



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 26, Number 01

August, 2000

Directions to the Weide's place



For Reservations or
information, call:
Larry Weide
(303) 758-8382 or
lweide@ibm.net

Get to the corner of Holly and Happy Canyon. Turn left onto H.C. and *immediately* turn right back onto "South Holly Way". Go the short block to Nassau Cir. and turn *left*.

ANNUAL RHAC PICNIC

Saturday, August 5, 2000 - 1:00pm

This year the RHAC picnic will be held at the home of Larry Weide, our Vice President. As usual the club will provide the paper goods, soft drinks and hamburgers with all the trimmings. All you "party goers" are asked to bring something to share, such as various kinds of salads, side dishes, deserts, etc. Please include serving utensils.

In addition to the usual RHAC picnic activities, you can also enjoy the Weide's swimming pool - remember to bring your bathing suits. Kids are very welcome, but parents and guardians must remain responsible for the children at all times - particularly because of pool safety issues, and the fact that there will not be a lifeguard present. There'll be plenty of shady places to sit, but you'll probably want to bring a folding or lawn chair with you. See you on the 5th of August - last one in is a rotten egg!

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 3, 2000 - 7:30 PM

At

Larry Weide, 5270 E. Nassau Cir. Englewood, CO 80110 303-758-8382

Old time radio is alive and well in Denver!

KLZ 560 AM Music of the 1930's - 60's with John Rayburn 2 PM - 6 PM, Weekdays

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 Duniven 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)	Ron Gallagher 888 South Dexter #607, Denver, CO 80426	303-692-0531
#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

John Adams

John A. Adams, a founding member of RHAC, died June 22nd at Swedish Medical Center, Denver, CO. He was 77. A memorial service was held at his home on June 28th.

Over the years John was very active with our organization. He held many offices including Vice President, Historian, and Sports Reel Librarian. He was also involved in transcribing shows from disks to tape for our libraries.

John donated his extensive tape collection to RHAC. Volunteers are currently inventoring John's collection and many of the shows in his collection will be added to the RHAC Libraries.

Rest in peace, John.

Members' Meeting

There will be a Member's Meeting Thursday, September 21st, 7:30 PM, at the Church of the Master, East 17th Ave. at Filbert Court. Enter through the Filbert Court door.

Activities are being planned. Look for more information in the September Issue of *Return With Us Now*...

Election of Officers'

Officers will be elected at the September Members' meeting.



The One Hundred Greatest Moments in Old-Time Radio

By Elizabeth McLeod

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50. The 1936 Olympics 8/36

Through the crackle of shortwave static, American listeners sit spellbound by the descriptions of Jesse Owens' track and field triumphs in Berlin-- victories that carry significance far beyond the stadium. The announcers are rather circumspect in their descriptions of the events -- reluctant, perhaps, to offend broadcasting authorities in

the host country -- but Owens' triumphs speak for themselves.

49. "Let's Dance", and the Rise Of Swing Winter 1934-35

Suggesting that swing music began with Benny Goodman will earn you a derisive, deserved sneer from fans of Duke Ellington, Fletcher Henderson, Don Redman and other great Harlem bands of the twenties. But that distinctive span of time we think of as the "Swing Era" did begin with Goodman, and his tenure on the Nabisco "Let's Dance" program. For many listeners, it's their first real exposure to "hot" music -- and the program starts Goodman on the way to being crowned King of Swing. Maybe some people tuned in "Let's Dance" for the mellow melodies of former Clicquot Club Eskimo Kel Murray, or to rumba with Xavier Cugat -- but it's Goodman's contribution to this three-hours-a-week series that's earned it a place in history.

48. The Metropolitan Opera Begins Its Run 12/24/31

The Met made its radio debut back in the prehistoric DeForest days of 1910 -- but it takes another two decades before a regular series of Metropolitan Opera broadcasts begins, even though individual Met stars were network radio celebrities as early as 1925. But the Met organization makes up for lost time, rapidly building its Saturday afternoon broadcasts into a radio tradition. Part of the tradition is in the packaging -- with the gently-unctuous Milton J. Cross occupying a permanent seat in Box 44, inspiring three generations of listeners with his endearing, wide-eyed love for the music and its performers.

47. The Rise of Experimental Drama 1934-38

Radio goes thru a quantum change between 1931-1933 -- the days of freewheeling experimentation with program formats are replaced, so far as sponsored programs are concerned, by tight advertising agency control. But there is still unsold time to fill -- and the experimenters find a haven in sustaining dramatic programs like the NBC Radio Guild and the Columbia Workshop, as well as the more outre offerings like "Lights Out." During the mid-thirties, people like Vernon Radcliffe, Irving Reis, William N. Robson, Earle McGill, Wyllis Cooper, Arch Oboler and Orson Welles push the envelope of what can be done in radio drama. Though their audiences are small-to-negligible, much of their work retains its power even today.

