



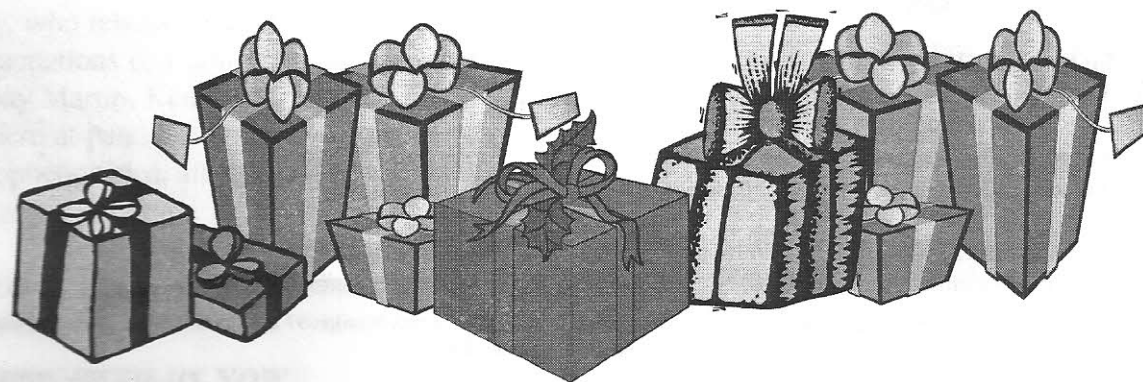
Volume 26, Number 17

December, 2001



*Peace
on Earth*

*Happy and healthy holidays
to one and all!*



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

**The RHAC annual holiday dinner will be on held on the evening of
Tuesday, December the 4th. Dinner will start at 6:00, with the program
starting at 6:45 featuring the RHAC Players presentation of the
Sherlock Holmes story, "The Christmas Bride"**

**Mr. Panda Buffet Restaurant, 2852 S. Havana St., Aurora
Need more information? Call our President or Vice President**

Old-Time Radio is Alive in Denver!

KLZV 1220 AM	Music of the 1930's - 60's with John Rayburn	Weekdays, 2:00 - 6:00PM
KRMA Channel 6	Secondary Audio Program (SAP), "Tribute to OTR"	Sunday, 2:00 PM
KEZW 1430 AM	"When Radio Was"	Weekdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
KFKA 1310 AM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:00 - 12:00 PM
KUVO 89.3 FM	"Destination Freedom"	9:00 PM

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

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

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:	Helen Lowynsky	(303) 782-5387	
Vice-President:	Larry Weide	(303) 758-8382	lweide@attglobal.net
Secretary:	Kathy Melies		oslc915@juno.com
Treasurer:	Maletha King	(303) 761-4139	dickking@ecentral.com
Newsletter:	Carol Tiffany	(321) 723-7803	ctiffany@worldnet.att.net
RHAC Players:	Helen Lowynsky	(303) 782-5387	
Talking Nwslter:	Mike Fields		
Membership:	Dick King	(303) 761-4139	dickking@ecentral.com
Tape Donations:	Bill McCracken	(303) 986-9863	
	Herb Duniven		
Directors	David L. Michael		
at Large:	Herb Duniven		
	Dick King		

LIBRARIES

Reference Material:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave #502	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	
Ccassette Tape:				
#1 (1-499)	Ron Gallagher	888 S. Dexter #607	Denver, CO 80246	(303) 692-0531
#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

2002 Conventions

The 26th Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention Oct 24-27, 2002 Holiday Inn-North, Newark NJ
Contact: Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887, jayhick@aol.com

2002 Williamsburg Film Festival (WFF), Feb 28, Mar 1-2 Holiday Inn, Patriot, Williamsburg, VA
For information: (800) 446-6001, <http://go.to/williamsburgfilmfestival>

16th Annual OTR & Nostalgia Convention Apr 19-20, 2002 Radisson Hotel, Cincinnati
For information: Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd, Florence, KY 41042, (606) 282-0333

National Audio Theater Festival, May 26 - June 1, Southwest Missouri State University, West Plains MO
For information: Sue Zizza, 115 Kideman St. Hempstead, NY 11550 (516) 483-8321, suemedial@aol.com

CREDIT: This publication may include the 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. Used under license.

RETURN WITH US NOW...

-2-

December, 2001

Christmas By The Radio

Retro-Views - Suggested Listening for the Holiday Season

By Elizabeth McLeod © 2001

This month, I'm going to take a bit of a different approach -- rather than analyzing a particular program in depth, I'm going to get into the spirit of the season by offering up my own personal holiday favorites. Some may be familiar -- some may not -- but all have some bearing on this Festive Season Of The Year. (And here's hoping my list inspires you to offer in a few of your own -- I'm leaving plenty out!)

