



the Casting Director's mind into thinking that he'd play this part well, too.

June Lockhart was cast as his mother, and David just loved working with her. Which was fortunate, because the script had them kidnapped together. And, as David pointed out with a grin: "It wouldn't be too much fun being kidnapped with someone you couldn't stand — even if it was only in a movie!"

Well, David was certainly having his fair share of living dangerously — on the screen at least — around this time! He didn't even have a Mom around the place to hold his hand and share his fate in his next adventure!

### DAVID JAILED!

That was in "Bonanza" when David played the part of a young guy who was jailed and who only missed being hanged by a hair's breadth! (Whew! I'll bet a lot of fans breathed a sigh of relief at the end of that episode!)

David had never been cast in a Western before, and he loved the idea from the moment it was first mentioned to him.

"Like most kids I'd often played at being a cowboy when I was young," he told me. "And any good, fast-moving Western on TV always had my eyes popping out on poles! In fact, a good Western still does grab me if I'm in a certain mood.

"But it was great to think that, at long last, I was going to be in a Western myself, after watching other folks at it for so long!"

He was particularly thrilled to be in "Bonanza" because he'd always reckoned it to be a really professional show, and he admired all the regular stars tremendously.

"Of course, the thought of working with horses excited

me tremendously too," he added.

"My role didn't involve very much actual riding. But I knew that there'd be plenty of splendid horses around on set. And I couldn't help hoping that they'd let me ride some anyway."

It shows you how keen David was on horseback riding because he put that before his love of staying in bed a bit longer! And bed usually took precedence over everything!

As far as he can recall, he was due on set around eight o'clock most mornings, although there were a couple of days when he wasn't needed till the afternoon.

But, regardless of what time he was called, he'd be there on set at 7:30 every morning! That way he could be sure to be on hand when the grooms arrived to exercise the horses and give them a warm up. By the end of that week they were pretty used to having an extra helper around, so David was doubly missed when his time with "Bonanza" came to an end!

That year David also filmed an appearance on "Medical Centre" with Ben Murphy, who was also guesting in the episode titled "His Brother's Keeper".

### KID BROTHER

It may never have struck you that Ben and David look at all alike, but it must have struck some Director that they did! 'Cos David was cast as Ben's kid brother, and both guys had pretty good roles.

"We looked in vain for the 'family resemblance!'" David laughed. "But then Ben pointed out that there are an awful lot of real-life brothers milling about the place who could easily be mistaken for complete strangers! So

maybe it was even more realistic with Ben and I not being too similar!"

Anyway, once physical likeness was set aside, the two found that they had an awful lot in common: "We both had a very simple life-style," David told me. "Ben had an apartment in L.A., pretty much like the house Sam and I had — except his was even smaller! But then he was there on his own, so he didn't need enough room to share with another guy and two dogs!"

### YOUNG ACTORS

Both Ben and David were also young actors, trying to make their marks in their chosen career. Ben was quite a few years older than David, of course. But, then, he'd taken up acting several years later than David had.

They were both very much finding their feet in the tough competition of the Hollywood movie world. At that time they were moving around, guesting on established series. But all the time they couldn't help hoping that one day they'd be able to stop moving . . . That one day they would be the regulars in a series of their own.

They both knew that they'd have to have luck on their side . . . That they'd have to have a really lucky break.

But, still, there didn't seem any harm in talking about their hopes and dreams to each other. They spent a fair deal of time during their breaks discussing what kind of series they'd like to have. They even sketched out the sort of parts they'd love to play.

Of course, they told themselves, this was all still a very long way away . . .

But was it so far away, after all?