

EXT. MONTAGE OF BURGTON AND CEDARDALE
COUNTY - DAY

Title Sequence. As musical theme plays we see a montage of still and motion pictures including: road sign "Welcome to Burgton - Pop. 43,500"; elderly couples waving from front lawns or verandas; a trailer park; yellow school bus with a line of happy multi-culti kids and a crossing guard; prisoners in a chain gang waving to the camera in front of the penitentiary; farm land crossed by country roads, one with roadside sign "You are now entering Cedardale County, Aggregate Capitol of the World", another featuring the giant white elephant figure off Route 12; students coming out of class at the Art College waving to camera in exactly the same formation as prisoners above; a Canadian flag flapping over the town hall and post office; main street buildings and small businesses like the barber shop; a covered bridge. AN ANNOUNCER introduces the program.

ANNOUNCER

Cable 62 presents "Town
Beat!", a weekly round up
of civic and cultural affairs
in Burgton and
surrounding Cedardale
County.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO INTERVIEW SET - DAY.

Title sequence continued. A community cable station. An older-style chat-information program set, deeper than one might expect (owing to the station's great age): three chairs on either side of, and behind, a low-lying coffee table. Between the chair and the rear walls hang several bad paintings, some Burgton paraphernalia, and a Francis Bacon portrait of the show's host, PAUL MOTH. A dated Moore-ish knock-off sculpture and a stuffed mammal (wolverine?) complete the picture of a local "Arts and Civic Affairs Magazine". The set is in "half-light", the host can be

seen walking to his seat in the shadows. A title card is chroma-keyed over the picture, "Town Beat!".

ANNOUNCER

The host of "Town Beat" is
Paul Moth.

The lights in the studio come up as Paul rather self-consciously crosses his legs. He consults a clipboard as he talks.

PAUL

Great, and hello. Welcome once again to Town Beat!, your eye on you. I've really been looking forward to this week's show since, well, since the debacle that was last week's show. Today, I look to get hitched. Or at least, go for a ride, with Cedardale County Friends and More. We've also got a lot of mail to get through, station manager Cal Weston will help me read. The Book Club convenes again this week to "share feelings" - no criticism here, folks -

Paul reaches for a copy of the book, which rests on the table, and holds it up for the camera. The book is upside down.

PAUL

We'll exchange thoughts on the new bestseller by Delbert Onglow.

Paul lays the book back on the table.

PAUL

And we have a very special, surprise musical guest. But first,

Paul turns to the other camera and assumes thoughtful pose.

PAUL

Fatty Dodds, Big Pee Wee Klein, Lippy Dinger, Dapper Roddy Donnelly - the Dancing Mayor, and of course the Fancies. Great names from great times -- the Jazz Age in Burgton, subject of a retrospective exhibit this month at the Old Court House.

INT. COUNTY MUSEUM/ARCHIVE MUSEUM SET -- DAY

A large display room in the rear of the Old Court House. The town crest is on the wall, as well as other Burgton paraphernalia, a stuffed wolverine and so on - uncannily similar to that decorating the Town Beat set. PAUL stands with county archivist, DEBBIE HAYES, amidst a display depicting the Jazz Age of Burgton. The exhibit includes photographs, cases with artefacts (instruments like coronets, saxophones, trombones, early electric guitars; old gramophones; an 11", 16-paper marijuana cigarette; a corn-cob hat and a pair of canoe shoes), and a few floor displays, one of them a drum kit. Debbie is a young, eager, affable and bookish woman. Paul holds up two HUGE drumsticks.

PAUL

Actual sticks, or 'stalks', used by legendary drummer and band leader, Fatty Dodds on the classic 1927 recording of the Jigamarandy Stomp.

Full-screen photo of Fatty Dodds in publicity still, coy look to camera as he chokes cymbal with one of the big sticks.

PAUL

Just one example of the many fascinating artefacts currently on display here at the County Museum, thanks to the efforts of archivist, Debbie Hayes.

DEBBIE

Hello, Paul.

PAUL

Burgton, a jazz age hot spot? Given our current ... municipal drowsiness ... it seems so unlikely.

DEBBIE

People forget, the railroad ruled back then, and Burgton was the junction of the Great Northern-Southern and the Union Atlantic railway lines.

PAUL

So once our famously licentious Mayor Dapper Roddy Donnelly repealed prohibition ... ?

DEBBIE

Yes, it was inevitable. Clubs and dancehalls mushroomed. Here's a great shot of Donnelly doing the Hoanie at the Belmont with Carrie St. James.

PAUL

Ah, the notorious good-time gal.

