



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

The RHAC "Talking Newsletter" has been reinstated!

See page 4 for details

Broadway is My Beat

By Dr. Charles Beckett

With the musical refrain of "I'll Take Manhattan," and the sound of impatient car horns in the background, another episode of "Broadway is my Beat" begins. New York Police detective Danny Clover informs us that "Broadway is my beat. From Times Square to Columbus Circle--the gaudiest, the most violent, the loneliest mile in the world."

Homicide detective Clover, played by Larry Thor, narrates the introduction to each program's plot. In "The Thomas Hart Case," broadcast April 14, 1951, his calm, yet intense voice begins another episode, his narration blending smoothly into the action of the story.

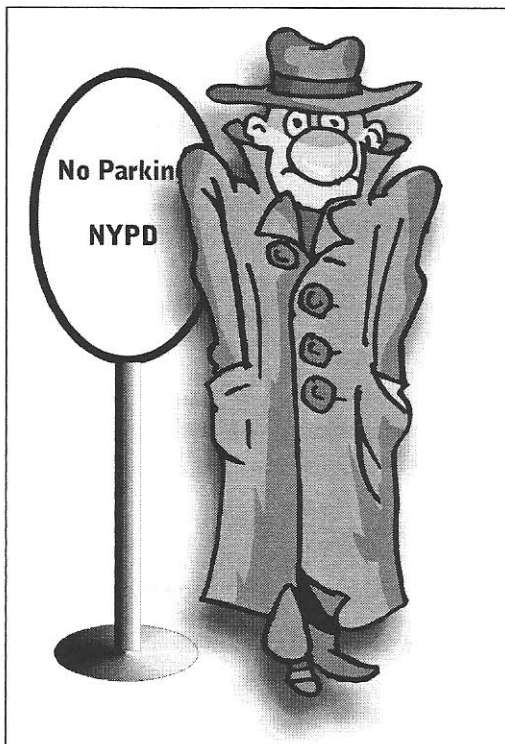
"The day without color is only six hours old and the restlessness begins to eat at Broadway. The waiting, the longing for the night time begins to grow like hunger, like thirst, because Broadway's night is a banquet, loaded with delicacies. The scarlet wine of neon. The forbidden

fruit of a trumpet's scream. The lukewarm stew offered on a tin plate through an alley doorway. But, Broadway's day--that's the drab time kid, the empty time. The time of leaning against sun warmed stalls and waiting. And you wait for the rest of Broadway, because it'll come--something will come. And it does. You know that, because Broadway nudges you with an elbow, winks and says 'follow me, kid.' The day has turned bright and it's not far away where the day is bright--on 39th street just off 7th Avenue in the garment center. The crowd is already there ahead of you, toothpicking its last bite of lunch, digesting the spectacle of a man sprawled on the pavement. There was a scissors in his back..."

And so, with poetic metaphor, Danny Clover is challenged with another crime, another mystery, another case to solve.

The show originally was broadcast from New York, February 27 to May 29, 1949. Actor Anthony Ross was the original Danny Clover. In July 1949, the series moved to

Hollywood. The title of each show was the name of (Continued on page 3)



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
KNUS 710 AM	"Radio Revisited"	Weekdays, 10:00 - 11:00 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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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	
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Convention Schedules

18th Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention, April 16 - 17, 2004; Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence KY 41042 (859) 282-0333, haradio@hotmail.com

REPS Radio Showcase XII, June 24 - 27, 2004 at the Seattle Center, Seattle Washington. Contact Mike Sprague, Box 723, Bothell, WA 98041 (425) 488-9518 hrrmikes@aol.com, also check web site: <http://www.repsonline.org>

28th Old-time Country Music Contest and Festival, Aug 30 - Sep 5, 2004 at Harrison County Fairgrounds in Missouri Valley, Iowa. For information contact Bob Everhart at Box 492, Walnut, IA 51577 (712) 762-4363, bobeverhart@yahoo.com

29th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 21 - 24, 2004 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887, JayHick@aol.com, or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

that week's victim. The first Los Angeles launched episode, "Jimmy Dorn", began a seven week Summer season which ran from July 7th through August 25th of that year. The first full season program, "Mei Ling," was heard November 5, 1949. The final broadcast, "Floyd Decker", was aired August 1, 1954. In all, there were 194 episodes.

Anthony Ross continued to play Danny Clover through June 23, 1950. Then, on July 3, 1950, when the show moved from Fridays to Mondays, Larry Thor became Danny Clover. Before starring in "Broadway is my Beat," Thor was the announcer for two other crime/adventure series; "Rocky Jordan" (1945-47) and "The Green Lama" (June-August 1949). Other cast regulars on "Broadway is my Beat" were Charles Calvert as Sergeant Gino Tataglia (no other known credits) and Jack Kruschen as Sergeant Muggavan.

Kruschen also had worked on many other shows, including "Pete Kelly's Blues," "Escape," and "Gunsmoke".

