

1 CHUCKWAGON TALES:
2 THE DANDY FROM BODIE
3 Written by Joy Jackson
4

5 SUNDAY OCT 4, 2009

6 REHEARSAL: 12:30-1:30 PM

7 PERFORMANCE: 3:40 PM
8
9
10

11 the RANGER
12 DANDY (HARLAN HIGHTOWER)
13 SHAUGHNESSY (MINERS UNION PRESIDENT
14 PADDY O'CARROL (MINER)
15 BIG MIKE (MINER)
16 SAM KEMP (PHOTOGRAPHER)
17 MISS LILLY
18 LANDLADY (MRS. BENNETT) MONO HOUSE
19 DOCTOR
20 ANNOUNCER
21 SALLY (IN THE PARADE)
22 BECKY (IN THE PARADE)
23
24

1 MUSIC: THEME

2 SFX SLOW FOOTSTEPS, UNDER

3 EFX WIND UNDER

4 RANGER Walking among the weather-beaten buildings in
5 Bodie, California these days, you have to squint
6 hard to catch a glimpse of the high-life that once
7 called this remote gold mining town home. At 8374
8 feet of elevation, with the mines sitting at yet
9 another 700 feet higher, it is tough just walking
10 along the old buildings. If you peer into the
11 dusty windows of the hotel, you might see the pool
12 cues laying on the table, the players just out of
13 sight, getting a ghostly beer at the bar.
14 But it was a different thing all together on July
15 4, 1880.

16 SFX/EFX FOOTSTEPS AND WIND OUT

17 MUSIC OUT

18 ANNCR: The American Radio Theater presents Chuckwagon
19 Tales: The Dandy from Bodie. Written and produced
20 by Joy Jackson.

21

22 MUSIC: OLD-TIMEY UP AND UNDER

23 RANGER At the stroke of midnight, thirty steam whistles
24 smashed the silence at the 104th annual day of
25 Independence. The sun wasn't up yet when Hoskin's
26 brass band assembled outside the Belvedere Iron
27 Works, and enthusiastically, if not musically,
28 rendered "Hail Columbia", "The Star Spangled
29 Banner," and other appropriate tunes. For anyone
30 who hadn't been awakened by the music, they
31 certainly couldn't miss the cannon blast at
32 sunrise. For this one day, the one hundred and

1 forty-nine stamps of the nine quartz stamp mills
2 didn't beat out their tattoos as they smashed rock
3 into powder, to recover the gold from it. (MUSIC
4 FADE)

5 Yep, this was going to be Harlan Hightower's
6 special day. He could just feel it. The owner of
7 the Bodie Standard News had left him in charge. It
8 was his job to gather all the news of this
9 glorious day, and he had to start with that big
10 meeting at the Bodie Miners Union. He sprang out
11 of bed, and dressed in his finest. For Harlan,
12 that was pretty fine, since he was known around
13 town as the Dandy. Dancing with excitement, he
14 SFX OPEN BOX opened the box that kept his most prized
15 possession safe—a double-high derby hat.

16 SFX WALKING DOWNSTAIRS

17 LANDLADY Oh, my, Mr. Hightower! Don't you look fine!

18 HARLAN Thank you, Mrs. Bennett. I have the rare privilege
19 of riding in the parade with Miss Lilly.

20 LANDLADY You don't say! That's a real feather in your cap.

21 HARLAN (SMILING) Mrs. Bennett, you're joshing me!

22 RANGER He tipped his hat to her, and walked through the
23 doors of the Mono House on Mill Street. There was
24 a little trouble though, getting into the meeting
25 at the Miners Union Hall.

26 AD LIB: MALE CROWD CONVERSATIONS UNDER

27 BIG MIKE Harlan Hightower! You turned miner, have you?

28 HARLAN Not at all, Big Mike. I'm just here to report on
29 the doings of the meeting.

30 BIG MIKE You're sure enough dressed purty. Well, take a
31 seat over there in the second row, Mr. Hightower.

32 HARLAN Thank you, sir.

1 SHAUGHNESSY Paddy, shut your gob.
2 PADDY We're honest miners, we are. We don't need no
3 airs.
4 SHAUGHNESSY I think it's an honor for us to be in the parade.
5 PADDY I don't! I got as much a right to say what I think
6 as any of youse guys.
7 AD LIB (EVERYONE WANTS TO MARCH IN THE PARADE)
8 PADDY I don't want to walk in the parade! You can't make
9 me, you lilly-livered high=graders!
10 BIG MIKE Shut-up and sit down, Paddy!
11 PADDY I won't shut up! And you can't make me sit down,
12 you bastard!
13 SHAUGHNESSY That's ENOUGH! Big Mike, remove Mr. O'Carrol from
14 the premises!
15 BIG MIKE Yes, sir!
16 SHAUGHNESSY And keep him out!
17 PADDY This is outrageous! I'll come back and you'll see
18 what I can do... You think you're so high and
19 mighty..
20 SHAUGHNESSY Paddy O'Carrol! You have disrupted this meeting
21 for the last time!
22 PADDY You can't do that. Get your hands off me! Let me
23 go! It's a free country!
24 AD LIB (MEN) STRUGGLING TO GET PADDY OUT
25 MUSIC: THEME UNDER
26 RANGER "Goodbye God, we're going to Bodie!" It was a rare
27 day in Bodie that didn't have a new body to bury, and July
28 4 was no exception. The surprise was that it happened so
29 early in the day. (MUSIC OUT)
30

1 SHAUGHNESSY Thank you, Mr. Hightower, for gathering the
2 donations for our two lost brethren. There's close to \$20
3 here for each family. Thank you, everyone, for your
4 generosity...

