



**"From Out Of Detroit Come The Thundering Hoofbeats...."  
Revisiting the WXYZ-Trendle Productions.**

By Elizabeth McLeod

I've got to be very careful about what I say this month. I'm talking about a legend.

The Lone Ranger.

The very embodiment of all that is Old Time Radio.

Even if you have only the most passing acquaintance with the aural medium, you know the Ranger. Fiery horse with the speed of light, faithful Indian companion, the whole routine -- capped, of course, with a hearty Hi-Yo Silver. Few radio characters have managed to transcend the medium that gave them life -- the Ranger, indisputably, is one.

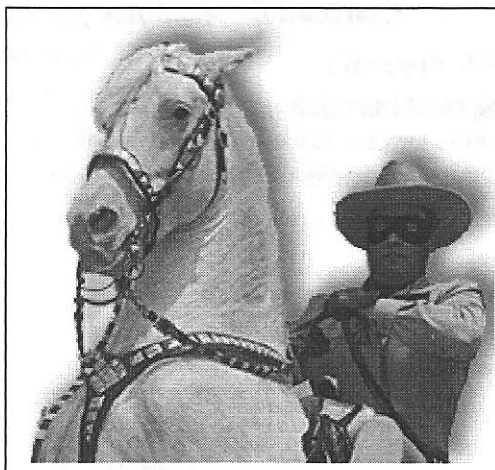
Why?

Was "The Lone Ranger" a great artistic achievement, pushing radio to its creative limits with every episode?

Hardly. It was a well-crafted show, its writers and performers always turning in a workmanlike job. But stylistically, the Ranger never rode beyond the techniques of his birthplace: 1930s local radio. The scripts followed a predictable juvenile-adventure format, the acting was a simple, four-square style, the sound effects were never particularly innovative.

A Ranger episode from 1948 is virtually identical in construction, in storytelling style, and in production values to an episode from 1938, and even the most avid fan must acknowledge that the Masked Rider of the Plains did little to advance the cause of radio-as-an-art-form. As a result, a modern listener, turning to recordings to try and get a sense of what the show was all about is likely to emerge a bit disappointed.

But there was more to the Ranger than the sum total of his radio adventures. I'm convinced that the real secret to his continuing appeal has less to do with his storylines than it does with the essence of the character himself.



The Lone Ranger was essentially a one-dimensional character -- he fought the bad guys. His origin story explained that he turned to fighting crime as a masked rider to avenge the murder of his brother and his fellow Texas Rangers -- but once Butch Cavendish had been dealt with, the Ranger never seemed to spend much time brooding over

the past. There were never any scenes of

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# RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

PO BOX 1908, Englewood CO 80150 (303) 761-4139 -

Dedicated to the preservation of old-time radio programs, and to making those programs available to our members

## Old-Time Radio is Alive and Well in Colorado!

KEZW 1430 AM	"When Radio Was", with Stan Frieberg	Weekdays, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Pirate Radio 104.7 FM	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	Sunday, 6:30 - 12:00 PM
	and, Pirate Radio internet streaming at <a href="http://www.pirate1047.com">http://www.pirate1047.com</a>	Sunday, 6:30 - 12:00 PM
KNUS 710 AM	"Radio Revisited"	Weekdays, 10:00 - 11:00 PM
KRMA TV Channel 6	Secondary Audio Program (SAP), "Tribute to OTR"	Sunday, 2:00 PM

RHAC WEB SITE <http://www.rhac.org>

RHAC *OTR* WEB PAGE <http://www.old-time.com/rhac.html>

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## LIBRARIES

Reference Material:	Bill McCracken	7101 W. Yale Ave. #503	Denver, CO 80227	(303) 986-9863
Logs & Scripts:	Fred Hinz	c/o RHAC PO Box 1908	Englewood, CO 80150	
Open Reel Tape:	Maletha King	900 W. Quincy Ave.	Englewood, CO 80110	
Cassette Tape:				
#1 (1-499)	David Gatch	PO Box 70	Glen Haven, CO 80532	(970) 577-0805
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#4 (5001-up)	Mika Rhoden	3950 W. Dartmouth Ave.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 937-9476
CD Library:	Thomas Woessner	3240 S. Lowell Bld.	Denver, CO 80236	(303) 936-4643

