The Radio Historical Association of Colorado, Inc.

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MARCH 1988



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 which entitles the member full use of the Club's resources. For further information, contact one of the following officers or board members:

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ABOUT THE COVER

Orson Welles was responsible for two of the greatest classics of the cinema, <u>Citizen Kane</u> and <u>The Magnificent Ambersons</u>. He learned his craft on radio in the Thirties on such programs as <u>The Cavalcade of America</u> (NBC), <u>The Columbia Workshop</u>(CBS), and <u>The March of Time</u> (NBC). <u>Les Miserables</u> (Mutual, 1937) and <u>The Shadow</u> (CBS, 1937-1938) followed, and then came <u>The Mercury Theatre on the Air</u> (CBS, 1938-1940) with its infamous <u>The War of the Worlds broadcast</u>. Other Orson Welles programs include <u>Orson Welles Theatre</u> (CBS, 1941-1943), <u>Ceiling Unlimited</u> CBS 1942-1944, and <u>This Is My Best</u> (CBS, 1944-1945).

Address all correspondence to R.H.A.C., P.O. Box 1908, Englewood CO 80150

NEXT MEETING TO FEATURE MERWIN SMITH

The next meeting of RHAC is Thursday, March 17, at The Church of the Master, 5152 E. 17th Ave. at 7:30 p.p.. We are pleased to have as our speaker Mr. Merwin Smith, a longtime Denver radio personalty who is currently a narrator for Talking Books, a 20-year-old Denver company that provides books and periodicals on records and cassettes for the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a division of the Library of Congress. The director of the National Library Service says of Smith that he "narrates with empathy. He narrates with a feeling for the characters. When you're reading fiction, whether you realize it or not, you develop a mental picture of the characters in the story who become alive and living for you. Merwin brings the characters alive for the blind people." "Smith enunciates every word. He knows when to pause. He has a rhythm that doesn't hypnotize, but draws the listener in," says Gary Massaro in a feature article in The Rocky Mountain News on January 5, 1988. We look forward indeed to hearing Mr. Smith. Please join us.



Radio Historical Association of Colorado

OUT OF MY MIND

Dan Decker Editor

The results of the survey concerning whether to have one large yearly convention such as we have been having or to have a few mini conventions during the year are in. Here are the results: 60% favor a large convention, 40% mini conventions. The minimum number of stars that are preferred is 3 and the maximum

is 6. Concerning how much a ticket should cost, people preferred \$30 for a large convention and \$15 for a mini convention. About what the main interest should be, 48% said guest stars; 33%, radio plays; 11%, exhibits; 7%, social aspects. In response to the question, "Would you like to attend a convention by the RHAC?" we received a unanimous "yes"! As far as the time of year that was preferred, 40% said anytime, summer and fall both received 20%, spring was 14%, and winter, 6%. Seventy one percent said they had attended a convention of RHAC before and 29% said that they had not. And finally, most said that they enjoyed previous conventions, and a big thank you to Lois Holmes who said that she wants to help with the next convention. Thanks to all members who responded to the survey.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Parker W. Fennelly who played Titus Moody, the cryptic New Englander, on the Fred Allen radio program in the 1940's and early 1950's, and who later was the television spokesman for Pepperridge Farm products. He died on January 22, 1988. As Titus Moody on radio and then on television, in the 1950's, Fennelly got laughs even before the start of a routine, with his classic opening line: "Hody, bub." Long before his performances with Fred Allen, Fennelly and Arthur Allen were heard as Yankee codgers on two radio programs, "The Stebbins Boys of Bucksport Point" and "Snow Village Sketches." Other radio programs on which Fennelly appeared included "Grand Central Station," "Mystery Theater," and "Route 66." In an interview marking his 90th birthday in 1981, Fennelly seemed amused that he finally had reached the age of many of the characters he had played. "I was born old," he said, "and I played old parts most of my life."

Are you aware of "The Talking Newsletter" available for our sight-impaired members? Mike Fields has been making this service available for nearly a year and only two members are availing themselves of it. The service is free! If you know of visually impaired members, do them a favor and tell them of this excellent resource. And, of course, if they are not members of the club, please tell them the good news of the availability of OTR to them. And, a big thank you to Mike Fields for providing this service. For more information, contact Mike at 7925 Sangor, Colorado Springs CO 80920. Members usually receive the talking nesletter (on cassette) about 3 days after the printed newsletter is published.

I hope you had the pleasure of hearing the Old Time Radio Players at the February meeting re-creating the Henry Aldrich program, "Homer's Anniversary." These are the names of the players: John Cook, John Licht, David Gatch, Dick and Maletha King, Terri Waffensmith, Sandy Ware, Bill McCracken, and Jeanette Dran. Guy Albright was the sound engineer with Don Reeves assisting with sound effects.

