



# RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COLORADO

Volume 26, Number 15

October, 2001



## “God Bless America”

## RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

PO BOX 1908, Englewood CO 80150 (303) 761-4139 - Dedicated to the preservation of old-time radio programs,  
and to making those programs available to our members

**The RHAC annual holiday dinner planning is in the works!  
Reserve the evening of December 4th for this gala event.**

**See below for the results of the RHAC officers election meeting**

### *Old-Time Radio is Alive in Denver!*

KLVZ 1220 AM	Music of the 1930's - 60's with John Rayburn	Weekdays, 2:00 - 6:00PM
KRMA Channel 6	Secondary Audio Program (SAP), "Tribute to OTR"	Sunday, 2:00 PM
KEZW 1430 AM	"When Radio Was"	Weekdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
KFKA 1310 AM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:00 - 12:00 PM
KUVO 89.3 FM	"Destination Freedom"	9:00 PM

**RHAC WEB SITE** <http://www.rhac.org>

**RHAC OTR WEB PAGE** <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. Any mention of a product in **RETURN WITH US NOW...** does not constitute an endorsement by RHAC.

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### RHAC Calendar

*Watch here for upcoming events*

December 4, 2001

**RHAC Christmas Party** - Dinner, Raffle and show

### 2001 Conventions

**26th Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention** Oct 25-28, 2001 Holiday Inn-North, Newark NJ  
Contact: Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 jayhick@aol.com

**It has been brought to our attention that the SPERDVAC convention has been canceled for this year**

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**RETURN WITH US NOW...**

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*October, 2001*

**I LOVE A MYSTERY**  
by Dr. Charles Beckett © 2001

The woeful moan of a distant train whistle, a police car screeching to a stop - siren screaming, an eerie organ playing the haunting "Valse Triste," and a clock dutifully chiming the hour. ... These sounds, interrupted by the announcer's words, "I Love a Mystery - a new Carlton E. Morse adventure thriller ..." promised another exciting radio experience.

Carlton E. Morse was the creator, writer, producer, and director of the "I Love a Mystery" radio series. In a January 1986 interview with John Dunning, Morse said that the book "The Three Musketeers" was his inspiration for the characters of Jack, Doc and Reggie. The serial, affectionately known by fans as ILAM, ran from January 16, 1939 until December 26, 1952.

Morse also was well known for creating three other popular radio shows - the long running "One Man's Family," a "soap opera" (a term he said he despised); "I Love Adventure," another Jack, Doc and Reggie series; and "Adventures by Morse - a series with such intriguing story titles as "City of the Dead," and "The Girl on Shipwreck Island,"

Of the three main characters in "I Love a Mystery," Jack Packard, a mid-thirties Nebraskan, was the central character of the show. He was the level-headed, no-nonsense leader of the trio and the group's problem solver. He could remain calm even in the most dangerous of situations. In his younger days, Jack had been a medical student, but it's unclear why he was unable to complete his studies. It was implied that it had something to do with a troubled relationship with a woman while he was in medical school. This may have contributed to his general distrust and dislike of women, especially those in trouble. Jack was played initially by Michael Raffetto, and later by Russell Thorson.

The second member of the trio was Doc Long. In the very first episode, "The Case of the Roxy Mob," his real first name was revealed to be Corey). He was a lanky, red-headed Texan, with a distinctive drawl and a colorful way with words. ("You lop-eared coyote! Blast yore ornery hide.") He was portrayed as fun loving, and unlike Jack, liked women, and became easily attracted to most of those he came in contact with. He was always eager

for action and adventure. He loved to fight and eat--not necessarily in that order. Barton Yarborough - a real Texan - was Doc until his untimely death. Then Jim Boles, who sounded remarkably like Yarborough, took on the role.

Reggie York, the third member of the team, appeared to be the traditional, cultured English gentleman. However, in reality, he was a big, deceptively strong man of the world, who wasn't bashful about participating in a rough and tumble fight. But, he had a gentle and caring nature when it came to women and children. Reggie's character was less defined than Jack and Doc's - and generally not as important to the story lines. As a result, he appeared in considerably less episodes than did his two partners. Although Waiter Paterson was the original Reggie, Tony Randall is best remembered for the part.



l to r: Russell Thorson, Jim Boles and Tony Randall

Also playing a prominent role on the programs was Mercedes McCambridge, who was the show's recurring female lead, playing a variety of major characters. She was said to have frequently helped Morse in his script writing by suggesting and developing characters she felt she could play in future stories. Also an accomplished film actress, she earned a Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 1949 for her first screen appearance, in "All the King's Men." Lesser, but recurring key characters were A-1 Detective Agency secretaries Jerri Booker and Mary Kay Brown (or in

some episodes - Jones,) played by Gloria Blondell and Jean Bates.

