

PERMANENT
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PV6

PHILCO RADIO PLAYHOUSE #18

"A MEDAL IN THE FAMILY"

by

Robert Alan Aurthur

Written for radio by

ROBERT SKUTCH

Produced by

The HUTCHINS ADVERTISING Company

Record: Cotten:

Cast:

Music:

Broadcast: 1/27/54

BERT FOSTER.....
BARNEY FOSTER.....
JUNE SUMMERS.....
MR. SUMMERS.....
MAJ. RUSSELL.....
ED.....
RUSTY.....
VOICE.....

(MUSIC:.._._INTRO.._.)

HARRICE: The Philco Radio Playhouse!

(MUSIC:.._._THEME.._.)

HARRICE: Tonight... "A Medal in the Family" by Robert Alan Aurthur
...featuring _____ and
_____. Produced and
transcribed in New York. And here is your producer
and host ... star of the new Broadway hit, "Sabrina
Fair"... Joseph Cotten!

(MUSIC:.._._UP AND OUT.._.)

COTTEN: Good evening, and welcome to The Philco Radio Playhouse,
presented each week by Philco, World's Largest Radio
and Television Manufacturer. Our curtain goes up in just
a moment.

(INSERT FIRST COMMERCIAL.....APPROX. 60 SEC.)

(MUSIC: . . . THEME AND UNDER)

COTTEN: The Congressional Medal of Honor - for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty. America's highest award for military valor.

Did you ever stop to think "who are these men who go forth -- unmasked - sometimes never to return?" Who are these men, and where do they come from? Read down the list. They come from the North, the South, the East, the West. They come from Hawaii. They come from Alaska. And one comes from a little town outside of Baltimore...Who?...Sgt. Barney Foster.

Away from the blood and horror of war, what kind of a man is Barney Foster? Why did he risk his life above and beyond the call to duty? Was it love? Fear? A feeling for mankind? For home? What kind of a home did Barney Foster come from? What kind of a home will he return to?

It's not a very well-kept little house. At least the kitchen and living room aren't. But then, why should they be? Barney's father lives here alone -- time hanging heavy for him as he sits...and waits...and has another beer.

(OPEN BEER BOTTLE: POUR BEER)

(KNOCK ON DOOR)

BERT: It's open; come in.

(DOOR OPENS WITH:)

JUNE: Hello, Mr. Foster.

(SCRAPE CHAIR WITH:)

BERT: Well, Junie..my favorite girl friend..Come on in, and sit down.

(CLOSE DOOR WITH:)

JUNE: I have the car right outside, Mr. Foster. I just stopped by so I could escort the proud papa down to Washington.

BERT: That's mighty sweet of you, Junie..but, well..I hadn't planned on going.

JUNE: But Barney will be expecting you. He'll be disappointed if you're not there.

BERT: No..I'll be here..if he wants to come home. I kind of hope he does come home for a while. (A BEAT) Do you think he will, Junie?

JUNE: Of course he will. (GOOD NATURED) But you're not going to wait till he comes home to see him; you're coming with..

BERT: (INTERRUPTING) Now don't you order me around, Junie. (ALSO GOOD NATURED) I'll keep the home fires burning.

JUNE: Are you sure?

BERT: Yes. He won't miss me. There'll be all those big shots at the airport..all the brass..the newspaper people.. I'd get lost.

JUNE: I don't think that...

BERT: You just run along, Junie..

JUNE: Well, all right, Mr. Foster. I'll see you later.

(MUSIC: . . . THEME AND UNDER)

COTTEN: Barney's father was right..there was a lot of brass at the airport. And it wasn't till all the pictures had been taken that Barney was even aware that someone from his home town was there to welcome him.

(MUSIC: . . . OUT)

(ESTABLISH AIRPORT BACKGROUND)

JUNE: Hello, Barney.

BARNEY: June!...This is kind of a surprise...But..Oh, uh.. June Summers, this is Major Russell.

JUNE: How do you do.

MAJOR: How do you do.

BARNEY: June's from my home town.

MAJOR: Listen, Barney, none of that home town routine now. Remember Texas, boy. We're going to make a million.

BARNEY: Sure, Major.

MAJOR: Well, see you later at the hotel, Barney.

BARNEY: You don't have to..

MAJOR: My wife's plane is due any minute. Nice meeting you, Miss Summers.

JUNE: Thank you.

BARNEY: (A COUPLE OF BEATS) Well..this is kind of a surprise.