So hang your stocking and say your prayers -- and here we go...

The Cinnamon Bear (Transco syndication, 1937 and in reissue ever since).

An obvious choice for the kiddies - but this is a series that also works well for the grownup listeners, with some surprisingly subtle comedy mixed in with the sugar and sweetness. And, for broadcast history buffs, the show offers a whose-who snapshot of late-thirties LA radio talent -- you'll recognize many favorite voices. For me, Gale Gordon's just-enough-over-the-top performance as the Crazy Quilt Dragon steals the show.

Santa's Sit Down -- from *"Town Hall Tonight"* (NBC, 12/22/37).

Fred Allen and the Mighty Allen Art Players offer a topical Christmas fable, as Santa becomes fed up with all the injustice in the world and goes on a sit-down strike. Allen's Santa is a bit vinegary -- but all turns out fine in the end in a tale that's both funny and thought-provoking.

Gracie's Christmas Carol -- from *The Burns and Allen Show*. (CBS 12/23/36)

Everyone has a favorite satire of the Dickens chestnut, and this one's mine. George is haunted by the ghosts of Eddie Cantor, Fred Allen and Jack Benny, who rebuke him for stealing their jokes. The impersonations of Cantor, Allen, and Benny -- done by Tony Martin, Ken Niles, and Bill Goodwin -- are mediocre at best, but one could consider the piece a bit prophetic since, after all, George did outlive them all!

The Lord's Prayer -- from *"Amos 'n' Andy"* (CBS, 12/24/41)

I'm frankly not a religious person, but I never fail to get teary-eyed during Freeman Gosden's line-by-line exposition of Matthew 6:9-13, perhaps because it manages to be both religious and secular at the same time, superseding any sort of sectarianism with its celebration of human brotherhood. And even more touching is the absolute sincerity in Gosden's performance -- making the piece seem less a sermon than a simple and genuine display of love by a father for his child.

A Visit From St. Nicholas -- (CBS, 12/21/39)

A fifteen minute adaptation of Clement Moore's poem by Nila Mack, featuring Betty Garde as the matriarch of a family of house mice (as in "no one was stirring, not even a mouse!") The young mice need to settle down and stop stirring so Santa can arrive in this cute, long - lost - and - recently - rediscovered piece of children's radio.

"Orphan Ann" -- from *"Empire Builders"* (NBC-Blue, 12/22/30)

The earliest surviving piece of Christmas radio, it's the story of a flinty old businessman whose cold heart is melted by an orphan girl at Christmas time. NBC had an outstanding staff of actors working out of Chicago at the turn of the thirties, and this program offers a rare chance to hear them in action -- and a rare chance to hear some of the great cliches of OTR Christmas Drama before they had become cliches. It's pure schmaltz -- but done so sincerely, you can't help but go along with it.

"A Christmas Carol" -- from *"The Campbell Playhouse"* (CBS, 12/24/39).

The essential Lionel Barrymore version of the Scrooge story -- and perhaps the definitive Christmas radio drama. Barrymore is -- well, *Barrymore* in this faithful condensation of the original story, but for me what makes it outstanding is Welles' work as the narrator. The very essence of any Dickens story is in the narration, and Welles brings the master's words to life. In my house, we tend to chant out the lines along with the cast -- and if the power went out, we could probably do the show verbatim from memory without any need for the recording!

"Red Ryder Nails The Cleveland Street Kid" -- *Jean Shepherd* (WOR, 12/24/74)

RETURN WITH US NOW...

You've seen the movie, now hear the broadcast. Shep reads the short story that started it all, bringing Ralphie, Randy, Ma, and The Old Man vividly to life with just that magnificent voice. Maybe it isn't technically OTR -- but it's one of the most perfect forty-five-minute-periods the audio medium ever produced.

"I Love Potato Pancakes!" -- from *"The Chase and Sanborn Hour"* (NBC 12/13/31)

Sad to say there are virtually no Chanukah references in mainstream OTR -- so this is a real rarity, as Eddie Cantor sings an exuberant paen to the joys of latkes!

And finally, here's one for the day after Christmas, when the kids are fighting over the last unbroken toy, when the tree is shedding brown needles all over the floor, when you're cursing the very soul of the inventor of "non dairy holiday nog" and when the mailman shows up with a fiendish smile and a fistful of bills....