According to the story line of the show, Jack, Doc and Reggie first met during the heat of battle while serving as volunteers fighting with the Chinese National Army against the invading Japanese prior to World War II. The three agreed that if they survived, they would meet at a certain San Francisco bar the next New Year's Eve. They survived, met, and established the A-1 Detective Agency in Los Angeles, "around the corner and up one flight, just off Hollywood Boulevard." Their motto was "No job too tough, no mystery too baffling." The trio restlessly roamed the country and the world in search of adventure, excitement and mystery, which they never failed to find.

The A-1 Detective Agency was broken up when Pearl Harbor was attacked, and the trio joined the war effort. Jack became a Major in Military Intelligence. Doc volunteered with the Flying Tigers in China, and then became a P-38 fighter pilot in the last phase of the war. Reggie went home to England and became a Sergeant in the Royal Air Force. How these three adventurers became reunited again after the war, and their relationship with "The 21 Old Men of 10 Grammercy Park" is revealed in "I Love Adventure," another series developed in by Morse. But, that's another story for another time.

In its first season, "I Love A Mystery" was broadcast from California, in fifteen minute episodes, five days a week. Jack, Doc and Reggie were played by Michael Raffetto, Barton Yarborough, and Walter Paterson. During the second and third seasons, ILAM episodes ran for thirty minutes, twice a week. Then, in the fourth season, they went back to the fifteen minute, five times a week format.

A New York run originated September 3, 1949. But, the Los Angeles cast members were no longer available - Michael Raffetto had retired from his role, Barton Yarborough had passed away suddenly at an early age, and Walter Paterson had committed suicide. So, a new cast had to be assembled. Russell Thorson, Jim Boles and Tony Randall became Jack, Doc, and Reggie. Tony Randall originally auditioned for the role of Dec. He told Morse that he was raised in Oklahoma and must have some of that western accent left in him. But to Morse, he sounded more like an Englishman than an Oklahoman - so Randall was hired for the part of Reggie.

Only about a half dozen full-length ILAM serials are currently known to be available to collectors. The best known of these include: "The Thing That Cries in the Night," "Bury Your Dead, Arizona," "The Million Dollar Curse," "Temple of Vampires," and "The Battle of the Century."

Carlton E. Morse created his ILAM companion series, "I Love Adventure" in 1948. Only 13 of these half hour episodes were written. They aired from April 25th to July 18th. Jack was played by Michael Raffetto, with Tom Collins as Reggie, and Barton Yarborough as Dec. All of these shows are available to collectors.

The following dialog between Jack and Doc, as they battle seven tough ranch hands in ILAM's "The Battle of the Century," would seem to sum up our heroes personalities:

Doc: Here they come, Jack.

Jack: Watch out, Dec.

Doc: How we a-doin', Jack?

Jack: Save your breath for fighting.

Doc: You betcha! Honest to grandma, I don't know when I've had so much fun!

*From the Desk of  
the Editor  
by Carol Tiffany*



Honest to Grandma, old time radio didn't get much better than "I Love a Mystery."

### *One Person's Viewpoint*

In October of 1939 Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater of the Air, in a more than memorable adaptation of "The War of the Worlds", frightened thousands of people across the United States. A flurry of newspaper stories and radio announcements calmed our fears relatively quickly.

On December 7, 1941, in a sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Japanese awakened the "sleeping giant" that was the USA. The country, galvanized into a unity and sense of purpose unique in its' history, came together as never before, and eventually achieved the "inevitable victory".

On September 11, 2001, a new and horrifying enemy struck at our country in a way heretofore undreamed of, even in fiction. Our leaders, in actions eerily reminiscent of those of December 1941, acted quickly to protect and reassure us and we have again come together as we did then.

It is my feeling that more will be required of us this time, mostly in the areas of perseverance and patience, than ever before. However, it is also my firm belief that we can achieve the "inevitable" victory over terrorism.

One of the advantages we, in RHAC and the OTR hobby, have is our intimate knowledge of history. We listen to our tapes of contemporary 1941-45 broadcasts and I, for one, am already seeing parallels in our current situation. Yes, this is a very different type of war, but our individual reactions and actions must be much the same. We must once again subordinate our individual concerns to a greater concern for the good of all.