(STEPS WALKING SLOWLY WITH:)

JUNE: I'm working, covering the story for the Sentinel. Dad thought I'd be the logical one to come down.

BARNEY: How is your father?

JUNE: Oh, still the small-town publisher in a big way. You look fine, Barney.

BARNEY: I feel fine.

JUNE: Everybody in Sherbrook is pretty proud of you.

BARNEY: I didn't do much.

JUNE: That's not what the citation said. It was in all the papers. We ran it on the front page. Your father has it framed.

BARNEY: He does?

JUNE: He's very proud of you, Barney.

BARNEY: Yeah? Then why didn't he show up today? (ACID) Was he too busy?

JUNE: Maybe he was a little scared.

BARNEY: The only thing he's scared of is not having the price of his next drink!

(THEIR FOOTSTEPS STOP)

JUNE: Barney!

BARNEY: Well..why wasn't he here? Major Russell, his wife is coming all the way from Texas.

JUNE: You never wrote to him. You never wrote to me either.

BARNEY: I didn't have anything to say. I made my way and did all right.

JUNE: Hmph. You made your way. (A BEAT) You ran away, Barney..

BARNEY: What did you want me to do..stick around so I could fill up the gas tank of your convertible when you went to the country club?

JUNE: You've won a Congressional Medal. Have you still got the same chip on your shoulder?

BARNEY: I'm not going to use the medal for anything. The only thing it means is that I can go back to Sherbrook and know that I'm somebody.

JUNE: All right then, come on home.

BARNEY: When?

JUNE: Now..come home and see your father.

BARNEY: I can't come home now; the ceremony..

JUNE: The ceremony isn't until Wednesday. That will give you three days.

BARNEY: They asked me if I wanted to spend the three days at home, but I..

JUNE: See how it feels, Barney.

BARNEY: Well..

JUNE: Your father really misses you.

BARNEY: (A BEAT) All right. I'll go home. I'll go home and see him.

(MUSIC:.. BRIDGE IT)

(OPEN DOOR)

BARNEY: I can't see a thing..where's the light anyw...oh, here.

(SNAP LIGHT)

BARNEY: (ACID) Well..the big homecoming. Just like I pictured it.

JUNE: He's been waiting for you, Barney; he probably got sleepy.

BARNEY: Who wouldn't get sleepy after half a dozen bottles of beer?

JUNE: Don't start out like...

BARNEY: (INTERRUPTING) I'll see you later, June.

JUNE: (A BEAT) All right. But, Barney..be nice to him.

(CLOSE DOOR)

(BARNEY STEPS ACROSS ROOM)

BARNEY: Pop, wake up. Pop...

BERT: What...what! Who is it...what do you want?

BARNEY: Pop, it's me, Barney.

BERT: Barney?...BARNEY!

(SCRAPE CHAIR AS BERT GETS UP)

BERT: It is you..It really is.

BARNEY: Hello, Pop.

BERT: You're all right. You're not hurt.

BARNEY: Sure, I'm okay.

BERT: I was worried you know..the telegram came, and then the story in the papers, and you figure they lie a little bit to make the folks at home feel easier..but you're really okay!

BARNEY: Sure, I told you..I'm okay.

BERT: You know, you didn't write to me..oh, not that I expected you to, we're not a writing family..gosh, all the time your mother was in the sanitorium..six years..I think we only wrote maybe a dozen times. Course I used to go up there five, six times a year..remember?

BARNEY: Yeah, I remember.

BERT: Guess there's not much you can say in letters. I wrote you a couple of times though, did you get them?

BARNEY: I got a post card last summer. You said something about the Washington Senators.

BERT: Yeah, they were in fourth place for a while. (HALF BEAT)
I sent a package too, a pair of gloves. I read how cold
it was in Korea, so I figured you could use the gloves.

BARNEY: I never got them.

BERT: Well..they weren't very expensive gloves. (A BEAT) Say,
it's kind of cold in here isn't it? Why don't I go down
and stoke the furnace.

BARNEY: No, it's okay. I'm going out in a little while.

BERT: Oh.

BARNEY: I have to go to dinner...at June's.

BERT: Oh, sure, sure. You do what you want, Barney. You know
I never stop you from doing what you want.

BARNEY: Yeah, I know. (A BEAT) Pop, are you working?

BERT: Well....well, no, I haven't been..I've been thinking
about it though. (A BEAT) So you're going to dinner at
the Summers' house. That's funny, isn't it?

BARNEY: It's not so funny.

BERT: Oh, I didn't mean funny to laugh at. I mean..well, the
night before you left you had dinner there, didn't you?

