

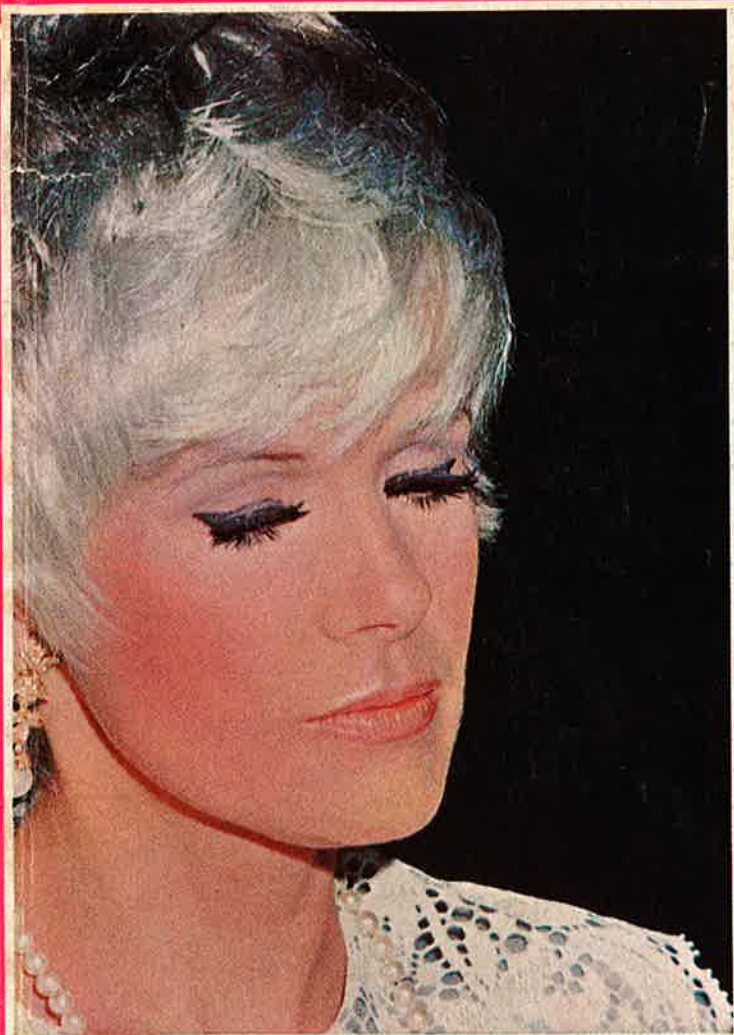
WHY THE MAJORS SHOULD BEWARE OF WOMEN

MOVIELAND

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and TV TIME

DECEMBER 



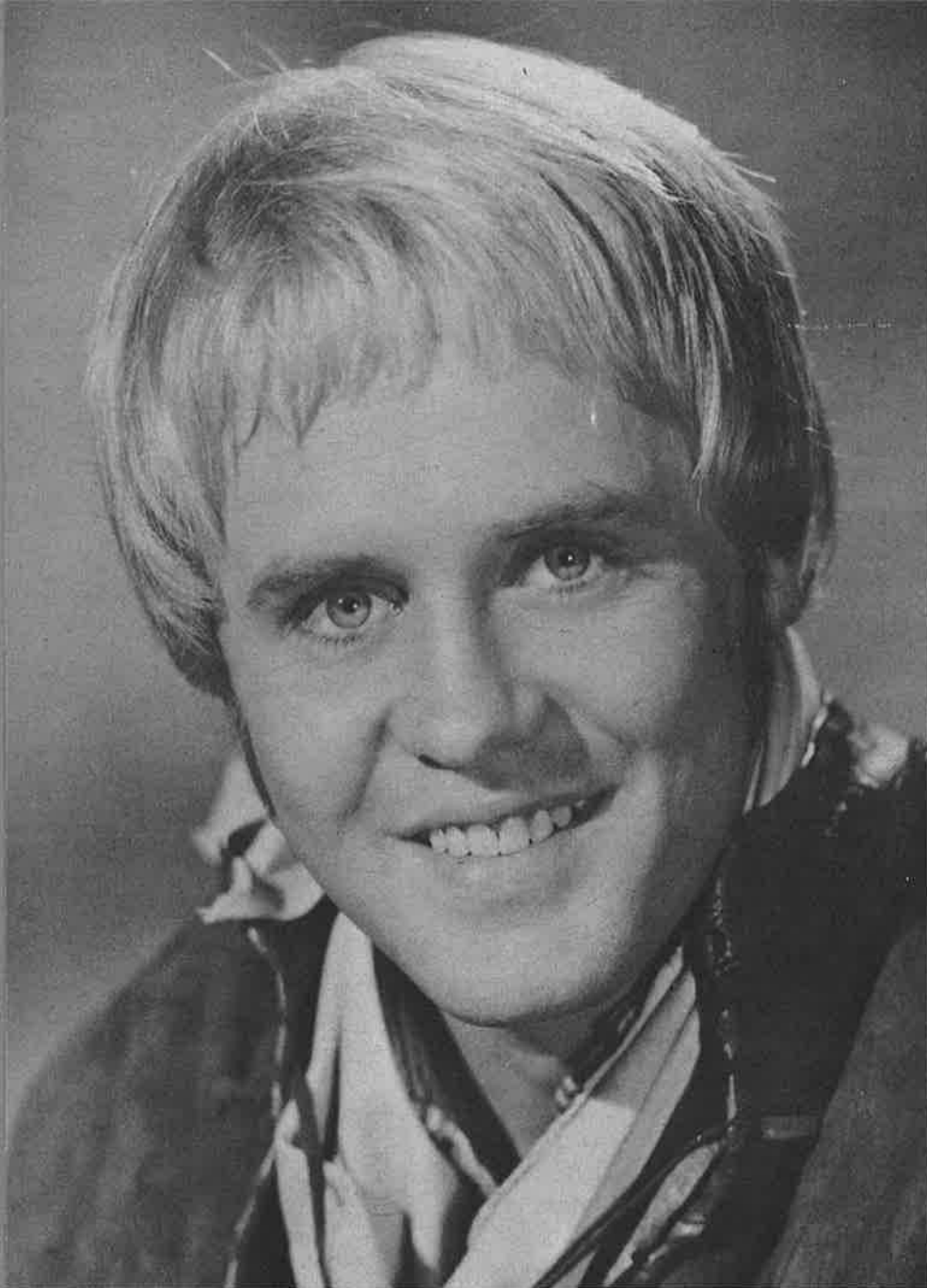
WHY CONNIE IS PRAYING FOR LIZ

WHAT WE'VE HEARD ABOUT MIA'S NEW LOVE!

SIDNEY POITIER'S EUROPEAN
TOUR WITH HIS FIVE GIRLS!

HOW ELVIS AND RICK NELSON
CHANGED KENT McCORD'S LIFE!

Peter Finch: BABIES... SI! MARRIAGE... NO!



MARK SLADE:

Mark's days of roughing it for his art finally paid off last season when he was cast as a series regular on NBC's "High Chaparral."

"THE FAN LETTERS I ANSWER FIRST!"

As told to
**MARCO
AMEDEO**

All about the kind of letters Mark can't resist answering — plus a warning about those he won't answer at all!

■ "I respond fastest to a fan letter that shows me a person is practical," Mark says. "Probably this is because I am determined to be myself. Certainly I'm idealistic. Romantic in some of my personal notions, too! But I'm glad I've been realistic, besides, as far back as I can remember because I believe we must be to get what we want.

"When I'm asked how to get a chance to act, I recall the letter I wrote as a high school sophomore. I'd been in two plays at Worcester Academy in Massachusetts. Both were on the stage of its Lewis Warner Memorial Theatre, a gift to the school from the famous Warner Brothers to honor their brother who'd been a student there. Naturally, I didn't aim low. I wrote directly to Harry Warner, since he'd discovered so many stars for his studio. I told him about the praise for my acting, sent him the names of several professors who could testify I was terrific, some snap-shots so he could see I wasn't a carbon copy of the stars he already had. I explained I was ready to begin acting for him and wanted to know how I could start. It was a surprise when no answer came. It took a couple of years to figure out that was a very foolish letter.

