

**November 4, 2019**

**Screen Director's Playhouse from The Hal Roach Studios**

**The Life Of Vernon Hathaway** - Aired Wednesday evening, on NBC at 8:00PM, November 9, 1955.

Directed by **Norman Z. McLeod** - *The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty* with Danny Kaye, *Topper* with Cary Grant and *My Favorite Spy* with Bob Hope.

**Alan Young** - was born in England. He didn't find out until he met Stan Laurel late in life that their families lived near each other in North Shields, Tynemouth. As children Alan's father and an aunt ran away from home to audition for Stan Laurel's father in Glasgow. He not only established himself in television history as Wilbur Post, he also owned a percentage of *Mister Ed* (1958), which made him independently wealthy.

**Cloris Leachman** - was nominated five times for an Emmy Award playing Phyllis Lindstrom, Mary Tyler Moore's landlady and self-described best friend on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* (1970) and on the spin-off series *Phyllis* (1975). She won twice as Best Supporting Actress in a comedy for *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*. Her first Emmy Award came in the category Outstanding Single Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role in 1973 for the television movie *A Brand New Life* (1973). She also won two Emmy Awards as a supporting player for *Malcolm in the Middle* (2000). Plus, she won an Academy Award for *The Last Picture Show* (1971).

**Douglas Dumbrille** - began his career on the Broadway stage. On film, he was usually the man you loved to hate. He was a comic foil to

The Marx Brothers, Abbott & Costello and Bob Hope. At the age of 70, he married Patricia Mowbray, the 28 year old daughter of his fellow actor friend, Alan Mowbray. He said, "Age doesn't mean a blasted thing. The important thing is whether two people can be happy together. Pat and I agreed that I had some years left and we could best share them together. We don't give a continental damn what other people think."

**Raymond Bailey** - The third time was the charm for this man. After two failed attempts in show business, he went to work in business finance and other careers. At the age of 34, he gave it one more try and was successful. After appearances in films such as *Sabrina* and *Picnic*, Raymond eventually found his way into numerous roles in television finally securing his place in television history as banker Milburn Drysdale on *The Beverly Hillbillies* from 1962 to 1971.

**Herb Vigran** - His 50 plus year career and over 370 credits made him one of the most recognized people in radio, films and television.

**Florenz Ames** - we saw him last week as Mr. Dithers in *Blondie*.

**Jay Novello** - made his film debut in 1930 followed by many uncredited roles over the next several years. He established himself quite well on television in numerous roles. He is best remembered in comedies especially in *I Love Lucy*.

**Susan Morrow** - had a brief career during the 1950's in films and television. Her 3 1/2 year marriage to Gary Morton was annulled in 1957. Four years later, Gary Morton would marry Lucille Ball.

**Richard Deacon** - we saw him last week in *Date with The Angels*.

Film Editor was **Bert Jordan** (A.C.E. - American Cinema Editors) - a mainstay at the Hal Roach Studios since 1932 where he edited many films of Our Gang and Laurel & Hardy.

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**Claire** - Aired Wednesday evening, on NBC at 8:00PM, April 25, 1956.

Directed by **Frank Tuttle** - *Roman Scandals* with Eddie Cantor, *Paris Honeymoon* with Bing Crosby and *This Gun For Hire* with Veronica Lake and Alan Ladd.

**Angela Lansbury** - Long before 264 appearances as Jessica Fletcher on *Murder She Wrote*, she was nominated for an Academy Award in her first feature film *Gaslight* in 1944 and nominated two more times again as Best Supporting Actress for *The Picture Of Dorian Gray* and *The Manchurian Candidate*. She has been nominated 12 times for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series on *Murder, She Wrote* (1984), plus four more times before, during and after the series, but has never won. As of 2018, Lansbury holds the record for the most Emmy nominations without a single win among performers with 18 unsuccessful nominations. She has won five Tony Awards for Best Actress in a Musical and/or play. An Academy Award was presented to her in 2014 for lifetime achievement in the industry.

**George Montgomery** - In Hollywood, he came to the attention of the studios as an expert rider and was hired as a stuntman in 1935. A few years later, George was offered a contract at 20th Century Fox in 1939 and found himself largely confined to leads in B-westerns. He was eventually cast in a prestige picture co-starring in *Roxie Hart* (1942), opposite Ginger Rogers. Next, in *Orchestra Wives* (1942), he played the love interest for Ann Rutherford. He was married to singer Dinah Shore for nearly 20 years.

