

Who Was That Masked Man?

Most of us who grew up in the late 30's or 40's made a habit back then of listening to the radio in the evening in what is not referred to as prime time. Some of the favorites were The Shadow, the Green Hornet, The Lux Radio Theatre, Jack Benny, Superman, Fred Allen, Red Skelton and Fibber McGee and Molly. On Sunday nights now in some venues, these programs are re-created for broadcasting to a newer generation. However, while surfing with the PC one day I came upon these shows, which have now been posted, on the Internet.

As a child, I always made a point of listening to the legendary Lone Ranger ,but have to admit I never knew how he evolved in script, but being an inquisitive chap wondered how the character and all the hype came about. After listening to the first episode about the beginnings, I decided to enlighten all you trivia buffs about what I found out.

Now. If you are not a trivia enthusiast, I beseech you to read no further..... But if you too always wondered?.. Well then.... here's the scoop.

It seems that a team of six Texas Rangers accompanied by a scout were tracking a mean bunch of unscrupulous characters called the Butch Cavisdish gang. (Not Butch Cassidy but Butch Cavindish). Now Butch and his bunch of dastardly bandits had been robbing and plundering wagon trains and settlers for some time, and the rangers had heard of his hiding place. Entering a narrow canyon, the rangers sent the scout ahead to find the gang, and the scout came back saying there was no one in sight. Well, unbeknown to the rangers, the scout was a Cavindish spy, and the Rangers entered the canyon and were ambushed. After the massacre, the gang left the scene with the turncoat scout, thinking all were dead.

Sometime later, a wandering Indian came upon the scene and examined the bodies on the ground. Seeing one still barely alive, he administered aid to the to the fallen ranger. After dressing the wounds the Indian helped the gain his strength back and he began to recover. This man told the Indian that he had been the younger brother of the Ranger Captain among those killed. It was now apparent that after the shooting,. One "**Lone Ranger**" had survived. Asking his benefactor why he had been so kind, the ranger learned that much earlier he had rescued a young Indian boy named **Tonto** (which is another story) and the boy had never forgotten the kindness and had called his savior **Kemo Sabe** which means "faithful friend". (That name would obviously stick throughout the many adventures the two were to share in later episodes).

Fearing that Cavindish might find out that one witness to the massacre still survived, the Indian made 6 graves instead of 5. Also, the wounded man told the Indian that he must hide his identity from all so that he would not be recognized by anyone, and that he would from that day on, wear **a mask**.

Vowing to catch the bandit, and having an expert Indian tracker by his side, The Lone Ranger and Tonto came across Cavindish but the bandit shot the Lone Rangers horse out from under him and the gang leader got away again. Needing a faster horse with the **“Speed of Lightning”**, The Ranger and Tonto had heard of such a wild horse roaming the territory. Finding the steed one day they saw that he had been wounded by a buffalo charge. The two carefully approached the horse, captured the animal and nursed him back to health. Also recognizing the kindness and attention, the animal bonded to the pair of humans and became tamed. Both the Lone Ranger and Tonto had noticed when the sun beamed down brightly on the horse, his hooves and white coat shone like “Silver”.

And, oh yes...later in the episode, The lone Ranger and Tonto captured the evil Butch Cavindish and his gang and had them all arrested.... but of course, the Lone Ranger didn't kill the bandit...because the Lone Ranger never killed anyone.....I think

PS: I know...I forgot the silver bullet....