The Montford Park Players
present

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Dec 7, 1985

Walker
Art
Center
Asheville School

11:30 am
2:30 pm
7:30 pm

$1.50 children
$3.00 adults

BY CHARLES DICKENS

co-sponsored by Asheville Dept. of Parks,
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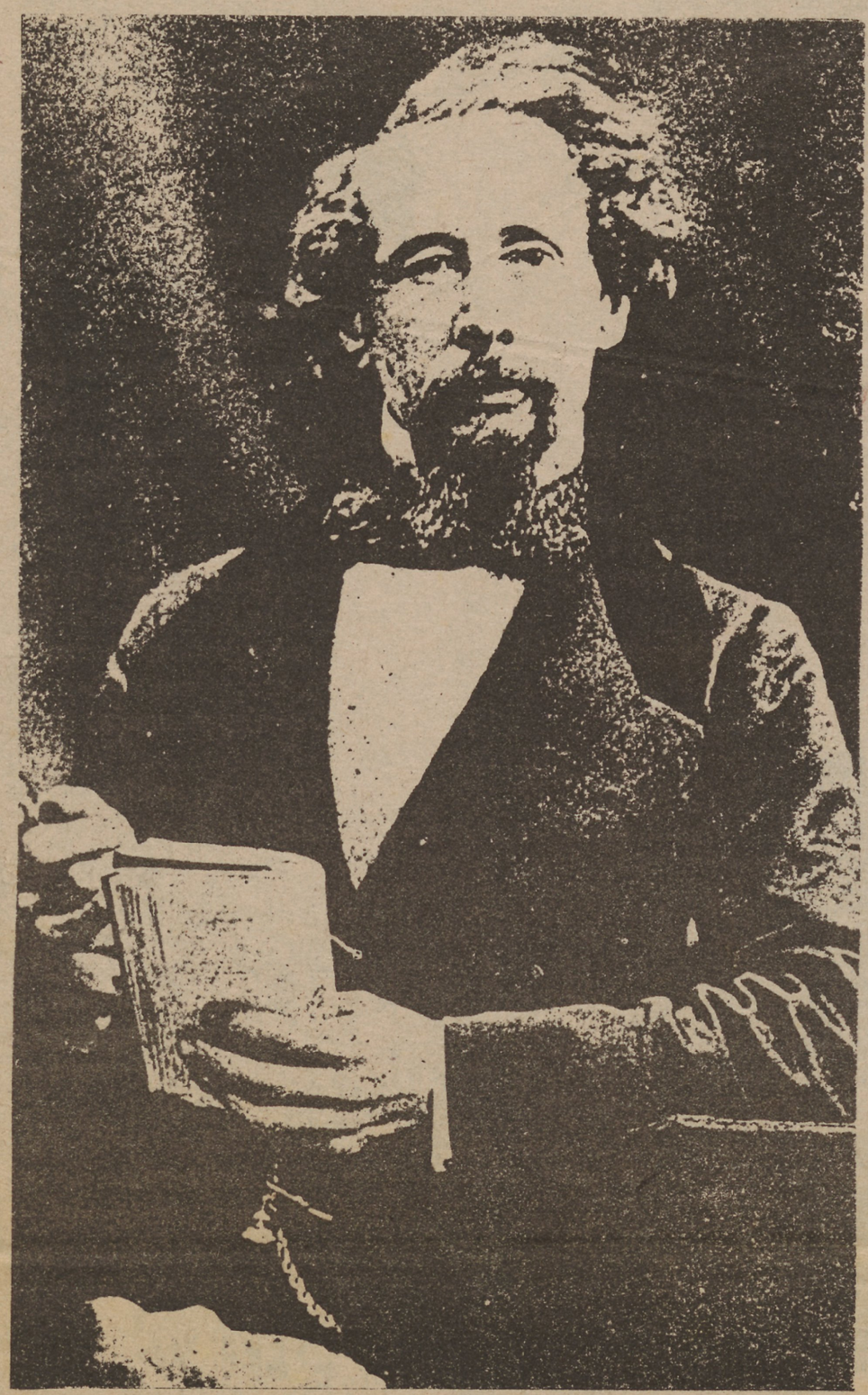

CHARLES DICKENS

CHARLES JOHN HUFFAM DICKENS was born in Portsmouth, England, on February 7th, 1812. His father was a clerk who worked for the Navy. Young Charles attended school intermittently until the age of fourteen and then left entirely. He became a newspaper reporter in the 1820s, covering Parliament and writing articles. Eventually, Dickens founded and edited two weekly magazines Household Words (1850) and All The Year Round (1859). Dickens married late in his life and fathered ten children. For most of his life, he was an active, virile man, but his health declined in 1866, and he died of a stroke in 1870.

Dickens' first literary recognition came after the publication of The Postumous Papers Of The Pickwick Club (1836), which was a humorous tale detailing the misadventures of a group of eccentric characters in London. After its success, Dickens' writing took a more serious turn, though some element of humor almost always was present in his books.

His next work, and the one which served as a major stepping stone in his climb towards literary immortality was Oliver Twist (1837). In this novel, Dickens hit upon the theme for which he is best known: society's mistreatment of the poor and disadvantaged. He was to pursue this topic with devastating efficacy in such classics as David Copperfield (1849), Bleak House (1864), and, of course A Christmas Carol (1843). Although this last mentioned story has more of a fairy tale quality to it than his other work, the elements of the rich versus poor theme are never far from the reader's mind.

In the 1843 preface of A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens wrote to his readers: "I have endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humor with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it."

- Marvel Classics Comics
Preface, A Christmas Carol

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO QUITO AND FRANCISCO COOKSEY
AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!

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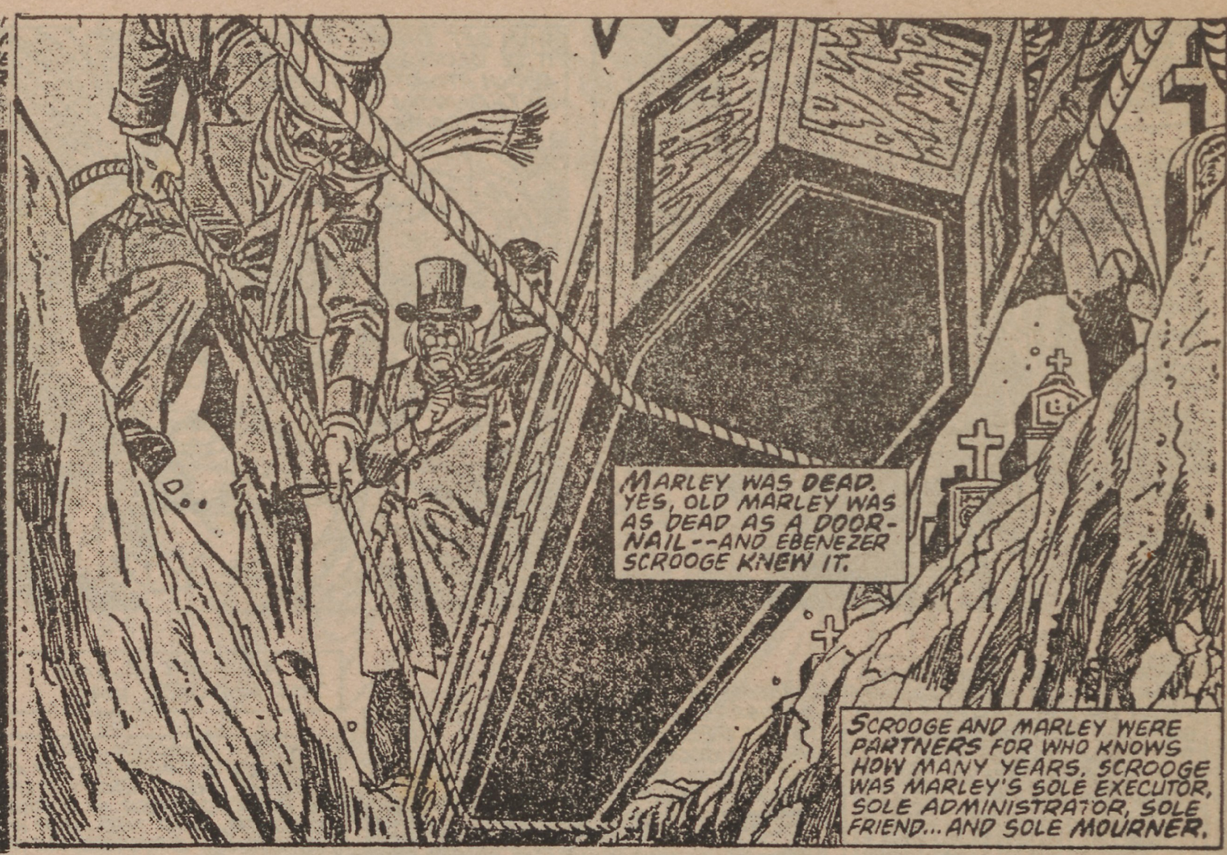
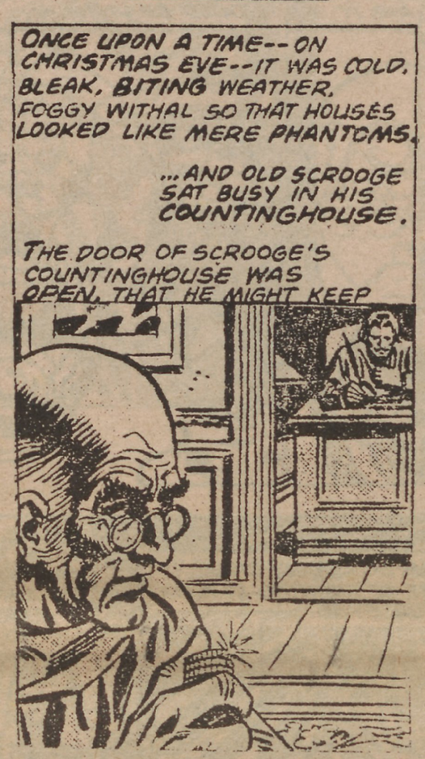
A Christmas Carol
By Charles Dickens

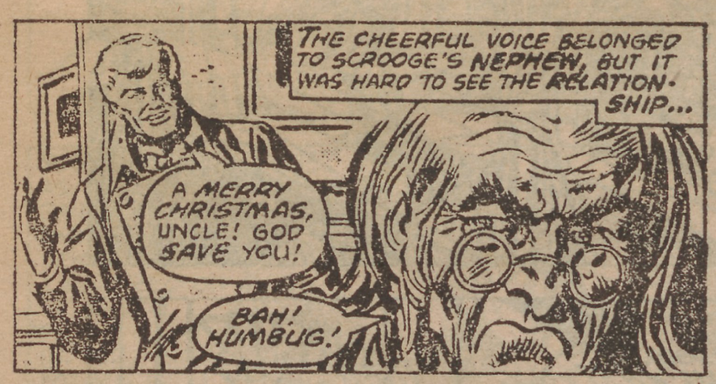

MARLEY WAS DEAD. YES, OLD MARLEY WAS AS DEAD AS A DOOR-NAIL--AND EBENEZER SCROOGE KNEW IT.
SCROOGE AND MARLEY WERE PARTNERS FOR WHO KNOWS HOW MANY YEARS. SCROOGE WAS MARLEY'S SOLE EXECUTOR, SOLE ADMINISTRATOR, SOLE FRIEND... AND SOLE MOURNER.

NOBODY EVER STOPPED SCROOGE IN THE STREET TO SAY, "HOW ARE YOU?" NO BEGGARS IMPLORED HIM; NO CHILDREN TUGGED AT HIS COATTAILS.
BUT WHAT DID SCROOGE CARE? IT WAS THE VERY WAY HE LIKED IT--EDGING HIS WAY ALONG THE CROWDED PATHS OF LIFE, WARNING ALL HUMAN SYMPATHY TO KEEP ITS DISTANCE.

