



# RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COLORADO

Volume 25, Number 7

February, 2000



Seated at table, clockwise from left: Larry Dobkin, Herb Ellis, Tyler McVey, Harry Bartell, Art Gilmore, & Rhoda Williams. PEMCO/Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound Showcase VII, June 25, 1999

## You're Invited To: **Larry Dobkin - Introduction To The "Cold Read" for *Broadway Is My Beat***

*Editor's Notes:* A regular feature of the *REPS Showcase* is a "Cold Read" re-creation. The actors are given their scripts for the first time, take a few minutes to mark their parts in their scripts and begin to rehearse "cold" as the audience looks on; there are no music or sound effects. The following is a brief explanation on how radio actors read their scripts given by well-known actor Larry Dobkin, a frequent performer on *Broadway Is My Beat*, who directed and acted in this "Cold Read" of the episode "John Stewart - The Case of the Bag of Dirt" which originally aired on March 28<sup>th</sup> 1953. We'll let Larry take over.

"I made a couple of comments last year (before the 'Cold Read') that are valid to repeat.

What makes a Radio actor possible is getting over the way we were all taught to read in school. Most of us still read that way.

When you see the word 'elevator', you are mentally saying 'el-e-va-tor'. You're lucky if you don't move your lips and follow with your fingers, the way we were taught to because that was the only way the teacher

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# 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* 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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#### LIBRARIES

<b>Reference Material:</b>	Bill McCracken, address above	303-986-9863
<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)	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

## A Home For RHAC

By Dave Clow

I have been given the assignment to explore and find a place for the RHAC to set up a permanent home for our meetings (Club Monthly meetings, Board of Directors Meetings, RHAC *Players* activities) and storage of our accumulated OTR stuff. i.e. turntables, microphones, unclassified tapes, posters and so on. It is not required that the current jobs of librarians should move to this facility, but they could if the individual librarians would like to get the libraries out of their own home.

In addition, the meeting room would be arranged to allow the presentation of OTR re-enactments, or new scripts generated by our members. The RHAC *Players* under the guidance of JoAnn Bantin are becoming more polished in their presentations and this may lead to monthly presentations for the community, or Internet presentations, or who knows where.

Practices by the RHAC players could take on a weekly week night with those able to attend taking part in "Dramatic plays" or just recording for fun or? How about a weekly week night devoted to playing RHAC tapes of our favorites? How about a trivia game monthly? How about monthly planning meeting for the RHAC radio program "A Tribute To Old Time Radio" where favorite shows are suggested and 30 second introductions for those shows are recorded?

In any case my one-man findings to date are as follows:

**Strip mall facilities** are easy to find but require a constant drain on the RHAC budget. In most cases the buildings are under extreme supervision such that all modifications or additions to the existing structure require management approval first and all costs of the changes are paid out of the tenants pocket with no chance of reimbursement.

**Other alternatives:** such as theatrical related buildings with similar goals of non-profit volunteer works that are supported by private endowment or public funds. One of these is The Ascot Theater near Southwest Plaza. They are a non-profit group. After a visit by myself and a Senior Group of RHAC members it was determined that the management of that facility was not very stable. Another group is the Swallow Hill Music group and still another is the new Lakewood Community Group near Alameda and Wadsworth where contact has been made and discussions are in very preliminary from.

The real purpose of this letter is to get your help with the search for an RHAC home. If you have a good prospect, an idea for our location, and especially a friend or acquaintance in a position that might help us.

Please call me at:

(303) 9722850 or

E-Mail me at

ROFDave@ghostmine.com

I'll do my best to follow up.



### WRVO to Air The Radio Mystery Theater

The Following article is from the WRVO Web site.

What Do You Do With A Horribly Powerful Imagination? . . . Air It!

It is an eerie sound. The harbinger of terror, the portal for all that slithers out of the soul of fear. It is...the c-r-c-a-k-I-n-g door. The entree to a world of powerful imagination,

packaged artfully as *Radio Mystery Theater*. And beginning January 10, it can be heard nightly on the WRVO Station at 9pm.

