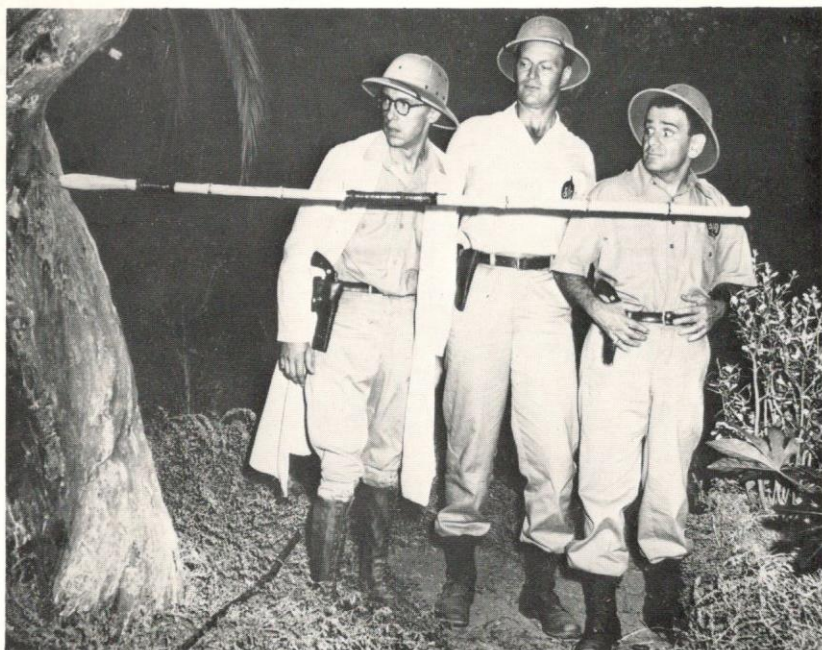


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- ★ Terry and the Pirates
- ★ Captain Midnight
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Vol. 1, No. 2

January 1984

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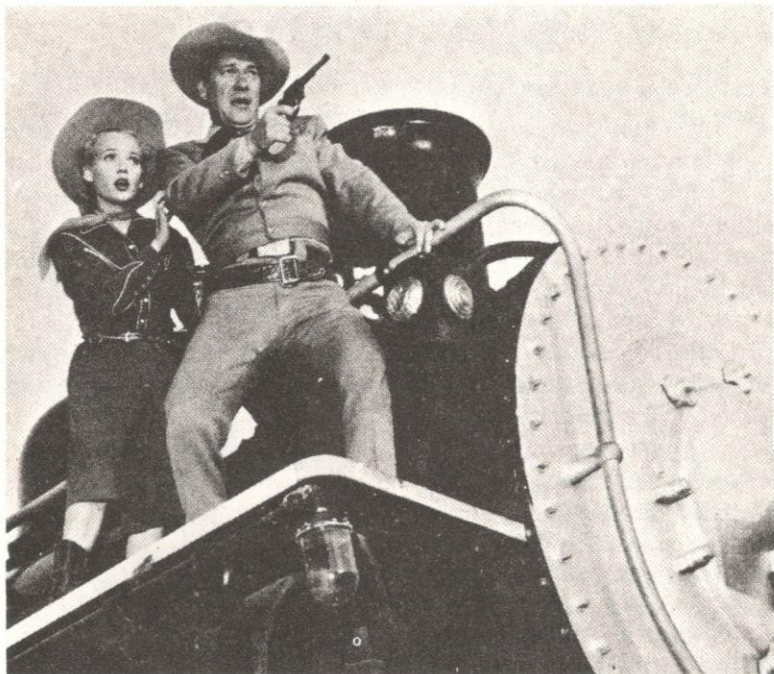
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Radio Pictures. On screen in *Three Sons* (RKO-1939), *Blondie Goes Latin* (Col-1941) and *The Stranger From Pecos* (Monogram-1943) he eventually became a contract player at Universal starring in B-westerns and the Canadian Mounted Police features.

Grant stated in a 1956 interview he was believable in the role of *Sky King* not only because of his acting talent but also because of his early environment. "I was born and raised on a Montana ranch where I learned to love the outdoors... ride a horse, hunt and fish. I was an Eagle Scout and later a Ranger at Yellowstone National Park. So you see the role of *Sky King* is not completely out of keeping with my background.

"Since my father was an ex-professional baseball player it was only natural that I would pursue some type of sports. I played semi-professional ball and was a member of the University of Washington track squad, running the 100-yard dash in 10 seconds flat. This training has helped me tremendously in my television series."

Gloria Winters, 19 years old when *Sky King* started filming, had been in show business since age 2, appearing in features with many of Hollywood's top names. She had also played Babs on the

original *Life of Riley* with Jackie Gleason and was in all 72 episodes of *Sky King* playing Penny. Ron Haggerty as Clipper made only the first 19 shows of the series. When production resumed in 1955 Haggerty was in the military.

In 1955 Kirby Grant was living in Chicago, working as a writer and director for Wilding Picture Corporation when Nabisco became interested in making more episodes of *Sky King*. He commuted between Chicago and Hollywood, filming new shows for the series through 1959. While only 72 episodes

of *Sky King* were copyrighted, Grant stated 130 programs were made. "Unfortunately, they were stored away in a New York film library when a fire broke out. The 35mm negatives, the masters and the 16mm release prints were all in one room. We lost all but 72 films."

Nostalgia buffs always have two questions when the name *Sky King* comes up. What was the name of his plane and what kind of plane was it? The first one is easy. Sky's plane was called the "Songbird." The second part of the question is a little harder. In the first season King dogged outlaws in a Cessna P-50. During the last 54 episodes he flew a Cessna 310-B with wing tanks that gave him a range of over 1,000 miles with a cruising speed of 210 mph.

Episodes of *Sky King* still pop up on television today and are a favorite with collectors. Gloria Winters and Kirby Grant are both retired from acting. Grant is handling public relations for Sea World in Florida.



Complete Log Begins Next Page

SKY KING

SKY KING.....	<i>Kirby Grant</i>
PENNY KING.....	<i>Gloria Winters</i>
CLIPPER KING.....	<i>Ron Haggerty</i>
JIM BELL.....	<i>Chubby Johnson</i>
SHERIFF.....	<i>Ewing Mitchell</i>

Jack Chertok Productions

OPERATION URGENT	1952
Sky King goes to the aid of his nephew Clipper and a downed Air Force Pilot. With: Morgan Farley.	
CARRIER PIGEON	1952
When Sky's niece Penny finds an injured carrier pigeon with a rare ruby attached to its leg, Sky becomes involved in a jewel theft mystery. With: Lane Bradford.	
STAGECOACH ROBBERS	1952
A crooked express agent who is planning to steal gold from his company by faking a holdup takes Penny captive. With: Glenn Strange, Emmett Lynn, Stephen Chase and Holly Bane.	
DEADLY CARGO	1952
The wreckage of an airplane leads Sky King to a gang of gold smugglers and their cargo. With: Myron Healy, John Cason and Gene Roth.	
JIM BELL'S TRIUMPH	1952
Sky sets out to expose the crooked dealings of the local county clerk. When the clerk realizes that Sky knows the truth he tries to escape. With: Tom Keene and Emmett Vogan.	
DESIGNING WOMAN	1952
On returning from an aerial survey, Sky, Penny and Clipper are flagged down by a woman who claims to be the daughter of a rancher who died mysteriously. With: Robert Shayne.	
ONE FOR THE MONEY	1952
Penny, returning from a trip, inadvertently picks up a suitcase full of phony dollar bills and Sky finds himself mixed up with counterfeiters. With: John Doucette and Dale Van Sickel.	
DANGER POINT	1952
Sky tries to solve the murder of an elderly rancher who disinherits his nephew in favor of his younger son. With: Monte Blue and Keith Richards.	

