

LOST IN SPACE

CBS - TV - COLOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Guy Williams

"Thanks to Irwin Allen, I've finally joined the 20th Century," grinned a handsome actor named Guy Williams.

Actually, Guy should have said the "21st Century," perhaps. Last year when he blasted off as Dr. John Robinson in producer Irwin Allen's way out series, "Lost in Space," the year was 1999.

Now, as the 20th Century-Fox Television series heads into its second year on CBS-TV every Wednesday night in color, it would be only proper to update the time of "Lost in Space" to the year 2000 — which is the beginning of the 21st Century.

At any rate, the actor considers his present role the highpoint in a career that has ranged from photographer's model to emulating Douglas Fairbanks' swashbuckling heroics.

Possibly no other actor could give the part the right blend of authority, attractiveness and masculinity as Williams. The series was one of the hit shows of the 1965-66 season and is a sure bet to set video milestones with a lengthy run on television in the seasons to come.

Williams is the son of the late Attilio Catalano, New York insurance broker, and Claire Catalano, an Italian couple who came to America several years before Guy was born.

The Catalanos sought to give Guy the best education possible. He attended grade school in New York and later he went to George Washington High School. He received his advanced education at Peekskill Military Academy.

"I'm afraid I was a pretty indifferent student, though," said Williams. "The only subject I excelled in was mathematics. I imagine my folks welcomed their privacy when I was sent to the academy, too!"

Guy earned his first dollar when he was still attending high school, working occasional hours in a soda fountain.

His schooling completed, Guy decided to tackle modeling in New York City. His father wanted him to pursue a brokerage career, but Guy had other ideas.

He met his future wife, the lovely Powers model Janice Cooper, on a modeling assignment.

"We had to look like we were going skiing and the big action of the ad came when I had to tighten my ski boots. The photographer shot this sequence about 50 times, and by the time he had finished, I had gotten to know Janice pretty well!"

After a whirlwind six-city courtship, Guy and Janice were married in New York, and as Guy puts it, "we consolidated our finances."

In 1952, Guy was interviewed in New York by Hollywood drama coach Sophie Rosenstein. Sophie tested him in New York and returned to Hollywood to recommend that Universal-International Studios place him under contract. Before coming to the coast and signing his U-I contract, Williams managed to find regular acting work in New York's Neighborhood Playhouse and in such television productions as Studio One.

He remained under his Universal contract for a year, but wasn't given any major assignment there. Shortly before winding up his work at U-I, he was badly injured in a fall from a horse. He bears a long scar on his left shoulder as a remembrance of the accident.

Somewhat discouraged by his first movie experience, Williams returned to New York to