

1 ROADHOUSE TALES-1 EXCURSION ON BEHRING SEA WITHOUT A BOAT.

2

3 ANNCR Pat

4 MATTIE CLARK Marge

5 RACHEL ANNE HASTINGS Esther

6 DIANE REDFERN Beth

7 GEORGE SVABO (SLAVIC) Moki

8 ERIC JOHNSON (SCANDINAVIAN) Kim

9 LOUIE RIVIERE, THE FRENCHMAN Gregg

10 SAM AUSTEN, Saloon proprietor Ken L

11 HARRY SAWYER (SIGNAL MAN) Harry

12 ALICE AUSTEN, Sam's wife Joy

13 MINER Dan

14

15

16

1 ANNCR American Radio Theater presents Roadhouse Tales, starring Marge
2 Lutton. Based on true stories written by Matilda Clark.
3 MUSIC: ROADHOUSE THEME
4 SOUND: FIREPLACE FIRE
5 MATTIE Welcome to the Roadhouse. I'm Matilda Clark. Just call me Mattie.
6 Please take a seat—oh, here, try that one. It's nice and close to the fire.
7 In 1900, my boys and I caught the gold fever, and took a boat up to
8 Nome, Alaska. Finding the goldfields of Nome to be just so much
9 ordinary sand, I opened a Roadhouse—yes, just like this one. And I
10 listened to many stories the customers shared with me. This is one that
11 I call “An excursion on the Behring Sea without a Boat.”
12 MUSIC BRIDGE
13 Two sled dog teams were enroute to Nome, carrying two women. It
14 was a matter of life and death, since one of the ladies was dying of
15 consumption. The party was on the smooth sea ice, coming up the
16 coast from Chinik. They were rounding the last point before Bluff
17 City, when an off-shore wind sprung up. (X) Suddenly the ice parted
18 from the shore, leaving a yawning, black chasm, too wide for the
19 teams to cross.
20 SOUND: FIRE OUT
21 SFX WIND ARCTIC WHITEOUT AT (x) under
22 SFX CRACK (X)
23 CAST AD-LIB DISMAY
24 LOUIE Erik! Quick! Jump over to shore and fetch help!
25 ERIK Yah! Yah! I do!
26 RACHEL Be careful!
27 SFX RUNNING, THEN A LEAP
28 DIANE He made it!
29 SOUND: END CRACKING
30 MUSIC BRIDGE
31 SOUND ARCTIC WHITEOUT WIND UNDER