DESPERATE CHARACTER	1952
Sky sets out to learn the identity of a teen-age hitchhiker who Clipper picks up and discovers that the youth recently escaped from a reformatory after being involved in a bank robbery. With: Don Haggerty and House Peters Jr.	
THE MAN WHO FORGOT	1952
Shortly after the murder of a crook, a young rancher disappears. Sky believes the rancher is innocent of the murder and suffering from amnesia.	
THREATENING BOMB	1952
Sky King is faced with a bomb and a gang of eastern crooks. With: Anthony Warde, Stanley Andrews, Frank Richards and Monte Blue.	
SPEAK NO EVIL	1952
A sick man confesses to Sky that he's a former criminal who broke out of prison years ago and has since been going straight.	
TWO GUN PENNY	1952
Sky helps Penny crack a kidnapping case and capture the foreign agents who have taken a refugee professor prisoner. With: Nestor Paivo.	
FORMULA FOR FEAR	1952
Driving into town, Penny sees a man trying to escape from a doctor and is told the man is a mental patient. She tells Sky this and he quickly finds himself in the middle of foreign spies attempting to secure a poison gas formula.	
GIANT EAGLE	1952
Sky King sets out to solve three hold ups that take place in the same month.	
BLACKMAIL	1952
Sky comes to the rescue of the local banker when he is approached by blackmailers. With: Gene Roth.	
WINGED JUSTICE	1952
Sky sets out to uncover the mystery of two suspicious looking strangers at a dude ranch and finds there is a uranium deposit on the ranch. With: Don Haggerty, Douglas Evans and Pierre Watkin.	
DESTRUCTION FROM THE SKY	1952
With the help of Sky, Military Intelligence agents track down the saboteur who blew up a secret government project.	
THE PORCELAIN LION	1952
The disappearance and re-appearance of a valuable porcelain lion complicates a dramatic double-cross and causes Sky to decide an investigation is in order. With: Johnny Downs and Robert Rockwell.	
THE NECKERCHIEF	1956
A young boy paroled to Sky King's care wants to go straight, but becomes involved in a new robbery. With: Gil Fry.	

- MANHUNT** 1956
Sky joins the hunt for two escaped convicts and their hostage, the local banker's son.
With: Bill Henry and Norman Ollestad.
- THE PLASTIC GHOST** 1956
Distress signals lead Sky and Penny into an unusual adventure.
With: I. Stanford Jolley and Myron Healey.
- THE RAINBIRD** 1956
Sky King saves the life of his niece Penny and his old Navajo friends Tai-Lam when he brings rain to a drought devastated Indian village.
With: Charles Stevens, Norman Ollestad and Harry Mackin.
- THE CRYSTAL TRAP** 1956
Sky King uses short-wave radio equipment to capture uranium map thieves.
With: Leonard Mazzala and Gilbert Frye.
- THE RED TENTACLE** 1956
When several local Chinese residents are beaten and refuse to issue formal complaints on their assailant, Sky intervenes.
- BOOMERANG** 1956
Sky King and his niece Penny turn the tables on foreign agents conspiring to blackmail an important refugee scientist.
With: Bill Kennedy.
- THE GEIGER DETECTIVE** 1956
A geiger counter plays an important part in capturing a trio of mining robbers.
With: Bill Henry.
- THE GOLDEN BURRO** 1956
A prospector, found dying in the desert beside three gold-laden burro's, and a Mexican girl are strangely related.
With: Kenne Duncan and Stanley Andrews.
- RUSTLERS ON WHEELS** 1956
A young rancher is mysteriously losing his cattle and he appeals to Sky King for help. Sky discovers that the cattle are being taken away in a truck with diamond shaped tire treads.
- THE SILVER GRAVE** 1956
A long forgotten train robber and a phony historian lead Sky King into a mystery.
With: I. Stanford Jolley and Baynes Barron.
- UNINVITED DEATH** 1956
A saboteur's time bomb brings threat of death to Sky King.
With: Mauritz Hugo.
- FISH OUT OF WATER** 1956
An escaped convict tries to kill the judge who sentenced him.
- DIAMONDS ON A SKY HOOK** 1956
Sky King devises a "Sky Hook" to pick diamonds up from an air plane.
With: Rusty Westcoatt.

- FLOOD OF FURY** 1956
Sky King braves a flood to save three men who turn out to be dangerous outlaws bent on robbing a bank.
With: John Cason and Rusty Westcoatt.
- ROCKET STORY** 1956
Sky hosts two government agents at the Flying Crown Ranch the night before a secret rocket test, but one of the men is an imposter.
With: Don Harvey and Dennis Moore.
- RODEO ROUNDUP** 1956
A mock holdup paves the way for a real holdup.
- SHOWDOWN** 1956
Sky arranges a clever showdown for horse thieves who have seriously wounded a young friend of Penny's.
With: John Cason and Dennis Moore.
- LAND O' COTTON** 1956
Sky King saves a Mexican family who are trapped by an unscrupulous farmer.
- DUST OF DESTRUCTION** 1956
Sky King solves the mystery of why a young rancher's alfalfa was sprayed with poison.
With: Bil Lechner.
- MYSTERY HORSE** 1957
A famous race horse is trapped in a canyon and Sky is forced to take drastic action to save its life.
With: Rick Vallin.
- DOUBLE TROUBLE** 1957
A man who resembles Sky steals the Songbird in an attempt to blow up a Navy missile center.
- NOTE FOR A DAM** 1958
A mad killer who is preparing to blow up a dam holds Sky and Penny captive.
With: Al Ferguson.
- BAD ACTOR** 1958
Sky and Penny go out on location with a movie production company when she becomes stage-struck.
With: Michael Carr, Fred Krone and Rusty Westcoatt.
- FIGHT FOR OIL** 1958
Sky is asked by his old friend Willie McNair for help after an attempt on the man's life.
With: Morgan Farley.
- LOST BOY** 1958
Sky is asked to help in the search for a boy whose life is in danger.
- THE BRAIN AND THE BRAWN** 1958
While investigating a crime wave at a county fair Sky and Penny encounter a sinister hypnotist.

THE FEATHERED SERPENT 1958

After a bird with an emerald attached to its leg lands in Penny's garden, Sky releases it to see where it will go.

