



THE TEARS AND THE LAUGHTER:
THE PETTIT BROTHERS BROTHERCAST, A LOOK BACK

Prod. 1000

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FINAL DRAFT

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STUDIOS

THE TEARS AND THE LAUGHTER:
THE PETTIT BROS. BROTHERCAST - A LOOK BACK

[MUSICAL BED INTRODUCTION]

KAREN TWOFEATHER

Good evening, and welcome to "The Tears and the Laughter: The Pettit Brothers. Brothercast, a look back" I'm Karen Twofeather. I'm a show runner here at the Pettit Brothers. Brothercast, and in celebration of our 1000th episode, I'd like to invite you along for a look back at some of the things that have made the Brothercast such an enduring part of our shared culture.

In the following documentary, you'll hear from some of the amazing people who have contributed to the Brothercast over the years, and you will be given a behind-the scenes look at 50 years of award-winning broadcast history. Join us, won't you?

VOICE OVER:

This program, and others like it, are made possible by a grant from Academi Security Services-- "Academi: Elite training. Trusted Protection", and by funding from the Altria Group, and by listeners like you.

[MUSIC CONCLUDES]

PETTITSHIRE STUDIO TOUR

[INTRO MUSIC]

SCONCE WINTERBUTTER:

Welcome listeners of the Pettit Brothers Brothercast throughout the world. My name is Sconce Winterbutter, and I've been asked to take you on an exclusive behind-the-scenes look of the Pettit Brothers Brothercast.

[STREET SOUNDS]

SCONCE WINTERBUTTER:

This is a street like any other! We are outside Pettit shire; a museum like structure four stories high, plus two underground, and the headquarters of the Pettit Brothers Brothercast.

[INTERIOR HALLWAY, FOLLOWED BY OFFICE SOUNDS]

SCONCE WINTERBUTTER:

To the offices on the third floor come letters, as well as invitations, from all across the world. This one is a guest appearance. Here's another, requesting an interview. While others include invitations to performances, as well as parties.

Just today, offers have come from Toronto, Cologne, and Ibiza!

[WALKING THROUGH WORKSPACE]

SCONCE WINTERBUTTER:

On the first underground floor, tee-shirts and posters for the upcoming season of the Pettit Brothers brother cast, are being imagined?

On the second floor, singing auditions for a new promotional number, have been going since early morning. Many young girls are in line, waiting nervously for their turn.

[SAMPLE OF GIRLS AUDITIONING]

SCONCE WINTERBUTTER:

On the fourth floor, the ever charming Antonio is conducting an interview, over the phone, while he prepares for his morning work-out.

[TELEPHONE INTERVIEW]

ANTHONIO:

Ima no do iu jokyo kara denwa desu ka?

MAKI NOMIYA:

Eto desu ne... Watashi wa Osaka ni irun desu yo! Osaka no terebi bangumi kokai rokuga de... Eto ima... Honban sanjuppun mae de gakuya kara denwa shitemasu.

ANTHONIO:

Ah so?

MAKI NOMIYA:

Hai!

ANTHONIO:

Ja isho ja nanka tsuketeru wake ne?

MAKI NOMIYA:

So desu ne. Mo sukkari make mo isho mo tsuketemasu.

ANTHONIO:

Ano make ga suki da ne boku ne...

MAKI NOMIYA:

(Laughs) Arigato gozaimasu!

ANTHONIO:

Are maki de ne, dokufu da yo ne!

MAKI NOMIYA:

So desu ne! kekko...

ANTHONIO:

Ano ne tokoro de ne... ano... Maki-chan!

MAKI NOMIYA:

Hai!

ANTHONIO:

Kono Baby Portable Rock ga desu ne...

MAKI NOMIYA:

Hai!

ANTHONIO:

Sugoin desu yo! Request ga!

MAKI NOMIYA:

So desu ka?

ANTHONIO:

Eeh. Korya sugoi na!

MAKI NOMIYA:

Arigato gozaimasu.

[TOUR RESUMES]

SCONCE WINTERBUTTER

On the second subterranean floor, the main research lab is located. Dathaniel, always clever and knowledgeable, is sitting just on the other side of the glass, trying to link two very important concepts for Science Corner together.

But the research seems to be going through a difficult stage.

It appears Dathaniel is having difficulty, relating the listener question, to the Brothersode story line.

The mood is tense, as the deadline draws near.

The working title for the Brothersode has been chosen, and the release date has already been published. But there is still a great deal of work to be done, before the finished product is released to the world.

