

Volume 25, Number 6

January, 2000

Growth of RHAC Over The Years 1975 - 2000

By Maletha King & Stewart Wright

Radio Historical Association of Colorado has had a lot of grown a lot in the last fourteen or fifteen years. It has grown from having only a reel-to-reel library of 530 tapes to the present 1855 tapes and also offering all of the shows on cassettes in our four cassette libraries. (We now have the regular library with the three very busy cassette libraries and we also have the Contributor's library and it's cassette library.)

The RHAC catalog was 130 pages and mailed for about 85 cents. We now have 510 pages of tape listings and the cost of mailing is over \$2.00.

RHAC also has libraries of scripts, show logs, and radio-related publications.

The club membership was about one hundred in 1985, now it is over five hundred members. Expenses and income have grown accordingly and

it requires lots more time from every volunteer to keep our club going.

We also have a very active theatrical group - the RHAC *Players*. Not only do the *Players* perform at RHAC functions, but they also entertain people in the community.

In today's dollar-hungry world, there is always someone trying to prevent the old shows from being circulated unless they can get their palms crossed, but clubs like Radio Historical Association of Colorado are growing and continue to bring pleasure to their members.

Although radio is no longer the primary media of entertainment for the family home, tapes in one form or the other have helped us continue to enjoy the clean family shows from the days of Old-Time Radio.

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, February 3, 2000 - 7:30 PM

At

Maletha & Dick King's 900 W. Quincy Ave., Englewood, CO 303-761-4139

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* 3rd 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.

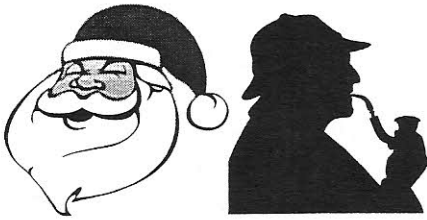
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Directors at Large:	David L Michael, 1999 Broadway, Lowery Suite, Denver, CO 80202 Herb Dunniven See Above Dick King See Above	

LIBRARIES

Reference Material:	Bill McCracken, address above	303-986-9863
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)	Marilyn J. Turner 2299 S. Sable Blvd., Aurora, CO 80014	303-751-4325
#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



RHAC 1999 Christmas Party!

This year's RHAC Christmas Party was very well-attended. Nearly 140 people came to the December 11th event. This event was a joint function attended members, family and friends of both Radio Historical Association of Colorado and "Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients" a local club of people with interest in Sherlock Holmes.

Included in the festivities were a buffet dinner, a door prize drawing, a re-enactment of a seasonal 1945 radio drama of *Sherlock Holmes* called "The Iron Box," and a speaker on Sherlock Holmes. The audience also got into the act when they roundly booed a descendent of the evil Dr. Moriarty during the radio show recreation.



The Iron Box

Presented December 11, 1999

(From the presentation program)

For the second year the Radio Historical Association of Colorado (RHAC) and Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients (DWNP) merge together to present a radio recreation for the RHAC annual Christmas Party. This time a very timely story has been chosen for the new millennium. Instead of a change to 2000, however; this story takes place at the

change to 1900. You'll note some interesting differences during the recreation and of course, the time change was necessary to fall within the time frame of Sherlock Holmes.

The story of the "The Adventure of the Iron Box" was written originally by Anthony Boucher & Denis Green for the "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes." Supposedly the story was suggested by an incident in the Arthur Conan Doyle story "Silver Blaze". After reading "The Silver Blaze" from three different sources, I believe Boucher and Green must have taken a lot of freedom in writing this story and claiming it was an incident written by Arthur Conan Doyle. The only similarity I could see was in the beginning when Holmes counted telegraph posts, and with that and the aid of his watch, calculated the speed of the train. That part was almost word for word. Never the less "The Adventure of the Iron Box" is a good story and written in the Sherlock Holmes style.

Fran & Dennis Hogarth, Sherlockian experts, have done a wonderful job of transposing this script and bringing it up to modern times with the opening of a father and his daughter arriving at the Denver home of Irene Watson on New Year's Eve 1999. Fran and Dennis also have added some levity to the show by writing the commercials for Bromo Cyanide.