*Radio Mystery Theater* is the dramatic brainchild and runaway success of radio legend Himan Brown. Produced for CBS Radio from 1974-1982, *Radio Mystery Theater* peaked with a weekly cume audience of 5 million listeners, and was heard on over 350 stations. Its success was phenomenal.

And now it's back. Exclusively on the WRVO Stations. One Hour. One Story. One Thrilling Imagination. Each of the 1500 dramas Himan Brown produced is more than a mere radio show. It is an experience. At times bone chilling. At times frightening. At times disturbing. Always compelling. It was and is theater that speaks to the mind. Gothic. Sinister. Mysterious Just plain spooky.

There are thriller adaptations of Edgar Allan Poe and Guy de Maupassant. Chilling echoes of Henry James and Dostoevsky. Original scripts by the who's who of radio theater writers -- Allan Sloane, Sam Dann, Elspeth Eric, Henry Slesar and Ian Mautin.

Indeed, Brown's reputation and stature attracted the best writers in the business...a fact that rings true in each hour long, self-contained production. Voicing the gripping stories you'll recognize the talents of John Lithgow, Sarah Jessica Parker, Amanda Plummer, Tony Roberts, Ruby Dee, Tammy Grimes, Casey Casem, Mercedes McCambridge, Agnes Moorehead and Fred Gwynne. A frightfully talented cast gives life to each drama.

Over a 50+ year career, Himan Brown produced many of the most memorable shows on radio. *Inner Sanctum Mysteries*, *The Adventures of the Thin Man*, *Dick Tracy*, *Bulldog Drummond*, *Joyce Jordan, M.D.*, *Nero Wolfe* and *Grand Central Station* were just a few of the many programs that earned him a

well-deserved American Broadcast Pioneer Award. Brown won the prestigious Peabody Award for *Radio Mystery Theater*. And it is this body of work which makes him most proud.

He sees these dramas as timeless. "We've dealing with something that's vital--the spoken word," he explains. "For me, the joy of listening is more important than television or any film....I've made it a kind of a holy cause. I've set these years aside so that I can keep the spoken word alive and let it flourish forever."

As the host and narrator of *Radio Mystery Theater*, Hiram Brown reinforces his commitment to radio drama. Five days a week. He brings authority, continuity and passion to each and every show.

Broadcasts of the *Radio Mystery Theater* air each evening at 9pm ET as part of the *WRVO Playhouse*. Central New York's source for the Golden Age of radio, the *Playhouse* can be heard Monday thru Thursday 7:30 pm to Midnight and Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 8 pm to Midnight.

The WRVO Stations can be heard on:

89.9 in the greater Syracuse area,  
90.3 in the University area,  
91.9 in Utica, and  
91.7 in Watertown.

Web: <http://wrvo.fm>



## OTR On The World-Wide Web *Tune In Again*

*Editor's Note:*

If you find an interesting Old-Time Radio-related web site or page, why not tell our readers by writing a short article on it for *Return with Us Now...*

RETURN WITH US NOW...

Send the article to Stewart Wright. My E-Mail address is on page 2 of the newsletter.

This is a great new Web site I happened on in December. It was like getting an early, very nice, and totally-unexpected Christmas present. *Tune In Again* is edited and published by B.J. George & is billed as "Internet's Old Time Radio Magazine." It definitely succeeds! I look forward to each monthly issue.

There is obviously a great deal of work put into each issue of *Tune In Again*. There are a wide variety of regular features and a special article in each issue. They are consistently interesting, entertaining and informative. And B.J. includes great graphics. What more could you want?

Regular features in *Tune In Again* include:

Behind the Mike - Short anecdotes relating to radio.

On Stage - Article on a specific series and includes detailed series log (January was *Fort Laramie*)

Radio Hall-of-Fame - Article on Old-Time Radio personality (January was Agnes Moorehead)

Can You Top This? - Selected Laughs from popular programs

Professor Quiz - Old-Time Radio Quiz

Tell It Again - Radio script (January was an episode of *Our Miss Brooks*)

This Day Is Ours - OTR Shows premiering and Stars born in the issue month.