Don't miss the excellent article in <u>American Heritage</u> magazine, "Forgotten Laughter: The Fred Allen Story." It is a 9-page article with many pictures in the February 1988 issue.

Stay tuned.

Editor's Note: In response to reader-member, Ken Weigel of Van Nuys CA, who requested that the graduate thesis of mine be single-spaced, we are printing it in that format from now on. We appreciate his response and encourage each reader to make his or her wants known.

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Radio not only was used to inform, propagandize, and sell products, but it also introduced millions of people to good music. Marquiz tells one reason why the networks were so willing to broadcast music:

One reason for radio's enthusiastic embrace of music on both sides of the Atlantic was a function of the medium's timidity: music seemed uncontroversial. An English critic observed that "the BBC need no longer . . . worry about the dangers of sex or communism or the truth of the Christian religion when they draw up a music menu."

However, not everyone loved music on the air. Marquis tells of Gertrude Stein's reaction: "Gertrude Stein observed that 'there is a deplorable amount of music going on in the world. If they would suppress most of it, perhaps the world would be more peaceful." Without a doubt, Stein's was a minority opinion because music programming was among the most popular kind. For example, the first classical concert that was broadcast live on NBC in 1926 attracted a million listeners. That radio created a taste for good music is evident from the fact that the recording industry experienced increased sales directly proportional to particular broadcasts of classical music.

In addition to music, another one of the fine arts to find an enthusiastic reception on radio was literature. Some listeners, in fact, may have had their first encounter with good literature by hearing it dramatized on radio. Of all the dramatic presentations, the longest-running series were Lux Radio Theatre which ran from October 14, 1934, to June 7, 1955, and Theater Guild of the Air which aired from September 9, 1945, to June 7, 1953. Another dramatic series, NBC University Theatre, was unique in that it offered "presentations of Anglo-American literature" and provided opportunities for listeners to obtain college credit through home study, supervised by professors in five participating universities and colleges: Brooklyn College, Kansas State Teacher' College, Texas College of the Arts and Industries, University of Louisville, and the University of Tulsa. NBC University Theatre was broadcast from 1949 to 1952, and earned the Peabody Award, one of the most prestigious awards in broadcasting, for excellence. One of its distinguishing characteristics among dramatic programs on radio was "intermission commentaries" half way through the hour-long presentations, when well-known literary critics gave a few minutes of commentary about the author and the book which was being dramatized. Interestingly, in the fall of 1950, The Saturday Review of Literature in association with NBC University Theatre, ran a 13-week series of articles by various scholars which gave background information on the books and authors featured in the series.

Regarding the power of radio to present drama, David Mamet writing in $\frac{\text{Horizon}}{\text{magazine}}$ magazine quotes Bruno Bettelheim: "The fairy tale (i.e., the drama) has the capacity to color, to incite, to assuage, to $\frac{\text{affect}}{\text{because}}$ because we listen to it non-judgementally—we identify subconsciously (i.e., non-critically) with the protagonist." Mamet then tells why radio is such a powerful medium for presenting drama:

The essential task of the drama (as of the fairy tale) is to offer a solution to a problem. We enjoy the happiness of being a participant in the process of the solution. More than any other dramatic

medium, radio teaches the writer to concentrate on the essentials. Radio drama works so well because it leaves the endowment of characters, place, and especially action up to the audience. . . . Radio drama has an incredible potential for firing people's imaginations and sending their minds spiralling. It can create atmosphere and character better than any other medium, simply because it demands that the audience participate with its imagination and creative energies. Radio is the medium for the imagination; it requires that the audience does a lot of work; it needs the empty space to be filled in. It "suggests"--unlike television which draws everything in particular and uncritical detail. . . . Radio at its best exists somewhere in the field of art. . . . The story around the campfire. As times grow more confusing, our need to hear that story every night increases. The campfire is the radio, and it's just waiting to be turned on.

While it is true that the heyday of radio drama is past, there is still a small amount being produced and broadcast on National Public Radio. Just recently, for example, NPR has produced a radio version of Tolkein's <u>The Hobbit</u>. There has even been an attempt to involve children in the production of radio drama. Pizzi, writing in <u>Db</u> magazine, tells of his experiences producing a play that was written by a child who had entered a cintest in which there were over 1000 entries:

To most people, live radio drama is something that went out with the Pleistocene epoch, or shortly thereafter. Recently, however, it had a bit of a revival in a coast-to-coast broadcast from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. The event, entitled "The Henny Penny Playwriting Contest" was produced by Children's Radio Theater (CRT) in association with National Public Radio. CRT is a vastly talented little group of adults (chronologically, at least) that produces radio drama programs for kids, aired on about 100 stations around the country. . . . About the only other regular event of this kind that I know of is the Midwest Radio Theater Workshop, a multiday function with some big names, held every year in Columbia, Missouri, sponsored by KOPN-FM there, which always concludes with a live broadcast.

