



RETURN WITH US NOW...

Volume 40, Number 6

FINAL ISSUE

November/December, 2015



Bringing OTR to our membership's doorsteps for forty years!



A Christmas Carol Reenactment



Past Librarian Thomas Woessner



RHAC 20th Anniversary Radio Reenactment



Audience Ready For the Reenactment To Begin



Audience Enjoying Dinner Before Reenactment



Les And ?



in Steven



John Licht At A RHAC Holiday



A Christmas Carol Reenactment



Ernie Whitte And Wife at the RHAC Dinner



JoAnn Bantin Introducing RHAC Presentation



Fred Hobbs, Bill McCracken and Stewart Wright Creating A Segment For "OTR From The Rockies"



Bantin And Larry Weide Rem RHAC Activities



RHAC 20th Anniversary Radio Reenactment



Group At The RHAC Holiday Dinner



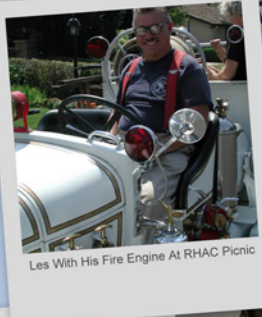
Fred Hobbs and Stewart Wright Creating A Segment For "OTR From The Rockies"



John Licht And Group At The RHAC Holiday Dinner



Fred Hobbs - "OTR From The Rockies"



Les With His Fire Engine At RHAC Picnic



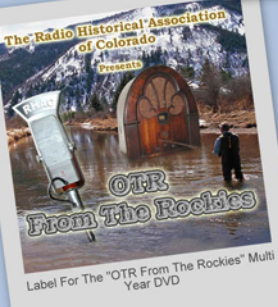
Mikes Used During The Golden Age Of Radios



Holiday Dinner AT Bill McCracken's Club House



RHAC LOGO



Label For The "OTR From The Rockies" Multi Year DVD



John Licht At The RHAC Holiday Dinner



The Group At The RHAC Holiday Dinner



Fred Bantin And Dave Clowe Look For Ice



ter - An Original Member

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

PO BOX 1908, Englewood CO 80150

Dedicated to the preservation of old-time radio programs, and to making those programs available to our members

RHAC Web Site - <http://www.rhac.org>

RHAC Email - info@rhac.org

*** RHAC material that is archived for immediate access and downloads ***

All forty years of "Return With Us Now", the RHAC newsletter is available at
<http://www.otrr.org>

All 8-1/2 years of "OTR From The Rockies", the RHAC internet show is available at
<http://www.otrr.org>

President: Larry Weide
Vice-President: Herb Duniven
Secretary: Barrett Benson
Treasurer: Bill McCracken

Membership: Larry Weide
Directors at Large: Dennis Kavanaugh
Terry Hamilton

LIBRARIES

David Gatch, (970) 586-2863

PO Box 70
Glen Haven, CO 80532

#1 (1-499), #2 (500-999), #4 (5001-up)

Terry Hamilton, (303) 596-7748

6225 S. Clarkson St.
Centennial CO 80121

#3 (1000-up), CD Library:

**Notice: The last date for sending in a media order is
December 15th, 2015**

This Month ...

IFC - RHAC Picture Collage

2 - "From the Officers and Staff of RHAC and RWUN"

3 - "Reflections on the Early Years", by John Adams

7 - "Listen, That's what we like to do", by Fred Hobbs

9 - "Down Memory Lane", by John Cook

10 - "Our Media Collection is Archived at the University of Denver", by

11 - "From the Desk of the President", by Larry Weide

12 - "Books from the RHAC Collection - Free to Members!"

IBC - RHAC Picture Collage

CREDIT: This publication may, under license, use objects and/or images from one or more of the following: Lotus Wordpro 9.1 and Corel Gallery. These software packages are protected by the copyright laws of the United States, Canada and elsewhere. This publication is copyrighted 2015, with all rights reserved.

From the officers and staff of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado and the "*Return With Us Now*" club newsletter

Hello everyone,

Well, what can we say. Perhaps it's kind of trite to utter that old expression, "All good things must come to an end", but indeed we have now arrived at exactly such a time. Of course we mean that this last issue of our newsletter marks the disbandment of RHAC. As you know from the many messages throughout this last year and a half, the decision to end all RHAC operations is the result of three worsening issues. They are; diminishing membership, rising costs and a severe lack of support. You'll recall that over the last few years a number of steps were taken to reduce workload and expense such as streamlining membership, reducing the newsletter from twelve to six printings a year and having our printer do all of the addressing and mailing work as part of the printing process. Nonetheless, finally the confluence of these issues reached the critical point.

To be sure, throughout all the years of RHAC's existence, those that served in their various roles have done it out of a zealous desire to serve and be part of an organization as RHAC. Our current staff very much feels the same way, and our hearts are heavy for having to have to make this decision on our watch.

Since we are the ones closing the doors, so to speak, we want you to be assured that all the hard work and meticulous collecting will be preserved. We've seen to it that our material assets such as the master media copies, books collection and equipment have been donated to the University of Denver's Penrose Library. Then too, all of our newsletters and internet radio shows have been archived on the otrr.com web site. See the site locations on the preceding page.

The following articles in this issue are by the people, both here today and passed on, that helped build and make RHAC what it has become. So now it's time to reminisce, reflect and take a look back at RHAC history..