BARNEY: So?

BERT: So I never did find out what happened there to make you
so sore.

BARNEY: It wasn't anything.

BERT: You sure were sore though. But I bet now you got the
medal they'll treat you good.

BARNEY: The medal has nothing to do with how anybody treats me.
I'm the same guy I always was. The medal has nothing to
do with it. It doesn't change anything.

BERT: Sure it changes things.

BARNEY: How?

BERT: Well...before you left, well, people thought you weren't going anywhere. Now you've showed them. You've got the greatest thing an American soldier can win.

BARNEY: And I'm telling you it doesn't change anything. Only a little time has gone by, and time doesn't change much in people. Look at you, Pop, you're the same.

(PUSH BOTTLES TOGETHER WITH:)

BARNEY: You even drink the same crumby brand of beer!

(A BEAT)

(GATHER THE BOTTLES TOGETHER)

BERT: Uh, I'll throw these out and clean up the room a little.

(BERT'S FOOTSTEPS ACROSS THE ROOM)

BERT: I'm sorry I didn't meet you at the airport, Barney.

I just...couldn't make it.

(MUSIC: . . . THEME AND UNDER)

COTTEN: His father couldn't make it to the airport, and Barney couldn't stay home for supper. Yet there was nothing unusual about it...it had always been that way. And why shouldn't Barney go to June Summers' house for dinner? The food was good, the atmosphere was smart, and he was surrounded by people whose approval he had always sought.. people like June's father.

(MUSIC: . . . OUT . . .)

SUMMERS: That's something else I want to discuss with you, Barney... your plans when you get discharged.

BARNEY: I really haven't made any plans, Mr. Summers.

SUMMERS: Well, maybe I can help you. Perhaps you'd like to work for the paper.

BARNEY: I....

SUMMERS: Don't say anything now, just think it over. You know... things have changed, haven't they, Barney? (HALF A BEAT) Well, if you'll excuse me now, I guess you two would like to be alone. (TRAIL OFF)

JUNE: (A BEAT) Would you like another drink, Barney?

BARNEY: No thanks, I haven't really touched this one. (A BEAT) (LAUGHS SOFTLY)

JUNE: What's funny, Barney?

BARNEY: Your old man. Three years ago I wasn't good enough for you..my father was a bum; now "things have changed."

JUNE: You know what he meant. It did look like you weren't going anywhere three years ago, Barney.

BARNEY: I was a kid! All right, I didn't have a big, fancy job lined up..I wasn't going to school at College Park. Well, why didn't he offer help then? That's when I needed it, not now. I don't need his job now. Major Russell wants me to go to work for him in Texas. I don't need your father now..I needed him then.

JUNE: Maybe he didn't think you rated it..then.

BARNEY: Did you?

JUNE: I don't know. I was just a kid too. I don't really remember what I thought.

BARNEY: I guess it was strange at that..all the gang hanging around you..how come you never picked one of them?

JUNE: I guess there was never one I wanted to pick.

BARNEY: Too bad. You'd look great in a Cadillac convertible.

JUNE: (A BEAT) What's the matter, Barney?

BARNEY: I don't know. I guess coming home was all wrong. I thought I had this town licked, but I was crazy.

JUNE: Don't you think you give up a little too easily, Barney?..

BARNEY: (DEFENSIVE) What do you mean?

JUNE: Oh..like not going out for the high school football team.

BARNEY: I had to work after school.

JUNE: So did other kids. And what about not taking the exam for the scholarship at the University.

BARNEY: I'd have never gotten that scholarship; old Adams didn't like me; he'd have seen that someone else got it.

JUNE: Adams had nothing to do with it. Don't you see, Barney, you always ran away from things. But that's all over now ..in the army you didn't run away.

BARNEY: In the army it was different. It didn't make any difference who your old man was. It didn't make any difference if he put himself to sleep drinking beer.

JUNE: Look, you didn't give your father a chance this afternoon. Why don't you go home and talk to him for a little while?

BARNEY: What do I have to knock myself out for? The best thing is to let him alone; I can go to Texas and have nothing to worry about. Why try to whip something that I...well, what am I doing it for?

JUNE: You're going to run away again.

BARNEY: I'm not running away! I'm just..(HE BREAKS OFF)

JUNE: Barney...you have to make your peace with it..one way or another. Give it two more days. Try, Barney. Really try.

BARNEY: (A BEAT) All right. I'll try.

(MUSIC:.._._THEME_AND_UNDER)

COTTEN: So Barney would try..Maybe June was right; maybe he had his father pegged all wrong. Maybe if he could talk things out with him...