5 AD=LIB COMMOTION (OFF)

6 PADDY (OFF) You can't force me out! I'm comin' back in and
7 riddle you full of holes!

8 BIG MIKE (OFF) No you don't, you rascal!

9 SFX 5 GUNSHOTS, DOOR OPEN, FOOTSTEPS

10 BIG MIKE (OUT OF BREATH) I'm sorry, Mr. Shaughnessy, for the
11 disruption. Paddy tried to come back to the meeting with a
12 revolver. He was likkered up something fierce.

13 SHAUGHNESSY (SIGH) Is he dead?

14 BIG MIKE I'm afraid so.

15 SHAUGHNESSY O'Carrol, you were said to have been a badman by
16 a lot of folks. I can't say you'll be regretted by those
17 best acquainted with you. Take him away boys.

18 AD LIB (GETTING BODY OUT) "Get his other arm, Chet!" "Pete,
19 grab his gun"

20 EFX DRAGGING THE BODY AWAY

21 SHAUGHNESSY (OVER THE NOISE) Hearing no further objection,
22 we'll form ranks, and march as a group in the
23 parade.

24 HARLAN That's going to be in one of my columns.

25 BIG MIKE Not much news—just another killing. Happens every
26 day.

27 HARLAN No, not the shooting. The decision to march in the
28 parade!

29

1 MUSIC: HAND TROLLEY UP AND UNDER

2 RANGER To look at the crowd that day, you would think no
3 one stayed home—it was one big jumble of all kinds
4 of people elbowing each other and cheering from
5 balconies. Chinese, Irish, Welch, Easterners,
6 each pushing for a good viewing spot. Excited
7 children ran up and down the street, adding to the
8 noise.

9 Up at the "Community center" the large crowd had
10 to endure several long-winded orations and listen
11 to numerous recitations by children forced into
12 the limelight by adoring parents. And there were
13 the humorous orations given by "The Horribles"—a
14 collection of local hams who kept the crowd in an
15 uproar. (MUSIC OUT)

16 EFX WESTERN TOWN AMBIANCE (PLUS LIVE SOUND: HORSES, ETC) UNDER

17 RANGER Main Street was hung from one end to the other
18 with decorations of flags and evergreen, and
19 almost obliterated with streamers of bunting.
20 The parade down Main Street was a colossal one:
21 Carriages, freight wagons, the volunteer fire
22 brigade with their pumper and horses. And what
23 horses! And in one of the open carriages was the
24 town's dandy.

25 SFX SOUND OF CARRIAGE ON GRAVEL

26 Mr. Hightower was elegantly attired in his new
27 outfit, topped by his gleaming two-story derby
28 hat. Along with him were some equally elegant
29 ladies. It was an extremely warm Fourth of July,
30 and whenever our hero raised his hat to wipe his
31 sweaty brow, the crowd near him turned their
32 heads.

1 HARLAN (MUSING) Hmm...That's peculiar...

2 RANGER Then he spotted a friend of his at the side of the
3 street.

4 DANDY (CALLING) Sam! Sam Kemp! Up here!

5 SFX WALKING IN GRAVEL ALONGSIDE THE CARRIAGE

6 SAM Harlan Hightower! By heaven, that's a grand
7 outfit. Stop by my shop later, and I'll take a
8 photograph of you.

9 HARLAN Thanks, Sam. Ma would like that.

10 SAM Whew! What in thunder have you been doing with
11 yourself? That scent you give off is terrible!

12 HARLAN I don't rightly know. You mean it's not the breeze
13 blowing down the canyon?

14 SAM Nope—you can't blame this on the slaughterhouse.
15 The breeze isn't coming from there.

16 MISS LILLY Driver, stop. Mr.Kemp, help me down.

17 SAM But Miss Lilly! I thought you wanted to ride in
18 the parade.

19 HARLAN Miss Lilly! You promised!

20 MISS LILLY (WITH A SNIFF) Under the circumstances, I think
21 I'd be happier sitting this one out. Coming,
22 girls?

23 SALLY No, Miss Lily, I'll stay. 'Tain't often I ride in
24 a carriage.

25 BECKY So will I.

26 HARLAN Thanks, ladies. The pleasure is mine.

27 MUSIC: OLD-TIMEY UP AND UNDER

28 RANGER The others riding with him suffered in silence,
29 held their noses, and made wry faces. There were
30 saplings placed in buckets tied to the awning
31 supports that led from Main Street to the
32 Fairgrounds. The parade ended at the fairgrounds.

