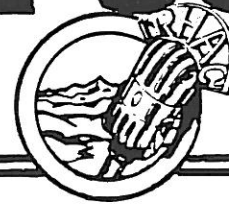


RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado

NOW...



VOLUME 8, NUMBER 9

MARCH 1983

THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK™

THE SAGA CONTINUES...

...as Luke Skywalker meets Yoda, the Jedi Master, and learns the secret behind The Force in this exclusive 10-part radio adaptation from National Public Radio. Chronicling turbulent events in a galaxy far, far away, the series features original film stars Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker, Anthony Daniels as See Threepio, and Billy Dee Williams as Lando Calrissian--with the Academy Award winning sound effects and music from the original movie. A production of National Public Radio in association with KUSC-FM/Los Angeles and the cooperation of Lucasfilm Ltd.

Episode 1

"Freedom's Winter"

Freedom fighters establish a base on the arctic planet Hoth; where Luke Skywalker, attacked by a savage ice beast sees the image of his Jedi instructor, Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Episode 2

"The Coming Storm"

The Rebels discover the Empire is not the only enemy when Luke Skywalker and Han Solo are stranded in a howling blizzard on the forbidding planet Hoth.

Episode 3

"A Question of Survival"

The Rebels mount a desperate defense when Darth Vader and Imperial stormtroopers attack their fortress.

Episode 4

"Fire and Ice"

Evil Darth Vader, assembling the Empire's forces for battle, discovers the Rebels' military base.

Episode 5

"The Millennium Falcon Pursuit"

Hotly pursued by Imperial warships, Han Solo, Princess Leia, Chewie, and See-Threepio flee in the Millennium Falcon while Luke Skywalker and Artoo-Detoo meet the legendary Jedi Master, Yoda.

Episode 6

"Way of the Jedi"

Yoda teaches Luke Skywalker the ways of a Jedi Knight--and Luke learns the ultimate battle rages within himself.

Episode 7

"New Allies--New Enemies"

Han Solo and Princess Leia seek the protection of Han's old friend, the dashing Lando Calrissian.

Episode 8

"Dark Lord's Fury"

Lando Calrissian betrays his guests while Luke Skywalker rushes to Cloud City--and a deadly trap.

Episode 9

"Gambler's Choice"

A Faithful Wookiee, a cunning gambler and a beautiful princess attempt to rescue Luke Skywalker from a deadly meeting with his evil nemesis, Darth Vader.

Episode 10

"The Clash of Lightsabers"

Young Luke Skywalker discovers an awful truth--and the Rebels plot an 11th hour escape from Cloud City aboard the Millennium Falcon.

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado will begin at 7:30 p.m. on the 17th of March. The club meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

The RHAC meets monthly to discuss Old Time Radio and also to have a good time.

REMEMBER THAT THE P.H.A.C. WILL BE MEETING AT THE SAME PLACE WE MET IN FEBRUARY. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK MOORE REALTY FOR THE USE OF THE BUILDING ON SHORT NOTICE. WE SHOULD HAVE OUR REGULAR MEETING PLACE BACK FOR THE APRIL MEETING. THE MARCH MEETING WILL BE HELD AT:

MOORE REALTY BUILDING
6895 E. Hampden

7:30 p.m., March 17.

JOHN DUNNING'S OTR SCHEDULE FOR MARCH - KNUS - 710 - 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday

MARCH 6	Lux Radio Theatre - Only Angels Have Wings - 1 hr.	05-29-39
	Destination Freedom - The Saga of Melody Jackson.	02-27-49
MARCH 13	John Steele Adventurer - The Lonely One.	03-07-50
	Gunsmoke - Johnny Red.	08-13-55
	Destination Freedom - Anatomy of an Ordiance.	06-05-49
MARCH 20	Mercury Theatre On The Air - 3 short stories	
	1. I'm a Fool.	
	2. The Open Window	
	3. My Little Boy	08-08-38
	Destination Freedom - Ghost Editor.	06-19-49
MARCH 27	John Steele Adventurer - The Long Shot.	04-08-50
	Jack Benny - Guests: Fred Allen, Kate Smith. 1 of 2	03-27-38
	CBS Radio Workshop - Sweet Cherries in Charleston.	08-25-57



JIM AMECHE

Jim Ameche, 68, actor who played the title role in "Jack Armstrong, All American Boy" on radio for five years, died Feb. 4 in Tucson, Ariz. He was also a prolific

VARIETY

radio announcer. Ameche played "Jack Armstrong" from 1933 until 1938, later portraying more serious roles on other radio programs, including the "Woodbury Hollywood Playhouse."

