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Two bright stars from "High Chaparral"

MEET MARK

TWO of the reasons why "High Chaparral" has become one of television's most popular westerns are Linda Cristal and Mark Slade. Linda, with her flashing dark eyes and warm Latin personality, plays the beautiful wife of the owner of High Chaparral, a ranch near Tucson, Arizona in the wild days of the 1880s. Mark, whose deep blue eyes have melted many a female heart, portrays the son of John Cannon, played by Leif Erickson, an actor of outstanding talent. Mark and Linda, along



SLADE & LINDA CRISTAL

By Rubie Saunders

with the other regulars on the show, have made this particular era of American history come alive for millions of viewers every Friday evening (7:30 EST) on NBC-TV.

When Mark was a boy in Salem, Mass. his father helped him make a dummy and he became quite a competent ventriloquist. "I used to entertain at schools and club meetings," he said. "I guess you could say that I saw myself as another Paul Winchell in those days."

But while at prep school, Mark was asked to fill in for another student who became ill just before the school's production of "The Male Animal." That, in a sense, was a turning point in his life—he decided that acting was for him. He went to New York where he studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Eighteen months later, he landed a part on Broadway.

That single role led to Mark's being offered a part in the film, "Splendor in the Grass." When that was finished, Mark worked at odd jobs until he got a part in television's "My Three Sons." Additional television roles came his way, including appearances on "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea," "Mr. Novak," and "The Wackiest Ship in the Navy."

"I like Billy Blue Cannon very much," Mark said. "He's become very real to me, and I hope I've

made him as real to the audience."

Mark need have no fear about that—"High Chaparral's" Billy Blue Cannon is as real as Mark Slade to millions of fans.

Linda Cristal, a dark-eyed Latin beauty, is a native of Buenos Aires. Her father was French and her mother was Italian. Linda lost both her parents in an automobile accident when she was in her teens. She was on her way to France to live with her aunts when she stopped in Mexico City to visit with some friends. A Mexican movie producer was so impressed by Linda's classic beauty that he



Left: Linda Cristal's Latin beauty and soft accent are important reasons why "High Chaparral" is such a success. Above: Linda poses with the other regulars on the show, Leif Erickson, Cameron Mitchell and Henry Darrow (from left to right). Right: Mark Slade, who portrays a boy not yet a man on the weekly NBC show, seems to be a native Westerner because of the way he handles a horse. Actually, he was born and raised in New England.





By Barbara Nolen

The Young Unicorns is called a novel of suspense. It is that and more, as Madeleine L'Engle combines gang warfare in New York City with a secret cult bordering on science fiction. More sophisticated than *A Wrinkle in Time* by the same author, *The Young Unicorns* (Doubleday, \$3.75) has an even stronger and more compelling mixture of realism and imagination.

Phyllis Whitney combines two other powerful components, a blood-red ghost dog and a lame thoroughbred racing mare in her latest, *The Mystery of the Crimson Ghost* (Westminster, \$3.75). Girls with horse fever will enjoy this one above all.

Charles Molin has collected a super anthology, *Ghosts, Spooks and Spectres* (David White, \$3.75). If you are a non-believer in ghosts, this book may change your mind.

tested her for the starring role in his next picture.

She got the part, and was an instant success. In the next six years, she starred in thirteen movies. Then Hollywood beckoned, and her first American film was "Commanche" in which she co-starred with Dana Andrews. To date, she had made thirty films, including Hollywood, Italian, French, Spanish and South American features.

Although she is very busy, Linda never forgets that first and foremost, she is a woman. She firmly believes that it is very important for a woman to be feminine. "Little touches, such as carrying a lacy handkerchief on dates," she said, "are important."

Linda takes dancing and acting lessons. She also loves sports, especially swimming and tennis. She likes to cook, too. Linda speaks Spanish, English, Italian and French fluently, and she is an accomplished pianist and an enthusiastic art collector.

Of her role as Victoria Cannon, she says, "A weekly television series is a lot of work, but it is also fun to be able to work with such talented people."

It's a good bet that the other regulars on "High Chaparral" are equally delighted to work with such a talented and lovely person as Linda Cristal. And television viewers like her, too!