

CHUCK SCHADEN'S

# NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER

AND  
RADIO  
GUIDE

FROM THE HALL CLOSET • BOX 421 • MORTON GROVE, IL 60053

BOOK THREE CHAPTER ONE DECEMBER, 1976

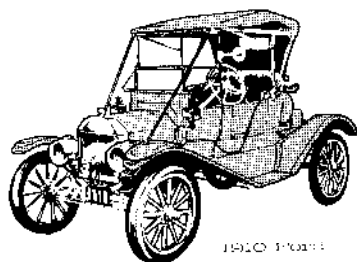


BAH! HUMBUG! LIONEL BARRYMORE in his traditional role as Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' classic holiday drama, A CHRISTMAS CAROL, one of the best loved of radio's annual Christmas presentations. (1938 photo for CBS)

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# **NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER** ©

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# Christmas Day In Hollywood



Tinsel-trimmed, happy-hearted! Here's  
how the stars are celebrating this  
first peacetime Christmas . . .

REPRINT from January, 1946 PHOTOPLAY Magazine

**D**ECEMBER 25, 1945—the Christmas all the world has been waiting for. Because it's peace again and—

Bette Davis is sending for the first Christmas tree she's had from Butternut, her New Hampshire farm. . . .

Alan and Susie Ladd have started giving each other their presents already; so they'll find themselves shopping all over again on Christmas Eve, as usual. . . .

Elizabeth Taylor's negotiating with M-G-M's wardrobe department for the blue and cerise silk with "The Pi" on it that King wore in "National Velvet," for his Christmas. . . .

Lucille Ball is addressing cards she had made the first year she and Desi were married when, proud of her new married name, she ordered hundreds and hundreds. . . .



Joan Crawford's knitting like fury—to finish all the extra things she's decided to make for people; even though the Crawford-Terry library out Brentwood way has been piled with lavishly wrapped gifts for weeks. . . .

BY  
ELSA  
MAXWELL



Ronald Reagan has asked Jane Wyman to get his Santa Claus outfit down from the attic—which means Maureen again will have to pretend Daddy is fooling her. . . .

Sonny Tufts is suggesting, hopefully, that he'd appreciate it no end if his family and friends would omit gadgets, desk sets and such, which he never quite knows what to do with. . . .

Kathryn Grayson's tree will be crowned with the same bright star that has winked down at her from tinsel-hung branches ever since she was a little girl. . . .

For my friends in Hollywood, as

Continued . . .

## Christmas Day in Hollywood



for people everywhere, this will be a glorious Christmas. Both those who were away at war and those who waited at home these last four years are prepared to sing Christmas carols at the top of their voices and mean them with all their hearts—especially the parts about “peace on earth” and “good will toward men.”

Cute little June Allyson is having her first real Christmas tree in her first real home—the honeymoon house she shares with “Richard” Powell. Obviously June is going to make up for all the homespun holidays she’s missed. She’s going to have a big tree and make-believe snow and beneath the tree, inside a little white fence, she’s going to place little deer and sheep. It’s going to look for all the world like a Christmas postcard at the Powell’s this year. And June is going to leave the tree up until the needles fall off—or “Richard” calls enough.

“What do you want for your best present, June?” I asked.

“I already have it!”

“What is it?” I persisted. “Something you wear? Something you have for the house?”

She smiled. “It’s a lifetime devotion. It’s Richard.”

My friend Van Johnson’s one of

gold with the names of the people to whom he gives them.

Van, who’s a dear, and has great enthusiasm for life and Santa Claus, hoped to get home to Newport, Rhode Island, and visit his father this year. But his working schedule forbids this so he’ll make “glug,” a traditional Swedish drink, for his Hollywood friends. Even now, in fact, he’s stocking up on brandy and nuts and raisins. “Glug,” for the information of all non-Scandinavians, is a wonderful concoction that you set afire and drink hot.

Van likes to tell how his father used to come home early on Christmas Eve to set up the little village that always stood under their tree..

“He’d take the bathroom mirror off the wall,” Van says, “put it on the floor and blanket it with white cotton for snow. Then he’d set up little stores and houses, steeped churches, railway stations and tracks, with electric trains running in and out.”

For a long time Van was convinced this was Santa’s artistry. Then one Christmas eve Mr. Johnson, coming home early, was surprised to find Van setting up the little town. Whereupon the two looked at each other—and Mr. Johnson knew his freckled boy was growing up.

Some stars will spend Christmas under the hot desert sun at Palm Springs. Others will drive to Nevada or Arrowhead for winter sports and snow. Still others will go home. . . .

**T**HAT handsome young Irishman, Bill Eythe, hopes to get home to Mars, Pennsylvania. He adores to ski on Reservoir Hill with its beautiful view of the country covered with cold crusty snow. Christmas carols he sings with his family when they return from midnight mass. He even loves the colored shirts and striped ties he receives although he wears only white shirts and solid colored ties.

Clark Gable will spend the holidays in



those “give-me-a-dozen-of-this-kind” shoppers when he sees anything he likes—like red leather address books which can be stamped in

Frances Langford sings in church on Christmas too, always.



New York or Florida. The ranch again will be closed. When Carole Lombard was alive the ranch was a festive place at Christmas.

The other night the Gable ranch saw its first party in several years with Clark entertaining about twelve of us at a charming buffet supper. Among the guests were Victor Fleming who directed "Adventure," which brings Clark back to the screen, Diana and Bill Powell and Mrs. Jay (Dolly) O'Brien. We had barbecued lamb that was delicious.

I asked Dolly O'Brien—it's with her and her large family that Clark will spend the holidays—if she and Clark would marry.

"We're much too old friends to marry, Clark and I," she answered.

This year, because Gloria De Haven Payne's baby is expected about the twenty-fifth of December Johnny is happily planning three trees, one for their living room, one for Gloria's pretty bedroom and one for the hospital, just in case.

Above all Johnny and Gloria would like twins for Christmas . . . a boy, Michael, and a girl, Kathleen.

Robert Walker will spend Christmas Eve at Jennifer Jones' house decorating the tree for his sons, Bobby, five, and Michael, four. Although Bob and Jennifer are divorced, Christmas continues a very happy and cooperative occasion in their lives.

Joan Leslie and her folks open their gifts early Christmas morning. Later, however, at their big dinner table, there are more presents—but strictly the gag variety.

"It depends," Dennis Morgan says, "upon how long we can keep Stanley, Kristin and Jimmy in bed what time presents are



opened in our house. Usually it's not too long after dawn. After breakfast, comes church. I sing at Hollywood's First Presbyterian."

THE Lawfords—Peter, Lady Lawford and Sir Sidney—are looking forward to this Christmas in their white bungalow out Westwood way. It will be a very different Christmas from the first they spent in America, in Florida. Most of their friends in England were in the war. The Lawfords had no money; they felt terribly cut off, and alone. Peter's present for his mother was two gold fish from the dime store.

This year, however, they'll sing "Good King Wenceslas" before a fireplace in which California eucalyptus logs will burn. There'll be presents all round. And, as in England, all will join in mixing the plum pudding; with everybody making a wish as they stir the ingredients in the large vat with a huge wooden spoon. Then Lady Lawford will drop in the proverbial shillings and half crowns and sixpence.

"I used to eat myself sick," Pete says. "trying to get a piece of the money."

For Lionel Barrymore, Christmas is a day of memories. On the day before Christmas, some years ago, his wife died. So Lionel spends the holidays quietly now, between church and home. His only activity is his Christmas Eve appearance for the reading of Dickens' "Christmas Carol" over a national hookup. . . .



Judy Garland and Vincente Minnelli, both of them darlings to whom I'm devoted, haven't planned where their tree will stand because carpenters, paper hangers and painters have taken over their beautiful house which must be enlarged to accommodate the expected baby. Judy and Vincente are sure of only one thing—they'll have a tree; even if they have to set it up outside in the middle of their badminton court.

Randolph Scott always has his best friend, Cary Grant, for cocktails on Christmas afternoon. And after a mid-afternoon dinner the Scotts usually drop over to Bob Hope's or Bing Crosby's. It's at high noon, however, that the Scotts hold their big celebration. An eggnog party for the cowboys with whom Randy has played in Westerns!

