



When he began playing the role, Hart said in a 2001 interview with Tom Weaver for Starlog magazine, "I got a lot of bad advice about playing the part. I tried the bad advice for about one or two shows and then I said, 'The hell with that; I'll do it my own way.' They wanted me to be like a stiff Army major, and it was all wrong. So I just forgot that and slipped into the part, and everybody loved it."

For many "Lone Ranger" fans, Moore owned the iconic role, and Hart was placed in an unenviable position when he took it over.

"Tough job, but somebody's got to do it," said Boyd Magers, editor and publisher of Western Clippings, a western-film publication. "He walked right into it, and he played the Lone Ranger to the hilt. For those 52 episodes, he became the man behind the mask."

Hart was no stranger to horses, having worked as a cowboy during the summers while growing up.

"He worked very hard with Silver, the horse, who had been spooked previously, and was very large and very hard to handle," Beryl Hart said. "They hired him for a month to work with him."

"He said he could call Silver from one side of a corral and get him pounding toward him, this huge horse, and get him to stop on a dime right in front of him."

After Moore returned to "The Lone Ranger," Hart went on to star in the 1955 Columbia serial "The Adventures of Captain Africa."

He also starred in "Hawkeye and the Last of the Mohicans," a 1957 syndicated TV series shot in Canada with Lon Chaney Jr. as Chingachgook.

While shooting the series in Canada, Hart met his Canadian-born actress wife, then known as Beryl Braithwaite, when she landed a three-day acting job on the series.

Ten days later, the 20-year-old Braithwaite and the 39-year-old Hart were married.

Hart reconnected with "The Lone Ranger" when he played a newspaper editor in the 1981 movie "The Legend of the Lone Ranger," starring Clint Eastwood as the Masked Man.

Hart also played the Lone Ranger in a 1981 episode of "The Greatest American Hero" and in a 1982 episode of "Happy Days."

Hart was born Dec. 13, 1917, in Los Angeles and grew up in San Marino, where his mother was a drama critic for the Pasadena Star-News.

A graduate of South Pasadena High School, he appeared in a number of shows at the Pasadena Playhouse before landing a Hollywood agent. After working on "The Buccaneer," he was placed under contract at Paramount.

In the late 1960s, Hart became a filmmaker, producing educational, sales and travel films. He later supervised post-production on the TV series "Quincy, M.E."

In addition to his wife of 52 years, Hart is survived by his daughter, Robyn Proietto.

Donations may be made to Rancho Del Nino Nueva Vida, a Rosarito Beach-area orphanage, through Cha Cha's Angels at www.chachasangels.com.

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January 17, 2002

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to confirm the authenticity & history of the model 1889 Marlin deluxe Rifle, 44-40, serial #81663. This old Marlin was my personal property. I have owned it for quite some time. I have always had a fondness for the old lever actions. I have been shooting since a young boy & used to be pretty good at it. I worked as a cowboy in my youth before getting into Hollywood stunt work which led to parts in Westerns & then to the role of the Lone Ranger in 1952. I used to shoot quite a bit with my buddies when we found time in our schedules to get together. I don't do much shooting anymore but plan on doing some plinking with a friend at an old gravel pit. We still like to set up cans & shoot with 22's. I hope this Marlin adds to your collection & brings you years of enjoyment!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Hart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John Hart

Lone Ranger Fan Club



Ta-i Kemo Sabe, welcome!
You have reached the home of the Lone Ranger Fan Club. Click on the links below to explore the best source of information on the Web about the Lone Ranger and Tonto. Be sure to click on the "Join the Fan Club" button to learn how to become a Lone Ranger Deputy and receive *The Silver Bullet* newsletter!

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For more about John Hart,
be sure to visit Steve Jensen's John Hart Web

John Hart as the Lone Ranger

Who was that other masked man?

