DAYS OF YESTERYEAR
A RETROSPECT OF THE PORTRAYERS OF

THE LONE RANGER

AND

TONTO

With a Special Look at the VERY FIRST EVER Silver Bullet Newsletter
The Early Years on Radio

During the month of January 1933, early test broadcasts were conducted at WEBR of Buffalo, NY in which John L. Barrett provided the voice of the masked rider. Fran Striker was the creator and writer of The Lone Ranger and the program director of the station. The series was picked up by WXYZ of Detroit, MI and began broadcasting on January 31, 1933.

George Stenius voiced the Lone Ranger from then until May 9, 1933 when he left the station. Afterward, series director James Jewell and actor Lee Trent, known by the pseudonym "Jack Deeds", (for one episode each).

Earle Graser was one of five actors who auditioned to take over the role of the Lone Ranger. From May 16, 1933 (broadcast #46) until his death in an automobile crash on April 8, 1941, Graser was chosen to play the part of The Lone Ranger and had two understudies ready to play his part, but he never missed a performance.

Three times a week, he was heard on 150 stations of the Mutual Network and on scores of independent radio stations. Each show was performed three times for live broadcasts to different time zones. Beginning in 1938, the third performance was recorded on transcription disk for stations that were not connected to the network. The creators of the Lone Ranger program decided that the Lone Ranger must remain a mystery. Graser was required to restrict his radio acting to the role of the Lone Ranger and his identity was kept secret from the general public.

On February 25, 1933, on the twelfth show, veteran character actor, John Todd was cast in the role of Tonto, initially, just to give the Lone Ranger someone to talk to. Mr. Todd would play this role for the life of the Lone Ranger radio broadcasts.
The Republic Serials

In the years of 1938 and 1939, Republic released two serials of the Lone Ranger. The first (The Lone Ranger) starred Lee Powell as the Lone Ranger. This was the first time that The Lone Ranger was seen on film. The first serial was released on February 12, 1938.

In a November 22, 1937 contract for Lee Powell to play role of Allan King/The Lone Ranger, his salary was $100 per week by producer E.H. Goldstein.

Also worthy of noting, the voice of the Lone Ranger when calling “Hi-Yo, Silver” was the voice of Earle Graser who was TLR on the radio. The deep baritone of the Ranger was that of Billy Bletcher for both serials.

Chief Thundercloud portrayed the role of Tonto in both serials. He was born Victor Daniels and was a Native American from the Muskogee tribe. Most information on him is vague. He passed away in 1955.

Robert Livingston portrayed TLR for the sequel serial entitled, “The Lone Ranger Rides Again”. It was released on February 25, 1939 after the profitable success of its predecessor. Republic’s choice to unmask the hero for most of it’s sequel chapters did not set well with Mr. Trendle. He would ultimately dissolve relations after the second serial.
The Legends

Upon Earle Graser’s untimely death in 1941, WXYZ gave the role of TLR to Brace Beemer who embodied the character. It was in this decade that TLR would ride into legend. During the 1940’s and 50’s, TLR’s popularity skyrocketed to its all time height. Everyone alive knew of The Lone Ranger and Tonto. In 1949, he took to the next airwave with a television series that starred Clayton Moore and Jay Silverheels as TLR and Tonto. Public appearances by Mr. Beemer and Mr. Moore secured sponsorship by Merita Bread, Bond Bread, and General Mills to name a few. Toys, trading cards, posters, signs, comic books, coloring books, and many more items made The Lone Ranger a highly collectable and highly marketable character. The TV series ran until 1957 with two full length motion pictures in 1956 and 1958.
The Ventures

John Hart replaced Clayton Moore for 52 episodes in 1952 after Mr. Moore was fired over a pay dispute. Mr. Hart’s portrayal was not received well by TLR fans and Mr. Moore was brought back after the acquisition of the property by Jack Wrather in 1954. This took TLR to the silver screen in his first feature film and fans saw TLR and Tonto in living color for the first time.

An attempt was made in 1961 by CBS to do a sequel TV series of TLR starring Tex Hill as TLR. Unfortunately, this venture never made it past the pilot stage.

Again, in 1981, an attempt was made to reignite the fires of the Lone Ranger fans with a feature film by Jack Wrather entitled “The Legend of the Lone Ranger”. This effort was not received well by fans or critics. The fans did not appreciate Mr. Wrather forcing Clayton Moore by court order to discontinue wearing the mask and making public appearances under the Lone Ranger name. Critics did not receive it well because of this treatment and it was released May 22, 1981 to disastrous reception. The Lone Ranger was played by Klinton Spilsbury in his debut and final role with Michael Horse portraying Tonto. Mr. Spilsbury disappeared from the public eye having taken blame for the flop.
The Animated Ranger

In 1966, an animated series was created with The Lone Ranger's voice provided by Michael Rye (real name, John Michael Riorden Billsbury) from Chicago, IL, and Shepard Menken, from New York, NY, provided that of Tonto. The animated series ran for 26 episodes from September 10, 1966 to September 6, 1969.