A wonderful, magical day—Christmas!  
THE END

# CHRISTMAS WITH FIBBER MC GEE!



By Phil Leslie



AN ORIGINAL RADIO SCRIPT  
BY THE MAN WHO WROTE  
FIBBER MC GEE AND MOLLY  
DURING RADIO'S GOLDEN AGE

**ANNCR:** Have you ever wondered how the department stores tie those beautiful bows of ribbon on your Christmas packages? Well, you won't find out by watching the man at 79 Wistful Vista — because here he is now, with a half-wrapped package, a mess of red ribbon, and a look of frustration, as we join —  
*FIBBER MCGEE!!*

**SFX:** *SMALL WRAPPING SOUNDS . . . RUSTLING PAPER, ETC. UNDER:*

**FIB:** (CONCENTRATING) Now, I bring this loop around this way . . . cross this loop over it. . . bring this end around it and give it yank! (GRUNTS) AW, DADRATTED THE DADRATTED THING! Slipped again!! (CRUMPLES WRAPPING PAPER AND THROWS IT DOWN) (SORE) What makes it so tough to tie a bowknot? Dog-gone it — I can tie my bow tie . . . I learned to tie my shoelaces when I was only 9 years old!! Why can't I tie a simple—

**SFX:** *DOOR CHIME*

**FIB:** Awww — COME IN!

**SFX:** *DOOR OPENS AND CLOSSES*

**CHUCK:** Hi, Mr. McGee!

**FIB:** Well, if it ain't Chuck Schaden! Come in, boy! Sit down.

**CHUCK:** Thanks, I was —

**FIB:** I haven't seen you since the last time I saw you.

**CHUCK:** That's right. We were listening to some terrific old shows on that great old radio there —

**FIB:** My 1934 10-tube, super-heterodyne - yep.

**CHUCK:** And I was wondering — can the old set still do it, Mr. McGee? Does that theory of yours still work?

**FIB:** You mean the McGee Theory which states that "old radio shows never die — they're just in a holdin' pattern — bouncin' around in this old set, waitin' for me to tune 'em in"? You betcha it still works!

**CHUCK:** Ohh swell!! There were some wonderful Christmas shows back in those old days, and —

**FIB:** But I haven't got time to listen to radio today, Chuck. I been busier than a flea at a Fat Farm. Trimmin' the Christmas tree. Workin' on my Christmas gifts. Gotta get Wally Wimple's present wrapped here. Take this ribbon and tie a big red bow on it for me, willya?

**CHUCK:** Sure — be glad to. (*SMALL WRAPPING NOISES UNDER*) This is a fancy package you've got for him.

**FIB:** Yeah — it's just what poor Wimp needs. A football helmet.

**CHUCK:** Does Wimple play football?

**FIB:** No, but his wife does — with Wimp. (CHUCKLES) She kicks him around like gossip at a cocktail party. That poor guy's got more welts on him than a careless beekeeper.



**CHUCK:** There you are — how's that look?

**FIB:** Swell, thanks.

**CHUCK:** Say — you've got quite a few packages here. You must have been shopping every day.

**FIB:** Some of these presents I already had, Chuck. I'm gonna give Ole at the Elks Club this plastic bicycle pump Mort Toops gimme two years ago — the year I gave Mort the abalone lamp Fred Nitney had give me the year before — which was the year I gave Fred the bowlin' ball without any holes in it, which Ole had gimme from the Elks Club for Christmas.

**CHUCK:** Your presents for each other get around like Musical Chairs, don't they?

**FIB:** Yep. I always put a lot of thought into my Christmas

givin', Chuck—

**CHUCK:** (DRILY) I can see that.

**FIB:** I found a terrific present for Old Gildersleeve yesterday! (HAPPILY) He won't guess in a million years what he's gettin' from me. It's on the floor over there — I haven't wrapped it yet.

**CHUCK:** This one? It's a big box.

**FIB:** Read what it says on the side there.

**CHUCK:** (READS) "The Handy Home-maker (INCREDULOUS) Horshoeing Kit"??

**FIB:** Yep.

**CHUCK:** For Mr. Gildersleeve??

**FIB:** Betcha. I don't just go out and buy any old thing for my friends, Chuck. I like to give a guy the kind of a luxury gift, that he'd never think of buyin' for hisself.

Continued...

# Christmas With Fibber McGee!

**CHUCK:** You've got it there, all right. For sure!

**FIB:** I got a couple more presents to wrap here. . . . Here — get a load of this necktie I bought for the Old Timer. Ain't that a dilly?

**CHUCK:** Wow! What happened — the ketchup bottle explode on it?

**FIB:** (CHUCKLES) That's exactly what I ast the salesman at the Bon Ton, Chuck. He didn't think it was funny.

**CHUCK:** (AMUSED) Well, actually, I didn't either, but it was the best I —

**FIB:** He gimme kind of a high-nosed look and he says "This necktie, sir, is hand-painted". . . "Whom by" I says, "One of Salvador's Dollies, usin' a barbecued spare-rib for a paintbrush?"

**CHUCK:** That was a shrewd guess. What'd he say?

**FIB:** Well, I gotta admit he gimme a very intelligent answer, Chuck. He says, "You want it or not, Mister? It's 89 cents." That clinched the sale.

**CHUCK:** Well, everything costs more than it's worth these days.

**FIB:** You can say that again! Migosh, take a look at that Christmas tree over there.

**CHUCK:** (TRYING TO BE NICE) Hmm. Well, it's nice.

**FIB:** Boy, I've saw some awful crummy Christmas trees in my day — but this is the saddest-lookin' saplin' I ever shelled out six bucks for! Maybe if I hang enough tinsel and stuff on it, it won't look quite so —

**CHUCK:** Good idea. Can I help?

**FIB:** Thanks. While I'm stringin' lights around the top here, you can be hangin' ornaments along the sides there.

**CHUCK:** Okay.

**SFX:** *CLINK OF ORNAMENTS, TINKLE OF LIGHTS, AS NEEDED THRUOUT*

**FIB:** How's it look so far?

**CHUCK:** (TRYING TO BE NICE) Oh, it looks — fine. I LIKE a tree that's not too straight and even. Some trees are so perfect they look artificial.

**FIB:** Not this one.

**CHUCK:** No sir. Like that curve in the trunk there — and this part here, where the limbs all grow on one side. That makes the tree look real.

**FIB:** Yeah — real lousy!

**CHUCK:** (GIVES UP — CHUCKLES) It is pretty lopsided, all right. But it'll look great when we're through with it.

**FIB:** I dunno. They just don't make trees like they used to, Chuck.

**CHUCK:** Mmmm. . . . No, I guess they don't.

**FIB:** When I was a kid we useta go out in the woods and tramp through the snow, and cut our own Christmas tree. And pull it home on our sled.

**CHUCK:** Ahhh, those are great memories, aren't they?

**FIB:** Yes sir, I useta get the prettiest trees, the wettest feet, and the worst colds of any kid in Peoria.

**CHUCK:** (CHUCKLES) I'll bet you did. . . . Gee, it must have really been fun being a kid in the country in those days.

**FIB:** Yes, it was. I had a wonderful childhood, Chuck. (PAUSE) Boy! I wouldn't go through that again for a million bucks! Hand me another string of lights there. (JINGLE OF LIGHTS) Thanks.

**CHUCK:** When I was a little kid — the Santa Claus age — we didn't do this bit with the tree at our house.



**FIB:** Whattaya mean??

**CHUCK:** We just hung up our stockings Christmas Eve and went to bed. Santa Claus brought the tree — set it up, trimmed it, everything.

**FIB:** No kidding.

**CHUCK:** Christmas morning, there it was, with all our presents under it! . . . After all these years, I can still remember the excitement of our first look at that dazzling tree!

**FIB:** Sure. (CHUCKLES) Poor Old Santa musta been busy half the night at your house, boy!

**CHUCK:** I guess. (LAUGHS) I know my father and mother looked awful sleepy every Christmas morning.

**FIB:** Santa Claus didn't stop long enough to trim a tree at our house.

**CHUCK:** He didn't?

**FIB:** No sir. He just popped in — left a Flexible Flyer for one kid, a Daisy air riffle for another, and dolls for my sisters — then he put an orange and two English walnuts in everybody's stockin' — grabbed his cigar and zoomed back up the chimney. That was it.

**CHUCK:** His cigar?? No kidding, did YOU always leave a cigar for the old gent Christmas Eve — like we did?

**FIB:** Well, natch. (CHUCKLES) More bad cigars have been smoked by more fathers that was left for Santa Claus by more kids than — (PAUSE . . . CHANGE OF THOUGHT) Hey, how do these lights look, Chuck? I got four strings of 'em up so far. How do they look from down there?

