

## As I was saying...

### When comedy was truly, memorably funny

By JACK HILSHER

You have to feel sorry for Generation X because they don't have much to laugh at on TV. There are no comedy shows anymore, and I don't mean those insipid sitcoms where a dopey audience laughs loudly at every limp quip. I mean like the "Shows of Shows" with Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca; or especially like the Jack Benny Program.

This generation's comedy seems based on what shock value is left in four-letter words. One standup comic in ten is fairly funny but you can't recall many of their routines a day later. In the case of Mr. Benny however, routines built into his shows stick in your mind forever. We'll share one shortly.

First, for those who weren't around at the time, Jack Benny and his humor were fixtures on radio and television for 30 years. In the 40s with "JELLO AGAIN!" he sold so much of that product his sponsor had to switch to Grape Nut Flakes. In '48 he jumped networks for a reported 2 1/2 million, which was really big bucks

in those days.

Although a household word - most of Americans couldn't wait until next week's show - Benny was hardly a single act. Consider his cast of memorable characters: Wife Mary Livingstone, who didn't have a well-defined role on the show but who still got her share of laughs; Phil Harris, whose idea of being a bandleader was to sing "That's What I Like About the South." (His real claim to fame was probably his marriage to the luscious Alice Faye.) Then there was singer Dennis Day, everybody's kid next door, who, according to his contract, also mowed Benny's lawn; Don Wilson, a sort of pre-Wilbur Scott, was the announcer, and of course, Rochester of the gravelly voice, Jack's valet and chauffeur for his old Maxwell automobile. But of them all, my favorite was the little Mexican as played by Mel Blanc.

Blanc was the radio-movie-TV voice for the Bugs Bunny cartoons, Tweety Pie the Canary, and many others. He even imitated Jack's Maxwell trying to start in a truly amazing vocal performance. The Blanc-Benny classic coming

up was based entirely on single syllables, one after another, and it is difficult to picture anyone but Mel Blanc doing the Mexican. Its humor stays fresh, even if you can remember the original. Let's see if you do:

JACK: Excuse me, are you waiting for the train?

MEL: Si.

JACK: You're meeting someone on the train?

MEL: Si.

JACK: A relative?

MEL: Si.

JACK: What's your name?

MEL: Cy.

JACK: Cy?

MEL: Si.

JACK: This relative - is it a woman?

MEL: Si.

JACK: Your sister?

MEL: Si.

JACK: What's her name?

MEL: Sue.

JACK: Sue?

MEL: Si.

JACK: Does she work?

MEL: Sew.

JACK: Sew?

MEL: Si.

Generation X: See what you've missed?

## Library news

### Library gears up for 48th annual auction

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Book Club of the Back Mountain Memorial Library held its May meeting on the 16th in the reference room at the library. A total membership of 186 was reported by treasurer, Elin Vorthrup with \$1,730 membership dues received for the purchase of books for the Book Club shelf. Membership is \$10 for a single and \$15 for a double and dues will be accepted at the information desk in the library.

Announcement was made of the 48th annual library auction to be held July 7 through 10, Thursday through Sunday. Attorney Joseph Kluger is general chairman of the auction for 1994 and anyone interested in working at the auction in any area may call the library and leave a name and phone number and a member of the auction committee will contact you.

The program was presented by Audrey Farr who did a book review on the book 'Adam's Fall' by

Sandra Brown. Serving at the tea table were Elin Northrup and Inga Goldsmith. The next meeting, the last one until September, will be held on Monday, June 20 at 1:30 at the library. A special program will be presented by Pastor James Wert of Shavertown United Methodist Church on the subject of his favorite hobby, trolleys. He hopes to have a video of interest and will bring some of his many trolleys and other items for the program. Members and guests are invited to attend.

The cash in the 'green jar' is growing and the current project is "Cash for CD's". The money received will be used to purchase new CD's for the library CD rack. Suggestions for titles will be received with all donations.

The library has received 16 orders for our "Chef's and Artists" cookbook because of the cookbook page appearing in the Good Housekeeping magazine. Most recent orders came from Elkton, Maryland, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

and Framingham, Mass. Also, three were sold through the magazine at a nursing home in Wilkes-Barre. The cookbooks are available at the information desk in the library for \$12.95 each which includes the tax.