DEBBIE

She was a real innovator for that time in that she

openly enjoyed sex with a
lot of different partners.

A montage of photographs of the nightclubs: The Belmont, Harry Wong's Italian Theater, Milt's Batland, the Five Cent Dime, Round the Horn, the Burgton Gate, the Wolverine.

PAUL

Harry Wong's Italian
Theater is still standing -
now the Turkish Delight
Show Bar - but most of
the big clubs are gone,
aren't they?

DEBBIE

Milt's Batland, the Five
Cent Dime...

PAUL

Ooooh, what's this?

Paul, who has lost interest in Debbie's description, picks up a CORNCOB HAT from a display case, and attempts to do the Hoanie.

DEBBIE

Ah, I'd rather you didn't
touch--

Paul has put it on his head.

PAUL

This is a corn-cob hat,
isn't it?

DEBBIE

Yes. There was a whole
look pioneered by the
musicians. The corn-cob
hat, canoe shoes, shoulder
pants...

A montage of photographs of musicians - Lippy Dinger, Coco Mahoney & The Buff Boys, etc. - wearing these outlandish outfits in nightclub settings.

DEBBIE

...alarm-watches.

Paul looks at a photograph of Lippy Dinger.

PAUL

I'd recognize that
tromboner anywhere -
that's Lippy Dinger, isn't
it?

DEBBIE

That's Lippy all right.

Full-screen photograph of Lippy Dinger on his back with his legs spread, playing the trombone as he extends it phallus-like through his legs.

DEBBIE

Better known for his
dipsomania, his voracious
appetite for unusual sex
and his cheap theatrics.

PAUL

And he was a big star.

DEBBIE

That was the jazz age for
you - a lot of modestly
talented performers
coming together and
consuming vast amounts
of alcohol.

PAUL

That could describe any
cultural renaissance.

DEBBIE

There was a spirit of
excess - look at the Fatty
Dodds Huge Band.

Photograph of a humungous big band, as many as
three hundred musicians arranged around an
absolutely giant bass drum with "Fatty Dodds Huge
Band" in big letters.

PAUL

Hey, famed goofsters and
lewd innuendo specialists,
Coco Mahoney and the
Buff Boys. Talk about
excess. What was their
big line?

Shot of Coco on stage with the Buff Boys. Coco mugs
as he points to Buff Boys, one of whom makes a
gesture as if "buffing" a large, prosthetic boner in his
trousers, while the other makes vaguely fellatinal
pantomime.

PAUL & DEBBIE (recalling)

Now that's entertainment!

PAUL

Well, it looks like you've
put together another great
exhibit, Debbie. Come on
down, folks, and check out
the badass Burgton of
yesteryear.

They have wandered over to an old drum kit, Paul still
in corn cob hat, and he sits behind the kit.

DEBBIE

It's on all this month,
regular hours, free
admission.

PAUL

Thanks Debbie Hayes. -
Let's take it out with the

Fatty Dodds Hot Potato
Dip Beat.

Paul plays the back-beat, and the camera zooms in on the photo of the Huge Band. The photo shudders as Paul's playing merges into old audio of the Huge Band, a hideously over-modulated din above a brain-busting bass drum beat.

CABLE 62 "POST-CARD" BUMPER: HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF MILT'S BATLAND DURING THE JAZZ AGE, WITH THE CABLE 62 LOGO IN THE CORNER.

WEB SITE SLUG - LOGO, ANIMATION

Logo animation reads "www.Cable62.Com"

ANNOUNCER

Find us online at
www.Cable62.Com.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

EXT. URBAN STREET -- DAY

In stop action animation, a cut-out of Paul stands on a street and waves at the camera. A double-decker bus pulls up and, to dorky musical accompaniment, Paul enters the bus. "Municipal Omnibus" is on the side of the bus. The bus horn beeps a couple of times as it drives off.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO INTERVIEW SET -- DAY

Paul sits alone in his chair, papers on table, and clipboard in lap.

PAUL

Come on, everybody, climb on board the Municipal Omnibus. We have lots of fellow travellers this week. More confusion and some serious property damage resulting from the

experimental traffic signs
out on the 12.

We see one or two shots of the signs -- for example, a test tube on a red diamond - followed by a comic piece of traffic carnage footage (e.G. car stuck in front of house).

PAUL

That's bound to dominate
debate at the next meeting
of town council. And a
common ribbon cutting
caused some concern.
Mayor Ed Casey
inaugurated the long-
delayed Brockway Mall
Annex with his usual
inimitability.