**CHUCK:** (FADES SLIGHTLY) Mmm. . . well, you've covered most of the bare spots.

**FIB:** We can tell better with 'em turned on. Plug 'em in to that extension there — let's see how they look lit.

**CHUCK:** (SLIGHTLY OFF) Okay. Give me the plug and I'll . . . there!

**SFX:** *SHORT CIRCUIT CRACKLE. . . LIGHT BULBS BLOW OUT LIKE A STRING OF CHINESE FIRECRACKERS.*

**CHUCK:** Oh boy!

**FIB:** Aw for the — them dadratted lights did the same thing last year! Blew out everyone of 'em!

**CHUCK:** (ON) It's good to know they're consistent.

**FIB:** You know what I think? I think there's a short circuit in one of these strings someplace. We can hang some more ornaments on the tree now. (SLIGHT FADE) These are the prize ones, here on the table.

**CHUCK:** Ohh, yeah! You've got some real pretty ornaments there — some of these look quite old, too.

**FIB:** Yeah, these doodads have been in the family longer than I have, Chuck. My Grandmother brought these with her when she came to Peoria from the Old Country.

**CHUCK:** Ireland, huh?

**FIB:** No — Massachusetts.

**CHUCK:** Massachusetts?

Continued . . .

## CHUCK SCHADEN SPENDS CHRISTMAS WITH FIBBER MC GEE

- FIB:** Sure, there's some mighty old country around Massachusetts, boy. That's where this whole country began, Plymouth Rock.
- CHUCK:** Uh, . yes. I never thought of it that way.
- SFX:** *RATTLE AND TINKLE OF ORNAMENTS, BEHIND:*
- FIB:** This little thing here, shaped like a church — that was to remember my Grandma and Grandpa's wedding day.
- CHUCK:** Isn't that sentimental! A copy of the church they were married in, huh?
- FIB:** No, they were married at City Hall, but you can't buy an ornament that looks like a city hall.
- CHUCK:** Probably just as well.
- SFX:** *RATTLE OF ORNAMENTS, AS*
- FIB:** This one here is from — Ohh! I wondered where this old Kewpie Doll was. I always put this on the tip top of the tree, Chuck — it's the most expensive decoration we got.
- CHUCK:** Expensive? A little celluloid Kewpie?
- FIB:** Yep. You see, when I and Molly had our first date, I took her to a carnival, and she wanted a Kewpie Doll.
- CHUCK:** Oh?
- FIB:** So naturally, Old Bigshot Me, I told her I'd throw baseballs at them little wooden milk bottles they had lined up on a shelf — which it was 3 balls for a quarter — till I won her a Kewpie Doll.
- CHUCK:** Oh— and this is it, huh?
- FIB:** Yep — that's the only 27 dollars and fifty cents Kewpie Doll I ever saw.
- CHUCK:** (LAUGHS) Well, the tree turned out fine, Mr. McGee. But it doesn't look quite as bushy as it did a while ago.
- FIB:** That's on account of it's been molting while we've been trimming. Dadratted thing drops more needles than a nervous tailor.
- CHUCK:** Still looks good, though. (FADING SLIGHTLY) You've sure got some fancy-looking packages here. I LOVE this one — wrapped with gauze and fastened with a bandaid. (CHUCKLES) I can guess who this is for.
- FIB:** (CHUCKLES) Yeah, Old Doc'll appreciate that. What it is, it's a box of El Felfa Corona cigars. The good ones — three for a quarter.
- CHUCK:** (BACK ON) Doctor Gamble smokes cigars, does he?
- FIB:** No — but he's got friends that drop in a lot.
- CHUCK:** Oh.
- FIB:** I'm over there three or four times a week myself. The poor guy's been out of cigars for a month.
- CHUCK:** Well, that's a mighty thoughtful gift. He'll certainly appreciate and — (PAUSE) Oh hey! Here on your mantel. Something new's been added, hasn't it?
- FIB:** That? Yeah, Wally Wimple came by this afternoon —
- CHUCK:** Ohh, Wallace Wimple — the world's greatest bird watcher!
- FIB:** Yeah, Old Wimp picked up his present from me — and gimme THAT.
- CHUCK:** What did you give Mr. Wimple?
- FIB:** Somethin' that every bird watcher who likes to work as close to the birds as Wimp does, needs, Chuck. A plastic umbrella.
- CHUCK:** Good thinking! And this was his Christmas gift for you.

**FIB:** Yep. . . You know, I coulda sat down and wrote out a list of the top seven hundred things I most wanted out of life — and a stuffed barn owl, mounted on a dead limb, holdin' a rubber snake in one claw, woulda never made the list!

**CHUCK:** (LAUGHS) Well, it came with good wishes — and it's Christmas time —

**FIB:** Yeah. Oh, hey, I almost forgot YOUR Christmas present, Chuck. (SLIGHT FADE) I was havin' trouble figurin' out what to getcha.

**CHUCK:** Yes, and I've been —

**FIB:** (FADES IN) But last night I found just the thing. Here you are. (RUSTLE OF PACKAGE)

**CHUCK:** Gosh, I haven't even bought yours yet. I've got a couple of ideas, but —

**FIB:** (EAGERLY) That's okay. Go ahead — open it!

**CHUCK:** It's a pretty little box. (TEARING OPEN PACKAGE) It feels kind of heavy — (TAKES LID OFF BOX) Let's see here —

**FIB:** Read the card first.

**CHUCK:** Says "Merry Christmas to Chuck — from Mr. McGee."

**FIB:** Yep.

**CHUCK:** It looks like — (AMAZED) Ohhh, Mr. McGee! This is — it's a 10 dollar gold piece! Isn't it?

**FIB:** Yep. It was our weddin' present from Molly's rich Aunt Sarah.

**CHUCK:** A wedding present?

**FIB:** I was so disgusted with old skinflint only spendin' 10 bucks on her favorite niece's weddin' that I threw it in a shoebox in the attic, and forgot about it. Till I ran across it yesterday.

**CHUCK:** Well, it was 10 dollars then — but this thing is worth a LOT of money now! Gold has gone way up!

**FIB:** You're not kiddin', boy!

**CHUCK:** I — I can't keep this, Mr. McGee. I appreciate it, but I couldn't let you give me an expensive gift like this, because —

**FIB:** Of course you couldn't, Chuck. You'd be embarrassed —

**CHUCK:** Yes, I —

**FIB:** — unless you could give me something just as expensive. And I wouldn't wantcha to be embarrassed. Turn the card over.

**CHUCK:** The card? Oh.

**FIB:** Read the other side there.

**CHUCK:** Says "Dear Mr. McGee — please accept this 10-dollar gold-piece as my Christmas present to you. Merry Christmas, Chuck Schaden."

**FIB:** (GRABS BOX QUICKLY) I'll take it, Chuck, I accept! (LAYS IT ON) A ten-dollar gold piece! Why, thank you, my boy, that's a VERY thoughtful gift. Just what I've always wanted! What a nice surprise.

**CHUCK:** (SAME MOOD) I'm glad you like it. Aunt Sarah helped me pick it out.

**THEY BOTH LAUGH**

**CHUCK:** Well, I'd better be going, Mr. McGee. Thanks for the Christmas cheer!

**FIB:** Cheer? Omigosh! I forgot to offer you anything to —

**CHUCK:** No, Mr. McGee. . . I mean the cheer you've given me during our visit.

**FIB:** Aw, pshaw.

**CHUCK:** Well, Merry Christmas, Mr. McGee.

**FIB:** Merry Christmas, Chuck. No — NO — not that door, Chuck. That's the hall closet!

**SFX:** CLOSET EFFECT. BELL TINKLES.

**FIB:** Gotta straighten out that closet one of these days.



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The Baron and "Sharlie," back on the air after four years.