From start to finish, each Brothersode requires a painstaking 52 hours to produce. Pettit shire currently boasts a compliment of 45 workers, dedicated to production. Each one of them will be working throughout the night, to ensure that the Brothersode is released under budget, and most importantly: remains on schedule!

[MUSIC FADES IN]

SCONCE WINTERBUTTER:

Thank you for joining us on this brief tour of Pettit shire. We hope you have gained a better insight into the process, production, and inner workings of Pettit shire, and the Pettit Brothers Brothercast. On behalf of the Pettit Brothers Brother cast, this has been: Sconce Winterbutter.

[LIGHT, CHIPPER MUSIC STARTS UP]

[PETTIT BROTHERS BROTHERCAST HISTORY]

CHARLES VAMNCE:

The Brothercast began in 1963 as the brainchild of James Backus. Fresh off of his successful film performance in "It's a Mad Mad, Mad, Mad World", Backus wanted to take the next logical step of using his personal earnings to fund a science-comedy radio program.

In 1964 he collaborated with a young Stan Burns to create a daily radio program about a pair of young brothers living in a magical museum.

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CLIP FROM FIRST BROTHERSODE

ANTHONIO:

Raise an Everglades Alligator in your own home

DATHANIEL:

Express Charges... Prepaid!

ANTHONIO:

Live Delivery... guaranteed, no CODs

DATHANIEL:

Antonio, we can keep it in the bathtub!

ANTHONIO:

Aw, OK, let's send for it... But an 8 foot alligator for only two dollars and a half... There must be a catch to it...

DATHANIEL:

But ANTHONIO! They wouldn't let 'em print it in "Robot Men on Mars" unless it's the truth!

ANTHONIO:

Yeah I guess you're right...

DATHANIEL:

Antonio...?

ANTHONIO:

Yeah?

DATHANIEL:

How long before our alligator comes?

ANTHONIO:

About a week, I suppose...

DATHANIEL:

Then I guess it's too early to fill up the bathtub

- - -

CHARLES VAMNCE:

American audiences couldn't get enough of the brothers, and the Brothercast has been credited with bringing Backus to the attention of Sherwood Schwartz, who was, at the time, casting for his new project "Gilligan's Island".

BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH JIM BACKUS ABOUT THE BROTHERCAST, AND
GILLIGAN'S ISLAND

JIM BACKUS:

When it came time for choosing a location, we needed something that would work for Stan and the crew, and of course all of our voice talent were already down in the Appalachians, so naturally, we chose Miami, you'll pardon the expression, Florida.

And of course Sherwood was calling people in for the Gilligan Show, and when Terry said he'd sent some scripts

to us, I read them over, and naturally thought that he wanted me for the part of the Professor, you know, because of Science Corner

[LOW-FI HUMMING PAUSE]

...but... of course that part went to Russ...

- - -

CHARLES VAMNCE:

The Brothercast proved so popular, that subtle nods to the series' lines and catchphrases often made their way onto competing shows at the time.

SCHMATZLY BROTHERCAST CLIP ABOUT TRICKY JAPES

ANTHONIO:

Well, Dathaniel, this is a good lesson for ya... I'm glad you're learning it early

DATHANIEL:

So am I... Only I'm not so sure just what the lesson is...

ANTHONIO:

The way older brothers are always being wisenheimers, and playin' tricky japes...

DATHANIEL:

But you're my older brother too

ANTHONIO:

Yeah, but I'm not so old to be doin' silly things like that... Roarin' like a lion in the deep of the night...

DATHANIEL:

Next thing you know, he'll be sending ya to catch a snipe!

Compare the clip that you've just heard, from the 1965 season of the Brothercast with this clip from "My three sons" filmed the following year

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COMPARISON CLIP FROM MY THREE SONS

CHIP DOUGLAS:

Well, Ernie, this is a good lesson for you, and I'm glad you're learning it early...

ERNIE DOUGLAS:

So am I... Only I'm not so sure just what it is I've learned...

CHIP DOUGLAS:

The way older brothers are always being smart-alecs and playing crummy jokes.

ERNIE DOUGLAS:

But you're my older brother too!

CHIP DOUGLAS:

Yeah, but I'm not so old to be doin' dumb things like that... Growlin' like a lion in the deep of the night... Next thing you know, he'll be sending ya to catch a snipe!

- - -

CHARLES VAMNCE:

It's clear that the Brothercast left an indelible mark, and broke new grounds in fraternal-themed broadcasting.

[STEVE ALLEN SHOW INTRO]

CHARLES VAMNCE:

The Brothercast was also purportedly a favorite of TV funnyman Steve Allen, who would, just two years into the Brothercast's run, hire away Burns, to serve as a lead writer on "The New Steve Allen Show".

