

Highway Patrol Notes

Episode for class:

Safecracker - Aired October 28, 1957

The program was "based on authentic stories from the files of highway patrol headquarters throughout the country." Episodes dealt with pursuing and arresting criminals such as smugglers, hijackers and robbers. Two technical advisors (one a patrolman on active service and one retired) read scripts before scenes were shot and were present during filming "to speak up whenever a technical violation, however slight, occurred."

Ziv Television Programs produced 156 episodes spanning four TV seasons, 1955–59. During the four years of its run, *Highway Patrol* would feature many actors who would later become successful stars in their own right, among them Stuart Whitman, Clint Eastwood, Robert Conrad, Larry Hagman, Barbara Eden, Paul Burke, Leonard Nimoy and Ruta Lee.

Broderick Crawford (Dan Mathews) - was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Like his grandparents, his parents had both been vaudeville performers. Young William joined his parents on the stage.

Crawford played his first serious character as a footballer in *She Loves Me Not* at the Adelphi Theatre, London in 1932. He was stereotyped as a fast-talking tough guy early in his career.

He gained fame in 1937 as Lenny in *Of Mice and Men* on Broadway. Crawford made his film debut for Sam Goldwyn in *Woman Chases Man* in 1937. Next, he signed a contract with Paramount Studios appearing in some "B" films. His next career move was to Universal, where he had his very first starring role in *I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby* in 1940.

In 1949, Crawford will always be best remembered as Willie Stark, a character closely patterned after the life of Louisiana politician Huey Long, in *All The King's Men*. Crawford's performance as Stark won him the Academy Award for Best Actor. He made another memorable performance with William Holden and Judy Holliday in *Born Yesterday* from 1950.

In 1955, Crawford was offered the lead role as "Dan Mathews" in the police drama *Highway Patrol*, which dramatized law enforcement activities of the California Highway Patrol. *Highway Patrol* remained popular during its four years of first-run syndication and would continue in repeat syndication across the United States for many years after. Crawford's successful run as Dan Mathews in *Highway Patrol* earned him over two million dollars.

Broderick Crawford worked in 140 motion pictures and television series throughout his career. He has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame: one for motion pictures at 6901 Hollywood Blvd. and another for television at 6734 Hollywood Blvd.

Art Gilmore (Narrator) - Gilmore's announcing voice became a part of many radio programs such as *Amos 'n' Andy*, *The Adventures of Frank Race*, *Dr. Christian*, *Sears Radio Theater* and *Stars Over Hollywood*.

In television, Gilmore could be heard on *The George Gobel Show*, *The Red Skelton Show* and *An Evening with Fred Astaire*. He narrated all 156 episodes of *Highway Patrol*, 39 segments of *Mackenzie's Raiders* and 41 episodes of *Men of Annapolis*.

On camera, he could be seen on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Adam-12*, *Emergency!*, *Dragnet* and *The Waltons*. At the time of Gilmore's passing in 2010 at the age of 98, he and his wife, Grace, had known each other for 80 years - 72 of which they were married.

Along with several notable Hollywood radio stars such as Edgar Bergen, Ralph Edwards, Les Tremayne and Jim Jordan, Gilmore founded Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters in 1966.

Julie Bennett (Mrs. Wright) - was born in Manhattan, New York. She became interested in show business by the age of six. At age fifteen, she was working in radio on *The Lux Radio Theatre*.

Some of her television credits include *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show*, *Adventures of Superman* and *Dragnet*.

Bennett worked as a voice over actress from the 1950's until the early 2000's. She recorded voices for *The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show* and Hanna-Barbera Productions. She is best known as the voice of Hanna-Barbera's Cindy Bear on *The Yogi Bear Show* and its feature-film spin-off *Hey There, It's Yogi Bear!* She reprised the character in *Yogi's Treasure Hunt*, *Yogi and The Invasion Of The Space Bears* and *The New Yogi Bear Show*.

Bennett also worked as a realtor and an agent for other actors.

Brett King (Stanley Wright) - was born Bertell W. King, Jr. He served as a fighter pilot in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II and was awarded the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross. After his discharge from the army, King began acting in feature films in Hollywood. Some of his television appearances include *Wagon Train*, *Gunsmoke*, *Bat Masterson*, *Dragnet*, *The Life and Legend of Wyatt Earp*, *Laramie*, *The Virginian* and *Yancy Derringer*. His final acting appearance was on *The Green Hornet*, in 1967.

William Boyett (Officer Johnson) - was born in Akron, Ohio. While at Dorsey High School in Los Angeles, he won a Shakespeare competition, which led to acting jobs in radio.

