



# RETURN WITH US NOW...



RADIO HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COLORADO

Volume 28, Number 4

April, 2004

## INNER SANCTUM OPENS ITS DOOR TO TELEVISION

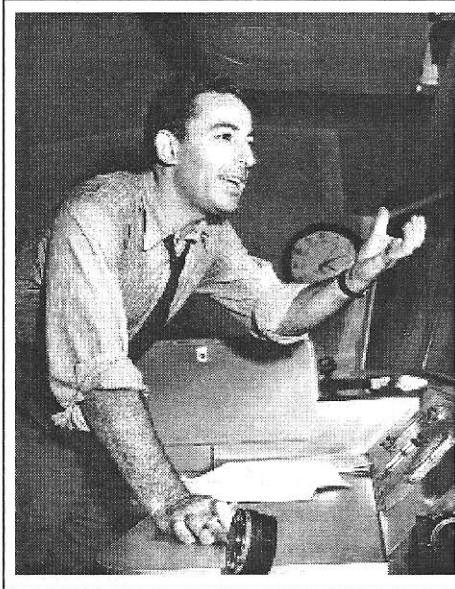
by Martin Grams, Jr.

"We made a series of TV shows in 1953," recalled Himan Brown. "I did 39 half-hour films for syndication with NBC; Inner Sanctum Mysteries in black and white. Signature was the same. Spirit was the same. I'd put 'spirit' in quotation marks." Simply put, this was the only television incarnation of the radio program ever made in the United States, and sadly, as promising as the syndicated market was during the early-to-mid fifties, the program was not successful. The contributing factor varies between the demand of the viewing audience, and the quality of the dramas. As described in a 1954 issue of TV Guide, "Things that made for finger-nail chewing via radio might be just a little too strong if seen. So the emphasis has been shifted. The dark doings have a psychological twist, with the cameras probing inner conflicts that build up into terror."

Since most viewers related to Inner Sanctum as a horror program, and not as a mystery program, the episodes lacked the horror element that would probably have appealed to the viewers. The scripts, containing credible writing, lacked the imaginative stories that the radio program often presented. In

"*Port of Regrets*," a middle-aged judge and his young wife go south for a vacation. When the wife (who is bored out of her mind) meets a young man with good looks and no money, she falls for his charm. The judge, jealous, kills his wife, just seconds before the episode ends. With great regret for his actions, he realizes that the law will be just as hard on him as the verdicts that he passed down in the States. (As I said, no creepy stories and what I finalized in three sentences took twenty-five minutes to act out.)

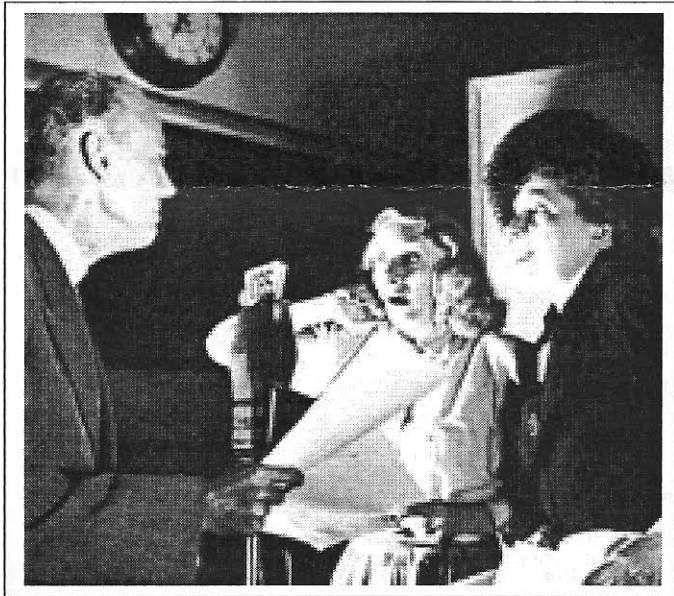
A pilot was first filmed in late 1952, sometime shortly after the radio series went off the air for good. It is, obviously, no surprise that the eerie anthology would try to make its mark on the new-fangled medium called "television". Many mystery programs such as The Whistler, Boston Blackie, Martin Kane - Private Detective and others were already in the planning stages, and some would be more successful than others. The Inner Sanctum pilot did feature an on-screen title, "*Dead Level*," but the drama was actually based on the Ed Adamson and Bob Sloane radio script "*Only the Dead Die Twice*," which was originally broadcast



March 21, 1949. No screenplay credit was ever given during the program, just a story credit by Adamson and Sloane - though I suspect they never had any involvement with the actual television drama.