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INAPPROPRIATELY VITRIOLIC JULIA CHILD INTERVIEW, WHERE THE BROTHERCAST GETS MENTIONED, DESPITE BEING UNRELATED TO THE TOPIC AT HAND

JULIA CHILD:

We're doing decadent roast turtle! Cooking and eating! Today on the French Chef!!!

[FRENCH CHEF INTRO MUSIC]

CHARLES VAMNCE:

Quite unexpectedly, one of the show's biggest and most vocal detractors was American Chef célèbre Julia Child, who would frequently voice her distain, and criticisms emphatically on her television show, and in live interviews.

JULIA CHILD:

...and we put it in the oven for 20 more minutes. Just like that...

[BEGINS CHOPPING]

JULIA CHILD:

Right... We have a little time to start on our scrumptious gelatin salad with diced celery (Pause)... if only I could do this to those f*****g s**t stained Pettit brothers... I'd like to nail their precious f*****g balls against the wall.

[CHOPPING, PAUSE]

JULIA CHILD:

It's not just that they can't focus on a single goddamn topic...

[ANGRY CHOPPING]

JULIA CHILD:

...for a single goddamn episode, sorry, BROTHERSODE, whatever the f**k THAT means, it's their f*****g smug VOICES! Where do they find...

[CLIP FADES]

- - -

CHARLES VAMNCE:

In spite of these difficulties, Backus himself stayed, splitting his time between filming "Gilligan's Island" in Los Angeles, and overseeing production of the Brothercast in Miami.

Backus maintained this whirlwind schedule for three years, until choosing to pursue his first love full-time; providing the voice of TV's blinkering, blundering, Mr. Magoo.

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HORRIFIC "MR. MAGOO MURDERS HIS SON" EPISODE CLIP

MAGOO:

I'll teach that ally cat to keep me up all night with its yowling!

[GUNSHOTS AND CLICKS, PEALS OF LAUGHTER]

MAGOO:

See my boy? They don't call me "Dead-eye Magoo" for nothing!

Jeffrey?

Why don't you answer me, boy?

Jeffrey? OH, my boy! My only son!

[LAUGHTER ERUPTS]

MAGOO:

Oh, Magoo, you've done it again!

- - -

CHARLES VAMNCE:

Despite the departure of the show's creators, production of the Brothercast proceeded unhindered, as work on the show was outsourced to American International Pictures.

Production values plummeted, and the brothers were made to engage in increasingly outlandish, and formulaic, plots.

[THE TREASURE OF MONSTER BEACH TRAILER]

CHARLES VAMNCE:

"The Treasure of Monster Beach" marked a breaking point. Episodes were only being released once every two months;

The actor playing Anthonio threatened to walk unless several changes were made.

TREASURE OF MONSTER BEACH CLIP (AWFUL)

DATHANIEL:

Well Anthonio, It's not the claw print of any fish in this area

ANTHONIO:

The men at the lab couldn't tie it down either... They suggested that you, Dathaniel, being an authority on fish might know what it is...

DATHANIEL:

Well, it's amazing. It looks exactly like the South American Fantigua Fish. That's a ka-nivorous maneater. It can live in or out of water. Weighs about 100 lbs,

ANTHONIO:

Well that's a pretty good size, but whatever made that print had to weigh at least 250 lbs or more.

DATHANIEL:

Well I'm afraid that's the best I can do for you. It certainly looks like the Fantigua to me... Could be a mutation of course. Some of the studies we've been doing here at the lab on mutations are amazing.

ANTHONIO:

Mutated... Could this uh, Fantigua fish grow large enough to come out on land, I mean could it breathe out of water

DATHANIEL:

Uhhh, Yes it could breathe out of water if it could retain fluid in its lungs. And as a mutation our studies show it could grow quite large... (chuckles) I hope you can take one alive, Antonio, it would be a boon to science...

ANTHONIO:

Now hold on, Dathaniel, I still believe that a human clawed that girl to death, not a fish no matter how big... And we'll get him too... Probably a mad man...

[LOUDLY RATTLING LOCK, BEWITCHED APPEARANCE SOUND EFFECT]

PAUL LYNDE:

You know you boys should really look into getting sturdier locks!

ANTHONIO:

Who are you?

PAUL LYNDE:

I'm Mister Steeves, your next door neighbor. Say, were you boys talkin' about fish? Never had much use for 'em m'self!

[CACKLES AT OWN "JOKE"]

ANTHONIO:

Hey, I've gotta get going.