(MUSIC:.._._OUT)

(OPEN DOOR)

BERT: (OFF) That you, Barney?

BARNEY: Yeah, Pop.

(CLOSE DOOR WITH:)

BERT: (OFF) Didn't expect you home so early. I'm here in your room.

(BARNEY'S STEPS WITH:)

BARNEY: I'm a little tired.

BERT: (FADE IN) A lot of people called up while you were out. Reverend Williams..the mayor..lots of people.

(END BARNEY'S STEPS)

BARNEY: So?

BERT: So it was nice talking to them. They think a lot of you, Barney.

BARNEY: Of me?..or the medal?

BERT: Both, I guess. They're the same thing, aren't they?

BARNEY: That's a funny thing to say.

BERT: Why? It's the truth. You earned it. You know, I was sitting here thinking about your citation. You'll think I'm nuts, but I've got the darned thing memorized. (HE QUOTES, HESITATING OVER THE LONGER WORDS) "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.." Gosh that sounds great! But what you did, Barney, that was greater. What makes people do those things? Were you scared, Barney?

BARNEY: Part of the time.

BERT: You don't want to talk about it, do you?

BARNEY: It doesn't make much difference.

BERT: Maybe if we had a beer, a nightcap. (EFFORT AS HE GETS UP) Would you like a beer?

BARNEY: No, thanks, Pop.

BERT: (SETTLES BACK) Whatever you say. (HALF A BEAT) You know we never had a beer together. (A BEAT) I guess there are a lot of things we've never done.

BARNEY: You never took me to the rodeo.

BERT: What?

BARNEY: The rodeo. When I was a kid, and the rodeo came to Baltimore, you said you'd take me. You never did.

BERT: Funny..you remembering that.

BARNEY: I hadn't thought about it in a long time.

BERT: Your mother sure gave me a hard time about that. She said, "You promised, you have to do it." I asked her where do I get the money, even for the cheapest seats?

(MORE)

BERT:
(CONT) That was right after my accident, and they hadn't fixed up the pension yet. I suppose I should have found the money somehow. A kid doesn't understand things like that..not having money, I mean.

BARNEY: It wasn't just the rodeo, Pop; it was a lot of things. You never did anything you promised.

BERT: I tried, Barney; honest I tried. But things never seemed to work out.

BARNEY: We've never even been able to talk to each other; why?

BERT: (A BEAT) You're going to laugh at this, Barney.

BARNEY: I need a good laugh.

BERT: (ANOTHER BEAT) I'm scared of you. I've always been scared of you.

BARNEY: What kind of a thing is that to say?

BERT: That's crazy, isn't it? But it's true. Right from the start, when you were a baby, I couldn't even pick you up. Your mother would say, "Bert, don't pick him up, you'll drop him," and, well, I couldn't pick you up. Your mother...she wasn't very helpful about things like that.

BARNEY: You mean it's her fault you're like you are?

BERT: I didn't say that.

BARNEY: But you meant it.

BERT: Look, Barney..

BARNEY: No, you look. Maybe she got tired of waiting around for you to do something. Maybe she got tired of promises you didn't keep. Did you ever think of that?

BERT: Barney, your mother's got nothing to do with this.

BARNEY: I don't remember her very well, but what I do remember ...she had it awful tough, Pop, and I don't think you ever made it any easier for her.

BERT: You're young, Barney. You just don't know about these things.

BARNEY: Don't tell me I don't know. I know you, Pop.

BERT: Do you really, Barney?

BARNEY: Yes, really.

BERT: I wish I could say the same about you, Barney. A father and son, and the father doesn't know his son.

BARNEY: I guess it's just one of those things.

BERT: (AN EFFORT AS HE RISES) Maybe it is. (A BEAT) Uh, Barney.

BARNEY: Yeah.

BERT: I'm thinking about going back to work.

BARNEY: Like you've been saying you'd do for the last fifteen years?

BERT: No, I mean it this time. I want to go back to work. I really feel like it. You could live here with me until you decided to get married..

BARNEY: Look, Pop..

BERT: This is your room, Barney, for as long as you want it.

BARNEY: (ANGUISHED) I don't want this room. I hate this room.

(SWEEPS EVERYTHING OFF A TABLE WITH:)

BARNEY: And all this junk in it. I want to get rid of it, throw it out, forget it. It's not me any more, Pop.. Can't you get that through your head?

BERT: Sure, Barney, sure..I only thought..

