



Volume 32, Number 12

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**Missing *Gunsmoke* 1952 Episode
– "Heat Spell"
Plotline Summary**

By Stewart Wright
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Photograph by Harry Bartell, 1953.

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

"Heat Spell"

06/21/1952

Script by Lou Houston

EPISODE NOTE:

The cover page of the script for this episode, which contains cast, crew and production information, lists the title, "Heat Spell".

PLOT

It's mid-July and Dodge City is having a prolonged, dry Heat Spell. Matt and Chester go to the depot and see the new Parson who is arriving on the train. Within seconds of its arrival, one passenger shoots and kills another. When the killer shoots at Dillon, he returns fire killing the man. The newly arrived Parson Kirkland is irate that the Marshal has killed the man and calls Matt a murderer.

A short time later Doc reports a brawl in the Alafraganza that has left one man dead and a couple of men wounded. When Matt and Chester arrive they find out that the dead man is Wade Grider, the

son of one of Dodge's meanest citizens. Old man Grider blames the young Parson for starting the brawl and causing Wade's death.



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The Marshal soon realizes that he won't be able to find out who killed Wade, too many patrons were shooting. Dillon remarks to the clergyman that Dodge has not been very peaceful since the Parson's arrival and tells him to stay out of saloons and practice his profession of saving souls in church.

Continued on Page 3

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2007 Convention Schedules

No Currently Scheduled Conventions

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The following Sunday Doc Adams stops by the jail to see the Matt. Doc tells him the new Parson just gave "the best doggone sermon that's ever been preached in Dodge!" Parson Kirkland made quite an impression on the congregation in the packed church.

A few minutes later the Parson shows up to talk with Matt. After some small talk, the two men attempt to find common ground. Oddly enough the common ground starts with a quotation from Shakespeare.

KIRKLAND:

. . . How did Shakespeare put it - - - - "books in running brooks, sermons in stone. . . .?"

MARSHAL:

". . . .and, good in everything."

KIRKLAND:

(RATHER SURPRISED) Yes, that's the rest of it.

". . . .And, good in everything."

MARSHAL:

Of course, Shakespeare had never been to Dodge City.

Kirkland admits to being too eager to make good on his first posting. He apologizes for calling the Marshal "a murderer." He feels directly responsible for the killings at the depot and the saloon because the Parson says "I was expressing my views rather strongly." He was talking to the two men on the train and they started to argue. The argument escalated and ended in tragedy as did the incident at the saloon with Grider's death. Matt ends the conversation with, "It seems to me, Parson, that you can do more good in your church on one Sunday than you could do in a year in the saloons. Dodge needs somebody like you. Unfortunately a man with a badge has a little more influence than a man with a bible – right now – Maybe someday it'll be the other way."

Just then Chester rushes up and tells them that somebody has set fire to the church. Matt tells the Parson that there is only one man in Dodge mean enough to do this: old man Grider. Both the Marshal and the Parson know that it will be unlikely that it can be proven that Grider did it.

A few days later the Parson encounters the drunken Griders. Old man Grider strikes the clergyman, who turns the other cheek. This infuriates Grider and he and his son, Sut, savagely

beat the Parson and dump him in front of the jail. Dillon asks the dying Parson if the Griders beat him. He refuses to answer until Matt promises that there will be no retaliation. Then Kirkland says, "Yes. No more killings, Matt - - vengeance is mine sayeth the Lord" and dies.

Matt and Chester search for the Griders. They find the drunken pair at the lumber yard. Old man Grider shoots at Matt, but, because of his promise to the Parson, the Marshal won't return fire. Sut climbs up on a lumber pile to keep watch on Chester. The pile collapses and kills the elder Grider. Chester shows Matt a tag on the lumber: "For the new church. Hold until claimed by the Parson." The Lord has had His vengeance.

As the Parson's burial ends, it begins to rain. The "Heat Spell" is over.

CAST

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

William Conrad as Matt Dillon

Parley Baer as Chester (Chester Proudfoot)

Howard McNear as Doc (Doc Adams)

John Stephenson as Kirkland (Parson David Kirkland)

John Dehner as Grider

Paul Frees as Sut (Sut Grider)

Paul Frees as Curly

Nestor Paiva as Jake

Jack Kruschen as Bill

Jack Kruschen as Voice

Comment:

A very fine episode dealing with the cultures of the more established parts of the United States and its Frontier in the 1870's. This episode provides more insight to into Dillon's ideas on Law Enforcement.