Our current staff (below) would like to wish you all the very best, and, continued good OTR listening.



Top L to R: Larry Weide, Barrett Benson, Dennis Kavanaugh, Terry Hamilton
Bot L to R: Bill McCracken, Herb Dunnivan, Fred Hobbs (dec'd), (not shown) David Gatch

As a way to start looking back at the beginning of RHAC, and to remember some of the folks who did so much to get us going and be a success, we liked to re-print articles written by the late John Adams for RHAC's 20th anniversary.

Reflections on the early years

by John Adams

RHAC at 20

To begin with, late in the spring of 1975, Mary and Harral Peacock decided that it would be a good idea to start an old time radio club. They were fans of John Dunning, then on KFML, and they asked him if he would announce on his show that if anyone was interested in belonging to a club to contact them. John Adams, John Lloyd and Dick Mullins met with the Peacocks prior to the first meeting to set up some directions a club might take.

The first meeting was held at the Peacock's home with 27 people on hand. At that time it was agreed that a club be formed and the first formal meeting was held on :July 20, 1975.

Some of the established collectors donated reels of tape to the club to help new collectors build a library. The charge was 50¢ a reel and the tape library was begun. Collections were taken for postage so Harral could notify members of coming meetings.

In October, 1975 it was decided that officers be elected for a year's term. Harral Peacock was elected President. John Adams elected Vice-President and Mary Peacock elected Secretary-Treasurer. Members continued to donate reels of tape until enough money was raised to make an order from Blalock 's Sound Library .

Dues were set at \$5 per year. The members approved a new name for the organization, The Radio Historical Association of Colorado. A newsletter was begun, using a Gestetner mimeograph. The mimeograph was used for several years to keep' the printing costs down.

In August, 1976 Dick Mullins contacted the Ampex Tape Company and we reached an agreement to purchase all of our blank tape at great savings. Glenn Blair and Barrett Benson succeeded Dick Mullins in handling the Ampex sales.

"Return with With Us Now" was selected as the name of the organizations newsletter in March, 1977. Harral Peacock edited the first few newsletters. Other editors were John Lloyd, Dan Daneom, Irving Hale. Paul Anderson, Craig Anderson and John Callor.

The tape library grew for several years through donations from members and purchases from dealers. Jerry Appleman was very instrumental in insuring top quality for the library. After several years, the original tape library was raffled off to the members and a new tape library was established, dedicated to giving only high quality sound to all of our members.

After Harral Peacock's term as President he was followed by John Lloyd (four terms), Barrett Benson (two terms), Jack Richards and Irving Hale. The RHAC continued to grow in the early years. We had great support from John Duuning and Harry Tuft on the radio and Dusty Saunders and Clark Secret in the local newspapers. The organization sponsored several exhibits at shopping malls and participated in the fund raising drives for the local educational TV station.

Many of our members entertained at nursing homes and church groups, playing shows from their libraries. On several occasions the RHAC has made large donations of tapes to the blind These activities are some of the most rewarding moments of membership.

The RHAC quickly grew to over 100 members and has remained at about that number for several years.

In July 1979, six weeks of copying articles from radio magazines paid off when it was announced that the reference library was ready for members. It has never been a money-maker, and probably never will be, but we will always have the satisfaction that this valuable material has been preserved by radio historians.

During that same summer the RHAC made it's biggest find. We uncovered thepreviously unreleased "*Casey, Crime Photographer*" discs. We had t o have them recorded for us, but since that time we have acquired several disc players and are able to record discs ourselves.

The RHAC has been extremely fortunate in being able to provide great guest spaekers for many of our meetings. To date, we have had approx.15 guest speakers and have enjoyed each and every one.

Under the leadership of Barrett Benson, the club filed as a non- profit organization. This will benefit the RHAC since we would be able to receive tax exempt gifts of radio material to be preserved and shared.

The RHAC membership spans from coast to coast. Originally it included mostly local members but out-of-town members now outnumber local

members. This has proved to be a benefit since we are now able to draw programs from many areas of the country for our library. In the last few months we have expanded here in Colorado to include a very fine group of members in Colorado Springs. That chapter holds monthly meetings just as the Denver chapter does.

In the last few years we have been fortunate enough to receive some publicity in national publications. This has brought in inquiries about our club, and Subsequently, new members. As more and more people find the joy of collecting more publicity will follow the hobby.

There is a bright future for our organization. New discoveries of shows will eventually be added to our library. New finds of magazines will be copied and added to the reference library and books about old time radio will also be added. Reprints of radio stories will appear in the club newsletter.

Do You Remember, Were You There?

To tell the RHAC story in a little more detail, RHAC hosted five old time radio conventions. None of these activities resulted in any kind of financial profit, nor were they intended to be of financial benefit to the club. The idea was not to make a profit, rather the idea was to meet the old time radio personalities. We have met many old time radio personalities and they are always fascinating.

RHAC has had guests from California and from the East Coast. Denver has also provided RHAC with many entertaining radio personalities from the past. After having heard many personalities speak of their backgrounds, the most obvious observation seems to be that many people who have made careers in radio have either come for the middle-west or have spent much of their early years in the middle-west.

Radio people have come from all walks of life. Most commonly we have heard them describe very low pay in the beginning. Many began with stage experience and some came from families with show business experience. The circus supplied a few. And burlesque gave us many comedians.