Adventures In Reading - Book Review (January was "The Century")

Hear It Now - Listing of radio stations in a specific city. Includes frequencies, call letters, and programming formats.

Now Hear This - Links to Old-Time Radio Web Sites

Archives - Link to back issues.

Also in the January issue:  
"The Breakfast Club - Kate Smith's

Own Cooking."

From the Editor - Self-explanatory  
You can find *Tune In Again* at:  
<http://www.gna.net/tia>



## The Coming Year

This year the RHAC Players hope to have a very busy schedule for the new millennium. The Players Board will meet at Larry and Dorothy Weide's home on Saturday, Jan 29th at 7:00 P.M. and the details will be published in the next news letter. At this meeting decisions on plays for the following year will be made along with planning for more dinner theaters, etc. Scripts being considered vary from the very first Shadow, Arsenic and Old Lace, original scripts and others. This year looks very exciting.

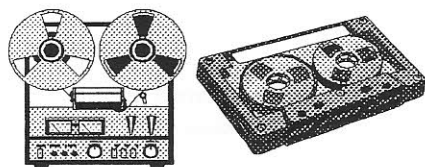
The Adventures of the Iron Box that was presented on Dec 11, 1999, transcribed by Dennis and Fran Hogarth, and directed by John Licht seemed to be liked by all. Our audience was tremendous and very receptive, with a count of about 150 guests. We hope to have another successful Christmas presentation this year.

On March 2, 2000, our retired but very busy players, are going to present a previous play, "The House That Time Forgot", at Aurora Central High School. The players will include, Larry Weide, Ellen and Les Benoit, Nancy and Ernie Witte, Dave Clow, Guy Albright, John Stevenson, and JoAnn and Fred Bantin. We are so excited to be asked because RHAC needs to reach out to young people, after all they are our future.

We hope to offer all of you quality entertainment and fun for the

coming year. We are excited about all the new Players, both from RHAC and Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients, that have joined us during the last year. Again, anyone who is interested in joining or helping with the Players, please give us a call: Fred and Jo Ann Bantin, at 303-343-7508 or contact any of the Players.

Again, we want to thank everyone for all their enthusiasm in helping and backing our Players. It is great fun along with a lot of time and work, but that is all made worthwhile by seeing our members and friends enjoying our productions.



## New in The Tape Library

By Maetha & Dick King

This month's entries are more of the *Lum 'n' Abner* series from 1943. They are quite typical of the small town happenings where everyone in town knows about each other's business. When you stop to think about it all, many offices have the same mentality today. The names of the characters follow the same lines as *Amos n' Andy*. Names like Lighting, Mousey, Dr. Snide, and so on.

We have one member (who hasn't renewed) that we have called for many months trying to get him to return tapes he got from our Library #4. He is Art Golab, with the *Chicago Sun Times*. We would appreciate any members in the Chicago area giving him a call at 773-772-5478 and ask him to fulfill his promises to return the tapes. Maybe a lot more calls will get him to do it.

We still have lots of copies of the new indexes of our tapes and will be glad to send them to members that

want them. Please enclose a 55¢ stamp with your request and we will forward the new index to help you find the shows you want in our catalog. If you have not kept your catalog up-to-date, we have new ones available for \$20.00 This will cover the cost of printing and mailing.



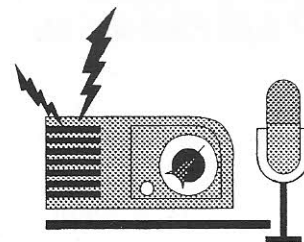
## Radio Quiz

By David Michael

This month we feature Old-Time Radio Quiz by David Michael. Both the quiz AND answers will appear in the same issue. (See Answers on page 6.)

