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There are phone calls that have little if any effect on your life and then there are those that change your life in ways you could never have imagined. This call was one of those. It came about 9:30 in the morning. I picked up the phone to hear the following. Everette, this is Wendy Foy. I said, Fred Foy’s daughter? She answered, yes. And this is what followed.

She told me that she had promised her Dad that she would preserve his legacy. After his death she had spent four years painstakingly going through all of his memorabilia, scanning and organizing with the goal of setting up a website, something he had always wanted to do. With the help of her husband it came to fruition. Having completed that “labor of love”, she was then presented with the question of where do all these legacy items go? She wanted to find a “home” for it all. She had been struggling with the thought that down the years it might all be lost. They needed a “home”. She told me about a little voice that reminded her of a man her Dad had referred to as the “Professor”. Someone he would see at conventions and had made an impression on him. That man was me. Strangely enough, from time to time, I would reach out to Wendy via email to inquire if she would like to send me an item or two that I could use for fundraising at the Lone Ranger Day Festival in Oxford, Michigan that I participate in every year. In one of my emails I had given her my phone number. She decided to give me a call in the hopes that I could provide her with some guidance with her desire to find a “home” for her Dad’s treasured memories. I told her about the museum in Mt. Carmel, Illinois the home of Brace Beemer, and Claudia, the curator there whom I referred to as a “curator’s curator”. Wendy said her heart was full. She felt like a prayer had been answered and she told me that I was her “angel”. At that point we proceeded together to work out the details of her sending me her Dad’s entire legacy collection. Now if a call out of the blue like that does not knock your socks off, nothing will.

What do you say at a time like this? Common sense would have made me take the time to make a rational decision. This, however, was not a time for common sense. When the chance of a lifetime comes your way common sense goes out the window. Who was I, after all, to question the daughter of one of the greatest men in the history of radio. She had just given me one of the greatest honors a Lone Ranger fan could ever receive. The chance to have a part in establishing the legacy display of one of the greatest voices in broadcast history alongside of that of my boyhood hero, Brace Beemer, was being offered to me. Sometimes an opportunity comes along that is larger than yourself and you have to trust the judgment of others even though you realize you will have to grow into the responsibility being offered.

I have worked with the museum in Mt. Carmel, Illinois for over ten years. Brace Beemer was born there in 1902 and the Wabash County Museum has a display of items about him and his role in the Lone Ranger radio program. I had, over the years, acquired a substantial collection of items related to the program and due to my advancing age had decided to donate them to the museum in 2011. This immediately seemed to me to be the logical location for the Foy collection. After all, these two men worked together for many years and it seemed fitting that their collections be together. When you hear the voice of either man you think of only one thing, THE LONE RANGER. When I made the suggestion to Wendy she readily agreed. Then came the hard part.
For the past year and a half since that call, I have spent from three to five hours on most days working on this project. The following is what we have planned. The “we” being Wendy Foy, Claudia Dant (the curator) and me.

The display will have several features. The one that is probably most unique will be the small mock-up of the original studio in Detroit where the first broadcast was made on January 30, 1933. When you enter the studio you will actually enter through the same door the first “Lone Ranger” walked through to do that first broadcast. We have the original door from that studio. If you like, you can even have your photo taken standing in that doorway as a memento of your visit. Will that be neat or what? Over the door will be the “ON AIR” sign we have had made like the original one. It will flash as long as you are in there to warn others that a broadcast is in progress. The flashing will begin when you open the door. In front of you will be mannequins of Brace and Fred, in their own clothes, standing on each side of a 1940s microphone suspended from the ceiling. There will be little else in the room as they had little in the original studio to diminish the chance of something falling over and ruining a broadcast. The sound effects man was in another room with a window for cuing the sounds. We have one of the actual equipment storage drawers from that room.

Elsewhere the displays of Brace and Fred will be side by side but separate so each will get his own area. Cases will be set up to feature areas of interest for each subject of the show. For instance, there will be a case for the major awards, an area for the various sponsors over the years, one for the prizes you could send in for, one devoted to the various toys that have been sold over the years as well as the costumes you may purchase. We are hoping to have a program set up that will allow you to listen to the description of what you are seeing in each case on your own cell phone. This will eliminate any problems of having to wait until the person ahead of you is done before you can listen. This is our plan anyway.

A library of photos is being established. Since many of the toys and such are no longer available or too costly to obtain, a photographic “library” is being established. It already contains hundreds of photographs arranged in binders by subject matter. This area will continue to grow over the years. Eventually, it is hoped that the collection will contain a complete photographic history of all aspects of the program. Visitors will be given the chance to donate items for this display as well as the larger display itself. It is our aim to make this a living history of the radio show so it can grow with time and not be static.

Fred Foy seldom discarded anything he felt may be useful in the future. He assembled several albums of photos from the various times of his life. These photos number in the hundreds. Many letters to and from radio notables as well as family members will be in the collection. You will get to know Fred as a person and not just a voice coming over the air. Fred was a dresser. Even though he was on the radio and could not be seen by the audience he dressed well. He felt the high standards of the program should be maintained at all times. Several of his personal jewelry items will be there. You will also see his birth certificate, baptismal certificate, diplomas, degrees, military records and medals.

