
Fort Laramie Series Log by B.J. George



“*Fort Laramie*, starring Raymond Burr as Captain Lee Quince. Specially transcribed tales of the dark and tragic ground of the wild frontier. The saga of fighting men who rode the rim of empire. And the dramatic story of Lee Quince, Captain of Calvary.”

Fort Laramie was another of the great adult western series produced and directed by Norman Macdonnell. It starred Raymond Burr as Captain Lee Quince, Vic Perrin as Sgt. Goerss, Harry Bartell as Lt. Siebert and Jack Moyles as Maj. Daggett. Music for the series was under the direction of Amerigo Moreno. Sound effects were handled by Bill James, Ray Kemper and Tom Hanley. And the announcer was Dan Cubberly. Macdonnell saw the show as “a monument to ordinary men who lived in extraordinary times.” The series ran for forty episodes, with one being a repeat, and ended October 28, 1956 when Burr left to begin his famed career as *Perry Mason* on television.

The Fort

Laramie was originally erected in 1834 as a trading post in the Wyoming Territory. It was first named Fort William, then Fort John and finally Fort Laramie. It was occupied by two companies of Mounted Riflemen and one company of the 6th U.S. Infantry. The title Laramie was derived from the Laramie River, which was named after the French trapper, Jacques Laramie, who was killed by Arapaho Indians in 1821. The fort was manned to protect the Oregon Trail but when construction of the Union Pacific Railroad some seventy miles south and the Chicago and Northwestern fifty miles north, the fort became obsolete. It was abandoned in 1890 and sold later that year. Partly restored buildings now serve as a national monument.

Raymond Burr



Born Raymond William Stacy Burr on May 21, 1917 in New Westminster, British Columbia, Canada. Burr attended schools in the San Francisco Bay area where he joined drama classes and acted in several plays and operettas, including *Naughty Marietta*. Raymond’s first radio appearance came on Benny Walker’s KGO radio show at the Hale Brothers’s Store in San Francisco. He then hosted the nightly *Slumber Hour* on KGW (KCBS). Over the following years, Raymond took several acting parts, toured Canada, wrote some of his own plays and held several jobs, including working two years for the Forestry Service. In 1940 Raymond made his first movie

appearances with parts in *Unmasked*, *A Man Alone* and *The Earl of Puddleston*. Burr's radio career also included *The Line-Up*, *CBS Radio Workshop*, *Suspense*, *Pat Novak for Hire* and *Dragnet*. He left radio after 40 episodes of *Fort Laramie* to begin his famed career as television's *Perry Mason*. Raymond Burr died on September 12, 1993.

The Series

Audition July 25, 1955 "*Boatwright's Story*"

Capt. Quince is sent out to find the gun runner who's been supplying Yellow Knife with rifles. Quince's orders are only to stop the white man and not to go after Yellow Knife and his warriors. Only Boatwright aims to kill himself an Indian. Note: John Dehner played Capt. Quince in this audition and music was provided by Rex Koury. Written by John Meston.

#1 January 22, 1956 "*Playing Indian*"

Capt. Quince and his patrol set off to find a band of Arapahos that have been killing settlers and stealing their horses. When the group comes across the burning remains of a family and their home, they discover that Indians are not responsible for the slaughter. They set up in the home of nearby settlers and bait a trap to catch the real killers. Cast: Dan Riss, Joyce McClusky, Lawrence Dobkin, Clayton Post, Paul Dubov and James Nusser. Written by John Meston.

#2 January 29, 1956 "*Boatwright's Story*"

Same story as used in the audition episode. Cast: Bob Sweeney, Sam Edwards, Jan Arvan, Joseph Cranston and Lou Krugman. Written by John Meston.

#3 February 5, 1956 "*Squaw Man*"

The Rappahoes have left the reservation in search of food. Capt. Quince makes a deal with Gray Feather, if Quince can find buffalo within two days, then the Rappahoes will go back to the reservation. If not he will attack the wagon trains. Cast: Ralph Moody as Gray Feather, Edgar Barrier, Frank Cady and Eleanor Tanin as Emily McCluskey. Written by John Dunkel.

#4 February 12, 1956 "*The Woman at Horse Creek*"

Mrs. Dennis refuses to leave the wilderness after burying her two children and then her husband. Sgt. Goerss and the troopers take up a collection to send her back east, but when Pvt. Flint arrives to give her the money he has other ideas in mind for Mrs. Dennis. Cast: Virginia Christine as Mrs. Dennis, John Dehner as Flint and Barney Phillips as the barkeep. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#5 February 19, 1956 "*Boredom*"

The men become restless building roads and making mud bricks day after day. To save sanity, Capt. Quince and 15 men are sent on a buffalo hunt. Only half the party is killed by Cheyenne and Lee aims to prevent more deaths, even if it means losing his own life. Cast: Sam Edwards, Jack Kruschen, Howard Culver and Vivi Janiss. Written by John Meston.

