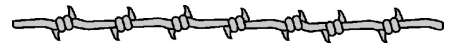




The Six Shooter



Series Log

by B.J. George

“The man in the saddle is angular and long-legged. His skin is sun-dyed brown. The gun in his holster is grey steel and rainbow mother-of-pearl, its handle - unmarked. People called them both, *The Six Shooter*.”



One of radio’s last great western’s, *The Six Shooter*, was first heard April 13, 1952 in an episode on the *Hollywood Star Playhouse*. When the show had its own time slot on NBC, Jack Johnstone served as director and producer. Music was conducted by Basil Adlam and the show’s theme song was *Highland Lament*. Floyd Caton handled the sound effects. And all but one of the episodes were written by Frank Burt, who created *The Six Shooter*’s character.

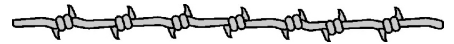
Several of radio’s top character actors made appearances on *The Six Shooter*, including Virginia Gregg, Herb Vigran, Bill Johnstone, and all three of *Gunsmoke*’s male stars, William Conrad, Parley Baer, and Howard McNear.

The series’ first four episodes were sponsored by Coleman Heaters, with the remaining episodes being sustained. All 39 episodes plus the audition are available to collectors.

Britt Ponset was a “Texas plainsman who wondered through the Western Territory, leaving behind a trail of still remembered legends.”



James Stewart



James Stewart had made several guest appearances on radio in such shows as the *Good News of 1938*, the *Jack Benny Program*, and the *Screen Director’s Playhouse* to name a few. When *The Six Shooter* came along, Jimmy was approaching the height of his career, having starred in such films as *Call Northside 777*, *Harvey*, and of course, *It’s A Wonderful Life*.

Jimmy had graduated with honors from Princeton with a degree in architecture in 1932. Joshua Logan, a future movie producer, invited James to join the University Players. From there, Jimmy moved onto Broadway. He began his film career in 1935 with *Murder Man*.

When radio was nearing its final golden days, networks offered many top Hollywood stars their own

shows. James Stewart seemed a perfect choice to play Brett Posset, having made a name for himself as a western star in such films as *Winchester '73* and *Broken Arrow*. Jimmy continued to make guest appearances on the radio, but *The Six Shooter* was to remain his only starring radio show.



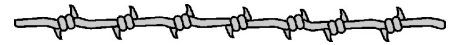
Jack Johnstone



Producer-Director Jack Johnstone entered radio when an advertising colleague asked him if he would like to help write for *Buck Rogers*. Soon after, Jack directed the show's rehearsals, and eventually became full director. In addition to *The Six Shooter*, Jack directed *Orson Welle's Almanac*, *Richard Diamond*, *Hollywood Star Theater*, and *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*.



The Episodes



Audition April 13, 1952

“*The Six Shooter*”

The Six Shooter was auditioned on the *Hollywood Star Playhouse*. The description of a hold-up man matches that of Ben Schofield the sheriff's son. Note: This is the same story line as used in episode #7. James Stewart also acted as the announcer in this episode. Cast: William Conrad.

#1 September 20, 1953

“*Jenny*”

Brett finds an injured man and takes him to Jenny's cabin. When the sheriff comes to arrest the man for a killing, Jenny takes up arms to protect him. Cast: D.J. Thompson, Jess Kirkpatrick, George Niese, Harry Bartell. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#2 September 27, 1953

“*The Coward*”

Will promises his wife that he won't wear a gun anymore. But when Noah Temple tries to force them off their ranch, Will buys himself a weapon. Cast: Michael Ann Barrett, Herb Ellis, Howard McNear, Will Wright. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#3 October 4, 1953

“*The Stampede*”

Brett helps the McAdams brothers drive cattle to Abilene. When a letter from Ryfe's wife turns up, addressed to his brother Norm, Ryfe decides to start a stampede in order to kill his brother. Cast: Lou Merrill, James McCallion. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#4 October 11, 1953

“*Silver Annie*”

Virtue City wants the railroad to run through their town, but Silver Annie takes up arms to keep them off her land. Cast: Jeanette Nolan, Dan O'Herlihy, Herb Vigran, Robert Griffin, Parley Baer. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#5 October 18, 1953

“*Rink Larkin*”

