

Laramie Has Multiple Heroes

Fuller and Smith Share Top Honors



BOB FULLER
"Should play Hamlet."

Co-hero of a new western TV series is an engaging young man named Bob Fuller who appears in Laramie with three other co-heroes.

In the early days of TV it took only one hero with a half-witted sidekick to handle the bad guys—i.e., The Cisco Kid, Wild Bill Hickok, Gunsmoke.

FULLER LOOKS and acts tough enough to massacre an entire tribe of Redskins single-handed. But with an hour-long show, a tight schedule and the new fad for multiple heroes, viewers will never learn just how good he is on his own.

Fuller started in show business as an extra 10 years ago. He got his first taste of horsemanship while in a Miami, Fla., military academy.

The "trip" to Laramie included drama lessons in New York with Sandy Meisner and in Hollywood with Richard Boone. His best pal, Bob Cole, taught him to dance.

Fuller's mother was in show business but now stays home to take care of the boys.

Bob's an ex-stunt man who does,



JOHN SMITH **HOAGY CARMICHAEL**
In typical scene from the Laramie series.

many of his own falls and tricks, which is more than most horse opera heroes do.

Asked why he couldn't handle the heavies on his own, Bob—a soft-spoken, nice guy didn't have a chance to answer. His producer, a big wheel named Dick Lewis stepped in.

LEWIS ALSO bosses Wagon Train and Riverboat for NBC, both of which have more than one

clean-cut, fearless good guy in the lead.

And it is Lewis who conceived Laramie, constructing it as carefully as a Shakespearean tragedy, complete with all the Freudian, psychological and philosophical gimmicks possible. When Lewis finished explaining the intricacies of the characters it made you feel that poor old Bob Fuller should have been playing "Hamlet."

"We try to balance out the cast



ROBERT CRAWFORD
Torn between two heroes.

to give our audience a rounded characterization," said Lewis.

"For instance, Bob here plays a wild, independent 'loner' type that appeals to the streak in all of us that rebels against society. In his role as Jess Harper, Bob is a Shane-type character. A drifter, gambler, bad guy but good type.

"Then there's John Smith, the co-star. He is a solid, dependable guy who represents the substantial element of any community. Torn between these two is little Robert Crawford, siding first with one, then the other.

"HOAGY CARMICHAEL plays an older man who is a settling influence on the others. They all live together on the same ranch."

To the casual observer it might appear that this quartet of characters could use up the entire hour straightening out their personal differences while outlaws and side-winders rustled the family cattle.

There's one compensation, when the action gets dull elsewhere, there'll always be something popping "back at the ranch."