New books at the library: "Tunnel Vision" by Sara Paretsky is a V.I. Warshawski novel. Her office building is falling down, the unpaid bills are mounting up. She needs a lucrative case and needs it fast. Instead, her most important client demands that she find a community service job to keep his computerhacking son out of jail. A very emotional climax.

"Nigh Prey" by John Sandford is a shocking story. It was a very cold, very clear morning in the Carlos Avery game reserve-cold enough to preserve the body lying there, clear enough so the state investigator couldn't miss it. There was something familiar about the stab wounds, but the Minneapolis police dismissed the theories. A story of skill and savagery.

## Thanks

As chairman of the East Dallas Methodist Church Auction wish to thank all the business people and friends for their help in making our auction a success. Russell Ockenhouse Dallas

Obituaries are published free of charge. Priority is given to residents of the Back Mountain. Relatives of Back Mountain residents are published as space allows.

**Scruples**  
Tavern & Restaurant  
United Penn Plaza  
Kingston • 283-1617

**Thursday**  
Chick Reeves  
**Friday**  
Lee Strubeck  
**Saturday**  
Chick Reeves

## Creek

(continued from page 1)

the work, according to Mike Conway of DER's Small Stream Improvement Program.

In order for the borough to be eligible for the grant, it must prove that the danger of flooding for homes, buildings, public utilities and roads exists, Conway said.

This isn't the first time that beavers have caused problems at the Outlet, according to mayor

Richard Boice.

"This has been an ongoing problem," he said. "We're far from being done, although the creek has receded quite a bit. The beaver lodges and the vegetation must still be removed."

Last year the borough spent \$2,708 for Ecoscience of Moscow, PA, to study the beaver problem, borough secretary Carole Samson said.

**For The Creative Gardener**  
Unusual Varieties of  
Perennial and Herb Plants, Annual Plants  
Old Fashion English Garden Roses

**Bloomingdale**  
Gardens  
256-3277

**Perennials** Over 400 Varieties  
**Herbs** Over 125 Varieties

**Directions**  
Take Rt. 11 south to Hunlock Creek Post Office! Turn right, go 7 miles, 4 way stop sign - Straight 1 mile. B.G.  
Take Rt. 118, go thru Sweet Valley bear left go straight 3 miles to second 4 way stop sign! Turn right 1 mile past Jean Run Golf Course.



## Mountainside Manor

A Personal Care Facility.

Offering an alternative Quality Care program for elderly individuals who should no longer live alone.

Concerned, Caring staff providing 24 hour supervision.

Laundry and housekeeping, social programs, nutritious meals, affordable rates and more.

For more information and a tour of the facility please contact Cindy Eddy, Adm., at 675-5108.



## Bike shop opens

Joel Eneboe has opened the Dallas Bike Works in the Dallas Shopping Center. Eneboe, a 1974 Lake-Lehman graduate, lived in the Back Mountain from age 9, and his family has owned bike shops in California for several years. The shop will stock bicycles for all ages and tastes, as well as custom bikes, wheels, clothing and accessories. It also offers complete bicycle service.

**BELL FURNITURE**  
95-97 S. MAIN ST. WILKES-BARRE

# Floor Sample & Warehouse Clearance SALE

4 FLOORS OF FINE FURNITURE  
A FANTASTIC SELECTION

## BIG SAVINGS UP TO 50%

3 Months Same As Cash with Approved Credit - See Store For Details.  
Minimum Purchase \$350.00.

COME BROWSE ONE OF THE AREAS BEST SELECTIONS OF CONTEMPORARY AND 18TH CENTURY FURNITURE IN OUR NEWLY DECORATED CARSON'S OF HIGHPOINT AND CRESCENT GALLERIES.