For one season, in 1952, Clayton Moore was replaced as the Lone Ranger on the popular television series. For 52 episodes, John Hart



John Hart The Lone Ranger and Silver

dashed across the television screen as the man behind the mask. Below is a story about John Hart that I wrote in February of 2001 for the Longmont, Colorado, Daily Times-Call

Autographed pictures and copies of John Hart's cookbook, "Cowboy's in the kitchen," are available at <http://members.tripod.com/~JohnHart/cookbook.htm>. They are also available through Hart's agent, Mick LaFever, by calling 585-226-9746; by writing him at 59 Maple St., Avon, NY 14414 or by e-mail at mlafever@rochester.rr.com. **NOTE: THE BOOK IS NOW SOLD OUT!**

John Hart was also that masked man

By Joe Southern
The Daily Times-Call

Contrary to popular belief, the Lone Ranger is not dead.

Clayton Moore, the actor who played the character on television in the 1950s and who is most associated with the masked man, passed away in 1999. But there is another actor who played the Lone Ranger on TV who is very much alive and well - a man who is now the lone Lone Ranger. John Hart played the part from 1952 to 1954 on 52 episodes of the show while Moore held out in a contact dispute.

Today Hart, 83, is retired and living with his wife in Warner Springs, Calif.

With the exception of Klinton Spilsbury, who played the title role in the 1981 big screen flop "The Legend of the Lone Ranger," Hart is the last in a long line of men who donned the mask since the character debuted on WXYZ radio in Detroit on Jan. 30, 1933.

"I've dined out on it forever," Hart said recently in a telephone interview.

While Hart has done numerous television and film projects, he is often most remembered as the "other" Lone Ranger.

"It's never bothered me at all," he said. "I went on and did 'Hawkeve' and did other things."

site at
<http://members.tripod.com/~JohnHart/>

Meet the other Lone Rangers
(More to be added later)

[Click here for Clayton Moore](#)

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His counterpart, however, took to the mask and played the role to the hilt.

"He (Moore) decided to be the Lone Ranger and he made it his job and he did it very well," Hart said. Prior to temporarily replacing Moore, Hart made two guest appearances on the show as one of the heavies opposite the masked man.

After the show ended in 1957, he made two cameo appearances as the Lone Ranger on television, once on an episode of "Happy Days" in the 1970s and later in 1981 on "The Greatest American Hero."

Hart's last connection to the legendary masked rider of the plains came in 1981 in the last Lone Ranger movie ever made.

"I worked on 'The Legend of the Lone Ranger.' I played an old editor of a Western country paper," he said.

While his character was hanged by the bad guys early in the film, Hart's involvement lasted well beyond the bit part.

"The guy who played the Lone Ranger was such a disaster," he recalled. "Having been the Lone Ranger they got me into doing all his press conferences and stuff."

Working in the lead role on the television series was enjoyable for Hart.

He said he made a lot of friends through it and forged a close relationship with Jay Silverheels, who played the faithful Indian companion, Tonto, throughout the series and the two theatrical releases that followed. He was with Silverheels shortly before he died in 1980 following a series of strokes.

"He was a sweetheart of a person," Hart said.

Work on the television series was challenging. The 52 episodes Hart did were all shot in a matter of weeks.

"We worked six days a week, every other week. We worked Monday through Saturday. The scripts ran 30-some pages ... We shot every (episode) in two days.

"I'd have anywhere from 15, 16, 17 pages of dialog to memorize. I'd get up at 5 a.m. with a cup of coffee to start memorizing my lines," he said.

Being a real cowboy in his younger days, Hart was able to do things that Moore and others couldn't do, especially with the great, white horse Silver.

"I was very attracted to the horse, Silver. He was half Arabian and half American saddle bred," he said.

He said Silver was very jumpy and difficult to ride.

"Clayton wouldn't ride him, the radio guy (Brace Beemer) wouldn't ride him ... I took him when I know I had the part. I took him out and rode him for a few days ... When we started shooting he was very friendly. I wore spurs, but I didn't have to spur him," he said.

In revealing another little-known tidbit about the show, he said Silver and Tonto's horse, Scout, didn't get along.

"They hated each other, it was really funny. We'd pull up and have some dialog and the horses would start nipping at each other and dancing around," he said.

To compensate for that, the saddles were placed on sawhorses for close-up scenes. "Then, they'd bring in the real horses and we'd ride out," Hart said.

