

IT WAS POURING outside the converted warehouse in Honolulu where interiors were being filmed for tv's "Hawaii Five-O."

The company was only four days into its second season, but the pressure was already building up. And Jack Lord, pacing the floor and nervously cracking his knuckles, didn't help at all.

"He always drives himself like this," a production assistant told me. "It's hard on him. Harder on the crew." The producer added: "But having a star like Jack is like having money in the bank. He's always on time, no bags under his eyes, and always knows his lines. He's a perfectionist."

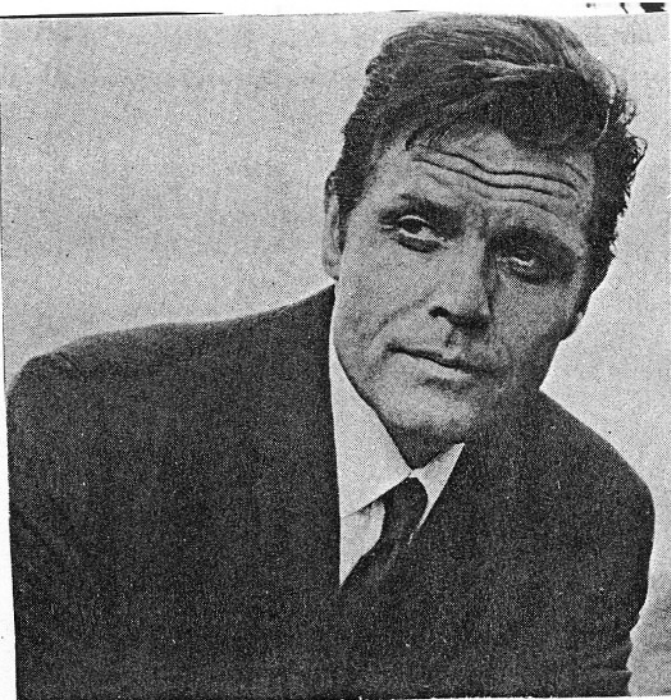
"It's the character I play that makes me edgy," Jack explained during lunch in his luxurious 30-foot dressing-room trailer. When I made comments about the trailer, he volunteered: "It cost \$35,000 to build. I had it made even before I knew the show was renewed for a second year because I had confidence in the show."

Even in his early youth, New York City-born Jack was restless. He shifted from painting to seafaring. His high-school summers were spent at sea, working on freighters. In his spare time, Jack sketched and painted.

When he returned from the sea one year, Lord met and married fashion designer Marie deNarde. "We've been married 18 years," he said. "Meeting her made all the difference. I might have sailed on merchant ships for the rest of my life. She gave my life a purpose."

Lord said that he turned to acting because he could never get on canvas what he felt and wanted to express. "I kept looking at French Impressionists and couldn't achieve the quality they had, so I decided it was time to change my mode of expression.

"Encouraged by Marie and my old friend Gary Cooper, I gave up an \$18,000 job as a Cadillac salesman," Jack recollected. "The next year I barely earned \$1,100. That's what we lived on. I wouldn't take my wife's money." Giving me a



rare smile, he added, "I've been poor and rich in my life, and believe me, rich is much better."

Jack's acting career hasn't been sensational. He has done some tv and Broadway roles, supporting movie parts, and his own, short-lived "Stoney Burke" series.

The star of "Hawaii-Five-0," who works hard at keeping himself in top physical shape, has established himself as a dedicated, somewhat humorless professional actor. It has reaped Jack a solid financial harvest. He owns property in Los Angeles, Australia, and Hawaii and has heavy stock investments. But he is not a happy man because he takes himself and everything too seriously.

Lord would rather be acclaimed for his painting than for his acting. He sold his first painting at 18 to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, which has since purchased three more. His works are on exhibit in more than 40 private collections in the U.S. As with his acting, Jack is his own severest critic, destroying more than 30 percent of the paintings he does.

Will Jack Lord ever let go and relax? Will he ever consider his painting or acting good enough? I doubt it. He is a perfectionist. And perfection is an elusive goal to achieve.

—PEER J. OPPENHEIMER