### Name the Radio Program Which the Following Synopsis Describes:

1. Contestants tried to win prizes because of hardships
2. 1940's program dedicated to recounting achievements of young Americans
3. Newspaper syndicate sends "Quiz Quisinberry" around the world to report on people in countries friendly to Allies.
4. Exceptionally intelligent kids answered questions
5. First Afro-American soap
6. Story of orphan girl from mining town
7. About newspaper columnist who combs Chicago streets looking story
8. Adventures of 3 men who met in oriental prison
9. Person whose duty it was to prosecute to the limit of the law



## Radio's Moments Of The 20<sup>th</sup> Century - The One Hundred Greatest Moments in Old-Time Radio

by Elizabeth McLeod

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*Editor's Note:* Ten of Elizabeth's "The One Hundred Greatest Moments in Old-Time Radio" will be published monthly in the RHAC Newsletter.

Well, thinking to add yet another 100-Moments-Of-The-Century-List to the many such tabulations that have been published in the Mass Media -- 100 Top TV Moments, 100 Top Movie Moments, 100 Top Music Moments, etc. etc. etc., I've spent the last few days putting together my list of Suggested 100 Radio Moments Of The Century.

What I've tried to do with this list is come up with OTR-era moments that fit one of two categories: either major "Shared National Experiences" or moments that marked a particular milestone in the evolution of the medium. I've confined the list to the generally-accepted OTR Era (ending 1962), thus omitting such latter-day phenomena as Limbaugh, Stern, Imus, and the like. No slight is intended -- like 'em or hate 'em, they've had an impact. But they're not OTR.

A lot of familiar names and moments will show up, and the rankings are admittedly rather arbitrary until you hit the top fifty or so. But I think they're all moments -- and people -- worth remembering, and I hope they inspire plenty of discussion.

100. *The Flight Of Alan Shepard*  
5/5/61

America's entry into the Manned Space Age comes as the OTR Era enters its final year, but millions of Americans follow the flight by means of portable radios, car radios, and other receivers -- as if to confirm that there'll always be a place for the audio medium.

99. *Truth or Consequences: The "Mr. Hush" Contest. Winter 1945-46*

A harbinger of things to come, this guess-who-it-is contest ushered in a new era of listener-participation quiz shows that would help change the face of radio in the postwar era.

98. *Sherlock Holmes on the Air. 10/20/30*

Famed actor William Gillette is the first Holmes to take the network air -- the first of many to follow. The Holmes story format is ideally-suited for radio, and the program proves to be one of the most successful dramas of the Depression era.

97. *Cruise Of The Seth Parker. 1934-35*

Radio listeners follow the adventuring Phillips Lord around the world by shortwave -- an adventure that takes on a harrowing real-life flavor when Lord's schooner is wrecked by a tropical storm. The program's reputation is wrecked as well, when it's revealed that Lord wasn't exactly living up to Seth Parker's Yankee-parson image during his adventure: accompanied by wine, women, and the sort of songs that weren't found in the hymnals back in Jonesport

96. *The Rise Of Dorothy and Dick. 1945*

Charming chit-chat in the morning with Richard Kollmar and Dorothy Kilgallen -- foreshadowing the modern man/woman TV talk show teams. Think of them as the Regis and Kathie Lee of the forties.

95. *The Rise Of Wendell Hall. 1923-24*

He was a bombastic Southern-fried ukulele-playing balladeer -- and

radio's first national superstar, thanks to his long series of appearances on the pioneering "EverReady Hour." Everyone who owned a two-tube regenerative in the twenties knew all the choruses to "It Ain't Gonna Rain No'Mo'," and thousands flocked to his personal appearances, helping to prove the power of the new medium.

94. *Walter Winchell Hits His Peak. 1941*

Loud, brassy, and abrasive, Winchell was the most influential newspaperman in the country at the dawn of the forties -- and his Sunday night news-and-comment program was by far the most-listened-to news-related program on the air in the last months before US involvement in WW2.