He also was an announcer on the "Amos 'n' Andy" radio show, hosted a morning program on WHN in New York in the 1960s and worked as an announcer for CBS.

Born in Kenosha, Wis., he moved to Tucson in 1975 where he was an announcer for radio stations KCEE-AM and KCEE-FM.

He is survived by his older brother, actor Don Ameche.



As early as November of 1977, when a rough draft of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK was finished, the team of Ralph McQuarrie and Joe Johnston began working on some sketches for the new vehicles and characters that would appear in the film. When the designs were fairly well established, these sketches were used to aid the production crews in the building of models, sets, and costumes. Almost simultaneously Joe Johnston and Nilo Rodis-Jamero began to outline the action of the film in a series of detailed storyboard sketches. The storyboards and production paintings were then given to the production designer, Norman Reynolds, to create functional stages for the actors and to design sets discussed or referred to in the script. All the effort of these artists joined those of the technical staff and the special effects personnel. The combined effort culminated in the top rental film of 1980 with revenues of \$120,000,000! Although STAR WARS still ranks first (as of the 1982 Information Please Almanac) THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK ranks third with rentals of \$175,000,000. That shows its popularity. The film won a Special Achievement Academy Award for Visual Effects--which subject is beyond the scope of our article. On the other hand, the Academy Award for Sound which the project won is not since there is a possible carry over to the radio presentation.

Commenting on the sound effects of the movie, Time correspondent James Willwerth reports that Soundman Ben Burtt conjured up noises never before heard on earth. For example, to find a voice for Chewbacca, Burtt combined bears growling, a walrus grunting, a seal barking, a tiger roaring, and a lizard--a big lizard--hissing. The result is pure Wookiee. For Darth Vader, Lucas put a tiny microphone inside a scuba tank regulator and found what Lucas wanted: the sound of labored but mechanical breathing. "The biggest dilemma," he says, "is always to create a sound which sounds familiar and has an association with reality but yet is not identifiable.

In an article entitled "Beyond Light Speed," author Brian Daley records the challenges he faced in adapting STAR WARS and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK for radio:

A question I've heard frequently is: "How can you adapt something as visual as STAR WARS and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK for radio?"

My answer, for the record, is that it involved fewer limitations than one might suppose. STAR WARS and THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK aren't simply films--those marvelous, breakthrough special effects and settings notwithstanding--they're a story, in the fine old sense of the word. They're about a universe in which human beings, aliens, and machines (who reflect much that is human) experience things common to all of us: love, vengeance, fear, and wonder.

From the first, I felt, as did the people at Lucasfilm and National Public Radio, that the radio series should include only the briefest narratives at the beginning and close of each episode. Then, dialogue, sound effects and music would tell the story. Listeners would have to provide the only other essential ingredient, a certain enjoyable effort--the exercise of their imagination.

A great deal is going on in George Lucas' distant galaxy. The films are rich with dramatic possibilities for radio--story-line origins, offscreen situations and facets of characters that deserved exploration. It sometimes seemed that there was barely enough time in which to set forth the story.

For example, in the film version of STAR WARS, Han Solo's starship, the Millennium Falcon, was drawn into a space fortress by a powerful tractor beam. This strictly visual sequence showed the vessel being brought through an airlock--not the very best sort of scene for radio drama. At that moment, however, Luke Skywalker and his allies are hidden beneath the Falcon's deckplates. Although the film doesn't show it, those cramped quarters and the characters' apprehension about being discovered, suggested the following--a natural scene for radio:

HAN: You guys keep your light sabers ready. If they find us now, there'll be nothing to do but stand tall.

SEE-THREEPIO: There, you see, Artoo? I told you nothing good ever comes of space travel!

BEN: It will take a few moments for the pumps to replace the atmosphere in the docking bay, and then...

SOUND: A CLANK AND LONG WHINE OF HYDRAULICS AS THE SHIP'S RAMP IS LOWERED WITH A THUD.

HAN: Well, they got the ramp down. Quiet now!