**GOD BLESS US ALL, AMERICANS**

# CHRISTMAS FAVORITES CONTEST

We are looking for *your* top ten favorite OTR Christmas Shows of all time. Please pick your ten favorites from the following list and/or write in any that we may have omitted. Then, mail your entry to Carol Tiffany, 1394 Golf Vista Ct. N.E., Palm Bay, Florida 32905, or E-Mail your list to [CTIFFANY@worldnet.att.net](mailto:CTIFFANY@worldnet.att.net). All entries must be received by November 10, 2001, so that the results can be in our December issue. The entry lists that most closely matches the most popular shows as determined by all of your entries will be awarded prizes, so please include your name and mailing address. We look forward to your opinions ... so enter today!

Amos 'n' Andy "Andy Plays Santa"  
Amos 'n' Andy "The Lord's Prayer"  
Archie Andrews "Christmas Shopping"  
Bing Crosby "Annual Christmas Show"  
Campbell Playhouse "A Christmas Carol"  
Casey, Crime Photographer "Shoplifting"  
Cavalcade of America:

"The Names on the Land"  
"A Child is Born"

CBS Workshop "All is Bright"

Chesterfield Supper Club

"Arthur Godfrey Plays Santa"

The Cinnamon Bear (serial)

The Cisco Kid "Saga of Morbid Jones"

Cresta Blanca Players "All Thru the House"

Damon Runyon Theater "Dancing Dan's Christmas"

Dragnet "A Gun for Christmas"

Dimension X "The Green Hills of Earth"

Edgar Bergen/Charlie McCarthy

Family Theater:

"Blessed Are They"

"The Littlest Angel"

"The Nativity"

"Lullaby to Christmas"

Fibber McGee and Molly

"Fixing Toys for Needy Kids"

"Figuring out the Cost of Gifts"

Grand Central Station "The Ambulance"

The Great Gildersleeve Any Christmas episode

Gunsmoke

"Twelfth Night"

"Beaker's Barn"

Hallmark Hall of Fame

"The Green Pastures"

"The Desert Shall Rejoice"

Jack Benny Show "Christmas Episodes"

Jimmy Durante "Christmas Eve"

Let's Pretend "The Night before Christmas"

The Lone Ranger "The Wise Men"

The Life of Riley "A Christmas Tale"

Mel Blanc Show "Christmas Shopping"

Mister Firstnighter "The Day They Gave Babies Awa

Milton Berle Show "Christmas Salute"

My Favorite Husband

"Christmas Cards"

"Christmas Stag Party"

Ozzie & Harriet "A Sensible Christmas"

Our Miss Brooks

"Christmas Clothing Drive"

"Exchanging Christmas Presents"

"Connie's Christmas" (Magic Tree)

Phil Harris and Alice Faye Show

"Santa's Visit"

"Bananas"

Red Skelton "The Little Christmas Tree"

Richard Diamond, Private Detective

"A Gumshoe's Christmas Carol"

Rogers of the Gazette "Pastel Christmas Trees"

Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar

"The Dancing Mouse Matter"

Roy Rogers "Christmas Misunderstanding"

Stars Over Hollywood "A Christmas Carol"

Suspense "Back for Christmas"

Screen Directors "Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street"

This is Your FBI "The Innocent Santa"

This is My Best "The Plot to Overthrow Xmas"

The Whistler "Decision"

"Three Wise Guys"

OTHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

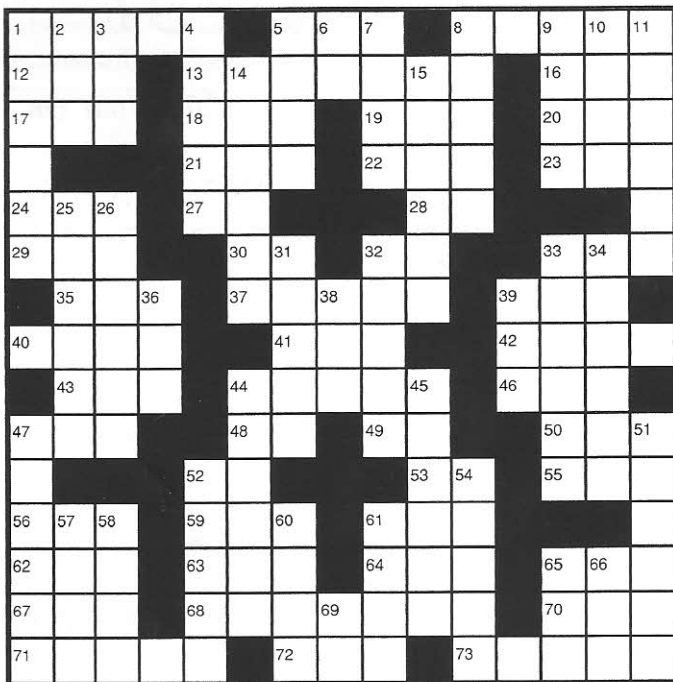
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(If not enough room all of the "others", please use an additional page)

