Tudor Owen

Patrick Andre

Roy Tudor Owen was born on January 20, 1898, in Penarth Wales. His father was John Tudor Owen and mother was Florence “Fanny” Lewis. He would become a Welsh American character and voice actor.

Owen would serve with the Royal Army Medical Corps in WWI. Afterward, he would attend the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art before he moved to Hollywood. Owen began his acting career in the 1926 silent film Bride of the Storm. His next film role was 22 years later in the 1948 film Up in Central Park.

It was during this time in the 1940s and 1950s that Owen became involved in the radio industry, teaming up with producer and director Jack Webb in several radio programs. The first of those programs was the radio drama *Pat Novak, for Hire*. He had the role of Novak's drunk ex-doctor friend “Jocko” Madigan. He played this role in 1946 and again in the revival series in 1949. He again co-starred with Webb in the 1947 radio series *Johnny Modero, Pier 23*. The last time Owen and Webb worked together was on the radio version of the *Pete Kelly’s Blues*, playing the role of Barney Rickett. This was for a summer run in 1951. In 1951, he co-starred with Kay Phillips as her editor in *Alias Jane Doe*. His would leave radio in 1953 after having roles on many shows. These included *Escape*, *Suspense*, *Family Theater*, *Lux Radio Theatre*, *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*, *Crime Classics* and *The Lone Ranger* which he also appeared on the television series several times.

Described as, “distinctive-looking, bushy-browed, heavy-set Welsh character actor [who] played dozens of rustics, sea captains, sheriffs, priests, and police officers during [his] career. His was the perfect face for period drama.”

Owen has many movie credits, which include *Montana*, *Perils of the Jungle*, *Brigadoon*, *The Oklahoma Woman*, *How to Marry a Millionaire*, *The Court Jester* with Danny Kaye, and *North to Alaska* with John Wayne. His most successful film might be in the 1961 Disney animated movie *One Hundred and One Dalmatians* where Owen voiced the role of Towser. His last movie was the 1962 film *Jack the Giant Killer*.

In 1952, Owen would start a transition to television and appear on the series *The Unexpected* and the television version of *Cavalcade of America*. Owen was a popular television actor, having repeat roles in several show such as *Matinee Theater*, *Perry Mason*, *77 Sunset Strip*, and *Wagon Train*. From 1954 to 1955, Owen co-starred alongside actors Thomas Mitchell and Kathleen Freeman in the sitcom *Mayor of the Town*. He co-starred as a first mate in the TV series *Captain David Grief*, a South Seas adventure based on stories by Jack London which ran from 1957 to 1960. After his 1965 appearance on *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, Owen would retire from show business. All told, Owen has 111 credits on the Internet Movie Database.

Owen was married to Eleanor Cooke Griggs on August 15, 1939, in Los Angeles, they had one child, Delight Parker Owen. He married Gladys Virginia Bennett Paterno March 24, 1952, in Mexico and remained married to her for the rest of his life. Owen died on March 13, 1979, in Los Angeles, California. He was 81. Gladys Owen, who was 24 years younger than her husband would pass away September 8, 2013, at the age of 91.

Information for this biography was taken from the Family Search and Ancestry websites, from Turner Classic Movies, John Dunning’s *Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio*, from the Internet Movie Database, and from Wikipedia.