

Bourbon Street Beat Notes

Episodes For Class:

The Black Magnolia - aired December 21, 1959 Filmed at Warner Brothers Burbank Studios - 4000 Warner Boulevard, Burbank, California

The series was one of many Warner Bros. detective shows which aired on ABC. Bourbon Street Beat was not as successful as the others lasting only one season with 39 episodes. When the series ended, Richard Long's character of Rex Randolph moved to ~~77~~ *Sunset Strip* for a year, joining the Los Angeles based detective firm of Bailey & Spencer for the 1960-1961 season. The character of Kenny Madison played by Van Williams moved to the spin-off *Surfside 6*, which aired in the *Bourbon Street Beat* time slot the following season. Set in Miami, this show lasted through mid-1962. Andrew Duggan's character, Cal Calhoun, was later seen on a 1962 episode of ~~77~~ *Sunset Strip*. It was established that he quit the private investigations business and returned to being a member of the New Orleans police force. The show was loosely based on Howard Browne's novel *A Taste of Ashes* (Browne was one of the show's writers).

BOURBON STREET BEAT: THE SOUND THAT'S ROCKING TV

(1959, Warner Bros. Records)

Orchestra conducted by Don Ralke

Eddie Cole (The Baron) - was the older brother of Nat "King" Cole. He studied both piano and bass from a young age and formed his first band at age 17. Cole appeared in 14 episodes of *Bourbon Street Beat* in 1959 and later on *The Law and Mr. Jones* plus *The Jack Benny Program*.

Warner Bros. really thought this show would be a hit. They even bought an interest in a real New Orleans restaurant, The Absinthe House and placed the fictional agency, Randolph and Calhoun, Special Services above it, even though the actual show was shot on the same backlot used for *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

The hero of the Paul Pine novels by Howard Browne were the inspiration for lead character Rex Randolph. The very first episode, "The Taste of Ashes," was based on the fourth novel in that series.

Andrew Duggan (Cal Calhoun) - His work includes 185 screen credits between 1949 and 1987 for roles in both film and television, as well as several more on stage.

Duggan was the main character in the Disney theme parks' Carousel of Progress and the singer of the accompanying song, The Best Time of Your Life until 1993.

In 1957, Duggan appeared in TV Westerns *Cheyenne*, *Gunsmoke*, *Wagon Train* and *Colt .45*. He had a recurring role as in the second and third seasons of *Twelve O'Clock High*. He also appeared in *Bonanza* and *The Big Valley*. Duggan was also in the pilot episodes of both *The Restless Gun* and *Hawaii Five-O*.

After *Bourbon Street Beat*, Duggan starred in the sitcom *Room For One More* which was based on a Cary Grant movie with Duggan playing Grant's part.

Duggan guest starred in several television series during the 1960's, including *Tombstone Territory*, *Lawman* and *The Dakotas*. He played a leading role in the 1968–1970 series *Lancer*. In films, he could be seen in *Seven Days in May* and *In Like Flint*.

His other performances include *The Missiles Of October*, *Rich Man, Poor Man*; *Once An Eagle*, *The Eddie Capra Mysteries*, *The Long Days Of Summer*, the CBS series *M*A*S*H**, *Backstairs At The White House* and *A Return To Salem's Lot*.

Richard Long (Rex Randolph) - entered films right out of high school and got a contract at Universal Pictures where he made his debut as Claudette Colbert's son in the 1946 film, *Tomorrow Is Forever*. He also played one of the sons in four films from the "Ma and Pa Kettle" series. In television, he became best known for his roles in the western series *The Big Valley* and *Nanny and The Professor*.

During the 1950's, Long worked in television guest-starring on shows such as *Climax!*, *Screen Directors Playhouse*, *The United States Steel Hour*, *Wagon Train*, *Have Gun - Will Travel*, *The Millionaire*, *The Twilight Zone* and *The Further Adventures of Ellery Queen*.

Long signed a contract with Warner Bros. and guest-starred in many television series such as *Lawman* and *Maverick*. After starring in *Bourbon Street Beat*, he reprised his character on episodes of *Hawaiian Eye* and *77 Sunset Strip* from 1960 to 1962.

Van Williams (Kenny Madison) - was a diving instructor in Hawaii in 1956 when he was discovered by producer Mike Todd. He was able to get cast in an episode of *General Electric Theatre* and was seen by executives from Warner Bros. They signed him to a contract in 1959.

