

ROY ROGERS

“Missing Atomic Scientist”

Original broadcast date not known, but probably in 1953

CAST

Announcer
Roy Rogers
Dale Evans
Julia Sanders
Pat Brady
Forbes
Sentry
Professor Braun (German accent)
Soldier
Doctor Cummings

Music: Fanfare

Announcer: It's the Roy Rogers radio show.

Music: Repeat fanfare

Announcer: Yes folks, it's the Roy Rogers radio show for the whole family. Adventure!

Music: Sting

Announcer: Romance!

Music: Sting

Announcer: Mystery!

Music: Sting

Announcer: And music! Starring Roy Rogers, King of the Cowboys and Dale Evans, Queen of the West. With Pat Brady, the Mellow Men and an all-star cast. And now, here to greet with a song and a story are Roy and Dale.

Roy & Dale: Sing opening eight bars of "Far Away Places"

Music: Instrumental of song continues under for—

Roy: Well, good evening, folks. Greetings again to the whole family. Our song tonight is about far away places and so is our story. It's a very unusual story and one we really can't explain. But we thought you might enjoy hearing it and then maybe draw your own conclusions and arrive at your own explanations for the mysterious series of events that took place when we visited Paul and Julia Sanders a few months ago. We'd been down to El Paso on a personal appearance engagement and Paul was a scientist at the atomic research center about 30 miles outside of town. Paul and Julia had been friends of ours for many years so of course when they invited us to spend a few days with them we accepted. They lived in a rented house in El Paso because Julia wasn't allowed inside the atomic center. The night we arrived she told us that Paul had spent the previous night and all that day at the center but that she expected him home shortly.

Music: Out

Julia: Its so good to have you here. Paul ought to be along any minute.
Dale: Its good to be here, Julia.

Roy: We've sure been looking forward to it.

Pat: Boy I'll say. (Slight laugh) What's that I smell cookin'?

SFX: Door bell rings

Julia: Oh that's probably Paul now. Excuse me.

SFX: Footsteps. Door opens.

Julia: Yes?

Forbes: Mrs. Sanders?

Julia: (Concerned) Yes?

Forbes: I'm Forbes from the bureau in Washington. This is my identification.

Julia: Oh. Well, yes, please come in.

SGX: A few footsteps followed by door closing

Forbes: Is your husband here, Mrs. Sanders?

Julia: No. But I expect him shortly. Is there anything I can do?

Forbes: When did you see him last, Mrs. Sanders?

Julia: Well, yesterday morning when he went to work. He didn't come last night. He phoned and said he'd spend the night at the center. He does that sometimes.

Forbes: Yes, I know. You're sure you haven't seen or heard from him in the past few hours?

Julia: What is it, Mr. Forbes? Has something happened to Paul?

Forbes: We don't know, Mrs. Sanders. We really don't know much of anything. Except that your husband seems to have disappeared.

Music: Sting and then segue.

Forbes: I'm glad to meet you Mr. Rogers, Miss Evans, Mr. Brady.
Everyone: (Greetings all around)

Forbes: Mr. Rogers, this might be a very fortunate coincidence, your being here. Perhaps you can help.

Roy: We'll be glad to do anything we can, Mr. Forbes.

Julia: When did you first discover that Paul was gone.

Forbes: About 7 o'clock this morning.

Julia: Its almost supper time. Why haven't you let me know before this?

Forbes: We've been searching the grounds and buildings of the center. It's a large place you know. We wanted to be sure, absolutely sure that he was missing.

Dale: Julia, did Paul drive his car to the center yesterday?

Julia: Yes.

Dale: Well, that might be a lead, Mr. Forbes. Try looking for the car.

Forbes: We know where the car is, Miss Evans.

Roy: Where?

Forbes: In the parking lot inside the center.

Dale: Oh. Well, then, Paul didn't leave the center in the car.

Forbes: Miss Evans, getting in and out of an atomic research center is as hard as getting into the White House without a pass. There are three check points that everyone must pass through. Paul Sanders checked in at 8:30 am yesterday morning. He was not checked out.

