

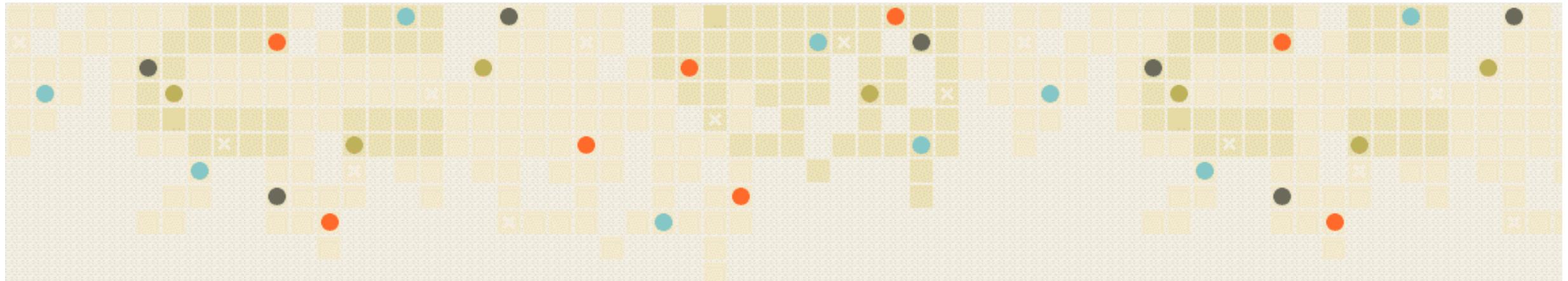


Penny McQueen <pmcqueen7627@gmail.com>

Predicting, Confidence and a talk with the Foreman.

High Chaparral Newsletter <info@highchaparralnewsletter.com>
Reply-To: High Chaparral Newsletter <info@highchaparralnewsletter.com>
To: *|LNAME|* <pmcqueen7627@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 10, 2015 at 7:52 AM



August 2015 Penny McQueen, Editor
A Penny For Your Thoughts Productions
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Upcoming Events

THE HIGH CHAPARRAL REUNION

ADMIT ONE
SADDLE UP WITH THE STARS



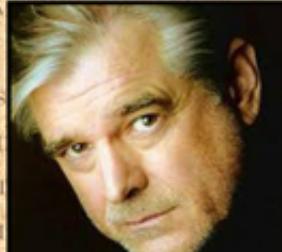
DON COLLIER

OUTLAWS, HIGH CHAPARRAL, HUBBA BUBBA, WAR WAGON, BONANZA, GUNSMOKE



ROBERT FULLER

LARAMIE, WAGON TRAIN, EMERGENCY!, DIAGNOSIS MURDER, SEINFELD



STAN IVAR

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE, STAR TREK: VOYAGER, DAYS OF OUR LIVES, NCIS



BARBARA LUNA

HIGH CHAPARRAL, STAR TREK, BONANZA, HAWAII 5-0



RUDY RAMOS

HIGH CHAPARRAL, RESURRECTION BLVD, JAG, GEORGE LOPEZ



ROBERTA SHORE

OZZIE & HARRIET, FATHER KNOWS BEST, WALT DISNEY PRESENTS, THE VIRGINIAN, LARAMIE



NEIL SUMMERS

HIGH CHAPARRAL, GUNSMOKE, DR QUINN MEDICINE WOMAN, YOUNG GUNS



KENT & SUSAN MCCRAY

BONANZA, HIGH CHAPARRAL, LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE, HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN



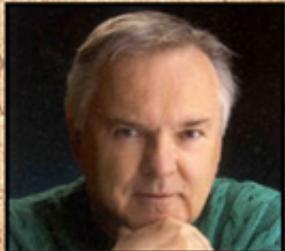
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High Chaparral Reunion March 17-20, 2016

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- Celebrity stars Don Collier (Outlaws, High Chaparral), Robert Fuller (Laramie, Wagon Train, Emergency), Stan Ivar (Little House, Star Trek), BarBara Luna (High Chaparral, Star Trek), Rudy Ramos (High Chaparral, Resurrection Blvd), Roberta shore (Ozzie & Harriet, The Virginian), Neil Summers (High Chaparral, Gunsmoke), Kent and Susan McCray (Bonanza, High Chaparral, Little House), and MORE!
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- FIVE celebrity panel discussions.
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- Love Letters play with Roberta Shore and Boyd Magers.
- Don Collier's Confessions of an Acting Cowboy.
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Friends and
Fans](#)



[Rudy Ramos
in Geronimo,
Life on the
Reservation](#)

Cast:

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[Mark Slade](#)
[Don Collier](#)
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According to Linda Cristal, if you know how to fail, you'll be a success.

If you are willing to fail, and I mean fall flat on your face, you'll make it," says the vivacious brunette who begins her third season as the distaff member of the Cannon family on "The High Chaparral." The hour-long western adventure series is color cast Fridays at 7p.m. on NBC.

"It takes ability and training. The important thing is to have complete confidence in yourself."

Linda was born Marta Victoria Moya Peggo Bouges in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the daughter of Italian and French parents, Rosario Peggo and Antonio Moya Bouges. Her father was an outspoken magazine publisher, and a crusader whose editorial policy in a politically sensitive country frequently spelled trouble for him and his family.

Retaliation among his more vehement enemies came in many ways, but the most vicious was an attempt to kidnap his daughter. A case of mistaken identity spared Linda from the death that was to befall the girl who was abducted.

She was 13 when she lost her parents in an auto accident. Following their deaths, she was cared for by her older brothers and later sent to France to visit her five aunts who are nuns.

Enroute, due to needed repairs on the ship taking her to Europe, she found herself in Vera Cruz, where she met Mexican producer-director Miguelito Aleman, son of the then-president Miguel Aleman. She was signed for a featured role in Aleman's "When the Fog Lifts" and went on to star ultimately in nine films over the ensuing four years.

An ad for an English speaking actress in an upcoming American-made film attracted Linda, who speaks English, Italian, French and Spanish, and led her to a co-starring role with



Dana Andrews in "Comanche." Linda achieved stardom with 30 films to her credit, including "The Perfect Furlough," "The Fiend That Walked the West," "Cry Tough," "The Alamo", and "Two Rode Together."

As for High Chaparral, "I had given up my career for the sake of marriage," explains Linda. "My marriage failed anyway. This left me without a career or marriage. I needed this part and I wanted it."

A Talk with the Foreman

by Randy Shaw

His deep distinctive voice commands your attention and the stories he tells and re-tells not only captures your heart, but can tickle your funny bone.