In this brief historical survey of radio as a means of informal education, it is clear that America has been well-served by this remarkable medium of communication. Radio, no doubt, helped develop a sense of unity and common purpose in the decades since 1920 in America that helped a nation weather the terrors of a deep economic depression and a world war. The comedians, the actors, and the newscasters possibly served our country to an extent that they were probably unaware of at the time.

* * * * * * *

Note: This reprinting of the editor's graduate thesis, entitled "Radio as a Tool for Instruction: the Role of Radio in Learning" will continue next month and succeeding months. At the end is quite a comprehensive bibliography. When the series of articles is concluded in Return with Us Now. .I would be happy to provide readers with a complete copy of the thesis for only the cost of printing or photocopying. Finally, I hope that your reading of it is as enjoyable as was my writing of it. I would appreciate hearing from you about this or any other article in the newsletter.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JOHN COOK

My personal thanks to the folks who performed in the Aldridge Family recreation at the last meeting. In coming months, look for appearances by Fred Arthur and John Dunning in April, Ray Durkee in May, and another Old-Time Radio Players performance in June. At the April meeting, try your luck in OTR trivia skills at "Stumping the Panel". Fred Arthur and John Dunning along with one or two others will form the panel. Here is your opportunity to win a blank cassette or a free reel or cassette order from the library. Please send in your question to the RHAC address along with the answer to the question and be sure to state whether you want a blank cassette or a free order from the library should your question be chosen. Be sure your question is related to old-time radio. The "Stump the Panel" segment of April's meeting is for all of our members, so please send in your question by April 15th.

The Oldtime Radio-Show Collector's Association (ORCA) is actively seeking members. You can remain loyal to our club and still belong. Write Reg Hubert, 45 Barry St., Sudbury, Ontario, Canada P3B 3H6.

For today's puzzle, call on your memory of old crime, mystery and adventure stories to find titles from the golden age of radio.

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RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

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	12-5-48	Violin Lessons	

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

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TAPE 775 JACK BENNY PROGRAM (C)
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 1L 12-12-48
               Relaxing At Home'
     12-19-48 Christmas Shopping - Wallet
 2L 2-13-49
               Jack Turns 40
     2-20-49
              Ford Theatre Tries To Stop Jack Doing Horn Blows At Midnight
 1R 2-27-49
              Claude Rains Tries To Stop Jack Doing Horn Blows At Midnight
     3-27-49
              Taking The Beavers Camping
 2R 12-7-47
              Violin Lesson And Vault Trip
              Rose Bowl Game
     1-4-48
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                                                               1200'
    12-9-47
              E & A:
                      Wrapping Ottoman For Christmas Mailing
    12-10-47 E & A: Albert In Bad Mood From Shopping
     12-11-47 E & A: The Bet
    12-12-47 E & A: Christmas Shopping For The Office
 2L 5-5-48
              E & A: Newspaper Item About Albert's Catching A Muskie
     5-6-48
              E & A: Babysitter's Guild
    5-11-48
              E & A: Albert Worrying About Vice President's Visit
    5-12-48
              E & A: Getting Up Early For Golf Game
1R 12-4-47
              NORA DRAKE:
                           A Peculiar Fascination About Bob Keating
    12-9-47
              NORA DRAKE: Nora Displays An Unsuspected Talent
    12-12-47 NORA DRAKE: Bob Regrets Impetuous Actions
    12-16-47 NORA DRKAE: Dr. Jansen Faces A Dilemma
2R 5-16-39
              VALIANT LADY: Irene Wants Her Baby
    10-2-41
              VALIANT LADY:
                             Joan And Tubby Quarrel
              THIS LIFE IS MINE: Eden Meets Mrs. Rankin On Train From Marblehead
    7-29-43
              THIS LIFE IS MINE: Bob's Ex-Wife Sends Telegram About Her New
    1-11-43
                                 Marriage
TAPE 777 BILL STERN SPORTS NEWSREEL
                                                               1200'
1L 7-6-45
              #296: H.V. Kaltenborn Subs
    7-13-45
             #297: H.V. Kaltenborn Subs
    11-9-45
             #314: Guest: Tommy Dorsey
    12-14-45 #319: Guest: Elsa Maxwell
2L 8-9-46
             #353: Guest: Dinah Shore
    8-16-46
             #354: Guest: Vivian Blaine
    8-23-46
             #355: Guest: Cab Calloway
    8-30-46 #356: Guest: Mischa Auer
1R 10-11-46 #362: Guest: Lizbeth Scott
   10-18-46 #363: Guest: Roddy McDowell
11-22-46 #368: Guest: Mickey Rooney
   1-24-47
             #376: Guest: Rudy Vallee
2R 2-7-47
             #378: Guest: Spike Jones
   2-14-47
             #379: Guest: Frankie Frisch
   1-13-50
             #532: Guest: Boris Karloff
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#456: Jimmy Stewart Subs

