

Little
ORPHAN
ANNIE

Little Orphan Annie 36-xx-xx (1066)
“The Bridge Is Destroyed”

Show sponsored by Ovaltine
Originally broadcast in 1936

Cast

Little Orphan Annie
Joe Corntassel
Marshal (Elmer)
Mr. Silo
Mr. Caslon
Announcer (Pierre André)

Little Orphan Annie

Music: **Organ Intro, then accompanied by singer**

Singer: Who's that little chatter box?
The one with pretty auburn locks?
Whom do you see?
It's Little Orphan Annie.

She and Sandy make a pair,
They never seem to have a care!
Cute little she,
This Little Orphan Annie.

Bright eyes, cheeks a rosy glow,
There's a store of healthiness handy.
Mite-size, always on the go,
If you want to know—
"Arf", says Sandy!

Always wears a sunny smile,
Now, wouldn't it be worth the while,
If you could be
Like Little Orphan Annie?

Music: **Organ continues, then fades out**

ANNR: Well here we are. Ready to start another big adventure with Orphan Annie in Simmons Corners. But first, let me ask you a question. When you drink your Ovaltine do you always put in plenty of sugar? You know, Ovaltine comes unsweetened because in some cases when people are sick, doctors don't want them to have sugar. And that's why Ovaltine does not have any added sugar in it. So remember, when you're drinking your Ovaltine, you can always make it taste as sweet as you want just by adding the sugar yourself. If you've ever tried Ovaltine for the first time, and maybe didn't like it because it wasn't sweet enough, ask your mother now to get you another can at her grocery or drug store so you can try it again. Then, when you're mixing your cupful, be sure to add at least one teaspoon full of sugar before you drink it. Boy, just

wait until you see how good that Ovaltine is. Why it tastes even better than a chocolate soda. What's more, your mother will be glad to let you have all the Ovaltine you want because it's so good for you. Every single cupful gives you important food elements to help build up strength and energy and pep for you. Another thing, tell your mother she saves money by insisting on getting real Ovaltine and not some over sweetened product with a lot of sugar already in it. Because ordinary sugar is so cheap, you can just as well add your own and get more value for your money. So tell your mother to be sure to get genuine Ovaltine and not to take anything else in its place.

And now, let's see what's happening to Annie.

After Mr. Flint confessed to the payroll and bank robbery, he escaped with his cronies Wright and Red Hogan. And right now, the Marshall and Mr. Silo and Mr. Caslon, and Annie, and Joe are searching for them in the fields surrounding Simmons Corners. It's still pouring rain. And the night's mighty dark. Just listen to that thunder.

SFX: **Thunder and rain**

ANNIE: Leaping lizards, it seems to be raining harder than ever.

JOE: Shucks, let it rain. We're as wet now as we ever can be. Who minds getting a little wetter.

MR SILO: Nobody Joe. No sir. Not if we can put this here Flint behind the bars where he belongs.

CASLON: You're right Mr. Silo. As citizens, we're going to do our duty even if we get half drowned.

MARSHAL: Good for you. I knew I picked a couple of good deputies when I got you two.

CASLON: Where are we heading Marshal? And what's the plan?

MARSHAL: I don't know if there is a plan Caslon. Land sakes, don't know if we need one. It's a cinch Flint and them others can't get out of the county. Not the way the Sheriff and the State Police have got the roads blocked by this time.

MR SILO: I know, but Mr. Caslon means we ought to have some method of tramping around here in the wet. We may be gone 'till daylight unless we work on some sort of theory.

MARSHAL: What sort of theory? It's so dark out there, don't seem no sort of theory hardly could get us any place. Looks to me as if we just have to stumble around until we come plumb onto Flint.

SFX: **Thunder thru next line**

CASLON: In this dark and rain Marshal there's not much chance of that.

MARSHAL: Dog gone it, I know it. Here Joe, there's a hollow in some bushes over there along that fence. Turn that flashlight of yours in there.

JOE: All right. Is that the spot?

MARSHAL: Yep.

ANNIE: There's nobody there Marshal. Nobody at all.