## ALIAS THE BARON

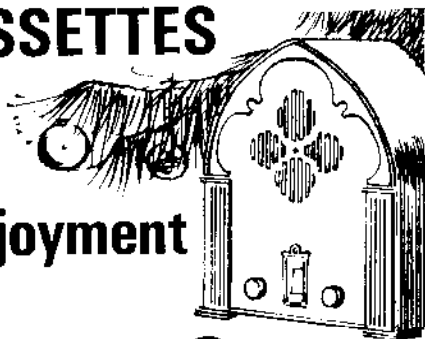
Jack Pearl came back to the Mutual networks on October 14th, thanks to

the Schenley-sponsored Cresto Blanca Carnival program . . . Cliff (Was you dere, Sharlie?) Hall again plays straight man to Jack's guffaw-getting gags . . . Brad Reynolds, handsome six-footer male soloist, has a contract that proves he was eminently sane in checking out of medical school to study music at the Damrosch School of Music Arts . . . Jean Merrill, young Metropolitan Opera star, matches Brad's tenor with a golden soprano that once thrilled home folks in Everett, Wash. This is her first big commercial broadcasting break. . . . Nationally famous Morton Gould, who leads his 37-piece orchestra for the show, grew up with jazz in all its phases. At 6, he composed his first song, has been making music every day of the 23 years since. Stokowski conducted his "Jazz Fugue," declared it was "the most daring, most unusual, most creative work ever submitted to me." Gould himself, having put jive on a classical pedestal, thinks the old masters wouldn't disapprove of his arrangements . . . Getting back to Jack, you can understand why he's changed the Baron Munchausen to Alias the Baron. But the funnyman himself hasn't changed. Says he, and we quote from his Pearls of Wisdom: "Hitler declared he would conquer the U. S. from within; Jap Tojo promised to dictate the peace from the White House; Mussolini threatened to become the big-time boss. *How now can I be the world's biggest liar?*" H'mm. Well, Mr. P., your announcer, Frank Gallup, 3-season program annotator for the N. Y. Philharmonic broadcasts, used to be a Boston broker's customer's man. If he doesn't know the answer, you might ask that cleverest of wives, your Winnie.

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RADIO ALBUM  
1942

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**FIBBER MC GEE & MOLLY**

**BURNS AND ALLEN**

**AMOS 'N' ANDY**

**FRANK SINATRA**

**PLUS**

**THE CINNAMON BEAR**



9. **CHARLES DICKENS' "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"**  
starring Lionel Barrymore as Scrooge in this hour-long version of the story as presented on the Campbell Playhouse of December 24, 1939. Orson Welles narrates the holiday classic.

21. **MIRACLE ON 34th STREET**—from the Lux Radio Theatre. Edmund Gwenn stars as Kris Kringle, Macy's Department Store Santa on trial! Full hour of entertainment including a Night Before Christmas story.

39. **JACK BENNY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**—Shopping for the gang with Jack, Mary Livingston, Phil Harris, Don Wilson. 1950.

**JIMMY DURANTE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
guest Margaret O'Brien. 1947

40. **FIBBER MC GEE AND MOLLY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**—Teeney and friends sing "The Night Before Christmas." 1949.

**BURNS AND ALLEN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**  
—Gracie tells a story to Herman the Duck. 1940's.

41. **AMOS 'N' ANDY CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**—Andy gets a job as a department store Santa. 1950.

**HALLMARK CHRISTMAS SHOW WITH FRANK SINATRA**—Sinatra stars in "Room For a Stranger" warm-hearted holiday story. 1946.

**THE CINNAMON BEAR**—26 exciting, consecutive chapters of the delightful Christmas classic for children of all ages. Paddy O'Cinnamon and his friends Judy and Jimmy travel to Maybe Land in search of the silver star for their Christmas Tree.

Complete set of  
6 cassettes . . . . . **SPECIAL: \$24.00**

# THOSE WERE THE DAYS • WNIB- FM 97.1

## SATURDAY AFTERNOONS • 1:00 UNTIL 5:00

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th

#### RADIO TO PLAN YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST BY—LET'S PRETEND (1950s)

"The Night Before Christmas" with Uncle Bill Adams and the Let's Pretend regulars. A mouse family goes to the North Pole to see what goes on on Christmas Eve.

CALIFORNIA CARAVAN (12-21-47) "How Santa Claus Came to Simpson's Bar" in Tuttleville, a small prospecting town out west.

O. HENRY PLAYHOUSE (1940s) "The Gift of the Magi" is O'Henry's classic Christmas story.

GREAT GILDERSLEEVE (12-11-49) Hal Peary stars as Gildy, shopping for Christmas presents.

THE BIG STORY (12-19-44) "The Man in the Velvet Hat."

SUSPENSE (12-17-61) "Yuletide Miracle" stars Larry Haines, Santos Ortega, Joe De Santis and Rosemary Rice.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11th

#### RADIO TO ADDRESS CHRISTMAS CARDS BY—

BOB HOPE SHOW (Christmas, 1953) from Long Beach Veterans' Hospital with Bill Goodwin, Margaret Whiting, Frank Nelson, Sheldon Leonard, Jim Backus.

HALLMARK PLAYHOUSE (12-16-48) "The Desert Shall Rejoice" starring John Hodiak. THE COUPLE NEXT DOOR (1940s) Addressing Christmas cards in August. Starring Peg Lynch and Alan Buncie. (12 min)

SHERLOCK HOLMES (12-21-47) "Adventure of the Christmas Bride" with John Stanley as Holmes, Alfred Turley as Watson.

LIFE OF RILEY (1940s) William Bendix is Riley, who is short of money to buy Christmas presents.

VIC AND SADE (1942) Sade and Rush addressing Christmas cards. (15 min)

CASEY, CRIME PHOTOGRAPHER (12-19-46) "Christmas Shopping" with Staats Cotsworth as Casey and John Gibson as Ethelbert.

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th

#### RADIO TO WRAP AND TRIM BY—

AMOS 'N' ANDY (12-24-41) Freeman Gosden and Charles Correll as radio's all-time favorites in their post-Pearl Harbor Christmas show. (15 min)

CBS RADIO WORKSHOP (12-23-56) "All Is Bright" — The story of "Silent Night"

LUM AND ABNER — Chester Lauck and Norris Goff with their traditional Christmas story, set in Pine Ridge. (15 min)

CRESTA BLANCA PLAYERS (12-25-46) "All Through the House" starring Janet Leigh, Gregory Peck, John Garfield and Gene Kelly.

ONE MAN'S FAMILY (12-22-50) Chapter 20, Book 81. Christmas trees for everyone. (15 min)

ONE MAN'S FAMILY (12-25-50) Chapter 20, Book 81. Christmas presents on Christmas Day. (15 min)

JACK BENNY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL (12-25-56) A special broadcast for the Armed Forces Radio Service starring Jack, Mary Livingstone, Dennis Day, Bob Crosby, Don Wilson, Mel Blanc, Joe Kearns, Rochester, Elliot Lewis, Arnie Auerback, Benny Rubin, Frances Bergen and June Allyson. (45 min)

### CHRISTMAS DAY

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25th

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHICAGO THEATRE OF THE AIR (1950s) "The Wizard of Oz" (45 min)

WORLD'S GREAT NOVELS (12-19-47) "A Child is Born" narrated by Ken Nordine

THEATRE GUILD ON THE AIR (12-23-45) "Little Women" starring Katherine Hepburn and Oscar Homolka (60 min)

WORLD'S GREAT NOVELS (12-26-47) "Christmas Chapters from the Pickwick Papers" featuring Johnny Coons, Phillip Lord

PHILCO RADIO HALL OF FAME (12-24-44) Bing Crosby, Orson Welles, King's Men, Paul Whiteman. (60 min).





# THE HALL CLOSET • WXFM - FM 106

## MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY • 7:00 TO 9:00 AM

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1st**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1st**

SONGS BY SINATRA (12-11-46) Frankie with guest Fred Allen

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 9. The House of the Wintergreen Witch. (15 min)

SPIKE JONES SPOTLIGHT REVUE (12-5-47) with the City Slickers, Dorothy Shay and The Three Suns.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2nd**

BLONDIE (12-15-48) Penny Singleton and Arthur Lake with Hanley Stafford as Mr. Dithers and Frank Nelson was Herb Woodley. What to get the kids for Christmas?

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 10. Through the Magic Picture. (15 min)

MILTON BERLE SHOW (12-2-47) "Salute to Public Service"

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3rd**

JACK BENNY PROGRAM (12-11-38) Jack and Mary Livingstone go Christmas shopping.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 11. The Magic Signal Ring. (15 min)

BING CROSBY SHOW (12-6-50) with guest Judy Garland.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 6th**

ARCHIE ANDREWS (12-24-49) Bob Hastings as Archie, Harlan Stone as Jughead. Christmas shopping.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 12. Crazy Quilt's Alibi. (15 min)

AMOS 'N' ANDY MUSIC HALL (1950s) Sapphire and Mama rehearse Christmas carols. (25 min)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7th**

PHIL HARRIS/ALICE FAYE SHOW (12-11-49) Christmas shopping for Alice.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 13. Captured by the Wintergreen Witch. (15 min)

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT (12-28-39) The Captain escapes death! (15 min)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8th**

NEW SWAN SHOW (1940s) starring Bob Hope with guests Bing Crosby and Doris Day.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 14. The Silver Star is Broken! (15 min)

LIMIT BATH CLUB REVUE (12-25-32) starring Fred Allen with Portland Hoffa. Is Santa a fraud?

