

Britt Reid, Publisher of the *Daily Sentinel* aka The Green Hornet

At the same time that journalists were becoming film regulars, they also were becoming regular characters in the comics and on the radio. Clark Kent-Superman became a radio star soon after the comic book featuring him debuted and the radio program was responsible for other regular *Daily Planet* characters such as editor Perry White and young cub journalist Jimmy Olsen. Other radio programs – mostly forgotten today and featuring titles such as Flashgun Casey, Hot Copy and Night Beat – depicted journalists as crime busters or other exciting people.

Like Superman, The Green Hornet – super alter ego of Britt Reid, the publisher of the *Daily Sentinel* – appeared in many media. He first appeared on radio in 1936, then in comic books and film serials in the 1940s, on television in the 1960s, and a feature film in 2011.

As a newspaperman, Reid was a pillar of the community leading in staff into producing a newspaper that served the public interest. As the “Green Hornet” he fought crime as a vigilante accompanied by his loyal partner, Kato. They both wore masks and drove a technically superior car called “The Black Beauty.” Reid used the Green Hornet to bring criminals to justice, but both the public and the public believed the Green Hornet to be a criminal and Reid embellished that reputation through the *Sentinel* because it helped him infiltrate the underworld.

For the best material on *The Daily Sentinel*, its publishers and reporters and the journalism throughout the Green Hornet’s various incarnations, go to the Newspaper Heroes of the Air section on *The Green Hornet*:
<http://jheroes.com/adventure/green-hornet/>

RADIO:

Publisher Britt Reid (Al Hodge) in the *The Green Hornet* premiered on radio on January 31, 1936 on a local Detroit radio station and was syndicated on the Mutual Broadcasting System in 1938 before going to ABC from November 16, 1939 through September 8, 1950. It briefly returned in 1952.

Britt Reid’s secretary, Lenore “Casey” Case (Leonore Jewell Allman) was secretary to Britt’s father Dan Reid before Britt took over as publisher of *The Daily Sentinel*. She was loyal to Britt but exasperated by his playboy ways. She eventually learns Britt’s true identity and keeps his secret.

Michael Aloysius “Mike” Axford (Jim Irwin until 1938, then Gil Shea) was the bombastic former policeman who became a first-rate police reporter primarily because of his contacts within the department. He dedicated his life to capture the Green Hornet.

Daily Sentinel's City Editor Bill Gunnigan (Fred Reno) barked out orders in the typical image of the editor who yelled at his reporters and hated being scooped.

Reporter Ed Lowry (Jack Petrucci) was one of *The Daily Sentinel*'s best reporters who admired the Hornet. After having served in the armed forces, he was welcomed back to the staff by Britt Reid.

FILM SERIALS:

Publisher Britt Reid (Gordon Jones with Al Hodge's voice as The Green Hornet) appeared in two movie serials: *The Green Hornet* (13 chapters) and *The Green Hornet Strikes Again!* (15 chapters). Lenore Case (Anne Nagel) was Britt Reid's secretary and Reporter Mike Axford (Wade Boteler) worked for the *Daily Sentinel*, the newspaper Reid owned and published.

COMIC BOOKS:

Publisher Britt Reid appeared in the *Green Hornet Comics* series in December 1940 until 1949. In 1989, a new comic book series was produced reinventing the *Green Hornet* mythology and setting the series during World War II. Fourteen issues were released. A new edition of comics appeared in 2009, starring Britt Reid Jr., the rebellious son of Britt Reid Sr. now retired.

BIG LITTLE BOOKS:

Three Big Little Books were produced in the 1940s: *The Green Hornet Strikes!* (1940), *The Green Hornet Returns* (1941) and *The Green Hornet Cracks Down* (1942). In 1966,

TELEVISION:

Publisher Britt Reid (Van Williams) appeared in *The Green Hornet* television series, which aired in 1966-1967. Kato was played by Bruce Lee. Both showed up in the second season of the 1960 *Batman* TV series, "A Piece of the Action" and "Batman's Satisfaction." Playboy-media mogul Britt Reid is once again the owner and publisher of *The Daily Sentinel* as well as the masked vigilante Green Hornet. Leonore "Casey" Case (Wende Wagner) is back as his loyal secretary. Police Reporter Mike Axford (Lloyd Gough).

MOVIES:

In *The Green Hornet* (2011). Britt Reid (Seth Rogen) is now the irresponsible, 28-year-old slacker son of widower James Reid (Tom Wilkinson), publisher of the *Daily Sentinel*, a Los Angeles newspaper. Reid hires Leonore Case (Cameron Diaz) as his assistant and researcher (she has a degree in journalism and a minor in criminology). The *Daily Sentinel* managing editor is Mike Axford (Edward James Olmos).