SOUND: A BRIEF HISS

HAN: (WHISPERING) That's the main hatch.

SOUND: BOOTS OVERHEAD

LUKE: (WHISPERING) Stormtroopers!

SEE-THREEPIC: Stormtroopers, oh, dear!

Again, when I was preparing the script for National Public Radio's new production of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK, problems became, instead, opportunities. At the beginning of the film, Han Solo finds Luke frozen and wounded on the snowfields of the arctic planet Hoth. With night coming on and a howling blizzard closing in, Solo hurriedly sets up an emergency shelter. Before you know it, however, the scene changes to the next morning--and their rescue.

That long, cold night in the emergency shelter had a lot of potential, though. And so the two friends, one badly hurt, wisecrack and squabble to keep their minds off the danger around them:

LUKE: So we're here until the weather breaks?

HAN: That's about it.

LUKE: Wouldn't you know it, I forgot my knitting!

HAN: We could always play tag.

LUKE: (GROANS) No, I think I'll pass on the athletics. Can't feel much.

HAN: Aw, you're gonna be okay. There's not a lot more I can do for you with the medikit, but they'll put you

through nerve therapy, float you in a regenerative tank and you'll be good as...

LUKE: Too bad the nearest one's a couple of kilometers from here through a blizzard.

HAN: No more talking like that! You're gonna make it, y'hear?

Story conferences for the radio series began in November of '81. Throughout the winter of '81-82, I pored over the film script, adapting and expanding upon it. Hensonville, N.Y., where I was staying at the time, suddenly contained an ice planet, a city that floated in the sky, Dagobah swamps and the Imperial Starfleet.

Last June, the 10 new scripts became carefully crafted, meticulously recorded reality. During the production, I worked on revisions in the studio with the director and actors. A line of dialogue that looked fine on paper might be overlong, require clarification or have too many sibilances.

While an outstanding company of actors--including Mark Hamill, Anthony Daniels and Billy Dee Williams from the original film cast--transformed script into superlative performance, I paced, worried, wrote and had a wonderful time. An excruciating writer's paradise!

After 10 days of taping in New York City, we all went our separate ways. But months of painstaking post-production work lay ahead for that sound wizard, Tom Voegeli. This February, more than a year of planning, preparation and production takes final form. I'd be lying if I tried to act matter-of-fact about this; it's always been a source of satisfaction to hear what we've all accomplished.

Soon John Williams's superb music will herald the NPR adaptation of THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. And there'll be those words, which have become a magical invocation: "A long time ago, in a galaxy, far, far, away..."

Brian Daley is the author of the radio adaptation of STAR WARS and NPR's new 10-part series, THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK.

NOTE: RETURN WITH US NOW... featured a two-part article on the STAR WARS radio production in the April and May issues of Volume 6 (1981) entitled "STAR WARS Comes to Radio" authored by Frank Brady.

--Reid G. Hansen

RETURN WITH US NOW is the official publication of the Radio Historical Association of Colorado, a non-profit organization. The club was founded for the enjoyment and the preservation of an entertaining and educational art form... Radio.

The cost of a membership is \$15.00 per year, and this allows the member complete use of the club's resources.

For further information about the club or its services, please contact one of the following:

PRESIDENT: John Lloyd 2667 E. 99th Ave., Thornton, CO 80229 451-7890
VICE PRESIDENT: John Adams 2811 S. Valentia St. Denver, CO 80231 755-9185
TREASURER &
TAPE LIBRARIAN: John Migrala 7213 Roxbury Pl., Littleton, CO 80123 979-0755
BLANK TAPE SALES: Barrett Benson 422-6442 ***** Dave Tysver 841-5910
EDITOR &
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN: John Callor P.O. Box 1109, Westminster, CO 80030 429-4639

TAPES ADDED TO LIBRARY

As you have probably guessed by now, the club will be adding 8 reels per month to the tape library. This is due to the increased use of the library. We hope that this growth continues. NOTE: This month's newsletter will have last month's tape selections as I jumped the gun last month. I hope that this did not inconvenience anyone. The Editor.

