

Pursuit

(CBS)

1949 - 1952

A Radio Series Broadcast Log By Stewart Wright.
Initial Compilation: 11/16/2002.
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Audition Show: 1.
First Show: 10/27/1949.
Last Show: 03/25/1952.
Number of Shows: 64.
Length: 30 minutes.

AUDITION SHOW:

Pursuit had its roots in a CBS series that did not come to fruition. An audition show, "You Take Ballistics," was produced for the proposed series *The Hunters*. (This production was based on a short story of the same name by William Irish (a pseudonym of Cornell Woolrich, 1903-1968) which first appeared in the January, 1938 issue of magazine *Double Detective*. This Robert L. Richards adaptation had been previously used on another CBS series, *Suspense*, on 03/23/1947.) A new production of "You Take Ballistics," was later used for the first episode of the *Pursuit* series.

The opening and closing of the audition show imply that *The Hunters* would be a crime anthology series with a different star every week. No other episodes of *The Hunters* other than the audition show seem to have been produced.

Anthology series based on a central theme were not uncommon on CBS. The network also had *Escape*, it's "high adventure" themed series; *Romance*, with a central theme of romance; and of course, the long-running *Suspense*, another crime anthology series.

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

A new production of the Richards adaptation of "You Take Ballistics" was used for the first episode of the *Pursuit* series which premiered on 10/27/1949. The names of the main police characters were retained from *The Hunters* production: Inspector Harvey, Sergeant Kass, and Chief Inspector Leffinger. These characters only appeared in the initial episode.

After the airing of this initial episode, *Pursuit* was a CBS detective series that

presented the cases of the fictional Scotland Yard Inspector Peter Black. The Inspector was a dedicated policeman, a relentless man hunter, who once on the case, would not rest until the wrongdoer was brought to justice. Black was assisted in his cases by Sgt. Moffet. Their superior was Chief Inspector Harkness.

While many of Black's cases were in the London area, others took him to various parts of the United Kingdom and even overseas.

The series was unusual in that it featured dual narration. Starting in the Spring of 1950, Bill Johnstone provided the opening and closing narrations and sometimes, bridges between commercials. Inspector Black furnished the change of scenes and overall case narrations.

Standard Opening:

Spoken by the Narrator:

"*Pursuit*. "A criminal strikes and fades quickly back into the shadow of his own dark world. . . and then, the man from Scotland Yard, the famous Inspector Peter Black, and the relentless, dangerous pursuit. . . . When man hunts man!"

Standard Closing:

Spoken by Inspector Black at the end of each case:

"*Pursuit!* And the pursuit is ended."

Spoken by the Narrator:

". . . We invite you to join us next week at this same time when *Pursuit* will bring you another dramatic story of the famous Inspector Peter Black from Scotland Yard relentlessly hunting down those whose disordered passions breed violence and murder. . . another story of man hunting man when we bring you *Pursuit*."

Opening Change:

Starting with the Summer, 1951 run, *Pursuit* had a distinctive opening for the series. The chiming of Big Ben alternating with a similar chord played by Eddie Dunstedter on the organ, was combined with Bill Johnstone's compelling opening narration.

SCHEDULING:

Pursuit experienced several broadcast day and time changes during its run on CBS.

During the 1949-50 season *Pursuit* faced such competition as *Dragnet*, *The Life of Reilly*, *People Are Funny*, and *Twenty Questions*.

During its only extended scheduling in a single time slot, the 1951-52 season, *Pursuit* faced formidable competition: *Fibber McGee and Molly* on NBC

and *Mysterious Traveler* on Mutual.

SPONSORSHIP:

10/27/1949 - 05/02/1950:

Three shows sponsored by Ford (01/06/1950, 01/13/1950, and 04/18/1950); otherwise, Sustaining.

07/01/1950 - 07/22/1950:

Wrigley's Gum.

07/10/1951 - 08/21/1951:

Wrigley's Gum.

09/18/1951 - 03/25/1952:

Sterling Drug - various products: Haley's M-O, Dr. Lyons Tooth Powder, Ironized Yeast, Molle Shave Cream, Double Danderine Shampoo, and Energine Cleaning Fluid.

CAST AND CREW:

Cast:

Ted de Corsia as Inspector Harvey (10/27/1949 episode only).

As Inspector Peter Black:

Ted de Corsia (11/03/1949 - 04/18/1950);

John Dehner (04/25/1950, and 07/01/1950 - 07/22/1950);

Herb Butterfield (05/02/1950);

and

Ben Wright (07/10/1951 - 03/25/1952).