Continued on the Back Page

## Radio Quiz Answers

1. *Strike It Rich*
2. *Salute To Youth*
3. *Passport For Adams*
4. *Quiz Kinds*
5. *We Live And Learn*
6. *Our Gal Sunday*
7. *Night Beat*
8. *I Love A Mystery*
9. *Mr. District Attorney*

## The "Cold Read"

Continued from Page 1

could check on us. If you ever recovered from that, you began to enjoy reading. Most of us do read too slowly.

Let me take a show of hands. How many of you find when you're reading a book, that you lose track and have to go back to the beginning of the paragraph? That's because your mind is a lot quicker than the way you were taught to use your eyes. Your mind is a lot faster.

So the cure is to learn to get over the way you were taught to read. Radio actors read ahead, read a bunch of words at one time. Radio actors read by word recognition, shapes of

words. If you deal with anybody who writes in all capital letters, you can't read it; it's much more difficult, much more time-consuming. Radio actors read a bunch of words at a time and get ahead. We are able to interpret the meaning and the value of the words a lot faster than you would think is normally possible.

The other thing that happens, writers write in archetypes." (The original patterns or models from which all other things of the same kind are made; a prototype.) "Actors recognize the archetypes and play to them. So we step into the part very quickly. Later, in the course of the rehearsal, we refine it. If the script says landlady, you already have one foot in the door.

The only trick about directing is to be quick with answers that don't mean a thing. The important thing is to keep is to keep the actors' minds working; later you determine the right way to do it. In this case, there is a little obscurity in the archetypes. You'll pick it up as we start to read.

The obscurity comes because this script was written by Morton Fine and David Friedkin, old friends of ours. Morton and Dave were very good writers, who tried very hard for stylistic notes in their material. In *Broadway Is My Beat*, which is what we are doing here, Mort and Dave are doing "Damon Runyon." You will hear it in the dialogue, which obscures the archetypes, but only slightly and momentarily. Otherwise, a landlady is a landlady, a cop is a cop, and a villain is a villain and we all know what to do with them. The idiosyncracies of the language and the phrasing keep your attention sparked. The interesting styling is a little tricky for the actors, because the archetypes are disguised.

That's enough marking. O.K. everybody, page 1. Music, theme, and sound effects of the city and . . . ."

The "cold read" re-creation begins.

## Greatest Moments in Old-Time Radio

Continued from Page 6

93. *Arthur Bagley, Network Radio's First Morning Man. 1926*

He's forgotten today, but he paved the way for all the network early-bird shows. His "Tower Health Exercises" program for Metropolitan Life got NBC listeners up and doing from the formation of the network well into the mid-thirties, even as his zany antics with his mascot, the Goofus Bird, set the tone for a legion of morning-men who would follow.

92. *One Man's Family goes National. 5/17/33*

Already a hit on the West Coast, Carlton Morse's sensitively-written

and deeply-textured study of an upper-middle-class San Francisco family gained a national reputation over the full NBC network, and ran for nearly three decades. There was never another a show quite like it: too serious to be a soap opera, too thoughtful to be a melodrama -- and sometimes, even too adult for the kiddies. Morse's mystery shows may have a stronger modern-day following: but for me, "One Man's Family" stands as his greatest accomplishment.

91. *The Talent Raids 1948-49*

CBS skims away the cream of NBC's comedy crop by means of some complicated tax maneuverings, and the revenues from these programs gives the junior network a needed boost at

the dawn of the television era.

Elizabeth McLeod is a journalist, researcher, and freelance writer specializing in radio of the 1930s. She is a regular contributor to "Nostalgia Digest" magazine and the Internet OldRadio Mailing List, maintains a website, Broadcasting History Resources, and is presently researching a book on Depression-era broadcasting. Elizabeth is always looking for 1930s radio recordings in all formats -- uncoated aluminum or lacquer-coated discs, vinyl or shellac pressings, or low-generation tape copies.

You can contact her at:

[lizmcl@midcoast.com](mailto:lizmcl@midcoast.com)

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