



Raymond Burr is one of many entertainers who have made the perilous trip to Viet Nam to cheer up our troops, but he's the only one to become a near-fatal casualty.

The suspenseful episode, which has left the former star of the "Perry Mason" series in painful discomfort since, took place while the actor was in Viet Nam during the spring of 1965.

BURR WAS shaking hands with what was left of a company of Marines in an area that had been under heavy attack only hours before. Then it happened: all hell broke loose, gun fire burst forth and the leathernecks hit the dirt again.

The helicopter which had brought Burr was standing by and his small party headed for it as fast as their legs would carry them. All were aboard except for Burr, who was climbing into the chopper, when the huge bird lifted its green hulk upward, leaving a thoroughly terrified Burr dangling in the churning air beneath the ship.

One of the crewmen had managed to grab the actor's right arm, which was painfully wrenched while supporting the weight of his 200-pound body. When the craft was about 75 feet above the ground, Burr was finally pulled aboard.

"Those were easily the most terrifying moments of my entire life," Burr says. "I could see the Marines dashing for cover as our chopper hovered above them and I could hear rifle shots, though no one could distinguish who was doing the shooting.

"Then the chopper made a quick turn to the left and I thought my arm was coming off. But I remember thinking how I'd rather have a sore arm than a broken neck from falling 75 feet, so I clenched my teeth and held on."

WHAT BURR thought would be a 'sore arm' turned out to be two severely torn muscles in his right shoulder and some pinched nerves in his right hand, rendering his arm and hand inoperable for months.

In fact, though the accident occurred back in '65, he still has such traumatic recurring pain that his starring role in the movie "New Face In Hell" was delayed two weeks.

Prior to this assignment, Burr starred in Universal's "World Premiere: Ironside," and his arm gave him so much trouble that a cast and arm sling were written into the script. His doctors are currently speculating whether or not he will have to undergo surgery before cameras roll on his new series for Universal Television "Ironside," in which he stars with talented, young Negro actor, Don Mitchell.

Has this agony dampened Burr's enthusiasm for future trips to Viet Nam? Not on your life.

"When you stop and think of what our boys--black and white alike--are going through over there, the puny pains we entertainers incur are certainly nothing to whimper about. Of course I'm going back. We owe much more to those fellows."

Two weeks after Burr said those words to me he was once again on his way to Viet Nam, where he is at this writing.

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DON MITCHELL, the cool young actor who'll be starring in the new TV series, "Ironside," with Burr, has put on spurs and climbed aboard 'old paint' for a top featured role in a segment of "The Virginian" titled "The Reckoning." Mitchell even added a 19th century handle bar moustache to really get into the western mood. He plays a murdering, stealing crook, which is contrary to the 'good guy' castings given most Negro actors.



# ONWARD ABINGTON RETIRES - FETED



Veteran teacher Onward Abington was the delighted recipient of a testimonial dinner at the Mint Hotel, on May 30. Sponsored by Kit Carson elementary school's faculty and staff, the occasion was in recognition of Mr. Abington's retirement from the teaching profession. The evening's festivities were highlighted by glowing remarks of Abington's contribution to the community as well as dedication to the teaching profession made by Mrs. Lubertha Johnson seen in extreme left of photo above and Mrs. Mabel Hoggard, shown at her right. Musical renditions were offered by Mrs. Grace McGlothen's "Meister Singers" ... In photo left, Abington is shown with his proud spouse, Mrs. Edythe Abington (left), a first grade teacher at the E. W. Griffith School and Kit Carson School Principal Mrs. Helen Anderson posing with a beautiful clock with which he was gifted.

Mr. Abington is a native of Jefferson City, Mo., and a graduate of Lincoln University. He began his teaching career as a high school teacher in West Virginia where he taught for 10 terms. He returned to Missouri where he was an elementary teacher and principal for ten years as he was subsequently in Pittsburgh, Kansas for five years ... The Abingtons moved to Las Vegas in 1954 and Mr. Abington was with the Clark County School District for 13 years before his retirement May 31.

## TV SERIES CO-STARS



Raymond Burr, flanked by Don Mitchell, Barbara Anderson and Don Galloway, his co-stars in the new TV series, "Ironside," which will air in Sept. on the NBC Television Network. Burr is currently on a tour of Viet Nam.



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## Alphas Elect Officers

On Sunday afternoon, May 21, 1967, Theta Pi Lamda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated held its annual election of officers. The newly elected officers will be installed in September, and assume their duties for the 1967-68 calendar year.

Deputy District Attorney Addelmar Guy was elected president and Cranford Crawford will serve as vice-president. Current president Floyd Plymouth will be secretary for the incoming year. Dr. John Crear will direct the chapter's financial program as treasurer. Realtor and Sugar Hill owner, Bob Bailey, will serve as parliamentarian. The Reverend Marion Bennett will continue his current duties as Chapter Chaplain. Don Kirkland will exchange his current job as chapter treasurer for the responsibilities of Dean of Pledges. Henry Wells will continue as chapter editor to the Sphinx, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's national magazine.

Theta Pi Lamda Alpha men will continue to serve the community in constructive efforts to upgrade its' image before all men.