

O'HARA

1951 – Columbia Pacific Network (CBS West Coast) and 1956 – CBS National

A Radio Series Broadcast Log
by Stewart Wright.
Initial Compilation: 02/14/2003.
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Audition Show: Yes, for 1956 run.
First Show: 04/07/1951.
Last Show: 10/29/1956.
Number of Shows: 39.
Available Shows: 2.
Show Length: 25 and 30 minutes.

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SERIES DESCRIPTION:

O'Hara was a crime drama series that had an initial 26 episode run in 1951 on the 14 station Columbia Pacific Network (CBS West Coast). The series was later resurrected for broadcast on the entire CBS network in two short, separate runs during 1956.

The main character was O'Hara, a foreign correspondent, who was based in Hong Kong. While the O'Hara character was ostensibly a reporter, he usually became involved in investigating and solving some crime. O'Hara was essentially a detective in reporter's clothing. The O'Hara character also functioned as the narrator.

During the April through September, 1951 twenty-six episode CBS West Coast run and the late Spring – early Summer portion of the 1956 run over the entire CBS network (an unaired audition show and 12 broadcasts), Jack Moyles starred as O'Hara. In the early 1956 Fall run, Stacy Harris played the title character.

Origins and Progeny

(Which appeared in a somewhat different format as the article "Rocky Goes East" by Stewart Wright in the June, 2015 issue of *Radio Recall*, the Newsletter of Metro Washington Old Time Radio Club.)

Many Old-Time Radio fans are familiar with one of the most popular series ever to run on the CBS West Coast Radio Network: the adventure series *Rocky Jordan* which ran with breaks from October 31, 1948 through June 26, 1953. (The Rocky Jordan character first came to the airwaves in 1945 on that regional network in a series called *A Man Named Jordan* which ran from early January, 1945 through August 1, 1948.) This pair of series were more than loosely based on the classic Humphrey Bogart motion picture: *Casablanca*. Jack Moyles played Rocky Jordan from 1945-50 and 1952-53. In an ill-advised attempt to supply the series with "Star Power" for a Summer, 1951 run on the entire CBS network, George Raft was brought in to play Jordan. Moyles' portrayal of Jordan is usually considered superior to that of Raft's.

However, most Old-Time Radio fans and collectors are probably not aware that another series, *O'Hara*, could trace its roots to *Rocky Jordan*. It's not surprising as only two *O'Hara* broadcasts are in circulation; one each from the April through September, 1951 twenty-six episode CBS West Coast run and from the 1956 run of an unaired audition show and 12 broadcasts over the entire CBS network. Jack Moyles starred as O'Hara in all but the last five episodes which were aired in October, 1956.

O'Hara and the *Jordan* series were of the so-called "amateur detective" or "unlicensed private investigator" variety. It was a common way of putting a different twist on the basic private detective theme, a favorite radio genre. Each main character had a stated, non-investigative occupation: Jordan was a café owner and O'Hara was an international correspondent. However, they were primarily involved with solving mysteries and crimes. Both O'Hara and Jordan pass the Raymond Chandler test: "trouble" was definitely their "real" business.

The series and their title characters had many similarities. Both O'Hara and Jordan also performed as the narrator for their respective series. Both lead characters were Americans earning their livings in an exotic overseas locales: O'Hara's Hong Kong was substituted for Jordan's Cairo. The story lines for many episodes of both series dealt with crime or international intrigue and were frequently filled with colorful characters. In fact, the initial two *O'Hara* episodes, "Kowloon Hijack" and "The Marked Man" were reused scripts that had been initially aired in 1949 as "The Big Heist" and "The De Marco Affair" respectively on *Rocky Jordan*. (These scripts would be reused again under their 1949 titles when *Rocky Jordan* returned to the CBS West Coast airwaves in 1952-53.)

Also, both Jordan and O'Hara maintained a sometimes tenuous, but

respectful relationship with local senior police officials. In O'Hara's case, it was with Commissioner Sydney Phelps of the Hong Kong Constabulary. In Jordan's, it was with Captain Sam Saabya of the Cairo Police. The private conversations between the title characters and these senior law enforcement agents was one of each series' strongest plot devices; these conversations drew the audience into the world of the main characters. Several episodes of *O'Hara* conclude with the correspondent having Tea with Commissioner Phelps. Likewise, while more than a few episodes of *Rocky Jordan* ended with Rocky having Egyptian Coffee with Captain Saabya. The characters usually conversed about various aspects of the episode's case and life in general.