With: Terry Frost, Audrey Anderson and Milano Kay.

CIRCUS CLOWN MYSTERY 1958

When a police bulletin describes a thief as over seven feet tall, Sky and Penny head for the circus to find him.

With: Larry Johns, Frank Scannell, Dave Tomack and Nick Nicholson.

DEAD MAN'S WILL 1958

When a man named Sam Driver claims that the land on which the clinic for poverty-stricken Indians is built belongs to him, Sky steps in to help the clinic prove him wrong.

With: Steve London, Joe Partridge and Jack George.

CINDY COMES HOME 1958

When a doctor tells Sky that the only thing that will save the life of a little girl is the return of her father, Sky sets off to find the man.

With: Darcy Hinton, Esther Furst and Bill Hudson.

RODEO DECATHLON 1958

Sky takes the place of a young man who is injured after the first event of a rodeo.

With: John Cason, Dick Elliott and Gary Clarke.

ABRACADABRA 1958

At a Hollywood party Sky and Penny meet a magician, but the fun ceases when one of the guest reports a precious diamond missing.

With: Norman Nazarr.

TRIPLE EXPOSURE 1958

When Sky and Penny try to recover a valuable stamp collection they are helped by newspaper photographer Gloria Blane.

With: Barbara Ann Knudsen, Phil Van Zandt, Sam Scar and Frank Richards.

THE HAUNTED CASTLE 1958

Sky and Penny investigate stories about a strange house.

With: Robert Roark.

MAN HUNT 1958

Sky pursues young Joe Beldon who has taken a gun and headed for Mexico, terrified because he thinks he killed another youth during a fight.

With: Richard Beymer and Gary Conway.

DANGER AT THE SAWMILL 1958

After being almost run down by a lumber truck, Sky and Penny investigate and learn that the local timber workers are being victimized.

With: Larry Scruggs, Henry Kulky, Walter Kray and Allan Nixon.

SLEIGHT OF HAND 1958

Sky and his young friend Davey fall into a trap laid by crooked gamblers in Center City.

With: Terry Kelman.

THE RUNAWAY 1958

Sky and Penny search for their friend Davey Wilson who ran away to the mountains with a gunman in pursuit.

With: Terry Kelman, Greg Palmer, Britt Wood and Bob La Varre.

STOP THE TRAIN 1958

Three men who plan to dynamite a train, capture Penny as Sky races to save her.

With: Terry Kelman and Pierre Watkin.

WILD MAN 1958

Sky and Penny try to save a man who has been attacked and left grasping a small ledge.

With: Buddy Bear and Nick Nicholson.

SKY ROBBERS 1958

Sky chases after an entrant in an air race who used the flight to escape with all the funds from the town's Community Chest.

With: Dwight Brooks.

A DOG NAMED BARNEY 1958

Barney, a seeing eye dog for a small blind boy, leads Sky to the men involved in a holdup.

With: Harvey Grant.

BULLET BAIT 1958

A wedding at the Flying Crown ranch is disrupted when two hijackers kidnap the prospective bridegroom and threaten his fiancée.

With: James Dobson and Jacquelyn Ravell.

MONEY HAS WINGS 1959

Sky poses as a security guard to find the answer to mysterious injuries to four pilots.

With: Rand Brooks, John Alvin and George Mather.

FROG MAN 1959

Sky flies to Nevada to investigate when one of his ranch hands received a phone call from Reno warning his son is in trouble.

With: Mason Alan Dinehart and Joe Moore.

TERROR CRUISE 1959

Three escaped convicts take over a cruise that Penny and some friends are on.

With: Leslie Bradley and Daria Massey.

RUNAWAY TRUCK 1959

A neighbor of Sky's, who is driving a truckload of children home from a picnic, has unwittingly taken an overdose of sleeping pills.

With: Clark Smith, Richard Clayton and Robert Dix.

BOUNTY HUNTERS 1959

Two professional hunters, hired by Sky to kill the coyote plaguing the Flying Crown cattle, are using the job as a cover for illegal activities.

With: Michael Hinn and Robert Swan.

A MICKEY FOR SKY 1959

Sky helps young Mickey, who on an airplane trip overhears a conversation pertaining to the danger of another passenger, a prominent refugee.

With: Gary Hunley and John Mylong.

DEAD GIVEAWAY

1959

Thieves guarding a large supply of stolen cars capture Sky's visitor Mickey, who has taken his new pony out for a ride.

With: Gary Hunley and Robert Clark.

RING OF FIRE

1959

Sky flies to the aid of an old Indian chief who is very ill but refuses to leave his land.

With: Jan Arvan, Clark Smith and Anthony George.


MICKEY'S BIRTHDAY

1959

Mickey becomes the unwitting tool of a pair of smugglers at an amusement park where Sky and Penny have taken him for his birthday.

With: Gary Hunley, Larry Chance and Joe Partridge.

NOTE: Titles are listed in the order they were copyrighted.



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Terry and the Pirates

Dougfair Productions by arrangement with the Chicago Tribune, New York News Syndicate, Inc. brought *Terry and the Pirates* to television as a syndicated series in 1952. John Bear, a supporting actor in *About Face* (W.B. 1952), *Mississippi Gambler* (Univ.-Int. 1953), *The Miami Story* (Col. 1954) and other feature films, starred as Terry Lee. His sidekick, Hot Shot Charlie was played by William Tracy.

Terry and Hot Shot were pilots for Air Cathay, a small air line ran by Chopstick Joe. The adventure series told of the perils faced by Terry, Hot Shot and Burma in the Orient.

Terry has gone to the Far East after inheriting an abandoned gold mine from his grandfather. There he first encounters the evil Dragon Lady. By the time the story came to television, Lai Choi San, The Dragon Lady was only a sometimes enemy as Terry and his pals fought for the rights of all.

Terry And The Pirates was based on the Milton Caniff comic strip and came to the NBC Blue Network on November 1, 1937 as a three-time-a-week radio show, however the series was dropped after two years.



In 1940 Columbia Pictures released a 15-chapter serial entitled *Terry And The Pirates*. William Tracy, who 12 years later would play Hot Shot Charlie in the television series, was cast as Terry Lee. Granville Owen appeared as Pat Ryan, assistant to Terry's father and the Dragon Lady was played by Sheila Darcy.

The serial tells of Dr. Herbert Lee going to Asia to uncover a lost civilization ruled by a warlord named Fang. Not all the natives were under the domination of the evil Fang however. Some had given their loyalty to the beautiful Dragon Lady, who Terry decided to make an alliance with in his battle against the terrible Fang and his Tiger Men.

After an on again, off again friendship with the Dragon Lady the final chapter finds the two on good terms in the temple of the god Mara. Fang has uncovered a sacred treasure, an enormous diamond, but before he can escape with it a gorilla kills the evil tyrant. The diamond is returned to the Dragon Lady and Dr. Lee is granted permission to enter the temple to study the records of the lost civilization.

In 1943 a new radio series opened on the Blue Network, spon-

sored by Quaker Oats. Once war had been declared Terry and his friends got into the fray fighting the Nazis, at times with the help of the Dragon Lady, who was then working for the Chinese.



