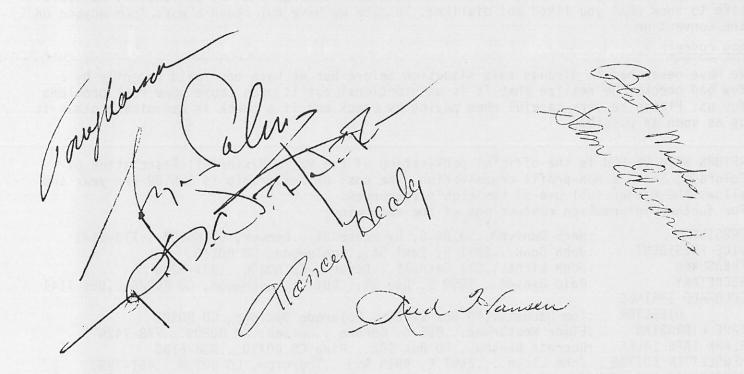
VOLUME 11, NUMBER 3

OCTOBER, 1985

HICKOK WAS A LOUSY SHOT by P.K. Wehner



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OCTOBER MEETINGS

The October meeting of the Denver Chapter of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will be held on Thursday, October 17th at the Southwest State Bank. The bank is located at 1380 S. Federal Blvd. Meeting time is 7:30 PM.

The Colorado Springs Chapter will hold it's October meeting on Tuesday, October 15th at Rastall Center, Room #203 at Colorado College. Meeting time will be 7:30 PM.

OLD TIME RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL HERE IN DENVER

The MSC Players Theater Company (Metropolitan State College) will be presenting old time radio classics "Sorry, Wrong Number" and "Hitchhiker" as well as Ted Mosel's "Impromptu" on the Auraria Campus. The Theater Company is a club which has been around for 20 years. The theater is located on the Auraria Campus in the Arts Building, Room 271. The theater holds approximately 100 people so reservations are requested. The shows will run on three consecutive Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. The dates are Oct. 24, 25 and 26; Oct. 31, Nov. 1 and 2; Nov. 7, 8 and 9. The show times are 8:00 PM and admission is \$4.00. The Auraria Campus is located just off Speer Blvd. in the downtown Denver area. Reservations can be made by calling 556-3407. For those of our local members who were unable to be at our convention and have never witnessed a radio drama we urge you to attend one of these performances. I have talked to several members already who all plan to attend.

RADIO SCHEDULES UNAVAILABLE

The radio schedules for John Dunning on KNUS and Kevin Shields on KRCC are still unavailable. We will start printing their schedules as soon as possible.

CONVENTION PLANNING

We are now discussing some ideas for a 1986 convention. If you have any ideas we would certainly welcome your input, especially those who attended the '85 convention. We would like to know what you liked and disliked. To date we have not heard a word from anyone on the convention.

BAD CHECKS

We have never had to discuss this situation before but we have been paid recently by a few bad checks. We realize that it is unintentional but it does cause some real problems for us. Please be very careful when paying by check and if a check is bad please clear it up as soon as possible.

RETURN WITH US NOW is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc., a non-profit organization. The cost of membership is \$15.00 per year and allows the member full use of the club's resources. For further information contact one of the following:

PRESIDENT :Herb Duniven...4184 S. Syracuse St...Denver, CO 80237...773-1142

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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: John Callor...PO Box 1109...Westminster, CO 80030...429-4639

REFERENCE LIBRARIAN: Charles Barton...5330 S. Washington...Littleton, CO 80121...781-6287 TAPE DONATIONS :Charles Smith...2760 N. Academy Blvd...Colorado Springs, CO 80907

We thank you for your support of the RHAC. We hope that all of our members utilize the many

resources of the club to the fullest and enjoy them. Any comments, suggestions and donations are greatly appreciated. REMINDER: All positions within the RHAC are voluntary and your cooperation and assistance will make everyone's job much easier.

ELECTION RESULTS

Elections were held at the September meeting for new officers for 1986. Elected as the new President of the RHAC was Herb Duniven who moves up from Vice President. Our new Vice President is John Cook who now holds his first office in our organization. Re-elected as Treasurer was John Licht for a second term. Reid Hansen was re-elected as Secretary for an additional term, his second. Our congratulations go out to all of our new officers and it is hoped that you will give them your support. Our thanks go to outgoing President Barrett Benson who has lead us in our most successful year.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's Christmas party will be held at the Brandy Chase Condominiums clubhouse, the same as last year. The date will be Saturday evening, December 14th. It will again be a pot luck dinner. More details next issue

TUNING IN . . . Colorado Springs

Tom Daoust



Time whizzes by when one has fun, summer's nearly out of the picture, and I was caught almost unready to start another Radio Club year. One of the many things I could include in a "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" essay is my visit to the Lowell Thomas Museum in Victor. It'll cost you a buck to get in but it's well worth checking out.

