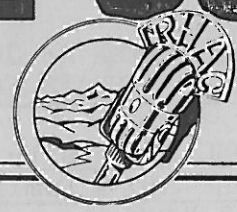


RETURN WITH US

The Radio Historical
Association of Colorado

NOW...



VOLUME 5 NO. 6

DECEMBER 1979



Bojner

BE SURE TO LISTEN AS JOHN DUNNING BRINGS THESE EXCITING SHOWS TO US ON KADX AT 1 P.M. ON SUNDAYS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

- 12/2 NBC University Theater- "After many a summer dies the Swan." 12/12/48
One Man's Family-BK. 72, CH. 10- The Family Must Make It's Decision. 12/4/49.
- 12/9 The Jack Benny Show- 12/7/41 (Pearl Harbor Day)
Nightbeat- " A Case of Butter." Frank Lovejoy, 9/25/50.
One Man's Family- BK. 72, CH. 11, "Clifford Defies Lightning." 12/11/49.
- 12/16 Nightbeat- " Am I My Brothers Keeper?" Frank Lovejoy 3/13/50
This is your F.B.I.- " The Return of St. Nick." 12/24/48
One Man's Family- BK. 72, CH. 12- " A Touch of Christmas Spirit." 12/18/49.
- 12/23 This is My Best- Norman Corwin's Christmas Show of 1945. Starring Orson Welles and Ray Collins.
CBS Radio Theater- " All is Bright." 12/23/56.
One Man's Family- BK. 72, CH. 13 - " Christmas Morning With The Barbour's." 12/25/49.
Family Theater- "Litttest Angel." Loretta Young. 12/21/49.
Fibber McGee and Molly- " Fixing Toys on Christmas Eve." 12/24/46.
Great Gildersleeve- " Christmas Chimes". Willard Waterman. 12/20/50.
Suspense- " Christmas For Carol." Dennis Day. 12/21/50.
The Railroad Hour- Christmas Show with Gordon McRae and Lucille Norman. 12/25/50.
- 12/30 Mysterious Traveler- " New Years Nightmare." 1/5/47.
Fibber McGee and Molly- " New Years Eve Party." Fred Waring. 12/31/46.
One Man's Family- BK. 73, CH. 1 - " What Does The Future Hold?" 1/1/50.

December 14, 1975 " *Family Section 31*

RETURN WITH US TO... by *Bill Owen* 18 *Discovered*

Young Widder Brown

YOUNG WIDDER BROWN, THE STORY OF THE AGE-OLD CONFLICT BETWEEN A MOTHER'S DUTY AND A WOMAN'S HEART.



ELLEN BROWN RAN A TEA ROOM IN "SIMPSONVILLE" THE ROMANTIC INTEREST CENTERED ON ELLEN AND DR. ANTHONY LORING. YOUNG WIDDER BROWN BEGAN ON NBC IN 1935.

FLORENCE FREEMAN PLAYED ELLEN. HER OTHER RADIO CHARACTERIZATIONS INCLUDED THE TITLE ROLES IN WENDY WARREN AND VALIANT LADY. SHE ALSO PLAYED DOT IN DOT AND WILL.

GEORGE ANSBRO WAS THE PROGRAM'S ANNOUNCER FOR 15 YEARS... A RECORD FOR SOAP OPERAS. HE BEGAN HIS RADIO CAREER AS A PAGE AT NBC IN NEW YORK AT AGE 16.

ORGANIST JOHN WINTERS PLAYED THE THEME "IN THE GLOAMING" IN THE FINAL YEARS OF THE PROGRAM, THE THEME WAS CHANGED TO "WONDERFUL ONE"

RETURN WITH US TO... by *Bill Owen* 19 *Discovered*

The Light Of The World

PRESENTED RADIO DRAMATIZATIONS OF STORIES FROM THE BIBLE. THE SERIES WAS FIRST HEARD OVER NBC IN 1940.



