

LET'S TALK

In the heat of the ratings; Arden never soaked in it

By Taylor Michaels

Q: My family and I are fans of the show *In the Heat of the Night*. Please tell us it has not been canceled. The last show of the season left Gillespie and Tibbs in quite a mess.

We have heard that Alan Autry, who plays Bubba, is Gene Autry's son. Is this true? Also, is Hugh O'Connor, who plays Jamison, Carroll O'Connor's son or related to him? —Mrs. Jim Manning, Winnsboro, Texas.

A: *In the Heat of the Night* appears to be a popular subject with many Let's Talk readers.

In the Heat of the Night avoided a number of contract disputes with NBC by moving to CBS for the fall. NBC has proclaimed a new marketing strategy geared to a younger crowd, but star Carroll O'Connor said recently the show was not canceled because of *Heat's* viewer demographics. As executive producer, he said he had trouble getting money for new episodes from NBC, so he went shopping and



Alan Autry

found a more willing banking partner in CBS. During the upcoming season, look for an emphasis on romance and a politically pertinent first episode.

Alan Autry is not Gene Autry's son. He was born Carlos Brown and became interested in acting after a brief career in professional football with the Green Bay Packers. However, Hugh O'Cor

nor is Carroll's son.

Q: I am trying to recall the name of a movie starring Harold Gould and Tyne Daly. The story was set in a rest home for the elderly. The residents took over a train, and the rest of the movie dealt with their escapades. Can you tell me the name of this movie? —Maurice Mosher, Sun City, Ariz.

A: The movie you describe was a very respectable picture made for television in 1979. The title is *Better Late Than Never*, also starring Harry Morgan, Strother Martin, George Gobel and Donald Pleasence. *Video Hound's Golden Movie Retriever* claims it's on tape, but watch the box carefully. There's also a 1983 *Better Late Than Never*, David Niven's last film, which isn't nearly as good.

Q: I want to know where to write three stars of the now-canceled *The Young Riders*. They are Josh Brolin, Ty Miller and Anthony Zerbe. It was a show I really enjoyed, and I am very disappointed that it was canceled.

—Cathy Hazelton, Archdale, N.C.

A: Try reaching Anthony Zerbe in care of Susan Smith and Associates, 121 N. San Vicente Blvd., Beverly Hills, Calif., 90211, and perhaps you can reach Ty Miller and Josh Brolin in care of Mahoney Communications, 345 N. Maple Drive, Suite 185, Beverly Hills, Calif., 90210. Incidentally, repeats of *The Young Riders* will begin airing on The Family Channel in September.

Q: My family has enjoyed Richard Jaeckel's acting for a long time. Could you please tell us about him and where we could write to tell him how much we admire him and enjoy his acting?

—Doris Dickerson, Greensboro, N.C.

A: Jaeckel was born on Oct. 10, 1926, in Long Beach, N.Y. He broke into show business while working as a mailboy at 20th Century Fox. His Oscar-nominated appearance in 1971's *Sometimes a Great Notion* is probably his most noteworthy film role. His TV series have included *Spenser: For Hire* and *Baywatch*. You may write him in care of David Shapira and Associates, 15301 Ventura Blvd., Suite 345, Sherman Oaks, Calif., 91403.

Q: Did Eve Arden play the role of Madge on the Palmolive commercials?

—Gwen Boston, Newton, Kansas.

A: *Our Miss Brooks* may have also been many other things, but she was never the Palmolive lady. That honor belongs to actress Ruth Miner.

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

TUESDAY



Janet Bishop, the reigning Miss Teen USA, will be on hand to pass on her crown on Tuesday when CBS offers live coverage of the 10th annual Miss Teen USA Pageant.