



# RETURN WITH US NOW...



RADIO HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COLORADO

Volume 33, Number 12

December, 2008

## SUPERMAN (cont.)

By Paul Barringer

*Editor's note: Sincere apologies to all of our readers and especially to author Paul Barringer for the 6-month delay in publishing this third installment of his article. The untimely hospitalization of your editor and her subsequent inability to access the computer are to blame for the appearance in December of an article slated for June.*

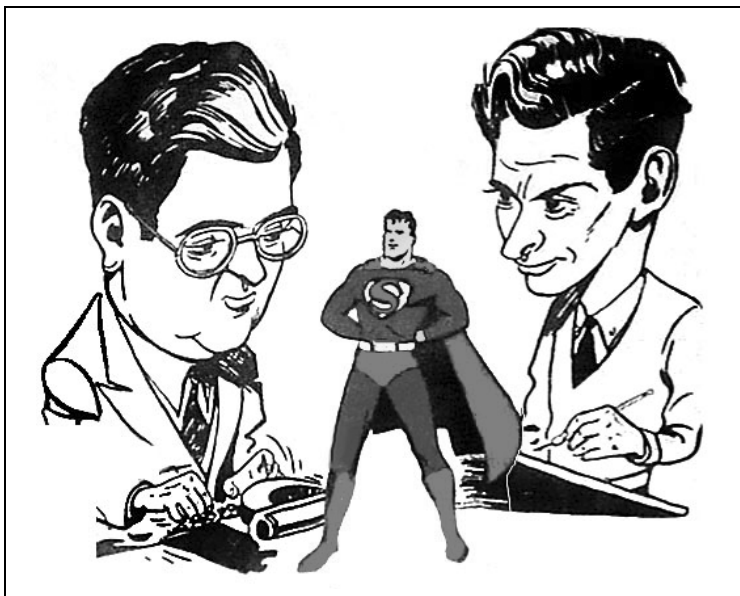
All of the afore-mentioned (RWUN April & May 2008) is pretty well known, but the sad part of this article involves the two young creators of the superhero. When the two boys created the Superman character, and DC Comics reached an agreement with them to proceed with the comic book, they sold the rights to the character and concept they had created for \$130.00. As was the common practice in those days, the publisher would retain all rights to the character.

Although the Superman character would produce tons of income for the comic book company, along with several similar characters launched in their own comic book lines to produce more income, the boys received

nothing. The pair would also not receive any type of compensation for any of the other products associated with the Superman character such as; television, toys, other comic books, movies or other product tie-ins

Finally, in 1946, the duo retained an attorney and sued DC Comics in court for their rights to the Superman and Superboy characters. By 1948, with all of their money spent on legal fees fighting the comic book giant, the two young men settled out of court for \$200,000, which was royalties for the Superboy character, not for the rights to their Superman character.

It was shortly after this battle in court and the company's settlement with them, that their names as creators of Superman would be removed from the comic book pages. Also, as a result of the court action against DC, the two lost their jobs. Joe Shuster tried doing work for other comic book publishers, but was unsuccessful in the attempt. Eventually, he quit the comic book profession altogether and left the industry. In



1958 Jerry Siegel did some writing for DC comics, but after asking to receive better treatment by the publisher, he was fired in 1964.

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## RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

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Cassette Tape:				
#1 (1-499)	David Gatch	PO Box 70	Glen Haven, CO 80532	(970) 577-0805
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CD Library:	Thomas Woessner	9693 W. Euclid Dr	Littleton CO 80123-3192	(303) 936-4643

### 2008 Convention Schedules

**Cincinnati's 23rd Old Time Radio and Nostalgia Convention;** April 24 – 25, 2009, Cincinnati North Hotel, Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042 (888) 477-9112, [haradio@hotmail.com](mailto:haradio@hotmail.com)

**20th Annual Radio Classics Live! Sat;** May 2, 2009, Buckley Performing Arts Center, Massasoit Community College, Brockton, MA. Contact Bob Bowers (508) 758-4865, [bobowers@verizon.net](mailto:bobowers@verizon.net) or Alan Chapman (508) 459-1864, [otrghost@gmail.com](mailto:otrghost@gmail.com)

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**RETURN WITH US NOW...**

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**December, 2008**

In the late 60's and early 70's the pair, reportedly near poverty, would become the focal point in the public eye at various comic book conventions, (Conventions much like our OTR conventions).

