

CLOSEUP: LEE

MAJORS



Steve Austin—faster than a speeding bullet . . .



More powerful than a locomotive . . .



Not quite as powerful as a locomotive.

THE SIX MILLION

DOLLAR MAN\$



Lee Majors and Carol Lawrence in an episode entitled "Nuclear Alert".

Lee Majors' first starring role in a television series has been a triumph for the actor as "The Six Million Dollar Man" became one of the ABC Television Network's mid-season success stories.

Lee stars as Steve Austin in the series, which became a weekly presentation in January of 1974. He starred in three 90-minute versions of "The Six Million Dollar Man" which included an "ABC Wednesday Movie of the Week" (March 1973) followed by two presentations as part of the "ABC Suspense Movie" series in October and November. His other series were "Owen Marshall, Counselor at Law", "The Man from Shiloh", and "The Big Valley".

Majors went from the "Owen Marshall" series, where he appeared as Jess Brandon,

the young partner of the Santa Barbara-based attorney, for three seasons on ABC, to his current role of Steve Austin.

Lee's introduction to television was in a co-starring role in "The Big Valley", the California-based Western series that ran four years on the network. He was chosen from among 400 actors for the role.

Born in Wyandotte, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, Lee grew up in Middleboro, Kentucky, with relatives who adopted him after the death of his parents.

He was a star athlete in high school and a member of the Kentucky All-State Football Team. He won an athletic scholarship to the University of Indiana. An injury during his first year kept him out of competition for three years. Majors transferred to Eastern Kentucky State

College for his senior year and graduated with teaching credentials. He received an offer from the NFL's St. Louis Cardinals in his final year at school, but turned it down. Lee had developed an interest in acting and decided to go to Hollywood.

His first job was as a playground supervisor for the Los Angeles Parks Department. That supported him while he studied acting with Estelle Hermon and later at the MGM Studio Acting School. Then came his continuing role in "The Big Valley" followed by "The Man from Shiloh".

Lee's first motion picture was "Will Penny", co-starring with Charlton Heston. He next appeared as a lawyer in "The

Liberation of L.B. Jones". His television credits include two other ABC "Movie of the Week" features, "The Ballad of Andy Crocker" and "Weekend of Terror".

Lee continues an active interest in sports—playing touch football with a group of ex-college and pro players. He is a low handicap golfer and is in constant demand to play in pro-celebrity matches. He enjoys fishing and horseback riding.

Majors married actress Farrah Fawcett (she has now added Majors to her professional name) July 28, 1973, the anniversary of their first date, and they make their home (ranch-style) in Bel Air, California.

A reporter from "Quasimodo's Monster



Richard Anderson and George Gaynes instruct their forces to intercept a plane carrying an atom bomb in "Nuclear Alert".



"I'm a Six Million Dollar Man. Why do I have to wear a crummy \$3 shirt?"

Magazine" met with Lee Majors recently at his hotel in New York where he got this exclusive interview:

How did the "Six Million Dollar Man" originate?

The originator is the fellow who wrote the book "Sideboard" named Martin Caidin. He was an ex-test pilot and he was actually a Colonel in the Air Force. He wrote the book "Sideboard" based on a true experience. If you notice our credits in the opening titles, there is a crash where Steve Austin loses all of his parts. That was taken from an actual film. The plane crashed and turned over something like 200 times and went about a mile and a half down the runway. The fellow only lost an eye, though. He still flies today. He flies helicopters at Edwards Air Force Base. It's quite a story.

The series deals with the principles of bionics. What is bionics?

The term refers to part man, part machine. It's the joining of the two—machine and man, flesh meeting metal. That's the term that they give to the artificial limbs that we are using, and these limbs are really amazing. I went over to the UCLA Medical Center when we started the show and they have an area over there where they are researching this particular item. They have an arm that works off a battery which I sometimes use in the show. I put my real arm behind me and they strap on this mechanical arm. It moves and does just about everything. What they are getting to in years to come is that these things will work off of nerve endings. It sounds like it's really far out but it isn't. If you remember "Flash

Gordon" when I was growing up they were talking about outer space and going to the moon which seemed unbelievable but we're doing that today. What I'm doing on "Six Million Dollar Man" is believable. That's what makes it so interesting. It's all possible.

It would seem that "The Six Million Dollar Man" would be very popular with children? Is this true?

I just came from touring various other cities here in the East and everywhere I go there are kids' mothers handing me

petitions saying "We want the show on a little earlier at night because we can't let our kids stay up this late now". When we first started, our show wasn't really aimed at children because we wanted to add drama and make it a real-life thing. We really were going for all ages and mostly the adults. I think we've achieved that by keeping Steve Austin as real as possible. We were afraid it was going to be a little bit "campy" at first, like "Batman". That's why I like to play it as straight as possible.

A group of pigeons overhead threaten to stain the Six Million Dollar Man.



Majors was an excellent college football player until an injury sidelined him.



Smile, fellas, the show got renewed.

