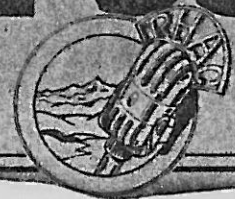


# RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado

# NOW...



AUGUST, 1981 VOL. 7, NR. 2

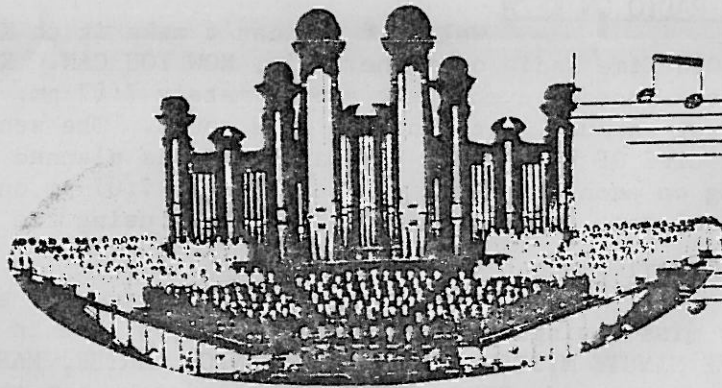
*a tempo*

*ff*

## Music and the Spoken Word

RADIO'S LONGEST CONTINUOUSLY BROADCAST PROGRAM

SALT LAKE MORMON  
TABERNACLE CHOIR



*mf*

*fff* **B** Gt. Full,  
Sw. to Gt.

*pp*  
**G** Sw. Reeds off

Gt. to Ped. off  
Ped. 34

# AIRWAVES



## AUGUST MEETING

The August meeting of the RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO will be held on Thursday, August 20th, 1981 at 7:30 pm. It will be held at the Southwest State Bank, 1380 South Federal Blvd.

## FIVE SUNDAYS OF OLD TIME RADIO

John Dunning's schedule of Old Time Radio for the (hot) month of August is:

- 8/2 CBS RADIO WORKSHOP-A Civil War story about Gettysburg!  
GUNSMOKE-The last one. It's a "Dress Rehearsal" not a straight show, so there is probably a lot of comment, sounds interesting!  
JACK BENNY SHOW-Second of four, with Jack Paar and Fred Allen doing Allen's Alley!!
- 8/9 SUSPENSE-Zero Hour, a sci-fi treat. I believe this was run once on X MINUS ONE.  
GOOD WILL HOUR-With John J. Anthony.  
JACK BENNY SHOW-Third of four, with Ronald and Benita Coleman.
- 8/16 THE CHAMPION-With Kirk Douglas, Ruth Roman and Marilyn Maxwell. Movie!  
MURDER AT MIDNIGHT  
JACK BENNY SHOW-Fourth of four, his 39th Birthday Show (or is it 62nd?)
- 8/23 BLACKSTONE, THE MAGIC DETECTIVE-Was originally a 15 minute show, maybe he'll run two.  
JACK KIRKWOOD SHOW-Morning show, used to run vaudeville jokes and skits.  
THE LADY GAMBLER-Apparently another adaption of a movie.
- 8/30 THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE-First of four, is going to be an "excellent" program!  
THIS IS OUR HERITAGE-A patriotic show.  
MR. PRESIDENT-Didn't mention what President was on, but my shot in the dark is John F. Kennedy.

## MORE OLD TIME RADIO ON KEZW

Well, if you can't make it to KADX on Sunday, but would still like to listen to Old Time Radio over the radio, NOW YOU CAN. KEZW at 1430 AM now plays one Old Radio Show every Tuesday evening at approximately 7:07 pm. The first show, being FRED ALLEN was re-broadcast on July 21st, and had good sound. The second was BURNS & ALLEN on the 28th of July. THE LIFE OF RILEY with William Bendix is planned for the fifth of August, with one show following on each tuesday. ALSO on KEZW at 7:07 pm on WEDNESDAY is YOUR HIT PARADE, not the original one, tho', but a good imitation using the KEZW library.

## HOW GOOD OF DETECTIVE WOULD YOU HAVE MADE

Do you have the entire collection of SHERLOCK HOLMES? Did you never miss a single JOHNNY DOLLAR? Do you have in your possession 102 reels of ELLERY QUEEN and FIVE MINUTE MYSTERIES? Were you NICK CARTER, MASTER DETECTIVE in your first life? Well, I, Richard Diamond, OOPS, I mean Paul Anderson put this "GREAT" mystery to you. Perhaps you have already noticed it, but that my dear friend is elementary. Somewhere concealed in this column, AIRWAVES, is a mistake, something that just is not right. Don't look too hard, after all it's quite simple. *ONE CLUE: The end did come, as it does to all things, twice it happened to those, who were quite new, once in fifty-three, then in sixty-two.* Now all you super sleuths get your brain working, and no help from Margo or Alfred, (Hitchcock, of course). And when the time comes at the next meeting, I shall gather you all in the same room, and point out . . . the MURDERER, oops did it again, got carried away, I meant the Mystery! Good luck, you might need it!

