

Frank Lovejoy  
Roger Hohenbrink

Frank Lovejoy was born on March 28, 1912, in the Bronx section of New York City. He was linked to show business before he was even born; his father was a salesman for the Pathe Film studio. Lovejoy grew up in New York City and as a teenager worked as a "runner" for the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street. After losing his job as a result of the stock market crash of 1929 he turned to acting. He served an apprenticeship at the Theatre Mart in Philadelphia and then performed in stock theatre companies before making his debut on Broadway in "Judgment Day" in 1934.

Soon after that Lovejoy turned to radio where he became a prolific and dependable actor, announcer, and performer on such radio hits as *Night Beat*, *Beyond Tomorrow*, *Damon Runyon Theatre*, and *Escape*. Lovejoy was a voice-over regular on the popular 1930s radio series *Gangbusters* that featured weekly episodes based on actual crime incidents. Each program ended with various descriptions of wanted criminals, many of whom were later arrested due to avid listener participation. He portrayed the title character on the syndicated radio program *The Blue Beetle* (1940).

It wasn't until the 1940s that he made his film debut in *Black Bart* (1948) as Mark Lorimer. His other films include: *Home of the Brave* (1949) as Mingo, which brought him recognition; *South Sea Sinner* (1949) as Doc; *In a Lonely Place* (1950) as Sgt. Brub Nicolai; *Three Secrets* (1950) as Bob Duffy; *Breakthrough* (1950) as Sgt. Pete Bell, one of my favorite of his roles; *I Was a Communist for the FBI* (1951) as Matt Cvetic; *Force of Arms* (1951) as Maj. Blackford; *Goodbye, My Fancy* (1951) as Matt Cole; *The Sound of Fury* (1951) with Lloyd Bridges and Richard Carlson, as Howard Tyler; *I'll See You in My Dreams* (1951) as Walter Donaldson; *The Winning Team* (1952) as Rogers Hornsby; *Retreat, Hell!* (1952) as Capt. Steve Corbett; the classic 3-D film *House of Wax* (1953) with Vincent Price, as Lt. Tom Brennan, one of his most popular roles; *The Charge at Feather River* (1953) as Sgt. Charlie Baker; *The System* (1953) as John Merrick; *The Hitch-Hiker* (1953) as Gilbert Bowen; *Beachhead* (1954) as Sgt. Fletcher; *Men of the Fighting Lady* (1954) as Lt. Commander Paul Grayson; *Finger Man* (1955) as Casey Martin; *Strategic Air Command* (1955) with James Stewart and June Allyson, as Gen. Ennis C. Hawkes; *Top of the World* (1955) as Maj. Cantrell; *The Crooked Web* (1955) as Stan Fabian; *Julie* (1956) as Capt. Pringle; *Three Brave Men* (1957) as Capt. Winfield and *Cole Younger*, *Gunfighter* (1958) as Cole Younger, his final film role.

On TV he was a regular on the series *Man Against Crime* (1956) as Mike Barnett and *Meet McGraw* (1957-59) as McGraw. He also guest starred on such TV series as: *Four Star Playhouse*; *Zane Grey Theater*; *United States Steel Hour* and *Wichita Town*.

Lovejoy married and divorced Frances Williams and then married Joan Banks in 1940 and they had two children: Judith and Stephen. They remained married until his death. He died of a heart attack on October 2, 1962 in New York, New York at age 50. He is interred at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, California.