

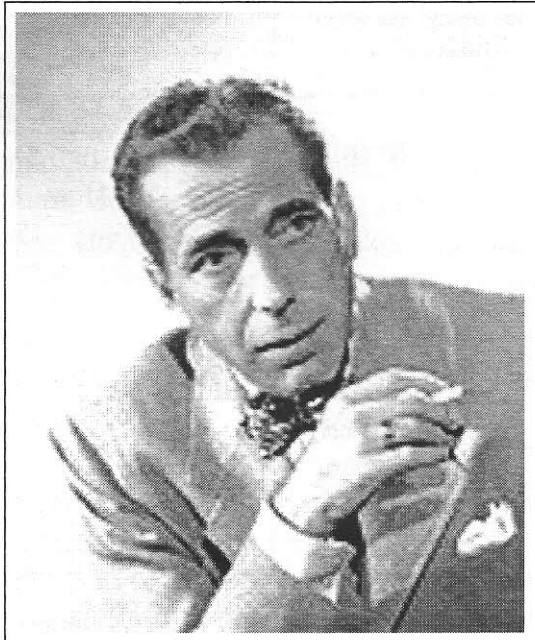


## HUMPHREY BOGART ON RADIO

By Dr. Charles Beckett

When one hears the name Humphrey Bogart, what may come to mind is his saying "play it again, Sam", (which actually he never said); the melody of "As Time Goes By", from the movie "Casablanca"; or the image of him pulling a boat through a steamy African river in "The African Queen". But, in addition to brief success on the stage and an impressive body of film work, he also had a productive radio career -- which he got into almost by accident.

Humphrey DeForest Bogart was born January 23, 1899, in New York City, to Doctor Belmont DeForest Bogart, a physician, and Maude Humphry, a highly acclaimed artist of children's pictures and portraits. When Bogart was a baby, his mother made a sketch of him and sent it to an advertising agency. The picture was bought by Mellins Baby Food Company for use in their ads and on their labels. It soon became the most popular baby picture of the time. Far from being like one of the hard bitten, rough edged, down and out characters he often portrayed in his movies and on



radio, Bogart grew up in a four story limestone house, complete with four servants, a cook, two maids and a laundress. He attended the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts -- a prep school for the Yale Medical School. However, he had some discipline problems and in May 1918, he was invited to leave that institution by its headmaster. Four days later, he enlisted in the Navy. After training, he was assigned to the USS Leviathan. The story goes that he was wounded in action in World War I, during which his lip was scarred and partially paralyzed -- giving him a bit of a sinister look and a slight lisp. However, records indicate that he didn't enlist in the Navy until 16 days after the Armistice was signed. His primary shipboard duties involved making transatlantic voyages, ferrying returning servicemen home from France. He was honorably discharged after a year's service, on June 20, 1919.

After discharge from the Navy, Bogart's biography tells us that he worked at a variety of jobs, including inspecting tugs for the Pennsylvania Railroad, as a Wall Street messenger, and as an office boy at an independent movie production company -- working his way up to theatrical stage manager. In 1920, Bogart showed an interest in acting, but his progress was

(Continued on Page 3)

# RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

PO BOX 1908, Englewood CO 80150 (303) 761-4139 -

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President:	Larry Weide	5270 E. Nassau Cir. Englewood, CO 80113	(303) 758-8382	<a href="mailto:lweide@attglobal.net">lweide@attglobal.net</a>
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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	
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#1 (1-499)	David Gatch	PO Box 70	Glen Haven, CO 80532	(970) 577-0805
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#4 (5001-up)	Mika Rhoden	3950 W. Dartmouth Ave.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 937-9476
CD Library:	Thomas Woessner	3240 S. Lowell Bld.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 936-4643

## Convention Schedules

**19th Annual OTR and Nostalgia Convention**, April 15 - 16, 2005; Contact Bob Burchett, 10280 Gunpowder Rd., Florence, KY 41042. (859) 282-0333 or [haradio@hotmail.com](mailto:haradio@hotmail.com)

**30th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention**, Oct 20 - 23, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 [JayHick@aol.com](mailto:JayHick@aol.com), or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

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**February, 2005**

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discouragingly slow. His first stage roll was one line of dialog as a Japanese houseboy in the stage production of "Drifting". Other small rolls, usually as a juvenile, followed. While acting in the play "Nerves", he worked with Mary Philips, who was to become his second wife. His first wife had been actress Helen Menken. His third and fourth wives were Mayo Methot and Lauren Bacall, also actresses.