PAUL LYNDE:

Hold it! Hold it, now there's somethin' else I wanna show you, now it'll only take a minute; it's in my room, come on...

- - -

SASSY PAUL LYNDE INTERVIEW

CHARLES VAMNCE:

American International Pictures insisted on the integration of several new characters to the show, as vehicles for well-known actors with popular appeal.

PAUL LYNDE:

It was so much fun to hear them go back and forth , and of course, I had been listening to the show for years...

CHARLES VAMNCE:

Flamboyant comedy actor Paul Lynde was introduced to audiences as nosy neighbor, "Mr. Steeves".

PAUL LYNDE:

I don't know what bee got rammed up Anthonio's bonnet. It was perfectly normal for us actors to give each other a little friendly pinch on the tushy when we finished a shoot. Maybe that's not how they do things down in the Blue Ridge Mountains, but a silly thing like that wouldn't get a flinch out of anyone back in L.A...

And you can trust me on that!

[OBNOXIOUS CACKLE]

- - -

CHARLES VAMNCE:

Despite a smattering of notable celebrity guest stars, The Brothercast never found it's footing under the AIP ARKOFF model of storytelling, which focused heavily on the salacious themes of murder, and teenage fornication.

Long-time fans, looking for the Brothercast's established tradition, of wholesome family comedy, and scientific accuracy, found the AIP productions unsatisfying, and the Brothercast would experience its all-time lowest ratings.

In the end, poor management decisions on the part of AIP, lost the company a staggering 23 million dollars on Brothercast productions. In 1971, after three years of production, they opted to sell the franchise to the highest bidder.

For several months, the future of The Brothercast remained uncertain; investors were hesitant to risk investing in a franchise with such a costly recent history. Fortunes shifted the spring of 1971 as it turned out, another pair of brothers, met Sid and Marty Krofft, the producers of the erotic puppet revue at the Century 21 Seattle World's Fair. The Kroffts saw unrealized potential in the franchise, and decided to pitch a new production of the Brothercast to the executives NBC; the show was re-imagined it as lively variety show, resplendent with toe-tapping musical numbers and colorful skits and songs. The show would consistently deliver high ratings over the next six years.

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CLIP FROM THE FINAL EPISODE OF THE PETTIT BROTHERS' SUPER SHOW

ANNOUNCER:

From Studio City in Miami, Ladies and Gentlemen, The Pettit Brothers Super Show!

[INTRO THEME MUSIC AND APPLAUSE]

DATHANIEL:

Say Anthonio, why don't we sing "That's What You Are"

ANTHONIO:

Well I'd love to, only I don't think I know that song...

DATHANIEL:

I never thought I'd live to see the day someone didn't know "That's What You Are"

ANTHONIO:

Well maybe if you sung a few bars, I can fake it...

DATHANIEL:

Well, sure! Boy are YOU gonna feel like a ding-a-ling when you hear it! It goes like this:

[MUSIC STARTS]

DATHANIEL:

"Unforgettable~~~That's what you are~~~"

[OUTRAGEOUS LAUGHTER AND APPLAUSE]

ANTHONIO:

And now please welcome to the stage - - - Miss Carol Channing!!!

[CAROL CHANNING PERFORMS "JAM TOMMOROW"]

CHARLES VAMNCE:

Tragedy struck.

On what turned out to be the final episode of the Super Show, Carol Channing's signature dance moves, comprised of violent gyrations and wild skeletal jerks, caused such extensive damage to the Krofft's delicate handmade sets, that production was again forced to shut down for restructuring.

Channing, was informed, that she could never again appear, on any show, produced by the radio division of Sid & Marty Krofft Television Productions.

GOBSMACKED INTERVIEW WITH CAROL CHANNING

CAROL CHANNING:

Well! At the end of the day, I don't know WHAT all the fuss was abaa-yout... I had performed what ~I~ felt was my very best number!

Well let me show ya! Ya see, first I throw out my wrist like this

[CRASH!]

CAROL CHANNING:

Ooops!... And then I justsh thrusht my elbow out ever, so elegantly!

[SMASH!]

CAROL CHANNING:

And the nexsht thing ya know, I'm DANCHING!!!

[MUSIC CODA) JAM TOMORROW, JAM YESTERDAY... *FADES TO SOUNDS OF DESTRUCTION*]

- - -

CHARLES VAMNCE:

Despite the ultimately fatal effect of Channing's appearance, the episode generated the highest ratings in the Super Show's eight year run. The Brothercast was nominated for, and awarded, a Regional Daytime Emmy in the category "Best Daytime Variety Comedy Radio Show with a Scientific Emphasis", narrowly beating out, "Zing!", "Professor Bonkers Science Time Comedy Hour", and "Hee Haw.