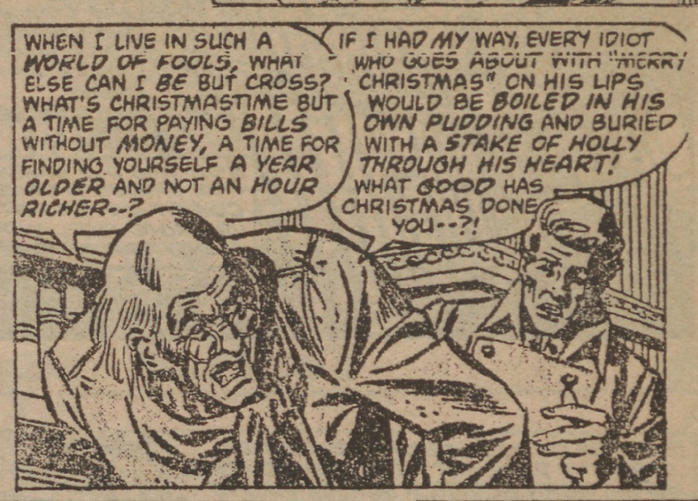

ONCE UPON A TIME--ON CHRISTMAS EVE--IT WAS COLD, BLEAK, BITING WEATHER, FOGGY WITHAL SO THAT HOUSES LOOKED LIKE MERE PHANTOMS.
...AND OLD SCROOGE SAT BUSY IN HIS COUNTINGHOUSE.
THE DOOR OF SCROOGE'S COUNTINGHOUSE WAS OPEN, THAT HE MIGHT KEEP

AN EYE ON HIS CLERK WHO, IN A DISMAL LITTLE CELL BEYOND, WAS COPYING LETTERS.
SCROOGE HIMSELF HAD A VERY SMALL FIRE...
...BUT THE CLERK'S FIRE WAS SO VERY MUCH SMALLER THAT IT MADE SCROOGE'S ROOM SEEM LIKE THE BLAZE OF INFERNO. AND IF THE CLERK SHOULD THINK TO REPLENISH HIS MEAGER FLAME-
WASTE ANOTHER COAL ON THAT GRATE AND YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF EMPLOYMENT ELSEWHERE!

AND SO THE CLERK PUT ON HIS COMFORTER AND TRIED TO WARM HIMSELF BY THE CANDLE--IN WHICH EFFORT, HE FAILED MISERABLY.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!


THE CHEERFUL VOICE BELONGED TO SCROOGE'S NEPHEW, BUT IT WAS HARD TO SEE THE RELATIONSHIP...
A MERRY CHRISTMAS, UNCLE! GOD SAVE YOU!
BAH! HUMBUG!

CHRISTMAS HUMBUG, UNCLE? SURELY YOU DON'T MEAN IT!
I DO. "MERRY CHRISTMAS!" WHAT REASON HAVE YOU TO BE MERRY--? YOU'RE POOR AS A DOOR-MOUSE!
THEN WHAT REASON HAVE YOU TO BE MOROSE AND DISMAL.


WHEN I LIVE IN SUCH A WORLD OF FOOLS, WHAT ELSE CAN I BE BUT CROSS? WHAT'S CHRISTMASTIME BUT A TIME FOR PAYING BILLS WITHOUT MONEY, A TIME FOR FINDING YOURSELF A YEAR OLDER AND NOT AN HOUR RICHER--?
IF I HAD MY WAY, EVERY IDIOT WHO GOES ABOUT WITH "MERRY CHRISTMAS" ON HIS LIPS WOULD BE BOILED IN HIS OWN PUDDING AND BURIED WITH A STAKE OF HOLLY THROUGH HIS HEART! WHAT GOOD HAS CHRISTMAS DONE YOU--?!

UNCLE! THERE ARE MANY THINGS BY WHICH I HAVE DERIVED GOOD BUT BY WHICH I HAVE NOT PROFITED--
--AND CHRISTMAS IS CERTAINLY AMONG THEM.
IT'S A TIME TO THINK OF PEOPLE LESS FORTUNATE AS IF THEY REALLY WERE FELLOW PASSENGERS TO THE GRAVE, AND NOT ANOTHER RACE OF CREATURES BOUND ON OTHER JOURNEYS.

AND THEREFORE, I BELIEVE CHRISTMAS HAS DONE ME GOOD --AND I SAY, GOD BLESS IT!
BRAVO!
LET ME HEAR ANOTHER SOUND FROM YOU OUT THERE, AND YOU'LL CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS BY LOSING YOUR JOB!

AND YOU, NEPHEW, YOU'RE SUCH A POWERFUL SPEAKER IT'S A WONDER YOU DON'T GO INTO PARLIAMENT!
OH, DON'T BE ANGRY, UNCLE--COME DINE WITH US TOMORROW.
BAH! THE DAY I DINE WITH YOU WILL BE THE DAY WE'RE BOTH ROASTING IN--

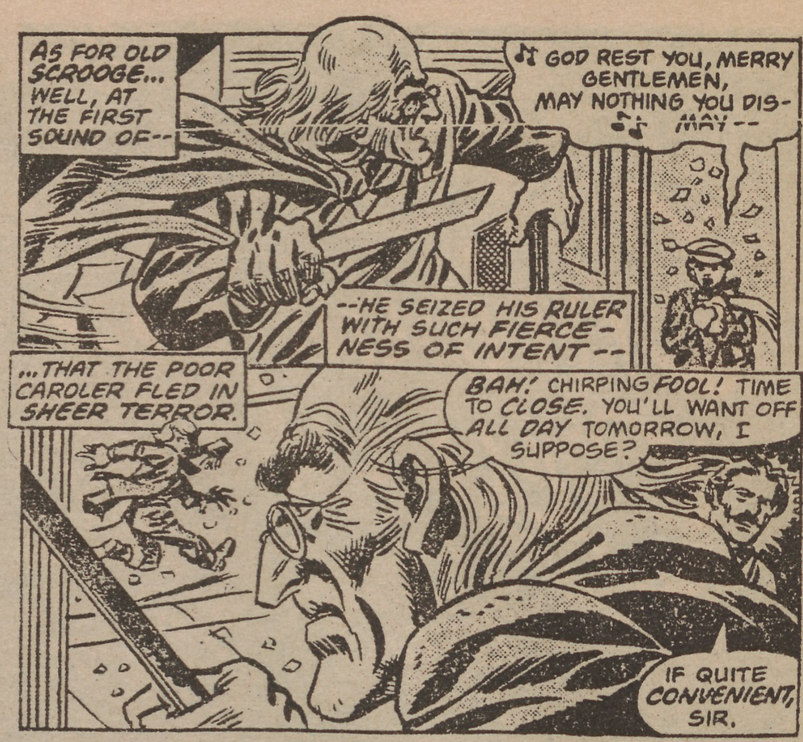
I AM SORRY, WITH ALL MY HEART, THAT YOU REFUSE TO COME SEE US. SO MERRY CHRISTMAS, UNCLE--AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!
BAH! GOOD AFTERNOON TO YOU!

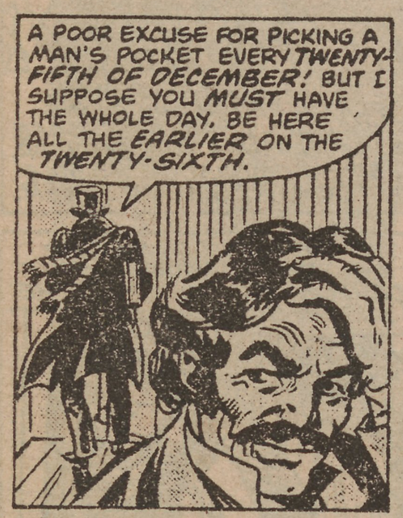
HAVE I THE PLEASURE OF ADDRESSING MR. SCROOGE OR MR. MARLEY?
MR. MARLEY DIED SEVEN YEARS AGO THIS VERY NIGHT.

WELL, THEN, WE HAVE NO DOUBT HIS LIBERALITY IS WELL REPRESENTED BY HIS SURVIVING PARTNER.
LIBERALITY...?
YES, MR. SCROOGE, A FEW OF US ARE RAISING FUNDS TO BUY THE POOR SOME FOOD AND DRINK, AND MEANS OF WARMTH...

I WISH TO BE LEFT ALONE! THOSE WHO ARE BADLY OFF CAN GO TO PRISON OR WORK IN THE TREADMILL!
BUT...MANY CAN'T GO THERE, AND MANY WOULD RATHER DIE.

THEN LET THEM--AT LEAST IT'LL DECREASE THE SURPLUS POPULATION! NOW GOOD AFTERNOON TO YOU, GENTLEMEN!

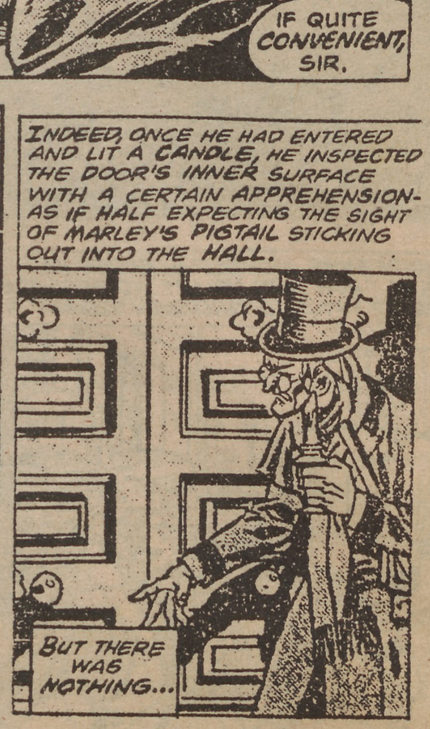

AS FOR OLD SCROOGE... WELL, AT THE FIRST SOUND OF--
♪ GOD REST YOU, MERRY GENTLEMEN, MAY NOTHING YOU DIS- MAY--
--HE SEIZED HIS RULER WITH SUCH FIERCE- NESS OF INTENT--
...THAT THE POOR CAROLER FLED IN SHEER TERROR.
BAH! CHIRPING FOOL! TIME TO CLOSE. YOU'LL WANT OFF ALL DAY TOMORROW, I SUPPOSE?
IF QUITE CONVENIENT, SIR.

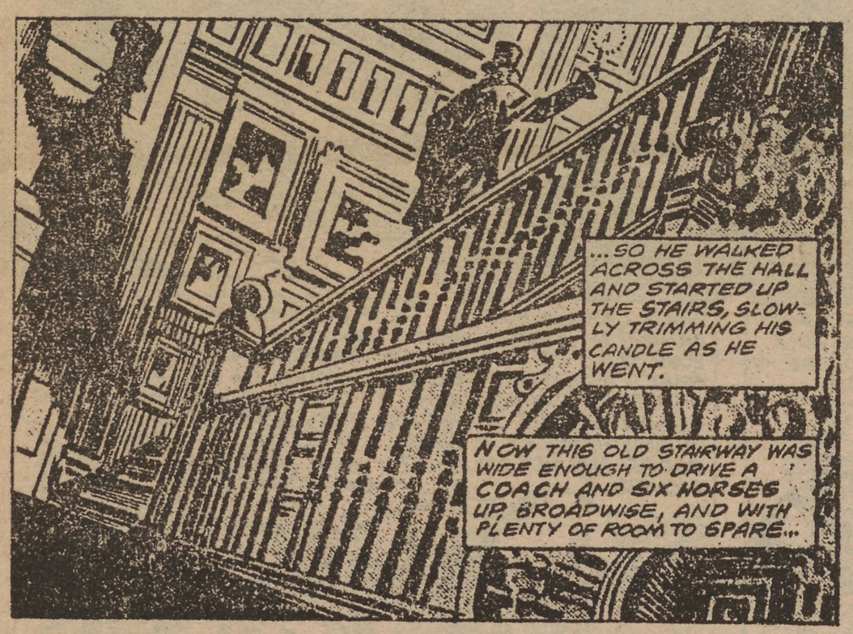

A POOR EXCUSE FOR PICKING A MAN'S POCKET EVERY TWENTY-FIFTH OF DECEMBER! BUT I SUPPOSE YOU MUST HAVE THE WHOLE DAY. BE HERE ALL THE EARLIER ON THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