MARSHAL: I see there ain't. Thought maybe Flint and his men might have taken shelter in the hollow like that.

MR SILO: Marshal, I think we're just wasting our time following around here in the wet.

MARSHAL: Well, it may be wasting your time Mr. Silo, but it ain't mine. Dog gone it. I'm not forgettin' the way Flint taunted me that day we found Bill Corwin being kept a prisoner in the old Carson house. He said I wasn't much as a police officer. I ... I just want to show him I am. And if I can get my hands on him I guess that'll show him. And here it was him all the time that was keeping Bill prisoner.

CASLON: I don't blame you at all Marshal for feeling the way you do. If I were in your shoes, I'd want to get my hands on Flint first too. But I still think we're not doing much to get him by stumbling around out here in these fields in the dark.

MR SILO: I agree with Mr. Caslon. We ought to have a plan for this here search.

MARSHAL: Well, just you name me the plan and I'll jump at it. I'm as much at sea as you folks are right now. And say. These here fields are being to look like a sea with all this rain. What's your plan?

CASLON: Well, I don't know exactly. How about you Mr. Silo?

MR SILO: Well, I...I don't know as if I had any exact plan in mind. But it was you Elmer who thought of coming across these fields instead of going into town.

SFX: **Thunder end of next line to next line**

MARSHAL: Sure it was. And it was a good idea. Ah, of course it's a cinch Flint and those others wouldn't have gone into Simmons Corners where they'd have been seen

and been reported. They must have cut across the fields since they didn't have time to get in their automobiles.

MR SILO: Yea. That makes sense Elmer. But it doesn't make sense us stumblin' around here and lookin' at the hollows with Joe's flashlight.

CASLON: Right. 'Cause it's easy to guess Flint wouldn't take a chance on hiding in any hollow.

MARSHAL: All right then. Suppose you tell me where he is.

CASLON: Well, I... I don't think I can. I ...

ANNIE: Listen Marshal. I've got an idea.

MARSHAL: You have Annie?

MR SILO: Yeah. What?

ANNIE: Well look. What place around here does Mr. Flint know better than any other place?

MARSHAL: Place? Know better?

ANNIE: Yeah. Needing a hideout for a short while until he had time to get away. Where would he be most likely to head for?

MARSHAL: I don't know. I ... I hadn't thought of that.

ANNIE: Well, I can tell ya. There's one place he'd make for as quick as he could, because he knows it better than anybody else. And that's the place where he kept Bill Corwin prisoner. The old Carson house.

MR SILO: I swear Annie, I'll bet you put your finger right on it.

CASLON: Makes sense anyhow.

ANNIE: You bet it does. That's just where he'd go until he had time to plan his getaway.

JOE: Shucks Annie. I bet he and those others are there right now.

MARSHAL: Well, it's something to work on anyhow. I'm glad we brought you kids along with us.

JOE: Shucks. We want to be a help Marshal.

SFX: **Thunder middle next line**

MARSHAL: Yea. Now let's see now. Which way is that old Carson house from here. Strikes me it's straight ahead.

ANNIE: No. Its to the left Marshal. Over that fence there. We've been goin' even with the river. We've gotta turn and go toward it.

CASLON: Annie's right Marshal.

MR SILO: Lands sakes. These children know these fields about here better than we do.

JOE: Shucks. I guess we do. Because Annie and I have played in them for a long time.

MARSHAL: All right here. Let's get over this fence here. Now hold that light steady Joe.

JOE: I will.

MARSHAL: Lands sakes. I guess I'm not so young as I used to be when it comes to climbing.

MR SILO: We'll make it all right.

MARSHAL: **{grunting getting over fence}**There. Can you kids get across?

JOE: You bet. We can almost jump it. Come on Annie.

ANNIE: OK.

MARSHAL: Now then. Which way?

ANNIE: Straight ahead. Right away from the fence. That'll take us to the river bank and the Carson house. Is that right Joe?

JOE: That's right Annie. Just a little to the left though.

ANNIE: Yea. That's it Joe. A little to the left.