Raymond Lawrence as Sergeant Moffet.

Bill Johnstone as Chief Inspector Harkness/Narrator.

NOTE: When Johnstone was not playing Harkness, he usually appeared as some other character in the cast.

There were also a couple of minor recurring characters in the series:

Alec Harford in as Dr. Bishop, the Scotland Yard pathologist

and

Lou Krugman and Edgar Barrier as Inspector Mallinson.

Guest Cast:

(In descending order of frequency of appearance.)

Joe Kearns, Byron Kane, Lou Krugman, Charles Davis, Jay Novello, Bill Johnstone, Ben Wright, Paul Frees, Tudor Owens, Irene Tedrow, Ramsey Hill, Herb Butterfield, John Dehner, Jeanette Nolan, Betty Harford, Terry Kilburn, Doris Lloyd, Eric Snowden, Larry Dobkin, Eileen Erskine, Dan O'Herlihy, Joan Banks, Alec Harford, Junius Mathews, Ted Osborne, Norma Varden, Peggy Webber, Lillian Buyeff, Virginia Gregg, Alma Lawton, Steve Roberts, John

Stephenson, and others.

CREW:

Producers: 10/27/1949 - 12/23/1949:
William N. Robson.
01/06/1950 - 03/25/1952:
Elliott Lewis.

Directors: 10/27/1949 - 12/23/1949:
William N. Robson.
01/06/1950 - 03/25/1952:
Elliott Lewis, with the following exceptions:
Norman Macdonnell (01/31/1950)
Antony Ellis & Gil Doud (02/07/1950 & 02/14/1950)

Writers: 10/27/1949 - 01/06/1950: Various writers including Robert L. Richards, Morton Fine and David Friedkin, John and Gwen Bagni, Louis Vittes, E. Jack Neuman, and Les Crutchfield.
01/13/1950 - 07/22/1950: Gil Doud and Antony Ellis.
07/10/1951 - 03/25/1952: Antony Ellis.
02/19/1952: Gil Doud and Antony Ellis.

Music: 10/27/1949 - 07/22/1950:
Pursuit used an orchestra; Leith Stevens, Martin Skiles and others did music arrangements during this time period.
07/10/1951 - 03/25/1952:
An organ, played by Eddie Dunstedter, was used in place of an orchestra.

Announcers: Larry Thor and others during 1949-50 run. Then Bob Stevenson from 07/17/1951.

Sound

Effects: 10/27/1949 - 05/02/1950:
Clark Casey and Berne Surrey and others.
07/10/1951 - 03/25/1952:
Gus Bayz, Ralph Cummings, Ross Murray, Gene Twombly, and others.

LOG:

The log is divided into sections with the day and time of broadcast listed at

the beginning of each section. All episode titles and broadcast dates and times in this Log are taken directly from the CBS scripts. Broadcast dates and times were verified using the 1949-52 Radio listings from the New York Times and other newspapers. Newspaper articles on schedule changes, proposed and actually implemented, were also consulted. All times are for the Eastern Time Zone.

Episode Titles

Episode titles were usually announced during the broadcast. In some cases, collectors have made their own titles. Short plot summaries are provided to help resolve discrepancies between the titles contained in this log and collector titles. Also, these plot summaries may also help in the identification of any additional episodes that come into circulation.

Episode Availability

Relatively few episodes of this fine series are in circulation; only 19 of the 64 episodes and the audition show for *The Hunters*. Four episodes starring Ted de Corsia and 11 starring Ben Wright survive. The four July, 1950 Summer Replacement shows starring John Dehner are in circulation. The twenty episodes with ## following the title are known to be in circulation. One can only hope that additional episodes will find their way into circulation.

Audition Show - Proposed series *The Hunters*.

Date	Title & Plot Summary
11/29/1948 (Date Unverified)	You Take Ballistics ## Inspector Harvey matches wits with murderer Clarence Coleman. (Audition show for the unsold series, <i>The Hunters</i> , starring Victor Jory. Same script was used for first episode of <i>Pursuit</i> .)

SEASON I - 10/27/1949 through 05/02/1950.

Thursday - 10:30 to 11:00 PM

Date	Title & Plot Summary
10/27/1949	You Take Ballistics Inspector Harvey matches wits with murderer Clarence Coleman.
11/03/1949	Pre-empted.
11/10/1949	Three For All ## A series of WWII veterans are murdered. The motive may be revenge.
11/17/1949	The Double Faced Killer Black pursues a 9-fingered murderer.
11/24/1949	The Veiled Hat A constable sees a young woman fall into the river. Suicide or a cover for murder?

