

In New Western

Hoagy Cast As A 'Pioneer Perry Como'

By HOAGY CARMICHAEL

HOLLYWOOD, Calif., Aug. 28. (UPI)—In a television world crowded shoulder to shoulder with husky, square-jawed, slim-hipped Western stars, I enjoy the rather unusual distinction of being low man at the hitching post.

Although it may come as somewhat of a shock to viewers who still believe in Santa Claus or the Rover Boys . . . I'll probably never be a Western hero even if I live to be a hundred.

As one of the stars on NBC's new "Laramie" series I will probably shatter years of Hollywood Western tradition by being slow on the draw, by riding badly, and by demonstrating complete ignorance in distinguishing a Choctaw from a Pawnee.

My only recollection of the latter tribes stems back to the time Paul Francis Webster and I wrote the song "Doctor, Lawyer and

Indian Chief" for a Betty Hutton musical.

These facts, sad but true, are the bane of every publicity man who has been assigned to let the world know that Hoagland Carmichael is an integral part of his new series.

Contrary to Western stars of the past, present and future, I was not raised on a ranch, take little interest in wrestling with livestock and refuse to pose stripped to the waist while lifting weights.

You might say that I portray a sort of piano playing coward . . . in a nice way, of course.

Now, lest anyone tend to think that my role in "Laramie" will not be an important one, may I take the liberty of pointing out that during the entire series I will be very friendly.

This characterization is not to be taken lightly because, in the early West, a friend in need was a friend indeed. Therefore, "friend-

liness" becomes a most important ingredient in our dramas of action and adventure.

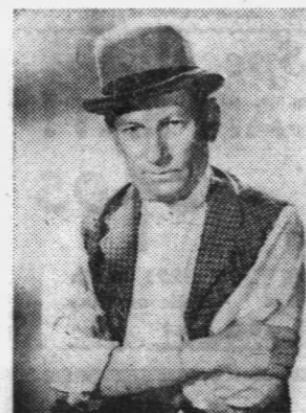
Think back, if you will—what Western drama would be complete if a hero could not turn to someone and say "We'll get out alive" or "Let me go. I can reach the fort."

You see, if I did this sort of thing, there would be a big discussion at that point in the story as to who would be the hero. This way the matter is all cut and dried before we start out.

Actually, I'm a friendly, agreeable man by nature and this sort of thing comes rather easy to me.

Then, too, our cast is rather well stocked in rugged personalities with excellent hero qualifications.

John Smith portrays a strong, silent frontier pioneer, Robert Fuller is seen as a strong, restless wanderer and young Bobby



HOAGY CARMICHAEL
... friendly coward

Crawford essays the role of a strong, active boy.

The producer has assured me that the addition of a strong piano-playing ranch-hand would only cloud the situation and cause undue confusion.

Our casting director explained my part this way . . . "Hoagy, boy. The way we see you is kind'a like a mature, pioneer Perry Como. Y'know, relaxed."

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