One of the biggest mysteries of the old '50s television show is why Hart replaced Moore in the middle of the series. Some sources say George W. Trendle, who created the character, fired Moore because he was becoming too closely associated with the Lone Ranger.

But Hart subscribes to the more widely held belief that Moore, in a dispute with producer Jack Chertok, held out for more money.

"I have no idea (why Moore came back)," he said. "I had long been gone and happy doing other things. Clayton was bound and determined to be the Lone Ranger. I'm sure it was over money ... He (Chertok) was the cheapest guy I ever worked for."

In addition to "The Lone Ranger," Hart has appeared or starred in many movies and television shows. He wore the hero's mask in "The Phantom" and had lead roles in "Hawkeye and the Last of the Mohicans," "Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy," and "The Adventures of Captain Africa." On television, he made numerous appearances in "Rawhide" and also showed up on such programs as "Sky King," "Sgt. Preston," "Dallas," "The Addams Family," "Leave it to Beaver," "Perry Mason," "Bat Masterson" and "The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin," to name a few.

His first film appearance was in Cecil B. DeMille's "The Buccaneer." He went on and did several projects with DeMille.

"He took a liking to me and kept me on the show," Hart said.

He has worked with several old Hollywood greats, including Lon Chaney Jr., who was his sidekick in "Hawkeye," and Olympian/actor Buster Crabbe.

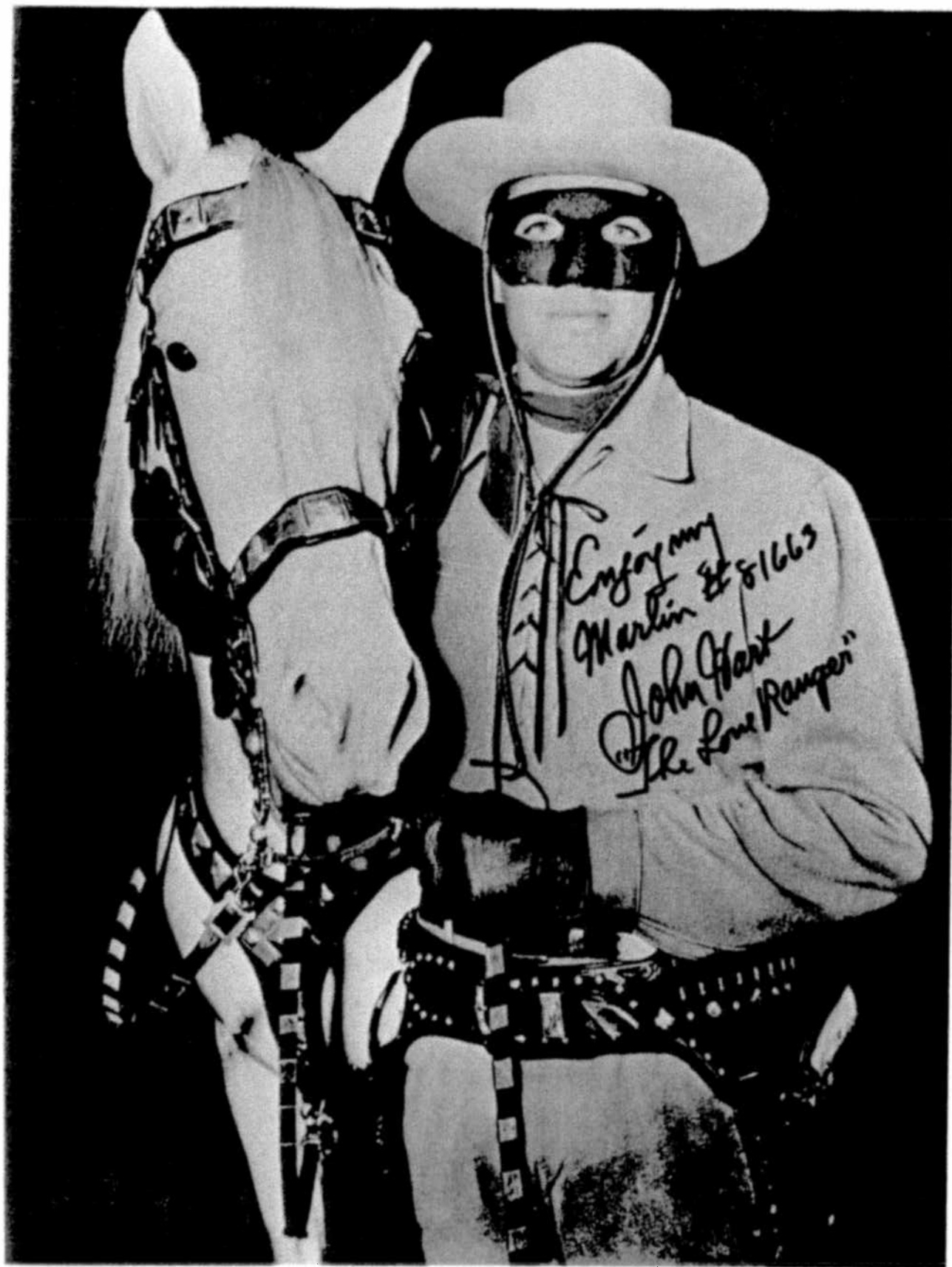
"Buster and I were old friends. I knew him before the '32 Olympics," he said.

