

Hoagy To Give TV Series A Touch Of Kentuckiana

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HOLLYWOOD, Sept. 5.—A TV fan wandering about the "Laramie" set would hear some unfamiliar names and see some familiar faces.

He would immediately recognize—name and face—Hoagy Carmichael, who wrote "Star-

dust" on the marble-top table of a Bloomington, Ind., grill many years ago.

He would recognize the face of Bob Fuller, who has played in almost every Western series on the air, even if he didn't recognize the name.

He would recognize the face of John Smith, a refugee from the ill-fated "Cimarron City" series who has moved his belongings to "Laramie."

He probably would recognize the little-boy actor as the child star of a famous "Playhouse 90." He's little Bobby Crawford of "Child Of Our Times" fame.

All these people will be featured in the new N.B.C. series which will be on Channel 3 at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, starting September 15.

The Story Line

"Laramie" is about two men and a son of one of them who run a stagecoach-relay station. These are John Smith and Hoagy. The boy is Crawford.

Up rides a saddle tramp, who is Bob Fuller. Saddle tramps are not smiled upon at relay stations, because traditionally they turn out to be bad medicine. However, a crisis develops, and the saddle tramp saves the day. So Hoagy and Smith invite Fuller to be a partner.

The series goes on from there.

Unlike the series which move around to meet different people and varied situations—like "Wagon Train" and "Rawhide"—"Laramie" stays put, and the new people and situations come to them via stagecoach. Some of those who will arrive during the winter are

Ernest Borgnine, Nan Fabray, Edmond O'Brien and Lloyd Nolan.

Hoagy Carmichael is a familiar figure in TV, though this may be his first long-running role in what the producers think is bound to be a successful series.

Hoagy is a long way from Indiana, where he worked his way through Indiana University by playing the piano by ear while studying to be a lawyer.

He's had a lot of movie credits. "To Have And Have Not" was one of the first. He also has done a lot of composing, some scores for musicals as well as just plain popular tunes and blues.

The Crawford boy, 15, is brother of Johnny Crawford, who has established himself as a star in the "Rifleman" series for the last season or two.

Bobby worked with his brother on "Mickey Mouse Club," and had parts on "Zorro," "Lassie," "Dragnet" and some other shows before his break came as the child in "Child Of Our Times."

Bobby won an Emmy nomination for this part. The whole Crawford family was at the Emmy shindig. Johnny was nominated as best supporting actor for "Rifleman," and their father, Robert Crawford, was nominated for his film editing on the Bob Cummings Show.

Most And Least

Fuller is the man who has appeared in most series and whose name is probably the least known. He has had mostly extra roles in the movies, has been a stunt man, and has played gun fighters (good and



In the new hour-long Western television series "Laramie," Hoagy Carmichael (in the derby, second from right) plays the foster father of John Smith, Bobby Crawford, Jr., at left. Robert Fuller, right, plays an unpredictable cowhand.

bad) in "Restless Gun" and "Wagon Train." Fuller's hobby when he isn't gun-slinging is fighting sharks with skin-diver outfit and bow and arrow. A quick draw helps here, too, he claims.

Fuller took acting lessons from Dick Boone, of "Have Gun, Will Travel." Since Boone also starred in "The Medic," Fuller may be the only TV actor who took a premed course from another actor and wound

up majoring in gun-fighting from the same teacher. Fuller is a bachelor. His father, Robert Cole, lives with Bob, except that right now Dad is dancing in a road show of "Oklahoma!"

Chuckle Seriousness

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