His big break came as a co-star of *Bourbon Street Beat*. Williams' character, Kenny Madison moved into the new *Surfside 6* television series with Miami Beach colleagues played by Troy Donahue, Lee Patterson, Diane McBain and Margarita Sierra. Williams also guest-starred on other Warners shows such as *Cheyenne*, *77 Sunset Strip* and *Hawaiian Eye*.

In 1966, ABC-TV revived the popular radio character in a new series, *The Green Hornet*. Van Williams signed with 20th Century-Fox to portray the masked hero and his alter ego, newspaper editor Britt Reid. The series lasted for one season of 26 episodes.

Williams retired from acting in 1982 to open a communications company in Santa Monica, California. He was also a longtime reserve deputy sheriff with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and worked at the substation in Malibu, California.

Arlene Howell (Melody Lee Mercer) - entered the state level of the Miss USA beauty pageant. After winning Miss Louisiana USA, she became the first of three titleholders from the state to win the Miss USA crown. She won the Miss USA Pageant in Long Beach, California, in July of 1958. Howell also competed in the Miss Universe Pageant and placed as third runner-up. To date, she is the only Miss USA to place third runner-up at Miss Universe.

Howell's television debut was in 1958 on ABC's *Maverick*. In 1959, she was cast as secretary Melody Lee Mercer, in a supporting role spanning 23 of the 39 episodes of *Bourbon Street Beat*.

Howell played "Cindy Lou Brown" in three episodes of *Maverick* and was cast in *77 Sunset Strip*, *Alcoa Premiere*, *Bachelor Father* and *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.* After that 1966 appearance, Howell ended her acting career.

Mary Tyler Moore (Laura Montgomery) - Everyone knows the success of this legendary performer. Her memorable characters of Laura Petrie on *The Dick Van Dyke Show* and Mary Richards on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* will live on forever.

Before these memorable roles, she appeared in movies and on television, including *Bourbon Street Beat*, *77 Sunset Strip*, *Surfside 6*, *Wanted: Dead or Alive*, *Hawaiian Eye*, *Thriller* and *Lock-up*. Moore's first regular television role was as the mysterious telephone receptionist in *Richard Diamond, Private Detective*.

Moore was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress for her role in the drama film *Ordinary People* and won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Drama for that film. She received a total of seven Emmy Awards for portraying Mary Richards on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* and Laura Petrie on *The Dick Van Dyke Show*.

Sara Hayden (Luella Lavinia Montgomery) - was the daughter of silent screen star Charlotte Walker. She began her screen career in 1934 playing Etta Dawson in *Spitfire*. With her schoolmarmish looks, she was typecast as spinsters, eccentric aunts and crotchety dowagers. As an MGM contract player from 1938 to 1946, Hayden became best known as Aunt Milly Forrest in the *Andy Hardy* series. She was very much in demand as a television actress until her retirement from acting in 1965.

Peter Whitney (Alfred Hawkins) - trained with the Pasadena Community Playhouse and received experience in summer stock as well. Whitney started his supporting career in such films as *Underground*, *Nine Lives Are Not Enough* and *Blues In The Night*. During the mid-1950s, television became a larger part of his career in westerns and crime dramas such as *Gunsmoke*, *Wagon Train*, *The Rifleman*, *Bonanza*, *Perry Mason* and *Peter Gunn*. He spoofed his own grubby image with guest roles on *Petticoat Junction* and *The Beverly Hillbillies*.

Melora Conway (Nancy Montgomery) - In her brief ten year career, she appeared on *I Spy*, *G.E. True* and *The Detectives*. She also appeared on five episodes of *Perry Mason* in different roles. Her final television appearances were on *Mod Squad* in 1969 and *The Most Deadly Game* in 1970.

Robert Anderson (Joe King) - made 150 appearances in films and television dating back to 1946. His television credits include *Biff Baker, U.S.A.*, *My Friend Flicka*, *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*, *Tales Of Wells Fargo*, *Wagon Train*, *Gunsmoke* and many others.

Paul Maxwell (Police Sergeant) - was a Canadian actor who worked mostly in British films and television. He was usually cast as American characters. Maxwell started as an actor in the United States appearing in *Dragnet* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. Maxwell also starred as the man with the Panama hat in the film *Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade*, *The Pink Panther Strikes Again* and *A Bridge Too Far*.

In theatre, he starred in the West End with roles in *Twelve Angry Men* and *Promises, Promises*. His final appearances were in episodes of the BBC television series *Sleepers* in 1991.