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9th**

MILTON BERLE SHOW (12-9-47) "Salute to Boxing"

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 15. Instructions for repairing the Silver Star. (15 min)

FIBBER MC GEE AND MOLLY (12-23-47) Fibber has lost the keys to his hall closet, and all the Christmas gifts are locked inside.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10th**

JACK BENNY PROGRAM (12-14-52) Jack and Mary Livingstone go Christmas shopping.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 16. Snacker Snick, the Crocodile. (15 min)

JILL'S ALL TIME JUKE BOX (12-25-45) Christmas edition with popular songs of past seasons, 1937-45. (30 min)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 13th**

BING CROSBY SHOW (12-15-54) (15 min)

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 17. Adventure in the Wishing Woods. (15 min)

PHIL HARRIS/ALICE FAYE SHOW (12-18-49) To the mountains for a Christmas tree.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14th**



**BLANC, MEL**

MEL BLANC SHOW (12-24-46) What to buy Betty for Christmas?

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 18. Saved by the Lollipop Cowboys. (15 min)

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT (12-29-39) Recapturing the Hacienda. (15 min)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15th**

SPIKE JONES SPOTLIGHT REVUE (12-24-48) Dorothy Shay, the City Slickers and the Harry Stanton Choir in this Christmas show.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 19. Search for the Singing Tree. (15 min)

EDDIE CANTOR SHOW (12-20-44) Bert Gordon, the Mad Russian, Nora Martin, Harry Von Zell.



# THE HALL CLOSET • WXXFM - FM 106

## MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY • 7:00 TO 9:00 AM

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16th

MILTON BERLE SHOW (12-16-47) "Salute to Department Stores"

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 20. Power of the Wintergreen Witch. (15 min)

GUEST STAR (1950s) Frank Sinatra stars in a Christmas week show. (15 min)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th

JACK BENNY PROGRAM (12-13-53) Jack and Mary Livingstone go Christmas shopping.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 21. The Land of Ice and Snow. (15 min)

GUEST STAR (1940s) "The Meaning of Christmas" starring Red Skelton. (15 min)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 20th

RAILROAD HOUR (12-22-52) A Christmas Party with Gordon MacRae, Dorothy Kirsten and the Norman Luboff Choir. Special version of the "Nutcracker Suite."

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 22. Santa Claus. (15 minutes)

GUEST STAR (1940s) MacDonald Carey stars in "Stand-In for Santa" (15 minutes)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21st

CHARLIE MC CARTHY SHOW (12-14-47) Gary Cooper plays Santa Claus. With Edgar Bergen, Mortimer Snerd, Pat Patrick, Anita Gordon.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 23. Jack Frost mends the Star. (15 minutes)

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT (1-1-40) The Captain and Chuck question Fang. (15 minutes)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd

BOB HOPE SHOW (1950s) with Bing Crosby, Jack Kirkwood, Verna Felton.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 24. The Silver Star and the Bad Dolls. (15 minutes)

PHIL HARRIS/ALICE FAYE SHOW (12-25-49) Who will play Santa for the Harris girls? Jack Benny is guest.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23rd

MILTON BERLE SHOW (12-23-47) "Salute to Christmas"

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 25. Crazy Quilt's last chance. (15 minutes)

GREAT GILDERSLEEVE (1950s) Christmas without Bronco and Marjorie.

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th

JACK BENNY PROGRAM (12-5-54) Jack and Mary Livingstone go Christmas shopping.

CINNAMON BEAR — Chapter 26. The end of the adventure. (15 minutes)

BING CROSBY SHOW (12-19-51) with Trudy Irwin and Lindsay Crosby.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 27th

BENNY GOODMAN AND HIS ORCHESTRA (1-20-36) remote from the Joseph Urban Room of the Congress Hotel, Chicago.

MEL BLANC SHOW (12-31-46) A New Year's play for the Lodge.

AMOS 'N' ANDY (12-26-48) The Kingfish gets a New Year's card.

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28th

EDDIE CANTOR SHOW (12-27-44) Plans for the New Year.

GENE KRUPA AND HIS ORCHESTRA (1-31-40) remote from Frank Dalley's Meadowbrook.

CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT (1-3-40) Ivan Shark is found! (15 minutes)

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29th

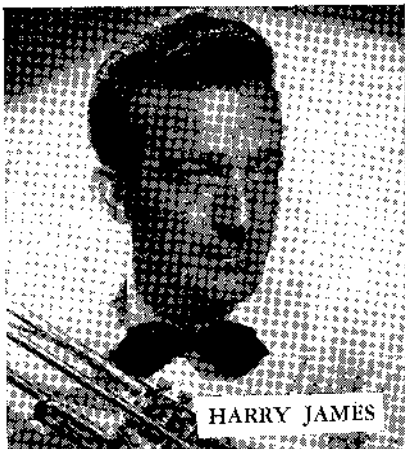
GLENN MILLER AND HIS ORCHESTRA (11-6-40) from the Cafe Rouge of the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York. Vocals by Marion Hutton, Ray Eberle.

PHILCO RADIO TIME (12-31-47) Bing Crosby is host to Danny Thomas.

SWEENEY AND MARCH SHOW (12-31-47) "The New Year's Party" stars Bob Sweeney and Hal March with Hans Conried, Hy Averbach

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30th

MILTON BERLE SHOW (12-30-47) "Salute to New Years"



HARRY JAMES AND HIS ORCHESTRA (5-25-53) remote from the Roof of the Hotel Astor, New York.

FULTON LEWIS JR. (12-31-48) The news of the day. (15 minutes)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31st

JACK BENNY PROGRAM (12-28-41) The annual New Year's play, "The New Tenant"

DORSEY BROTHERS ORCHESTRA (12-31-54) and (1-1-55) Tommy and Jimmy welcome in the new year from the Cafe Rouge of the Hotel Statler in New York City.

JIMMY DURANTE SHOW (12-31-47) Garry Moore and Red Skelton sub for Jimmy. Junior, the mean widdle kid is to be the Baby New Year at a party.



## WHEN RADIO WAS RADIO • WBEZ-FM 91.5 EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT • 8:00 TO 9:00 PM

Vintage radio broadcasts from the **HALL CLOSET** collection may be heard every **Thursday** evening at 8 p.m. on Chicago Board of Education radio station **WBEZ (91.5 FM)**. The weekly hour of old-time programs for National Public Radio is **repeated** the following **Saturday** evening at 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2nd**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4th**

**FRED ALLEN SHOW (3-27-40)** Fred interviews Disney animator T. Hee, questions audience members on Leap Year, and leads the Mighty Allen Art Players in "Who Killed Mac Borden?"

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9th**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11th**

**ANDREWS SISTERS SHOW (3-25-45)** With Bob Hope, Gabby Hayes, Marvin Miller and the Riders of the Purple Sage

**LIGHTS OUT (8-10-43)** "Murder Castle"

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16th**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18th**

**THE BIG SHOW (11-12-50)** Tallulah Bankhead is hostess to Groucho Marx, Meredith Willson, Fanny Brice as Baby Snooks, and David Brian, Frank Lovejoy and John Agar in a scene from the motion picture "Breakthrough"

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23rd**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25th**

**MEL BLANC SHOW (10-1-46)** The Town Picnic, with Joe Kearns, Mary Jane Croft, Hans Conreid and Jim Backus. Our Special Guest **MEL BLANC**, the man of a thousand voices, reminisces about his radio and film career

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30th**

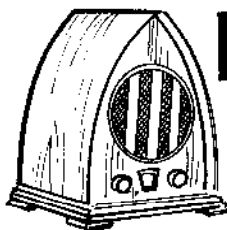
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 1st**

**CHASE AND SANBORN 101st ANNIVERSARY SHOW (1965)** Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy are mc's of this radio salute to Fred Allen. Featured are Jack Benny, Tallulah Bankhead, George Jessel, Oscar Levant, Portland Hoffa and the cast of the Allen radio show

**TREADMILL TO OBLIVION** - Fred Allen talks about his book on the **OMNIBUS** television program

## CLIPS FROM THE CLOSET WAIT-AM 820 MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY 9AM AND 2 PM

We open our **HALL CLOSET** six times a week on radio station **WAIT (820-AM)**. This mini-series is heard twice daily, Monday thru Saturday at 9 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. immediately following **WAIT** news headlines. On each show you can hear a short excerpt from a vintage broadcast from those good old days **When Radio Was Radio!**



## LAST MINUTE MEMO!!

We have learned that radio station **WIND (560-AM)** is planning to offer a broadcast of the classic Christmas story, "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. The program, with

Lionel Barrymore as Scrooge and Orson Welles as narrator is a re-broadcast of the 1939 Campbell Playhouse production. It's 60 minutes and it's good. It'll be heard sometime on Christmas Eve. **WIND** has not yet set a time for the program, but we'll let you know as soon as we know.



