

LET'S TALK

FAMILY FARE

Reader wanting to catch up on old western series stars

By Polly Vonetes

Q: I am writing to you again concerning John Smith, who co-starred with Robert Fuller in the 1960s TV western *Laramie*, John Russell of *The Lawman* series and Tony Young, who starred in the short-lived series *Gunslinger*. I'll be waiting for your reply in the TV section of the *Beauregard Daily News*.

—Thanks, S.W. Pool, Deridder, La.

A: Mr. Pool, you really are persistent! I had received your earlier letters, and I was really trying to find the information you requested. I finally have some news for you concerning John Smith. After *Laramie* ended, Smith starred with George Montgomery in the western *Cimarron City*. His only work as an actor in recent years has been doing voice-overs. He lives by himself in the Crenshaw area of Los Angeles in the same house in which he grew up. His only marriage was to actress Luana Patten in 1960. The marriage lasted four years. John Russell was hardly seen on the screen after *The Lawman* series left the air in 1962, although he did return for a few episodes of *Alias Smith and Jones* during the early '70s. He also served as the "commander" on the Saturday morning live-action children's series *Jason of Star Command* from 1979-'81. He still makes his home in California. I am sorry I have not been able to catch up with Tony Young, as yet. I'll keep looking, so let's not give up.

Q: Many years ago Bobby Morse starred in a TV series with a young blonde, who starred as his wife. They portrayed a young married couple. Televised early in his career, it ran, I believe, for one season. It was a delightful show and I watched it faithfully. I have followed his career and think he is very talented, but I never saw or heard of her after that. Can you tell me her name and is she still acting?

—Helen Shannon, Sedona, Ariz.

A: Your favorite show was called *That's Life*. The series starred Robert Morse as Robert Dickson and E.J. Peaker as Gloria Quigley (Dickson). It aired on ABC from September, 1968 until May, 1969. After the series ended, E.J. (short for Edna Jeanne) appeared frequently on *Love, American Style* and in the film *Hello, Dolly!* Little has



John Smith

been heard of her since that time.

Q: I'm curious about Jennifer Jones' daughter. She seems to be shrouded in mystery. If you have anything about her, please let me know. I recently heard of her death. How old was she? When was she born? It may be a hard question — I know you'll do your best. —Tom Arnold, Three Rivers, Mich.

A: Tom, I appreciate your confidence in me, and I really tried to find the information you requested. Jennifer Jones' daughter, Mary Jennifer Selznick, was born in 1954. She fell to her death from the roof of a 22-story building in Los Angeles, an apparent suicide, at the age of 21. Sorry, this is all the information I have on her.

Q: My husband is retired and enjoys TV. He would like to see the movie with Wallace Beery and Jackie Cooper in *The Champ*. I believe it was filmed in the late '20s. If available, I would like to purchase the tape. Do you have an address for Jackie Cooper?

—Madeline Leone, Salem, Ohio

A: Wallace Beery won an Oscar for his role in *The Champ*, filmed in 1931. The video is available. Ask for it at your local video store. Jackie Cooper's address is 9621 Royalton, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Send your questions about the world of entertainment to: Polly Vonetes, Let's Talk, P.O. Box 17748, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0748. Because of the volume of mail, only questions of general interest can be answered.

ENT 12/24/88

Holiday moments adorn TV schedules

By Anne Wheeler

This week is filled with many magical holiday moments the whole family can enjoy.

Christmas is near and rumors are flying that Santa may be closing shop and declaring bankruptcy. It seems Max Crandall, a mean and evil toymaker, is planning to corner the toy market with his high-tech and unsafe toys.

Does Christmas happen this year? Does Max Crandall live through his encounter with the Ghost from Christmas Past? You'll have to watch *A Very Retail Christmas* on NBC, Monday, Dec. 24, to find out.

Families can gather around on Christmas Day as Disney characters march and sing favorite holiday tunes at the eighth annual Walt Disney World Very Merry Christmas Parade on ABC.

President and Mrs. George Bush will offer their holiday wishes, and other special guests will include the Teen-Age Mutant Ninja Turtles, Christa Larson, star of *Minnie 'n' Me*, and Sylvia Anne Washburn of Toledo, Ohio, "Outstanding Teacher of 1990."

The holiday glitter continues on ABC on Thursday, Dec. 27, when Peter Scolar hosts the *Ice Capades 50th Anniversary Special*. Special guests Pin Zadora and The Simpsons will be on hand as film clips from past *Ice Capades* are featured.

TV Line Inc.



McCall (Stephanie Kramer) tracks down a seductress on a rebroadcast of NBC's *Hunter*, Wednesday