7-23-48

RADIO LOGS AND SCRIPTS

The RHAC has available to its members a wealth of information about Old Time Radio. One such source is the log library. A log is a listing of a program's shows and states the title of each show as well as the date, when available. They can help you keep track of your own collection by telling what shows you have and which shows you need to complete your collection. We also have a few scripts of shows. The cost of a log or script is 50¢ for the first page and 10¢ per page thereafter to cover the cost of printing and postage. Make check or money order payable to RHAC and send list to:

VICKI BLAKE P.O. BOX 1908 ENGLEWOOD, CO 80150

#	TITLE ************************************	PAGES	COST *******
72	1st Nighter	23	\$2.70
1	Academy Award Theater	1	.50
42	Adventures of Frank Race	1	.50 .90
2	Arch Obler Plays	5 1	.50 .50
51	Baby Snooks	**	
3	Big Show	1	.50 .50
50	Bill Stearns Sports Newsreel	1	.70
70	Bob Hope	3 1	.50
45	Box 13	1	.50
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83	AT THE STATE OF TH	4	.80
75 82	Dragnet Dr. Christian	12	1.60
62 47	Dr. Kildare	1	.50
7		2	.60
, 57	Escape Favorite Story	2	.60
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9	Ford Theater	i	.50
10	Fort Laramie	1	.50
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38	Frontier Gentleman	1	.50
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12	Gunsmoke	9	1.30
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85	Hollywood Players	1	.50
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37	Hour of Fantasy	1	.50
6 6	How to Research Logs- by John Adams	2	.60
67	I Love a Mystery	5	.90
76	I Love a Mystery Script (6-5-50)	8	1.20
14	Inner Sanctum	6	1.00
69	Jack Benny	8	1.20
	(also write to JAY HICKERSON BOX C	RANGE, CT	06477 14 @ \$6.00)

		,	4.00
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16	Knickerbocker Playhouse	1	.50
18	Life With Luigi	1	.50
17	Lights Out (Easier to Read Copy)	3	.70
74	Lone Ranger Script (6-30-39)	16	2.00
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49	Luke Slaughter of Tombstone	1	.50
19	Lux Radio Theater	14	1.80
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21	NBC Presents Short Story	1	.50
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73	Orson Welles	2	.60
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88	Railroad Hour	6	1.00
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39	Romance	3	.70
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-44	Sealed Book	1	.50
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64	Spotlight Bands- Bobby Sherwood Script	6	1.00
62	Spotlight Bands- Eddy Howard Script	5	.90
63	Spotlight Bands- Frankie Masters Script	6	1.00
65	Spotlight Bands- Jan Barber Script	6	1.00
40	Studio One	2	.60
29		11	1.50
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30		1	.50
31	Tarzan	4	.so 08.
56	The Green Hornet	1	.50
48	The Green Llama	1	.50
71	The Key		
20	The Magic Key of RCA	1	.50
27	The Shadow	5	.90
28	The Shadow of Fu Manchu	1	.50
61	The Spotlight Band Story- 1941 to 1946	34	3.80
54	The Whistler	3	.70
33	This is My Best	1	.50
34	This is War	1	.50
87	Time for Love	2	.60
32	Tish	1	.50
84	Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar	8	1.20

21 GORDO GOR

ANTIQUE RADIO CLUBS

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF RADIO CLUBS, COURTESY OF ANTIQUE RADIO CLASSIFIED (9511 Sunrise Blvd., J-23, Cleveland, OH 44133), for those interested in the history of radio, or in the collecting of antique radio or radio-related equipment. Most of the clubs publish their own bulletins or newsletters, and many sponsor conventions and flea markets in their areas throughout the year. Those clubs are a good way to meet fellow collectors who share your antique-radio interests.

