

Turning the Dials
By Fred H. Russell

Enters Sixth Year

"Gunsmoke," CBS radio's western adventure series, starring William Conrad as Matt Dillon, U. S. marshal of Dodge City in the 1870's, celebrates its fifth anniversary and the start of its sixth year on the air today.

The program made its debut over CBS radio on April 26, 1952, and in its five-year history has won, high acclaim from both listeners and critics. Based on the theory that western programs should be directed to "grown-up" listeners as well as toward youngsters, "Gunsmoke" has been called a CBS radio "prestige" program. Created by Producer – director Norman MacDonnell and writer John Meston, "Gunsmoke" still features the same cast that originated the roles, with Conrad as Dillon, Parley Baer as Chester Proudfoot, Georgia Ellis as Kitty —Dillon's girl friend — and Howard McNear as Doc. Stories now used on the program are written by Les Crutchfield, although Meston is still closely connected with the series as story editor. Musical director for the series is Rex Koury, who also writes the program's theme music which has been recorded under the title of "Old Trail."

Source: The Bridgeport Sunday Post – Sunday April 28, 1957 Bridgeport, Conn.