

# I Have Lines On Channels 2 & 7

Do you remember the days back in the 1980s and early 90s when cable television was (and some of us still think) having issues and it seemed that every time you turned around, there would be some technical problem? Ok... at least one of my commenting readers does not. Attempts made to correct the scrambled channels and finally you had to call the cable guy who seemed to take forever to arrive. This is a running gag in the deliriously ingenious comedy from the decade of excess aptly entitled *Delirious*.

The late great John Candy stars as Jack Gable, writer on a popular soap opera full of the stock characters, outrageous situations, big hair, shoulder pads, frequent plot twists, aaaaaand serious OVERACTING that frequent the suds. Everything I love to howl at while having the rare occasion to catch a glimpse of during a dull weekday afternoon is there. Through a fateful highway accident, Jack is transported into the world of the soap opera. At first, it is a nightmare until he discovers that he can control the action by simply creating scenes on his typewriter (yes, a few people still used them in 1991). So... he writes himself into the role of the adventurous, handsome (?), rogue Jack Gates.

As I said, stock characters from every soap opera imaginable are present. We have Carter Hedison, the rich industrial head of the central household (played by Raymond Burr). His b-witchy daughter, Rachel (played by Dynasty's Emma Samms). Plus the two sons vying for their father's attention: the outcast with a patch and the terminally ill simpleton. On a side note, the outdoor facade of the Hedison mansion bears a striking similarity to Stately Wayne Manor (60s Batman series).

Also along for the ride are the hapless physician who is the fiancée of Rachel and the goody-two-shoes heroine, Janet (played by Mariel Hemingway). Twists and turns abound and some characters are not who or what they appear to be. One of my favorite bits is the old “Hungarian Rhapsody Number 2 in C-Sharp Minor” by Franz Liszt gag. Not familiar with the classical piece? Think Daffy and Donald and their piano duo from *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*?

I believe a similar movie from the time, [Soapdish](#), got more press but if you love to laugh at the ridiculous nature of everyday suders, check out *Delirious*.

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## Defunct TV

I received another email forward that is worth mentioning today. It was a list of people’s first names followed by a tv show. The idea is that you are supposed to add your name to the list along with a tv show you used to watch that’s not on tv anymore. I was a huge fan of tv as a kid, and I watched it a lot, so it was fun to sit and think about shows that I enjoyed that aren’t on tv anymore. Since you were only supposed to add one show after your name on the email forward, I’m going to share the other shows I was going to put in it, along with imdb links so you can learn about them if you wish:

[Dolphin Cove](#) – This is the show I included with my name in the forward. It was originally an Australian show, but they tried it in the US, and it only aired for one season, if that. I think there were 8 episodes. It was about an American widower who moves to Australia with his 2 children to work with dolphins. His daughter is mute because she is in shock after

witnessing the accident that took her mother's life. She develops special communication skills with the dolphins. Since I was only 10 when the show aired, I don't remember much, I just know that I really liked it and that I was extremely disappointed when it didn't come back on tv. Since it was cancelled abruptly, there were some open-ended plot lines, and I waited for months hoping the show would be back. Of course it was not. If anyone knows how to get it tape or the internet or anything, let me know, I'd love to see it again! Oh, and something interesting I learned from imdb – apparently the show was written by [Peter Benchley](#), the author who wrote [Jaws](#). I read a book by him once called The Beast, and it was pretty scary. Not that Dolphin Cove was scary or anything like that, it's just a note. I'm not sure if he wrote the concept for the show or all the episodes or both, but it doesn't really matter much now anyway.

[The Charmings](#) – I was 9 years old when this show was on and I thought it looked stupid then, if that tells you anything. Still, as a pre-tween girl, the intrigue of a sitcom based on a fairy tale was irresistible, so I gave it a try, and I still found it dumb. The tagline says it all: *"Snow White and Prince Charming fell asleep in the Enchanted Forest... they woke up in Burbank!"* Unbelievably, this show actually WON a primetime Emmy and was nominated for 3 others. True, it won the Emmy for Outstanding Lighting Direction (Electronic) for a Comedy Series, (does that one even still exist?) but still... I guess that magic mirror was truly something to behold. The writing and acting apparently were not however, since the show only lasted for 2 seasons, and they switched Snow Whites after only 6 episodes.

