



# RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COLORADO

Volume 33, Number 4

April, 2008

## SUPERMAN

By Paul Barringer

High School..... A time when friendships were born, some to be forgotten; but some that would endure over time. Some resulted in relationships lasting into manhood and womanhood. Some even resulted in partnerships, both romantic and business. An example of the latter is the relationship formed between Jerome (Jerry) Siegel and Joe Shuster, who were to become co-creators of one of the most famous characters in comic book history, SUPERMAN.

The pair of young men met in Cleveland, Ohio, at Glenville High School where the two bonded with each other almost immediately. Both of them were involved in the publication of the high school newspaper. Jerry was a writer, and Joe did cartoons for the paper. Both of the boys would be called “nerdish” in today’s society, because they wore glasses and were shy and unathletic. But, back then, (the 30’s and 40’s) society was a bit more understanding of people’s differences and the boys were just part of the group.

The friendship of these two was forged from a mutual and shared love for science fiction. This deep affection for the subject would eventually lead to Jerry writing a series of short stories illustrated by Joe. In 1932/1933 the pair created and published their own fan magazine. The magazine called "Science Fiction", (what else?) lasted for only six issues. In this fan magazine the pair introduced an

original character in a story called "Reign of the Superman". In the story line the character was a bald-headed villain, who used his super powers to demolish and destroy.

The following year the two began to study a new comic character called "Dan Dare" when it was brought to the stands. Their interest grew and the character pushed them to change their “Superman” into a do-gooder type, an ordinary man with his powers concealed.

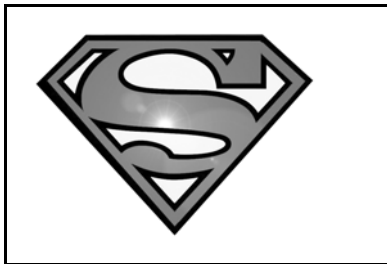
Having graduated from high school and with their latest idea having been rejected by several publishers, both of the boys had trouble finding any steady employment except for odd jobs around the area. This, when the great depression was in full swing. But don't count the boys out just yet

Siegel had yet another idea up his sleeve. This time his Superman had a big "S" on his chest, and an outfit with boots and a flowing cape. This would be the start of the story we all remember, of the baby Kal-El sent to

earth for his safety as the planet Krypton was about to blow up. He was found and adopted by Jonathan and Martha Kent, who soon found out that the baby had supernatural powers never before seen on earth.

But their latest attempt to get their Superman story published failed. In 1935, Malcom Wheeler, a retired Major in the army, decided to start and publish his own comic magazine. Once again, Siegel and Shuster tried, with some success, when two of their created comics were published. At this time they sent Wheeler their Superman idea, but, alas, it was rejected by Mr. Wheeler.

(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 Chuck Schaden	Weekdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Pirate Radio 104.7 FM and <a href="http://www.pirate1047.com">www.pirate1047.com</a> ,	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	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

Hear RHAC on the web, 4th Saturday of every month, at 9:30pm Mountain time at;  
<http://www.yesterdayusa.com/saturdaylive.htm>

**RHAC Web Site - <http://www.rhac.org>    RHAC Email - [rhac\\_otr@yahoo.com](mailto:rhac_otr@yahoo.com)**

**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 80113	(303) 758-8382
Vice-President:	<i>Open Position</i>		
Secretary:	<i>Open Position</i>		
Treasurer:	Maletha King	900 W. Quincy Ave. Englewood, CO 80110	(303) 761-4139
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 egrou - <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rwun">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rwun</a>	
Membership:	Maletha King	PO BOX 1908 Englewood, CO 80150	(303) 761-4139
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		

### 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)	David Gatch	PO Box 70	Glen Haven, CO 80532	(970) 577-0805
#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:	Thomas Woessner	9693 W. Euclid Dr	Littleton CO 80123-3192	(303) 936-4643