In 1946 the rating dropped badly however. The war was over and the Dragon Lady returned to her bandit organization of pirates. Terry and his friends waged war with evil for the next two years and in 1948 the radio show was dropped.

Only eighteen episodes of *Terry And The Pirates* were filmed for

television. H. Alexander MacDonald was the executive producer of the series while Warren Lewis produced. It was syndicated by Official Films. The show ran in prime time in Los Angeles for a year with second and third repeats. While it never achieved the popularity of the radio series or the comic strip, it was still good entertainment for adventure fans in the early days of television.

TERRY AND THE PIRATES

TERRY LEE.....*John Baer*
 HOTSHOT CHARLIE.....*William Tracy*
 LAI CHOI SAN, THE DRAGON LADY.....*Gloria Saunders*
 BURMA.....*Sandra Spence*
 CHOPSTICK JOE.....*Jack Reitzen*

Dougfair Productions

BLACK MARKET FOR DEATH

1952

Terry and Hotshot fly a cargo of serum to an infected village. When they arrive they find that the nurse has been kidnapped and a black market hijacker has gained possession of the valuable drug.

BOXER'S REBELLION

1952

An unscrupulous fight promoter never pays his young Chinese fighter until Terry steps in to help the boxer.

With: Carol Thurston and Lou Nova.

CHINESE COFFIN

1952

The will of a banker states that his inheritance is collectible only after his body is delivered to Tansam. Terry flies the body to the point specified and is handed a ransom note which leads him to the Dragon Lady.

CHINESE LEGACY

1952

A Chinese boy is kidnapped after returning home to collect a legacy. Terry finds where he is being held prisoner and is also captured.

THE CO-PILOTS

1952

Terry and Hotshot accept \$500 from the Dragon Lady for delivering two gamecocks which appear harmless.

COMPOUND C-3

1952

Terry and Hotshot transport a cargo of meat which they discover is not meat, but powerful explosives which contain the secret compound C-3.

With: Keye Luke.

THE DEADLY SPECIES

1952

Terry and Hotshot pilot a cargo of large crates filled with poisonous snakes. Upon reaching their destination they discover one of the natives guarding the snakes has been murdered.

THE DIAMOND MAKER

1952

Red Irish talks Terry and Hotshot into going in on a get rich plan, but they also become victims of a murder scheme.

DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT**1952**

Terry and Hotshot meet a girl who tries to frame them for the murder of a French diplomat by planting a stolen passport in their possession.

EXTRA CARGO**1952**

Burma disguises herself in the clothes of a boy and turns up as a stowaway on an Air Cathay flight.

THE GREEN GOD**1952**

Terry and Hotshot give a lift to a Georgia peach who gets herself involved in murder, larceny and smuggling.

LITTLE MANDARIN**1952**

Terry and Hotshot are offered a bribe by Chopstick Joe and refuse until a small man with a large gun confronts them.

THE LOADED DICE AFFAIR**1952**

Chopstick Joe loses a plane and Terry and Hotshot's services in a loaded dice game with a hill bandit.

MACAO GOLD**1952**

Hotshot Charlie is flying a plane load of gold bullion when he is hijacked by Mongolian pirates.

With: Jack Kruschen, Keye Luke, Edgar Barrier and Mari Blanchard.

MAITLAND AFFAIR**1952**

A doctor is sent to China by the UN to inspect and purchase rice shipments. However, he is kidnapped and threatened unless he signs certificates for condemned rice.

THE OVERSEER**1952**

Terry and Hotshot dine at Mama Gismo's Cafe and are asked to help an old man and his beautiful daughter recover their plantation.

With: Suzanne Dalbert, Dick Reeves and Keith Richards.

THE RANDALL AFFAIR**1952**

Terry and Hotshot are hired to transport two alleged gold prospectors who actually are hunting a secret cache of World War II loot.

TEA HEE**1952**

The Dragon Lady, Burma and Chopstick Joe all seem involved in a mystery surrounding a 10-pound package of tea and a valuable emerald.

NOTE: Titles are listed in alphabetical order.

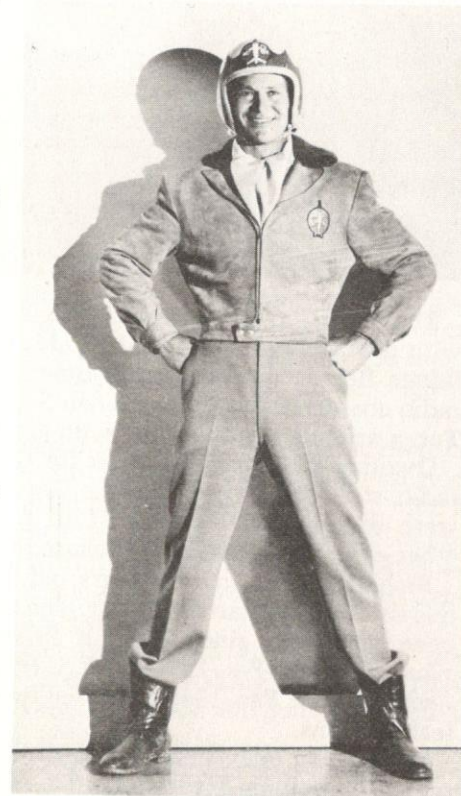
Captain Midnight

Captain Midnight was yet another product of radio's golden age that migrated to the small screen in the early 1950s. The *Captain Midnight* radio program was one of the most popular children's shows of the 1940's. It centered around the character of flying ace Captain Midnight, who had received his nickname years before when he, as Army flyer Jim Albright, returned from a dangerous mission at the stroke of 12, just in time to save the Allied cause.

The program was developed by radio station WGN in Chicago and first aired under the sponsorship of Skelly Oil in 1939. During the early years *Captain Midnight* and his friends belonged to an organization known as the *Captain Midnight* Flight Patrol, but on September 30, 1940 the program went to the Mutual Radio Network under a new sponsor, Ovaltine. At this point the Flight Patrol was superseded by an organization known as the Secret Squadron. As the story unfolded, *Captain Midnight* was asked by the U.S. Government to head up this special new organization whose mission it is to assist federal authorities in fighting crime throughout the world.

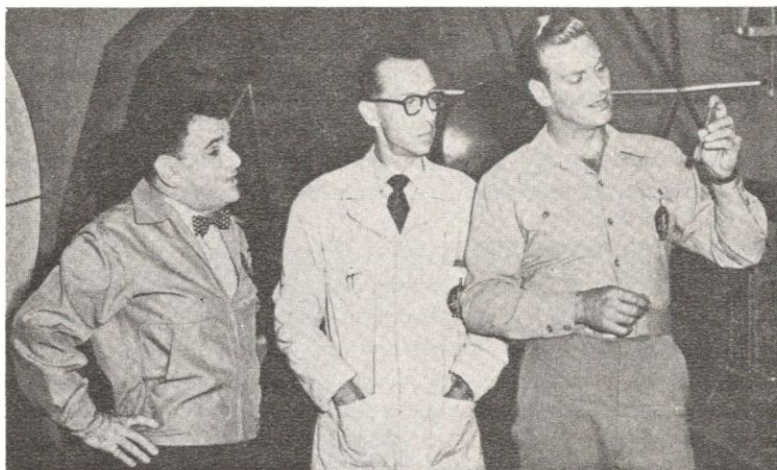
In 1942 *Captain Midnight* came to the motion picture screen as a 15-episode serial from Columbia Pictures. Dave O'Brien played *Captain Midnight* with Dorothy Short as Joyce, Guy Wilkerson as Ichabod, Sam Edwards as Chuck and James Craven as his inevitable foe, Ivan Shark.

