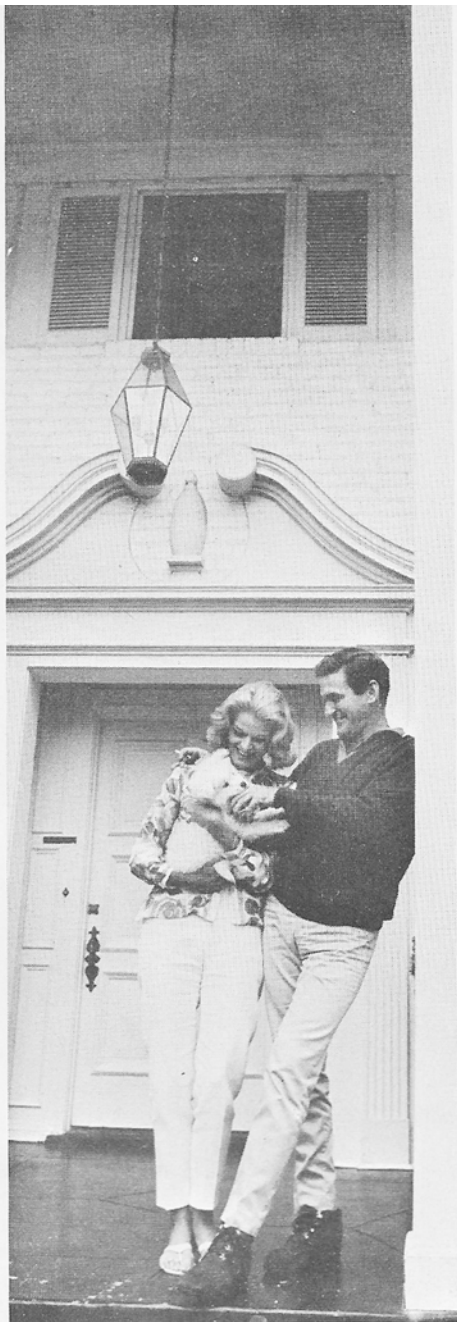


Rod and Mary Taylor:

“Who says marriage isn’t for actors!”



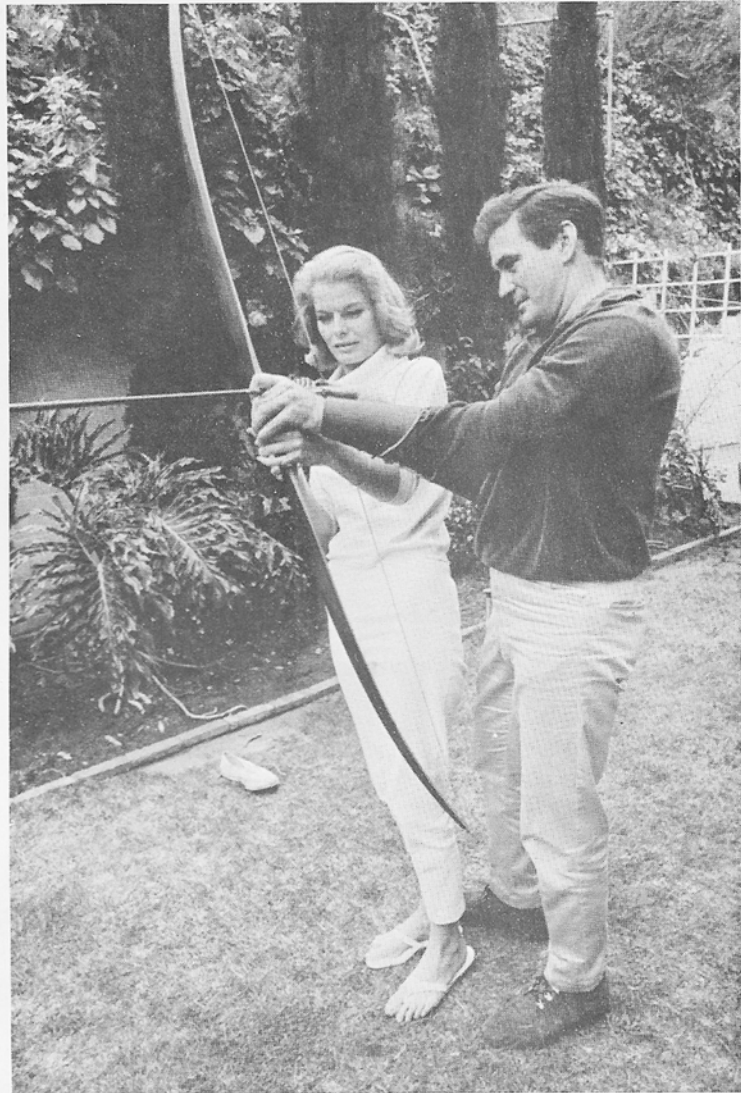


Rod and Mary like the relaxed life at home. At left, they give the dog a surprise dunk in the family pool. Dig that pup's expression! Above, they show off that good old Southern-style porch in front of their house. At right, "the master of the plantation" shows his lady the fine points of archery. Informal, convivial living, surrounded by a few good friends: that's the ticket, as the Taylors see it, and recently, *Baby Made Three*. (Rod is proud as punch!)

ROD TAYLOR is like a simmering cyclone. His heavy eyebrows hover menacingly over sharp blue eyes, and he carries his massive frame like a prize fighter. But just when you might expect him to erupt into a fury—he gives you one of those disarming little-boy smiles.

