

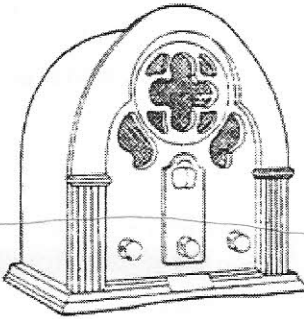


RETURN WITH US NOW...

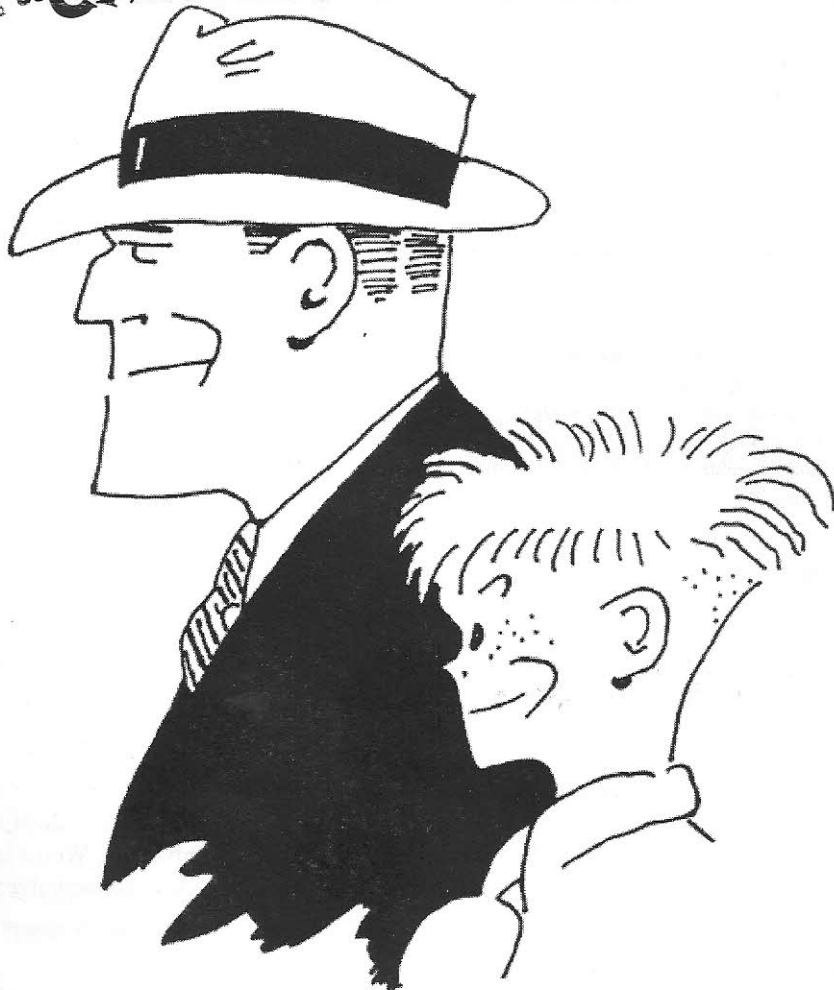
RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 27, Number 1

January, 2002



"CALLING ALL DICK TRACY FANS"



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 Board will be meeting on January 9th @ 7:00pm
at the Virginia Village, Denver Public Library
South/East corner of Dahlia and Florida - enter the parking lot on Dahlia
As always, all RHAC members are welcome

Old-Time Radio is Alive in Colorado!

KRMA TV 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, third Tuesday of every month

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.