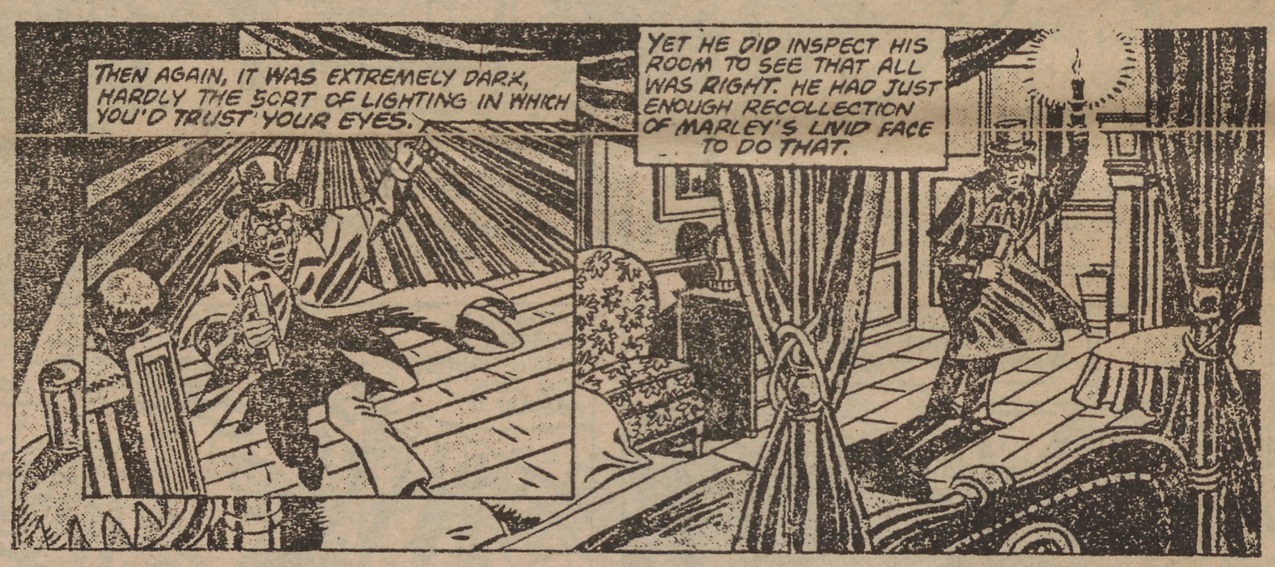
...WHEREUPON HE WENT HOME TO THE CHAMBERS WHICH HAD ONCE BELONGED TO HIS DECEASED PARTNER. THEY WERE A GLOOMY SUITE OF ROOMS, ALL BUT ONE (IN WHICH SCROOGE HIMSELF RESIDED) RENTED OUT.
THE FOG AND FROST WAS SO THICK ABOUT THE BLACK OLD GATEWAY THAT IT SEEMED AS IF THE DEMON OF THE WEATHER SAT IN MEDITATION ON THE THRESHOLD...

AT HIS DOOR HE SAW THE KNOCKER WAS...
--NOT A KNOCKER... BUT MARLEY'S FACE. IT HAD A DISMAL LIGHT ABOUT IT, LIKE A BAD LOBSTER IN A DARK CELLAR, AND THE HAIR WAS CURIOUSLY STIRRED, AS IF BY BREATH OR HOT AIR. IT WAS HORRIBLE.

AND AS SCROOGE GAPED AT THIS PHENOMENON, IT WAS A KNOCKER AGAIN. TO SAY THAT HE WAS NOT STARTLED, OR THAT HIS BLOOD WAS NOT CONSCIOUS OF A TERRIBLE SENSATION, WOULD BE UNTRUE.


INDEED, ONCE HE HAD ENTERED AND LIT A CANDLE, HE INSPECTED THE DOOR'S INNER SURFACE WITH A CERTAIN APPREHENSION- AS IF HALF EXPECTING THE SIGHT OF MARLEY'S PIGTAIL STICKING OUT INTO THE HALL.
BUT THERE WAS NOTHING...

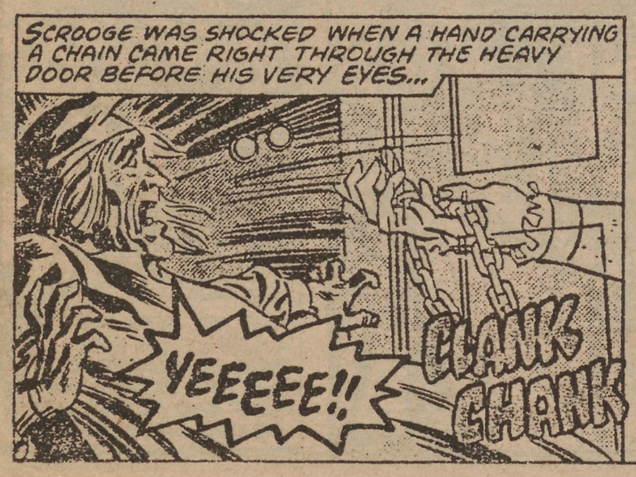

...SO HE WALKED ACROSS THE HALL AND STARTED UP THE STAIRS, SLOW- LY TRIMMING HIS CANDLE AS HE WENT.
NOW THIS OLD STAIRWAY WAS WIDE ENOUGH TO DRIVE A COACH AND SIX HORSES UP BROADWISE, AND WITH PLENTY OF ROOM TO SPARE...


THEN AGAIN, IT WAS EXTREMELY DARK, HARDLY THE SORT OF LIGHTING IN WHICH YOU'D TRUST YOUR EYES.
YET HE DID INSPECT HIS ROOM TO SEE THAT ALL WAS RIGHT. HE HAD JUST ENOUGH RECOLLECTION OF MARLEY'S LIVID FACE TO DO THAT.

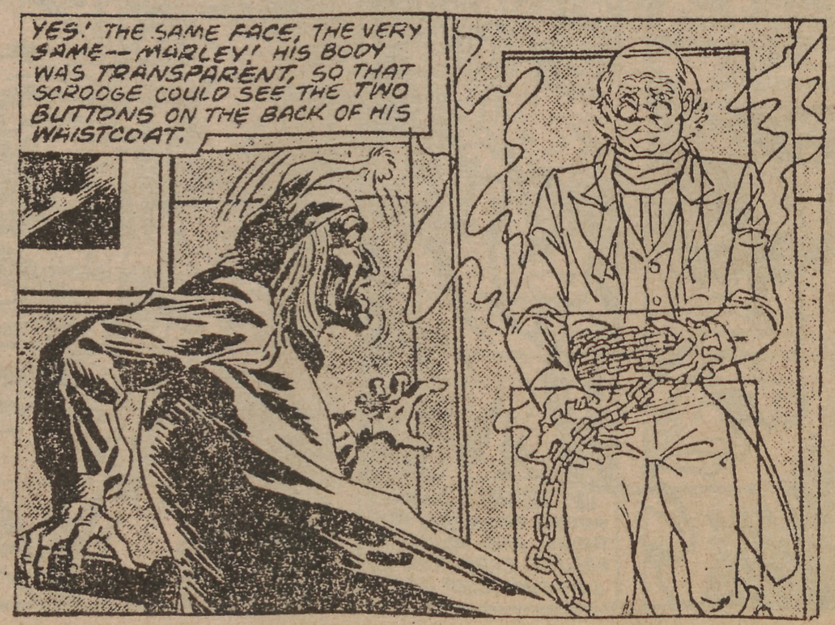
SATISFIED OF HIS SECURITY, HE DOUBLE- LOCKED THE DOOR, PUT ON HIS NIGHTCLOTHES, AND SAT DOWN BEFORE A MEAGER FIRE TO TAKE HIS GRUEL.

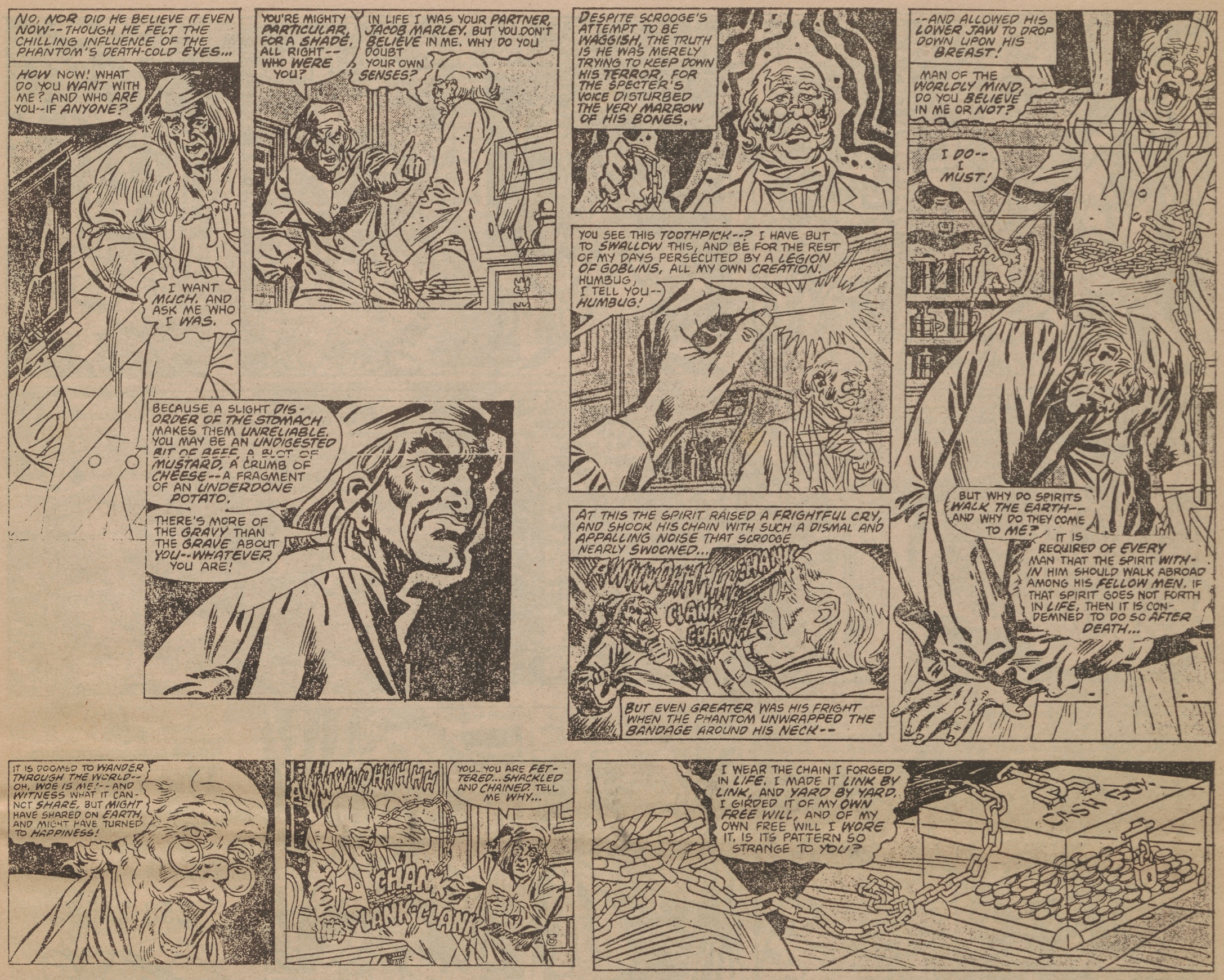
IT WAS WITH GREAT ASTON- ISHMENT, THEN, AND STRANGE DREAD, THAT HE SAW THIS BELL BEGIN TO SWING.
JANG
JANG
JANG
SOON IT RANG OUT LOUDLY-- AND SO DID EVERY BELL IN THE HOUSE.

IT SEEMED LIKE AN HOUR BEFORE THE BELLS FINALLY CEASED. THEY WERE SUCCEED- ED BY A CLANKING NOISE, DEEP DOWN BELOW, AS IF SOME- ONE WERE DRAGGING A HEAVY CHAIN...
CHANK
CHANK
CHANK


SCROOGE WAS SHOCKED WHEN A HAND CARRYING A CHAIN CAME RIGHT THROUGH THE HEAVY DOOR BEFORE HIS VERY EYES...
YEEEEE!!
CLANK
CHANK

THE DYING FLAMES LEAPED UP--
I KNOW HIM! MARLEY'S GHOST!