"Christmas at the Mammoth Department Store" -- from *"The Linit Bath Club Revue."*

(CBS 12/25/32) This is an unadulterated Fred Allen take on the holiday season -- as he plays a harried department store executive who is abuse by his staff, browbeaten by his customers, and finally stands by as Santa Claus is exposed as a fraud by a cynical New York brat (Santa and brat both hysterically played by the versatile Jack Smart). A little acid to cut the sweetness -- and the source of my all-time favorite Christmas signoff line: "No matter what other nations forget their war debts -- America certainly got even with Turkey today!"

And with that, best wishes for a joyous holiday season for one and all from Retro Views!

Elizabeth McLeod is a journalist, researcher, and freelance writer specializing in radio of the 1930s. She is a regular contributor to "Nostalgia Digest" magazine and the Internet Old Radio Mailing List, maintains a website, Broadcasting History Resources, and is presently researching a book on Depression-era broadcasting. Elizabeth is always looking for 1930s radio recordings in all formats -- uncoated aluminum or lacquer-coated discs, vinyl or shellac pressings, or low-generation tape copies. You can contact her at lizmcl@midcoast.com

GIFT SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FANATIC OTR BUFF or ...

What on Earth Shall We Give Him/Her THIS year???

Since most OTR collectors already have most readily available items which reflect their particular interests, the OTR fanatic on our list becomes that most dreaded of all Christmas list members ... the "One Who Has Everything". Since OTR fans are notoriously not reticent about discussing our interest with anyone who will listen for as long as he will listen, the opportunity exists to find out what our potential gift recipient wants/needs/ would LOVE to have by opening the subject of OTR in a seemingly innocent conversation. One can then, hopefully, discover what book, tape, or other particular item would make this Christmas the greatest ever for our favorite OTR junkie!

For most of us, the following list can help make finding just the right gift a little easier:

1) Books about Old Time Radio - Many are available. Reference books about OTR in general, books about a specific genre (Soap Operas, Detective shows, Westerns, etc.), and books about a specific performer or writer can all be found. Try used bookstores for obscure titles; the larger booksellers for more current items. Check out the Internet booksellers and auction sites as well as OTR sites for more ideas.

2) Commercial OTR Tapes or Tape Collections - Media catalogs selling both video and audio tapes are good sources for OTR collections as well as commercial OTR tape dealers. The Smithsonian offers several very good collections of OTR shows. There are also some OTR tapes available through Internet booksellers.

3) Equipment - Does your OTR fan need new dubbing equipment? Would he like a new tape player? How about a replica of a 1930s radio with built-in CD and tape players? Your budget is the only limiting factor here.

4) Blank Tapes - Always needed and very welcome. Make sure you find out what format and tape length your OTR fan likes.

5) Rare and Unusual Collector's Items - Things like scripts, premiums offered on OTR shows

(Captain Midnight Decoder, Sky King Propeller Ring, etc.), and pictures (autographed if possible) of OTR personalities take a little more time, but are well worth the effort you put in to find them. Again, checking the Internet, used book stores, and flea markets, as well as networking with other OTR collectors can expedite your search and produce an unusual and very welcome gift!

6) Trip to an OTR Convention - If you really want to make a splash (and have a big budget) check out the list of upcoming OTR conventions for 2002 and offer to send your OTR buff to the convention of his/her choice all expenses paid.

Hopefully, the above ideas will help you in selecting the perfect gift for that OTR person on your Christmas list. May you have a very Merry OTR Christmas!

RHAC Favorite Christmas Show Contest Results

Here are the top ten OTR Christmas Shows as voted by RHAC members:

- 1st Place Campbell Playhouse "A Christmas Carol"
- 2nd (Tie) Amos 'N' Andy "The Lord's Prayer"
- 2nd (Tie) Screen Directors' Playhouse "Miracle on 34th Street"
- 4th Family Theater "The Littlest Angel"
- 5th Amos 'N' Andy "Andy Plays Santa"
- 6th Bing Crosby "Annual Christmas Show"
- 7th Grand Central Station "The Ambulance"
- 8th Red Skelton "The Little Christmas Tree"
- 9th Damon Runyon Theater "Dancing Dan's Christmas"
- 10th Ozzie & Harriet "A Sensible Christmas"

SPECIAL MENTION:

Cavalcade of America "A Child is Born"
Family Theater "Lullaby to Christmas"
Fibber McGee and Molly "Figuring the Costs of Gifts"
Fibber McGee and Molly "Fixing Toys for Needy Kids"
Jack Benny Program "Any Christmas Show"
Let's Pretend "The Night Before Christmas"
Our Miss Brooks "Connie's Christmas" (Magic Tree)
Roy Rogers "Christmas Misunderstanding"
Suspense "Back for Christmas"
The Cinnamon Bear

