



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 30, Number 8

RHAC 30th Anniversary Year!

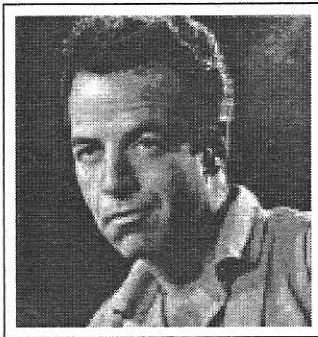
August, 2005

RADIO DETECTIVES

by Dr. Charles Beckett

(Continued from July/05 RWUN)

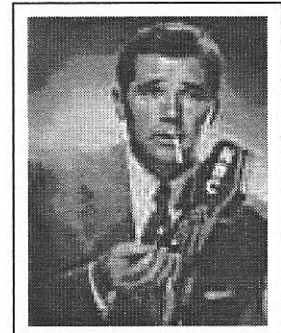
In "The Adventures of Philip Marlowe" series, Marlowe was a cynical loner who placed personal ethics above society's rules. He considered himself a failure because he didn't have any money. He felt that a man without any physical handicaps who couldn't make a decent living was a failure. But, there was always another crime to solve, and the hope that there would be a payday at the end of it.



Gerald Moore as "Philip Marlowe"

Sam Spade, in "The Adventures of Sam Spade, Detective" series, was probably the most financially responsible of the hard-boiled private eyes. When interviewing a client, his first question might be, "How much you got on you?" If the answer was a hundred dollars, Spade would reply, "OK, I'll take that, and you can pay me the rest later." Also, he was extremely frugal. His usual means of transportation was the streetcar, which would take him anywhere in San Francisco for a dime. He was a contrast to the hard living, hard drinking private eyes of New York, who were accustomed to getting from place to place

by taxi (to which Spade had an aversion), sometimes spending their last dollar or two on cab fare. Although he was known to take a drink now and again, Spade favored cheap liquor, keeping a bottle in the desk drawer in his office for emergencies. One had to wonder why, with his analytical abilities, Spade didn't know that his secretary, Effie Perrine, was secretly in love with him. Or, perhaps he did. Next to Sherlock Holmes, Spade was arguably the most famous of the fictional private detectives.



Howard Duff as "Sam Spade"

Richard Rogue, of "Rogue's Gallery," was a typical tough guy private investigator, with one exception. He was the only one of them known to have had an alter ego, "Eugor" (Rogue spelled backwards). Eugor was Rogue's unconscious state of mind, who appeared only when Rogue was knocked out or drank a drugged drink. During these frequently occurring occasions, Eugor would appear in Rogue's subconscious mind. And during a conversation between the two, Eugor would provide Rogue with a clue or some small bit of information that he had overlooked in his conscious state. When Rogue "came back to planet earth," he would use this new information to help solve the case.

(Continued on Page 3)

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
Pirate Radio 104.7 FM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:30 - 12:00 PM
and, Pirate Radio internet streaming at http://www.pirate1047.com		Sunday, 6:30 - 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

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

RHAC *OTR* WEB PAGE <http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>

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Reference Material:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503	Denver, CO 80227	(303) 986-9863
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#4 (5001-up)	Mika Rhoden	3950 W. Dartmouth Ave.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 937-9476
CD Library:	Thomas Woessner	3240 S. Lowell Bld.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 936-4643

Convention Schedules

30th Old-time Country Music Contest and Festival, Aug 29 – Sep 4, 2005 at Harrison County Fairgrounds in Missouri Valley, Iowa. For information contact Bob Everhart at Box 492, Walnut, IA 51577 (712) 762-4363 or E-Mail bobevertart@yahoo.com

30th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 20 – 23, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 JayHick@aol.com, or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

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August, 2005

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Simon Templar, "The Saint," was an exception to the hard-boiled private detective. He was suave, dressed well, and enjoyed expensive cars. He was a patron of the arts and enjoyed dining in the best restaurants. He was considered the Robin Hood of modern crime, which may explain how he could maintain such a lush lifestyle. His favorite lady friend was the lovely Patricia Holm. In his investigations, Templar wasn't above breaking the law in righting wrongs, if circumstances demanded it. And he seemed to get beat up and hit over the head about as often as his more hardboiled counterparts.



Tom Conway as Simon Templar - "The Saint"



Vincent Price as Simon Templar - "The Saint"

Sherlock Holmes billed himself as the first consulting detective. His adventures were told in retrospect by his friend and assistant, Doctor John Watson. Holmes worked out of his London apartment. He was a master at reconstructing crime scenes from the minutest clues, bits of evidence and keen observation. He was friends with plodding Inspector LeStrad of Scotland Yard, whom he allowed to take credit for many of the cases Holmes solved, as he did not like to draw public attention to himself. He had no interest in women, as he claimed they distracted his powers of observation. But, Doctor Watson - before his marriage - charmed and was charmed by Holmes' comely "young ladies in distress" clients.