#6 February 26, 1956 "*The Captain's Widow*"

Disobeying orders, Mrs. Wentner heads to Lance Creek to retrieve her husband's body and bring it back east. But in doing so, the widow learns a few things about Indians and her husband that she never really knew. Cast: Virginia Gregg, Jack Kruschen, Helen Kleeb, Joseph Cranston and James Nusser. Written by John Dunkel.

#7 March 4, 1956 "*Shavetail*"

Lt. Siebert fails to follow simple orders and in the process loses 35 horses and 1 man. Capt. Quince

brings the young lieutenant back out to retrieve the horses and teach the Indians (and perhaps Siebert) a lesson. Cast: Joseph Cranston and John Dehner as Squaw Dog. Written by Les Crutchfield.

#8 March 11, 1956 *"Hattie Pelfry"*

Hattie is a hateful old woman who's holding Pvt. Harrison and a wounded Capt. Quince captured in her cabin in the middle of Arapaho country while she works out a trade with the Indians. Cast: Virginia Gregg as Hattie, Sam Edwards as Harrison and John Dehner. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#9 March 18, 1956 *"The Beasley Girls"*

After the Sioux attack a wagon train and ride off with two women, Capt. Quince decides to work out a deal to trade Big Elk for the two Beasley girls. Only trooper Hook doesn't see fit to let Big Elk live. Cast: Sam Edwards, Lawrence Dobkin, Lou Krugman, James Nusser and Lillian Buyeff. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#10 March 25, 1956 *"The Coward"*

Lt. Robbie Wendt was labeled a coward during the war. Now he's a drunkard assigned to Fort Laramie under the command of a man he once commanded, Lee Quince. And Capt. Quince tries to give Wendt a chance to prove that he's still an officer. Cast: John Dehner as Lt. Wendt, Lynn Allen as Mrs. St. Cloud, Paul Dubov and Clayton Post. Written by John Dunkel.

#11 April 1, 1956 *"Lost Child"*

Billy is missing and his step-father believes that a Cheyenne named Weissiren kidnaped him. Maj. Barlow accompanies Capt. Quince to the reservation to find the boy, but he doesn't like what he sees and heads back to get reinforcement. Quince stays behind to find Billy before a war breaks out. Cast: Lawrence Dobkin, Clayton Post, Ralph Moody and Richard Beals as Billy. Written by Gil Doud.

#12 April 15, 1956 *"Stage Coach Stop"*

A stage coach breaks down and must stop at Fort Laramie, where two women become fascinated at what they see, one in the soldiers, the other in Indians, including a group that arrived to free Yellow Horse from the stockade. Cast: Janette Nolan, Sam Edwards, Eleanor Tanin, Shirley Mitchell, Howard McNear, Frank Cady and Jack Kruschen. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#13 April 22, 1956 *"The New Recruit"*

Will Banyon once served six years in the army. Now he's reenlisted and automatically becomes a sergeant. Sgt. Goerss protests about Banyon's rank, feeling that there's only enough room for one sergeant. Capt. Quince agrees. Cast: Lawrence Dobkin, Paul Dubov, James Nusser, John Dehner as Will Banyon, Sam Edwards and Lou Krugman. Written by E. Jack Neuman.

#14 April 29, 1956 *"Quince's Capture"*

As Red Horse is dying he sends for his son, Snow Foot, and his friend, Capt. Quince. Snow Foot doesn't show up and it's feared he's joined with a band of young renegades that have been raiding settlers. But Quince has orders to go after Black Eagle, not Snow Foot. Cast: Jeffery Silver as Snow Foot, Ralph Moody, Lee Miller, Frank Cady and Lou Krugman. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#15 May 6, 1956 *"Never the Twain"*

Lt. Siebert and his patrol come across an Indian who lays injured. He returns to the fort with the Indian only to find out that she is the daughter of Spotted Tail, who demands he return or else. Cast: Lillian Buyeff, Ralph Moody, John Dehner as Spotted Tail, John Stephenson and Don Diamond. Written by William M. Robson.