## Convention Schedules

**REPS Showcase**, June 24 - 26, Theme: "The Good Old Days" (reflecting both the love of OTR and the desire of the REPS board to hearken back to warm and fuzzy showcases of the past. Location: Northwest rooms at Seattle Center, Hotel: The Inn at Queen Anne (right across the street from the meeting rooms), Contact Mike Sprague at (480) 474-4480 or E-Mail at [hrrmikes@aol.com](mailto:hrrmikes@aol.com), or Showcase Registrar Mary Fichtenberg at [fichtenberg2319@msn.com](mailto:fichtenberg2319@msn.com), Details available on REPS website at [www.repsonline.org](http://www.repsonline.org).

**30th Friends of Old-time Radio Convention**, Oct 20 - 23, 2005 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887 [JayHick@aol.com](mailto:JayHick@aol.com), or check our web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

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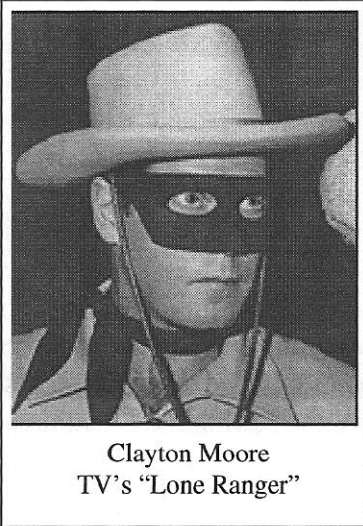
May, 2005



Brace Beemer  
Radio's "Lone Ranger"

introspection, never any moments where the Ranger wondered if he was doing the right thing, never any questioning of purpose. He knew he was right and that was it. The world, in the Ranger's view, was a simple place of Good Guys and Bad Guys. And the Good Guys' job was to bring in the Bad Guys.

Plain and simple. A kids'-eye view of right and wrong, where there was always a Grown-Up who would solve all the problems and Everything Would Come Out All Right. And for more than twenty years, three nights a week, the Ranger promoted this view, and reinforced this message.



Clayton Moore  
TV's "Lone Ranger"

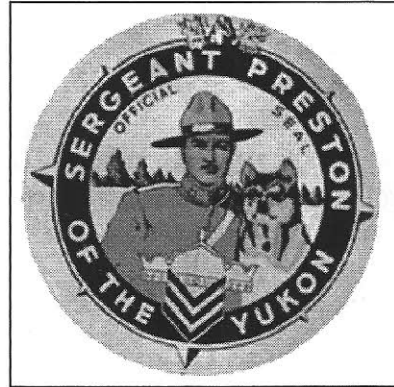


Contrast this philosophy to that of the other major Trendle heroes. The Green Hornet's adventures, for example, were motivated by Britt Reid's distaste for the casual sleaziness of urban life in the

1930s -- a time when it was very difficult to tell the Good Guys from the Bad. As a result the Hornet's fight for justice was quite a bit more complicated than that of his legendary great-uncle -- sometimes taking on a downright anti-establishment tone. The Hornet lived in a relatively complicated world where you couldn't always judge people by the color of their hats. As a result, he was the most \*interesting\* of the Trendle characters -- but it's doubtful he inspired many kids to daydream about how fun it

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would be to skulk around in the dark gassing crooked businessmen and corrupt politicians. (Although, now that I think of it, that \*would\* be kind of fun.)



On the other hand, Sergeant Preston, plain and simple, was a cop. A man with a badge. He didn't need a mask, or a secret identity. He worked for a living -- and his stories were often the

Trendle equivalent of a "police procedural." He had dashing adventures in the snow and always gave proper credit to his faithful dog King -- but he seemed to lack the independent motivations of his fellow Trendle heroes. He was doing his job -- and unlike the Ranger or the Hornet, he could at least look forward to collecting a pension some day.

But the Ranger was different. To the generation that grew up on his adventures, he was something special. An icon.

The Lone Ranger was, in the purest sense, a Hero. He Did The Right Thing Because It \*Was\* The Right Thing. That was all the motive he needed. Kids bought that in the thirties, the forties, and the fifties -- and as cynical as we may have come to be as grownups in the nineties, deep inside we still want to believe that such a Hero can exist. And that Everything Will Turn Out All Right in the end.