"Mr. Keen, Tracer of Lost Persons" was another series that seemed to go against the stereotype of the tough talking, brawling, hard living private detective. In spite of the name of the program, Mr. Keen was a master detective. On the surface, he seemed like a kindly old gentleman, whose demeanor and gentle voice belied the hardness of his

interviewing technique. When questioning a suspect, he could be direct and harsh in his interrogation. When he did not get a suitable answer to a question, his young, and not too bright partner, Mike Clancy, would encourage a better response from the suspect. "You heard Mr. Keen. Answer his question!" When Keen was asked about what his role was in solving a murder, he would reply, simply, "We usually work along with the police..." But, Keen did not worry about following proper police procedures, or hesitate to make illegal entries to obtain information, when it suited his needs. The program was one of the longest running radio detective series, airing for seventeen years.

Brad Runyon, "The Fat Man," was a 237-pound private detective. He was powerful, with an iron grip and an intimidating voice. He was single, but had a good friend, Cathy Evans, to whom he once remarked; "Nobody loves a fat man." In actuality, he was a charming and witty lady's man. Cathy felt that she had a responsibility to "curb wolfish women" from bothering him. His size and commanding voice stopped many an adversary from attempting something foolish. Although large and hard-boiled professionally, in his personal life he was gentle and softhearted.

The hero of "The Adventures of Nero Wolfe" was a master detective who was described in the show as, "The bulkiest, balkiest, smartest, the most unpredictable detective in the world." He seldom moved from the easy chair in his home. He preferred gourmet dining and buying and raising rare orchids to solving crimes. When the phone rang, Wolfe's partner would answer it. The conversation would go something like, "Nero Wolfe's office, Archie Goodwin speaking. Mr. Wolfe? Yeah, he's here. Who's this?" This would be followed by Wolfe's bellow, "Archie, hang up. Don't ask questions." Archie would persist, with "It's a client, boss." Wolfe would reply, "That's what I was afraid of. Phooey!" Frequently, the only way Goodwin could get Wolfe to agree to take a case was to remind him how low their bank account was, and that, if Wolfe wanted to continue to maintain his current lifestyle, he needed to earn some money. Only then, would Wolfe grudgingly agree to see a client. Goodwin would do the legwork in a case, investigating crime scenes, obtaining clues and interviewing witnesses and suspects. He would present the facts to Wolfe, who would then solve the crime without moving from his chair. Wolfe had no interest in women.

Goodwin, however, used his charm and good looks to not only obtain information from young women connected with a case, but, sometimes, dates as well.

"Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar" was another different kind of private detective. He was an insurance investigator on contract with a group of insurance companies to investigate potentially fraudulent claims. Like the other P.I.s, he was a tough guy who could take care of himself physically, carried a gun, got hit over the head, and had a girlfriend, Betty Lewis - although he claimed to be a confirmed bachelor. But, unlike other private investigators, he lived off of his "action packed expense account," which he was not bashful about padding. He kept a detailed record of his every expense, from cab fares to airline tickets - plus hotels, food, and whatever other expenses he incurred, plus some.

Upon completion of his investigation, he would submit his expense account to the insurance company for reimbursement. His assignments took him further from home than most of the other private investigators. He traveled to wherever his clients sent him - in or out of the country - to recover stolen diamonds, art objects, furs; to investigate arson, or determine if a person with a large insurance policy died of natural causes or was the victim of foul play. Whatever the location or nature of his investigation, there was likely to be a murder involved.



Bob Bailey as "Johnny Dollar"

Amateur detectives were those who had professions outside the area of crime detection. They carried no police badge or private detective license. In spite of that, they managed to get involved with murders and other crimes, anyhow. The "Mr. and Mrs. North" radio series is a prime example. Jerry North was a mild mannered book publisher. He and his wife, Pam, regularly were drawn into crime situations, and teamed up to help the police solve them.

Dan Holiday, of "Box 13," was a mystery writer who sought material for his books by placing ads in the newspaper - "Adventures wanted. Will go anywhere, do anything. Box 13." Answers to his ads

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repeatedly brought him face to face with danger and murder.

In the case of "Casey, Crime Photographer," he worked for the Morning Express newspaper, along with his girlfriend, Ann Williams, a reporter for the paper. Often a photo Casey took at a crime scene provided him a clue that gave him an opportunity to play detective - and of course, help solve a murder.