REFERENCES

Wikipedia

Internet Movie DataBase

The New Thrilling Detective Website

Album cover submitted by Kevin Burton Smith

Continued on next page

Honey West Notes

September 17, 1965 to April 8, 1966
30 episodes in this series

Episode For Class:

In The Bag - aired November 5, 1965

Honey West was the creation of fashion writer **Gloria** and her husband, sportswriter **Forest "Skip" Fickling**. Gloria said that most of the writing was done by Skip who said her ideas helped make the female character more plausible and gave her a good dress sense. Gloria had been an assistant fashion editor at *Look* magazine and a fashion writer for *Women's Wear Daily*. Forrest told the *Los Angeles Times*, "I first thought of Marilyn Monroe, and then I thought of Mike Hammer and decided to put the two together. We thought the most used name for someone you really like is Honey. And she lives in the West, so there was her name."

Honey West first appeared in the 1957 novel, *This Girl for Hire*, as a private investigator, with a blend of humor and sex. Her creators did darken things up by giving her a very personal reason for pursuing the P.I. profession. Honey was searching for the murderer of her father Hank West, also a private eye, who was killed in an alley behind the old Paramount Theatre in Hollywood.

She went on to appear in ten more light-hearted books from 1958 to 1971. The short-lived television series produced by Aaron Spelling in the mid-1960's, was one of the first TV dramas to feature a female lead. After a successful debut appearance on the episode *Who Killed The Jackpot?* of *Burke's Law*, *Honey West* was spun off into her own show.

Most memorably for many viewers was Honey's other co-star, Sam who constantly pressured Honey to marry him. Unfortunately, for Sam, the love of Honey's life seemed to be Bruce, her pet ocelot, a contribution from the TV writers.

Anne Francis (Honey West) - won a Golden Globe and was also nominated for an Emmy for her work on *Honey West*. Anne Francis' last appearance as *Honey West* was in an episode of the 1994-1995 revival of *Burke's Law*, where she appeared as Honey "Best." Burke and Honey team up once again, this time to solve a murder at a convention for Private Investigators.

Francis entered show business as a child, working as a model at 5 years old. She made her Broadway debut at the age of 11.

She made her first film appearance in *This Time For Keeps* in 1947. Francis also played supporting roles in *So Young, So Bad*, *Susan Slept Here* and *Bad Day At Black Rock*. Her first leading role was in *Blackboard Jungle* and her best-known film role is that of Altaira in *Forbidden Planet* in 1956. Pictured with Johnny Carson in the *United States Steel Hour* episode titled *Queen Of The Orange Bowl*.

On television, she was a guest on *The Untouchables*, *The Twilight Zone*, *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*, *Route 66* and *The Virginian*. She can also be seen in *Columbo*, Gene Kelly's series, *Going My Way*, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.* and *Mission Impossible*. After *Honey West*, Francis made guest appearances in *The Fugitive*, *The Invaders* and *Barnaby Jones*. During the 1980-1981 season of *Dallas*, Francis had a recurring role as Arliss Cooper. Her final television acting role was in a 2004 episode of *Without A Trace*.

John Ericson (Sam Bolt) - appeared on Broadway in the original 1951 production of *Stalag 17* directed by José Ferrer. Ericson made a number of films for MGM in quick succession in the 1950's: *Teresa*, *Rhapsody*, *The Student Prince*, *Green Fire* and *Bad Day At Black Rock*. He also co-starred with Barbara Stanwyck in *Forty Guns*. and as Sheriff Barney Wiley in *Day Of The Badman* with Fred MacMurray.

For the next 30 years, his career continued mostly on television. He appeared in *The Millionaire*, *Appointment With Adventure*, *The Restless Gun* and *Target: The Corruptors!*. Ericson also guest starred twice on *Bonanza*. From 1965 to 1966, he co-starred as the partner of Anne Francis in *Honey West*. He and Francis had played brother and sister in *Bad Day At Black Rock*.

Irene Hervey (Aunt Meg) - appeared in over fifty films and many television series during her five-decade career. She signed a contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in 1933, appearing in several films for the studio including *The Stranger's Return* and *The Count Of Monte Cristo*. Next while at Universal Pictures, she was in *Destry Rides Again*, *The House Of Fear* and *The Boys From Syracuse*. During the 1940's and 1950's, she was in *Night Monster*, *Mr. Peabody and The Mermaid* and *A Cry In The Night*. In the mid-1950's, Hervey transitioned to television, appearing as a guest star on *Perry Mason*, *Honey West* and *My Three Sons* where she earned a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Single Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role. Hervey was married to actor and singer Allan Jones. Together they had two children, one of whom was singer Jack Jones.

