



# Jeffrey Hunter

## 1925-1969

• His death shocked all of Hollywood. Not only was Jeffrey Hunter a vigorous, healthy man just entering his prime, he was also a newlywed, barely returned from his honeymoon with his third bride, actress Emily McLaughlin. He was in love and happier than he'd ever been before . . . but then, fate has never been kind or just. Nee Henry McKinnies Jr. on Nov. 25, 1925 in New Orleans, Jeff spent his childhood in Milwaukee, and after a Navy stint graduated from Northwestern in 1949. A scholarship took him to UCLA where a talent scout signed and spotted him. Jeff appeared in many films, but not until **The Searchers** in 1956 was his acting talent lauded. **The True Story Of Jesse James**, **The Last Hurrah**, **Hell To Eternity**, and others followed, but he is best known for his portrayal of Christ in the 1961 epic, **King Of Kings**. An extraordinary handsome man, Jeff's delicate, almost perfect features and blue-blue eyes limited his roles, and he once joked, "This face of mine, shouldn't the ravages of time be doing something to it?" Though his marriages to Barbara Rush and Dusty Bartlett ended in divorce (producing three sons: Christopher, 16, Todd, 10, and Scott, 6), he was regarded as kind, courteous and likable. Said one friend, "He's the first good-looking actor I've met who wasn't hopelessly in love with himself." On May 27, 1969, Jeff suffered a brain hemorrhage and was rushed to Valley Hospital where doctors operated in vain. His widow Emily claims he had a premonition of his death, telling her just days before, "If I should cross the bridge before you do, darling, remember, I'll be waiting for you on the other side."