

Bob Tallman

Adapted from Ryan Ellett's *Radio Drama and Comedy writers, 1928 – 1962*

William Robert Tallman, known as Bill, then Robert, and finally Bob, was a prolific script writer during the heart of radio's Golden Age, from the late 1930s to the mid-1950s. Before his career heyday in Los Angeles, Tallman started life in Colorado roughly around 1914. The year is approximate because he apparently claimed various years as his birthday. He was a high school dropout in the early 1930s as the Great Depression raged and subsequently moved to New York where he worked for the *NY Herald Tribune* and the Associated Press.

Though uncorroborated at this point, Tallman always said that he broke into radio on *March of Time* in 1934 and even claimed to have been head of the writing team. By the end of the 1930s he was writing regularly with the screenplay *Slightly Honorable* in 1939 and the American heritage radio series *Cavalcade of America*. Tallman's most famous work may be his stint on *The Adventures of Sam Spade*, first collaborating with Jo Eisinger and then Gil Doud. For two years during 1947 and 1948 Tallman again teamed with Doud to pen the original series *The Voyage of the Scarlet Queen*.

Tallman continued writing for the networks into the mid-1950s, earning credits on series such as *Mr. I.A. Moto*, *Suspense*, and *Escape*. He wrote for television through the '50s into the very early 1960s on *Omnibus* and *Perry Mason* among others and had scripts on *Hawaiian Eye* as late as 1962. Tallman died at age 80 on September 10, 1995 in Hollywood.