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This Week In Hollywoodland

From our Showbiz correspondent Tommy Garrett

This week in Hollywoodland was a typical hot summer week. But lots of cool things occurred and some of them were even fun. A luncheon on Sunset Blvd. with longtime friend Lauralee Bell was entertaining and exciting. She has just completed a pilot for the Internet and her beautiful mum Lee managed to get her longtime friend Phyllis Diller to join the cast of "Family Dinner." Lauralee and her handsome husband Scott are excited about where this may all go.

Two big stars celebrated birthdays this week. Clint Eastwood turned 79. Can you believe it? The star of many westerns and the sometimes movie producer and director shows no signs of slowing down in his life or career. **Eastwood** is currently working on two projects for **Warner Bros Studios**. Actor **Zachary Quinto** turned 32. He's still beaming from the success of his hit film "**Star Trek**" and promoting it across the globe. Quinto looks forward to returning to the **NBC** hit series "**Heroes**" this fall.

While **Beverly Hills** celebrity reality couple **Spencer Pratt** and **Heidi Montag** return home from the jungles of **Costa Rica** and the set of "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out Of Here!" Actor Daniel Baldwin will be arriving in their place. He joins his brother Stephen Baldwin as well as Lou Diamond **Phillips** in the jungle where they try to survive the wilds of Mother Nature.

Doris Day's fourth husband Barry Comden died this week in his Los Angeles home. They divorced in 1981. But Comden was helpful in getting **Doris** a line of pet foods which bare her name. He often joked that **Doris Day** was better suited for friendships with dogs than being married.

Actor Brian Austin Green is the latest "Beverly Hills 90210" star to make a career change re cently. **Brian** has signed a contract to join the hit teen soap "One Tree Hill" this coming season and is excited about the change. While "90210" co-star Tori **Spelling** remains in a battle with her mother **Candy** Spelling, who has recently told a reporter that Tori allegedly caused her father's death. She claims Aaron Spelling died of a broken heart when Tori decided to have no more to do with the family.

Actor Robert Pattinson of "Twilight" fame spent the week in Italy while filming the sequel "New Moon." Though Pattinson and his costar and leading lady Kristen Stewart deny they are a couple. The two were inseparable all week. It's great publicity for the new film, which has just wrapped and the third film will began shooting in eight weeks. Pattinson is in Hollywood now for some rest and re-

Watching the VH1 reality series, "New York Goes To Work" was painful this week. The Monday night episode had fans choosing yet another job for the star who is named **Tiffany Pollard**, **AKA New York**. Previous positions had her working at a hog farm and working as an insect exterminator. Those positions may have been funny, but this week's position was one of a trainer of exotic animals. How sad for the animals which included lions, hawks and tigers to be toyed with for reality TV. How appalling that beautiful animals are being used for entertainment.

Tiffany more than once turned her back on the lion and was warned that doing so could put her life and the trainer's in jeopardy. However, out of fear and for the camera, **Tiffany** did turn her back several times on the majestic creature. What a tragedy it would have been had she and/or the trainer or her cameramen been injured because of her formed the utter standing of the jured because of her fear and the utter stupidity of the show's producers by placing these beautiful wild creatures in danger for the sake of "Reality TV!" No wonder Susan Boyle in the U.K. had a nervous breakdown after losing the top spot in "Britain's Got Talent 2009." These reality shows have done such a disservice to hardworking celebrities as well as animals who are being put in danger for the sake of higher ratings.

Word on the street in Hollywood is that Oscar winning actress Kate Hudson is hot for A-Rod, Alex Rodriguez is a star baseball player for the NY Yankees. Kate deserves some happiness and so does Alex. Good luck to them. And Vanessa Minnillo hints to friends and in the press that she and boyfriend Nick Lachey may be tying the knot in the near future.

Until next week, so long.

Your friend, Tommy

LAURALEE BELL

A.K.A. SUPERWOMAN

■ BEVERLY HILLS

Lauralee Bell is a name fans all over the world know. Bell was one of the most popular heroines ever on the CBS soap, "The Young & the Restless" which was created by her parents, Bill Bell, Sr. and his beautiful wife Lee Phillip Bell. Lauralee Bell always pre-ferred to create her own op-

portunities rather than have them handed to her so she left the cocoon of the show she grew up on, "The Young and the Restless," the #I rated soap, in 2005 to try her luck in other areas.

