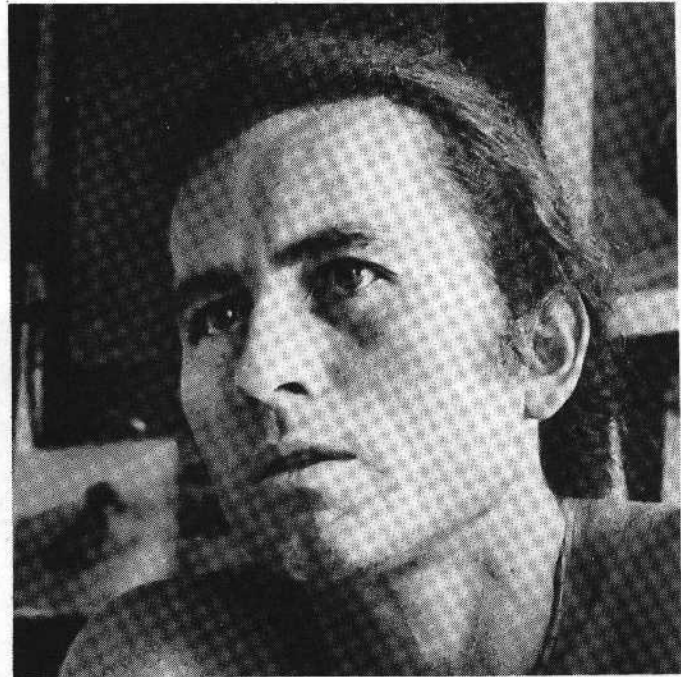
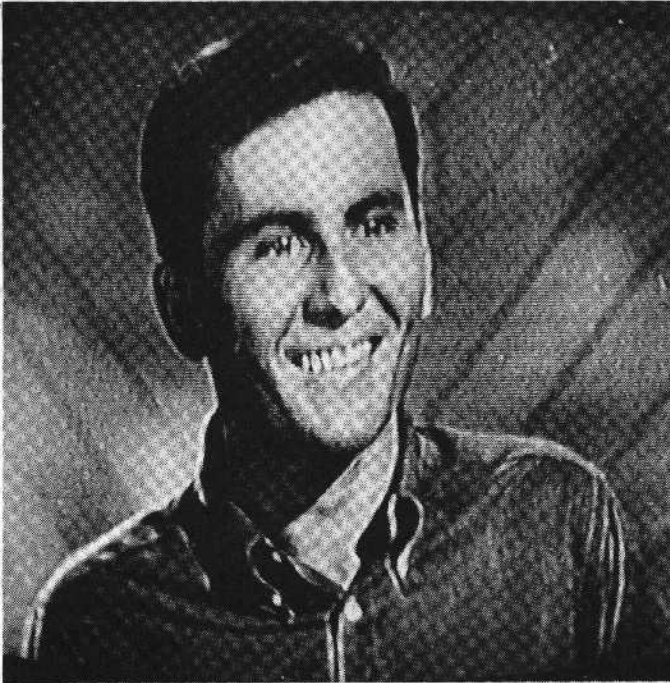


BILL GRAY



Q: Let's get right down to an area you're identified with—situation comedies. You were Bud Anderson on *Father Knows Best* when we were growing up. You were our stereotype, a conditioned response. You're our alter-ego in a way. Our parents had values like Jim and Margaret Andersons'. Then you were not only a part of it as an actor, but as a person too. How do you feel about *Father Knows Best*?

B: An actor has a responsibility for the role he plays. That's why I'm not too happy about *Father Knows Best*. It perpetuated the status quo, and the things I was portraying were not healthy responses. There's no way to avoid the process of imitation and emulation. By portraying situations that the producers wished, you reinforce reactions in the viewers—well that was the way it ought to be 'cause that's the way it was on *Father Knows Best*. Any show is just bristling with examples of it. The last one I saw was one about Betty wanting to become a road surveyor—it was male chauvinism just straight on down. Every show has some bullshit, phoney values.

Q: What did you think about those conditions then?

B: I didn't like them at all. I argued against them tooth and nail, but couldn't change a word. It was an acting job.

Q: How did you get to be Bud Anderson?

B: An interview. A couple of interviews and then I did a test. It was just a regular job.

Q: Are you getting any residuals from that program now?

B: No. I haven't for years. No foreign reruns. I haven't received any money for close to 10 years.

Q: When and where was *Father Knows Best* shot, and how many episodes were there?

B: There were about 200 episodes shot from about 1955-1961 at Columbia Studios in Hollywood.

Q: What were you getting paid at the beginning and end?

B: I'd been an actor since I was six, and I'd gotten my salary up to \$500 a week. The contract was originally written out for \$500 a week. But the morning the contracts were approved, Eugene B.