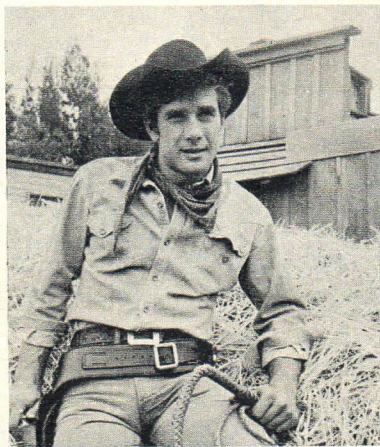


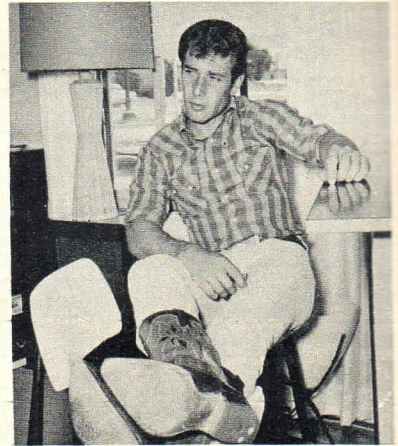
To Tim
Ray
[Signature]

Bob Fuller Says:

"I WANT TO BE A BAD GUY!"



Bob, holding gun and whip, looks as if he doesn't trust folks any more!



He looks much friendlier at home relaxing after a hard day at the ranch.

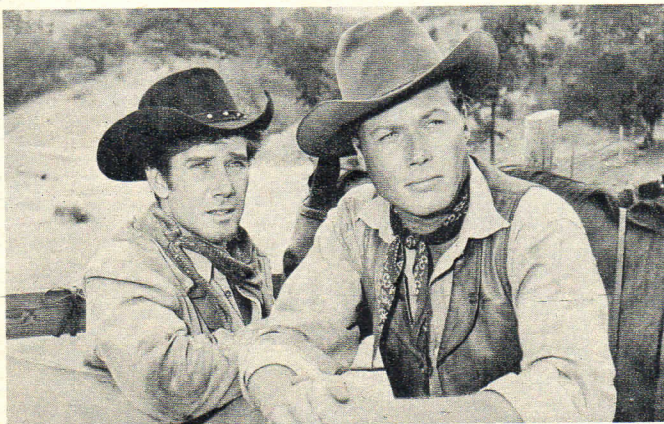
I LOOKED at the sincere, earnest young man sitting across the room and thought, "What did he say? Did he say he wanted to be a bad guy?"

Finally I said, "I beg your pardon. I don't think I heard you cor-

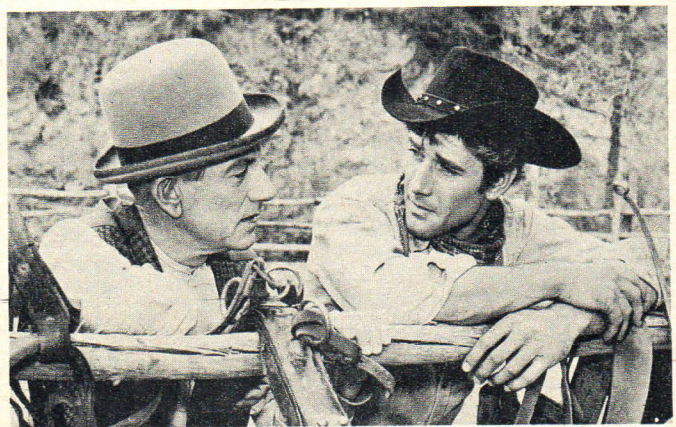
rectly."

Bob Fuller gave a hearty laugh. "Now, don't get me wrong! I mean that on the screen I'd rather play the part of the 'bad guy' than the 'good guy.'"

(Continued on page 58)



Bob co-stars with John Smith in "Laramie." This picture was taken during the rehearsal of one of the quieter scenes of the show.



Between scenes, Bob chats with famed composer of "Stardust," Hoagy Carmichael. Hoagy plays a featured part on the show.