She was the female lead in her first film, "Carpool Guy," the lead in the 2006 Lifetime movie, "Past Sins," and one of the leads in the properties of the l upcoming feature that is a prequel to an iconic film.

In between, she's raising two very active kids and owning "On Sunset," a celebrity-friendly fashion boutique that refuses to disclose its well-heeled customer base for self-promotion. In her spare time, she's been writing a series or two to develop as well as a book. She also guested on "CSI: Mi-ami," the #1 primetime

show.
While "The Young and the Restless" has always been produced and taped in Hollywood since its start, the Rell family continued the Bell family continued

the Bell family continued living in Chicago until 1986.

Their roots were there and Lauralee and her two older brothers, Bill Jr., now the president of Bell-Phillip Television and Bradley, now the executive producer of "The Bold and the Beautiful," all attended school in the Windy City. Lee Phillip Bell hosted

her own television show in Chicago on the CBS affili-ate, WBBM-TV. A winner of some 15 Emmys for the program, she was one of the city's most recognised per-

city's most recognised per-sonalities.

"My mum got stopped every two seconds," recalls a proud Lauralee, "but it wasn't until I had kids of my own that I realised my mum is Superwoman, she was al-ways there for us and we were unaware of her heavy workload."

Her parents, particularly William Snr., commuted regularly between Chicago and Los Angeles. On vacations and holidays, the children were delighted to be able to accompany them, especially Lauralee who at age nine asked to be allowed to be a non-speaking extra in an episode of "The Young and the Restless."

At 13, she was rewarded with a brief scene and a few lines to speak. Succeeding trips found her in four-day and six-day efforts in what was slowly becoming a recurring role. But now she wasn't asking -- she was being asked to do the show because of something that she had no idea she was cre-

ating: fan mail.
Viewers were charmed



Lauralee Bell

y the guileless and natural actress -- someone they'd like their own daughters to be like. They were writing to the network to say that, at last, here was a teenager to whom their own children could relate, rather than to a slick, older actress playing the part of a teenager.

Most of the year was still

spent in Chicago until the family moved to LA in 1986. Lauralee became a full-time cast member of "The Young and the Rest-less" as Christine "Cricket" Blair (Romalotti Williams Blair -- you know those soap marriages never last).

Her castmates accepted her and the audience embraced Lauralee Bell. She was voted "Favorite Soap Opera Actress" in 'Teen magazine's national poll shortly after joining the cast and in 1999 she was nomi-nated by fans and won the Outstanding Supporting Actress Award at the "Soap Opera Awards.

She was the hottest day-time star in France for many years as well as their most frequent TV Guide cover subject. She guest-starred on the season finale of "Walker, Texas Ranger," hosted television specials for E! Entertainment Television, PAX-TV and co-hosted a talk show pilot. On October 4, 1997, Lauralee married photographer Scott Martin in a storybook wed-ding in Santa Barbara. The ding in Santa Barbara. The couple had their first child Christian, in January, 2001 and their second, Samantha,

in October, 2002.
In 1999, during a three-month break from the show, Lauralee fulfilled a lifelong dream by opening her own clothing boutique, "On Beverly Blvd."

In Spring, 2004, Bell closed her first store and

opened the even more suc-

cessful, "On Sunset." Bell's handpicked staff at "On Sunset" act as a customer's personal stylist and the bou-tique has attracted attracted Hollywood's elite as regular customers.

Bell plans to spend this decade transforming her ideas into reality. Next project? Creating her own projects when she is not acting. And enjoying the free time now that her youngest

entered kindergarten.

Lauralee Bell, like
mother like daughter, is also a "Superwoman." So there is absolutely no doubt the beautiful star will achieve all of her dreams. With hard work and dedication that is part of her DNA, she's bound to succeed.

Bell's latest project is an amazing online series called "Family Dinner," which is created/produced by Lauralee Bell and her husband Scott Martin and write. band, Scott Martin and writ-ten and directed by Bell. Martin-Bell Productions shot two three-minute "Family Dinner" webisodes with Lauralee as the attenwith Lattrated as the attention-starved mom of three, her former "Young and Restless" castmate, Aaron Lustig, as her husband, comedy legend Phyllis Diller as her mother in law and Dan her mother-in-law, and Dan Cortese of MTV, "Veronica's Closet" and "Rock Me Baby," as the re-Cortese

ality show producer.

