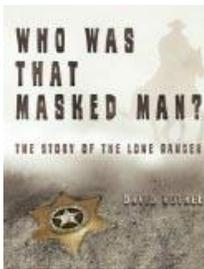




***The Lone Ranger* Timeline**

**In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the release of
Republic Pictures
Lone Ranger
1938 film serial**

This chronological highlight of the history of *The Lone Ranger* is from numerous sources. A comprehensive history, David Rothel's - *Who Was That Masked Man? The Story of the Lone Ranger*, provides extensive documentation and behind the scenes history of this iconic legend and is available from our bookstore.



Who Was That Masked Man? The Story of the Lone Ranger chronicles the creation and development of the Lone Ranger during the Depression years of the early 1930s on radio and in novels, comic strips and two movie serials. It examines the promotion of the character through radio premiums and merchandising from the 1930s to the present. More than 150 photographs—many of them rare behind the scenes from the early radio days—stimulate visual memories. The book includes reminiscences by members of the radio “stock company,” both actors and others; actors and directors from the television show, as well as the feature films.

222 Pages \$16.95 Click on book image to read more.

It began in 1933:

***The Lone Ranger* Radio Program premieres on January 30,th 1933 at 7:30 pm**



Eastern Time on ABC affiliate, WXYZ radio; Detroit, Michigan. As it was live radio - there were three broadcasts; 6:30 for Detroit & Michigan, 7:30 for East & Midwest; and final at 10:30 pm for West coast

The show was conceived by WXYZ radio station owner George W. Trendle and staff and then written by Fran Striker.

The show was an immediate success. While originally aimed at children, adults made up at least half the audience. It became so popular, it was picked up by the Mutual Broadcasting System radio network, and finally by NBC's "Blue Network", which in time became ABC. The last new episode was broadcast September 3, 1954. Transcribed repeats of the 1952–53 episodes continued to be aired on ABC until June 24, 1955.

The show began with the voice of Fred Foy, ""From out of the West with the speed of light and a hearty hi-yo Silver"" following ""Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear,"" later changed to: A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust and a hearty Hi-Yo Silver! The Lone Ranger! ... With his faithful Indian companion Tonto, the daring and resourceful masked rider of the plains led the fight for law and order in the early western United States! Nowhere in the pages of History can one find a greater champion of justice! Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear!

From out of the past come the thundering hoofbeats of the great horse Silver! The Lone Ranger rides again! This was followed by Brace Beemer's voice: "'Come on, Silver! Let's go, big fellow! [Listen now.....](#)

The title character was played on radio by George Seaton, Earle Graser (died in 1941) and after Graser's death and the most memorably voice, Brace Beemer. In need of another voice; a sidekick, Tonto (played on radio by John Todd, is added to the radio cast in tenth episode.

NOTE: Five personalities actually at one time or another voiced "The Lone Ranger."
[Click here to learn more...](#)

While most fans remember Graser's and Beemer's "Lone Ranger" voice, it was Fred Foy's introduction - when Lone Ranger was departing on his white stallion ... "Come on, Silver! Let's go, big fellow!

As they galloped off, someone would ask, "Who was that masked man anyway?"

Tonto usually referred to the Lone Ranger as "Ke-mo sah-bee", meaning "trusty scout" or "trusted friend." These catchphrases, his trademark silver bullets, and the theme music from the William Tell Overture are remembered by the millions who came of age during the decades of the show's initial popularity. Reruns of *The Lone Ranger* starring Clayton Moore were still being transmitted as of December, 2012, sixty-three years after their initial broadcast.

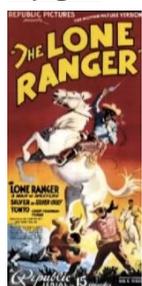
The show proved to be a huge hit, (2,956 episodes) and spawned a series of books (largely written by Striker), an equally popular television show that ran from 1949 to 1957, wide variety of merchandising, comic books and movies.

1936:

The first of Lone Ranger 12 novels are published and eventually 18 volumes were published, The first book was written by Gaylord Dubois, but the others were written by the character's primary developer, Fran Striker.



