



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

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ROSEMARY RICE MERRELL

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

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

RHAC BOARD MEETING APRIL 3rd

AT THE Duniven's RESIDENCE 7:30 PM SEE ADDRESS BELOW

Old tme radio is alive in Denver

- ◆ John Dunning's OTR Program on KHOW 630 Saturday evening 9:00 till 11:00 PM
- ◆ John Rayburn's "Reminiscing with Rayburn" Saturday evenings 6:00 till 11:00 PM KEZW 1430
- ◆ KEZW has syndicated OTR weekdays from 7:00 till 9:00 PM 1430 on the dial.
- ◆ KEZW Imagination Theater Sundays 5:00 till 6:00 PM

E MAIL ADDRESSES CHECK HERE FOR NEW E MAIL ADDRESSES

RHAC web page and catalog is on the world wide web. <http://www.old-time.com/ffiles/rhac.zip>
take a look there is a lot of information at that sight.

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 first year with \$15.00 for renewal. Each member has full use of the club resources. For further information contact anyone listed below.

Phone numbers are in the (303) area code except where indicated.

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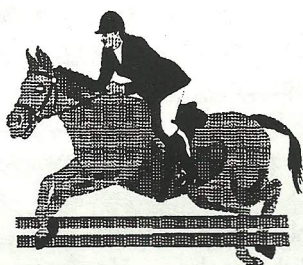
TAPE DONATIONS

Bill McCracken, 7101 W Yale Ave #503, Denver CO 80227
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DIRECTOR AT LARGE: David L Michael, 1999 Broadway, Lowery Suite, Denver CO 80202

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THE KINGS ROOST

HENNY RINGEL
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718-438-3000

HAS NOT RETURNED TAPES THAT BELONG TO RHAC.

Henny Ringel is an example of why some clubs fail. A few members like her can destroy a club's libraries and ruin something that so many have enjoyed. Please, if you can reach her @718-438-0962, try to get her to return our tapes. If you are in the Brooklyn area, you might even pick them up from her and return them to us. Your help is needed.

We have another area that we need help with. Over the

years, we have accumulated lots of scripts and logs that are not already in the club's library. Many of these have been donated to the club so they can be enjoyed by all the members. We have also purchased many of these while at some of the conventions. Some of the material we have was made on the old ditto machines and are very faded, and is not suitable for copying for circulation. Give us a call @761-4139 if you are willing to help us. Colorado people preferred to save on shipping. The quality of many of these, as well as the ones presently in the library needs upgrading. If you have a computer and would be willing to work on some of these items, we could make them available to the club members. We understand that there may be a minor mistake once in a while, but the originals were not perfect either.

Last month we mentioned a Jack Benny show that someone was looking for. Since that time we have learned that it is probably one of the shows that UCLA has and has in storage. Many of the artists have contributed their works to various colleges around the country and get the proper tax write-offs for them, but most of these works are now out of reach of the public and may never again be heard. Once in a while an institution

runs into storage problem, and they may dispose of these treasures and we again may hear these shows.

We also mentioned that a WWW subscriber was looking for some tapes of the Al Pearce Show. He wanted them for an old Irish uncle that wanted to hear them once more before he dies. As it turned out, the WWW subscriber was also a member of RHAC. We were able to fix him up with the Al Pearce shows, even though they were not yet part of the RHAC library.

We heard from long time member Tom Monroe of Lakewood, Ohio. Tom has recently joined the ranks of retirees, and is still working actively with OTR groups. Over the years Tom has been a great help to our club.

We have an increase in the price of 1200' blank reels. They are now \$2.45 per reel. They come with new white boxes. The new white empty boxes are now up to 34 cents each. All prices are FOB Englewood, Colorado.

Our cover picture this month is of Rosemary Rice. Her background is so extensive that it cannot be told in just a few paragraphs, so we will go into that next month.

The Adventures of

Maisie

From John Dunning's book
Tune in Yesterday.

Maisie was both a network and syndicated series, first seeing action on July 5, 1945, in a two year series for Eversharp. Based on the MGM movie series, it starred Ann Sothern as Masie Revere, the Brooklyn beauty who saw the world as a Jane-of-all-trades but usually ended up dead broke in some out-of-the-way dive. The series was directed by Tony Stanford. On November 24, 1949, WMGM, New York, began syndicating a Maisie series written by Arthur Phillips and announced by Jack McCoy, Harry Zimmerman composed the music, and Miss Southern was supported by people from radio's top ranks ie Hans Conried, Sheldon Leonard, Ben Wright, Laurene Tuttle, Marvin Miller, Joan Banks, Elvia Allman, Bea Benaderet, Peter Leeds, Patrick McGeehan, and Frank Nelson. The show was marked by Maisie's rather dense Brooklyn chatter and her penchant for getting into other people's problems. The opening was sheer 1940's: the click-click of Maisie's heels, followed by the long, slow whistle of a wolf. A fresh voice: "Hi-Ya, babe! Say, how about a lit---" A sharp slap, a pained "Ouch

and Sothern with the put down--"Does that answer your question, buddy?"