Outside the museum is a small garden. At the Lone Ranger Festival in 1993 Fred and Brace’s daughter, Barbara, had their foot prints cast in concrete. That garden will play a major roll on the opening day of the exhibit. A special time capsule has been made and inside are items from the program. The contents of it will be revealed at the opening ceremony and it will be buried in the garden at a short dedication ceremony. The burial spot will be covered by concrete and topped by the bronze plaque that has been provided by Fred’s
branch of the armed services listing his rank and service. I have been told this is the only time capsule commemorating a radio program that has been prepared. I have not, however, checked it out.

Both of the families of Brace and Fred have contributed items for the display. Items from fans and friends have also been donated making the collection large enough that it can be changed at various times so if you revisit you will see some new items each time. One item that will always be on display is the only saddle owned and used by Brace and has been authenticated by his son, Richard. Richard was the one that Brace put in charge of cleaning and polishing it for public appearances. The story of how it was obtained will be the subject of a later article in the Silver Bullet.

For those who want a memory to take home of their presence at the opening, there will be several items to choose from. Among them will be a very limited number of the Carlton Cards ornament, with sound of the Lone Ranger on Silver. Fred recorded a part of the show opening for it. As part of his compensation, he was given several for his own collection. Wendy, Fred’s daughter, has made them available for the opening. Each one will come with a certificate of authenticity signed by Wendy. 8 X 10 copies of a painting of the Lone Ranger on Silver that was commissioned about thirty years ago, and now is on permanent display in the museum, will be available, autographed by the artist. If possible the artist will be there. If not, she will sign them in advance. We are checking into the possibility of having some sort of memento for each one who attends that says “I was there”. It will be available only to the those in attendance that day. If it can be done, we will let you know in the future on the fan club website. All monies collected will go to the museum to help cover the cost of setting up the display.

A limited edition of 250 copies of his book found in Fred’s belongings was printed and sold to raise money for the establishment of this display. Additional funds are still needed to make it what we envision. This project is being funded totally by fans of the Lone Ranger. If anyone would like to be a part of making this possible, they can send a check in any amount made payable to Wabash County Museum. It can be sent to Claudia Dant, Curator, Wabash County Museum, 5628 Hwy 8, Mt. Carmel, IL 62863. All donations are tax deductible. The museum is a free (no admission charge) museum run by the county and on a very limited budget so every dollar helps.

This display will be centered on the radio Lone Ranger program. This is mainly because it is in the hometown of the most famous person to play the role on radio. This does not diminish the television and film versions and the role of those that played it on those screens. Some items of this display will of course overlap with those versions. The Lone Ranger for the most part had two separate audiences, those that listened on radio and those who viewed it on television. There are fans of each that feel their Lone Ranger was the “only” one. That is fine, for each group of fans has a role to play in keeping the legend alive.

This world could use more programs that portray the standards that the originator of the Lone Ranger, George W. Trendle, set for the program. When he appointed Fran Striker to write the radio scripts, he gave orders that the program should be kept to the highest standards so it would be safe for children to emulate the lead characters. A standard that has, sadly, all but been forgotten in today’s programing.

**Would you like to be a part of this historic display? You can and it will not cost you anything. Here is your chance to have your memory of the Lone Ranger live for many years after you are not around. As I mentioned, there will be a photo library. This is where you can be a lasting part of keeping the Lone Ranger alive. We all have that favorite Lone Ranger item. All you need to do is photograph the item, toy, premium, autograph, etc. and**
We ask a favor of all our Members, when posting a comment to TLRFC page on Facebook, please add your membership number. In this way we can show everyone that you are an official member and proud of it! Thanks for your help!

Annie Little-TLRFC Member # 606
A Beautiful Site to Behold

Patrick S. Poplin wrote in to The Lone Ranger Fan Club and shared a great discovery in Arizona.

“The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold” was filmed interestingly enough, on location in Arizona. (location shooting outside of California was rare in the 1950s) Part of the movie is set at a mission there. Patrick wrote, “Imagine my surprise then, when I visited Mission San Xavier there and discovered that it was the mission from the movie.

This is the first article I have been a part of that features a site and it is a beautiful site for sure. The Mission was founded in 1692 by Padre Eusebio Kino. The location was in the center of a centuries old Indian settlement of the Sobaipuri O’odham that was a branch of the Akimel or River O’odham, located along the banks of the Santa Cruz River. The mission was named for Francis Xavier, a Christian missionary and co-founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Order) in Europe.

The original church was built to the north of the present Franciscan church. Charles III of Spain distrusted Jesuits and in 1767 banned them from Spanish lands in the Americas. He installed what he considered the more pliable and "reliable" Franciscans as replacements. The original church proved vulnerable to Apache attacks, which finally destroyed it in about 1770. From 1775 on, the mission community and its Indian converts were protected somewhat from Apache raids by the Presidio San Augustin del Tucson, established roughly 7 miles (11 km) downstream on the Santa Cruz River.

