



Radio Personalities: John McIntire

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 notable performances of the actor. If that performance is followed by a number in square brackets [], that is the RHAC Tape or CD Library Number for that specific performance.

The picture of the actor in each article is through the courtesy of Bobb 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.)

From The Ranch To Radio:

John McIntire (sometimes credited as McIntyre) was born in Spokane, WA on June 27, 1907. He grew up on the family ranch in Montana and gained experience as a working cowboy. During his acting career, McIntire and his wife, Jeanette Nolan, would often make lengthy retreats to the Montana ranch.

While attending the University of Southern California in the late 1920's, he became an announcer for a Los Angeles radio station. Some of his interesting anecdotes on the early days of radio are mentioned in Leonard Maltin's entertaining and informative book, "The Great American Broadcast."



A Winning Combination:

John McIntire and Jeanette Nolan were one of the preeminent acting couples during the Golden Age of Radio. They frequently appeared together on both East and West Coast radio; probably in excess of 350 times. An example of this phenomenon occurred on *The Cavalcade Of America*. The McIntires were members of the prestigious *Cavalcade* Players and performed together on that series at least 85 times including no fewer than 68 appearances between January 9, 1940 and June 1, 1942. Of particular note is their *Cavalcade* performance of October 23, 1940 "Ann Rutledge and Lincoln" with John as Abraham Lincoln and Jeanette as Ann Rutledge. They were regulars on

The Jack Pearl Show during the 1936-37 season. Among their many joint appearances on *Suspense* were the 1944 and 1948 productions of "Donovan's Brain." That 1948 *Suspense* production featured the McIntires with John playing Dr. Corey and Jeanette playing his wife [Tape 927.] They appeared together in at least 20 episodes of *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar* between 1950 and 1953. One of their last joint radio performances was the premiere episode of *The Sears Radio Theatre*: "Retribution."

(Continued on Page 3)

RADIO HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

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Convention Schedules

32nd Friends of Old-time Radio Convention, Oct 18 - 21, 2007 at the Holiday Inn, Newark, NJ; For information contact Jay Hickerson, 27436 Desert Rose Ct, Leesburg, FL 34748 (352) 727-6731, JayHick@aol.com, web site: <http://www.fotr.net>

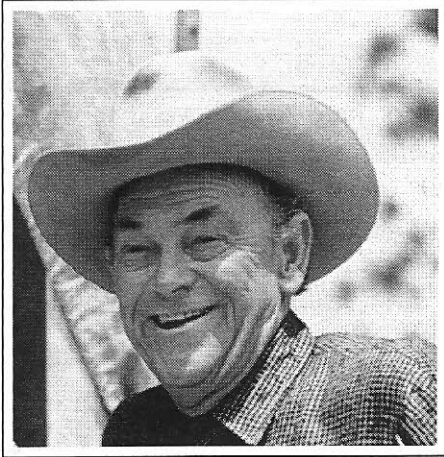
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January, 2007

Announcing, Narrating, and Acting:



During the Golden Age of Radio, John McIntire was not only in demand for his acting skills, but for his announcing and narration abilities as well.

On the dramatic anthology series *This Is My Best*, which broadcast adaptations of works of well-known modern authors who selected their "best" work for airing, McIntire was the first Host/Announcer. He served in that capacity from the series' premiere in September, 1944 through Spring, 1945 and can be heard on "The Plot To Overthrow Christmas," December 19, 1944 [Tape 1290.] Additionally, he served as the host and/or announcer on several series including *Lincoln Highway*, *The Man Called X*, *The March of Time*, and *Tarzan*.

In his more than one hundred appearances on *Cavalcade Of America*, John McIntire portrayed many characters famous and obscure. In a less than two-year period on that highly honored series, April 1940 through September 1941, he had lead roles portraying many famous Americans including Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, pioneers Daniel Boone and David Crockett, statesman and inventor Ben Franklin, poet Walt Whitman, abolitionist John Brown [Tape 61], Doctor Walter Reed, and General Nelson Miles. In later appearances, he again played Abraham Lincoln and added President John Adams to his *Cavalcade* resume. His talents as a narrator were also used on the series including the June 11, 1940 production of "Victor Herbert" [Tape 1316.]