President:	Helen Lowynsky	(303) 782-5387	
Vice-President:	Larry Weide	5270 E. Nassau Cir. Englewood, CO 80110	(303) 758-8382
Secretary:	Kathy Melies	1280 Dayton St. Aurora, CO 80010	lweide@attglobal.net
Treasurer:	Maletha King	900 W. Quincy Ave. Englewood, CO 80110	oslc915@juno.com
Newsletter:	Carol Tiffany	1394 Golf Vista Court N. E., Palm Bay, Florida 32905	dickking@ecentral.com
	ctiffany@worldnet.att.net		
RHAC Players:	Helen Lowynsky	(303) 782-5387	
Talking Nwslter:	Mike Fields	243 S. 1100 E. Greentown, IN 46936	
Membership:	Dick King	PO BOX 1908 Englewood, CO 80150	(303) 761-4139
Tape Donations:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503 Denver, CO 80227	dickking@ecentral.com
	Herb Duniven	4184 S. Syracuse St. Denver, CO 80237	(303) 986-9863
Directors	David L. Michael		
at Large:	Herb Duniven		

LIBRARIES

Reference Material:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave #502	Denver, CO 80227	(303) 986-9863
Logs & Scripts:	Fred Hinz	c/o RHAC PO Box 1908	Englewood, CO 80150	
Open Reel Tape:	Maletha King	900 W. Quincy Ave.	Englewood, CO 80110	
Cassette Tape:				
#1 (1-499)	Ron Gallagher	888 S. Dexter #607	Denver, CO 80246	(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	3950 W. Dartmouth Ave.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 937-9476

2002 Conventions

The 26th Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention Oct 24-27, 2002 Holiday Inn-North, Newark NJ
Contact: Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887, jayhick@aol.com

2002 Williamsburg Film Festival (WFF), Feb 28, Mar 1-2 Holiday Inn, Patriot, Williamsburg, VA
For information: (800) 446-6001, <http://go.to/williamsburgfilmfestival>

16th Annual OTR & Nostalgia Convention Apr 19-20, 2002 Radisson Hotel, Cincinnati
For information: Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd, Florence, KY 41042, (606) 282-0333

National Audio Theater Festival, May 26 - June 1, Southwest Missouri State University, West Plains MO
For information: Sue Zizza, 115 Kideman St. Hempstead, NY 11550 (516) 483-8321, suemedial@aol.com

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"Calling All Dick Tracy Fans"

By Paul Barringer © 2001

Spanning 70 years, from the comics to radio, comic books; big little books, feature length movies, movie serials, television and television cartoons. October 4, 2001 marked the 70 anniversary of the introduction of this character in the funny papers. The radio series of this character began on the Mutual Network in 1935 after its popularity in the daily and Sunday newspapers, later the series moved to NBC Blue from 1937 to 1939, then by 1945 to ABC, and in 1946 was a Saturday evening show that was short lived and ended in 1948, the radio show falling far short of the longevity-of the comic strip, but still enjoying very much success on radio.

You're probably wondering who am I talking about? Well I'm talking about "Plainclothes Tracy", that name probably doesn't sound familiar as a radio program does it? well how about Dick Track?

Plainclothes Tracy was the name of the comic strip Chester Gould (creator of Dick Tracy) submitted to J. M. Patterson president of The Chicago Tribune-New York Daily News Syndicate. Gould had submitted more than sixty strips for approval before Patterson told him his Tracy strip had, what he considered promising merit.

Patterson had a way of renaming strips, he renamed Tommy Tucker by Milton Caniff, to Terry And The Pirates and Little Orphan Otto by Harold Gray to Little Orphan Annie, thus he renamed Plain clothes Tracy to Dick Tracy - 'seemed to work OK.

The radio program many times would run concurrently with comic strip adventures, with Tracy solving similar crimes.

The radio program included all of the characters in Gould's strip, including Junior (Tracy's adopted son), Tess Trueheart (Tracy's girlfriend), Pat Patton (Tracy' sidekick), and many of Tracy's other friends and villains.

Tracy was played by Ned Weaver, the supporting cast included Mercedes McCambridge, Gilbert Mack and Jackie Kelk who played Junior on the show, Kelk also played Jimmy Olsen on Superman, Homer on the Aldrich Family and many other supporting roles. Announcers included Ed Herlihy, Don Gardner, George Gunn and Dan Seymour. Sponsors included Tootsie Rolls and Quaker Cereals.