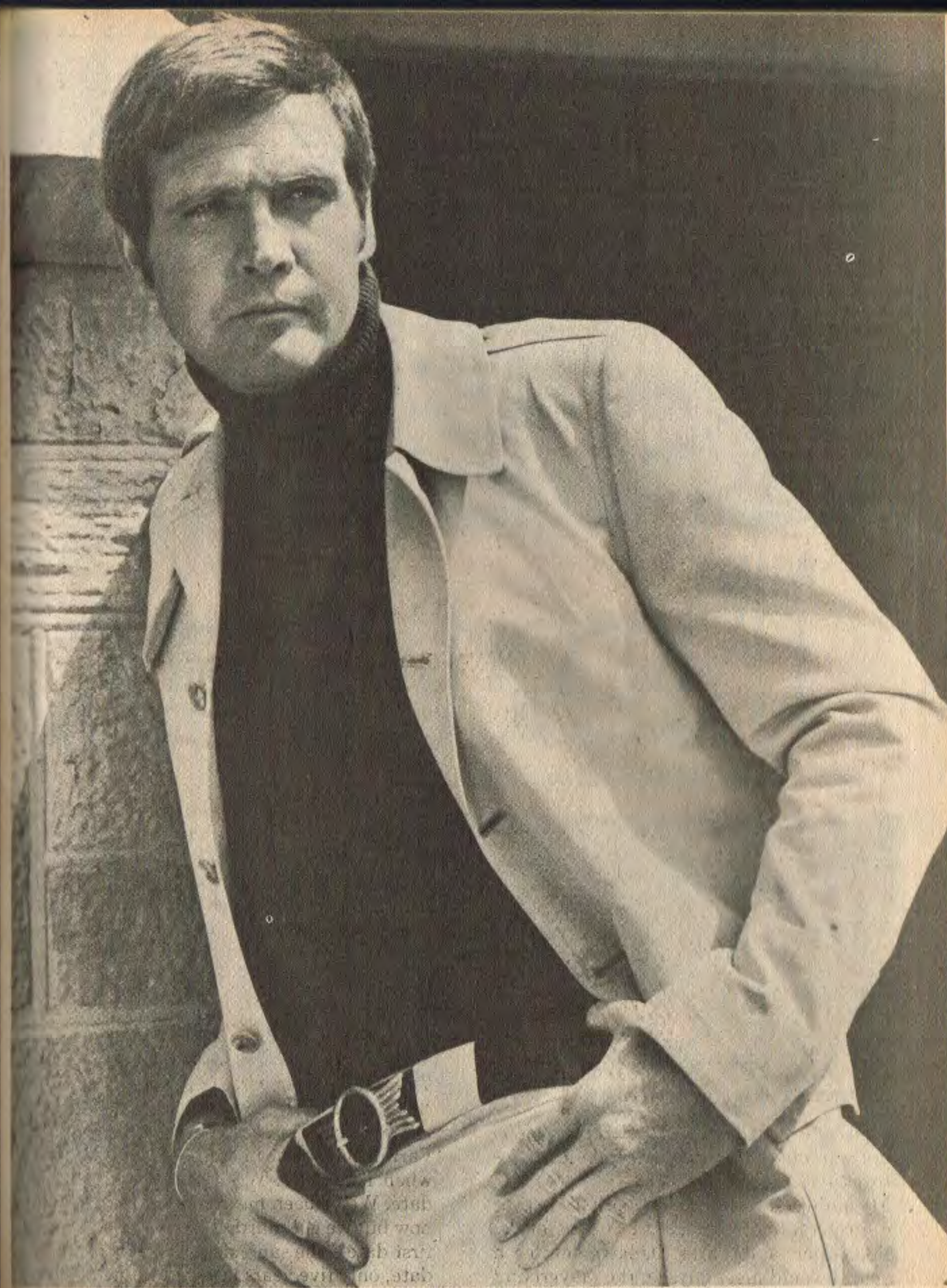
You were a college football player. How did you make the transition from athletics to acting?

My ambition was to coach football. I never quite got into coaching but I worked for the Recreation and Parks Department for a year. I would meet guys on the playground that I played touch football with or

basketball. Some of them were actors so I asked them how to get into show business. They said, "Well, you get an agent, or you get some film . . ." So I thought I would give it a little try because I wasn't making much money there at the park. At first, my involvement with acting was just an attempt to pick up some extra money. But I got some lucky breaks. The pilot for "The Big Valley" was the first piece of film I ever did. I was thrown in there with Barbara Stanwyck, Richard Long, and Peter Breck. Barbara was probably the greatest help to me. She's just super.

Your wife Farrah Fawcett is also in acting. Tell us about her and how you met.

She does a lot of commercials. In one hair commercial, she "creamed" Joe Namath. Farrah had been in California three days when I met her. We went out on a blind date. We've been married a year and a half now but we got married five years after our first date—the same day we met, the same date, only five years later. Running in slow motion it was kind of hard to catch her.



Steve Austin—part man, part machine, part chopped liver.