

AS I SEE IT

Paul Cook

There are those of us who remember when Rhoda was the misfit — when she looked as if she had been put together with wallpaper paste and carpet tacks.

But that was when she was a foil for Mary Tyler Moore. In the premiere of her own show, appropriately titled "Rhoda" and seen Mondays at 9:30 there was nothing haphazard about the way Valerie Harper, who is Rhoda, looked. She was, in a word, gorgeous.

And she had her own foil. Several in fact. The outstanding one was Julie Kavner as Rhoda's younger sister, Brenda (with the faintest suggestion of a moustache on her upper lip.)

In this spin-off from The Mary Tyler Moore Show, Rhoda has returned to the land of her birth, New York City. There she tries

hard and fails to avoid her mother (Nancy Walker) and tries hard and succeeds in interesting a construction business owner (David Groh) in her own svelte, sophisticated and very much liberated self.

The first story bore the earmarks of Treva Silverman, the talented woman who is executive story editor for Miss Moore's show.

The action was fast, the dialogue pithy, the character development well on its way. And the over-all effect was fun, fun, fun.

It didn't take me long to figure out that I'm nuts about Brenda. Half way through the season you can expect her to show lean and luscious if she follows in Valerie's footsteps, but in the meantime I plan to enjoy the moustache, the incessant eating and her droll handling of mama.

I'd planned to look in on "Born Free" which preceded Rhoda on a different network, NBC, but instead got caught by the promo for "The Rookies" which bannerlined its hour with the news that a new Rookie had joined the force. This reminded me that Terry Ontkian who had become an idol of the tenny bopper crowd had bowed out when not enough money was forthcoming for the new season.

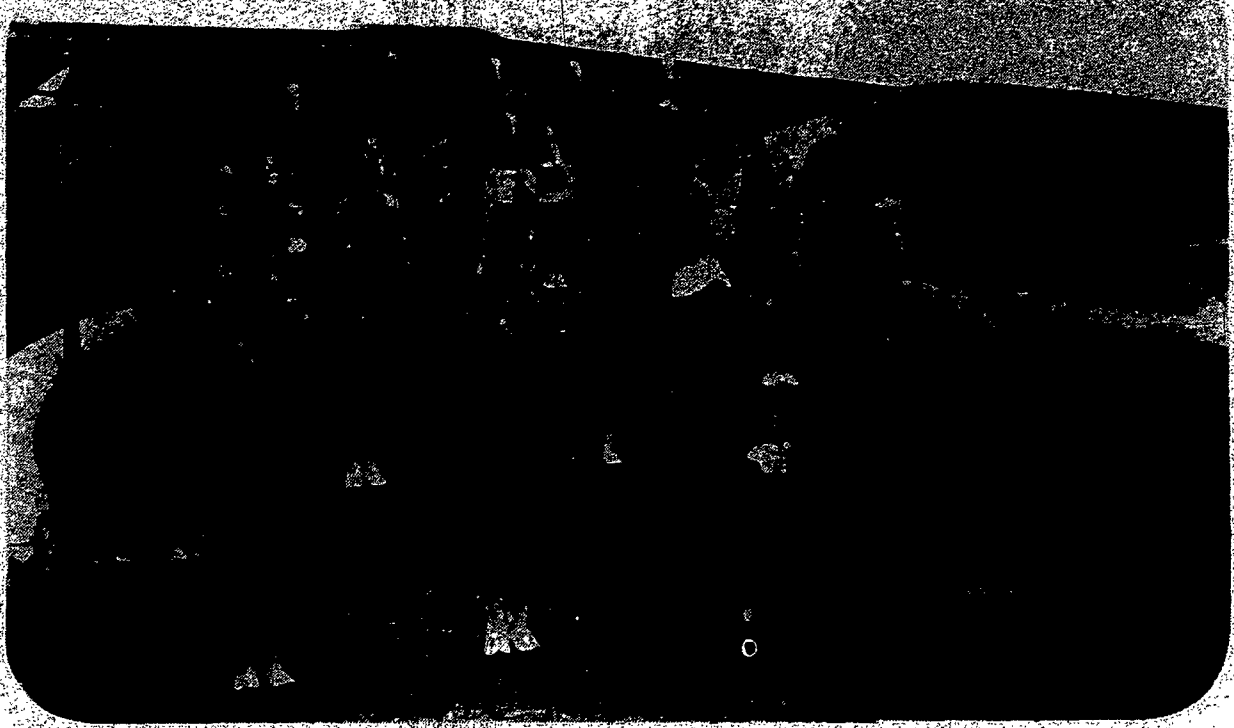
Interested to see who the replacement would be, since our family frequently watches this fantasy cop show as a lead in to Monday night football, I discovered that the producers obviously aren't going to tamper with success. Bruce Fairbairn, the addition to the cast, could be a double for Ontkian if the lights were poor.

CREATIVE CERAMICS

The potter's wheel and hand-building methods will be used in the creative ceramics course offered to the adult public by Aquinas Institute. Father Leonard Cullen of the art department will supervise Monday evening classes, Sept. 23-Dec. 9. A fee of \$60 for the 12 classes includes firing costs. No molds will be used. Further information may be obtained by calling Aquinas, 254-2020.

TEACHERS CONFERENCE

Msgr. Thomas Costello, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Syracuse, will be the keynote speaker at the annual diocesan teachers' conference Sept. 30. The conference will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Bishop Kearney High School and DeSales High School in Geneva.



Tempo of the Highlands

The massed bands, pipes, drums and highland dancers of Her Majesty's Welsh Guards and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will appear in live performance at the Rochester War Memorial on Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 8 p.m. The Rochester stop on a tour of 75 U.S. and Canadian cities marks the first visit of the Queen's Regiments in nearly three years.

'Times' Lauds Ford Worship

New York [RNS] — President Ford's policy of attending worship at a regular church is a "welcome change" from President Nixon's practice of

holding services in the White House, the New York Times said in an Aug. 27 editorial.

"It is far better for Presidents to attend services in religious institutions than to transform the White House even temporarily into a house of worship," the editorial stated.

always been a dangerous mixture," said the Times. "No one will doubt President Ford's personal devoutness or the sincerity of his prayer for God's sure guidance because of his return to the old Presidential custom of going to church, instead of having church come to him.

PARENTS' BOARD

The Parents' Board of Our Lady of Mercy High School opened the school year by hosting the faculty and student leaders at a pot luck dinner last Thursday at the school. Officers for the school year are: Harvey Limbeck, president; Mrs. Adrian Prince, vice president; Mr. Robert O'Connor, treasurer; Mrs. Edwin Fleche, secretary. Chairman for the dinner is Mrs. Nicholas Nicosia.

The new President and his family regularly attend Immanuel-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church in Alexandria, Va., near the home where they lived when Ford was a congressman and Vice President.

Nixon, a Quaker, held a series of White House services in which guest clergymen spoke.

Politics and religion have

"Nor will many mourn the departure from the White House of a rotating company of prelates, evangelists and rabbis, many evangelically more interested in matters of politics than of the spirit."

"Love of God and country will be more secure under leaders who do not wear patriotism in their lapels or religion on their sleeves."

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