CUT TO:

EXT. EXCAVATION AREA -- DAY

MAYOR ED CASEY stands facing the camera at a microphone, a long-handled spade in one hand. He is in a typical, mall-surround wasteland. Three or four municipal bureaucrats or the deputy mayor stand beside him, as does escaped convict EDGAR ROY BLADES (see below). In the distance we see a modestly busy road. Ed ceremoniously addresses the assembled media and public.

ED

With this mall extension
and adjacent service
center, a new day dawns
for Burgton. People said
'it couldn't be done' -
'enlarging a mall that's in
receivership doesn't make
sense.' But we had a
vision, and in association
with the good people at
Bargainmart, we're here to
say that a prudent

investment of your tax
dollars is going to make a
bigger, better Brockway
Mall into the hubstone of
our economic renewal
plan.

Assembled crowd applauds as Ed sticks spade in with
his foot and enacts a totally theatrical, ceremonial sod-
turning pose while looking at the assembled media.
His spade hits a skull with a tomahawk in it.

ED

What the ...

Ed picks up the skull and examines it, realizing it's a
Native artifact.

ED

Oh man! That's it.

Ed throws down the shovel and kicks the ground,
totally p.o.'ed. Camera pans down to reveal that Ed
has unearthed more bones.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO INTERVIEW SET --
MOMENTS LATER

PAUL

Lawyers for both the
Tuskeweegee First Nation
and the Chippekewanee
Burial Sites Corporation
are seeking a stop work
order, in light of the
unearthed bones. Tough
luck, Mayor Casey and
other shareholders of the
Brockway Mall.

A very scary-looking mug shot of Edgar Roy Blades
appears in a news-style graphic above Paul's shoulder.

PAUL

And a cautionary note to
the public. Extra

Maximum Penetentiary
escapee Edgar Roy Blades
remains at large...

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE -- AFTERNOON

Security camera shows interrupted footage of Edgar Roy Blades leaving store a half dozen cans of beer, exiting as TWO POLICE OFFICERS enter. One of the police holds door open for Blades. The other officer shows STORE CLERK a photo. Clerk points after the man who has just left. The Police leave in pursuit.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO INTERVIEW SET --
MOMENTS LATER

PAUL

And continues to frustrate
authorities. New sightings
of Blades this week ...

We see a still of Blades taken from the Cedardale Gleaner standing beside Mayor Casey at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

PAUL

Confirm that he is still in
the area. Edgar Roy
Blades is considered
armed and dangerous.

Paul puts on CFWACP & VA Tigers cap, and gets pumped.

PAUL

Boom-a-lakka, boom-a-
lakka, sis, boom, bah!
Yes, our boys won it all --
again! This past Saturday
the Cedardale Full Works
Authority College for the
Performing and Visual
Arts Tigers took home the
Bruno Brandauer Cup for
the third consecutive year,
with a convincing overtime

demolition of the
Nippagouche Tech Teutons
in game 7 of the Level Two
Group B Under-23 all-
regional finals at the Arc.
Let's glory in the moment
one more time with Cable
62's own sports beatrix,
Julie Barnes.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM -- DAY

The standard post-game championship interview segment. JULIE BARNES, a mid-twenties sports reporter, stands three feet off the wall facing the camera. Behind the camera we are periodically aware of dressing room mayhem. She has just succeeded in getting Coach RED CARLSON to come over for an interview. Red has jet black hair, and is dressed in an ill-fitting plaid blazer and poorly matching shirt and tie. The two have to talk progressively louder over the din, and duck the sprays of champagne, which get more and more torrential.

JULIE

I'm in the Tigers' dressing
room at the Arc... Red,
come on over. Coach Red
Carlson of the Level Two B
champion P & VA Tigers...
Red, congratulations.

RED

Thanks Julie.

JULIE

Three in a row, coach.
How does it feel?

RED

We've been here before,
but winning for the fourth
time in ten years really
makes it special.

JULIE

You were in there tough
for a while.

RED

Oh ya, especially with
those bad calls just before
the break!

JULIE

What were your thoughts
out there, or did you have
any?

RED

First, congratulations to
the Teutons, they're a
heck of a squad. Rahim
Benoit -- can he stop 'em
or what? And what can
you say about their coach,
Haps Berger? Total
respect.

A shot of champagne washes past Julie and Red, who
duck unsuccessfully. Parts of naked bodies appear in
the corner of the shot, and the camera is jostled. Julie
is becoming distracted by the activity.

RED

We were able to beat 'em
down low, and the trap
was there, but we re-
zoned.

JULIE

What happened to Bucky
Lee there in the second?
It looked like he got
jammed.