Bruce (The Ocelot) - Little is known about the ocelot who played Bruce on *Honey West*, except that "Bruce" was her stage name. Co-incidentally, her real name happened to be Honey. Although declawed, she still had teeth and was in the habit of nipping the actors, including Anne Francis who disliked the ocelot for that reason. Although her dates of birth and death are uncertain, ocelots have a life expectancy of no more than twenty years.

Producer Leonard Goldberg had the initial idea for *Charlie's Angels* as a show that would be a cross between *The Avengers* and *Honey West*.

Everett Sloane (Mr. Bartholomew) - Sloane made his Broadway debut in 1935, playing Rosetti the agent in George Abbott's hit comedy, *Boy Meets Girl*. He was a member of the company that presented the radio news dramatization series *The March of Time*. Sloane's radio work led him to be hired by Orson Welles to become part of his Mercury Theatre. In 1941, Sloane played Mr. Bernstein in Welles' first movie, *Citizen Kane*.

One of his over 100 film and television appearances, Sloane portrayed Vincent Van Gogh in *The Philco-Goodyear Television Playhouse's* production *The Life of Vincent Van Gogh*. He starred in an episode of *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* and he appeared on the *The Joseph Cotten Show*, also known as *On Trial*. Sloane also appeared in Walt Disney's *Zorro* series as Andres Felipe Basilio. He also could be seen in a few episodes of *Bonanza* and one episode of *Rawhide*.

Sloane wrote the lyrics to the theme song of *The Andy Griffith Show*, "The Fishin' Hole", however, they were not used in favor of composer / conductor Earl Hagen whistling the theme song, who had also composed the music.

Len Lesser (Mr. Crimm) - Lesser was mainly a theatrical actor until the mid-1950's. From 1955 on, he appeared regularly on many television series in minor or guest star roles. He also appeared as a character actor in films such as *Birdman Of Alcatraz*, *How To Stuff A Wild Bikini* and *Kelly's Heroes*.

His most famous role was that of Uncle Leo in the sitcom *Seinfeld*. Lesser was 69 years old when he was hired for this role. He played this character from 1991 until the series ended in 1998. Next, he was cast as a similar character in the recurring role of Garvin in *Everybody Loves Raymond*.

Maureen McCormick (Margaret Mary Driscoll) - Her acting career began at age six when she won the Baby Miss San Fernando Valley contest. By the age of eight, she was a popular choice for television commercials and sitcoms. She was in ads for Barbie and Kool Aid and could be seen on *Bewitched*, *My Three Sons* and *Camp Runamuck*.

She is best remembered as Marcia Brady on *The Brady Bunch* from 1969 to 1974. McCormick has reprised the role in several of the numerous Brady Bunch spin-offs and films. McCormick is the only actor/actress of a sitcom whose famous catch phrase (Marcia, Marcia, Marcia) was said by someone else.

McCormick also appeared in guest roles on various television series during the 1970's and 1980's, such as *Happy Days*, *Donny & Marie*, *The Love Boat*, *Vega\$*, *The Streets Of San Francisco* and *Fantasy Island*. She also had supporting roles in the films *The Idolmaker*, *A Vacation In Hell* and *Skatetown, U.S.A.*

Her autobiography, "Here's the Story: Surviving Marcia Brady and Finding My True Voice" was released in 2008. In 2021, she paired up with contractor/decorator Dan Vickery in HGTV's new series *Frozen In Time*, a new home remodeling series.

Robert Carricart (Mr. Arkudian) - was cast to play the role of "Wishbone" on the television western *Rawhide* where he appeared in the show's pilot episode, *Rawhide: Incident at Barker Springs*. After the pilot was picked up by CBS, Carricart was replaced by Paul Brinegar. Carricart's scenes were deleted from the episode and re-filmed with Brinegar. This resulted in the pilot episode becoming the seventh episode aired.

Gene Darfler (The Goon) - had a very brief career between the years 1962 and 1968 with a just over a dozen credits which include television appearances on *Gunsmoke*, *The Munsters*, *Bewitched* and *The Fugitive*.

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- article by Paul Mavis (Movie and Television Historian)