WHEN I SEND CLOUDS AND RAIN... BE NOT AFRAID! FOR I WILL SET MY BOW IN THE CLOUDS, SO THAT YOU MAY SEE IT AND BE REMINDED THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET MY PROMISE!

THE VOICE OF BRET MORRISON (WHO PLAYED THE SHADOW) OPENED THE PROGRAM WITH ORGAN BACKGROUND AND ECHO EFFECT. MANY OF THE PERFORMERS LATER BECAME VERY FAMOUS.

MONTHLY MEETING

There will be no monthly meeting for the month of december due to the special dinner this month.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

A change in plans for the christmas dinner has been made. The place we will dine at will be the Western Sizzlin Steak House which is located at 2610 South Parker Road. The date is still tuesday Dec. 11, at 7:00 P. M.. The price is \$6.50 per person for the steak dinner and all the trimmings including your choice of beverage. Everyone that is interested must have their money to Carol Roe no later than Dec. 1st. This is still a reservation only dinner.

IS IT LATER THAN YOU THINK?

If a "12/79" appears on your address label, this will be your last issue unless you act now and renew your membership. So, send your check for \$10.00 to Carol Roe today. Any missed issues of the newsletter due to a gap from tardy dues are available at 50¢ per issue.

ADDITIONS TO THE TAPE LIBRARY

No additions this month.

MISSINGS TAPES

The librarian, John Migrala, has informed me that there are two tapes that are reported missing.

REEL - 109 The Whistler. Mailed 8/18 to C. O. Anderson, then on to B. Bell, C. Barton and finally John Migrala.

REEL - 069 Lux Radio Theatre. Mailed 6/25 to G.R. Her, then on to F. Zacek, and J. Snyder.

If your name was on either of these lists and you have any information as to the whereabouts of these reels, please contact John Migrala as soon as you can. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ - PAGE 7, NOV. ISSUE

1. George Washington Coffee. 2. The final problem. 3. The Hound of the Baskervilles. 4. Martha Hudson, A domestically inclined widow in her thirties. 5. Tales of Fatima. 6. Mutual. 7. Orson Welles. 8. Dr. John H. Watson. 9. Seventeen.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ - WORDSEARCH, PAGE 9, NOV. ISSUE

Garry Moore, Philo Vance, Frank Morgan, Parley Bear, Dick Powell, Mel Blanc, Alan Ladd, Vicki Vola, Fu Manchu, Nila Mack, Don Quinn, Eve Arden, Don Ameche, Paladin, Pat Novak, Ivan Shark, Victor Borge, Clark Kent, Harry Lime, Frank Parker.

A MEMBER RETURNED

Bruce Carterson has recently returned from New York. He was a member of RHAC before he left and we hope that he will again join the ranks of the OTR lovers here in Denver. Bruce has his own shop called 'CINEMA GRAPHICS'. He is an exclusive dealer in Motion Picture Posters and Memorabilia. He is located at 1765 South Broadway. Welcome back Bruce!

THESE MEMBERS LIKED US SO MUCH THAT THEY DECIDED TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIPS

Glenn Blair	10/80	John Adams	10/80
Irving Hale	10/80	Gerald Appleman	10/80
John Lloyd	10/80	Vernon Barker	10/80
James Reeb	11/80	Chuck Hansen	10/80
Joel Visser	10/80	Frances Zacek	10/80
Richard Henry	11/80		

THE RADIO ACTIVIST.... by J. M. Richards

His epitaph reads: Born October 25, 1881, Died October 27, 1979. He was born into poverty to an Irish seaman and a young seamstress. He rose in fame and wealth to become one of the most influential men in America. As an activist during the depression, his cries for social justice gained him a following of millions. However as time went on, his views became more radical and unpopular until at the end, he died unheard. He was Reverend Charles Edward Coughlin, Priest of the Shrine of the Little Flower.

A great many adjectives have been used in describing Father Coughlin: Great, powerful, influential, flamboyant, egotistical, contradictory, charismatic, seditious, anti-semitic. What kind of a man he was depends on your own viewpoint. What he was, however, can not be denied. He was a true radio pioneer. Father Coughlin was the first person ever to use the airwaves to express a political, social, or an economic doctrine.