We will not attempt to name all the personalities who have visited RHAC for fear of failing to name some. In recent years RHAC has been bringing in out-of-town personalities one or two at a time. Each of these personalities has been very entertaining and brought us many stories of the *good old days of radio*. These visits are enjoyable but they require a lot of planning time by a very few people. I would like to reflect upon the life and history of RHAC.

and speak of the more important happenings month by month. Some months may be skipped, either as uneventful or just missing documents.

I also recall that in the early days the name Radio Historical Association of Colorado was frequently mistaken as a group of collectors of old radio sets. July 1975, Volume 1, Number I: 14 people gathered at Harral Peacock's home in Northglenn, Colorado, for the first meeting. Each member was asked to bring one reel of his best old radio shows to the next meeting to form the beginning of a library from which members could rent tapes for 50 cents. Meetings would be each month at members homes.

It is important to remember that all these people in 1975 had been listening to John Dunning's Old Time Radio show on a local station, KFML. Peacock phoned Dunning on the air and an "on air" invitation was made for interested people to attend a meeting for the purpose of beginning a club. And so it began! Here's a ten year timeline of memorable events.

Aug. 75: Bill Blalock donated copies of his rental library catalog for members use.

[Note: Bill Blalock was not a RHAC member - Ed.]

Sept. 75: Radio Historical Association of Colorado was chosen as the name of the club. President: Harral Peacock Vice-President: John Adams Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Peacock Five dollars was assessed of each member to cover the cost of postage for mailings.

Oct. 75: John Adams held the meeting at his home. 20 people attended. John Dunning was an invited guest and became our first honorary member.

Dec. 75: The first Xmas party Harral Peacock's home on Dec. 7. The \$100 in proceeds were used to buy tapes from Bill Blalock for the library.

Jan. 76: Jan 18 meeting was held at Lee Burtons in Golden. John Dunning will do some book reviews for the club on radio & personalities.

Feb. 76: Club growing so fast the meeting is held at the Thornton Community Center building. Tom Daniels begins an article on Network Radio which runs for months in the newsletter, *This isom*

Mar. 76: John Dunning had accumulated a large library of reference material in photocopies of magazine & book articles . John agreed to loan this material to RHAC to permit us to copy it for our own use. (It is now part of our reference library).

Apr. 76: The meeting was held at Wyatt's Cafeteria in Cherry Creek. Jerry Appleman arranged for our first guest speaker, Bob Lee. 45 people attended.

Jun. 76: A large newsletter of 18 pages marked the RHAC first anniversary. A great turnout greeted guest speaker Jim Hawthorne at the Wyatt's meeting. Herral Peacock wrote an RHAC historical review of year one.

Jul. 76: John Lloyd takes over as editor of the newsletter. Meetings moved to St. Bamabas Church on Vine St. on Sunday afternoon. Orders were taken for John Dunning's book *Tune In Yesterday* for fall delivery.

Nov. 76: John Lloyd joined with the Buffalo, NY, club for a 20-page newsletter titled *Radio News*.

Dec. 76: 20 RHAC members volunteered to help channel 6 with their fund drive.

Jan. 77: John Dunning was guest speaker and autographed copies of his book *Tune in Yesterday*.

Mar. 77: RHAC meets at Tara Hills clubhouse in southeast Denver.

Apr. 77: Dan Danbom becomes editor of newsletter. Public Service Co. helps with printing costs.

Jul. 77: RHAC has its first summer picnic in the mountains but only a few show up.

Aug. 77: RHAC moves meetings to Majestic Savings Bank on S. Colo. Blvd. at University Hills.

Sept. 77 : RHAC dues increase to \$8. Dan Danbom gives notice to leave as editor.

Nov. 77: RHAC meeting at Wyatt's. New officers elected : Pres. Irving Hale, VP Ernie Jesson, Treasurer Joe Madden, Editor John Lloyd.

Dec. 77: Christmas dinner at Golden Ox, Denver Post writer Clark Secrest was guest speaker. Large attendance. RHAC helps channel 6 with fund drive.

Jan 78: Meeting at Majestic Savings. Guest speaker: Mary Vagel of radio station KFML (Dunning's station).

Feb. 78: Rental fee increase for tape rental to \$1. Available for rental, 51 reels. Rod Button proposed establishing a cassette library, discussed and approved. (Cassette library failed after six months).

Apr. 78: RHAC meeting discussion proposing an exhibition at Villa Italia Shopping Center promoting new membership. Current membership about 100.

May 78: We had guest speakers from the religious radio station KPOF; significant is that KPOF is the oldest radio station in Denver, having begun in 1927, and they exhibited the original microphone used at the station. Plans were presented at the meeting to incorporate RHAC. Also announced that Dunning began his OTR show at KFML-TV in Mar.

Jul. 78: Vol 4, No .1: Picnic in Wash. Park ; turnout fair. John Lloyd has newsletter history of RHAC.

Aug. 78: Pete Smythe was guest speaker at Bonanza Steak House. Great turnout for small room .

Oct. 78: Following are new officers: Pres. John Lloyd, VP John Adams, Treas . Joe Madden, Editor Irving Hale. Irving presents his 12 Minute Cassette he made back stage with Vincent Price . Plan approved to sell the original tape library at one dollar per reel,

Apr. 79: Board of Directors approved raising dues to \$10./Yr. Members did not object.

Jun 79: A new two page issue of RHAC By-Laws was issued and printed in the newsletter.