46. Coronation of King George VI 5/12/37

All the world is listening as a slender, stammering man known to his friends and family as "Bertie" mounts the

throne of the British Empire in the wake of his brother's abdication. Millions of Americans get up early in the morning to follow all the pageantry via shortwave relay, described in meticulous detail by BBC commentators. The response to the broadcast suggests that even a hundred and sixty years after the Revolution, Americans are really still just Colonists at heart.

45. The Lindbergh Baby Tragedy 1932-1936

Radio listeners are glued to their sets in horror on the night of March 1, 1932 as NBC and CBS broadcast a steady stream of bulletins detailing the story: the toddler son of aviator Charles A. Lindbergh has been kidnapped from his New Jersey home. Perhaps the most poignant radio moment in the entire case comes the day after the kidnaping, as NBC staff announcer Ben Grauer reads an urgent message to the kidnapers from Anne Morrow Lindbergh -- giving the recipe for the baby's special formula. The first chapter of the story comes to a tragic conclusion on May 12th, when the child is found dead -- leading to a two-year search for the killer. On September 19, 1934, a German-immigrant carpenter from the Bronx is arrested and charged -- and radio is once again in the thick of coverage, as Bruno Richard Hauptmann is placed on trial for his life -- a trial which, with radio's help, quickly degenerates into a media circus the likes of which wouldn't be seen for another sixty years. Two important radio careers get a boost from this case: disc jockey Martin Block rises to fame over WNEW in Newark as he spins records during breaks in that station's trial coverage; and WOR commentator Gabriel Heatter grabs attention for his nightly summations of action in what truly is the Trial of The Century. The final chapter is written on April 3, 1936, when Heatter reports from outside the New Jersey State Prison at Trenton as, to the chants of an angry mob, Hauptmann goes to the electric chair -- proclaiming his innocence to the very last.

44. Irna Phillips Joins NBC 1933

If Correll and Gosden are the Fathers Of the Broadcast Serial, then Irna Phillips is its mother. Joining NBC with *Today's Children*, a thinly disguised version of her WGN serial *Painted Dreams*, Phillips begins an enduring career as one of the leading creators of network soap opera -- her shows always a cut above the treacherous productions of her major competitors, Frank and Anne Hummert. And the Phillips influence is still pervasive in modern-day soaps, with her longest-lived creation, *(The) Guiding Light*, still very much alive after sixty-two years.

43. *Hollywood Hotel* Brings Movieland to the Mike - Fall 10/4/34

Hollywood and radio were a natural match, and as far back as the late twenties, there had been efforts to bring

the two together. Programs like the "Sunkist Musical Cocktail" and "Hollywood On The Air" had featured movieland gossip and celebrity interviews - but these shows were expensive to produce, thanks to the exorbitant AT&T line charges for programs originating on the West Coast. In 1934, columnist Louella Parsons (who had been featured a few years earlier on the Sunkist program) hits upon a solution: she would use her considerable influence to coerce stars into appearing for free on a big-time weekly variety hour. Campbell Soup underwrites the project, and "Hollywood Hotel" is on the air. Unionization eventually brings an end to Parsons' use of free talent, by which time AT&T has changed its rate policy, allowing radio to thunder westward with a vengeance.

42. *WSM Barn Dance* begins 11/28/25

It all goes back to George D. Hay, one of the great announcers of the mid-twenties. Styling himself "The Solemn Ole Judge," Hay had been one of the movers behind the *WLS Barn Dance* in Chicago, and when he moves on to Nashville in 1925, he brings the idea along with him. By the end of the year, WSM is featuring a block of home-grown melodies every Saturday night, with Hay as announcer and rustic fiddler "Uncle Jimmy" Thompson the best-known attraction. Within two years, the *WSM Barn Dance* takes on a new name -- and the *Grand Ole Opry* is well on its way to becoming one of the true landmarks of twentieth century popular culture.