The radio version of *Captain Midnight* left the



air on December 15, 1949, but the program spawned a television series that came to the CBS network in the fall of 1954. The program was produced by Screen Gems, a division of Columbia Pictures, who had made the *Captain Midnight* serial 12 years before.

A press release at the time stated, "The imaginative adventure series finds *Captain Midnight* on the side of law and order. He is not a member of any particular organization but rather he is at the beck and call of all law enforcement agencies. The stories have no geographical bounds and most scripts veer towards the scientific. As a do-gooder the captain can go anywhere at any time. He travels by jet, of course."



The television series starred Richard Webb as *Captain Midnight* with Sid Melton as Ichabod Mudd. Chuck Ramsey, played by Renee Beard, appeared from time to time, but the rest of the radio characters were gone. Olan Soule was added to the cast as Tut, a scientist who worked with *Captain Midnight*.

Ovaltine sponsored the show for the network run as it had on radio, still offering premiums to young viewers. These premiums were always available by mail for a small sum plus a boxtop or other evidence of having purchased the sponsors' product.

Richard Webb was 39 years old when the *Captain Midnight* television series started filming. The Bloomington, Ill., native had been on screen since 1941 in *Sullivan's Travels* (Par.-1941), *I Wanted Wings* (Par.-1941), *O.S.S.* (Par.-1946), *The Night Had A Thousand Eyes* (Par.-1948), *Sands of Iwo Jima* (Par. 1949) and other feature films.

Webb's big television shot in the arm came in 1950 when he replaced an ailing actor and did a 15-minute vignette with actor

Herbert Marshal on the *Ken Murray Show*. The following day CBS brass signed him as their "new leading man." During the next couple of years he appeared in five episodes of *Lights Out*, two *Suspense*, six episodes of *The Web*, three Studio One, two *Broadway TV Theatre* and one episode of *Philco Playhouse*, all broadcast live from New York.

Webb recently said, "In 1954 a poll was taken that showed the character of *Captain Midnight* was the No. 1 hero of America's youth followed by President Eisenhower, Duke Snider and a young man just breaking into show business by the name of Elvis Presley."

The series was so popular even the police were members of the *Captain Midnight's Secret Squadron*.

"In 1955," Webb recalled, "I was appearing at the Sportsman Show in Hartford, Connecticut and during my talk with the fans from the center arena I would ask boys and girls when was 'the last time you said hello to the policeman in your neighborhood? They are the best friends you have outside your own home.'" The following morning the Chief of Police came to my room, asked if he could have some of the Secret Squadron stick-on plastic patches which I was giving out. 'How many, Chief?' 'How about two hundred?' 'Two hundred! What for?' 'You'll find out.' From then on during the balance of the week every uniformed police officer in Hartford wore the SQ emblem on his left breast pocket! The chief explained, 'That is the least we can do for you for what you are doing for us.' "

The 39 episodes of *Captain Midnight* were rerun several times over a span of four years until the series left the network in 1958. It's syndicated title was *Jet Jackson, Flying Commando*. By over dubbing the voice, the name *Captain Midnight* was changed to *Jet Jackson*. Ovaltine owned and reserved the rights to the original name.

Reruns of *Captain Midnight/Jet Jackson* aren't being shown in the United States at this time, but *Jet Jackson* recently completed its third run in Australia. Lucky people over there.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I recently received a letter and had an enjoyable phone conversation with Richard Webb. Mr. Webb is involved in a number of projects at present, two of which all *Captain Midnight* fans will find interesting.

Round Table Publishers will be coming out with a book on *Captain Midnight* next year. It's titled "The Making of a Hero, 1954 Style" and was written by Webb. The book will contain 314 stills and will be a "must" for all nostalgia buffs.

The second project is a new *Captain Midnight* script also written by Mr. Webb. Interplanetary Productions is handling the new

movie or series, whichever it turns out to be.

In describing the series Webb says, "It's my idea that *Captain Midnight* will be presented as the older guy that you younger people come to for help and advice. Like Lorne Greene in *Bonanza*. He'll be back there in the lab, letting the young people handle the action, but he'll still have the old glint in his eye."

It would help to get sponsors interested if the fans would write Mr. Edward Gold, Vice President, Interplanetary Productions Inc., 14225 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 92403, telling him how much you would like to see a new *Captain Midnight* series with Richard Webb.

Richard Webb is looking for episodes of *Captain Midnight* and *U.S. Border Patrol* on tape (Beta) or 16mm film. He's also looking for a copy of the 1948 Paramount picture, *Isn't It Romantic*."

If any of you have features or TV shows in which Mr. Webb appeared and would like to share them with him, drop him a note in care of J-BELL Enterprises, P.O. Box 202, Toulon, IL 61483 and we will forward your letter. I am sure he would be happy to hear from you and would autograph a picture if you ask. If you do ask for an autographed still, why not enclose a couple of dollars for postage? Remember, Mr. Webb doesn't have a studio behind him at this time and the cost of pictures and postage come out of his pocket.



From **The Invisible Terror** (L to R) Fred Krone, Richard Webb, Olan Soule, Mel Wells, Sid Melton and Jarl Victor.

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT *Richard Webb*
 ICHABOD (ICKKY) MUDD *Sid Melton*
 TUT *Olan Soule*
 CHUCK RAMSEY *Renee Beard*

Screen Gems (A Division of Columbia Pictures)

MURDER BY RADIATION **September 4, 1954**

A fragment of high radioactive element is stolen from the laboratory of the discoverer and Captain Midnight is called in to find it.

ELECTRONIC KILLER **September 11, 1954**

The inventor of a powerful guided rocket fails to show up at the Army's proving ground. Captain Midnight and Ickky search for him.

DEADLY DIAMONDS **September 18, 1954**

Captain Midnight, his pal Ickky and Tut apprehend the smugglers of thousands of dollars in diamonds as they try to escape across the Mexican border.

LOST MOON **September 25, 1954**

Captain Midnight carries on a murdered space scientist's work in outer space only to find himself with a crazed killer.

DEATH BELOW ZERO **October 2, 1954**

One of the Secret Squadron members brings his pet dog to Captain Midnight, complaining that it has been poisoned by bad meat.

OPERATION FAILURE **October 9, 1954**

Captain Midnight is assigned by the government to undertake the top secret mission of flying behind the iron curtain to rescue the leader of the people's underground.