Prolific television and film actor Don Collier has turned hundreds if not thousands of behind-the-scenes acting stories into a one man show he calls, "Confessions of an Acting Cowboy."

He can take you to the set of The High Chaparral at the Old Tucson Studios, to a Nevada ranch near Lake Tahoe called Bonanza, a western board walk in Dodge City with the smell of Gunsmoke and the winding often treacherous trails of Wagon Train.

He has worked with the greatest western actors in the world including John Wayne, Robert Mitchum, Tom Selleck, James Arness and scores of others.

"My memory may not be as good as it once was," says Collier, but don't kid yourself, he remembers everything!

Collier can tell you how Clint Eastwood managed to get his big break in the movie business thanks to another Rawhide actor Eric Fleming. It was great news for Eastwood but it was a death sentence for Fleming who by-passed the Spaghetti westerns recommending Eastwood and later drowned in South America.

With tongue in cheek this man best known for donning a western hat might bring a laugh or two about the time he tried out for a role of as an ancient Egyptian.



Among his numerous movie and television appearances you know him best as Sam Butler, the rugged foreman of the High Chaparral ranch.

You have a wonderful opportunity to hear some of the stories about his illustrious career, his friendships and his heart-warming memories as a tried and true actor. "I really enjoy meeting our fans and they have great access to us," Collier says, "and can ask us just about anything they want."

You won't meet anyone more down to earth and so pleasant to be around than Don Collier. He is really looking forward to the next [High Chaparral Reunion](#) coming up March 17th - 20th in 2016.

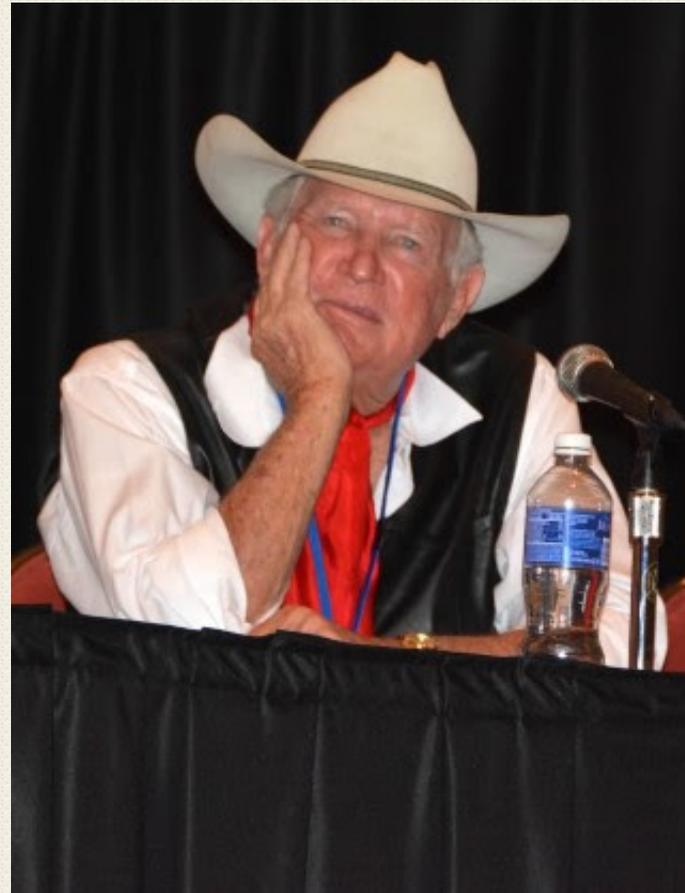
He began his acting career at an early age, right after World War Two and a stint in the U.S. Navy.

"I was 16 and all the upper class-men were heading into the military, coming back to the high school in uniform, and the girls really liked that," Collier reflected. "So, at age 17, I signed up with the navy and I came back to the high school. I found out it was true. The girls love a uniform!" Collier laughs.

During this upcoming High Chaparral reunion next March, Collier will be reunited with another famous western actor Robert Fuller. The two met in the mid 1960's in a film called, "Incident at Phantom Hill." It was a film loaded with nearly three dozen stars including, Dan Duryea, Claude Akins, Noah Beery, Jr., Paul Fix and Denver Pyle. Collier played the sheriff, Carter Drum. It's the story of a million-dollar gold shipment hijacked and buried in the desert at the end of the Civil War. You probably remember Fuller from his roles in "Laramie" and "Wagon Train" or the more modern television series, "Emergency,"

Collier says, "The crowds at these reunions are getting larger and the number of actors left to attend are dwindling."

Don't miss your chance to meet and talk to some of the tv and film stars you grew up with over the decades. [The High Chaparral Reunion](#) will be March 17th - 20th next year. It will include actors Don Collier, Robert Fuller, Roberta Shore, Rudy Ramos and many more.



A Prediction Fulfilled

Vintage reprint

Leif Erickson does not go to fortune tellers as a rule. But he went to one once in 1941.

“She told me that I’ll have a very difficult time but that I’d become very, very wealthy and successful in later life,” said Erickson. “She also said that somebody would come into my life with the initials ‘D.D.’”

Erickson paused.

“I’ve spent the last 30 years looking for ‘D.D.’,” he admitted. “I’ve thought of Doris Day, among others. I didn’t realize until I had been working on my new series that the prediction had come true.”

Erickson referred to *The High Chaparral*, in which he stars as Big John Cannon, on NBC, Sundays at 10 PM.

“The name of our first assistant is Donald Daves.” Said Erickson. “I mentioned it to my wife. She said, ‘Yes, that’s it.’ And then the other thing hit me – David Dortort! Dortort is the creator and executive producer of our series! That’s the ‘D.D.’ in my life!”

Everything else in Erickson’s life, he claims, has always had a more rational, logical development.

Erickson, starting as a soloist with Ted Fio-Rito’s dance band, has moved through top starring roles on Broadway, in motion pictures and on television. His first film was “Wanderers of the Wasteland.” He was featured in “Conquest” with Great Garbo. Other films included “The Snake Pit,” “On the Waterfront,” and “Tea and Sympathy.” He starred two years on Broadway in “Tea and Sympathy” opposite Deborah Kerr and toured with “Sunrise at Campobello” as Franklin D. Roosevelt. He guest starred in various television shows, including two *Bonanza* episodes.



Music remains an essential part of Erickson's life, even when he isn't singing.