NEW MEMBERS

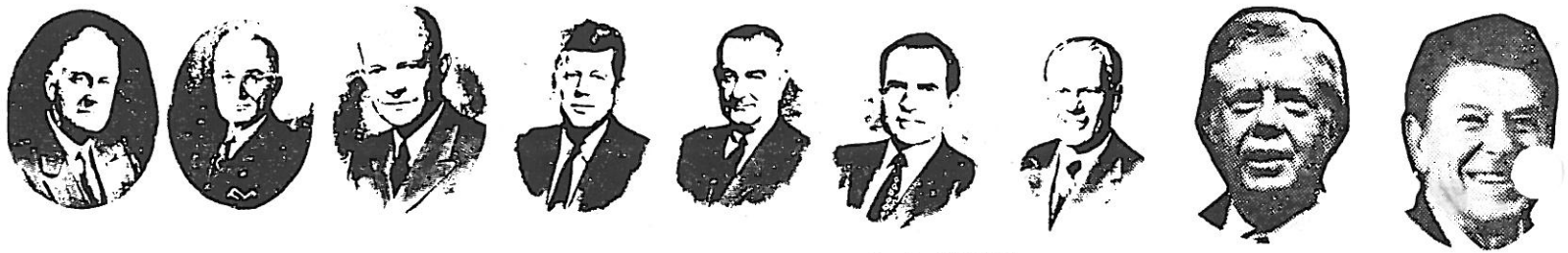
Timothy P. Irvin 1541 S. Owens #47 Lakewood, CO 80226 2-84

RENEWALS

Carol Roe	9900 E. Florida Ave. #19	Denver, CO 80231	3-84
Roger Gnagy	P.O. Box 963	Aurora, CO 80040	1-84
John Migrala	7213 Roxbury Pl.	Littleton, CO 80123	2-84
Paul Anderson	1858 N. 13th	Laramie, WY 82070	2-84
Pete Russell	P.O. Box 102	Tiltonsville, OH 43963	3-84
Bruce Tidball	1041 Leavenworth #6	San Francisco, CA 94109	3-84
Charles Smith	2760 N. Academy Blvd. #301	Colorado Springs, CO 80907	3-84
Jerome Weber	7860 Windcrest Row	Parker, CO 80134	3-84
Daniel Danbom	974 S. Josephine St.	Denver, CO 80209	3-84
Herb Duniven	4184 S. Syracuse St.	Denver, CO 80237	3-84

WANT AD:

Would like the following shows: Earth Abides - Suspense and CBS Mystery Theater - "Dracula". Contact Timothy P. Irvin 1541 S. Owens #47 Lakewood, CO 80226
Phone: 986-9146 No morning calls please.



ANSWER TO LAST MONTHS QUESTION ON THE MISSING PRESIDENT:

Pictured above are the last nine Presidents of the United States. On last month's cover we pictured the other thirty: total 39. How can we account for the other President since President Reagan is our 40th? The answer, of course, is that President Grover Cleveland was elected as our 22nd President, then President Benjamin Harrison was elected, and finally President Grover Cleveland was elected as our 24th President, the only man ever to win two terms of office non-consecutively. He was only pictured once! Thanks to Reid Hansen.

CREDITS

This month's cover was compiled from information supplied by KCFR-FM, by Program Director Jim Sprinkle and Julie Parella. The layout was done by Reid Hansen. The cover story article was compiled from ideas found in "The Art of The Empire Strikes Back", edited by Deborah Call, the cover story by "Time" for May 19, 1980 entitled "The Empire Strikes Back! And so does George Lucas in the second of his Star Wars Epics," but largely from a feature article "Beyond Light Speed" written by Brian Daley who is the author of the radio adaptation of STAR WARS and NPR's new 10 part series, THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK. Our special thanks to the kind people at KCFR-FM for their help in making available this information. Editing and other ideas were done by Reid G. Hansen.

Lone Ranger rides to 50th birthday



Clayton Moore as Lone Ranger in 1955, right, and in 1980 at funeral of Jay Silverheels.



Fifty years ago Sunday the Lone Ranger donned a black mask cut from his dead brother's vest, mounted his horse Silver and began a gallop across the airwaves that carried him into show-biz history.

"A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust and a hearty 'Hi-yo Silver, away,'" and the Lone Ranger rode into American living rooms to the strains of the William Tell Overture.

He started his career as a champion of justice on Detroit radio station WXYZ, on Jan. 30, 1933. By the end of the decade, more than 400 stations carried the show.

The Lone Ranger's first movie serial was in 1938, and he galloped into television in September 1949.