YES! THE SAME FACE, THE VERY SAME--MARLEY! HIS BODY WAS TRANSPARENT, SO THAT SCROOGE COULD SEE THE TWO BUTTONS ON THE BACK OF HIS WAISTCOAT.



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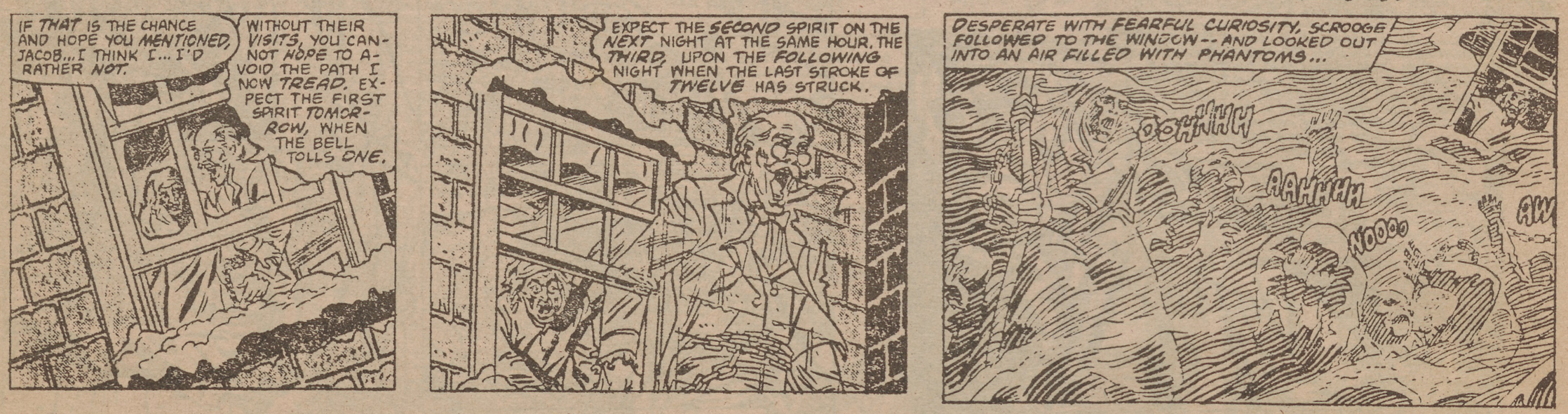

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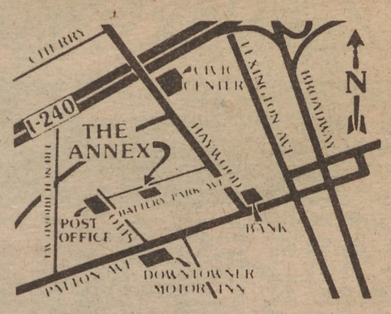

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WHEN SCROOGE AWOKE IT WAS SO DARK THAT HE COULD SCARCELY SEE, SO HE LISTENED FOR THE CHIME OF THE HOUR...

TWELVE! TWELVE--?! IT WAS AFTER TWO IN THE MORNING WHEN I WENT TO SLEEP. BUT IT CAN'T BE NOON--IT'S TOO DARK. NOTHING COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO THE SUN.

THE IDEA BEING AN ALARMING ONE, SCROOGE THOUGHT UPON THE MATTER FOR A LONG TIME...

HMMMM...

THEN HE REMEMBERED THE VISIT BY MARLEY'S GHOST...

WAS IT A DREAM...?

...AND THIS ONLY LED TO MORE THOUGHT UPON THE MATTER. BUT THE MORE HE THOUGHT, THE MORE PERPLEXED HE BECAME...

OR WAS IT NOT A DREAM...?

THEN HE ALSO REMEMBERED THAT MARLEY'S GHOST HAD WARNED HIM OF A VISITATION WHEN THE BELL TOLLED ONE, AND, SINCE HE COULD NO SOONER GO BACK TO SLEEP THAN GO TO HEAVEN, HE DECIDED--

I'LL WAIT IT OUT--AND BE DONE WITH THIS RUBBISH!

THE WAIT WAS FAR LONGER THAN ANY FIVE MINUTES HAD A RIGHT TO BE. BUT AT LENGTH THE CHIME BROKE UPON HIS LISTENING EAR...

DONG

ARE Y-YOU THE SPIRIT, SIR, WHOSE COMING WAS F-FORETOLD TO ME?

YES. I AM THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS PAST, EBENEZER SCROOGE--YOUR PAST.

ONE O'CLOCK! ONE O'CLOCK--AND NOTHING ELSE! ABSOLUTELY NOTHING! NO VISITATION, NO HAUNTING, NO SPIRIT! ABSOLUTELY--

WELL, THEN, MIGHT I MAKE SO BOLD AS TO INQUIRE WHAT BUSINESS BRINGS YOU HERE--?

YOUR WELFARE, EBENEZER SCROOGE.

YOUR RECLAMATION, THEN. TAKE HEED! RISE, AND WALK WITH ME!

EEP! WALK--? BUT THE WEATHER--MY ATTIRE--IT'S BELOW FREEZING--I HAVE A COLD!

BEAR BUT A TOUCH OF MY HAND...HERE--

YAAAAHHH!

AND YOU SHALL BE UPHELD IN MORE THAN THIS!

EVEN AS THE WORDS WERE SPOKEN--

--THE CITY VANISHED, AND WITH IT THE FOG AND DARKNESS, REPLACED BY OPEN COUNTRY COVERED IN FRESH SNOW, SPARKLING IN THE CLEAR DAYLIGHT.

YES.

GOOD HEAVENS! I WAS BRED HERE! I WAS A BOY HERE!

YOU REMEMBER THE WAY?

REMEMBER IT? I COULD WALK IT BLINDFOLD!

THEY WALKED ALONG A ROAD WHOSE EVERY TREE SCROOGE RECOGNIZED. SOON BOYS ON SHAGGY PONIES AND IN CARTS APPEARED, ALL IN GREAT SPIRITS AND SHOUTING TO EACH OTHER, UNTIL THE BROAD FIELDS WERE SO FULL OF MERRY MUSIC THAT THE CRISP AIR LAUGHED TO HEAR IT...

THESE ARE BUT SHADOWS OF THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN. THEY HAVE NO CONSCIOUSNESS OF US.

THE SCHOOL IS NOT QUITE DESERTED. A SOLITARY CHILD, NEGLECTED BY HIS FRIENDS, HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND...

YES...

...I KNOW.

COME.

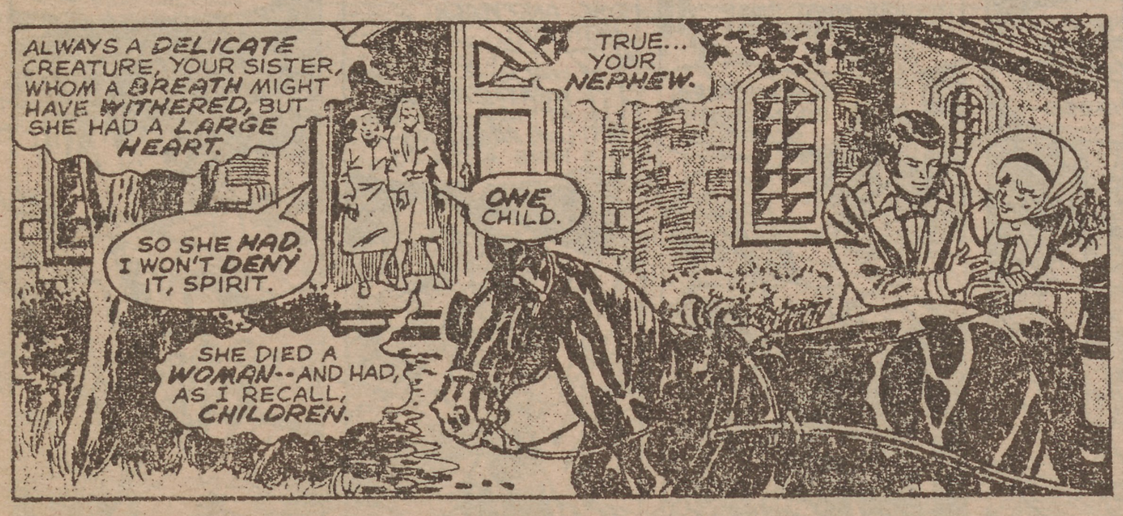
AND SCROOGE SOBBED.

...AND IN ONE OF THE LONG, BARE, MELANCHOLY SCHOOLROOMS--FILLED WITH SO MANY MORE BITTERSWEET MEMORIES--THEY FOUND A SINGLE LONELY BOY READING NEAR A FEEBLE FIRE.

AND SCROOGE COULD NO LONGER CONTROL HIMSELF. HE WEPT, WEPT AS HE NEVER HAD BEFORE...

LOOK AGAIN UPON YOUR YOUNGER SELF, EBENEZER SCROOGE, AND SEE WHAT WONDERS HIS MIND HAS WROUGHT--EVEN IN THE DEPTHS OF HIS LONELINESS.

WHY, IT'S ALI BABA--DEAR OLD HONEST ALI BABA! YES--ONE CHRISTMASTIME, WHEN I WAS LEFT HERE ALL ALONE, ALI BABA DID COME--JUST LIKE THAT!



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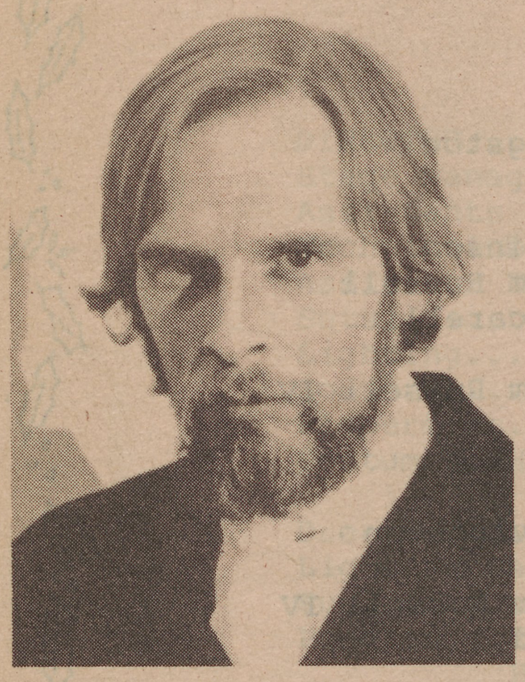
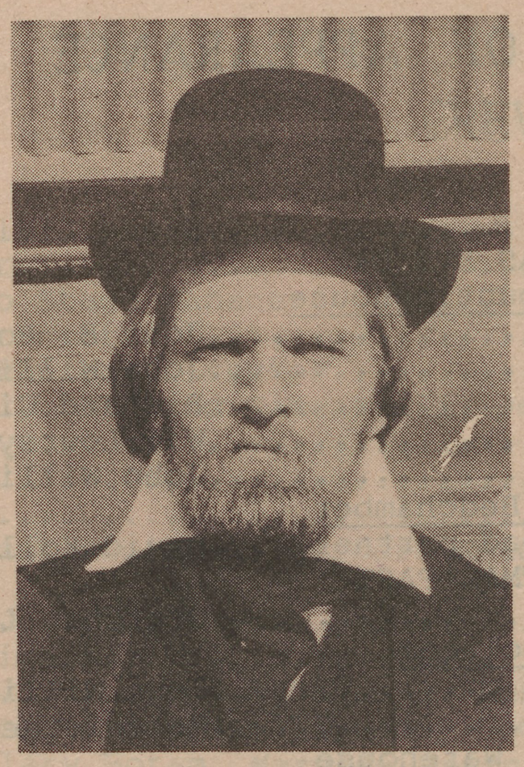
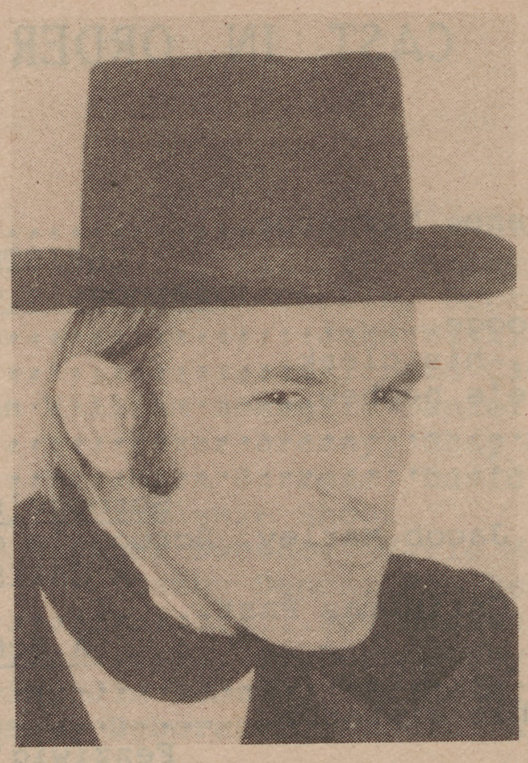