Friday - 10:00 to 10:30 PM

Date	Title & Plot Summary
11/25/1949	The Tear Of Siva Five men are killed on the ship Malacca Crescent.
12/02/1949	Pattern for Homicide A murder suspect fakes his own death to throw Black off the trail.
12/09/1949	Death Is A Memory A stolen body with a false identity leads to murder.
12/16/1949	Murder Is The Cargo A ship's steward who is a suspect in an investigation is murdered.
12/23/1949	Five Pound Killer A murdered man has counterfeit five-pound notes on his person.
12/30/1949	Pre-empted.
01/06/1950	The Tall Man ## A dying shopkeeper shot during a jewelry store robbery, tells the Inspector that the killer was a 'tall' man.
01/13/1950	The Pursuit Of The Weymouth Killer Scotland Yard is asked to aid in the solution of a double murder.

Tuesday - 10:00 to 10:30 PM

Date	Title & Plot Summary
01/17/1950	The Pursuit Of The Wormwood Scrubs Murderer Inspector Black pursues a murderer in a rural area.
01/24/1950	The Pursuit Of The Elusive Ransom Black goes to France to catch a team of jewel thieves that has turned to murder.
01/31/1950	The Pursuit Of The Lady In Waiting Black pursues a poisoner and finds much more.

Tuesday - 10:30 to 11:00 PM

Date	Title & Plot Summary
02/07/1950	The Pursuit On Lundy Island ## Black goes on holiday and finds murder.
02/14/1950	The Pursuit Of The Wickham Killer A call from an old friend leads Black into a murder investigation.
02/21/1950	The Pursuit Of The Fourty-Fourth Passenger An airliner is destroyed and murder is suspected.
02/28/1950	Pre-Empted.

- 03/07/1950 **The Pursuit Of The Firebird**
Black looks for a murderer and finds more than one. An important clue is on a phonograph record.
- 03/14/1950 **The Pursuit In the Kingdom of Rossiter**
Black and Moffett go to Africa to arrest a murderer. (This Gil Doud and Antony Ellis script was reused with modifications on *Escape* as "The Power Of Hammer" on 10/15/1950.)
- 03/21/1950 Pre-empted
- 03/28/1950 **The Pursuit In Hammond Towers**
An English nobleman is murdered.
- 04/04/1950 **The Pursuit Of The Hollywood Killer**
A young woman is found murdered in the Hollywood Cinema.
- 04/11/1950 **Pursuit - And The Man Who Confessed ##**
A man gives himself up after committing a murder. Or did he?
- 04/18/1950 **Pursuit In Bassett Marsh**
A corpse is found near a small fishing village.
- 04/25/1950 **The Pursuit Of The Commando Killers**
A series of brilliantly-planned robberies results in murder. (Script was later used for a new production as "**Pursuit Of The Commando Killers**" on 02/19/1952 with different cast and crew members.)
- 05/02/1950 **Pursuit Of The Man Who Smiled**
An explosion covers a murder.

SUMMER REPLACEMENT - For *The Gene Autry Show*.

Saturday - 8:00 to 8:30 PM

- | Date | Title & Plot Summary |
|-------------|--|
| 07/01/1950 | Pursuit Of The Man Who Couldn't Go Home ##
A man jumps from a building. Suicide or murder? |
| 07/08/1950 | Pursuit Of The Masked Five ##
A robbery suspect is killed by an accomplice while under custody of Black and Moffet. |
| 07/15/1950 | Pursuit Of The Limehouse Killers ##
Investigation of a narcotics ring leads to the murder of a policeman. |
| 07/22/1950 | Pursuit In the North Sea ##
A black market operation leads to a smuggling ring of War veterans and pursuit on the high seas. |

SUMMER REPLACEMENT - *For Life Wth Luigi.*

Tuesday - 9:00 to 9:30 PM

Date	Title & Plot Summary
07/10/1951	Pursuit In Petticoat Lane During a jewelry store robbery, a clerk is killed.
07/17/1951	Pursuit At Dunster Fair Black and Moffet travel to Taunton to investigate an attack that leaves the victim dying.
07/24/1951	Pursuit Of The Killer Who Wasn't There A man is shot to death and his body is found in the trunk of a car.
07/31/1951	Pursuit Of The Lonely Heart ## Many people suspect a man of killing his wife, but no one can find the body.
08/07/1951	Pursuit . . . And The Boy Who Was Late A bomb explodes at Scotland Yard.
08/14/1951	Pursuit Of The Knife Boys ## A gang of young toughs attacks a couple. The husband identifies one of his attackers and then recants his identification.
08/21/1951	Pursuit At The Vicarage ## Someone is trying to kill a Vicar. Inspector Black is requested to investigate.