John Licht is the director for this recreation and is a natural for this position. He has directed in the past and is a member of both RHAC and DWNP. John cast Mark Langston and Larry Weide to play Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Mark and Larry played the same parts in the first combined recreation between RHAC and DWNP of The Final Problem. Charlene Schnelker who played Dr. Watson's daughter in The

Final Problem was cast to play Dr. Watson's Great Granddaughter. Ernie Witte who played Professor Moriarty in The Final Problem plays a great grand nephew of Professor Moriarty in this production. Others in the production tonight that were characters in The Final Problem are Esther Campbell, Fred Hinz, John Licht, Priscilla Licht, Dennis Masel, John Price, Carolann Shetter, and Dame Beryl Sykes-Windsor. All the cast has put forth a lot of effort to get into character. The cast has worked hard to have the correct accents and dialogue. The sound crew has likewise done a lot of work to get the proper sounds and effects for the production.

Sherlock Holmes has been on the radio dating back to 1930. It has been on American, Britain, and Australian radio. Many actors have played the parts of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson but the most popular were the American actors of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce and the British actors of Sir John Gielgud and Sir Ralph Richardson.

In America Rathbone and Bruce became synonymous with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Their success was not only on radio but also in many Sherlock Holmes movies. Rathbone in 1946 ended his career as Sherlock and went on to play the part of Inspector Burke in the series Scotland Yard. Bruce continued with the series until the fall run of 1947. The show continued until 1950 with several different actors playing the parts.

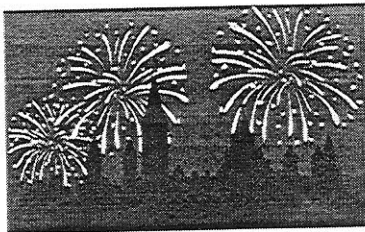
If you are interested in either the RHAC *Players* or Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients (DWNP) you can contact:

DWNP Membership
Fran Hogarth
805 Agate St.
Broomfield, CO 80020
303-466-4017

RHAC Players
JoAnn Bantin
1290 Dayton St.
Aurora, Co 80010
303-343-7508

Cast and Crew

Directed By: John Licht
Script Adapted By: Fran and Dennis Hogarth
Announcer - Dame Beryl Sykes-Windsor
Sophia - Sophia Ernst
Sophia's Father - Forrest Ernst
Irene Watson - Charlene Schnelker
Sherlock Holmes - Mark Langston
Dr. John H. Watson - Larry Weide
Sir Thomas Dunbar - Ernie Witte
Lady Dora Dunbar - Nancy Witte
Sandy Murdock - John Licht
Ian Dunbar - Fred Hinz
Sir Walter Dunbar - Dennis Masel
William Murdock - John Price
Lillian Small - Esther Campbell
Dorothy Small - Helen Lozynsky
Agnes - Nancy Witte
Abby Brewster - Priscilla Licht
Martha Brewster - Carolann Shetter
John Moriarty - Ernie Witte
Radio Show Announcer - Bill Walters
Keyboard Music - John Stevenson
Sound Effects - Dennis Hogarth, Kathy Melies, Guy Albright, and Francie Masel
Sound - David Clow and Fred Bantin
Coordinator - Joann Bantin



THE WORLD OF OZ

by Jack French © 1999

Although it was not very successful on radio, the world of Oz triumphed in every other category of popular

culture.

As nearly everyone knows, Lyman Frank Baum (1856-1919) wrote the book "The Wizard of Oz". First published in 1900 as a children's book, Baum adapted it for the stage a year later. Both versions were very successful so during the next ten years, Baum churned out fourteen more "Oz" books. Not only did they all do well, they spawned enough interest to result in several movies.

Before the 1939 MGM movie of "The Wizard of Oz", there were more than two dozen film adaptations of Oz. There were three produced in 1910 alone and all were silent films, of course. There was even a 1925 silent "Wizard of Oz" film with Oliver Hardy portraying the Tin Man.

Oz first came to the network airwaves in 1933. Jell-O sponsored this 15 minute kids' radio program, which aired on NBC three times a week. Nancy Kelly played the leading role of "Dorothy" and the radio version (unlike the 1939 movie) stuck closely to Baum's original formula and details. For example, the magic shoes were silver (as in the books) not ruby-red (as in the MGM film.) The radio series only lasted from September 1933 to March 1934. Episodes # 1 and 7 have survived to the present day, but neither one has very good sound quality.

For most of us, the MGM movie of "The Wizard of Oz" released in 1939, and still playing on cable somewhere, is what comes to mind when we think of the Land of Oz. But MGM had many cast changes from the first draft until it got the movie "in the can." Buddy Ebsen started as the Tin Man, but the silver makeup irritated his skin so much he dropped out and Jack Haley took the role. MGM tried to get W.C. Fields to play the Wizard, but he refused so Frank Morgan got the part.