"Any dramatic scene of duration has rhythm and phrasing," said Erickson. "A comedian calls it timing. I catch myself tapping out the beat when looking over a script. It's possible to relate a scene to a symphony or some other musical work. We did a pursuit scene and I remember thinking about Wagnerian opera - the trumpets, the trombones, the talking. Doing this helps get up a head of steam."

Erickson, who rides a 15-horsepower motorcycle, is at ease in the saddle. His real love, however, isn't horses. It's sailing. Erickson owns a 37-year old 44-foot schooner.

"The ocean has the same emotional effect as the desert," he said. "It creates a sense of majesty, vastness and an awareness of one's own insignificance. At the same time it creates the typical human desire to conquer it. "

Erickson doesn't feel the same way about outer space. At least he, personally, isn't challenged by it or eager to conquer it.

"I haven't lost anything up there," he said.

Erickson's home life is an exception in a business where domestic instability seems to be the rule. He married the former Ann Diamond Dec 24, 1945. Their son, William, was born in December 1946 and their daughter, Suzie, was born in July 1951.



A Busy Month for Susan McCray

The Gene Autry Museum has requested an interview from Susan McCray about her Casting Career and Kent McCray for his Producing Career for a special project the museum is producing. The project will be for the Autry Archives in a special section about the industry and who are the great contributors.

Susan McCray is pleased and proud to announce her children's book "[Harry's Piano](#)" will soon be available in new Steinway Boutiques - one of which will be opening soon in Tucson Arizona. Along with her book will be the CD she produced featuring Vincent Falcone called "[Warm Heart Cool Hands.](#)"

In November Susan is invited to be special guest author for a book signing for [Harrys Piano](#) and interview at the Mendocino Book Store. This is a successful event put on every year. Susan is also pleased to announce two additions to her Nightfall by Susan McCray fragrance line, a body wash and body lotion. Susan feels everyone should be able to layer their fragrance to last throughout the day and into evening. All will be available in Mid August - on her online store [NightfallbySusanMcCray.com](#) Susan is in final negotiations to have a

beautiful boutique in Northern CA carry Nightfall by Susan McCray.

Ms. McCray is in talks to co-produce a syndicated interview show based on her successful radio show "Getting To Know You" which airs on her radio station every Sunday evening at 6 p.m. pacific time.

If that is not enough Susan has been going over the songs she and the great music director for Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Steve Lawrence and others – Vincent (Vinnie) Falcone will be performing Sunday March 20th at [The High Chaparral Reunion](#) at the Casino Del Sol.

What else? Well, her radio station KUNK FM (The Skunk FM) has added a new Sunday feature which Susan is producing hosted by Ron Hudson called [Precious Moments with Ron Hudson](#). All HC fans who have attended past reunions will remember Ron, cousin of Penny McQueen. The show airs at 6:45 a.m. every Sunday on the station's website www.theskunkfm.com.

Susan has also been interviewed for the 805 Magazine and local tv station in Thousand Oaks and 90210 paper for Beverly Hills and the Surfside News published in Malibu CA.

Wait until next month

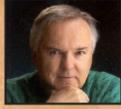


ONLY AT THE HIGH CHAPARRAL REUNION!

- STARRING -



Roberta Shore



Boyd Magers



Love Letters

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Have you ever loved someone across time and distance?

Share the story of Melissa and Andrew

as they grow together through the power of the pen.

THE HIGH CHAPARRAL REUNION • March 17-20, 2016

Don't miss this special performance of "Love Letters" the Pulitzer prize nominated play, performed by Roberta Shore and Boyd Magers at [The High Chaparral Reunion](#) in March.

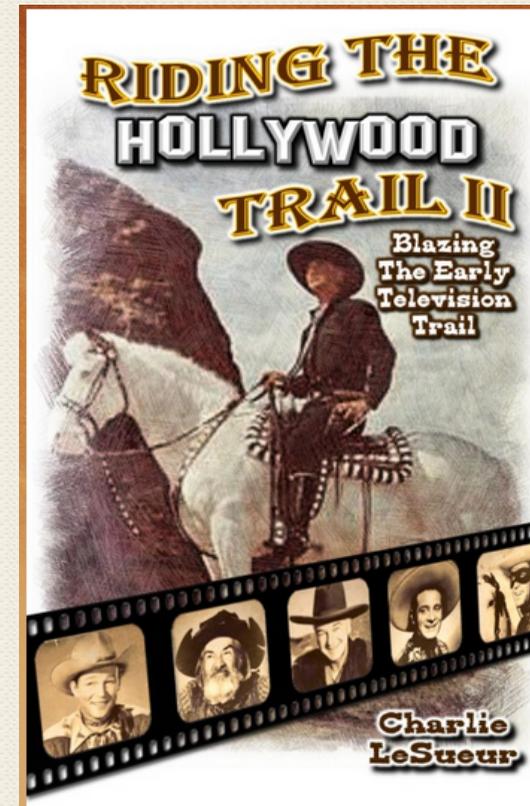
Riding The Hollywood Trail

The man who brought you Riding the Hollywood Trail: Tales of the Silver Screen Cowboys, Charlie LeSueur, now brings the long awaited sequel...[Riding the Hollywood Trail II: Blazing the Early Television Trail](#). (\$12.95).

Charlie continues the story as a select few cowpokes successfully made the switch to early television while others had a tough go of it. Here are the true stories of the ups and downs of heroes like Hopalong Cassidy, Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, The Lone Ranger, The Cisco Kid, Gabby Hayes, Colonel Tim McCoy, Russell Hayden, Lash LaRue, William Elliott and Allan "Rocky" Lane in their attempts to make the leap to TV, with plenty of behind the scenes intrigue...Enjoy the Trail!

Charlie is the hardworking host of [The High Chaparral Reunion webcast](#) and Arizona's Official Western Film Historian.

This book comes with a personalized autograph from the author. Shipping and Handling is included in price.





Meet the Stars

There are lots of chances to meet The High Chaparral Stars coming up so mark your calendar and make your plans.