Coughlin's broadcasting techniques were developed by intense practice. They soon were copied by President Roosevelt in his 'Fireside Chats'. Hitler and Goebbels in Germany, later used these techniques to great effect. So it was and so it is today. The politicians had discovered RADIO.

In 1926, the Catholic Archdiocese built a small wooden church in the Detroit suburb of Royal Oaks. It was to be the Shrine of the Little Flower, so named for the recently canonized St. Theres, Little Flower of Jesus. The Diocess assigned a young priest to the new parish. It was to be his first and last church since being ordained in 1916. The enterprising young priest quickly enlisted the aid Wish Egan, scout for the Detroit Tigers. Egan provided many Tiger and Yankee ballplayers such as Babe Ruth to help the church attract people and to combat the threat of the local, rather large, KKK clan. Next, Coughlin turned to Dick Richards, owner of the radio station WJR in Detroit. Coughlin recognized that radio was capable of bringing the word of God into homes where many new Americans could not even read english.

Coughlin was first heard on the air on October 17, 1926. He preached a simple sermon on the importance of religion in man's life. It was well recieved and Coughlin became a regular feature on WJR. The audience grew rapidly. In the fall of 1926, he had added two other stations, WMAQ in Chicago and WLW in Cincinnati.

Coughlin stated his success at the beginning was because of " Avoiding Prejudicial Subjects, all controversies, and especially Bigotry." Fine words but forgotten words as Americans began to sink into the Great Depression.

Sensing a lack of leadership, Father Coughlin devoted his broadcast of Jan. 12, 1930, to an attack on Bolshevism and Socialism. A week or so later he delivered a sermon entitled, " Christ or the Red Fog." He then returned on Jan. 26, with an attack on Bertrand Russell and Dr. Wm. Leonard, an English Professor at Wisconsin, for their Communist-Socialist learnings. Audience reaction to these broadcasts was favorable and the die was cast for Father Coughlin.

In the fall of 1930, Coughlin went to CBS. His program was carried into twenty three states and was heard by and estimated 40 million people. Thru-out 1930, Coughlin concentrated on simple bread and butter issues that hit home to the millions who were out of work.

THE RADIO ACTIVIST cont.

On January 4, 1931, Coughlin had prepared a talk which supported the premise that international bankers had manipulated the Treaty of Versailles to bring about the depression. Upon learning the nature of the text, CBS requested Coughlin to delete any inflammatory remarks. Coughlin replied that rather than change it, he would shelve the whole thing and prepare a totality new topic on a different subject.

True to his word, he did not speak on international bankers, the Treaty of Versailles, or the depression. He did, however, let loose with a barrage of abuse against CBS on censorship. CBS dropped Coughlin that fall when his contract expired.

Unable to buy airtime, Coughlin then formed his own chain of radio stations across the nation. By 1932 the chain had grown to twenty-six stations that reached from coast to coast.

The early 30's saw Coughlin concentrating mostly on financial matters. He castigated Hoover on his attempts to end the depression. He advocated inflationary maneuvers such as bonuses for war veterans, currency devaluation, and a change from the gold standard to silver. He also gave his support to a young rising politician because of his fiscal policies. This politician was Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Coughlin's attacks on bankers culminated in an investigation of Detroit's banks in 1933. The embarrassment of this investigation, plus the fact that Coughlin implied that he spoke for the administration, angered Roosevelt who was now President. The final spat between the two came when Roosevelt released the names of silver speculators. It was then brought to light that if the policies recommended by Coughlin were adopted, Coughlin would gain \$500,000.

Recognizing that he was now unable to influence the administration, Coughlin announced on his broadcast of November 11, 1934, the formation of a new political party, the National Union for Social Justice. The goal of the National Union was to fight the evils of capitalism (and communism since he considered their objective the same; concentration of ownership in the hands of a few in banking or the government.)

