

Jeff Hunter, Actor, Dies After Fall

Actor Jeffrey Hunter, whose parents live in River Hills, died Tuesday in Los Angeles after brain surgery. Police said they understood he was injured in a fall at his Van Nuys home.

The former Whitefish Bay high school athlete changed his name from Henry H. McKinnies, Jr., after he was signed to a Hollywood contract. His parents live at 7450 Skyline La.

Hunter, 42, had appeared in more than 30 movies and numerous television shows. He was best known for his role of Jesus in the 1960 production of "King of Kings."

The actor was taken to Valley hospital Monday. Police said he was found unconscious at his home with a swollen right eye. A friend said he had fallen down a flight of stairs.

Police said they had not been able to talk to his wife, Emily, about the circumstances surrounding the fall because she was under sedation. The Hunters were married about four months ago. Hunter was divorced in 1955 after a five year marriage to actress Barbara Rush. They had a son, Christopher, now 17. He was divorced in 1967 after a 10 year marriage to actress Joan (Dusty) Bartlett. They had two sons, Todd, 9, and

Scott, 6, and Hunter had adopted her son, Steele, 15, by a previous marriage.

Hunter was an end and co-captain on the first Whitefish Bay suburban championship football team in 1944, the year before his graduation. He studied dramatics at Northwestern University, and after a tour in the navy enrolled in the University of California at Los Angeles. Talent scouts saw him in a play there and in 1950 he was offered a contract.

In Milwaukee, he appeared for two seasons with the old Port Players and did radio dramas for station WTMJ. Among his films were "Call Me Mister," "Fourteen Hours," "Vendetta" and "Brainstorm." He starred in a TV series about a frontier attorney, "Temple Houston."

Funeral arrangements were to be decided Wednesday afternoon, according to a spokesman for the Meyer & Mitchell funeral home, Van Nuys.