Most clubs invite out-of-state membership. Most clubs have some dues or membership requirments; contact the individual clubs for more information on that. Also, while the information presented here is as accurate as possible, several of the clubs have not provided their current status. When writing to any of the clubs, please mention that you saw its name in Radio-Electronics.

Antique Wireless Association, Inc.—C/O Bruce Roloson, Box 212, Penn Yan, NY 14527. Publishes *The Old Timer's Bulletin* on a quarterly basis. Sponsors regional conventions as well as an annual conference in September at Canandaigua, New York.

Antique Radio Club of America, Inc.—C/O William Denk, 81 Steeplechase Rd., Devon, PA 19333. Publishes The Antique Radio Gazette on a quarterly basis. Sponsors several regional chapters of A.R.C.A. as well as an annual convention, usually in June, in a different part of the country each year.

Antique Radio Club of Illinois—C/O Randy Renne, 1020 Idlewild Dr., Dixon, IL 61021. Publishes ARCI News on a quarterly basis. Sponsors meets throughout the year in addition to the large "Radio-Fest" meet in August of each year.

Antique Radio Club of Schenectady—C/O Jack Nelson, 915 Sherman St., Schenectady, NY 12303.

Arizona Antique Radio Club—C/O Lee Sharpe, 2224 West Desert Cove Rd., No. 205, Phoenix, AZ 85029. Publishes *Radio News* on a quarterly basis.

Arkansas Radio Club—P.O. Box 4403, Little Rock, AR 72214.

British Vintage Wireless Society—C/O Robert Hawes, 63 Manor Rd., Tottenham N17, London OJH, England. Publishes Vintage Wireless on a monthly basis.

Buckeye Antique Radio and Phonograph Club—C/O Steve Dando, 627 Deering Dr., Akron, OH 44313. Publishes its Soundings newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Sponsors several informal meets at collector's homes throughout the year, plus exhibits at area shopping malls.

California Historical Radio Society—CHRS, P.O. Box 1147, Mountain View, CA 94041. Publishes the CHRS Official Journal and the CHRS Newsletter; both appear four times a year. Sponsors conventions and flea markets.

Houston Vintage Radio Association—C/O Ron Taylor, 12407 Mullins, Houston, TX 77035. Publishes the Houston Vintage Radio News and also the Grid Leak on a frequent basis. Yearly activities include a Spring show and public auction, swapfests, a picnic, and a banquet.

Indiana Historical Radio Society—C/O E.E. Taylor, 245 N. Oakland Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46201. Publishes the IHRS Bulletin on a quarterly basis. Sponsors at least four swap meets per year in various areas of Indiana, including the well-attended Auburn, Indiana meet, held in the Fall.

Long Island Antique Radio Society—160 S. Country Rd., East Patchogue, NY 11772

Michigan Antique Radio Club—C/O Jim Clark, 1006 Pendleton Dr., Lansing, MI 48917. Sponsors two swap meets in the Lansing, Michigan area.

Mid-America Radio Club—C/O Robert Lane, 1444 E. 8th, Kansas City, MO 64106.

Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club—C/O Joe Koester, 249 Spring Gap South, Laurel, MD 20707. Publishes a newsletter for members. Sponsors monthly meets.

Niagara Frontier Wireless Association—C/O Larry Babcock, 8095 Centre Lane, E. Amherst, NY 14051. Publishes the NFWA Chronicle on a quarterly basis. Conducts swap meets and meetings four times a year in the Buffalo, New York area.

Northwest Vintage Radio Society—Box 02379, Portland, OR 97202

Puget Sound Antique Radio Association—C/O N.S. Braithwaite, 4415 Greenwood Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103. Publishes the Horn of Plenty monthly. Holds swap meets and meetings in the Seattle, Washington area.

Rocky Mountain Wireless Association—16500 W. 12th Dr., Golden, CO 80401.

Sacramento Historical Radio Society—5724 Gibbons Dr., Sacramento, CA 95608.

Southern California Antique Radio Society—C/O Floyd Paul, 1545 Raymond Ave., Glendale, CA 91201. Publishes the California Antique Radio Gazette on a quarterly basis. Holds four swap meets and meetings at various locations in Southern California.

Society of Wireless Pioneers—P.O. Box 530, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Publishes the *Sparks Journal* on a quarterly basis.

Vintage Radio and Phonograph Society—P.O. Box 165345, Irving, TX 75016. Publishes *The Re*producer approximately six times a year. Sponsors radio meets in Dallas, Texas area.

Whippany Vintage Radio Club—217 Ridge Wale Ave., Florham Park, NJ 07932.

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO, INC. (A non-profit Organization)
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