

# Entertainment

## 'Andy Griffith Show' Is True to Life

As I See It

By PAT COSTA

After eight years on television, during which time his show was often rated No. 1 in popularity with audiences, Andy Griffith is about to call an end to his Monday night series.

And at our house we are sorry about that. It is the only situation that we watch with any regularity, and certainly the only one whose brand of humor we actually relish.

But, after watching the show all these years, it was only a couple of weeks ago that I got around to asking myself why we enjoyed it to the exclusion of most of the similar attempts at humor that frequent the channels.

First came the players and the characters they play. Griffith as Sheriff Andy Taylor, Frances Bavier as his Aunt Bee and Ronny Howard as his son Opie are real people rather than caricatures.

I'm not sure it was so when the show first started for if you have ever seen any of the early programs (they're now on

morning TV) you might have heard the star speaking with a Southern drawl so thick that he appeared to have lifted it straight out of his famous "No Time for Sergeants" role. There was a cloying folksiness to his manner and a heavy-handed wholesomeness pervaded the scripts. But someone eager to improve the series quickly took care of that.

Out of the idea evolved a group of people who behaved like human beings rather than practitioners of slapstick, whose relationships to each other meshed nicely. They were people about whom you could care. They might not be the people next door but you could very well imagine them living in the next block.

Jim Nabors as Gomer Pyle who joined the Marines and George Howard as his cousin Goober might have strained

credulity a bit but not I suspect if you live in a small town where judges, garage mechanics and teachers live next door to each other and neighbors are less easily classified.

Such characters make it easier for the viewer to identify with them and subsequently with the series. But the real secret, I believe, is the integrity that is basic to the show. The characters do not step out of their characterizations to extract humor from unbelievable situations. They do not step on banana peels, nor accidentally go coursing down ski trails minus one ski nor do they wear lampshades at parties.

Instead the humor is gentle, building from a true situation that as often as not may be a bit poignant.

For instance earlier this season Aunt Bee took up flying

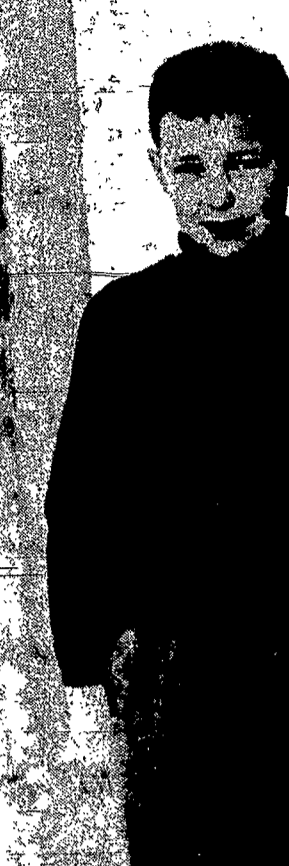
simply because one day as a spinster she realized she has never had a high point in her life. Afraid, but determined to have a memorable moment, she learned just enough to solo.

Another time widower Andy and his girl friend find themselves at a party where the other fellows including the host have been unable to get dates.

Several years ago before Don Knotts left the show the script writers did marvelous things with the "officious little man" theme via the character of Barney Fife.

The best relationship and thus some of the best moments of the half hour are found between the father and the son. The former is the dominant figure and never allowed to lose respect in the eyes of the child nor the audience.

If there is one fault with the show it is that although set in a small town in North Carolina, there are no Negroes in the cast, a discrepancy that certainly must strike Southern viewers at least.

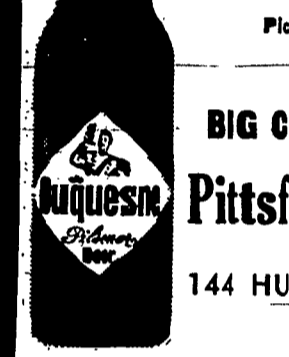


New York—(RNS)—T play the role of Angel 4, 7, and 10 years in a on location in Rome, people in addition to :

## Rod Steiger

New York—(RNS)—"A There Came a Man" is the title of a new film on the life of Pope John XXIII, which opened here April 4.

The Italian-produced biography of the late pontiff uses an unusual combination of documentary footage, comments spoken by actor Rod Steiger



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## Anti-Semitism Being Cut

By Jeff Endrst (Religious News Service)

Oberammergau, Germany — The decade-old controversy over the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play is nearing its end with indications that the 1970 performance will largely satisfy both traditionalists and those who would revise the 334-year-old spectacle.

