The Adventures of Philip Marlowe
1948 – 1951
CBS

A Radio Series Broadcast Log.
By: Stewart Wright.
Initial Compilation: 05/01/2015.
Last Update: 07/31/2018.
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Audition Show: None.
First Show: 09/26/1948.
Last Show: 09/15/1951.
Number of Network Episodes: 114.
In Circulation: 100.
Length: 30 minutes.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED:

The research on The Adventures of Philip Marlowe was conducted over a period of many years and included identifying, acquiring, viewing and/or listening to a large variety of Primary Sources (scripts and network documents, broadcasts, and interviews) and many Secondary Sources.

At the start of my research in the early 1990's, I constructed a database into which I would input episode titles, broadcast dates and times, cast, crew, and other episodic information. This database also included fields for my observations and additional information from all the sources I consulted throughout the research process. Having the information in a database allows me to easily generate queries and reports on various aspects of the series, such as the number of times that a specific member of the cast or crew worked on the series and in which episodes.

When I am researching an Old-Time Radio series, I attempt to acquire and listen to all the episodes of the series that are currently available. Acquisition of shows is an on-going process; I have acquired many additional shows that were not in circulation when I started researching The Adventures of Philip Marlowe.
I was indeed fortunate that I had contact with four performers who were connected with *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe*. At several Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound Conventions, I had informal conversations with two actors, Harry Bartell and Sam Edwards, who made guest appearances on the series and Larry Dobkin, who in addition to guest appearances on the series also played the continuing role of Detective Lieutenant Matthews. Over a period of years I also had conversations with one of the series' sound effects artists: Ray Erlenborn. They provided some information about the series that had not been previously published.

Next, I reviewed many Secondary Sources such as newspaper daily radio programming listings and notes, trade magazine articles, and books on Old-Time Radio.

**Accessing Primary Sources: A Necessary And Expensive Proposition**

For many years my research on this series was limited because a serious gap existed in the Primary sources for the series: very few scripts and virtually no additional network documentation for *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe* were known to exist. This all changed in the Fall of 2012, when a complete set of the scripts and many associated documents (network contract and broadcast documents, and other materials) for the series was found in the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters Collections which reside in the Special Collections Department of the Thousand Oaks Library. I spent four days in October, 2012 at the archive looking at all of these extensive CBS Primary Sources in the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters Collection for *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe*. The scripts (which sometimes contained annotations) and additional network documents such as Property Purchase Records, provided much new information and in some cases, provided corrections to information, such as episode broadcast dates, that already had been compiled in the database from other sources.

As many archives do not have the resources to allow remote access to their collections and usually do not allow photocopying of scripts and other documents, on-site inspection of the printed materials is mandatory. In order to obtain the most accurate and complete information, travel is a costly, but a necessary step in researching an entire series. It is a step taken by only a very few of the most dedicated OTR researchers and writers.

**Information Entry and Evaluation:**

An important, on-going activity throughout the research process is information entry and evaluation. Prior to arriving at the archive, I have already input extensive episode title and broadcast date, cast, crew, and other episodic information into the database. This substantially streamlines the research process at the archive. While reviewing the documents at the archive, I simply compare the documents to the information contained in my database, make corrections as needed, and input additional information.
Information evaluation is an important component of any research project. It is a winnowing process: separating the accurate information (the wheat) from the inaccurate information (the chaff). With some series there is much bad information in both print and on the Internet.

**Broadcast Log Updates:**
This *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe* broadcast log will be updated as additional information about the series, such as additional episodes coming into circulation, surface.

**SERIES BACKGROUND & DESCRIPTION:**
**Philip Marlowe on Other Radio Series in the Golden Age**
The Philip Marlowe character made several appearances on American radio prior to the premier of the 1948-1951 CBS series that included his name in the series title.

First, there seems to be a series of broadcasts in 1938 which starred Orson Welles as Philip Marlowe. The broadcasts were sponsored by Phillip Morris Cigarettes.

Next, there were three adaptations of the motion picture, "Murder, My Sweet." They were:
- and

In Summer, 1947, the Marlowe character was the focal point of a NBC series. *The Pepsodent Program: The Adventures of Philip Marlowe*. There were thirteen 30-minute episodes which were mainly adapted from short stories by Raymond Chandler. The series starred noted motion picture actor, Van Heflin as Philip Marlowe. Ironically, one of the episodes featured the actor who would become Philip Marlowe on the 1948 CBS series: Gerald Mohr.