During the remainder of the 1920s, Bogart continued to struggle in his efforts to become an actor on the legitimate stage, continuing to play mainly juvenile parts. In 1930, he ventured west to California, where he obtained his first film role, a 10 minute short, ironically titled "Broadway's Like That". Not having much success in Hollywood either, he returned to New York to again try stage work on Broadway. His stage success was less than significant. The stock market crash of 1929 had had a chilling effect on Broadway, shutting down many of its legitimate theater productions. For a time, Bogart supported himself by playing chess games for 50 cents a game bets, and working at an arcade.



In 1935 -- by this time in his mid 30s--his acting career saw the beginning of an upturn. He was hired to play Duke Mantee, an escaped convict, in the stage play "Petrified Forest", his first -- and only -- box-office success. Screen rights to the play were bought by Warner Brothers. They wanted Edward G. Robinson for the Duke Mantee part in the 1936 film. However, Leslie Howard, the star, said he wouldn't do the movie unless Bogart got the part--which he did. This opened the door to further acting roles for Bogart, and in the next five years he appeared in 28 films. But he continued, for the most part, to remain stereotyped as gangsters or villains. However, beginning in the early 1940s, he finally graduated

into a variety of other types of roles, starring in such film classics as "The Maltese Falcon" as private eye Sam Spade; looking to avenge his murdered partner (1941); "Casablanca," (for which he received an Academy Award nomination) as Rick Blair, owner of a nightclub in World War II Morocco, in love with married Ingrid Bergman" (1942); a disheveled tramp steamer captain intent on blowing up a Nazi ship, with Katherine Hepburn's help in "The African Queen" (1952)--for which he won an Academy Award Oscar as best actor; and paranoid World War II ship Captain Queeg, whose crew mutinied against him in "The Caine Mutiny" (1954). Bogart's final movie was "The Harder They Fall" in 1956. In all, he appeared in over 80 movies, including a cameo in the Bob Hope-Bing Crosby film "Road to Bali" (1952).

Ironically, it was his movie popularity that was largely responsible for his introduction into radio. Among his early radio credits were several adaptations of his movies. These include such classics as "Across the Pacific", (Screen Guild Theatre, January 25, 1943); "Casablanca", (Screen Guild Theatre, April 26, 1943); "The Maltese Falcon" (Screen Guild Theatre, September 20, 1943); "High Sierra" (Screen Guild Theatre, 1943?); "To Have and Have Not", (Lux Radio Theater, October 14, 1946); "The Treasure of Sierra Madre" (Lux Radio Theater, April 8, 1949); and "The African Queen" (Lux Radio Theater, December 15, 1952).

Bogart guest starred on the "Suspense" series, in "Love's Lovely Counterfeit", as a small time crook trying to gain control of the rackets in Lake City (March 8, 1945). He also had recurring or guest appearances on such programs as "Academy Award Theatre", "The Campbell Playhouse," "The Prudential Family Hour of Stars", "Romance", and "Stars in the Air".

Although thought of as a serious, intense actor, he proved he could do light comedy -- in the Bogart manner, of course. In a guest appearance on the February 1, 1942 Jack Benny show, he played a police detective, Captain O'Bogart, in a skit called "The Frightwigg Murder Case" On January 5, 1947, "Bogey" appeared again on a Benny program. Actually, his wife Lauren Bacall was the official guest on the show. In a skit Benny attempts to recreate the Bogart and Bacall kissing scene from their movie "To Have and Have not" -- between himself and Bacall. Benny and Bacall do the dialog



leading up to the kiss. But before Benny can kiss Bacall, Bogart appears from the wings, and interrupts with, "Wait a minute. You're doing it all wrong. Here. You do it like this", and proceeds to kiss Bacall -- to the delight of the studio audience. As the kiss lingers, Benny says, "Humphrey, you can do that at home. I'm paying her by the hour." He then proceeds to redo the scene with a more than willing Mary Livingston in the Bacall role -- again to the loud approval of the audience.

