

Cicadas no match for hordes of giant hoppers

Posted on Jun 29, Posted by [Ken Beck](#) Category [Ask Ken Beck](#)

Dear Ken: With the recent invasion of the noisy cicadas, I seem to remember a late 1950s horror film that had giant locust crawling up skyscrapers in a big city. What is the title of that movie and who starred in it?

That was 1957's "Beginning of the End." It starred Peter Graves as the entomologist trying to dig up the dirt on grasshoppers that had been radiated during tests by the Illinois State experimental farm and turned into big bugs. Filmed in New Horrorscope, it was reportedly the first full-length science-fiction thriller made with real live creatures, 200 of them. Of course, the hoppers were superimposed on images of Chicago. It was pretty scary, if you were 8 years old.

Dear Ken: What has happened to the boy who played Little Ricky on "I Love Lucy"?

That is Keith Thibodeaux, 60, who acted under the name of Richard Keith. Among other roles, he played Opie's best pal Johnny Paul Jason on "The Andy Griffith Show." The Louisiana native lives in Jackson, Miss., where he serves as the executive director of his wife's ballet company, Ballet Magnificat. He has written an autobiography, "Life After Lucy."

Dear Ken: I think I've spotted a tattoo of some sort on the side of one of Pauley Perrette's fingers. She plays Abby Sciuto on "NCIS: Naval Criminal Investigation Service." If I'm right, what is it?

New Orleans native Perrette, 42, wears on a finger the numbers 12:21, which stand for Romans chapter 12, verse 21: "Never be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." She moved 14 times as a child when her father's job took the family all over the country and for a time lived in Tennessee. She graduated from high school in Atlanta and recalls growing up by the Chattahoochee River in Roswell, Ga. "I spent a majority of my childhood sitting by the river reading books," she said. "I'd be there all the time with my dogs jumping in and out of the water." Her father lives in Alabama, and she has a sister who lives in the Volunteer State.

Dear Ken: What is Kim Carnes, who had the hit song "Bette Davis Eyes," doing today?

Carnes, 65, who had a worldwide hit with the 1981 song that sat at No. 1 for nine weeks in the U.S., has lived in Nashville since 1994 and continues to be a singer and a songwriter. She loves

to perform live, and when time allows, she takes her intimate show on the road to small venues as well as large outdoor amphitheaters.

If you have a trivia question about actors, singers, movies, TV shows or pop culture, e-mail your query to Ken Beck at [This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it](#)

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