

"Hong Kong's" gone — but not our Rod

HOLLYWOOD: Rod Taylor, although he won't be back in the "Hong Kong" tele-series, very definitely is still Glenn Evans the devil-may-care newspaperman, but instead of having his TV headquarters in Hong Kong, it's going to be San Francisco from here on.

"I swooped back into Hollywood from Rome after finishing my 'Sir Francis Drake' film there," grinned Taylor, alias Evans, "and promptly put the pressure on 20th Century-Fox to fully reinstate Glenn Evans, newspaperman."

"As of now I am happy to say that my 'Hong Kong' series fans aren't going to be disappointed. Although the name of the series is being changed, I'll go right on where I left off. And they even are giving me a \$2,000,000 movie every year I am on the series... as a sort of bonus. Not only that but my own Rodlor TV Production will own 25 per cent. of the new show's profits..."

Perhaps no other actor, television or movie species, can claim the aggressiveness and business cunning of the sandy-haired Australian who won the world's favor with his "Hong Kong" adventures.

"As far as I know we don't even have to make a sample film to show the sponsor of our new series, which is to be basically the same as 'Hong Kong,'" explained Taylor, relaxing in the living-room of his new Beverly Hills colonial style mansion. "Because the sponsor, as it now stands, is to be none other than my adopted dad, Henry

Kaiser. He sent the word: 'If it has Taylor in it—buy it.'"

It wasn't long ago that Taylor, a little down in the dumps and blue because of the cancellation of "Hong Kong" even in the face of tremendous international popularity, went to Italy to make a movie, and he stated with firm conviction: "Tell the fans—particularly my countrymen in Australia—that Taylor will be back."

Even as "Hong Kong" ceased filming at Fox Studios, Henry Kaiser was very definitely, as the millionaire industrialist's former press liaison officer swears, "against letting 'Hong Kong' or Taylor, his favorite actor, go."

"Kaiser didn't become wealthy by making poor decisions," said the officer, one Jim Byron, "so it didn't figure that he would decide against a TV series that seemed to be the best on the air. A lot of people said he'd gone berserk when he allowed his sponsorship of 'Hong Kong' to lapse. But it's clear now that he had other plans, and Taylor obviously figured into them."

Right now, plans for the start of filming operations on Taylor's new Glenn Evans role on TV are being made.

Taylor is doing well for himself in Hollywood. But, as he said, "I miss Australia. If I can find the time I'm going to make a trip to Sydney. My parents there want me to come. But with this new series getting ready to roll early in 1962 and with 39 episodes to complete, who knows? Everything takes time."

As for his romance with France Nuyen, it is no secret, and talkative

HE'S ONLY MOVED HEADQUARTERS

Taylor makes no bones about it—everything is still flowing evenly along.

In fact, although he won't admit it, Taylor infers that his reason for buying a two-story colonial manor with all of 14 rooms, a huge backyard including a 40-foot swimming pool and tennis court might have been because a wife is in the offing.

Taylor is by nature a man possessed on the one hand with a fanatical desire

to build an empire for himself; and on the other with a childish delight in amusing himself by either playing tennis, swimming or practicing his hobby of archery.

Even though Taylor is going on, then, into a new series in the role of Glenn Evans, that doesn't mean that "Hong Kong" is finished.

"The existing episodes already filmed," he explained, exhaling a blue stream of smoke, "are going to be running on TV and coining money for a good time to come. In fact, one of the reasons Mr. Kaiser and 20th Century-Fox are so anxious to get me back into action is because 'Hong Kong' is proving a bigger success than 'Follow The Sun,' the series they picked to replace mine." #



ABOVE: Rod Taylor is a keen archery fan and even during filming he takes time off to line up the target.