

O – NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

All entries by Michael J. Weldon

VIRGINIA O'BRIEN (81), from L.A., was known for her deadpan singing while signed to MGM in HULLABALOO and SKY MURDER (both 40), THE BIG STORE, RINGSIDE MAISIE and LADY BE GOOD (all 41), PANAMA HATTIE and SHIP AHOY (both 42), THOUSANDS CHEER and DUBARRY WAS A LADY (both 43), TWO GIRLS AND A SAILOR and MEET THE PEOPLE (both 44), ZIEGFELD FOLLIES, THE HARVEY GIRLS, and THE SHOW OFF (all 46), and TILL THE CLOUDS ROLL BY and MERTON OF THE MOVIES (both 47). Her last roles were in FRANCIS IN THE NAVY (55) and GUS (76). Her uncle was director Lloyd Bacon, her father was the L.A. chief of police and her first husband was actor Kirk (SUPERMAN) Alyn. Her singing style was copied by Keely Smith and 60's girl group The Cake plus Nico, Grace Jones and many female "punk" singers.

CARROLL O'CONNOR (76), from Forest Hills, Queens, NY, made his Broadway debut in 58, and was in features including A FEVER IN THE BLOOD (61), CLEOPATRA (63), HAWAII (66), POINT BLANK (67), MARLOWE and FEAR NO EVIL (both 69), and LAW AND DISORDER (74). ALL IN THE FAMILY (71-79) made him famous as America's most lovable racist and he continued on ARCHIE BUNKER'S PLACE (79-83). He also was the (formerly) racist sheriff on IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT (88-94). Co-star Howard Rollins was fired in '93, then died and O'Connor's (adopted) son Hugh, who also acted on the show, shot himself in '96. Both deaths were drug related. O'Connor had usually played villains on shows like THE RIFLEMAN, BONANZA, OUTER LIMITS, MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E., TIME TUNNEL, I SPY, WILD WILD WEST, MISSION IMPOSSIBLE, and VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM....

HARRY O'CONNOR (45), from Grand Rapids, MI, was a stuntman who died working on XXX in Prague. After being a Navy SEAL for 20 years, he did stunts for DROP ZONE (84), TITANIC, AIR FORCE ONE, and TOMORROW NEVER DIES (all 97), THE PERFECT STORM and CHARLIE'S ANGELS (both 00), and others.

JOSEPH O'CONOR (84), from Dublin, acted on many British TV shows and was in films including GORGO (61), DEVIL SHIP PIRATES (64), DOOMWATCH (72), and THE MESSENGER (99). He died in Jan.

LANI O'GRADY (Lanita Rose Agrati) (46) was the eldest daughter on EIGHT IS ENOUGH (77-81). After acting on TV shows like THE LOVE BOAT and movies including MASSACRE AT CENTRAL HIGH (76) and THE HAZING (77), she spent years in rehab. Her body was discovered in her Castaic, CA trailer home. Her brother, Don Grady, was an original Mouseketeer and played Robbie on MY THREE SONS. Her mother, Mary Grady, was an agent who represented child actors.

SHIRLEY O'HARA (78), from Rochester, Minnesota, was in GILDERSLEEVE ON BROADWAY and THE GHOST SHIP (both 43), SHOW BUSINESS and THE FALCON OUT WEST (both 44), TARZAN AND THE AMAZONS (45), CUBAN PETE (46), CRIME WAVE (54), THE LITTLE SHEPHERD OF KINGDOM COME and LOVE IN A GOLDFISH BOWL (both 61), DUEL (71), and others. She acted on DRAGNET, PERRY MASON, SEA HUNT, TWILIGHT ZONE, HITCHOCK, OUTER LIMITS and many other TV shows. She was married to screenwriter Milton Krim.

(William) OLIVER (Swoford) (54), from North Wilksboro, NC, was in the band Good Earth, then had soft pop solo hits with "Good Morning Starshine" (#3 on Jubilee) and "Jean" (#2 on Crewe) in 69. Both were from movies. He had cancer.

GARY OLSEN (42), from England, was in BIRTH OF THE BEATLES as Rory Storm, and BLOODY KIDS (both 79), BREAKING GLASS (80), OUTLAND (81), PINK FLOYD-THE WALL and THE SENDER (both 82), UNDERWORLD (85), RAW DEAL (86).

DAPHNE ORAM (77), from Devizes, Wiltshire, England, was a pioneer of electronic music who went to work at the BBC in 1943 and by '58 she was appointed the first director of their new radiophonic workshop. She then went freelance creating electronic music for theatre, radio, TV and industrial and publicity films. Her electronic underlays were featured in THE INNOCENTS (61) and she wrote books and recorded LPs.

JAMES O'REAR (86), from Frankfort, IN, was a member of Orson Welles' Mercury Theater. Film roles included BRUTE FORCE (47), CRISS CROSS (49), TEENAGE REBEL (56), and CHINATOWN (74).