Today’s Mission was built between 1783-1797; and is the oldest European structure in Arizona. The present Mission building was constructed under the direction of Franciscan fathers Juan Bautista Velderrain and Juan Bautista Llorenz between 1783 and 1797. They hired architect Ignacio Gaona, who employed a large workforce of O'odham to create today's church.

Following Mexican independence in 1821, what was then known as Alta California was administered from Mexico City. In 1822, the Mission was included under the jurisdiction of the Catholic Diocese of Sonora. In 1828, the Mexican government banned all Spanish-born priests, with the last resident Franciscan departing San Xavier for Spain in 1837.

Left vacant, the Mission began to decay. Concerned about their church, local Indians began to preserve what they could. With the Gadsden Purchase in 1854, San Xavier was brought under U.S. rule as part of the Territory of Arizona. The church was re-opened in 1859 when the Santa Fe Diocese added the Mission to its jurisdiction. It ordered repairs paid for with diocesan money, and assigned a priest to serve the community. In 1868 the Diocese of Tucson was established. It provided for regular services to be held again at the church.

In 1872, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet opened a school at the Mission for the Tohono O'odham children. In 1895, a grant of $1,000 was given to repair the building. More classrooms were added in 1900. The Franciscans returned to the Mission in 1913. In 1947, they built a new school next to the church for the local children.
Extensive restoration in the late 20th century has returned the Mission interior to its historic splendor. It hosts about 200,000 visitors each year and is a pilgrimage site, with thousands visiting each year on foot and on horseback, some among ceremonial cavalcades.

The movie, which was the last appearance of Clayton Moore in film as The Lone Ranger was filmed in 1958 and also starred Jay Silverheels.

Special thanks to Mr. Poplin for sharing this great Lone Ranger connected information.

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**EPISODE #4**

**“LEGION OF OLD TIMERS”**

This Episode aired on October 6, 1949

*Legion of Old Timers* - Young Bob Kittredge wants to make a go of the Circle K; but is being forced by Red Devers to sell the ranch he inherited from his father. How does Banty Bishop aid The Lone Ranger and Tonto and will they be able to save Kittredge from Devers and his henchmen? You will have to watch Episode #4 to find out.

**Character Overview Episodes Four**

By: Steve White
TLRFC Member # 346

DeForest Kelley played Bob Kittredge. His name was listed as De Forest Kelley. He was born Jackson DeForest Kelley in the Peach State in 1920. Known to colleagues as “De”, he was most famous for this tremendous portrayal of *Star Trek’s* Dr. Leonard McCoy or to most of us, “Bones”. Before he beamed up to the Enterprise, he walked the streets of Tombstone as Morgan Earp in the 1957 “Gunfight at the O.K. Corral.” Kelley would eventually appear in 4 Lone Ranger episodes. He passed on June 11, 1999.

Emmett Lynn played Banty Bishop. Lynn appeared in over 140 films between 1940-1956. He was featured in 9 episodes of *The Lone Ranger*. Lynn served in the Army in World War I, spending 19 months overseas. He was known for playing old men; though he was only 52 in “The Legion of Old Timers”. His last film role was as a Hebrew slave in the 1956 epic, “The Ten Commandments”. Lynn was
Born on February 14, 1899 in Muscatine, Iowa and died on October 20, 1958.

Lane Bradford played Jake. He has the credit of most appearances on the Lone Ranger at 15. He was also in the movie “The Lone Ranger and the Lost City of Gold”. Bradford had also acted with Clayton Moore in the 1948 serial, “Adventures of Frank and Jesse James”. He was born John Myrtland LeVarre, Jr. on August 29, 1922 and he passed away on June 6, 1973 at only 50 of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Norman Willis played the bad guy, Red Devers. He was invariably cast as a villain; because he had a natural grin, that gave him the appearance of being up to something. His pencil thin mustache also aided in his bad guy look. He was born on May 27, 1903 and passed away on January 27, 1988.

William Fawcett (uncredited) was born William Fawcett Thompson in High Forest, Minnesota on September 8, 1894. He was one of the most educated performers from the series, as he was a PH.D and Professor of Theatre at Michigan State University. In World War I, he was an ambulance driver for the U.S. Army and was awarded the French medal Le’gion d’honneur for care of the wounded. He was probably best known for his role as Pete Wilkey of “Fury”, from 1955-1960. He died on June 25, 1974.

Elmer Calvin (Hank) Patterson (uncredited) played one of the Old Timers. He will always be remembered as the Father/Owner of Arnold the Pig on “Green Acres”. That’s right Fred Ziffel. He got that character started on “Petticoat Junction” and was able to carry it over on the spin off “Green Acres”. Patterson was born in Springville, Alabama on October 9, 1888 and died on August 23, 1975. Patterson also was stableman Hank Miller on “Gunsmoke”. He played that role in 33 episodes from 1962-1972. Patterson was another character actor that was found all through the TV West. He appeared in 11 episodes of “Have Gun Will Travel”, 9 episodes of “Death Valley Days”, 7 episodes of “Tales of Wells Fargo”, and 4 episodes of both “Cheyenne” and “Maverick”. He also appeared in “The Rifleman”, “Bat Masterson”, “Bonanza”, “Wagon Train”, and “The Virginian”. Patterson’s great-niece is the popular actress Te’a Leoni.