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JULIA CHILD BITCHY INTERVIEW

JULIA CHILD:

Hacks! Those. F*****g. Hacks.

CHARLES VAMNCE:

Julia Child was not pleased with the announcement...

JULIA CHILD:

Do you have any idea what ~I~ could have done with that format? THAT'S the bulls**t that beat ~me~ out for an Emmy? My first foray into radio, and it's those f*****g brothers again! ME! LOSING TO A BUNCH OF F*****G FLIMSIES! I'm a Cordon Bleu trained artist, for f**k's sake. What are they? Pretend children. F*****g flimsy hacks.

- - -

CHARLES VAMNCE:

Mirroring the long downward trend in the popularity of variety shows in the 1970s, ratings began to decline for the Super Show by the latter half of the decade.

In 1976, NBC decided against renewing the Super Show for a seventh season, instead opting to maintain the Pettit Brothers license, by quickly developing a detective drama as a mid-season replacement titled: The Pettit Chronicles.

CLIP FROM THE PETTIT CHRONICLES

[MARINA SOUNDS AND MUSIC PLAY]

ANTHONIO:

Hmmm.. Lot A6, Pier 72. This must be the place...

DATHANIEL:

He must have ducked into that warehouse! Quick, Antonio, you head around back, I'll see what I can do with this door...

ANTHONIO:

Alright, brother, stay on your toes with this one, remember, he's still got the micro fische, and we want to get it back in one piece. Keep your radio on, just in case.

[ANTHONIO RUNS AROUND TO BACK OF WAREHOUSE]

[CUT TO ANTHONIO RUNNING UP STAIRS]

ANTHONIO:

[SLIGHTLY OUT OF BREATH]

Dathaniel!... How'd you get in?

DATHANIEL:

(Coyly) Lockpick...

ANTHONIO:

Freeze! Hands up sucker!

[BREAKS POTTERY OVER VILLIAN'S HEAD]

ANTHONIO:

Hey! Was hitting him over the head really necessary?

DATHANIEL:

(Coyly) Remind me to tell you about the art of finesse on the way back to the agency, brother...

- - -

CHARLES VAMNCE:

The show would serve as a template for police procedural shows for years to come.

The format developed for The Pettit Chronicles would see use in later series ranging from Mathnet, to Law & Order: SVU.

The show is now considered to have been ahead of its time, however due to lack of promotion, narrow distribution, and an unpopular timeslot, Saturday mornings at 6:30, the show was cancelled midway through its second season, due to low audience share.

KAREN TWOFEATHER:

In the fall of 1982, as part of a larger effort to reverse NBC's low prime-time reputation, new President Brandon Tartikoff personally ordered a dramatic restructuring of the Brothercast. Packaging the show in a big-budget, action-drama format, the hope was that the new structure would appeal to a more youthful and affluent demographic.

Antonio and Dathaniel teamed up to fight crime as a renegade martial artist, and his school teacher brother who, through a series of scientific experiments, ended up with the ability to transform into a talking helicopter, when the situation required it.

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BROTHERCOPTER CLIP

[NBC "JUST WATCH US NOW" LEAD-IN]

ANNOUNCER:

Thursdays are heating up on NBC: with Brothercopter!

[BROTHERCOPTER INTRODUCTION MUSIC]

VOICE OVER:

BROTHERCOPTER: A shadowy peek into the menacing world of a man who does not exist, and his brother...who does...

Antonio Bishop, a renegade federal martial artist on a crusade to champion the cause of the innocent, the helpless, the powerless, in a world of criminals who operate above the law... in hard to reach areas of the country.

[FADE TO SUSPENSFUL MUSIC]

ANTHONIO:

Don't take this the wrong way, kid brother, but you look like you just went ten rounds with Apollo Creed! What happened to you?

DATHANIEL:

When a bolt of lightning forced me out of the air, my experimental helicopter skidded out of control, and into my government laboratory, where my top-secret experiment was underway. I careened into the path of my Molecular Transfer Ray, causing me and my experimental helicopter to become one!

ANTHONIO:

Wait. Are you telling me that you now might have the ability to transform into a...

DATHANIEL:

No, that's just not possible. Not at normal, human levels of moisture.

WENDELL:

HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?

[SQUINTS, GRINS]

ANTHONIO:

Dathaniel, I'd like you to meet my new martial arts assistant, Wendell.

DATHANIEL:

Pleased to meet you, Wendell. I'd shake your hand, except that's an awful lot of water you're carrying; You've got a glass in each hand!

