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WILL BE HURT"**

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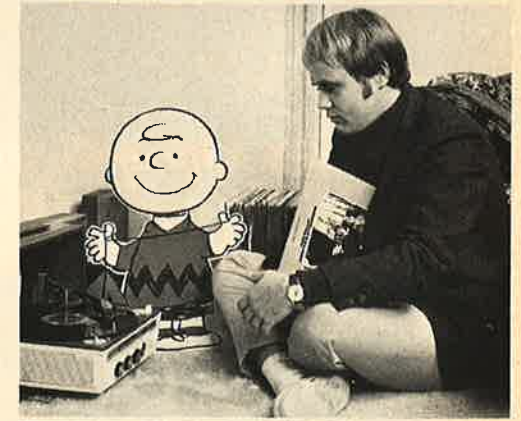
MARK SLADE



Cartooning is only one of many outside interests for Mark. He sold two cartoons to national magazines.

THE DOLLS HE KEEPS HIDDEN FROM HIS WIFE!

Mark Slade has a secret—one that he has carefully kept from his fans, his friends, and even from his wife, Melinda!



Top: Mark made this puppet while in prep school. Middle: Charlie Brown is a favorite of Mark's. Bottom: Melinda is proud of Mark's many talents.

by NANCY BRITTON

■ There's a lot more to Mark Slade than just another handsome young man with a round face and a shy smile. And when he wed Hollywood publicist Melinda Ricilli last January, she began to find out that there were a lot of things he was keeping hidden from her—including a couple of dolls!

On the surface, this doesn't seem to have affected the happy adjustment Mark and Melinda have made to marriage. They went together for a long enough time before marrying to be sure they had many tastes and interests in common, despite the fact that Mark is a native New Englander, and Melinda is a California girl.

For one thing, both admit they aren't much for the Hollywood scene and prefer quiet evenings at home (Please turn to page 58)

MARK SLADE

(Continued on page 25)

or visiting some of their many friends.

While the Slades might be found upon occasion at The Factory, they are more likely to spend a weekend with friends at Big Sur, Calif., painting, or drive down to Laguna Beach for an evening with friends who are struggling writers.

"We like to keep it down," admits Mark. "I never feel comfortable with a lot of loud people around."

Mark's yearning for the quiet life goes back to his early years in rural areas around Putnamville, Mass.

"I lived there until I was 15 years old," he said. "I worked for Pearly Clark's chicken farm in Danvers when I was 12 and went to school in a one room school house where I had the same teacher for three years."

When his filming schedule on NBC's *The High Chaparral* permits, Mark and Melinda enjoy a weekend among the tall pines in Angelus Forest north of Los Angeles.

"There's nothing like a roaring fire when the snow is deep," he reminisces. "It reminds me of home."

A natural athlete, Mark was a top notch ice hockey player for his high school team and still enjoys an occasional evening spent teaching Melinda to skate. He also plans to teach her to ski.

"We'd have tried it this winter but the producers felt I might break my leg!" he added.

But, in spite of his interest in sports, Mark has been secretly fighting a weight problem.

"I got up to about 180 pounds but should weigh 160," he noted. "During the shooting season I ride and fight it off. When the season is over I get nervous and gain it back again."

So, he has been taking shots daily under a doctor's care and has lost 9 pounds in 7 days.

Commenting on the daily shots he said, "My arm looks like it was hit with a sledge hammer!"

"Melinda has so much energy she doesn't have a weight problem," he sighs enviously.

Nevertheless, he recalls, one of the first things he liked about Melinda was that, when they first began going together, he suggested that she take off a little weight—and she did. "She's quite a girl," he says, admiringly.

It was during their courtship that Melinda first learned about the hidden sides of Mark's personality. She knew, as his fans know, that he was a talented actor. But, it turns out, he's an excellent cartoonist as well, something that very few people realize.

Mark has never had a formal art course, but he's read all the books, and is self-taught.

"I also studied all the work of what I consider the best cartoonists in our time—Al Capp, Walt Disney and others," he said.