## Football Telecasts Doomed

By Geoffrey Hunter

As much as we dislike it, we feel obligated to our readers to inform them that the telecasting of major football games on a live basis is virtually doomed. The Western Conference (Big Ten) has decided that TV isn't for it and while it may go along with theatre-screen showings, the only way you'll see your favorites in action is to watch films the next day or two after the ball game. . . . The same thing goes for the teams of the Southeastern Conference and it won't be long before many more groups take similar action.

The U. of Illinois' basketball team, considered a possible contender for the Big Ten title, has only one lad from outside the state on the squad. That would be **Andy Toth**, a soph guard from South Bend, Ind. . . . **Al Zarilla** will be a welcome sight to the sore eyes of those White Sox fans who have been looking for a good all-round outfielder these many years.

The A.A.U. will be snooping but good this year to see that their track stars don't get more than the allowed "expenses" for running in the big track meets. . . . Someone turned in a couple of boys last year but there wasn't sufficient proof and the powers that be had to drop charges after an investigation led them everywhere but the right spot. . . . **Rogers Hornsby**, who will manage Seattle in the coast league next season, says Chicago is the best, friendliest town he has ever seen. That's one reason he bought an apartment and lives in Rogers Park.

You can get all kinds of bets that the Baltimore Colts will not be around for another season when pro football gets going again next July. . . . Losses were terrific. . . . It has been estimated that four, or possibly five, pro football teams made money this year. . . . Hockey attendance isn't what it has been in the past and now what will the moguls say? They can't blame video this time.

You can look for more and more mature ball players in the majors from now on. The draft will play havoc with Brooklyn's system. It seems they had a corner on all the 17- and 18-year-olds in the minors and it looks bad for the boys for some time to come—draftwise.

. . . **Wes Fesler** brought Ohio State a tie for the Big Ten, a Rose Bowl championship and a second place tie in

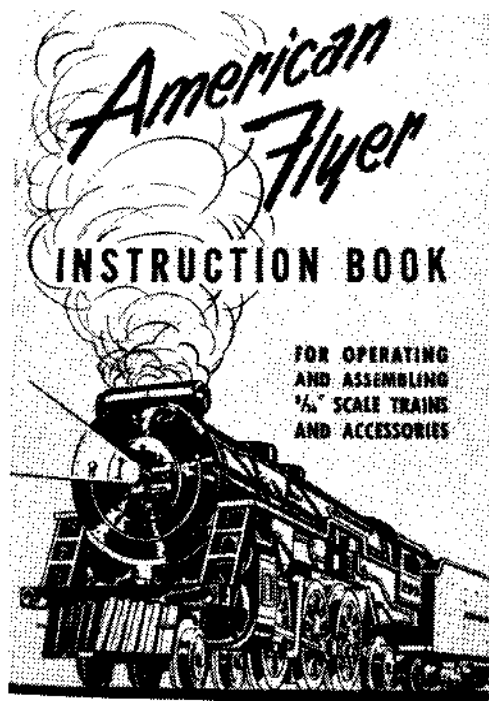


*Captain Jerry Groom, Notre Dame center, tucks quarterback Bob Williams into bed after a hard day's scrimmage. Both Williams and Groom are graduating seniors this year, much to Leahy's dismay.*

three years in Columbus. Then he resigns because of a more secure future and less strain on his health. You could safely wager that those fanatics on High St. contributed to Wes' condition. All they want at O.S.U. is a championship every year. . . . There was some beefing about **Ray Eliot's** strategy among some of the more vociferous of the Chicago Illini alumni but it's been quashed.

If it hasn't been done already, Oklahoma will keep raising **Bud Wilkinson's** pay to keep him in the head coach's job at Norman, Okla., and away from his alma mater, Minnesota. They like Bud like mad and who wouldn't care for a coach who has run up 31 in a row? And, there's always the Sugar Bowl!

# GRAND CENTRAL STATION AT OUR HOUSE!



BY DENNIS BUBACZ

YOU'RE ON  
THE  
RIGHT TRACK  
WITH A  
TRAIN  
UNDER YOUR  
CHRISTMAS  
TREE!

My memories of the Christmas season include turkeys, trees, tinsel, toys and trains.

The train really wasn't considered a toy in our house, but more a part of the whole holiday scene. There was a certain excitement attached to our Lionel which was brought out and put 'round the Christmas tree each year.

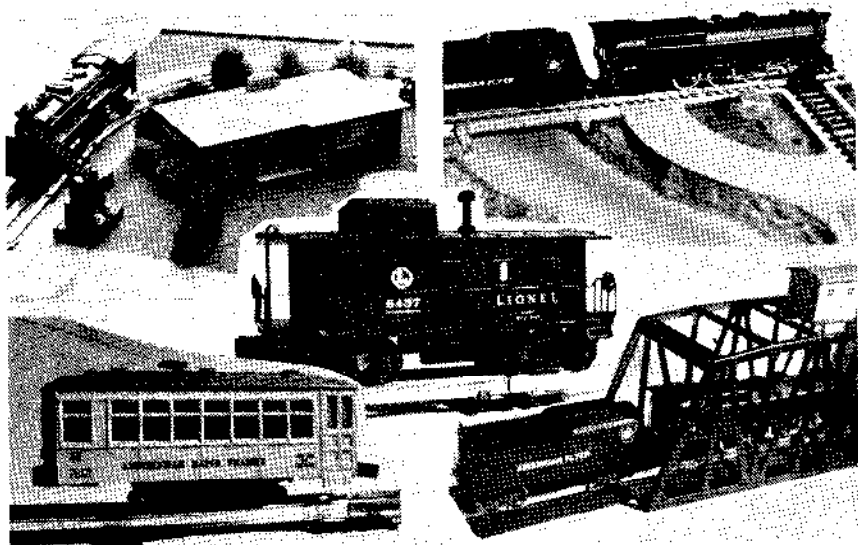
So, along about now, we would start to pester mom to let us get the train ready. (I think we were feeling Christmas wasn't coming fast enough and we really thought this would make the Holidays come a bit sooner!) So, with a knowing smile, she would let us bring up the train box from its place over the oil drums in the basement. We eagerly proceeded to unpack track, boxcars, engine and get to work.

How about you? Do you still have that old Lionel or American Flyer set packed away? You know, the one you got for Christmas when you were nine! Well, for heaven's sake, get it out of its hiding place. Clean it up a bit and set it up around your tree this year.

What's that? You say you're all thumbs and don't know what to do anyhow? Well, here's what we used to do to get our train ready for its traditional run around the tree:

## GETTING IN SHAPE

After bringing the train box into the house and claiming a corner of the parlor for our workshop, we would begin our check-out with



the transformer to make sure we had power to run our mini-version of the AT&SF. Plugging it in, we would connect wires to the variable output terminals, turn the speed control up just a bit and brush the bare ends of the wires together. If they sparked, we knew the transformer was OK! Then we started on the track, which was a little rusty from being stored in the basement since last Christmas. The rust was easily removed with some fine emery cloth followed by wiping with a cloth dampened with track cleaning fluid to remove any oil or remaining dirt. (For this part of the operation we were evicted from the parlor and sent to the basement and told make sure there's no more mess with that train!)

Undaunted and back in the parlor, we worked on the locomotive and rolling stock, the Lionel 4-4-2 Loco and tender with whistle was in pretty good shape, for it was always wrapped in several layers of newspaper and put back into its original carton. So, a few drops of oil at each axle and one drop of oil at each motor bearing would bring it up to good working order. Easy on **your** train now, not too much oil! You don't want it running down onto the track and gumming up things. Sometimes a locomotive refuses to run. In some cases you may find the problem is as simple as a dirty commutator—that's the copper electrical pickup on the motor armature. Or sometimes the reversing relay will stick or not make contact because it is dirty. Generally these are jobs for a service man because the locomotive should be taken apart for a thorough cleaning and inspection. But don't give up! Arm yourself with a spray can of electrical contact cleaner which has an extension nozzle and you can direct the spray to the commutator or relay from the bottom side of the locomotive. If spraying doesn't get it running, try using the rough side of an emery board held against the commutator as you rotate the motor by hand. Once you get the motor to run you can polish the face of the commutator with the fine side of the emery board.