In 1975 the two would again try to sue DC Comics for the rights to their created character. It was during this latest battle in court, that the decision that the two were not owed any money was reached. However, at this time, through the efforts of then editor-in-chief of DC comics, Carmine Infantino, and a huge outcry from numerous big names in the comic book industry, DC was persuaded to give Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster a sort of pension.

They would receive \$35,000 a year for the rest of their lives. They would also get credit for their Superman creation once again. Today, the comic book publisher does recognize Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster as the creators of Superman inside their comic books.

If you take into account the possible 100's of million of dollars that DC has made from the Superman character, through television, movies, cartoons, merchandise, and infringement of copyright law suits, etc., the paltry sum paid to the two co-creators was but a small portion of what they deserved.

Joe Shuster, nearly blind and extremely bitter about the treatment received by the two, died in 1992. Jerry Siegel died in 1996. Neither passing was recognized by the comic book publisher, DC, which at least should have acknowledged that the pair was its savior in the early days of comic book history, but instead they chose to turn their corporate back on the pair.

DC Comics would not only forget Siegel and Shuster, but would also forget Curt Swan (who, in my opinion, was the quintessential Superman artist) who defined the Superman character for three decades. The publisher simply relieved Swan of his drawing duties, and, like Siegel and Shuster before him, he exited as the door slammed behind him.

Having said that about the comic book publisher, we must still give them thanks for publishing the

creation of two young boys from Cleveland who spent most of their lives chasing a dream, for without that first appearance in the magazine, we might never have been able to enjoy those afternoons of excitement and the adventures of Superman on RADIO.

**Author's note:** Research for this article included many Superman sites, IMDB, Wikipedia, Sterankos History of the Comics, Superman Homepage, Radio Spirits, comic books, tapes and CD's in my collection.

*In the August 2006 edition of Comics Buyers Guide an article by-lined Ray Sidman indicates that the Siegel heirs are still fighting for what they believe are their rights to the character of Superboy, this time against Time Warner (and subsidiaries Warner Brothers and DC Comics.)*



*The parties suing are Joanne Siegel, (Jerry Siegel's wife) and daughter Laura Siegel Larson. The ruling judge in the case has decided to let a jury rule in this case, to see if there is any merit to the suit.*

*Just a month before, a judge in a related, but separate ruling, judged for the Siegel heirs in terms of the copyrights to Superboy. The disagreement stems from the WB Network series "Smallville" where the character is only referred to as Clark Kent, not as Superboy.*

*The WB network will have tremendous obstacles to overcome if the Siegel heirs win. The show is now in its fifth season and the loss of the suit would involve rights to DVD sales, syndication of the show and every episode that has shown as far back as 2004.*

*The suit would also interfere with the up-coming season of production. As I have stated in the article, DC Comics provided benefits to Siegel and Shuster and co-creator credits. A later change in copyright laws meant the heirs have the possibility of reclaiming rights upon renewal. As of yet, I have heard of no decision on the suit.*

*Paul Barringer*

## "KRYPTONITE DISCOVERED IN MINE"

by Paul Barringer

Kryptonite is no longer just the stuff of fiction feared by caped superheroes.



The preceding headline was seen in an article on the BBC News, 4-24-07. A research group discovered an unusual mineral in Jadar Siberia. A mineral they could not match with any known substance.

An expert from London's Natural History Museum, Dr. Chris Stanley, was engaged to help with the diagnostics of the mineral. After the mineral's chemical formula was clarified, Dr. Stanley discovered the chemical make up was already listed in scientific literature.

The chemical formula of the mineral, was Sodium Lithium Silicate Hydroxide, the same scientific name applied to a case of rock containing Kryptonite that had been stolen by Superman's nemesis, Lex Luthor, in the recent movie "Superman Returns".