1938:



Republic Pictures introduces *The Lone Ranger* 15 part serial directed by John English & William Witney who had just finished working on *Zorro Rides Again*. 264 Minutes (Not available on DVD)

Prior to the serial's release in 1938, *The Lone Ranger's* origin had been unknown; he was a "man of Mystery." There were dropped hints that he might be a historical figure in disguise. An alternate origin for Tonto,

with him being rescued in a mine accident, had also been provided on radio. In the Republic serial, there were five actors who played The Lone Ranger - the last being

Lee Powell, who in the last chapter was identified with the character. Tonto is played by Chief Thundercloud.

The early music for *The Lone Ranger* serial was composed by Republic's composer group including Cy Feuer, Karl Hajos and William Lava. All of the music was arranged by William Lava.

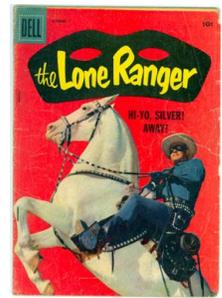


The 1938 serial presented the first version of the canyon ambush, (in Lone Pine's Alabama Hills) Tonto nursing the Lone Ranger back to health, and the Lone Ranger swearing vengeance for the first time; all these elements were adopted with minor modifications as the origin of the radio and television versions of the character. Much of the familiar transitional music used in the radio series after 1938 also originated in the first Republic serial.

While the radio broadcasts began in 1933, the origin story was first broadcast in 1935 and repeated in several of the novels, including the first, in 1936. The serial basically revives the story as told by Striker.

1938:

King Features Syndicate distributed the newspaper strip of *The Lone Ranger* from September 1938 to December 1971. Fran Striker himself initially scripted the feature, but time constraints soon required him to quit, replaced by Bob Green, later followed by Paul S. Newman and others.



LONE RANGER #112, the first Clayton Moore photo cover.

1939:



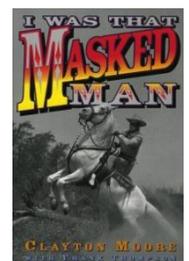
Republic Pictures introduces *The Lone Ranger Rides Again* 15 part serial again directed by John English & William Witney 263 Minutes (Not available on DVD)

The serial was released in 1939 and starred Robert Livingston. Tonto was played in both by Victor Daniels.

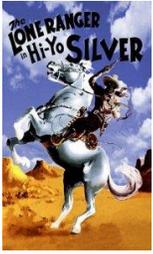
It gave the Lone Ranger a second companion, a Mexican named Juan, played by Duncan Renaldo (who later starred as The Cisco Kid on television). Livingston wanted his face to be seen onscreen and consequently appears as rancher "Bill Andrews" in most dialogue scenes. Its standard Western plot concerned a battle over land between outlaws and ranchers. The only known copy of this serial was discovered in South America and was Spanish-subtitled. It had been cut together as a long feature and so is missing most opening titles and original cliffhanger ending resolutions.

George W. Trendle disliked the fact that the Lone Ranger appeared without his mask throughout the serial and consequently decided to terminate Republic's license to use the character. He then offered the character to Universal Pictures instead.

Trendle had the prints of both serials destroyed to prevent their further exhibition after the license expired. Some have suggested that Trendle retained prints of the Lone Ranger serials, but made no effort to store them properly, and they deteriorated. However, Clayton Moore notes in his autobiography, *I Was That Masked Man*, that he witnessed the master material for the serials being burned on the Republic Pictures back lot. In any case, only Spanish-subtitled foreign dupe prints of the two Lone Ranger serials survive.



1940:



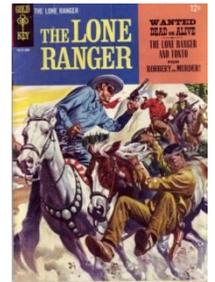
Episodes of the The Lone Ranger serial are adapted into movie - *Hi Yo Silver* Robert Livingston is The Lone Ranger 61 minutes

Considered by film historians to be one of Republic's finest chapter plays, "The Lone Ranger" (1938) also remains one of the great "lost" serials. Sadly, the original negative no longer exists and the only surviving prints feature Spanish subtitles and substandard quality.

Republic's 1940 abridgment, "Hi-Yo Silver," remains the best opportunity to see this classic serial. Running 68 minutes, it moves at a swift pace with plenty of terrific stunt work and six-gun action. However, Republic has altered the traditional Lone Ranger framework by presenting FIVE masked men - a device later used in 1943's "The Masked Marvel." It's an intriguing concept, though fans of the radio and television series may be disappointed. The print quality of "Hi-Yo Silver" is quite good, which makes one hope that the original serial will surface in the same condition.