He also recalled the time he had a "nice scene with Elizabeth Taylor."

He said he considers his work as Hawkeye to be his favorite part.

"The stories were good, the thing was a wonderful show," he said.

But only 39 episodes were made, despite the show's popularity, because of a dispute between the



John Hart The Lone Ranger and Silver



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John Hart

JACK ARMSTRONG



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2001

Who was that masked man? John Hart.

The Honorable Jim Barcia
of Michigan

In the House of Representatives
Thursday, June 28, 2001

MR. BARCIA: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the substantial and laudable Hollywood career of John Hart, a true cowboy hero. His work has spanned every aspect of the silver screen, from writing to acting, from directing to stunt work. But for thousands of fans, his name will forever be synonymous with the signature black mask of the Lone Ranger, the stirring strains of the "William Tell Overture" and a hearty "Hi-yo Silver, away!"

Growing up in the Los Angeles area with a drama critic for a mother, acting was introduced to John early in his life. After studying drama at Pasadena City College, John landed his first motion picture job working for Cecil B. DeMille in "The Buccaneer." After appearing in many gangster pictures, John was drafted into the Army, where he spent the next five years writing, producing, and directing touring shows for the Fifth Air Force.

Upon his return to Hollywood, John was destined to trade in his gangster's fedora for the good guy's white hat. He quickly discovered Westerns, playing the Lone Ranger in the television series for two seasons beginning in 1952. With his trusty sidekick, Tonto, played by Jay Silverheels, the Lone Ranger was heroic inspiration for

