

LET'S TALK

FAMILY FARE

Vanna White did a few films before finding her 'Fortune'

By Polly Vonetes

Q: What can you tell me about Vanna White? Was she in show business before Wheel of Fortune? Can you send me an address? —Addie Stockham, Whittier, Calif.

A: Vanna White was born in Myrtle Beach, S.C., on Feb. 18, 1957. After high school she attended the Atlanta School of Fashion Design in Georgia, where she became one of Atlanta's top models. Her life-long dream, however, was acting, so in 1980 Vanna moved to Los Angeles. She landed roles in such feature films as *Looker* and *Graduation Day*, then in 1982 beat out more than 200 other hopefuls to win her current slot on *Wheel of Fortune*. She is an avid hockey and polo fan, shoots pool, enjoys roller skating, fresh water fishing and aerobics. She and her new husband, George Santo Pietro, make their home in Los Angeles. Write to: Vanna White, c/o *Wheel of Fortune*, 1541 Vine St., Los Angeles, CA 90028.

Q: My family and I are fans of Alan Autry, who plays Bubba on *In the Heat of the Night*. Could you tell us something about him? Is Autry really his name? If so, is he related to Gene Autry? —W.W.F. Jonesboro, Ark.

A: Of all the questions I receive, this one is the most frequently asked. Alan Autry was born in Shreveport, La., on July 31. His family later moved to California, where he attended Riverdale High School. After graduating from the University of Pacific, he was drafted by the Green Bay Packers and played professional football for three seasons. Director Robert Altman, a football fan, met Autry and encouraged him to try acting when his playing days ended. His first film was *Remember My Name* with Alfre Woodard. Other films include *Amazing Grace* and *Chuck, O.C. & Stiggs*. At *Close Range*, *North Dallas Forty* and *Popeye*. Divorced, he is not related to Gene Autry, and yes, it is his real name.

Q: What can you tell me about Yvonne Suhor who plays Lou McCloud on *The Young Riders*? What is her address? —B. Hatmaker, New Market, Tenn.

A: Yvonne Suhor was born in New Orleans, La., on Nov. 29. As far back as she can remember, she planned to be a teacher. By the time she enrolled in Parkland Junior College in Champaign, Ill., her goal was set. At Parkland one of her teachers asked her



Vanna White

to audition for the role of a Cockney maid, and with that her career plans expanded into oral-interpretive work. Eventually she went on to Illinois State University, where she joined the Theater Education Program. She graduated from ISU with honors in acting/directing and started attending graduate school. While appearing with the Immediate Theater Ensemble in Chicago, she auditioned for an ABC vice president, who signed her into the network's Talent Development Program. Soon after, she read for and was cast in *The Young Riders*. She considers herself a crossword puzzle addict, and her goal is to be the artistic director of The Immediate West. You may write to: Yvonne Suhor, c/o *The Young Riders*, MGM/UA, 10000 W. Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232.

Q: It would be appreciated if you would furnish me with the address of Mr. Efrem Zimbalist Jr. I have a phonograph record (circa 1925) in which his mother sings "Old Black Joe." The record is not in the best condition, but he might want it. —John Wildman, Lake Monteruma, Ariz.

A: I do not have an address for Mr. Zimbalist, but I do have one for his daughter that may work for you. Write to: Stephanie Zimbalist, 4024 Radford Ave., Studio City, CA 91604. Good luck!

Send your questions about the world of entertainment to: Polly Vonetes, Let's Talk, P.O. Box 961009, Fort Worth, Texas 76161-1009. Because of the volume of mail, only questions of general interest can be answered.

'Swamp Thing' airs Saturdays on Fox

By Amy Schmidt

Recycle those cans. Don't use disposable diapers. Carpool with your friends. If you don't do these things, the *Swamp Thing* will get ya!

Swamp Thing really isn't going to get anybody. It's a new Saturday morning children's program on Fox about the muck-encrusted adventures of an ecological superhero. (Ecology can be fun!)

OK, *Dinosaurs* fans, here's a quiz from Paleontological Research, the dinosaur society:

Questions:

1. Meat-eating dinosaurs stood a.) because they couldn't find chairs, b.) on their hind legs, or c.) on their tiptoes to impress their dates.

2. Dinosaurs began walking the earth a.) after they crawled the earth, b.) 235 million years ago, or c.) when Paula Abdul showed them how.

3. The fastest dinosaur in the world could run at least a.) until it could call a taxi, b.) as fast as the second-fastest dinosaur, c.) 25 miles per hour, or d.) 75 miles per hour.

Answers:

1. b.) Predatory dinosaurs stood on their hind legs. They did walk on tiptoes, but only because they were built that way.

2. b.) The earliest known dinosaurs came from Argentina about 235 million years ago.

3. c.) Footprints of medium-sized hunters show some dinosaurs ran at least 25 miles per hour.



Harry Anderson and Markie Post unleash their pent-up passion on NBC's *Night Court*, Wednesday.