(Continued on Page 3)

Mende Brown, Himan's brother, was the director of *"Only the Dead Die Twice,"* and the limited cuts and New York studio sets suggests that the pilot was filmed relatively quickly, on a shoe-string budget, and filmed in only a matter of one or two days. Internal evidence alone suggests this. Only five people were part of the cast: Ralph Bell, Walter Brown, Ed Latimer, John McQuade and Jean Carson. Only five people were listed as part of the technical crew during the closing credits. The scenes were filmed in one continuous shot, requiring very little editing, and during the scene where the investigator introduces himself to Johnny, the camera continues to film for four minutes without a single cut! During one scene, between Johnny and the beautiful woman committing the charade, a conversation between two men off the set can be heard coming from the background. Also, the same sound effect gimmick found in the radio series, a dove's cooing, was used as a substitute for an owl during the cemetery scene.



One curious factor I observed during the closing seconds of the unaired pilot, was when an announcer is heard remarking that the viewers were watching the ABC network. Could there have been a possibility that the series was proposed to ABC as a network show, before the idea of syndication came into being?

Carrying over from the radio version of the series were the trademarked squeaky door sound effect and Paul McGrath remaining as the unseen host and narrator. Most stories were of the horror/suspense variety, although they did on occasion venture into the supernatural. Although filmed, the series had the look and feel of a live

television production. Probably considered revolutionary at the time, the episodes were filmed in New York City, where live television was produced, as opposed to Los Angeles where many syndicated series were filmed. Himan Brown pointed out in an interview that the main argument for California was the year-round sunshine for outdoor shots. His reason for staying in New York was his belief that the most desirable actors were stage players, and most of them lived in New York. He felt that movie acting could not compare with the stage variety. He also maintained that all of the best writing talent was around New York City.

Himan Brown thought about the problem of the creaking door. How to create a door that would live up to the eerie effect produced on radio by a sound effects man? Finally he hired a sculptor named Maurice Evengton, who had done some pretty gruesome work for J. Arthur Rank, the British film mogul. Evengton was given carte blanche to let loose all his psychopathic impulses so as to provide a door that would frighten Charles Addams. Well, Evengton had come up with a real horror. When closed, the door gave the distinct impression that the likes of Bela Lugosi was lurking behind it. It opened on an endless series of corridors that were designed to let the viewer's imagination work on whatever terrifying subject he might choose.

On radio, Himan Brown needed a technical crew of four. The producer, director, engineer and sound effects man. On TV, according to the 1954 issue of TV Guide, his production payroll was up to around 40. When you tack on the cost of actors, that's pretty - shall I say - stiff? But the crew credited on the actual television episodes was nowhere near 40. Again, like the unaired pilot, a minimal crew of technicians was hired to film each episode. Six were credited. Richard Sylbert supplied the Art Direction. Mende Brown was the Associate Producer. Lew White supplied the organ music. David Cooper was the Supervising Editor. Alan Neuman was the director (of at least three episodes, see above). The Director of Photography varied from episode to episode, but only one name per episode. Those involved were Zoli Vidor and Joseph Brun, a.s.c.

Mende's production company was called Galahad Productions, and the budget and sets were far more lavish than those used on the unaired pilot, allowing room for new actors to play starring and supporting roles. Jack Klugman had a featured role in *"Face of the Dead,"* but he was never featured

# 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

## Old-Time Radio is Alive and Well in Colorado!

KEZW 1430 AM	"When Radio Was", with Stan Frieberg	Weekdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
KFKA 1310 AM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:00 - 12:00 PM
KNUS 710 AM	"Radio Revisited"	Weekdays, 10:00 - 11:00 PM
KRMA TV Channel 6	Secondary Audio Program (SAP), "Tribute to OTR"	Sunday, 2:00 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.