With the locomotive running we would check to make sure the smoke unit was working. Ours used those little white pills and we would put two in for good measure. After some years we weren't able to get those smoke pellets but we found small bits of hard parafin work just as well. If you have an American Flyer which used a smoke fluid, try some **SCENTED CANDLE OIL**. It works fine.

#### SETTING UP

We're making progress! We have clean track, a locomotive that runs and cars ready to make a train.

Now to lay some track. We would assemble our track into a large oval on the floor in the corner of the parlor where the tree would be, for we had no permanent layout. A problem we used to have with our track was that as the train ran around, sections of track tended to separate. Usually this would happen way in back behind the tree, causing no end of upset when several ornaments were broken during our repair operation. We found a neat way to end this annoyance. We would tape the track sections together, using a length of plastic electrical tape placing it parallel to the rails and over the end ties of each section of track. This proved very effective and was easily undone when our train had to be taken down, and packed away.

#### ALL ABOARD

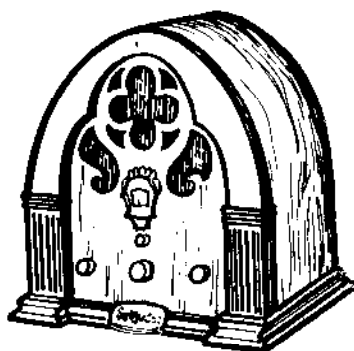
Now it's time to run the train.

With any luck, mom will let us leave the train set up till the tree arrives. It's amazing just how much fun we could have with that train. With it and our imagination...we were in the midst of a railroad empire to rival the C&NW or AT&SF. The hustle and bustle of the switch yards, the sights and sounds of passenger or freight trains making their way to the main line, the smells of locomotive smoke...all that right there in the corner of our parlor around and underneath our Christmas tree.

All Aboard!

THESE SELECTED  
**OLD TIME RADIO**  
 SHOWS ARE AVAILABLE ON

**8-TRACK TAPE  
 CARTRIDGES**



**6**

each

**FROM THE HALL CLOSET BOX 421**

**MORTON GROVE, IL 60053**

- # 8-1 CHARLIE MC CARTHY SHOW—W.C. Fields, Rudy Vallee, Don Ameche, Marilyn Monroe  
 FIBBER MC GEE AND MOLLY—Fibber plans a magic act for the Elks Club
- # 8-2 AMOS 'N' ANDY—Radio's all-time favorites. Kingfish needs \$100 in a hurry!  
 LUM AND ABNER—Valentine's Day at the Jot-em-Down store
- # 8-3 FRED ALLEN SHOW. Portland Hoffa, guest Jack Benny and a visit to Allen's Alley  
 INNER SANCTUM—*Ghosts Always Get the Last Laugh*
- # 8-10 ABBOTT AND COSTELLO—Five great comedy routines including *Who's On First?*  
 ESCAPE—*Leimengen vs. the Ants* outstanding broadcast from series.
- # 8-15 SUSPENSE *Sorry, Wrong Number*—Agnes Moorehead stars in the first, original broadcast of this classic *Suspense* drama in 1943  
 MILTON BERLE RADIO SHOW—Uncle Miltie, before TV, saluting Radio!
- # 8-36 THE WAR OF THE WORLDS—Orson Welles and the most famous radio broadcast of all time. From the *Mercury Theatre On the Air*, October 30, 1938, this version of the classic H.G. Wells story of the Martian Invasion frightened half the nation. Complete, one-hour program.

**\$6**

each

**FROM THE HALL CLOSET • BOX 421 • MORTON GROVE, IL 60053**



# FILM CLIPS

CLIPPED BY  
**MARK NELSON**

Now that the holiday season is upon us, all film sentimentalists will be paging through their TV Guides in the hope that their favorite movies will soon be shown. Hollywood has always had a knack for tugging at the heart-strings with wonderful Christmastime entertainment, and we thought it might be appropriate to remind you of some of the titles that become annual events at this time of year.

First, and most prominent, are those pictures which use Christmas as their main theme. It is almost certain that in the coming weeks you'll have the opportunity to see such classics as **MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET** (1947) with **Edmund Gwenn** as Kris Kringle, going on trial to prove that there really is a Santa Claus; **THE HOLLY AND THE IVY** (1953) with **Ralph Richardson** as the cleric who learns about his family; **TENTH AVENUE ANGEL** (1948) with **Margaret O'Brien** saving **George Murphy** from a life of crime; **CHRISTMAS IN CONNECTICUT** (1945) with **Barbara Stanwyck**; **I'LL BE SEEING YOU** (1944) with **Ginger Rogers** and **Joseph Cotten**; **WHITE CHRISTMAS** (1954) with **Bing Crosby** and **Danny Kaye**; and the many versions of **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**, with **Alistair Sim**, **Reginald Owen**, **Albert Finney**, or **Mr. Magoo** as **Scrooge** (personally, my favorite performer in that honored role as Mr. Magoo).

It's easy to spot movies with Christmas motifs when they have titles like those listed above. But there are some Christmas movies with less obvious titles. For example, **SINNER'S HOLIDAY** (1947), with **George Brent** and **George Raft**; **WE'RE NO ANGELS** (1955), a cinematic reworking of the play **MY THREE ANGELS** with **Humphrey Bogart**,

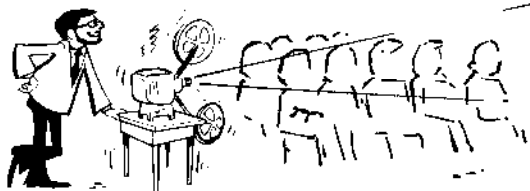
**Peter Ustinov**, and **Aldo Ray** getting the best of **Basil Rathbone**; **THE LEMON DROP KID** (1951) with **Bob Hope** introducing the song, "Silver Bells"; **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE** (1946) proving to **James Stewart** that no man is a failure who has friends; and **THE BISHOP'S WIFE** (1947) with **Cary Grant** as an angel sent to help **David Niven** and **Loretta Young** build a new church.

Many movies had scenes about Christmas. Happy Christmases were celebrated in such films as **THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S** (1954), **THE INN OF THE SIXTH HAPPINESS** (1958), **THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER** (1941), **SINCE YOU WENT AWAY** (1944), **ON MOONLIGHT BAY** (1951) and the all-time classic **HOLIDAY INN** (1942) with **Fred Astaire**, **Bing Crosby**, **Marjorie Reynolds** and one of **Irving Berlin's** finest scores ("Easter Parade" "White Christmas" "I've Got Plenty to Be Thankful For").

**Mr. Laurel and Mr. Hardy** were employees of St. Nick himself in **BABES IN TOYLAND** (1934); **Monty Wooley** played Santa in **THE LIGHT AT HEART**; and the entire **Sinatra** clan masqueraded as Kris Kringle in **ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS** (1964).

Many of the warmest moments Hollywood has ever provided come from the films dealing with the holiday season. It's just one more reason why we're so grateful that moments like these can be preserved for future generations, with the performers never aging and the situations never changing. The movies are always there for us to enjoy again and again; it's a comfortable, reassuring feeling, and a very appropriate one for this time of year.

## CHUCK SCHADEN'S



**MEMORY  
CLUB  
MOVIES**

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Our **MEMORY CLUB** takes a **SEASONAL BREAK** during **December** and **January**, but we'll be back on **Saturday evening, February 5th** with another year of good old movies. Be sure to check the **JANUARY** issue of our **NOSTALGIA NEWSLETTER** for the schedule of films we're planning for the next year.

# NOTES FROM THE BANDSTAND

by **KARL PEARSON**

Back in the days of big band remotes, the theme songs used by the bands could tell the listener several things even before the announcer would identify the band. Usually, although not all the time, the leader's voice or instrument would be featured, such as the case was with **Tommy Dorsey's** trombone and his theme song, "I'm Gettin' Sentimental Over You," **Rudy Vallee's** "My Time Is Your Time," which Rudy often sang, or the tenor sax of **Charlie Barnet** on "Cherokee."