TRAPPED BEHIND BARS **October 16, 1954**

With the aid of a homemade indicator, Captain Midnight informs Tut of a prison break.

COUNTERFEIT MILLIONS **October 23, 1954**

Captain Midnight is faced with trying to solve the mystery of counterfeit money which is flooding the country from some place in the mid-west.

WALKING GHOST **October 30, 1954**

Captain Midnight gets a frantic call from one of his Secret Squadron members that a ghost is trying to kill her.

SECRET OF THE JUNGLE **November 6, 1954**

When Captain Midnight and Ickky join their partner, Tut in deepest Africa, they immediately become involved in an uprising of the natives after Mugu, the god of peace has been stolen from its sacred temple.

SABOTAGE UNDER THE SEA**November 14, 1954**

Captain Midnight goes to the bottom of the ocean in search of a missile that mysteriously disappeared.

ISLE OF MYSTERY**November 20, 1954**

Captain Midnight flies to a lonely island to rescue a young girl who is being held captive by a renegade white man.

CURSE OF THE PHARAOHS**November 27, 1954**

Captain Midnight and Ickky fly to Cairo at the urgent request of Eve Gamble, daughter of a famous archaeologist who has disappeared while digging for the tomb of an ancient Pharaoh.

With: Sheila Ryan, George Eldredge and Frank Lackteen.

DESERTERS**December 4, 1954**

Captain Midnight solves the problem that revolves around one of the most dangerous bank robbers in history.

With: Harry Lauter, Henry Rowland and Rusty Westcott.

ELECTRIFIED MAN**December 11, 1954**

Professor Berglund, a friend of Captain Midnight, is trying to perfect an electronic machine which will immunize humans to radioactive dust which causes instantaneous death.

YOUNG CRIMINAL**December 18, 1954**

Captain Midnight discovers that teenage Tommy Venters has fallen into the grip of Big Vic, an ex-pug, whose poolroom is a front for his criminal activities.

DEADLY PROJECT**December 25, 1954**

Professor Morgan, a friend of Captain Midnight, is in danger when Vronik, a mad scientist, destroys an experiment to be used by the Air Force.

With: Pierre Watkin and Phillip Van Zandt.

TOUCHDOWN TERROR**January 1, 1955**

A young football player almost falls prey to a scheme to throw a game because of the need for an operation for his sister.

TOP SECRET WEAPON**January 8, 1955**

A young boy working for enemy agents seeks refuge with a scientist who is building the world's most destructive weapon. The boy, while photographing the weapon almost sets it off, but is rescued by Captain Midnight.

With: Gregory Gay.

THE HUMAN BOMB**January 15, 1955**

Captain Midnight and Judge Bell are instrumental in sending the mad scientist Volmer to jail after which he attempts to gain revenge.

MARK OF DEATH**January 22, 1955**

Captain Midnight flies to Calcutta to stop an uprising and to end a reign of terror threatening India's independence.

ARCTIC AVALANCE**January 29, 1955**

Captain Midnight and Ickky are tricked into flying over a restricted area so that enemy agents can obtain vital information about radar installations. The two agents escape, but Captain Midnight is caught in an avalanche.

MYSTERY OF THE FOREST**February 5, 1955**

Captain Midnight and Ickky discover a plot to treat wood as a basis for an explosive, which will guarantee world domination, but before they can capture the gang they are threatened by death.

THE INVISIBLE TERROR**February 12, 1955**

Captain Midnight learns of a plot to destroy an eastern city by planting a deadly virus aboard a ship approaching the east coast.

With: George Eldredge.

SABOTEURS OF THE SKY**February 19, 1955**

Captain Midnight goes to the bottom of the ocean in search of a missile that mysteriously disappeared.

PERIL FROM THE ARCTIC**February 26, 1955**

Captain Midnight and Ickky are caught in a trap by Doctor Morelli who has invented an anti-magnetic force which can render helpless any magnet.

— ★ —

NOTE: Re-runs were shown on the network for the next eight months.

— ★ —

SECRET ROOM**October 29, 1955**

Captain Midnight foils a swami's fake seance and breaks up a plot to steal a vital scientific discovery.

With: Arlene Harris.

MISSION TO MEXICO**November 5, 1955**

Captain Midnight and Ickky, disguised as radio repairmen, search for a secret radio that is sending messages to a foreign power.

FROZEN MAN**November 12, 1955**

A nuclear scientist, working on a process to reach Absolute Cold, disappears. When Captain Midnight begins a search for the man he finds a field of ice in the desert.

DOCTOR'S OF DOOM**November 19, 1955**

When Captain Midnight's geiger counter registers large amounts of radioactivity in a sanitarium, he finds that Red agents are at the head of the institution, and holding an atomic scientist prisoner, forcing him to build an atomic pile.

SUNKEN SAPPHIRES**November 26, 1955**

Captain Midnight is commissioned to find a sunken ship containing the body of a girl's grandfather and a fortune in diamonds.

With: Frank Richards, Henry Rowland, Hank Patterson and Donna Drew.

MASTER CRIMINAL**December 3, 1955**

Hoping to get hold of the plans Captain Midnight has developed for a new jet engine, a known criminal succeeds in gaining entrance to Midnight's headquarters by pretending he wishes to surrender.

SECRET OF SUPERSTITION MOUNTAINS**December 10, 1955**

While exploring the Superstition Mountains of Arizona for a uranium substitute, Captain Midnight discovers a famous lost gold mine.

With: William Fawcett, John Pickard and Charles Stevens.

MOUNTAIN OF FIRE

December 17, 1955

When Captain Midnight and Ickky go to a strange mountain to investigate unusual happenings they find a brilliant engineer who is converting volcanic energy into electric power.

JUNGLE PIT

December 24, 1955

Captain Midnight and his friends are flying to a Pacific island where they hope to convince the Japanese father of one of the group to surrender, informing him that the war between the U.S. and Japan is over, but their plane is forced down in the jungle.

FLIGHT INTO THE UNKNOWN

December 31, 1955

A banker appropriates two million dollars and disappears. The man's daughter employs Captain Midnight to investigate the strange case.

RUNAWAY SUITCASE

January 7, 1956

A policeman, accused of stealing a suitcase, is forced to resign from the force.

MILLION DOLLAR DIAMOND

January 14, 1956

A young boy's observation of his father's strange actions, and lapses of memory leads Captain Midnight to uncover a plot of robbery.

HUMAN BULLET

January 21, 1956

Captain Midnight has a brush with death when he uncovers a sabotage plot against the inventor of an atomic sled which killed one man in an 800 m.p.h. test run.

NOTE: Reruns were shown on the network until the series left CBS.

Steve Canyon

Steve Canyon was Milton Caniff's second comic strip to appear on the home screen. *Terry and the Pirates*, in 1952, had been the first. Canyon was a command pilot for the Air Force and traveled around the country for the first nine episodes of the series. With the show of January 3, 1959, "Operation Big Thunder", Lt. Col. Canyon became commanding officer of Big Thunder Air Force Base in California and the series acquired a regular supporting cast.