Pat: Well, gee whiz. Gosh all hemlock. That makes it pretty simple. He must still be there.

Forbes: Yeah, but he isn't.

Dale: But Mr. Forbes, isn't it possible that he could have left some other way? Besides going through the check points, I mean.

Forbes: I don't see how. The entire area is surrounded by a fence over 15 feet high and patrolled by armed guards. The fence is charged with electricity. Anyone who touches it would be instantly killed. Frankly, we're up against a blank wall. Paul isn't inside the center but we can't understand how he could have gotten out. Mr. Rogers, would you care to come over to the center and have a look around? Maybe a fresh mind on this – well, perhaps you'll notice something I've overlooked.

Roy: Sure, Mr. Forbes. I'll be glad to.

Forbes: Good. I'll leave a pass for you at the outer gate. Suppose you meet me in my office tomorrow morning?

Music: Mysterious segue

SFX: Footsteps on gravel

Sentry: May I see your pass, sir?

Roy: Sure.

Sentry: Alright, Mr. Rogers. You may enter the radiation detection area. If your clothes or any thing on or about you is radioactive, an alarm will sound. Walk straight ahead, sir. After you pass through the radiation lock you'll see Mr. Forbes office on your left.

Roy: Thanks you.

SFX: Foot steps in gravel, then changing to footsteps on board.

Braun: Mein herr. You are Rogers, yes?

Roy: Yes.

Braun: I am Professor Braun. Mr. Forbes told me you were coming here, Rogers. I'll be your escort.

Roy: Well, thank you. Thank you.

SFX: Footsteps continue for several seconds, then door opens and closes.

Forbes: Good morning, Roy. Professor.

Roy: Good morning, Mr. Forbes.

Forbes: Sit down. I've asked Professor Braun to take you around the center, Roy. Show you the room he shared with Paul. Sanders personal belongings are still there.

Roy: Personal belongings? But I understood that Paul only stayed here overnight occasionally.

Forbes: Yes, that's right.

Roy: Well, what do you mean by his personal belongings?

Braun: When Paul Sanders disappeared, Mr. Rogers, he was wearing his pajamas his best robe and his slippers. The rest of his things are still in the room.

Music: Sting and segue.

SFX: Footsteps –several steps and then they stop

Braun: As you can see the room is padlocked. This was done by security as soon as I discovered that Paul was gone.

SFX: (Under prior line) Key in lock, then door opens. Footsteps into room.

Roy: And, uh, when was that, professor?

Braun: Yesterday morning, about 7 o'clock. When I awoke he was gone.

Roy: You mean to say that you were in the room all night with him and he left without disturbing you?

Braun: Since I am now an American citizen, Herr Rogers, I sleep very soundly. Ja, ja, 'tis true. Paul simply put on his best robe and his slippers and walked out. He made no noise. At least not enough noise to waken me. Ah, this is the closet.

SFX: A few footsteps and door opens.

Braun: You see his suit, topcoat, shoes, socks, underwear. And here on the dresser his billfold, wrist watch, car keys and identification.

Roy: I see. But, ah, say, what's this piece of rock on the desk?

Braun: Must have belonged to Paul. Perhaps a paper weight?

Roy: Hmm. Funny looking thing, isn't it.

SFX: Rock dropping.

Roy: Oh, ah. Hey! Its sure heavier than it looks, isn't it?

Braun: Ja, ja, it seems to be very dense. Perhaps one of Paul's experiements.

Roy: I see.

Braun: Well, I think that covers about everything in here. Now I wish to show you the outer area and the security which we...

Roy: Professor.

Braun: Ja?

Roy: Have you got any theory about Paul's disappearance?

Braun: Ja, herr Rogers. I have a theory.

Roy: What?

Braun: No one would believe me. It, ah, it is too fantastic.

Roy: Try me.

Braun: Well, you have been told that there is no way for a man to leave this center without passing through the check point. But this is not strictly true. Theoretically there is a way. One way.

