



"The Parallel"
(3-14-63)



Jacqueline Scott

THE
TWILIGHT
ZONE



THE WILLIAMSBURG FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

By Nuala Galbari / Photos courtesy of the Williamsburg Film Festival

On March 9th, western film actors and enthusiasts will once again meet, this year to celebrate the Williamsburg Film Festival's 20th Anniversary. When considering the festival's early roots, it's a perfect example of how a few citizens with a passion can ignite larger dreams. What began as a group of friends meeting in a private home to watch western films, has now become an annual festival hosting stars of film and television and several hundred fans from all over the country and abroad. The 20th Anniversary will host many returning actors from past festivals, along with notable musical entertainers—an extravaganza of western film, poetry and song.

What is it about the western film genre that still captures our hearts? I grew up in Ireland with early black and white television, and American westerns were among the first programs I watched at the age of about seven years. Although by the early 1960s, westerns were on the decline and general culture was no longer favoring singing cowboys, there were still many good programs to be seen, and we would group around the television for *Bonanza*, *Wagon Train*, and *Rawhide*, to mention a few of my favorites. Westerns were uniquely American and always seemed to speak to my heart and spirit, spinning tales of wide open places, where life could be tough, but where there was always a gold lining to the story. Bad characters (who always



Ed Faulkner, *McClintock*



Roberta Shore & Ronald Reagan



Audrey Daulton, *The Big Valley*

wore black hats), challenged the good characters in their light or white-colored clothing. The stories had their moral centers, and focused around the themes of honor, protection of personal property, law enforcement, family and even cowardice. In today's films, characters are often multi-dimensional, but in the old western lore, they were clearly defined—they were either good or bad. There was continuity in the long-running television programs and one looked forward to seeing favorite characters each week; westerns provided all the drama—the high points, reversals, moral lessons, humor and family divisions—yet always seemed to send you away feeling satisfied. They fostered our love for adventure, and did I mention horses?

In spring, 1959, at the tender age of six, I came down to breakfast one morning and informed my mother that I was 'going west'. "How far west is that?" she inquired. "Are we talking about Donegal?" It was a sad day for me and I had to accept that it wouldn't happen—at least not

then. My father decided that perhaps meeting some horses would help in the meantime, so he carted me off to the local riding school and thus began a lifelong love of horses. I now have three equine companions, and it's all due to the influence of the westerns.

Well, you can meet the good, the bad, and the highly entertaining, at the Williamsburg Film Festival, to be held March 9th through the 12th at the Holiday Inn Patriot Convention Center in Williamsburg. Stars arrive on the 9th, and will present in interview suites throughout the festival, culminating in the Saturday Night Dinner Show with awards and musical entertainment.

This year, the festival management has invited many of the stars to return for the special anniversary celebration. The festival cast will include Roberta Shore (*The Virginian*), Don Collier (*High Chaparral*), Audrey Dalton (*The Big Valley*), Ed Faulkner (*McClintock*), Rosemary Forsyth (*Shenandoah*), Robert Fuller (*Wagon Train*), Will Hutchins (*Sugarfoot*), Burton Gilliam (*Blazing Saddles*), Terry Moore (*Rawhide*), and Jacqueline Scott (*How*

The West Was Won). Seasoned western entertainers will include award-winning western composer and singer, Belinda Gail, the multi-talented and award winning R.W. Hampton, and gifted cowboy poet and musician, Larry Maurice, along with Mike Davanzo, The Virginia Rounders and Russell Williford.

Fans of science fiction also gather for their reunion at the festival, and members of The Solar Guard Academy will be present for the festival duration.

During the four-day festival, guests can enjoy guest star presentations, where tales of Hollywood abound, including numerous western films presented in two film suites in 16mm or DVD, an extensive memorabilia room with everything western and many other collectibles, gifts, posters and photographs, along with western gear, classic timepieces, jewelry and books. The atmosphere is relaxed, fun and slow-paced and guests have the opportunity to meet and chat with the stars, take photographs and purchase autographed books.

Festival tickets go on sale on