## THE RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

EDITOR	Paul Anderson (Yea)	830-2302	1205 Washington Apt. #4b, Denver, 80203
PRESIDENT	Barrett Benson	422-6442	
VICE PRESIDENT	Glenn Ritter	377-4798	
TREASURER	Dave Clow	693-1044	4561 S. Ouray Way, Aurora, 80015
TAPE LIBRARIAN	John Migrala	979-0755	7213 W. Roxbury Pl., Littleton, 80123
BLANK TAPE SALES	Glenn Blair	756-8130	
DONATIONS	Jack Benny	No Phone	

NOTES FROM THE TAPE LIBRARY

If you ordered tapes at the July meeting and did not receive them, this is the reason. Now in affect are new postage rates for the tapes sent out (and sent back) from the tape library. The new rate is 25¢ for the first pound and 9¢ for each additional pound thereafter. That means one tape now costs 25¢ to send back. So if you had a delay in your order, that's the reason, good ole' John who is our beloved tape librarian (and works for the Post Office), sent out the tapes at the wrong rate.

NOMINATIONS FOR NEW OFFICERS

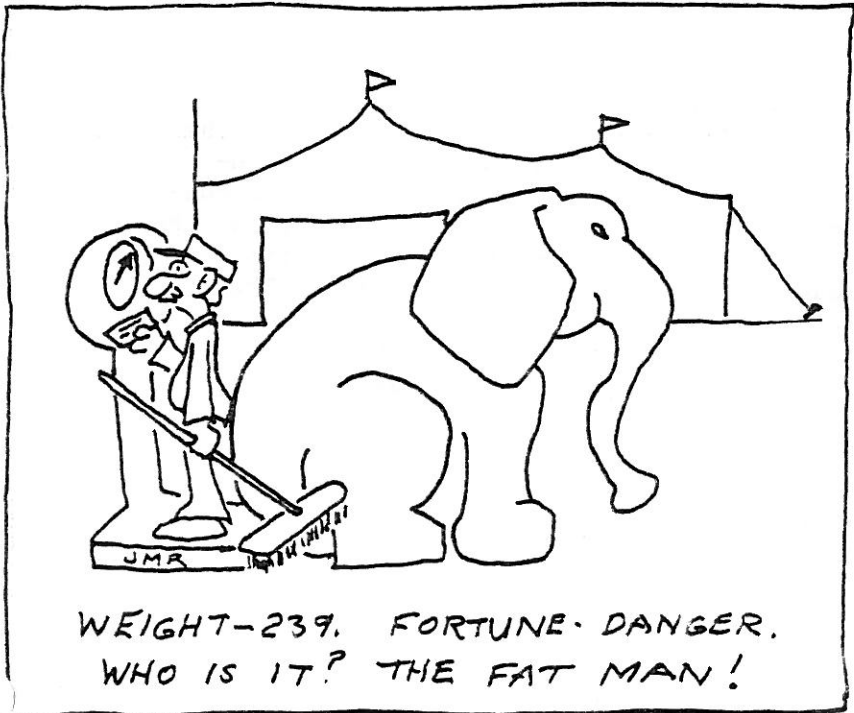
Don't forget that the August meeting will be the place for nominations for new RHAC officers. Bring your list of nominations for: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, & TREASURER. The elections will be held at the September meeting, which is on September 20th, at the Yum Yum Tree. **EDITORIAL**-I've only been a club member for a whole two months, but if you ask me, I think that Barrett Benson has done an excellent job, and would continue to do an excellent job!


NEW YORK YANKEES

Barrett Benson and John Lloyd need several more people to go in on an order for some reels. They're ordering 2 reels at \$20.00 for both, and have contributed \$5 each, and would like 2 more people to go in with them, however, if more are interested that's "great!" One reel has 2 New York Yankees games from 1960 and 1961, and the second reel has a New York Giants game and a Brooklyn Dodgers (HEY!? I thought the Dodgers were in Los Angeles!) game, both the Giants game and Dodgers game are from 1957. So you sports fans that actually know where the Dodgers are, give them a call and go in with them on these baseball reels. Call John Lloyd at 451-7890.

CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

No this is not DOWNINGS answer to the FRED SCHMIDT Christmas in July sale, but a blurb to tell you about the RHAC CHRISTMAS PARTY. The Christmas party is planned for December 5th at Heriatage Square, deadline to get your money in is the 19th of November, which is our November meeting. Last count there was only 35 seats left, so get ahold of Larry McDermott for your reservations.



<p>This is WKBW night <b>TELLO-TEST</b> Money for listening for your phone <b>WKBW-6:15</b> "Accent on Music" Bobby Nicholsen 7:15 P. M. <b>WKBW-ABC</b></p>	 <p><b>"THE LONE RANGER"</b> "Rough 'n' Ready Adventures" 7:30 P. M.</p>
<p>8 P. M.  8 P. M. <b>DASHIELL "FAT MAN" HAMMETT'S</b> "That Sensational Private Eye" 8 P. M.</p>	<p>Friday Night Is WKBW Night! "This Is Your FBI" 8:30 P. M. "Break the Bank" 9 P. M. <b>WKBW-1520</b> Don McNeill is coming!</p>

## AIRWAVES CONTINUED

### A BROADCAST FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR

First of all I must apologize for two things. One, the "look" of these last several pages and Two, the lateness of this issue. Now the reasons; the reason for the look of these last few pages is that I just simply ran out of time. The last part of July was really full and very busy, I hadn't anticipated this at the time I started working on the newsletter, but ran into some unexpected circumstances. The following issues will be like the first two pages of AIRWAVES. The reason for the lateness of this issue is unknown at this time. This issue was ready on July 26th, I was sent a check for printing and postage, but never received, and still have not received it to this date (August 4th). Right now I have had to delay my vacation by one day to get this printed, I extend my deepest appreciation to John Lloyd who is going to have this printed up for me so I can go on my vacation. Also, I would like to thank Reid Hansen for the article on the MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR and Carol Roe for the August schedule of Dunning's Old Radio.

I had an article on THE WAR OF THE WORLD'S broadcast that I told many of you about, but unfortunately I not going to be able to fit it in this issue, so you'll just have to wate (weight) until next issue. But seriously, I know how to spell wait!

I'm glad I have the opportunity to do the newsletter, and love any criticism or comments (as long as there constructive). I really would like to know what you think about the format of the first two pages of AIRWAVES. I'll also gladly accept all the help I can get, I've been hearing about all the trouble it takes to fill up just one issue, and I had about 4 pages I had to keep out, because I didn't have the space. Anyway, I would appreciate any comment you have for me on the newsletter, and until next time. . . pleasant dreaaammss.....

### THE TRIVIA BOWL

The finals of the Trivia Bowl were held at the July meeting pitting the team of Carol Roe, Larry McDermott, and David Tysuer against Barrett Benson, John Adams and Chuck Hansen. The winner was the BAH team (Benson Adams Hansen) by a score of 24 to 14. I talked to the winner immediately following to get his feelings on the games, hear is what Barrett had to say-"I'm sure glad I dubbed all these shows for the club!"

the conclusion to THE MORMON TABERNACLE CHOIR by Reid Hansen

On July 19, 1981, the Choir commenced its 53rd year of continuous broadcasting-- a modern day record. The Salt Lake Mormon Tabernacle is still the setting for the Sunday morning broadcasts, although the directors, organists, singers, and technicians have all changed. The Choir has sung in many lands and still plans to concertize in other places all over the globe. Having sung recently in Mexico, the Choir is planning a tour to South America. A recent highlight of the Choir was the response to an invitation by President and Mrs. Reagan to sing at the inauguration. There seems to be no thought of dropping the broadcasting. In some areas close to Salt Lake City, the televised broadcast is beginning to set records of longevity.

The program, Music and the Spoken Word, is hear locally on station KOA each Sunday morning at 6:30 am.

The development of American radio can be traced by following the development of the broadcasting of the Tabernacle Choir and Organ from the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, for the simple reason that many of the important steps in the history of the transmission of sound by radio has been a successive part of the broadcasting of the choir.

The first broadcast of the choir, a local one, was made with one microphone, borrowed from the local radio station KSL. A boy on a stepladder placed in front of the choir, held the microphone at arm's length above his head. The picture resembled somewhat the Statue of Liberty. (KSL had only one microphone and since the station was a block away from the Tabernacle, it had to close down temporarily while the microphone was in transit between the Tabernacle and the broadcasting studio.) Later other local broadcasts were made, mainly on a trial basis, with more or less success. Then a bold idea came to that dynamic, forward-looking founder and manager of Salt Lake's pioneer radio station, KSL, Earl J. Glade. Network coast-to-coast broadcasting was beginning to take form. Why not, thought manager Glade, propose the Tabernacle Choir as a network feature of the National Broadcasting Company, with which KSL was affiliated? He made the proposal so interesting to the officials of NBC that they accepted it.