Even Judy Garland was not

supposed to be "Dorothy". The first choice was ten year old Shirley Temple, the little darling of Hollywood in the 30s, but 20th Century Fox, who owned her contract, would not part with her services. So a mature, 16 year old Judy Garland, was chosen and had to play the lead with her breasts bound and flattened.

MGM took great liberties with the original book, usually with the "bigger is better" rule. For example, Baum had only three Munchkins greet Dorothy when she arrived in Oz. MGM quickly boosted that number to 124 and every actor in America, if less four feet, was put on the payroll. The silver slippers, which didn't look theatrical enough, were quickly changed to ruby-red.

The movie, while not the box-office smash one would think it would be, never-the-less did very well. However it was in its re-releases and sales to TV that it made a fortune.

Although Baum died in 1919, the "Oz" property was too successful to let lapse so another author, Ruth Plumly Thompson, was brought in and she turned out one "Oz" book every year from 1921 to 1939. By that time, the books sales were not as great, but five different authors did produce ten more "Oz" books from 1940 to 1980, with modest successes.

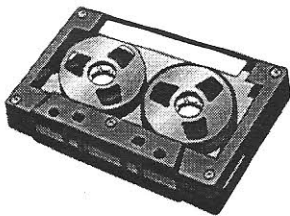
Lux Radio Theatre finally got around to producing "The Wizard of Oz" on Christmas Day, 1950. Judy Garland, then aged 28, was the only original cast member of the MGM film to be in this *Lux* program. Rounding out the cast were: Herb Vigran (Tin Man), Hans Conreid (Scarecrow), Ed Max (Lion), Herb Butterfield (Wizard), Betty Lou Gerson (Good Witch), Noreen Gammill (Wicked Witch) William Johnson (Uncle Henry), Ruth Perrott (Auntie Em), Gil Stratton (Mayor) & David Light was the voice of Toto.

The popularity of "Oz" continues

on to the present day. In 1975 a cast of Afro-Americans debuted "The Wiz" on Broadway and some version of this play has been on tour ever since. This musical was made into a movie in 1978 by Universal and starred Diana Ross and Michael Jackson. Many television shows, including puppet versions, have kept "Oz" in the public eye through the 90s.

There is even an international fan club, devoted to Baum and his mythical land of "Oz", which was founded in 1950 and now has a membership of over 2,000. Their "Ozmopolitan Convention" has been held every year since 1961 at Castle Park, MI, where Baum spent many happy summer vacations.

Oh yes, one other bit of trivia....when the 1939 MGM film was nearly completed, it was deemed too long by the studio big-wigs and their first suggestion was to cut the song, "Over the Rainbow."



New in The Tape Library

By Maletha & Dick King

Now that Christmas and New Years are past, we can settle down to things of a much slower-pace and enjoy a new series of *Lum and Abner* in the regular library on reels 1391 through 1394. These shows pick up right after the shows in the Contributors' Library.

These shows were presented during our country's defense era and they certainly pushed buying defense bonds and savings stamps.

All of the shows of that era were

pushing bonds and stamps, but not all of them pushed it as hard as *Lum and Abner*. The little town of Pine Ridge went through the same hard times as many small towns across the country as their populations left for work in the defense plants and all the young men were drafted to do their part in the "War to end all wars."

When we drive through the country side, we see lots of sites where there were towns, but they were vacated during that period of time and never recovered. Our friends in *Lum and Abner* try to make sure that Pine Ridge does not suffer the same fate. They go from one project to another and even build a rocket ship to go to Mars. You have to be in the right frame of mind to really enjoy these shows that truly represent life in the small towns of this country in the early years of the 1900's. Although this series of *Lum and Abner* are on 1800-foot reels and 92-minute cassettes, our members will have no problems using 30- or 32-minute cassettes. Each show is only about 13-minutes long, and none of them are split for the side change on the cassettes.

There is a lot of blank tape on the cassettes, but it will be easy for members to copy them and fit them into the series. You might even be caught listening to them and that can be addictive. Too many collectors get so intent on collecting that they forget to listen to their treasures. Don't get caught in that trap.

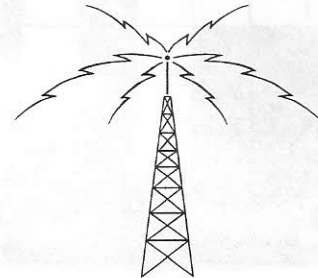
One member has sent us a copy of his project of recording Old-Time Radio shows on Compact Discs. He was able to put all of the series of *Have Gun, Will Travel* on 2 discs. They play on a computer under Windows Media Player version 6 or greater. He has decided the best recording specification to be 11025Hz MP-3 conversion in *Music Maker* software from WAV files. The

drawback to this is that you have to use a computer for playing.