Sept. 79: It took a lot of phone calls to raise 15 People to help on the channel 6 fund raiser.

Oct. 79: New officers: Pres . Jack Richards, VP Barrett Benson, Treas. John Migrala, Editor Jim Vaughn.

Dec. 79: Christmas Dinner was at Western Sizzler; big turnout.

Jan. 80: Meetings at Majestic Savings. 16 volunteered for channel 6 fund drive.

Feb. 80: Guest speaker: Jack Fitzpatrick. John Lloyd announced that correspondence with Anchor Hocking Glass had brought us the entire run of *Casey, Crime Photographer*. Help given by SPERDVAC to copy the discs to tape. This brought library to 219 reels. ~

Apr. 80: Guest at Wyatt's was Bob Petre. Editor Jim Vaughn moved to Calif. Jack Richards became temporary editor, for a month.

May. 80: A running log of *Sears Radio Theater* begun in the Newsletter. Sears was changed to *Mutual Radio Theater*; log supplied by Jerry Appleman. John Lloyd takes over as Editor.

Jun 80: *Sears & or Mutual Radio Theater* covered shows in themes of Western, Comedy, Love, Mystery, & Adventure.

Aug. 80: The last log of *Radio Mutual Theater* is published in Dec. newsletter.

Dec. 80: Christmas Dinner 14 people show up.

Jan/Feb 81: Meetings held at Allstate office building. Craig Anderson is new editor. Pres. Barrett Benson, VP Glenn Ritter.

Mar 81: New Home for RHAC is South West State Bank of Federal Blvd. (This location lasted for about 6 months).

May. 81: Craig Anderson gave up the editorship, so faithful John Lloyd takes over for the fourth time. .

Jul. 81: Paul Anderson takes over as editor (not related to Craig).

Sept. 81: A reprint of the by-laws was printed for members. The meeting was held at the Yum-Yum Tree .

Feb. 82: Guess what? John Lloyd is Editor again. A great article on Lum & Abner.

Mar. 82: Discussion on starting the cassette library for the second time. Reception to the idea was mild.

May. 82: John Callor is appointed the new editor. From now on meetings will be social & tape trading.

Sept. 82: New officers are Pres. Barrett Benson, VP Glenn Ritter Treas. Dick Henry, Editor John Callor, Cassette Librarian is John Migrala ,

Oct. 82: Plans are for Christmas Dinner at Heritage Square in Golden.

Dec. 82 : John Dunning will air A 24 Hour OTR series of shows at Christmas, 6 PM to 6 PM.

Feb. 83: Star West Productions has donated a serviceable 16" Studio Turntable disc player to the club. The Arvada Center also donated another 16" Studio Turntable disc player but it will need some maintenance.

Mar. 83: Slowly Reels have been added to the Tape Library, first 3 at a time, then 4, but now it is 8 reels at a time. Many Thanks to Barrett Benson for his hard work. Library now stands at 309 reels. Meetings were moved to Moore Realty in SE Denver.

Apr. 83: Many thanks to Guy Albright it looks like RHAC has found s new home at the Church of The Master.

May. 83: Thanks to John Dunning! He has donated to the club five reels of his interviews with guest celebrities whom he has interviewed on his radio show. Reed Hansen has been supplying great articles to the newsletter each month.

Jul. 83: The second Cassette Library is discontinued for lack of interest and is donated to a local school for the blind.

Sept. 83: New officers: John Lloyd President Guy Albright Vicee-President John Migrala Treasurer Reid Hansen Secretary John Callor Editor

Nov. 83: Speaker was Arthur Gaeth, newcaster who covered Nuremburg trials in 1945. Christmas party at Heritage Square Opera House. Weak attendance.

Jan. 84: Meeting at SW State Bank. Dunning now on Sat & Sun afternoons on KNUS .

Feb. 84: John Adams & Babara Watkins interviewed in Feb 6 *Business Week*. Meeting at Church of the Master.

Sept. 84: John Callor quits as editor. John Lloyd editor again.

Dec. 84: Xmas party at Brandy Chase clubhouse, good turnout. President: Barrett Benson VP: Herb Duniven Treasurer: John Licht Secretary: Reid Hansen

Feb. 85: Members assigned to staff 10th Anniversary Convention

Most of you know that our internet radio program host, Fred Hobbs, passed away in December of 2014. It was a terrible shock to us all and because of his death we felt that we could no longer continue with the radio program. Along with Fred's on-line duties he also wrote for our newsletter as well. Here is a re-print of one of his stories that tell more about people in RHAC.

Listen... That's What We Like To Do

by Fred Hobbs

Some folks collect stamps, some seek out and repair antique radio sets, others belong to clubs catering to a particular model of classic automobiles. It so happens that one of those three hobbies is pursued by each of the trio of current leaders of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado (RHAC).

RHAC president Larry Weide has an impressive array of early radios; secretary Barrett Benson is a proud owner of three Corvettes and treasurer Bill McCracken is the philatelist.

In addition to their RHAC organizational duties and outside pursuits, all three have in common an avid interest in Old Time Radio. Benson has an extensive personal collection of shows from the Golden Age of Radio. Weide and McCracken are more inclined to work on the production team of the monthly "OTR from the Rockies" Internet show (hosted by RHAC board member Fred Hobbs) and otherwise just enjoy listening or copying select broadcasts from RHAC's library of over 22,000 titles.

