

BRACE BEEMER BIO

Brace Beemer (December 9, 1903 - March 1, 1965) was an **American radio** actor and **announcer** at radio station WXYZ, **Detroit, Michigan**.

Born in **Mount Carmel, Illinois**, Beemer was six foot, three inches tall and was an expert horse rider. He served as the deep-voiced announcer for **The Lone Ranger** soon after its first broadcast in 1933. Beemer also appeared as the Ranger in public appearances because station owner **George Trendle** felt that Earl Graser, the actor who played the part on the radio, did not look right for the part.

The son of WXYZ staffer Erskine Campbell recalled:

Brace Beemer was voice of Lone Ranger as early as 1938 because my father, Erskine Campbell, worked for him at WXYZ in Detroit that year, as a continuity writer and a sound-effects man, also ran a farm Beemer owned outside nearby Pontiac, Michigan. My sister and I, pupils in a one-room elementary schoolhouse outside Pontiac, often visited our father and "Uncle" Brace while they did the show.

In 1941, Graser was killed in a car accident, and Beemer took over as the voice of The Lone Ranger from 1941 to the last new episode on **September 3, 1954**. During the 13 years that Beemer played the title character, he was required by contract to restrict his radio acting to that one role until the program left the air.

Beemer wanted to continue on the television series, but the experienced and popular Western film actor, **Clayton Moore**, was chosen. Although Beemer had the right voice and had made many public appearances as the Ranger, he had no experience as a film actor, and it would be nearly impossible for him to take on the television role while doing the still popular radio series. However, Beemer's voice as the character was so familiar that Moore imitated his sound in the earliest TV episodes.

Beemer also portrayed "**Sergeant William Preston**" of the Yukon on **Challenge of the Yukon**, for a brief time after the Lone Ranger series ended. He died in 1965 and was buried in **Troy, Michigan**.