

April 2010

Dear Clients and Friends:

Cox cable has been airing reruns of Have Gun Will Travel on the Encore Western channel. I programmed my DVR to record this program every time it comes on. So far, I've watched at least fifty of them.

What a breath of fresh air! Richard Boone plays Paladin, who wears fancy white suits at home and solid black cowboy gear on assignment. Home happens to be an elegant pad at the Carlton Hotel in San Francisco, circa 1875.

For his usual fee of \$2,000, Paladin will go just about anywhere to protect the innocent and right wrongs. He tries to avoid gunfights but the world is full of scoundrels. The bad guys include a young Charles Bronson, James Coburn, Jack Lord, Strother Martin, Dan Blocker and many other stars spread over 225 episodes from 1957 to 1963.

Filmed in black and white, the show is all about contrasts. Paladin quotes the classics, plays a mean game of chess and speaks many languages, including passable Chinese with Hey Boy, the Chinese bellhop at the Carlton. He's also a ladies man, big time.

But on the road, he's a rugged knight of honor. A real straight shooter. Each episode presents some type of ethical dilemma, with Paladin taking the high ground and often, but not always, bringing others to his way of thinking.

Have Gun doesn't pack all the action of my other early favorites, The Man From UNCLE or Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. But it's charming.

Regards,



Charles M. Shackelford