RHAC members have been enjoying their favorite OTR shows now for nearly 40 years, about the length of time that the Golden Age of network radio existed. Several early members, including McCracken, became interested in joining the club by listening to John Dunning's broadcasts of vintage radio shows on local Denver stations in the late 1970s and 80s.

Dunning, a high school drop out from Brooklyn,

obtained his GED, moved to Denver and eventually became an investigative reporter for the Denver Post and a best selling author. (including "The Encyclopedia of Old Time Radio." Listening to radio in his youth and then building his own OTR library, he said, "was like collecting part of my life."

"Dunning's show rekindled the memories of those great broadcasts and piqued my interest in Old Time Radio," says McCracken "and so in 1985, I joined RHAC". Weide, who came to the club about 10 years after McCracken, finds it the perfect welding of his interest in antique radio equipment and the broadcasts heard on those early sets.

Both recalled the live appearances of network radio greats at conventions held in Denver and hosted by RHAC featuring OTR stars such as Parley Baer (Chester on "Gunmoke"), Sam Edwards (Dexter on "Meet Corliss Archer,") Peg Lynch ("Ethel and Albert", and other luminaries including

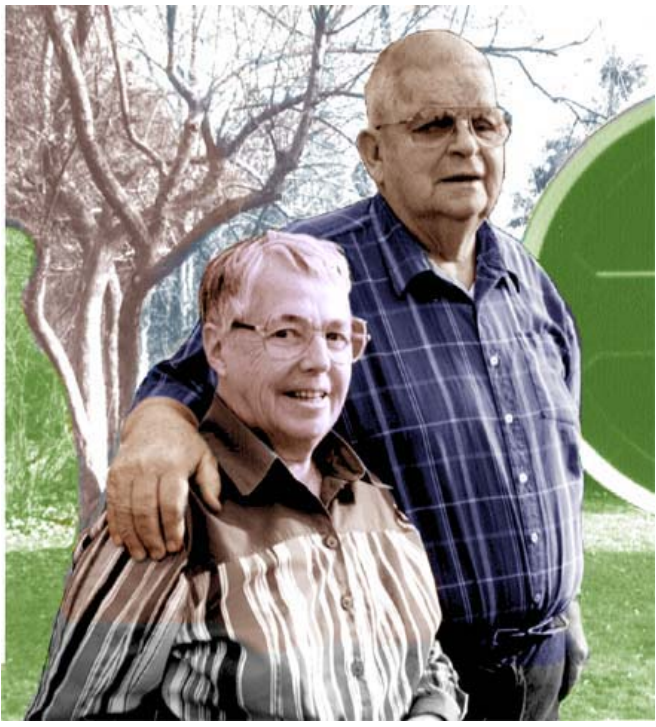
Dick Beals, Rosemary Rice, Shirley Mitchell, Herb Ellis and Harry Elders.

During this same period of time, RHAC's Barrett Benson was working diligently, leading the effort to build a series of libraries of radio shows; this undertaking evolved into a collection of broadcasts ranging from the 1930s through the early 1970's. Dunning and Benson both donated much of their respective individual collections to the RHAC libraries.

Early in the club's history, regular meetings began to feature collecting and trading sessions in which RHAC members could exchange shows. Guest speakers, mostly from local Denver radio, were invited to speak at the meetings. Prominent voices heard on the Denver dial who appeared "live" at the RHAC meetings included Pete Smythe, Starr Yelland, Ed "Weatherman" Bowman, Fred Arthur, John Rayburn, Merwin Smith, Bob Shriver, Ray Durkee and Fred Hobbs.

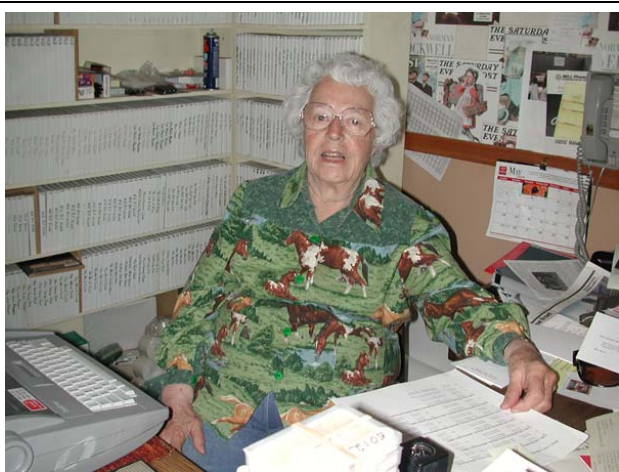
Nationally known radio stars also appeared occasionally regaling club members with stories of their careers. Among them, Ezra Stone ("Henry Aldrich"), Harry Bartell (numerous CBS shows), and Win Elliott.





Dick and Maletha King - 1996

Throughout the years of the most dynamic activities of the Radio Historical Association Colorado the guiding hands belonged to the “Father and Mother of RHAC”, Dick and Mathela King. McCracken says the Kings became involved at a critical time in the finances of the club’s operation, first with a donation of \$1,000. Then the Kings became instrumental in running the libraries, especially the creation of the cassette library with a technology of the time much more convenient to store and to use than the original “reel to reel” recordings of the OTR programs. “The growth of the libraries began to snowball at this point,” says McCracken. Mathela King assumed the responsibilities of RHAC treasurer, a role she also played in her husband’s business.



