

Local Programs Aug. 7-13, 1982

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Carroll O'Connor
and Denise Miller
of 'Archie Bunker's
Place'



This Week's Movies

By Judith Crist

Sunday, ABC	The Bad News Bears	Tuesday, CBS	The Solitary Man
Sunday, ABC	A Star Is Born	Wednesday, ABC	The Renegades
Sunday, NBC	The Archer	Wednesday, CBS	Thin Ice
Monday, NBC	Thou Shalt Not Kill	Friday, ABC	American Hot Wax

Nostalgia's the keynote of this network-movie week with a recall of the early days of rock and roll, the return of the one and only Morris Buttermaker and the ghost of Esther Blodgett.

1978's **American Hot Wax**, the one theatrical newcomer, takes us back to 1959 and a fact-fiction account of the career of Alan Freed, the influential disc jockey of the '50s who popularized the phrase "rock and roll" for the music that the white Establishment discriminated against and that his young audiences relished. The thin plot involves Freed, played by Tim McIntire, with his chores as a deejay and with preparations for a first anniversary rock-and-roll show at the Brooklyn Paramount; it touches on the payola problems that provided authorities with ammunition against the "corrupting" influences of the music.

But the plot isn't a major factor in this recall of a musical era, with Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis and Screamin' Jay Hawkins making guest appearances to lend period authenticity supplemented by "ersatz" impersonations—most notably by a group called "The Chesterfields." *Saturday Night Live*'s Laraine Newman makes her screen debut as an aspiring songwriter (her songs indicate she wound up being Carole King) and Moosie Drier contributes a touching bit as the president of the Buddy Holly fan club. But what basically comes through is the sound of a decade.

The sound and plot and characters of any number of TV series are reflect-

ed in the week's second newcomer, **The Renegades**, a TV pilot that has not yet spawned a series. Written by Rick Husky and Steven De Souza, this collection of clichés offers us a police lieutenant who recruits seven youth-gang leaders to serve as "undercover cops" to help him find a shipment of stolen guns. Naturally the lieutenant's boss, a snarly captain, is opposed to the plan and forces the lieutenant to bet his badge on the recruits' good behavior. The seven young gangsters are, of course, a sort of mini-UN, including one WASP, one Oriental, four swarthy Latin and/or American Indian types and one female. Do the kids get into trouble? Is the lieutenant's badge at stake? Do the kids solve the case? Does the lieutenant make them a permanent squad? Does this movie break fresh ground in any direction? Don't ask.

To more than compensate, there's the return of Morris Buttermaker, the unforgettable coach of the one and original **The Bad News Bears**, Michael Ritchie's delightful 1976 film about a bottom-of-the-barrel kids' baseball team. Walter Matthau's Buttermaker gets first-rate support from Tatum O'Neal's Amanda and Jackie Earle Haley's Kelly—but on this fifth go-round you can relish every character in this sharp-eyed commentary on kids and grown-ups at competitive play.

The week's second theatrical repeat is of 1976's **A Star Is Born**, wherein Barbra Streisand does her best to ex-

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