Krypton is a real element in the Periodic Table, but this discovered mineral can not be called Krypton, because it has nothing to do with Krypton, which takes the form of gas.

Other than the fact that the mineral is white, not green, and does not contain Fluorine, as in the movie, the mineral matches the fictitious substance in the stolen rock containing Kryptonite in the movie.

The newly found mineral will be named, Jadarite, after the site in Siberia, where it was discovered.

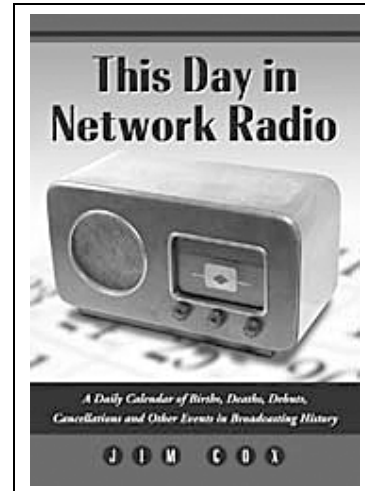
What next? Will they discover a small space ship in a farmer's field with a baby from another planet?

*On the OTR bookshelf...*

### **This Day in Network Radio A Daily Calendar of Births, Deaths, Debuts, Cancellations and Other Events in Broadcasting History**

By Jim Cox

A Review by Stewart Wright



This time noted Radio historian Jim Cox has produced a very different type of book. Departing from volumes dealing with specific radio series or genres, Jim has written a volume about events, programs, and people in network radio that is organized by the "when" relationship to those subjects. **This Day in Network Radio** is an impressive compilation of information on significant events, programs, and personalities during the Golden Age of Radio and beyond.

A daily calendar format is used to organize these events into a logical sequence. By the author's count, **This Day in Network Radio** includes 2,627 entries dealing with watershed moments (Sound Bites) in network radio history, information on program Debuts and Cancellations, and Birth and Death information on radio on-air and production personnel. The entries are written in an almost telegraphic style which maximizes factual content and eliminates unnecessary verbiage.

There are 83 Sound Bites or watershed events in network radio history. These Sound Bites include dates of occurrence, participants involved, and the impacts of the events on the aural medium.

The entries relating to programs are labeled Debuting and Cancelled. For the 363 Debuting

programs there is information on the series title(s), initial broadcast date, airing network(s), genre, a brief summary of the program's premise, cast members, occurrences in other media (if any), anecdotes, and final air date. The much shorter Canceled entries for 345 programs list title, last airing date, network, and debut date.

A large portion of the book is devoted to the Birth and Death of notable and lesser known musicians, singers, actors, emcees, newscasters, commentators, sportscasters, announcers, and advertising agency, network executives, and production personnel. There are 968 Birth entries which are biographical sketches that contain a wide-range of information including name, birth date and place, scope of work activities, network and/or station affiliations, and credits in radio and other media. Often included in these sketches is previously unpublished information. The 868 Death entries are much more compact and contain name, date and place of death and date of birth

**This Day in Network Radio** is a book that has something for everyone who is interested in Radio's Golden Age. It should appeal not only to Old-Time Radio historians and researchers, but also to hobbyists who simply enjoy collecting the shows. While not the type of book that is usually read from cover to cover, it is a very convenient volume to use. The very comprehensive Index facilitates the finding of specific information. Readers will return to it again and again for the information relating to the events, programs, and people that are contained within it.

### **"This Day in Network Radio"**

A Daily Calendar of Births, Deaths, Debuts,  
Cancellations and Other Events in Broadcasting  
History.