Sandy Sanders and Sailor Vincent (both uncredited) played in both Episodes 3 and 4. Sailor Vincent played a brawling henchman.

Editor’s Note: You can get your own complete set of The Lone Ranger TV Episodes! It’s a Lone Ranger Fan Club exclusive and a must have for every Lone Ranger enthusiast. Available for shipment world-wide. Just clink here to see the great deal that LRFC members will receive:

http://www.lonerangerfanclub.com/dvdsbooks.html
Patricia Wagner, a visitor on the Lone Ranger Facebook page, knew John Hart from her youth. She did not know him as the Lone Ranger but to her he was simply “Uncle John”. He was the person who taught Pat and her brother how to swim and John’s wife tried to teach her how to play the piano.

Pat has so many happy memories of Uncle John from Warner Springs Estates, the senior citizen estate where he lived. Her dad was the caretaker there. If she didn't have school, her dad would take her to work with him, and often Uncle John would babysit. That's how she remembers John Hart. He wasn't the Lone Ranger, or Hawkeye, he was just Uncle John (although not relate) and to Pat, a friend and a truly kind-hearted man. He was a huge part of her childhood.

Patricia remembers that Uncle John was awesome. “I remember being a little kid, holding on to the side of the pool, and him teaching me to swim...he taught my brother too....after he taught us to swim, my brother and I went into a dirty pond, and he was so mad at us because he was afraid we would get sick, or drown....he cared about us that much. My dad used to take us fishing in the Pond at the estates, and Uncle John would come and teach us how to hook the worms or tie a lure”.

Pat recalls “So many people see him as a Hollywood star...ok, he was, but so few know who he was as a man. He was kindhearted, and very caring. He and his wife were like surrogate grandparents to me and my brother. That's what I want people to see. Sure, he was a great actor, but he topped that a thousand percent on the kind of person he was ....he was a legend as an actor, but a hero as a person.”

She knew Uncle John a long time after his acting career had ended. To her he was just a nice old man. She didn't even know who the Lone Ranger was until she was much older. John would tell stories about it during babysitting, while his wife (who they called “Dot”) would make her cookies. John would often work in his garden, and he let Pat help. He would also put her and her brother down for naps at times.

Pat remembers that one time she and her brother, Mark were playing in the clubhouse at the estates while they were waiting for their Dad to finish work. Mark accidentally scratched the pool table. Another old man got mad and started yelling at them but Uncle John was there. He said that they were just kids and he protected them.

He had such a big impact on Pat’s life as a child. The family was poor (Warner Springs was a poor farming town), but John never treated them like they were different. She remembers bringing John some strawberry plants she got from school. He helped her plant them in his back yard. But she also remembers crying when they died in the winter and he told her they died because they wanted to make room for new strawberries. He just had the right words to make everything OK.

When Patricia was in the 4th grade, she had a mission building project. She had to build a model of a California mission. She and Mark built a model of San Louis Obispo. Uncle John actually came to the public showing of the projects. Her teacher couldn't even talk to him. She was too shy and in awe of him because she was such a fan. But he came to support them. She seemed so shocked when he showed up and shocked when they ran to give him a hug. John and Dot were even at Pat’s high school graduation.
We recommend and endorse Nutramax as a daily supplement for better health for you and your pets. Helps reduce joint pain and stop the enzymes in the joints that breakdown cartilage.

Click on the boxes below for more information.
The Challenge of “Identity” and the The Lone Ranger

By: Dr. Jim Vickrey, Ph.D., J.D.
TLRFC MEMBER # 635

“Doctrine is the necessary foundation of duty; if the theory is not correct, the practice cannot be right. Tell me what a man believes, and I will tell you what he will do.”
Tryon Edwards (1809-1894), American theologian and my favorite quotation compiler.

“A man gradually identifies himself with the form of his fate; a man is, in the long run, his own circumstances.”

It’s been hiding in plain sight all these years, but I never noticed it.

That’s the problem of identity resulting in what must have been the inevitable double-mindedness about the role The Lone Ranger (TLR) took on for himself and his long-suffering companion, Tonto, after his near-death experience at the hands of the Cavendish Gang.

