

Junior Coghlan

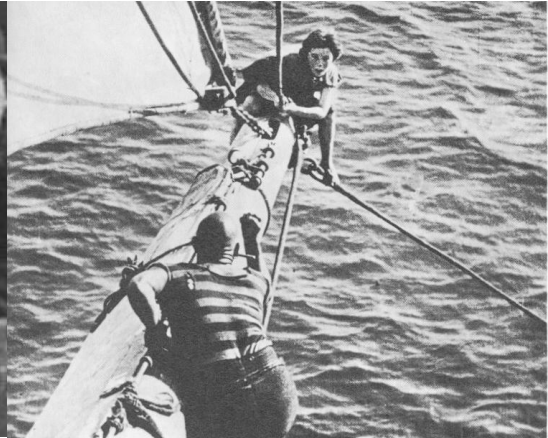
Titles: 32 Sources: 2 Stills: 11

Born: Frank Coghlan Jr; New Haven, Connecticut; March 15th 1916

Judging purely from available stills, and a few later performances, Coghlan was the quintessential 1920s street kid – hard nosed, resourceful, a survivor. He is chiefly seen today in repeat broadcasts of the Cagney favourite **"THE PUBLIC ENEMY"**, where he plays a bad boy striding defiantly down the path that will lead him to prison and a violent death. His sidekick in those early boyhood scenes is Frankie Darro, cut very much from the same cloth.



Age 11 in **"A HARP IN HOCK"**



Left: "RUBBER TIRES" Right: "THE YANKEE CLIPPER" Below: "THE PUBLIC ENEMY"



Halliwell's Filmgoer's Companion entry:

"American boy star of the twenties; previously played baby roles."

The Moving Picture Boy entry:

"This cheerful, brown-eyed Irish-American was just about the most likeable boy actor of the late silent screen. His father, Frank Coghlan Sr, was a doctor, and his mother, Katherine, an actress. In early childhood he earned good money as a model¹, then followed his mother's profession to considerable effect. He hit the screen at the age of three, at \$3 a day.

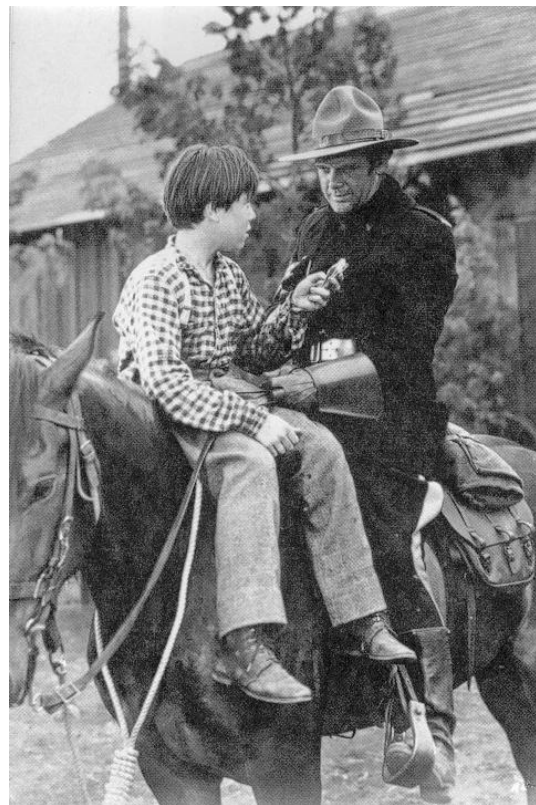
Though Frank Junior could look sad and waifish if business required, he was irrepressibly optimistic by nature, and when the leading roles began to come they were of an active, self-reliant nature. In **"LET 'ER GO, GALLAGHER"** he was an orphaned newsboy with his own furnished flat (an abandoned taxicab), who became the sidekick of an investigative journalist. Other rewarding parts came in **"RUBBER TIRES"**, **"THE YANKEE CLIPPER"** (as a stowaway) and **"MARKED MONEY"**. Sometimes, foreshadowing Mickey Rooney's persona of the mid-Thirties, he would be the rough street kid cast opposite the posh one, as he was with Philippe DeLacy in the military-school setting of **"SQUARE SHOULDERS"**. The chemistry was perfect.