### 2008 Convention Schedules

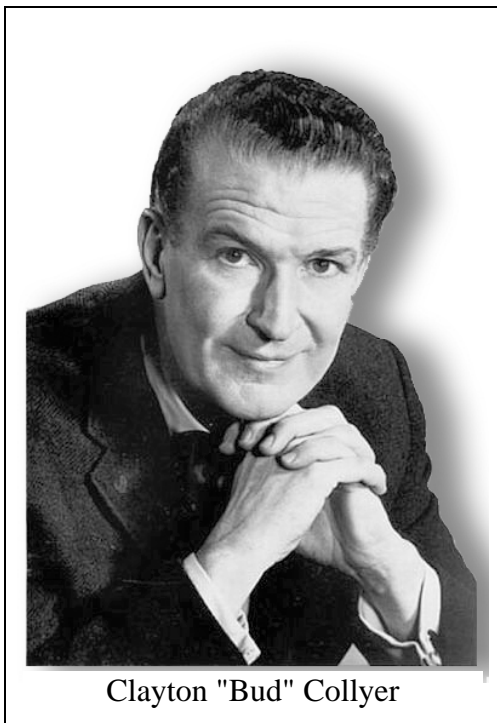
**Cincinnati's 22nd Old Time Radio and Nostalgia Convention**, April 11 – 12, 2008; Cincinnati North Hotel; Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042 (888-477-9112), [haradio@hotmail.com](mailto:haradio@hotmail.com)

**Memphis Film, Radio and TV Festival**, June 5 - 7, 2008; Whispering Woods Hotel, Olive Branch Mississippi; Contact R Nielsen, Box 87, Conway, AR 72033 [www.memphisfilmfestival.com](http://www.memphisfilmfestival.com); e-mail [rnielsen@alltel.net](mailto:rnielsen@alltel.net)

**33rd Friends of Old-time Radio Convention**, Oct 23 – 26, 2008 Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For info: Jay Hickerson, 27436 Desert Rose Ct, Leesburg, FL 34748 (352) 727-6731, [JayHick@aol.com](mailto:JayHick@aol.com), web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

CREDIT: This publication may, under license, use objects and/or images from one or more of the following: Lotus Wordpro97 and Corel Gallery. These software packages are protected by the copyright laws of the United States, Canada and elsewhere. This publication is copywrited 2008, with all rights reserved.

Now, the pair were making a living, with Siegel writing and Shuster drawing for DC comic magazine editor, Sheldon Mayer. Mayer, as editor for the magazine, took a chance and published the duo's "Superman" character in the inaugural issue of "Action" comics in June of 1938. The cover of the published magazine showed the pair's Superman character, picking up a car and throwing it.



The rest, as they say, is history. The Superman character was an instant hit and the pair had hit gold. Less than one year later, the Superman character was to appear in his own magazine, titled "Superman". This rise in status made Superman the first comic superhero character (at that time) to have his own magazine. This was the concept of the Superman character as we know him. With the huge acceptance of the character in the comic book field, it wasn't long before the Man of Steel would make his debut on RADIO. In fact, it was only approximately 20 months after his appearance in Action Comics.

Most everyone knows the legend, and we all can visualize the crowd lifting its eyes to the sky as one, and with the sound and whine of wind in the distance, those, oh so familiar words would resonate across the airwaves.

"Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings at a single bound. Look, up in the sky, it's a bird, it's a plane it's Superman." But... this was not the first descriptive narration of the opening of "The Adventure of Superman". The first episode did not

**RETURN WITH US NOW...**

start with this opening at all, as I will explain later.

The Adventures of Superman was the combined work of Allen Ducovny and Robert J. Maxwell, both of whom developed the radio series into its' popularity on the airwaves. The first Superman radio broadcasts were heard on only a few out-of-the-way stations, but, by February of 1940 the radio program was presented in a three times a week program series. But the radio broadcasting system (Mutual) didn't have a clue as to how popular the program really was, so the network dropped it from their programming schedule. This didn't set well with the listening audience who bombarded the network with thousands of protest letters. The program would eventually return as a fifteen-minute five-days-a-week series.

The cast of The Adventures of Superman included, Clayton "Bud" Collyer as Superman/Clark Kent 1940-1950, Michael Fitzmaurice played The Man of Steel from 1950-1951. The part of Lois Lane was initially played by Rollie Besser, then by Helen Choate, and finally by Joan Alexander who would play the role until the end of the program run. Jimmy Olsen was played by Jack Grimes and then by the well known, Jackie Kelk. Julian Noa was Perry White, and the part of Inspector Henderson was first played by Matt Crowley, then by Earl George. Announcers/Narrators on the radio program were George Lowther, Jackson Beck, and Ross Martin.