1 SFX RUNNING IN SNOW; POUNDING ON DOOR

2 ERIK Sam! Sam Austen! Open up!

3 SFX DOOR CREAKING OPEN

4 SAM What in the world is the matter? Come in, come in—we can't talk out
5 here.

6 SFX DOOR CLOSE

7 SOUND POLAR WIND

8 ERIK (GASPING) You gotta help!

9 SAME It's the middle of the night...

10 ERIK (FRANTIC) You gotta help! Rachel Anne and Diane and two of the boys are
11 stranded on the ice in the bay!

12 SAM Erik, you're full of it. That bay is froze solid.

13 ERIK No it ain't! Not by a long shot. We gotta do somethink to rescue
14 them! What do we do?

15 SAM Well, there's an rowboat upside-down next to the cabin.

16 ERIK Can two of us handle it?

17 SAM (EXCITED) Why sure, since we have to. Let me get a lantern here.

18 SFX DOOR OPEN, CLOSE

19 SOUND ARCTIC WHITEOUT WIND UNDER

20 SFX SOUND OF LANTERN; WALKING ON SNOW; BRUSHING
21 SNOW WITH A BROOM

22 SAM It's here somewhere.... Yes, under this. Quickly now, brush the snow
23 off.

24 SFX BANGING ON HOLLOW WOOD

25 SAM (EFFORT) Turn her over.....

26 ERIK (EFFORT) It's heavy...heavy...

27 SAM (EFFORT) Drag her down to the edge of the bay.

28 SFX DRAGGING BOAT OVER GRAVEL

29 SAM (REACTION) My heavens! You're right about the break of the ice.
30 Where are they?

31 ERIK There! Over on the left.

1 SAM Put the boat in the water and jump in.

2 SFX THUD OF BODIES GETTING INTO THE BOAT

3 ERIK Water moving fast...Where's the oars?

4 SAM Here's one...do you see the other one?

5 ERIK Can't find it! Shouldn't it be on this side...—Heavens above! The boat
6 she is leaking!

7 SAM Take that bucket, and bail. Bail for your life. I'll skull with the oar
8 I've got.

9 SFX BAILING WITH BUCKET IN WATER, SLOSH,

10 SOUND ROWING BOAT.

11 ERIK (CALLING) Rachel Anne! Diane! We're comink!

12 SAM Keep bailing!

13 GEORGE (OFF) Over here! This way!

14 SAM Erik! Bail faster!

15 LOUIE (OFF) Over here!

16 SFX GROUNDING SOUND-THUNK (SKATE IN GRAVEL)

17 SAM Thank God. We're here. I wasn't sure if we'd sink first. I'll take the
18 lantern and go first. You steady the boat.

19 ERIK Yah, yah.

20 SAM I'll just step...

21 SFX (SOUND BACKUP) SPLASH

22 ERIK Mein gott! He went straight down! Just slush der! Sam! Sam!

23 SFX SWIMMING, SPLASHING

24 SAM (GASPING) Pull me out!

25 ERIK I got yew. (EFFORT) Now, I pull...

26 SFX SPLASH, SPLASH

27 SFX WATER AND BODY OVER SIDE OF BOAT

28 SAM COUGHING

29 SAM SHIVERING, MOANING WITH THE COLD

30 GEORGE Get him out of there. Erik, help me!

31 LOUIE Got to get him warmed up or he will die. Too cold here.

1 GEORGE His clothes—they are freezing to his body!

2 RACHEL Quick—put him in my sled. I’ve got a lot of furs in it.

3 ERIK Yah, shur, Rachel Anne. Dat’ll help.

4 DIANE But Rachel! In your condition, you’ll die!

5 RACHEL There’s a chance for him if we can get him dry and warm. (COUGH)

6 We know there isn’t much hope for me.

7 GEORGE Erik, get the dogs to lay on top of him. They can keep him warm.

8 ERIK All 15 of them?

9 GEORGE As many as will fit.

10 SFX MOVING LEATHER AND SKINS-WAVING TARP

11 GEORGE Need to get boat next.

12 LOUIE (OFF) I still got boat.

13 GEORGE Pull, Louie—pull! Pull!

14 GEORGE AND LOUIE—EFFORT

15 SFX GRINDING NOISE

16 DIANE How cold do you think it is?

17 LOUIE (CONSIDERING, PANTING) Hard to tell, Diane. 35...38 degrees below zero.

18 Maybe even 40.

19 ERIK We’re drifting even further from shore. I can’t even see the lights.

20 LOUIE Maybe we drift all the way to Nome. It’s just a little further west from

21 Bluff City. It looks like we go that way!

22 MUSIC BRIDGE

23 SOUND FIRE UNDER

24 MATTIE The great cake of ice drifted, with its captives aboard. All that day and

25 the next night they steadily drifted out to sea, then the currents

26 changed and they were carried to within sight of Nome. The lights of

27 Nome gave them a momentary dash of hope, but without any means of

28 signaling their distress, they had no way of correcting the situation.