Steve Canyon first appeared as a comic strip in 1947. Two years later a short lived radio series was syndicated with Barry Sullivan playing Canyon, an air charter pilot for hire to anyone with money.

When the first of the 34 half hour, black and white films came to NBC television on September 13, 1958 actor Dean Fredericks was starring as *Steve Canyon*. The series lasted for a year on NBC and was canceled in September of 1959. In April of 1960 ABC aired reruns of the original NBC shows until September of that year.

Dean Fredericks, 35 years old when *Steve Canyon* went into production, started his acting career after being discharged from the Army in 1946. A sergeant with The First Cavalry Division in World War II, he was wounded while serving in the Pacific. Fredericks studied acting on the G.I. Bill and was in over 100 television shows (cast as an Indian in many of them because of his high cheek bones) and some features including Walt Disney's *Light in the Forest* (1958) before Pegasus Productions cast him as *Steve Canyon*.

In a 1958 interview Fredericks said, "When I finally met David Haft, the producer of *Steve Canyon*, my hair had grown out a little from my part in *Light in the Forest*, but was still short. He had seen me on a television show and thought I'd be good for Steve. I also had to get an okay from Milt Caniff, who created the comic strip from which our show is taken. It all happened fast. I did a scene for David one day and the next I was shooting the first of the series.

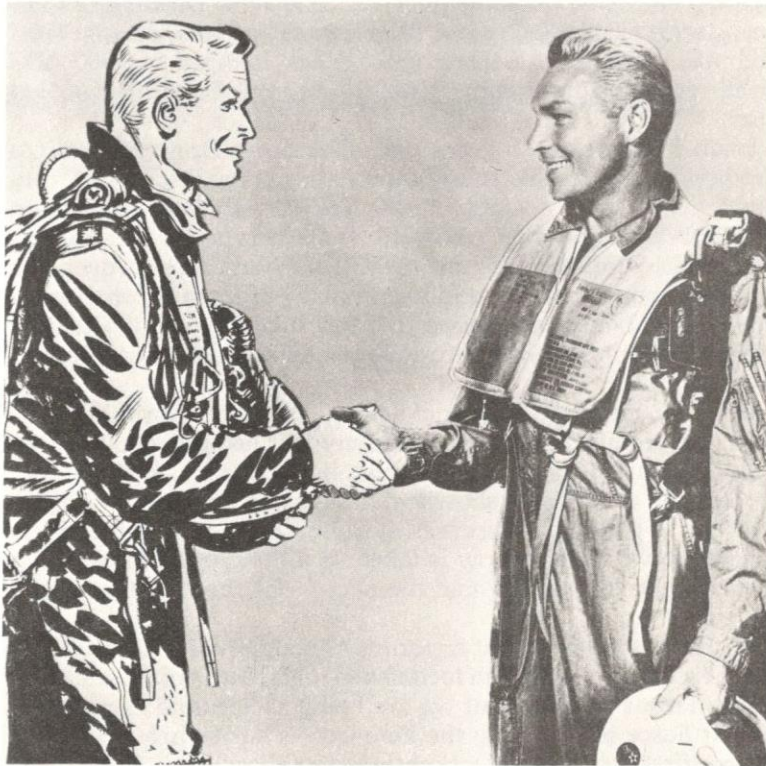
"So far it's been a great experience, making *Steve Canyon*. The toughest part has been the technical details. Some of the dialogue is murderous to learn, but we are being as accurate as possible. An Air Force officer from the Pentagon is our technical advisor. On our first show we did a slightly fictionalized story, but a Chief Test Pilot I knew had seen it, along with some of his fellow test pilots. All agreed that the material in the show was about 90 per-

cent true and that it was a good training film in many respects.

"The Air Force has already revealed several top secret projects on our shows and almost every one we film brings forth some new technical development."

The Air Force supplied unreleased footage of scientific equipment such as X-15 test flights and ICBM lift-offs to Pegasus Productions and in return Dean Fredericks "sold" the Air Force as he made trips around the country to dedicate hangars, make "official" appearances and help with recruiting drives. On these missions he wore the official uniform with complete Air Force approval. This worked well for both the producers of *Steve Canyon* and the Air Force.

Steve Canyon wasn't the best series on television, but it wasn't the worst either. The show is no longer in syndication and the episodes are hard to find, so they are very much sought after by collectors on both 16mm film and video tape..



STEVE CANYON

LT. COL. STEVENSON B. CANYON *Dean Fredericks*
POLICE CHIEF HAGEDORN *Ted De Corsia*
MAJOR WILLIAM WILLISTON *Jerry Paris*
AIRMAN ABEL FEATHERSTONE *Abel Fernandez*
SERGEANT CHARLEY BERGER *Robert Hoy*
INGRID *Ingrid Goude*

Pegasus Productions

OPERATION TOWLINE

September 13, 1958

Steve is working on a dangerous mission to develop an antimissile system of towing Convair F-102 jet fighters from a "mother" KB-50 tanker. The "chick" saves fuel for the vital business of intercepting the enemy missile.

With: Harry Townes, Susan Alexander, Paul Frees and Morgan Woodward

OPERATION THUNDERBIRDS

September 20, 1958

Steve takes charge of re-educating a "hot-shot" team of devil-may-care flyboys to basic Air Force principles. Canyon brings the flamboyant playboys back to proper perspective.

With: Larry Pennell, Ronnie Knox and Burt Metcalfe

OPERATION ZERO LAUNCH

September 27, 1958

Steve is assigned to aid his friend, a test pilot, in a hazardous project to launch F-100 Super Sabres from mobile platforms with rocket boosters. When the man is injured, Steve agrees to fly the plane so that experiments can continue.

With: Ward Wood, Marion Ross, Doro Merande and Nelson Leigh

PROJECT HEARTBEAT

October 4, 1958

Steve Canyon and his friend Major Pitch Hammer prepare for an around the world flight in jet fighters. The planes have been outfitted to transmit electronically the brainwaves and hear reactions of the two pilots.

With: Russell Johnson, Jaclyn Scott and John Doucette

OPERATION JETTISON

October 11, 1958

There's king-size trouble for Steve Canyon when his passengers become hysterical after the plane develops engine trouble.

With: Sue Randall and Tige Andrews

OPERATION SURVIVAL

October 25, 1958

Canyon is accidentally thrown out of a plane while observing a training jump by Air Force paramedics. While Canyon parachutes to safety, the drill master bails out in an effort to help him and fractures his leg on landing. The two men find themselves in wild mountain country miles from civilization.

With: Eddie Firestone, Frank Gerstle, Fred Eisley and Buck Young

FEAR OF FLYING**November 1, 1958**

A pilot who had received many commendations during his time in service is court martialled for reckless flying and negligence. The pilot asks for Steve Canyon to defend him.

With: Phillip Abbott, Donald Freed, Tom Middleton and Robert De Coag

OPERATION MOBY DICK**November 8, 1958**

Canyon is given the responsibility of transporting the first Atlas missile to Cape Canaveral for launching.