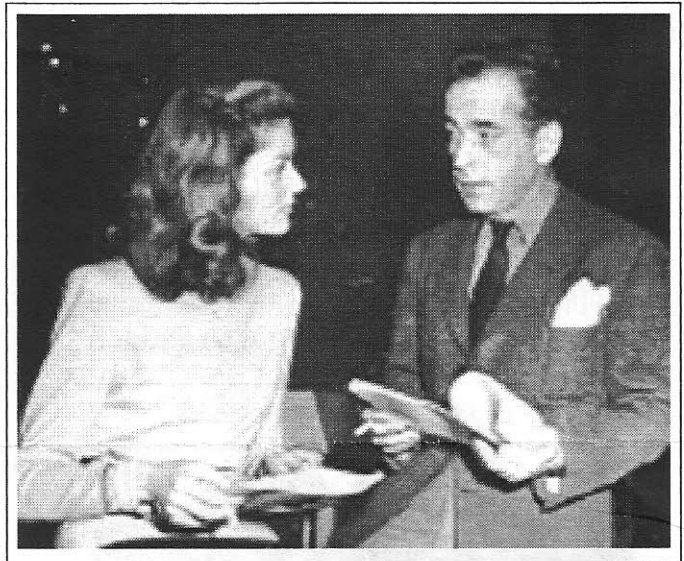
In another guest appearance -- his time on Eddie Cantor's October 8, 1948 radio show, "Bogey the Babysitter" -- Bogart becomes an unlikely sitter for announcer Harry Von Zell's baby.

On September 17, 1949, Bogart attempted his first radio series, "The Humphrey Bogart Theatre." In the audition show, he played the ghost of a railroad detective who haunts his killer, a drifter named Lucky. Unfortunately, the show failed to attract a sponsor.



Bogart was more successful with his 1951-52 "Bold Venture" action-adventure series, which he produced and starred in with his wife, Lauren "Betty" Bacall. Bogart described the show as "a quick-paced adventure story for the entire family. We've got some Calypso music in it ... and plenty of snappy dialogue, and we usually kill off somebody every night." Bogart described his character, Slate Shannon, more simply -- "I run a **RETURN WITH US NOW...**

hotel. I own a boat." The hotel was Shannon's Place, a small hotel in Havana, Cuba, tenanted by a shifting cast of characters. The boat -- The Bold Venture -- he occasionally chartered, sometimes to clients of dubious reputation and intention. His blonde sidekick was Sailor Duval, a woman of questionable background. Featured in the cast was Jester Hairston, a well-known actor/composer/choral director, as King Mose, the hotel's singer-musician. Hairston's other acting credits include playing Sapphire's brother on radio's Amos and Andy, and Henry Van Porter on the television version of the show. He also appeared in several movies, including "*To Kill a Mockingbird*", "*In the Heat of the Night*,"



and "*Being John Malkovich*."

"Bold Venture" was to be Bogart's last major contribution to the golden age of radio.

Although Humphrey Bogart entered radio rather late in his career, he left an indelible mark on the medium. He died much too soon -- on January 14, 1957, at the age of 57. His life and contributions to the entertainment arts were summed up by the following words from the eulogy given by John Houston, who said that:

(Bogart was) "... endowed with the greatest gift a man can have -- talent. The whole world came to recognize it. His life, though not a long one measured in years, was a rich, full life. He got all that he asked for out of life and more. We have no reason to feel sorrow for him -- only for ourselves, for having lost him. He is quite irreplaceable. There will never be another like him."

*From: The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound  
To: Editor Carol Tiffany, Radio Historical  
Association of Colorado*

## **REPS MEMBERS SEEK CHANGE, ELECT NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ending months of turmoil, the members of The Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound elected a new slate of officers and directors. The new Board, nicknamed "The Good ol' Days" slate, will take office, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005, according to interim President, Bill Parker.

Dick Beals, veteran actor and long time Reps booster, is the new president. Officers include long time members Michael Comstock, Vice President; Frank Rosin, Treasurer; and Paul Secord, Secretary. Directors At Large are Larry Albert, John Jensen, and Mike Sprague, Reps founding president.

