

Michael Chapin

Titles: 19 Sources: 3 Stills: 3

Born: Hollywood, California; July 25th 1936
Elder brother of Billy Chapin [\[qv\]](#)



In *"NIGHT EDITOR"*, William Gargan demonstrates the mysterious motive force of the rollerskate to a boy more accustomed to horses...
Source: *The Moving Picture Boy*

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"Debonair Michael was the elder brother of Billy Chapin of **"NIGHT OF THE HUNTER"** fame. Their maternal grandfather was William Graham, owner and publisher of Harper's and Graham's magazines. None of Michael's films was as distinguished as **"HUNTER"**, but he made a tidy living in open-air parts, some of them leading ones – for instance in **"BUCKAROO SHERIFF OF TEXAS"**, **"ARIZONA MANHUNT"** and **"THE DAKOTA KID"**. He was as near as we got around 1950 to a Buzz Barton or Buzzy Henry. (Only Kelly Reno has emulated him of late, in a strictly non-fancy way).

Roy Rogers taught Michael various shooting and riding tricks, including hanging by one stirrup from a galloping horse with his face only inches from the ground. He survived it.

Michael Chapin pressed on into his teens, with another starring role in **"WILD HORSE AMBUSH"** (52). Then came **"WAGONS WEST"** (52), **"SPRINGFIELD RIFLE"** (52), **"PRIDE OF THE BLUE GRASS"** (54) and a small part in his kid brother's star outing, **"NIGHT OF THE HUNTER"** (55)."

Excerpt from **The Boys' and Girls' Cinema Clubs Annual** cover feature –“The Youngest Western Stars in Films”:

“On the cover of this annual you’ll see a young cowboy and cowgirl sitting on a load of hay in sunny California. The boy is thirteen-year old Michael Chapin and eleven-year old Eilene Janssen [*sic*]. These two are the youngest Western stars in films – and how they enjoy themselves!

Michael can ride fast and shoot straight. He is a friend of the famous Roy Rogers, with whom he has made several pictures and who has taught him fancy tricks with gin and horse. One of the hair-raising stunts Michael frightens grown-ups doing is hanging down by one stirrup from his galloping horse, with his face only a few inches from the ground....

We’re glad to have you on our cover, Michael and Eilene, and we’re sure British boys and girls everywhere will enjoy seeing you there and on the screen.”

Excerpt from **Speelfilm Encyclopedie** review of “BUCKAROO SHERIFF”:

“This is the first of four so-called “**Rough Ridin’ Kids**” Westerns with young Chapin and Janssen in the leads. Republic hoped that the young Western audience would find it fun to see people their own age in action. Chapin had already played in various Westerns since 1946. In this film, however, both actors are not able to make up for a total lack of action and - how should one say it? - of interest as well..”



Chapin and Janssen in either “BUCKAROO SHERIFF OF TEXAS” or “ARIZONA MANHUNT”

Source: *The Boys' and Girls' Cinema Clubs Annual*



Discussing the cameraman's toupée with Janssen in "ARIZONA MANHUNT"

Source: The Boys' and Girls' Cinema Clubs Annual

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
44	8	THE SULLIVANS	with Johnny Calkins, Billy Cummings, Bobby Driscoll, Buddy Swan, Bobby Larson, Merrill Rodin
45	9	THE CORN IS GREEN	with Billy Roy
46	11	BACKLASH	with Gary Gray, Jerry Mickelsen
46		THE FARMERS DAUGHTER	
46		IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE	with Bobby Anderson, Jimmy Hawkins, George Nokes, Tommy Rettig, Larry Simms
46		NIGHT EDITOR	with Johnny Calkins
46		SONG OF ARIZONA	with Johnny Calkins, Tommy Cook, Tommy Ivo
46		SWAMP FIRE	
47	12	CALL NORTHSIDE 777	
47		HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS	with Gary Gray, Jerry Hunter, Peter Miles
48	13	NIGHT WIND	with Gary Gray
48		UNDER CALIFORNIA STARS	
49	14	EL PASO	
49		STRANGE BARGAIN	
50	15	BUCKAROO SHERIFF OF TEXAS	with Eilene Janssen
50		SUMMER STOCK	with Teddy Infuhr
51	16	ARIZONA MANHUNT	with Eilene Janssen
51		THE DAKOTA KID	
51		WELLS FARGO GUNMASTER	
52	17	WILD HORSE AMBUSH	
52		WAGONS WEST	
52		SPRINGFIELD RIFLE	
54	19	PRIDE OF THE BLUE GRASS	
55	20	NIGHT OF THE HUNTER	with brother Billy Chapin, Sally Jane Bruce