Hollywood was shocked by the sudden passing of two of the most colorful and controversial personalities in pictures: MARIO LANZA, whose beautiful tenor voice was stilled for all time in Rome, and dashing ERROL FLYNN, who died in Canada. For both, the end came through a heart attack. Lanza was 38, Flynn 50. Their deaths came only a month after young KAY KENDALL died of leukemia in London and PAUL DOUGLAS, in his 50's, fell victim to a fatal heart attack in Hollywood. Seldom if ever have so many talented and relatively young performers been taken away in so short a time, and the movie world will miss them all, as will their fans.

★ ★ ★
SHORT SCOOPS: JEANNE CRAIN and Paul Brinkman, married 14 years, expect their sixth child in January . . . **BARRY COE** and Jorunn (Miss Norway of 1959) Christiansen became officially engaged . . . **GALE STORM** went to a health farm to gain weight . . . **Beverly Hills** pals are trying to persuade **IRENE DUNNE** to run for Congress . . . **The KEENAN** ("Troubleshooters") **WYNN** baby will be born via Caesarean section February 10 . . . **EVA GABOR** made stockbroker **RICHARD BROWN** her fourth husband in Las Vegas.

THE END

BOB FULLER

(Continued from page 44)

This statement took me by double surprise because Bob had just told me that he usually receives from 25 to 100 letters after every TV appearance—except when he plays the "bad guy." Then he doesn't get any mail at all. "What about those letters from your fans?" I asked. "I know you enjoy hearing from them. . . ."

Bob leaned back in his chair, lit a cigarette and began talking. It was no longer an interview. I put down my pencil and just listened, asking a question now and then to get him to elaborate on an interesting point.

"Let me try to tell you how I feel," he began. "I do enjoy hearing from my fans. As a matter of fact, one girl in Northern California writes such great letters that I answer them quite regularly. But acting means everything to me.

"My parents were in favor of my becoming an actor—they were in show business themselves," he explained. "But it wasn't their idea. I've wanted to be an actor for as long as I can remember—in fact, my memory doesn't even go back that far!

"You know, it's a funny thing," Bob continued, "but no matter who you are, you can go along feeling on top of the world for awhile, and then something happens to put you really down in the dumps. And when I get that way, I can let out all my feelings right on the set—by playing a nice, heavy scene. Or maybe something physically exhausting. When I'm finished, I feel fine! I'm tired and I feel like sitting around with my friends and just relaxing.

"But I also have a kind of excitement way down deep inside, because I feel that I've done a good job. There's no better feeling! I've made the directors and people I'm working with feel happy, and this makes me feel like the greatest guy in the world. This is much better than going around being cross with everyone I might see. I'd hate to hurt someone just because I wasn't feeling quite up to par."

"I don't think I've ever thought of that as one of the advantages of acting," I admitted. "But why do you prefer being the 'bad guy?'"

"Well, somehow you have to pour yourself into the part you're playing more completely when you play the villain. It's a heavier type of part and more difficult. As far as I'm concerned, it takes more acting."

"I know you studied acting with Richard Boone and Sandy Meisner," I said. "For some of our readers who want to know how a person becomes an actor, can you tell me a little about what goes on in an acting class? For instance, I know they spend a lot of time 'doing scenes.' Just how do they go about it?"

"Well, when you're in an acting class, and you have a tearful scene to play, you think of yourself as being in the worst possible situation," he began. "Perhaps you imagine a close relative has just died or is very ill or that you've found out that your girl friend has an incurable disease. It sounds horrible, I know, and it's hard. But you're supposed to practice scenes that are difficult for you. That's the only way to learn!

"Some people cheat. They go through scenes that don't have much depth or difficulty, and they don't learn that way. When I act now, I really try to feel a scene. For example, on a recent television show I had to play a tearful scene with someone who was my idol and was dying. What I did was get to know the actor personally and become familiar with his good qualities. Of course, people have bad qualities, too, but I just forgot those in this kind of scene. By the time the scene came up I had gotten to know the actor quite well, and I really liked him. When I played the scene I wasn't just going through the motions. I was really feeling something true and sincere."

