



RETURN WITH US NOW...



RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION OF
COLORADO

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RHAC 30th Anniversary Year!

July, 2005

RADIO DETECTIVES

by Dr. Charles Beckett

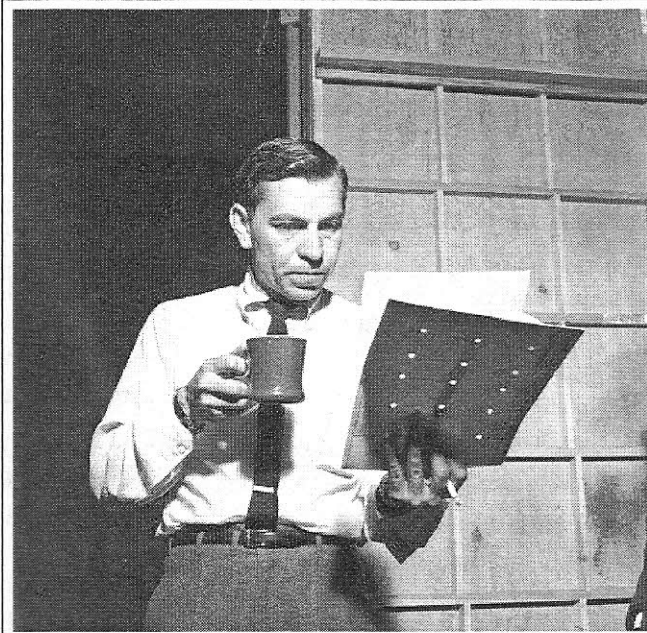
During the 1940s and early 1950s, there were over 40 detective series on radio. They can be classified into three major categories; detectives who wore the badges of official law enforcement agencies, those who had private detective licenses, and amateur detectives- those who had neither badge nor license, but somehow managed to get involved in, and help solve, murders and other crimes on a regular basis.

Among the better known police department detectives were Sergeant Joe Friday, of "Dragnet," and Detective Lieutenant Danny Clover, of "Broadway is my Beat." Sergeant Friday worked for the Los Angeles Police Department, but did not have a regular or permanent assignment. On any given episode, he might be assigned to homicide, robbery, vice, burglary, or any other detail for which he was needed,

to conduct an investigation or to find a felon. Except for his current partner, he was a loner. He lived with his mother, Ma Friday. He was stony faced, calm, deliberate and seldom raised his voice above a conversational level. He was described as "tough,

but not hard, conservative but caring." The series plots were based on actual cases of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Homicide detective Lieutenant Danny Clover, of "Broadway is my Beat," worked for the New York Police Department. He was more outgoing than Friday. He had grown up on the streets. As a boy, he sold newspapers and shined shoes on Broadway, and later, pounded that beat as a uniformed police officer. "The Great White Way" continued to be his beat when he became a senior plainclothes detective.



Jack Webb as Dragnet's Sergeant Joe Friday

From his years there, he knew everyone along the strip, from panhandler to operetta Prima Donna, and the in-between denizens of the dark. As he reminded us each week, Manhattan's Broadway was his beat, from "Times Square to Columbus Circle - the gaudiest, most violent, loneliest mile in the world."

Another, lesser-known, salaried detective was "Mr. Chameleon", who operated out of New York City's Central Police Headquarters. "The famous

and dreaded detective was a man of many faces". He used his special skills at disguise to track down killers, assisted by his "big, dumb sidekick," Dave Arnold.

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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

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Pirate Radio 104.7 FM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:30 - 12:00 PM
and, Pirate Radio internet streaming at http://www.pirate1047.com		Sunday, 6:30 - 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

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

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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	
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CD Library:	Thomas Woessner	3240 S. Lowell Bld.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 936-4643

Convention Schedules

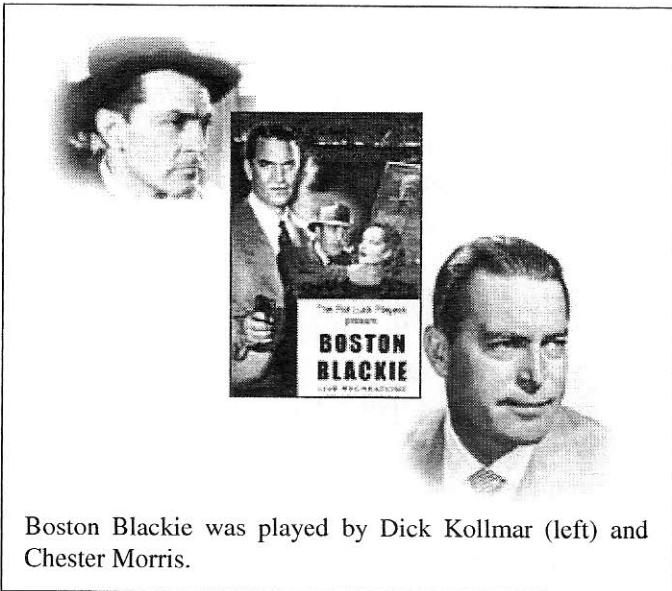
30th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 20 - 23, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 JayHick@aol.com, or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