Young Rink Larkin heads to Petersville to find his pa. After he finds out that the sheriff had killed his father, Rink aims to get revenge. Cast: Sammy Ogg, Russell Thorson, Tony Barrett. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#6 October 25, 1953

“*Red Lawson's Revenge*”

While riding to Walnut Creek, Britt runs across Red Lawson, a man intent on killing Dan Mayler, a friend of Posset's. But when Lawson runs into Dan's wife and child, he has a different plan for revenge. Note: This episode was written by Les Crutchfield. Cast: Shirley Mitchell, Leone Ledoux, Paul Richards, Barney Phillips. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

- #7 November 1, 1953 *"Ben Schofield"*
 The description of a hold-up man matches that of Ben Schofield the sheriff's son. Note: This is the same story line as used in the audition on *Hollywood Star Playhouse*. Cast: William Conrad, Parley Baer, James McCallion, Herb Vigran. Announcer - Hal Gibney.
- #8 November 8, 1953 *"The Capture of Stacy Gault"*
 Stacy Gault is believed to be headed towards Elkpoint to rob the bank. Then when a stranger wants to spend the night as Ma's boarding house, Britt welcomes him, even though the rest of the folks believe the man to be Stacy Gault. Cast: Eleanor Audley, Barney Phillips, Forrest Lewis, Parley Baer. Announcer - Hal Gibney.
- #9 November 15, 1953 *"Escape from Smoke Falls"*
 Spud doesn't like it when at the Lady's Aid Society Dance, Tom tries to out bid him for Ellen's box lunch. Then Spud becomes even more jealous when Britt asks Tom to help him find a killer. Cast: Jeanette Nolan, Frank Gerstle, Robert Griffin, Forrest Lewis, Sam Edwards. Announcer - Hal Gibney.
- #10 November 22, 1953 *"Gabriel Starbuck"*
 The town folks of Yellow Creek want a new sheriff to replace Gabe Starbuck, only Gabe ain't fixed on retirement. So he sets to prove that he can still do his job by trying to catch bank robbers. Cast: Herb Vigran, John Stevenson, Lamont Johnson, Del McKennon, Bill Johnstone. Announcer - Hal Gibney.
- #11 November 29, 1953 *"Sheriff Billy"*
 While Sheriff Billy is asking Ponset if he knows the whereabouts of his father, Ben Reed, an escaped outlaw, comes riding into town. And the young sheriff finds a locket with his mother's picture in the man's possession. Cast: James McCallion, Ken Christy, Howard McNear, Alan Reed. Announcer - Hal Gibney.
- #12 December 6, 1953 *"A Pressing Engagement"*
 When Britt rides into Powder Creek he finds out that there's going to be a wedding... his! And a young newsman, named Quint, isn't too happy about it, since Britt is to marry the girl he loves. Cast: Barbara Eiler, Virginia Gregg, Bill Johnstone, Sam Edwards, Herb Vigran. Announcer - Hal Gibney.
- #13 December 13, 1953 *"More Than Kin"*
 Two of Britt's old friends are giving a performance of Shakespeare, but the unruly crowds force them to cancel further shows. That is until P.T. Barnum wants to see the act and the friends need Britt to help save the show. Cast: Michael Ann Barrett, Tony Barrett, Ted Bliss, Marvin Miller, Dan O'Herlihy. Announcer - Hal Gibney.
- #14 December 20, 1953 *"Britt Ponset's Christmas Carol"*
 While young Johnny is running away on Christmas Eve, he comes across Britt. Ponset tells him the story of Ebon, a tightfisted old rancher who was visited by ghosts on Christmas Eve. Cast: Howard McNear, Richard Beals, Sam Edwards, Eleanore Audley. Announcer - Hal Gibney.
- #15 December 27, 1953 *"Cora Plummer Quincy"*
 Calvin Plummer doesn't take kindly to his ma marrying Oliver Quincy so soon after his pa passed on. And Cal aims to find out just what Oliver is after in wanting to marry his ma. Cast: Virginia Gregg, Jean Tatum, Robert Griffin, Parley Baer, Bert Holland. Announcer - Hal Gibney.
- #16 January 3, 1954 *"A Friend In Need"*
 Art Hemper has Ponset believing that he wasn't the one who killed Clyde. And that he will meet the

sheriff at Squirrel Rock to give himself up. When Britt runs into the posse, he finds that his old friend had played him for a fool. Cast: Shepherd Menken, Bill Johnstone, Frank Gerstle, Howard McNear. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#17 January 10, 1954 *"Hiram's Gold strike"*