A "who's who" list of Hollywood radio actors had periodic supporting roles on "Broadway is my Beat". Some of the better known cast members included: Hy Averbach, Harry Bartell, Herb Butterfield, Mary Jane Croft, Lawrence Dobkin, Herb Ellis, Sam Edwards, Sheldon Leonard, Barney Phillips, Irene Tedrow, Anne Whitfield, and Ben Wright. Most of these character actors also had performed on one or more of the following shows: "Gunsmoke," "Escape," "Crime Classics," "On Stage," "Nightbeat," "Pete Kelly's Blues", and "Yours, Truly, Johnny Dollar," to mention just a few.

Bill Anders did the announcing. He also had been the announcer on the short lived (July-September 1951) "Mr. Aladdin" detective show, starring Paul Frees, written by Dick Powell, and directed by Elliot Lewis. The musical score for "Broadway is my Beat" was composed and conducted by Alexander Courage. He would later write the theme music for the original star Trek television series.

Elliot Lewis, The show's producer and director, was a man of many talents. He had already established himself as a versatile radio actor, writer and producer. But "Broadway is my Beat" was his first directing effort. Lewis had an advantage as a director. He was born in Manhattan, and had first hand knowledge of the flavor, pulse and pace of the city. Some of his major acting credits include

playing Frankie Remley on "The Phil Harris and Alice Faye Show" (1946-48), Archie on "The Adventures of Nero Wolfe" (1943-44), Captain Bart Friday on "Adventures by Morse" (1944-45--shared with David Ellis and Russell Thorson), and Gregory Hood on "The Case Book of Gregory Hood" (1948). In addition, he directed "The CBS Radio Workshop," and was creator-producer-director of "Crime Classics." In his later years, Lewis wrote a series of detective novels, and served as a script consultant on the "Remington Steele" television show. For "Broadway is my Beat", Lewis used three sound men to recreate the sometimes noisy sounds of the city. Simply stated, in his words, "Even the people in New York are noisy."

Morton Fine and David Friedkin wrote the finely honed and creative scripts for "Broadway is my Beat." They also collaborated on scripts for "Bold venture", "Crime Classics," "The Front Page," "The Lineup," "Phillip Morris Playhouse," "On stage," and "Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar", among others. In addition, they were two of the producer-directors of "Escape."

To say that "Broadway is my Beat" had the services of some very talented and creative people would lean toward understatement.

The CBS network press kit provides some insight into the main character of the series. "As a Kid, Danny Clover sold papers and shined shoes along the Great White Way, and later pounded the beat as a policeman. He knows everything along Broadway, from pan handler to operatic prima donna, but he's still sentimental about the street--forever a wonderland of glamour to him."

Now, back to the Thomas Hart Case. Having successfully brought the criminal to justice, Danny Clover ends the show with the following reflections:

"In the April night, Broadway echoes with sounds heard only in darkness. The whispers that speckle places where there's no sun. There's a touch on your coat. You turn. There's no one. Nothing. Only the trail of dust on your shoulder. It's Broadway. The gaudiest, the most violent, the loneliest mile in the world. Broadway. My beat!"

The "Talking Newsletter" Returns

By B.J. George

The "Talking Newsletter" is back, in a new format and in a new place. Each RWUN issue will be read by a Text-To-Speech program and saved in MP3 format. However, to hear these audio files you will need to join our new RHAC e-Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rwun>.

This group was started as a convenient and cost free way of distributing the RWUN audio newsletter to anyone interested in OTR. The group also offers you a chance to ask questions of your RWUN writers and editor, or of your RHAC board members. Or one can just join in talks with other OTR fans from around the world.

Once you join, you can download the audio newsletters from the group's "Files" section. Just open the folder containing the month you wish to hear, right click over the MP3 link and select "save target as" from the pop-up menu. Then burn the files to a CD-RW or load into your MP3 device for enjoyable off-line listening.

I look forward to seeing you in the group.

Editor's Note: Since the Talking Newsletter has always been produced primarily to provide access to the newsletter for out visually impaired RHAC members, and some of these members do not have internet access, we will be investigating the possibility of supplying the Audio Newsletter files on CD. These CDs could be in either MP3 or regular audio format. I would appreciate any feedback from our members who would be interested in these CDs as to the type of player they have available. (The MP3 CDs require an MP3 player.) Please see the Editor's column for more information.

From the Desk of the Editor by Carol Tiffany



We hope you enjoy our unique quiz this month. Your editor must admit to taking multiple read-throughs to figure it out, and even peeking at the answers for a couple of the clues. Thanks very much to Jack Richards for one of the most challenging OTR puzzles we have seen in quite awhile.

Another big tip of the editorial hat goes to RHAC member B.J. George who has volunteered to take on the "Talking Newsletter". It has been a year or more since we have had the audio version of RWUN, and it has been sorely missed by our visually impaired members. A visit to the RWUN Yahoo group is very interesting. I enjoyed hearing the articles as read by several very pleasant voices. It was quite a surprise that computer-generated voices could be so very "real". Thanks again to Mr. George for setting up this valuable adjunct to our written newsletter.