The masked man was portrayed by 18 different actors. Clayton Moore, the most famous of them, brought the skills he developed as a trapeze artist in movie series to television's acrobatic horseman.

His Indian partner, Tonto, was played by Jay Silverheels, who died in 1980.

The last live radio broadcast of the Lone Ranger was Sept. 3, 1954. Television production stopped in August 1958.

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL</u>	<u>296</u>	<u>CBS WAR NEWS (CON"IT FROM 272)</u>	<u>1200'</u>
1L	7-18-40	Dems Renominate FDR	
	7-19-40	FDR Accepts 3rd Term Nomination	
	7-20-40	British Answer Hitler's Surrender Warning	
	7-22-40	British Admit Loss Of Destroyer And Submarine	
2L	7-23-40	Britain Gets Largest Budget Ever	
	7-24-40	Nazi Press Threatens That Invasion Is Near	
	7-25-40	Germans Using Spoils From France On England	
	7-26-40	Italian Bombers Hit Gilbralter	
1R	7-27-40	Intensified Air Raids Over England	
	7-29-40	Rumors That Invasion Of England Is Imminent	
	7-30-40	Heavy German Military Concentration On French Coast	
	7-31-40	Britain Begins Total Blockade Of Germany	
2R	8-1-40	New Air Raids-Tightening The Blockade	
	8-2-40	Germans Drop Propaganda Leaflets On England	
	8-3-40	British-Japanese Relations Strained	
	8-5-40	Tides Are Right For Nazi Invasion	
<u>REEL</u>	<u>297</u>	<u>CBS WAR NEWS</u>	<u>1200'</u>
1L	8-6-40	British Expect German Invasion To Come With Big Air Raids	
	8-8-40	Intense Bombing By RAF In France And Germany	
	8-9-40	Germany Reports Sinking/Samaging 20 British Ships	
	8-10-40	Germany Stages Daring Daytime Attacks On Britain	
2L	8-12-40	More Than 100 German/British Planes Duel Over England	
	8-13-40	Air War The Fiercest Yet Seen	
	8-14-40	Little Air Activity Today	
	8-15-40	Bad Weather Forcing Germans To Slacken Air Raids On England	
1R	8-16-40	Lesueur Reports From Underground Air Raid Shelter	
	8-17-40	German Bombers Move Inland In England	
	8-18-40	Italy Claims Victories; More Air Raids	
	8-19-40	All Of England Now A Defense Area	
2R	8-20-40	Lull In Air War; Parachute Flares Fall On London	
	8-21-40	New Air Raids Break The Lull In England	
	8-22-40	Very Little Air Activity Against England Today	
	8-23-40	Night Blitz Opens On London	
<u>REEL</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>CBS WAR NEWS</u>	<u>1200'</u>
1L	8-24-40	War Enters Calm Before The Storm Phase	
	8-26-40	Two More German Raids On London	
	8-27-40	Heaviest Raids On England Since War Began	
	8-28-40	Mass Daylight Attacks Resumed On England	
2L	8-29-40	Berlin Gets Biggest Dose Of Death From The Skies	
	8-30-40	Rumania Accepts Terms Of Germany And Italy	
	8-31-40	One Air Raid After Another In London And Berlin	
	9-2-40	Holiday In U.S., But War Goes On In Europe	