He quickly gave the background of the part he was discussing, and then went through the lines he had spoken at the death scene. He leaned forward in his chair and placed his arms so that it appeared as if he were holding someone. I just sat and stared and kept hoping that I wouldn't start crying right along with him! It seems funny now when I think of how choked up I became just listening to a dozen lines. But those few minutes showed me more than I could have learned about Bob Fuller in ten question-and-answer interviews. He's a man who doesn't spout thousands of empty words raving about the excitement and glamour of acting. He tells what he feels and believes, and he tells it simply and honestly.

And if you want to go into acting, it would be a good idea to share some of Bob's enthusiasm about acting itself—not just the "glamour" part of it, which isn't really what acting is all about, as I learned from Bob. Acting is hard work!

I hated to break the mood, but there were so many more things that I was anxious to know about him. Realizing that taking a part as seriously as he did must consume a great deal of time, I wondered if he minded devoting so much of himself to his profession.

"No," he answered without a moment's hesitation, "I'd never give it up. Never."

I prodded a bit further. "What do you dislike about the acting profession?"

"Nothing, not even the 7 A.M. calls. They could work me even longer hours. I love it!"

I was more than convinced by now that Bob and acting were inseparable, so I turned to the questions that I had intended to ask before I got sidetracked!

"What are your plans for the future?" I began.

"I've already set a goal," Bob said, revealing his one-track mind again. "I want to become a good actor. By this I mean someone who is respected, not someone who is getting by on glamour. I'd like to know that when I'm 35 I'll still be around.

"I have no intention of getting married for at least three or four years. I don't think it would spoil my career, but it would slow it down. Right now I just want to keep working—I believe you've got to keep at something in order to be good, and I don't want to be sidetracked until I'm secure in my profession. It wouldn't be fair to a wife or my career if I were to get married now. I couldn't do my best as an actor or a husband."

"He's only 26, and he's so serious," I thought. "But you do date?" I asked hopefully.

"Oh, yes, quite a bit," he smiled. "But never on week nights when I'm working. Then I go straight home after work, Mom cooks dinner for me, I watch television with my parents for awhile and get to bed early. But I always go out on Friday and Saturday nights."

"What kind of girls do you prefer?" I asked.

"I don't know why, but I always end up with blue-eyed blondes!" he joked. "Seriously," he continued, "a girl I go out with has to have a sense of humor and be understanding. I'm moody—sometimes I won't say anything for an hour or so—I might be going over the dialogue for a scene I'll have the next week. A girl will have to understand this.

"And I like a girl who's a good athlete. If I feel like fooling around at different sports, as I often do, I like the girl I'm with to be able to join in.

"One more thing—I prefer a good dancer. I love to dance! Jitterbug is my favorite. I also like to fox trot and I even try a rumba every so often!"

"What do you think of teenagers going steady?" I asked.

"It's great!"

"When girls scream when they see you, do you get nervous?"

"Very!"

"What about getting nervous in front of the camera?"

"No, I never get nervous in front of a camera. I'm right at home. I had good experience as an extra. In fact, that's how I got my first break. I was an extra in 'Friendly Persuasion,' and decided to grow my own sideburns because I didn't like wearing the false ones. The director thought they looked so good he gave me a featured part. That was really my lucky day!"

"What are your favorite sports?"

"I like most sports—swimming, water-skiing, skin diving, archery and hunting. Last week I harpooned a 7-foot blue shark in Catalina. It weighed about 150 pounds."

I learned, though not from Bob, that he has been waging a personal war against sharks menacing West Coast bathers. On week-ends, in skin diving regalia, he harpoons them—and he's even killed sharks with bow and arrow standing in the surf. No wonder he does his own stunt work!

"One more question," I said. "What's the best advice you've ever had?"

"I've had lots of advice," he began, "but I suppose the best personal advice was given to me by my dad. He told me, 'Always think of the other person and do unto him as you would have him do unto you.' That's about the best advice anyone can give.

"Richard Boone and Ernest Borgnine have given me the best advice about my career. They told me never to let up—'Just when you think you're getting good is the time that you might slip.' I'll always remember that advice."

Judging from his popularity on "Laramie," Bob Fuller won't be slipping for a long time. . . .

THE END

(Bob Fuller is in "Laramie" on NBC-TV, 7:30-8:30 P.M. Tuesday, under multiple sponsorship.)