The portrayer of Lois Lane had the distinction of being the only adult woman to star in this type of

role on a radio thriller in the afternoon. The Superman radio program was unique in other ways. In April of 1940 Jimmy Olsen (Cub reporter) would make his debut on the program. What is unique about his introduction is that the character of Olsen was not in the pages of the Superman comic book until 1942. Likewise the characters of Perry White, (The Daily Planet editor) and Inspector Henderson were the creation of the radio producers before their introductions in the comic pages.

Batman and Robin would join forces with Superman in the comic books, but they first appeared together as a team with Superman on the radio program.

Everyone knows of Superman's "Achilles Heel", namely his vulnerability to Kryptonite, but Superman was exposed to the green substance on the radio program years before Kryptonite's appearance in the comic books.

The success of The Adventures of Superman radio program was in large part the result of hiring Clayton "Bud" Collyer in the dual role of Clark Kent/Superman. Collyer, an oft-times overworked actor and announcer, busted his buns five-days-a-week performing on radio shows such as NBC's "Road Of Life: and ABC's "Listening Post", which broadcast within 30 seconds of each other; with one ending with Collyer's closing message, and the other beginning with Collyer's opening lines. Only because the two networks' studios were in the same building was Collyer able to pull off the stunt.

Collyer, born Clayton Heermance Jr. June 18, 1908, was, at first, very reluctant to accept the role of "The Man of Steel", for fear of being type cast, because of his work on other juvenile radio adventure serials, including playing the lead role on 'Renfrew of The Mounted", Pat Ryan on "Terry and the Pirates" and the part of The "Blue Beetle". Oddly enough, Collyer's decade-long run on the Superman radio program would be the longest run on a juvenile radio adventure series for any star. For one who initially turned down the role, Collyer, would later love playing the part of Superman. According to Jackson Beck, Clayton was awfully proud of being Superman. But, like all good things, there must be an end; not because of anything on the radio program, or anything to do with the radio program, but brought about by an outside influence,

namely... television, where Collyer would garner his greatest fame hosting shows like, "Beat The Clock", "Quick As A Flash" and "To Tell The Truth".

It was at this juncture, when Collyer left the radio program, that Michael Fitzmaurice would assume the role of Superman. Although Fitzmaurice was a veteran in the media of radio, where he was the long-time announcer on "Land Of The Lost" and "Nick Carter Master Detective", and he had that rich baritone vocal delivery that was well-suited for radio

and was certainly capable of using that voice for the role of Superman, it was no match for Collyer's wondrous ability to create the vocal duality of Clark Kent and Superman.

While playing Superman on radio, Collyer would use his experience of moonlighting as a radio singer at night while working as a law clerk by day, to portray Clark Kent in a high tenor voice, while dropping his voice to a lower bass level for the voice of Superman. It was this unique ability that allowed Collyer to



make Clark Kent sound timid, mild-mannered, excitable and nervous, while using the Superman voice to manifest the famous line, "This is a job for Superman!" This change also gave him extra emphasis on the "Up, Up and Away" signature line used when he, Clark Kent, had changed to Superman.

The first episode of The Adventures of Superman started with the announcer saying... "Boys and girls, your attention please. Presenting a new and exciting radio program featuring the thrilling adventures of an amazing and incredible personality. Faster than an airplane. (in the background a swooshing noise is heard, and grows louder)

Announcer: More powerful than a locomotive, impervious to bullets.

Man #1: "Up in the sky look"

Man #2: "It's a giant bird"

Woman: "It's a plane"

Man #3: It's Superman!

(followed by very loud swooshing sound in the background) Announcer: "And now Superman, a being no larger than an ordinary man, but possessed of powers and abilities never before realized on Earth. Able to leap into the air an eighth of a mile in a single bound, hurdle a twenty story building with

ease, race a high powered bullet to its' target, lift tremendous weights and bend solid steel in his bare hands as though it were paper. Superman, a strange visitor from a distant planet, champion of the oppressed, physical marvel extraordinary, who has sworn to devote his existence on Earth to helping those in need."

