



## SHERLOCK HOLMES

by Dr. Charles Beckett

Sherlock Holmes has been called the most famous detective who never lived. Some may dispute that statement - not about his fame - but that he never lived. People continue to visit London's Baker Street to see where Holmes was supposed to have resided. Others have written letters addressed to Sherlock Holmes, 221B Baker Street, London, England. Officially, there is no 221B Baker Street. Unofficially, there is. The right half of a building on Baker Street where 221B would have been is a pub, the Sherlock Holmes Restaurant and Lounge Bar. The left side of the building, next to the pub, houses a Savings and Loan company. As a public relations service, at one time-maybe still-mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was delivered to the Savings and Loan Company, which kept an employee busy full time replying to letters addressed to the famous detective. Above the pub are apartments. A doorway was added some years ago to the front of the building, sandwiched between the pub and the Savings and Loan Company. On or above the door is



221B. Where the door goes or if it is only a facade the writer does not know. At each side of the door is a low wrought iron railing partially covered by colorful flowers.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John H. Watson, his friend and partner, were born in the creative mind of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The author wrote four Sherlock Holmes novels and fifty-six short stories. His first writing about Holmes was *A Study in Scarlet*, published in 1887. Sherlock Holmes' adventure stories have since become a favorite subject for radio, stage, screen and television adaptations.

American actor William Gillette - thought to be the first actor to play the part-performed as Holmes for many years on the stage, beginning on Broadway November 6, 1899 and in London September 9, 1901. He also starred in a 1916 Sherlock Holmes silent movie. In 1930, he was cast as Holmes in *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*, the first in a series of radio programs featuring the detective. Other

radio programs of Holmes stories followed until the mid 1930s, with various actors playing Holmes in them. In 1935, Gillette reprised his 1930 Sherlock Holmes radio role on the Lux Radio Theatre.

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**32nd Friends of Old-Time Radio Convention**, Oct 18 – 21, at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, 27436 Desert Rose Ct, Leesburg, FL 34748 (352) 727-6731, [JayHick@aol.com](mailto:JayHick@aol.com), web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

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**RETURN WITH US NOW...**

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**October, 2007**

There have been many Sherlock Holmes radio series, the longest running of which was the Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce version. Their series aired from October 2, 1939 through May 27, 1946 - initially as the *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* and later as *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. The last broadcast in which Rathbone appeared before leaving to focus full time on his movie career was *The Singular Affair of the Baconian Cipher*. Tom Conway replaced him in the fall of 1946 and for the 1947 season, with Bruce staying on as Dr. Watson and receiving top billing. The series had a first rate supporting team, including, over the years, announcers Joseph Bell, Knox

Manning, Owen Babbe, Herb Allen, Harry Bartell and Cy Harrice. Writers included Edith Meiser, Leslie Chartaris, Dennis Green, and Anthony Boucher.

Another popular radio series, *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, starred John Stanley, who did a good Basil Rathbone impression and Alfred Shirley as a convincing Dr. Watson. The program was sponsored by Clipper Craft Clothes and broadcast, with a studio audience, on the Mutual Radio Network in New York from September 28, 1947 through June 20, 1948.

Single broadcast Sherlock Holmes radio programs included Orson's Welles' Mercury Theatre on the Air presentation of *The Immortal Sherlock Holmes*, on September 25, 1938 (two months before Welles' controversial *War of the Worlds* broadcast on October 30, 1938). And, in 1977, the CBS Mystery Theater presented *Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, with Kevin McCarthy and Court Benson.

During 1954, The British Broadcasting Company produced a well done twenty two program series starring Sir John Gielgud and Sir Ralph Richardson - safe to say, the only time in the history of radio that two English Knights starred together in the same radio series. Although originally broadcast on BBC, this series was re-broadcast by NBC in 1955.

In the 1980s, BBC broadcast a tongue-in-cheek six episode radio series titled *Second Holmes*, with Peter Egan as Stamford Holmes (Sherlock Holmes grandson,) and Jeremy Nicholson as Dr. Watson (Dr. John Watson's grandson). Young Stamford was a reluctant detective, more interested in computers, technology and learning to fly an airplane than in sleuthing. He had to be prodded by Watson into taking cases - although once involved, he solved

them as quickly and easily as his grandfather, but with seeming indifference.



At the same time they were doing their radio series (1939-1946), Rathbone and Bruce made fourteen Sherlock Holmes films. They include: *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1939), *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (1939), *Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror* (1942), *Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon* (1942), *Sherlock Holmes in Washington* (1943), *Sherlock Holmes Faces Death* (1943), *Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman* (1944), *The Scarlet Claw* (1944), *The Pearl of Death* (1944), *The House of Fear* (1945), *The Woman in Green* (1945), *Pursuit to Algiers* (1945), *Terror by Night* (1946), and *Dressed to Kill* (1946).