The formulaic scripts, the stiff acting, and the outdated productions don't matter.

As long as there's a need for Heroes, the Lone Ranger Will Ride Again.

*Elizabeth McLeod is a journalist, researcher, and freelance writer specializing in radio of the 1930s. She is a regular contributor to "Nostalgia Digest" magazine and the Internet OldRadio Mailing List, maintains a website, Broadcasting History Resources, and is presently researching a book on Depression-era broadcasting. Elizabeth is always looking for 1930s radio recordings in all formats -- uncoated aluminum or lacquer-coated discs, vinyl or shellac pressings, or low-generation tape copies. You can contact her at [lizmcl@midcoast.com](mailto:lizmcl@midcoast.com)*



## The REPS Show Case Convention "Radio Memories" is just a sample!

The "Radio Memories" presentation is but a sample of what your [RHAC] members can expect when they attend our two-day Showcase, **June 24-25**.

For the first time, out of town guests will receive discounts, plus members assigned to chauffeur them to and from SeaTac to the hotel, reserved seats at all recreations and much more. Details in our next release. Dick Beals, REPS President

Before a full house in the beautiful Emerald Heights auditorium, Radio Memories came to life. It was dream come true time for Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound founding president, chairman Mike Sprague. Hall of Fame radio shows were recreated by top Hollywood stars to the joy of Reps members and Emerald Heights' residents.

The day began with each guest receiving a bag of Bayer Health Care products, a motivational book, "Think Big", and a CD of popular radio shows.

The Shadow was the opening show featuring Hal Stone, Gil Stratton, Anne Whitfield Phillips, Frank Buxton, Paul Herlinger, and a host of Reps actors. Frank Rosin and Cheryl Jacobs did the sound effects, with Jim Jansen on the studio organ. Director Larry Albert opened the show by rehearsing the audience in Oooooohs, Aaaaaahs, and Oooooofs and they took part in the Alka-Seltzer commercial.

Mike Sprague then hosted a "Memory Lane" segment with Hal Stone, Gil Stratton, Anne Phillips, Jim French and Dick Beals. The audience joined in by asking questions of their favorite radio, cartoon and film performers.

And that's the way it went. In the "Do Twist that Dial" session the audience was all smiles and laughs with Jim French as The Great Gildersleeve, then came a walk down Allen's Alley. Larry Albert changed hats and became Dr. Radio, and brought down the house in a fast moving trivia time.

The final performance had Pat and Jim French getting the laughs as Ethel and Albert. Just before the laughs was some serious time in Dodge City with the pilot show of Gunsmoke. It featured Hal Stone as Matt Dillon, Gil Stratton as Chester, Dick Beals in his original role as Billy the Kid, David Selvig was Doc, plus Frank Buxton, Pat French, Peg Jordan, and Bill Brooks. Chris and Randy McMillan

created the music in amazing fashion.

As a smiling, happy audience slowly left the auditorium they were greeted by all the performers and Board members with hand shakes, pats and hugs.

Radio Memories was a winner. Long time member Terry Campbell was heard to say at the end, "This was like the REPS of old. I feel really good and had a great time.



## New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Maletha King

This month we are entering "Fibber McGee & Molly" shows of the WWII era into the CD library. We're all familiar with the McGees but these shows are not only in order by date, but they include several shows not previously offered in the R-R and cassette libraries.

The two pages of CD listings offer you 44 hours of good listening with the best sound we could find. Just consider the fact that these shows are over sixty years old and over the years have been updated on newer and better mediums. We must feel very privileged to have them available to us today. These 44 hours of shows represent about 120 to 130 hours of editing and copying time spent for your pleasure. We feel sure that you will enjoy these shows and hope they remind you of some of the things we did during those war times.

## CRYPTOGRAM

by Jack Richards

*Cryptograms are created from quotes, catch phrases, or other sayings from OTR shows. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. After the quote, decipher the name of the show in which it appeared.*

#2 Clue: E equals B.

"AS PZK FAPPFK ZGBCK ZHFOTHX BY  
AS PZK SKNP EFGWD..."

