

PEOPLESCAPE

Los Angeles

SEPTEMBER 1984 \$2.25

ETHEL SWAY

Go, Granny, Go

"Well, he says to me, 'Do you wanna race?' I nod and we take off. Then I pass him, yelling, 'Don't try that again, sonny!'" So says Sway of her role as the Little Old Lady from Pasadena in a new music video that will debut this month on MTV. Yes, incredibly, 20 years have passed since **Jan and Dean** immortalized that swinging granny, and now the plan is to resurrect her in the person of Sway, complete with three different versions of the video, a feature film and commercials.

The brain behind this current revival is **Don Altfeld**, who cowrote the song in the early '60s. And if the notion of a 76-year-old appearing on MTV seems

strange, then try to picture the scene at the Huntington-Sheraton Hotel in Pasadena when that little old lady from North Hollywood showed up along with 100 other quaint grannies to audition for the role.

Ironically, Sway, who has been acting since the age of 12 (mostly in commercials, but she did have a bit part in *Rhinestone*), isn't a granny herself. Still, she dressed the part with a flourish: "I wore a pancake hat with feathers, a dress with lace collar and cuffs, and white gloves," she says. "But I like the image of an old lady who is feisty, can dance and drive and has a sense of humor and some go-get . . . You can go with either a cement or a marble tombstone. Marble is first-class, so you might as well go for it."

—Adèle Cygelman