[Western Legends Roundup, August 24-27](#)

Kanab, UT

Don Collier, Rudy Ramos, Neil Summers, Roberta Shore, Dan Haggarty, Bruce Boxleitner, Kathy Garver, Clint Walter, Darby Hinton, Ed Faulkner, Barry Corbin, Alex Cord, Don Shanks, Cheryl Rogers Barnett, Wyatt McCrea

[Idaho Western Heritage Festival](#)

September 18–20, 2015

The Boise Stage Stop, Boise, ID

Don Collier, Robert Fuller, Alex Cord, Dan Haggarty, Roberta Shore

[WILD WEST FESTIVAL](#)

October 23–25, 2015

Glendale, AZ

Don Collier, **Neil Summers**, Dan Haggerty, Peter Brown, Roberta Shore, Mike Moroff, Michael Dante, Dr Buck Montgomery

[Wanenmacher's Tulsa Arms Show](#)

November 14 &15, 2015

Tulsa, OK

Don Collier, Dan Haggerty

[The High Chaparral Reunion](#)

March 17-20, 2016

Tucson, AZ

Don Collier, Rudy Ramos, Neil Summers, Kent and Susan McCray, Robert Fuller, BarBara Luna, Roberta Shore, Boyd Magers, Charlie LeSueur, Buck Montgomery, Jeff McCarroll and many more.

Other Festivals (HC Stars may not be appearing)

[Williamsburg Film Festival](#)

March 9-12, 2016

Williamsburg, VA

[M7 Con & Old West Film Festival](#)

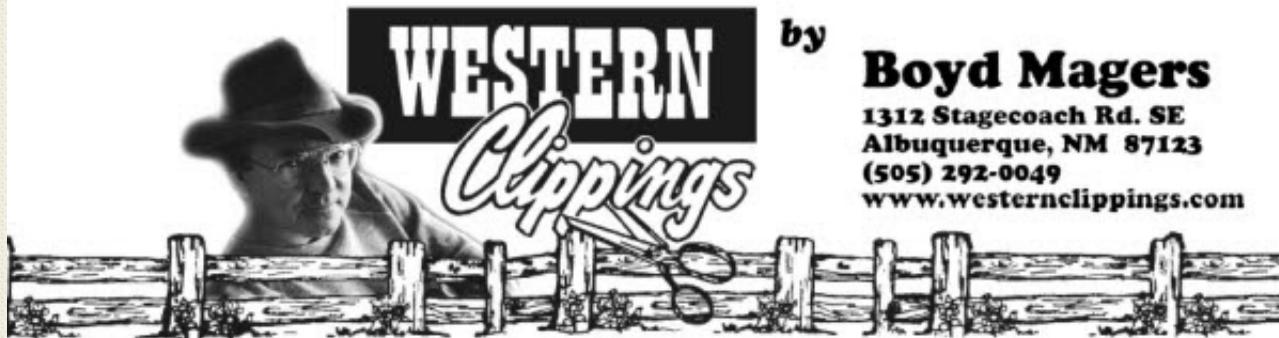
October 23-25, 2015

Los Angeles, CA



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- ◆ Old Pros In New Shows ◆ Cowboy Quotes
- ◆ Best of Western TV Selections ◆ Western Boo Boos
- ◆ Comic Book Cowboys ◆ Rare Historic Photos
- ◆ Empty Saddles...details on the passing of the stars
- ◆ Characters and Heavies (Profiles)



◆ Regular Columns by

- WILL ("Sugarfoot") HUTCHINS
- NEIL SUMMERS—Forgotten Western Classics
- CARLO GABERSCEK/KEN STIER—Western movie sites
- O. J. SIKES—Western music reviews
- BOBBY COPELAND "Cowboy Commentary"
- TOM AND JIM GOLDRUP—Actor profiles
- BOB NAREAU "Reel Lore" Facts and Figures on western stars
- JOHN BROOKER—"Wrangler's Roundup" Commentary on westerns
- PHIL LOY—"Hoofprints on the Trail" real and reel history
- DAVID FULLER—Music in westerns

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You've got questions and we've got answers in the FREE eBook you can download now at ['How To Attend The High Chaparral Reunion!'](#)

Tucson on TV

January 20, 2008 reprint

In the near future, the Tucson background, which has been used to good advantage in motion pictures, probably will be flashing on television screens in homes throughout the country.

— Arizona Daily Star, June 5, 1949

Tucson was born to be a TV star. In fact, the Old Pueblo starred on TV before television signals reached Tucson living rooms.

In spring 1949, the magnificent technological marvel had yet to appear in our dusty neck of the desert. Already, though, New York's WCBS had aired a half-hour special on the Fiesta de los Vaqueros festivities.

"CBS officials told radio station KTUC here that the film was very well done and very clear," the Star reported on May 1, 1949, "and that they had been greatly impressed by the films of the opening day's festivities of the rodeo including the parade shots."

And so Tucson's fascinating TV history began. In June 1949, the Star reported that standing-room crowds would gather at Tucson radio stores to catch the first TV broadcast waves. The signals were aided by the stores' powerful antennae.

Not everyone was impressed.

"If all TV dramas are as simple as the Charlie Ruggles show televised from 8 until 8:30 p.m., radio has nothing to fear after the video novelty wears off," snipped an anonymous writer in the Dec. 5, 1949, Star.



The taste of the future touched off a clamor for the magic box, and in 1952 the government authorized two local stations, KVOA (Channel 4) and Old Pueblo Broadcasting Company (Channel 13). Tucson was one of the smallest population centers in the country to be allowed two stations, the article said. Sundry delays pushed the debut of local TV to the next year.

"Like a wide-eyed child with a new toy, Tucson will welcome television to its homes in 1953," an unnamed Star reporter wrote breathlessly on Jan. 11, 1953. By the end of the year, half of Tucson homes would own a TV, predicted KVOA public relations director E.P.H. James.

It didn't take long for Hollywood to bust open the barn doors. In the golden age for Westerns, giants including "Gunsmoke" and "Bonanza" trotted in for on-location episodes, and productions took advantage of Old Tucson — built for the film "Arizona" in 1939 and used by movie studios since 1940.

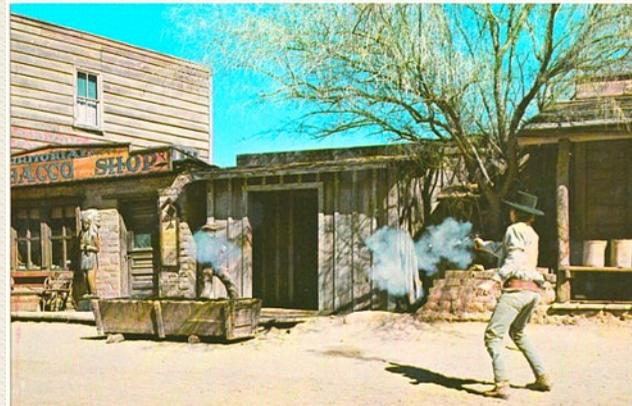
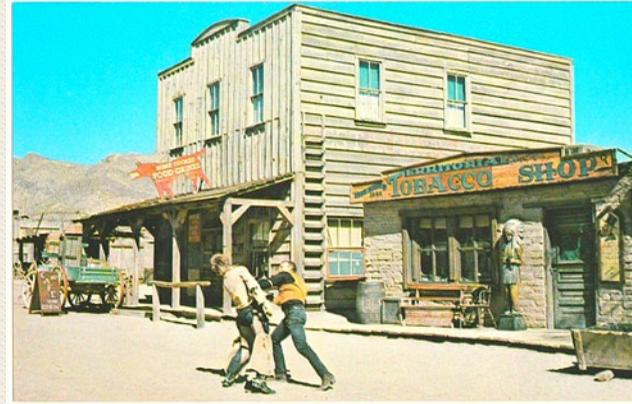
Many more followed, and Tucson was enriched with the flow of money and celebrity attention for decades. Bob Shelton, who owned Old Tucson from 1959 to 1985, recalled as many as four shows shooting simultaneously at times in the 1960s and '70s.