Maletha King, managing a library, membership and financial accounts

At the same time Mrs. King was making important positive changes in the club’s operations, Larry Weide was bringing the organization up to date in technology. With his background in computers, Weide wrote and began to manage new membership and library programs that upgraded those functions dramatically.

More important to members was the upgrading of the technology around the duplicating and cataloguing of the shows. Benson and McCracken both are careful to ensure the best quality of the sound to the extent possible. Shows from the early years of Old Time Radio do not always measure up to the quality listeners in the 21st century are used to hearing.

By the name, Radio Historical Society, and the designation Old Time Radio, the “Golden Age of Radio” has passed. Total RHAC membership, which once topped 500 now stands at about 150. Most of the stars of those great network radio shows are gone, but the legends live on through the recordings in the libraries of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado.

Benson, McCracken and Weide all agree that with modern technology, the historic broadcasts can be preserved for use by scholars of American pop culture for years to come.

The ancient Diogenes wrote: “We have two ears and only one tongue in order that we may hear more and speak less.” Or, as a more recent observer of the passing parade, Ernest Hemingway, put it: “I like to listen. I’ve learned a great deal from listening carefully.”

So, RHAC members, OTR fans and friends of the Golden Age of Radio, listen... listen and enjoy.”

Down Memory Lane

by John Cook

This article is from John Cook. John has been a member of RHAC for many years. He now lives in Arkansas, not far from where Lum 'n Abner's "Jot 'em Down Store" is supposed to be located. If you go to our web site at www.rhac.org, click on "shows" and select show #4 you'll hear an original Lum 'n Abner show and the RHAC player's recreation of that program. Simply amazing! You'll also hear an interview with John.

It's a sad, sad day for Mudville. Not only did the Mighty Casey strike out but the citizens of Mudville are losing a valued source of Old Time Radio entertainment. RHAC is closing its doors at the end of the year terminating a 40 year journey preserving and fostering a renewed interest in radio yesteryear.

As RHAC president, one of the first changes the Board of Directors made was to separate business meetings from general membership meetings - board meetings at private homes and membership meetings at the Church of the Master. Our first guest speaker at a general membership meeting was Russell Coburn who had a career at WLW radio station in Cincinnati. He was the nephew of the late actor Charles Coburn. We had subsequent guest speakers almost every month. Anyone who had a connection with radio - Ray Durkee, Sunday at the Memories, on KHOW a nationally syndicated program and Bill Dorn DU professor and acknowledged expert on Edgar Allen Poe and the first American lit detective Nick Carter

Of the 30 plus years as an active and subscription member, I have a great deal of fond memories of club activities and its members. People like John Adams - club historian; Elmer Westbrook who faithfully recorded John Dunning's Sunday OTR broadcast with featured guests and the programs in which they were cast. Dick and Maleta King who provided the seed money for our first OTR convention which featured guest star Sam Edwards. Sadly, their passing left a void. Others stepped in to fill that void and from there it took off. Future conventions were held with Parley Baer, Fred Foy, Lon Clark, June Foray, Peg Lynch, and others who appeared after I left the state. Pete Wehner, local radio personality, wrote original scripts performed by the guests. Guest panels were hosted by local author and OTR historian John Dunning

The OTR Players was formed during my stint as president and they performed several radio plays:

RETURN WITH US NOW...

Henry Aldrich, Murder at Midnight, Miracle on 34th Street, Meet Miss Sherlock, Dick Tracy and Lum 'n Abner.; the Folding Cot episode in which local musician/singer Duncan Tuck played both Lum and Abner and John Licht performing a visual effect of trying to put together an old army cot. They also assisted Lon Clark in a Nick Carter, Master Detective episode at one convention and performed Orson Welles version of War of the Worlds at the old Fox Theatre on Colfax in Aurora on the 50th anniversary of that infamous 1938 broadcast.

The club had its annual Christmas parties at various locations and summer picnics at Barrett Benson's lovely home in the mountains west of Pine Junction.

With John Dunning and Barrett's efforts ,the club's library grew and members took advantage renting tapes and cassettes for listening and collecting pleasure.

To Herb Duniven, Bill McCracken, Barrett, David Gatch, John Rayburn, et al whom I have gotten to know over the years, thanks, for keeping OTR alive and well. And to you, Larry taking over the reins the past few years despite the waning interest, a big thank you. You are all gentlemen and scholars

I firmly believe that RHAC and other OTR clubs around the country contributed to the revival of this important period of our history. As a result, we can still live it through the Internet. However, it just doesn't have the flavor of being a part of it.



Master Media Libraries and Book Collection Archived at the University of Denver Libraries' Special Collections and Archives

by Kathelene Crowe, Manager of Special Collections and Archives

The records and recordings of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado are being transferred to their new home – the University of Denver (DU) Libraries' Special Collections and Archives. The entirety of the collection will be housed at the Libraries' state of the art high-density storage facility (pictured above) and will be made available to all patrons in accordance with the policies and procedures of the DU Libraries.

These records include not only the master tape library maintained by the RHAC, but also the library of books, magazines, journals, and the personal collections and recordings of Colorado radio greats like Fred Arthur, John Dunning, and others.

The collection will be used to teach undergraduate and graduate students across multiple disciplines about the history of media and entertainment, the changing nature of popular culture, and the history of radio in the United States. The original recordings in the collection will enable DU Special Collections to provide specific examples of how the media – and how news and entertainment were experienced during the period of time when the radio shows were created.