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Series featuring private detectives were the most numerous -- about 27 in all. The typical private eye on radio worked alone or with a partner. His only income was what he could collect from clients. He may have been a police officer before going into business for himself, or, in a few cases, had worked



Boston Blackie was played by Dick Kollmar (left) and Chester Morris.

on the wrong side of the law in earlier days. Most private eyes had a girlfriend, assistant or secretary.

Some of the more popular and long-running radio series included: "Boston Blackie," "Richard Diamond, Private Detective," "Pat Novak, For Hire," "The Adventures of Philip Marlowe," "The Adventures of Sam Spade, Detective," "The Saint," "Sherlock Holmes," "Mr. Keen, Tracer of Lost Persons," "The Fat Man," "The Adventures of Nero Wolfe," and "Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar."

While detectives who worked for official law enforcement agencies could be assured of a weekly paycheck, many of the private detectives and investigators lived from day to day and from client to client. Generally, they were frequently short on cash, wondering when the next potential client would walk into their office-- or, invade it with a gun pointed at their belt buckle. They lived in the hope that, when they did get a client, he or she would live long enough, or have enough money to pay for their services - so that they could pay the back-rent on their small, walk-up offices.

An occupational hazard of these knights of the streets was regularly getting blackjacked, punched, pummeled and pounded by large men, tied up, offered drinks laced with knock-out powders by seductive women; or shot at - and occasionally hit - but never seriously enough to keep them from

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bringing their case to a successful conclusion. Unfortunately, they never seemed to learn from these experiences and continued to operate pretty much with the same wild abandon from case to case. Perhaps, this had something to do with their repeatedly being hit on the head with blunt objects. Another potentially dangerous situation was when an attractive woman threw herself at them. Often they were too busy concentrating on solving a murder to have the time or attention for romance. This was probably just as well, as often the lovely young woman who tried to entice the lonely P.I. turned out to be a suspect - or, worse, the criminal.

On the plus side, one of the fringe benefits enjoyed by many of the private detectives was having attractive girlfriends, assistants or secretaries to help them in their work. These devoted young ladies also were usually good and patient listeners, allowing their bosses to expound on how brilliant they had been in solving a case. This event frequently occurred at the same time these faithful Florence Nightingales were attending to the P.I.s' bruised heads and battered bodies - dousing one or both with iodine and applying bandages.

The girlfriends usually had their own careers or means of support, but pity the poor assistants and secretaries. If their boss frequently did not know where the rent money was coming from, these women probably had the same concern as to when they would receive a paycheck. Even when a case appeared lucrative - in the end - as fate would have it, a wealthy client could be murdered before he could write a check. Other times, a soft hearted private eye might take pity on a down-and-out client, and not charge him or her for his services - or, when he did receive a fee, he might donate part or all of it to an innocent or needy victim in the case. Regardless of the financial status of their bosses, these dedicated women remained true to them during good times and bad.

In addition to the regular physical abuse the private detectives took from criminals, some, on occasion, were accused by the police of a murder. It could be in connection with a case they were investigating. Or, they could accidentally become involved when they discovered a body in the hallway of their office building, or mysteriously left in their apartment. Even worse, they might be leaning over a body, having just pulled the knife from its back when the police arrived on the scene. Most of these situations occurred by their being in the wrong place

at the wrong time. Also, sometimes they were framed by a clever criminal to look guilty by the planting of misleading clues, or having their gun stolen and used to commit a murder. This sort of thing happened all too often to "Boston Blackie." His nemesis, Police Inspector Faraday, never forgot that Blackie had once been a master thief. Faraday seemed obsessed with trying to prove something against Blackie that would send him to the Big House. But, fortunately, Blackie always was able to solve the case and bring the real culprit to justice and prove himself innocent - much to Faraday's disappointment. Blackie's girlfriend, Mary Wesley, was a steadying influence in Blackie, and successful in helping him stay out of jail. However, in one episode, even she was framed for a murder, in which Blackie helped her prove her innocence.



