

FIVE MINUTES WITH

Jo Kelly

The widow of former Mayor Jack Kelly has written a book for movie extras.

By RACHEL OLSEN
HUNTINGTON BEACH WAVE

Chapter two of Jo Kelly's life began when she was in her 60s.

The death of her husband, Jack Kelly - Huntington Beach mayor and movie/television star - ended the first chapter.

But it led to a new book, which she recently finished and published, "The Truth About Being an Extra/How to Become a Good Background Actor."

Some might believe Jo Kelly led a glamorous life, but she begs to disagree. At 66, the Huntington Beach resident has tried many things for the first time in the second half of her life - a marathon, writing, public speaking and background actress.

Q: Why write this book? Why write it for extras?

A: I segued into being an extra after my sister handed me a flier and it said "be a movie extra," and I thought, "I can do that." So I went immediately to the Beverly Hills office, and right out of the box I got scammed.

After doing this for five, six years, I watched all these new people come into the business and get ripped off. All these

young people all over the world that dream of coming to Hollywood . . . are really going to be heartbroken.

Q: How did you get started in seminars?

A: I joined Toastmaster's because I have this fear of

Jo Kelly

Age: 66

Residence: Moved to Huntington Beach in 1972

Who is she? A real estate agent-turned background actress, public speaker and author, she is the widow of actor and former Huntington Beach Mayor Jack Kelly. Her husband co-starred in the television series, "Maverick."

Interesting fact: Kelly completed her first marathon at age 65 in Hawaii.

How to find her book:
www.jkelly4extras.com

public speaking. I started joining their contests and went on to speaker's bureau - and all this at the age of 60.

Q: What made you want to tell people about avoiding the scams in Hollywood?

A: It became a passion. When I was doing my Toastmasters, one of my biggest points was about white-collar crime.

Q: So you tell people how to avoid the scams, but do you tell them how to succeed?

A: Sure I do. I tell you all the mistakes I made. I tell you what to do to avoid them.

I tell you the simple little things, like make sure there is gas in your car.

Be sure to take a pen with you . . . because those other extras do not want to lend you their pen.

Q: How did you meet Jack?



Jo Kelly, ~~left~~, has written a book to help aspiring actors called "The Truth About Being an Extra." Above, Kelly with her husband, Jack, in a '90s photo.

A: It was at a 4th of July party that I was throwing in my fiancé's (who was away at the time) apartment. My friend came rushing in to tell me Jack Kelly was out in the living room and she told me to stay away from him.

At the end of the night, he walked my friend out to her car, got her number and then came back into the house and turned to me. He said, "Now princess, I've been watching you." Six weeks later we were married, and three years later he gave me this ring.