

10 Don'ts Make Life Longer

Fast - drawing youngsters - and dads, for that matter - who handle six - guns like a candy cane and practice shoot-outs in the family's full - length mirror, got stern advice the other day from one of the fastest guns in the TV West.

"I get hot under the collar every time I pick up a paper and read that some man or worse, some youngster, has accidentally shot himself while playing with a gun," says Bob Fuller, a star in NBC - TV's "Laramie" series seen Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Bob is a veteran of the Korean fighting and is generally regarded as one of the genuinely fast men with a gun. With a healthy respect for all firearms, Bob turns thumbs down on any six-gun antics that might set bad examples for porler gunmen.

"Gun slinging," he says, "is not for amateurs. Toying with firearms, loaded or unloaded, makes about as much sense as petting a rattlesnake.

In "Laramie," Fuller insists the gunplay be portrayed for exactly what it was in the pioneer West. "It was a necessary evil, not an everyday pastime

for reckless young cowboys," he says.

Twirling revolvers, pushing back the brim of a hat with a gun barrel and similar theatrics are simply flashy inventions for the screen. "No cowboy with good sense would try them," Fuller says, "for fear of shooting himself in the foot or blowing the top out of a good Stetson."

Fuller levels most of his warning at children and parents alike who try to emulate TV heroes, and knowingly gives away one of the film cowboys' secrets.

"The holsters we use on television were designed to make fast draws possible. Ordinary holsters bind a gun, causing the owner to court suicide by fumbling or dropping the weapon."

Fuller acknowledges a degree of responsibility to his viewing public in the matter of handling firearms and makes certain his own practices are realistic, honest and safe.

"When the public watches actors toss guns in the air, drop them on the ground or wave them like fly swatters, there's a chance it will try to imitate the film cowboy's behavior. Actors should be model gun han-

diers."

Fuller sums up his advice with the U. S. Marine Corps dictum: "Never place your finger inside the trigger guard of a weapon unless you intend to fire it; never aim a weapon at anyone you don't want to kill."

The following 10 "don'ts," Fuller says, will lengthen life and reduce injuries among those who must handle firearms.

(1) Don't push back the brim of your hat with a gun barrel . . . it's the best way to ventilate a good hat or slightly - used head.

(2) Don't practice a quick draw with ordinary holsters . . . the odds are pretty high you'll fumble, even drop your gun. Fast draw experts use special holsters and carefully balanced guns.

(3) Don't point directions with a gun . . . it may not be polite, but it's much safer to use your fingers for pointing.

(4) Don't slip your finger inside the trigger guard unless you intend to fire.

(5) Don't drop or lay a gun on the ground . . . it could damage the sight and cause a hunter his life. A clogged barrel accomplishes the same thing.

(6) Don't twirl a gun . . . this shenanigan is as safe as tickling a rattler under the chin.

(7) Don't toss a gun to another person . . . it looks flashy on TV, but it's deadly horseplay.

(8) Don't run with a weapon in your hands . . . one misstep could take a life.

(9) Don't push anyone with the muzzle of a gun . . . triggers are sensitive.

(10) Don't walk or hunt with a cocked weapon . . . it's the same as lighting a stick of dynamite in your hand.

Ryan Signed For Dharma

Robert Ryan has signed to star in "The Snows of Killmanjaro," Ernest Hemingway's famous story of a writer who recalls his adventurous and romantic past as he lies ill in the shadow of Africa's tallest mountain. The 90-minute drama will be the third Hemingway special of the season on "The Buick Electra Playhouse," Friday, March 25 from 8:30 to 10 p.m. on Channel 8.



Bob Fuller, star of NBC-TV's Tuesday night "Laramie" series, says real TV western stars and cowboys have a genuine respect for firearms. Fuller is impatient with amateur "fast draws" like this chap "who handles six-shooters like candy canes."

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