

Fall 2024 - Holiday Program Notes

Lassie - The Christmas Story - Aired December 25, 1960

This episode features Jon Provost, June Lockhart, Hugh Reilly, Robert Faulk and Jimmy Lydon who is best remembered for his 10 film appearances as Henry Aldrich during the 1940's.

According to Jon Provost (Timmy) "The crazy thing is we would be filming a Christmas episode during summer in Southern California where it was 90 degrees. We were all bundled up like it was 30 degrees and just dying from the heat. But of course, you kept acting and did what had to be done for the episode."

Provost also said, "People have the perception that we had three or four dogs on the set at the same time to do different things, but that was not the case. Rudd Weatherwax, Lassie's owner and trainer, would only allow one real Lassie on the set at a time, although Lassie did have a double that was used for long shots like running, climbing or swimming."

The Beverly Hillbillies - The Thanksgiving Spirit Aired November 27, 1968

The Clampett family spends Thanksgiving in Hooterville. Jethro goes there as a big Hollywood producer to get some girls and Granny is excited about seeing Sam Drucker. Drysdale is against this because he is in fear of losing his biggest account. He tries to stop them, but has no success.

In the final scene of this episode, the cast from all three of Paul Henning's television programs (*The Beverly Hillbillies*, *Petticoat Junction* and *Green Acres*) are spending Thanksgiving together.

The Jack Benny Program - The Bergen Show
Aired December 18, 1955 with Frances Bergen

Jack visits the home of Edgar and Frances Bergen to discuss the Bergens' upcoming appearance on the *The Jack Benny Program*. Also featured in this episode is the Sportsmen Quartet.

The life-sized versions of Charlie and Mortimer were played by actor Billy Curtis wearing costumes while Edgar Bergen provided the voices from off-stage. One of his early roles was uncredited as a Munchkin city father in *The Wizard of Oz* from 1939. He was also featured as part of the circus troupe in Alfred Hitchcock's *Saboteur* in 1942.

Additionally, the McDonalds character, Mayor McCheese, was played by Billy Curtis from its creation until his death in 1988. McDonalds retired the character when Curtis died in 1988.

Enrico Scortichini was played by Thurl Ravenscroft who was the voice of Tony the Tiger. He was also the uncredited vocalist for the song "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" from the classic Christmas television special, Dr. Seuss' *How The Grinch Stole Christmas!* Additionally, his voice was heard during the Pirates of the Caribbean ride as well as The Haunted Mansion at Disneyland in Anaheim, California.

REFERENCES

Internet Movie Data Base
Wikipedia