The beginning of the show started, "Calling all adventure fans, calling comes Dick Tracy fans, stand by, (sirens). Here comes Dick Tracy." The show

ended daily with, "Calling all adventure fans, calling all Dick Tracy fans, stand by for another electrically transcribed Dick Tracy adventure tomorrow at this same time, ("sirens") there goes Dick Tracy now, that is all. (sirens)".

Some of the episodes from early thirty eight are available on cassettes as are many episodes from the forties. I have a few from the thirties, and I know the RHAC tape library has a few copies of Tracy episodes.

On February 15, 1945, CBS broadcast a one hour special AFRS Command Performance version of "Dick Tracy In B Flat -- Or For Goodness Sake, Isn't He Ever Going To Marry Tess Trueheart?" This special featured the top comedians and singers in Hollywood, in an all star cast. The special was not aired an any network in the United States because it was only for the entertainment of service personnel.

Dick	Bing Crosby
Tess Trueheart	Dinah Shore
Snow Flake	Judy Garland
Flat Top	Bob Hope
Shaky	Frank Sinatra
Vitamin Flintheart	Frank Morgan
Gravel Gertie	Cass Daley
Police Chief	Jeny Colonna
Summer Sisters	Andrew Sisters
Old Judge Hooper	Hany Von Zell

This program is available on tape today.

Because of the popularity of the comic strip and the radio program there were four Republic Studio serials made, Dick Tracy (1937), Dick Tracy Returns (1938), Dick Tracys' G Men (1939) and Dick Tracy Versus Crime Inc. (1941), all starring Ralph Byrd.

There were; also four feature films made, Dick Tracy Detective (1945), Dick Tracy Vs Cue Ball (1946) both with Morgan Conway as Dick Tracy, again with Ralph Byrd as Tracy in both of them, Boris Karloff received top billing as Gruesome in the latter film. On June 15, 1990 with Warren Beatty as Tracy, in Brilliant color the last of the Tracy films was introduced.

The popularity of the strip and the radio serial as well as the movies carried over for a brief time to television, from September 13, 1950 to February 12, 1951, starring Ralph Byrd, who played Tracy in the afore mentioned movies, but his death in 1952 terminated plans to continue the production of the TV series beyond the 26 to 39 episodes already

filmed that were full of violence and carnage (like the comic strip) which in the following years would be disallowed on TV fearing that impressionable young children would be disturbed by such violence.

There was also a cartoon series on television sometime in the early sixties that was very juvenile and childish. As I remember it was only on for five or ten minutes at a time and Tracy didn't have much to do with the program, he just turned the cases over to his aids, Hemlock Holmes And The Retouchables, Jo Jitsu, Heap O' Calory, and Go Go Gomez, it did have all of Tracy's villains, but that was about it.

As with all radio and comic success there is bound to be many, many collectibles associated with them, Tracy is no exception. There are far too many to even attempt to list, so I wont even try.

As I have written in other articles in Return With Us Now, I associate a lot of OTR with the comics. I still follow Dick Tracy every day, yes he is still fighting crime and solving mysteries daily in the newspapers 70 years after Gould created him, although he isn't seen in any of the local papers, I follow him on the internet on a comic web site that has quite a lot of the comics, there are quite a lot of comic web sites on the internet.

In honor of Tracy's 70th anniversary and in honor of Chester Gould, Jim Scancarelli, who draws Gasoline Alley has Dick Tracy show up in his strip to solve a murder, mimicking Gould's style of drawing Tracy and using Tracy's hand gestures etc. He even has some of his characters stopping by Sunny Dell acres (B. O. Plenty and Gravel Gertie's residence) ask for directions. He started the episode October 4, 2001 and plans to end it October 30, 2001.

And now some insight into the creator of Dick Tracy. Chester Gould had a reputation of never missing a deadline and had continued success for over forty years, to be exact forty six years, two months and twenty one days. Gould retired in 1977, his last strip ran on Christmas Eve. Gould passed away in 1985. At the height of the strips popularity, Tracy was said to have been read by sixty million fans daily.