Roy: Really? How?

Braun: By going up, herr Rogers. Straight up.

Music: Segue

Dale: (Filtered) Hello.

Forbes: One moment please. Here you are Roy, she's on the phone.

Roy: Thank you. Hello Dale.

Dale: Roy. Have you found out anything?

Roy: No. Not really, Dale. I'm just on my way out of the center. I'll be there in about half an hour. How's Julia?

Dale: Well, she's very upset, Roy. Didn't you learn anything?

Roy: I'm afraid not, Dale. Is Julia there?

Dale: No. She went for a walk over to Davis Park. Why?

Roy: Nothing. I, ah, I'll tell you when I get there.

Dale: Alright Roy. See ya later.

Roy: Bye.

SFX: Phone hangs up.

Roy: Julia went for a walk over to Davis Park.

Forbes: I see. Roy, I think I'd better have her watched.

Roy: Why don't you let me talk to her first.

Forbes: Well, OK. But I'm sure you realize how serious this is. From many angles. Paul was working on a top secret project. He must have found a way to leave the center without being seen and he must have had a reason not to take his clothes and personal effects with him. Gotta find out how he left and why. I'm sure he'll contact his wife sooner or later – he's very much in love with her.

Roy: Yes, I know. I'll question her.

Forbes: Good. I hate to think this of Paul Sanders. He was cleared by security right down the line. But, well – there's always a chance – well, it's a terrible thing to say but...

Roy: You mean there's a chance that he turned traitor? Went over to the other side.

Forbes: It's a possibility.

Roy: There's another possibility, too.

Forbes: It's possible that Paul Sanders is dead.

Music: Segue

SFX: Footsteps for a few seconds

Forbes: Ok, Roy, here's the detection lock straight ahead. You can find your way from here.

Roy: Sure. Thanks. I'll call ya in the morning after I've talked to Julia.

Forbes: Good. So long.

Roy: Bye.

SFX: Footsteps for a few seconds. Then alarm sounds.

Roy: What in the...?

Soldier: (Off) Stay where you are, Mr. Rogers. Don't move.

SFX: Running footsteps. Then alarm stops.

Forbes: (Off) What is it soldier? What's the matter?

Soldier: Its Mr. Rogers, sir. He's been contaminated by radiation.

Forbes: Don't be alarmed, Roy. Rush him to the decontamination room at once.

Soldier: Yes sir.

SFX: Footsteps under next exchange

Soldier: Don't worry, Mr. Rogers. We'll have you fixed up in a jiffy.

Roy: Well I can't understand it. I...

Soldier: What, sir?

Roy: Well, how could I be radioactive? I didn't touch anything.

Soldier: Well, sir, sometimes...

SFX: Footsteps stop

Roy: Wait a minute! I did touch something.

Soldier: What was that, sir?

Roy: A small paperweight. A small, heavy paperweight.

Music: Segue

Dale: Roy, thank heaven you're back.

Roy: What's the matter?

Pat: Oh, it's Julia, Roy. She ain't showed up, yet.

Dale: Roy, I'm worried. She was so upset when she left.

Roy: Hmm. Well, maybe we'd better drive over to the park and have a look around.

SFX: Door opens

Julia: Hi, everybody.

All: (Greeting Julia)

Julia: Sorry if I worried you. The night was so beautiful and clear I just couldn't stop walking.

Roy: Julia, you shouldn't be wandering around by yourself. Frankly, Mr. Forbes is very suspicious.

Julia: Suspicious?

Roy: Yes. He's even thinking about having you watched.

Julia: Oh. Well, ah, why?

Roy: Well, there's something very mysterious about Paul's disappearance. They way he disappeared and why. Forbes thinks that Paul may contact you.

Julia: I see. Well, he's right.

All: (What? What do you mean? You've talked to Paul?)

Julia: I haven't told you the whole truth. I haven't just been walking.

Roy: Did you see Paul tonight?