MARSHAL: Well, come on then.

SFX: **Thunder and rain next two lines**

CASLON: Wish it would stop this rain for a while. Ha Ha. Its running right down my eyes.

MARSHAL: Well, you've got to stand it Caslon.

CASLON: Oh, I'm all right.

SFX: **River rushing sound continues under next lines**

MR SILO: Listen! We must be getting' close to the river. I can hear it.

ANNIE: We are close. It's just ahead there.

MARSHAL: Land sakes. I haven't heard the river run like that since I was a boy. Just listen to it.

CASLON: No wonder with all this rain.

MR SILO: And on top of it that cloudburst, the Sheriff said to head for the shallows.

MARSHAL: Yep. He said on the phone the river was gettin' to flood stage. Said it was up eight feet and rising every minute.

MR SILO: Then there will be a flood. From the sound of it, it's tearing the banks apart.

CASLON: I remember the last flood we had here back in 1919. It was nothin' could stand against it... Nothin' that wasn't solid and anchored down to a bedrock.

MARSHAL: Yea, but this ain't gettin' us no where towards catching Flint. And I've got my duty to do. Annie?

ANNIE: Yeah Marshal.

MARSHAL: That old Carson house. Where is it from here?

ANNIE: It's just ahead there, behind those trees. You can't see it very well because it's so dark.

MR SILO: I see it. Yep. That's the Carson house Marshal.

MARSHAL: Well, let's get to it. We've wasted enough time. I want to see this fellow Flint gets the justice he deserves.

CASLON: We all do Elmer. Let's go.

JOE: Shucks. The place looks awful quiet.

ANNIE: It would Joe. Jumpin' grasshoppers. Mr. Flint wouldn't dare show a light tonight.

MARSHAL: No. But we would. Let's see a gleam from that flashlight of yours Joe. Show it right on those steps.

JOE: How's that?

SFX: **River rushing sound stop**

MARSHAL: Fine. Come on folks. We're going in here. And if Flints around, we'll bag him.

MR SILO: We're with you Marshal.

MARSHAL: Show that light inside there Joe.

JOE: There she is.

MARSHAL: I don't see nothin'. Let's get further in here.

CASLON: Right.

MR SILO: Still don't see anything.

MARSHAL: Well, they wouldn't be staying out here right in plain sight in the hall. What's this door here?

JOE: It goes into a room Marshal. Into that room where the old movin' fire place is.

MARSHAL: Oh it does, does it? Well let's have a look.

ANNIE: Wait a minute Marshal. Wait!

MARSHAL: Wait for what?

ANNIE: I thought I heard a noise in there. Listen.

SFX: **Squeaky hinge sound. Foot steps.**

ANNIE: Suffering sawfish. Did you hear that?

MARSHAL: I sure did.

CASLON: What is it Annie?

ANNIE: It was the fireplace moving in there. The sliding fireplace that leads down to the tunnel under the house.

MARSHAL: Get out of the way till I get that door open.

SFX: **Door opening**

MARSHAL: They've gone! Gone!

JOE: Shucks. Yes!

MR SILO: They've gone down the stairs behind that fireplace all right.

CASLON: Well, let's go down after them.

ANNIE: We can't. We know how to open the fireplace from the other side, but we never did find out how to move it from this one.

MARSHAL: You mean we're going to let them get away?

ANNIE: No! Leaping lizards. I got an idea.

MARSHAL: What Annie?

ANNIE: If they've gone down behind that fireplace, they're intending to get away from the tunnel to the river bank. Maybe if we go straight down to the bank, we can head 'em off.

MARSHAL: Well, that sounds like business to me! Come on.

MR SILO: Keep that light showing Joe.

JOE: I will.

MARSHAL: Say. It stopped raining anyhow.

ANNIE: Be careful on the steps, they're kind-of mean.

MR SILO: Here we are. This way Marshal. Right down to the river.

SFX: **River rushing sound**

MARSHAL: I'm comin'.

JOE: Boy 'o Boy. Listen to that river.

CASLON: Sure rippin' out the banks all right.

