

Pedro Gonzales-Gonzales *1926-2006* -SWL- Born, Ramiro Gonzales Gonzales in Aguilares, Texas to Mexican Americans, growing up in a talent-filled home. His father was a trumpet player and his mother was a dancer. Pedro left school at the age of 7 to join their family act that toured SW Texas. As a result, he was functionally illiterate. As a result of his illiteracy, he memorized scripts by having his wife read them to him.



Pedro married at the age of seventeen and served in WW2. After the war he performed stand-up comedy for Spanish speaking audiences.

In 1953 he appeared as a contestant on the Groucho Marx quiz show “You Bet Your Life” under the name Gonzalez G. Gonzalez where his banter with Groucho attracted notice. John Wayne saw his appearance too on the program and cast him as

comic relief in a number of movies including Rio Bravo, The High and the Mighty and Hellfighters. Pedro also made many guest appearances on several TV series of the time and one movie with Jerry Lewis, Hook, Line and Sinkers.

Pictured is Radio Officer Pedro aboard the SS Christoval trader in the 1954 blockbuster and Oscar winner “The High and The Mighty” Shown here, Pedro is monitoring and assisting the John Wayne trans-Pacific flight having engine problems past the point of no return! In actuality Pedro was a SWL most of his life and a dreamer like most of us. Good authenticity pictured, notice the restrainer belt in the lower picture, it got rough on the Pacific and the North Atlantic. Your author was there.

We feature Pedro’s cameo appearance in “The High and the Mighty” Staring John Wayne, Robert Stack, Claire Trevor, Laraine Day. – Who can ever watch that movie without whistling the theme “The High and The Mighty” which reached to number 4 on the Billboard charts.

Pedro is the grandfather of actor and Emmy winner Clifton Collins Jr. Pedro’s brother Jose was also a movie and TV actor.

Who can ever forget this American character actor best known for his appearances in a number of John Wayne movies?

Gonzalez-Gonzales died of natural causes at his California home in 2006 according to his grandson, actor Clifton Collins Jr. Pedro was age 80. Survived by his wife Leandra, they had three children.

Partially scripted from Wikipedia.