Jim Cox  
bibliography, index  
259pp. softcover (7 x 10) 2008  
\$49.95  
McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers  
Box 611  
Jefferson, NC 28640  
800-253-2187  
<http://www.mcfarlandpub.com>

## **Christmas Gifts for OTR Characters**



*Have you ever wondered what your favorite OTR character would want to receive for Christmas? Here are some ideas for Christmas presents to delight the hearts of some of our OTR friends:*

### **For:**

<b>Lancelot Higgins</b>	✓ One Snooks-free day!
<b>Mollie McGee</b>	✓ A neat, well-organized hall closet
<b>Luigi Bascombe</b>	✓ A surprise visit from Mama
<b>The Whistler</b>	✓ A pitch pipe
<b>Effie Perrine</b>	✓ A dinner date with Sam
<b>Stella Dallas</b>	✓ An invitation for Christmas dinner at daughter Laurel's home
<b>Connie Brooks</b>	✓ A date with Phillip Boynton without the frog MacDougall
<b>Clifford Barbour</b>	✓ A steady job
<b>Jimmy &amp; Judy Barton</b>	✓ The Silver Star!
<b>The Ronald Colmans</b>	✓ A "For Sale" sign on the lawn next door
<b>Matt Dillon</b>	✓ A quiet evening with Kitty
<b>Leroy Forrester</b>	✓ A set of drums and an electric guitar with amp
<b>Gildersleeve</b>	✓ A soundproof room
<b>Lorenzo Jones</b>	✓ A patentable idea
<b>Jack Benny</b>	✓ 52 FREE violin lessons and a new vault alarm
<b>Clark Kent</b>	✓ A girl friend who doesn't care about Superman
<b>Sergeant Otis</b>	✓ A comeback that leaves Diamond speechless
<b>Larry &amp; Mary Noble</b>	✓ A hit play
<b>Margo Lane</b>	✓ An engagement ring from Lamont
<b>Sergeant Preston</b>	✓ A four-wheel drive SUV



From the Desk of  
the Editor  
by Carol Tiffany



It is very difficult to realize that another year has come and is almost gone and another Christmas season is upon us. Regular readers of this newsletter know that the OTR Christmas shows are your editor's favorites. We look forward to decorating while listening to Fibber and Molly doing the same, wrapping gifts while enjoying the travails of Jack Benny's shopping trips, and planning menus while Connie Brooks plans her magical Christmas Eve with Phillip Boynton.

As we approach the holiday itself, more serious programs beckon as we listen to all the wonderful OTR dramas, culminating with Lionel Barrymore's incomparable Scrooge on the annual Christmas Eve presentation of "A Christmas Carol". Somehow, listening to these wonderful old programs brings back all the wonder and magic of Christmas as we knew it when we were much younger.

As we approach the end of the year, your editor would like to thank all of you for your help and support during the past year. As you all know, our newsletter is only as good as its' contributors make it.

Thanks again and

*Good listening to all...*



## ***New in the Tape and CD Libraries***

by Maletha King

This month we want to remind the membership that it has been the practice of RHAC to add new shows to the CD library that may not be available from the reel and cassette libraries.

Consequently, we are now offering a new index for the CD library, which is included with this issue of the newsletter, that will help our members find shows that they're missing and be helpful to complete any series with these new CDs. This listing include some of the CDs that will be added in March of next year.

Last but certainly not least, on behalf of the officers of RHAC, and the staff of RWUN, I want to wish you all a very heartfelt and merry Christmas.

*Season's  
Greetings*



Peace  
On  
Earth

# RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLORADO

## ORDER BLANK FOR COMPACT DISC LIBRARY

Librarian - Thomas Woessner, 9693 W. Euclid Dr., Littleton CO 80123-3192

(303) 936-4643

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

Enclosed is my check or money order for the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the one month rental charge of \$1.10 per CD for the CDs ordered. You are allowed to order as many as 10 CDs at one time, although you may only have 10 CDs outstanding at one time. Minimum order \$5.50 (5 CDs).

**CDs REQUESTED:**

**TITLE:**

1st CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

2nd CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

3rd CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

4th CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

5th CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

6th CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

7th CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

8th CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

9th CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

10th CD # \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternates:**

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

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

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

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

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I do hereby agree to abide by the RHAC rules and agree not to sell or use library materials for monetary gain, and *I will return the CDs within 30 days.*

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