Announcer: As our story begins we ask you to come on a far journey. A journey that takes us millions of miles from the Earth. Where the planet Krypton burns like a green star in the heavens. Here civilization is far advanced. It has brought forth a race of super men. Men and women like ourselves, but advanced to the absolute peak of human perfection. In the background a very faint hissing sound begins to be heard. As we near Krypton we see high walls and gleaming turrets. We approach the magnificent Temple of Wisdom, and there in a great hall, Jor-El, Krypton's foremost man of science is about to address a meeting of the planet's governing council. (crowd noises begin, and then a gavel strikes a hard object a few times)

Rozan: Attention. Attention gentlemen. (the background noise subsides as the crowd quiets down)

Rozan: Jor-El speaks.

Jor-El: Members of the council... I have completed my solar calculations and much as I dread uttering these words, I have come to the conclusion that Krypton is doomed.... noise from crowd.

Council Member: Did I hear him right? ..... noise from the crowd continues.

Rozan: Gentlemen (while striking gavel.)

Rozan: Gentlemen, Gentlemen. Gentlemen, hear him out. (crowd quiets completely)

Jor-El: These internal quakes we've been experiencing, these volcanic eruptions, tidal waves, gas escaping from giant craters, all point to one thing gentlemen. Krypton is utterly and finally doomed. (crowd explosion)

Council Member: Why, the man's mad.

Rozan: One moment, gentlemen, one moment. (while striking the gavel)

Rozan: There is no cause for anxiety, I am certain Jor-El has made a mistake. True we have had a few minor quakes and eruptions, but nothing very serious. There must be some error in your calculations Jor-El.

Jor-El: No, No there is no error Rozan. I only wish there were. The sun is gradually drawing Krypton closer to it. Within a month...possibly only a week...the gravitational pull will be so tremendous

that Krypton will not be able to weather the strength. And then, then our planet will explode like a giant bubble, destroy every living thing on it.... (the crowd is laughing.....gavel is struck)

Rozan: Gentlemen. Assuming for the moment Jor-El, that what you say is true, how are we to avoid it? What can we do to stop it?

Jor-El: There is only one way. As you all know, I have been working on a space ship designed for interplanetary travel. With time, and united effort, we might transport the entire population of Krypton to another world.

Rozan: Impossible! Where would we go?

Jor-El: To the...Earth. My studies tell me the atmosphere of the Earth is very nearly the same as our own.

Rozan: You have been working too hard Jor-El. You need a rest. Believe me, we have the utmost respect for your knowledge and integrity, but this is carrying it too far, planets as large as Krypton do not explode Jor-El. (a rumbling sound is heard)

Jor-El: Wait, do you hear that gentlemen? It's the forewarning of doom. Every moment is precious now, quakes like that are sounding the death bell of Krypton. It will happen, gentlemen, and happen soon. When the last great eruption comes.

Rozan interrupts, When it comes Jor-El... it shall find all of us ready. If Krypton is to die, we shall die with it. The parting would be much too severe. (members of the council can be heard laughing among themselves)

Jor-El: Very well, laugh if you like, Rozan... and you members of the council. I have no time to laugh; my wife Lara and my infant son are dear to me. It is not my wish to stand by and see them destroyed. Laugh all of you! But a time will come and that time is perhaps very close at hand, when you will wish you had headed the words of Jor-El. Now you think me a fool, but remember what I have said gentlemen, when Krypton is shattered into a thousand million stars, when the glorious civilization we have built is no more, when you and your families are swept from the face of Krypton like dust. (Once again laughter is heard from the council members)

Rozan: Order Gentlemen, Order. You have heard Jor-El speak, is it your wish that we devote time and money to the building of spaceships for the transportation of Krypton's population to another planet?

Council Members: No! (several times)

Rozan: I am sorry Jor-El, the council has spoken.