In the 1980 animated series, William Conrad, from Louisville, Ky, (billed as J. Darnoc) voiced the hero as well as the narrator. Tonto was voiced by Ivan Naranjo, a Blackfoot/Southern Ute Native American from Colorado. The series ran for 16 episodes on CBS as part of “The Tarzan/Lone Ranger Adventure Hour” and later as “The Tarzan/Lone Ranger/Zorro Adventure Hour from September 13, 1980 to January 24, 1981.
Modern Rangers

On August, 21, 2003, Warner Bros. released a “made for TV” movie entitled, simply, “The Lone Ranger”. This version takes a look at the character in the years before he became a legend. It all begins with the introduction of Luke Hartman, a 20-year old Boston law student who witnesses the murder of his brother, a Texas Ranger. He himself is wounded in the midst of the chaos, but is rescued by the Apache Tonto... and subsequently becomes smitten with Tonto's sister Alope. He then devotes his life to avenging the death of his brother and fighting injustice, and in the process becoming a worldwide legend. Chad Michael Murray, originally from Buffalo, NY, of Dawson’s Creek fame portrayed TLR and Nathaniel Arcand, a Nēhilawē (Plains Cree), from the Alexander First Nation Reserve in Alberta Canada, portrayed Tonto.

More recently, released on July 3, 2013 in the US, “The Lone Ranger” starring Armie Hammer as TLR and Johnny Depp as Tonto. It was the first theatrical film featuring the Lone Ranger and Tonto in 32 years. It received mixed to negative reviews in the US and mixed to positive reviews around the world. Ultimately, it bombed at the box office with production and marketing costs exceeding its total gross.

Armie Hammer is originally from Los Angeles, CA and Johnny Depp hails from Owensboro, KY.
Letter From the Editor:

I’m sure that most of you know that from the creation of the Lone Ranger until now, it has been over 80 years. There are limited resources from which to ciphon information. Tex and I are trying every way in the world to bring you a newsletter that not only informs but, also, entertains. Graphics, pictures, text effects, and new interviews, I hope, makes this possible. We are committed to providing you, as members, with the best we have to offer. I would encourage any members with new ideas for articles to email Tex Holland (info@thelonerangerfanclub.com) with these or anything else you would like to see here.

As a special feature in this month’s Silver Bullet, I have chosen to include scans of the first ever Silver Bullet newsletter courtesy of Daniel O’Neill (#60). Thank you, Daniel, for sending these to me for historical purposes and to show me how far this publication has came over the course of 26 years.

To the readers of this publication and the members of the Lone Ranger Fan Club, I would like to say, “Thank you” on behalf of Tex, Garry, and everyone who makes the fan club possible. It is YOU who are at the forefront of what we do. Again, “THANK YOU!” and HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!

All of you have a story….a history....possibly of meeting Clayton Moore or someone else in the Lone Ranger universe. I have made more memories since volunteering to do this publication than I had before. I got the chance to communicate with Dawn Moore. I would have never thought that possible. I, also, got the chance to communicate with Nathaniel Arcand, who was Tonto in the 2003 WB TV movie. This Q and A will be included in the next Silver Bullet.

With Deep Appreciation and Gratitude,

Greg Champy
To all my Lone Ranger enthusiasts:

A short time ago I ran an ad in the "Comic Buyers Guide" and asked for S1 to help pay for the next two Lone Ranger newsletters. The results of that ad was four requests for the letter. If you were not one of those four and you are enjoying this letter please send S1 and let me know there is some additional interest out there. This "Silver Bullet" is for you.

Although the Lone Ranger has been my favorite cowboy hero as long as I can remember I do not know all the history available of our masked hero. I'm going to try and pass information, both old and new around as I discover it.

My major intent in writing this newsletter is to organize Lone Ranger and Tonto enthusiasts in a trading and collecting group-for fun and for information gathering. I'm also not well versed in copyright laws, but hope to learn. If anyone sees a problem please let me know.

I'd like to list addresses in my letters for trades, swaps, sells and correspondence. Is there interest? Your names have come to me through your own interest in the Lone Ranger and its related field.

A large part of my collection has been organized with the use of Lee J. Felbinger's Hi Yo Silver Away-Lone Ranger Pictorial Scrapbook, published in 1979 by Country side Advertising, Badman Rd., Green Lane, Pa. 18089. It used to be available at $3.95 + .25 postage and handling, from the author, and may still be. Is it Lee?

A few great finds came into my collection this past year at almost no cost.

Clayton Moore, our Lone Ranger, has been doing some A1000 gasoline advertising and the midwest is going full swing with "Hi Ho Silver: He Got the Lead Out" ads and "Hi Yo Silverrrr Giveaway". I have added to my collection two large plastic signs 32" x 42" picturing Clayton Moore-you can see some resemblance as the Lone Ranger waving to all from his Silver Jeep (I liked him better on a horse). There are colorful posters available in stiff and soft plastic, but not much detail. I found two different pin backs, but was only able to put one in my collection as well as a few tickets from gas purchases, (these were needed to enter the "Hi Yo Silver Giveaway" from which a silver jeep could be won). At this writing I am still waiting to hear if I won the jeep. I'd recommend making friends with your A1000 dealers. I sure met some nice folks.