Then the well dried up in the early 1990s, due to Canadian and New Mexican tax incentives to movie makers as well as the fire at Old Tucson in 1995.

"Without a doubt, New Mexico is our biggest competitor principally because their film incentive program is more lucrative than ours right now," said Frances Causey, Old Tucson film manager. "Hopefully, that is changing. It is hard for producers to justify shooting in Arizona when the savings are so much greater next door."

Shelli Hall, Tucson Film Office director, who is working to draft new legislation that would beef up Arizona's tax incentives, agreed that New Mexico is the state's chief rival, and added that Marfa, Texas, where recent Westerns "No Country for Old Men" and "There Will Be Blood" were shot, is also an emerging juggernaut. Canada, however, is the new Hollywood, but the country is suffering just like Arizona because of aggressive tax incentives in some American states.

"When I started in this job 10 years ago, the Directors Guild of America did a 'runaway production' study, and they found that 98 percent of TV movies of the week were being filmed in Canada. In the 1980s, movies of the week were big business for Tucson," Hall said.



"But due to Canada's exchange rate, less union restrictions, tax credits and loan programs, it became more cost effective to shoot there. Canada has a huge infrastructure and workforce to support film production, and right now they are really hurting because of New Mexico, Louisiana, Connecticut — states with great incentive programs."

Tucson's history with film and TV, as well as its proximity to Los Angeles, could give it a boost if it can generate tax incentives and infrastructure to match its rivals.

With their bigger budgets and ambitions, movies make up the lion's share of Tucson's "screen" history. Still, some of TV's most memorable early shows join lesser or never knowns to make up our legacy on the small screen.

Today we reminisce about the programs I've chosen, with input from Bob Shelton, as the 10 most significant shows in Tucson TV history.

Top 10 television shows

1 The High Chaparral (1967–71)

Network: NBC.

Stars: Leif Erickson, Cameron Mitchell, Henry Darrow, Don Collier, Linda Cristal.

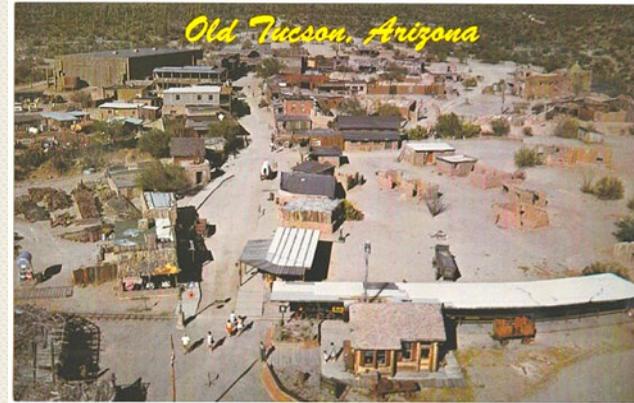
Local locations: Old Tucson, San Pedro Valley, Aravaipa Creek.

Just as the filming of "Arizona" will forever define Southern Arizona's movie scene, "The High Chaparral" stands as the most important Tucson-made TV show. The production proved that a series filmed largely in Tucson could be successful, and it was a financial boon to the area because NBC spent as much as \$300,000 filming each episode, the Star reported in 1967.

And the gift would keep on giving. "The High Chaparral" production manager, Kent McCray, persuaded his close associate Michael Landon to shoot episodes of "Little House on the Prairie," "Father Murphy" and "Highway to Heaven" in Tucson.

"I think 'The High Chaparral' did more for the motion picture business and prosperity here than any one thing ever did," said Bob Shelton, who ran Old Tucson from 1959 to 1985.

The series followed the adventures of Leif Erickson's character, Arizona Territory rancher Big John Cannon, as he built his cattle business and fended off attacks from Indians.



"It was a fantastic series we were blessed with that was really kind of our afterburner kick," Shelton said. "When they came here, they were great to work with. I had known some of the guys from NBC. The producer was the one who did 'Bonanza' — David Dortort. They came here and built a ranch house on the east side of Old Tucson."

Don Collier, an actor who played ranch foreman Sam Butler, would later transplant to Tucson and recalled his enjoyable days shooting the series.

"It was 12- or 13-hour days, but they were fun days," said Collier, who is recognizable more recently for work on the local show "The Desert Speaks." "I had a lot of fun with it. We tried to film it like a real working cattle ranch and did roundups, branding and everything you do on a ranch."

Collier said he and the rest of the cast were tight and "did our share of drinking." They passed the off hours playing cards and dominoes and would visit Nogales. The cast and crew stayed at local hotels including the Ramada Inn and Desert Inn.

2 Bonanza (1959–73)

Network: NBC.

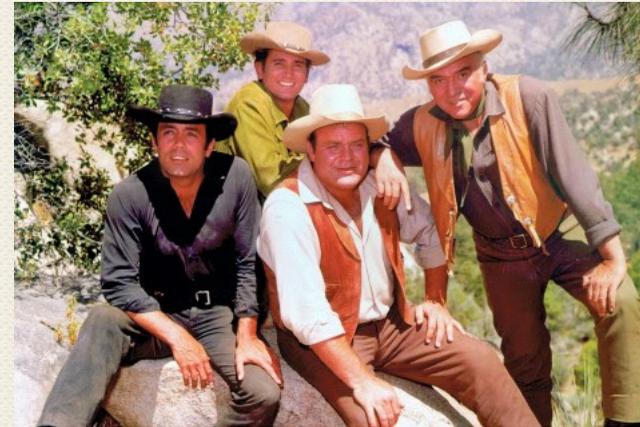
Stars: Lorne Greene, Michael Landon, Dan Blocker, Pernell Roberts.

