

## Troy Native Honored By Jap Red Cross

Robert Fuller, television actor and native of Troy, was recently awarded the highest decoration possible by the Japanese Red Cross for his work on behalf of underprivileged children.

Fuller, who is star of the Tuesday night western, "Laramie," on Channel 6, has become famous in Japan where the film of the show is being televised by Jap stations.

The show quickly became popular in Japan, and this year Bob traveled to the island nation to meet his new fans.

Thousands were on hand to greet him at the airport despite an after-midnight arrival. Fans formed a Laramie Friends Club that soon boasted 90,000 members who paid \$1 each for a Laramie hat, badge and booklet, with all proceeds deposited in Japanese banks and earmarked for charities.

### Benefit Performance

Bob put on two two-hour shows in the Tokyo Gymnasium, drawing capacity crowds of 10,000 for each, with proceeds again going to Japanese charities.

In appreciation of his fund-raising, government officials honored him with the Golden Order of Merit, highest award of the Japanese Red Cross, presented in the name of the Emperor. To that they added the Heibon Award for the best actor of the year.

Looking for an explanation of his popularity, Bob found it in Japanese culture.

"They relate our cowboys to the old Samauri warriors," he says. "And, because I play a loner in the show and am dark and not so tall, they can identify me easier than with some Western stars."

Now, after two trips to Japan, Bob is receiving 10 times more fan mail from Japan than from this country.

### Te de Jap Film

Present plans call for him to make a feature film in Japan next March. It will be made by a Japanese company and his part will be dubbed in Japanese.

Further expression of his warm regard for Japan and her people will come when he builds a new home.

"One room will be devoted to



ROBERT FULLER

housing the 3,000 gifts I received after my last trip," he says.

Fuller, who was born in Troy in 1933, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lee Sr., who lived at one time at 100 1st St.

His mother, the former Marie Carboni, is a Hollywood choreographer. Bob started as an extra in movies, later studied acting and from bit parts rose in television films.