Besides the Rathbone/Bruce movies, there were several other Sherlock Holmes films produced. In addition to Gillette's 1916 silent film, John Barrymore starred in a Holmes movie (silent) in 1922. Ellie Norwood must hold the record for most Sherlock Holmes silent movies, starring in forty five short films. In 1929, Clive Brook starred in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, the first Holmes film with sound. During the 1930s, British actor Arthur Wortner appeared in five Sherlock Holmes films as the detective. Other offerings included *Sherlock Holmes* (1932), with Clive Brooks; *Sherlock, Jr.* (1934-silent) with Buster Keaton and *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes Smarter Brother* (1975) with Gene Wilder. There was even a Sherlock Holmes prequel, *Young Sherlock Holmes* (1985), about Holmes when he was a school boy - with Nicholas Rowe and Alan Cox. (Steven Spielberg was an executive producer).



There also were several unmemorable made-for-television Sherlock Holmes movies, including: *Sherlock Holmes in New York* (1976), with Roger Moore and Patrick Macnee,

*Sherlock Holmes and the Masks of Death* (1984-British), with Peter Cushing and John Mills, and *Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady* (1990-European).

The 1980s gave birth to a quality television series, the *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (sometimes introduced as *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*), starring stage, screen and television actor Jeremy Brett as Holmes in the title role, with David Burke and Edward Hardwicke as Dr. Watson. In the writer's opinion, this series was the most faithful to Conan Doyle's original story lines, characterizations and visual feel of the time and place of the stories. Produced for British television, the series was re-broadcast on the A&E cable network channel. Jeremy Brett once said about his role, that "the hardest thing in the world is to play someone who is almost an ancient monument." (Brett died of heart failure on September 12, 1995, at age 59).

Arthur Conan Doyle could not have known how long-lasting the popularity of his Sherlock Holmes character would be and how many different media he would be portrayed in over the years. Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1859, Conan Doyle, after becoming a doctor, decided he would rather be a writer. He modeled his Holmes character on one of his medical school teachers, Dr. Joseph Bell of Edinburgh University. In Conan Doyle's words, "I thought of my old teacher Joe Bell, of his eagle face,

of his curious ways, of his eerie track of spotting details. If he were a detective, he would surely reduce this fascinating but disorganized business to something nearer an exact science. I thought I would try my hand at writing a story where the hero would treat a crime as Dr. Bell treated disease, and where science had taken the place of chance. The result was Sherlock Holmes."

Having tired of writing about Sherlock Holmes, Conan Doyle killed him off in 1893 in *The Final Problem*, with Holmes and his arch enemy Professor Moriarty fighting to the death at Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland.

Holmes was not revived by Conan Doyle until he published *The Empty House* in 1901. Between 1893 and 1901, he wrote many other short stories, novels, plays, poems, and a history of the Boer War in South Africa. In 1902, he was knighted for his writing *The War in South Africa: its Cause and Conflict*. Yet, he continues to be best remembered for his Sherlock Holmes books and short stories.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle died July 7, 1930.

Since Sherlock Holmes never lived, he will never die, so he is always with us and we can continue to enjoy sharing his adventures.

(Over 100 Sherlock Holmes programs, including *The Final Problem*, *The Empty House*, and the six *Second Holmes* programs, are available on tape from the RHAC libraries).

*Author's Trivia Facts.* "Elementary my Dear Watson," does not appear in any of Conan Doyle's books or short stories. It was added later by others.

Conan Doyle's first novel, "A Study in Scarlet", was rejected by several publishers and he sold the rights to it for twenty five English pounds.



# Missing *Gunsmoke* 1952 Episode – " Jailbait Janet"

## Plotline Summary

By Stewart Wright, Copyright 2007

Photograph by Harry Bartell, 1953

*The following is a plot summary of the third of five Missing Gunsmoke 1952 episodes.*

### "Jailbait Janet"

06/14/1952, Script by Les Crutchfield



### EPISODE NOTES

The cover page of the script for this episode, which contains cast, crew and production information, has the title, "Jailbait Janet."

The script for "Jailbait Janet" was reused for the 06/28/1959 broadcast as a new production with a completely different guest cast.. There are many dialog changes, between the two productions of the script. A scene and a character from the 1952 production were deleted in the 1959 production.

### PLOT

Chester hurries in to the Marshal's Office to tell Dillon that the train was held up and \$50,000 in twenty-dollar gold coins was taken. After mentioning the location of the robbery and that three bandits were involved, Chester finally informs the Marshal that the baggage car clerk was badly wounded.

Matt arrives at the depot. Doc tells the him that the clerk is dying. Before Matt can talk to the man, the officious J. L. Krocker, the agent for the railroad and the bank, tries to take over the situation and demands immediate action. Dillon brusquely dismisses Krocker and talks briefly to the clerk.

With their horses loaded on the train, Matt and Chester go to the scene of the crime so they can begin tracking the outlaws. Once off the train, the two ride until dark, when Matt spots a camp with a man and a young boy. Dillon is immediately cautious and quickly determines that a third person is in a nearby thicket with a gun trained on them. He has found the train robbers. With Chester's help, Matt gets the drop on them.

The robbers are Dan Everly and his teenage children: son, Jerry and daughter, Janet. Dan tells Dillon that his children were just doing what he told them to do. The three admit to the robbery and won't tell Matt where the money is hidden. While they are remorseful for the death of the clerk, Dan feels they deserve the money because sparks from a train burned their wheat crop just prior to harvesting.