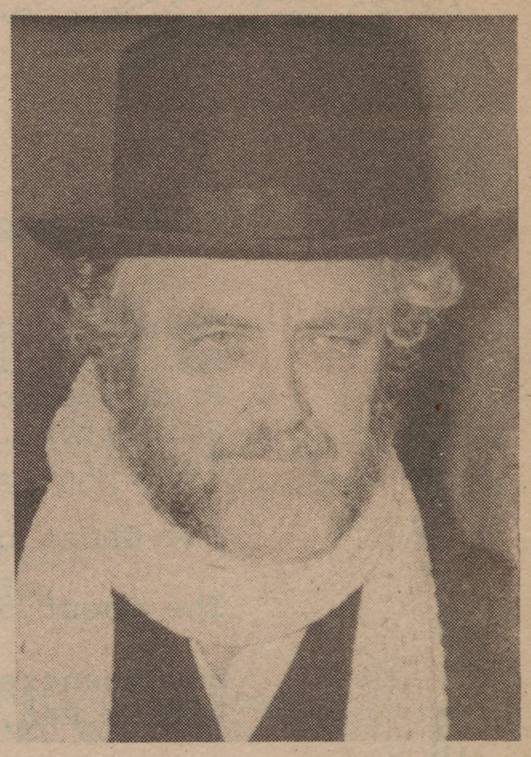
Blaque H. Fowler
1977, 1978, 1981, 1982



John E. Robinson
1979, 1985



Dan Sowers
1980



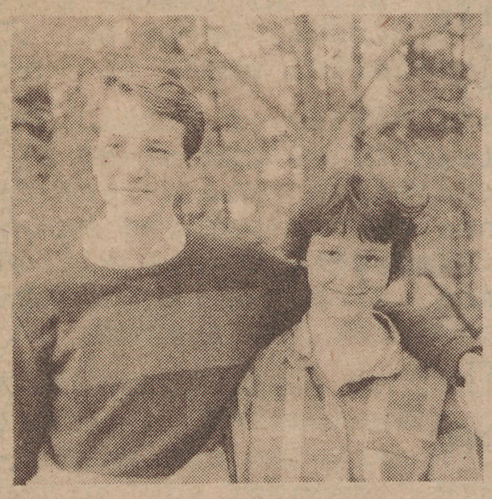
Bill Underwood
1983, 1984

EBENEZER SCROOGE is one of those characters that actors of all ages and types seem to fall in love with. On film and television, we have seen such very different Scrooges as Alec Guinness, Albert Finney, Henry Winkler, Rich Little, and George C. Scott. In the past eight years, the Montford Park Players have had four Scrooges - each with his own interpretation of the miserable miser. Apparently, the simple story of a hard, mean old man, unloving and unloved, who finds his lost humanity and joy in small things again is basic. Any actor cast in the part will find that Scrooge is within him and he himself is Scrooge. -Hazel Robinson

A GROWING CAST OF CHARACTERS

There are forty parts in the Montford Park Players' production of "A Christmas Carol" and all forty parts are always filled, sometimes with as few as twenty-six actors.

A small cast is no problem. It is the small people in the cast that are the problem. They don't suffer from shyness or stage fright or even "professional jealousy". They suffer from growth!



Certain requirements of a play that can not be met with available talent can be met with theatrical magic. Quite young men can be dressed and made up to look old enough to play Scrooge. Pretty little girls can be disguised as Cratchit boys. But Tiny Tim simply must be tiny! Little Fan has to be little, and the tiny, adorable child actors never, never cooperate. They grow, they get tall, their voices change, and they ruin their careers as small Dickens' characters.

Perhaps, as is true of so many of life's natural changes, this too is for the best. Tiny Tims grow into Young Bob Cratchits and Little Fans grow into Belindas and, if they stay with "A Christmas Carol" long enough, can grow into Betsy Fezziwigs. This year's Betsy, Patricia Brezny, did just that, and her brother, Peter, graduated to the lighting crew after growing out of the roles of Boy Ebenezer, Ignorance, Peter Cratchit, and Young Bob.

In our nine years of presenting "A Christmas Carol" all of the Montford Park Players have grown, if not taller and heavier, at least older. We also have grown to believe in Mr. Dickens' Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. As the years progress and we watch Christmas Past grow tall enough to play Christmas Future, we will continue our efforts to see that Dickens' ghosts are never laid to rest.

- Hilary Boram

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Charles Dickens, Narrator.....Steve Livingston

CHRISTMAS EVE DAY

Scrooge's Countinghouse

Ebenezer Scrooge.....John E. Robinson
Bob Cratchit, his clerk.....John William Russell
Fred, Scrooge's nephew.....Richard Ciccarelli
Solicitor.....Win Lowrey
Caroler.....John William Russell IV

Scrooge's Bedchamber

The Ghost of Jacob Marley, Scrooge's dead partner.....David Koll

A CHRISTMAS PAST

The Ghost of Christmas Past.....Gretchen Livingston

A Schoolroom

Boy Ebenezer.....John William Russell IV
Little Fan, his sister.....Melanie Reid

Fezziwig's Warehouse

Ebenezer as a Young Man.....Scott Foster
Dick Williams.....Jeff Espina
Mr. Fezziwig.....Tim Reid
Mrs. Fezziwig.....Marian Ramsey
Anne.....Marie Martin
Nelle.....DeDe Ramsey
Betsy.....Patricia Brezny
Angela Sweeney*
John, a beau.....David Seymour
Fiddler.....Student of The Pickin' Loft

A Parlor

Belle, Scrooge's financée.....Anna Holleman

(Intermission)

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Ghost of Christmas Present.....Rocky Fulp

The Cratchit Home

Mrs. Cratchit.....Cathy Danna
Belinda.....Peyton Danna
Peter.....Tim Burress
Young Bob.....Jeff Espina
Martha.....Angela Sweeney
Bob Cratchit.....John William Russell
Tiny Tim.....Lancaster Ramsey
Joseph Danna**

Fred's Home

Fred.....Richard Ciccarelli
Ellen, his wife.....Marie Martin
Winthrop.....Roy Barber
Jenny.....DeDe Ramsey
Sarah.....Barbara Reid
Lawrence.....Keith Yeatman

The Street

Ignorance.....Joseph Danna
Lancaster Ramsey**
Want.....Peyton Danna

A CHRISTMAS FUTURE

Ghost of Christmas Future.....Daniel Cartin

The Street

Businessmen.....Bob Feldmann, Joe Young, Roy Barber

Rag and Bone Shop

Old Joe.....Keith Yeatman
Charwoman.....Ethel Ray Austin
Mrs. Dilber.....Donna McCown Kirby
Laundress.....Mary Anne Martin

A Graveyard

CHRISTMAS DAY AND THE DAY AFTER

Scrooge's Bedchamber and the Street

Arthur.....John William Russell IV
Solicitor.....Win Lowrey

Scrooge's Countinghouse

*7:30 p.m. performance **2:30 p.m. performance

The Montford Park Players is supported by the United Arts Fund Drive as an annually funded member of the Community Arts Council.

CREW

DIRECTOR.....HAZEL ROBINSON
Stage Manager.....Jim Ramsey
Assistants to Stage Manager.....Daniel Cartin, Scott Foster
Technical Director.....John William Russell
Assistant Technical Director.....Richard Ciccarelli
Sets.....Richard Ciccarelli, John William Russell, Daniel Cartin
Lighting.....Peter Brezny, Shay Woodard
Sound.....Mark Burress, David Redden
Properties.....Melanie Shook
Costumes..Hazel Robinson, Barbara Reid, Gaither Sweeney, Marie Martin, Cathy Danna, Pam Redden
Dresser.....Pam Redden
Lighting Designer.....Kenn Kirby
Publicity.....Deborah R. Austin, Jim Ramsey, Tim Reid, Mary Jo Brezny
Program...Richard Ciccarelli, Andy Cooksey, Deborah R. Austin, Hazel Robinson, Hilary Boram, Mary Jo Brezny

CAST NOTES

ETHEL RAY AUSTIN, one of the original cast members of MPP's holiday production, repeats the role of the Charwoman for her ninth season. She has been joined on stage in past productions by her children Deborah, Christopher, Peter, and Jonathan. A first grade teacher at Black Mtn. Primary, Ethel recently became a grandmother.

ROY BARBER has worked backstage on MPP summer productions and appeared on stage as Parris in "Romeo and Juliet." Just returned from the Navy, Roy is back for his first holiday production of "A Christmas Carol" as Winthrop and Businessman.

PATRICIA BREZNY, a sophomore at Asheville High, is appearing as Betsy Fezziwig in her ninth year of "A Christmas Carol". One of four original cast members, she has portrayed Little Fan and Belinda Cratchit.

TIM BURRESS is joining "A Christmas Carol" after a summer in "The Tempest" as a sailor, hound and sound technician. A seveth grade student at Rhema Christian, Tim plays Peter.

DANIEL CARTIN is serving on stage and off for "A Christmas Carol" as the Ghost of Christmas Future, assistant to the stage manager and set technician. A student at the Asheville Junior High School, Daniel is treasurer of the Latin Club. He spent his summer as servant and attendant in "Hamlet."

RICHARD CICCARELLI, an Italian American born in Lawrence, Massachussets, came to Asheville six months ago and discovered MPP as an audience member of "The Tempest." His love for good food, art and the other good things of life and his many talents have been put to use as Fred, graphic artist and designer for the program, assistant T.D., and set technician.

CATHY DANNA moved to Asheville last spring from Dallas, Texas. She is making her stage debut in "A Christmas Carol" as Mrs. Cratchit with her children, Joseph and Peyton, as Cratchit children.Cathy also serves on the costume crew.

JOSEPH DANNA is appearing as Tiny Tim and as a street urchin, Ignorance, in Dickens' holiday classic. Joseph is a second grade student at the Rainbow Mountain School.

PEYTON DANNA, a fifth grader, is making her theatrical debut as Belinda Cratchit. Because she is small enough to fit under the robes of Christmas Present, she also was cast as the waif Want.

JEFF ESPINA, excited about his first production of "A CHRISTMAS CAROL", was active in MPP's summer productions of "The Tempest" and "Hamlet". A student at A.C. Reynolds High School, Jeff is appearing as young Scrooge's friend, Dick Williams, and as Young Bob.

BOB FELDMANN, a mail carrier, has portrayed a Businessman for several holiday seasons. He was the boatswain in "The Tempest", a soldier in "Hamlet" and is a valued back stage techie.

SCOTT FOSTER is playing his first major part in a play as Ebenezer Scrooge as a young man. Elated over his part, he is adding acting to his many interests which include his studies at A.C. Reynolds. He also is assistant to the the stage manager for this production.

ROCKY FULP, a member of the staff of the Shiloh Recreation Center and a mineral lab technician, has appeared in many roles for MPP. His acting credits include the Ghost of Christmas Present, Petruchio the shrew tamer and Othello.
ANNA HOLLEMAN is making her second appearance as Belle, Scrooge's young financée. She recently appeared in the premiere of "The Brown Mountain Lights" and spent her summer with "The Tempest" and "Hamlet".