1948:

Western Publishing, with its publishing partner Dell Comics, launches a comic book series which would last 145 issues. The original issues consisted of reprints from the newspaper strips However, new stories by writer Paul S. Newman and artist Tom Gill began with issue #38 (August 1951). Some original content was presented as early as #7 (January 1949), but these were non-Lone Ranger fillers. Newman and Gill produced the series until its final issue, #145 (July 1962).



1949:

The Debut of *The Lone Ranger* TV SHOW



The Lone Ranger TV show aired for eight seasons, from 1949 to 1957, and starred Clayton Moore as the Lone Ranger and Jay Silverheels as Tonto. Only five of the eight seasons had new episodes. It was the ABC television network's first big hit of the early 1950s. Moore's tenure as the Ranger is probably the best-known treatment of the franchise. For the show's third season, (1952) Moore sat out due to a contract dispute and was replaced by John Hart.

Moore returned for the final two seasons. The fifth (1957) and final season was the only one shot in color. A total of 221 episodes were made.

The original openings of the black & white TV shows featured The Lone Ranger riding on Movie Road in Lone Pine as well as about 20 episodes. All of the John Hart episodes and the first two color episodes were shot in Lone pine.

1953:

The First of 34 Hi-Yo Silver comic books released by Dell Publishing Co



1954:

George Trendle sells the rights of Lone Ranger to Jack Wrather. John Devereaux "Jack" Wrather, Jr. (May 24, 1918 - November 12, 1984), was a petroleum millionaire who became a television producer and later diversified by investing in broadcast stations and resort properties. He is best known for producing *The Lone Ranger*, *Sergeant Preston of the Yukon*, and *Lassie* television series.

1956:

The first movie *The Lone Ranger* (Warner Brothers) Starred Clayton Moore as The Lone Ranger and Jay Silverheels as Tonto



A Warnercolor Western film based on the TV show *The Lone Ranger* was the first of two theatrical features based on the popular TV series of the same name; the other one being *The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold* (1958), which was Bonita Granville's last film appearance. She retired from the screen to marry Jack Wrather.

1958:



The second movie, an Eastmancolor Western film was distributed by United Artists. *The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold* is also based on the TV show that starred Clayton Moore and Jay Silverheels with the actors reprising their roles from the TV series. No further films based on this specific version of the characters were made after this one.

1961:

Original Lone Ranger Script writer Fran Striker dies



1961:

An attempt by CBS to revive the series in 1961, *Return of the Lone Ranger*, did not get past the pilot stage. The Lone Ranger was played by Tex Hill in this production.

1965:

Bruce Beemer, radio voice of Lone Ranger passes away.



1966:



An animated series of the *The Lone Ranger* is released and runs from 1966 to 1968 on CBS. It was produced by Herbert Klynn and Jules Engel of Format Films, Hollywood, and designed and animated at the Halas and Batchelor Cartoon Film studios in London, England. The show lasted thirty episodes; however, these were invariably split into three separate shorts, with the middle segment being a solo adventure for Tonto, so that there were actually 90 installments in all. The last episode aired on March 9, 1968.

1973:



There have been many Lone Ranger toys released over the years. One of the most successful was a line of 8-inch action figures and accessories released by Gabriel Toys in 1973. In 2006 it was announced The Lone Ranger will be made as an action figure in the new "Indie Spotlight" toy line by Shocker Toys.

1980:

Jay Silverheels, best know for Lone Ranger role as Tonto, in TV series passes away.



1981:

In 1981, with high expectations for the feature film "The Legend of the Lone Ranger," a brand new daily newspaper comic strip was launched by the *New York Times*. It was written by Carey Bates with art by Russ Heath. The art was based on the look of the movie characters. The strip had limited syndication through the New York Times Syndicate. It ended in 1984.



1981:



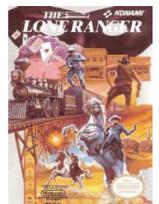
The 1981 film *The Legend of the Lone Ranger* western film directed by William A. Fraker and starring Klinton Spilsbury, Michael Horse and Christopher Lloyd was an estimated \$18MM production of ITC and Wrather Corporation.