[The Carol Burnett Show](#) – I'm not talking about the well-known show that ran from 1967-1978 since I wasn't around for that; I'm talking about the hour-long show that aired in the early '90's. Each show featured a series of sketches with an awesome cast of supporting actors, and this is where I was

introduced to an actor named [Richard Kind](#), who went on to do shows such as [Mad About You](#) and [Spin City](#). I loved every skit he was in on The Carol Burnett Show of the '90's – they were my favorites. I don't know how long the show lasted because I was very young at this time and there is not much info on it at [imdb.com](#), but I know that it should have lasted longer because it was true family entertainment – very funny for all ages.

[Silver Spoons](#) – Hardly anyone in my generation has forgotten this show. Airing for 5 seasons, it made a star of a young [Rick Schroder](#) (then he was known as Ricky Schroder, a heart-throb for teen girls everywhere!) as a spoiled rich kid who lived in a mansion but faced many of the problems normal teenagers face. His father (played by [Joel Higgins](#), whatever happened to him?) was a toy inventor, so needless to say, their house and the gadgets inside were pretty cool and fun to watch. It's hard to believe this show only lasted for 5 seasons, but then again, it was rerun on so many networks in syndication, and that's where I saw the majority of the episodes I watched. I still remember the theme song, and no, I didn't have to look it up first, which I guess is a little sad, but anyway: *"Here we are, face to face, a couple of Silver Spoons. Hopin to find, we're two of a kind, making a go, making it grow, together..."* I could go on, but you get the idea.

As an avid tv watcher, of course I watched many more shows than the ones I've listed here. These are just the ones that came to my mind today which I thought would make interesting conversation. And, for extra fun, here is a copy of the forward:

How many shows can we come up with that we USED to watch that are no

> longer on TV? Add one and keep going.

> This should be fun and jog our memories. No repeats on the shows please.

> Send to all your friends and back to me.  
> Lisa.....Dolphin Cove  
> Jamy.....Lois and Clark: The New Adventures of Superman  
> Barb.....Little House on the Prairie  
> Dutch.....Dragnet  
> Marilyn.....Friday night fights!!  
> Dutch.....Dynasty  
>  
> Carol.....Streets of Sanfrancisco  
>  
> Cheryl.....St. Elsewhere  
>  
> Lisa.....Here Comes the Brides  
>  
> Toni.....Peyton Place  
>  
> Mary.....Topper  
>  
> Madeline.....Friday Nite Videos  
>  
> Sheila.....China Beach  
>  
> Twyla.....I Remember Mama  
>  
> Sandy.....Dallas  
>  
> Melanie.....The Adventures Of Brisco County  
>  
> Ellen..... Sports Night  
>  
> Karen.....Hawaii 5-0  
>  
> Pat.....Lucy's Toy Shop  
>  
> Karma.....Happy Days  
>  
> Shari.....That Girl

>  
> Bill.....Checkmate  
>  
> Judy.....Amos 'N Andy  
>  
> Peg .....Mickey Mouse Club  
>  
> Ron —— Lucky Strike Hit Parade  
>  
> Paula.....My Three Sons  
>  
> Cindy.....Mary Heart Line  
>  
> Barb.....I Love Lucy  
>  
> Glenda.....Phil Donahue Show  
>  
> MARLENE.....MY LITTLE MARGIE  
>  
> AJ.....Saturday Night Hit Parade  
>  
> June.....The Naked City  
>  
> Jeanie.....Danny Thomas Show  
>  
> Pam.....Bozo The Clown  
>  
> Kim .....Andy Griffith Show  
>  
> Cassie.....30 something  
>  
> Kay.....Saturday Night FRIGHTS (good ol scary movie  
night)  
>  
> Kaye.....Dick Van Dyke  
>  
> Karen Rust .....Father Knows Best (way back)

>  
> Kat D.....Mama's Family  
>  
> Janna.....The Love Boat  
>  
> Dan.....Night Court  
>  
> Maureen.....Once and Again  
>  
> Michele .....Bosom Buddies  
>  
> Jennifer.....The Lawrence Welk Show  
>  
> Marilyn.....Dr. Kildare  
>  
> Diane.....Have Gun Will Travel  
>  
>Phyllis.....Bonanza  
  
>Sharon.....Winky Dink