Bell has tapped into the dysfunctional family dynamic that everyone thinks characterizes their own family so everyone can easily relate to this experience. This is the most amazing

show I've seen in decades. Phyllis Diller has been telling me for years that she's retired. Thankfully Phyllis has not kept her word. She's absolutely amazing in the series.

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Television's Gold Standard

★The Gold Standard this week has girl power written all over it. Since my childhood I was impressed with the Peanuts series, Charlie Brown. Lucy was constantly using the mantra, "Girl Power." For good reason it seems. What makes women on Television who are powerful and smart so sexy, watchable and exciting? Lets look at the three ladies in question and figure out why. Susan Flannery, Constance Towers and Michelle Stafford each showcased this week what strength, beauty, smarts and power can do for women as well as powerful men.

Susan Flannery who portrays Stephanie Forrester on the most watched show in the world, "The Bold & the Beautiful" started out the week in a way we've not seen in over two decades. Stephanie has been outsmarted and in fact used by Bill Spencer. How did that happen? Stephanie is known as the smartest woman in Los Angeles, a brilliant businesswoman and a powerful player in the high end fashion industry. But her hatred for ex husband Eric and his nymph wife Donna clouded Queen Stephanie's mind when it came to trusting Bill Spencer, who runs a media and publishing empire. Stephanie who is always in control was told point blank that she would not be getting her way and that Spencer had in-

deed lied to her about their business partnership.

"This is no partnership, you work for me!" Were the words Bill Spencer asserted to a woman who packs a six shooter at times and has been known to slap her en-emies around like flies. She had to regroup, go talk to her ex husband Eric and admit she had been wrong in working with Bill Spencer to bring Eric and his fashion house down. Stephanie's shock when she realized that she's helped Bill Spencer in his quest to take over her family's company and that he was in fact in charge and had no real feelings about working with her, only to use her to get his goal. One thing was for sure by week's end. Stephanie was more determined than ever to teach Bill Spencer not to cross her again. But Spencer is now played by Don Diamont, who is an amazing actor and it makes Stephanie even more exciting of a character, when

she's slightly vulnerable.
Susan Flannery has played it all over the years. But the Stephanie Forrester who has been outwitted is something she has shown she's capable of playing as well. Susan is a force of nature as an actress. She is more surprising than a hurricane. You just don't know where

Michelle Stafford who portrays Phyllis Newman started the week off with shock and pain after learning from her husband Nick that he was no longer in love with her and wanted to go back to his first wife Sharon. Stafford has been here before. She worked opposite Michael Damian and amazing superpower actress Lauralee Bell in the nineties when Phyllis was trying to keep her marriage to Danny together, while he wanted to return to his true love and first wife Christine, played by Lauralee.

This time was different. Phyllis and Michelle are both a bit more mature and Michelle is a bit more powerful in her performance as surprising and unbelievable as that is to grasp. Michelle Stafford was a Bill Bell, Sr. find. He knew how to cast great actresses. He'd cast Jess Walton, Melody Thomas Scott and the ever ageless Jamie Lyn Bauer. But when Nick told Phyllis that it was not because of Sharon he wanted to leave her. You felt Phyllis's pain and despair knowing that her husband was either lying to her intentionally or unintentionally.

Michelle Stafford is nothing like her after ego Phyllis.

How does she manage to get inside the skin of her character with such grace and stunning ease? It's like watching Olivia de Havilland in "The Snake Pit" when Phyllis spent the week standing up for herself, fighting for her matrices while their to control her inserts while the marriage while trying to control her innate urges to lash out and become even more dastardly than before. Phyllis finalized the week in the arms of the man she once loved,

Next week we know that Stafford will simply shock and awe us even more. Michelle Stafford proves that a girl can take care of herself. Phyllis proves that a woman scorned is not to be underestimated.

And how does "General Hospital" end a week? Bring ing our beloved Helena Cassadine back in order to rid Port Charles and the world of her longtime nemesis Luke Spencer. With Luke out of the way, Helena will have her

master plan prepared for the denizens of the city.