His presumed double-mindedness and the inner conflict it must have created as he played out his role, one destined for him by Fran Striker, consisted of (1) his “secret identity” as the lone surviving ranger of an ambush, originally dedicated to avenging his brother and the other Texas Rangers’ deaths and, later, righting other wrongs throughout the West; and (2) his persona as The Lone Ranger, who was almost always mistaken for an outlaw, which must have weighed heavily on his psyche over time, as he compiled more than 3,000 adventures on radio and television. Not that such a psychological reality would have ever appeared in the radio and television scripts dramatizing those adventures. After all, TLR was our first superhero, as previously argued, and, as such, he lived in a bipolar moral world with an errorless sense of right and wrong rarely, if ever, challenged or tested, and with fighting (with fists and revolvers) and horsemanship skills beyond the reckoning of ordinary men, all encompassed within an identity-hiding costume. A split personality with a highly developed sense of moral judgment about others – that was an alchemy for inner conflict, if there ever was one, one would suppose. Let’s explore briefly the secret identity of TLR and how it might have played out in his chosen role, with the persona of the Masked Rider of the Plains, our first Man with No Name. Then let’s consider a fanciful radio script based on it.

(If truth be told, TLR actually had three or more personalities: surviving Ranger (John?) Reid, brother of Ranger Dan, who actually died in the Cavendish ambush, along with four other Texas Rangers; TLR himself, when wearing his mask; and the many other assumed identities personified in the numerous disguises he artfully created. The latter emerged over the years, causing me to wonder, “Where did he keep all of those disguises?” NOTE: The first name of TLR is used with a question-mark because his given name was never definitively identified by his creators. “John” emerged only late in his feature film career.)

The Secret Identity. I’ve been fascinated by the secret identity of TLR (and of other, later superheroes such as Batman and Superman) since I was a boy, listening to his exploits on radio in the forties. “What must it be like,” I thought even then, “to have an alter ego which only one other person in the West knew about,” excluding his nephew Dan Reid and perhaps the operator of TLR’s silver mine. It was a secret identity so important that he and Tonto went to great lengths to hide, leaving listeners of the radio (and later
TV) programs on edge as some villain threatened to unmask The Lone Ranger, making me wonder, “What difference would it make if it were taken off permanently?” Would an adversary be expected to blurt out, “OMG, The Lone Ranger is really …! WHO is that?”

According to most accounts, the secret identity resulted from Tonto’s ministrations to the wounded lone Ranger, his creating of a faux grave to make it appear that all six Rangers had been murdered, and Reed’s expressed desire to avenge the deaths of his brother and the other Rangers by the Cavendish Gang. Tonto suggested the mask as a way of hiding who he really was as he sought out his human prey. After tracking down and capturing the evil-doers, however, he decided to maintain his secret identity by keeping the mask on. It has never been clear to me why he made that decision. Contrast his continuing to wear the mask with the lack of a facial covering by almost all of the other B-Western heroes we followed on radio, the screen, and television. (I’m excluding Zorro from consideration.) They were no more endangered by going bare-faced than he would have been. Moreover, they often assumed secret identities and/or disguises when that plot-device was required. That was possible because most of them rode into situations as “outsiders” or “strangers” (the most popular name given them by insiders in the place into which they rode, either as a “drifter” or an agent of some private or public agency sending him into action to solve a perceived problem, a fact usually not communicated to locals).

Superheroes are common in popular literature and most of them had secret identities, since at least the time of The Scarlet Pimpernel. As Marshall Lemon, a writer about comics and their heroes, wrote on line in “No More Secret Identities …” on May 29, 2014, “From the beginning, the unspoken rule has been that every superhero had two lives, one ordinary and one extraordinary.” That fact is reflected in the lives of the dozens of superheroes created since 1933.

The website that specializes in Top Tens lists the “Top Ten’ Superhero Secret Identities from Bruce Wayne/Batman, Peter Parker/Spider-Man, and Clark Kent/Superman to Billy Batson/Shazam, Dick Grayson/Tim Drake/Robin, and Tony Stark/Iron Man (not in order). No mention is made of Reed/TLR – even in the Top Fifty. Yet, if I am right, he was the first superhero in modern mass media. Many of the other superheroes pre-existed their secret identities. Superman preceded Clark Kent’s existence, for example, and created his human alter ego himself, unlike Batman and Bruce Wayne … and TLR and John(?) Reid. The latter identity was conjured up out of the imagination of Tonto, according to one version of the narrative, and adopted with mask. See Fran Striker’s 1941 origins novel, The Lone Ranger Rides, the definitive early source on such matters. (The radio series did not begin with TLR’s origins – that came later – but the TV series did, each developing its own version of the story thereafter.)

NOTE: The term “secret identity” refers to the erstwhile real human being behind the facade of the alter ego, the latter of whom is the one presumed to have super-human abilities, although, in most cases, both do. Excluding the other-worldly superheroes such as Superman, Thor, and Wonder Woman, as well as heroes such as the Count of Monte Cristo who merely impersonate other human beings, most are human beings who develop (Iron Man) or somehow obtain (The Phantom and The Shadow) their super-powers. TLR is in one category or the other, depending upon what one assumes about whence came his moral and physical prowess. Was he blessed by whatever Western gods there be, after his life-altering near-death experience – thus obtaining his super-abilities -- or did he develop them himself as a result of effort on his own? According to Striker, above, he already had his special skills at the time of the massacre of his brother and the four other Rangers, skills presumably developed through practice. Whence came his moral superiority is another matter altogether.

