

WHAT: "The Difficulties and Delights of Filming in Hawaii," free public talk with one-time "Hawaii Five-O" director Michael O'Herlihy.

WHEN: 7:30 tonight.

WHERE: University of Hawaii Art Auditorium.

ADMISSION: Free.

INFORMATION: 956-7221.

Tricks of the trade

'Five-O' director tells TV's inside secrets

By Will Hoover
Advertiser Staff Writer

REMEMBER how "Hawaii Five-O" lord Steve McGarrett would make the tires smoke on his black Mercury Marquis every time he squealed away from a curb, or how he could drive his speeding vehicle straight at the camera and then stop on a dime without nailing the cameraman?

Ever wonder how he did it?

Nothing to it, actually — if you oil the tires first with WD-40, or film the car backing away from the camera at full throttle and then reverse the footage for the show.

These are just a couple of behind-the-scenes tricks Michael O'Herlihy used as director of television's longest-running crime show. Normally, O'Herlihy — a gregarious, outgoing Irishman — is as mum as a monk when it comes to revealing inside secrets. "It



Advertiser photo by Gregory Yamamoto

Michael O'Herlihy, raconteur, Irishman and veteran television series director, with a few of the nearly four dozen original "Hawaii Five-O" scripts he's donating to the University of Hawaii. O'Herlihy is in town to teach a summer video and film workshop on how the series was made.

detracts from the mystery," he says.

But for TV buffs involved in O'Herlihy's workshop this week at the University of Hawaii's Film and Video Summer Institute, burning rubber and streaking Marquis are just the beginning.

The veteran television director, whose list of credits also includes "Gunsmoke," "Star Trek" and "Mission Impossible," is bringing along dozens of original "Five-O" scripts and plenty of show footage to analyze in detail.

Those who missed the cut for

O'Herlihy's workshop can attend his free university talk tonight on "The Difficulties and Delights of Filming in Hawaii."

"I'm donating all my original Hawaii Five-O scripts to the university; these are my personal scripts with all my notes. And I've brought along a number of episodes I directed over the span of the show. And we'll study how the show was made and the difficulties of filming here, and so forth."

The subject is close to his heart. Of all the television programs he's directed, O'Herlihy — a resident of

Kinsale, Ireland, who considers Hawaii a home away from home — is partial to "Hawaii Five-O," and he can spin yarns about it for hours.

He is especially proud of the fact that the famous series, which starred Jack Lord and ran from 1968 to 1980, was the first show about Hawaii actually filmed on location ("Hawaiian Eye," for example, which O'Herlihy also directed, was filmed entirely in Hollywood).

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"Hawaii Five-O" became an American classic. Among O'Herlihy's repertoire of anecdotes is the one about how the show's signature line — instantly recognizable everywhere — came about by accident.

"We were at Bellows Beach, I think it was, and we were doing the last take," he said. "It was during the first season and we'd just filmed this long chase scene and it ended on the beach. McGarrett had

caught the bad guys and I was turning to walk disdainfully away. But we needed a tag line — something to get out of the scene.

"We thought about having McGarrett say, 'Arrest them!' — but that wasn't right. And then Jack said, 'What if I said 'Book 'em!' ' Finally, we decided to make it, 'Book 'em, Dano!'

"It worked so well, after that we tried to end every show that way. People all over the world use the line to this day."