Local locations: Old Tucson, Empire Ranch.

One of the first TV series to be broadcast in color, "Bonanza," the top-rated show from 1965 to 1968, is a giant. Shooting in one of the great cities of the Old West was a natural.

The Civil War-era saga featured Ben Cartwright (Lorne Greene), a Nevada rancher with three sons by different wives, all of whom had died. The Cartwrights run their ranch, help others and fend off attacks. Shelton said the series filmed episodes here in 1966, 1971 and 1972.

"There was always a big crowd when 'Bonanza' shot here," Shelton said. "It was a great occasion."



3 Gunsmoke (1955–75)

Network: CBS.

Stars: James Arness, Milburn Stone, Amanda Blake.

Local location: Old Tucson.

The second-longest-running fictional prime-time TV series (Disney's anthology program known under various names, including "The Wonderful World of Disney," is the longest-running series), "Gunsmoke" shot in more than a dozen locations throughout California, Utah, South Dakota and Arizona.

The series started off as a radio drama before moving to TV. Then the radio and TV versions ran concurrently until 1961, when "Gunsmoke" shifted solely to TV.

Set in Dodge City, Kan., the show follows gruff Marshal Matt Dillon (James Arness) as he deals with problems such as gunfights, cattle rustling and land fraud.

Shelton said one episode and parts of two others were shot in Tucson.

"They were all business," Shelton said of the "Gunsmoke" crew, noting that its presence led to more productions coming to Tucson.

"Gunsmoke" executive producer John Mantley returned to Tucson with the series "How the West Was Won," and producer Leonard Katzman followed with "Petrocelli."



4 The Young Riders (1989–92)

Network: ABC.

Stars: Stephen Baldwin, Josh Brolin, Ty Miller.

Local locations: Old Tucson, Gates Pass, Mescal (Old Tucson's alternate location, east of Tucson).

Another show Tucson had all to its own was "The Young Riders." The plucky drama about the exploits of Pony Express riders never quite caught fire nationally because it was pitted against "Cheers." Still, it stampeded through three seasons and was beloved in Tucson.

Sadly, once "The Young Riders" was canceled, so was Tucson's relevance as a TV town.

Barbara Glover, a local actress, appeared in the show as various characters.

"All of my male actor friends worked a lot on that show. There was always bad guys/the gang, etc. As in most Westerns, very few parts for women," Glover said.

"One of the parts I was cast in was a 'townsfolk.' It was really written for a man; some of my dialogue was 'There's going to be hell to pay now,' something most women would not have said in those times."

The production would shoot between July and February and once stopped traffic for hours for a scene at Gates Pass.



5 Father Murphy (1981–83)

Network: NBC.

Stars: Merlin Olsen, Katherine Cannon, Timothy Gibbs.

Local locations: Old Tucson, Rio Rico.

Series creator Michael Landon adopted Tucson as his honorary home for much of the 1980s. His experience shooting an episode of "Little House on the Prairie" at the University of Arizona campus in September 1981 may have been the reason. Eighty students were cast as extras, and Landon was mobbed by autograph seekers.

"They've got great streets there, and the extras we can hire are just fantastic," said Landon, who bought land in Southern Arizona and later returned to shoot part of an episode of "Highway to Heaven" at Hi Corbett Field in 1985. He took part in Tucson's Michael Landon Celebrity Tennis Classic, which ran from 1983 to 1991, the year he died of pancreatic cancer. The tournament was renamed the Beau Bridges Celebrity Tennis Classic.

Landon returned with "Father Murphy," which was set in the 1870s and starred Merlin Olsen as a frontiersmen who masqueraded as a priest to help orphans find homes. Later he winds up adopting the kids. To shoot "Father Murphy," people with the show had to cover saguaros to disguise the backdrop as Dakota Territory.

When the series was canceled after two seasons, it was replaced by "The A-Team."

"I knew (Landon) really well. I played tennis with him," Shelton said. "He loved it. He bought a lot of real estate here. . . . He had a lot of money and made a lot of money. Every year he'd buy a lot of real estate and sell it at a profit. He was big time."



6 Hey Dude (1989–91)

Network: Nickelodeon.

Stars: Christine Taylor, Joe Torres, Josh Tygiel.

Local location: Tanque Verde Guest Ranch.

Two Tucson schoolboys found sudden stardom when they were cast in Nickelodeon's comedy about teens dealing with life while working at a dude ranch.

Joe Torres, a 17-year-old Tucson High School senior, and Josh Tygiel, a 13-year-old attending the school now known as Utterback Middle Magnet School, landed starring roles that disappointingly didn't lead to bigger things after the show ended. The show lasted 65 episodes and ran in syndication until 1999.

7 Bearcats! (1971)

Network: CBS.

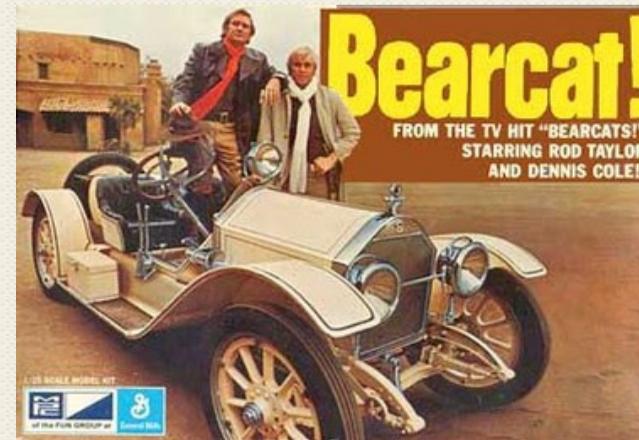
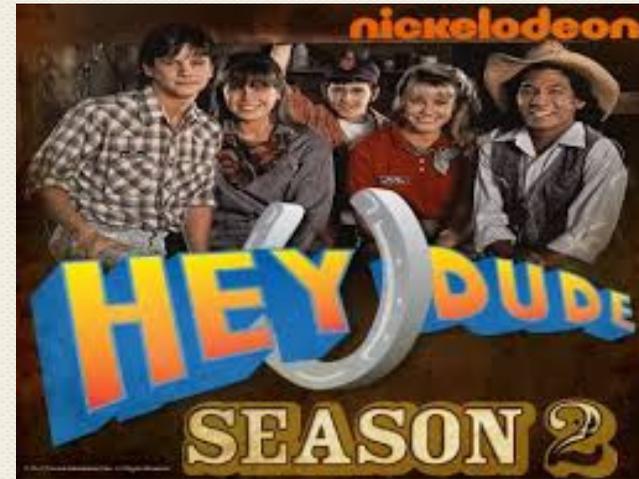
Stars: Rod Taylor, Dennis Cole.

