

P3820 PICKET FENCES (9/18/1992-4/24/1996) [TV SERIES]

Series summary: Melodrama set in the fictional small town of Rome, Wisconsin. It is centered on the Brock Family. Jimmy Brock (Skerritt) is the Sheriff. His wife Jill (Baker) is the town doctor. They have three children: Kimberly, 18, Matthew, 13 and Zachary, 10. A lot happens in this small town from bizarre murders to rape, assault, drunk driving, kidnapping & spontaneous human combustion. The residents of Rome grapple with the moral and legal issues involved which are often resolved in Judge Henry Bone's (Walston) courtroom.

Frank the potato man (10/23/1992)

Credits: director, Ron Lagomarsino ; writers, Mark B. Perry David E. Kelley.

Cast: Tom Skerritt, Kathy Baker, Ray Walston, David Proval.

Summary: The town of Rome is plagued by a mysterious "serial bather," who sneaks into their homes while they are out and takes a bath. The pressure is on for the Sheriff to apprehend the felon. Suspicion falls on Frank the Potatoe Man (Proval) a homeless Vietnam veteran who lives in the woods outside town.

Abominable snowman (1/28/1994)

Credits: director, Bill D'Elia ; writer, David E. Kelley.

Cast: Tom Skerritt, Kathy Baker, Ray Walston, Robert Cornthwaite, David Proval.

Summary: An ethical dilemma develops when Howard Buss (Cornthwaite), who has Alzheimer's disease, proposes to donate his heart to his son who will die without a transplant. In a parallel plot, Frank "Potato Man" Teacher (Proval), a homeless Vietnam vet, sues Rome because city authorities will not allow him to sleep in town. When issuing his decision in the "Potato Man" case, the judge (Walston) states that one third of the 600,000 homeless in the United States are Vietnam veterans. He argues that there is an implied social contract with these men and orders the town to build Teacher a shelter. The judge denies Howard Buss's petition, stating that Alzheimer's is not necessarily a terminal condition. The two plot lines are finally resolved when Frank Teacher is found frozen to death, and his heart is used for the transplant.

Pal Joey (10/6/1995)

Credits: director, Mel Damski ; writers, Nicole Yorkin, Dawn Prestwich.

Cast: Tom Skerritt, Kathy Baker, Ray Walston, Pia Reyes, Art Chudabala, Cu Ba Nguyen, Raymond Ma.

Summary: Courtship rituals in the Hmong refugee community lead to the arrest of a suitor for kidnapping and attempted rape.

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Lowry, Brian. "Picket fences" Variety 348 (Sep 14, 1992), p. 53.
Pond, Steve. "Picket fences' and the man behind them" New York times 141 9Sep
13, 1992), sec. 2, p. 47.
Shales, Tom. "Picket fences': Not exactly Main Street; CBS's uneasy mix of shocks
& quirks" Washington post (Sep 18, 1992), p. D1.
Stahel, Thomas H. "From Eerie, Ind., to Rome, Wis., via Twin Peaks" America 167
(Oct 3, 1992), p. 216-17.
Vittes, Lawrence. "Picket fences" Hollywood reporter (Sep 18, 1992), p. ?

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