McIntire had many starring and featured roles in radio series including *The Adventures Of Bill Lance* as Bill Lance, *The Adventures of Sam Spade* as Lt. Dundy, *Crime Doctor* as Dr. Benjamin Ordway, *The Story of Ellen Randolph* as Dakin, *The Line-Up* as Sergeant Peter Carter, and *We, The Abbotts* as John Abbott. He even played the role of Jack Packard for a short time on the series *I Love A Mystery*.

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John McIntire could convincingly play a wide range of roles, including being cast as a sheriff, policeman, a judge, a doctor or some other pillar of the community or as a criminal, corrupt politician, or villain. In the June 10, 1956 *Gunsmoke* episode, "Daddy-O," McIntire played con artist Wayne Russell, Kitty's Russell's father [Tape 5020.] He was a guest performer on many series such as *The Adventures Of Ozzie and Harriet*, *The CBS Radio Workshop*, *Escape*, *Family Theatre*, *Favorite Story*, *Fibber McGee and Molly*, *The Hallmark Hall Of Fame*, *Hollywood Star Playhouse*, *Honest Harold*, *Hopalong Cassidy*, *Let George Do It*, *Luke Slaughter of Tombstone*, *Lux Radio Theatre*, *The Mercury Theatre*, *Mystery Is My Hobby*, *On Stage*, *One Man's Family*, *Philip Morris Playhouse*, *Railroad Hour*, *Richard Diamond Private Detective*, *Screen Director's Playhouse*, *This Is Your FBI*, and *The Whistler*. He played the famous lawman, Wild Bill Hickok, in both the *Gunsmoke* July 25, 1953 episode "Hickock" [Tape 225 & 5007] and the *Frontier Gentleman* production of April 20, 1958, "Aces and Eights" [Tape 753, CD 284.] In the latter production Jeanette Nolan played Calamity Jane.

Motion Picture and Television Work:



Jeanette Nolan

During the late 1940's John McIntire broke into motion pictures. Starting in 1947 and continuing through 1989, he appeared in nearly 100 feature films. He often played authority figures such as policemen or military officers. Not surprisingly, he appeared in many Westerns. McIntire had prominent roles in three James Stewart Westerns: *Two Rode Together*, *Winchester '73* and *The Far Country*. In the 1984 film *Cloak & Dagger*, he again teamed with Jeanette Nolan; this time they played a pair of spies. Some of his movie credits include *Apache*, *The Asphalt Jungle*, *Away All Boats*, *Call Northside 777*, *Command Decision*, *Down To The Sea In*

Ships, Elmer Gantry, Flaming Star, Honkytonk Man, The Light In The Forest, A Lion Is In The Streets, Psycho, Red Canyon, The Rescuers, River Lady, Rooster Cogburn And The Lady, Rough Night In Jericho, Saddle Tramp, Seven Ways From Sundown, Shadow On The Wall, Stranger On Horseback, The Street With No Name, Summer And Smoke, That's My Boy, The Tanks Are Coming, The Tin Star, The World In His Arms, The Yellow Mountain, To Hell And Back, Top O' The Morning, Turner & Hooch, Under The Gun, Walk Softly, Stranger, War Arrow, and Westward The Women.

As acting opportunities began to wane on radio in the early 1950's, John McIntire became an increasingly familiar face on television and he would continue performing on the small screen through the late 1980's. During the early days of television, he appeared on at least two series that had their roots in radio: *Lux Video Theatre* and *Cavalcade of America*. McIntire is well remembered for featured or leading roles in several television series such as *Naked City* as Lt. Dan Muldoon (1958-1959); *Wagon Train* as Christopher Hale (1961-1965), and *The Virginian* as Clay Grainger (1967-1970.)