The film caused much upheavel among fans when the movie studio filed a lawsuit and obtained a court injunction to prevent Clayton Moore from appearing as the Lone Ranger anywhere else, and then gave a cameo to his successful TV replacement, John Hart. The film itself was a commercial failure. It did not help that lead actor Klinton Spilsbury's lines had to be overdubbed by James Keach.

Moore, who never appeared publicly without his mask, was enjoined in the lawsuit during thus period, from wearing it and, in protest, he began wearing oversized sunglasses that were the approximate size and shape of the mask. In a sequence in the movie, John Reid, a newly graduated attorney, is traveling west in a stagecoach to meet his brother. Another passenger announces his intent to make his fortune from his invention of sunglasses. The stage is robbed and the inventor killed. As the man lies on the ground with the broken dark glasses, John Reid says, "So much for free enterprise."

1990:

The "Lone Ranger" series also inspired a NES video game, simply titled *The Lone Ranger*, produced by Konami in 1990.



1999:

Lone Ranger star, Clayton Moore passes away.



2003:



The WB Network aired a two hour Lone Ranger TV movie, starring Chad Michael Murray as The Lone Ranger and Nathaniel Arcand as Tonto.

This version takes a look at the character in the years before he became a legend. It all begins with the introduction of Luke Hartman, a 20-year old Boston law student who witnesses the murder of his brother, a Texas Ranger. He himself is wounded in the midst of the chaos, but is rescued by the Apache Tonto... and subsequently becomes smitten with Tonto's sister Alope. He then devotes his life to avenging the death of his brother and fighting injustice, and in the process becoming a worldwide legend.

The TV movie served as the pilot for a possible series. However, the movie was greeted unenthusiastically and no further development took place.

2006:

The first issue of a new Lone Ranger series from Dynamite Entertainment by Brett Matthews and Sergio Cariello shipped September 6, 2006. It has started as a six issue miniseries, but due to its success, it has become an ongoing series by the same team. On September 15, 2006, Dynamite Entertainment announced that *The Lone Ranger* #1 had sold out of its first printing. A second printing of the first issue was announced, a first for the company. While overall considered a critical success, the new series has received some backlash from classic Lone Ranger fans for its graphic depictions of violence. The series has received an Eisner Awards nomination for best new series in 2007. [True West](#) magazine awarded the publication the "Best Western Comic Book of the Year" in their 2009 *Best of The West Source Book*!



2013:

The Lone Ranger RELEASE DATE July 3, 2013

Budget - \$250,000 MM



The Lone Ranger is an upcoming 2013 American action adventure western comedy film produced by Walt Disney Pictures and Jerry Bruckheimer Films, based on the American Old West

character serials of the same name. The film was directed by Gore Verbinski, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and Verbinski, and stars Armie Hammer in the title role and Johnny Depp as Tonto. It is set to release July 3, 2013.



Lone Pine filming:

The Disney-Silver Bullet production of “The Lone Ranger” starring Johnny Depp and Armie Hammer completed filming in Lone Pine because of happenstance. There was a site that was finally found that matched what they were looking for. It turned out to be on the Owens Dry Lake which isn’t so dry these days because of the immense dust mitigation project the EPA and Superior court was forcing them to perform on the surface of the lake, emptied by Los Angeles continued and growing thirst.

The director wanted a very stark, flat, open expanse with slow moving water. The scenes as described had Tonto on a horse, walking in shallow water with his family/tribe settlement behind him. In this case about 12 teepees and several “tonies” made of willow. In the next scene, the settlement has been attacked, torched and there are bodies strewn about the sand. Young Tonto rides off with his crow on his arm, very uncertain about the future. The scene was actually shot on the playas East of Lone Pine. Because the Indian settlement would be torched, the State Fire Marshal wanted a county fire safety official on site. Not that there was anything there to burn but safety is always an issue. Since the county has no official with that description, the local volunteer fire department supplied a trained person. It was a two-day shoot, and the settlement was torched on the morning of the second day. Because the water level rises and falls, the art department had been alerted to the fact that the tents might get wet.

Quick sand, fluctuating water levels, one lane salt crystal roads, fire, and intermittent traffic control on a nearby highway all challenged the shoot, but it went off very well.