The Adventures of Maisie"

RHAC Libraries have reel numbers 5367, 5368 and 5369

Lucille Fletcher wrote: in Radio and Television Mirror

Ann Sothern and Roger Pryor

They're Hollywood's gayest and most devoted couple.

To see them together, you'd never know they were married. There is a youthful boy-friend-girl-friend quality about them that you don't often see in married folk, an insouciance, a spicy freshness and tang to their relationship rare and wonderful to behold.

They're always kidding each other--always flipping wise-cracks back and forth. They do imitations of each other--they say exactly what comes into their minds.

And yet--
Beneath the flippancy and sauciness there is a strain of magnificent devotion. When he talks seriously, her eyes light up with pride, and she listens intently to every word he says. Every Sunday afternoon, she comes to his radio broadcasts, on the CBS Screen Guild program, sitting patiently all afternoon through the rehearsal, watching him work. Except for their individual business

appointments, they are never apart--always laughing, always together.

When she was operated on for appendicitis a few weeks ago, he disappeared from Hollywood affairs for two solid weeks. He became a complete recluse--in her room at the hospital--spending all his time with her, talking.

"Ann and I both believe in personal and professional independence," says Roger. "I never interfere with her career, and she never interferes with mine.

"We try to keep our home life and our business life entirely separate. We never discuss business affairs at dinner, or casually, with our friends. If there is a problem that is puzzling one of us, we may ask the other fellows advise. Ann may take my advise, and she may not. That's not my affair. I gave it and it's up to her to decide. We never argue and we never nag."

"Ann and I run our finances as we run our careers," says Roger. "We don't pool our resources except for living expenses. She has her own bank account, I have mine. That helps us both feel independent and individually alive."

There is for example, no family car. Ann has her car, Roger has his. Even the three dogs in the house have a separate masters. Roger has a big Doberman Pinscher of his

isn't she? Wonderful girl in fact."

He glanced at his watch. It was time to go back to Ann. He watched him, as he drove off quickly in his mud-spattered, hard-riden car. Yes, I thought Ann must be a wonderful girl. . . .and the two of them a wonderful couple.

[illegible]

The actress who gained fame in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer films for her characterization of Maisie is Ann Sothern, who later became known to the television viewers as Susie MacNamara in *Private Secretary* on the CBS network. She is also president and principal stock holder of Vincent Productions, Inc., which manages and promotes entertainers for television, motion pictures, theater and night clubs. Miss Sothern launched her fifth season in *Private Secretary* on September, 9, 1956, alternating on Sunday evenings with Jack Benny, and the American Tobacco Company as sponsor. According to *Variety* (September 12), "Few other half-hour situation comedies have enjoyed such longevity."

MGM she first appeared as Maisie in 1939 in a film of the same name, and this proved to be such a success that MGM produced a series of pictures with Maisie as the heroine. "Honky-tonk Maisie with a heart of spun sugar" became so well known that mail addressed to "Maisie, USA." reached Miss Sothern. She also portrayed the character on seventy-eight radio programs for the Columbia Broadcasting (1945-47) and for MGM radio (1949-52).

On Broadway she had singing roles in *America's Sweetheart* in (1931) and in 1933 she played in the road company of the musical *Of Thee I Sing*. Although she made such pictures as *Panama Hattie*, *Lady Be Good*, and *Thousands Cheer*, critics still referred to her as "Maisie." She returned to Broadway briefly in 1951 as the star in *Faithfully Yours*.

The actress's real name is Harriet Lake. The eldest of three daughters of Walter J. and Annette (Yde) Lake, she was born on January 22, 1912 in Valley City, North Dakota where her mother, a concert singer, was on tour. Her father was related to Simon Lake, inventor of the first submarine to operate successfully in the open sea (the *Argonaut*, in 1897). She has two sisters, Bonnie and Marion, who gave up

Miss Lake next appeared in *America's Sweetheart*, a musical which ran on Broadway from January to June 1931, and then in *Everybody's Welcome*, which opened on October 13, 1931 and ran for 139 performances. She played the feminine lead in the road company of the George S. Kaufman-Morrie Ryskind-Ira Gershwin show, *Of Thee I Sing*, for thirty-three weeks and then

Soon after her marriage in 1936 to actor-band leader Roger Pryor, she became dissatisfied with ingenue roles and made personal appearances with the Pryor band and sang in night clubs. The "dumb" stenographer character part in *Trade Winds* appealed to her and MGM producer J. Walter Rubin finally succeeded in persuading his studio to offer her a contract. Ann Sothorn in *Maisie* proved a "sensation." Louella Parsons (*New York Journal American*, June 16, 1939) predicted that Ann

In her effort to get away from Maisie, Miss Sothern made a number of other films which included *Cry Havoc*, a melodrama of Bataan. Bosley Crowther (New York Times, November 24, 1943) called Miss Southern "a wan and wistful Maisie as a hard boiled ex-waitress."



Its time to consider OTR conventions. First will be the annual Old Time Radio and Nostalgia Convention in Cincinnati Ohio April 18-19 at the Marriot Inn. This is a great convention with re-creations, dealer tables. They have invited Parley Baer, Barney Beck, Fred Foy, Peg Lynch and Denver's own John Rayburn. For further information call Bob Burchett 606-282-0333. We will keep you informed as the year progresses.



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