"I found it hard to find my own style and started by copying other cartoonists. But, it doesn't work. You must find your own style."

This approach worked so well for Mark

that his first two cartoons will be published nationally in a magazine soon. And, he reveals, grinning, that if they make a hit with readers, he has hundreds more ready for publication. What started out as a pleasant pastime, could become a whole new career!

But cartooning was not Mark's only pastime during his days as a very eligible Hollywood bachelor. He wouldn't call himself a ladies' man, perhaps, but he has remarked candidly, "I'm a swinger—and always will be."

And that brought us to the question of those dolls that he keeps hidden from his wife! Because, even though he does describe himself as a swinger, he does it with a little-boy smile and a twinkle in his blue eyes.

And it turns out that the dolls he keeps hidden from Melinda—are real dolls, after all.

You can't blame a 28-year-old man for wanting to keep it a secret that he plays with dolls, can you?

Except that Mark's play has a very serious side. In addition to acting, and cartooning, he's an amateur ventriloquist, too. He began practicing when he was still in prep school, with his puppet, Harry Yippee.

"I made the puppet in prep school in Worcester, Mass.," he said. "Harry Yippee was a name we coined at school, to mean a nobody. And without me as the ventriloquist, that's exactly what Harry is—a nobody."

But ventriloquism is not just another hobby with Mark. He's been practicing hard lately. Not for a third career—he'll leave professional ventriloquism to Edgar Bergen and Paul Winchell.



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TV RADIO SHOW

What he'd like to do with this talent, and his doll, Harry Yippee, is to put on some benefit shows for children in hospitals. Many stars visit hospitals in their spare time, knowing that their presence helps the morale of the patients. They come with shows, or if their talents are musical, they sing or dance to cheer up the patients. And many actors, who can't sing or dance, have found that people are pleased just to have a star come in, say hello and shake hands.

Mark wanted to do more, though, and that's why he's been hiding his dolls from everyone, practicing his routine and putting together a little act for the kids in Los Angeles hospitals. He wanted to keep it a secret until he was ready to "take his act on the road," as the show biz saying goes.

It all goes to prove that Mark Slade is really an awfully nice young man—and that was never a secret to his wife, Melinda. ●

Write Mark c/o NBC-TV, Sunset and Vine, Hollywood, California.

BARBARA BAIN-MARTIN LANDAU

(Continued from page 20)

talented man. The girls are surrounded by love, enveloped in a protective cocoon of financial security. They have health and beauty and blazingly intelligent minds of their own. Of all the little girls in the world, these two would seem to have a special chance to live happily ever after. And yet . . . and yet . . .

"My daughters," said Martin Landau slowly, "will be hurt. Some day, like everyone else, they will be hurt. But they'll survive. I did. You did." His expressive face curved into a gentle smile. "We all do."

The statement, like the man, is at once intelligent, provocative, compassionate. Yet it is clear that though he knows it is inevitable that his daughters experience sorrow someday, like any father, he couldn't help but feel the heartbreak he tries to hide.

His eyes flash, his hands carve descriptive gestures in the air, his whole body comes alive with controlled electricity when he talks. He is, in fact, a delight a reporter doesn't often encounter! His mind is so sharp, he expresses himself with such clarity and conviction that one is tempted to sit quietly and listen, and not ask a single question. Now however, there were some questions that had to be asked.

We had been talking over lunch about the role of the artist in today's troubled and changing world, and I asked Martin if he were not worried over the future of his two little girls, Susan, and Juliet, the baby.

"No," he said immediately, and rather unexpectedly. "No. I don't think I am." Then those greenish-blue eyes shadowed for a moment. "Oh, they'll have to face problems as they grow up, certainly. But all generations have had to face problems of some kind." He smiled. "Since the beginning of time parents have worried and fretted over the state of the world and whether or not their children were prepared to handle it."

"And . . . you're not?" I queried. "You are not concerned?"

Martin regarded me quizzically for a

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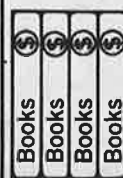
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