Writing about secret identities can be tricky, for there are two aspects to the secrecy involved: the publically known superhero’s secret connection to the human being behind the costumed façade and the
human being’s secret connection to the superhero. Either can be the alter ego of the other, although in most cases the latter is the ordinary human being. This is how the writer of the Wikipedia article, “Secret Identity,” put it (confusingly to me) on March 5, 2019): “A secret identity is a person’s alter ego which is not known to the general populace, [and] most often [is] used in fiction. ** In American comic books, a character typically has dual identities, with one identity being the superhero persona and the other being the secret identity. The secret identity is typically the superhero’s civilian persona when … not assuming the superhero persona.”

Regardless, TLR appeared on pages of history fully formed, morally and physically, his voice on radio and his voice and appearance on TV communicating with authority the powers he possessed. He is different from most superheroes in one respect, however. After originally donning the mast of TLR, he never again appeared in public as John(?) Reid, thereby denying the existence of his past.

**Identity Formation and Inner Conflict.** Most of us, for better or worse, develop the identity in adolescence with which we enter adulthood. The process is called identity formation by some experts, and consists of one’s own sense of self and one’s perception of other persons’ sense of the same self. The former results from biological and cultural influences (which also affects perception of the latter). While our identities evolve overtime, for most people, the core identity remains the same, absent some dramatic and/or traumatic event that significantly alters it. John(?) Reid obviously experienced such an event, for his transformation into TLR did not result from reflective evolution over time of his pre-TLR identity.

Once he took on the persona of TLR, I believe it was inevitable that he would experience the kind of inner conflict seemingly so common among those whose roles in life, chosen or imposed, are at odds with their inner sense of themselves, their “true identities,” their secret identities known only to one, two, or three others. That conflict would seem to be likely to be acute in a former Texas Ranger whose public persona (what others perceive one to be) is superficially, at least, that of an outlaw. After all, his identity as a Texas Ranger was only recently assumed when he experienced the nearly fatal ambush at Bryant’s Gap that changed the course of his life. Q: Had he chosen that path merely because his older brother was a Ranger, or had he chosen it for other reasons? In his origins novel, Striker didn’t tell us.

Regardless, it seems clear from the literature, not to mention the common experience of human kind, that a person can experience an identity crisis any time in his/her adult years during which one’s sense of self is challenged. “An identity ‘crisis’ may occur at any time in your adult years when you’re faced with a challenge to your sense of yourself,” according to Dr. Susan Krauss Whitbourne, adding: “It’s healthy to keep exploring your values, roles and sense of self regardless of your age.” Posted on Psychology Today’s website on March 3, 2012. Even the most stable individuals can experience an identity crisis where the provocation is powerful enough – a provocation resulting from a single dramatic occurrence or an accumulation of less dramatic eventualities over time. To lift the level of literary reference, Shakespeare’s Hamlet acknowledged the same when he pondered “the question” of whether “To be or not to be…,” after his famous encounter with the ghost of his dead father. So, might TLR have experienced an identity crisis in connection with his near-assassination and again later after years of being mistaken for an outlaw?

Let’s imagine what it might have sounded like on the radio, after 1,500 to 2,000 or so adventures, if he had revealed to a properly personified Tonto (an intelligent, verbally articulate Native American) any inner conflict he might be experiencing about his dueling identities – conflict that has been growing in him over the years since he decided to abandon his true identity to become our first superhero ….
AN ABBREVIATED VERSION OF A POSSIBLE SCRIPT FOR AN EPISODE OF TLR

“The Secret Identity”

WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE (selection)

STANDARD OPENING NARRATION

“A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust, and a hearty ‘Hi-Yo, Silver,’ The Lone Ranger. *** Nowhere in the pages of history can one find a great champion of justice! Return with us now ….”

NARRATOR

(Music swells then trails off, with musical bridges thereafter.)

Thunder rolls (sound effects in the background) across the plains of western Texas, not far from Bryant’s Gap, where Butch Cavendish and his gang once ambushed half a dozen Texas Rangers. It’s sundown and rain (sound effects) has begun to fall. The Lone Ranger (TLR) and Tonto scan the hazy horizon, as they don ponchos (sound effects). They remember that there’s a deserted shack somewhere nearby, and they are looking for it.

Spying the dilapidated, old wooden structure, now almost a lean-to with one side nearly flattened, they spur Silver and Scout in its direction, their hooves sloshing (sound effects) in the increasingly sloppy soil off the disappearing trail they had been following.

Lightning snakes across the sky, followed by even louder thunder (sound effects), as the Masked Man and his constant Native American companion, dismount. (Rain continues throughout the exchanges below.)

TLR
Let’s unburden our horses, Tonto, and take our saddles out of the rain (sound effects).

TONTO
OK, Kemosabe. I’ll follow you inside (the sounds of walking are heard).

TLR
Tonto, after we get settled (the sounds of saddles falling to the floor), will you start a fire at the open end of what’s left of the shack?

