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## In God We Trust

### 9 Enduring Facts About “The Mary Tyler Moore Show”

1. The Mary Tyler Moore Show is one of the most influential and groundbreaking sitcoms in the history of television. The series follows Mary Richards, played by Mary Tyler Moore, as a 30-something working as an associate producer on a local news series and navigating single life in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

2. Its portrayal of an unmarried working woman finding satisfaction outside of home and family — and openly enjoying sex and dating — was unheard of in the early 1970s, but it’s not just the show’s forward-thinking writing that made it a classic. Its heartfelt relationships, witty writing, and relatable conflicts made the sitcom a hit with audiences and critics alike and cemented Moore (already an established TV star when the show debuted) as an enduring

cultural icon. It went on to win 29 Emmy awards during its seven-season run on CBS. Here are eight things you might not know about the sitcom.

3. Lou Grant Was Ed Asner’s First Comedic Role — And He Almost Blew It. The late Ed Asner is remembered now as a strong, versatile actor, but at the time, some CBS executives questioned whether he’d be up for a prominent role in a comedy series, according to Jennifer Keisin Armstrong’s 2013 book Mary and Lou and Rhoda and Ted. Although he was casting director Ethel Winant’s first choice, the producers had kicked around some other choices before signing on, like The Odd Couple’s Jack Klugman, fellow cast member Gavin McLeod, and Second City alum Shelley Berman, who later had a small role as one of Mary’s dates. Winant pointed to Asner’s role as a journalist in the political drama Slattery’s People as evidence that he had the right vibe. With everybody on board, they brought Asner in for an audition — and he completely biffed it, hitting the famous line, “You’ve got spunk... I hate spunk,” with a dramatic fervor that turned everybody off, according to Armstrong.

The decision had already been made not to cast him when Asner, rather than getting in his car and leaving, turned around and walked right back into the studio. “You just sat there on your asses and let me bomb like that?” he said. “I was terrible. And you know it was terrible and you were too polite to tell me.

Don’t be so f\*\*\*\*\*g polite. Tell me what you want in this character.” They worked through the character for half an hour, then did a second try at the reading. He’d won everyone over except for Moore, but according to Asner, producers boldly told her, “That’s your Lou Grant,” and she was sold.

4. Mary Was Originally Supposed To Be a Divorcée Working for a Gossip Columnist. When the show was in development in the late 1960s, producers James L. Brooks and Allan Burns had pitched Mary as a recent divorcee, writes Armstrong. Moore, who had gone through a divorce herself, was on board. The original vision differed in another major way, too: Mary was supposed to be the assistant to a snappy gossip columnist in Los Angeles. They were less attached to the Los Angeles idea, so that was quickly scrapped for a news show in Minneapolis. As for the divorcee bit, Brooks and Burns considered throwing in the towel but didn’t like the optics of quitting, so they went back to the drawing board and came up with a concept they felt played to Mary’s strength: She was setting off to the big city on her own after a big breakup rather than a doomed marriage.

5. While re-evaluating the show’s premise and setting, Brooks and Burns landed on Minneapolis for a few reasons, according to Mary and Lou and Rhoda and Ted: It stood out against the New York- and Los Angeles-dominated media environment, they loved the dynamic of the city being huge for Mary and tiny for New Yorker Rhoda, and the bad weather could provide plot points and unique visuals. Another thing Minneapolis could provide: coats, and lots of them. The costume department certainly took full advantage, because Mary’s coats went on to become iconic.

6. Betty White Was Supposed

to Be in Only One Episode. One of the series’ most beloved roles didn’t come around until season four, and it was only supposed to be temporary. Betty White played Sue Ann Nivens, an outwardly sweet host of a show called “The Happy Homemaker,” with an aggressive, sex-crazed side. In her first episode, she wantonly tries to seduce Phyllis Lindstrom’s (Cloris Leachman) husband, leading to escalating tension as Phyllis and Sue Ann film a cooking segment about a chocolate soufflé. White was a longtime friend of Moore — and a big fan of the show — before being offered the role, and the episode was such a hit that she was brought on as a regular. The morning after that first episode, according to Armstrong, Moore came to White’s doorstep with a real-life soufflé.

7. It’s Likely the First American Sitcom to Feature Birth Control Pills. On The Dick Van Dyke Show, which Moore starred in from 1961-1966, the actress and her on-screen husband, Dick Van Dyke, slept in separate beds and couldn’t say the word “pregnant.” However, just a few years later on The Mary Tyler Moore Show, not only did Mary have sex out of wedlock, she openly took birth control pills. In a 1972 episode — the same year that a supreme court decision made birth control available to unmarried women in all states — Mary is having dinner with her father when her mother shouts, “Don’t forget to take your pill!” Mary and her father both yelled, “I won’t,” and the embarrassed look on Mary’s face shows that she doesn’t just take a pill, but The Pill. Its realistic portrayal of the sex lives of women in the 1970s walked a fine line for the audiences of the time, with a lot of it hiding in quips like that one. But the series was still open about what it was doing. “I’m hardly innocent,” Mary says in one episode. “I’ve been around. Well, maybe not around, but I’ve been nearby.”