The 1931 Penrod was Leon Janney, and Frank Coghlan (as Junior was now beginning to be called) was his Sam. The homely potato-faced boy was growing into a personable youth, and his child career was over. He was in the 1932 serial **"LAST OF THE MOHICANS"**, and played the four-year old Shirley Temple's elder brother in a series called **"FROLICS OF YOUTH"**. He often cropped up in supporting parts in films of the Thirties, sometimes as a jockey (for he was a skilled rider), sometimes as gang leader in opposition to **The Dead End Kids**.

Then, just as his career was fading, came a lucky break: the still eager and innocent-looking Frank was cast in the leading role of radio reporter Billy Batson (for whom the invocation of "Shazam" worked wonders) in **"THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN MARVEL"**. Launched in 1941, it was one of

the most popular of all big-screen serials. Coghlan was Mickey Rooney's buddy in **"MEN OF BOYS' TOWN"** ('40) and many of the Andy Hardy films.

Having clocked up more than 300 screen appearances, he joined the U.S. Navy during World War Two, and stayed for 23 years, initially as a Naval Aviator and latterly as a Public Affairs Officer, proving an invaluable link between the Navy and Hollywood producers. Around the time of his retirement (in 1965, at the rank of Lieutenant Commander) he had a little role in **"THE SAND PEBBLES"**, and since then has combined public relations work in Los Angeles with dozens of appearances on film and TV - in recent years as "spokesman" for Curtis Mathes TV in their commercials."



Age 14 in **"RIVER'S END"**

Stills sources:

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|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| "A HARP IN HOCK" | – indeterminate website |
| "RUBBER TIRES" (small) | – indeterminate website |
| "YANKEE CLIPPER" | – |
| "THE PUBLIC ENEMY" | -- The Movie and TV Spanking Page (!) |
| "RIVER'S END" | – The Warner Bros Story |
| "RUBBER TIRES" (large) | – The Moving Picture Boy |

¹ *Earned his parents good money, that is*

FILMOGRAPHY

Year	Age	Title	Role
21	5	THE POVERTY OF RICHES with Frankie Lee	
22	6	BOBBED HAIR	
23	7	CAUSE FOR DIVORCE	
23		THE DARLING OF NEW YORK with Walter "Spec" O'Donnell	
23		THE FOURTH MUSKETEER with Georgie Stone	
23		GARRISON'S FINISH	
23		PATSY	
23		A WOMAN OF PARIS	
25	9	THE GREAT LOVE	
25		THE ROAD TO YESTERDAY with Billy "Red" Jones	
26	10	HER MAN OF WAR	
26		THE LAST FRONTIER	
26		MIKE with Frankie Darro	
26		THE SKYROCKET	
26		WHISPERING SMITH	
27	11	THE COUNTRY DOCTOR	
27		A HARP IN HOCK with Austin Jewell, Billy "Red" Jones	
27		LET 'ER GO, GALLAGHER!	In title role
27		RUBBER TIRES	as Charlie Stacks
27		SLIDE, KELLY, SLIDE	
27		THE YANKEE CLIPPER	
28	12	MARKED MONEY	
29	13	SQUARE SHOULDERS with Philippe de Lacy, Dean Reisner	
30	14	THE GIRL SAID NO	
30		RIVER'S END with Leon Janney	
31	15	CHASING TROUBLE	
31		IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE	
31		PENROD AND SAM	as Sam
		with Leon Janney, Nestor Aber, Robert Parrish	
31		THE PUBLIC ENEMY ♀ with Frankie Darro	as Tommy Powers
32	16	HELL'S HOUSE	as "Shorty" (who dies of ill treatment)
32		LAST OF THE MOHICANS	serial
32		FROLICS OF YOUTH with Shirley Temple	shorts series
33	17	DRUM TAPS	as a Boy Scout?
39	23	BOYS' REFORMATORY	
39		SCOUTS TO THE RESCUE with Jackie Cooper, Bill Cody Jr	12x serial
40	24	MEN OF BOYS TOWN with Darryl Hickman, Sammy McKim, Larry Nunn, Bobs Watson, Bobby Winkler, Mickey Rooney	
41	25	THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN MARVEL	12x serial, in lead role, as Billy Batson/Capt. Marvel



In "RUBBER TIRES"