President:	Larry Weide	5270 E. Nassau Cir. Englewood, CO 80110	(303) 758-8382	<a href="mailto:lweide@attglobal.net">lweide@attglobal.net</a>
Vice-President:	Dick King	900 W. Quincy Ave. Englewood, CO 80110	(303) 761-4139	<a href="mailto:dickking@earthlink.net">dickking@earthlink.net</a>
Secretary:	<i>Open Position</i>			
Treasurer:	Maletha King	900 W. Quincy Ave. Englewood, CO 80110	(303) 761-4139	<a href="mailto:dickking@earthlink.net">dickking@earthlink.net</a>
Newsletter:	Carol Tiffany	1394 Golf Vista Court N. E., Palm Bay, FL 32905	(321) 723-7803	<a href="mailto:ctiffany@worldnet.att.net">ctiffany@worldnet.att.net</a>
Talking Newsletter	B.J. George	Email - <a href="mailto:bj39@tds.net">bj39@tds.net</a>		Talking Newsletter egroup - <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rwun">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rwun</a>
RHAC Players:	<i>Open Position</i>			
Membership:	Dick King	PO BOX 1908 Englewood, CO 80150	(303) 761-4139	<a href="mailto:dickking@earthlink.net">dickking@earthlink.net</a>
Tape Donations:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503 Denver, CO 80227	(303) 986-9863	
	Herb Duniven	4184 S. Syracuse St. Denver, CO 80237		
Directors at Large:	David L. Michael, Herb Duniven and Dick King			

### LIBRARIES

Reference Material:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503	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
CD Library:	Ron Gallagher	888 S. Dexter #607	Denver, CO 80246	(303) 692-0531

### Convention Schedules

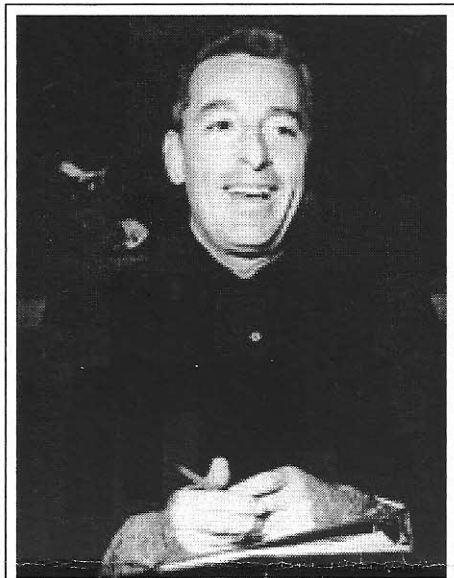
**18th Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention**, April 16 - 17, 2004; Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence KY 41042 (859) 282-0333, [haradio@hotmail.com](mailto:haradio@hotmail.com)

**REPS Radio Showcase XII**, June 24 - 27, 2004 at the Seattle Center, Seattle Washington. Contact Mike Sprague, Box 723, Bothell, WA 98041 (425) 488-9518 [hrrmikes@aol.com](mailto:hrrmikes@aol.com), also check web site: <http://www.repsonline.org>

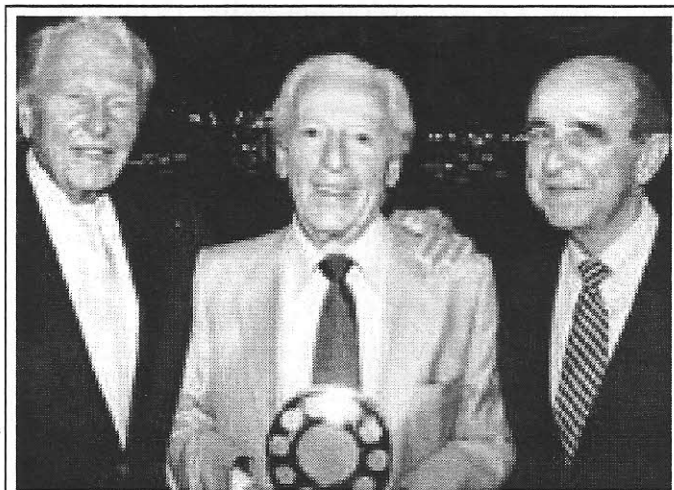
**28th Old-time Country Music Contest and Festival**, Aug 30 - Sep 5, 2004 at Harrison County Fairgrounds in Missouri Valley, Iowa. For information contact Bob Everhart at Box 492, Walnut, IA 51577 (712) 762-4363, [bobeverhart@yahoo.com](mailto:bobeverhart@yahoo.com)

