



RETURN WITH US NOW...

RADIO HISTORICAL
ASSOCIATION
COLORADO



Radio Personalities: Jeanette Nolan

By Stewart Wright © 2006

This is the latest installment in a series of biographical sketches on actors who had extensive careers on the radio. In each article I will list some favorite performances of the actor. If that performance is followed by a number in square brackets [], that is the RHAC Tape or CD Number Library for that specific performance.

The picture of the actor in each article is through the courtesy of Bob Lynes and originally appeared in the book "Radio's Golden Years: A Visual Guide to the Shows and the Stars" by Frank Bresee and Bobb Lynes.

Many of us remember Jeanette Nolan for her numerous, wonderful "cantankerous, older lady" roles in radio, television and motion pictures. But, how many of us realize that many of those radio "cantankerous, older ladies" were done by an actress in her 20's, 30's, and early 40's?

Jeanette was an actress of incredible range and abilities. In radio, she played women famous and obscure, renowned and infamous. A long-time

friend, actor/director, writer True Boardman, talked about Jeanette's abilities at a meeting of the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound. "For most radio actors, almost no part was a challenge. Almost all of us were, in some degree, dialecticians. The best of them was Jeanette Nolan; she was remarkable. As many of you know, she was a frequent performer on *The March of Time*. She played all kinds of women - the widow, the Queen of England, a slut from the gutters. Whatever the role, Jeanette was one of the consummate actresses of the century. A really remarkable woman."



There's A Living to be Made in Radio

Boardman was a college friend of Jeanette's and helped her get started in radio. She had dropped out of college because of the expenses and was working as a salesgirl in a Los Angeles department store, when True told her she could make a living acting on the radio. He recommended her to an executive at an advertising agency that was producing radio shows. Jeanette auditioned and was soon acting on radio. She told writer and

critic Leonard Maltin, "When I went to pick up my check, it was an astonishing \$7.50. That did it. That meant I had truly arrived." Goodbye retail sales, hello acting.

(Continued on Page 3)

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 and www.pirate1047.com,	"Radio Memories" (Greeley)	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

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Convention Schedules

(No current schedules were submitted)

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November, 2006

On the Radio:

Jeanette Nolan was one of the busiest actresses in radio. In 1932 she appeared in the first transcontinental broadcast to originate from Los Angeles - "Omar Khayyam." She had featured or continuing roles in several series including *Home of the Brave* as Casino, *Meet Mr. Meek* as Birdie Barker, *Life Begins* as Kay Smith, *One Man's Family* as Nicolette Moore, and *Tarzan* as Princess La of Opar [Tapes 326 - 328.] Miss Nolan was well-remembered for her several appearances on *The March of Time* as Eleanor Roosevelt.



Also, Jeanette was another member of Norman MacDonnell's select "stock" company of actors with frequent appearances on many of his series including *Escape*, *Gunsmoke*, *Fort Laramie*, *The Adventures of Philip Marlowe*, and *Rogers of the Gazette*. In two productions of the *Gunsmoke* episode, "Hinka-Do," Jeanette plays rough, tough Mamie who takes over a Dodge saloon when the owner mysteriously disappears. A crack shot and brawler, she has Matt Dillon buffaloed until he resorts to trickery to disarm her [Tapes 5004 & 5034.]

Just a very small sampling of Jeanette's extensive radio credits include appearances on *The Adventures of Sam Spade*, *Big Sister*, *Broadway Is My Beat*, *CBS Radio Workshop*, *The Clock*, *The Columbia Workshop*, *The Court of Missing Heirs*, *Dramatic Interlude*, *Family Skeleton*, *The Ford Theater*, *Hallmark Playhouse*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *I Love Adventure*, *The Jack Pearl Show*, *The Lineup*, *Lux Radio Theatre*, *Manhattan At Midnight*, *Nightbeat*, *On Stage*, *Phillip Morris Playhouse*, *Pursuit*, *Railroad Hour*, *Sears Radio Theater*, *The Shadow*, *The Six Shooter*, *Tales of the Texas Rangers*, *Theater of Stars*, *This is My Best*, *Yours Truly*, *Johnny Dollar*, and *The Whistler*.

Jeanette often worked on radio with her husband, John McIntire, particularly in numerous early 1940's productions of the prestigious series *Cavalcade of America* in which they were part of the regular cast.