WENDELL:

ONE IS FOR MY GOOD FRIEND, ANTHONIO. OOPS!

[SPILLS WATER]

ANTHONIO:

Wendell, you butterfingers, you've spilled water all over my brilliant, school-teaching teen brother, Dathaniel!

DATHANIEL:

That's okay, I...

[TRANSFORMING SOUNDS START]

DATHANIEL:

I feel a little strange...

[MAJOR TRANSFORMATION SOUND]

ANTHONIO:

He's transforming!

WENDELL:

Into a HELICOPTER!!!

ANTHONIO:

Brother! Can you hear me?! Are you still in there?

DATHANIEL:

[VOICE MODULATED]

I feel fine, Antonio. It seems that a transformation IS possible, after all. The molecular transfer ray must have altered my genes, causing me to evolve into a helicopter, when my skin gets wet!

ANTHONIO:

Incredible! Simply astounding! Mind if we have a look around?

WENDELL:

Let's see... Third Stage Aquatic Synthesizer, Passive Laser Restraint System, Voice Stress Analyzer, Hyper Sonic Sonar

Array Top Speed: 16,000 MPH Dathaniel, you must be the world's first living, Mach 3 helicopter!!!

DATHANIEL:

You don't have to yell, Wendell, I'm all around you.

[ALERT SOUND ON READOUT]

ANTHONIO:

According to this readout, there's a renegade martial arts master operating above the law, on top of a mesa in Los Alamos. He's got hostages and they need my help. If I'm going to save their lives, I'd better get moving.

WENDELL:

But Antonio! On top of a mesa?! How'ya ever gonna get up there? And New Mexico is hundreds of miles from here! You'll never make it in time!

DATHANIEL:

Not without my help... Hop in.

[DRAMATIC MUSICAL SWELL WITH HELICOPTER TAKEOFF SOUNDS]

- - -

KAREN TWOFEATHER:

Brothercopter proved to be an immense prime-time hit, garnering a major ratings share for NBC, and earning the brothers their second EMMY for "Best New Prime-Time Action Science Drama with Transforming Vehicle" as well as taking home a People's Choice Special Award for "Favorite Writing"

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JULIA CHILD STRIKES AGAIN

JULIA CHILD:

Well, now they're just phoning it in with this bullshit. You know what? I don't even hate them anymore; this is just saaad. TWO different UNRELATED crime dramas? What the f**k is that? I mean, even with the stupid variety show, they had those idiotic puppets running around, talking about SCIENCE, once an episode, but now they just run around beating up criminals with that fool Gilbert Godfrey.

In season 2, Brothersode 14, they say that Dathaniel's super sonic hearing can detect a c**k-sucking LION through that mountain, but then, not TWO F*****G BROTHERSODES LATER, he CAN'T hear Valerie Bertinelli in the high-rise, SCREAMING her hammy lungs out, banging around...

[FADES OUT]

- - -

KAREN TWOFEATHER:

Success and popularity of the Brothercopter lead to syndication, and motivated NBC to expand the program's visibility through new marketing avenues, including a line of action figures, and a number of Brothercast-themed spinoffs, aimed at foreign markets.

Australia's "Toward Tomorrow", was a half-hour programme, showcasing cutting-edge developments in science and technology. Though originally targeted to Australian audiences, Finding Tomorrow was picked as an interstitial interest segment by many local stations in the U.S..

TOWARDS TOMORROW CLIP

ANTHONIO:

Today on Toward Tomorrow, a revolutionary new use for egg shells, discovered at Uluru...

...What your new kidney may look like in tomorrow's operating theatre...

...and new computer promises to make choosing what to wear, a thing of the past...

[MUSIC FADES]

ANTHONIO:

But first, school children might be familiar with this apparatus-- It's a pencil grip, found in most classrooms, but one company, is using them to revolutionise underwater mining.

[NEEDLESSLY EXCITING "THRILL" MUSIC STARTS]

DATHANIEL:

I'm standing, Antonio, in what looks like, perhaps your neighbourhood natatorium, but in fact, this...

[PAUSES FOR UNSEEN HAND GESTURE]

DATHANIEL:

...is actually a giant diesel turbine housing; one of the three largest in the world...

- - -

KAREN TWOFEATHER:

For 30 years the malleable Pettit Brothers brand had been stretched in so many directions the show bared little resemblance to its original concept.

By 1992, the Brothercast imprint still represented a significant revenue stream for NBC radio, however the network was moving to focus its radio content exclusively on hard news and sports coverage.