On Tuesday, September 17, a few of us got together to begin our third year as an Old Time Radio Club chapter. Charlie, Kevin, Shirley, Meryl, Wayne, myself and two people new to the club were on hand. The two newcomers were Walter Burkette and his son Charles, both enthusiastic and dedicated OTR buffs and collectors and friends of Kevin Shields.

Topics we discussed included the Denver convention of last July; some tips on where to get open reel tapes and good tape-machine servicing inexpensively; who has tapes of CBS Radio Mystery Theater shows; various OTR shows we'd heard; shows to trade; the RHAC Catalog for Blind Members; and the newly organized Readers Service for Blind Members.

I'd hoped to complete all phases of the blind members' catalog by June; it should be completed and the tapes distributed by the end of September (this time let's consider the deadline an educated guess!). Mucho thanks to John Licht (Denver) and Wayne James (Colorado Springs) for their valuable assistance in transferring the catalog items to tape. What's left to do involves further transferring of the master readings to cassette, labeling the cassettes and distributing them to the members who will need them.

The Readers Service for Blind Members will include readings-on-tape of catalog updates (about every three months), articles and various items from past issues of this newsletter, membership lists and other important listings (and updates), as well as any relevant printed material available to any club member.

And by-the-by, Kevin Shields' schedule of Old Time Radio shows on KRCC should begin around January. Kevin's quite busy with producing 1/2-hour-daily, 5-days-a-week shows for KRCC as well as his regular duties at KCMN. Let's too consider that January target an "educated guess" (we're playin' it safe this time, folks).

We listened to the pilot $\underline{\text{Gunsmoke}}$ show, with Howard Culver as "Mark Dillon", broadcast in 1949. The plot of the story left a bit to be desired, but there was, as in the 1000+ $\underline{\text{Gunsmokes}}$ that followed, plenty of "exciting western action". We more or less assumed that Mark left Dodge City and his brother Matt came later, took over as marshal, and carved out a long-lasting radio and TV tradition.

Walter Burkette paid first year dues; he's now our newest member in the Springs area. Welcome aboard, Walt.

And so long until . . . next month.



The opportunity to participate in the recreation of a dramatic program as if it were on radio was confirmed to me by Don Reeves around noon on Wednesday, the week of the convention. Of course at that point, I had no real indication that I would actually have a part, but at least I was invited to be at the Motel 8 between 8:00 and 8:15 am on Saturday, the 27th.

I sat by the registration desk until Don arrived. He introduced me to Pete Wehner and Susie, who was acting as a trouble shooter, both of whom were in one of the booths awaiting us. We briefly talked about general things and got to know a bit about one another. I found Pete easy to get to know and really quite a gentleman. We were soon to be shown how much radio production background he carries with him in his head and can call on whenever he needs to.

The four of us left the dining area and made our way upstairs to size up the situation of the broadcasting studio. I had briefly met the gentleman who had started to get the hall cleaned up from whatever event had taken place the night before—even though the lights were still not turned on. Before we came up we found out that there was no freight elevator. At the west end of the hall there were a couple of tables set on risers , and I had quickly thought that "we" recreators would simply sit around the table behind the microphone. That was not what Pete wanted or had in mind. Guy Albright arrived and was soon bringing in all sorts of equipment: tape recorders, mikes, speakers, switches, and the like, and these were Pete's immediate concern.

Pete announced that the drama would take place in front of the platform on the simulated wooden floor. There was a bar set up opposite that on the other side of the room which Pete considered briefly as a possibility for a prop in the drama--we were getting only hints at what the drama would be about-- but the bar was inaccessible and that idea was soon dropped. We took down one of the wooden tables and put it to the left front of the riser and Pete announced that it would be for the sound effects men to use in creating the