Julie looks amazed at an approaching body, the naked
back of which briefly walks in front of the shot, and her
eyes continue to be rivetted on the receding player's
midriff.

RED

Ya, it was a bad jam, but
kudos to trainer Stitch
Knox, cos once he drained
it we could all smell
victory.

JULIE

Is that what that smell is?

RED

And our defence came up
big.

Julie is no longer listening, she is rivetted by the
shenanigans of the near-naked players.

JULIE

And we've just been
informed that Charlie
Morell has been named
MVP. Let's get him in
here.... Charlie? Come on
over.

CHARLIE MORRELL, a very tall athlete, walks into the
shot, half undressed. His head and shoulders are way
above the shot. We realize for the first time how tiny
Julie and Red are in comparison. The difference is so
large and the confines of the dressing room so tight
that the cameraman can't adjust to take both Julie and
Charlie in at the same time.

JULIE

Charlie, you've just been
named Agrifeeds MVP.
How does it feel?

Julie holds the microphone up and the camera travels
upwards to get Charlie's head, leaving Julie's head out
of shot below. Huge showers of champagne now drown
out everything, and all we hear is the microphone
short-circuiting as the cameraman gets ploughed and
the shot heads for the floor and then ends.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO INTERVIEW SET -- DAY

Paul sits in his chair, highly amused by the clip.

PAUL

What a party! Great and yahoo. By the way, that is only the *fourth* time in the last ten years that a Level Two squad has won the Brandauer two or more consecutive times. Hats off, Tigers!

Paul takes off his Tigers' cap and throws it towards the camera. Go back to the animated bus with music as Paul gets off the bus and it pulls away.

PAUL

Well, this is my stop. That's it for another ride on ... The Municipal Omnibus.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. MONTAGE OF ARCHIVAL SHOTS -- DAY

Card reading "It's A Burgton Fact"

ANNOUNCER

Burgton is North
America's first television
community.

Photo of long-bearded maniacal man in lead apron holding a very large vacuum tube.

ANNOUNCER

In 1918, videophonic pioneer Dr. Alexander Faulkner established Electroglyph Laboratories in the Old Armory at the

corner of Founders and
Reservoir.

Archival photo of massive brick and mortar edifice.

ANNOUNCER

Here he perfected the
Pictobulator ...

Photo of wall-eyed operator in lab coat looking through
eyepiece of a camera the size of a minivan.

ANNOUNCER

... a device carrying
televisual images to the
home. Here's a very young
Mary Pickford performing
in an improvised scene.

Actual footage - video shadows and snow make it
unrecognizable.

ANNOUNCER

Burgton was a trial
community for the new
home entertainment and
information system, with
prospective advertisers
and content providers
testing the effect on the
local populace.

Picture of clinical trials conducted on family watching
t.v. set - wires leading to temples, fingertips and
crotches; heads being measured with calipers; canary,
exposed to pulsing video image, falling from perch in
cage; man suspended upside down in tank of water;
woman being screwed into deep-sea diving gear - while
white-coated technicians keep notes on clipboards.

ANNOUNCER

Dr. Faulkner used
interned Austro-
Hungarian soldiers as the
cast for his first
experimental programs.

In a snowy haze, mustachioed man in long underwear and spiked helmet runs through frame. Mustachioed man in long underwear sits behind news desk reading copy.

ANNOUNCER

Faulkner found that prolonged exposure to televisual imagery induced debilitating lethargy in the subjects.

Shot of dull man in chair looking sleepy.

ANNOUNCER

As a precaution, daily exposure was limited to forty minutes.

Photo of man screwing giant cable in to back of television. Giant cables crisscross town, throwing houses into shadow.

ANNOUNCER

Unfortunately, the Pictobulator relied upon cables for distribution, a clumsy and inefficient technology superseded by broadcast television.

Current photo of earlier building.

ANNOUNCER

The historic Electroglyph Laboratories are now fittingly home to Cable 62. It's a Burgton Fact.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO INTERVIEW SET -- DAY

Paul and CAL WESTON sit in the chairs behind the coffee table. On the table are an assortment of documents and photographs.

PAUL

Station manager Cal Weston joins me now for Dear Yours Truly. He'll help me respond to your letters to the show.

CAL

Always good hearing what's on people's minds. Our call for photos and anecdotes about holes in the Greater Cedardale Area was certainly heeded.

PAUL

Here's one from Mrs. Terry Baker in Mountclair. Is that near Fairfield, Cal?

CAL

Right you are.

PAUL

Mrs. Baker recounts an incident from 1961.