Gould had the uncanny knack of pre-cognizance in his strip, as many artists had. In fact there are many occurrences of artists predicting the future (so to speak), such as Buck Rogers' Jet Pack, Tracys' Two Way Wrist Radio and The Dick Tracy Teleguard (better known today as the MiniCam used in banks and many businesses for security). Gould

predicted this Mini-Cam twenty years before anyone came up with the technology. Milton Caniff, the artist for Terry And The Pirates and Steve Canyon had this knack, often predicting many incidents and their outcome during World War Two, and as recent as the release of the comic book "Adventures. Of Superman" #596 (shipped to news stands September 12, 2001). There is a depiction of the ruins of twin towers in Metropolis. and damage to the World Trade Center Towers.

Gould was also used as a consultant by many law enforcement agencies in the country because of his crime fighting techniques etc.

Gould also initiated "Crime Stoppers". This was a kids club in 1947 with the motto "Crime Does Not Pay". I think this program continues today across the nation on a much higher level.

At the top of every Sunday page of the Tracy strip was Gould's "Crime Stoppers Text Book", with tips on various law enforcement techniques and how to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

What I liked most about the strip was the way Gould created the evil doers that Tracy encountered, with odd names and faces and bodies to match their names. Some characters names were invented by spelling them backwards, such as Prof. Emric, Wolley, Kroywen, Nuremoh etc. Jim Scancarelli is doing this in his Gasoline Alley strip with a lawyer named Krahs Yenrotta and another character named Dabnis.

As said before in other articles I was bedridden for a year and learned to draw from the comics, and coincidentally the first character I learned to draw was Dick Tracy with his dimpled fedora, hooked nose, squared jaw and trench coat.

I remember going to school early one day and drawing on the black board a picture of Sparkle Plenty, the baby of B. O. Plenty and Gravel Gertie, when she was born in the strip.

Gould arrived at Gravel Gerties name as one day he was passing an abandoned gravel pit, on the pit he noticed an old shack and wondered, what if a witch like looking creature was living there, thus her name evolved. B. O. Plenty's name was Bob Oscar.

I really enjoyed the article on OTR and The Comics by Jack Richards in the September issue of Return With Us Now.

I probably didn't cover very much on the radio program, but I wanted to just cover the character of Dick Tracy in general and his creator, for without

them we would not have had those radio programs to enjoy.

RHAC Member Paul Barringer - Research for this article came from old comic magazines I have, cassette tapes public library, Comic Buyers Guide, and my morgue. No, my morgue is not where I keep dead bodies, it's where I have many, many drawings and pictures of comic characters, reference articles on radio programs etc.

The RHAC 2001 Holiday Dinner and Show

By Larry Weide

On December the 4th, RHAC held it's annual Holiday party at Mr. Panda's Buffet Restaurant in Aurora - adjacent to Denver Colorado. As you can see, there was no shortage of good food, good company and good entertainment.



The RHAC Players donned their costumes for a portrayal of a 1947 Sherlock Holmes radio drama called "The Christmas Bride". In the cast were (from left to right) Dennis Masel, Helen Lowensky, Larry Weide, John Licht, JoAnn Bantin, Mark Langston and Ernie

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Witte. Also included were Sophia Ernst, Forrest Ernst, Percilla Licht and Fred Bantin. The script was transcribed by Sandy Johnson, the music was written and played by Stan Gology and the audio was engineered by Dave Clow. How many of you figured out that the back of that attentive head belongs to none other than our past President Dick King?

New in the Tape Library

by Dick and Malettha King



This month we start with three more of the Tarzan series from 1951-52. This is not the Tarzan of the Apes that starred Johnny Weismuller, but this is of a man raised in the jungle, educated in England and then returns to the wild as a matter of choice.