29 The currants changed again, and out to sea they went.

30 SOUND ARCTIC WHITEOUT WIND

1 GEORGE So long as the ice holds together, we're in no immediate danger of
2 death. What have we got going for us?
3 ERIK We saved the boat.
4 SAM Which leaks badly, and we have only one oar. That can't be counted as
5 an asset.
6 DIANE But if we use it to build a fire, we can melt snow for drinking water.
7 LOUIE We have dried salmon and that buckwheat cereal.
8 GEORGE If we have to, dere's always the dogs..
9 RACHEL I'd die first!
10 LOUIE That won't help cherie—we can't eat you.
11 RACHEL Promise me that will be the last resort—to eat the puppies.
12 LOUIE (SMILING) Dogs, dear, dogs. Although grilled puppies braised with...
13 RACHEL I'm going to be sick. Stop it right now. No eating of the pooches.
14 LOUIE Only at the very end. Only if necessary.
15 DIANE How are we going to stay warm?
16 ERIK There's the second sled, and the tent.
17 LOUIE We'll have to be very careful, or we'll all freeze to death.
18 DIANE We can't walk all night to stay warm!
19 GEORGE We can sleep an hour or two, two of us together for warmth, and the
20 others will wake them up.
21 ERIK (THINKING OF SEX) Oh, that'll be great!!
22 LOUIE Only in your dreams, Norweigen!
23 MUSIC BRIDGE
24 DIANE It seems like we've been here forever.
25 LOUIE This is the second night, cherie. Someone will be looking for us.
26 DIANE I hope so. Wait ---Do you see that? That spot of light on the shore?
27 Could it be a signal fire?
28 LOUIE (EXCITED) Maybe—may be! I'll break up another plank from the boat and build
29 up the fire.
30 DIANE Could be that boat is more uses than we thought.
31

1 MUSIC

2 SOUND ARCTIC WHITEOUT WIND UNDER

3 HARRY By jiminey! That's a fire on the ice! I was right to build a fire on this
4 hill. It's them! It's them!

5 SFX RUNNING ON THE SHOW

6 SFX DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE

7 SOUND POLAR WIND

8 HARRY (PANTING) They're alive! They're alive!

9 ALICE (SCOFFING) Harry, how can you know that?

10 HARRY I saw a beacon out at sea. I saw it!

11 ALICE What makes you think it's them?

12 HARRY Hey, I built a bonfire, and got a response. They're alive, I tell you. We
13 just need to send some boats out, and get them!

14 MINER Harry, you must have seen a star. You need to sleep it off.

15 ALICE You couldn't have seen a light out there.

16 HARRY But I did! They're alive! Why doesn't anyone believe me? They're
17 alive...

18 MINER I'm not going out on a wild goose chase. It's too cold.

19 CAST ADLIBS Not me. Too dangerous.

20 HARRY (DISPERATION) The sea is free of ice, at least near the shore. We need to rescue
21 them! They need us!

22 MINER You're just crazy. Sit down in the corner and shut-up!

23 CAST ADLIBS

24 MUSIC BRIDGE

25 SOUND FIRE UNDER

26 MATTIE For two more dreadful days and nights, the stranded travelers drifted
27 wherever the winds and currents were pleased to take them. They'd
28 almost given up hope of being rescued. They were bone-tired of
29 trying to stay warm and alive by walking all day and all night. If they
30 laid down to sleep, they'd freeze quickly at 35 to 40 degrees below

1 zero. On the fifth day at sea, the ice field started shoreward once
2 more. (SOUND FADE FIRE)
3 SOUND ARCTIC WHITEOUT WIND UNDER
4 DIANE (ANXIOUS) Does it seem to you we're going toward the shore?
5 ERIK Yah...(getting excited) Yah—yah! The wind, she is blowink us there.
6 LOUIE Erik, do you recognize any land marks?
7 ERIK Yah...yah! There's Topkuk Bluffs!
8 RACHEL Isn't that close to where this whole thing broke off?
9 SAM And Bluff City will be just beyond that! Pray to God we can continue
10 to go in this direction.
11 GEORGE Let's get the dogs hooked back up to the sleds.
12 LOUIE Let's only hook up 4 dogs—that would be enough to pull the sleds
13 back to land. But if we can't get the sleds across, we'll only have 4
14 dogs instead of 15 in harness to rescue. The rest will get across on
15 their own.
16 SOUND DOGS BARKING
17 SOUND: FIRE UNDER
18 MATTIE All was excitement, as the party made ready to effect a landing as soon
19 as they came near enough to shore. All ready, they waited. With a
20 grinding sound the ice-field touched the beach—only a few rods from
21 where she had started out to sea. (FIRE OUT)
22 SOUND ARCTIC WHITEOUT WIND
23 SOUND GRINDING INTO LAND, SLOSH OF WATER
24 SOUND DOGS BARKING
25 SAM (EXCITED) We're here! Let's get over before it drifts away.
26 ERIK (EXCITED) Watch that first step, Sam!
27 SAM I better. Don't tell my wife!
28 CAST (LAUGHING)
29 LOUIE (EXCITED) Quickly now. Before the ice changes its mind. George, you handle one
30 sled, I'll do the other. Erik, get the dogs over!
31