the sound of walking on a wooden floor. In a matter of minutes Pete had sized up the room and made some mental notes of how to set up the equipment for the broadcast. There were five microphones and they were on the table on simple stands. What Pete really wanted were upright stands, but Guy didn't have any. It must have been around 9:00am when we finally went downstairs to start carrying up, without the aid of an elevator, all the things Pete and Susan had brought with them. Pete was a little ahead of us talking to a short gentleman in white pants and a light shirt; later on we were to find out that he was Sam Edwards. The big item to carry up was Pete's portable electronic piano. Up to this time Pete had managed to insinuate that it was really quite heavy a number of times so we were expecting to have trouble with it. We managed to get it upstairs and set up along the north wall just to the east of the raised platform on which the tables were. On that table now were the microphones and a stack of manilla folders which Pete had brought. About this time someone mentioned again that Pete really wanted microphone stands and Don, who had been with us all this time, said that they were out in his van. We carried those four stands in and set them up, changing the microphones from the small table stands to the standing units, numbering them from #1 to #4 then leaving #5 for the sound effects table. We made sure that all the jacks were correctly aligned. I remember carrying up the sound effects boxes; there were balloons, pelleted dog food, potato chips and a number of other strange ingredients.

Collegues of Pete's had also arrived in a group by this time. I was impressed by Tony Larsen, the epitome of a gentleman with such a smooth low speaking voice! George Salem was from Indian Hills, as I had been during the time I lived with my father. It only shows how small the world really is. George was a down to earth fellow and struck me as just like a neighbor one had known for years. Sam Edwards arrived close to 10:00am and we were all introduced to him. I sought out occasion to talk to him and found him very friendly and willing to carry on conversations with everyone. Up to this point the only thing I had done was to become an English teacher. But years earlier I had taken a fantastic vacation to Hollywood where a close aunt of mine lived. Among the things we had done was to visit a number of live radio broadcasts, among them MEET CORLISS ARCHER. I certainly hadn't dreamed that one day I would be in a show with Sam Edwards, the star of that show. That thought kept popping into my mind as I was working with Sam or standing next to him at a microphone.

Pete called for the first read through and we all sat around a table where we could hear one another. Pete introduced the drama and each of us to the characters we would be playing. Then we simply read through the script for the first time. Initially Pete would direct us very infrequently, allowing us to get a voice characterization for ourselves. Whenever a phrase would come out wrong, with the wrong emphasis or something, Pete would voice the phrase for us to mimic. We were not really concerned with the sound effects but read simply to know how the story would develop. I was so pleasantly surprised that the drama was so well written. There were elements which any reader would look for in a good story and here they all were in this script. Nancy was not with us during these early read-throughs. Her bubbling personality would become evident as she participated in the panel discussions later in the day. Now Sam rather quickly slid into a characterization both in the manner and tone of his delivery and from now on everything he did was really to polish his presentation. Tony toyed with a characterization and slowed down his presentation and left his voice low and resonant. George seemed to use his natural speaking voice with little affectation. I sounded just like an English teacher who couldn't even say "gonna" instead of "going to". By the time the production was ready to present, I had tried to lower my voice and use a bit of a drawl. The next object was to get the lines so they moved freely and naturally from one character to another. Sam had already worked on his lines so that he was becoming smooth at what he said and how he lead into another character's lines. Even the suggestion which Pete gave him were quickly redone as requested. I was having trouble getting the lines out intelligibly. But the practices we went through were becoming meaningful. Little by little Pete started to add the sound effects. One of the hardest judging from the number of times we rehearsed it, was the sequence where cards were being dealt. There was a timing which needed to be developed as well as a volume.

It was fun to see the pellets become the source of the footsteps or just watch the sound be created away from the object or the chains which were really tire chains wrapped around an old chest or the two loaded pistols (We had to notify the police department about what time we would be firing them and how many shots we would fire. I wondered about about that regulation when one of the shots failed to fire!) and the drinking glasses and bottles already drained of any liquid.

It was necessary for the cast to break from rehearsal for the afternoon panel discussions, but they continued to rehearse right up to the start of the panels. Right after supper break (the cast was allowed to eat first) the cast adjourned to one of the motel rooms for a final rehearsal. It was here that Nancy Healy Davis joined the rest of the cast and read her part. Until then Pete had handled the chores with a high falsetto voice. The rehearsal went well; there were small adjustments to be made and some words which had been missed were mentioned. Time was spent to go through the card sealing sequence again. And that was it until time for the production to begin.

The cast was assembled outside the hall and awaited an introduction. Once that was taken care of and the cast members were at their places at the microphones and the sound effects were strategically situated, everything was just as you saw it. Pete was at the organ and the music began. The imaginary sign signaled "ON THE AIR". I must confess that it get's in one's blood.

