

Hollywood 'bond'



Irv Prell / El Paso Times

Lawyer Roger Moore counted Tonight Show host Johnny Carson among his friends while growing up in Nebraska.

second lieutenant in the Air Force. I stayed in the Air Force Reserve after I got out, and I retired a lieutenant colonel in 1954.

After my active duty I went to work for the Weather Bureau in Miami, and from 1952 till 1958 as an aviation forecaster with the (Federal Aviation Administration) in El Paso.

I then decided that I wanted to be a lawyer. I entered the University Law School, and in 27 months I got my degree.

I didn't start practicing law right away. Before opening up my law office I taught school and was the weatherman on KP-TV for two years. Then from 1975 to 1988 I was Hudspeth County Attorney." Roger and his wife, Ronnie

Faye, have 11 grandchildren, and much of their happiness is provided by the closeness of their family. Roger has served on numerous state committees and is still active in the Lions Club and the Boy Scouts. He is very proud of the Silver Beaver award he received as district chairman of the Wapaba Boy Scout Council.

Roger's law workload is smaller now and this gives him time for his other civic activities, driving the little white lizzie for the Shrine in parades, painting in oils and an occasional round of golf with his friends.

Irv Prell writes about West Side people for the El Paso Times.

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Midwest native has

El Paso's Roger Moore may not have led quite as thrilling a life as the characters (The Saint and James Bond) portrayed by his Hollywood namesake — but he had some star connections growing up in the Midwest. And his career includes stints in two branches of the Armed Forces, working as a weatherman and later as a lawyer.

Roger was born in 1924 in Council Bluffs, Iowa and his family later moved to Nebraska.

"Some of my greatest memories, before moving to Lincoln, were while I was still in high school in Norfolk, Nebraska, and college in Lincoln. Johnny Carson was a year behind me in school, and we were friends.

"I dated Johnny's sister in high school. Johnny and I alternated doing a 'Mailbag' program on a local radio station. Johnny always had the ability to make people laugh. He was a ventriloquist, a magician, a master of ceremonies and a stand up comic.

"While at the University of Nebraska, the coeds would always put on an all-girl review, and the only men who were allowed to attend were the photographer and his assistant. I was the assistant.

"There had never been an exception to this until Johnny Carson bet that he could walk in and stay on stage for 20 minutes without being thrown out. So, in Johnny came. He walked down the aisle amidst the boos and hisses, right up to the stage. Not only did he stay 20 minutes, he finally walked off to applause after an hour!"

While in high school and col-



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lege Roger was on the swimming teams. He won the Midwestern AAU 3-meter spring board diving championship while in high school, and he was a three-year diving letterman for the University of Nebraska and won the then Big 6 conference championship in the 1-meter board.

Between high school and college Roger was in the Navy. His father had been a Navy man and Roger felt right at home in basic training.

He was soon helping everyone learn their knots and how to sleep in a hammock. He went to aerology school — a branch of meteorology — and came out a Petty Officer 3rd Class.

He served in New Caladonia and the Solomon Islands and, while stationed in Miami, was one of the first in the Navy to fly into the eye of a hurricane.

"I stayed in the Naval Reserve from 1945 through 1950. Earned my B.A. in philosophy and political science from the University of Nebraska, and then did graduate work in meteorology at the University of Chicago.

"But, before I could put any of this to use, Uncle Sam called me back for the Korean 'police action' with a direct commission as