Source Citation:

GunsSmoke Script - "Heat Spell"

Box Number: 6

Folder Number: 2

Collection: Anne and Frank Hummert Scripts, 1932-1958

Collection Number: 07867

Accretion Number: 00-00-00

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Tea Time On Talent Scouts Program

"Go get yourself some *Lipton Tea* bags, hang them on your underwear." --- *Arthur Godfrey*

by **Danny Godwin**

After beginning as a sustaining program, **ARTHUR GODFREY & HIS TALENT SCOUTS** acquired *Lipton Tea* as its sponsor in 1947. This sponsorship would begin some lengthy and unusual discussions on how the *Lipton Tea* commercials would be presented on the program. What made these commercials unusual was Godfrey himself.

Since he began his career in radio, Godfrey had a unique way of selling a product. Much to the chagrin of the sponsor, he never used scripts. He hated scripts and the people who created them. Godfrey usually referred these unfortunate people as **Vice Presidents** -- when wasn't exactly a flattering name in his personal vocabulary. When a commercial script was one he didn't like, Godfrey took the script, put it in front of the microphone, and tore it. The listeners would hear a loud rip in their radios-- and the **Vice Presidents** were muttering gutter language under their breaths. From there, Godfrey would present the commercial in his own words.

Both Godfrey's daytime program and **TALENT SCOUTS** began as sustaining programs, because of his reputation of giving the ad agencies a hard time -- despite the fact he was an effective commercial salesman. Before *Lipton Tea* began its sponsorship of **TALENT SCOUTS**, the product would have to go through a major test -- it had to meet Godfrey's approval. As with all future products he would sell on radio and TV, Godfrey would have to try it himself. If it met his approval, he would sell it on the air. To make a



long story short, he enjoyed *Lipton Tea's* famous **Brisk** flavor.

On each broadcast, there was a commercial script on top of his podium -- whether or not Godfrey would even look at it was another matter. Sometimes, Godfrey would read bits and pieces from the script, but the commercial was still ad-libbed. Other times, he ignored it completely. He would put into his own words how brisk, flavorful, and refreshing *Lipton Tea* was. Godfrey also informed his listeners to try any kind of tea that was available on the market. This comment would make anyone associated with *Lipton Tea* squirm, but it was Godfrey's belief the people would easily find out *Lipton Tea* was the best.

While he praised *Lipton Tea*, Godfrey didn't have very nice things to say about the wet tea bags after the brewing was completed. He remarked how awful the wet tea bags looked after brewing, and classified the wet gunk on one broadcast as a **soggy mess**.

Props would also play a key role in helping Godfrey sell *Lipton Tea Bags*. Since it was tea that was being sold on the air, one would think these props consisted of a cup and saucer, a spoon, a bowl full of sugar, a piece of lemon, and a teakettle full of boiling water. These items might have been used, but the props that appeared on the commercials were designed to tickle the funny bone of the studio audience and the radio listeners. One example was a pair of long red flannel underwear decorated from top to bottom with *Lipton Tea Bags*. This idea was to do two things at once -- to drink

tea while taking a bath. First, the person puts on the underwear. Then he/she draws some hot water in the bathtub, and finally, that person got into the tub. The bath water was washing away the **B.O.**, and in the process, the tea bags were brewing up some tea. While the person was soaking, he/she could have a hot cup of tea. In closing, Godfrey

recommended to, **Go get yourself some Lipton Tea, hang them on your underwear!**

At times, Godfrey was known to poke fun at himself in order to sell **Lipton Tea**. For example, he would narrate a letter from a person who had an idea on how to sell **Lipton Tea**. He suggested the creation of a tea cup with Godfrey's picture on the bottom. This unusual cup was more suited for people who hated his guts. All that was required was to pour hot water into the cup and dunk a **Lipton Tea Bag** to their heart's content. More than likely, the tea in the cup will be on the strong side, but if the people enjoyed dunking the tea bag on Godfrey's face, more power to them. Godfrey thought this was a wonderful idea, because the people who didn't like him would buy the product he was selling on the air. In addition, those people were getting their kicks in dunking the tea bag on Godfrey's face. It was the best of all worlds!

Lipton Tea wasn't the only product Godfrey had fun with. He would also have a field day with the commercials for, which as you already know, is a dry soup mix packaged in envelopes. Godfrey was fascinated at the thought of chicken inside the envelope. He even went as far as to open a **Lipton Soup** envelope in his search for chicken pieces. Sadly, he said, **no chicken bits in here**. What he did see in the envelope consisted of dried noodles, **pieces of green**, and other pleasant stuff that made up a delicious chicken noodle soup.



Another product was **Lipton Frostee**, a dessert mix that made homemade ice cream or sherbet. Like **Lipton Noodle Soup Mix**, **Frostee** was also packaged in a foil envelope. When it was made and cooled in the freezer, **Frostee** made homemade ice cream for less money than buying a pint of ice cream at the store. What sparked Godfrey's interest in **Frostee** was how easy and fast it was to make.