**29th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention**, Oct 21 - 24, 2004 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887, [JayHick@aol.com](mailto:JayHick@aol.com), or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

during the opening credits alongside Everett Sloane and Harry Bellaver. James Gregory was never featured during the opening credits of "*Killer's Choice*," alongside Warren Stevens, Sally Gracie and Joe de Santis. The unaired pilot varied just a little in the production crew. Himan Brown was credited for producing and conceiving the idea; Mende Brown (Himan Brown's brother) for directing; Charles Hawkins as the Set Designer; James McNaugh for supplying the art direction, and Philip Levens as technical director.



Himan Brown - Then



Himan Brown - Now, with friends

At present almost no writer and director credits are available for individual episodes of Inner Sanctum (note: although the pilot film was entitled Inner Sanctum Mysteries, the regular series was titled simply Inner Sanctum). The program was staff-written, the writing staff consisted of Nelson **RETURN WITH US NOW...**

Gidding, Sam Elkin, Doug Johnson, Louis Vittes and John Roeburt, the latter two, of course, having scripted episodes for the radio series. For the most part, from what I have been able to gather all of the 39 episodes were original screenplays, none were adaptations of previous Inner Sanctum radio scripts. Only three of the 39 episodes are known to exist, and having viewed them all, I can state that Alan Neuman was listed as the director for all three. Whether or not he directed each and every television episode remains to be seen. One odd note I observed from the closing credits - some of the closing credits appeared on the screen as fade ins and fade outs, while another featured the credits rolling from bottom to top of the screen. I find it odd that a single production run would have their credits listed two different ways from episode to episode.

All of the episodes originally copyrighted in 1953 were renewed on April 28, 1981. All of the episodes originally copyrighted in 1954 were renewed on July 26, 1982. Claimant for the renewal was the National Broadcasting Company, Inc. (PWH).

*Martin Grams, Jr.* is the author and co-author of numerous books including: The Sound of Detection: Ellery Queen's Adventures in Radio (2002) (reviewed in the Aug. 2003 RWUN), Inner Sanctum Mysteries: Behind the Creaking Door (2003), and the highly-acclaimed The Alfred Hitchcock Presents Companion (2001). Martin's latest book, The I Love A Mystery Companion was released in October, 2003.

Dear RWUN readers,

Can you help us? We're in a quandary; We don't know who the gentlemen are with Himan Brown in the "Now, with friends" photograph to the left.

Why don't you send me an email at [ctiffany@worldnet.att.net](mailto:ctiffany@worldnet.att.net) and let us know who you think these folks might be.

Thanks so much,

Carol Tiffany, RWUN Editor

## The Trivial Matter of More Last Names of OTR's Famous Families

Match the last names with the OTR couples listed below:

- |                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| ___ Goodman and Jane        | A. McGee      |
| ___ Lord Henry and Sunday   | B. Goldberg   |
| ___ Fibber and Molly        | C. Burns      |
| ___ George and Sapphire     | D. Topper     |
| ___ Lorenzo and Belle       | E. Cooper     |
| ___ John and Blanche        | F. Jones      |
| ___ Roy and Dale            | G. Brinthrope |
| ___ Jake and Molly          | H. Riley      |
| ___ Cosmo and Henrietta     | I. Bickerson  |
| ___ Wallace and Sweetieface | J. Rogers     |
| ___ George and Gracie       | K. Stevens    |
| ___ Chester and Peg         | L. Ace        |
| ___ George and Liz          | M. Wimple     |

(Answers on page 6)



## New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Dick and Maletha King

Last month we added to the RHAC library with reels of "Birdseye Open house" and "The Ford Show" along with three reels of "Lightning Jim". These shows add to the series starting with show #17 on reels 892 and 893.

The first series entries did not have any dates, but the ones we entered in March gave the dates as in the 1950s. One of our reference books does not give any dates, while another agrees with the fifties dates. At the same time, a member contacted us advising that he has two shows, #55 and #56, dated March, 1939. Very interesting. We also listed "Lightning Jim" show #26, but that show is actually not available. So we have entered a show from Frontier Town instead. We are re-running pages #397 and 398 with the addition.