CAL (reading)

"My boys Gary and Dick were out riding their bikes near the gypsum pit up off Founders near Camp 7 and fell into a hole. The boys told me they wandered around a series of tunnels for 8 or 9 hours and eventually emerged from a large mound down by the Aggregate trunk line."

PAUL

Mrs. Baker encloses a photo here of the mound. Can we get that, Rex?

Photo of giant five-story high termite or ant pile.

CAL

The next photo is
interesting, too.

Then another of two boys holding an immense, mottled
ovoid egg (like a giant robin's or hen's egg), as big as
they can hold.

PAUL

Yes, it's a picture of the
two boys with an egg they
took out of the mound.

CAL (reading)

"The boys said there were
thousands of them in
there. I told them it was
probably a dinosaur
egg."

Back to Cal and Paul.

PAUL

You know a bit about our
natural history, Cal. What
kind of dinosaurs
populated this area ?

CAL

Over at the County
Archive they've got some
shells and fossils ...

PAUL

From the crustaceous
period, I guess.

CAL

This is interesting,
because I know that
sometime around the mid-
50's, they found some

giant footprints, or
pawprints up near Camp
7.

PAUL

Wonder if the eggs and the
footprints are from the
same animal?

CAL

Could be.

PAUL

What kind of military
installation was Camp 7,
Cal?

CAL

It was a secret camp.

PAUL

And what town in the
south-western north-east
didn't have its own secret
military installation in
those days.

CAL

(as if
closing
segmen
t)

Thanks for the photos and
the story, Mrs. Terry
Baker. If you'd like to ...

PAUL

Ah, not so fast there, Cal.
We had another letter this
week, from Hannibal
Doverston, here in town.
And he writes "doesn't
your station manager, Cal
Weston, always look
fabulous. Where does he

buy his clothes? Is it
anywhere in Burgton?"

You are a natty dresser,
Cal. And you wear clothes
well.

Look, look, he's getting a
little red, didn't mean to
embarass you, Cal.

So, where do you get those
threads?

CAL

Well, Hannibal thanks for
writing. I travel a fair bit,
and whenever I'm in San
Francisco or New York I
endeavour to pick up
something new and
attractive there. I'm
always looking for
something just a little out
of the ordinary.

And I shop in St. Anne-de-
Ville, too, they have a
couple of fine stores over
there.

PAUL

Really? Like ?

CAL

Ho-mo.

PAUL

Excuse me?

CAL

Homme Haut ... "haut" like
"haute couture", "haute
cuisine" ...

PAUL

Ah, the High Man, the Tall Man... Right, 'cause I thought ...

CAL

Where do you get your clothes, Paul?

PAUL

If there's a sale down to Bargain Mart - socks, underwear - but for stuff on the show, definitely Dude's Deluxe. If it's something for hanging around the house, I shop at the Feed Depot.

CAL

That would be like, what, denim?

PAUL

Yeah, denim, jean, a durable product with, you know, ample room in the seat.

CAL

That's all the time we have to talk about clothes and stuff. Hope we answered your question, Hannibal Doverston. Keep those letters coming, folks.

PAUL

Yes, because those were the only two we had this week, and it's always nice to be able to choose. Our address is on the screen now. Drop a card or a note in the mail to Town Beat,

(PAUL
does
the arm
exclam
ation
point)

Cable 62, The Old
Armoury, Founders and
Reservoir, Burgton.

Card with the mailing address.

CAL

And we have e-mail now,
that address is Townbeat!-
@cable62.com.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO (BASS KING) -- DAY

BRENT HUMBY, the Bass King, clothed in angling gear - a vest, twill hat, hip waders. His gear is plastered with product endorsements. Brent speaks at a lightning pace. He stands before a blue screen featuring a frantic, dizzying montage of images related to sports fishing. Powerboats cutting through the water; large 4 X 4'S crushing foliage and climbing piles of rocks; girls with big boobs; big idiots holding up huge bass.

BRENT

Hi, I'm Brent Humby, the
Bass King, reminding all
anglers, or just any lover
of the great wet outdoors,
that it's time for the
annual Bass King
Cedardale Basin and
County Reservoir Bass
Derby and Monsignor
Carver Memorial Fish Fry.

Fish taking bait; fish on the BBQ; drowned body in swimming pool; drunk men firing guns into barrels; crossing guard shot by cross-bow; fat guy hitting golf balls.

BRENT

First prize includes an Evensteiner 7000, the biggest legal outboard in production today; an all-wheel drive Chippekwanee Scout 500; breakfast with Miss Bass King 1987, Kitty Diver; and a trip to the nationals.

