



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

Janet Waldo

By Stewart Wright © 2002

The many voices of actress Janet Waldo are familiar to generations of Americans. This incredibly talented lady is not only a veteran of the Golden Age of Radio, but also has been and continues to be one of the busiest voice actresses in cartoons and animated features.

When you first meet Janet, you are impressed by her incredible energy. This lady is a dynamo!

Radio

Station KOMO in Seattle gave her a start in radio: a commercial for a flour company. She also did Little Theater in the Seattle and was "discovered" by another Washingtonian, Bing Crosby. At the same time, she was signed to a motion picture contract by Paramount Pictures. Her first appearance on a national radio program was with Edward G. Robinson.

Janet starred in the title role of radio's *Meet Corliss Archer*; a series based on a Broadway play, "Kiss and Tell." She wasn't the first actress to play *Corliss*. The show's producers weren't satisfied with the actress who first played the role, they

thought her portrayal wasn't energetic enough. They auditioned Janet and found the energy they were looking for in her performance.

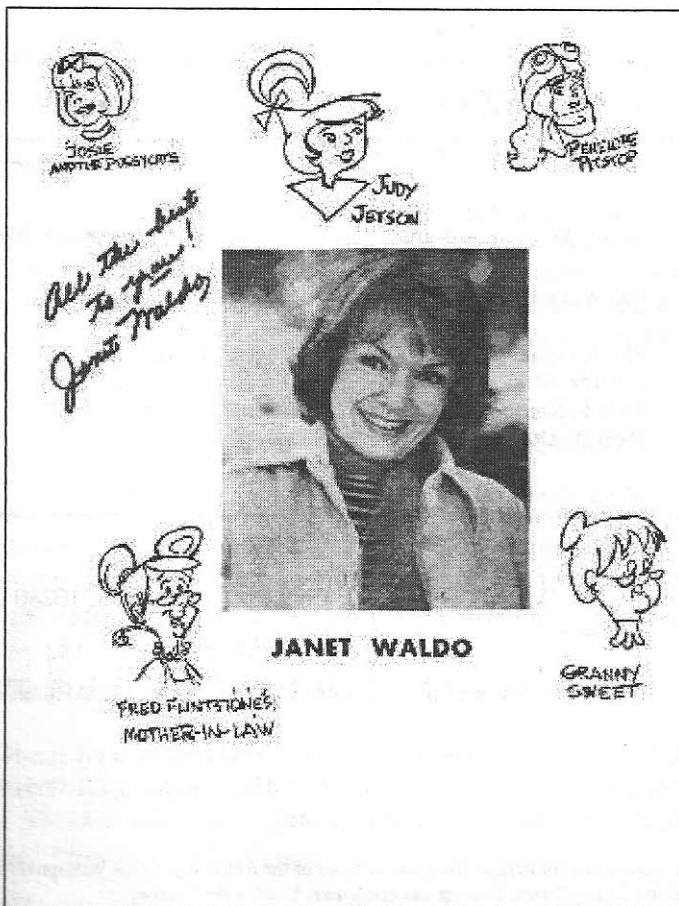
There was an unusual requirement that came with the *Corliss* role. She had to dress like a teenager when she was performing in front of the show's studio audience.

In addition to *Meet Corliss Archer*, Janet had many starring and featured roles. She had the lead female roles in the series *Lady of the Press - Sandra Martin* as Sandra and *Young Love* as Janet. There were many prominent

roles in series such as: *Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet* as Emmy Lou, *Charlotte Greenwood Show* as Barbara Barton, *Eddie Bracken Show* as Eddie's girlfriend, *The Fabulous Dr. Tweedy* as Mary Potts, *Gallant Heart* as Jennifer Lake, *The Mel Torme Show* as Mel's girlfriend, and *Whispering Streets* as the narrator. For a short time, she played nurse Judy on *Dr. Christian*.