RHAC TAPE LIBRARY

<u>REEL 298</u>	<u>CBS WAR NEWS (CONTINUED)</u>	1200'
1R	9-3-40 First Day Of The 2nd Year Of The War	
	9-4-40 British Scatter A German Squadron	
	9-5-40 Rumanian King Yields To A Dictator	
	9-6-40 King Of Rumania Abdicates; Long Night In London	
2R	9-7-40 Three-Hour Night Raid On Berlin	
	9-9-40 Ten-Hour Raid In London	
	9-14-40 Great Desert Activity In North Africa	
	9-16-40 Funeral Of Speaker Bankhead-Sam Rayburn Likely Successor	
<u>REEL 299</u>	<u>MY FRIEND IRMA</u>	1200'
1L	4-11-47 Dinner Party For Jane's Boss	
	1-13-52 Cub Scout Speech	
2L	1-20-52 The Burglar	
	1-27-52 Psychological Tests	
1R	2-3-52 Newspaper Column	
	2-10-52 Dictation System	
2R	2-17-52 Jane Quits Her Job	
	2-24-52 Friendship Ring Down The Drain	
<u>REEL 300</u>	<u>THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE</u>	1200'
1L	4-26-50 Jolly Boys' Gift	
	5-3-50 Bronco Disappears	
2L	5-10-50 Wedding Day	
	5-17-50 Fishing Trip To Grass Lake	
1R	5-24-50 Bronco The Real Estate Salesman	
	5-31-50 Sadie Hawkins Day Dance	
2R	6-7-50 Houseboat	
	6-14-50 Vacation Plans On The Houseboat (Last Show With H. Peary)	
<u>REEL 301</u>	<u>THE GREAT GILDERSLEEVE</u>	1200'
1L	9-6-50 Marjorie Is Expecting (First Show With W. Waterman)	
	9-13-50 Visiting In-Laws - Mrs. Thompson's Sister	
2L	9-20-50 Gildy Looking For A New Secretary	
	9-27-50 Gildy Shares Leroy's Piano Lessons	
1R	10-4-50 Leroy The Football Star	
	10-11-50 Bullard Runs For Mayor	
2R	10-18-50 Weight Problems	
	10-25-50 The Sons Of Summerfield	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO -- THE LONE RANGER!

This year the Lone Ranger celebrates 50 years of fighting for truth, justice and the American way? Well, that's close enough. In last month's newsletter I asked a question about music used on the Lone Ranger shows. Well the response was overwhelming. So, I thought you might be interested in a little background.

The Lone Ranger series took its roots from radio station WXYZ in Detroit. The station broke from the CBS network soon after George W. Trendle and John H. King purchased the station in 1930 because of a difference of opinion. To compete with network radio, Trendle had to come up with a show that would get WXYZ on it's feet. Trendle wanted a hero type that spoke perfect English and was always on the side of the law. Armed with a pair of ivory handled Colts and riding a white horse named Silver to fit a western theme was the idea Trendle came up with. Trendle hired a free lance writer named Fran Striker to make this man come alive. With the help of Striker the Ranger emerged 6 feet tall and 190 pounds and loaded his six-shooters with silver bullets from the family silver mine.

Striker wrote some 60,000 words every week. This translated into 156 radio scripts a year, 365 cartoons, and 12 novels plus editing the movie version of The Lone Ranger. He was also assistant writer for The Green Hornet and Ned Jordan. He did this in an average work day of 14 hours for some \$10,000 a year.

The Lone Ranger on radio was first portrayed by Earle Graser from 1933 thru March of 1941 when he was killed in an auto accident. Brace Beemer took over the role from 1941 thru 1955 when the show ended on May 27, 1955. The transition for Graser to Beemer was so smooth that no one could tell the difference. The Lone Ranger and his faithful Indian companion Tonto never drank, swore or killed in their 22 years on the air. (Except for Butch Cavindish). Tonto and other small parts were played by actor John Todd for the entire run.

The Lone Ranger later went to television with Clayton Moore as the Ranger and Jay Silverheels as Tonto. This duo is probably the most popular pair to play the dynamic duo.

The Lone Ranger was later made into a film in 1981. The movie was entitled "The Legend of the Lone Ranger" and when I saw the film I wondered what legend they were talking about! The film must have been written by Mel Brooks and should have been called something like Freeby and the Bean. The film, as do many modern remakes, made a mockery of the Ranger and did not get any of the facts straight. After all the Lone Ranger, in the film, used foul language and got his silver bullet from Tonto who taught the "Ranger" to shoot. After all this, the story ended with The Ranger and Cavindish in a fist fight only to have the Ranger pull a bullet from his shirt pocket, load his gun and then point it at Cavindish. Andy Taylor would have loved him as deputy. A better title might have been, "The Legend of the Week Wristed Wanger" or "Will The Real Lone Ranger Please Step Forward". Enough on this horror story.

I shall continue to enjoy The Lone Ranger on television and of course radio, and hope that until those Hollywood clowns get their act together they leave the great radio heroes alone. For now in the words of the great Ranger, I close by saying...."Shucks Maam, that warn't no prospector, He's The Lone Ranger. Hi Yo Silver and Away, Get em up Scout!".

The preceding article was written by John Callor using information taken in part from "The Saturday Evening Post", October 13, 1939 from an article written by J. Bryan III.

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