#16 May 13, 1956 *“War Correspondent”*

Maj. Daggett is upset over an article that will appear in the New York Star about the army’s lack of modern equipment, so he has Capt. Quince bring the reporter out to meet settlers so that he may get the real story. Cast: Lawrence Dobkin, Sam Edwards as Harrison, Parley Baer and Lou Krugman. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#17 May 20, 1956 *“Black Hills Gold”*

Two prospectors aim to look for gold in the Black Hills despite warnings that the treaty forbids whites from entering the reservation. Capt. Quince tries to see Red Cloud before a war erupts. Cast: Frank Gerste, Clayton Post, Howard McNear, Virginia Gregg and Ralph Moody. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#18 May 27, 1956 *“Sergeant Goerss’ Baby”*

Billy Merchant must go with Maj. Daggett and the men after the Cheyenne. He leaves behind Sgt. Goerss, Capt. Quince and Stella, his very nervous wife who’s in the family way and expecting any day. Cast: Virginia Gregg, Richard Crenna as Billy, Helen Kleeb and Ann Morrison. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#19 June 3, 1956 *“Don’t Kick My Horse”*

The men tease Joby until he threatens to kill anyone who tries to take Belle away from him. When Belle goes lame, the patrol must change course and camp for the night. The men blame Jed when they are attacked by Indians and one of them plans to kill Belle. Only an Indian beats him to it and Jed goes into a rage. Cast: Lawrence Dobkin, Jack Kruschen, Tim Graham and Barney Phillips. Written by Les Crutchfield.

#20 June 10, 1956 *“Young Trooper”*

Indians de-rail a train and raid the homes of nearby settlers. Jed is a lone survivor who claims he’s 18 and wants to join the army. While he can handle a gun and knows about horses, Capt. Quince reminds everyone that he’s just a boy. Cast: Jeffery Silver as Jed, Frank Cady and Eve McVegh. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#21 June 17, 1956 *“Winter Soldier”*

Some of the men who joined up with the army during the winter think of deserting now that spring has arrived. But when a wagon train is attacked by Cheyenne, one such winter soldier wants back in. Cast: Paul Dubov, Howard Culver, James Nusser and Joseph Cranston. Written by John Dunkel.

#22 June 24, 1956 *“The Loving Cup”*

Maj. Daggett believes that Lt. Siebert is fearful of Capt. Quince. And he tells Quince that an officer who’s fearful is not good for the army. So Quince has a talk with Siebert and now the Major is well pleased, although Quince is not. Cast: Helen Kleeb as Mrs. Daggett. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#23 July 1, 1956 *“Trooper’s Widow”*

Lt. Stocker has trouble trying to tell his new bride why a woman needs to carry a gun when living near hostile Indians. But Mrs. Stocker doesn’t see the need for a weapon, until a time comes when she and Mrs. Meade need a gun. Cast: Jeanne Bates, Lawrence Dobkin and Lynn Allen. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#24 July 8, 1956 *“Talented Recruits”*

A Shakespearian actor named Granville Merriweather and a snake tonic pitchman named Finney join the army, much to amusement of the other men. Neither of the two new recruits seem to fit in, but when Crazy Horse builds up his army of warriors, the duo turn in their best performances. Cast:

John Dehner as Merriweather and Parley Baer as Finney. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#25 July 15, 1956 *"Old Enemy"*

Trooper Pachen is given a transfer to Capt. Quince's company, claiming that they were once good friends during the war. But Quince wants Pachen transferred out, because of what Pachen did during that war. Cast: Sam Edwards, Paul Dubov, James Nusser and Herb Vigran. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#26 July 22, 1956 *"Spotted Tail Returns"*

Spotted Tail has left the Black Hills on a mission and Capt. Quince is sent to find out why. Spotted Tail knows that he is being followed and threatens war. Maj. Daggett reminds the Chief that leaving his reservation may also bring war. Cast: Ralph Moody, John Dehner as Spotted Tail, Tim Graham and Lou Krugman.

#27 July 29, 1956 *"Nature Boy"*

Horace and Winifred Quiring, along with their daughter Gussie, head west to teach the Indians how to make baskets and beads. Their antics and birdwatching have the men, and one Indian as well, ducking for cover. Cast: Howard McNear as Horace, Virginia Gregg as Winifred, Parley Baer as the Agent, Shirley Mitchell as Gussie and John Dehner as the Indian. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#28 August 5, 1956 *"The Massacre"*

White Dog leads his people to the Valley of the Wind River. Capt. Quince is to escort the tribe to Fort Laramie, but that night the coyote gives warning to White Dog. As Capt. Quince heads back to the fort he runs into Maj. Petrie and his Army of God. The Major appears unwilling to honor the flags of peace that the Indians fly. Cast: John Dehner as Maj. Petrie, Lawrence Dobkin, Sam Edwards as Harrison, Lou Krugman and Tim Graham. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#29 August 12, 1956 *"Assembly Line"*