Some fans may not know that Janet had a recurring role on *One Man's Family*. Her character, Irene Franklin, was married to Clifford Barbour, but was killed in a car crash 3 1/2 years later. Irene was one of many characters to be "killed off" on the long-running series. Janet learned of Irene's fate from her father, who was a big fan of the series.

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RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

PO BOX 1908, Englewood CO 80150 (303) 761-4139 - Dedicated to the preservation of old-time radio programs,
and to making those programs available to our members

Old-Time Radio is Alive and Well in Colorado!

KEZW 1430 AM	"When Radio Was", with Stan Frieberg	Weekdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
KFKA 1310 AM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:00 - 12:00 PM
KRMA TV Channel 6	Secondary Audio Program (SAP), "Tribute to OTR"	Sunday, 2:00 PM
KUVO 89.3 FM	"Destination Freedom"	9:00 PM

RHAC WEB SITE <http://www.rhac.org>

RHAC OTR WEB PAGE <http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>

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	Herb Duniven	4184 S. Syracuse St. Denver, CO 80237		
Directors at Large:	David L. Michael, Herb Duniven and Dick King			

LIBRARIES

Reference Material:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503	Denver, CO 80227	(303) 986-9863
Logs & Scripts:	Fred Hinz	c/o RHAC PO Box 1908	Englewood, CO 80150	
Open Reel Tape:	Maletha King	900 W. Quincy Ave.	Englewood, CO 80110	
Ccassette Tape:				
#1 (1-499)	Ron Gallagher	888 S. Dexter #607	Denver, CO 80246	(303) 692-0531
#2 (500-999)	David Gatch	PO Box 70	Glen Haven, CO 80532	(970) 577-0805
#3 (1000-2000)	Dave Logan	5557 S. Sherman Cir.	Littleton, CO 80121	(303) 730-1430
#4 (5001-up)	Mika Rhoden	3950 W. Dartmouth Ave.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 937-9476
CD Library:	Ron Gallagher	888 S. Dexter #607	Denver, CO 80246	(303) 692-0531

Convention Schedules

17th Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention April 11 – 12, 2003; Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042 (859) 282-0333 haradio@hotmail.com

REPS Showcase in Seattle, June 26 - 29, 2003 We're told there's more info to follow ... Stay tuned!

The Friends of Old-time Radio 28th Annual Convention Oct 23 – 26, 2003 at the Holiday Inn-North, Newark, NJ. Our web site will keep you up to date. For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 email: JayHick@aol.com, web site: <http://www.lofcom.com/nostalgia/fotr>

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March, 2003

Janet also appeared in many top-rated radio series including: *The Camel Screen Guild Players*, *Cavalcade of America*, *Mayor of the Town*, *Four-Star Playhouse*, *Lux Radio Theatre*, *NBC Theater*, *My Favorite Husband*, *Screen Director's Playhouse*, *Silver Theatre*, and *Stars Over Hollywood*. On a *Lux* episode with Bob Hope, the comedian added so many ad-libs, that public service announcement Janet was supposed to present was cut short. When Frank Sinatra was at his height as a teen heartthrob, she got to play a teenager named Tina to whom Sinatra sang "Let Me Call You Sweetheart."

Work in the Golden Age of Radio helped Janet develop her acting skills. She has mentioned that, "A live audience was a wonderful way to learn timing."

Her husband was radio writer and producer and playwright Robert E. Lee, who with partner Jerome Lawrence, wrote the plays "Inherit The Wind", "Auntie Mame", and "Ten Days That Shook The World." Lee and Lawrence also wrote for and/or produced the radio series *The Halls of Ivy*, *Railroad Hour*, *Young Love*, and *Favorite Story*. Two memorable radio acting highlights for Janet were episodes of *Favorite Story* - "Green Mansions" and "Wuthering Heights."

