

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

"Phyllis," the second comedy spinoff of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" has debuted leaving the distinct impression here that everybody at "MTM" was trying a little too hard to insure a success.

Such broad, heavy handed humor was not necessary. Cloris Leachman has the stuff to guarantee that all but the most poorly written scripts will flourish. And I don't think they need worry about that problem with the group she's working with.

In the opener we find that Phyllis' husband Lars (we never saw him on the MTM show) has died and left her a helpless widow. Well, almost helpless. Phyllis has a feeling for survival like almost no one else.

She moves to San Francisco which will mean some great scenery for the series with her teenage daughter (Lisa Gerritsen) and moves in temporarily with Lars' mother and her new husband. (Jane Rose and Henry Jones.)

As if "Phyllis" didn't have enough going for it, it has been

sandwiched between "Rhoda" and "All in the Family" in a Monday night comedy block which also includes "Maude." Obviously if anything is going to knock Monday night Football for a loop this is the kind of programming that will do it. The only weak link in the CBS Monday night schedule is "Medical Center" which gets hokier with each passing year.

Speaking of single women and situation comedy, "Fay" is another newcomer this season. Lee Grant is a divorcee whose ex-husband keeps checking up on her. It's on Thursdays on Channel 8. Audra Lindley is her nosy neighbor and Margaret Willock is Fay's straight-laced daughter. Stewart Moss plays the daughter's plastic surgeon husband.

I've always been fond of Lee Grant. Considerable talent; extremely good looks and a wry manner make her stand out in the profession. As with Cloris Leachman, given almost any decent script she can make something of it. And just as "Phyllis" did not show Miss Leachman to her best advantage so, too, did "Fay" leave Lee Grant hanging at times. Both shows can be expected to improve as all the talents that put these productions together mesh.

The word from Channel 10 that "Beacon Hill" will be shown in its regularly scheduled network time at 10 p.m. Tuesdays instead of late Sunday night is good news indeed. I watched the second episode over Channel 4 Buffalo and while it was not as diverting as the two-hour premiere, it was still superior fare. Obviously even a deluxe series like this one will have its ups and downs.

At Home With the Movies

RED SUN [1972]
Thursday, Sept. 18

A "pasta" Western that promises more than it delivers and will disappoint adults who expect more whimsical flair and less gore from this brand of fantasy-prone film. A hard-bitten cowboy (Charles Bronson) teams with an inscrutable Japanese Samurai (Toshiro Mifune) to track down an outlaw (Alain Delon) who double-crossed the cowboy and dishonored the Samurai. Ursula Andress is cast as the double-crosser's prostitute girl friend.

A-III

THE KANSAS
CITY MASSACRE
Friday, Sept. 19

Dale Robertson stars as Melvin Purvis, tough hunter of the FBI's "Most Wanted." In this made-for-TV trasher, Purvis is on the trail of

bank bandit Frank Nash, captures the desperado in Kansas City, and then discovers that the whole thing is a trap — thanks to the friendly neighborhood ambush set for Purvis and his FBI minions by Nash's friends. What a shootout! What a bloody waste of time!

THE STONE KILLER [1973]
Saturday, Sept. 20

This is one of the most pretentious movies ever made,

and worth seeing for that reason but for none other, alas. Charles Bronson stars in this mess as a philosophical New York cop who gets fired for beating up on suspects, joins the L.A. police department, and — surprise! — gets an assignment that takes him back to New York, where he beats up on some Mafia-type suspects. All they want is to beat up on each other, so why bother, anyway.

A-IV

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Ready for fair are, from left, Nancy Cowd, Jesse Herrera, Steve Ellingham, Rollo the Clown, Ann Marie Fainelli, Debbie Ellingham.

Country Fair Scheduled

Rolo the Clown will visit the St. Helens Country Fair (scheduled Sept. 20-21) on that Saturday from 2-4 p.m.

Other features will include a Kiddieland with free puppet shows on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon; a country store full of hand-made items, and a teen area.

Entertainment will include St. Helen's JOY group at 7 p.m. on Saturday; square dancers on Sunday afternoon, and the Pedro Nunez Spanish group at 6:30 p.m., Sunday.

The fair is under the chairmanship of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Herrera.

AIM MEETS

Auburn — Auburn Interfaith Ministries will discuss adoption of a constitution at its Oct. 1 meeting in St. Peter's Parish Hall. The business meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. with a dinner to be served by Meals on Wheels at 6:30 p.m. Dinner reservations are due by Sept. 30 by calling Meals on Wheels.

BOOKS WANTED

St. Bernard's Seminary Library is seeking to strengthen its collections of liturgical materials. Copies of missals, breviaries, antiphonales, etc. (any size, any age) will be welcome. Donors may contact Father Jasper Pennington, librarian, at 254-1020 or leave their gifts at the library.

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