The platform of the National Union included such items as a just, living annual wage, nationalization of public resources, but private ownership of all other property with the qualification that this right was second to human rights and the conscription of wealth as well as men in time of war.

The National Union was to gain a sizeable following but failed to elect a single candidate in the 1936 elections. Part of the reason for the resounding defeat was the choice of presidential candidate. The candidate was William Lemke, Representative from North Dakota, whose lack-luster personality was completely dominated by Coughlin's.

After the 1936 elections, Coughlin continued in his radio broadcasts to lash out against President Roosevelt and communism. He charged that top positions of the CIA were held by communists.

The Detroit Archdiocese had just undergone a change and the new Archbishop reacted to public criticisms by requesting Coughlin to clear his material through him. Rather than submit to this censorship, Coughlin cancelled his radio series for the 1937-38 season. Urged on by Coughlin, his supporters pressured the Vatican to allow him to return to the air. Coughlin returned to the air on Jan. 9, 1938.

While all this was going on in America, Fascism was on the rise in Europe. Coughlin saw Hitler and Mussolini as strong leaders who were able to solve their country's economic woes. He praised Hitler as a foe of communism, the man who had driven the international bankers out of the country, and the man who had rectified the injustices of the Treaty of Versailles. As Hitler had, Coughlin equated International Banker with Jew.

In his broadcast on Nov. 20, 1938, Father Coughlin justified Nazi treatment

THE RADIO ACTIVIST cont.

of the Jews as a necessary defense against the spread of communism. Angered by the broadcast, WMCA of New York, revealed that they had tried to force Father Coughlin to correct several mis-statements of fact. When he refused, WMCA, tried to get Archbishop Mooney to interceed, but he refused having been humiliated once by the Vatican's interference on Coughlin's behalf.

Cries of protests arose across the nation. These protests were finially heard in Washington. In October 1939, the National Association of Broadcasters adopted new rules which placed rigid limitations on the sale of airtme for controversial issues.

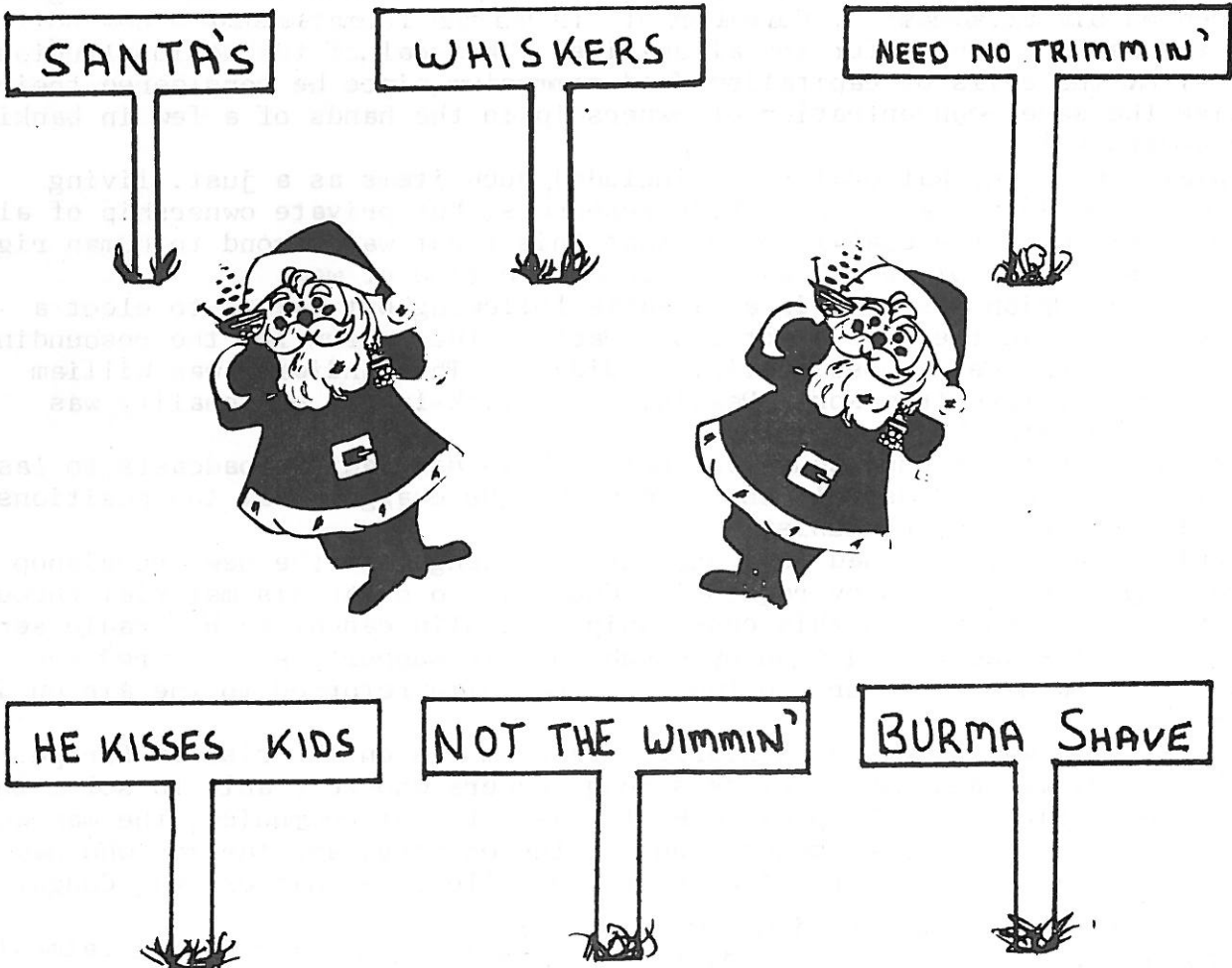
This was the beginning of the end. Citing the new code rules, stations began dropping his broadcasts. With the declining audience and rising production costs, Father Coughlin ended his broadcasting career in September of 1940.