(1)
Another interesting item is a Red Cross poster encouraging people to give blood. The posters are 11"x17" and depict the Lone Ranger and Tonto astride Silver and Scout with cute little hearts on their chests saying "Be nice to me-I gave blood today". By posters came from the Red Cross Center in Roseburg, OR, but are mailed Via Pacific NW Regional Blood Service, 3111 N. Vancouver Ave., Portland, OR 97203. (503) 234-1234. Maybe a dollar or two would help with the postage.

Some prices realized this past summer are:
Lone Ranger and Tonto blanket, wool 60"x66"--$200
Lone Ranger Frontier Village, almost complete--$350
Lone Ranger wrist watch w/box--$350 1938
Lone Ranger wrist watch--$300

The Hartlands which Ron and Bridget Fugate sell from their home at 4600 Moore Road, Middletown, Ohio 45042, run about $75-$150, depending on condition and style. I could continue, but want to save something for my next letter.

I thought I might add this list of Big Little Books in case you don't have it:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1151</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and his Horse Silver (1935)</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1156</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and the Vanishing Herd (1936)</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1407</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and Dead Men's Mine (1939)</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1421</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger on the Barbary Coast (1912)</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1422</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and the Secret Weapon (1913)</td>
<td>$6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1431</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and the Secret Killer (1937)</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1450</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and Black Shirt Highwayman (1939)</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1465</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and the Penace of Murder Valley (1930)</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1468</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger Follows Through (1941)</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1477</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and the Great Western Spur (1942)</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1489</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and the Red Renegades (1930)</td>
<td>$7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1498</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and the Silver Bullets (1916)</td>
<td>$6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>712-10</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and the Secret of Sorber Cavern, Better Little Book (1950)</td>
<td>$3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nn</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger and the Lost Valley (1938)</td>
<td>$12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nn</td>
<td>The Lone Ranger Outwits Crazy Cougar (1966)</td>
<td>$2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Armand and Mary Polverari, P.O. Box 1492, Wallingford, Ct. 06492-2704, have another beautiful Western Calendar, with Clayton Moore commemorated on the 1980. It's a real beauty, and can be had for $6.90.

Does anyone have any information on this belt buckle?

Sincerely, the "Silver Bullet" author

Terry and Kay Klepey

P.S. What happened to Clinton Spillsberry? Does anyone have his address?

P.P.S. If you haven't mailed in your $1 you will miss the next issue of "The Silver Bullet", except for Mr. Moore.

The Silver Bullet newsletter is published four times a year (March, June, September and December) in Amarillo, Texas, by Joe and Sandy Southern. It was established and published by Terry and Kay Klepey from 1988 to 2002. Subscriptions are $20 a year in the U.S. and $26 a year outside the U.S. Subscriptions should be mailed to Silver Bullet, P.O. Box 9561, Amarillo, TX 79105. To contact the publishers, write to the above address, call 806-373-3969 or e-mail lonerangerfanclub@sbcglobal.net. The Lone Ranger and Tonto and all related characters and material are Trade Mark and Copyright of Classic Media, Inc., in New York, N.Y. This is a fan publication of the official Lone Ranger Fan Club expressly for Lone Ranger enthusiasts and collectors. Deadline for submission of letters, articles for printing and advertising is two weeks prior to the month of publication. The Silver Bullet is printed in Amarillo at Sir Speedy.

Old disclosure notice (left) from Joe Southern as to the establishment of the Silver Bullet in 1988 by Terry Klepey. Thanks again to Daniel O'Neill for providing these scans.
TERRY V. KLEPEY
Collector of Lone Ranger Memorabilia
Publisher of “The Silver Bullet Newsletter”

Post Office Box 553 • Forks, Washington 98331
Phone (206) 327-3726

Terry Klepey’s business card. (left)

Daniel O’Neill with Kay and Terry Klepey.
We recommend and endorse Nutramax as a daily supplement for better health for you and your pets.

Helps reduce joint pain and stop the enzymes in the joints that breakdown cartilage.

Click on the boxes below for more information

---

Adios from………

The Lone Ranger Fan Club

The Silver Bullet is published four times a year (March, June, September, December) for the Fan Club Website since 2011 by Circle C Enterprise, a non-profit organization based in Salisbury, Maryland and is owned by Garry Cherricks.

TLRFC was established and published by Terry and Kay Klepey from 1988 to 2002. In 2002 it was published by Joe and Sandy Southern until 2011. During this time from 1988 to 2010 it was postal mailed to the membership.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto and all related characters and materials are Trade Mark and Copyright of Classic Media, Inc., in New York, NY. This Fan club is in no way connected with Classic Media.

The Silver Bullet is a fan publication of the official International Lone Ranger Fan Club website expressly for Lone Ranger enthusiasts and collectors.

Deadline for submissions of letters, articles for printing and advertising is one month prior to the month of publication on the website.

Hi-Yo Silver Aawaaay!!!