TONTO
(Sound effects of fire-starting.) You hungry, Kemosabe?

TLR
No, Tonto. You?

TONTO
I can wait. You wanna just rest for a while, before I bring out the bacon and beans?

TLR
Yes, I’m tired (long pause). I’m tired of being mistaken for an outlaw. I’m tired of you being treated badly in every town in the West you enter. I’m just … tired, I guess.

NARRATOR

More thunder resounds (sound effects) as the rain falls and the fire crackles, casting jumbled shadows
on the three remaining walls of the unsteady shack, which creaks in the wind and the rain (sound effects).

TONTO

I’m used to being tired of mistreatment by ignorant people, Kemosabe. I’ve been used to it since I was a boy. Since before we met. You remember: You found me wounded in my village after everyone else had been massacred, including my father, the Chief. You nursed me back to health.

TLR

Yes, I’ll never forget it. We became close friends – brothers – after that. And, you returned the favor years later not far from this very spot.

TONTO

Yes, but it didn’t stop your white brothers from treating me as an outcast. I just got used to it.

TLR

Well, I’m not used to it, Tonto. I don’t want to get used to it. And, I’m getting less and less used to being mistaken for an outlaw. I think I finally understand better how you must feel, however.

TONTO

Kemosabe, trust me. You can’t know that. You’d have to be born an Indian. You chose to be The Lone Ranger. I didn’t choose to be an Indian. I didn’t even choose to be named Tonto. There is a difference.

TLR

I know that, My Friend. I didn’t mean to equate them. I guess that last mistaken identity outside Pecos was just one too many.

NARRATOR

Lightning crackles in the night sky and thunder follows in rapid succession (sound effects), as the mood of The Lone Ranger and Tonto matches the confusion of the elements.

TLR

It sounds as if the sky is as agitated as I am.

TONTO

I can appreciate how you must feel, Kemosabe. To be thought to be a negative, when you think of yourself as a positive, is very frustrating, isn’t it? At least, most of the time, you get to explain away your mask. But, I can’t do that with my Indian heritage.

TLR

I know, I know. That’s why I sometimes wonder if I should give up my mask and you should adopt white man’s clothes and hair.

TONTO

Kemosabe! Are you serious?
TLR

I’m not suggesting it, Tonto. I’m just confiding in you the thoughts I’ve had recently. Am I disloyal to each of our senses of self merely to wonder that?

TONTO

No, not disloyal. I’m just surprised that you had such thoughts. Particularly about me.

TLR

Forget what I said about you, Tonto. I apologize. As for me, however, I keep reflecting upon this mask and the reaction it generates in others, when I would take it off and we could be a twosome similar to Red Ryder and Little Beaver.

TONTO

Yes, but I don’t forget, Kemosabe. Originally, you decided to wear the mask for to hide your identity from Cavendish and his gang. Then, you decided to keep wearing it to mark you in such a way that outlaws might welcome you and so enable you to learn information from them they wouldn’t otherwise share with you. Besides, I’m not sure I want to be known as the adult Little Beaver.

TLR

Yes, that’s right, Tonto. But, now those reasons have mostly become irrelevant. The Cavendish Gang was long ago brought to justice and now too many other outlaw gangs know who we are. Of course, the mask still hides my true identity by helping me create The Lone Ranger persona and has become my trademark, along with the silver bullets. But, why does that matter anymore? Only you and my nephew Dan know that.

TONTO

Kemosabe, that seems to be the source of your frustration, doesn’t it?

TLR

What do you mean, Old Friend?

TONTO

It sounds as if you are caught in a conflict between your chosen life’s role, the profession wrapped up in The Lone Ranger’s persona, which is often misunderstood, and your now-secret identity, doesn’t it?

TLR

Yes, it does. I think I’d just like to be a Texas Ranger again. Not The LONE Ranger. I like for people not to confuse me with an outlaw. I like for people to treat you right, too, Tonto.

TONTO

Well, Kemosabe, the white man’s hell will freeze over before the latter happens. You, well, you need to decide, once and for all, whether or not the mask has outlived its usefulness. Of course, if you take it off, the other Rangers are going to wonder where you’ve been the past 15 years!
The rain has stopped. The storm seems to have blown over. You ready to eat something?

TONTO

Yeah, I’m ready, Kemosabe. I’ll start cooking the bacon if you’ll warm the beans and put some coffee on the fire.

NARRATOR

After eating, The Lone Ranger and Tonto extinguish their campfire, saddle up, and ride off somberly, without the usual “Hi-Yo, Silver.” Tune in next time to learn of the Masked Man’s fateful decision. “Who was that ‘Masked Man’?” Well, you know …. “He’s still The Lone Ranger.”