Dick Powell as Richard Diamond, Private Detective

Other private detectives were more fortunate than Blackie, having police connections that helped them in their investigations. "Richard Diamond, Private Detective," had been a former police detective. He had worked, and remained friends with police Lieutenant Walt Levenson. In spite of Diamond's good naturedly calling him "Fatty," and teasing his rather slow witted assistant, Sergeant Otis, Levenson was cooperative in providing Diamond with information from police files to help him in his investigations. In return, Diamond helped Levenson solve some baffling crimes the police department was investigating. Although, like other

P.I.s, Diamond received his share of thumps, bumps, bruises and car crashes, he was the only P.I. who had a wealthy girlfriend - Helen Asher. She lived in a luxury Park Avenue penthouse, complete with butler. After a tough case, she would tend to Diamond's wounds and bruises, and soothe his aches and pains in the comfort of her plush apartment. In return, "Rick," at the end of each program, would reward her with a baritone ballad, while accompanying himself on her grand piano.

Like many of the other private detectives, Diamond was usually short on cash, but he always lived in hope. In one episode, a woman in a mink coat walked into his office, hired him, with the prospect of a fat fee, but then abruptly dropped dead. It was not uncommon for Helen to offer to help Diamond overcome his financial woes. But, he would repeatedly reject her offers of money, preferring to remain poor but proud, rather than accept her charity.

The name of the series, "Pat Novak, For Hire," was the same as the sign in front of Novak's small office on pier 19, in San Francisco. He described himself this way, "I rent boats and do anything else that'll buy a warm winter." On each show, Novak would be hired by someone - "If not a beautiful dame, the job would lead to a beautiful dame." There were three certainties associated with each episode. One, Novak would get beaten up. Two, There would be a murder, for which he would become the "patsy." And, three, he would have to solve the crime to keep from being arrested by Police Inspector Hellman, his nemesis - whose ambition was to get something on Novak to send him to prison. But, by the show's end, Novak - like Boston Blackie - was able to prevent this from happening by identifying the murderer, and explaining the details to Hellman.

(to be continued next month)

CRYPTOGRAM

by Jack Richards

Cryptograms are created from quotes, catch phrases, or other sayings from OTR shows. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. After the quote, decipher the name of the show in which it appeared. The answer is on page 6.

#4 Clue: B equals A.

“YKKX SNSHGHY CF. BHX CFL. HKFDZ
BHX LKEDZ BCSFGJB

BHX BWW DZS LZGML BD LSB.”

RBWDSF RGHJZWW'L AKEFHBW

*From the Desk of
the Editor
by Carol Tiffany*



This issue of RWUN took on a life of its' own as we put it together. It became an all-detective issue somewhat by accident, but seems to have come together in quite an interesting manner. The first installment of Dr. Beckett's two-part article on radio's greatest sleuths deals with both well-known and obscure examples of the genre in the author's usually well-researched and articulate manner. We added the Jeff Regan episode log for clarification because a second series of this show did not feature Jack Webb in the title role. Finally, the quiz about radio's lady detectives should prove to be the most challenging trivia quiz we have had in quite a while.

If any of you were able to attend the REPS convention in Seattle last month, we would love to have your comments for publication in RWUN. Additionally, we are still in need of both articles and features for the newsletter. If you have ever had an idea for something you would like to read about OTR, why not try writing about it? Items for the newsletter may be submitted as E-Mail attachments or sent to the editor via regular mail at the address listed on page 2 of the newsletter.

Meanwhile, have a safe and sane Fourth of July and enjoy the holiday!

Good Listening to all . . .

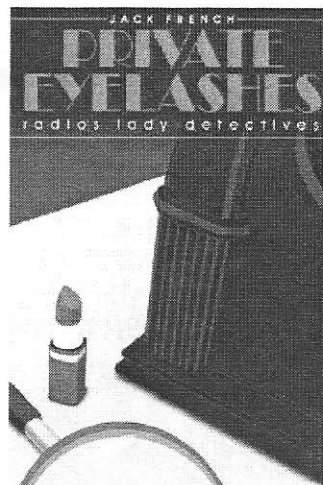
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The Trivial Matter of OTR's Distaff Detectives

How many of these "Private Eyelashes" can YOU identify? Match the star with her character and remember, some stars had more than one equally well known character and some characters were played by several actresses. The answers are on page 6. Good luck with this one!

