

LET'S TALK

Both Lucys in the right; foggy on doggie

By Taylor Michaels

Q: My wife and I have a bet on the following question: Did Scott Valentine (Nick) ever star in a spin-off show from Family Ties? I have \$20 that says there never was such a show. —Michael Lucy and Lucy Michaels Leigh (Those are really our names!), Oak Park, Mich.

A: The time now comes to split a few hairs. Michael Valentine never appeared in a spin-off series from Family Ties as such, so you're right. But he did appear in *The Art of Being Nick*, a 30-minute "special" that ran in August 1987 and smells suspiciously of a failed pilot episode, so your wife's right, too.

Q: I'm a big fan of *Peyton Place*. I would like to know quite a bit about it. How often and what time of day did it come on? Did it do well in the ratings, etc.? —New fan of the old *Peyton Place*, Grenada, Miss.

A: Based on the novel of the same name by Grace Metalious (which was made into a movie in 1957), *Peyton Place* was, and still is, in reruns on many stations, an immensely popular television series. The show's first airdate was Sept. 15, 1964, Monday at 9:30 p.m. (EST) on ABC. There were more backstabblings, illicit affairs, murder mysteries, dark secrets and failed romances in the serial than one could decipher in three lifetimes, portrayed by a constantly changing ensemble cast that would take the rest of this column to list. The first true soap opera to air in prime time (*Dallas*, *Dynasty*, *Knot's Landing*, etc.) owe this show a lot; every one of the show's 514 episodes during the first five years was original — no reruns. This is a remarkable accomplishment, especially when considering during the first four years *Peyton Place* ran up to three times a week! Many of the show's regulars, including Mia Farrow and Ryan O'Neal, became superstars because of the recognition they received on the show. The last original episode aired on June 2, 1969.

Q: My best friend and I have a disagreement regarding the old *Starsky and Hutch* television show. It pertains to the kind of car they drove. We both



Scott Valentine

agree that it was a Ford; however, he says it was a *Gran Torino* and I say it was an *LTD II*. Can you give us the correct answer and end this for us? —Virgil A. Savon, Hilton Head Island, S.C.

A: I'll never forget what kind of car those two drove around in because my best friend's brother owned one — complete with the big white stripe down the side! Sorry, Virgil, but it was a 1974 *Gran Torino*.

Q: What I'm interested in is not an

address or anything like that, but a cartoon character.

A: When I was a child, *Quick Draw McGraw* was a popular show. He had a donkey sidekick named Baba Looey. Then there was this dog. He wasn't in every episode, but if he was fed a dog biscuit, he would jump up in the air and float back down. During all this he would be moaning "Ummmmmm" —Mary Wright, Rosemount, Minn.

A: *Quick Draw McGraw*, featuring invaluable sidekick Baba Looey (Remember how he called him "Queeks Draw?"), also ran shorts starring Snooper & Blabber, and Augie Doggie and Doggie Daddy. But the intermittent co-star you mention was Snuffles, a bumbling bloodhound, from whom the dog biscuits elicited such behavior. You and I both can thank Shea McNutt of Turner Program Services for her diligent research in answering this question.

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

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