1 SOUND DOGS BARKING UNDER
2 LOUIE (CALLING) Mush! Mush! Mush! Faster!
3 GEORGE (CALLING) Mush! Mush! Go dogs!
4 SFX MOVEMENT ONTO THE LAND (WALKING IN SNOW/JINGLE
5 OF HARNESS
6 SAM Where is anybody? Silent as a tomb around here.
7 ERIK We finally get back and no one cares.
8 SAM Come on, let's go to the saloon, to get warm.
9 CAST AD-LIBS "That sounds wonderful." "I've been cold so long..." etc.
10
11 SFX TRUDGING IN SNOW; DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE
12 SOUND POLAR WIND
13 SFX SALOON NOISES—BOTTLES, CROWD NOISE
14 SAM (CALLS) Alice! Alice! I'm back!
15 ALICE (SHRIEKS) Sam? It's a miracle! Oh, Sam.
16 CROWD AD-LIBS (Bluff city went wild) "They're back!" "They're here!"
17 HARRY I knew you guys were alive! But I couldn't convince anyone.
18 DIANE Was it you who lit the bonfire?
19 LOUIE We saw it, and hoped. If the boats had put out to sea then, we would
20 have been rescued.
21 DIANE Hey, we're here. Safe and sound.
22 RACHEL Next stop Nome!
23 LOUIE You weren't out in the cold long enough, Rachel? You still want to go
24 onto Nome?
25 RACHEL It's not very far from here. As long as we stay off the sea ice. Let's go
26 on the land side this time.
27 LOUIE And I thought you liked boating.
28 RACHEL Let's try a boat next time.
29 MUSIC BRIDGE
30 SOUND FIRE

1 MATTIE Only waiting to put inside a square meal, the party continued the trip,
2 this time over land, from Bluff City to Nome. They were joyous and
3 elated over their safety. They had so long been in despair, the change
4 to safety was an intoxicant. On reaching Nome, Rachel Anne did not
5 enter the hospital. Her cough did not return and she steadily gained in
6 flesh and strength. I talked with the consumptive lady...
7 I hope you will suffer no after ill effects from so promptly placing
8 your robes at Mr. Austen's service.

9 RACHEL No, I suffered very little after getting out of that sled. In fact, I was so
10 frightened and in such terror of my surroundings that I forgot to cough.
11 And I don't mean to begin agin.

12 MATTIE The last time I saw her she was well and strong. Literally coughing her
13 life out and in the last stages of consumption, this woman, when her
14 mind was vitally alive, forgot her body and her cough at the same
15 time, by a force outside her own will. She understood the truth of the
16 cure and refused to again believe in disease.

17 Thanks for stopping by The Roadhouse. Come by again for another
18 tale from the Yukon.

19 MUSIC THEME
20

1 ANNCR This has been an original presentation from American Radio Theater,
2 based on a true story published in 1902 by Matilda Clark. Adapted for
3 radio by Joy Jackson.
4 In our cast you heard:
5 Marge Lutton as Mattie Clark
6 Esther Geddes McVey As RACHEL ANNE HASTINGS
7 Beth Schlansky As DIANE REDFERN
8 Michael “Moki” O’Reilly As GEORGE SVABO
9 Kim Turner As ERIK JOHNSON
10 Gregg Porter As LOUIE RIVIERE
11 Ken Liesse As SAM AUSTEN
12 Harry Thiel As HARRY SAWYER
13 Liz Roach As ALICE AUSTEN
14 Dan Schindler As THE MINER
15 I’m _Pat McNally_ your announcer.
16 This is A. R. T. –the American Radio Theater.