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FLOWER-OF-THE-MONTH, Dept. BR-1460, Grand Rapids 2, Michigan

Please enroll me as a member in FLOWER-OF-THE-MONTH and send me the FREE plant I have checked below. Also send Garden News Magazine free each month which lists following month's selections. I need only accept as few as 4 selections; if I do not want a monthly selection I will notify you on form you supply. With each selection I accept I receive a 50¢ Dividend Coupon and Bonus Coupon and your guarantee of satisfaction or item may be replaced anytime within 2 years.

NAME _____ Begonia Hanging Basket
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CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____ Hanging Garden

ROBERT STACK— Hollywood's

Once tabbed a glamour boy and perennial bachelor, he's now



Ex-heir to a fortune, talented Robert Stack has begun to reap his own financial rewards.

By PEER J. OPPENHEIMER

TO MILLIONS of television fans, 41-year-old Robert Stack is known as Eliot Ness, tough, ruthless Federal agent on the highly successful "The Untouchables" series.

To the public in general and most of his acquaintances, Bob is thought of as the scion of a prominent California family and heir to a fortune.

Actually, neither description fits. In a way, Bob's home reflects his personality more than any description of him. It's a spacious, rambling Hawaiian-modern with indoor tropical plants, which creates a distinct feeling of luxury and outdoor living, and reveals Bob's love of activity. It has a tennis court on one side and a tiled swimming pool between the house wings.

The estate is located in the most fashionable section of Bel Air and is valued at approximately \$200,000. Bob hopes that his successful TV series, of which he owns a considerable part, will help pay off the mortgage as well as give him the financial

security the public has been led to believe he has always enjoyed.

These false notions date back to his first break in movies when he was 20 and won the distinction of giving Deanna Durbin her first screen kiss.

At that time, nothing was more important to a star than glamour and nothing more glamorous than wealth, an old family, and a good education. Bob had all—except that the wealth had vanished in the '29 crash.

Bob's parents were separated when he was a year old, and his mother, who had operatic ambitions, took him to Europe while his brother Jim remained in the United States with his father.

"I learned to speak French and Italian before English," Bob recalls, "and when I came home six years later I had to talk to my brother through an interpreter." His parents remarried at that time, but his father lived only another year.

TODAY, Bob is not only one of the best-looking and most athletic, but also one of the manliest, actors in Hollywood. "My mother realized the danger of raising me too softly, without the firm hand of my

"Unstoppable"

happily married and famous in the role of rough, tough Eliot Ness

father, and made sure I had plenty of male associations," he says.

After his break into movies, Bob's personal publicity agent named him Hollywood's "most eligible young bachelor." Girls swarmed to him—and got nowhere. For Bob was European in at least one respect: he was in no rush to marry. He became one of the staunchest bachelors in town until five years ago, when he married starlet Rosemarie Bowe, daughter of a well-to-do contractor.

Rosemarie—who temporarily gave up her career to have two children, Elizabeth, now three, and Charles, two—proved to be the perfect counterpart of Bob. She loves the same kind of life Bob does—active yet relaxed, with great emphasis on outdoor activities, including boating, riding, and Bob's favorite pastime, shooting.

Unlike many Hollywood bachelors who delay marriage, establishing a home made little change in Bob's habits. Never the type to roam from one night club to another, Bob preferred home life. Often Rosemarie, Bob, and his mother would have dinner together at his house and entertain themselves by listening to music or watching television. In fact, he proposed after one of these dinners—although on that occasion his mother arranged to be away!

Even today, about the only "nights out" Bob and Rosemarie take are early-morning snacks after he finishes work on "The Untouchables." Because many of the scenes are shot at night, Bob doesn't get through until 2 a.m. Frequently, Rosemarie picks him up at the studio, and they drive to Malibu Beach, where Bob unwinds from work over a sandwich and a drink.

Bob tries to reserve his free morning hours and weekends to play with Elizabeth and Charles. For a man who was a bachelor for so many years, he shows an unusual amount of patience with them—as when he insists the children's noise doesn't bother him, as long as they play happily.

"If they start whining," he says, "they hear from me!"

Rosemarie does as much as possible to make Bob's life easier. She answers the phone and keeps away minor annoyances. "She can tell my mood as soon as I walk in the door," Bob explains. "She'll start the shower for me, and before I know it, I'm feeling better."

At this point, Bob's demanding schedule rules their lives. They don't mind because they are building for the future. "But I wouldn't want things to be this hectic all my life," Bob told me. "Working almost seven days and nights a week isn't fun." Bob's career, however, has always been

hectic. After his debut opposite Deanna Durbin, he fought the label of "glamour boy" by seeking out widely diverse parts. Sometimes his career hit a slump, but determination paid off with such roles as the psychotic drunk in "Written on the Wind" and an Academy Award nomination.

"I thought that would be the end of my 'type casting,'" he recalls. "Instead, I was offered a mess of crazy drunk roles!"

Bob's success hasn't gone to his head, and his concern for others was never more evident than the night he lost the Academy Award contest to Anthony Quinn. Barely ten minutes after the decision had been announced, William Schiffren, Bob's agent—who was still glued to his TV set—got a call. "I thought you were at the Academy Awards," Schiffren said when he heard Bob's voice.

"I am—in the lobby," Bob came back. "I just wanted to tell you not to take it too hard that I didn't win."

With his career and outdoor interests to keep him busy, Bob has begun still another project. He has organized his own company, Langford Productions, which will create both television and motion pictures. "This will give me something to do between shows," explains Bob, who on the movie-TV scene has become something of "The Unstoppable."

Bob and Rosemarie agree on firm but loving care for children, Elizabeth and Charles.



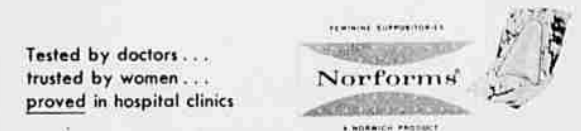
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