RISTO ORKO (102), from Rauma, Finland, was a producer and director who made THE DAY THE EARTH FROZE (59).

WILLIAM T. ORR (85), from NYC, was the executive producer of Warner Bros. TV shows since '55 including CHEYENNE, LAWMAN, MAVERICK, SUGARFOOT, 77 SUNSET STRIP, HAWAIIAN EYE, SURFSIDE SIX, THE GALLANT MEN, THE ROARING TWENTIES, F TROOP and others. He had been an actor in movies from '38 to '43 and was in Army training films. In '45 he became as assistant of Jack Warner after marrying his step daughter. He also produced WICKED WICKED (73).

GEORGE ORRISON (71) was a rodeo cowboy who doubled for Lee Marvin in CAT BALLOU (65) and became the main double for Clint Eastwood in everything from HIGH PLAINS DRIFTER (73) to SPACE COWBOYS (00). His brother is stuntman Bob Orrison, whose sons Mark and Brad are also stuntmen.

BENJAMIN ORR (Orzechowski) (53), from Cleveland, was a bassist/ vocalist whose parents were from Russia and Czechoslovakia. As a blonde teenage dropout he led The Grasshoppers. They were an UPBEAT! house band, opened for The Dave Clark Five and had two local hits (the haunting ballad "Pink Champagne" and "Mod Socks"). They broke up when Orr and other members were drafted. After time in less successful local groups he formed a series of bands with Ric Ocasek (Otcasek) from Baltimore. With the addition of keyboardist Greg Hawkes in Boston they released a folk-rock album as Milkwood in '72. They became the rock band Cap'n Swing with the addition of Elliott Easton on guitar. In '76, former Modern Lovers drummer David Robinson joined and they became The Cars. The most successful of all the American "new wave" bands scored 18 hits (13 top 40) and 7 charting LPs. Orr sang lead on "Just What I Needed," "Drive" and others. The Elektra label group played on many TV shows in various countries, notably a 79 MIDNIGHT SPECIAL show which they hosted. They can be seen on the video comp HEARTBREAK CITY (84) featuring Andy Warhol and THE CARS LIVE 1984-85. Orr released a solo album in 86 and recently was with the all star band Big People. He died from cancer in his home in Atlanta.

MARIA ORTIZ (27), from Nashville, was in the Donald Farmer movies VICIOUS KISS (96), with the late Margeaux Hemingway, DEMOLITION HIGHWAY, BLOOD AND HONOR, and the still to be released BATTLE FOR GLORY, RED LIPS 2 and SPACE KID.

SAM O'STEEN (76), from Arkansas, was assistant editor for Hitchcock's THE WRONG MAN (57), then edited many features for Sinatra, Mike Nichols, Polanski and others, earning three Oscar nominations. Some credits were COOL HAND LUKE and THE GRADUATE (both 67), ROSEMARY'S BABY (68), CHINATOWN (74), AMITYVILLE 2 (82), SILKWOOD (83), and WOLF (94). He directed SPARKLE (76) and TV movies including LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ROSEMARY'S BABY (76).

ROBERT OSTERLOH (82) often played authority figures in movies including THE DARK PAST (48), WHITE HEAT, CRISS CROSS, CITY ACROSS THE RIVER, and GUN CRAZY (all 49), THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL and THE WELL (both 51), ONE MINUTE TO ZERO (52), THE WILD ONE, JOHNNY GUITAR, and RIOT IN CELL BLOCK 11 (all 54), SEVEN ANGRY MEN (55), INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS, HOT CARS, and STAR IN THE DUST (all 56), BABY FACE NELSON (57), I BURY THE LIVING (58), INHERIT THE WIND (60), THE SCARFACE MOB (62), YOUNG DILLINGER (65), and ROSEMARY'S BABY (68). Some TV roles were on MEN INTO SPACE, THRILLER, ONE STEP BEYOND, THE OUTER LIMITS and THE INVADERS.

BIBI OSTERWALD (83), from New Brunswick, NJ, was in many films including PARRISH (61) and THE ABSENT MINDED PROFESSOR (88), was a regular on CAPTAIN BILLY'S MISSISSIPPI MUSIC HALL (in 48), BRIDGET LOVES BERNIE (72-3), and AS THE WORLD TURNS, and acted on NAKED CITY, WEREWOLF, TALES FROM THE CRYPT and many other shows.

PATRICIA OWENS (75), from Golden, Canada, made her debut in 40's British films and was in PANIC AT MADAME TUSSAUD'S (49), OLD MOTHER RILEY, HEADMISTRESS (50) and GHOST SHIP (52). In Hollywood, she co-starred in THE FLY (58), FIVE GATES TO HELL (59), THE DESTRUCTORS (68) and others. Some TV roles were on COL. MARCH OF SCOTLAND YARD and HITCHCOCK.

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