**WHAT JEFF FOXWORTHY HAD TO SAY  
ABOUT COLORADANS!**

Jor-El: Yes...and signed the death warrants of every living thing on Krypton. Well, I've done my best to convince you. Now all that remains for me is to proceed with my own means of salvation. My own spaceship. to save the lives of those near and dear to me. As for the rest of you, may the gods have mercy on your souls.

(At this point there is a short pause in the program, indicating elapsed time and the scene shifts to Jor-El's work shop, where sounds of hammering and pounding can be heard) At this moment in the program, Jor-el races against time to get his rocket ship completed, and explains to Lara about the planet Earth and about it's inhabitants, telling her about them, and their similarities to those people on Krypton, he also tells her of their inadequacies, but that the planet is the only place that the people from Krypton can survive, because of it's atmospheres similarity to that of Krypton. As explosions are heard in the background, Jor-El laments his delay in building the space ship.)

(Sounds of Jor-El still working feverishly on the space ship. As the skies of Krypton get fiery red and mountains are crumbling and falling, Lara runs and gets the sleeping Kal-El. Jor-El puts the boy into the space ship and launches it into space, just as the last great quake erupts. Krypton is coming to its end just as Jor-El had predicted.

Jor-El: Lara, listen, can you hear me? Our boy Kal-El, our son, Lara, is on his way to Earth.

Lara: Kal-El, Kal-El... (loud rumblings and explosions, then suddenly the explosions cease and there is silence)

Announcer: So the tiny rocket ship roars into the uncharted heavens, as the mighty planet Krypton explodes into millions of glowing fragments, glittering stars to remain in the night sky forever. Jor-El and Lara, devoted parents of the tiny boy, perish in the giant quake that destroys Krypton. But what of the rocket, does it reach the Earth; does it find its mark in all the far flung darkness of space? Remember; don't miss the next installment of Superman! (swooshing noise comes in, gradually growing louder)

Man #1: Up in the sky, look!

Man #2: It's a giant bird!

Woman: It's a plane!

Man #3: It's **Superman!**

As the first episode ends, the announcer says, Superman is a copyrighted feature appearing in Action Comics Magazine.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

*You live in Colorado if ...*

- Your local Dairy Queen is closed from September to May.
- Someone in a Home Depot store offers you assistance and they don't work there.
- You've worn shorts and a parka at the same time
- You've had a lengthy telephone conversation with someone who dialed the wrong number.
- 'Vacation' means going anywhere south of Denver for the weekend.
- You measure distance in hours.
- You know several people who have hit a deer or an elk more than once.
- You have switched from 'heat' to 'A/C' and back again in the same day.
- You install security lights on your house and garage but leave both unlocked.
- You can drive 75 mph through 2 feet of snow during a raging blizzard without flinching.
- You design your kid's Halloween costume to fit over a snowsuit.
- The speed limit on the highway is 75 mph -- you're going 80, and everyone is still passing you.
- Driving is better in the winter because the potholes are filled with snow.
- You know all 4 seasons: almost winter, winter, still winter, and road construction.
- You find 10 degrees 'a little chilly'.

*If you actually understand these jokes and repeat them to all your friends, you live in Colorado or have lived there.*



**New in the Tape  
And CD Libraries**

by Maletha King

This month we're adding to our CD libraries with "The Smith's of Hollywood" and "Meet the Meeks" shows. These were weekly family situation comedies of the style that were very popular during this time.

We think these shows are a refreshing change of pace from the detective and drama shows that have been recently added to our libraries.

# RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLORADO

ORDER BLANK FOR CASSETTE LIBRARY #3 1000-2000

Librarian - Dave Logan

5557 S. Sherman Cir., Littleton CO 80121

(303) 730-1430

**\*\* Make Check Payable to "RHAC" \*\***

Enclosed is my check or money order for the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the ONE MONTHS Rental charge of \$2.50 per set for the cassettes ordered. You are allowed to order 5 cassette sets at one time although you may only have 5 cassette sets from this library at one time.

Minimum order is \$7.50

Cassette number:

Title:

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

Alternates:

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_

Ship To: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

I do hereby agree to abide by the RHAC rules and agree not to sell or use library materials for monetary gain and *I will return the tape on time.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER

**RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLO.  
PO BOX 1908 ENGLEWOOD, CO 80150**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**