



Harry Golden's "Only In America"

CHRISTMAS STORY

While the Lower East Side of New York, like Madison Street in Chicago, was a thoroughly Jewish community, by and large it understood the spirit of Christmas. One of my favorite Christmas stories is about Myra Kelly who was a public school teacher in this immigrant community during the great wave of immigration from Eastern Europe (1890-1912). Although her students were children of Orthodox Jews, they participated in the Spirit of Christmas by bringing their Christian school teacher a present; cups and saucers were standard, with soap a close second. Other gifts piled up on the teacher's desk including a dozen buttons, "Save Alfred Dreyfus," and a few khaki belts, "Remember the Maine."

And now the last boy was approaching her desk and in his hand was neither cup nor saucer nor cake of soap. In halting English he told Miss Kelly that he had asked his mother for five cents for "a Christmas present for teacher" and his mother began to cry, he said, and kissed him saying, "Maybe tomorrow," but she never gave him the five cents and he was terribly worried until last night when his father came home and gave his mother a present.

"My mother was so happy that she cried, and out of Jewish said to my father, 'Thank you,' and my father,

out of Jewish said, 'You are welcome!'

The boy had then asked his mother if he may take this "special present for ladies" to his teacher; and with that, the young immigrant handed Miss Kelly a crumpled piece of paper, and quickly ran back to his seat.

Later that night Miss Kelly sat in her room, a greatly pampered person, and reviewed her treasures. She saw that they were very touching, very numerous, and very precious.

But above all the rest she treasured a frayed piece of paper, crumpled and soiled, because it held the love of a man for a woman and a little child and the magic of a home, for the little boy's "Christmas present for ladies" was a receipt for a month's rent for a room on the top floor of a crowded tenement.



Benny

Legendary Benny Goodman will add his brilliant brand of swing to the holiday ring-a-ding here beginning Dec. 23 when he opens a three-week big band outing in the Blue Room of Hotel Tropicana.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FOR ALL AMERICANS

"Mine eyes have seen the defeat of my foes,
Mine ears have heard the doom of evil doers
That rise up against me."

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Tell:

I would appreciate very much having the following article run in your newspaper during the week of December 19.

The second annual New Year's Eve dinner-dance, sponsored by the Jewish Center Social Club, will be held at the Flite Deck Restaurant at Old McCarren Field.

The event will begin at 8:45 P.M. with a complete

prime rib dinner being served at 10:00 P.M. Donation is \$10.00 per person.

Reservations may be made by calling Estelle Shendell, 735-4791, before December 28.

Membership to the club may be obtained prior to the affair by calling Florence Pollak, 735-0861 or Estelle Shindell, 735-4791.

Thank you very much for your help.

Sincerely,
Sara Suranowitz

Barney Glazer's Glazed Bits

Hollywood, Calif. (TCNS)- They threw Milton Berle to the lions in Friars clothing. It was a bruising, old-fashioned, sudden-death stag roast at the Friars Club in Beverly Hills with more than 500 of Milton's friends and admirers putting reverse English on their friendship and admiration.

Everyone laughed as if the rain had tickled their funny bones. It was all good, although not all clean fun as a dais of celebrity-filled, salty individualists sought out Berle's Achilles heel, hung him in effigy and burned him at the stake. They reduced the comedian to a common single denominator-crisply burned toast.

When it was all over, they praised him, hugged him, kissed him and wished him a long succession of happy tomorrows.

George Jessel, now 67, turned Roastmaster and first introduced the non-speakers: Sandy Koufax, Mike Frankovich, George Raft, Jack Warner and Joe Louis.

"Milton Berle has a lot of friends," spoke Jessel. "It was as easy getting a crowd for the Roast as stealing a girl from Eddie Fisher."

Read Barney Glazer's story, "Annette Funicello and Jack Gilardi-We Couldn't Be Happier" in the January issue of "TV and Movie Screen" magazine, now on sale at most newstands.

David Janssen stopped running long enough to announce, "I wanted to say something nice about Milt tonight but I can't lie." Everyone followed the same program of me tootism, turning their milk of human kindness sour while they rolled Berle in barbed wire, asked my writers to furnish me with something nasty to say about Berle, I was surprised how many were willing to write for nothing. "Pat Buttram dropped The Bomb on Milton by furnishing a Currier and Ives print in character mayhem. Continuing the roast where seldom was heard an encouraging word, Buttram said, "Millions of persons have laughed at Berle - some even at his jokes."

Jessel introduced producer-director Stanley Kramer who said, "Milton appeared in my movie (4 Mad World), which we co-directed." (Much laughter at this point from those who recognized the comedian's eagerness to improve the director's work.)

Jessel introduced The Smothers Brothers with "angel" Tommy doing most of the talking. He thanked Berle for once introducing their act, although he did 20 minutes while doing it.

The guests continued to make Berle as popular as a man holding memberships in the Communist Party, Ku Klux Klan, Jon Birch Society and American Nazi party. This was the free and salty speech that our founding fathers fought for.

Jackie Cooper told how Berle broke up his vaudeville debut when Jackie was only 9. Comedian Gene Baylos ran roughshod over his pal,



Steve Allen campaigned vigorously to Help Stamp Out Milton Berle. Dodger shortstop Maury Wills sang, "It's one, two, three strikes you're out at the old Berle game."

Milt sat quietly high on the dais, overlooking his hosts' insults. Remarks ranged from character analysis and soul searching to the water closet. These were the Knights of the Ground Table, chopping him into itsy bitsy jokes. They dried him up like an old prune living in the age of shrivelry.

Gary Morton, Lucille Balls' husband said, "When I

thumping him in the eye, kicking him in four territory and slugging him with brass knuckles while he was down. Jack Carter found the chinks in Milton's armor and poured in the acid. Comedian Pat Henry said, "Before I start, which one is Milton Berle?"

Lenny Kent gave Milt the back of his hand. George Burns revived memories that made Berle feel like he had indigestion on top of the flu. Jan Murray put the mustard on the poison pie with a sharp tongue and ready wit.

Were they putting Berle on? They certainly were. They unlit the roasting lamp, said many kind things about him and presented him with the Friars medallion. This was Milton Berle, 1965 version, the Friars' newest proof that any celebrity is but mere mortal and put together with baling wire and hairpins.

HAPPY HANUKKAH

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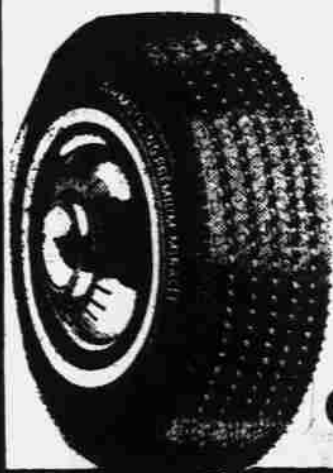
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