"As straightforward as we can put it," stated past President Mr. Sprague, "we believe that Reps can benefit tremendously by a refreshing new administration." Sprague added, "We promise the members that we will return the Club to a more comfortable, simpler and intimate gathering with much less complexity and stress." The final tally of the ballots showed that the members and the Honorary members, the veteran actors that perform annually, agreed.

"Our annual Showcase will have a new look", said President Dick Beals, "and will reflect the wishes of the members." Beals, if elected, promised to bring Speedy "relief" to Reps, added, "They wished for high quality and fun programs, with time for mingling with their favorite stars. Next was a cost that fits all budgets, without heavy duty fund raising."

The members and Honorary members also requested a new location for Reps events. "We selected a class hotel, near the SeaTac Airport," said Michael Comstock, Vice President. "It has plenty of free parking and a secure and relaxing environment. And now our Hall of Fame performers are but a short stroll to their rooms." In recent years, the Showcase convention was held at the very busy Seattle Center and a shuttle was required.

Treasurer Frank Rosin announced a new touch. "Our actors and guests can now enjoy a guided tour of the Seattle area. Also our local Ford Model A Club will offer rides, even in the Rumble Seat."

However the Model A Club past president added, "Seat belts and parachutes not included."

"Our members have spoken, at the meetings and the ballot box." stated President Dick Beals. "They asked us to return Reps to a fun, healthy, well-balanced, sensitive, Honorary Member honoring, respected and inclusive Club. And we will. We promise."

For more information contact:  
Mike Sprague (480) 474-4480, hhrmikes@aol.com

*Editor's Note: We are including this Press Release from our sister club in Seattle because many RHAC members attend the annual REPS convention and we feel that the information about the changes in location and agenda would be of interest to you.*

**From the Desk of  
the Editor  
by Carol Tiffany**



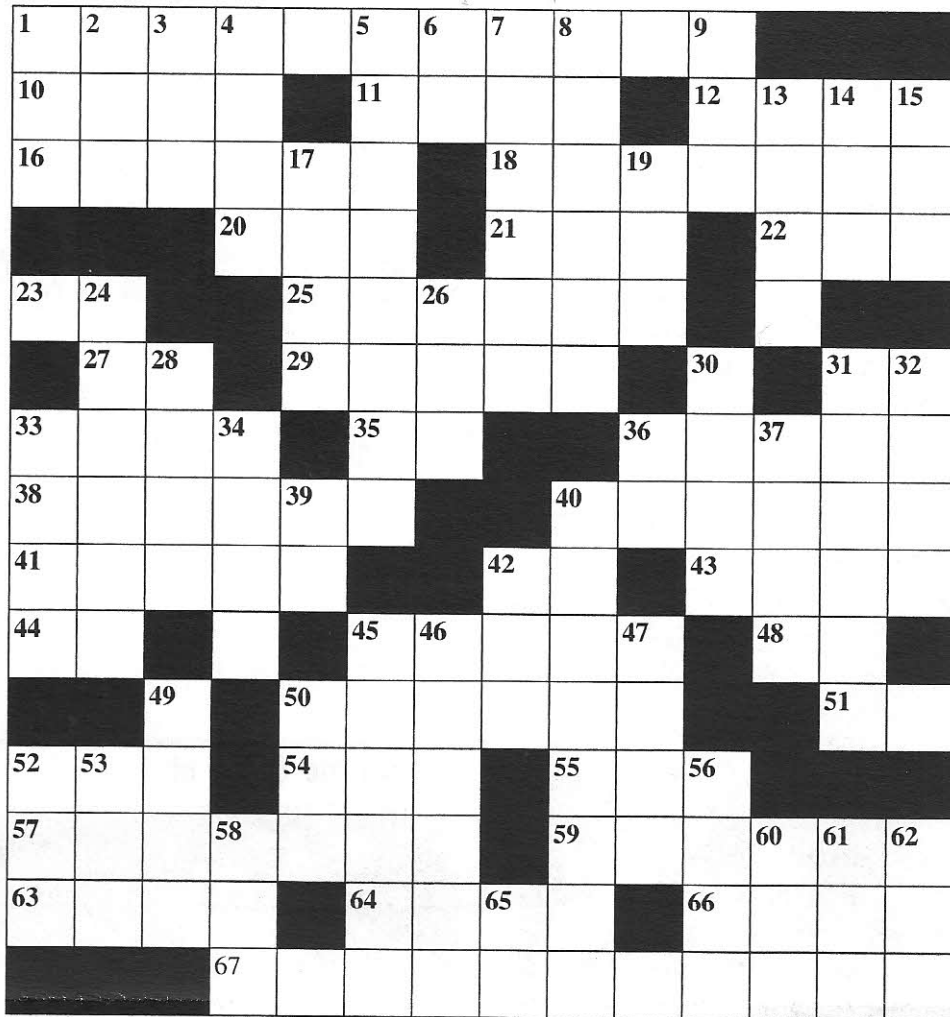
Greetings from "Freezing Florida". As your editor writes these words, we are having the coldest night in several years here in the "Sunshine" state. I consider myself fortunate, however, to have escaped the blizzard of 2005 which is still raging in the Northeast. Anyway, winter weather is always a good excuse to hunker down by the fire with some hot cocoa and some good OTR tapes/CDs.