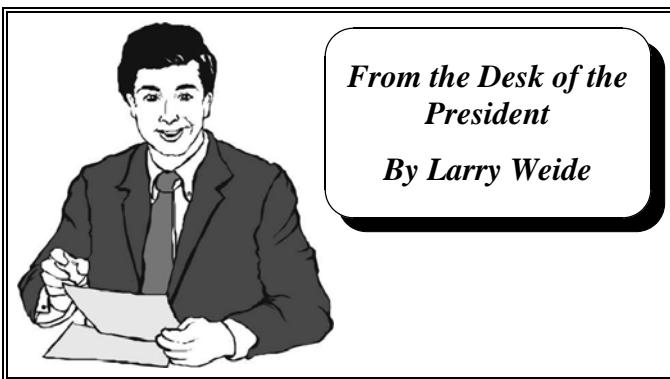
The collection will also be used to supplement future exhibits (online and physical) that showcase the contributions of radio to the history of the state

of Colorado and the region, as well as the contributions of the University of Denver to the history of radio. The University of Denver's Radio, Film, and Television Department (the predecessor to today's Media, Film, and Journalism Studies program), was a leader in offering this area of study. In fact, many of the individuals who went on to run radio and television stations in the state were graduates of the University of Denver. There is some degree of overlap between the collections assembled by the RHAC and the interests and collection of the Broadcast Pioneers of Colorado and DU hopes to utilize the holdings of both organizations to develop this area of study further in the coming years.



Kate Crowe and just one small section of the DU collections

Though the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will soon no longer be an active organization, the diligence and hard work of the membership and board in assembling, cataloging, and developing the passions of its membership in old-time radio will serve the state and the region by providing access to these programs to researchers for many years to come.



Hello everyone,

I'd like to take this, the final edition of our newsletter, and my last chance to chime in, to reminisce a little and pass on some thoughts.

I joined RHAC during its 20th year celebration. It happens that at that time the antique radio club I belong to was kicking off a 6 month display of radios at what is now called the Lakewood Heritage Center. I met the RHAC folks through mutual friends and we decided to join forces to compliment each other with our displays and their anniversary programs. The highlight of the RHAC program was a live radio reenactment with a number of local and nationally known radio stars.



Above, from L to R, David Gatch (our librarian), John Rayburn, Sam Edwards, Dick Beals (face covered), Pete Smythe, Hal Stone and Rick Crandall (radio station KEZW director)

Full disclosure: At that time, although I was listening when OTR was just **radio**, I was not a show collector. However, I more or less fell in love with the RHAC people, and saw that their efforts needed some help from someone with my skill set. So, the next thing I knew I was a member of RHAC.

At the time I was retired from IBM, after 33 years, but I was still doing contract work for folks with IBM systems. In between jobs I began to work on updating RHAC's membership and media cataloging programs. I also did a lot of work repairing club equipment - shades of antique radios.

RETURN WITH US NOW...

But then a funny thing happened. I got interested in being part of the group called "The RHAC Players". Of course these are the folks who presented live reenactments of programs, with music and sound effects to a live audience.



Here we are performing "A Christmas Carol" (yes, in costume to boot) in a reserved room at a local restaurant. In this case we used sound effects and music that I had stored on a computer and were kicked off at the right moment by our very quick and astute audio director. That's me as the narrator.

So, my years with RHAC have been largely in a supportive roll, which I've loved, but frankly I never did start an OTR collection.

And that brings me to the most important part of this month's column, which is to thank all of those who worked so hard over these 40 years for;

- ◆ Managing our finances and physical assets
- ◆ Building and maintaining our catalog of shows
- ◆ Managing our library distributions to members
- ◆ Creating, publishing and distributing our newsletter
- ◆ Maintaining our storage facilities
- ◆ Working with our web master for content
- ◆ Being part of and producing our internet radio shows
- ◆ Directing and producing our live reenactments

The names of all the folks who took on these rolls over the years far exceed the space to list them here. But they are, and were, the very heart and soul of this wonderful organization. As you can imagine, It's very hard to say good bye, to them and to you.

With my very best wishes and regards to all,

Larry

BOOKS FROM THE RHAC COLLECTION - AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS - FREE!

As you know, our complete books collection of around 400 titles has been donated to the University of Denver's library of special collections and archives. However, we have duplicates of quite a few titles and these are the books that we would like to give away to members.

I'm sure you've already found the book order form that was inserted into the middle of this newsletter.

You may order, for free and with out postal charges, a maximum of five (5) titles. The form will allow you to pick preferences and alternates - again, with a total order of no more than five titles.

These orders will be filled on a first come first served basis. If there are no titles left that would fit your order you will be notified of that.

Note that to be accepted all orders must be received by **December 18th, 2015**.