BARNEY: Never mind what you thought. I'm not going back to be a filling station guy.

BERT: But that's the idea, that's what everyone's been saying. You won't be that.

BARNEY: So they'll promote me because of the medal.

BERT: All right, Barney.

(OPEN DOOR)

BERT: (A BEAT) At least we did one thing tonight we never did before. We may not have had a beer together, but at least we talked. That's something anyway, isn't it, Barney?

(MUSIC: . . . FIRST ACT CURTAIN)

HARRICE: You are listening to "A MEDAL IN THE FAMILY"...with
_____ on the Philco Radio Playhouse.

(INSERT SECOND COMMERCIAL --- 1:15)

(MUSIC: -- THEME AND UNDER. . .)

COTTEN: Barney Foster, Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery. Barney Foster saving four men from death on the field of battle....but unable to help one other man live. His father. And yet was it Barney's fault? Hadn't he tried hard to accept his fatherand hadn't it ended with a host of memories being swept angrily to the floor?

(MUSIC: -- OUT . . .)

BARNEY: Then he said something about Mom picking on him ...and how he couldn't help what he was. And then he filled me with some more hoey about his going back to work again ... and then it happened. I just swept everything off that lousy dresser...everything! I tell you I can't live with him any more; he's no good; he's everything I hate!

JUNE: (QUIETLY) Tell me something, Barney; what do you think of my father?

BARNEY: Oh, he's a nice guy, I guess. I used to think he was pretty pompous, and he was kind of rough on me once, but ... I guess he's okay.

JUNE: You think you could get along with him then.

BARNEY: I suppose I could.

JUNE: Well, believe it or not, I had to make that decision too. When I was a kid, I thought my father was a great man. As I grew up it came to me as a big surprise that he was a human being with so many little failures that most people have. That's a sad experience everyone has, Barney, finding out that their parents are human beings. Then you decide, are they worth living with or not? But first you have to grow up.

BARNEY: You mean you've grown up and I haven't?

JUNE: You tell me. At least I know that boys don't win Congressional Medals of Honor.

BARNEY: Why does it always have to come back to that?

JUNE: Because in that department you must have had a lot of courage, Barney.

BARNEY: Can I trade on it? Will you go out with me tonight?

JUNE: Yes.

BARNEY: For supper?

JUNE: You haven't had supper with your father yet, Barney.

BARNEY: He'd rather be alone with his beer.

JUNE: I had supper with him a few times while you were away. We had very nice evenings.

BARNEY: (ACID) Do you want to go out with my old man or with me?

JUNE: I was just saying...

BARNEY: (INTERRUPTING) I know what you were saying.

JUNE: Have dinner with him tonight, Barney...he'd like that.

BARNEY: Well...

JUNE: I know he would.

BARNEY: Will you eat with us?

JUNE: I'll see you after.

BARNEY: Well...(A BEAT) All right.

JUNE: You can enjoy his company just as much as I have.

BARNEY: I'll pick you up at eight.

JUNE: So early?

BARNEY: We'll be finished eating long before then.

JUNE: All right, Barney.

BARNEY: And, June.

JUNE: Yes.

BARNEY: The ceremony is the day after tomorrow.

JUNE: I know.

BARNEY: I'd like you to be there.

JUNE: I wouldn't miss it for anything. I can drive your father down, and ...

BARNEY: Oh. Yeah -- Pop.

JUNE: He's really looking forward to it, Barney.

BARNEY: Is he?

JUNE: Oh, you know he is.

BARNEY: (A BEAT) All right, June, I'll see you tonight.

JUNE: Where are you going now?

BARNEY: For a long walk. (A BEAT) And then maybe I'll pick up a steak -- the old man always did go for steak.

(MUSIC: -- BRIDGE TO: . . .)

(PHONE RING)

(PICK UP PHONE)

JUNE: Hello.

BERT: (FILTER) That you, Junie?

JUNE: Yes.

BERT: (FILTER) Is Barney there?

JUNE: No he isn't, Mr. Foster.

BERT: (FILTER) I just had to tell him the news. The railroad gave me a mighty nice job, Junie.

JUNE: Oh that's wonderful, Mr. Foster. I know Barney will be very happy.

BERT: (FILTER) I hope so ... but don't you tell him, Junie. I want to surprise him. I'll tell him when he comes home. I want him to be proud of his old man.

JUNE: He will be, Mr. Foster.

BERT: (FILTER) We'll have a real celebration tonight. A real celebration.

(MUSIC: -- BRIDGE TO: . . .)