Janet has continued to act on radio. She has appeared on *Heartbeat Theater*, *Sears Radio Theater*, and *CBS Radio Mystery Theater*. Janet has made many appearances on the contemporary radio series *Adventures In Odyssey* as Joanne Woodston Allen and Maureen Hodges. She is also a member of the *California Artists Radio Theatre (CART)*.

When Janet was asked about the demands of radio on an actor, she replied, "I didn't think radio was ever demanding. You didn't have to worry about the camera angle. In radio, you had this wonderful, forgiving microphone and the marvelous audience. I absolutely loved radio, it was much more fun than T.V."

Cartoons and Television

As the Golden Age of Radio came to an end, Janet found another venue for her voice talents, cartoons. In the last 40 years, she has appeared in dozens of animated series. Her extensive credits in animation include doing the voices for everything from the futuristic teenager Judy Jetson on *The Jetsons*, to the slinky "Morticia" and the cackling "Grandmama" on *The Addams Family*. Other familiar Waldo characters are Fred Flintstone's mother-in-law on *The Flintstones*, rock musician Josie in *Josie and the Pussycats*, heroine Penelope Pitstop in *The Perils of Penelope Pitstop*, and the 80 year-old, motorcycle-riding Granny Sweet. She has also done several episodes of the contemporary animated series *King of the Hill*.

Janet's animated feature films credits include *The Jetsons Meet the Flintstones*, *Once Upon a Forest*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Trouble with Miss Switch*, *Heidi's Song*, *The Man Called Flintstone*, *The Return of*

Jafar, and *Fantastic Planet*. In the Hanna-Barbera's productions of *Alice In Wonderland* (aka *What's a Nice Kid Like You Doing in a Place Like This?*) and the sequel, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, she played Alice. She furnished the voice of Princess Serena opposite actor/producer Gene Kelly in the live action/animated television feature *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

During an interview she was asked, "How much was working for Hanna-Barbera like the old days of radio?" Janet said, "I think that's why I love cartoons so much, because it reminded me of radio." However, she does miss the audience contact that was common in radio productions.

Her voice-acting resume also includes work with Disney. For the long-running *Carousel of Progress* attraction, Janet provided the voice of the Grandmother.

Janet's non-animated television work include appearances on *The F.B.I.*, *Get Smart*, *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Valentine's Day*, *Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet*, and *Petticoat Junction*. In the classic *I Love Lucy* episode "Young Fans" Janet was featured as Peggy Dawson, the lovesick bobby-soxer who had a crush on Ricky Ricardo. Her good friend Richard Crenna was also featured in that episode as the teen-age boy who was infatuated with Lucy.

Movies

She appeared in over 20 non-animated feature films including "Silver Stallion," "The Farmer's Daughter," "Waterloo Bridge," and "What a Life." One motion picture in which she appeared had a definite radio connection; "The Gracie Allen Murder Case" in which Gracie works with sleuth Philo Vance to solve a murder.

Her Hero

Does Janet have a hero? Definitely, it's Janet's late husband, Robert E. Lee. She said, "I admired him for his joy, his optimism, his intelligence, his incredible talent and his infectious sense of humor." She performed in the *CART* adaptation of her husband's last work, "The Lost Letters of Robert E. Lee," a story about the famous Civil War general. The radio play was narrated by Janet and Robert's long-time friend Norman Corwin.

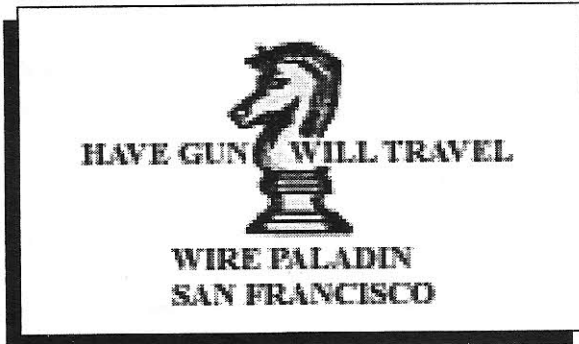
An Actress and Her Craft

I have been lucky to observe and listen as Janet and Sam Edwards recreated their Corliss and Dexter roles from *Meet Corliss Archer* at recent Old-Time Radio conventions. At the mike, they are once again Corliss and Dexter and carry the audience back to the world of two teenagers in a much simpler time.