The *O'Hara* theme music, used to help set a Far Eastern mood for the series, came from another Humphrey Bogart adventure movie: the popular 1944 motion picture "To Have and Have Not." It was an instrumental version of the song "Hong Kong Blues" by song writer/composer Hoagy Carmichael, who also performed it in that motion picture.

O'Hara was not Moyles' only radio endeavour as a foreign correspondent. In 1953 Moyles played Brad Douglas, a correspondent for the *New York World* newspaper in the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service produced series: *Douglas of The World*.

A descriptive broadcast log of *Rocky Jordan* (1948-1955) in Adobe Acrobat PDF format can be found at:

<http://www.old-time.com/otrlogs2/index.html>

Standard Openings:

1951

There were several variations in the opening of the 1951 episodes of *O'Hara*. Here is a typical example.

MUSIC: (O'HARA CODE, STACCATO TELEGRAPHIC EFFECT: OUT FOR:)

ANNCR: O'Hara. . . .

MUSIC: (HONG KONG BLUES.... "A" THEME TO B.G. FOR:)

O'HARA: O'Hara, Hong Kong to Trans-Pacific News Syndicate, San Francisco. Biggest story in my years as Far East correspondent. Outcome will affect millions of lives, and maybe the price of Vodka in the United States!. Signed:

SOUND: CW. SPELLS O'HARA"

MUSIC: "B' THEME CONTINUES BG

ANNCR: C.B.S. brings you "O'HARA" - - starring Jack Moyles - a new series of adventures of a freelance foreign correspondent in the far places of the world -- stories of action and intrigue - stories that lie behind the foreign news dispatches. Tonight -- O'Hara cables from Hong Kong a story titled --

MUSIC: (OUT AT ONCE)

ANNCR: Train for Sinkiang.

1956

Each of the two 1956 runs of the series had somewhat different openings. Here are sample openings.

From the Moyles run:

O'HARA: From O'Hara – Hong Kong to Intercompress, San Francisco. Check Southeast Asia files for quote Mister Marco unquote and advise. If I'm right you'll have two thousand words for tomorrow's front page. If I'm wrong you're going to need a new boy in Hong Kong.
Signed – – O'Hara.

MUSIC: HONG KONG BLUES MAIN TITLE

ANNCR: O'Hara, starring Jack Moyles, a new series of adventure, action and danger in the life of a free lance foreign correspondent.

MUSIC: GONG HITS and FADES

ANNCR: Tonight, O'Hara cables his first story from Hong Kong.

From the Harris run:

BIZ: O'HARA WHISTLING HONG KONG BLUES.

SOUND: INSERT PAPER INTO TYPEWRITER. SLIDE CARRIAGE TO STARTING POSITION. BEGIN TYPING.

O'HARA: O'Hara. . . Hong Kong. . . October 1st. Here is the story of a beautiful girl who got into trouble just waiting for a friend.

MUSIC: HONG KONG BLUES IN AND TO B.G.

ANNCR: "O'Hara! Transcribed reports, from one of America's noted foreign correspondents. . . whose syndicated columns appear in newspapers throughout the world."

MUSIC: GONG AND UNDERSCORE TO B.G.

SPONSORSHIP:

Sustained.

CAST:

Star and Featured Cast:

1951

Jack Moyles as O'Hara.

Byron Kane as Commissioner Phelps.

1956

Jack Moyles as Bob O'Hara (Audition and episodes 001–007).

Stacy Harris as Bob O'Hara (episodes 008–012).

Byron Kane as Commissioner Phelps (Audition and episodes 001–007).

Ben Wright as Ah Chang (episodes 001–007).

Guest Cast:1951

Tony Barrett, Edgar Barrier, Bob Bruce, Lillian Buyeff, Larry Dobkin, Paul Frees, Betty Lou Gerson, Lou Krugman, Jack Kruschen, Sidney Miller, Anne Morrison, Tudor Owen, Ben Wright, and others.

1956

Tony Barrett, Richard Beals, Lillian Buyeff, Don Diamond, Virginia Gregg, Lou Krugman, Jack Kruschen, Charlie Lung, Jeanette Nolan, Ben Wright, and others.

CREW:**Producers:**1951

Everett (Tommy) Tomlinson and Sterling Tracy.