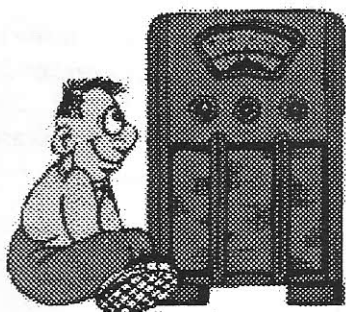
41. H. V. Kaltenborn covers the Spanish Civil War 9/3-4/36

He doesn't fit the dashing, romantic image of a war correspondent -- a lanky, balding middle-aged man with thick glasses and a scribbly moustache. But Hans von Kaltenborn makes journalism history when he becomes the first American reporter ever to broadcast live from an actual war zone. Crouching between a haystack and a cornfield on a farm in the Spanish town of Irun, his microphone lines clipped onto a farmhouse telephone, Kaltenborn brings CBS listeners the actual sounds of battle -- the whizzing bullets, the chatter of machine guns, the thunder of artillery, all broadcast live -- just three hundred yards from the front lines. Thru it all, this Harvard-trained newspaperman keeps up an extemporaneous commentary which offers a vivid description of the scene and a detailed explanation of what is happening and why. The next day, Kaltenborn's listeners hear the outcome of the battle: the entire town lies in flaming ruins, sacked by Franco's forces. Kaltenborn's gone down in history as a rather self-absorbed, pontifical man -- but there is no questioning his front-line courage.

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 web site, 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



Turned on to Old-Time Radio

By Michael Mehle
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& Rocky Mountain News

The following is the portion of the article "The Collectors" that features noted author and RHAC Member John Dunning. The article appeared in the *Rocky Mountain News* on Sunday, November 21, 1999

John Dunning must be a book collector. After all, he's written two renowned mysteries that revolve around the craft. He has owned his own antiquarian bookstore. He even admits to having 15,000 books at home. But no, he's no book collector.

"The difference between me and the real collector is that I was able to sell them," he said. "Real collectors often aren't able to part with their stuff."

But Dunning *is* a renowned collector — of old-time radio shows. Sparked by childhood memories and the ease of building a collection through taping and trading, he has amassed nearly 40,000 tapes, from old mysteries and comedies to war reports and regional shows that ran fewer than six months.

And he doesn't even think about selling his tape collection. "You'd be hard pressed to sell this stuff," he said.

Still, the knowledge and expertise that has come in handy. Dunning's next mystery, which is already written and scheduled for release in 2001, is set in old-time radio.

It all started with: "I got a *Lone Ranger* show that was put out on a commercial L.P. I bought it in a junk shop on Santa Fe near Sixth Avenue. You know, the *Lone Ranger*, they did something like 3,000 shows. And it was basically the same show done 3,000 times. If all of radio was just the *Lone Ranger* and *The Shadow* I would have quit long ago."

It got serious when: KOA radio ran a 50

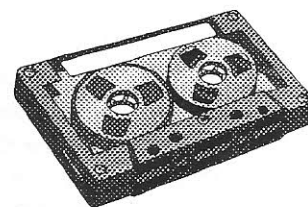
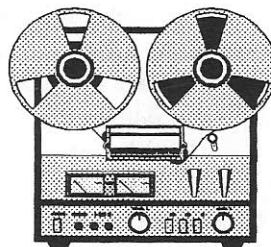
anniversary show. He called KOA who put him in touch with George Fowler, another collector, who started dubbing shows for \$4 an hour. "This, to me, seemed wonderful. So I told my wife. 'You know, I'm going to get into this.' I bought two tape decks, and I was off. And once you've got those 100 or 200 shows, you can make copies and trade them with other collectors."

The show that means the most: "If you ask me that tomorrow, I'd give you a different answer. I think there were 20 shows that approach greatness. *Cathy and Elliot Lewis On Stage* — they, I believe were the transitions of what radio had been and what it should have become but never did. They came along in 1954 and they did some story adaptations that were simply wonderful."

The show most other collectors covets: "This is one collecting area, where once you've taped it and passed it along, everyone can get it. There was a show called *The Six Shooter* with Jimmy Stewart, and there was one fellow who had the only copies of them and wouldn't let anyone have them. In fact, duplicate copies came out somewhere else, and now everyone has a copy of them."

The find of a lifetime (at a discounted price): At one point, diehard collectors would break into network buildings and steal tapes that officials refused to release even though they only intended to destroy them later. "I never did this, but I was the beneficiary. I found out later that a lot of my tapes came via that route," Dunning said. "But collectors needn't apologize for doing it this way. The stuff wouldn't have been around today if we trusted the networks to take care of them."

Till death do you part: "I think what I will probably do is give them to some institution — if I can find one that has the equipment to play them. See, one of the problems is that the technology has completely changed. I have 40,000 shows on reel-to-reel tape. Try to find a reel-to-reel tape deck or someone to fix it when it goes bad."



New in The Tape Library

By Maletha & Dick King

This month's entries into the Contributor's Library is a series of delightful comedies that will remind you of

the days when comedy was clean and suitable for family listening. These comedies reminded us of simpler times and good clean listening.

We start out with a reel of Lucille Ball in *My Favorite Husband* and then move on to more of the delightful *Adventures of Maisie*. From there we move on to *Life With Luigi*. The stories of Luigi, an Italian immigrant boy that suddenly finds himself in New York City and trying to understand our American life. The stories are very well written and certainly seem real.