The managing team at Pettitshire Studios now commanded sufficient infrastructure to strike out on their own, and in February 1993 were granted independence as a stand-alone media entity.

Now freed from contractual ties, A&D HyperBrothers was formed to distribute the Brothercast's original content globally.

At last the team was free to create the content that they chose, without being beholden to the oversight of network heads and studio executives, with no vested interest in the integrity of the brand.

Pettitshire officials felt it was time to refocus the Brothercast...

VR BROS.

ANTHONIO:

Welcome back to VR Bros. dudes! We're taking an exclusive look at one of the hottest, most anticipated CD-ROMs or the year.

DATHANIEL:

That's right, Antonio. Today we're totally checking out the extreme new "Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing 3".

[MEANINGLESS '90S INTERSTITIAL SOUND EFFECTS]

This action-packed typer has EVERYTHING a dude could want.

Drills, mind-bending classroom exercises, plus plenty of the intense, action-packed, white-knuckle gaming thrills that you've come to expect from Broderbund!

ANTHONIO:

Awesome! This is the latest in the Mavis Beacon series, and if it's anything like the last version it's looking like we've got another hit on our hands! Dathaniel?

[MORE STUPID '90S INTERSTITIAL SOUND EFFECTS]

DATHANIEL:

Alright, now in this outrageous game, I've got to keep up my words-per-minute to keep up with the other racers; one wrong key and

[RIDICULOUS FAILURE SOUND EFFECT]

DATHANIEL:

It's GAME OVER!

[NOT TRUE]

ANTHONIO:

Level two is all about INSANE classic works of fiction

[WOBBLES SIDEWAYS; CROSSES ARMS SMUGLY]

DATHANIEL:

Outrageous!

ANTHONIO:

Here's a tip for the totally bodacious, totally challenging, "East of Eden" - Page 19...

DATHANIEL:

Alright, dudes, now this one's got a lot of short sentences, but you're not going to need to type a period after each one...

ANTHONIO:

Keep an eye out for em-dashes: that's two hyphens typed one after the other. You'll need to make sure you type every one to get a perfect score, and don't forget those semi-colons!

DATHANIEL:

Next up, it's the Typing Grand Prix, where you match wits against cunning computer drivers.

ANTHONIO:

Whoa! Radical!

Almost to the finish line, brother! Yesssss!

[EVEN MORE STUPID '90S INTERSTITIAL SOUND EFFECTS]

Mavis Beacon Version 3 requires a Pentium Multimedia PC with 4 megabytes of RAM.

DATHANIEL:

I can't wait! Look for it to hit the shelves in December at Babbages and Software Etc.

ANTHONIO:

Coming up next, dudes...

[CARMEN SANDIEGO PRIMITIVE SOUND EFFECTS OVER RAD '90S MUSIC]

Carmen Sandiego is at it again, and this time Her and the henchmen of V.I.L.E. are causing trouble in America's Midwest.

DATHANIEL:

Don't forget! You can connect to us in cyber space on the information superhighway at CompuServe address 770915.0507@compuserv.com

- - -

KAREN TWOFEATHER:

"VR Bros." Was intended to engage a younger audience, while retaining an emphasis on education in as a tribute to James Backus' original vision.

The listenership of VR Bros were often also early adopters of networked social channels. Lively discussions purportedly took place following each broadcast, on community dial-up bulletin board services and online chat rooms." to take advantage of nascent streaming audio technology.

Initially producers had hoped for "anthonioanddathaniel.com", however a long time Brothercast foil, and infamous domain squatter Julia Child, hoping yet again to capitalize on the success of the Brothercast, had beat them to the punch.

FINAL HATE-FILLED JULIA CHILD INTERVIEW

JULIA CHILD:

As soon as those dummies started sniffing around the web, I saw an opportunity to piss in their f*****g, smug mouths! AnthonioandDathaniel.net was a mother*****g guaranteed cash-cow, and we all know I'm famous for making BEOUF BOURGINION, if you catch my drift.

And if there was one more way that I could jam a knife into those two flimsy imbeciles, all the better!

- - -

KAREN TWOFEATHER:

A&D Hyperbrothers took the matter to court, attempting to demonstrate that the URL's current holder was occupying the domain for purely predatory reasons, however, this effort would ultimately fail.

This case represented the United States' first instance of internet domain litigation. The case would be one of the costliest in U.S. history, costing taxpayers an estimated 1.3 billion dollars, and Child her life...

She would pass on shortly after the trial's conclusion, just shy of her 92nd birthday.