DONNA McCOWN KIRBY, a communications major at UNC-Asheville, has appeared as Mrs. Fezziwig in four years of "A Christmas Carol" and is a regular performer in the summer season. She also has appeared with the Manor Inn Dinner Theatre and Theatre UNC-Asheville. Donna plays a rag picker, Mrs. Dilber.

DAVID KOLL, the Ghost of Marley, has been with MPP since 1977. He has a B.A. degree in psychology and works with the YWCA after school program. David is scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop #85 at Lucy Herring School.

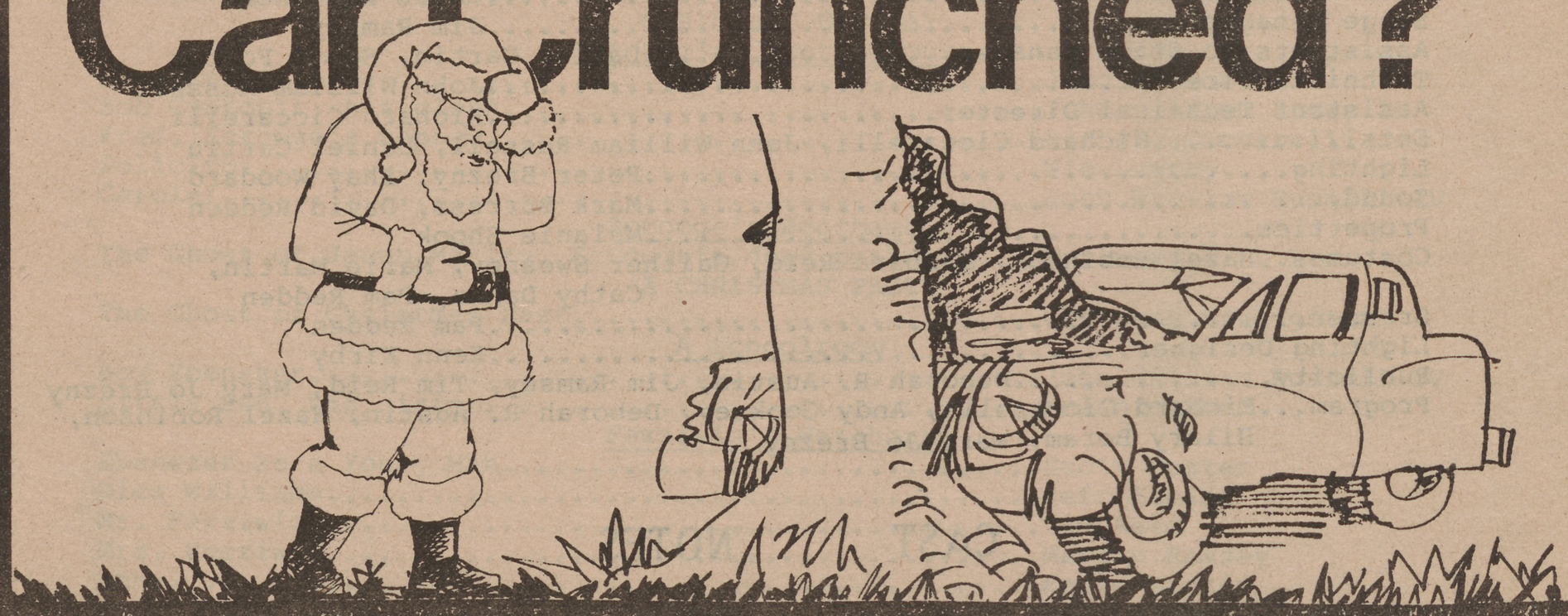
GRETCHEN LIVINGSTON, a junior high student, is in her first major role as Ghost of Christmas Past. She was active with "Hamlet".

STEVE LIVINGSTON, "A Christmas Carol" newcomer, appeared in many roles in "Hamlet" and as the jester in "Tempest". He narrates the story as the voice of Charles Dickens.

WIN LOWERY, a resident of Black Mountain, has appeared as the Solicitor for the past three Decembers. Active in local theatre, Win appeared as Big Mama in the New Arts Theatre's "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof".

continued

Car Crunched?



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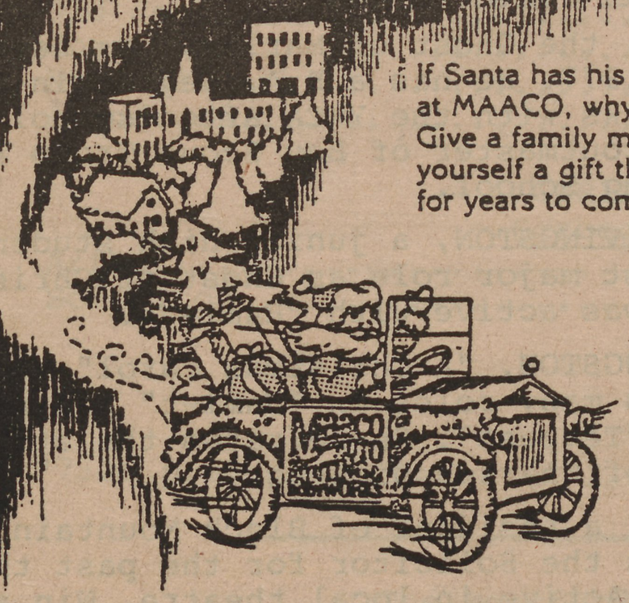
HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



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THEY WENT IN.

IT'S DICK WILKINS, TO TO BE SURE! LOOK--LOOK WHAT A GOOD FRIEND HE WAS TO ME!

YO HO, MY BOYS! NO MORE WORK TONIGHT! CHRISTMAS EVE, DICK--CHRISTMAS, EBENEZER! LET'S HAVE THE SHUTTERS UP.. AND CLEAR THE ROOM, MY LADS!

WHY, IT'S OLD FEZZIWIG! BLESS HIS HEART--FEZZIWIG ALIVE AGAIN!

YO, HO, THERE! EBENEZER--DICK!

HILLI-HO! CLEAR AWAY, MY LADS! AND LET'S HAVE LOTS OF ROOM HERE! CHIRRUP, DICK! HILLI-HO, EBENEZER!

FASTER THAN YOU COULD SAY JACK ROBINSON, EVERY MOVABLE ITEM WAS PACKED OFF INTO THE CORNERS, AS IF DISMISSED FROM PUBLIC LIFE FOREVERMORE...

AND INTO AS SNUG AND BRIGHT A BALLROOM AS ONE COULD HOPE TO SEE UPON A WINTER'S NIGHT CAME A FIDDLER, AND IN CAME THE THREE MISS FEZZIWIGS AND THEIR SIX FOLLOWERS, IN CAME THE COOK, THE MILKMAN, THE HOUSEMAID, NEIGHBORS, AND ALL THOSE EMPLOYED IN THE BUSINESS...

THERE WERE DANCES, AND THERE WERE MORE DANCES, AND THROUGH THE LONG HAPPY NIGHT THERE WERE CAKES, AND THERE WAS A GREAT PIECE OF COLD ROAST, AND THERE WERE MINCE PIES AND PLENTY OF BEER. BUT THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE EVENING WAS OLD FEZZIWIG HIMSELF, EVER AT THE CENTER OF THE FESTIVITY...

COME ON AND DANCE, MY FRIENDS! CUT AND BOW, WHIRL AND SPIN! HILLI-HO--AND WELL DONE!

WHEN THE CLOCK FINALLY STRUCK ELEVEN, THE DOMESTIC BALL FINALLY BROKE UP--BUT THE HAPPY VOICES NEVER DIED DOWN...

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. FEZZIWIG!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, MY FRIENDS! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

AND DURING ALL OF THIS, SCROOGE HAD ACTED LIKE A MAN OUT OF HIS WITS. HIS HEART AND SOUL WERE IMMERSED IN THE SCENE, AND SEALED TO HIS FORMER SELF. HE REMEMBERED EVERYTHING, ENJOYED EVERYTHING--

--AND UNDERWENT THE STRANGEST AGITATION.

A SMALL MATTER TO MAKE THESE SILLY FOLKS SO FULL OF GRATITUDE. HE HAS SPENT BUT A FEW POUNDS OF YOUR MORTAL MONEY. IS THAT SO MUCH THAT HE DESERVES THIS PRAISE!

IT ISN'T THE MONEY, SPIRIT. HE HAS THE POWER TO RENDER US HAPPY OR UNHAPPY, TO MAKE OUR SERVICE A PLEASURE OR A TOIL. SAY THAT HIS POWER LIES IN WORDS AND LOOKS, IN THINGS SO SLIGHT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ADD THEM UP.

THE HAPPINESS HE GAVE US IS JUST AS GREAT AS IF IT COST A FORTUNE OR--

YOU'VE STOPPED. WHAT'S THE MATTER?

NOTHING PARTICULAR. IT'S JUST THAT I...I SHOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAY A WORD OR TWO TO MY CLERK RIGHT NOW. THAT'S ALL.

AS SCROOGE GAVE UTTERANCE TO HIS WISH, THE LIGHT UPON THE SPIRIT'S HEAD BURNED VERY CLEAR AND THEN...

MY TIME GROWS SHORT! QUICK--WE MUST SEE YET ANOTHER CHRISTMAS PAST!

AGAIN SCROOGE SAW HIMSELF, OLDER NOW, AND WITH A FACE THAT HAD BEGUN TO WEAR THE SIGNS OF GREED. HE SAT BY THE SIDE OF A FAIR GIRL IN WHOSE EYES SHONE THE GLISTEN OF TEARS...

TO YOU, EBENEZER, IT MATTERS VERY LITTLE. ANOTHER IDOL HAS DISPLACED ME...

A GOLDEN ONE.

WHAT IDOL--?

YOU WERE NOT WHAT YOU ARE NOW. I STILL AM. THAT WHICH PROMISED HAPPINESS WHEN WE WERE ONE IN HEART IS FRAUGHT WITH MISERY NOW THAT WE ARE TWO. I MUST RELEASE YOU.

HAVE I EVER SOUGHT RELEASE?

NOT IN WORDS...

...BUT IN A CHANGED NATURE, AN ALTERED SPIRIT, ANOTHER HOPE AS IT'S GREAT END. IN EVERYTHING THAT MADE MY LOVE OF ANY WORTH OR VALUE IN YOUR SIGHT. I WOULD GLADLY THINK OTHERWISE IF I COULD, BUT I MUST RELEASE YOU...

...AND WITH A FULL HEART, FOR THE LOVE OF HIM YOU ONCE WERE.

YOU MAY HAVE PAIN IN THIS, BUT ONLY BRIEFLY, AND YOU WILL SOON DISMISS RECOLLECTION OF IT--AS AN UNPROFITABLE DREAM FROM WHICH YOU GLADLY AWOKE. I HAVE NO DOWRY, YET I WAS ONCE HAPPY.

MAY YOU BE HAPPY, EBENEZER, IN THE LIFE YOU HAVE CHOSEN.

SHE LEFT HIM, AND THEY PARTED FOREVER...

SPIRIT! SHOW ME NO MORE! WHY DO YOU DELIGHT IN TORTURING ME?! NO MORE!

YES! ONE SHADOW MORE--ONE CHRISTMAS MORE!

NO!! LEAVE ME! TAKE ME BACK! HAUNT ME NO LONGER!

YOU HEAR ME?! NO LONGER! HAUNT ME NO--

--LONGER-RRRR...

EBENEZER SCROOGE FELL BACK, EXHAUSTED AND SANK INTO A HEAVY SLEEP...IN HIS OWN BED.