Jack Webb, selected Boyett for the role of LAPD Sergeant "Mac" MacDonald in *Adam-12* after his performances in both versions of Webb's *Dragnet*. Boyett appeared as MacDonald in 129 episodes on *Adam-12* during its entire run from 1968 to 1975. He also made eight guest appearances on *Perry Mason*.

His other television appearances include *Laramie*, *I Spy*, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*, *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Family Affair*, *Gunsmoke*, *Fantasy Island*, *The Love Boat*, *The Rockford Files*, *Murphy Brown* and *Night Court*.

REFERENCES

Internet Movie Data Base Wikipedia
Highway Patrol episodes filmed in Chatsworth, California website
Chatsworth History website

Car 54 Where Are You? Notes

Car 54 Where Are You? aired from September 17, 1961 through April 14, 1963 with a total of 60 episodes in the series.

Episode for class:

Toody, Undercover - Aired November 11, 1962

The series had a rotating group of directors that included Al De Caprio, Stanley Prager and the series creator Nat Hiken. Filming was done on location and at Biograph Studios in the Bronx.

Many of the scripts were written by **Nat Hiken**. He won an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Comedy" on the series.

The cars used for the series were painted red and white, so that they would not be mistaken for actual police cars during location filming. On black & white television, the cars appeared as the proper shade of gray on black-and-white film to replicate NYPD cars of that era.

Car 54, Where Are You? was nominated for four Primetime Emmy Awards and won one time.

Fred Gwynne (Officer Francis Muldoon) - was born Frederick Hubbard Gwynne in New York City. During World War II, he served in the United States Navy as a radioman on submarine chaser USS Manville (PC-581).

His first Broadway role was as a gangster in a comedy called *Mrs. McThing* starring Helen Hayes.

In 1954, he appeared in his first motion picture as the character Slim in the Oscar-winning film *On The Waterfront*. Soon after, Phil Silvers hired him for his television show because he had been impressed by Gwynne's comedic work in *Mrs. McThing*. Gwynne made a memorable appearance on *The Phil Silvers Show* in the episode "The Eating Contest".

After his second appearance on *The Phil Silvers Show* plus several more appearances on other shows, this led Nat Hiken to cast him in *Car 54, Where Are You?* as Officer Francis Muldoon. This was followed a few years later with Gwynne playing his most memorable role as Herman Munster on *The Munsters*.

From 1975 to 1982, Gwynne appeared in 83 episodes playing different roles on the radio drama series, the *CBS Radio Mystery Theater*.

In films, Gwynne appeared in *So Fine*, *Disorganized Crime*, *The Cotton Club*, *Captains Courageous*, *The Secret Of My Success*, *Ironweed* and *Fatal Attraction*. His role as Judge Chamberlain Haller in the 1992 comedy *My Cousin Vinny* was Gwynne's final film.

Joe E. Ross (Officer Gunther Toody) - was born Joseph Roszawikz in New York City. When he was 16, he dropped out of high school to become a singing waiter at the Van Cortlandt Inn in the Bronx. Later, he was promoted to announcer, added some jokes and became a comedian.

In 1938, he appeared at the Queens Terrace where Jackie Gleason had already been playing. The manager was about to ask Gleason to stay a while longer. When Ross heard of the opening, he auditioned for it and got the contract. Next, he became a burlesque comic on a circuit out of Chicago.

In 1955, Ross was working at a nightclub in Miami Beach called *Ciro's*. He was seen by Nat Hiken and Phil Silvers, who were planning *You'll Never Get Rich* (later known as *The Phil Silvers Show*). They loved Ross's comedy and was hired on the spot and cast as the mess sergeant, Rupert Ritzik. After *The Phil Silvers Show* ended in 1959, Nat Hiken went on to produce *Car 54, Where Are You?* and cast Ross as Patrolman Gunther Toody. Ross had trouble memorizing his lines and would use his catchphrase "Ooh! Ooh!" as a delaying tactic to remember what he was supposed to say.

Ross also starred as Gronk in Sherwood Schwartz's unsuccessful 1966 sitcom *It's About Time* with Imogene Coca. It featured two 1960's American astronauts who were thrown back in time to the prehistoric era.

After the breakup of Allen & Rossi in 1968, Steve Rossi teamed with Ross in an act called "Rossi & Ross". Rossi & Ross played once on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

Joe E. Ross died of a heart attack on August 13, 1982, while performing in the clubhouse of his apartment building in Los Angeles, The Oakwood Apartments. When his wife later went to the management to collect the \$100 he was to be paid, they only gave her \$50, saying, "He didn't finish the show".