**Amanda Randolph** - played Louise on *The Danny Thomas Show* from 1955 through 1964. She also played the piano and sang blues in vaudeville making several records under the name Mandy Randolph before becoming an actress.

**Jean Willes** - started showing up in comedy film shorts for Columbia in 1942 under her birth name Jean Donahue. She was a smart and sexy foil to such enjoyable comics as Harry Langdon, Andy Clyde and The Three Stooges. Among her 200 plus credits, she could be seen on television in episodes of *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show*, *Perry Mason*, *McHale's Navy* and *Bonanza*.

**Bill Erwin** - was an actor known for *Planes, Trains & Automobiles* (1987), *Home Alone* (1990) and *Somewhere in Time* (1980). He became Edgar Bergen's stage manager for his 1941 tour of the US.

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**Rookie Of The Year** - Aired Wednesday evening, on NBC at 8:00PM, December 7, 1955.

Directed by **John Ford** - *The Grapes Of Wrath* with Henry Fonda, *They Were Expendable*, *The Quiet Man* and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance* all three with John Wayne.

**John Wayne** - went to USC on a football scholarship 1925-1927. Tom Mix got him a summer job as a prop man in films in exchange for football tickets. While on the set he became close friends with director John Ford for whom he began doing bit parts. Eventually, Ford cast him in *Stagecoach* (1939), the movie that made John Wayne a star.

Wayne and his drinking buddy, actor Ward Bond, frequently played practical jokes on each other. In one incident, Bond bet Wayne that

they could stand on opposite sides of a newspaper and Wayne would not be able to hit him. Bond set a sheet of newspaper down in a doorway, Wayne stood on one end and Bond slammed the door in his face, shouting "Try and hit me now!" Wayne responded by sending his fist through the door, flooring Bond and winning the bet.

He won the Best Actor Academy Award in 1970 for his performance in *True Grit*.

**Patrick Wayne** - was 16 years old when he played the role of Lyn Goodhue in the program. He co-starred with his father in nine films and was offered the title role of Superman in the *Superman* (1978) film, but declined because of his father's cancer.

\*\*In this program, Patrick Wayne is wearing a New York Yankees uniform number 4, which was worn by Yankee Hall Of Fame Lou Gehrig. After his retirement ceremony on July 4, 1939, the Yankees officially retired Gehrig's number 4 on January 6, 1940. His number was the first to ever be retired in professional baseball. Babe Ruth's number 3 was retired on June 13, 1948.

**Vera Miles** - Born Vera June Ralston. She was cast in the role of Judy Barton in the Alfred Hitchcock film *vertigo*, but withdrew from the film when she became pregnant. Kim Novak would go on to play that part. She did perform in a supporting role in Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* a few years later. She changed her name to Vera Miles (derived from her first married name) upon arriving in Hollywood, due to the fact there was already an actress named Vera Ralston who was working there at the time. She retired from acting in 1995 and turned 90 years old this past August.

**Ward Bond** - worked with director John Ford on 26 films. He appeared in three Best Picture Academy Award winning films: *It Happened One Night* (1934), *You Can't Take It with You* (1938) and *Gone with the Wind* (1939). Gave a memorable performance as Bert the policeman in *It's A Wonderful Life*. Achieved his greatest fame as Major Seth Adams on the television series *Wagon Train* from 1957 to 1960. (Replaced by John McIntire (part of Christopher Hale) upon Bond's death in 1957.)

\*\*The character of Buck Goodhue/Buck Garrison is fictional although the Black Sox Scandal of 1919 was very real. One of the eight players permanently banned from baseball was named George "Buck" Weaver.

**James Gleason** - was seriously considered for the role of Hopalong Cassidy, that brought fame to William Boyd. He had over 150 credits in film and television. James was nominated for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his character Max Corkle in *Here Comes Mr. Jordan* (1941). *Here Comes Mr. Jordan* was later remade as *Heaven Can Wait* with Warren Beatty.

**Tiger Farfara** - had an eight year acting career from 1953 to 1961. He played the role of Tooe Brown on *Leave It To Beaver* and returned in the same role during the *Leave It To Beaver* TV revivals in the 1980's. His brother, Stanley Farfara played the part of Whitey on *Leave It To Beaver* from 1957 to 1963.

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## REFERENCES

Internet Movie Database  
Wikipedia  
YankeeNumbers.com