Thanks to everyone who had anything to do with the recreation and to Pete Wehner for making it all possible.

RADIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF COLORADO HOLDS ANNUAL CONVENTION

Memories like "Lux Presents Hollywood," "McGee, Don't open that door," and "This is the Blue Network," were brought back to mind on Saturday, July 27, as the Radio Historical Association of Colorado presented Denver's first Old Time Radio Convention.

Approximately 120 old time radio fans were present in the ballroom of the Denver 8 Motel at the convention entitled "Return With Us Now: A Celebration of the Golden Age of Radio." Many were collectors of old time radio shows, but there were many others who just wanted to reminisce about early radio.

Highlights of the one day convention were two lively panel discussions featuring old time radio performers, a room of radio memorabilia and an original radio drama performed before an appreciative audience.

The panel discussions featured Sam Edwards (who appeared on "Meet Corliss Archer," "Gunsmoke," "Suspense" and many other top radio shows), Nancy Healy Davis (who appeared on "One Man's family," Myrt and Marge," and other soap operas), long time local radio personalities Jim Hawthorne (KOA), Don Roberts (KEZW), and Dick McDaniel (KNUS). Both panels were chaired by old time radio author and KNUS radio personality, John Dunning.

The convention concluded with an original radio drama written for the convention by Denver radio and TV personality Pete Wehner. The western drama was entitled "Hickok Was A Lousy Shot," and featured Sam Edwards, Tony Larson, George Salem, Nancy Healy Davis and Reid Hensen. John Licht and Don Reeves provided the sound effects.

Overall, the convention was a big success. Plans are already in the making for another convention next summer. Since the association is a non profit organization, the RHAC is seeking some financial support in order to bring in several old time radio personalities from California for the next convention.

Thanks very much for your support of our club.

John H. Lloyd Newsletter Editor 2667 E. 99th Ave. Thornton, CO 80229

The Radio Historical

Association of Colorado, Inc.



convention in July.







Bob Wilkinson

Gerald Piacentine

using the formula developed this first time around.

Millie & Dick McDaniel



William L. Shirer



grams, and a handsome exhibit room organized by RHAC member Gerald Piacentine with exhibits manned by radio fans and veterans including Robert Wilkinson, engineer and founder of Boulder's pioneer FM station KRNW. The programs themselves ran like programs on Denver's network affiliate

After 10 years' success with monthly meetings, the Radio Historical Association of Colorado (RHAC) decided to experiment with a full-scale

In case you weren't lucky enough to attend, the word is out: the experiment worked. It worked well and promises to become an annual event,

Main ingredients were a convenient location, modest fee, strong pro-

stations in the 40s. They started precisely on time and ended 30 seconds before the hour and halfhour (in case you worked a board and initialed entries in the log back then and still remember).

The three programs — a pair of panels and a live radio drama performance scripted by Pete Wehner - were intensely interesting to the 100-plus men and women attending. One panel featured national items; Jim Hawthorne, Dick McDaniel, and Don Roberts then took part in a panel moderated by John Dunning.

Separately and together, the four panelists reminisced about days when radio meant people, not just numbers, when radio was "fun" as well as fully professional, when stations were locally owned by men the caliber of KFEL's Gene O'Fallon, and when, instead of consultants, stations had program directors the stature of a Charlie Roberts or Jim Atkins.

As Dusty Saunders noted in his column, even the dinner price was old time: \$4 for a monster buffet in addition to a gentle \$6 registration for the convention. The in-line and at-table service featured something else old-fashioned: pleasant, smiling service. In 1985.

Following dinner and additional free time for browsing the exhibit room full of books, classic microphones collected by Bob Wilkinson, and all kinds of radio memorabilia, the Wehner-written, quick-study play was presented. Performers stood at their individual floor mikes, two sound-effects men worked another mike, and bartender-narrator Tony Larsen began reading from his script (error-free as always, of course).

