

Star Bio: GEORGE SEATON

George Seaton was born George Stenius in South Bend, Indiana and moved to Detroit after graduating college to work as a radio actor at Station WXYZ. Seaton was the first actor to regularly portray the Lone Ranger on the popular radio series, voicing the role from January to May of 1933. He claimed to have devised the legendary “Hi-yo, Silver!” cry because he couldn’t whistle for his horse as originally intended in the scripts.

Seaton became a contract writer with M-G-M in 1933, and joined 20th Century Fox in the early forties as a writer and director. His first major screen credit was the Marx Brothers’ movie *A Day at the Races* (1937), and he also wrote *Moon Over Miami*, *Charley’s Aunt*, *The Song of Bernadette* and *Coney Island*. The first film he directed

was Diamond Horseshoe in 1945. His work includes Miracle on 34th Street, Chicken Every Sunday, The Country Girl, and the Proud and Profane, among many others. Seaton was also a playwright, opening on Broadway with 1944's But Not Goodbye, as well as the musical Here's Love, which was adapted from Miracle on 34th Street by Meredith Willson.

Seaton twice won an Academy Award for best adapted screenplay, for Miracle on 34th Street and the Country Girl. He received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award in 1961. He also won an Oscar for his screenplay of 1970's Airport, a film he also directed.

George Seaton died of cancer in Beverly Hills in 1979.

For the Old Time Radio Researchers, this is your announcer, _____.

Star Bio: EARLE GRASER

Earle Graser was a multi-talented performer, best known for voicing the Lone Ranger at Station WXYZ in Detroit.

Graser had attended Wayne University in Detroit, where he earned degrees in oratory, drama, and interpretive reading, along with a Bachelor of Laws and a Masters in speech.

In 1928, Graser worked at the Michigan Theater (part of the Kunsky Theatre chain), as an usher, announcer, and in small parts in live shows. In 1931, he joined a traveling show performing the plays “The Haunted House” and “Your Uncle Dudley” in Michigan. In 1932, Graser was hired as a bit player by James Jewell, the dramatic productions director of WXYZ.

Graser took over the role of the Lone Ranger on the popular WXYZ show in April of 1933. The show was heard three times a week on the 150 stations of the Mutual Network, and Graser never missed a performance. He was, however, required to restrict his radio acting to the Lone Ranger show, and his identity was kept secret. For public appearances, fellow WXYZ staffer and announcer Brace Beemer wore the Lone Ranger's costume, since his physique was much closer to the character's than Graser's.

Earle Graser was killed in Farmington, Michigan on April 8, 1941, when he presumably fell asleep while driving to the studio and his car crashed into a parked truck trailer.

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Star Bio: BRACE BEEMER

Brace Beemer was a precocious, adventurous youngster. He managed to enlist in the Army in World War One, but was wounded in France while serving with the Rainbow Division, all at the age of 14.

Beemer began in his radio career in 1922 in Indianapolis and joined Station WXYZ in 1932. He had been the narrator of the Lone Ranger program, as well as playing Sgt. Preston on Challenge of the Yukon. He also appeared as the Lone Ranger himself at public appearances, since the station owners felt he fit the role physically better than the series' star, Earle Graser. After Graser was killed in a car accident in 1941, Beemer took over the main role, continuing as the character until

the last live episode in 1954. Unfortunately, he was unable to get much other work in radio during his tenure or after, as his distinctive voice typecast him in sponsors' minds.

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