Local location: Old Tucson.

Filmed at Old Tucson and in New Mexico, the action drama was set in the early 20th century and tracked the adventures of two mercenaries, played by Taylor and Cole. The duo cruised around in a 1914 Stutz Bearcat automobile and took on assignments for pay in blank checks.

"It was a modern version of a Western, and they had that car," Shelton said. "It was a good show, very interesting."

The show lasted half a season before it was canceled.



8 Ballad of the Old West (1971)

Network: Unknown.

Stars: Johnny Cash, Kirk Douglas, Roy Rogers, Walter Brennan.

Local locations: Old Tucson.

Although there doesn't seem to be a record of the series airing, filming the variety-style show here was a coup because of the star power it brought to town.

"It was a fun show. They filmed it on the soundstage here," Shelton said. "Part of the show they recorded in the studio, and Roy and Johnny Cash worked on a street gunfight with Kirk Douglas. At night, they'd get to the hotel (the old Hilton on North Oracle Road), and Johnny Cash and Willie (Nelson) and all those guys would jump into somebody's room, start picking on guitars."

9 Have Gun — Will Travel (1957–63)

Network: CBS.

Stars: Richard Boone, Kam Tong.

Local location: Old Tucson.

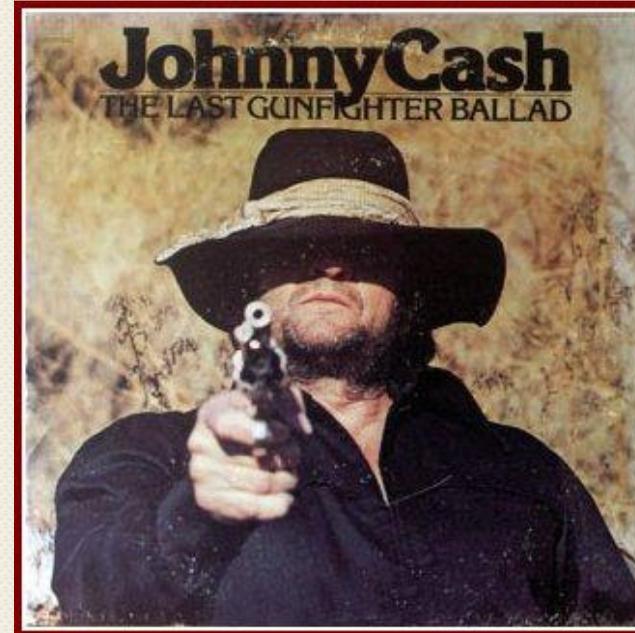
The sprawling series about a traveling professional gunfighter played by Richard Boone touched Old Tucson for some episodes.

The TV series is set to be remade as a movie starring Eminem, projected to be released this year.

"We became pretty well known in the early '60s. I had restored the street and was making it ready for film use back in those days," Shelton said, recalling the series shooting at Old Tucson in 1962. "There were so damn many Western TV series going on, they began to look at other places other than the backlots of Hollywood. I think that was just the spillover. I began to make my trips out there back then, knocking on doors, telling them we were over here."

Shelton said Boone insisted on playing golf before shooting started and ignored warnings of the blazing sun.

"He was a baked cookie," Shelton said. "We put him to bed, and actually he was knocked out. They were gonna start shooting on Monday morning, but by Sunday he was really a basket case. He was in the Sands Hotel. They kept him company in a room and put an attendant in there to watch him so if he needed anything he could help him out. The attendant decided he wanted to get out to take a



smoke, and in the meantime Boone wakes up just burning up. His throat is raw and tongue is swollen. He opens the refrigerator, grabs a pitcher of liquid and gulps it down. He forgot he had made a batch of martinis and set them in there. Two or three gulps of martinis got him so damn sick, he couldn't shoot here."

Shelton said they shot scenes at Old Tucson without Boone and sent him back to Hollywood to visit his doctor.

10 Petrocelli (1974–76)

Network: NBC.

Stars: Barry Newman, Susan Howard.

Local locations: Old Tucson and Downtown.

Newman starred as an Italian–American defense attorney who moved to a small Western town to get away from the bustle of the East. He lives in a trailer while his house is being built and defends clients accused of murder.

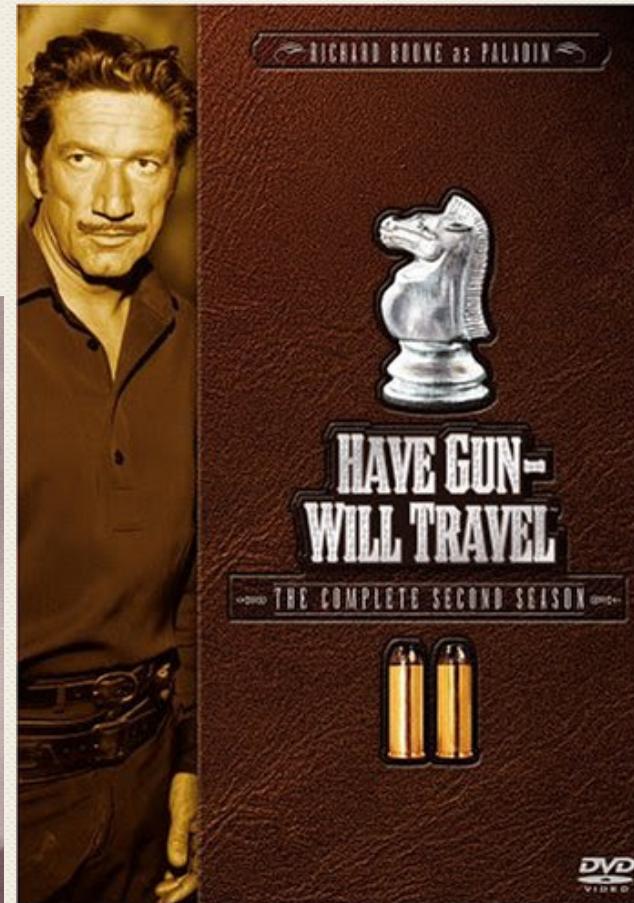
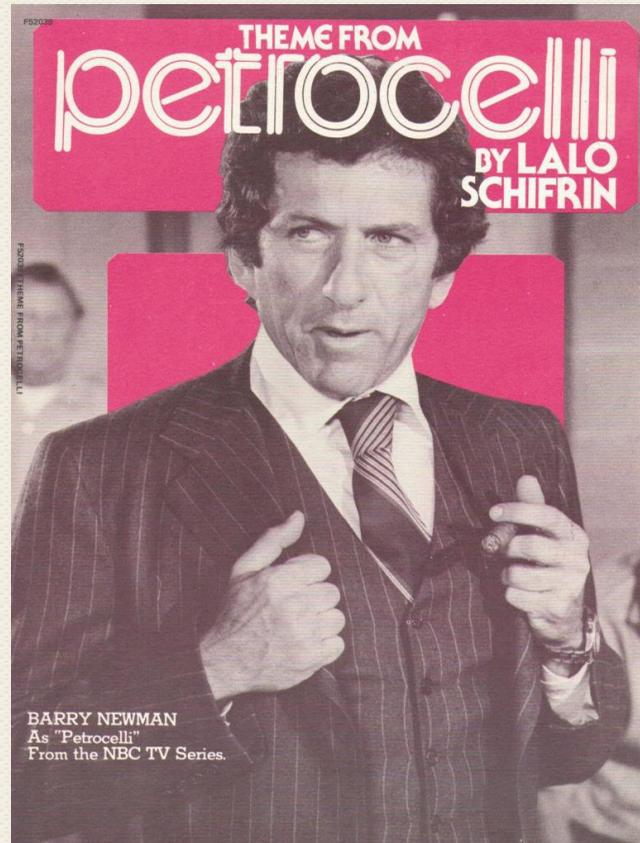
"Barry was a heck of a guy, a lot of fun. He loved chasing around all our local chicks," Shelton said. "That was the sport of the day whenever they were around."