In early 1948, there were two more appearances of the Marlowe character. The first was a cameo appearance on *Suspense* on January 10, 1948 in "The Kandy Tooth" with Robert Montgomery playing Marlowe. In the second, on the February 9, 1948, broadcast of *Lux Radio Theatre*, "The Lady in the Lake" which was adapted from the 1947 film, with Robert Montgomery playing Marlowe.

**1948 – 1951 CBS SERIES**
*The Adventures of Philip Marlowe* on CBS was a one of the premier hard-boiled series of the Golden Age of American Radio. The series focused on the activities of Raymond’s Chandler’s fictional detective. Marlowe’s character was already firmly established on the printed page and in motion pictures by the time *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe* premiered on CBS Radio on September 26, 1948.
In a 1944 essay titled "The Simple Art of Murder," Chandler defined his concept of the hard-boiled private detective, "... But down these mean streets a man must go who is not himself mean, who is neither tarnished nor afraid. The detective in this kind of story must be such a man. He is the hero, he is everything. He must be a complete man and a common man and yet an unusual man. He must be, to use a rather weathered phrase, a man of honor, by instinct, by inevitability, without thought of it, and certainly without saying it. He must be the best man in his world and a good enough man for any world. ..."

Openings and Closings:
The Adventures of Philip Marlowe had one of the most compelling openings in Old-Time Radio. It was fine-tuned several times during the run of the series. Gerald Mohr in character states, "Get this - and get it straight. Crime is a sucker's road and those who travel it wind up in the gutter, the prison or the grave. ... There's no other end, but they never learn."

The closing dramatic portion of most episodes provided a teaser for the next week's broadcast. That teaser was usually repeated during the opening of the next episode.

Gerald Mohr and Philip Marlowe
Some actors are fortunate enough to find the "role they were born to play." Gerald Mohr found his in Chandler's Philip Marlowe. Marlowe was a member of the "lone wolf" school of private detectives; a one-man operation with no partner or secretary. Mohr had experience in playing this type of detective role. He had already played Michael Lanyard, "The Lone Wolf" (a reformed jewel thief turned private eye), in 3 installments of that motion picture series in 1946 and 1947 and on the 1948-49 Mutual radio series just prior to playing Marlowe on CBS starting on September 26, 1948.

There was no doubt that Mohr was suitable for the hard-boiled Los Angeles private detective. But the actor was also able to effectively convey the more philosophical and contemplative aspects that Chandler had incorporated into the character and above of all, Marlowe's moral integrity.

Writers
Philip Marlowe's creator, Raymond Chandler, had little actual involvement with the radio series other than being paid a substantial fee for the use of his name and the Marlowe character. In each episode opening, the audience was reminded that this series was not your run-of-the-mill detective series, "From the pen of Raymond Chandler, outstanding author of crime fiction, comes his most famous character, as CBS presents The Adventures of Philip Marlowe." Chandler was also prominently mentioned in each episode closing with some variation of, "The Adventures of Philip Marlowe created by Raymond Chandler." The actual writers of episodes did not receive broadcast credits until the tenth episode, "The Hard Way Out."
Some of the best CBS writers had on the West Coast handled the writing chores for *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe*. The scripts for the initial 103 episodes were penned by the triumvirate of Gene Levitt, Robert Mitchell, and Mel Dinelli or the duo of Gene Levitt and Robert Mitchell. They did not adapt Chandler stories as had been done for the 1947 NBC Marlowe series starring Van Hefflin. The CBS scripts were new, character-driven dramatic works relying on the traits of the Philip Marlowe character as he had been developed by Raymond Chandler in his novels and short stories.

Sometime in late 1950 or early 1951, Kathleen Hite made a major career decision: she decided to leave her position as a CBS staff writer/editor and to become a freelance radio script writer. Freelancing was a more risky proposition, but paid far better. She could write for any of the networks and could earn as much as $450.00 per half-hour length script as opposed to approximately $100.00 as a staff script writer.

Hite’s first major free-lance assignment was to pen the scripts for the 1951 summer run of Norman Macdonnell’s *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe* series. (One of these scripts was co-written by Adrian Gendot.) It was the beginning of a collaboration between Hite and Macdonnell that would span more than 20 years and continue into the new medium of television. The *Marlowe* scripts were the first of Hite’s 110 scripts and adaptations that she wrote for radio shows directed by Macdonnell. Only John Meston and Les Crutchfield wrote or adapted more scripts for Macdonnell.