Since Godfrey was known to take considerably more time than the usual 1 minute to do a commercial, **TALENT SCOUTS** usually ran beyond the 30 minute time limit. On the other hand, his humorous and honest commercials for **Lipton Tea**, **Lipton Noodle Soup**, and **Lipton Frostee** would help boost sales, to which the people of the **Thomas Lipton Company** were very happy campers



New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Maletha King

This month we are going back to offering a great selection of CD's. First we start out with hours of "Lux Radio Theatre" and then go on to the 1935 series of "Frontier Fighters". We end this month's offerings with "The Cinnamon Bear" - a great Christmas show that all will enjoy.

Have you ever stopped to think about the important role the studio orchestra played in the presentation of the drama and adventure shows? They not only bridged the time gaps but also set the mood for the scenes as well. It was all done so smoothly that you never noticed that changes.

Answer to Substitution Codes Puzzle on Pg. 6

Answer next month.
Therefore The Shadow is the OTR character.
Who knows what evil? Shadow don't.
Congratulations if you found the phrase:
However that is wrong. Try again.

Substitution Codes

By Jack M. Richards

This month the puzzle corner turns to substitution codes. You all know what substitution codes are. That's where a substitution has been made for each letter of the alphabet. The substitution may be another letter, a number or a symbol straight from the cockpit of the nearest UFO.

OTR fans are familiar with substitution codes from the juvenile afternoon serials such as *Captain Midnight*. At the end of each broadcast, the announcer would reel off a series of numbers. After decoding (replacing the substituted number with the correct letter) the listener would receive a short message from their hero.

The simplest substitution code is one where the alphabet is displaced a certain number of steps. Thus, a displacement of three results in A being a C, B being a D, C being an E, and so on. The "key" to the substitution is "3" or "C". The technique used in this puzzle will use C as the key.

The problem with substitution codes is that they can always be broken provided that (1) you know the language of the message and (2) it is long enough to find word patterns. To cover the second problem one can change the key for every letter. That is, the key expands from a single letter to a word or phrase.

Using the following key to decode the message, find the OTR character referred to in the message.

Key:
LUM AND ABNERS JOTEM DOWN STORE

Message:
LNCKALWRJDJBVHPHGEMHBEKAWP
AHHESRPCVGRIFKGPBYZBKXITAO

From the Desk of
the Editor

by Carol Tiffany

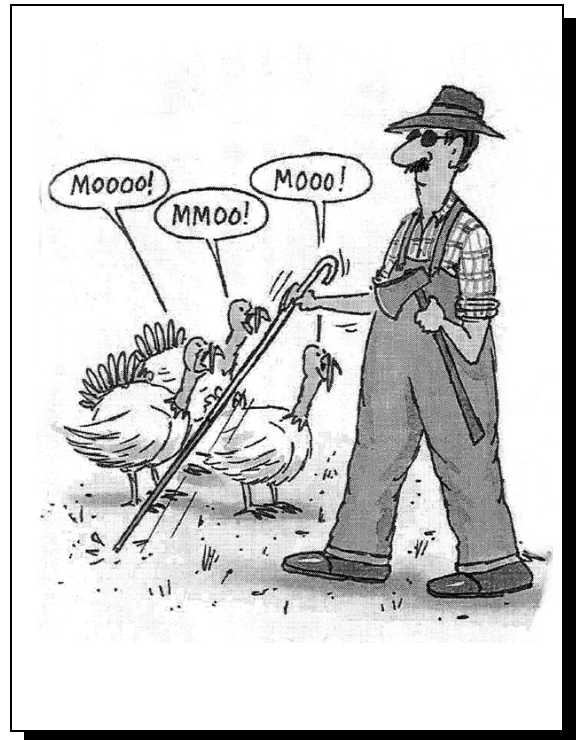


Happy Thanksgiving to all from sunny Florida! Somehow, it just doesn't seem like the holiday season without a few flakes of the glorious white stuff, but your editor's memories of Colorado's infamous holiday blizzards are still fresh enough to be thankful for the good weather.

We have quite a time adjusting to the season when the weather seems more appropriate for July 4th type celebrations. Your editor is still shocked to see lawn decorations with Santa's sleigh being pulled by eight flamingos instead of reindeer and somehow Christmas lights just don't look the same strung on palm trees!

This month we have the fourth article in Stewart Wright's five part series on the "lost" *Gunsmoke* episodes. Look for the fifth in this series next month along with a new piece on OTR Christmas shows. Also coming next month is a new crossword from Dick Williamson.

Good Listening to All...



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