Coughlin was to keep on with his Anti-semitic attacks thru his publication of SOCIAL JUSTICE. This was to continue until America entered WW II. At that time the Post Office started proceedings to withdraw second class mailing privileges. However, before the hearings started, the Church acted to silence Coughlin.

In 1942, Coughlin was to return to where it all started. Once more he was a simple parish priest in Royal Oaks. Here he was to remain until he retired in 1966.

One final comment. Father Coughlin's influence is still felt today. His early financial positions are becomming popular once more. Many of his supporters are still around. Witness one Tom Hayden who attended elementary school at the Shrine of the Little Flower.

END



A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS..... by Jim Vaughan

It was Christmas eve and the weather outside was cold and snow was falling down. Inside the house the entire family was gathered around the fireplace listening to Lionel Barrymore as he portrayed the infamous "Mr. Scrooge".

Father arose from his easy chair and adjusted the knob on the old Philco as the station started to fade. He was careful not to step on the dog that had laid down to sleep next to the easy chair. Father returned to his chair and sipped on the cider that mom had made last month.

As I listened to "A Christmas Carol", I couldn't help but stare at our tree. It was at least 10 feet tall and almost reached the exposed beams that it was under. Pride filled my chest as I looked at it and remembered how father and I had cut that tree down last Sunday.

It had been well before dawn when father and I awoke. We had already completed our chores and hitched up the team before mom rang the chime, calling us to the house for breakfast.

Sunrise found us on a snow covered road. The sky turned from a pure black to a beautiful crimson red. The snow glistened like thousands of pieces of silver had been scattered about. Everything was quietly covered with a thick layer of ice. The only sounds we could hear were those of the old mares as they plodded their way through the snow and the sounds of the wagon wheels as they screamed with protest against the cold.