**Macdonnell’s Company of Actors**

While *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe* was not Norman Macdonnell’s first directorial assignment, it was his first opportunity to direct a major weekly series. Macdonnell was beginning to select the first players in his "stock company" of radio actors.

Norman Macdonnell knew what kind of actors he wanted and he knew how to find them. When Macdonnell first became an assistant director, he spent many hours sitting in the control booth with nearly every director in CBS radio. He watched the casts, ply their craft as individuals and as groups, a background that explains a strong conviction of his regarding actors. He would continue this practice for several years.

In a 1949 interview Macdonnell stated, "I firmly believe that it more important to get people who can work well together than it is to get a lot of people who can work well individually. My way, each person is making the most of his lines by playing to the rest of the cast."

"Sometimes it is a matter of pure luck. I’ll try out people who have never worked together before, and find that they click perfectly. Sometimes it is quite the opposite. They all read well, but not to each other. A good show can never be made up of a series of individually read parts."
Bill Conrad, a mainstay in Macdonnell’s stock company, made but a single appearance on the series. Conrad filled in for an ill Gerald Mohr for the episode April 11, 1950, "The Anniversary Gift."

Gerald Mohr never was a member of Macdonnell’s "stock company." Outside of *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe*, Mohr only appeared in three other Norman Macdonnell productions: 2 episodes of *Romance* and a single episode of *Escape*.

**The Final Broadcast**

At the conclusion of the last episode of the series, "The Sound and the Unsound," final words from Gerald Mohr implies that *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe* might later return to the radio air waves, “Thank you, Roy. Ladies and Gentleman, boys and girls" Tonight's broadcast concludes our current series of *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe*. I understand it won’t be very long until we meet again - so until we do - we won’t say goodbye but just - so long - see you soon. And - I still wonder what Rita is doing tonight.” Unfortunately, it was not to be; Gerald Mohr and *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe* never returned to the CBS Radio lineup.

**The Return of the Police Procedural**

Within eight months of the premier of *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe*, a different type of crime fighting series burst back onto the aural medium: the police procedural. It was not the procedural of the 1930’s series such as *Calling All Cars* with repetitious, heavy-handed Crime does not pay message. Jack Webb’s *Dragnet* proved that the day-to-day activities of a major city police department could interest, attract and hold large audiences. Police were no longer portrayed as buffoons or incompetent, they smart and determined public servants who were dedicated to upholding the Laws and catching those who broke them.

**Later Radio Series:**

BBC Radio produced two series of adaptations of Raymond Chandler novels. **BBC Presents: Philip Marlowe**

BBC Radio produced and aired adaptations of 6 Raymond Chandler novels in 1977-8 and 1988 starring American expatriate Ed Bishop. These adaptations later aired on National Public Radio and at least two of them were aired on the CBC Mystery Project. For more information, see http://www.old-time.com/otrlogs2/index.html

**Classic Chandler**

In 2011 BBC Radio produced and aired 8 adaptations of Raymond Chandler novels with Toby Stephens playing Philip Marlowe. For more information, see http://www.radiolists.co.uk/programmes/c/cl/classic_chandler.html

**TELEVISION: RUMORS AND REALITY**
For a time during the run of *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe* on the radio, rumors were rife that a television version starring Gerald Mohr was in the works at CBS. These rumors never came to fruition.

It was not until the 1959-60 television season that Philip Marlowe made it to the small screen. The 26-episode ABC series had Phil Carey in the starring role.

In 1983 and 1986 HBO had Powers Boothe in the lead as Marlowe in 11 hour-long broadcasts. The series was produced in Britain.

**CAST AND CREW:**

**Series Lead:**
Philip Marlowe  Gerald Mohr and William Conrad (1 Episode)

**Supporting Cast:**
Lt. Ybarra  Jeff Corey.
Lt. Matthews  Lawrence (Larry) Dobkin

**Guest Cast:**

**Crew:**

**Directors/Producers:**
Norman Macdonnell Richard Sanville, Clif Howell and Ralph Rose.

**Writers:**
Gene Levitt, Robert Mitchell, Mel Dinelli, Kathleen Hite, and Adrian Gendot.

**Announcers:**
Roy Rowan, Joe Walters, Paul Masterson, Bob Stevenson, and Clarence Cassell

**Music:**

**Sound:**
Cliff Thorsness, Clarke Casey, Jim Murphy, Ross Murray, Gus Bayz, Frank Kittenberg, Jack Dick, Dave Light, Ross Murray, Al Span, Jim Fonda, Dave Light, Berne Surrey, Gene Twombly, Ralph Cummings, Ray Erlenborn, and Jack Sixsmith.