Meet the Colliers, the first couple of Tucson TV history.

Don Collier, 79, worked with such legends as John Wayne and Elvis Presley in half a century of movies and television, starring in the Tucson–based TV series "The High Chaparral" and "The Young Riders." He lives with his wife, former casting agent Holly Collier, 64, on the East Side and hosted 12 seasons of "The Desert Speaks," a KUAT nature and science show.

Collier and his wife stand as legacies of Tucson's yesteryear glory.

"The desert climate down here is ideal for shooting movies," Collier said. "There's so much sunlight that even rain in the summertime didn't bother us."



After working as an extra in a couple of movies, Collier plunged into acting full time in 1956. His break was a role in the NBC series "Outlaws" in 1960. He later joined the cast of "Bonanza," then landed his defining role as ranch foreman Sam Butler in "The High Chaparral" (1967–71). Collier also appeared on "Little House on the Prairie" and "Highway to Heaven."

Holly started out as a casting agent in Los Angeles. She was responsible for filling roles in several films and TV shows in Tucson, including "The Young Riders," the 1993 film "Tombstone" and the 1994 TV movie "Gunsmoke: One Man's Justice."

"Holly was doing so many films here. She was the leading casting personality," said Bob Shelton, former owner of Old Tucson. "She had a background in Hollywood and had lived there for years (Holly began working in casting in 1968) before she married Don Collier. When Don decided he wanted to move over here and sort of work out of here, she sort of gave up the business. She was still a fairly prominent casting director."

Collier jokes he married Holly to advance his career.

"We met in L.A.," Collier said, noting he was auditioning for a chili commercial. "She had a casting office there. I went in for an audition and got the job. I got a couple of more jobs and figured the best way to get more work was to marry her."

They moved to Tucson together and married here in 1983. Transplanting to Tucson was a no-brainer for the Colliers.

"I just liked it down here," Don Collier said. "I worked down here, and L.A. got so crowded and awful that I decided to move out here. Holly continued working in casting until retiring in 2001 because she suffers from angina."

Holly misses her work and entertains the possibility of returning to casting if her health improves. She says she feels better now than she has in years.

"You bet (I miss it)," she said. "The interaction and activity of it, the excitement of it. I'm enjoying my semi-retirement but I don't know."

Don's workload has slowed, consisting mostly of voice work and the occasional commercial. He laments the decline of Tucson's film industry.

"It's very sad," he said. "Well, there's no town anymore. When Old Tucson burned . . . they didn't build it back like a Western town, but a Western theme park. It's run down and would take a couple million bucks to get it back where it should be. In New Mexico, there are three or four decent Western towns over there."

He has little hope for an industry resurrection here.

"I think we're done," Don said. "Stick a fork in us. . . . As far as production down here, once Old Tucson burned down, that kind of put a dent in the whole thing."

Holly is more optimistic.

"I think there's a good chance it could happen again," she said. "When we were coming in, production was going and everybody was prospering from it, and now it's at a crawl. The city needs to look at that and say, 'Wow, what happened?' and do something about it."

ODDS AND ENDS

Some other notable shows shot at least partly in Tucson:

"Wagon Train" (1957–65)

"Webster" (1983–89)

"Death Valley Days" (1952–75)

"Yuma" (1971)

"The Mark of Zorro" (1974)

"The Fugitive" (1963–67)

"The Hanged Man" (1974)

"Desperation" (2006)

"Young Pioneers" (1976)

"How the West Was Won" (1979)

"Dundee and the Culhane" (1967)

Tax incentives in Arizona, N.M.

The disparity in tax-incentive programs is one reason New Mexico pulled in \$452 million in economic impact in the fiscal year 2006–07 thanks to film and television production, while Arizona garnered only \$77 million in the same span.

Differences between Arizona and New Mexico's incentive packages:

Tax credits:

- Arizona: offers 20 percent and 30 percent tax credits on expenditures made in-state.
- New Mexico: offers a 25 percent cash rebate.

Loan program:

- Arizona: has no production loan program.
- New Mexico: offers \$15 million in interest-free loans from a \$280 million fund.

Production cap:

- Arizona: caps its incentives per production at \$7 million and caps its total tax credits at \$50 million.
- New Mexico: has no caps.

Annual cap:

- Arizona: distributes its incentives on a first-come, first-served basis, and the cap for 2007 was allocated in January.
- New Mexico: never allocates its total budget because it has no cap.

Source: Tucson Film Office

DID YOU KNOW . . .

The WB sitcom "Greetings From Tucson" (2002-03) was filmed in Hollywood, although it did have many connections to town. The show was set in Tucson and involved the exploits of a Irish/Hispanic family. The short-lived program was executive produced by former Tucsonan Peter Murrieta and included stock shots of local scenery in between scenes. It referenced the local eatery Eegee's in the title of one of its episodes.

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