In the 08/25/1941 *Cavalcade* production of "Sacajawea," Jeanette played the title role opposite John as William Clark [Tape 1317.] In successive November, 1941 *Cavalcade* productions Jeanette co-starred opposite Henry Fonda in "Drums Along The Mohawk" and Errol Flynn in "They Died With Their Boots On" [Tape 270.] When McIntire played the title character on the series *Crime Doctor*, Jeanette often had the female lead. The 1948 *Suspense* production of "Donovan's Brain" featured the McIntires with John playing Dr. Corey and Jeanette playing his wife [Tape 857.] In the *Frontier Gentleman* episode "Aces and Eights" she played Calamity Jane to his Will Bill Hickok [Tape 753 and CD 284.]

While they worked in both New York and Los Angeles, the McIntires often retreated to a cabin on their ranch in Northern Montana. At least one *Cavalcade* production was delayed until she returned from Montana.

True Boardman was not alone in his praise of Jeanette Nolan. A few years ago Harry Bartell told me a couple of stories about Jeanette.

"We did an *Escape* episode together called "Second-Class Passenger"[Tape 222 & 788, CD 620.] Jeanette played an Oriental seductress and she was fabulous. She could do any role and I'd believe her."

"I'll tell you a story about Jeanette Nolan on *Crime Classics* that endeared Jeanette to me. There was an ad-lib scene where a crowd had approached a court and we were screaming to free the prisoner. Hans Conreid was on my left and Jeanette was on my right, right behind my right ear. Everyone else was yelling 'Free him! Let him go!' Jeanette, in her wonderful old lady voice was yelling, 'Kill the son-of-a-bitch!' She absolutely broke me up! I was through for the rest of the day."

Jeanette continued to act on radio into the 1990's. She was a frequent performer in Peggy Webber's California Artist Radio Theatre productions. In 1996 she worked with fellow Old-Time Radio performers Parley Baer, Herb Ellis, Peter Leeds, Tyler McVey, Shirley Mitchell, Richard Beals, and Harry Bartell in a Jim French *KIRO Mystery Playhouse/Imagination Theatre* production - "A Person Of Interest."

Television Work:

Jeanette Nolan was equally at home on television. In 1974, she starred in her own series, "Dirty Sally," a spinoff of *Gunsmoke* and was a

regular in the casts of *Hotel de Paree*, *The Richard Boone Show*, and *The Virginian*. She made hundreds of performances on television, appearing in such series as *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*, *Bat Masterson*, *Black Saddle*, *Bonanza*, *Cade's County*, *Combat!*, *Emergency!*, *F Troop*, *The Fugitive*, *The Golden Girls*, *Gunsmoke*, *Hart to Hart*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *Hawaii Five-O*, *Hec Ramsey*, *Hotel*, *Hunter*, *I Spy*, *Ironside*, *Lassie*, *Lawman*, *The Love Boat*, *MacGyver*, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*, *Marcus Welby, M.D.*, *The Millionaire*, *My Three Sons*, *Naked City*, *Night Court*, *Night Gallery*, *Perry Mason*, *The Rebel*, *Richard Diamond*, *Private Detective*, *St. Elsewhere*, *Thriller*, *Twilight Zone*, *Wagon Train*, *The Waltons*, *Wanted: Dead or Alive*, and *You Are There*. For her work on television, she received four Emmy nominations.

Motion Picture Work:



Her 50-year motion picture career started with playing Lady Macbeth opposite actor-director Orson Welles in his production of *Macbeth*. Jeanette appeared in over 50 feature films and made-for-television movies including: *Cloak & Dagger*, *All the Way Home*, *Goliath Awaits*, *The Awakening Land*, *Winds of Autumn*, *The Desperate Miles*, *Ghost Story*, *Reluctant Astronaut*, *Twilight of Honor*, *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, *Two Rode Together*, *The Great Impostor*, *Psycho*, *The Deep Six*, *The Guns of Fort Petticoat*, *Tribute to a Bad Man*, *The Big Heat*, *No Sad Songs for Me*, and *Words and Music*. In her last motion picture role, she played Robert Redford's mother in the 1998 film *The Horse Whisperer*.

Jeanette also found time to do voice work in animated feature films. She provided the voices for characters in two Disney productions: Ellie Mae in *The Rescuers* and Widow Tweed in *The Fox and the Hound*.

Reaction of A Movie Critic to An Artist's Talent

Movie critic and Old-Time Radio buff Leonard Maltin also attests to Jeanette's talents. In his very enjoyable book "The Great American Broadcast," Maltin mentions that he saw Jeanette Nolan play Ann Rutledge, Abraham Lincoln's first love, in a California Artist Radio Theatre 1988 re-creation of Norman Corwin's "Ann Rutledge and Abraham." This was a role she had first played in the *Cavalcade of America* production in 1940!

