

Questions for JOANNE BROUGH

June 21, 2003

Thomas J. Pucher asked producer Joanne Brough, a driving force in the *Falcon Crest* crew, questions about her work on the set.

Joanne Brough's answers are in bold print.



I have a few questions on your *Falcon Crest* years.

You have a worthy goal and I will try to help.

How did you enjoy working on the *Falcon Crest* set?

I loved working on the *Falcon Crest* set. We were like a family.

How did you like filming on location in the Napa Valley?

I also loved filming on location in the Napa Valley each year, a very beautiful place with wonderful restaurants.

Joanne Brough, one of *Lorimar's* core staff members, today.

Are you still in contact with anyone from the cast & crew?

I am mostly in contact with Jane Wyman, but I no longer live in Hollywood. I have semi retired and teach at a Midwest college part time.

Who were you favorite cast members to work with?

I liked all the cast members, they were all friendly and professional. I probably had more personal contact with Jane Wyman and David Selby.

What was your most memorable scene?

The most memorable scene was when Melissa burned down *Falcon Crest*. A close second was when Maggie's car drove into San Francisco Bay and Chase rescued her and their baby.

What was your favorite storyline?

I did not have a favorite storyline. Many were fun to develop and produce.

You were given credit as executive program supervisor during the show's earlier years, as executive producer of seasons 6 through 8 and as consulting producer for season 9. What was the exact difference between your various duties in the process of producing the series?

When I was Executive Program Supervisor I was also Vice President of Creative Affairs at *Lorimar* and supervised all their shows, which included reading all scripts, viewing all dailies, making editing notes on all episodes, etc.

As Executive Producer I shared responsibility for the entire show and did not work on many other projects.

As Consulting Producer I consulted with the new producers whenever they had a question about past storylines, but also spent most of my time working on new projects for *Republic Pictures Television*.

Falcon Crest underwent dramatic changes in its 8th and especially 9th season. What do you think were the reasons for that development?

All Soap Operas undergo changes as time goes on in order to keep the budget in line and in order to bring in "fresh blood", new actors and storylines. In Season 9, the new Executive Producer, Jerry Thorpe, brought in a new staff and many new actors and storylines. The tone became darker then.

We never quite understood the relationship between Richard Channing and Michael Sharpe: When Sharpe was introduced in the première episode of season 9, he mentioned he was a "second cousin to Richard", whereas, in episode 208, he said to his sister Lauren she was given custody for Richard's sons since she was a "distant relation to Maggie". Now, the question is if the Sharpes were related either to the Channings or to Maggie's family. In case the Sharpes were related to Maggie's family, that opens up one more question: Were they relatives to Maggie's biological parents (Charlotte Pershing & Oliver Donovan) or to her adoptive parents (Paul Hartford & Margaret Griffith)?

I cannot answer this question. I am equally confused.

What are your current projects?

After *Falcon Crest* I returned to *Lee Rich Productions* at *Warner Bros.*, who had purchased *Lorimar*. I was Executive Producer of *Killer Rules*, an NBC movie filmed in Rome with Sela Ward and also of *America's Missing Children*, Michael Landon's last appearance.

I then spent 5 years in Asia as an Executive Producer and Advisor. First 2 years in Singapore where I set up, trained and Executive Produced their first English language drama department and drama, *Masters of the Sea*. It was the first English drama produced in Asia. A police series followed and a family drama and they are still developing new shows and producing old ones. Next 3 years in Indonesia where I did the same thing only this time in another language. I Executive Produced 26 episodes of *Dua Sisi Mata Uang (Two Sides of the Coin)* before unrest in the country forced us to return to the US.

Presently I teach TV courses part time and produce student shows for PBS. I am also working on various TV projects long distance, thanks to e-mail. I am consulting on two screenplays written by Singapore writers, one TV series by an Australian and one Hollywood series. My agent is keeping me busy even now. I am also writing a book about experiences in Asia and sometimes speaking before various organizations.

Would you like to resume your producing duties if there were a *Falcon Crest* reunion?

I would be willing to consult on a *Falcon Crest* reunion movie but I think most of the cast has aged. Two *Dallas* reunion movies have been produced.

Do you know if any props are available somewhere?

The *Warner Bros.* prop department might know.

Do you remember who designed the falcon coat of arms for the opening titles?

The Coat of Arms was probably done by the Art Department, with input from Earl Hamner, but I am not certain about this.

Thank you so much for taking the time to do this interview.

Best of luck and thank you for your interest in *Falcon Crest*. Please keep me posted regarding to your progress.