Have Gun-Will Travel

by Jack Richards © March 2002

Please read the following article carefully. You will be tested! At the conclusion you will be asked a single question, "What was Paladin's first name?" Your answer will constitute 50% of your grade.



Webster defines "paladin" as a knightly supporter of a medieval prince. With that concept in mind, Sam Rolf and Herb Meadows in 1957 created a new successful western TV show. Richard Boone was featured as Paladin, a black clad knight in cowboy boots.

Paladin was a cultured gentleman, a West Point Graduate, a woman chaser, an ex-officer from the Union Army, and a gun-for-hire. Paladin, assisted by his Bellhop friend, Heyboy, searched the newspapers till he found someone in need to somebody to do the dirty work that others avoided. In finding a "prince" in need, he sent off a business card embossed with the logo of a chess knight and the words "Have gun-will travel. Wire Paladin. San Francisco."

Have Gun-Will Travel was one of the rare programs that traveled in reverse. That is, it migrated from TV to OTR. It premiered on radio on November 23, 1958, and the last show was broadcast on November 27, 1960. John Dehner was featured as Paladin with Ben Wright as Heyboy. The show opened with the **Escape** gimmick of introducing the theme of the upcoming program; such as; "You cheated innocent people. Its ironic that their money is all that's protecting you now."

Both the TV and radio shows were very successful for a number of reasons. Although the characterizations of Paladin by Boone and Dehner were slightly different, the acting was equally good on TV and radio. The scripts were well written. However, sometimes the plots took some imagination to be believable. The productions were good following the realism that made **Gunsmoke**

sound so believable. I believe one other reason for success was the same one that made **Star Trek** so popular.

While the settings for **Have Gun-Will Travel** and **Star Trek** were vastly different, deep space versus the lawless west, both programs were morality plays about the dignity of mankind. Both Captain James Kirk and Paladin made it plain that mankind was civilized and trustworthy at its core. Villains in both shows come in a variety of shapes but both shows were quick to find their redeeming qualities. Weekly Kirk and Paladin had us believing that man was above the need to resort to physical force to resolve problems. This is not to say that either one would back away from a fight. In fact, almost all episodes involved a confrontation of some sort.

Paladin hired out his gun to anyone who needed help. Frequently this was on the "wrong" side. Paladin always was loyal to his employer in fulfilling his duty but he managed to turn it around to help the underdog. Perhaps I'm wrong. Maybe it was popular just because it was an entertaining show.

The pilot show entitled *Genesis* was first televised on September 15, 1962. Boone plays an unnamed inept gambler who agrees to kill an outlaw named Smoke (also played by Boone) to cancel his IOUs. Smoke was a black clad hired gun sporting the logo of the chessman. He imprisons Boone and teases him. He calls him a shining knight armed with a righteous cause, a paladin. Smoke trains Boone to be a gun fighter. In the final shootout, Smoke is killed. Boone is surprised that the townspeople supported Smoke because he stood up to a tyrannical mayor who had hired Boone in the first place. The townspeople ask who now will aid and protect them? Boone as Paladin will!

Have Gun-Will Travel was also unusual in that it reached a logical conclusion. In the last show (which I haven't heard) Paladin was heading back to Boston to claim an inheritance from a deceased aunt's estate.

In researching for this article, I discovered another interesting fact. It turns out that our own Stewart Wright, past newsletter editor, is somewhat of an expert on **Have Gun-Will Travel** and other detective/adventure programs. Check out the web. You will be surprised at what you find.

Oops, almost forgot. Paladin's first name. Wire, of course. Remember the business card?