More fishing and sports carnage: ATV turned over with wheels spinning in air, men with beers in hand laughing and pointing; fish frying in pan over open fire. As the fish below are listed, zoological photos or drawings of head and gills correspond.

BRENT

Think fish, big fish. We're going after pike, pickerel, and wall-eye; black-stripe, big mouth, small mouth, four-string, electric and double bass; cross-eyed rubies; lakers and crappies; white perch, yellow perch, spotted cats, the nearly-extinct Cedardale sturgeon and Tuskaweegee muskalunge.

Shots of gigantic bonfire on beach with drunken frat atmosphere; a line of barbecues and hibachis exploding into flame one after another; stacks of money, bills floating through air.

BRENT

Prizes in all categories. King size bass, big money, good looking women and guys who know how to have a good time. The Bass King Cedardale Basin and County Bass Derby and Monsignor Carver Memorial Fish Fry.

Entry forms available at all
Chippewaukee Motors
outlets. Let's go fishin'!

The final image is a standard Bass King promotional card, a picture of a smiling man with a bass under his arm. The card reads: Bass King Friday at 8:00 on Cable 62.

EXT. CHIPPEKWANNEE CREEK -- DAY

"Live", "Cable 62 Rivercam" oblique shot from high above of pastoral Chippewaukee Creek running through the outskirts of Burgton. Text is read oblivious to the visual shot.

LYNN

You're looking at scenic Chippewaukee Creek on the Cable 62 Rivercam. I'm Lynn Kozyk with your Community Calendar. At the Exhibition Grounds all day Saturday, it's Burgton Vintage Appliances. Articles available for purchase or swap this week include a 1953 Porter-Borg radium weeder, a single-stroke diesel Krupps auto-mawl, and an extremely rare 1942 Sopwith-Careen gas biscuiter.

Edgar Roy Blades runs into frame, obviously being pursued. Stops, turns this way and that, decides to wade across river, goes up to his waist in water, climbs the opposite bank and runs out of frame. Seconds later, the same two police officers from Scene 8 enter frame. They have lost the trail and continue on up the wrong side of the river.

LYNN

And this weekend coming, it's "All Bob Bowling". If

Bob's your name, and
bowling's your game, come
out and bowl all day
Friday for free at Bowl-a-
roo. Admission for non-
Bobs is five dollars. All-
Bob Bowling -- all Bob's
bowl free. Now, back to
Paul Moth and Town Beat
right here on Cable 62.

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO -- DAY

A 1950's-era living-room set, a couple of arm chairs
and a love seat arranged around a coffee table with
coffee mugs, reading "Book Club Mug", for all the
participants. Paul and Cal sit with town librarian,
BARB MONTGOMERY, and homemaker GRETA SPEY.
Both are attractive - Barb somewhat youger than Greta
- and have an obvious physical interest in Cal and
none in Paul. Barb is pony-tailed and casually
dressed. Greta is more severe.

PAUL

Well, everybody, time to
call our regular meeting of
the Town Beat Book Club
to order. Joining Cal and
me are Greta Spey, a
homemaker and avid
reader.

GRETA

Hello.

PAUL

And town librarian, Barb
Montgomery.

BARB

Hello, all.

PAUL

Our assignment for this
week was Delbert Onglow's
updating of the Hardy

Boys series, the 'Hardy
Men' as it were, entitled
"The Bayport Closet Case."

Cal's eyes shift uneasily as a title card reading "Today's
Book: The Bayport Closet Case" is prematurely
superimposed over shot of him. The title card remains
as we cut to a close up of Paul's hands placing copy of
the book on a little display stand on the table beside
him.

PAUL

This is not the first book
by Onglow that we've had
on the Book Club.

BARB

I loved the earlier one.

CAL

"False Meat."

BARB

Not as demanding, but
really urgent and probing,
I thought.

PAUL

Greta, how about a
synopsis of "The Bayport
Closet Case"?

GRETA

I really didn't like the
book.

PAUL

Barb?

BARB

Frank and Joe Hardy are
still in the sleuthing game.
Frank is a weekend
transvestite in a loveless
marriage with Nancy
Drew.

PAUL

Wild.

BARB

And Joe is a private dick
with substance abuse
issues.

Greta cuts off Barb.

GRETA

The story is quite
convoluted.

BARB

Yet very convincingly
rendered. It's about how
people grow and change.

(she
looks
longing
at Cal)

And about longing, secret
wants and needs. How
people we think we know
become people we don't.

As Barb gets hotter the camera briefly shows us Paul
whose attention is now on a loose thread on his jacket.