AWAKENING IN THE MIDDLE OF A PRODIGIOUSLY LOUD SNORE, SCROOGE DID NOT HAVE TO BE TOLD THAT THE BELL WAS AGAIN UPON THE STROKE OF--

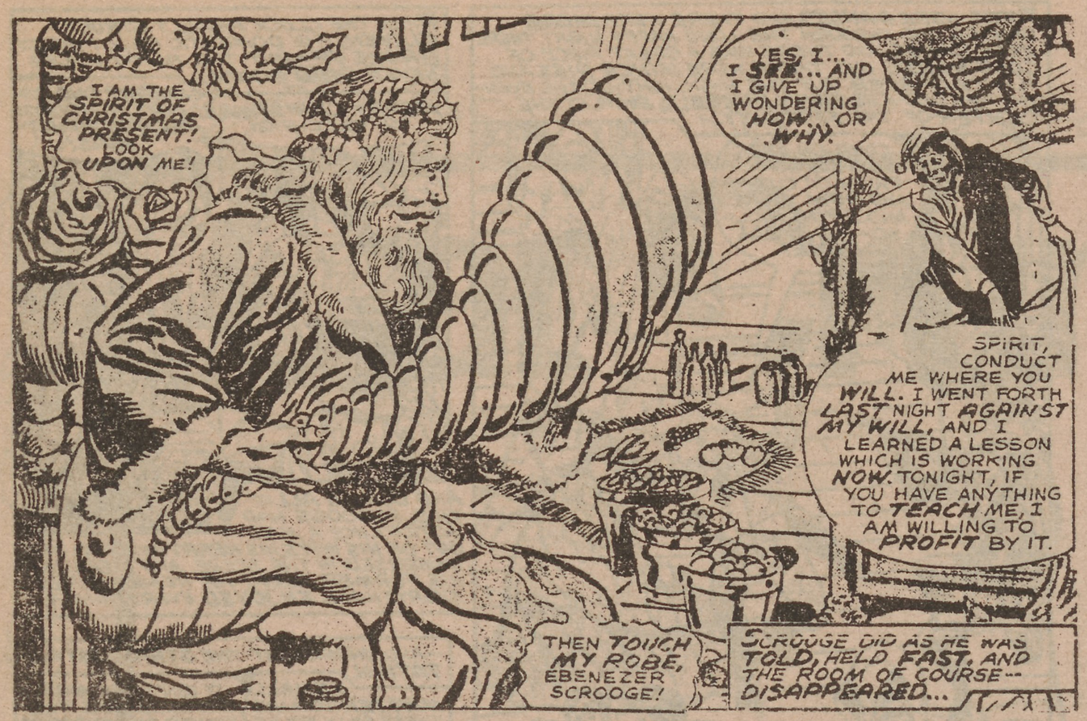
ONE.

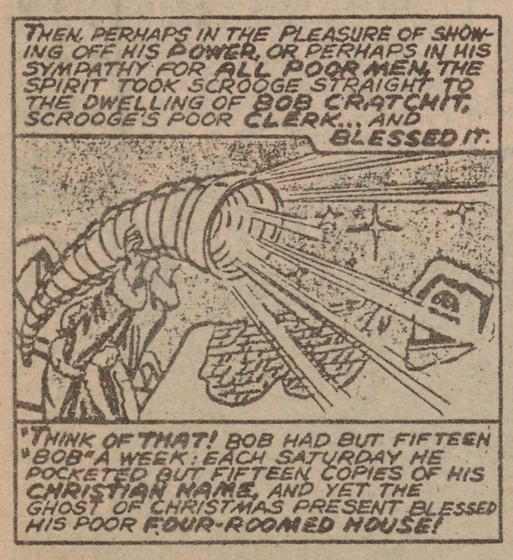
DONG

INDEED, HE HAD THE FEELING THAT HE HAD BEEN RESTORED TO CONSCIOUSNESS JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME...

ARISE, MAN! ARISE AND KNOW ME BETTER!

...AND FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF MEETING JACOB MARLEY'S NEXT MESSENGER...





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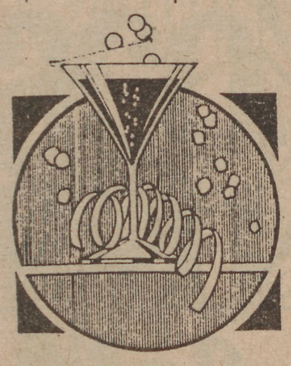

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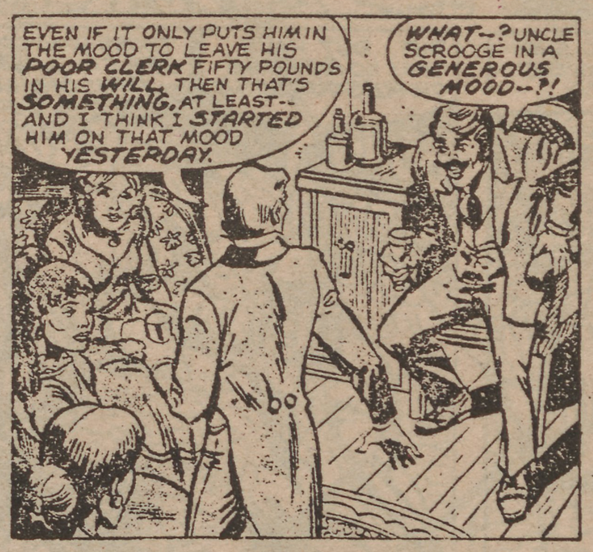

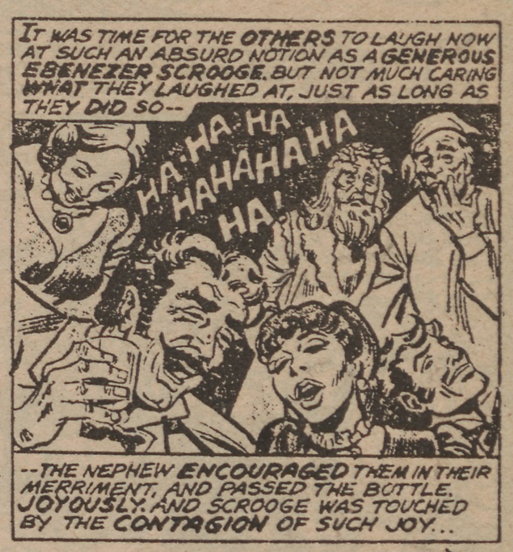

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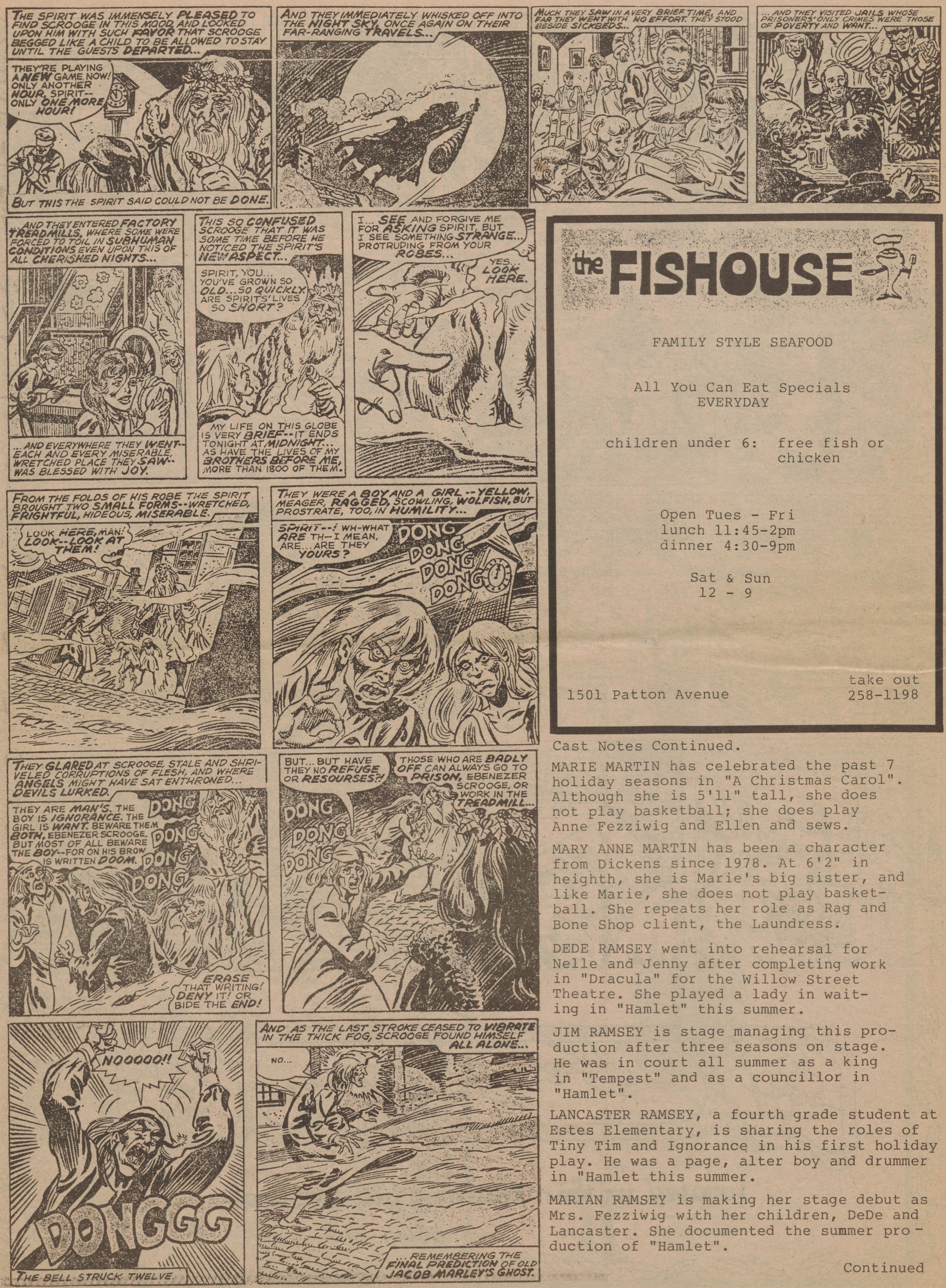

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Cast Notes Continued.

MARIE MARTIN has celebrated the past 7 holiday seasons in "A Christmas Carol". Although she is 5'11" tall, she does not play basketball; she does play Anne Fezziwig and Ellen and sews.

MARY ANNE MARTIN has been a character from Dickens since 1978. At 6'2" in heighth, she is Marie's big sister, and like Marie, she does not play basketball. She repeats her role as Rag and Bone Shop client, the Laundress.

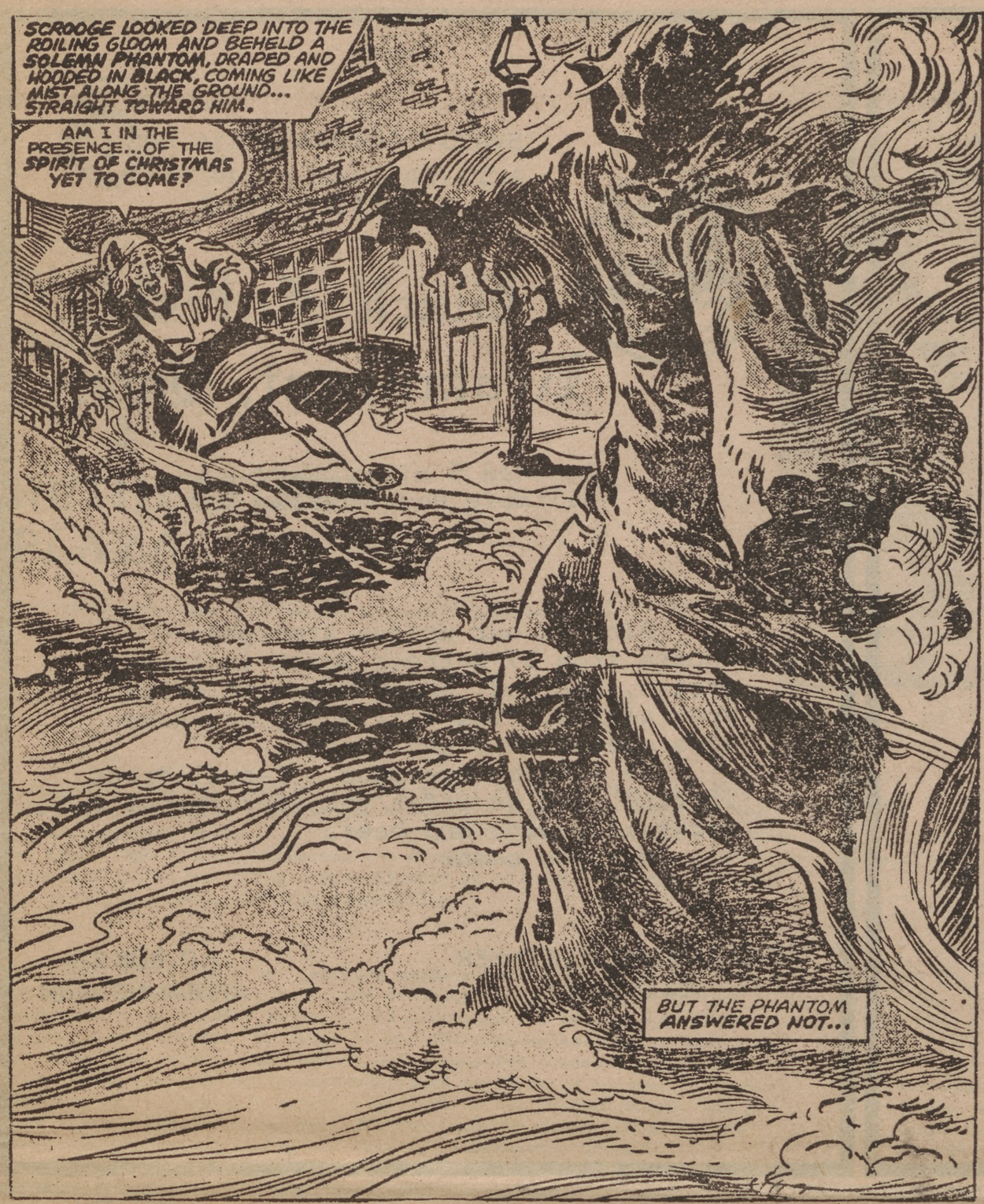
DEDE RAMSEY went into rehearsal for Nelle and Jenny after completing work in "Dracula" for the Willow Street Theatre. She played a lady in waiting in "Hamlet" this summer.