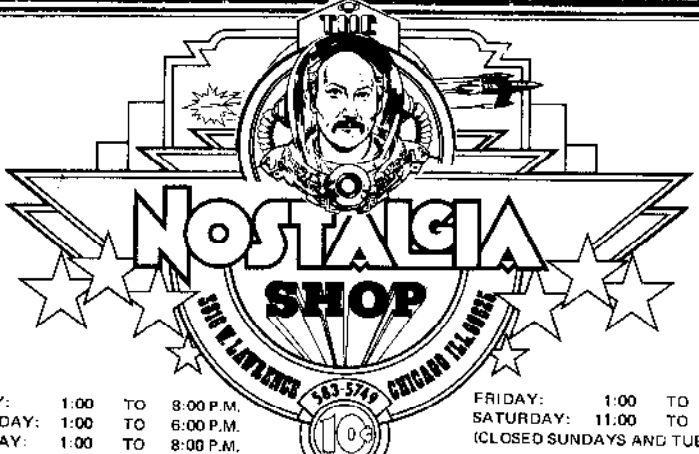
Themes also helped to identify the band's style. When you heard **Ray Noble's** "The Very Thought of You," or "Goodnight, Sweetheart," you knew that you were about to listen to some fine dance music. **Count Basie's** first theme, "Moten Swing," or his later one, "The One O'Clock Jump," meant that the Count was back on the air from such great locations as the Savoy Ballroom or The Hollywood Palladium.

Many famous big band themes were written by the leaders themselves. **Duke Ellington** had three: first "East St. Louis Toddle-O," then "Things Ain't What They Used to Be," and finally the famous "Take The 'A' Train." **Bunny Berigan** had "I Can't Get Started With You," which was written for the Ziegfield Follies of 1936. When **Ella Fitzgerald** had a short stint as a band leader, she used "A-Tisket A-Tasket," the tune that made her famous. **Ben Pollak** had "The Song

Of The Islands," **Cab Calloway** "Minnie The Moocher," and **Larry Clinton** used "The Dipsy Doodle."

Some theme song titles could have obvious or hidden meanings. **Gene Krupa** used "Apurksody" as the theme. The word "Apurksody" consisted of two words, actually: "Krupa" spelled backwards and the second part of "rhapsody!" **Jan Savitt's** "Quaker City Jazz" was an obvious one, as the band originally came from Philadelphia, known as the Quaker City. **Ray McKinley's** "Howdy Friends" was a way of extending musical greetings to listeners in an odd way. Each time the band was on the air, Ray would sing the opening theme, saying how he was glad the listeners could join him, telling who would be heard tonight, and humming some of the tunes to be played. This meant that every time the band would be on the air, a new set of lyrics would have to be written!

A few themes have become immortal. These are the themes that bring back the memories of the big band era when ever they are heard. I would have to limit my list to four: **Benny Goodman** and "Let's Dance," which is synonymous with the band era; **Tommy Dorsey's** "I'm Gettin' Sentimental Over You," **Glenn Miller's** "Moonlight Serenade," and the theme that we will be hearing once again for the umpteenth time in a few weeks, **Guy Lombardo's** "Auld Lang Syne."



**MONDAY:** 1:00 TO 8:00 P.M.  
**WEDNESDAY:** 1:00 TO 6:00 P.M.  
**THURSDAY:** 1:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

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Well, Gang, when we last left Mike Schwimmer, Al Gibbons and the Player Piano Parlor crew 'way back in June, they had just been cast out into the storm by their croo-el landlord in Long Grove. "Be of good cheer!" cried Mike. "for lo! I have found yet a finer place for us to set up shop." Little did Mike know, however, that he and his faithful companions would have to labor for almost five months before their dream would come true.

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===== MIKE SCHWIMMER'S =====

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# LISTENING IN

With DON FOSTER

(Radio's "Henry Aldrich," broadcasting for Don Foster, who is on vacation.)

By EZRA STONE

**I**T IS a strange feeling for me to be aiming a typewriter and interviewing myself for a change instead of standing in front of one and being the target

for somebody else's Remington. Now that normal (sic) times are here again and the government has decided that it can dispense with my services without breaking down the morale of the entire Army, I am rapidly getting back



Ezra Stone

into the routine of things at the studio.

\* \* \*

**F**OR a while I did not think I would be discharged because my commanding officer told me I was the high type of man the Army wanted and besides I carried the best water bucket on the football team. It was during the football season, too, that I attained one of the highest honors ever given me, All-American waterboy for the Fourth Air Force fliers. . . . My greatest difficulty since returning to the Aldrich Family has been to curb my enthusiasm for saying "Yes sir" to everybody, including the janitor who sweeps out the studio. This useful little phrase was drummed into my head at great loss of patience and perspiration on the part of my sergeant when I first entered the Army. In fact I received a telegram from my sergeant the night I returned to the Aldrich Family, and thinking perhaps he had a latrine to sweep out I opened it fearfully. It contained just two words, "At ease."

\* \* \*

**B**UT it's good to be back and working again with Jackie,

Mary Rolfe, House Jameson, Katharine Raft, and the others. It's good to be "Henry" before the mike.

Oh, yes, I was born in Brooklyn, which is an island of Dodgers surrounded by subways, water and the New York Giants. I "discovered" myself one day as an actor and then decided I'd play cagey for awhile and allow some big producer to discover me too. I played cagey for a number of years after that and then while I was associated with George Abbott Productions (picking up cigarette butts and changing typewriter ribbons in his office) Clifford Goldsmith pounced upon me. I had dropped a paperweight on his foot. He hailed me as a coming star and chased me for days before I caught up with him. That was the start of "Henry Aldrich" and this is the end of Ezra Stone.



**HE'S IN TOWN TODAY**—Jimmie Fidler, TIMES Hollywood columnist recently honored by National Civic Federation for his work against juvenile delinquency, broadcasts his radio program from Chicago ABC studios at 8:45 PM Sunday.

# THE DIME \$TORE

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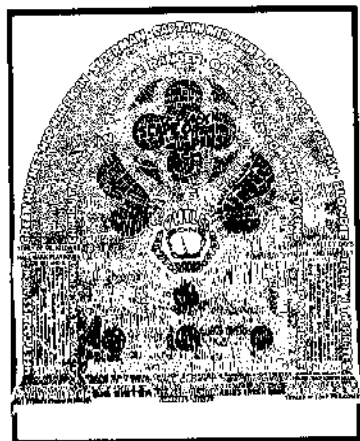
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## PERSONAL

### PERSONAL TO TV VIEWERS:

An odd individual by the name of Walter Schwimmer has a TV show on WGN-TV every day. It's called FOTO-TEST and it's on from 4:30 to 5:00 in the afternoon, Monday thru Friday. This Schwimmer person shows people's pictures (it might be your friend, neighbor, or even you!) on the TV screen, an M.C. by the unique name of Sweeney phones and asks some silly but easy question. If the correct answer is given, PRESTO, the viewer wins Chicago's biggest jackpot of prizes. Strange? Who cares? Join the fun by switching to Channel 9 at 4:30 today and play FOTO-TEST.

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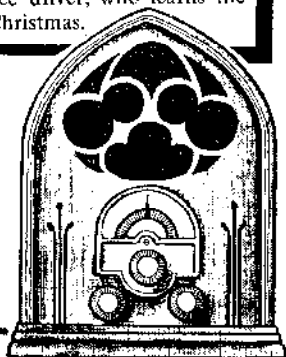
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HELLO, OUT THERE IN RADIO LAND!

OUR VERY SPECIAL THANKS to writer PHIL LESLIE for his original radio script "Christmas with Fibber McGee."

We met Phil when he scripted the Chrysler Airtemp Show, "Fibber and the Good Old Days of Radio" in 1974. Along with Don Quinn, Phil wrote hundreds of McGee scripts during the 1940s and 50s. He also wrote for Al Pearce, Beulah and Major Hoople. When TV came along, Phil made an easy transition and contributed to Dennis the Menace and dozens of other TV sitcoms.

Naturally, Phil Leslie gets a lifetime subscription to the NEWSLETTER. But he also gets our sincere thanks not only for this script, but for all he did to make those good radio days what they were: good.

We hope the Phil Leslie script and the other items in the NEWSLETTER this month have helped to set the scene for a very happy holiday season.

From our family to your family,

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*Chuck Schader*



### SERIAL OF THE MONTH CLUB

SMC is dedicated to the nostalgia prone cliff-hanger crazed serial lover.

The following serials have been scheduled:

Sat. Dec. 4th, 6:30 P.M.  
"BATMAN AND ROBIN"  
Columbia - 1949  
with Robert Lowery

Sun. Jan. 9th, 12:30 P.M.  
"DICK TRACY vs. CRIME, INC"  
Republic - 1941  
with Ralph Byrd

Sun. Feb. 13th, 12:30 P.M.  
"DEADWOOD DICK"  
Columbia - 1940  
with Don Douglas

Sun. Mar. 13th, 12:30 P.M.  
"THE SHADOW"  
Columbia - 1940  
with Victor Jory

The entire serial will be shown on date and time as above. Club dues are \$3.00 in advance \$4.00 at the door

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