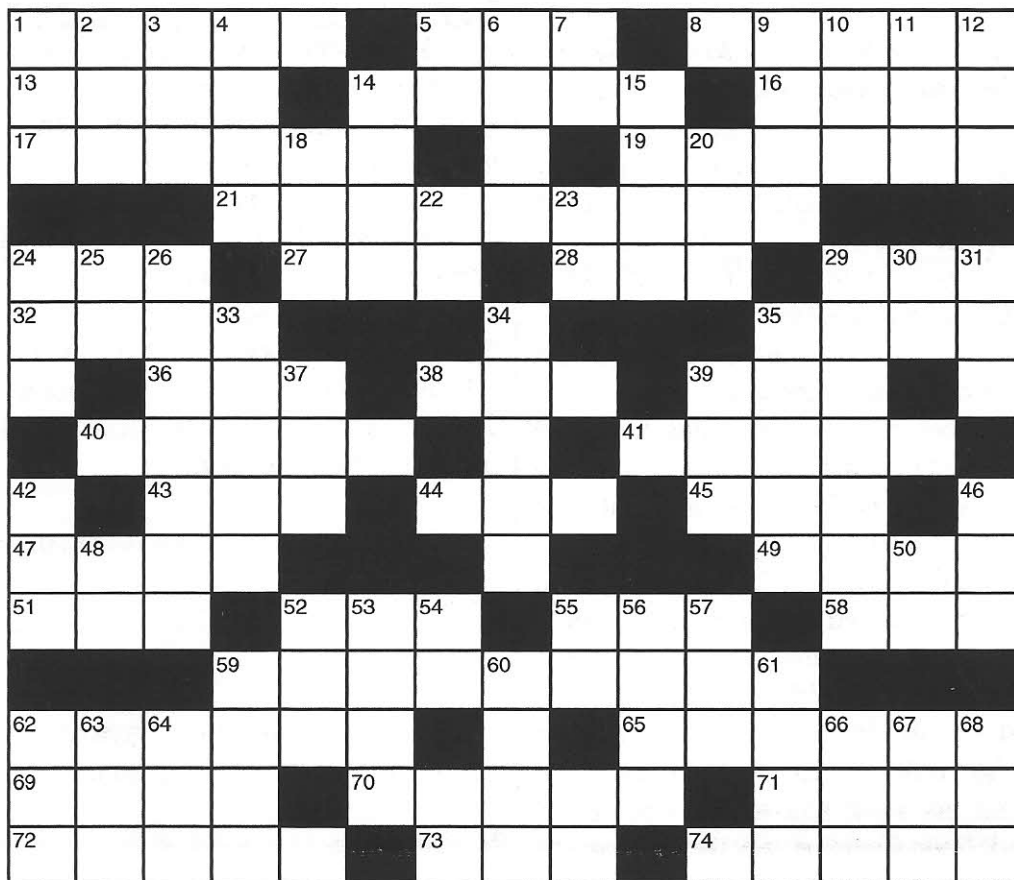
MAW HSJ CHRK

(Solution on page 6)

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# CROSSWORD

by Jack Richards (Answers on page 6)



### ACROSS

- 1 Sides of a river
- 5 Health resort
- 8 Fast
- 13 Wind instrument
- 14 Ugly facial expressions
- 16 Song for snobs, maybe
- 17 Alms asker
- 19 Show up
- 21 \_\_\_ Revue with Spike Jones
- 24 Abner's partner
- 27 Requirement for Cribbage
- 28 Payment
- 29 Label
- 32 Precious stone
- 35 Avoid
- 36 Stroke
- 38 Companion to ying
- 39 Unit of conductance
- 40 Roamed an alley
- 41 Forest grazers
- 43 Bullfight shout
- 44 Vehicle on The White Rabbit Line
- 45 Famous Brown
- 47 OTR topic
- 49 Pitch
- 51 Miners goal
- 52 Past
- 53 Night flyer
- 58 Head movement
- 59 Snug fit

- 62 Famous Johnny
- 65 Feature on shoes
- 69 Great lake
- 70 Covered the inside
- 73 Low in fat content
- 74 Garden pests
- 75 Place
- 76 Warning

