and intense bidding were an autographed group photo of Larry Dobkin, Harry Bartell, Dick Beals, and Ray Erlenborn and individual, autographed photos of each of these OTR personalities. The photographs were taken by son of radio legend William Conrad,

Christopher Conrad.

*Editor's Note:* Yes, I was the successful bidder on the group photo that appears on the front cover of this month's *Return With Us Now...* This picture now occupies a prominent place in my home.

#### **Book Signings**

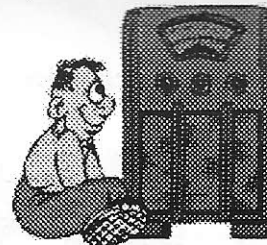
Two of this year's celebrities talked about and signed books that they had authored: Dick Beals - "Think Big!" and Alan Young - "Mr. Ed and Me." Both books are well worth reading and have many entertaining stories of about their experiences in Radio and other areas of entertainment.

#### **Photo Session**

Every REPS Convention ends with the Photo Session which gives the convention goers a chance to take pictures of the celebrity guests as a group and individually.

#### **More...**

Watch for more stories on the REPS Convention in upcoming issues of the Newsletter.



## **Radio Memories Fitting the Image**

By Lon McCartt

During the "Golden Age" of radio when I was a boy, the voices which became familiar to us did not always belong to people who fit the image. One of the best examples of this was *Baby Snooks*. I loved *Baby Snooks*, but I always thought that she was a real girl. Little did I realize that the voice belonged to a former star of the Ziegfeld Follies named Fanny Brice. The big shock came one day when I heard family members talking about

Fanny Brice leaving the show. "Who cares." I thought, "Who needs her anyway?" Then it was explained to me that Fanny Brice was *Baby Snooks*. As far as I was concerned, *Baby Snooks* was dead and Fanny Brice was responsible. Now through the wonder of taped broadcasts, I can enjoy the naughty little girl again and Fanny Brice is forgiven.

forever and enjoy every time they listen to them.

The *Grand Marquee* shows are all in good sound and the *Curtain Time* shows with Harry Elders are good quality and will make you think of the *Mr. First Nighter* shows. All of the shows were good family entertainment without needing any of the "ratings" for foul mouths and other liberties that are the norm of today's entertainment.

Those of you who are now making CDs of your radio shows could be giving priceless gifts of some of these shows. Although most of us still use cassettes for our listening, CDs are now a great alternative and give you a chance to make a few improvements on the sound.

#### Cassettes Anyone?

Speaking of cassettes, your club has blank cassettes in both C-62 and C-92 lengths at \$0.50 and \$0.75 each. These are without boxes and we charge \$0.10 each for soft plastic boxes. Shipping is extra. Maletha has the inventory of these items.

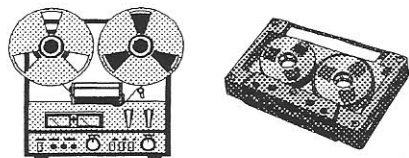


## ARTICLES NEEDED!!!!

We are running *VERY, VERY LOW* on articles for the Newsletter, your help is needed and would be appreciated.

To keep the RHAC newsletter interesting, articles from our members are needed on a regular basis. You don't have to be a professional writer to submit an article. Write about your favorite Old-Time Radio series, personality, or on whatever radio-related topic you want. But, please write.

Send your articles to Stewart Wright, Newsletter Editor. My addresses, regular & E-Mail, are listed on page 2 of the Newsletter.



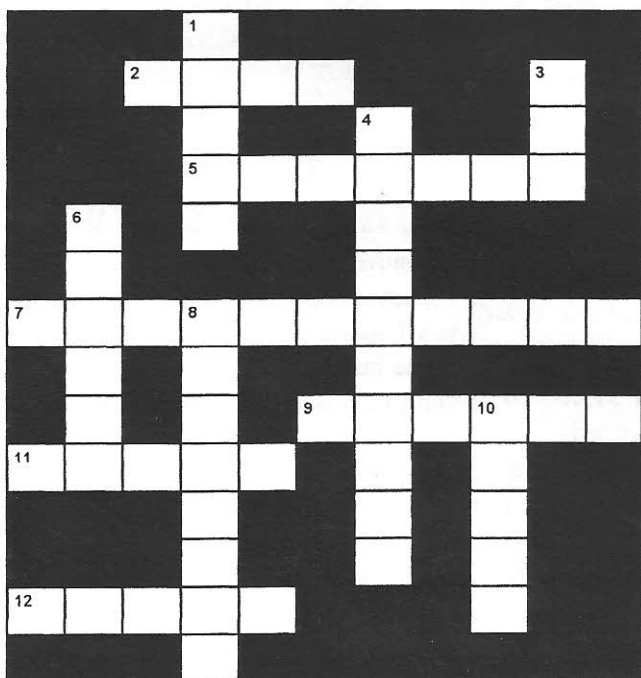
## New in The Tape Library

By Maletha & Dick King

November already! Christmas is just around the corner.

This month's entries are such great family entertainment that you might want to dub off some of these shows for Christmas gifts for some of your friends. Such a gift would be something that they would remember

## Richard Diamond



## Radio Puzzle

By Jim Johnston

This month we have another Old-Time Radio Crossword Puzzle.

The subject of this month's puzzle is Radio's singing detective, *Richard Diamond*. This puzzle will test your knowledge of one of radio's great series

The puzzle and its answers appear in the same issue. (See the answers on back page.) Good luck and happy sleuthing.

### Across

2. Lieut's first name
5. Diamond's Creator
7. Herbert's two roles
9. Sponsor #1
11. Played Helen
12. Diamond's music box

### Down

1. Sponsor #2
3. Trained Diamond
4. Helen's address
6. Francis
8. Otis's rank
10. Girlfriend

# Christmas Party

This year's RHAC Christmas Party will be held at:

The Country Buffet - Villa Italia shopping center  
7200 W. Alameda Ave.  
Lakewood, CO  
Saturday, December 11th - 6:00 P.M.

See Page 3 for additional information.

# Crossword Puzzle Answers

From Page 6

## Across

2. Walt
5. Edwards
7. Otis and Francis
9. Rexall
11. Gregg
12. Piano

## Down

1. Camel
3. OSS
4. Park Avenue
6. Butler
8. Sergeant
10. Asher

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLO.  
P O BOX 1908 ENGLEWOOD, CO 80150

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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