With: Barry Atwater, Karl Lukas, Frank Bella and Ernest Brown

OPERATION B-52**November 15, 1958**

Canyon and his crew attempt to set a new around the world non-stop speed record in a B-52. When the plane takes off from Morocco, Ben Rasen, a newsman who hates servicemen is aboard.

With: Richard Anderson, John Compton, Tom Greenway, Sylvia Leeds and Roxanne Berard

OPERATION MUSHROOM**November 29, 1958**

Steve Canyon is assigned to pilot the plane that drops a test H-bomb.

With: Grandon Rhodes, Sam Edwards and Larry Thor

OPERATION CRASH LANDING**December 6, 1958**

When a jet bomber is traveling from Brazil to California, one of Canyon's crew becomes ill. A doctor on board diagnoses the illness as spinal meningitis and tells Canyon the sick man must have medical attention immediately. But Steve has some trouble with the landing gear and hesitates to crash land the jet.

With: William Schallert, Nick Adams, George Brenlin and Sandy Kenyon

PILOT ERROR**December 13, 1958**

Steve Canyon investigates a jet plane crash in which the pilot was killed. The cause of the crash appears to be an error on the part of the pilot. Urged by the dead pilot's father who wishes to clear his son's name, Steve decides to investigate further.

With: Robert F. Simon, Paul Maxwell, Paul Langton, Parley Baer, Barney Phillips and Douglas Henderson

THE GIFT**December 20, 1958**

Flying a group of children from an orphanage and displaced persons camp to spend Christmas with servicemen's families in Germany, Steve finds a little girl who has never celebrated Christmas. He explains the meaning of the holiday to her.

With: Sean McClory, Barbara Beaird, William Bryant, Celia Lovsky and Trudi Ziskind

OPERATION DIPLOMAT**December 27, 1958**

Steve Canyon is transporting an American diplomat from Istanbul to Paskistan. He is forced to land his plane just outside of friendly territory.

With: Oliver McGowan, Joanna Barnes, Barlett Robinson, Robert Patton and Eddie Ryder

OPERATION BIG THUNDER**January 3, 1959**

Canyon arrives at Big Thunder Air Force Base and is immediately confronted with a major problem. Local residents have refused to accept the air men and as a result, morale on the base is low.

With: Ken Lynch

OPERATION NOSE WHEEL**January 8, 1959**

Steve Canyon is making a routine flight bringing engineer Ed Tuttle to Big Thunder Air Force Base. As Steve begins his landing approach, he notices that his nose wheel has not lowered. Canyon realizes he must risk a crash landing.

With: Lamont Johnson

THE SEARCH**January 15, 1959**

At the request of his friend, State Senator Smith, Steve Canyon searches for industrialist Peter Brenton whose plane was reported missing by his wife.

With: Hayden Rorke, Walter Fraff, Jeanette Nolan and Charles Hoy.

THE PRISONER**January 22, 1959**

Canyon flies to New Guinea where he is shown a pair of Army dog tags which belonged to a flier listed as missing during World War II. Steve sets out to investigate, taking the native who found the tags along with him.

With: James Griffith, Morris Erby, Teru Shimada, Karl Swenson and Lilli Kardell

OPERATION SOUVENIR**January 29, 1959**

Before leaving Taipei Canyon purchases a carved wooden monkey from an eager peddler. Back at Big Thunder Air Force Base, Canyon finds that the wooden carving has placed an Air Force nurse and himself in danger.

With: Elena Verdugo, Jay Novello, Oliver Cliff and Tony Travis

THE FIGHT**February 5, 1959**

A prize fighter training at Big Thunder for a championship fight gives a sparring partner an unmerciful beating. Airman Featherstone, a former professional boxer, decides to provoke the vicious fighter into a grudge match.

With: Read Morgan and Joyce Taylor

THE ROBBERY**February 19, 1959**

Canyon and Major Willy Williston are kidnapped by three men who take over their plane. The captors plan to rob the Penrose Air Base bank, use the plane for their getaway and bail out over Mexico leaving Canyon and Williston tied up aboard the plane.

With: Gavin MacLeod, Vito Scotti, Jack Weston, Yvonne Preble and Mary (Tyler) Moore

BLACKMAIL**February 26, 1959**

Canyon and Police Chief Hagedorn investigate the death of the wife of a Big Thunder Airman. The woman was a Czechoslovakian war bride who was victimized in a blackmail scheme.

With: Narda Onyx

OPERATION STRIKE FORCE**March 5, 1959**

Canyon and the men at Big Thunder take part in an exciting training exercise called Operation Strike Force, in which a jet unit is sent to a split-second mid-Atlantic rendezvous with another squadron.

IRON CURTAIN

March 12, 1959

Arriving for a visit with a little girl, Canyon learns that she has been kidnapped by Red agents. The kidnappers will release the girl if her father, a Hungarian underground leader, is turned over to them.

With: Barbara Beaird, Celia Lovsky, Karl Swenson, Eric Feldary, Warner Klemperer and Konstantin Shayne

THE SERGEANT

March 26, 1959

Airman Pete Randal's transfer to the Air Force Academy is jeopardized by a disagreement with the Sergeant over a girl and Steve Canyon intervenes.

With: Ron Ely

OPERATION INTERCEPT

March 31, 1959

A freak accident kills the pilot and co-pilot of a B-47 bomber while the plane is in flight, and the plane heads for the USSR on automatic pilot. Canyon tries to intercept the plane and determine whether the third crew member is alive or dead.

THE MULLER STORY

April 7, 1959

The only information available about this episode is that a young airman is torn between two loyalties.

THE BOMB

April 14, 1959

On a practice bombing mission, Canyon encounters difficulties and is forced to drop a small bomb on a disposal area. The bomb doesn't explode and is picked up by two youngsters who saw it drop.

With: John Anderson, Virginia Christine and Dabbs Green

THE TRAP

April 21, 1959

Major Williston plane crashes, trapping him inside, and Steve races against time to free him before the aircraft explodes.

THE KOREAN STORY

April 28, 1959

Captain Dennis Parker flies a plane to Big Thunder Air Base, arriving in a state of shock and talking about the Korean War. Canyon and flight surgeon Major Richmond try to find out what caused Parker to go into shock.

With: Wynn Pearre and William Schallert

ROOM 313

May 5, 1959

The only information available about this episode is that an Indian ruler visits the air base.

OPERATION UFO

May 19, 1959

There is no information available about this episode at this time.

SABOTAGE

May 26, 1959

Steve Canyon investigates when a saboteur posing as a jet pilot trainee tries to sabotage planes on the air base.

OPERATION FIREBEE

June 2, 1959

The only information available about this episode is that it is about the fate of "Little Looey", a guided missile.

NOTE: Network re-runs were shown until the series left NBC.

The Golden Years of RADIO & TV



BEST WISHES FOR THE SEASON

From Ron & Linda Downey;
Joe & Annie Webb;
and Bob Burnham.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Jimmie Grier;
Hans Conried;
Humphrey Bogart on Radio;
Frances Langford;
Andy Griffith;
Radio Cliffhangers;
and more.



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