

Emery Wister

Showtime

Who Shot 'J.R.'? Well, Even 'J.R.' Doesn't Know

There are all sorts of pipes in Larry Hagman's home, hard by the Pacific Ocean on Malibu Beach. But no one smokes. The pipes are for blowing soap bubbles. And of such are TV dreams made.

"I don't know who shot me," said Hagman who plays the cruel and vicious J.R. Ewing in the CBS-WBTV Friday night drama 'Dallas.' "CBS doesn't want me to know, and I don't want to know. There's too much riding on this. I could get killed."

No, CBS doesn't want you to know. At least not yet. The fact is it doesn't know itself. The villain - if villain he be - will be revealed in an early show in the new season.

The dastardly Ewing was shot on the last show of the season last spring and network nabobs have cooked up an elaborate scheme to keep the faithful and the curious guessing until the last possible moment. Three endings of the telling episode have been filmed, each naming a different killer. Six hours before the show goes on the air the decision will be made.

"I don't want to know," repeated Larry on a balmy Sunday afternoon at his home. "When I was in England recently television people offered me \$250,000 to tell them. I couldn't and I wouldn't."

Hagman, assisted by his wife and mother, actress Mary Martin, was hosting a large press group. It's a pleasant, though not overly large house and, by Hollywood standards, far from flamboyant.

"We moved here 15 years ago, before it was fashionable to live on the beach," his wife recalled. "We paid \$150,000 then. We could get a bundle for it today. The people next door have been offered \$1,000,000 and they're not selling.

"THE 'DALLAS' show has really made Larry happy. Not one bad thing has been said about him personally."

"Well, sure," said Larry. "I like playing J.R. I think there's a little of this guy in everyone. The writers just rolled all the bad guys they had known into person and J.R. was born. This is my meat. I was never good at Shakespeare. Yes, I did play in 'Hamlet' once but all I did was carry a spear.'

The Hagman home is a good Sunday's drive from downtown Los Angeles. No smoking signs are everywhere. American and Texas flags fly from the beach yard, and a TV camera covers all activities. The house is furnished in Japanese. Japanese cooks and waitresses were serving Japanese food and a Japanese movie was running on a TV set in the den.

Hagman walked through the house blowing soap bubbles. Right off someone asked him how much he was being paid for his work next season.

"\$400,000 an episode," he shot back.

'That's not reality," said the unbelieving questioner shaking his head, "How much?" "Reality?" Hagman answered. "You think this is reality?"

The reality is that he's being paid about \$100,000 per show,

though neither he nor CBS will say.

"We pay him what we think he's worth," said CBS Entertainment Division president Bob Daly. "We knew we would have to pay him more this season, and we were happy to do it. But if we hadn't been able to strike a deal the series would have gone on.'

MEANING, OF course that J.R. would have died. But CBS well knows that when - or if - J.R. does the series may die with him. "I didn't predict all this fuss and furor over J.R.'s shooting would

occur," said Hagman. "But I felt it would." Hagman flew from his "Dallas" location to host the press group, bringing several members of the cast with him. I asked Ken Kercheval, who plays the character of Cliff Barnes, if he thought

Barnes shot Ewing. "He's not dumb enough to do it himself, though he might hire someone to do it. I sure hope he did. I don't think they'd write me out

of the show even if I were the guilty one." Television has never had a show like "Dallas" before. That doesn't mean it's the best show in TV history; far from it. But the fact is members of the cast make book on who shot J.R. It's the talk of the town in Dallas itself. Women lift their hair driers to talk about it in beauty shops and executives interrupt talks on finances and operations in company boardrooms to discuss it. Not everyone is happy. More than one Dallas person has been heard to say it

would be better if they'd picked some other town. But "Dallas" goes on and so does the betting. And a big question is who was the guiding genius behind the most fabulous promotion and guessing game.

"Why Leoanrd Kaufman, of course," said Hagman. "He's the producer. I know he's behind it.