GRETA

Oh, please. Just because
it happened in your life
doesn't mean it happens
to everybody. I, for one,
have never changed.

BARB

Look back at the old
Hardy Boy classics. You'll
see that Frank wanted to
live his life as a woman.

GRETA & PAUL

He did not !

CAL

You don't think?

BARB

And Joe was obviously
headed nowhere.

GRETA

No. Joe was a reliable,
honest and decent fellow.
You could just tell he'd
never, after eighteen years
of marriage, risk it all by
banging the secretary.

BARB

That's not in the book.

GRETA

No, but ... you know what
I mean.

CAL

I'd like to call viewers'
attention to the line
drawings in the book.
Earlier Rex and I did a
little taping of them. Can
we roll that now?

Montage of line drawings in the style of the original merged with Tom of Finland school of gay drawing. We see: 1) Frank, in sailor top and skirt, with Joe outside a club, the Gayport Bar and Grill - caption "'This looks like the place,' said Frank."; 2) Frank, pipe clenched between teeth, bent over a table with skirt hiked up revealing his hairy upper legs - caption "To gain their confidence, Frank played the game according to their rules."; 3) Joe seated on a toilet and slumped against the wall of a bathroom cubicle with a syringe in his arm and his belt wrapped around his upper arm, caption "'Something's wrong,' Joe gasped."; 4) Nancy adjusting her garter as groundskeeper Biff exits through French windows pulling a tee shirt over his rippling rib cage and Frank enters. Two gimlet glasses

sit on the bedside table. Caption "Nancy regretfully returned her attention to Frank."

GRETA

The worst aspect of a dreadful book. These illustrations are obscene.

The argument is becoming personal, the women are sniping at each other.

BARB

Oh, come on, they're ironic.

GRETA

Barbara, Barbara, Barbara. Isn't there anything in this world meant to be taken at face value any more ?

BARB

I could give you a few things--

CAL (acting as peacemaker)

I sympathize with you, Greta, because we did grow up with these characters. They're old friends. Naturally, we don't want anything bad to happen to them. But Barb is right, too. They change, they grow, they become individuals. And here, I think this is Onglow's point, as adults they make their own choices. Don't you agree, Paul?

Camera shows us Paul with his hand on his chin, pretending to listen.

PAUL

Uh ? The thing is, well,
with this book anyway, I
don't know if this happens
to you, but I'm lying in bed
and I read the first three
or four lines when all of a
sudden, boom, I'm
unconscious, then the
alarm is screaming and it's
the next morning. But,
ah, but, returning to the
line drawings, if I might.

BARB

So you managed to see the
drawings ?

PAUL

Indeed. I make it a point
to get through the graphic
element of any work,
familiarize myself with the
terrain, read the last line,
see if I want to finish the
thing.

CAL

I've got to hand it to
Onglow. The night club
scenes? The grit, the
noise, the excitement ... I
felt like I was right there.

GRETA

Yes. I trust this won't find
its way on to the shelves of
the public library.

BARB

I guarantee you it will.

GRETA

I guess we'll be having a
meeting of the library
advisory board, then,
won't we.

BARB

You were over-ruled last
time, weren't you?

GRETA

That was a technicality.
This is pornography.

BARB

That's your opinion.

PAUL

We, again, agree to
disagree.

(improv
ising
now.)

But at least we will always
have this moment that no
one else remembers to
hold on to. The Book Club
will be back soon with a
new book which I promise
I'll read. Thank you Barb
Montgomery, Greta Spey,
and Cal Weston.

INT. THE DIMLY LIT BAR OF THE BENTLEY MOTEL. --
DAY

Paul sits at the bar next to an attractive if a little plain
woman in her forties, MARGARET HAMMILL.

PAUL

I'm here at the Captain's
Anchor Bar in the Bentley
Motel in Burgton, and with
me is Margaret Hammill,
the current president of
Cedardale County Friends
and More. What's Friends
and More all about, Marg?

MARGARET

We are an organization
that facilitates mature
people meeting other
mature people in the
Cedardale County Area.

PAUL

A lonely hearts outfit?

MARGARET

People think, "small town,
close knit community,
meeting someone will be a
cinch". But where the
population base is so
small... We share tips on
good places to meet
interesting folks.

PAUL

Like?

MARGARET

If you were trolling for
men, Upland Tire on a
Saturday morning.

PAUL

And women?

MARGARET

Church groups ...

PAUL

(shakes
his
head)

MARGARET

The fitness center ...?

PAUL

Nooo ...

MARGARET

Volunteer work, parole
hearings.

PAUL

No no no no, not me.