**SPONSORS:**
Surprisingly, this series was unsponsored during most of its run. Only ten episodes were sponsored: Ford (2 episodes: January 07, 1950 and April 11,
1950) and Wrigley's Spearmint Chewing Gum (8 episodes: June 14, 1950 through August 04, 1950.)

LOG:

Episodes in Circulation:
As of December, 2016, 100 of the 114 episode CBS run are in circulation.
Episodes that are currently known to be in circulation are highlighted.
Air times shown are for the East Coast.

Sundays - 5:30 PM

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>09/26/1948</td>
<td>The Red Wind</td>
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<td>10/03/1948</td>
<td>The Persian Slippers</td>
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<td>10/10/1948</td>
<td>The Panama Hat</td>
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<td>10/17/1948</td>
<td>Where There's A Will</td>
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<td>10/24/1948</td>
<td>Heart Of Gold</td>
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Sundays - 8:30 PM

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<td>10/31/1948</td>
<td>The Blue Burgonet</td>
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<td>11/07/1948</td>
<td>The Flaming Angel</td>
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<td>11/14/1948</td>
<td>The Silent Partner</td>
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<td>11/21/1948</td>
<td>The Perfect Secretary</td>
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<td>11/28/1948</td>
<td>The Hard Way Out</td>
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<td>12/05/1948</td>
<td>The Unhappy Medium</td>
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<td>12/12/1948</td>
<td>The Jade Teardrop</td>
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<td>12/19/1948</td>
<td>The Three Wise Guys</td>
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<td>The Old Acquaintance</td>
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Saturdays - 8:30 PM

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<td>01/08/1949</td>
<td>The Restless Day</td>
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<td>01/15/1949</td>
<td>The Black Halo</td>
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<td>01/22/1949</td>
<td>The Orange Dog</td>
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<td>01/29/1949</td>
<td>The Easy Mark</td>
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<td>02/05/1949</td>
<td>The Long Rope</td>
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<td>02/12/1949</td>
<td>The Lonesome Reunion</td>
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<td>The Flying Trapeze</td>
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<td>02/26/1949</td>
<td>The Big Mistake</td>
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<td>03/05/1949</td>
<td>The Friend From Detroit</td>
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<td>03/12/1949</td>
<td>The Grim Hunters</td>
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<td>03/19/1949</td>
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<td>03/26/1949</td>
<td>The Green Flame</td>
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<td>04/02/1949</td>
<td>The Last Laugh</td>
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<td>04/09/1949</td>
<td>The Name To Remember</td>
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<td>04/16/1949</td>
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<td>04/23/1949</td>
<td>The Cloak Of Kamehameha</td>
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<td>04/30/1949</td>
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<td>05/07/1949</td>
<td>The Feminine Touch</td>
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05/14/1949  The Promise To Pay
05/21/1949  Night Tide
05/28/1949  The Ebony Link
06/04/1949  The Unfair Lady
06/11/1949  The Pigeon’s Blood
06/18/1949  The Busy Body
06/25/1949  The Key Man
07/02/1949  The Dude From Manhattan
07/09/1949  The Quiet Number
07/16/1949  The Headless Peacock
07/30/1949  The Mexican Boat Race
08/06/1949  The August Lion
08/13/1949  The Indian Giver
08/20/1949  The Lady Killer
08/27/1949  The Eager Witness
09/03/1949  The Bum’s Rush
09/10/1949  The Rustin Hickory
09/17/1949  The Baton Sinister
09/24/1949  The Fatted Calf
10/01/1949  The Tale Of The Mermaid
10/08/1949  The Open Window
10/15/1949  The Strangle Hold
10/22/1949  The Smokeout
10/29/1949  The Green Witch
11/05/1949  The Fine Italian Hand
11/12/1949  The Gorgeous Lyre
11/19/1949  The Sweet Thing
11/26/1949  The Birds on the Wing
12/03/1949  The Kid On The Corner
12/10/1949  The Little Wishbone
12/17/1949  The Lowest Bid
12/24/1949  Carol’s Christmas
12/31/1949  The House That Jacqueline Built
01/07/1950  The Torch Carriers
01/14/1950  The Covered Bridge
01/21/1950  The Bid For Freedom
01/28/1950  The Hairpin Turn