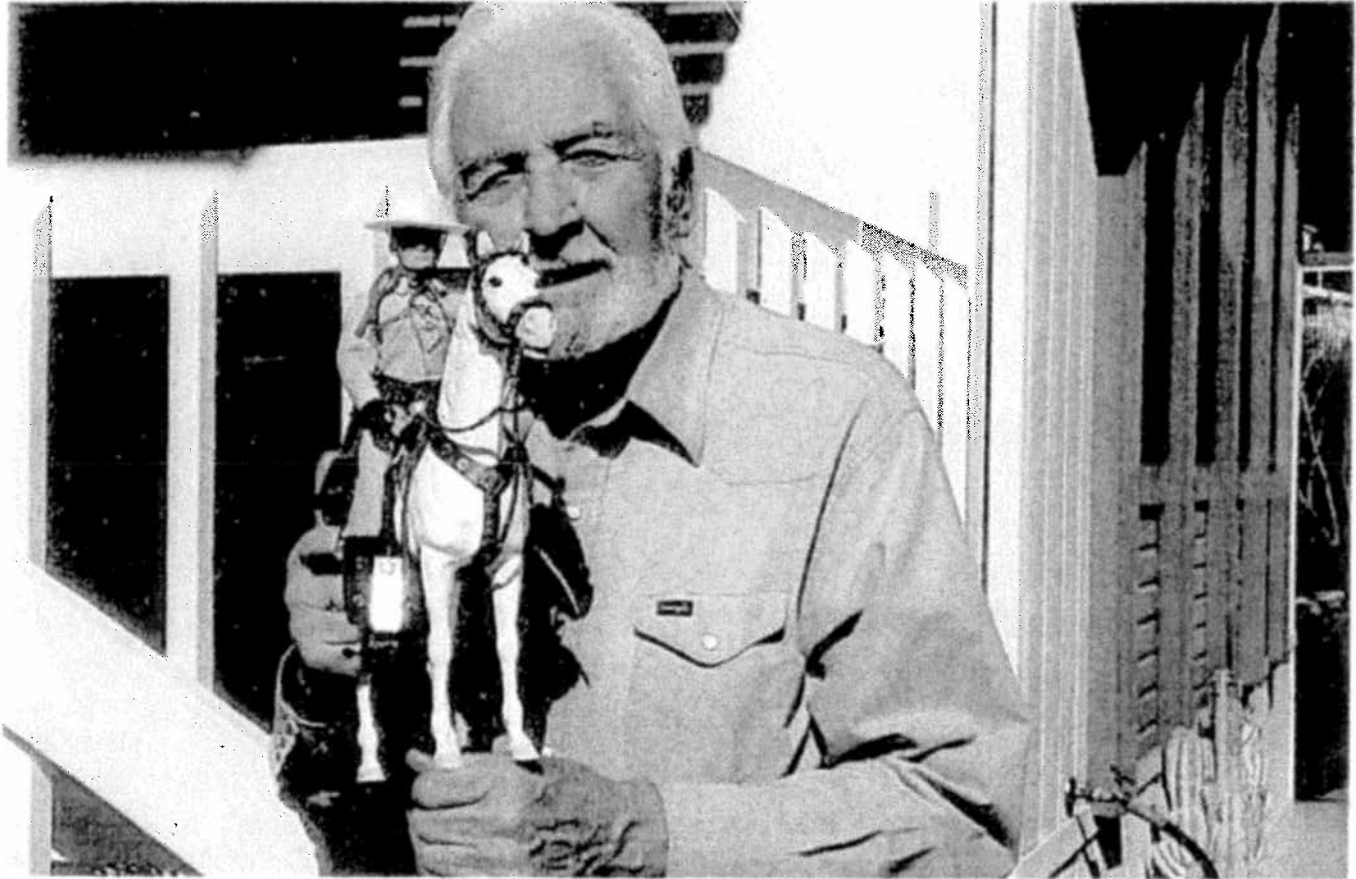
children all across America as the pair vanquished bad guys in the fight for law and order in the Old West. John went on to play title roles in "Jack Armstrong, The All-American Boy," "Captain Africa," and, with Lon Chaney, Jr., "Hawkeye and the Last of the Mohicans." He has appeared in more than 300 television shows and movies and has a lengthy resume of behind-the-camera work.

In today's world, it is easy to forget the thrilling days of yesteryear when heroes wore white, villains were always brought to justice and the Lone Ranger rode again. How refreshing it is to recall that his silver bullets never killed anyone and that he never sought compensation or credit for his good deeds. In testament to his hero status, children everywhere brought Lone Ranger lunch boxes to school and wore his trademark black mask during imaginary Old West games.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend John Hart for his role as an early pioneer in the film industry. Hollywood has changed greatly since the first motion pictures, but our expectations have not: We still look for the hero to ride off into the sunset after giving the villain his due. I ask my colleagues to join me in praising John Hart for a lifetime of honoring the Lone Ranger creed of justice.

producer and the advertisers.

In more recent years he has written a cookbook called "Cowboys in the Kitchen." He also sells autographed pictures for \$20 each (plus \$4 shipping) and is preparing to offer silver bullets and lassoes. He said he makes very few public appearances anymore ("I'm 83 and my knees have gone to hell") and is enjoying his family in retirement.