Next we have two reels of "the Bing Crosby" shows on reel #'s 1487 and 1488. These have particularly good sound. This is followed by two reels of "Challenge of the Yukon", with Sgt Preston and his great dog King. The 'Yukon shows are all 15 minutes in length, and each is complete in this short time frame.

On Stage with the RHAC Players

by Helen Lowynsky - Pres. RHAC

Hi folks,

Our holiday show has come and gone, and so ends another season for the RHAC Players. It isn't always apparent just how much work goes into putting such a production together. First of all our script had to be transposed from an audio recording into a written document, the document had to be formatted into a standard script with sound queues, the sound and music had to be created and placed on a computer CD and then all the actors had to practice, practice practice. Then, of course, our sound crew had to provide the computer, the audio equipment, set it up and have the expertise to run it all. My kudos and congratulations go out to the whole bunch!

We're looking forward to this year when we've got some very exciting projects planned. However, the projects themselves are only half of the required resource to create a live radio drama. You guessed it, we need actors and actresses! Do you have a little "ham" in you? Would you enjoy working with others who also love Old Time Radio? Well, how about joining the RHAC Players and get involved in not only preserving old time radio but actually make it happen.

Interested? Would you like more information? Just give me a call.

Happy New Year to one and all. - Helen

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The Dick Tracy "Bad Guys" Quiz

by Paul Barringer

It may have taken a few weeks of exciting issues of your local newspaper for Tracy to get his man, but get 'em he did. Now it's your turn to follow in Tracy's footsteps and nab the bad guys and gals. Oh, but first you have to identify them - can you?



Pruneface	The BrowMrs.
Gravel Gertie	88 Keys
B. B. Eyes	Diet Smith
Brilliant	B. O. Plenty
Mumbles	Influence
Shaky	Flat Top

Here are the answers to this month's quiz

From the Desk of the Editor by Carol Tiffany



It's hard to believe that yet another year has come and gone, albeit a very eventful one. I would like to thank our members for your patience with a very green newsletter editor and for your comments and ideas. Additionally, huge thanks to Larry Weide for his valuable assistance (especially with graphics and setup), to Stewart Wright for his helpful tips and files, and special thanks to our member-contributors, without whose articles, quizzes, puzzles, and pictures our newsletter would be rather uninteresting.

Please keep your ideas, comments, and articles coming ... I will be very grateful for any and all. It is my sincere hope that your holidays were warm and enjoyable, and that the coming year is a better one for all of us, individually and as a nation.

On a Lighter Note:

Although we are a little late for New Years' Resolutions, I have been thinking of some very interesting ones for some favorite OTR characters:

I resolve to clean out that hall closet!

- Mr. F. McGee, Wistful Vista

I resolve to ask what he means by "Kemo Sabe"

- Mr. L. Ranger, the Southwestern United States

I resolve to find happiness.

- Mrs. Sunday Brinthrop, Blackswan Hall

I resolve to find out what a Water Commissioner actually DOES!

- Mr. T. Gildersleeve, Summerfield

I resolve to marry my friend and companion, Margo Lane!

-The Shadow, somewhere in the fog and mist....

I resolve to stay out of my daughter Laurel's life this year!

- Stella Dallas, the wrong side of Beacon Hill

If you think of more, send them in... we'll use them next year!



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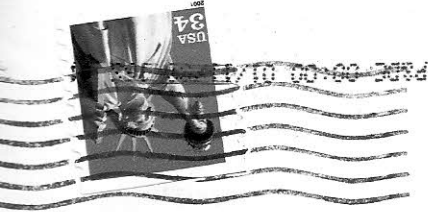
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Just a friendly note...

We have received a couple of inquires about December cassette shipments not coming through as fast as they were expected. The thing to remember is that all of our librarians are *unpaid volunteers* and it's not reasonable to expect them to spend an inordinate amount of their holiday time standing in the long December post office lines.

Please be grateful for the work our librarians do, and enjoy the cassettes when you get them during the very hectic holiday season.