



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

Volume 34, Number 1

January, 2009

Older Than Dirt ???

By Paul Barringer



DO YOU REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN...

All the girls in gym class wore ugly uniforms?

After turning on your TV set, it took five minutes for it to warm up?

Almost everyone's Mother was at home when the kids got home from school?

Pets were ordinary pets, nobody owned a purebred dog?

When your parents gave you a quarter and that was considered a decent allowance?

You'd reach into a muddy gutter for change you dropped or found, even if it was a penny?

Your Mom wore nylons that came in two pieces?

All of the male teachers in school wore neckties and female teachers wore high heels and had their hair done every day?

You got your gas pumped, windshield cleaned, oil checked, and air in your tires if they needed it without asking, all for free, every time, and, you also got trading stamps to boot?

When buying laundry detergent at the store, you found free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box?

Prize night at the movies, where similar items as above were given away, and sometimes large amounts of money were given away on special nights?

You sometimes got to go out to dinner with your parents at a real restaurant (not a drive-thru) and this was considered to be a great privilege?

Principals and teachers threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed. and they did?

When every young man's dream was to have his own car... to cruise in, to drive with his arm around his girlfriend, go to drive-in movies and get popcorn, a coke and candy at the concession stand?

The keys to the car were left in the ignition, and the doors were never locked, so no one ever had to ask where the car keys were because they knew where they could be found?

Lying in the grass on a summer afternoon on your back, with your friends and saying things like, "That cloud looks like a swan or.. . ."

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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

Old-Time Radio is Alive and Well in Colorado!

KEZW 1430 AM "When Radio Was" Weekdays, 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Pirate Radio 104.7 FM & www.pirate1047.com - "Radio Memories" (Greeley) Sunday, 6:30 - 12:00 PM
KRMA TV Channel 6 Secondary Audio Program (SAP), "Tribute to OTR" Sunday, 2:00 PM

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

RHAC Email - rhac_otr@yahoo.com

Hear RHAC on the web, 4th Saturday of every month, at 9:30pm Mountain time at;

"OTR From The Rockies" - <http://www.yesterdayusa.com/saturdaylive.htm>

POD-Cast: www.rhac.libsyn.com - Any day, any time! OTR News, Great Shows, Interviews

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.

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2009 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

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 or Alan Chapman (508) 459-1864, otrghost@gmail.com

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January, 2009

When a boy and girl went steady?

Kids playing games with no adults to help them with the rules of the game?

Stuff you bought from the store came without safety caps that even the elderly could open, and had no hermetic seals, because no one had yet tried to poison a perfect stranger?

When a student was sent to the principal's office it was nothing compared to the fate that awaited the student at home?

Basically we were in fear for our lives, but it wasn't because of drive-by shootings, drugs, gangs, etc. Our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat! But we survived because their love was greater than the threat.

How many of you remember...



Summers filled with bike rides, baseball games, Hula Hoops, bowling and visits to the swimming pool on a hot summers day, and eating Kool-Aid powder with sugar out of your hand.

Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys, Laurel and Hardy, Howdy Dowdy and the Peanut Gallery, Nellie Bell, Roy and Dale, Trigger and Buttermilk.

Coffee shops with table-side jukeboxes



Lincoln Logs

Blackjack, Clove and Teaberry chewing gum

Reel-To-Reel tape recorders

RETURN WITH US NOW...

Tinkertoys

Erector Sets

The Fort Apache Play Set

15 cent McDonald hamburgers

5 cent packs of baseball cards - with that awful pink slab of bubble gum?

Penny candy?

35 cent a gallon gasoline

Jiffy Pop popcorn

Do you remember a time when...

Paramount decisions were made by going "eeny-meeny-miney-moe"?

Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, "Do Over!"?

"Race issues" meant arguing about who ran the fastest?

Occupying an entire evening trying to catch fireflies, or throwing up small rocks or pebbles at night and watching the bats swoop down trying to catch what they thought was an insect?

Having two or three "Best Friends" wasn't considered to be odd or unusual?

The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was "cooties"?

Being caught with a slingshot in school was considered having a weapon?

A foot of snow was a dream come true, especially for the kids when they didn't have to attend school for a couple of days?

Watching Saturday morning cartoons, where they weren't considered a 30-minute commercial for action figures?

"Oly-oly-oxen-free" made perfect sense when playing?

Spinning around, getting dizzy, and falling down was cause for hilarity, laughs and giggles?