1956

William N. Robson (Episodes 001 - 007).

Antony Ellis (Episodes 008 - 012).

Directors:1951

Everett (Tommy) Tomlinson and Sterling Tracy.

1956

William N. Robson (Audition and Episodes 001 - 007).

Antony Ellis (Episodes 008 - 012).

Writers:1951

Gomer Cool, Richard George Pedicini, Larry Roman, and Gilbert Thomas.

1956

Tony Barrett, Les Crutchfield, Antony Ellis, Joel Murcott, William N. Robson, Charles B. Smith, and Irene Winston.

Music:Theme Music:

The 1951 & 1956 runs used a song called "Hong Kong Blues" by Hoagy Carmichael from the 1944 motion picture "To Have and Have Not."

Episode Specific Music:1951

Dick Aurandt.

1956

Jerry Goldsmith, Don Ray, Amerigo Marino, and Carl Fortina.

Announcers:1951

Hugh Douglas, Bill Anders, Jim Murphy, Clarence Kassel, and others

1956

Roy Rowan, Dan Cubberly, Hugh Douglas, George Walsh, and Gil Warren.

Sound Effects:

1951

Clark Casey, Ralph Cummings, Ray Kemper, Ross Murray, Jack Sixsmith, Gene Twombly, and others.

1956

Gus Bayz, Tom Hanley, Bill James, Ray Kemper, and Vic Livoti.

NEWSPAPER RADIO PROGRAMMING LISTINGS CAUSE CONFUSION:

Errors in Newspaper Radio Programming Listings have caused considerable confusion regarding both the 1951 and 1956 runs of *O'Hara*.

It is wise to remember that Newspaper Radio Programming Listings are *Secondary Sources*; they were derived from information supplied by the radio networks. Newspaper Radio Programming Listings are a thumbnail sketch of What Was Scheduled to be Aired and Not Always What Was Actually Aired. In many cases, Newspaper Radio Listings normally did not list Episode Titles, they usually only listed Scheduled Air Date and Time and Series Name.

I have found through experience that Newspaper Radio Listings at the beginning and ending of a series' run or when the series changed day and/or timeslot can be inaccurate. Networks usually sent copy on a series to newspapers weeks in advance of the broadcast of the premiere episode and subsequent episodes. Sometimes the networks changed broadcast day and/or timeslot for a series on short notice and the newspapers either didn't receive the change information or were unable to publish it in time. Series were often cancelled on short notice and sometimes Newspaper Radio Listings would continue to appear for a series that was already off the air.

These preceding types of errors in newspapers were quite common occurrences. Sometimes Networks were late in getting programming change information to the newspapers. Other times the newspapers didn't get the change information to those responsible for composing the page and setting the type. Sometimes typographical errors were not caught.

Newspaper Radio Programming Listings can be deceiving. It is unwise to rely on them as a Sole Source of information.

For the compilation of episode titles and broadcast dates and times, this broadcast log relies mainly on series-specific *Primary Sources*

the two existing broadcasts,

CBS episode scripts,

and

internal network documentation.

The printed *Primary Sources* were actually viewed by this broadcast log compiler during two trips to the archive where these materials reside. The two broadcast episodes in circulation were listened to and compared to the scripts.

Then the information from these *Primary Sources* was compared to period Newspaper Radio Programming Listings and all conflicts were resolved.

The following problems with Newspaper Radio Programming Listings were encountered when I was compiling the *O'Hara* broadcast log.

When Did The 1951 Run Begin?

The Saturday, April 7, 1951 RADIO TODAY Newspaper Radio Programming Listing of the *Los Angeles Times* has *O'Hara* as airing at 9:30 P.M. The script for the episode and Radio Programming Listings of other newspapers have *O'Hara* airing at 9:35 P.M. after 5 minutes of news at the half hour. *O'Hara* continued in this time slot through June 30, 1951.

When Did The 1951 Run End? Four Non-Existent Episodes.

There is substantial confusion in Newspaper Radio Programming Listings as to when *O'Hara* ended its 1951 run. The *Los Angeles Times* Radio Programming Listings had the series continuing through October 28, 1951. The Radio and Television Program Listings of the *Long Beach Press-Telegram* has the last *O'Hara* broadcast as airing on October 7, 1951. Other newspapers on the Pacific Coast varied to when *O'Hara* ended.