SEASON II - 09/18/1951 through 03/25/1952.

Tuesday - 9:30 to 10:00 PM

Date	Title & Plot Summary
09/18/1951	Pursuit And the Ladies of Farthing Street ## A series of anonymous notes tells the Inspector that the writer knows about a murder. Unfortunately, the sender is found dead.
09/25/1951	Pursuit Of The Romeo And Juliet Killers Black is on the trail of two jewel thieves.
10/02/1951	Pursuit And the Man Died Late ## A body of a recently deceased man is brought into the morgue; several months after he is shot in the brain.
10/09/1951	Pursuit Of The Soviet Embassy Killer Black tries to prevent the assassination of Soviet officials.
10/16/1951	Pursuit Of The Parcels of Death A killer is sending bombs in packages.
10/23/1951	Pursuit Of The Thief Who Had a Conscience A dying career criminal has information on a long unsolved case for Black.

- 10/30/1951 **Pursuit Of The Swindon Killer**
A policeman is found dead in the Thames.
- 11/06/1951 **Pursuit And the Portrait Of The Young Lady**
Black investigates a theft at a famous art gallery.
- 11/13/1951 **Pursuit And the Woman Who Died Alone**
A woman is found murdered in a room with the door locked from the inside.
- 11/20/1951 **Pursuit On The Night Ferry ##**
Black tries to prevent an attack on the Night Ferry Express.
- 11/27/1951 **Pursuit Of The Epsom Downs Killer**
A man staggers onto the track during a horse race.
- 12/04/1951 **Pursuit Of The Man Named Wong**
A trunk with a body in it is found on a dock.
- 12/11/1951 **Pursuit Of The Loch Ness Killers ##**
Black and Moffet go to Scotland to investigate a car bombing.
- 12/18/1951 **Pursuit Of The Musical Killers**
An aircraft designer is kidnapped and murdered.
- 12/25/1951 **Pursuit Of The Chief Inspector's Guest**
Black's Christmas guest doesn't show up.
- 01/01/1952 **Pursuit In The English Manor**
Inspector Black's car breaks down on his way to a Holiday Party.
- 01/08/1952 **Pursuit Of The Willesden Terrors**
A neighbor says a man is being murdered by the man's wife and sister-in-law.
- 01/15/1952 **Pursuit And the Wandsworth Prisoner**
A man in prison for assault says he has committed a murder.
- 01/22/1952 **Pursuit Of The Counterfeit Killers**
Black is on the trail of a gang of bank note forgers.
- 01/29/1952 **Pursuit And the Belsen Motive**
A jeweler is savagely beaten to death and his partner is missing.
- 02/05/1952 **Pursuit Of The London Terror**
Black tracks down a serial killer of young women.
- 02/12/1952 **Pursuit Of The Thames Pirates ##**
The police are after a gang of dangerous waterfront thieves and Black is captured by them.
- 02/19/1952 **Pursuit Of The Commando Killers**
A series of brilliantly-planned robberies results in murder. (Script was previously used as "**The Pursuit Of The Commando Killers**" on 04/25/1950 with different cast and crew members.)
- 02/26/1952 **Pursuit Of The Woman In Gray ##**
A woman prison inmate has been attacked 3 times and the

- 03/04/1952 **Pursuit In Clynewidd Mine ##**
Prison Governor thinks these attacks might lead to murder.
A man is murdered during a mine accident and Black investigates when he's caught in another cave-in.
- 03/11/1952 **Pursuit Of The Asiatic Killer ##**
A man insists that he was poisoned before he died and claimed his wife knew who did it.
- 03/18/1952 **Pursuit And the Man From M. I. Two**
Black's visit with his nephew is interrupted by the murder of a British agent.
- 03/25/1952 **Pursuit Of The Man With The Gun**
A man calls Scotland Yard to report that he has just killed his wife.

INFORMATION SOURCES:

Pursuit Scripts and other documents pertaining to the series.
KNX Collection
American Radio Archives
Grant R. Brimhall Library
Thousand Oaks, CA

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Return With Us Now. . . .

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"Pursuit' A Lesser-Known Gem" by Stewart Wright, July/August , 2010.

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"*Pursuit. . . When Man Hunts Man!*" by Stewart Wright, June/August , 2012.

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Oakland, CA, Locus Press, 1999.

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