This issue of RWUN is a page longer than most because we have no new tape library entries this month. New entries will be back in March. Jack Richards has come up with several new crosswords which will be featured this month and in April or May. Sharpen up those pencils everyone, these are quite challenging.

We are still looking for some articles and/or features for upcoming issues. If you have an idea for an article or a quiz, or just a short feature, please send it to me via e-mail or regular mail. Most of the articles in RWUN are submitted by our members, so feel free to participate.

**Happy Valentine's Day and good listening to  
all...**

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**ACROSS**

- 1 OTR rival to Greyhound
- 10 Part of a donut
- 11 Land measure
- 12 OTR actor, \_\_\_\_\_ Soule
- 16 Texas rose
- 18 To fill with hope
- 20 Recede
- 21 Thirdly-forth President
- 22 Introduced
- 23 Companion of either
- 25 Lots and lots
- 27 Premium pay
- 29 Opposite of egress
- 31 Indefinite article
- 33 African tree
- 35 Added when you change Y to I
- 36 Indian tribe
- 38 Not a Medicare requirement
- 40 Second Lone Ranger
- 41 Tied up
- 42 Forth note
- 43 Fruit cover
- 44 German police?
- 45 In between
- 48 Perhaps a pink elephant
- 50 What you get in school
- 51 Spanish agreement

- 52 Pose for a portrait
- 54 Belonging to the Associated Press
- 55 List shortener
- 57 \_\_\_\_\_ Pimpernel
- 59 Go over again
- 63 Camping need
- 64 Mature
- 66 Light bulb product
- 67 Shocking fish

**DOWN**

- 1 Persistent child's question
- 2 Weed
- 3 Not well
- 4 Prefix meaning at a distance
- 5 Very thin
- 6 Type of power
- 7 Horse riding need
- 8 Week end wild party
- 9 Apex
- 13 Third Man
- 14 Form of to be
- 15 Tennis need
- 17 Reed instrument
- 19 Female relative
- 24 Cowboy activities
- 26 Problems for Friends of Bill W
- 28 Short skirt
- 30 Takes drugs
- 31 Federal employees
- 32 Computer hacker
- 33 Spheres
- 34 Obey
- 36 Windstorm
- 37 Somewhere near the middle
- 39 Sullivan or Wynn
- 40 Big talker
- 42 Not against
- 45 Electrical measure
- 46 Caulking
- 47 Girl Scout troop entertainment
- 49 OTR satirist \_\_\_\_\_ Freberg
- 50 My gal \_\_\_\_\_
- 52 Fast jet
- 53 Form of water
- 56 Stylish
- 58 Rural address
- 60 Fruit drink
- 61 Observe
- 62 Movie computer
- 65 Liquid measure



## LOST and FOUND

**FOUND** - 23 nearly new men's suits in very good to new condition. (17 gray, 6 blue) Shirts, ties, socks, and shoes also found along with 23 pair of black horn-rimmed glasses (non-prescription). These items have been found in telephone booths all over the city.

