

## JOHN TODD BIO

**John Todd** (born Fred McCarthy, **1877 — July 14, 1957**) was an **American radio** actor.

A former stage actor known for **Shakespearean** roles, Todd soon gained work at **Detroit** radio station **WXYZ**, as part of director **James Jewell**'s repertory company, with roles on the various series produced by the station.

His most famous work was on **The Lone Ranger**. He played a local sheriff in some of the show's earliest episodes, but on the twelfth broadcast, which aired **February 25, 1933**, Todd first played his most famous role, the masked man's Native American assistant **Tonto**.

In reality a bald, stocky man of **Irish** descent in late middle age, Todd occasionally donned a wig for publicity photos, but was usually replaced by a Native American performer for public appearances.

With the exception of a brief period where he was replaced by a real Native American, Todd played Tonto for almost the entire radio run, and was the only original cast member heard on the final broadcast, on **September 3, 1954**.

Station owner **George Trendle** wanted to replace Todd in the role of Tonto, because he was "too old". Todd's replacement, a college educated native American refused to perform the "Me do" and "Him go" type lines as written and Todd was given back the role of Tonto.

Trendle had a reputation for keeping his performers working for low pay even when the show was a big money maker. This episode may have been another of Trendle's maneuvers to demonstrate that the actors could be replaced.

Other radio roles included recurring but less significant parts on **The Green Hornet** as Dan Reid, the title character's father and the now elderly version of The Lone Ranger's nephew, and on **Challenge of the Yukon**, as Inspector Conrad, Sgt. Preston's superior in the **Northwest Mounted Police**