

continued

## I Nominate for Stardom —Brian Kelly:

Every top actor in the business—including **Warren Beatty** and **Gregory Peck**—had been rumored for the role of the sexy TV executive in **The Love Machine**. But the prize goes to **Brian Kelly** whose chief claim to fame till now has been the **Flipper** series. I asked the Columbia brass, "How come?" The reply was, "His test was sensational. When **Love Machine** is released, Kelly will be the hottest male star on the screen."

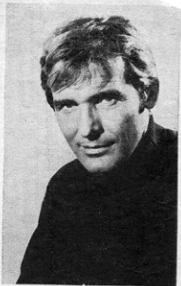
Even Brian, who is Irish and believes in luck, is surprised. "The whole Hollywood experience has been amazing," he says. "I had been working as a radio announcer, sportscaster and TV actor in New York when an agent advised me to come out here. Swell advice! I arrived in Hollywood two years ago, just as the big economy wave was getting underway and there were a hundred actors for every job, whether it was a big job or a little job."

Despite this bleak picture, Brian began to win good roles in such TV series as **21 Beacon Street Rifleman**, **Gunsmoke** and others before hitting the jackpot with the lead in **Flipper**. He even landed a few films, **Company of Killers** for Universal, an Italian feature with Van Johnson and John Saxon, and Ivan Tors' **Around the World Under the Sea**.

"Even so, I wasn't exactly setting the world on fire," grins the blue-green-eyed Irishman. Except in another quarter. Considerable fire had broken out between Brian and a young actress-singer named **Laura Devon**.

They had met at a party back in Brian's home town of Detroit when he was visiting his family, which is quite a well-known one there. When Laura came out to Hollywood under contract to Universal, the romance really got serious and they were married in June of 1968.

About his family: Brian's father, **Harry F. Kelly**, is a former Governor of Michigan, now chief justice of the Supreme Court of Michigan. And his twin brother is a big lawyer for General Motors. It now looks as though they've added a top actor to the clan.



*Handsome Brian Kelly—The Love Machine star—slated for top success.*