

Focus: Seniors



Ruth Mulford stays busy helping others

NAME: Ruth W. Mulford

ADDRESS: Lakeland

HOMETOWN: Born and raised in Saugerties, N.Y., she moved to Kingston, N.Y., in 1937, where she lived until moving to Deland in 1945, then Lakeland in 1947.

FORMER OCCUPATION: Miss Mulford has been a registered nurse since 1938, and retired in 1974. During her career, she was a school nurse in Mulberry for 10 years, public health nurse for five years, a psychiatric nurse for eight-and-a-half years, spent several years at private duty and at Lakeland General Hospital, and was in the Army Nurse Corp from 1945 to 1947.

HOW SHE SPENDS HER TIME NOW: She has been a member of the American Association of Retired Persons for 15 years. She is presently the Sunshine and Community Service chairman. She is also a member of the Pilot Club of Lakeland, Medulla Home Extension Club, and Retired Teachers Assoc. Miss Mulford was a member of District 12 Florida Nurses Assoc., and held offices on a state level. She is an active member of All Saints Episcopal Church, working in several organizations and clubs. She stays busy helping people, taking them to doctor appointments or shopping, doing their shopping if they can't and fixing meals for them. Miss Mulford also visits the sick and elderly in hospitals and nursing homes. She does enjoy cooking, but her hobby is helping others.

ACCOMPLISHMENT MOST PROUD OF: Miss Mulford is proud of having been named "Nurse of the Year" several years ago by the Florida Nurses Assoc. She is also proud of having good health and being able to help others.

SECRET TO LONG LIFE: Taking care of your health, being active in church and living a good life, and helping your fellow man.

ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE: "Stay away from drugs and alcohol, and anything else that is going to make you less productive," Miss Mulford said.



Freemon Grayes says secret is staying active

NAME: Freemon Grayes

ADDRESS: Polk City

HOMETOWN: Born and raised in Drew, Miss., he moved to Florida in 1945 or 1946, living in Clermont until he moved to Polk City about 28 years ago.

FORMER OCCUPATION: Grayes did grove work for about three or four years when he first came to Florida, then worked for Seaboard Coastline Railroad for 31 years, and retired about two years ago.

HOW HE SPENDS HIS TIME NOW: He does a little tractor work and welding and deals in scrap iron. He is a member of the Church of God by Faith in Polk City, and the Fellowship Dining program.

ACCOMPLISHMENT MOST PROUD OF: Grayes is very proud of his recent trip to Japan, the Orient, Hawaii, and Thailand. He is also proud of his trip last year to Egypt, Jordan, and Israel, where he walked on the Jericho Road and waded in the Dead Sea. "All of this was a dream come true," Grayes said.

SECRET TO LONG LIFE: Work and stay active.

ADVICE TO YOUNG PEOPLE: "The young folks should strive for a good life, doing the right things, and trying not to hurt others. If they are obedient to their parents, they will have better days," he said.

Media makes it into CBS series this fall

continued from 1C

see so often on television. Jessica has other ideas. While Kenyon, played by David Spielberg, sends her out on assignments about sand castles, Jessica is trying to solve the problems of the world.

Ms. Shaver, who was in the ill-fated but critically acclaimed series "United States," says her character is the first female on television she's seen that she would really like to meet. But unless the writers provide more reality and substance to the one-hour adventure, the meeting between actress and character could be short.

FALCON CREST (Fridays at 10 p.m.) — The pilot for this one-hour prime-time soap was so bad that the network not only changed the name from "The Vintage Years" but also made some substantial cast changes as well.

Jane Wyman, a movie actress of note during the '40s and '50s and former wife of Ronald Reagan, returns to television as Angie Channing in a show that could best be described as the "Dallas" of wine country.

Another ABC series about convenience store owner

continued from 1C

story of the saloon keeper's efforts to take over the town.

OPEN ALL NIGHT (Fridays at 8:30 p.m.) — For Gordon Foster, the idea of operating his own convenience

CONCERT REPORT



Tom Petty, in the cowboy boots and bandanna of a country boy, struts his stuff like a rocker at the Lakeland Civic Center Friday.

Ledger photo by Robert Azmitia

Petty's transformation leaves his audience shouting for more

By Cathy M. Lewis
The Ledger

Donning cowboy boots and a blue bandanna tied beneath a full-toothed grin, Tom Petty moved onto the Lakeland stage Friday looking like the embodiment of the mythical all-American boy.

Petty smiled his way through "American Girl" and "Listen to Her Heart" with the naturalness of water moving against the coastline of Florida, his native state. Even a haunting keyboard solo by Benmont Tench on the grand piano during "A Thing About You" didn't erase Petty's smile.

When the band latched into "I'm in Love", Petty skipped and swaggered across the stage with the joy of an adolescent in puppy love.

Watch Petty prance. Watch Petty preen. The rest of the audience leaned back and relaxed. They'd just watch and wait their turn. And the singer didn't disappoint them.

It was a slow build. Petty mixed just enough pain into "Here Comes My Girl," to make the words sound as though they came from personal experience. And there was just enough of Bruce Springsteen in his voice to assure the few 25-year-olds in the audience he knew what rock 'n' roll was about.

It was the beginning of a transformation that would leave Petty's audience gasping for relief yet begging for more. Somewhere between the Kingsmen's classic "Louie, Louie," and Petty's own "Kings Road," the all-American boy became a passionate, streetwise

rocker.

Once the atmosphere in the civic center changed, there was little relief. Only a few tunes like "Night Watchman," — a song inspired by the man who protects Petty's privacy at his San Fernando Valley home and backed Friday with a dazzling light show — and "Even the Losers Get Lucky" slowed the musical pulse of the evening.

Even then, with Petty leaning over his audience like a mad magician, swinging his arms full circle to end in a thunderous slash across his guitar, you could feel the momentum rolling through like shock waves.

When Petty's voice cried with the ache of dashed hopes "she's a woman in love but it's not me," Tench pulled the full power of his rhythm and blues background from the ivories. Teen-agers, some yet to experience that kind of pain, moaned right along with them.

When the lights went down and Petty grabbed the mike around the throat and demanded seductively, "You've got to give it to me," the now hypnotized crowd groaned in anticipation of "Breakdown." They were in love and their affair with Petty was not the light, joyful love of the first 15 minutes of this concert. This affair was full blown and passionate. They weren't letting go.

The band launched into "Refugee" with exuberance, rocking with the Dylanesque lyrics as if they had come home. The crowd didn't mind. If Petty was clinging to his past like his critics have said, they

would cling right along with him.

The acceptance of Petty's occasional revelry into his roots was amazing considering the same audience had heartily booed Joe Ely's late '50s style during his opening act.

When Petty left the stage, the crowd wasn't having any of it. Encoring with Sly and the Family Stone's hit "Shout," Petty led his believers with the fervor of a Southern minister. The force of their response literally knocked him flat on his back.

Even Petty seemed amazed at the feeling he was producing. He turned over, crawling belly down to the front of the stage, brought the mike down to the floor and hid behind a speaker. When Petty pulled his head from behind the speaker, one hand following the other, they were ready for him. He shook his head in disbelief. "I can't believe you," he said. "Boy, is it good to be home!"

For Petty, it was the climax of the show. And when his fans demanded a second encore, he slowed the tempo with a song from his new album. He must have realized that if he didn't, he would never get out of the auditorium.

Still the believers stayed. When the house lights came up a moan of disappointment rolled its way across the crowd, as one by one, his congregation realized Petty was gone.

He had charmed them, wooed them, moved them and now he had left them — left them begging for more.