Constance Towers is so shockingly beautiful that we often forget that she's a classically trained actress who has worked opposite some of the best and most famous leading men of our time. John Wayne, William Holden, Glenn Ford, Yul Brynner, Michael Douglas, you name it.

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Observer Victorian Sport

REVEALED: BIG PLANS FOR RACING

mapped out a positive for the Sport of Kings over the next five years with

big pluses.
It's certainly good news for country racing clubs with meetings increasing from 420 in 2009-2010, to 437 in year of the plan in 2013-

This is great news as most of the country clubs feared for their existence especially in the current climate.

There is a condition with clubs on a performance contract to retain their dates

Another condition is that future dates will be on a TAB wagering performance, simply if your turnover goes down rapidly, you could be in a bit of "froth and bubble".

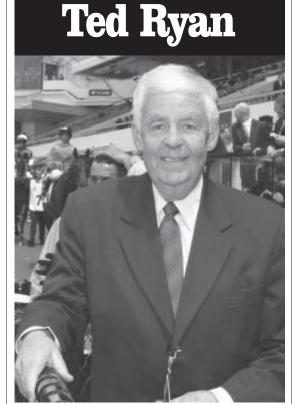
In this day and age

with so many corporate bookies coming into racing, it will become harder to maintain a steady flow of punters wagering on the TAB only.

On the other side of the ledger, metropolitan meetings will decrease from 115 meetings in 2009-2010 to 111 by 2013-2014.

Another big move will be the Cranbourne Training Centre becoming a racing venue in the third year of the plan, subject to certain conditions.

Already Cranbourne



will conduct a number of night meetings ion 2009-

Good news for the Pakenham Racing Club, subject to the sale of the current Pakenham Racecourse, which is being quoted as being worth \$45

to \$55 million, being sold. I don't think they will have a worry in the world there as people are clamouring for land, especially at a cheaper rate than that available closer to Melbourne.

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opportunity to convert unwanted goods into instant cash - without spending a cent. You advertise **ABSOLUTELY FREE!**

It's envisaged that Pakenham's new racing and training venue at Nar Nar Goon, subject to a resolution of other issues, will conduct 30 day meetings in 2013-214.
With regard to synthetic track racing they

will continue subject to the outcome of current performance reviews.

wilight /night racing will be conducted on up to two nights of the week for 10 months of the season (excluding winter).

of the spring racing carnival through to Easter Monday inclusive with at least one meeting per weekend and on each public holiday.

Racing Victoria Limited and Country Racing Victoria will allocate \$ 50,000 annually for picnic racing capital improvements to meet OH&S requirements.

Additional marketing support will be provided

requirements.
Additional marketing support will be provided by RVL and CRV to picnic race clubs.
This is sensational news as a number of keen racegoers enjoy the laid back style of picnic meetings with a country atmosphere.
I love them and attend when I can as they have an atmosphere of their own.
Try it, I am sure you will enjoy the casual day out with great racing.
If you're a keen punter you'll find the majority of Bookies fielding will let you on.

International flavour at Werribee

■ Good new at last for the ill-fated Werribee track, with news that the Racecourse precinct will become the new home for International horses whilst in Victoria from next year.

This will necessitate a reconstruction of the course proper and the development of infrastructure at the

At the end of a five year period, Werribee, would host eight meetings by the end of that period.

This is good and bad news for the racing folk at Werribee as it has always been a popular track for many over the years, with its close proximity to Melbourne, only about 25 kilometres from the CBD.

On the other hand it will delight International trainers and connections as you are not far from the Number one track Flemington to float your horses especially close to Spring Carnival time.

Well done Michelle

Young woman jockey, Michelle Payne, part of the Payne dynasty, has flown to Ireland to join the powerful Aidan O'Brien stables.

It's envisaged that Michelle will spend a couple of months with one of the World's top stables.

Still in her early twenties, it's a great experience for the very likeable young rider.

It's the second time that she has ridden for O'Brien having been there a couple of years back.



Michelle Payne Photo: Slickpix, (03) 9354 5754

Lauralee Bell

Bell sat down with me this week to tell me about her new project "Family Dinner" and what has been going on in her life and career since leaving "Y&R" four years ago.

