



The Role I Liked Best . . .

By **JEFFREY HUNTER**

In Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp the flora and fauna are as thick as women at bargain counters, and often as dangerous to man. Bears and wildcats roam this junglelike wilderness; snakes slide through its matted growth, and alligators lie in its murky waters.

Despite its hazards, I thoroughly enjoyed working in the Okefenokee while making the picture *Lure of the Wilderness*. Playing Ben Tyler in this film was more an adventure than a chore. In fact, it sometimes seemed too adventurous. I was snapped at by a bear that may have been nearsighted—anyway, it collected only a mouthful of my clothing as I scrambled away. I was bitten by a constrictor, which fortunately was nonpoisonous, and I had to fall out of a canoe into some very dubious-looking water.

These things made me feel that, although I was lucky to get this part, I was even luckier to get through it unharmed.

The picture itself had everything to recommend it: a strong story, some fine color photography, and a cast that included Walter Brennan, Jean Peters and a dog named Careless.

I especially liked the scene where Ben gets lost in the swamp while wandering around looking for Careless. It was very easy, in the eerie stillness of the swamp, to feel completely lost. I also enjoyed the opportunity of trying out my acquired Southern accent, and my acquired skill at poling a canoe.

In *Lure of the Wilderness* the whole cast really played supporting roles. For the star of the picture, as we all agreed, was the Okefenokee.