"In my New England home the desire to become an actor was definitely odd. That didn't phase me. By the time I was 19, I was truly practical. My parents had wanted me to go to Yale or Boston University where there were drama courses. I wasn't doing that well scholastically. I still believe you should go right in the middle of where it's at, whatever

(Continued on page 59)

Linda and Mark agree that their first year of marriage has been the happiest one of their lives, so far!



MARK SLADE

(Continued from page 14)

you're attempting. Don't sit back and wait.

"When I decided to go to New York to study acting instead of to college, I recalled my Aunt Betty had dated Jack Philbin, the executive producer of Jackie Gleason's show. I wrote another letter, introducing myself to Mr. Philbin. My request for advice was specific. He replied with some basic facts.

"My folks said, 'You'll have to do it yourself—we aren't contributing any money!' when I was accepted at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in Manhattan. I applied there since it has the longest list of successful graduates. Their stand didn't discourage me. I got my first summer job at 13, worked in spare hours to earn my independence from then on. I wanted \$600 as my stake in tackling the big city. The summer before going I worked for my dad's pipe fitting company. He pointed out I could make more as a laborer, so I joined a union to do just that.

"Mr. Philbin never thought I'd show up, but he was the first person I called after finding a room for \$13 a week. He listed all the problems I'd face, told me to get all the dramatic training I could. That was a big challenge, made me realize I was trying to get into a highly competitive business, not a dream world. I didn't kid myself. I had to begin at the bottom and be worth bothering with. With my face, I never expected to make it on my looks. In a week I found two jobs to rush to after classes. I worked from 1 to 5 P.M. delivering for a quick message service. Then I hurried over to "21," where I got a job checking hats until midnight six nights a week. That one paid a dollar an hour plus tips.

"After landing the lead in the Academy's touring company for a play that lasted six months, I won a part on Broadway in a play featuring Jane Fonda, Dean Jones, and Gary Lockwood. I reached Hollywood after it by driving west with Gary. We shared an apartment here for a year. I couldn't get a single acting job the first six months. But I took a job parking cars on Restaurant Row the day after I unpacked, so I was still self-supporting. At last my agent was able to arrange an interview and I won a ten-line role in 'My Three Sons.' It was so small it only took ten minutes to do.

"My point in all this is that you have to do whatever you aim for step by step. If you're practical, you can keep your self-respect.

"Don't delude yourself! There are always going to be disappointments. You can become strong enough to outlive them. I enlisted in the Army Reserves after a foothold in Hollywood. When I returned after six months I had to start all over. When I was down to my last seven bucks, I wondered if I should hang it up. I went out and got a job delivering for a liquor store at night. Then I never worked there because that next day I was called for a two-day bit part that paid expenses for a month the way I budgeted.

"If you ask me whether you have to be dazzling socially to get a break, I refer to my own experiences and observations



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and write back a firm 'No!' When you have to worry about 'being seen' doing what everyone else is, have to wear weird clothes to draw attention, if you have no time for great friends, that isn't the price you have to pay. That's *losing!* Don't depend upon what a group should do for you. Be the individual who never waits for the phone to ring, not an imitator.

"I never answer a letter wanting advice on a psychological problem because an actor has no right to pose as an expert in that area.

PETER FINCH

(Continued from page 33)

Direct yes . . . but it wouldn't worry me if I was never seen on the screen again.

"My ego has all gone really. When you're younger success can be a very tough mistress and you don't quite know how to deal with her. Mind you, I think this applies to *all* mistresses! But later in life you're trapped in a room with this bitch goddess Success, you learn to slap her down a little if she gets too demanding and say 'Give me the bloody key. I want to go out for a while.' It's not that you're more ambitious when you're younger but more *frantic* about success. It can lock you in and you find yourself on a sort of treadmill and you can't get off. But . . . to remain any kind of reasonable human being you must *avoid* that treadmill, get off it when it's turning its fastest.