Q: What an amazing concept. I don't think I ever considered seeing you produce and star in a show on the Internet. It's a hilarious show.

Who came up with the concept of the show.

Who came up with the concept of the show,

A: "I did a long time ago. I did it as a half hour format. Then what I started to realize was, that we had a talented group of friends. We then asked them to become a part of it and they used their talents to contribute to the series. It was what my dad had had always tought me. If you have a set and some rich always taught me. If you have a set and some rich characters. You can make anything exciting and interesting to the audience. In today's economy, Hollywood is even downsizing and going backwards and becoming creative all over again. This is a one set show. We're going to even ask fans/ viewers to offer ideas and contributions and that's a way for them to get a writing contribution credit."

Q: I've known Phyllis Diller for years. She

Q: I've known Phyllis Diller for years. She never slows down, even though she continues to tell me, she's retired. How did you get her involved with this project?

A-"Tommy, it is amazing to work with her. Phyllis (Diller) and my mom Lee (Phillip Bell) have been friends for years. So when Scott and I were working on the script, my mom gave Phyllis the script and within a few weeks I got a call from her saying she had to be the mother in law, the grandmother in this. It was a dream come true. Phyllis Diller is an icon. She is one of the most fascinating mother in this. It was a dream come true. Phyllis Diller is an icon. She is one of the most fascinating and talented women in the business. She's up there with Lucille Ball and she has such great instincts in her acting and comedy. When we filmed her, my husband Scott and I looked at each other and at the same time said, this is our pilot!"

Q: You and Aaron Lustig have amazing chemistry on screen. Just a decade ago, you and he were embroiled in a major storyline on "Y&R." Do you think that is why you two have such comfort working together on this project?

A-"Yes, I've known Aaron for decades. He was great to work with on Y&R and he's wonderful to work with on this series. He has a great sense of

work with on this series. He has a great sense of timing and he knows how to improvise. Our scenes so far are so funny and amazing to do. I'm hoping the audience will enjoy them as well. I think my years on Y&R gave me the ability and knowledge to be able to do this type of work and improvising is what it's all about. Making choices as an actor is half the fun. The writing on this project is exciting half the fun. The writing on this project is exciting and raunchy. You know me, Tommy! It's what I was born to do. Aaron and I have some great stuff coming up. He's a wonderful actor to work opposite. The kids are great as well. Our little son Jeremy in the series doesn't say much. So we're looking forward to fans telling us what they want to hear come out of Jeremy's mouth." Bell says laughing

Pear come out of Jerenty's mouth. Bell says laughing.

Q: Your husband Scott is also involved with this project. What did he do?

A: "It's amazing to watch Scott work. When I took him the breakdown and gave him the pages of dialog and screen directions, he did what my dad always did. He had the ability to just use a red pen, scratch through it all and make changes. Scott being a photographer can visualize things better than anyone I know. It was Scott who sat in the booth and watched all the monitors and decided how and which way we'd even film and shoot the dining which way we'd even film and shoot the dining room. Having this one set, it was important to utilize as much as possible to get the most out of our scenes. Scott was brilliant and able to do so. He created the visual and used his knowledge to make every shot effective."

Daytime Gold Standard

From Page 34

★But Anthony Geary remains one of her all time favorite leading men to play with.

Helena has a goal in mind, no one except her talented writers helmed by Robert Guza know what it is. But Towers gleaming blue eyes give us a hint now and then, that we are going to have a lot of fun trying to find out what she's truly up to. Towers has mastered evil and villainy in a way that is as delicious to watch as chocolate is to eat. But those of us who know her, realize it's all esting. The extress is one of the piecet ledies on the all acting. The actress is one of the nicest ladies on the planet. And yes, one of the top five beauties of the last

Helena's twists and turns are infamous to fans of the series. Here's hoping that we see more of her next week on "GH." Here's hoping Susan Flannery's Stephanie will teach that upstart Spencer who he's dealing with. And as for Phyllis on "Y&R." Lets just hope Sharon doesn't get in any crosswalk while Phyllis's Mercedes is on the same street. These ladies prove Charlie Brown's pal Lucy is right. "Yay for Girl Power!"