Some members of the choir staff were a bit skeptical about the venture. They feared, and justly so because of previous experiences with microphones, that justice would not be done the choir and organ. They were possessed with a deep-seated pride of many years' standing in their organization, and they did not want it to be placed before the world to any disadvantage.

But in spite of difficulties, and there were many, arrangements were made for a network coast-to-coast broadcast of the choir and organ. The following is an account given by Ted Kimball, a young university student at the time who acted as announcer of this first broadcast.

COMPILED BY REID HANSEN

2

“On Thursday, July 11, 1929, the Tabernacle Choir cancelled its regular rehearsal in order to have a dress rehearsal for the first network broadcast by the Choir to be given the following Monday. Preparations included the hanging of heavy drapes across the front of the Choir and covering the seats with heavy carpeting.

“The microphone used was extended to its full height on the pulpit and was of the old condensor type. It was so high that the announcer had to climb a stepladder which was provided in order to reach it. The announcements were made atop the ladder.

“The control room at that time was down below the pulpit. There was only the one microphone used which was thought to be adequate as it was such an improvement over the old carbon-type microphone. I can assure you that it was with some trepidation I approached the task of announcing the first coast-to-coast broadcast from this area over a tremendous thirty-station network.

“This first broadcast was rather unique in that the organist at the console of the great Tabernacle Organ, Edward P. Kimball, was my father. As I look back I feel that he was more concerned with the job that I would do than he was with his own part in the broadcast. Together we participated in the first four of these coast-to-coast broadcasts. After the four, he left to preside over the German-Austrian Mission, and I left to fulfill a mission in France.”

This first network broadcast was given July 15, 1929, on a Monday afternoon from 3:00 o'clock to 3:30 o'clock. Notice of the broadcast appeared in a Newark, New Jersey, paper as follows:

“A choir of 300 voices, attuned to the giant pipe organ of the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, Utah, will launch one of the most pretentious series of vocal programs ever undertaken on the air over the coast-to-coast network of the National Broadcasting Company tomorrow night. Excerpts from operas, oratorios, as well as semi-classical part songs in special arrangement for the impressive ensemble, will be interpreted each week by the great Salt Lake Tabernacle Choir under the direction of Anthony C. Lund. The Tabernacle Organ, one of the largest in the world, construction of which was begun by the Mormons in 1866, will also be heard. Edward P. Kimball and Tracy Y. Cannon are the organists, with Mr. Kimball at the console in featured solos for this broadcast. The program from Salt Lake City will be on the air from 6:00 to 6:30 o'clock over WJZ in New York.

(12)

The broadcasts seem to have taken hold because we read in the *Jersey City Journal* on November 5, 1929, some months after the first broadcast:

"Noise or not we tuned to WJZ's organ music from Salt Lake City's Tabernacle. As always it brought a wonderful message from the Mormon city. Those who imagine because this feature comes from a house of worship that sacred music is the rule and therefore fail to tune it in, are making a mistake. It's true that sacred music and excerpts from the great oratorios form a part of these concerts, but there is much from the library of folk music, ballads and opera included. Last night, for example, the organist played a splendid arrangement of 'Carry Me Back to Old Virginia,' while one of the most pleasing numbers of the Choir was from the works of Stephen Foster, 'Old Folks at Home.' The announcer, whose Irish accents marked him as a product of the Utah city, gave an interesting short talk about the Tabernacle — how its immense rafters were bound together with leather straps, and other intimate details concerning the world-famous structure."

In September of 1932 Stanley McAllister

proposed to Mr. Joseph Paeley, president of Columbia and to Earl J. Glade, manager of KSL,

that KSL change its affiliation from the National Broadcasting Company to Columbia, and that the Tabernacle Choir and organ broadcasts be taken over by Columbia.

On September 15, 1932, this change was made and KSL became a CBS affiliate.

There was, in the beginning and still is, in many instances, a wide discrepancy between the fidelity of the sending apparatus and the receiving apparatus. Many more frequencies of vital importance to quality were being sent out than could be picked up by the first loud-speakers. Even now transmissions of from fifteen to twenty thousand cycles, which approach the limitations of the human ear, are reduced to five thousand when sent over the telephone because it is less expensive. Radio at best, especially so when large organizations are involved, is, when heard in our homes, only a miniature of the original. Our imaginative power does much to "fill in" and enhance its worth to us. This fact cannot be overemphasized.