Just a few of his many television series guest appearances include *Aaron's Way, Alfred Hitchcock Presents, Bonanza, Charlie's Angels, Cimarron City, Dallas, Daniel Boone, Diff'rent Strokes, Dirty Sally, Fantasy Island, Father Knows Best, The F.B.I., Front Row Center, The Fugitive, General Electric Theater, Goodyear Theatre, Laramie, The Love Boat, Love American Style, A Man Called Shenandoah, Night Court, Peter Gunn, Quincy M.E., Slattery's People, The Smothers Brothers Show, St. Elsewhere, The Twilight Zone, Trapper John, M.D., The Untouchables, Wanted: Dead or Alive, Wichita Town, and Zane Grey Theater.*

He appeared in many made-for-television movies and mini-series such as: *All the Way Home, Aspen, The Boy from Dead Man's Bayou, Crisis in Sun Valley, Dream Breakers, The Healers, Goliath Awaits, The Jordan Chance, Lassie: A New Beginning, Linda, Mrs. R's Daughter, The Mystery of Edward Sims, The New Daughters of Joshua Cabe, and Powderkeg.*

John McIntire died on January 30, 1991 in Pasadena, CA.

From the Desk of
the Editor
by Carol Tiffany



It is very hard to believe that we are now in 2007. Somehow it seems that time goes faster every year. Your newsletter staff hopes that you had a wonderful Christmas (despite the great Blizzard of '06) and a great New Year's celebration.

This first issue of '07 continues Stewart Wright's series on OTR personalities and features the 4th list of OTR characters' New Years Resolutions. Additionally, we have a marvelous nostalgia piece from frequent contributor Paul Barringer which includes a nostalgia quiz. (Your editor scored "Older than Dirt" on this quiz!) We hope you will enjoy this issue.

As usual, we are in need of articles, quizzes, and other materials for this year's newsletter. Please send in any ideas or articles you may have either via E-Mail or regular mail. All OTR-related topics are welcome. ***Good listening to all...***

More OTR Characters' New Year's Resolutions

"I resolve to consult my parents before I get too involved in complicated situations this year." - *Henry Aldrich*

"I resolve to prevent Richard from playing the piano and singing at all hours out if consideration for my neighbors." - *Ms. Helen Archer, NYC*

"I resolve to make a firm commitment and propose to Leila this year." - *Mr. Throckmorton Gildersleeve, Summerfield*

"I resolve to be more meticulous in preparing my expense account statements and to itemize more carefully." - *Johnny Dollar, Hartford, Ct.*

"I resolve to make an effort to include my mother in my life and introduce her to my friends." - *Mrs. Laurel Grovesner, Beacon Hill*

"I resolve that this year I will clean out the hall closet." - *Mrs. Mollie McGee, 79 Wistful Vista*

"I resolve to get Matt to propose this year." - *Miss Kitty Russell, The Long Branch, Dodge City, Ks.*

"I resolve to capture the Octopus this year." - *Speed Gibson, ISP*

MEMORIES

by Paul Barringer

Go back in time and see if you remember some of these things...

Real ice boxes. Clips for your pant legs to prevent your pants getting caught in the chain because bicycles didn't have chain guards. Soldering irons you had to heat on a gas burner or on the stove.

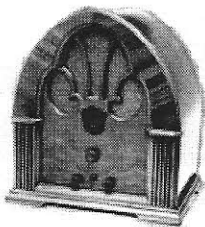
Do you remember when car head light dimmer switches were on the floor? When ignition switches were on the dashboard? When the heaters were mounted on the inside of the fire wall? When you had to use hand signals for slowing down, stopping and turning because cars didn't have turn signals?

Do you remember when the only phone in the house was in the living room and it was on a party line? Pizzas and Chinese food weren't delivered to our home but milk was. Pizza was called Pizza Pie. Newspapers weren't delivered by some one in a car, they were delivered by boys (usually on bicycles) and almost all boys delivered newspapers or sold them on the street corner. We didn't have fast food Drive-Ins - we ate at a place called home. We had to ask for permission to leave the table.

Credit Card? We had something called a revolving charge card. The card was good only at J.C. Penny or Sears Roebuck. You had to have tokens to ride the street car (not the bus, the street car or trolley as it was sometimes called)

Do you remember gas rationing? (If you were lucky enough to own a car) Food stamps, Not food stamps like today, stamps for everything from meat to cheese to milk, even stamps to buy shoes or any thing else that was rationed.

Our parents never drove us to soccer practice. Who ever heard of soccer? We were lucky if we got to join the YMCA, if we did, we had to ride our bicycle to get there. Play Station, Nintendo, X-Box 360, what are these? We were lucky to go downtown and spend 5 or 10 cents at the local Woolworths, Kresses, Neisners or any of the other five and dime stores.