Julia: No. No, I didn't see Paul but I – I saw a friend of his. He told me that Paul is safe and well and as soon as possible I'll be able to join him.

Dale: Join him?

Roy: Where?

Julia: Up there. Up there. On one of those planets. (Pause) You don't believe me, do you. You don't believe any of it.

Roy: Alright, Julia. Now take it easy and tell us about it again. Are you saying a space ship landed in the park and this–this man came up to you...

Julia: Yes. Well, I guess he was a man. He was wearing a heavy suit that covered him from head to foot. But he must have been a man because I understood what he said.

Dale: What did he sound like, dear?

Julia: Sound like? Well – now that I think of it I don't believe he spoke at all. Not really spoke. But I – I could hear him.

Dale: Julia, you're upset. This disappearance of Paul's is...

Julia: (Defensively) I'm not crazy. I'm not upset and I'm not losing my mind. I didn't imagine it. I didn't.

Dale: Alright dear.

Julia: Paul is safe and well and I'm going to join him. And he said so.

Roy: Did he say when you could join Paul?

Julia: No. Just for me to be ready at any time.

Roy: Well – I suppose its possible.

Julia: Possible? Oh of course its possible. I'm surprised at you.

SFX: A few footsteps, then phone pick up and dial under the following--

Dale: Who are you calling Roy?

Roy: Mr. Forbes. I think I should tell him something.

Julia: Oh, you're wasting your breath, Roy. He'll never believe my story.

Roy: Hello? Mr. Forbes? This is Roy Rogers. Uh–no, no, I'm fine. The decontamination boys took care of everything. No, she's back now. Yes. Yes, I've talked to her. Well, the first thing I think you should do is have that paperweight analyzed. The paperweight on Paul's desk in his room. Yes, I do. I think you might find it very interesting.

Music: Segue

Forbes: Another planet, huh. Well that's quite a story. I think we better have Mrs. Sanders put under observation at once.

Roy: Well, she said you wouldn't believe her.

Forbes: Roy, I'm a practical man. I have to be. It would be so easy to accept this fantastic explanation and let it go at that. But...

SFX: Door opens, footsteps enter under next line—

Braun: Guten dag, herr Rogers, Forbes.

Forbes: Come in, professor. Roy has just told me a fantastic story.

Braun: Oh, really?

Forbes: Mrs. Sanders claims to have seen a space ship and a man from space. She says that Paul Sanders is on another planet and she's going to join him.

Braun: I see. And do you believe this story, herr Rogers?

Roy: Well, I don't completely doubt it. I think it's possible.

Braun: Good. You're a very smart man, herr Rogers.

Forbes: Now wait professor, don't tell me you believe it?

Braun: I have had this theory for some time now, herr Forbes. Why is the whole idea so impossible for you to accept? Our government is spending millions of dollars a year investigating, photographing and pursuing – or trying to – what they have chosen to call U - F - Os. Unidentified flying objects. During the past years many persons have mysteriously from the face of the earth never to be seen again.

Forbes: And you actually believe that these people were taken to another planet?

Braun: Some of them, perhaps. As I said before, it is not impossible.

Forbes: You stick to your theory and I'll stick to mine. The first thing I'm going to do is put a 24-hour watch on Julia Sanders.

Braun: I have another suggestions, herr Forbes, before you waste your time.

Forbes: Yes.

Braun: Why don't you give Mrs. Sanders a lie detector test.

Music: Segue

Dale: Julia, dear, you understand that you do not have to submit to this test unless you want to.

Julia: Yes. I understand.

Roy: And from what I've been told the results may or may not be satisfactory.

SFX: Door opens off

Doctor: (Off) We're all ready if you are.

Julia: All right doctor.

Dale: We'll wait right here, Julia. Now try to keep calm, will you.

Julia: Don't you worry, Dale. I'm not afraid. Not in the least.

SFX: Footsteps walk off, then door closes

Doctor: Just lie down there, Mrs. Sanders. These wires will burn or cause any sensation at all. (Pause)

SFX: In background throughout this scene there is a buzzing noise—probably done with a Theramin.