THE END

It’s not too fanciful to imagine that our first superhero might well have had the conversation with Tonto described above. After all, more than a few later superheroes seemed to experience the same sort of inner conflict, particularly Superman and Batman. I have little doubt that he must have had the thoughts expressed above from time to time. Whether he might have had a true identity crisis in connection with them is a matter I’ll leave to the psychologists among us and … to other fans of The Lone Ranger. I’ll conclude this bit of speculation by reference to American psychologist William James (1842-1910), who wrote in lecture seven of his “The Varieties of Religious Experience” (1902):

“There is no doubt that healthy-mindedness is inadequate as a philosophical doctrine, because evil facts which it refuses positively to account for are a genuine portion of reality; and they may often all be the best key to life’s significance, and possibly the only openers of our eyes to the deepest levels.”

Grosset and Dunlap Lone Ranger

Credit for writing the first issue

By: Jeff Kepley
TLRFC Member # 721

Brief History:

The first issue of the Grosset and Dunlap Lone Ranger HC book series was published in 1936. It was entitled “The Lone Ranger.” This first issue appeared three years after the Mask Rider of the Plains debuted on WXYZ radio in 1933. The 18th and last issue “The Lone Ranger on Red Butte Trail” was published in 1956, the same year the Lone Ranger radio show came to an end.

Fran Striker wrote the first radio episode for the Lone Ranger radio series and went on to write many of the episodes while overseeing the ones he didn’t write. Striker was perhaps the biggest creative force behind the development of the mythos of the Lone Ranger. He was a very prolific radio script writer, but his legacy doesn’t stop there. He wrote the stories for the Grosset and Dunlap book series as well as one for Putnam. Striker also was involved in the Big Little Books, Pulp Magazines, comic strip and the two Republic serials featuring the Lone Ranger.
But let us pause for just a minute since we are focusing on the first issue of the Grosset and Dunlap HC book series. Who really did write the first issue? Depending on which printing you have, one might say Fran Striker wrote the story. But if you are lucky enough to latch on to a first printing of the book, you will see the name Gaylord Du Bois. His name appears on the dust jacket, cover of book and the title page inside the book.

**Gaylord Du Bois:**

So who is Gaylord Du Bois? He mainly worked for Western Publishing where he penned various Big Little Books, juvenile adventure books and many comic book and comic strip stories. He wrote Tarzan for Dell/Gold Key Comics from the forties into the seventies. Du Bois was given the assignment to write a 60,000 word novel based on one of the Lone Ranger radio scripts. By completing his assignment, he achieved credit for writing a Lone Ranger novel, even if it was for just a short while.

With the second Grosset and Dunlap book and all subsequent issues, Fran Striker took over the writing chores. And with the 3rd printing of the first issue, Du Bois’ name starting disappearing. First his name disappeared off the dust jacket, then the cover and finally on the inside title page.

One obscure bit of information may be unknown to many Grosset and Dunlap Lone Ranger collectors!!! The very last page, page 218 of the story was altered once Fran Striker’s name started appearing in place of Gaylord Du Bois. The picture to the left is the last page as Gaylord Du Bois wrote it. Notice it takes up most of the page.

Once Striker’s name replaced Du Bois’, the last half of the last page was removed.

Perhaps Bu Bois name was removed so there would be less chance of confusing future readers of who the writer synonymous with the Lone Ranger really was, especially since Striker’s name was on the other seventeen books. Maybe there are other theories as to why Du Bois name was removed.

If any club members know of another reason why, please write to the Lone Ranger fan club newsletter c/o Annie Little at email: annie07825@msn.com
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS!

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6   | Jerry Waterman | 203      | NM
6   | Harold Hinger  | 340      | Austria
7   | Tim Laushey    | 621      | DE
8   | RJ Ronyak      | 694      | MN
9   | Judy Caswell   | 634      | MD
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27  | Bobby Adams    | 80       | GA
27  | Kimberly Kolinski| 403  | NY
29  | B. Aszman Stone| 753      | IA

Happy birthday to all our members!

Have a wonderful day!

FROM THE EDITOR

By: Annie Little
TLRFC Member # 606

I don’t have a lot to share with you in this edition as I’ve had an uneventful spring. My husband and I did, however, go on trip to Mexico. But that’s all over now. It’s funny how you wait and wait for something to arrive and then in a blink of an eye, it’s over. But, I guess that’s life.

As a teen, I couldn’t wait to drive. It meant freedom. But then I had to buy a car since no one was going to hand it to me. I also couldn’t wait to have a job; to me that was independence. However, the feeling died pretty quickly because I had to actually work! Can you imagine? No one would give me money for doing nothing. Strange world I thought. But this was all part of my growing up.

And now that I have grown up I sometimes wish that I could be young again. Though if that were to happen, I wouldn’t have the blessings that I now have in my life; my husband; my children; my grandchildren. These things too will someday be gone from my life or I from theirs. So, I enjoy every minute of the graces and blessings given me from God. No one can take those memories away from me. They’re in my head and in my heart and that’s where they will always stay. It is, after all, a wonderful life. Good name for a movie, don’t you think!

Stay well and safe, and cherish those memories. Have a great summer. God Bless you all! I’ll catch up with you come Fall.
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THE LONE RANGER FAN CLUB

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