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| _Marlene Dietrich | A. Kitty Keene (<i>Title Role</i>) |
| _Natalie Masters | B. Theresa Travers (<i>Results, Inc.</i>) |
| _Janet Waldo | C. Mary Sullivan (<i>Policewoman</i>) |
| _Mercedes McCambridge | D. Ann Scotland (<i>Title Role</i>) |
| _Joan Blondell | E. Jean Abbott (<i>Abbott Mysteries</i>) |
| _Claudia Morgan | F. Sandra Martin (<i>Lady of the Press</i>) |
| _Betty Garde | G. Gail Collins (<i>It's a Crime, Mr. Collins</i>) |
| _Arlene Francis | H. Martha Ellis Bryant (<i>Defense Attorney</i>) |
| _Florence Williams | I. Joan Adams (<i>It's Murder</i>) |
| _Mary Jane Croft | J. Candy Matson (<i>YUkon 2-8209</i>) |
| _Fran Carlon | K. Pam North (<i>Mr. & Mrs. North</i>) |
| _Louise Fitch | L. Nora Charles (<i>Adv. Of the Thin Man</i>) |
| _Claire Trevor | M. Mary Vance (<i>Miss Pinkerton</i>) |
| _Joan Alexander | N. Diane LaVolta (<i>Time for Love</i>) |
| _Alice Frost | O. Sally Farrell (<i>Front Page Farrell</i>). |
| _Alice Reinheart | P. Debby Spencer (<i>Two on a Clue</i>) |
| _Mary Disney | |

N.B. Much of the data contained herein has been shamelessly purloined from Jack French's book about OTR's female private eyes, "Private Eyelashes". A large "Thanks" to Mr. French for producing an excellent research source!



July, 2005



New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Malettha King

This month we continue on with the early "Dragnet" shows in both the reel-to-reel and cassette libraries. These are in library #3. The shows are from the 1950 through 1953 time era.

Next we are including a series of "Jeff Regan" shows, also from the same time frame. This was another show by Jack Webb which started in 1948 and overlapped the Dragnet series. Jeff Regan was a private detective. There are only a few of these shows available, but I'm sure all of you armchair sluths will enjoy them.

"Jeff Regan, Investigator" episodes with Jack Webb

Title Unknown ??	07-10-48
"THE PRODIGAL DAUGHTER"	07-17-48
"THE LONESOME LADY"	07-24-48
"THE LADY WITH THE GOLDEN HAIR"	07-31-48
"THE MAN WHO LIKED THE MOUNTAINS"	08-07-48
"THE DIAMOND QUARTETTE"	08-14-48
"THE MAN WHO CAME BACK"	08-21-48
"THE MAN IN THE DOOR"	08-28-48
"THE HOUSE BY THE SEA"	09-04-48
"CAIN & ABLE & THE SANTA MARIA"	09-11-48
Title Unknown ??	08-18-48
"THE LADY WITH NO NAME"	08-25-48
"THE MAN WITH THE KEY"	10-02-48
"TOO MANY MRS. ROGERS"	10-09-48
"THE LOST LADY"	10-16-48
Title Unknown ??	10-23-48
Title Unknown ??	10-30-48
"THE LADY WITH TOO MUCH HAIR"	11-06-48
"THE GUY FROM GOWER GULCH"	11-13-48
"THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS"	11-20-48
"THE MAN WHO FOUGHT BACK"	11-27-48
"THE LAWYER AND THE LADY"	12-04-48
"THE GAMBLER AND HIS LADY"	12-11-48
"THE MAN WHO LIVED DOWN BY THE SEA"	12-18-48

A Happy Fourth of July to All!

And while you're celebrating with your family and friends, keep in mind the reasons why we do so and the men and women who have made it possible.

The RWUN staff and club officers

Answers to Distaff Detectives Trivial Matter Puzzle

(G) Mary Disney	(N) Marlene Dietrich
(E) Alice Reinheart	(J) Natalie Masters
(K) Alice Frost	(F) Janet Waldo
(I) Joan Alexander	(L,E) Claudia Morgan
(B) Claire Trevor	(M) Joan Blondell
(P) Louise Fitch	(H) Mercedes McCambridge
(D) Fran Carlton	(C) Mary Sullivan
(F) Mary Jane Croft	(B) Theresa Travers
(O) Florence Williams	(A) Kitty
(A) Arlene Francis	
(C) Betty Garde	
(G) Gail Collins	
(H) Martha Ellis Bryant	
(I) Joan Adams	
(J) Candy Matson	
(K) Pam North	
(L) Nora Charles	
(M) Mary Vance	
(N) Diane LaVolta	
(O) Sally Farrell	
(P) Debby Spencer	

Answer to the Cryptogram Puzzle

Walter Winchell's Journal
 "Good evening Mr. and Mrs. North and South America and all the ships at sea."