This is John Hart in 2004. He is posing with a "John Hart as the Lone Ranger" action figure given to him for his birthday by his fans in the Lone Ranger Fan Club. The figure was made by Ben Molina of Legends Reborn.

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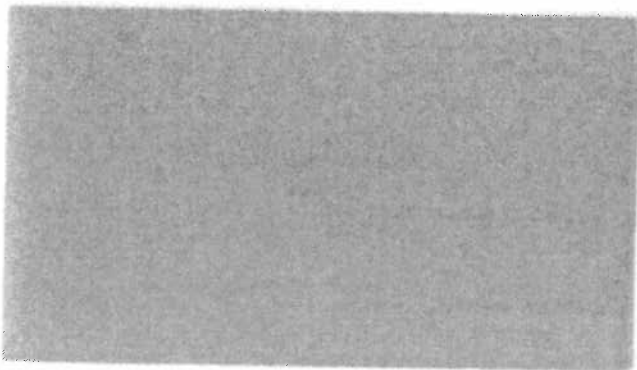
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See
Reverse

This Marlin model '1889 Rifle in 44-40, #81663 was personally owned by the TV & Movie actor John Hart. It comes with a NOTARIZED letter of Authenticity & History from John Hart-see pics. (Also the same letter without a notary so you get 2 signed Authenticity letters from John). Also included in this fantastic lot is: 3 color 11x17 photos (of John as Hawkeye, & as a bad cowboy in Fighting Redhead (Red Ryder)& as Capt. Africa), 5 black & white 8x10 publicity still photos (2 of John as Hawkeye, 2 of John as Jack Armstrong & 1 of John as the Lone Ranger & he has hand signed this one "Enjoy my Marlin #81663 John Hart The Lone Ranger"-see pic), 2 color 8x10 publicity still photos of John playing a bad cowboy in Fighting Redhead (Red Ryder) & Vigilantes Return, a 6x9 color of John at his Hollywood Star, a 1956 4 1/2" x 3 1/4" b/w photo out of John's personal photo album of him as Hawkeye standing in the doorway to his dressing trailer, a 5 x 3 1/2" color photo of John as a guest at a memorabilia show- this photo is also hand signed on the back by John & is out of his personal photo album, 5 old business cards of John's, 2 old cancelled checks dated 1974 & hand signed by John, & a hand signed 3x5 card from John. YES, GENUINE HAND SIGNED AUTOGRAPHS WITH LIFETIME GUARANTEE!

JOHN HART FILM CREDITS

John Hart appeared in these movies.

- Invisible Strangler (1984)
- The Legend of the Lone Ranger (1981) as Lucas Striker
- John Hus (1977)
- Blackenstein (1973) as Dr. Stein
- Simon, King of the Witches (1971) as a doctor
- The Phynx (1970) as himself
- Django spara per primo (1967)
- The Cincinnati Kid (1965) (uncredited) as a poker player
- Day of the Nightmare (1965)
- 36 Hours (1964) (uncredited) as Perkins
- Viva Las Vegas (1964) (uncredited) as a mechanic
- Captain Newman, M.D. (1963) as officer
- Billy Rose's Jumbo (1962) as the marshall
- Noose for a Gunman (1960) as Barker
- The Shaggy Dog (1959) (uncredited) as police broadcaster
- Vice Raid (1959) as the final thug at Malone's Office
- The Ten Commandments (1956) (uncredited) as the ambassador from Crete
- The Man Who Loved Redheads (1955) as Sergei
- Adventures of Captain Africa (1955) as Captain Africa
- The Great Adventures of Captain Kidd (1953) as Jenkins
- Caribbean (1952) as Stuart
- Texas City (1952)
- The Longhorn (1951)
- Fury of the Congo (1951) as a guard
- Stage Coach Driver (1951)
- Stage to Blue River (1951) as Kingsley
- Warpath (1951) as Sergeant Plennert
- Champagne for Caesar (1950) as executive
- Joe Palooka in the Counterpunch (1949) as Pedro
- Brick Bradford (1947) as Dent
- Jack Armstrong (1947) as Jack Armstrong
- Vacation Days (1947)
- Last of the Redmen (1947) as a sergeant
- The Vigilantes Return (1947) as henchman
- North West Mounted Police (1940) (uncredited) as Constable Norman
- \$1000 a Touchdown (1939) as Buck
- Disbarred (1939) as reporter
- Illegal Traffic (1938) as Davis