8. Valerie Harper Almost Didn’t Get the Role of Rhoda Because She Was Too Pretty.

Rhoda Morgenstern, Mary’s Bronx-born sidekick, was the last major role to be cast in the series, with more than 50 actresses reading opposite Moore for the part. Valerie Harper nailed her audition as Rhoda and even brought her own cloth for washing Mary’s apartment window in her first scene. But the producers weren’t sure she matched their vision. “She was something we never expected the part to be... which is someone as attractive as she was,” Burns said in Mary and Lou and Rhoda and Ted. “But you’ve got to go with the talent.” Director Jay Sandrich felt strongly Harper was right for the role and suggested she not wear any makeup for her callback. Producers immediately changed their minds when they brought Moore in to read a scene with Harper. Rhoda’s character switched gears a little bit — rather than being unattractive, which is subjective anyway, Rhoda just felt like she was unattractive. “Rhoda felt inferior to Mary, Rhoda wished she was Mary,” Harper later recalled. “All I could do was, not being as pretty, as thin, as accomplished, was: ‘I’m a New Yorker, and I’m going to straighten this shiksa out.’”

9. The Character Ted Baxter Was Based on News Anchor Jerry Dunphy. Jerry Dunphy was a legendary news anchor in the Los Angeles market, known for his head of white hair, and his signoff: “From the desert to the sea to all of southern California.” His style became so well-known in broadcast journalism that he often played a small role as a newscaster in movies, too. He inspired the egotistical, dim-witted Ted Baxter (Ted Knight), although Dunphy had a better head on his shoulders — and much better ratings. Dunphy also inspired the character Kent Brockman on The Simpsons.



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### OPEN FORUM

A program that helps people navigate Medicare is under threat of elimination.

President Trump’s Fiscal Year 2026 draft budget calls for the defunding of many critical programs provided to older persons across the country.

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides Medicare beneficiaries with information, counseling, and enrollment assistance. Its mission is to empower, educate, and help Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers to make

informed health insurance decisions that optimize access to care. Each year, the 54 SHIPs across the U.S. provide nearly 2 million people with personal, free, and local assistance that cannot be replicated through existing tools, such as 1-800-Medicare. In fact, the federal agencies that oversee Medicare—the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Social Security Administration—routinely refer beneficiaries with Medicare questions to SHIP counselors. Because SHIPs do not sell insurance products, they are a vital source of unbiased information about the different options people

have for Medicare coverage. SHIPs also provide assistance with fraud and abuse issues, billing problems, and appeal rights. This Administration has pledged to make America healthy again by empowering individuals with the best information to inform their healthcare choices. SHIPs serve a critical function in working toward this goal, and I urge you to contact your federal legislators today and demand that they preserve funding for this program to continue.  
/s/Mike Donohue  
CEO, Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging

## City of Strawberry Point City Clean-Up Guidelines

### Saturday, May 10 is Citywide Clean-Up Day.

Thank you for following our city clean-up guidelines! Your cooperation helps our team efficiently serve you and keep your community clean and beautiful.

All items must be placed curbside at your normal garbage pickup location by 6:00 a.m. on your clean-up day. All small items must be in a garbage bag or box.

No items shall be put out more than 48 hours in advance.

#### ITEMS ACCEPTED FOR PICKUP:

- Box springs, mattresses, bed frames
- Sofas, tables, chairs, dressers, desks, bookshelves
- Bathroom fixtures, toilets, sinks
- Children’s toys
- Paint cans (must be open and dry)
- Outdoor patio furniture, garden tools, gas powered items (must be fully drained of fuel, oil, hazardous materials)

#### PURCHASE A TAG AT CITY HALL FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- APPLIANCES – Air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, freezers, furnaces, humidifiers, microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, washers, water heaters
- ELECTRONICS – Televisions, computers, monitors
- Tires

#### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:

- Items on trailers, building materials, excessive remodeling materials
- Roofing, shingles, bricks, concrete
- LP tanks, vehicles, vehicle parts
- Chemicals, hazardous materials, wet paint, items of excessive weight or length
- Yard waste, including trees and branches

**EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF MATERIAL MAY NOT BE TAKEN.** All items must be small enough to be picked up by one person. All items will be collected at the discretion of Kluesner Sanitation.

### PUBLIC NOTICE Starmont Community School District

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - AMENDMENT OF CURRENT BUDGET				
STAR MONT School District				
Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025				
The STAR MONT School District will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of amending the current budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025				
Meeting Date/Time: 5/12/2025 06:30 PM		Contact: Katie Taylor		Phone: (563) 933-4598
Meeting Location: High School Conference Room				
There will be no increase in taxes. Any residents or taxpayers will be heard for or against the proposed amendment at the time and place specified above. A detailed statement of: additional receipts, cash balances on hand at the close of the preceding fiscal year, and proposed disbursements, both past and anticipated, will be available at the hearing. Budget amendments are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult <a href="https://dom.iowa.gov/local-gov-appeals">https://dom.iowa.gov/local-gov-appeals</a> .				
EXPENDITURES	Total Budget as Certified or Last Amended	Amendment Increase	Total Budget After Current Amendment	Reason
Instruction	6,405,780	728,000	7,133,780	Staffing costs in excess of negotiated rates
Total Support Services	2,737,530	260,317	2,997,847	Staffing costs in excess of negotiated rates, purchased bus
NonInstructional Programs	537,000	0	537,000	
Total Other Expenditures	1,195,849	0	1,195,849	
Total	10,876,159	988,317	11,864,476	

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### Sunday, May 11

### 8 AM - 1 PM

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