don't breathe a word of it...

'round the theatre that the reason for the delay was because Vice President Spiro Agnew was an hour late. A Democratic mass of angry rumbles began, although I felt sure that even in its wildest dreams our current government doesn't feel secure enough to hold up a show, of practically any sort! Later, Gregory Peck, who must have worn out his nerves producing the show, revealed that at the very last minute some fire hazard problem made it necessary to build a new apron onto one of the stages. And you know how fast building goes in this country today. (Don't get me wrong, I believe it's worse everywhere else!)

To add a fashion note, I should tell you that Shirlee Fonda decorated her hot pants adorably, but the man who appeared in hot pants and dinner jacket looked about as absurd as anything I've seen to date. Needless to say,

nobody knew who he was. Or cared to.

At Al Hamel's celebration party for the renewal of "Mantrap," Ray Milland was telling me how he found it impossible to complete his novel while living in Hollywood. Stephen Boyd may figure the Oscar doesn't mean a thing, but Ray hasn't had his phone stop ringing since all the excitement. So he's off to live in the south of France for the time being, so he can concentrate.

By the way, some of the best films you see starring Ray on late night TV are ones he directed himself. I asked him why he didn't stick to it and he said, "Impossible to get finance!" Well, that's what happens when you make good movies. He also said how much he hates catching himself on the late movies, because it appalls him to see himself with his shock of black Welsh hair, which has now faded into the limber-lost:

Back to Stephen Boyd for a second, he told me that he got his start in movies when he was so broke that he was playing a guitar for the theatre queues in London. Just shows you, you never know when your big chance will come.

How ever did they overlook me when casting "Five Desperate Women"? I noticed they got Julie Sommars and Stefanie Powers, but surely desperation doesn't begin and end in that young generation. Well, I shouldn't really complain—I have noticed that most of the good things in my life, at least, seem to come around again. And I'm not only talking about La Costa. I watched those tired golfers Robert Stack, Jackie Coogan (my how he's

grown!), Fred MacMurray, Gene Barry, Don Adams, Don Drysdale and Max Baer come staggering in after their rounds of healthy sport—Oh how glad I am my sport is lying in the sun—and other things! But at the same time, I knew that in a few weeks I'd be back there watching that staggering group of celebrity tennis players during their celebrity tennis play weekend.

Some of the mates, like me, spend their time in the Spa rather than on the playing fields of La Costa. But it's interesting to watch how they all manage to perk up at night, regardless of how heavy the day has been. I suppose it's no news to you that Monte Hall makes a great M.C., as he did at the comedians' auction. But I bet you didn't know that if you close your eyes and just listen to Gary Morton, he sounds just like Milton Berle. I suddenly noticed that while he was making the introductions for the La Costa awards.

Loved Flip Wilson's answer to the query, "Does it bother you to dress up in women's clothing almost every week?" Said he, "It does, but the devil makes me do it!" And isn't it strange what an attractive girl he makes of Geraldine?

Robert Reed came up with quite a good idea as to why many of the good causes of the world seem to die by the wayside: "Our activists and revolutionaries have no sense of humor about themselves," He went on to talk somewhat about Jane Fonda, saying that if she had an ability to laugh at herself, she could probably become a real force in our society. But she takes it all too seriously, as if she were the first person to ever think of it all. That's the real generation gap. The young don't know that everybody felt that way when they were young, or practically everybody.

Talking of Robert Reed, are you watching "The Brady Bunch"? I just love it. Love, Pam

Ted's wife and sister were among many who turned out for the first exhibit of Kennedy Family paintings in Cambridge, Mass. Three of JFK's paintings are displayed; Teddy's "Red Shack" went up for bid at a private auction to benefit the Kennedy Library. Right: David thrilled this gal, but wait till you turn to page 82.