As the Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News writeups accurately noted, the purpose of the Old Time Radio Club emphasizes much more than nostalgic journeying through scrapbooks and photo albums. A primary function of the club is to locate, preserve, and share the artifacts and



Arthur Godfrey



Gary Moore



Lowell Thomas



Mike Wallace



Bob & Ray

Edward R. Murrow



Eric Sevareid



Robert Q. Lewis



Galen Drake



Walter Cronkite



Douglas Edwards

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

REEL	REEL 548 STARS OVER HOLLYWOOD 1L 10-6-51 I Knew This Woman				
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		11-10-51	Short Story		
	2L		Three Is An Odd Number		
		12-1-51	The Perfect Mate		
	1 D	10 00 51	A Christmas Carol		
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		3-8-52	The Driven Snow		
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RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

	6-23-42	July Duritude 15 Docked	1200'
	9-29-42	Fibber Leaves His Camera On Train	
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		\$20,000 In Horse Hair Sofa	1200'
	11-24-42	Fibber Decides To Begin Daily Exercise	
2L	12-1-42 12-8-42	Gas Rationing - 4 Gallons Of Gas Women Take Over The Labor Market	
1R	12-15-42 1-5-43	Fibber Misplaces \$15 For Molly's Christmas Fibber Gets Cigars From Cousin Charlie	Present
2R	1-12-43 1-19-43	McGees Visit Billy Mills In Hospital Mrs. Uppington Decides To Join The Wacs	
REEL 554	GUNSMOKE	E (AFRS)	12001
1L			1200'
	4-14-57	Saludos	
2L	5-19-57 8-18-57	One Night Stand The Peace Officer	
1R	10-27-57 12-1-57	Man And Boy Jud's Woman	
2R	12-8-57 12-15-57	Long As I Live Ugly	
REEL 555	GUNSMOKE	(AFRS)	1200'
1L	1-19-58	Moo Moo raid	1200
	1-26-58	One For Lee	
2L	2-2-58 2-9-58	Kitty's Killing Joke's On Us	
1R	2-16-58 2-23-58	Bruger's Folly The Surgery	
2R	3-9-58 3-16-58	Laughing Gas Real Sent Sonny	

memories of the radio Golden Age that ended in the late 1950s.

Members further indicate their interest in helping younger people in 1985 recover the use of a faculty grown rusty during this era of TV and video games: imagination. This may prove to be the club's most significant contribution.

Final suggestions from a conventiongoer: Please do hold this meeting annually. Hold it at the same good place (Denver Motel 8,6th and Federal) and the same incredible price. Don't worry about big budgets for national figures; focus on presenting the outstanding talkers, actors, producers, writers, engineers, sales reps, musicians, and promotion directors either still active or somewhat retired and living in Colorado. If you must spend money, spend it on getting a library set of the "WKRP Cincinatti" tapes through Channel 9.

One thing more: clear your convention dates in advance to avoid conflict with

the Colorado Broadcasters Association. Their membership, young and old, belongs at your conventions. So do we all,

Ask Your Secrest Agent

"In the early 1940s, the city had only four radio stations: KOA, KLZ, KVOD, and KMYR."

The Denver Post should have checked with Clark Secrest before printing that. Yes, we had four commercial outlets back then, and each was involved with a network.

KLZ (560) in the Shirley Savoy was CBS; KVOD (630) eventually in the Petro-leum Club was ABC; KOA (850) at 1625 California was NBC; KFEL (950) in the Albany Hotel was Mutual.

KMYR with Gene Amole, Dick Schmidt et al (our first independent) was on Stout Street, followed latter by KTLN in the Park Lane Hotel with Pete Smythe, Joe Flood, Rich Froemke and others. KMYR at 1340? KTLN, 1180 maybe?

If you'd rather think about the NBC Blue Network days, you're qualified to join Colorado's Old Time Radio Club (Radio Historical Association of Colorado). Send \$15 now to John Callor, P.O. Box 1109. Westminster 80030. You get a monthly newsletter, invitations to monthly meetings, access to a reference lending library and an incredibly rich audiotape archive: over 500 reel=to-reel tapes you can borrow.

You'll also be in some pretty great company.

For another exciting and useful publication. Sounds of Yesterday by the Radio Club's former newsletter editor, send \$5 to Paul Anderson, P.O. Box 749, Laramie. Two issues a year including the handsome 48-page current goodie.

-Elliot Wager

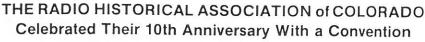


Volume 2, No. 28

August 19, 1985







COVER PHOTO

Some of the RHAC members at their convention. (L to R): John Lloyd, John Adams, Bob Wilkinson, John Callor. See story and photos on page 7.

Photograph by Mort Karman

CONVENTION WRITEUPS ATTACHED

Attached to this issue of the newsletter are articles from the Colorado Broad-casters Association and the Colorado MAC News. Thanks to Cliff Dodge and Judy Gaughan of the CBA for their courtesy and to Tom Mulvey, Elliot Wager and Mort Karman for their assistance in publicizing the RHAC





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