After an hour or so on the road we came upon a trail that led us to a small stand of furs that held a promise of a good tree. Even before we had come to a complete stop, I had jumped off of the wagon and was running to the trees. A startled snowshoe rabbit darted past in front of me and ran to a new hiding place. I watched as it ran out of sight and marveled at the jumps it made to clear the snow and branches that were down. After a few seconds my attentions were back on the trees. Father had joined me and had brought the axe. We circled the trees in an attempt to find the perfect one for us until we both stopped at the same time. There before us was the tree that soon would be the delight of the entire family. Father handed me the axe allowing me the honor of cutting our tree. This was the first time that he had ever let me do the cutting and I was more than pleased.

When I had finished, we drug the tree to the wagon and with great care to not damage any of it's perfect branches, loaded it into the back of the wagon. It was then that I began to realize how big it was as it dwarfed the wagon. As it lay there, it looked much bigger than when it was standing with the rest of the trees.

We were equally as lucky to find a good sized Tom resting in the branch of an Elm Tree as we passed the outer edge of the meadow on our way back. Father was a crack shot and with one click of the hammer, our Christmas meal was almost complete.

As we approached the house, the smell of the fireplace and fresh popcorn greeted our cold noses and warmed up our senses. We were quick to run the team into the barn and make tracks for the house.

Mom and sis were busy stringing popcorn and cranberries for the tree while grandma was dipping the candles for the final time. Before we brought the tree into the house, father and I warmed our hands and feet in front of the inviting fire that warmed the entire house. Father told mom that the house was looking very nice with all of the decorations scattered about and then he went on to tell her about the tree and the rabbit. Finially he told her about the turkey that he had shot. I could see the pleased look on mom's face as she turned to father and with a giant leap, threw her arms around his neck and kissed him. They stood that way for a few seconds until mom yelled and pulled away. She had water running off of her cheek from the ice that had formed on fathers beard. We all laughed as father began chasing her around the house.

We brought the tree in and the rest of the evening was spent decorating it and

A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS cont.

singing Christmas songs and talking. Grandma kept busy in the kitchen with the turkey and dressing while we were adorning the tree.

It had been four years since we had moved to the country from the big cities and except for the trips to the little town several miles away, we never saw any signs of city life. The best thing of it was, none of us missed the city at all. All of the people, noise and businesses had long been forgotten. We had learned to make do with what we had as well as to make the things that we needed that we couldn't grow or hunt for. All of the gifts this year were all made by ourselves and this had all of the makings of a very special Christmas.

The radio was playing a commercial about the new 1948 Fords and father was making jokes about trading in the old mares for one so that he would have some new horse power to pull the wagon with, when the lights began to dim and the radio fade. In all of my excitement I had forgotten to gas up the generator. Quickly I put on my coat and shoes and blasted out the door to the generator shack. My breath was visible a yard ahead of me and I chased it all the way. It wasn't until I returned to the warmth of the fire that I began to realize just how cold it really was outside.

That night when the fire began to die down to glowing embers and the cold of the night started to filter in on us, we all decided to turn in for the night. Tomorrow was going to be a very exciting day being Christmas and opening all of the presents, and the feast would be unreal. The smell of the turkey cooking was already filling the loft where we slept.

From my bed the stockings that were hung on the mantle were in plain view. Above the stockings were the cup of cider and a cookie for Santa. Across the room and under the tree were the presents that were so gaily wrapped. I knew which ones were mine but I had no idea at all as to their contents.

A thud on the roof woke me and just as I was about to dismiss it as a clump of snow that finally became too heavy for the branch that it had been resting on, I glanced down to the fireplace and my sleepy eyes began to focus on a figure standing in the middle of the floor.

He was tall and round around the middle. He wore black boots that didn't make a sound as he passed across the hard wood floor. His coat was red with white fur trim around the bottom and cuffs with a hat that matched. The hat hung to one side and rested on his shoulder. A tiny jingle bell sewn to the end of his hat was silent as it moved about. His face was fat and jolly with red cheeks that almost glowed in the near dark. His eyes were alive and laughing. A full, snow white beard hung to his chest. His hands were covered with white gloves as they rummaged through the huge white bag he had slung to the floor.