The scripts and network documentation for *O'Hara* have the series ending its 1951 run of 26 shows with the broadcast of September 30, 1951. CBS radio series of the time generally were programmed for blocks of 13 weeks. The network documentation indicates that the series was cancelled on short notice. My *O'Hara* broadcast log lists the 1951 run of the series as consisting of 26 episodes as opposed to 30 episodes claimed by some other broadcast log compilers.

1956 Run of Series. Two Non-Existent Episodes.

The Daily Radio Programming Listings of at least one newspaper, the *Los Angeles Times*, *erroneously* listed that *O'Hara* also aired on the CBS West Coast flagship station, KNX at 7:00 PM (PT) AFTER News on 07/08/1956 and 07/15/1956. The News broadcast would make the actual start time of *O'Hara* 7:05 PM. See below program listing graphics at 7:00 PM for KNX.

From L. A. Times – 07/08/1956

7:00	KFI—Opera
	KNX—News. <i>O'Hara</i>
	KFWB—News
	KHJ—Guy Lombardo
	KABC—H. Cossell Sports
	KFAC—Hi-Fi Concert
7:05	KFWB—Books & You
	KABC—Listening Post
	KNX—FBI Peace & War

From L. A. Times – 07/15/1956

7:00	KFI—Opera
	KNX—News. <i>O'Hara</i>
	KFWB—News
	KHJ—Guy Lombardo
	KABC—News
	KFAC—Hi-Fi Concert
7:05	KFWB—Books & You
	KABC—Listening Post
	KNX—FBI Peace & War

Look at the above KNX programming listing graphics for 7:05 PM on those dates and you will see that *FBI In Peace & War* (a.k.a. *The FBI In Peace & War*) is listed. It is highly unlikely that CBS was able to have two 25-minute series broadcasting simultaneously on the same station!

Also, the Radio Programming Listings of several other newspapers have *The FBI In Peace & War* airing in *O'Hara's* previous time slot for 07/08/1956 and 07/15/1956.

The 07/08/1956 broadcast of *The FBI In Peace & War* exists. I have verified *The FBI In Peace & War's* West Coast 7:05 PM time slot on 07/15/1956 by consulting the script used for that broadcast.

The scripts I consulted for the 1956 run of the *O'Hara* series were in Bound Volumes that included additional documentation. This documentation conclusively proves that all 1956 *O'Hara* scripts are contained in those volumes; there were no scripts or broadcasts for the series on 07/08/1956 and 07/15/1956. *O'Hara* ended the first portion of its 1956 run with the broadcast of 07/01/1956 and did not return to the CBS airwaves until October 1, 1956.

The information from the previously mentioned sources has convinced me that there were no broadcasts of *O'Hara* on 07/08/1956 and 07/15/1956.

LOG:

The broadcast log is divided into sections with the day and time of broadcasts listed at the beginning of each section. All airing dates, times, and titles used in this broadcast log are from the series scripts and network documentation. See preceding section, **NEWSPAPER RADIO PROGRAMMING LISTINGS CAUSE CONFUSION:**, for resolution of conflicting Newspaper Radio Programming Listings information.

Note on Episode Numbers (EP):

The scripts for the episodes of the 1951 run of *O'Hara* were numbered.

The scripts for the seven episodes of the 1956 Moyles run of *O'Hara* were not numbered; however, the numerical progression of episodes is mentioned in the Opening of each broadcast.

The scripts for the five episodes of the later 1956 run starring Stacy Harris as *O'Hara* were numbered 1 through 5.

For this log, I have numbered the episodes of the 1956 run consecutively based on their order of airing starting at 001 and ending at 012.

Episodes Known To Be In Circulation:

Episodes known to be in circulation are highlighted.