We have also considered the fact that not all of our members have computers or Internet access. Mr. George says that the downloadable files available on the RWUN group website can be burned onto CDs. We would appreciate your input on this issue. Would members prefer the CDs in the MP3 format (special player or computer needed) or standard CD format. The drawback to the standard format is the size of the files (very large) so that probably only one month of the newsletter can be on each CD. Would members be willing to pay a small charge for the shipping and handling of the CDs? Please feel free to E-Mail or send your ideas on this to me (Carol) or Larry Weide or the Kings. Thanks in advance for your help.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Good Listening to all!

THE OTR CODE

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After reading The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown and The Eight by Katherine Neville, I marveled at the authors' ability to hide a message inside another message. I wondered if I could do that. The result is the piece of bad poetry that follows.

It's easy to discover the OTR reference in the poem. A more difficult challenge is to find all the clues. I count ten. Can you find them all?

THE OTR CODE

Wide grins make marks signifying comedy.

Seek bare facts guarding valuable alms.

Cool Lime Jello Man plays with sod that is rank.

Sham raucous idle work fools nobody mostly.

Good Saint Julian promotes hearing that which he idolizes.

Seek sounds of signs marching lastingly as rows not columns.

A multitude of sweet loaves, of draping pies, of bonny cakes heating.

In Old Time Radio, waves issue to recostume the costumes of sound for all.

Mother Nature erupts in glory. She fizzes the bicarbonate of the active volcano Etna.

Living skies smile, living running water giggles, and the Livingstone laughs.

(Answers to puzzle on page 6)



New in the Tape Library

by Dick and Malettha King

This month we have the pleasure of more Dinah Shore "Birdseye Open House" shows for the first half of the offerings. As we listened to the songs of the '40s, it is surprising how we remember the words to each song. We certainly cannot say that about today's music.

It was, and still is, popular for the sponsors to have their name in the show title, such as this month's "Birdseye Open House", "The Ford Show", and "Alkaseltzer Time".

We continue with "Lightning Jim". Lightning Jim is just one of the many series of westerns that were offered in the fifties. The show offers us a change of thought from the war time music shows like Dinah offered.

We conclude our selections with "Father Knows Best", a great family show that doesn't take a great deal of thought to "see" the show as we listen and enjoy good clean comedy.



Musical Commercial Saves Wheaties From Extinction

By Danny Goodwin

Wheaties made advertising history as the first product to feature a singing commercial on network radio. Its first airing took place on Christmas Eve 1926. The soon-to-be famous "Have You Tried Wheaties" jingle was sung by four male singers known as "The Wheaties Quartet." The commercial was a barometer on how popular Wheaties was with the people. Sales increased in areas where the people heard the commercial. Unfortunately, the musical commercial was heard only in a very limited area of the United States. In those regions where the musical commercial wasn't heard, sales floundered badly.

With the product's sagging popularity, General Mills, the makers of Wheaties, came within a whisker of discontinuing the production and selling of Wheaties. At a company staff meeting, an advertising executive for Wheaties offered the suggestion that would save the cereal. He stated that since the sales were good in those regions where the Wheaties musical commercial was heard, why not air the commercial in as many regions of the country as possible. In a nutshell, the musical commercials were aired, sales improved, and Wheaties would quickly become one of the most popular breakfast cereals.

As for the Wheaties jingle, the musical ditty would continue on the air. It helped the product attract a specific group of radio listeners--- children. With a slight change in the words, the jingle was sung on the program Wheaties was most famous for sponsoring on radio, JACK ARMSTRONG, THE ALL-AMERICAN BOY.

Answers to the OTR Code puzzle =>

RETURN WITH US NOW...



It's Whole Wheat - Magically Transformed!

Wheaties is a whole wheat cereal that is made from the finest whole wheat flour. It is a healthy and delicious breakfast cereal that is suitable for all ages. Wheaties is a whole wheat cereal that is made from the finest whole wheat flour. It is a healthy and delicious breakfast cereal that is suitable for all ages.

WHEATIES The Breakfast of Champions

Finally, nothing in lines eight and nine.

Let's examine each line and I'll number each clue.

The first clue is the word comedy(1). This should alert you to a comedian or comedy show.

Also in the first line is part of a name, Sadie Marks(2) aka Mary Livingston. The last line also has her name(3).

The second line refers to a "bare" guarding alms or money. That was Carmichael the Bear(4). The first letter of the last word in each line spells Carmichael(5).

Two clues are in line three. Jello(6) was Benny's sponsor from 1934 to 1942. The "sod that is rank"(7) refers to the blooper by Mary on December 3, 1950 by saying "Run my car up on the grass reek."

Saint Julian is the Patron Saint for fiddle players.(8).

If you catch the hint given in line six, consider yourself a Master Puzzle Solver. Sounds of signs refer to letters and rows mean lines. If you take letter from each word corresponding to its line number, you will spell a character Jack once assumed for the Truth or Consequences. That is, take W from word one (wide) in line one; A from word two (bare) in line two; L from word three (Jello) in line three; etc. If you continue, you will find the Walking Man(9).

In line seven, a multitude of baked goods is a Baker's dozen. Three Baker's dozens equal thirty-nine(10) that magical age which never seemed to change.

Solution: The Jack Benny Show