- King of Alcatraz (1938)
- Prison Farm (1938) as "Texas" Jack
- Tip-Off Girls (1938) as driver

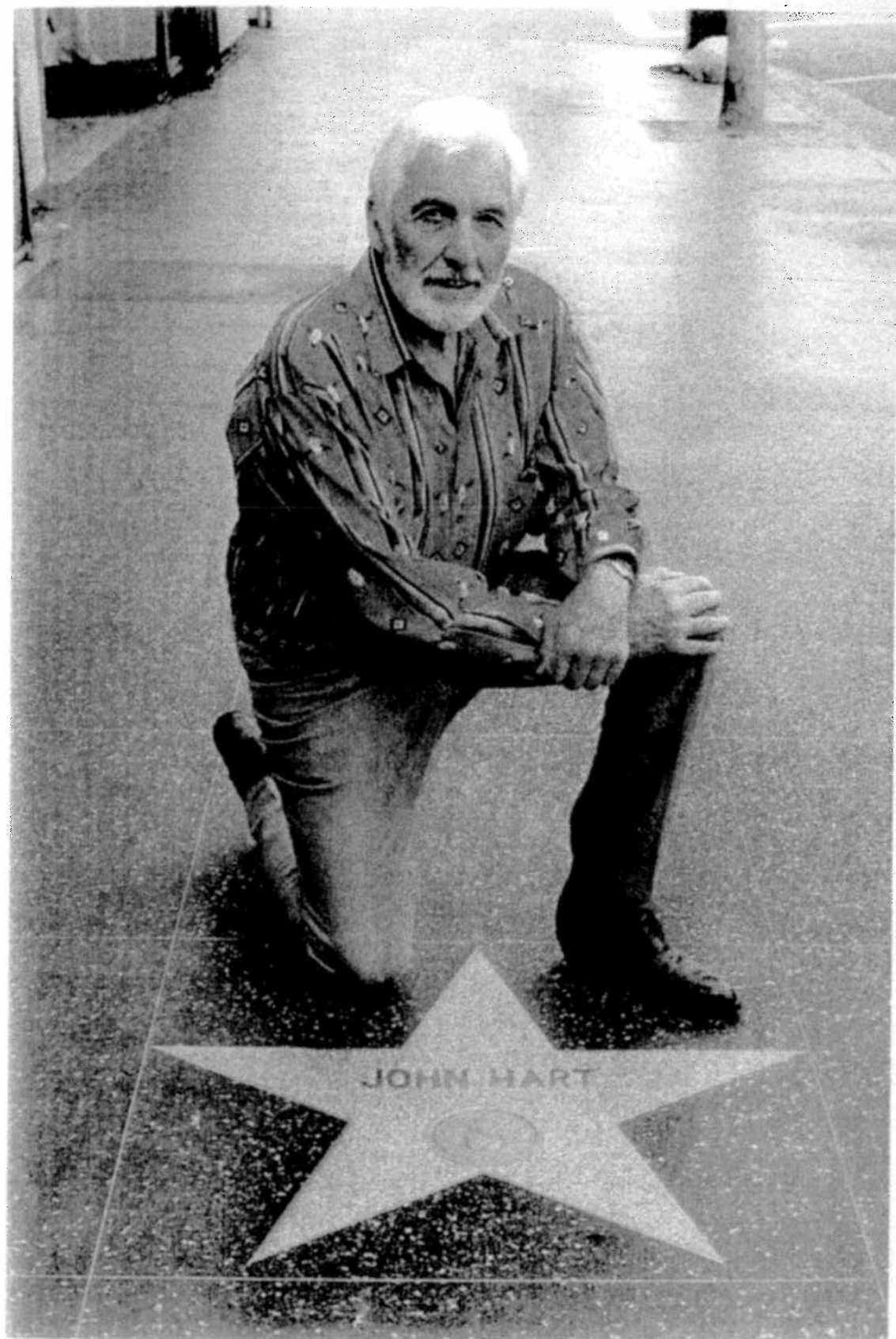
This list is just some of his credits.
It's not 100% complete