The next series of comedy shows is thirteen shows of *It's Higgins, Sir*. This is another good comedy show that only ran one season and would certainly have been more popular if it had been in a different year. As we listen to the next series, *My Friend Irma*, we think back to years when we made it a point to listen to *Irma* and although we didn't have much, we had our radio and never were at a loss for entertainment.

We certainly hope our members will enjoy these shows as much as we have when listening to them while Dick was making the Club cassettes. We have a real problem trying to pick a favorite from the shows offered, but they are certainly great for lifting spirits.

We were delighted to meet with other Club members at the RHAC *Players* presentation at the Club dinner meeting, July 20th. The play, "The Amulet of Nefertiti," was written by member Larry Weide and Dave Clow handled the sound and bridges by using his computer instead of the physical tools that were too bulky for easy transporting and setting up. All of the actors did an exceptionally good job, and one new member that is in the *Players* group even offered to help enter some new scripts that we received from SPERDVAC into our library so we may be able to offer them to our members. We will let you know when they are ready for circulation.

John Adams

We were all shocked with the sudden passing of John Adams. John had been collecting for years and was one of the original members of RHAC. He left his extensive collection to the Club with the thoughts that he would be able to share his tapes with others. John was also the Librarian for the Sports Reels Library. One member still has ten reels from that library out, and we ask that they return them to Maletha King, 900 West Quincy Ave., Englewood, CO 80110. Future orders for that Library may be sent to the RHAC P.O. Box.

Improved Sound Quality Cassettes

We would like to again remind you that we have cassettes of radio shows that Dave Clow worked on for the Radio Readers Service of the Rockies for the blind. These are all shows from the Library that Dave has improved the sound quality with his computer. We are not asking a rental fee for these sets, but do ask that you send 4 to 6 dollars for each order to pay for the boxes

and postage. We will send you a list of the contents if you send a Postage-Paid envelope to Maletha.



Request from A Member

We have a request from a member that is living in Sacramento, CA and is looking for a copy of the last 24 hours broadcast by KIMN radio 950 AM, Denver. She would like to get a copy if anyone has that broadcast. She is:

Loretta Treas
2884 Wiese Way
Sacramento, CA 95833
E-Mail: loretta1@primenet.com



By JoAnn Bantin

The RHAC *Players* production of "The Amulet of Nefertiti" was a great success. It was performed on July 20th at the Country Buffett in Villa Italia. This production was very special because it was written by one of our members, Larry Weide, and was *The Players* first original production

The production of "Arsenic & Old Lace" will be coming up in the near future. Francie Maesel has just finished the transcribing and John Licht will be the director. Reading dates will be announced next month and also a production date. This is a very classic show and one that you will want to see again and again.

Hope to see a lot of you at the RHAC Picnic at Larry and Dorothy Weide's home on August 5th. Remember to bring bathing suits, a covered dish, and plans for a lot of fun. Les & Ellen Benoit are planning to bring their antique fire engine for rides. It is a party you do not want to miss, see all of you there. Again, *The Players* are hoping all of you are having a fantastic summer.

Members' Meeting & Election Of Officers

Thursday, September 21th , 7:30 PM

The Church of the Master, Denver

East 17th Ave. at Filbert Court.

Did You Know That... ?

This monthly column written by an anonymous member features little-known facts about Old-Time Radio. This month we feature:

Alan Young & Fred Allen

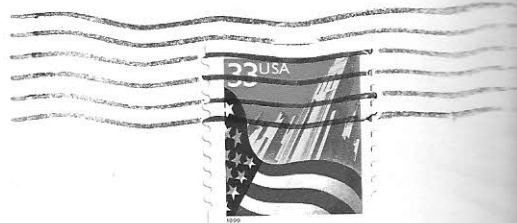
Two of the most memorable denizens of *Allen's Alley* actually got their start on *The Alan Young Show*.

There were two characters on *The Alan Young Show* that the sponsor didn't like, so he threw them off. One was Kenny Delmar doing a Southern politician who we called Counselor Cartenbranch who would say in a big

voice "That's a joke son!" The Counselor was a Democrat and the sponsor was a Republican, so he threw the Counselor off the show. The other was Parker Fennelley playing a crotchety old New Englander of few words. The sponsor didn't like him either. Fred Allen called up before the started his season and asked, "Are you going to use these characters?" Alan Young's manager said, "No, they're kicked off the show."

So Fred Allen took them and they became Senator Claghorn and Titus Moody still played respectively by Delmar and Fennelley. These two charcaters helped catapult Allen's show to the top of the ratings.

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLO.
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