### DOWN

- 1 Famous Hope
- 2 Famous Burrows
- 3 Egg drink
- 4 Barbecue extra
- 5 Compass dir.
- 6 Don't push
- 7 Location pointer
- 9 Power unit
- 10 Anger
- 11 Fish feature
- 12 Small amount
- 14 Front of a boat
- 15 Wise man
- 18 Might do
- 20 Article
- 22 Opposite of fro
- 23 A qualifier
- 24 Journal
- 25 Direction
- 26 Crime Doctor
- 29 Paul on One Man's Family

- 30 Symbol for gold
- 31 African antelope
- 33 Calms
- 34 Take away
- 35 Ghost costume
- 37 Busy insect
- 39 Played Carmichel the bear
- 42 Follows jkl
- 46 Area for flowers
- 48 Interruption in speaking
- 50 Just say what?
- 52 Rap sheet information
- 53 Female
- 54 Switch position
- 55 Prefix meaning two
- 56 Characteristic of some good food
- 57 Old article of speech
- 59 Winter transportation
- 60 Sound
- 61 Rat on
- 62 Morning moisture
- 63 Source of metals
- 64 Can be white
- 66 Famous general
- 67 Sense organ
- 68 Mining need
- 71 Before it was
- 72 Needs to use phone

# Candid Comments Heard On Candid Mike

"We dare them all." --- *Ken Roberts*  
by **Danny Goodwin**

Many of you may remember **CANDID CAMERA**, the program that caught people in the act of being themselves. The idea for the popular TV show began on radio with **CANDID MICROPHONE**. Hidden microphones were hidden at unusual situations, and the main idea was to get everyday people's reactions to those situations.

Some of the more unusual situations heard on the program consisted of a man who was locked in a refrigerated vault--- with no key to let him out. The "**Candid Mike Assistant**" (program creator Allen Funt in these examples) called a locksmith to open the vault. While it appeared the locksmith would save the day, Funt started to balk at paying \$3.50 to the locksmith because he wanted to pay \$2. With the man locked in the vault pleading to Funt to pay the extra money, he refused. In the process, the locksmith stopped his work and waited until the 2 men came to a definite decision whether to pay the full \$3.50 or to call in another locksmith.

Another situation occurred at a candy store. Funt wanted to buy a box of chocolates for a friend. He stated to the clerk at the store that his friend had a habit of squeezing the chocolates before eating, so he wanted to eliminate the trouble of squeezing. Before buying the candy, Funt asked the clerk at the candy store to squeeze every piece of candy in the box. The clerk replied it was an unusual request, but if Funt wanted the candy "**squozen**" (as the clerk referred to the squeezed candy), it was OK with her.

The most unusual situation was the interview with a professional wrestler. Funt wanted to set up a match between himself and the wrestler. While the game plan of the match was being set, the wrestler started to describe the tricks of the pro wrestling trade--- the tricks of the trade the people **ARE NOT** supposed to know about!

From the Desk of  
the Editor  
by **Carol Tiffany**



Well, Spring has "sprung" here in the sunny south, but I read that snow is still flying in the great state of Colorado. That is all to the good with any increase in the snowpack being most welcome.

Here is your May issue of RWUN with a couple of very interesting puzzles to challenge your OTR knowledge. We also have a news release from our sister club in Seattle describing a successful "preview" of one of the many presentations scheduled for the REPS convention in June along with an excellent article about the Trendle shows from Elizabeth McLeod.

Good Listening and Good Reading . . .

### Solution to Cryptogram:

"In the little house halfway up in the next block..."

Vic and Sade

### Answers to Crossword Puzzle

B	A	N	K	S		S	P	A		S	W	I	F	T
O	B	O	E		P	O	U	T	S		A	R	I	D
B	E	G	G	A	R		L		A	T	T	E	N	D
			S	P	O	T	L	I	G	H	T			
L	U	M		T	W	O		F	E	E		T	A	G
O	P	A	L				M				S	H	U	N
G		R	U	B		Y	I	N		M	H	O		U
	A	L	L	E	N		N		D	E	E	R	S	
M		O	L	E		B	U	S		L	E	S		B
N	E	W	S				S				T	O	N	E
O	R	E		A	G	O		B	A	T		N	O	D
			S	K	I	N	T	I	G	H	T			
D	O	L	L	A	R		O		E	Y	E	L	E	T
E	R	I	E		L	I	N	E	D		L	E	A	N
W	E	E	D	S		S	E	T		A	L	E	R	T