### DINING ROOMS (over 40 on display)

<b>1 Left</b> 8-Pc. Contemporary Ash - China, Mirror Topped Table, 4 Side Chairs, 2 Arm Chairs Reg.: 3,995. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 2,195.<sup>00</sup></b>	<b>1 Left</b> 8-Pc. Contemporary Light Oak - China, Oval Pedestal Table, 4 Side Chairs, 2 Arm Chairs Reg.: 4,995. <sup>00</sup> <b>NOW: 2,595.<sup>95</sup></b>
<b>1 Left</b> 8 -Pc. Solid PA Cherry - China, Oval Table, 4 Side, 2 Arm Chairs Reg.: 4,995. <sup>00</sup> <b>NOW: 2,895.<sup>00</sup></b>	<b>1 Left</b> 8-Pc. Contemporary Mini Rattan White Wash Finish - Glass Top Table, 4 Side, 2 Arm Chairs Reg.: 5,995. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 2,795.<sup>95</sup></b>

### BEDROOMS (over 50 on display)

<b>1 Left</b> 5-Pc. Contemporary Mini Rattan White Wash Finish - Triple Dresser, Tri View Mirror, Door Chest, Headboard 1 Nite Stand Reg.: 2,995. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 1,399.<sup>95</sup></b>	6-Pc. Rustic Oak Finish - Triple Dresser, Mirror, Armoire, Headboard, Footboard, 1 Night Stand Reg.: 3,595. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 1,999.<sup>95</sup></b>
<b>1 Left</b> 6-Pc. 18th Century Cherry - Door, Triple Dresser, Tri View Mirror, High Boy, Poster Headboard & Footboard, 1 Night Stand Reg.: 3,995. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 2,195.<sup>95</sup></b>	<b>1 Left</b> 6-Pc. 18th Century Cherry - Door Triple Dresser, Entertainment Armoire, Tri View Mirror, Rice Carved Poster Headboard & Footboard, 1 Night Stand Reg. 4,595. <sup>00</sup> <b>NOW 2,495.<sup>95</sup></b>
<b>2 Left</b> 5-Pc. Contemporary Light Oak- Dresser, Mirror Chest, Headboard, 1 Nite Stand Reg.: 2,299. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 1,299.<sup>95</sup></b>	

### LIVING ROOMS (Over 75 on display)

2-Pc. Country Sofa & Loveseat, Royal Blue with Floral Print & Ruffled Bolsters & Skirt Reg.: 2,598. <sup>00</sup> <b>NOW: 999.<sup>95</sup></b>	2-Pc. Contemporary Sofa & Chair, White & Blue Stripe Reg.: 1,799. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 899.<sup>95</sup></b>
<b>1 Left</b> 2 - Pc. Traditional Sofa & Loveseat, Peach & Seafoam Green Reg.: 2,598. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 999.<sup>95</sup></b>	<b>1 Left</b> 6-Pc. Wicker Sectional, Mauve Green & Yellow Floral Print, Includes 1 Cocktail Table & 1 End Table Reg.: 3,995. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 1,995.<sup>95</sup></b>
2-pc. Traditional Sofa & Chair, Black & Cranberry Floral Print Reg.: 2,195. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 1,199.<sup>95</sup></b>	

<b>LARGE SELECTION OF YOUTH GROUPS</b> Over 15 on display With Styles To Choose From in Traditional, Contemporary, Country and Victorian Reproductions with Leading Manufacturers Such As • Stanley • Bassett • Vaughan • Lexington • Lea • Sumter Savings Up To 40%	All Odd End Tables & Cocktail Tables <b>Reduced Prices</b> Starting at <b>49.<sup>95</sup></b> & up	All Odd Chairs <b>Reduced Prices</b> Starting at <b>39.<sup>95</sup></b> & up	42 inch Sq. Round Solid Oak Pedestal Table 4 Side Chairs 2 - 12 inch Leaves Reg.: 1,599. <sup>95</sup> <b>NOW: 799.<sup>95</sup></b> <b>2 Left</b>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

### ALL "SERTA" & "SYMBOL" BEDDING

Reduced Prices Starting At:

Twin	79. <sup>95</sup> Each Pc.
Full	199. <sup>95</sup> Set
Queen	339. <sup>95</sup> Set
King	449. <sup>95</sup> Set

**Serta** DISCOVER WHY PEOPLE SAY, "I want my Serta!"

**BELL FURNITURE**  
95-97 S. MAIN ST. WILKES-BARRE 823-0578

Monday & Thursday 9:30 A.M. - 8:30 P.M.  
Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.  
\*Free Delivery

**Sale Starts Thursday, May 26th**