Hiram doesn't trust leaving his gold find at the Assay's Office, so he asks Britt to go with him to check on things. As they do, two men hold them up. After being shot, Hiram figures he has nothing more to live for. Cast: Herb Vigran, Bill Johnstone, Barney Phillips, Tony Barrett, Howard McNear. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#18 January 17, 1954 *"The Silver Buckle"*

Two outlaws holdup the Cheyenne train, taking money and a silver belt buckle. When the Springer brothers run into Ponset, they ask for his help in finding the outlaws. Along the way, Britt learns a thing or two about these men. Cast: Eleanore Audley, Forrest Lewis, William Conrad, Joel Cranston, Frank Gerstle. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#19 January 24, 1954 *"Helen Bricker"*

The town folks of Yellow Creek aim to get rid of Helen Bricker, for her having married a killer. And as the time approaches for her husband to be hung, the folks plan to burn down Helen's house. Cast: Lillian Buyeff, Ken Christy, Herb Vigran, Parley Baer, Will Wright. Announcer - John Wald.

#20 January 31, 1954 *"Trail to Sunset"*

Ponset shot at a man who was trying to steal his horse. The man turns out to be Ace Tressler, a man on the run from having killed Sam Fletcher. Then Britt meets up with the posse, who had just hung a different man they believed killed Sam. Cast: Robert Griffin, Harry Bartell, Lamont Johnson, Howard McNear, Forrest Lewis. Announcer - John Wald.

#21 February 7, 1954 *"Apron Faced Sorrel"*

Clay's mother sends the young man west to work on a ranch with Ponset. When Clay is thrown while trying to ride a wild pony, he aims to show them all, including the pony, that he's no greenhorn. Cast: Bill Johnstone, Bert Holland, Sam Edwards. Announcer - John Wald.

#22 February 14, 1954 *"Quiet City"*

Times are changing in Quiet City, and Buzz wants to change with the times by getting an extra education, instead of becoming a sheriff like his pa. But when Jake Norton is shot, both Buzz and his pa have doubts about Quiet City's future. Cast: Virginia Gregg, Robert Griffin, Lamont Johnson, Will Wright. Announcer - John Wald.

#23 February 21, 1954 *"Battle at Tower Rock"*

Two families try to bribe Britt before the Franklin County Fair begins. When Britt tries to get out of his judging the fair's preserve contest, Otis tells him how he has to be the judge so that the feud will end. Cast: Les Tremayne, Bill Johnstone, Virginia Gregg, Eleanore Audley. Announcer - John Wald.

#24 March 7, 1954 *"Cheyenne Express"*

Wilbur English shoots Floyd Winters in the back, then mistakes Ponset for one of the Winters' Gang. Wilbur mistakes several other men for Rush Winters as well. Afraid that Rush will seek revenge, Wilbur intends to head out of town on the Cheyenne Express. Cast: Frank Gerstle, Herb Vigran, Barney Phillips, Paul Richards. Announcer - John Wald.

#25 March 14, 1954 *"Thicker Than Water"*

Gus Procter wants to return home to see his family again, but Amy doesn't want anything to do with

him, so Gus pretends to be George Parker, a gambler that young Ted Procter wants to be like. Cast: Shirley Mitchell, Richard Beals, Barney Phillips, Robert Griffin. Announcer - John Wald.

#26 March 21, 1954 *"Duel at Lockwood"*

Wes Singer fancies himself a quick gun and aims to prove it to others by killing the Six Shooter. The sheriff of Lockwood is determined to stop Wes, even though the sheriff knows that he will be outgunned by him. Cast: Elvia Allman, Sam Edwards, Will Wright, Howard McNear, Bert Holland. Announcer - John Wald.

#27 April 1, 1954 *"Aunt Em"*

Aunt Emma decides to move to Powder Creek to take care of her nephew, Britt Ponset. After a week of being looked after, Britt is set on finding someone to take her off his hands. Cast: Eleanor Audley, Bill Johnstone. Announcer - John Wald.