HONORABLE MENTION:

Archie Andrews "Christmas Shopping"
Broadway is My Beat "Nick Norman, Santa Claus"
Cavalcade of America "The Day They Gave Babies Away"
Cavalcade of America "The Names on the Land"
Duffy's Tavern "Miracle in Manhattan"
Family Theater "Blessed are They" (Father Christmas)
Family Theater "The Juggler of Our Lady"
Family Theater "The Nativity"
Great Gildersleeve "Any Christmas Episode"
Gunsmoke "Beaker's Barn"
Gunsmoke "Feud"
Mysterious Traveler "Christmas Story"
Phil Harris/Alice Faye "Santa's Visit"
Richard Diamond, Private Detective "A Gumshoe's Christmas Carol"
Romance "Richer by One Christmas"
The Life of Riley "A Christmas Tale"
This is My Best "The Plot to Overthrow Christmas"
This is Your FBI "The Innocent Santa"
Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar "Dancing Mouse Matter"
Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar "The Nick Schoen Matter"

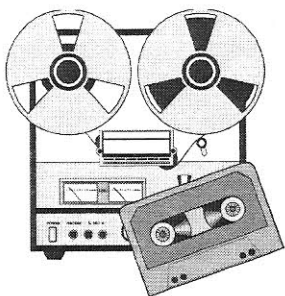
*And the contest winners are
(the envelope please)...*



- 1st Place - Richard Beckman of Aurora, CO
- 2nd Place - William McDougall of Niagra Falls, Ont.
- 3rd Place - Gene Dench of Hyde Park, MA
(Tie) David Jucha of Lake Kiowa, TX
Lon McCartt of Aurora, CO
- 4th Place - John Licht of Denver, CO
(Tie) Dick Williamson of Greeley, CO

Congratulations to our winners. Your contest prizes will be on the way to you shortly. We thank all of you who participated in the contest, and we wish **everyone** a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

RETURN WITH US NOW...



New in the Tape Library

by Maletha & Dick King

November was a busy time for RHAC and it looks like December will be too. We have a librarian off on vacation, so don't be too impatient about your orders. Also, the mail seems to take longer this year than before, so we just have to wait.

Please be sure that when you are ordering, to make your checks payable to "RHAC", not the librarian you are ordering from.

This month's library entries are from the BBC and have some very good acting British stars. We are offering a good cross section of mysteries, adventures and dramas. All of these should be good listening for our members. If you have family members that are budding actors/actresses, they could learn a great deal from the acting in some of these shows.

One of our members, **John Rayburn** a local radio personality, is moving and donated 184 great books on and by radio actors to RHAC. We will be offering a new listing of books available for our members in a few months. You just have to drop us a note to get a new listing when it is available.



Maletha King

Our hardworking and dedicated RHAC Treasurer and open reel librarian wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

RETURN WITH US NOW...

*From the Desk of
the Editor
by Carol Tiffany*



Thanks to all those who submitted entries via E-Mail or regular mail to our top ten Christmas Shows contest, and a special thanks to those who sent in the names of favorite shows which were not on our list. I would like to share some of the comments we received:

From **William McDougall**, 2nd place winner, and 48-year radio veteran, "my favorite, 'Jingle Belles Happiest Christmas' is about a little boy and a horse, etc. with the late Charles Coburn, a great actor. This show brings tears to your eyes."

From 3rd place co-winner **David Jucha**, "The selection of my #1 choice was easy. I first heard 'The Littlest Angel' over the radio when I was just a little shaver. Fortunately my parents were as taken with the program as I was and purchased a recording of it when it became available. It became a family tradition. My parents played it every Christmas Eve. I in turn played it every Christmas Eve for our five children. Now they're playing the recording for our eight grandchildren."

3rd place co-winner **Gene Dench** listed his ten choices and added "Each year I listen to the above shows at Christmas time and still enjoy them."

Dick Williamson, 4th place co-winner, names Cavalcade of America's "The Day They Gave Babies Away" (12-25-50) as his all-time favorite and comments that the most poignant part of this true story is the appearance at the end of the program by the son of the story's protagonist. This show was repeated annually for many years as were many of the OTR Christmas shows.

Thanks again to all our entrants. If members have any ideas for other contests, I would love to hear about them.

Looking forward to 2002, our January issue of RWUN will feature an article from **Paul Barringer** about Dick Tracy. (The illustrations with this one are great!)

Finally, a tip of the hat and sincere thank you to **John Rayburn** for his generous donation of books to the club archives. For now, Merry Christmas to all, and God Bless us, every one.