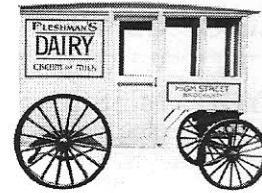


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Color television? We listened to RADIO, The only color we had in our TV was a piece of colored plastic to cover the screen. The top was blue, the middle was red and the bottom was green. Zip codes? We had postal zones (Denver 12 Colorado)

Mom used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread mayo on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't get food poisoning. Mom used to defrost hamburger on the counter and I used to eat a bite raw sometimes, too. Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper, in a brown paper bag, not in icepack coolers, but I can't remember anybody getting e.coli.

The term cell phone would have conjured up a phone in a jail cell, and a pager was the school PA system.



We all took gym, not PE... and risked permanent injury with a pair of hightop Ked's (only worn in gym) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built-in light reflectors. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened, because they tell us how much safer we are now.... Flunking gym was not an option... even for stupid kids! I guess PE must be much harder than gym. Speaking of school, we all said prayers and sang the National Anthem, and staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention. I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself. Remember school nurses? Ours wore a hat and everything, and she could even give you an aspirin for a headache or fever.

Oh yeah, and where was the Benadryl and sterilization kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played 'king of the hill' on piles of gravel left on vacant construction sites, and when we got hurt, Mom pulled out the 48-cent bottle of Mercurochrome (kids liked it better because it didn't sting like iodine did) and then we got our butt spanked! Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of a \$49 bottle of antibiotics, and then Mom calls the attorney to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

We didn't act up at the neighbor's house either, because if we did, we got our butt spanked there, and then we got our butt spanked again when we got home.

I recall a play mate named "Robert" from across the street (California Street) coming to our place and doing his tricks on the front stoop, just before he fell off. Little did his Mom know that he could have owned our house. Instead, she picked him up and swatted him for being such a goof. It was a neighborhood run amuck. To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a "dysfunctional family". How could we possibly have known that we needed to get into group therapy and anger management class?

Just a few of the many pleasures of living in the old days, all in all those days weren't that bad.

LOVE TO ALL OF US WHO SHARED THIS ERA, AND TO ALL WHO DIDN'T---- SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MISSED. I WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR ANYTHING !

Author's note: *I found some of this on the internet, added some of my own.*

MEMORIES QUIZ

by Paul Barringer

Now a quick quiz: How many of these do you remember? Count all the ones that you remember, be fair don't count the ones somebody told you about or ones I mentioned in the article, just the ones you actually remember. Some of these are not that old, but some are.

1. Blue flashbulbs
2. S&H Green Stamps
3. Telephone numbers with a word prefix (ALpine 5-1840, my wife's phone number when we were childhood sweethearts, 13 years old), my family didn't have a phone.
4. Wash tub ringers
5. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles
6. Butch wax, Wildroot Cream Oil
7. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers
8. Blackjack chewing gum
9. Metal ice trays with a lever
10. Cork popguns
11. Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water

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12. Newsreels before the movie
13. Studebakers, Tuckers
14. Packards, Kaiser/Fraizer
15. Candy cigarettes
16. Peashooters
17. Diners and coffee shops with juke boxes at the table
18. P.F. Flyers
19. Roller skate keys
20. 45 RPM records
21. Drive Ins (some are still around)
22. Party lines on your phone
23. Mimeograph paper
24. Hi-fi's, 8 Tracks
25. Howdy Doody & Buffalo Bob

*If you remembered 0-5 = You're still young
If you remembered 6-10 = You are getting older
If you remembered 11-15 = Don't tell your age,
If you remembered 16-25 = You, like me, are older than dirt!*



New in the Tape and CD Libraries

by Maletha King

As most of you know, we had just a "bit of snow" in Denver this last two weeks and it caused us to get behind in our club work. Last month's index inclusion in the newsletter was short the last two of it's pages. Those pages, along with the new catalog listings, are included in this month issue.

We have added "Fibber McGee and Molly" shows to our CD library. These are shows from the years just after WWII and return us to happier times. These show will lighten anyone's days - especially while they're resting after a long hard day of shoveling snow.

All the RHAC officers and librarians, and the staff of RWUN, would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthful new year.