Matt and Chester take the Everlys' back to Dodge and put Dan and Jerry in jail. Because there are no facilities for female prisoners at the jail, the Marshal allows Kitty to take charge of Janet. Krocker is livid because Janet isn't in jail and the money has not been recovered. When Krocker intimates that Matt might be working with the Everlys', Dillon knocks him out.

Krocker offers a thousand dollar reward for the return of the money – no questions asked and keeps implying that Dillon is quite taken with Janet and has made some kind of deal with the Everlys'. He is stirring up the unsavory element in Dodge into a potential lynch mob. Dillon confronts and defuses the mob before they can act.

The evening before Matt is to send the Everlys' to Hays City for trial, Janet eludes Kitty and breaks her Dad and Jerry out of jail. Matt and Chester immediately head out after them. At the Everlys' old campsite, they realize that money had been buried under the campfire. Dan shoots at the Marshal and Chester. Matt returns fire and fatally wounds Dan.

When they hear the gunfire, Janet and Jerry return with the money and give it to Dillon. Matt makes a decision and has Chester count out a thousand dollars: Krocker's no questions asked reward for the return of the money. He gives the money to Jerry and Janet for a fresh start in Wyoming.



## CAST

Character names are from the script cover page followed by (full name or character description)

William Conrad as Matt Dillon  
Georgia Ellis as Kitty (Kitty Russell)  
Parley Baer as Chester (Chester Proudfoot)  
Howard McNear as Doc Adams  
John Dehner as Brake (Ed, the train Brakeman)  
John Dehner as Dan (Dan Everly)  
Sammie Hill as Janet (Janet Everly)  
Harry Bartell as Krocker (J. L. Krocker)  
Paul Dubov as Jerry (Jerry Everly)  
Paul Dubov as Clerk

## COMMENT

The script for "Jailbait Janet" is one of 65 scripts that was modified and reused for a new production during the run of *Gunsmoke* on the radio. Several were reused twice. In most cases, script titles remained the same, but in some instances they were changed. All of these script reuses were new productions which included dialog changes and generally, guest cast changes.

In the Summer of 1957, listeners got to vote on their favorite *Gunsmoke* episodes. The five "listeners' most popular episodes" were aired. All five "listeners' most popular episodes" were New Productions of Previously Used Scripts rather than re-broadcasts of previously aired transcriptions. The "five popular episodes" were:

06/23/1957 – Home Surgery – previously used  
09/13/1952

06/30/1957 – The Buffalo Hunter – previously used  
05/09/1953 and 10/24/1953

07/07/1957 – Word of Honor – previously used  
01/10/1953 and 07/03/1954

07/14/1957 – Bloody Hands – previously used  
04/02/1955

07/21/1957 – Kitty Caught – previously used 10/16/1954

### Source Citation:

*Gunsmoke* Script - "Jailbait Janet"

Box Number: 6, Folder Number: 2

Collection: Anne and Frank Hummert Scripts,  
1932-1958

Collection Number: 07867

Accretion Number: 00-00-00

American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming.



## New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Maletha King

Last month we ended the tapes offered with one reel of "Cloak and Dagger". A point I would like to make is that I had a friend who was an OSS agent. Each of these stories hit home as I still picture him in these stories and remember how he mentioned some of the little tactics that those OSS agents learned to live by. In hindsight, I just wish he was still around to talk more about his experiences.

This month we continue on with a family comedy series, "The Smiths of Hollywood". A good show that can keep us all smiling. We also have a few episodes of the "Aldrich Family" and an episode "Dr. Christian", with Gene Hersholt.

We are also offering some great plays, such as "The Man Without A Country" and "The Moonstone".

### From the Desk of the Editor

by Carol Tiffany



Happy Halloween from all of the ghoulies, ghosties, and multi-legged beasties in the deep south. We hope you have been finding all of your personal favorite scary OTR shows for Halloween listening. Your editor has made it a tradition to play OTR sound effects tapes outside to greet the trick-or-treaters every year. A lot of families come back every year just to hear the latest.

This month's lead article on Sherlock Holmes reflects author Dr. Charles Beckett's usual thorough research and impeccable writing style. However, one phrase both caught your editor's attention and tickled her fancy. It is that Holmes is the "greatest detective who **never** lived". Right on, Dr. Beckett!

This month we have the third article in Stewart Wright's five part series on the "lost" *Gunsmoke* episodes. Look for the fourth in this series next month along with a new piece from Danny Goodwin on Arthur Godfrey's *Talent Scouts*. Also coming next month is puzzlemaster Jack Richards' latest mindbender, this one on "substitution codes". Beware of this one...it has a wicked twist!

Also in coming months we will be featuring a new series of OTR crosswords contributed by RHAC member Dick Williamson, who is the long-time host of *Radio Memories* heard weekly on Pirate Radio 104.7 in Greeley and Pirate Radio 101.5 in Fort Collins. - Good Listening to All...

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