# OTR CROSSWORD PUZZLE

by Jack Richards, RHAC Member



## Across

- 1 Sponsored The Bob Hawk Show
- 5 Halfway
- 8 William Bendix starred in The Life of \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 Imitate
- 13 One program of a series
- 16 Beverage
- 17 A negative word
- 18 Parent
- 19 Compass direction (abbr.)
- 20 To firm up
- 21 Profound respect
- 22 Explosive
- 23 Weekend TV show
- 24 Sade's husband
- 27 Degree needed to design bridges
- 28 Nova Scotia (abbr.)
- 29 Beats a kingCard
- 30 Left (abbr.)
- 32 Prefix for two
- 33 Witnessed
- 35 Finish
- 37 The Third Man, The Many \_\_\_\_\_ of Harry Lime
- 39 Prohibit
- 40 Sidekick to the Green Hornet
- 41 Ingredient in a martini
- 42 Obler of Lights Out
- 42 Obtain
- 44 Necklaces
- 46 Sound of disappointment
- 47 Belonging to a woman
- 48 Alternative
- 49 Direction (abbr.)
- 50 Hill
- 52 Exists
- 53 Not them
- 55 Results from a successful play
- 56 Type of music
- 59 Not to scale (abbr.)
- 61 Suffix meaning before
- 62 Compass direction (abbr.)
- 63 A negative word
- 64 Top ranking member
- 65 Slang for sailor
- 67 Compass direction
- 68 Made possible
- 70 Beverage
- 71 Come to a point
- 72 Salutation
- 73 Part of a meal

## Down

- 1 Hillbilly singer, Judy \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Part of a military address
- 3 Touched together
- 4 Slogan for 1 across

- 5 Type of acting
- 6 Exists
- 7 Prohibition statement
- 8 Leases
- 9 Falls behind
- 10 Paradise
- 11 Primary color
- 14 Star of Richards Diamond, Private Detective
- 15 Singer for Jack Benny
- 25 Period in history
- 26 The middle
- 31 Big cat
- 32 Twists around
- 33 Plastic wraps
- 34 Fixed point
- 36 Precedes com
- 38 Itinerary word
- 39 Barnyard sound
- 44 \_\_\_\_\_ Blackie
- 45 The origin \_\_\_\_\_
- 47 \_\_\_\_\_ Hornet
- 51 \_\_\_\_\_
- 52 \_\_\_\_\_ Sanctum Mysteries
- 54 Plants
- 57 Failed in opening
- 58 Secretive look
- 60 To wound
- 61 Lacking color
- 65 Our \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday
- 66 Bullfight cheer
- 69 Salutation

## New in the Tape Library

by Maletha & Dick King

This month we all have a chance to sit back, close our eyes and relive some of the most famous moments of civilization. In 1947 CBS produced a wonderful series of shows "CBS Is There". These shows really transform the listener into the times of history that helped make the world we live in. We always enjoyed this show that then evolved into "You Are There".

Next we go on to a series that this writer never heard when it was originally presented. Perhaps it never aired in our area, or was aired at a time that we could not hear it - as was often the case in the days of radio. I would classify the "Tarzan" series as adventure stories for the young audience listeners of the early 50's. Each story is complete and is set in the jungles of Africa, with just a grain of authenticity to keep it interesting. This is listening for the whole family, and will stir the imagination in us all.

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION (Don't Peek!)

C	A	M	E	L		M	I	D		R	I	L	E	Y				
A	P	E			E	P	I	S	O	D	E		A	D	E			
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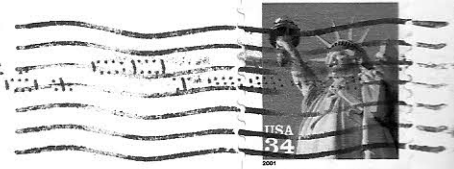
**For sale:  
Professional Ampex Reel-to-Reel Duplicator**

One AD-15 Master 1/4 inch 2-track, and one AD-15 Slave 1/4 inch - 2-track and mono. Both machines will accommodate up to 14-inch reels at speeds of 7.5, 12, 15 and 30 i.p.s. These machines received minimal use by a Denver recording studio and have been stored under protective plastic wrap for the past several years. The asking price for both units is \$150.00 plus shipping costs. Contact **Fred Arthur** via phone or FAX at (303)713-0969, or via email at farthur@aol.com.

Note that Fred will be unavailable from late October until February. So, if you're interested in striking a deal on this very interesting system you should contact Fred ASAP.

**RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLO.  
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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



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