

LET'S TALK

Hankerin' for Haggard; 'Life Goes On' still

By Taylor Michaels

Q: My father was raised as an orphan and only began searching for his (biological) relatives in 1990 at the age of 75. We found out that he is related to the Baldknobbers of Branson, Mo., and it was recently verified by a second cousin that we are, in fact, related to Elvis Presley as well as to Merle Haggard. I am very anxious to know what Merle knows about all of this, because we have yet to learn very much about my father's father. —Joyce Anne Earl, Chillicothe, Mo.

A: Try reaching Haggard in care of Epic Records, 666 Fifth Ave., P.O. Box 4455, New York, N.Y., 10101-4455.

Q: Could you please tell me where I can have a videotape made of Sybil, starring Sally Field and Joanne Woodward? I've been to many video stores, and they say it's not available. —Rose Luyando, Astoria, N.Y.

A: Sybil has been widely available for rental for years. Though many made-for-television movies are never released to video and don't deserve to



Merle Haggard

be, Sybil, made in 1976, won wide acclaim and an Emmy for Field, establishing her as a respected actress (not just the grown-up Flying Nun).

If you still don't have any luck, try calling the Video Library of Philadelphia at 1-800-669-7157.

Q: I was wondering, is it true that Life Goes On is going to end next season? I

like the show very much, and I would hate to see it go. I would greatly appreciate anything you could tell me. —Cathy Maines, Johnstown, N.Y.

A: The show has been renewed for the upcoming fall season, and all indications suggest it will retain its usual 7 p.m. (EST) Sunday-night position. Bill Smitrovich, who plays dad Drew Thacher, recently said in a USA Today interview that he hopes the network will realize the show's "loyal audience" will follow the program to any time slot of any day, if moving it would save it from being canceled.

Q: I just saw a terrific video entitled Rush, starring Conrad Nichols. He is a great actor. What other movies has he done? —B.T., Jonesboro, Ark.

A: Look for Nichols in these other two low-budget actioners: Days of Hell and A Man Called Rage.

Q: We were discussing the old series Death Valley Days recently and were trying to recall all of the program's hosts. Ronald Reagan and Dale Robertson came to mind, but who were the others? —Mark Hux, Fort Worth, Texas.

A: Though produced on a shoestring budget, the Western anthology (sponsored by 20 Mule Team Borax) proved to be one of the longest-running series in broadcast history, having begun on radio in 1930.

The first host on television (1952-1965) was Stanley Andrews as "The Old Ranger." He was succeeded by Reagan, who left in 1966 for the better job of California governor. Robert Taylor was next (1966-1968), followed by Dale Robertson (1968-1972) and singer Merle Haggard (1975).

Days reruns have appeared under several titles with various hosts, including Call of the West (John Payne), Trails West (Ray Milland), Western Star Theater (Rory Calhoun) and The Pioneers (Will Rogers Jr.).

Q: I would like to know whether I can obtain Gene Autry's address. My granddaughter thinks he's so nice. I'm hoping I can get in touch with him and that he'll send her a photo. —Marjorie Sironen, Ewen, Mich.

A: You can't pull the wool over my eyes, Marjorie. I'll bet that picture of Gene will have your name on it.

It has been said that few other things mean as much to Gene (and he has quite a few things) as his baseball team, the California Angels. My hunch is your letter will find him more quickly through this channel than any other. Write him in care of the California Angels, P.O. Box 2000, Anaheim, Calif., 92803.

Please send your questions to Let's Talk, Features Dept., P.O. Box 961009, Fort Worth, Texas, 76161-1009.

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