New Old-Time Radio Scripts Are Available

SPERDVAC, the Old-Time Radio club in Los Angeles has decided to share their extensive library of scripts with other clubs. We have received some of their scripts and, since more have come to us after we submitted our catalog to the printers, we will be updating that listing again as needed. We urge any groups that want to use these scripts have a member contact us to keep up with these treasures as they come in.



Radio Memories: Military Opry Buffs

By Lon McCartt

This may not qualify as "Old-Time Radio," but during my two years in Japan with Armed Forces Radio (I was in the U.S. Navy at the time.), the most complaints we ever received was when *The Grand Old Opry* was not broadcast at its regular time. There was always a good reason for the change in our schedule, but it didn't seem to make much difference. The *Opry* fans were very

loyal and really looked forward to the show. That was during the early 1960's, so there wasn't much left of the network radio programs. I don't think that the show is available on commercial tapes to this day, but there must be some of the old shows stored away in the Armed Forces archives or somewhere in Nashville.

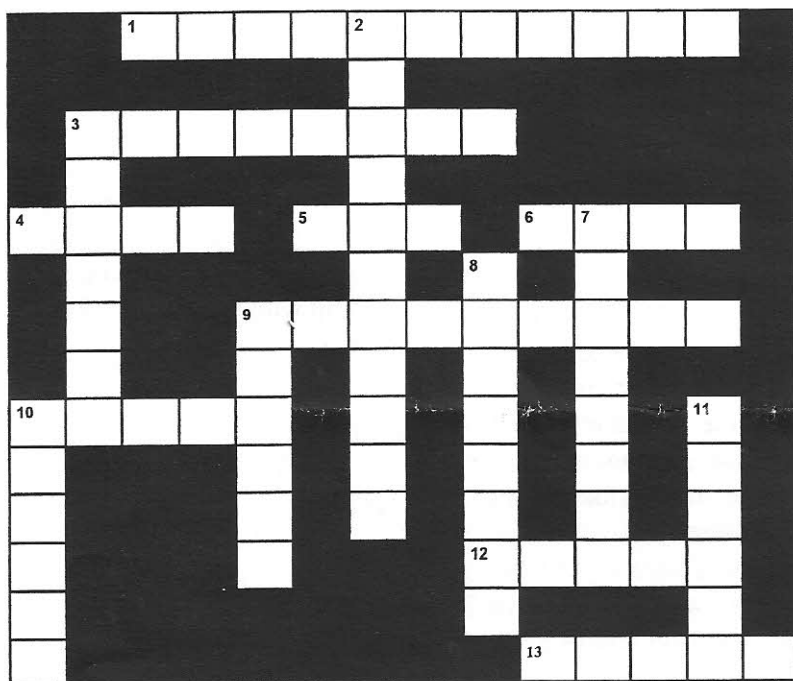
The Boy In the Tumbleweed

By Lon McCart

There was one story from the radio days of my childhood which refuses to leave me alone. It is the story of a boy who gets caught up in a tumbleweed and goes rolling across the countryside. I think that the boy's name was Little Orley" or "Little

Orie" or some such name. There were several stories which featured this person but the one I remember is the tumbleweed story. I think that the stories were all on records and that I listened to them on Saturday mornings. That was before *Big Jon and Sparky*. Hopefully, someday I will run across someone who remembers the stories so I can put it to rest.

One Man's Family Radio Crossword Puzzle



Radio Puzzle

By Jim Johnston

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

The subject of this month's puzzle is one of OTR's most popular and the long-running continuing dramas - *One Man's Family*.

This puzzle will test your knowledge of one of radio's great series

The puzzle and its answers appear in the same issue. (The answers are on back page.) Good luck!

Across

1. Last sponsor
3. Male twin
4. Youngest son
5. Lacey's ranch
6. Eldest son
9. Old Henry loved it
10. Eldest daughter
12. Henry's wife
13. Created O.M.F.

Down

2. Henry's occupation
3. Female twin
7. Paul's career
8. Barbours' town
9. Played jack
10. The Judge
11. Henry's trademark

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

Across

- 1. Alkaseltzer
- 3. Clifford
- 4. Jack
- 5. Sky
- 6. Paul
- 9. Gardening
- 10. Hazel
- 12. Fanny
- 13. Morse

Down

- 2. Stockbroker
- 3. Claudia
- 7. Aviation
- 8. Seacliff
- 9. Gilman
- 10. Hunter
- 11. Yesyes

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09/01/2000

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