Paul casually and unconsciously circles a finger in the
international symbol for coition.

PAUL

I hear the Captain's
Anchor here at the Bentley
is popular with single
women, though.

MARGARET

Really?

PAUL

I have it on good authority
that purchase of a couple
of Mai Tai's here can pay
large returns.

Paul looks around.

PAUL

Watch this. Hello, ladies!

A few overly made-up, sad-looking women zombified by
VLT's populate the smoky, dark bar. One or two heads
turn briefly, but no one answers; the heads turn back
to their VLT's.

PAUL

Well, anyway, that's what I
heard.

MARGARET

Can I buy you a drink,
Paul?

PAUL

No, I don't ... that a line?

MARGARET

The simple things work.

PAUL

Just a coffee, thanks.

(to
REX,
the
camera
man)

Hey, Rex, isn't that your
ex-wife over there?

Camera turns slightly to take in a haggard-looking
woman at a VLT, drink at her side.

PAUL

Well, now you know where
all the alimony's going.

MARGARET

Is that really Jeanie?
Wow.

PAUL

Rex is kind of sensitive
about it.

The BARTENDER delivers the drinks.

MARGARET

Cheers!

They clink soda water and coffee cup.

PAUL

Most of the people who
attend Friends and More
meetings would be in the
"middle" years, I'm
guessing.

MARGARET

Most of them.

PAUL

So there's not a lot of
young Asian women into
spanking.

MARGARET

No.

PAUL

Not even if I've been
very, very bad?

MARGARET

No.

Margaret makes a few eyes with Rex as Paul drifts off
on an aimless thought.

PAUL

Ah ... people become so set
in their ways. Me for
instance. I come home
from the station, strip to
my briefs, lay in front of
the tube with a big bag of
chips and a tub of dip and
pass out. And I'm
thinking that a lot of
women probably don't find
a larger man with chips
and dip matting the hair
on his stomach that
attractive. Am I right?

MARGARET

I hear you.

PAUL

(to Rex)

Hey, Rex, how would you
feel about me and Jeanie?

(pause,
camera
doesn't
move
but
Paul

sees
somethi
ng
down
the
lens)

Just kidding, Rex, a little
joke.

MARGARET

Paul, you should come on
out to our next meeting.
We're getting together at
Heidi Graham's place, up
in Ridgeville.

PAUL

If you're single and
simpering about it, get
going, to Cedardale
County Friends and More.
The contact number
should be coming up on-
screen here.

Phone number comes up on screen.

MARGARET

What about you, Rex?

PAUL

There you go. Thank you,
Margaret Hammill.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO INTERVIEW SET -- DAY

Paul sits next to his guest, a woman in a Scouts
Uniform, ELSPETH GUMM. Elspeth also wears a
heavily decorated sash. She speaks with a slight
Scottish accent.

PAUL

Town Beat welcomes troop
leader Elspeth Gumm.

Elsbeth has just been named den mother of the year, by the Scouts of the North Eastern South West. Congratulations.

ELSPETH

Thank you.

PAUL

And this honour is linked, I believe with your successful efforts to have a new merit badge recognized.

ELSPETH

Yes, after some years of lobbying the Scouts will be issuing a merit badge for rock music.

PAUL

You're wearing the badge?

ELSPETH

Aye.

Elsbeth points to a badge on her much festooned sash.

PAUL

Can we get a shot of ...?

Close-up of Rock Music Merit Badge, the SATAN'S HORNS.

PAUL

Yes. And you and the boys from your troop are the first recipients, that's great. I understand you're going to play something for us in the rock and roll style .

ELSPETH

Aye.

(She
names
the
tune)

PAUL

Great. Dib dib dib ...

Camera closes in on Paul giving Elspeth time to get to the band space. He makes the Satan's Horns.

PAUL

So here they are, the first
ever recipients of a merit
badge for rock, the Third
Shawannahanthas
Secondary Scout Troop
Group with ...

Not giving Paul a chance to get out the title, the band, all dressed as scouts, with Edgar Roy Blades, soaking wet from his river ford on the backline playing maracas or tambourine, launch in to a thundering version of ... a thunderous song.

Song ends, Paul sits in stunned silence for several seconds.

PAUL

(yelling)

That was great! The Third
Shawannahanthas
Secondary Scout Troop
Group with a generic rock
song. My name is Paul
Moth. Come back next
week for more of Town
Beat!, your eye on you!

Credits over Paul shaking hands with band in silhouette. As background, same two Police Officers from Scenes 8 & 15 enter. They make obvious enquiries about the now long-gone Edgar Roy Blades. Much shrugging of shoulders.