I closed my eyes and rolled over in my bed. Slowly I opened them and again began to focus on the walls of the loft. As I sat up taking inventory of the rest of the family, my heartbeat seemed to fill the house with its thunder. Everyone was still in their beds sound asleep. Quickly I turned back to the front room and much to my surprise the jolly old man had vanished as quickly as he had appeared. Left in the front room were things that were not there before.

Everyone was awake by the time I tore the house apart trying to get dressed and to get downstairs. My excitement was contagious and soon everyone was racing about as if a fire had broken out in the house. Grandma had come out in such a hurry that she forgot to retrieve her teeth from the glass by her bed.

Once we were all down to the front room, we all gathered around the gifts that laying around the tree. We all stood there in disbelief and then I noticed that the stockings were full of ice cold oranges, assorted nuts and ribbon candy that had more colors than the rainbow.

A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS....cont.

All of the gifts had a card attached that said that they were from St. Nick. For the longest time we all sat and stared at the unexplained gifts. There was an axe for father, a sewing machine for mom, a platform rocker for grandma, a music box for sis that played jingle bells, and a bright red sled for me.

The other gifts were passed out and for a while we all appeared to forget the strange appearance of those gifts. After the gifts from each other had been opened and the hugs and kisses had been given in return, we all settled down in front of the fire that was now blazing and turned on the radio just in time for the Amos N' Andy Christmas show.

Never again was a single word said about the gifts from St. Nick and never did I tell anyone about the things that I had seen that Christmas morning. I often wondered about that Christmas and I still wonder who it is that drinks the cup of cider and eats the cookie that is left on the mantle. Every year a note is left in their place that says, "Thanks, St. Nick." It has been going on now for the last forty years.

CHRISTMAS TRIVIA QUIZ by Jim Vaughan

1. What Christmas oriented song is the all-time best selling record ever?
2. Who was reputed to have a nose that could light up the night?
3. What familiar song has been played traditionally on the 31st of Dec. and what famous band leader is recognized by this song?
4. What was the name given to the band that was led by the above band leader?
5. Lionel Barrymore played the mayor on a series that was interrupted once a year for the playing of "A Christmas Carol"? Name the series.
6. On the Amos N' Andy christmas show, what was the toy that the show was centered around?
7. Name the christmas story that began just before Thanksgiving and ended just before Christmas. There were 26 chapters.
8. Who played the part of Santa Claus on the above program?
9. On what western did James Stewart tell the story of "A Christmas Carol" to a young runaway?
10. In 1938, Lionel Barrymore became too ill to play the part of Ebenezer Scrooge, and was substituted by what famous actor?

(ANSWERS ON FOLLOWING PAGE)



OUR THANKS TO THESE MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED OUR LAST MEETING:

Steve Abbott, John Adams, Craig Anderson, Jerry Appleman, Charles Barton, Barbara Bell, Glenn Blair, Rod Buttron, Bruce Carteson, Chuck Hansen, Reid Hansen, Dick Henry, Ernie and Mary Jessen, Neil and Jean L'Heureux, John Lloyd, Scott McCoy, Joe Madden, Clay Marshall, John Migrala, Gerald Piacentine, George Ravelo, Don Reeves, Jack Richards, Carol Roe, Harold Ryan, Jim and Debbie Vaughan, Frances Zacek.

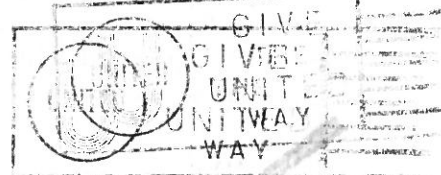
YOUR CHANCE TO HELP

We are still taking people who would be willing to help out with the Channel 6 Telethon. If you would like to help out please contact Jack Richards, ASAP.

ANSWERS TO TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Rudolph the Red Nose Raindeer.
2. W.C. Fields.
3. Old Lang Syne, Guy Lombardo.
4. The Royal Canadians.
5. Mayor of the Town.
6. A Doll.
7. Cinnamon Bear.
8. Lou Merrill.
9. The Six Shooter.
10. Orson welles.

JIM VAUGHAN
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1/80