(THE LAUGHTER OF THREE MEN ENJOYING A FEW BEERS; THEY THEN BREAK INTO THE LAST FOUR LINES OF "CASEY JONES".. AND THEN MORE LAUGHTER)

RUSTY: Hit me Bert boy!

BERT: Right.

(POURS BEER WITH:)

RUSTY: Man, it'll be great to have you back on the old run, won't it, Ed?

ED: Betcha life. Nobody like old Bert for laughs, huh, Rusty?

BERT: Drink up you guys, cause this is the last time for me. I'm swearing off. Who needs this stuff? Save your money.

RUSTY: What do you have to save money for? That kid of yours in no time he'll make a million. A kid does a thing like that, win a medal like he did, there's nothing stopping him. I always said that Barney had great stuff in him.

BERT: He's got my blood, Rusty. That's my kid. Whatever anybody says, that's my kid.

RUSTY: Guess you won the medal for him, huh Bert?

(DOOR OPENS WITH:)

BERT: He wouldn't've won it without me. Guess not. I'm telling you Barney isoh.... Hi, Barney.

(SLAM DOOR HARD WITH:)

BARNEY: Fer cryin' out loud, can't you go one day without getting lushed up?

BERT: Barney, I ...

RUSTY: Look, I have to get home. The missus...

(2 CHAIRS SCRAPE)

ED: Yeah, me too. I forgot to do some shopping.

(SCRAPE CHAIR WITH:)

BERT: Wait a minute, you fellows didn't have to ...

(OPEN DOOR WITH:)

ED: See you, Bert.

RUSTY: So long, Bert.

(CLOSE DOOR)

BARNEY: What do you do it for, Pop? What do you do it for?

BERT: Barney, we were only celebrating.

BARNEY: Sitting around with those bums.

BERT: They're not bums. They're my friends.

BARNEY: And now you're taking credit for the medal. I suppose that gets you a couple on the house in every saloon in town.

BERT: Barney, I've got a right to be proud. Don't you understand, I'm just proud. I'm your father, you are part of me. Maybe I did help a little. Is it so wrong to think that?

BARNEY: All right, you did have something to do with it. But I don't like it. I had to bleed, almost die because I didn't want to be like you. I was scared I'd be like you, scared to be scared, do you understand?

BERT: Barney, I don't ...

BARNEY: I had to run away from here three years ago to get away from you. All my life I heard people say, "Don't be like your father." My mother said it every time you'd come home rolling drunk.

BERT: I never...

BARNEY: And June's father said it that last night. They were afraid I'd be like you. That's what happened that last night, and now you know. Do you understand me?

BERT: Yeah.....I understand.

BARNEY: All right!

BERT: Yeah, I understand, and now let me tell you something. I wish you'd never been born. Everything bad about you is my fault, but everything good is your own doing. I give you that. I was wrong trying to take a little credit for the medal, I was wrong. But Barney, let me tell you something -- you're rotten, you're lousy, Barney. I understand, but you don't. I never got drunk except when there wasn't anything else for me to do. I got drunk out of being lonely and scared, but you don't understand that. You're cruel, Barney, because you have no heart for me, no there's no law says you have to, but I wanted it so bad...I wanted it, but I couldn't make it.....so get out, get out of here. Let me alone, so I can forget I ever had you, let me live my own life. Do you hear me, get out!

BARNEY: Pop, wait a minute.

BERT: No more minutes. I've waited years, but I can't wait any more minutes. Get out, Barney, and leave me alone!

(MUSIC: . . . HIT IT HARD AND THEN UNDER FOR:)

COTTEN: A man has a son whom he wants to love. A man has a son of whom he wants to be proud...of whom he can be proud...a son who is to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. But something goes wrong somewhere along the way. The son can't love the father...the father can't be proud of the son. And so Barney Foster goes to the one person who understands him.

(MUSIC: . . . OUT. . . .)

JUNE: Then what happened?

BARNEY: I don't know..I found him sitting around drinking with a couple of old buddies, and he was sounding off about the medal, and...well, I just started yelling at him.

JUNE: Oh, Barney...

BARNEY: And then something funny happened. He shouted back at me. He told me off..but good! Funny, he's never done that before. I never remember him ever raising his voice to me. He told me to get out.

JUNE: Good for him.

BARNEY: What!

JUNE: I said "good for him!" It's about time he did it to you for a change. How long did you expect him to be a punching bag for you to work your little problems out?

BARNEY: June, I don't...