"I have no more egotistical ambitions. There's some proof of that in the way I live in Jamaica. No one really cares what you do there. They have me vaguely confused with Errol Flynn. Sometimes they call me Mr. Flynn, sometimes Mr. Finch and once I was introduced at party as 'the famous actor, Mr. Finnish.'

"My house is two thousand feet up a hill and the nearest village, Bamboo, is two miles away. I work on my land there myself and when I want company I go and drink beer in the village with my fellow farmers. They're all Jamaicans, colored guys of course, and when they have what they call a 'Jump up' on a Saturday night they really go wild! They're all chums of mine and we dance and sing and drink beer till the morning.

"I don't need any more than that socially now. I have more fun there than I would at Arthur's in New York or The Daisy in Hollywood or the clubs in London. Simple, honest fun when a man takes you as he meets you and you're not on show.

"You see, they've never seen a film of mine up there so they're not terribly fazed that I'm a movie star.' They figure that being an actor is MY problem!"

"Didn't they resent you at first—a rich white dilettante trying to be a farmer?" I asked him.

He laughed. "Well, at first they said, 'Who is this redskin among us?' But there was no hostility, just a shrugging of the shoulders and 'let him find out.' I'll always be a foreigner to them but I have broken one barrier—I get lower prices than the tourists!

"Sometimes Jamaicans come up and ask me 'Have you retired?' I get rather

"But I genuinely appreciate good thoughts about my marriage. Melinda and I will tell you that our first year as husband and wife is the happiest one in our lives so far. We've never been sorry we waited for the love we wanted.

"P.S.: Please write plainly, so I can read every word in your letter. Don't make me guess what you mean!"

THE END

(Write Mark c/o NBC-TV, 3000 West Alameda Ave., Burbank, Calif. 91503.)

angry at this because I always feel I'm about twenty-five! But Jackie (Barrett) my Jamaican girl friend (she's a secretary in real estate) said, 'Don't get angry because this is the Jamaican attitude. If you have twenty pounds then you 'retire.' And when it has gone you go to work again!"

"I have a man called Mr. Harry who looks after my place when I'm away. He's in his eightieth year and he can work me into the ground. He thinks it's HIS place really. Once when I got back I found the Catholic Church wanted to buy my place because of its marvelous view. Mr. Harry said, 'The Church want to buy it but you won't sell will you?' I said, 'No.' And he said, 'That's right—we don't want any prayin' up here, just lovin' and drinkin'!' My whole life has changed since living there."

Peter said one night after filming was over he felt the need for a long walk. So he left his rented home in Beverly Hills and went for a lonely stroll.

"The beauty of Beverly Hills is so sterile somehow," he said. "Antiseptic. I walked for miles looking at all the carefully tended lawns and gardens. No one else was walking. The only humans I saw were in big cars. Suddenly I found a garden with weeds in it. Weeds! I stared at this in delight. Then a dog came running up to me wagging its tail. It was all alone, too, and its expression said, 'How marvelous. A human being not in a car!' It had found a friend and we walked together for about three miles."

I reminded him that two years ago he said he would never marry again, that the idea of going it alone stimulated him. Did he still feel that way?

"Yes. Right now I don't feel I will ever marry again. I have tried, you know—twice. I don't *think* I'll marry again but . . . wasn't it Bernard Shaw who said, 'Heaven preserve me from a man who doesn't change his ideas every five or six years.'? As one develops—or regresses perhaps—one changes one's ideas. I don't feel I want to re-marry. I'm happy as I am believe me.

"It's so hard isn't it to find the right kind of woman? Here in America, you talk to women almost as equals. They seem to want to dictate the pace as it were. Young career women here appear to have extremely material and masculine concepts. In this respect I'm afraid I'm a little old fashioned! I like Jamaican women, for instance, who are independent but at the same time feminine.

"I had a long argument with a feminist in London the last time I was there, who said 'What you want to do is use the whip and have us subjugated, without character.' That isn't true at all. I would loathe that. I mean a woman who is conscious of her power as a