When you faced the ultimate embarrassment, by being picked last by your friends to be on a team?

War was a card game?

Placing an old baseball card in the spokes of your bike or tricycle instantly changed it into a roaring motorcycle?

When you had to take drugs, it meant orange flavored chewable aspirin?

The ultimate weapon was a water balloon?



When radio gave us the freedom to use our unlimited imagination, where it amused us, enlightened us, scared us, and often put us to sleep at night while listening to a program of music, adventure, comedy or mystery, and upon awakening the next day, asked all your friends what happened on that certain episode, that you fell asleep during?

**If you can remember most or all of these,
then you have lived!!!!!!**

With all of our complex scientific developments and progress, don't you sometimes wish you could go back in time and enjoy the slower pace, and relish those simpler times and share them with your children, and other children of today, and let them see what it was really like in "The Good Old Days"?

For those of you who don't remember, maybe it's time you took a break from your "grown-up" life, and enjoy your past, for you can always go back into the past, but as yet you can't enjoy the future, only speculate on it.

Author's Note: Some parts were taken from the internet and some from my own experiences.

RETURN WITH US NOW...

Museum of Television & Radio

By Paul Barringer

How would you like to be able to push a button and listen to FDR's first fireside chat? Do you want to hear Orson Welles' infamous "War of the Worlds" broadcast of 1938? Then you probably would enjoy visiting

The Museum of Television and Radio

465 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills CA 90210

(310) 786-1000 or (310) 786-1025

The Museum has collected over 90,000 television and radio programs, and it's all available to the general public. The various rooms have been named in honor of their celebrity sponsors. Inside the Museum you'll find:

The Ahmanson Radio Listening Room: where you can use headphones to listen to special Museum radio series and broadcasts from five pre-programmed channels.

The Ralph Guild Radio Studio: a small working radio station where the Museum can broadcast live and taped radio programs; the public is invited to watch most broadcasts, for a behind-the-scenes look at the way a radio station works. Additionally, it has regular seminars about individual programs, featuring radio clips from the Museum's collection.

The museum itself in its own right is a spectacular two-level work of art with crisp modern lines, glistening with white marble and glass, which features an open two-level lobby.

Also in the museum is **The Stanley E. Hubbard Library**, the heart of the Museum, where user-friendly Macintosh computers will help you make your selection of what television programs you choose to see. You can go to **The Console Center**, where you can watch your selections at the consoles, which feature TV monitors and headphones, where you have complete control over playback functions.

Finally, there is **The John H. Mitchell Theatre**, a 150-seat, state-of-the-art screening room which will be used for special daily screenings and seminars.

You will have to pick up a schedule and make selection reservations at the Information desk when you first arrive. You'll be allowed immediate access to about half of the museum's immense collection. The other half is in the archives, from which it takes about a week to retrieve requested items.

The Great Radio Sitcoms

By Jim Cox

A review by Stewart Wright



Noted author and scholar, Jim Cox has contributed another first-rate volume to the body of literature on Old-Time Radio. This book, **The Great Radio Sitcoms**, focuses on 20 of network radio's most durable situation comedies or Sitcoms. This volume provides comprehensive discussions of *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*, *The Aldrich Family*, *The Amos 'n' Andy Show*, *Archie Andrews*, *Baby Snooks*, *Beulah*, *Blondie*, *Duffy's Tavern*, *Father Knows Best*, *Fibber McGee & Molly*, *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show*, *The Great Gildersleeve*, *The Jack Benny Program*, *The Life of Riley*, *Life with Luigi*, *Meet Millie*, *My Favorite Husband*, *My Friend Irma*, *Our Miss Brooks*, and *The Phil Harris-Alice Faye Show*.

If you enjoy factual content, there is plenty. The in-depth coverage of each series starts with extensive information on creators, origins, producers, directors, writers, casts, sponsors, ratings, music personnel and theme music, sound effects artists, dates and times on the air, and available archival materials. As many of these series also had runs in motion pictures and on television, discussions of their histories in those other media also receive extensive treatment.

Each chapter includes discussions on the series' comedic style and impacts on other series, entertaining anecdotes, typical plot lines, and character relationships and development,

interspersed with a liberal portion of Radio history. There are nearly 100 detailed biographical sketches of series creators, actors, directors, writers, and announcers. Also provided are the opening lines or typical conversations from several of the series. In addition, Jim has provided a pair of very valuable and informative Appendices.