JOHN HART TELEVISION CREDITS

- "The Greatest American Hero" (1981) as "The Lone Ranger" in the episode "My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys" (April 29, 1981)
- "Perry Mason" (1957) as "Jamison Selff" in the episode "The Case of the Wrathful Wraith" (Nov. 7, 1965)
- "The Addams Family" as Scotty in the episode "Progress and the Addams Family" (April 23, 1965)
- "Perry Mason" (1957) as "Dion" in the episode "The Case of the Thermal Thief" (Jan. 14, 1965)
- "Rawhide" (1959) as Narbo in the episode "Abilene" (May 18, 1962)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "The Devil and the Deep Blue" (May 11, 1962)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "The House of the Hunter" (April 20, 1962)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "Reunion" (April 6, 1962)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "The Child Woman" (March 23, 1962)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "The Pitchwagon" (March 2, 1962)
- "Ben Casey" in the episode "Behold a Pale Horse" (Feb. 26, 1962)
- "Rawhide" (1959) as Narbo in the episode "The Deserter's Patrol" (Feb. 9, 1962)
- "Rawhide" (1959) as Narbo in the episode "The Captain's Wife" (Jan. 12, 1962)
- "Leave It To Beaver" (1957) as the Forest Ranger in the episode "A Night In The Woods" (1962)
- "Rawhide" (1959) as Narbo in the episode "Twenty-Five Santa Clauses" (Dec. 22, 1961)
- "Rawhide" (1959) as the sheriff in the episode "The Lost Tribe" (Oct. 27, 1961)
- "Rawhide" (1959) as "Rep One" in the episode "The Sendoff" (Oct. 2, 1961)
- "Rawhide" (1959) as "Spence" in the episode "The Gentleman's Gentleman" (1961)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "Incident of the New Start" (March 3, 1961)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "Incident of the Broken Word" (Jan. 20, 1961)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "Incident of the Challenge" (Oct. 14, 1960)
- "Rawhide" (1959) as Murdoch in the episode "Incident of the Champagne Bottles" (March 18, 1960)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "Incident of the Sharpshooter" (Feb. 26, 1960)
- "Bat Masterson" as Jacobs in the episode "A Picture of Death" (Jan. 14, 1960)
- "Shotgun Slade" (1959) in the episode "Marked Money" (Nov. 16, 1959)
- "Rawhide" (1959) in the episode "Incident of the Thirteenth Man" (Oct. 23, 1959)
- "Bat Masterson" as Wilson in part two of the episode "The Conspiracy" (June 24, 1959)
- "Bat Masterson" as Wilson in part one of the episode "The Conspiracy" (June 17, 1959)
- "The Adventures of Rin Tin Tin" as Sharps in the episode "Grandpappy's Love Affair" (Nov. 14, 1958)

- "Fury" as Val Benton in the episode "The Miracle" (Feb. 25, 1956)
- "Hawkeye and the Last of The Mohicans" (1956-1957) as Nat "Hawkeye" Cutler
- "Tales of the Texas Rangers" as Steve MacDonald in the episode "The Shooting of Sam Bass" (Oct. 15, 1955)
- "Tales of the Texas Rangers" as Sam Crane in the episode "Double Edge" (Oct. 8, 1955)
- "I Love Lucy" (1951) as "the lifeguard" in the episode "The Hedda Hopper Show" (March 14, 1955)
- "I Love Lucy" (1951) as "Tom Henderson" in the episode "Lucy Changes Her Mind" (March 30, 1953)
- "The Lone Ranger" as "The Lone Ranger" (1952-1953, 52 episodes)
- "The Lone Ranger" (1949) in the episode "Sheriff of Gunstock" (July 27, 1950)
- "The Lone Ranger" (1949) in the episode "Rifles and Renegades" (May 4, 1950)

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