The deficiencies and limitations of early-day broadcasting of the Tabernacle Choir and Organ were readily sensed by the engineers and technicians of the initial broadcasts. In spite of the glowing tributes paid to these initial attempts to project the choir and organ over the air, some of which have been recounted above, the inadequacies of the whole set-up were keenly recognized by the men in charge. They,

as true scientists, believed the broadcasts could be made better, and the scientific urge in them, which is so impossible to satisfy short of perfection, took over to seek for more fidelity.

When the Philadelphia Symphony gave a concert in the Tabernacle in 1936, Dr. Leopold Stokowski, the conductor, became very much interested in the pickup the technicians were using for the large choir. As he had done some experimental work in radio broadcasting with Dr. Harvey Fletcher, who was then the director of the Bell Telephone laboratories in New York City, along the line of multiple microphones for large organizations and had been successful in picking up his large orchestra in a much better way with additional units, he urged that a multiple microphone system in the Tabernacle for the choir be used, rather than a one-microphone arrangement.

Dr. Fletcher,

was consulted about the problem, and he came out to Salt Lake City and assisted the technicians to put up a multiple microphone system, with controls for the various microphones placed inside a mixing panel set up in the booth. The first attempts to use the system were far from successful. The choir was divided now, so to speak, into sections, each of these was picked up by a separate microphone and the sound transmitted to the booth, where it was the operator's business to balance voice parts. A real problem presented itself. Sometimes the soprano predominated above all other parts; sometimes the bass, etc. The operator was having a serious time trying to get the parts in their right relationship as to volume. The various microphones overlapped in their pickups, and the responses obtained by the operator were far from being unified—too

much bass in one, too much tenor in another. Instead of getting better balance, they had completely done away with balance. Finally an experiment was worked out with a group of eight singers who were placed first in one part of the choir loft and then in another. In fact, to complete the project they were seated successively in most rows of seats from bottom to top. After they had moved throughout the various rows, which took a period of nearly ten days, placements of the microphones were determined where they seemed to be most effective and to give equal results. With this set-up the next broadcast was made.

Very few fan letters had been received during the transition period, undoubtedly because of the unsatisfactory sound of an unbalanced choir. People were able to hear it, true, but they were not thrilled with it because of the lack of balance. But, after the microphones had been finally placed, and the next broadcast made, a great upsurge of fan letters came in from people all over the country telling how much they enjoyed the music.



REEL 188 CANDY MATSON

1200'

1L 12-19-49 Jack Frost  
1-2-50 NC9-8012

2L 6-20-50 Symphony Of Death  
9-11-50 The Movie Company

1R 1-23-50 The Egyptian Amulet  
12-18-50 San Juan Batista

2R 5-21-51 Candy's Last Case  
9-21-52 The Fortune Teller

REEL 189 ARTHUR GODFREY'S TALENT SCOUTS

1200'

1L 3-11-47 WINNER: Johnny Daggan  
3-18-47 WINNER: Joe Allen

2L 5-19-47 WINNER: The Skyriders  
6-10-47 WINNER: Alan "Blackie" Schackner

1R 4-4-49 WINNER: The Tunetimers  
4-11-49 WINNER: Stewart Hall

2R 4-18-49 WINNER: Lenny Bruce And John Connolly  
4-25-49 WINNER: Ted Martin And Michael Guida

REEL 190 CAVALCADE OF AMERICA

1200'

1L 5-23-50 Portrait Of The Author  
12-5-50 The Grand Design

1R 7-3-51 Sound Of The Great Bell  
9-4-51 Towards A New World

2L 11-20-51 The Path Of Praise (REHEARSAL)  
12-11-51 The Giant Who Stepped Over The Mountain

2R 12-25-51 The Day They Gave Babies Away  
12-23-52 Christmas In America

REEL 191 OUR MISS BROOKS

1200'

1L 3-20-49 Mix-Up Over Poetry  
3-27-49 Clay City High Wants Miss Brooks

2L 4-10-49 Mr. Conklin's Wake-Up Plan  
4-24-49 Problems Over Clothes

1R 5-1-49 Grudge Match Between Walter and Stretch  
5-22-49 Peanuts, The Great Dane

2R 5-29-49 Why Is Everyone Arguing  
9-18-49 Faculty Cheerleader

Parrett Benson  
5931 Ellis Ct.  
Arvada, Co. 80004

Mr. & Mrs. John H. Lloyd  
2667 E. 99th Ave.  
Thornton, Colo. 80229