Le Cordon Bleu School posthumously stripped her of her scholastic honors, as a show of deference to the many years of slander to which Child had subjected the Brothercast. According to her nephew, and personal lawyer, Child's reported last words were:

"From hell's heart, I stab at thee!" presumably directed at the Brothercast.

A&D Hyperbrothers would declare bankruptcy as a result of the lengthy court battle, and ownership of the Pettitshire assets would be put up for sale

A group of venture capitalists in the Pacific Northwest recognized the value of the Pettitshire brand; throughout the trial, VR Bros., now in its fifth year of production, had continued to draw a sizable audience, particularly on the internet.

By 1998, the Brothercast's online audience exceeded the total listenership of their radio broadcasts, and the investment group, seeing an opportunity to pioneer a new paradigm in media, decided to switch to an entirely web-based distribution model. Pettitshire Studios was moved to Seattle, Washington, and the webcast known as "The Pettit Bros. Brothercast" was born.

MODERN PETTIT BROS. BROTHERCAST CLIP

DATHANIEL:

...Technically because the horse that I was riding on belonged to the ambassador, I ... counted as being on foreign soil.

ANTHONIO:

Oh! So... Oh Really? So were able to get off scot free because basically, it was not on American turf?

DATHANIEL:

Yeah, I only spent one night in jail total; that's exactly right.

And luckily my lawyer, John Pierson knew all these obscure details, which, I guess that's his job; how much does a horse lawyer have to memorize?

ANTHONIO:

Right! Well apparently you have to know all of the weird obscure horse laws and regulations which exist in the United States, this being a classic example. And good for you cause you managed to get off!

DATHANIEL:

Yeah, no, I know! He was well worth the money!

ANTHONIO:

Uh, yeah...

DATHANIEL:

I don't think this even will go on my record. I think that the whole incident was expunged and I pretty much just get off scot free. I mean the mayor's car is still destroyed and I am sure that he's; I'm not going to be welcome at the...

ANTHONIO:

I feel bad for the mayor's car!

DATHANIEL:

I do too! Actually that's the funny thing! You're sitting in the courtroom and you're not allowed to admit culpability. But in my heart...

ANTHONIO:

When it comes right down to it, you did drive a horse over a man's car; shatter both the windshield and the back window, and somehow that's not YOUR fault...

DATHANIEL:

We're talking about thousands of dollars of damage! And it wasn't my intention, I'm just not a very good horse, whatever, pilot...

It was a nice car, I don't know if you saw the pictures, but it's like a \$100,000 car; it's a high-end vehicle.

ANTHONIO:

Well the real question I have, is because this is basically foreign soil that you're on, does this count as an attack against the United States?

DATHANIEL:

Well no, on the one hand I can't be prosecuted because I'm on foreign soil, and the other half of it is that since the horse is a sapient thing, I'm not totally responsible for its actions.

ANTHONIO:

[LAUGHING INCREDULOUSLY]

It's the horses fault! I was just riding on its back!

DATHANIEL:

Well, assumedly the statutes originally were laid down because of something... Kids having horse rides at parties in the 1800s of something...

You know, hey, if I'm benefitting from them, more power to them I say!

ANTHONIO:

Well the system works! I guess that's all I can say...

DATHANIEL:

The system works... I'm a fan!

- - -

KAREN TWOFEATHER:

Producers also took the opportunity to introduce a third, eldest Pettit Brother, known as Christopheles, who occasionally joined Antonio and Dathaniel on adventures.

As it turned out, Antonio.net was and had been available, and producers quickly snatched it up. It remains the host of the Brothercast to this day.

- - -

With 1000 episodes, and 37 actors representing the roles of Antonio and Dathaniel throughout the years, it's rare to find someone whose life hasn't been impacted in some way, by the Brothercast.

Two generations have never known a time when the Brothercast was off the air for more than a few months at a stretch.

Currently the Brothercast is beamed to close to 100 million listeners in over 13 and a half countries.

Having embraced every genre from a staple of children's educational programming, to a gritty drive time "prime grime" crime solving drama, and everything in between, the Brothercast has become a pillar of American broadcasting.

What will the future hold for the Pettit Brothers? We don't know, but if the past 50 years are any indication, we can look forward to much more exceptional programming in the years ahead.

KAREN TWOFEATHER:

For the Pettit Bros. Brothercast, I've been Karen Twofeather,
CHARLES VAMNCE:

And I was Charles Vamnce. Thank you for joining us on this
incredible journey

KAREN TWOFEATHER:

In the immortal words of the Pettit Brothers, "Wishing you the
best of the week..."

CHARLES VAMNCE:

"And a safe return to us next time."

[MUSICAL MOTIF SWELLS]