It's this diabolical charm which has enchanted leading ladies from Liz Taylor to Jane Fonda to his perennial prima donna, Mary Hilem—who also happens to be his wife.

They all agree about what makes Rod such an irresistible leading man: *(Continued on page 74)*



Rod Feels That Wedded Life Is A Highly Individual Matter, And That No Two People React To It The Same, Whether They're Accountants, Truckdrivers Or Actors!

By LIZ PLOGER

Rod Taylor

(Continued from page 39)

in one phrase, sex appeal.

Now, granted it's not always easy for a wife to reconcile herself to the fact that her husband's chief talent is making feminine hearts—other than hers—beat faster. But because the Rod Taylors have such a unique marriage, wife Mary's just as proud as punch.

Rod's a one-woman man; always has been, in fact, since he first set eyes on lithe, lissome Mary, a cool blonde with the mouth-watering figure of a model. That's what she was before she married Rod.

"An actor and a model, hmmm?" says one Hollywood cynic. "That sounds like the typical Beverly Hills set-up. They probably bore each other to tears. I give the marriage a year."

Well, that was *over* a year ago, and if proof were needed that the Rod Taylor marriage is something out of the ordinary, that's it, we say!

The Taylors, you see, have fun doing lots of things. Together. They enjoy taking long walks, painting, playing the flute, golfing, water-skiing, going to concerts. They simply don't have time for that current popular Hollywood sport, Musical Marriages.

Most made-in-Hollywood romances are hectic, neurotic affairs. But you could scarcely find two more relaxed, happy people than Rod and Mary. They swing along together hand in hand, and have a look about them of moonstruck teenagers, madly in love. That they're enchanted with each other is a fact—but the beauty of this particular kind of married love is that both Rod and Mary have had their share of romantic alliances. They were just fortunate enough to know when the right person came along.

If a psychiatrist had to depend on the Taylors for his bread and butter, he would go hungry. Rod and Mary settle their small difficulties between themselves. As one envious actor friend says of them, "I wish my psychiatrist knew them. I'm sure he'd learn a few tricks about what makes people tick. In fact, I wish my wife would learn from Mary's example. Everyone should be so lucky!"

Rod's expectations from life are simple. "It's good to be alive and healthy," he says, peering out from behind a tall, cool drink. "As long as love, work, friends and wine are around and flowing, every day is grand." And on marriage in general: "It's a highly individual thing. You can't categorize. Some truckdrivers and accountants make awful husbands; some actors grand ones!"

About work, there's no problem. Rod Taylor is an original. Not a carbon-copy of a once-famous leading man, such as Clark Gable or Valentino; not one of the faceless, talentless young actors who's around today and gone tomorrow. Rod's a modern, who's been one step ahead of the crowd all his life. He combines rugged good looks with an air of gentlemanliness. He has a definite gift for comedy, combined with the virtues of a boy scout: clean, resourceful, sincere, forthright.

He's a reformed rake who seems to

revel in being married. And when he's seen with Mary (which is almost all the time) he has that well-fed, well-loved look of a man who's perfectly content with what fate has dealt out to him.

Now, nobody's out to say that this marriage was made in heaven. That kind thrives in a dream world where problems don't exist and conflicts never arise. Rod and Mary made their marriage on *earth*, with feet on good, solid ground. Naturally little things come up: "Who sent my old tweed jacket to the cleaners?" wails the master of the house. "Nobody sent it to the cleaners; I threw it away. It looked like a dog blanket (which, in fact it was!)" Any normal man would blow a fuse under these circumstances. And Rod's no exception. He howls in outrage.

"Darling," says the little woman with a sly grin. "Remember what day this is?"

"Wednesday?" asks the poor unsuspecting mate. "No!" she cries. "It's the date you first asked me out!" The wife collapses in a flood of tears, while her husband meekly tries to make up for his typical male forgetfulness.

Men and women are *different*; that's where the problem starts. But where Rod and Mary Taylor are exceptional is in their sense of humor about shortcomings; their steadfast resolution to make marriage work.

And because the Taylors live in the emotionally charged atmosphere of Hollywood, there are many conflicts that could cause trouble—and have in countless marriages. How does a wife feel, for instance, when she goes to the movies, and sees *her* man in a wild embrace with a voluptuous actress?

"She feels awful!" says Mary bluntly. At least she does until her husband calmly explains that there were *only* 75 people watching. That the little scene which looked so comfy-cozy on the screen was actually lighted by 200 kleig lights, and the make-up lady was never far from the leading lady, ready to hide the least freckle on her nose.

Mary knows that Hollywood actresses come on strong. They are beautiful, charming, and gay, with the sexual know-how to make a man faint. But she possesses a high candle-power herself. Mary's no slouch; she believes that glamour and illusion must be preserved in a marriage. When a man marries a woman, he's intrigued by her feminine ways, her subtle use of rouge and eye-shadow. "If you come down to brunch one morning with lanky hair drooping in your eyes, looking sallow and grumpy, your husband will feel cheated," she says wisely. "A woman owes it to her husband to keep the beauty he admired. That's not vanity; it's common sense."

For this reason, Mary makes it a point to present herself as a vision of loveliness when Rod comes home from a tiring day at the studio. She's usually wearing a new hairdo, a bright fresh blouse, and a twinkle in her eye.

And with new baby Felicia now on hand to back up her mother's charm, how, we ask you, could any man ever want to stray? ■

(Rod is in 20th's *Fate Is The Hunter* and MGM's *36 Hours* and *Young Cassidy*.)