1951 Columbia Pacific (CBS West Coast Network)

SATURDAY 9:35 – 10:00 PM (PT)

Date	EP	Title
04/07/1951	001	Kowloon Hijack
04/14/1951	002	The Marked Man
04/21/1951	003	See Paris And Die
04/28/1951	004	Train For Sinkiang
05/05/1951	005	Snow White Cobra
05/12/1951	006	Flight Into Fear
05/19/1951	007	Strange Cargo
05/26/1951	008	The Dragon's Kill
06/02/1951	009	Forbidden Passport
06/09/1951	010	China Fury
06/16/1951	011	Kai Tak Crossroads
06/23/1951	012	Return Of Dr. Chen
06/30/1951	013	His Majesty's Traitor

SUNDAY 8:30 – 9:00 PM (PT)

Date	EP	Title
07/08/1951	014	Search For The Syrian!
07/15/1951	015	Passage Of The Molly-Q
07/22/1951	016	The Judas Face
07/29/1951	017	Bombs Along Yu Yan Road
08/05/1951	018	Fate Of The Frisco Coolie!
08/12/1951	019	The Wish Of Y. Chat Key!
08/19/1951	020	The Square Of Silk
08/26/1951	021	Assignment Assassination
09/02/1951	022	Terror Orientale
09/09/1951	023	The Return Of Sun Wah Kee
09/16/1951	024	The Honey Blonde Pirate

SUNDAY 7:00 – 7:30 PM (PT)

Date	EP	Title
09/23/1951	025	Passport To Death
09/30/1951	026	Death For The Dollar

1956 CBS Audition

Date	EP	Title
05/14/1956		Adventure (Audition Show)

1956 CBS Nationwide

SUNDAY 6:05 – 6:30 PM (ET) 7:05 – 7:30 PM (PT)

Date	EP	Title
05/20/1956	001	Visa Vice Versa
05/27/1956	002	The Woman Who Had Everything
06/03/1956	003	Celestial Celestine

06/10/1956	004	The Legend
06/17/1956	005	Godfathers' Day In Old Hong Kong
06/24/1956	006	The Set-Up
07/01/1956	007	The Purloined Mig
MONDAY	8:30 – 9:00 PM (ET and PT)	
Date	EP	Title
10/01/1956	008	The Girl Who Waited
10/08/1956	009	The Story of Sister Mary (NOTE: This episode is only 25 minutes in length due to a 5 minute presentation by the National Democratic Committee at 8:55 PM ET.)
10/15/1956	010	Mother's Little Darling
10/22/1956	011	Red October
10/29/1956	012	The Lost Boy

SOURCES CONSULTED:

Scripts and Other Related Documentation:

O'Hara Scripts and other documents pertaining to the series.

Various Collections

American Radio Archives

Grant R. Brimhall Library

Thousand Oaks, CA

Books:

Carmichael, Hoagy and Longstreet, Stephen. *The Stardust Road & Sometimes I Wonder: The Autobiography of Hoagy Carmichael*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, Da Capo Press, 1999.

Newspapers and Periodicals:

Bakersfield Californian

1951 & 1956 Daily Radio Programming Listings.

Hayward Daily Review (California)

1951 & 1956 Daily Radio Programming Listings and Notes.

Los Angeles Times

1951 & 1956 Daily Radio Programming Listings.

Long Beach Independent (California)

1951 & 1956 Daily Radio Programming Listings and Notes.

Long Beach Press Telegram (California)

1951 & 1956 Daily Radio Programming Listings and Notes.

New York Times

1956 Daily Radio Programming Listings.

Oakland Tribune (California)

1956 Daily Radio Programming Listings.

Oxnard Press Courier (California)

1951 Daily Radio Programming Listings.

Broadcasting

Various issues 1951.

Sponsor

Various issues 1951.

1951 Radio Annual.

1956 Radio Annual.

Radio Recall

(Newsletter of Metro Washington Old Time Radio Club)

"Rocky Goes East," by Stewart Wright, June, 2015.

Upcoming Article:

"A Long Journey: Researching *Rocky Jordan*," by Stewart Wright, 2015.

Internet:

The Humongous Old-Time Radio Database Search Engine

<http://www.old-time.com/humongousdb/index.php>

Jerry Haendiges Vintage Radio Logs

O'Hara 02-19-2005

<http://www.otrsite.com>

RadioGOLDINDEX

<http://www.radiogoldindex.com/>

Newspaper Heroes on the Air

Posts on series *Douglas of the World*

"Covering the world for the World, after the World was gone"

<http://jheroes.com/2011/08/04/douglas-of-the-world/>

"Veteran and reporter confront issues of peace and war"

<http://jheroes.com/2012/01/29/veteran-and-reporter-confront-issues-of-peace-and-war/>

"Radio propaganda about Russia, Iran, 1953"

Posted on August 20, 2013 by Bob Stepno

<http://jheroes.com/2013/08/20/radio-propaganda-about-russia-iran-1953/>

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