JUNE: Who do you think you are to twist everybody around, to make the world do flip-flops just because you can't figure your way out of this horrible thing you've got built up in your mind? I've waited for you for three years, Barney, but I'm not waiting any longer.

BARNEY: You've been waiting! ..

JUNE: Go on to Washington, but go by yourself. Go to Texas too, and I hope you make out. You will make out, because you don't mind trampling on people. Just work on being heartless for a little while longer, and there's no telling how big a guy you can be.

BARNEY: Heartless! June, I'm only trying to fight my way out of this.

JUNE: Out of what? Do you know what you're fighting? Well, I'll tell you..you're fighting yourself, and you don't care who gets maimed in the process. Your father's proud of you, that's all. This medal has meant so much to him, Barney..He wants to live up to it so badly..Just the fact that he went back this morning and got a job..

BARNEY: He what!

JUNE: He went back to work. Didn't he tell you?

BARNEY: No! No, he didn't. He said he was celebrating....

JUNE: Oh, Barney, what have you done to that man?

BARNEY: I....I don't know.

JUNE: Barney, go back to him...can't you see what you mean to him?
Go back, Barney; go back.

(MUSIC:..BRIDGE TO:..)

(OPEN DOOR)

BARNEY: (A BEAT) Pop....(A COUPLE OF BEATS) Pop...June told me
about the job, I....

BERT: What are you doing here? I thought I told you to get out and
stay out?

BARNEY: I, uh, had to get a couple of things...and I came back to
apologize, to say I was.....sorry.

BERT: You don't need to do that. I don't want anything from you,
Barney.

(CLOSE DOOR WITH:)

BARNEY: I know you don't. I don't blame you. I'm just saying I'm
sorry.

BERT: Don't you think it's a little late for that?

BARNEY: Funny you should say that.

BERT: I'm glad you're amused.

BARNEY: No, I mean it's just like the last time.

BERT: What are you talking about?

(SCRAPE CHAIR AS BARNEY SITS WITH:)

BARNEY: The last time I tried to apologize to a guy it was the same thing...I was a little late! You see, there was a guy in my platoon, I was the platoon sergeant, his name was Ben Edwards we called him Dopey Benny because he was the world's prize foul-up. He couldn't do anything right. Anyway, that day he did something wrong...I don't even remember what it was, and the lieutenant told me to take his pass away from him. Benny was supposed to go to Seoul that afternoon for a couple days' rest. So that night on the patrol when we were hit by the ambush....

BERT: Ambushed -- that's what it says in the citation.

BARNEY: It was pretty rough in the dark. All kinds of stuff coming at us. And then I got word the lieutenant was killed, and the platoon was scattered all over the place; only one thing I could think of was Dopey Benny and how he was supposed to be in Seoul drinking beer and instead he was lying out in the darkness somewhere, and I'd been the guy to take away his pass. So I had to get to him just to tell him I was sorry. So I started looking for him. I had to do something. I....
(HE HESITATES)

BERT: Yes, Barney.

BARNEY: I got most of the platoon out, but he wasn't with them. Four guys were missing, so I went back. Benny was the last one I found...only he was dead...so I never did get to tell him I was sorry.

BERT: (AFTER A COUPLE OF BEATS) Barney?....

(SCRAPE BARNEY'S CHAIR WITH:)

BARNEY: What, Pop?

BERT:Nothing.

BARNEY: I'll get my things together.

(OPEN AND SHUT DOOR)

(MUSIC: . . .THEME AND UNDER)

COTTEN: And so it's a lonely father of a lonely hero that sits at the kitchen table the next morning. A lonely father staring blankly into a no-longer hot cup of coffee.

(MUSIC: . . .OUT. . . .)

(KNOCK ON DOOR: A FEW BEATS AND THEN
ANOTHER KNOCK ON DOOR)

BERT: (COMING TO) Oh, uh, come in.

(OPEN DOOR)

JUNE: Hello, Mr. Foster.

BERT: Well -- Junie -- come on in. You want some coffee?

(SCRAPE CHAIR)

JUNE: No thanks. I just had some.

BERT: Well, come in for a while anyway.

(CLOSE DOOR WITH)

JUNE: I wanted to know if you can come over to our house for lunch?

BERT: Lunch?

JUNE: Yes, then afterwards you and mother and dad and I could all drive to Washington together.

BERT: Oh, I wasn't figuring on going to Washington.

JUNE: You weren't?

(DOOR OPENS IN BG WITH:)

JUNE: Please come, Mr Foster, no matter what Barney's done, it still....(SHE FALLS SILENT FOR A BEAT) Oh....Barney.....I thought maybe you had gone to Washington last night.