And, though he was saying the same thing over and over again

Hagman kept talking until it was time for him to take the limousine back to the airport for the return flight to Dallas.

"You know I don't usually talk on Sundays," he said. "Sunday is my day to keep quiet. But I had to make an exception today. I couldnt' offend 150 press people."

A Boy For Mosses

Mr. and Mrs. Robert William Moss Jr. (Bob) of Broomfield, Colo., announce the arrival of their second child, a son, Robert William Moss, III. Robbie's older sister is Tracy Lynn Moss, 22 months old.

COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee for the Battle Celebration Drama will not meet tonight (Thursday) as scheduled but will meet Sat., Sept. 20th, at 10 a.m. in the Bicentennial Headquarters in the former bank building downtown.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. R.W. Moss Sr. (Bill and Betty) of Kings Mountain, Mr. and Mrs. Jolley of Houston, Texas. Great-grandparent is Mrs. Eva Moss Pursley of Kings Mountain.

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Juniors Selling Magazines

On Monday, Sept. 5, a kickoff assembly promoted the annual Junior Magazine Sale. Collection days are from Sept. 17-29. The homeroom with the largest number of sales on the last collection day will go to MacDonald's during school hours. There are prizes for high salesmen, also. Junior Class officers who are helping with the sale are James Rikard, Bob Smith, Annette Putnam and Sandra Cobb. Also helping are 18 homeroom co-captains.

All students interested in joining the Spanish Club should pay their dues to Mrs. Ana Taylor between 8:00 and 8:20 a.m. this

Senior homerooms elected Carrousel nominees Thursday, Sept. 11. They are Ann Ballard, Kim Dixon, Leslie Hamrick, Sandi Horn, Jolean McHone, Lynn Peeler, and Stacie Rhea.

The Mountaineer Staff sold baked items, thumbprint pictures, lemonade and watermelon slices at the Bethware Fair as a fund-raising project. Mrs. Mary Taylor and Mrs. Susan Patterson sponsor the staff.

Sophomores and Juniors interested in taking the PSAT, (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) should pay the \$5.00 registration fee to Mrs. Johnson by next week.

The Milestones Staff began selling yearbook orders in Wednesday, homeroom September 17.

Parking stickers will be sold CHURCH BENEFIT

Ladies of Kings Mountain Pentecostal Holiness Church will sponsor a yard sale this Saturday for benefit of the church. The sale will be held at 508 Branch St. and begins at 9

KIWANIS CLUB

Gregg Birskovich of Commercial Shearing Co. will be guest speaker at Thursday night's meeting of the KM Kiwanis Club at 6:45 p.m. at the Woman's Club.



News

JANICE SCOGGINS throughout this week. The price of the stickers is \$1.00. Any car without a sticker after Friday will be ticketed.

Mrs. Mary Taylor, who teaches English and is cosponsor of the Journalism department, attended the UNCC Writing Workshop Sept. 5 and 6. Mrs. Taylor was the only

teacher from Kings Mountain to attend the project.

During a meeting on Sept. 8, the National Honor Society elected officers. Jeff Lineberger is President; Boo Robinson, Vice-President; and Janice Scoggins, Secretary/Treasurer. Terry Bumgardner is the club's homecoming nominee.

AUCTION FARM MACHINERY SATURDAY, SEPT. 27, 1980 10 A.M.

HARRY MURPHY - OWNER - YORK, S.C. SALE LOCATION: From York, S.C., Take Hwy, 161 North 7 miles to Sale Site. From Kings Mountain, N.C. Take Hwy. 161 11 miles to Sale Site. Watch for signs!

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Massey Ferguson 275 Diesel, P.S.

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NOTE: Mr. Murphy has sold his farm and no longer needs his farm equipment. These tractors, combine, and majority of his equipment are in excellent condition. If you need to purchase good used equipment, don't miss this auction.

TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK - SALE RAIN OR SHINE DEALERS MUST HAVE TAX NUMBERS - NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS SALE CONDUCTED BY

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