Doctor: There now, are you comfortable?

Julia: Yes. Quite comfortable, thank you.

Doctor: Very well, then. Your name is Julia Sanders?

Julia: Yes.

SFX: Pen scratch on paper

Doctor: You live in El Paso?

Julia: Yes.

SFX: Pen scratch

Doctor: You recently were contacted by a man in a machine from outer space?

Julia: Yes.

SFX: Pen scratch and Theramin goes wa-wa.

Music: Segue

Dale: How much longer will it be, Roy?

Roy: I don't know, Dale. The Doctor said the test will take about an hour.

Pat: Well, she's been in there over an hour now.

Dale: Will the doctor know the results right away?

Roy: As I understand it he'll have a pretty good idea if Julia's not telling the truth. If she is, he'll probably have to study the charts more carefully.

SFX: Door opens, footsteps enter room.

Dale: There's the Doctor, Roy.

Roy: Is the test over, Doctor?

Doctor: Yes, Mr. Rogers, it is.

Dale: Do you know yet whether she was telling the truth?

Doctor: Yes. Yes, Miss Evans, I do. Mrs. Sanders was not telling the truth.

Music: Segue

Dale: Roy, have you seen Julia this morning?

Roy: No. She's probably sleeping late.

SFX: Phone rings

Dale: Maybe you'd better answer it, Roy. Julia probably needs her sleep.

Roy: OK.

SFX: Footsteps over to phone. Phone picks up.

Roy: Hello.

Doctor: (Filtered) This is Doctor Cummings. Mr. Rogers. I – I thought I’d better tell you immediately.

Roy: Yes. What is it, Doctor?

Doctor: Well, its very embarrassing thing, but, well, the test I gave Mrs. Sanders yesterday...

Roy: Yes?

Doctor: It wasn’t at all conclusive. I discovered an error in the machine this morning. I think she deserves to be given another test.

Roy: I see. Well, Doctor, I’ll have to ask Mrs. Sanders if she wishes to do it again. We’ll let you know.

Doctor: Well thank you, Mr. Rogers. And I’m very sorry.

SFX: Phone hangs up

Dale: (From next room) Roy! Roy, come here. Roy.

SFX: Footsteps hurrying to next room

Roy: What is it, Dale?

Dale: Roy, look, this note. It was on Julia’s dresser. I went in to see if she was all right and...

Roy: “Dear Roy and Dale. Thank you so much for being on my side. I’ll never forget you. You won’t ever see me again as I received word that I am to join Paul tonight. Love, Julia”

SFX: Footsteps running in

Pat: (Entering) Hey, Roy! Look here what it says in the morning paper. “Giant flying saucer seen holding over Davis Park. Visitor from space described in detail by an observer. “ Well, what’s the matter? What are you all looking at me like that, for?

SFX: Phone rings, footsteps go to it, phone picks up

Roy: Hello.

Forbes: Roy, this is Forbes.

Roy: Hello. I was just going to call you.

Forbes: Oh?

Roy: Its Julia. She's gone and she left a note.

Forbes: What did it say?

Roy: She said she was joining Paul. She said that the man space would come for her last night. Pat just read an article in the paper that would...

Forbes: Yes, I know. I've got something to tell you.

Roy: Yes?

Forbes: I took your advice and had that piece of radio active rock analyzed. The one that Paul used for a paper weight. The thing you were contaminated with.

Roy: Yes.

Forbes: I just got the report.

Roy: I see. Well, what is it made out of?

Forbes: I'll read you the findings. "This substance is composed of no ore, metal or combination of ores or metals known to exist on the face of the Earth."

Music: Sting, then play out.

Roy: Well, folks, that's our story for tonight. A strange story that really can't explained. A story about places much farther away than in our song.

Roy & Dale: Sing "Far Away Places"

Music: Western music starts and plays under for--

Announcer: The Roy Rogers show is presented each week at this time.

Music: Plays to out.