The first Appendix is "A Directory of Network Radio Sitcoms." This Appendix lists basic information on 170 programs of the genre and includes years broadcast, network affiliation(s), primary cast members, and if any, motion picture and/or television incarnations and syndication information.

The second significant Appendix is "Additional Radio Sitcoms," lists 13 additional series. In addition to the standard series information (dates and times of broadcast, network affiliation(s), primary and supporting cast members, announcers, sponsors, and if any, television incarnations and syndication information), there are short, but informative, descriptive overviews of each series. The included series are: *The Bickersons*, *A Date with Judy*, *A Day in the Life of Dennis Day*, *Easy Aces*, *Ethel and Albert*, *The Halls of Ivy*, *Junior Miss*, *Lum and Abner*, *Maisie*, *Meet Corliss Archer*, *My Little Margie*, *That Brewster Boy*, and *Vic and Sade*.

The Great Radio Sitcoms manages to amalgamate a large quantity of facts, biographical information, and anecdotes with astute observations into a highly informative, readable, and enjoyable book. No small feat in deed! Jim's book really captures the liveliness of the radio sitcom genre in such a way that the reader feels like the shows are still on the air.

The Great Radio Sitcoms by Jim Cox

ISBN 978-0-7864-3146-5

photos, appendices, notes, bibliography, index
296pp. hardcover (7 x 10) 2007

\$55

McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers
Box 611

Jefferson, NC 28640

800-253-2187

[Http://www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com)

From the Desk of
the Editor
by Carol Tiffany



Finally, it is 2009! Hopefully this will be a better year for all of us. We at RWUN hope that your Christmas was happy, cozy, and warm, and that your New Years' celebration was enjoyable and safe.

This month's issue of RWUN features two pieces from our resident king of nostalgia, Paul Barringer. The lead article asks if YOU are "Older than Dirt?" (your editor qualifies!) Mr. Barringer's second outing is a quick visit to the Museum of television and radio. Finally, we have Stewart Wright's review of Jim Cox's book on radio's great sitcoms.

February will bring us a new puzzle from quizmaster Jack Richards, an article about Fort Laramie and Gunsmoke from Dr. Charles Beckett, and a review of John Rayburn's latest book.

As always, we are in need of articles of all lengths, from anecdotes to long multi-parters as well as quizzes and puzzles.

Good listening to all...



New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Maletha King

January we are offering eight new reels and cassettes of some very interesting shows. One reel, "All American Sports" turned out to surprise this writer with some very interesting insights on great sport figures.

One reel, highlighting 1948, is rather shocking in just how much it sounds like today's world.

So continue to enjoy the RHAC libraries and all their new entries, and from all of us we wish you a very happy and healthy new year.

Still More OTR Characters' New Year's Resolutions

"**I resolve** to find out why Clark spends so much time in phone booths, but never seems to CALL anyone." - **Ms. Lois Lane, Metropolis**

"**I resolve** to spend more time at the tavern this year, and to give Archie some time off." - **Duffy, Duffy's Tavern**

"**I resolve** to try my best neither accidentally nor deliberately to injure, annoy, or provoke my principal, Osgood Conklin, this year." - **Miss Constance Brooks, Madison High School**

"**I resolve** that this year I really WILL clean out that hall closet." - **Mr. Fibber McGee, 79 Wistful Vista**

"**I resolve** to find out what he means by "Kemo Sabe" - **Mr. Lone Ranger, the Southwestern United States**

"**I resolve** to find happiness." - **Mrs. Sunday Brinthrop, Blackswan Hall**

"**I resolve** to stay out of daughter Laurel's life this year! - **Stella Dallas, the wrong side of Beacon Hill**

"**I resolve** that I will oil the door hinges regularly to eliminate that awful creaking." - **The Man in Black**

"**I resolve** to never again have anything to do with bright, shiny silver stars." - **The Crazyquilt Dragon, Maybeland**

"**I resolve** to consult my parents before I get too involved in complicated situations this year." - **Henry Aldrich**

"**I resolve** to prevent Richard from playing the piano and singing at all hours out if consideration for my neighbors." - **Ms. Helen Archer, NYC**

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ORDER BLANK FOR CASSETTE LIBRARY #1 1- 499

Librarian - David Gatch
PO BOX 70, Glen Haven CO 80532
(970) 577-0805

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Minimum order is \$7.50

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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 tape on time.*

SIGNATURE

PHONE NUMBER

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