There is hope here and in official German circles that the threatened boycott of the Passion Play by the American Jewish Congress will be avoided.

In this ancient Alpine village of woodcarvers, many of whom turn actors once every ten years, the process of growing long beards and preparing for thousands of foreign visitors has already begun, although the final text of the play is yet to be approved by the Oberammergau Passion Play Committee.

Dr. Lamm stated that "our negotiations have been conducted in the spirit of mutual trust and rapprochement. Our common goal lies in the fact that we want to give meaning to the Vatican Council decisions on the relationship between beliefs and religious instead of simply arriving at improvements in the text of the play and thereby reestablishing old mistrust, resentments and condemnations."

This feeling was later shared by Father Schaller who felt that the more than 100-year-old text must be purified in such a way that everything that might reopen old wounds should be deleted. Above all, he held that the play should stick close to the Bible and should reflect the Catholic Church's official policy of friendship and brother-

work of Father Stephan Schaller of nearby Ettal Monastery.

His assignment was to "tidy up" the old text in line with the Vatican II pronouncements which absolved the Jews of ages-old "deicide" charges involving the death of Christ.

The old text reflected a mixture of ancient mysteries and folklore plays going back to the gloomiest period of old Augsburg in Germany and Oxford in England.

Father Schaller's refinement of the old text was presented with footnotes and explanations to Dr. Hans Lamm, an officer of the Munich Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation.

Dr. Lamm has conferred with Father Schaller since 1967 on behalf of the American Jewish Committee.

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There is little doubt here that anti-Semitic excesses in the text will be deleted. To what extent, and whether this will satisfy critics, is not certain.

The Roman Catholic Church in Germany has quietly stepped aside from the controversy, leaving the fate of the play up to the Oberammergau community itself. In the past, the Archbishop of Munich, in whose see Oberammergau lies, gave his "mission canonica" approval for the performance which had its premiere in 1634 and since then has missed only one scheduled showing.

The proposed 1970 text is ready although it has not yet been issued publicly. It is the

## 'Oberammergau' Adjusted to Vatican II

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## Movies

Here is a list of motion pictures currently playing in Rochester area theaters and the ratings given them by the National Office of Motion Pictures:

Regent—"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" (Adults and adolescents)

Cinema—"The Whisperers" (Adults and adolescents)

Fine Arts—"Jungle Book" (Family), "Charlie, the Lonesome Cougar" (Family)

Little—"Closely Watched Trains" (Adults, with reservations)

Monroe—"Gone with the Wind" (Adults and adolescents), "Coronet"—"In Cold Blood" (Adults)

Towne—"How to Succeed in Marriage and Ruin Your Life" (Adults)

Panorama—"Dr. Zhivago" (Adults and adolescents)

Waring—"Camelot" (Adults)

Studio 2—"The Graduate" (Adults, with reservations)

Paramount—"Bonnie and Clyde" (For adults, with reservations)

Riviera—"Blow-Up" (Condemned), "Alfie" (Adults, with reservations)

Stoneridge—"Far from the Madding Crowd" (Adults), "The Greatest Story Ever Told" (Family), "The Scalphunters" (Adults, and adolescents)

Lyell—"A Matter of Innocence" (Objectable in part for all), "Rough Night in Jerico" (Adults)

Stutson—"The Secret War of Harry Frigg" (Adults, adolescents)

Ridge—"Point Blank" (Objectable in part for all), "Jack of Diamonds" (Adults, adolescents), "Happiest Millionaire" (Family)

## TV Movie Ratings

Friday, April 12 - Thursday, April 18

Ratings are those given by the former Legion of Decency, now the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures, when films were originally shown. A-1: morally unobjectionable for general patrons; age A-2: morally unobjectionable for adults and adolescents; A-3: morally unobjectionable for adults; A-4: morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations; B: morally objectionable in part for all; C: condemned. No Rating: film has not been reviewed by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (formerly the Legion of Decency). N.B. Before A-3 classification was established, A-2 indicated morally unobjectionable for adults.

Movie listings supplied through the courtesy of TV Guide Magazine

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Movie, Rating. Friday, April 12

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Movie, Rating. Saturday, April 13

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Movie, Rating. Sunday, April 14

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Movie, Rating. Monday, April 15

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Movie, Rating. Tuesday, April 16

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Movie, Rating. Wednesday, April 17

Table with columns: Time, Channel, Movie, Rating. Thursday, April 18

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