#28 April 8, 1954 *"General Guilford's Widow"*

Hanna Guilford carries on as if her husband were still alive. Some town folks feel that Hanna is crazy, others believe they have seen the general's ghost. When Britt delivers some goods to Hanna, he discovers the truth. Cast: Virginia Gregg, Parley Baer, Robert Giffin. Announcer - John Wald.

#29 April 15, 1954 *"Crisis at Easter Creek"*

The church at Easter Creek is in need of a new organ, and the members elect Ponset to go about gathering donations. Britt has a difficult job getting the needed money, until he teams up with Red Eye Kirk, an alleged outlaw. Cast: Virginia Gregg, Marvin Miller, Ted deCorsia, Robert Griffin, William Conrad. Announcer - John Wald.

#30 April 22, 1954 *"Johnny Springer"*

Johnny Springer robs a hotel and kills the owner. The sheriff and Ponset follow Springer's trail to the cabin of a young Spanish woman, who refuses to believe that her Johnny is an outlaw. Cast: Virginia Gregg, Harry Bartell, Parley Baer, Joel Cranston, Barney Phillips. Announcer - John Wald.

#31 April 29, 1954 *"Revenge at Harness Creek"*

Young Lex is killed and the killer is afraid that the sheriff will not let him live to see a fair trial, being that Lex was the sheriff's kid brother. Cast: Virginia Gregg, Eleanor Audley, Lamont Johnson, Forrest Lewis, Bert Holland. Announcer - John Wald.

#32 May 6, 1954 *"Anna Norquest"*

Anna Norquest leaves Sweden to marry Peter Calvin. Only Pete is spending time in the Smoke Fall's jail awaiting his hanging. Anna asks Britt to help her set Pete free. Cast: Lillian Buyeff, Bill Johnstone, Lou Merrill, Harry Bartell. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#33 May 13, 1954 *"The Double Seven"*

Gid Baskin hires a gunman to run sodbusters out of Halfway Creek, believing that they were stealing his cattle. Britt tries to stop any violence. And someone tries to stop Ponset. Cast: Lamont Johnson, Gerald Mohr, Robert Griffin, Parley Baer, Howard McNear. Announcer - Hal Gibney.

#34 May 20, 1954 *"The Shooting of Wyatt King"*

The whole town claims that Ponset shot the Wyoming Kid, including the Kid. Only Ponset knows otherwise and tries to find the man who really shot him. Cast: Bill Johnstone, Herb Vigran, Junius Matthews, Barney Phillips, Joel Cranston. Announcer - John Wald.

#35 May 27, 1954 *"Blood Relations"*

George Wilcox doesn't want his sister Vida to see Hunt Coffin any more, being that Hunt's brother was a killer. But Hunt and Vida plan to marry, and Hunt buys himself a gun to make sure that

George doesn't try to stop them. Cast: Barbara Eiler, Herb Ellis, Sam Edwards. Announcer - John Wald.

#36 June 3, 1954 *"Silver Threads"*

Britt joins Toby Yeagar for supper out on the range. Toby entertains Britt by singing "Silver Threads Among the Gold," a song that Homer Danfield recalls hearing when he was shot and robbed. Cast: Ben Wright, Bert Holland, Will Wright, Barney Phillips. Announcer - John Wald.

#37 June 10, 1954 *"The New Sheriff"*

Roy Cotton warns Ponset not to get involved in his run for sheriff against Ernie the blacksmith. Britt is called upon to see that Virtue City's election goes off without a hitch. Only an upset is had never-the-less. Cast: Carlton Young, Del McKennon, Paul Richards, Frank Gerstle, Junius Matthews. Announcer - John Wald.

#38 June 17, 1954 *"When the Shoe Doesn't Fit"*

Cinderella story of Cindy Lou Ames and her wicked step mother. When the square dance comes around, Britt and a traveling merchant help bring about a happy ending to the story. Cast: Barbara Eiler, Eleanor Audley, Sandra Gould, Bill Johnstone, Sam Edwards. Announcer - John Wald.

#39 June 24, 1954 *"Myra Barker"*

Scar doesn't take to other folks riding him, but he's taken a liking to Myra. And so has Britt, who has notions to ask Myra to be his wife. Note: This is the last episode of the series. Cast: Virginia Gregg, D.J. Thompson, Howard McNear, Parley Baer. Announcer - John Wald.

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