MARSHAL: Don't know as I ever heard it run like that.

ANNIE: Say, there's the moon coming out through those clouds up there.

MARSHAL: Good. With that moon we'll be able to see somethin'.

MR SILO: You said it Marshal. I see somethin' right now. There. On the Bank!

ANNIE: its three men. They beat us out of the tunnel.

CASLON: It's Flint all right.

JOE: Yea, and there's Red Hogan.

MARSHAL: Stop! Stop Flint! Right where you are! Stop in the name of the law!

JOE: Shucks. They're not stoppin'.

ANNIE: They're running faster than ever.

MARSHAL: Come on men, after them!

CASLON: We're with ya Marshal!

MARSHAL: You bet. I'm gonna get justice done if I have to chase them from here to the edge of the county. Stop thief! Stop in the name of the law!

ANNIE: They're headin' toward the bridge!

MARSHAL: I don't care where they're heading. I'm gonna get 'em.

JOE: With that moon we can see anyhow.

ANNIE: Yeah. It's getting brighter.

MARSHAL: Stop! Stop thief! I tell you to stop where you are!

CASLON: They're on the end of the bridge.

MR SILO: (Out of Breath)They're ... they're headin' for the ... other side of the ... of the river.

MARSHAL: And we're headin' right after them! Come on! If they can cross that bridge, we can!

ANNIE: Wait Marshal! Wait!

MARSHAL: Let go of my arm Annie! I've got to get those felons.

ANNIE: Stop Marshal! Wait Mr. Silo! Don't go out on that bridge!

MR SILO: What's the matter Annie!

MARSHAL: Flint's crossing the bridge. I guess we can.

ANNIE: No! Please stand still! You've got to!

MARSHAL: All right Annie, but why?

ANNIE: Look at the bridge! Look at it there in the moon light! Look at the center of it, just ahead of Flint and those men.

MARSHAL: Great Jehoshaphat ! The cement's crumblin'!

ANNIE: It is! It is! It's all fallin' apart!

MARSHAL: Great snakes! That ... that bridge is gonna fall!

CASLON: The water is washing out that rotten cement.

JOE: Gosh.

MARSHAL: Flint! Flint! Come Back! Come Back! The bridge is crumblin'!

MR SILO: They won't stop. They think they're gettin' away.

CASLON: Look at that center pier right under them.

MARSHAL: It's all crumbin' to bits.

MR SILO: There it goes! The whole bridge!

SFX: **Bridge Breaking Apart**

MARSHAL: Gone. Gone! The whole bridge.

MR SILO: And with it, it's builders; Flint, Hogan, and Wright. I guess you don't have to do any arresting now, Marshal.

ANNR: Mr. Silo's right. There is justice in the world. And as Mr. Flint sowed, so did he reap. And now, there will be no more robberies or cheating in Simmons Corners. But say, don't think there isn't going to be plenty of fun and adventure for Annie. There is, because, right at this minute, although Annie

doesn't know it. There is a telegram come over the wires to the Silo farm. It's a mighty mysterious telegram too. And it's going to start Annie on the greatest adventure she's ever had. So don't miss being here when it comes.

And say, you don't want to miss drinking your Ovaltine regularly either. Ask your mother to fix a big, delicious cupful for you to have with your dinner right away. Remember, the boys and girls who are drinking their Ovaltine every day, are the very ones who help to keep Annie's adventures going on the radio. And besides doing a big favor for Annie, that she'll appreciate more than ever in her big new adventures just ahead, remember, you'll be doing yourself a big favor too by drinking your Ovaltine everyday. Because every single cupful, brings you important nourishing food elements to help make you husky and healthy and strong. And keep you bubbling over with good, old Orphan Annie pep. And so, if you've run out of Ovaltine at your house, be sure and ask your mother to get you another can when she goes to the drug or Grocery store or tomorrow.

And be sure to be here on time next Monday because we're going to start off on a brand new series of adventures with Annie. And you want to be in on all the fun that's coming. Until next Monday then, good Bye.

Music: Organ plays to FINISH