Quantity	Title	* = Paper Back
1 -	A Pictorial History of Radio	
1 -	Air Time: The Inside Story of CBS News	
1 -	Border Radio *	
1 -	Call Me Lucky *	
1 -	Cat Whiskers and Talking Furniture	
1 -	David Sarnoff	
1 -	Don't Shoot, It's Only Me *	
2 -	Fred Allen - His Life and Wit	
1 -	From Ma Peikins to Mary Hartman: The Illustrated Hsitory of Soap Operas *	
1 -	George Burns - The Third Time Around *	
2 -	George Burns Living It Up - or, They Still Love Me in Altoona *	
2 -	Heavenly Days - The Story of Fibber Mcgee and Molly *	
1 -	KnockWood *	
1 -	Lowell Thomas - Good Evening Everybody	
3 -	Lowell Thomas - Good Evening Everybody *	
1 -	Milton Berle - An Autobiography with Haskel Frankel *	
1 -	Much Ado About Me	
1 -	Not Under Oath: Recollections and Reflections	
2 -	Of Mikes & Men	
1 -	On a Note of Triumph (Norman Corwin) *	
1 -	Out of the Air	
1 -	Ozzie	
1 -	Radio Sound Effects	
1 -	Radio! *	
1 -	Remember Radio	
1 -	Show Biz: From Vaude to Video	
1 -	So Long Until Tomorrow: From Quaker Hill to Kathmandu	
2 -	The Big Broadcast 1920 - 1950 - 2nd Edition	
2 -	The Big Broadcast 1920 - 1950 *	
1 -	The Golden Years of Broadcasting - A celebrations of the first 50 Years of Radio and TV on NBC	
1 -	The Jack Benny Show: The Life and Times of America's Best-Loved Entertainer	
1 -	Think Big *	
1 -	Tune In Tomorrow	
1 -	Tune In Yesterday - The Ultimate Encyclopedia of OTR 1925-76	
2 -	Vic and Sade - The Best Radio Plays of Paul Rhymer	
1 -	Why A Duck?: Visual and Verbal Gems from the Marx Brothers movies.	



Dick And Mailetha King



Larry Weide And Dave Clowe



phnden



Performing The Christmas Carol Reenactment



Larry Weide During A Reenactment



RHAC Player



Fred Hobbs, Bill McCracken and Si Creating A Segment For "OTR Files"



RHAC Picnic At The Weide



1990 RHAC 15th Anniversary CONVENTION JUNE 9, 1990 DENVER, COLORADO RHAC 1990 Convention Program Book Cover



Holiday Dinner AT Bill McCracken's Club House



A Christmas Carol Reenactment



Dorothy Weide At The RHAC Holiday Dinner



Larry Weide And Dave Clowe



Libraian David Gatch



Fire Engine To The RHAC



The Wittle's Performing



The "RHAC Players" Performing "A Christmas



The Cast Of A RHAC Player's Performance



The Last RHAC Board Member Group



Les Performing



Les Giving Rides At The RHAC Picnic



Dave Clowe



Leanne Phelan



A Christmas Carol Reenactment



Fred Bantin And Larry Weide



The RHAC Players Rehearsal and Dinner



RHAC 20th Anniversary Radio Reenactment



Mailetha King

Sorry to see RHAC go. However, as you noted, many (most?) of the OTR clubs and vendors have been leaving ... either because of death, illness, or loss of interest on the part of this generation of potential fans.

Yes, even the various website visits have significantly dropped, and it seems the sales of OTR MP3s have also diminished as people have found different hobbies.

Lou Genco

I'm sorry to read the news that the RHAC club must disband. All of you have done such a great job providing these great old shows to those that grew up with "Old Time Radio", or just like listening to these timeless classics.

My father was Dick McDaniel, a long time radio and television announcer/newscaster in Denver during the 50's and into the 80's. ... He died in 1998, and I was bemoaning the fact that I didn't have anything that he had done during his broadcasting career. I came across RHAC during an internet search and contacted the wonderful Maletha King who ended up sending me a few cassettes of my Dad doing an interview on KOA. She was kind enough to send them, and told me to keep them. You can't imagine how great it was for me to hear his voice again. I joined your club then, and have remained a member since.

I am forever grateful to Maletha and the RHAC for sharing my Dad's voice with me again. My children and grandchildren also have enjoyed hearing their Grandpa, and Great Grandpa!

Thanks again, and I wish you and rest of the board all the very best in the future.

Brent W. McDaniel

So very sad to hear about RHAC closing down. John and I still read the newsletter when it arrives, and as honorary members, we thank you for continuing to send it to us. I think all clubs fight the items you listed and we'll probably see more closures in the coming years.

RHAC should be very proud of the work it has done for the radio hobby. The library is one of the best and Barrett Bwenson has been terrific in making sure it is kept up in the highest of quality.

John and I remember going to the many conventions yearly as well as many of the meetings. When our Dad was alive, we went to visit family there every two or three years during the 70's and even in to the 1980's. We made many friends while in Denver as a part of RHAC, and we will miss not keeping up with the club and its efforts. Congratulations on 40 years of wonderful service.

A note to tell you how sad we are about the end of RHAC

We will miss the newsletter and thank you all who contributed to it. And all of the other activities, radio reenactments at show and tell.

It was a great 20 years with you and your wonderful helpers.

Thank you so much for the time and effort to produce such a fine show.

Thanks to all who were with us and to you a special thanks.

Les and Ellen Benoit

I am saddened to hear of the closing of your group. I was a member for a number of years, but just couldn't continue because of my duties as Lead Moderator of 'The Old Time Radio Researchers'.

In the long term - I know you've made provision for the programs and your library, but what about your publication? OTRR maintains an archival library at www.otrr.org for such publications, and we'd be more than happy to archive what issues of your 'zine that we don't already have.

Jim Beshires

[Thanks to Jim and his organization, you can find all of both our entire newsletter and internet radio show collections at otrr.org]