BARNEY: I meant to. I lay down on my bed for a few minutes last night, Pop...I guess I fell asleep.

BERT: You were probably tired, Barney.

BARNEY: Yeah, I guess I was. (A COUPLE OF BEATS) Look, Pop, I heard you tell June you weren't coming to Washington.

BERT: That's right, Barney.

BARNEY: Don't you want to go?

BERT: I suppose it would be kind of nice, but then again, it's just one of those things. June, you sure you don't want any coffee?

JUNE: No, thank you, Mr. Foster.

BARNEY: I didn't get much sleep last night, Pop. I mean, you and I...well, it's not too late, you know. Two people finding out about each other. Sometimes it's tough to do, but well, isn't it worth it sometimes?

BERT: Well, I suppose....

BARNEY: Pop, come to Washington with me.

BERT: You want me, Barney? You really want me to be there?

BARNEY: Yes, Pop.

BERT: I guess it would be nice.

BARNEY: Then you'll come, Pop?

BERT: Well...I need a new suit.

BARNEY: You can get one, right now. You can run down to Elton's Department Store and get one. June and I will drive you down.

BERT: Do we have time?

BARNEY: Sure. And Pop, listen, I was planning to go down to Texas when I'm discharged, but I want to talk to you about that. We'll have time to talk, won't we?

BERT: Well, sure, Barney.

BARNEY: I've got lots of things to talk to you about, Pop.

BERT: Well, as a matter of fact, there are some things I'd like to talk to you about, Barney.

BARNEY: There are?

BERT: Yeah...like they were asking down at the office yesterday about you, wondering if maybe you wanted to be a railroad man. I said I didn't think so. I said a kid always wants to be better than his old man. In this country that's kind of a law...being better than your old man.

BARNEY: I hadn't thought about railroading, but it's an idea. Could you get me on?

BERT: I don't know. I suppose I could use my influence.

BARNEY: Or maybe you could come to Texas with me...if we decide to go.

BERT: I suppose I could. I could get a job there. Railroading is railroading.

BARNEY: We'll think about it, okay?

BERT: Okay. (A BEAT) Hey -- you need a shave. Doesn't he, June?

BARNEY: Yeah -- I need a shave and shower. I'm out of blades, Pop. You got any?

BERT: In the medicine chest. (HE'S JUMPY, AGITATED) Say, I've got to have a cup of coffee. President's going to give you the medal, huh?

BARNEY: That's right.

BERT: Gee!

(BERT WALKS OFF)

BARNEY: Where are you going, Pop?

BERT: (OFF) To see if I've got one of those homberg hats stuck away some place in the attic.

JUNE: (A BEAT) Oh, Barney...Barney...I love you.

BARNEY: I'm glad you waited, June. I'm very glad.

(MUSIC: . . . UP STRONG AND UNDER . . .)

COTTEN: The Congressional Medal of Honor -- the nation's highest honor for military valor, awarded personally by the President of the United States.

PRES'S VOICE: ".....Although wounded himself, and without thought of his own safety, Sgt Foster carried each of the men back to American lines, and by so doing saved each of their lives."
(A BEAT) Congratulations, Sergeant.

BARNEY: Thank you, sir. (MUSIC OUT)

(THREE STEPS)

BERT: Congratulations, Barney...I'm awfully proud of you.

BARNEY: Thanks, Pop....Gee, I don't know what to say.

PRES'S VOICE: You've got a fine son, Mr. Foster...a fine son.

BERT: (WITH AWE) Thank you, Mr. President...thank you, sir.

(MUSIC: . . . CURTAIN . . .)

HARRICE: "A Medal in the Family", by Robert Alan Aurthur, was written for radio by Robert Skutch, and featured Louis Verboten as Bert, Miles as Barney and _____ as June. _____ was played by _____ and _____ by _____.

Now, here is Joseph Cotten.

COTTEN: The Philco Radio Playhouse is brought to you each week by your Philco dealer, who right now is celebrating Philco's Silver Anniversary with special extra values in Philco radios and television sets. So, I suggest that now is the best time to see your Philco dealer.

(MUSIC SNEAK)

Thank you goodnight .. from Philco and Joseph Cotten.

(MUSIC: UP . . .)

HARRICE: The Philco Radio Playhouse, with music scored and conducted by Glenn Osser, is produced and transcribed in New York. This is Cy Harrice, speaking.

lj/mb/mr/as
1/14/54
8:45 am.