We are advised that a member has been confused with our reel numbering, since what he really wanted were cassettes. We start out with reels and make the cassettes from them. We keep the cassette numbers the same as the reels to avoid

**RETURN WITH US NOW...**

-5-

having to put out a second index listing. Note that most of the cassette sets are made up of four separate cassettes to give you all the shows that the corresponding reel contains.

In May we will continue with "Father Knows Best" and "Wild Bill Hickok".

## From the Desk of the Editor by Carol Tiffany

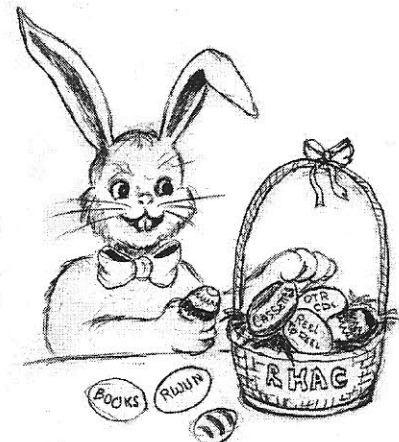


Here we are in April already, and what do we anticipate but April showers. Hopefully we will have a lot of them this year, as any and all precipitation is both much needed and appreciated.

This issue of RWUN has an article with quite an unusual focus for our newsletter; the transition of a classic OTR show to television. As you know, more than a few of our favorite OTR shows were adapted for television, many successfully, some unsuccessfully. Some programs, notably *Our Miss Brooks* and *Jack Benny*, ran concurrently on radio and television for many years. Rarely, such shows as *Have Gun, Will Travel* and *My Little Margie* started on television and moved to radio. Our lead article gives a lot of detail on the many difficulties encountered while trying to make a successful radio-to-television transition.

Due to considerations of space, the "Rogue's Gallery" quiz has been moved back to the May issue of RWUN. However, I think you will find the "family names" quiz quite challenging.

Happy Easter and Good Listening to all....



Smart Bunny! He keeps all his OTR eggs in one basket!

April, 2004

# Update on "HORNET" Movie

by Paul Barringer



Some time back I wrote an article on "THE GREEN HORNET", in which I mentioned that there was going to be a new film about the character. It finally seems to be in the process. In the March 12, 2004 issue of COMIC BUYERS GUIDE the following article was published which states, in part, the following.

*"SMITH takes Hornet: Miramax announced Feb. 18 that writer-director Kevin Smith has signed on to write and direct a new film about the masked crime-fighter The Green Hornet and his martial-arts sidekick, Kato. 'Long time comics geek gets to make comic-book movie?' Smith said, speculating about a possible newspaper headline. 'This is a dream come true.' Miramax Co-Chairman Harvey Weinstein, who approved the project, said, 'Kevin knows more about comic-book characters, books, and the creative process than anyone else I have ever met.'"*

*The article goes on to tell of the 1940 first appearance in comics of the "Hornet" who was created for radio four years earlier by "Lone Ranger" creators Fran Striker and G. W. Trendle.*

*An additional quote from the Internet states that; "Smith promised his "Green Hornet" adaptation would be an "exciting, chop-socky-filled action flick, but it's gonna have a compelling story, believable characters, and great dialogue to boot."*

Well, we may finally get to see a new version of the "Green Hornet" character. Personally, I hope it isn't like the TV series with Van Williams and Bruce Lee from 1966-67. No release date has yet been announced, nor have any of the stars appearing in the film been named. I guess we'll have to wait and see if the film is true to the radio character.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Barringer's two-part GREEN HORNET article appeared in the June and August 2003 issues of RWUN.)

## Answers to Last Names Quiz:

A. McGee	L Goodman and Jane
B. Goldberg	G Lord Henry and Sunday
C. Burns	A Fibber and Molly
D. Topper	K George and Sapphire
E. Cooper	F Lorenzo and Belle
F. Jones	I John and Blanche
G. Brinthrope	J Roy and Dale
H. Riley	B Jake and Molly
I. Bickerson	D Cosmo and Henrietta
J. Rogers	M Wallace and Sweetieface
K. Stevens	C George and Gracie
L. Ace	H Chester and Peg
M. Wimple	E George and Liz