GRAND CENTRAL STATION WORDSEARCH

By Jack Richards

All the words, including duplicates, of the famous opening, can be found in the following WordSearch.

"As a bullet seeks its target, shining rails in every part of our great country are aimed at Grand Central Station, heart of the nation's greatest city. Drawn by the magnetic force of the fantastic metropolis, day and night great trains rush toward the Hudson River, sweep down its eastern bank for one hundred forty miles, flash briefly by the long red row of tenement houses south of one hundred twenty fifth street, dive with a roar into the two and one half mile tunnel which burrows beneath the glitter and swank of Park Avenue, and then... Grand Central Station. Crossroads of a million private lives. Gigantic stage on which are played a thousand dramas daily."



*From the Desk of
the Editor
by Carol Tiffany*



Here is the March issue of RWUN, blown in on the March winds. This issue contains the second in a series of OTR biographies by Stewart Wright. This profile was especially interesting to me, because Janet Waldo has always been one of my personal favorites. Look for the third in this series, profiling Sam Edwards, in our April issue.

I have been thinking of running a brief column in each issue describing OTR sites on the Internet. Would you like to have such a continuing item in our newsletter? Would it be of use or of interest to you? I would really appreciate some feedback on this if you have time. I would also like some suggestions about websites that members have found interesting and/or enjoyable. As always, ideas from our members are both welcome and encouraged.

Good listening to all...



New in the Tape Library

by Dick and Malettha King

This month we continue with "You Bet Your Life" with Groucho Marks as the M.C. Groucho engages the people in hilarious conversation about themselves and gives them a chance to come up with the "Secret Word" of the day. These shows were run at time when a \$100 prize was a major amount to add to the weekly budget.

We conclude the month's entries with two reels of "A Day in the Life of Dennis Day". Dennis has the innocent voice of youth and gets involved in incidents that only the clever writers could imagine. Dennis also renders a few songs that remind us of what a really great singer he was.

Recently we were able to pick up a tribute to Woody Guthrie on the History Channel. Many of us may not know who he was, but we all remember what we consider his greatest song, "This Land Is Your Land". It is a great song for today's troubled times. It is catchy enough for all of us to sing as we go about our daily chores.

RETURN WITH US NOW...

A Message from the President

by Larry Weide

It's been a while since I've sat down and dashed off a few thoughts, so I thought I'd take this opportunity to add a comment to Carol's concerning the internet (you guessed it, Carol let me use the left over space in the newsletter).

Those of you who use the internet know that there's just a wealth of information out there. True, in some cases you may have to search for it, but a little time spent will often result in adding valuable information to your knowledge about OTR. Two sites that immediately come to my mind are our own RHAC site and Lou Genco's site. Respectively, they are www.rhac.org and www.old-time.com.

Perhaps the most important section in the RHAC site is our catalog of tape and CD programs - something over 18,000 titles. You can either display the catalogs directly on your screen or load them down to your own computer for later use. These catalogs get updated twice a year, so for interim updates be sure to keep your newsletter inserts handy.

Lou's site is a wonderful compendium of his own rich mix of content and interesting links plus links to both club and commercial sites - of course you'll find RHAC there. This a very worthwhile site to visit.

So, I echo Carol's suggestion that if you find an OTR related web site that you think is great, please, share it with the rest of us.

Speaking of sharing; From time to time we will get a letter from a member, talking about one experience or another of theirs with OTR. We really like these, and they are grist for inclusion in newsletter articles. It amazing how contacts like these can lead to getting to know people as well. For example, it was through a member written article that we became aquatinted with Ray Kemper, one of the sound men for "Gun Smoke" and who wrote that great article of his for our Sept/2002 issue.

So, do you have a story to tell? Great, send it in! Don't worry about not being a polished writer. That's why we have an editor - who frankly makes us all (read that *me*) look good.

Until next time, ... great listening,
Larry