Al Lewis (Officer Leo Schnauser) - was born Abraham Meister. He had originally given his birth year as 1910. Ted Lewis, his son, firmly said his father was born in 1923 in Brownsville, Brooklyn, New York. Other sources placed his birth in Wolcott, New York, but no official record of his birth has been published to date as of 2006. Officials in Wolcott say they have no record of any Meister. The Times wrote: "Lewis was born Albert Meister, probably in 1923, but he insisted that he was born in 1910. This and Lewis's many other stories, means that much of the his life is questionable.

Lewis was a hot dog vendor at Ebbets Field, the ballpark for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Some of his other jobs were as a salesman, waiter, pool room owner, store detective, circus clown and vaudeville performer.

His earliest television work includes appearances on *Decoy* and *The Phil Silvers Show*. From 1959 to 1963, he appeared in four episodes of *Naked City*. His first popular television role was as Officer Leo Schnauser on *Car 54, Where Are You?* However, he will always be best remembered as Grandpa on *The Munsters* from 1964 to 1966.

His other television and film appearances include *Lost In Space*, *Pretty Boy Floyd*, *The World of Henry Orient*, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?*, *They Might Be Giants*, *Used Cars*, *Taxi* and *Married To The Mob*. His last film role was in *Night Terror* in 2002.

In 2014, he posthumously won the Horror Host Hall Of Fame Plaque for his hosing duties on *Super Scary Saturday*.

Paul Reed (Captain Paul Block) - was born Sidney Kahn in Highland Falls, New York. He was a performer and a singer on WOR Radio in New York City during the 1930's.

He appeared in several Broadway and Off-Broadway Productions from 1940 to 1972. *Up in Central Park, Guys & Dolls, The Music Man, How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying, Here's Love and Promises, Promises.*

During the 1964–1965 season, Reed appeared in 19 episodes of *The Cara Williams Show*. His other sitcom appearances include *Bewitched, The Donna Reed Show, Beverly Hillbillies* and *I Dream of Jeannie*.

After his time on *Car 54, Where Are You?,* Reed was on an episode of *The Munsters*. In his later years, Reed could be seen regularly in television commercials until the 1990's.

Barnard Hughes (Inspector Henderson) - was born Bernard "Barnard" Aloysius Kiernan Hughes in Bedford Hills, New York. He once said that he was inspired to act after seeing Dennis King on Broadway as Richard II in the play *Richard Of Bordeaux*. Hughes changed the "e" in his first name to an "a" to help his acting career on the advice of a numerologist.

He performed in more than 400 theatre roles and won Broadway's 1978 Best Actor Tony Award for his performance as the title character in Hugh Leonard's *Da*.

Some of his film roles include *Midnight Cowboy, Where's Poppa?, Cold Turkey, The Hospital, Tron, Doc Hollywood* and *Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit*.

On television, Hughes appeared in *Naked City*, *The Secret Storm*, *Dark Shadows*, *Love Story*, *Blossom*, *Homicide: Life On The Street*, *All In The Family* and *The Bob Newhart Show*. He won an Emmy Award for his performance as the senile Judge Felix Rushman on *Lou Grant*.

Bruce Gordon (Biggy Bigelow) - His first appearance on Broadway was in 1937 in the musical drama *The Fireman's Flame*. Gordon played the role of Officer Klein alongside Boris Karloff in the original cast of *Arsenic and Old Lace* on Broadway. He also appeared with The Marx Brothers in *Love Happy*.

His television credits include *The Goldbergs*, *Studio One*, *Kraft Television Theatre*, *Robert Montgomery Presents*, *The Californians*, *Whirlybirds*, *Colgate Theatre* and *Decoy*.

With over 130 film and television credits, Gordon will always be best remembered as gangster Frank Nitti in *The Untouchables*.

George Mathews (Patsy Peru) - was usually cast as heavies or tough military types. Working in films, on stage and in television, he best remembered for his role as the bully "Harvey" in 'The Bensonhurst Bomber' episode of *The Honeymooners*.

Al Nessor (Teddy Moran) - appeared in 8 shows on Broadway. His roles included, *Guys and Dolls*, *Li'l Abner*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and *Do Re Mi*. Some of his film credits are *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*, *Li'l Abner* and *Santa Claus Conquers The Martians*. Over the years, he has been mistaken numerous times for actor Jamie Farr.

Barney Martin (Fats Borderman) - began his career in show business as a stand-in for Jackie Gleason in *The Honeymooners*. He was also a part-time writer for Steve Allen during the 1950's. Mel Brooks discovered him and cast him in *The Producers*. Martin originated the role of Amos Hart in the Broadway production of *Chicago* in 1976.

At the top of all of his television, film and stage credits, his role as Morty Seinfeld on *Seinfeld* made him a household name.

REFERENCES

Internet Movie Data Base

Wikipedia

Broadway World Website