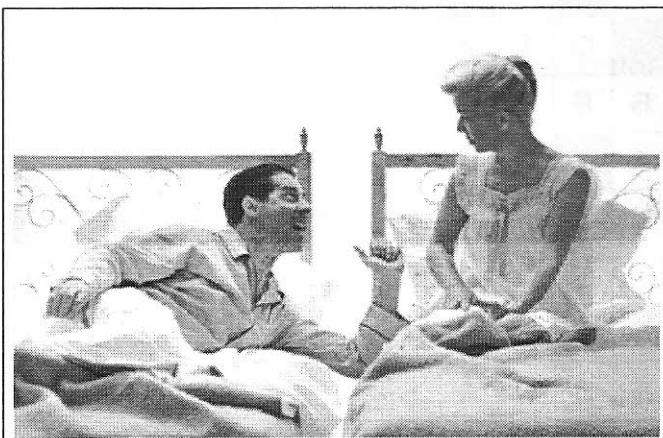
Contact Lost & Found Division, Metropolis PD

*(item reprinted from The Daily Planet  
12-30-48)*

## Romance on the Radio

*In honor of Valentine's Day we examine some of  
the great romantic couples of OTR.*

Along with comedy, action-adventure and crime drama, romance was one of the staples of OTR programming. Although straight romantic story lines were mainly confined to soap opera style dramatic shows, most series had at least one long-running romantic thread. These romantic sidelights were sometimes star-crossed, sometimes one-sided, and sometimes doomed to failure by the very structure of the program. An example of this is the story of Leila Ransom and her frustrating relationship with Summerfield's womanizing water commissioner, Throckmorton Gildersleeve. Although many listeners were hoping for a happy ending for this couple, the basic premise of the series forestalled any permanent commitment for *The Great Gildersleeve*.



"The Bickersons"

Other examples of this type of romantic storyline include Margo Lane and Lamont Cranston of *The Shadow*, Lois Lane and Clark Kent of *Superman*, Connie Brooks and Philip Boynton of *Our Miss Brooks*, and Gil Whitney's 17-year courtship of Helen Trent on *The Romance of Helen Trent*. Some shows, such as *Archie Andrews* and *The Aldrich Family* featured dating difficulties and frustrations as standard plot devices. Other series revolved around married couples whose love for each other helped them to surmount various difficulties.



"My Favorite Husband"

A good example of this type of romantic storyline is the relationship of Liz and George Cooper on *My Favorite Husband*. Despite many harebrained ideas and schemes (mainly from Liz) and impulsive decisions (often from George), the relationship between these two was strong enough to overcome all the frustrations that came their way. This "love conquers all" concept was also the basis for the later (and much better known) *I Love Lucy*. Not as overt, but nonetheless present, this concept is also the underlying factor in the success of *The Bickersons*. The snappy, often sniping, dialogue between nagging Blanche and long-suffering John Bickerson would seem to suggest an outrageously mismatched couple, but most shows in this series also show that the characters have honest affection for each other.

Solid marriages featuring couples who complement and respect each other are the basis for many shows in various genres. Two examples of this are *Mr. and Mrs. North* and *The Halls of Ivy*. While the romance is not the main thrust of these shows, it remains an essential underlying platform for all of the various stories presented in these series. This



"Fibber McGee and Molley"

unstated but understood "background romance" is typified in *Fibber McGee and Mollie*. Why would sane, sensible Mollie McGee put up with all of the antics of husband Fibber? Because she loves him, of course.

Finally, we come to the truest of romantic dramas, the soap opera. Soap operas usually had multiple romantic story lines of various types. *One Man's Family* typifies this idea. Henry and Fanny Barbour are the solid married couple whose ongoing

romance allows them to overcome all difficulties. Son Clifford is the character whose star-crossed relationships often have tragic outcomes. Son Jack and daughter-in-law Betty also have a good marriage, although it is often stressed by circumstance. Paul, the eldest son, is unlucky in love, but seems to learn from his mistakes. Daughters Hazel and Claudia each have several types of romances during the series. *One Man's Family* is romantic drama at its purest and best, with all the characters (into the third generation) involved in various types of romantic story lines.



"One Man's Family"

Answers to the crossword puzzle

W	H	I	T	E	R	A	B	B	I	T				
H	O	L	E		A	C	R	E		O	L	A	N	
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			E	L	E	C	T	R	I	C	E	E	L	