Maltin relates that, "Miss Nolan, then seventy-seven years old, had a deeply lined face, but when she started reading her part as Ann Rutledge, a small miracle occurred; by means of some incredible alchemy, and through the use of her voice alone, she became an eighteen-year-old girl. There was no evidence of 'acting' at all."

"I thought perhaps my reaction was intense because I wasn't used to being in the company of such professionals, but when I later spoke to some of Nolan's colleagues, I learned that they too, were awed by her great artistry."

Jeanette, so we were all.

Jeanette Nolan died in Los Angeles on June 5, 1998.



New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Maletha King

Now that fall is finally here, and the outside work load is abating, we can look forward to hearing more of our OTR shows of quality. This month we're offering the last of our "Dangerous assignment" episodes and a few more "Dragnets" shows that have not been available before. We then go to some of the 1930 shows that had the effect of keeping kids glued to their radios. These 15 minute shows worked out well as after school entertainment and keeping the kids busy without costing parents a lot of money. Remember, we were still in the economic throes of the great depression and money was tight for families. We feel sure that you will all enjoy listening to these shows and remembering those early times and trials.

Our CD library is having lots of activity as members take advantage of updated shows and our able to listen to OTR with their newer equipment.

Bad Boy Of Radio Helps Increase Shoe Sales

By Danny Goodwin

"Any kind of foot you have, son... bring it in to Old Man Adler."--- *Henry Morgan*

Henry Morgan wasn't called "**The Bad Boy Of Radio**" for nothing. Throughout his radio career, he took great delight in thumbing his nose at the radio industry. He was also an effective commercial salesman--- although the sponsors would hold their breath at the commercial he was presenting on the air.

When he hosted *HERE'S MORGAN*, a weeknight program on **WOR/Mutual**, he was a breath of fresh air to the radio listeners who hated the overwhelming impact of radio commercials -- and a nightmare to the sponsors who had the guts to sponsor the program.

The program was 15 minutes of ad-lib commentary by Morgan, accompanied by occasional snatches of music. He also took great delight in commenting about his sponsors -- much to the chagrin of the sponsors and network management. When the commercials were transcriptions, Morgan would add some humorous commentary to what was heard. When the commercial had to be presented live, Morgan would take no prisoners. Since Morgan said what he thought about a product, some sponsors, who lacked a sense of humor, cancelled its sponsorship of the program. One sponsor would actually PROSPER with Morgan's sharp wit -- although it did take some restraint not to cancel its sponsorship of the program. The sponsor in question was *Adler Shoes*.

The most famous product in the *Adler* line was *Adler Elevator Shoes* -- the shoes that make you "**Taller Than She Is.**" Morgan would lick his chops at the prospect of the product and its famous saying. While he was selling *Adler Elevator Shoes* over the airwaves, Morgan would also make Jesse Adler, the president of *Adler Shoes For Men*, a radio celebrity. On the air, Morgan would refer to the company president as "**Old Man Adler.**" There were a few commercials where Morgan featured Old Man Adler more than the shoes themselves. One lengthy commercial had Morgan narrate the "**life story**" of Old Man Adler, which he mentioned little or nothing about the shoes he was supposed to sell.

RETURN WITH US NOW...

Originally, Adler wasn't impressed with what was said on the program. He also felt his new radio nickname was showing disrespect to him. Adler was on the brink of canceling sponsorship of *HERE'S MORGAN*, when something happened. People were going to the *Adler Shoe Stores* in the New York City region. They were asking the clerks if Old Man Adler was in. They were also asking for and buying "**Old Man Adler's elevator shoes.**" In the process, sales of all *Adler Shoes* increased.

With all the good things taking place, Adler had a change of heart. He started to like his new nickname and celebrity status on the program. So much so, he would have "**Old Man Adler**" printed on his personal stationary. With his new fame and increased sales, Adler would still grit his teeth with the commercials Morgan was presenting on the air.

World War II would spell the demise of *HERE'S MORGAN* on **WOR/Mutual** -- to the relief of network management. Henry Morgan went into the service in 1943. Adler would lose his most valuable ally. With the program off the air, there would be transcribed commercials for *Adler Elevator Shoes*. Unlike Morgan's humorous commercials, the new commercials were complete with a musical jingle and a serious sounding announcer. Unfortunately, the new commercials were also dull.



ONLY A FINE
SHOE
CAN GIVE
YOU THIS
KIND OF
COMFORT

ADLER
"Westmoor"
\$12.95
Sizes 6 to 12
Widths B, C, D, E

MAIL
COUPON
BELOW

Quality
like these
fine Adler
"Westmoors" will cost you a good \$2 to
\$3 more in most stores, if they have your
size. We do. The style shown is of plump,
Scotch Grain leather, aged on the last, to
hold its shape better, give you greater com-
fort, longer wear! 70 years fitting shoes
for men only guarantees your comfort, or
money back.

