

Behind this handsome youth's devil-may-care ways lurks a heartache: the anguish of a son who yearned for his father's love—and never got it

By PEER J. OPPENHEIMER

two wheels, I remembered that he used to drag race.

A curious contradiction of maturity, defiance of mores, and plain teen-age foolishness soon became evident. Sean is so proud of his American citizenship (his mother, actress Lily Damita, is French; father Errol was born in Tasmania, Australia) that he pays U.S. taxes—although he probably could evade them like a lot of multimillionaire actors who have established residence abroad. His opinions on politics, economics, and art indicate a maturity far beyond his 22 years. Yet he has a juvenile, maniacal approach to life which jeopardizes not only himself but anyone within reasonable distance.

As we roared along in the little Fiat, a group of people crossed the road in front of us. "Let's scare 'em!" Sean yelled. Pushing down the accelerator, he headed straight for the two adults and three children. Only 30 feet from them, he slammed on his brakes, swerved sharply to the left, and avoided them by inches. He didn't even bother to comment on it as we sped on to town.

As we pulled up in front of Club Nautico, where we were to have lunch, he pointed out a beautiful three-masted sailboat in the harbor. "It's the *Zacca*. It belongs to my stepmother," he commented cryptically.

There had been a report that Sean and Patrice Wymore had been fighting for possession of Errol's yacht since his death. Sean denies this. "Even if I owned it," he insisted, "I couldn't afford to run it. It would cost \$40,000 to put it back in shape. All I'd like to have is a 30-foot sloop and \$1,000. That way, I could take off for a year—and no one could catch me. I wouldn't have to worry about anyone attaching my bank account or confiscating the yacht. I would be free to do what I wanted—to be a bum. I don't like work. I act because it's easy money. If someone told me I'd never have to work again, I'd say okay.

"If only I'd inherit some money, I could get a house and write. I did some short stories, and now I'm thinking of doing a play about a boy my age who's all alone. His parents are separated, his father has a mistress, and his mother has a succession of affairs. The boy is in love with a very simple lovely girl, but to get his father's affection back, he decides to steal his father's mistress. The father kills himself, and the boy finds true love with the simple girl who shares his feelings."

Sean paused for a moment. "I know people who have gone through just this kind of experience," he said with melancholy. I could guess whom he meant.

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Sean seldom saw his dad, who starred in films like "The Roots of Heaven."



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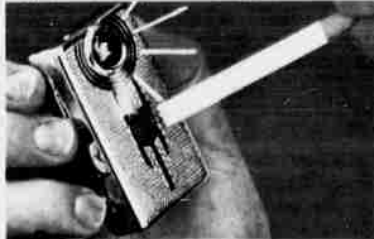
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