1 There was the barbeque, with several steers
2 roasted in a large pit, followed by the pie
3 auction. Mr. Hightower dutifully wrote down the
4 miners who won the drilling contests, where miners
5 attempted to sink their hand drills into a granite
6 boulder in a set number of minutes. He didn't
7 understand the smirking looks that some of the
8 miners gave him, but he did notice them. There was
9 a boxing contest, and a number of foot races. And
10 then there were the horse races, with wagers being
11 placed left and right. (MUSIC OUT)

12 By the time he staggered home, his notebook was
13 crammed full of scribbled notes for the paper.
14 He was a little surprised at his reception when he
15 returned to the Mono House. He was feeling so
16 successful in completing his tasks.

17 LANDLADY My lands, Mr. Hightower! Have you got some
18 terrible disease?

19 HARLAN Of course not! Why do you ask that?

20 LANDLADY Well...It's that... smell.

21 HARLAN What smell?

22 LANDLADY Mr. Hightower, please let me send for the doctor.
23 There must be something horribly wrong. And open
24 the window!

25 HARLAN All right, you send for the doctor. But I am fine.
26 Fit as a fiddle.

27 MUSIC: THEME UP AND UNDER

28 RANGER When the doctor arrived, he looked his patient
29 over very carefully. Nothing wrong with his right
30 arm, nothing wrong with his left arm. The same was
31 true with the right leg and also the left leg.
32 Nothing the matter with either foot. He examined

1 the Dandy's right ear, and left ear, looked in his
2 mouth and up his nose. Shaking his head, he
3 finally reached for the Dandy's hat. He sniffed it
4 and said (MUSIC OUT)

5 DOCTOR (SNIFF) You must have bought this thing before it
6 was ripe.

7 HARLAN Doc, That hat cost me plenty—all the way from St
8 Louis!

9 RANGER The doctor turned his back on the anxious patient,
10 and made a closer examination.

11 DOCTOR (ANXIOUSLY) Have you made a will? Are you prepared for
12 your maker?

13 HARLAN (WORRIED) I have always led a decent life, sir.

14 (BEAT) Doc, do ...do I have time for a preacher?

15 DOCTOR Mrs. Bennett, would you have a look at this hat?
16 Tell me what you see.

17 LANDLADY (PUZZLED) It's just a ...hat, doctor.

18 DOCTOR No, look here...under the sweatband..

19 LANDLADY Inside the hat? Under the sweatband? Let's
20 see, if I turn this over...

21 SFX OPENING HATBAND

22 LANDLADY Why it's...it's...a piece of limburger cheese!

23 DOCTOR

24 LANDLADY BOTH BREAK INTO LAUGHTER

25 RANGER The doctor and the landlady doubled over with
26 laughter as they showed the Dandy his hat. The
27 patient turned livid, grabbed his revolver, and
28 ran out the door.

29 SFX RUNNING FOOTSTEPS UNDER

30 HARLAN I'll get those black-hearted swine that set me up!
31 Must have been some of those miners! I thought

1 they were laughing at me! All day—they were
2 laughing...at me!

3 SFX RUNNING STOP

4 MUSIC: HAND TROLLEY UP AND UNDER

5 RANGER No homicide was reported so it is assumed he
6 thought better of his intentions and accepted the
7 prank for what it was.

8 Celebrants in other communities usually enjoyed
9 the holiday with the same verve and vivacity. The
10 evening often ended with a tremendous bonfire, and
11 everyone who was still able to walk attended a
12 fancy ball.

13 It was certainly a day to look forward to, and a
14 day to remember. July 4, 1880, Bodie California.

15

16 MUSIC FADE OUT TO THEME MUSIC FOR CREDITS

17

18

1 ANNCR American Radio Theater presented Chuckwagon Tales:
2 the Dandy from Bodie. It was adapted for radio by
3 Joy Jackson; An historical footnote: Bodie is next
4 to the Nevada border. The closest towns to it are
5 Virginia City and Carson City. Even now it's hard
6 to get to. When the residents left town, they
7 packed all they could carry, and closed the doors
8 on all the things they had to leave behind. So the
9 houses and buildings still stand, full of
10 furniture and possessions covered in dust, waiting
11 for their people to come back.

12
13 You heard Dave Parker as the Ranger, with
14 Bryan Hendrickson as Sam Kemp, the photographer
15 Reynaud LeBoeuf as Harlan Hightower, the dandy
16 Melinda Mains as Becky

17 Esther Geddes McVey as Mrs. Bennett, Harlan's Landlady

18 Michael "Moki" O'Reilly as Big Mike

19 Joan Parker as Miss Lilly

20 Dr. Bob Perks as Paddy O'Carrol

21 Liz Roach as Sally

22 Kim Turner as Mr. Shaughnessy

23 Pat McNally as the Doctor

24 Sound effects by Penny Swanberg, Harry Thiel and Marilyn Wilt.

25 Music by Kevin McLeod, www.incompetech.com

26

27 I'm_Gregg Porter

28 This is A R T the American Radio Theater.