• FREE! NEW 12-page CATALOG shows 25
handsome styles priced \$9.95 to \$19.95
-- more sizes and widths than even
most big-city stores can carry. Money-
back guaranteed. Just mail the coupon.

ADLER
SHOES FOR MEN

MAIL ORDER Dept. (28), 249 W. 42nd St., New York 18, N.Y.
Name _____
Address or RFD _____
Town _____ State _____

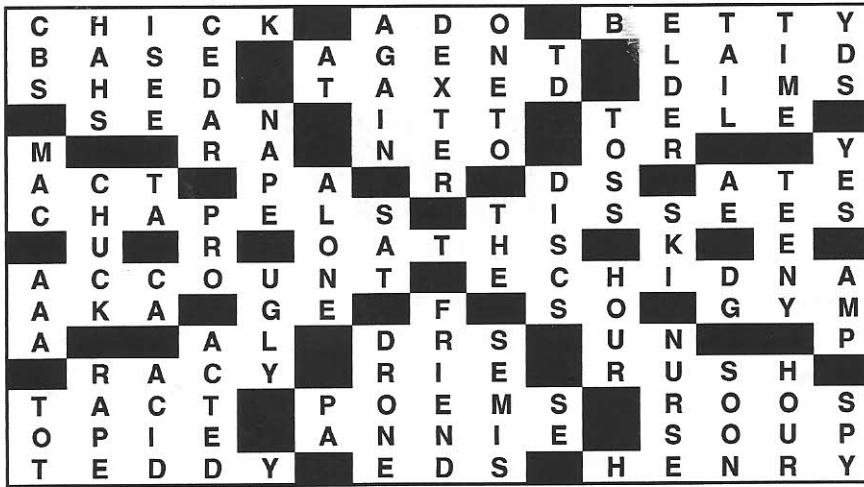
ADLER SHOE STORES IN NEW YORK

The Crossword Puzzler

by Jack Richards - Answers on back page

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15		16			
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66					67				68		69			70
71					72						73			
74						75				76				

ACROSS		56	Group of physicians	24	Maybe a Scotsman
1	OTR teenager, son of Nick	58	Peace keeping organization	28	Possible answer to the question
5	Fuss	60	A bit sexy	30	OTR teenager, friend to Red Albright
8	OTR teenager, friend to Jughead	62	Deli bread (alt. Spelling)	31	If its moving, he's happy
13	First, second, third or home	63	Otr teenager, nephew to Vic	33	Single
14	Representative	66	Gentle handling of people	34	Now obsolete computer accessory
16	Placed	67	Odes	35	Start of vowels
17	Backyard building	69	Australia animals	36	OTR preteen, real name Marian not
18	Charged by a government	71	Mayberry kid	38	Not amateur
19	Reduces	72	OTR preteen, always with her dog	39	What Humpty Dumpty did before he fell
20	Irish for John	73	Precedes some dinners	40	First word of many OTR titles
22	Cousin of the Addams	74	Cousin to The Cinnamon Bear	41	Winter sport
23	Precedes phone	75	Sullivan and Gardner	43	Automobile club
25	Son god	76	OTR teenager with changing voice	44	Calcium
26	New		DOWN	45	What some ducks are
27	Partner to either	1	Network	47	Time division
29	To take on a role in a play	2	Laughs	48	Dental Group
32	Male parent	3	Pronouncement of understanding	49	Electrical measure
34	Dental surgery	4	Franrant tree	52	More than an acquaintance
35	Consumed	5	Repeat	55	Parted a part
37	Churches	6	OTR teenager, friend to Connie	56	Unmanned airplane
40	Sad movie requirement	7	Start of betting odds	57	Group of trucks
42	Vows	9	Village leader	59	Give TLC
43	Record of payments	10	Difference between man and monkey	60	Violent crime
46	Egg-laying mammal	11	Fourth Dimension	61	Vinegar is one
50	Wanted poster word	12	Cloth measure	64	Quickly
51	Owens NBC	14	Better than near	65	Measure of time
53	It was how big?	15	Football score	66	Child
54	Exercise room	21	Back of neck	67	Identification for Pennsylvania
55	The court said he lost to George	23	Underhanded pitch	68	Northwest opposite



Answers to the Crossword Puzzler

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION of COLO.
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FIRST CLASS MAIL



TOM

BROWN

9/1/2007

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11/01/2006