

Troy Native, TV Star, Went West For Fame

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litten by the acting bug. His first job was ushering in a Los Angeles theater. After a short time Bob became assistant manager.

That wasn't enough, Bob recalls. He wanted to be right in the heart of the make-believe world. So he took an outside job as a gas station attendant, entering his name on the extra lists in every studio and at every casting office. His first job was as a dancer in a musical.

Right after that Uncle Sam claimed Bob's services and he entered the Army, served in Korea for two years and then came back to Hollywood. This time the approach was different. First Bob enrolled in Richard Boone's acting group in Hollywood. Then he switched to Sandy Meisner's study group in New York. When Meisner pronounced him ready, Bob returned to Hollywood.

After a number of extra filling, Bob was the target for that "break" which figures so frequently in the movie world. As an extra in the film "Friendly Persuasion," Bob was ordered to grow a luxurious crop of sideburns. They were, as he says "bandies." In fact they were so good that Bob was picked out of his bit part and given a supporting role. From that point, progress was rapid and, in a short time, he played the heavy lead in "Teenage Thunder."

Today he is one of the busiest personalities in the TV world. In 1959 he had top lead in 10 top television films, had starring roles in two major features, plus the time necessary to whip the Laramie series into shape.

Here are a few of his credits for the last two years: "The Lawless Years," "Cimarron City," "Wagon Train," "The Restless Gun," "Buckskin," "M Squad," "Matinee Theater,"

"U.S. Marshal," "Highway Patrol," "Mike Hammer," "Wyatt Earp," "Schlitz Playhouse," "Death Valley Days," "GE Theater," and "Lux Theater."

Sounds like a lot of activity in crowd into a comparatively brief space of time, but Bob says he loves it and jumps at every opportunity to take an acting part. Today he leans more to top billing, but he has not forgotten the lean years.

To keep in condition for the strenuous life his schedule requires, Bob takes off for his favorite recreation. He enjoys skin diving.

Aside from that, Bob also likes to hunt with the bow and arrow, he practices judo and fencing and has made a study of perfecting phony fights which are so important in today's western.

Bob is a bachelor. He is five feet 11 inches, weighs a taut 180 pounds. These figures, plus blue eyes and dark brown hair complete a picture of handsome masculinity.

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