Guns are missing from the agency's storage and Mr. Lack demands that Maj. Daggett sends all the soldiers he can at once. Capt. Quince and a few men are sent and while searching among the Sioux for the guns, they do not like what they see and hear. Cast: Joseph Kearns as Mr. Lack, Vivi Janiss as Mrs. Lack and John Dehner as Red Deer. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#30 August 19, 1956 *"Goodbye, Willa"*

Some of the men get to talking about how good it is to have a wife. Other men enjoy the freedom of being single. But Quince isn't sure what he likes, until he spends some time with Miss Willa. Cast: Virginia Gregg as Miss Willa, Parley Baer, Dolores Pinard and John Dehner. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#31 August 26, 1956 *"The Chaplain"*

Fifty-nine men have come down sick. Capt. Quince thinks it's just boredom until Sgt. Goerss also falls sick. Quince and the Chaplain head out to buy fresh food to cure the men and they run into a settler that proves that God works in mysterious ways. Cast: Parley Baer as the Chaplain, Paul Dubov and Lawrence Dobkin. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#32 September 2, 1956 *"The Return of Hattie Pelfry"*

Capt. Quince and Harrison pay a return visit on Hattie Pelfry but when they arrive they find her cabin deserted. When Quince returns to the fort he is informed that there is someone staying at the hospital - his mother. Cast: Virginia Gregg as Hattie, Sam Edwards as Harrison and Paul Dubov as the doctor. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#33 September 9, 1956 *"The Buffalo Hunters"*

Cuppy gets to bragging about how he kills and skins buffalo. Despite warnings, Cuppy and his partner enter the Indian reservation to begin another day of killing. This time Capt. Quince is out to hunt down the hunters. Cast: James Nusser and Barney Phillips. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#34 September 16, 1956 *"The Payroll"*

It's been four months since the Pay Master had been to Fort Laramie. Harrison will do almost anything for real tobacco, including chewing on Red Willow bark or trying to get credit so that he can send a package of tobacco and whiskey to his ma, whom he claims is having a baby. Norman Macdonnell gives a tribute to Fort Laramie on the 67th Anniversary of its closing. Cast: Howard McNear, Sam Edwards as Harrison and Clayton Post as Ben. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#35 September 23, 1956 *"The Woman at Horse Creek"*

Same story as episode #4. Cast: Virginia Christine as Mrs. Dennis, John Dehner as Flint and Barney Phillips as the barkeep. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#36 September 30, 1956 *"A Small Beginning"*

Capt. Quince is ordered to find Sitting Bull to set-up a meeting. Along the way he is told of the White Leader of the Sioux, who is building a great army of warriors. The more Quince hears, the more interest he has in meeting this Great White Leader. Cast: Jess Kirkpatrick, Jack Kruschen, Howard Culver, Lawrence Dobkin, John Dehner as Fr. Farewell and Sam Edwards as Harrison. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#37 October 7, 1956 *"Galvanized Yankee"*

While picking up supplies at the train depot, Capt. Quince is given two prisoners from Levingsworth. Pvt. Slinger doesn't like freedom, having spent most all his life in jails. And Pvt. Medford doesn't like anyone who wears blue, which includes officers. Cast: Lawrence Dobkin as Benjamin, Parley Baer as Slinger, Frank Cady and Paul Dubov as Medford. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#38 October 14, 1956 *"Still Waters"*

The Committee for Moral Improvement bans the sale of beer at the fort. To help Mrs. Theamster see the mistakes of such a ban, Capt. Quince takes her on a tour of the compound, where she witnesses what she believes is a performance by Sgt. Goerss. Cast: Howard McNear as Mr. Burgess, Jeanette Nolan as Mrs. Theamster and Sam Edwards as Harrison. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#39 October 21, 1956 *"Indian Scout"*

A wounded Indian named Charlie wanders into camp. Capt. Quince removes the bullets from his leg and asks the Indian to lead him to the camp of the Cheyenne. But Charlie doesn't like killing and he has other plans in mind. Cast: Lawrence Dobkin as Charlie Little Bear. Written by Kathleen Hite.

#40 October 28, 1956 *"Army Wife"*

After her husband is buried, Mrs. Hale prepares to leave and head back east. That is until she meets the all too proper Mrs. Winton and decides that the young woman needs some proper military upbringing. Cast: Helen Kleebe as Jesse Hale, Parley Baer as the Chaplain and Sammie Hill as Jennifer Winton. Written by Kathleen Hite.

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