MOVIE COLUMN

Brush with death leaves TV star just happy to be living, eating

By BOB THOMAS

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Roger Smith passed unnoticed in the restaurant, though he was known by millions of movie and TV fans. I failed to recognize him myself, so changed was he.

Thirty pounds had dropped from his already slender frame and his hair was close-cropped.

But his spirits were bright, as any man's would be after returning from a brush with death.

Roger is one of the new crop of stars created by television. He plays one of the slick sleuths of the hit show,—77 Sunset Strip. He also scored as Rosalind Russell's grownup son in "Auntie Mame."

Life was full for Roger. He was making money, had a happy marriage with actress Victoria Shaw and they were blessed with two young children.

A month ago, he was leaving his house for the studio. His vision was impeded by a hi-fi set he was carrying and he stumbled. As he fell, his chin hit the record player and his head jarred backwards. His wife rushed out to find him dazed and helpless.

Doctors said Roger had a nervous breakdown and sent him to a private sanitarium. But his wife felt he needed more help, and she brought in a psychiatrist-neurologist. He recognized Roger's trouble as physical and tested him at another hospital. The tests revealed a blood clot.

Five ounces of blood, discharged from veins by the impact of the fall, were drained from Roger's skull. For four days he was on the critical list; he remained paralyzed and speechless and had no will to live. His wife stayed with him constantly, trying with all her skill as an actress to cheer him.

On the fourth day he smiled at her and she knew he was going to be all right.

Roger is eager to get back to work as soon as he adds some hair and a few pounds. He admitted the ordeal has changed him:

"I notice things more—sunsets and my children playing and things to eat. And I can't get mad at anything any more. I try, but I just figure that I'm lucky to be alive."

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ARTHUR FRANCIS, director of Accident Prevention for the Workmen's Compensation board is shown presenting the Board's Maritorius Safety Performance certificate to Robert Pakula, chairman of the plant committee at Celgar Limited's Nakusp sawmill. Celgar's Nakusp mill, which is affiliated with Columbia Cellulose, operated accident-free from August 2, 1957 to March 16, 1959.

Celgar Nakusp sawmill receives safety award

Celgar Limited's Nakusp sawmill has been singled out to receive the Workmen's Compensation Board Meritorious Safety Performance Certificate. Arthur Francis, Director of Accident Prevention for the WCB, made the presentation to the Chairman of the Plant Safety Committee at a special dinner in Nakusp last month.

The Nakusp mill, which is affiliated with Columbia Cellulose operations, won the Group B sawmill award for 1958 with a zero accident frequency following a long series of other safety achievements.

In 1952 the Nakusp mill won the same W.C.B. award and in 1957 it was presented with the Interior Lumber Manufacturer's association Award of Merit for the lowest accident frequency for Group B Sawmills.

In 1958 it won the B.C. Safety Council's Bronze certificate for completing 98,400 accident-free man hours, and later the Silver certificate for 226,835 accident-free man hours. This record also qualified for first place among the I.L.M.A. Group B mills and exceeded substantially the 18,517 man days quota for the B.C. Department of Labour Centennial Safety Award.

Mr. Francis urged all concerned to work hard to maintain their high accident prevention standards.

Kamloops setting for CWL

Kamloops will be the scene of the 1959 Provincial Convention of the Catholic Women's League on August 10 and 11.

Most Rev. M. A. Harrington, D.D., Bishop of Kamloops, and Provincial Director of the League will be in attendance, and Provincial President, Mrs. Elena Nucich, of Vancouver will preside at business sessions.

Diocesan Presidents and representatives are expected from Whitehorse, Y.T.; Prince Rupert, Nelson, Vancouver, Victoria and Kamloops.

A Pre-Convention Executive meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Monday, August 10 with general sessions commencing at 1:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Cathedral parish hall.

The convention mass will be celebrated in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, North Kamloops at 5 p.m., followed by supper in the parish hall at 6 p.m. and an informal social evening.

Tuesday morning, August 11 the business session will convene at 9:30 a.m., and will feature a talk by Bishop Harrington. Election and installation of officers will also take place.

At 1 p.m. the Convention will close with a luncheon.

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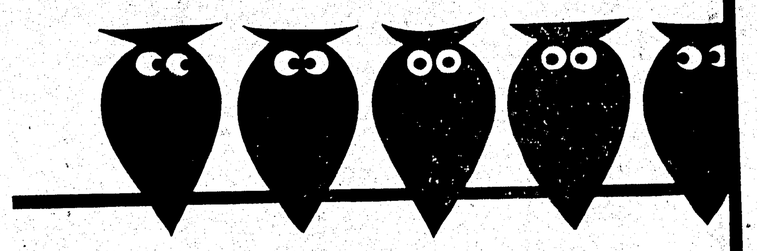
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