Tuesdays - 8:00 PM
02/07/1950  The Long Arm
02/14/1950  The Grim Echo
02/21/1950  The Ladies Night
02/28/1950  The Big Step
03/07/1950  The Monkey’s Uncle
03/14/1950  The Vital Statistic
03/21/1950  The Deep Shadow
03/28/1950  The Sword Of Cebu
04/04/1950  The Man On The Roof
04/11/1950  The Anniversary Gift
04/18/1950  The Angry Eagle
04/25/1950  The High-Collared Cape
05/02/1950  The Seahorse Jockey

**Tuesdays - 10:30 PM**
05/09/1950  The Hiding Place
05/16/1950  The Cloak Of Kamehameha
05/23/1950  The Fox's Tail
05/30/1950  The Bedside Manner
06/06/1950  The Uneasy Head

**Wednesdays - 10:00 PM**
06/14/1950  The Face To Forget
06/21/1950  The Gold Cobra
06/28/1950  The Pelican's Roost
07/05/1950  The Girl From Pitchfork Corners
07/12/1950  The Iron Coffin
07/19/1950  The Last Wish

**Fridays - 8:00 PM**
07/28/1950  The Glass Donkey
08/04/1950  The Parrot's Bed
08/11/1950  The Quiet Magpie
08/18/1950  The Dark Tunnel
08/25/1950  The Collectors Item
09/01/1950  The Soft Spot

**Fridays - 9:30 PM**
09/08/1950  The Fifth Mask
09/15/1950  The Final Payment
09/22/1950  The White Carnation
09/29/1950  The Big Book

**Saturdays - 8:30 PM**
07/07/1951  A Seaside Sabbatical
07/14/1951  The Dear Dead Days
07/21/1951  Life Can Be Murder
07/28/1951  The Good Neighbor Policy
08/04/1951  The Long Way Home
08/11/1951  Friday's Child
08/18/1951  The Young Man's Fancy
08/25/1951  Heir for G-String
09/01/1951  Nether Nether Land
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Radio Broadcasts:
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Interviews:
Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama Variety and Comedy (SPERDVAC)
SPERDVAC Presents Interview of Parley Baer, Harry Bartell, John Dehner, Virginia Gregg, Vic Perrin, and Peggy Webber, 1982.
Stewart Wright 1998 and 1999 conversations with actors and a sound effects artist who worked on The Adventures of Philip Marlowe.

Scripts and Other Related Documentation:
Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters Collection
Special Collections Department
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Thousand Oaks, CA

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MacDonald, J. Fred. Don't Touch That Dial: Radio Programing in American Life

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Daily Radio programming listings 1948-1951:
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The Long Beach Independent (California).
The Long Beach Press Telegram (California).
The Oakland Tribune (California).
Wisconsin State Journal (Madison, WI).
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The Atlantic Monthly
December 1944. "The Simple Art of Murder" by Raymond Chandler.

Billboard
Various issues 1948–1951.

Broadcasting
Various issues 1948–1951.

Cedar Rapids Tribune
Various Editions 1949-1953
Los Angeles Times.

Radio and Television Life
May 8, 1949, "Behind The Scenes - Norman Macdonnell," by Jane Pelgram

Radio Daily
Various issues 1948–1951.

Radio Recall
"Kathleen Hite: Radio Writer Pioneer" by Stewart Wright, August, 2014.
"Norman Macdonnell's Gunsmoke 'Stock Company'" by Stewart Wright, December, 2016

Saturday Review of Literature

Upcoming Article:

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The Humongous Old-Time Radio Database Search Engine
Old Time Radio Program Logs
Jerry Haendiges Vintage Radio Logs
The Adventures of Philip Marlowe – February 02, 2007
http://www.otrsite.com
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"Struts and Frets"  A series of columns by Harry Bartell
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http://www.radiogoldindex.com/
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http://www.imdb.com
Terry Salomonson Audio Classics Archive
Radio Broadcast Log Of:  The New Adventures Of Philip Marlowe
http://www.audio-classics.com/lphilipmarlowe.html
Thrilling Detective: Philip Marlowe in Film, Radio and Television
http://www.thrillingdetective.com/marlowe2.html#anchor2140534
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The Great Detectives: The Simple Art of Philip Marlowe
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GlNwRgT-tg
Eclectica Magazine
October/November 2011
My Father, in the Dark
by Anthony J. Mohr
http://www.eclectica.org/v15n4/mohr.html
A Diagram
Rainy Day Schedule
by Anthony J. Mohr

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The Vintage Radio Place
http://www.otrsite.com
Jerry provided me with background information on the series.