Radio detectives came in a variety of temperaments, sizes, shapes and ages. They included public, private, hardboiled, suave, musical, overweight, eccentric, old and amateur detectives and investigators. The one thing they all shared in common was that, no matter their title, style or background, they succeeded in entertaining the listener with their adventures.

CRYPTOGRAM

by Jack Richards

Cryptograms are created from quotes, catch phrases, or other sayings from OTR shows. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. After the quote, decipher the name of the show in which it appeared. The answer is on page 5.

#5 Clue: D equals N.

**“VGAR CNS VYG NAGFKADO AV CNS
WDBDAZD XARS CGYDOXGFTSP**

**CYESO AV DSZ PFRSOFADO FD CFRS YDP
OHYXS.”**

B-RFDWO ADS

We have an inquiry from the daughter of **James Melton**, a radio, recording and opera star from the mid 20s to the mid 50s. She is looking for any articles relating to his career and/or personal anecdotes of interest to help her put together a book about her father. She would appreciate any information that you may be able to provide.

Contact:
Margo Melton Nutt
496 Turnpike Road North
Fairlee VT 05045-9641

(802) 333-9963 margo.nutt@dartmouth.edu

Old Time Radio Moments of the Century (1)

[The following article, by broadcast historian Elizabeth McLeod, is reproduced here with her permission. Ms. McLeod has listed her "top 100" 20th Century Radio Moments. We will be presenting 10 of her selections in RWUN each month for the next ten months.]

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.

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.

Answer to the Cryptogram puzzle

“From the far horizons of the unknown come
transcribed tales of new dimensions in time and
space.”
X-Minus One

**From the Desk of
the Editor
by Carol Tiffany**



The dog days of August are here again and it looks as if we are having one of the hottest summers on record. A good time it would seem to sit back in the dark in the cool of the evening and listen to some good OTR on tape or on one of the over-the-air rebroadcasts of OTR shows.

This issue of RWUN features the last of Jack Richards' OTR Cryptograms. These have proved to be the most challenging of all the puzzles we have had since your editor has been doing the newsletter. We are also beginning a new feature in this issue, Elizabeth McLeod's countdown of the 100 most Memorable Radio Moments of the 20th Century. I hope you will enjoy this feature as each installment evokes memories from long ago and not so long ago.

As always, your newsletter is in need of articles, features, and puzzles for future issues. You may send any ideas or contributions by E-Mail or snail mail to me at the addresses listed on page 2.

Good Listening to all...



***New in the Tape
and CD Libraries***

by Maletha King

This month will be an opportunity for some of our Sci-Fi members to enjoy reels of "Earth Search". This is a very interesting series of programs that really tickle the imagination. This writer is not usually a fan of such programs, but I found them very enjoyable.

We also have another "Biography In Sound", which provides a chance to learn some of the background of three well know band leaders and also of W.C. Fields.

We end this month's offerings with "Calling All Cars" and will continue with more of them next month.

Update on the Friends of OTR Convention

The 30th Friends of Old-Time Radio convention will be held Oct. 20-23, 2005 at the Holiday Inn in Newark, N.J. This convention will feature quite a few guests, both performers and technical people, including the following well-remembered OTR names:

Elliott Reid - March of Time; Lorenzo Jones
Hal Stone - Jughead in Archie Andrews
Frank Thomas - Tom Corbett
Peggy Webber - Dragnet, Mystery in the Air
Arthur Anderson - Let's Pretend, Mercury Theater
Fred Foy - (Announcer) The Lone Ranger
Rosemary Rice - Archie Andrews; Let's Pretend
Larry Robinson - Let's Pretend
Lynne Rogers - Light of the world
Jean Rouverol - One Man's Family
Margot Stevenson - The Shadow

As usual at this convention, there will be many OTR recreations, usually with one or more of the original cast members. This year's recreations will include:

"Light of the World" (with Lynne Rogers)
"Tom Corbett" (with Frank Thomas)
"A Date with Judy"
"Superman" (with Noel Neill)
"The Shadow"
"Frontier Gentleman"
"The Halls of Ivy"
"Ethel and Albert" (with Peg Lynch)
"The Plot to Overthrow Christmas"
"The Damon Runyon Theater" - and more.

Additionally, the winning original drama of 2004 (The Lone Ranger) written by Michael Leannah will be presented on Thursday night.

Other programs will include presentations about OTR writers, radio Sports programming, Jack French on the history of syndicated shows, the 9th annual Singers, musicians and Big Bands program, (hosted by Stu Weiss and Brian Gari with guests including Sonny Curtis, Jay Siegel, Susan Gordon, and Paul O'Keefe), interactive panel discussions, and one-on-ones with various convention guests.

This promises to be one of the best conventions of the year, with a sufficient variety of programs and activities to meet almost any OTR fan's expectations.