JIM RAMSEY is stage managing this production after three seasons on stage. He was in court all summer as a king in "Tempest" and as a councillor in "Hamlet".

LANCASTER RAMSEY, a fourth grade student at Estes Elementary, is sharing the roles of Tiny Tim and Ignorance in his first holiday play. He was a page, alter boy and drummer in "Hamlet this summer.

MARIAN RAMSEY is making her stage debut as Mrs. Fezziwig with her children, DeDe and Lancaster. She documented the summer production of "Hamlet".

Continued



WHAT AWAITS SCHOOGE AS HE FOLLOWS THE DARK PHANTOM INTO THE FUTURE?

CAN HE ESCAPE THE CHAINS OF MARLEY?

WILL TINY TIM LIVE?

For answers to these questions, join the Montford Park Players for "A Christmas Carol" on Saturday, December 1, at the Walker Arts Center of Asheville School.

SHOW TIMES:: 11:30 AM
2:30 PM
7:30 PM

Tickets are $1.50 for students and senior adults and $3.00 general admission and are available at the following locations:
Asheville Civic Center
Merrimon Galleries
New Morning Gallery

call Montford Park Players at 254-4540 for further details

Portions of the souvenir playbill are reproduced from Marvel Classics Comics' "A Christmas Carol" Vol. 1, No. 36, copyright 1978 with permission from Marvel Comics Group.

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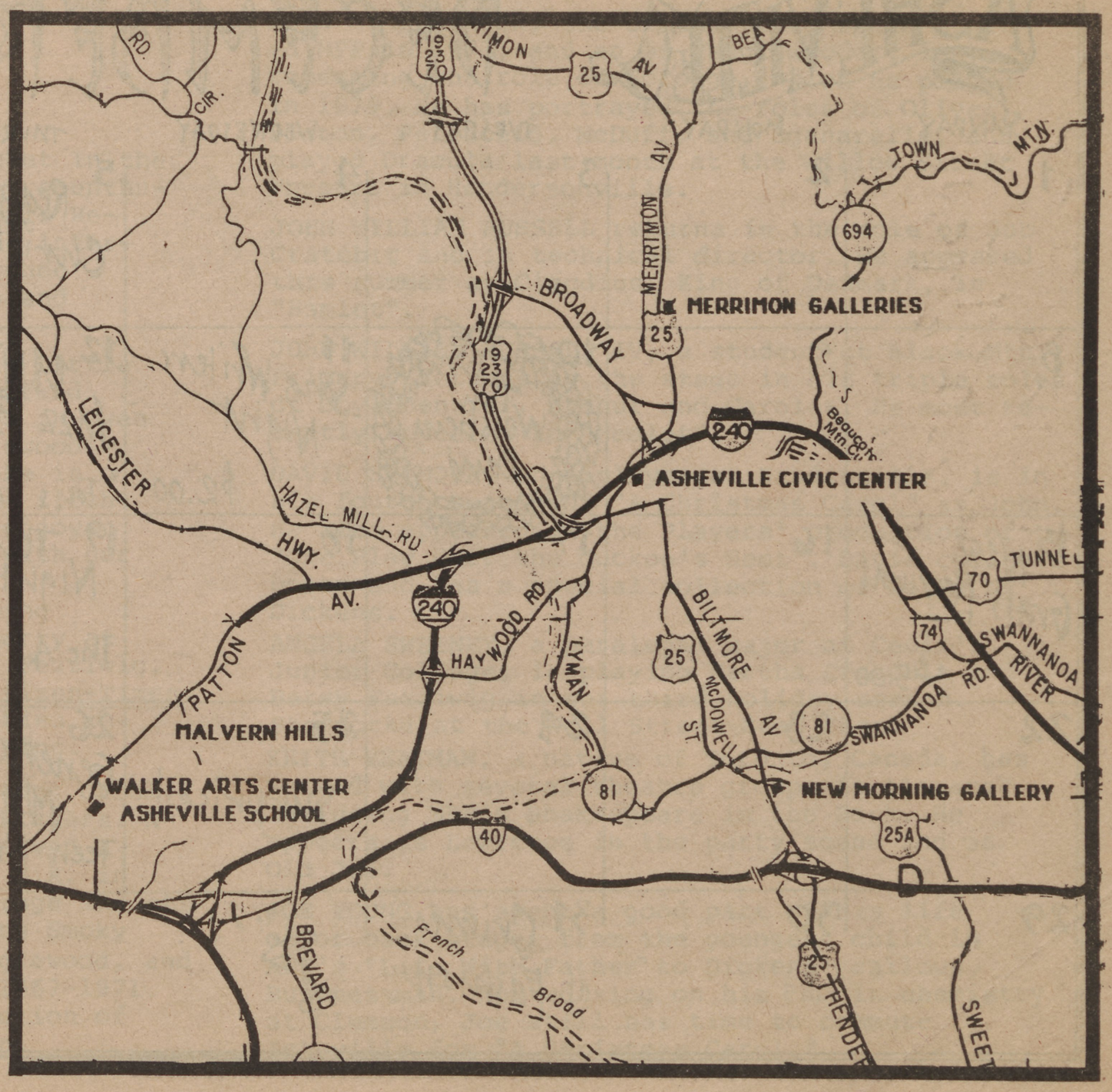

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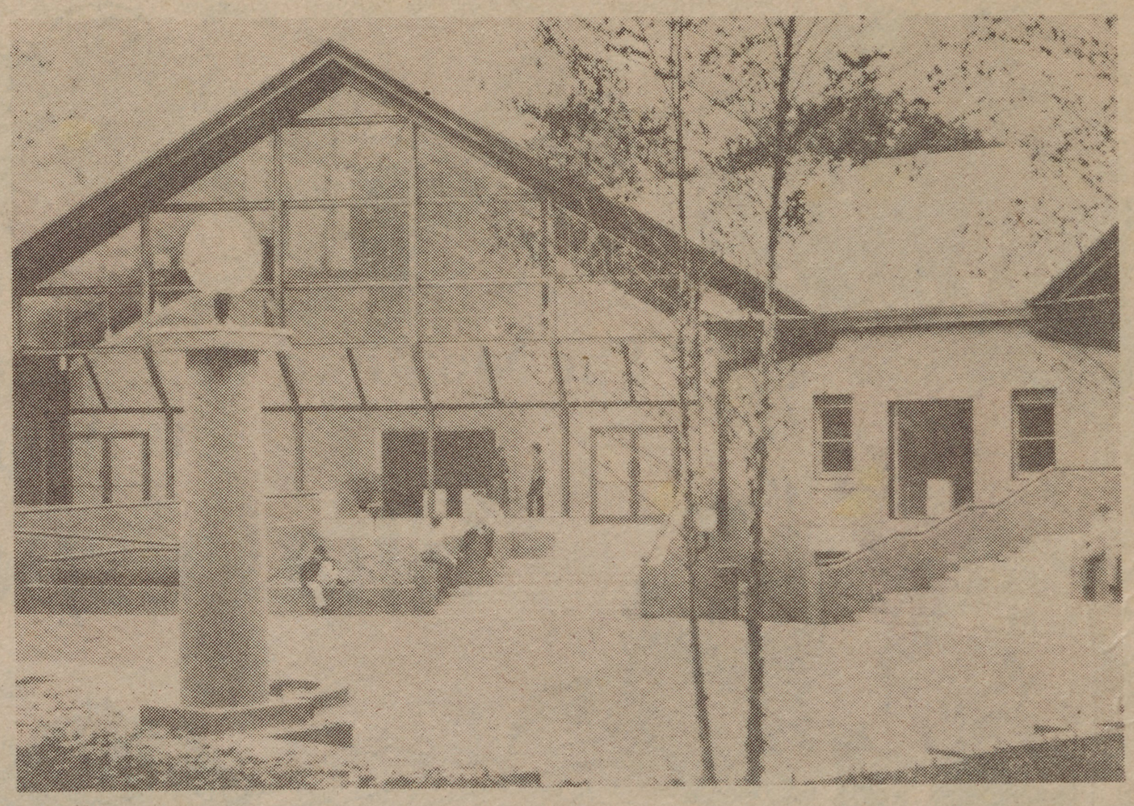
1	2	3	4	5 Reggae Christmas $3.00	6 The Spongetones $5.00 members $6.00 guest	7 Off The Record $3.00
8	9	10 Tim Weisberg Band	11 Song Writers Night $2.00	12 UNCA Jazz Band "Toys for Tots"	13 Nantucket $8.00	14 Freedom of Expression $4.00
15 New Grass Revival $5.00	16	17	18	19 Teen Night The Allisons $4.00	20 IBM $4.00 members $5.00 guests	21 Cruse-a-Matic $4.50
22	23	24	25 Surprise!	26 Genetic Memory Teen Night $4.00	27 Brice Street	28 The Town $3.00
29	30	31 Crimes of Fashion				

WALKER ARTS CENTER & RETHERFORD PLAZA

The Asheville School is a member of The Community Arts Council of Western North Carolina.



Provided in 1981-1982 through the generosity of Shaw Walker '32, The Shaw-Walker Foundation, Elaine and W. Stewart Retherford '38, trustees, alumni, parents, students, faculty, and friends of The Asheville School, the Center and Plaza have become the focal point of the independent secondary school providing a wide variety of cultural programs for both the campus and Asheville-area communities.

The Walker Art Gallery has featured among others works on loan from the Metropolitan Museum, New York, and exhibitions in many media by the Southeastern Watercolor Society, the Asheville Art League, faculty, alumni, and students. On stage in the 382-seat Walker Center Theater, programs have ranged from student prize-speaking contests, drama and music productions to nationally-acclaimed speakers -- Senator William Proxmire and author Alex Haley; musicians -- the Emerson String Quartet from Lincoln Center in New York and the Smoky Mountain British Brass Band; and actors, including the National Shakespeare Company.

WALKER ARTS CENTER WINTER EVENTS

January 8 - 31	GALLERY: Sara Lynn Spradling, Painter, UNC-A Faculty Reception: January 8, 7:00 p.m.
January 26, 7:30 p.m.	Pepe Romero, Classical Guitarist Funded by the Harris Music Fund
February 10 - March 5	GALLERY: Carol Bomer, Watercolorist, Asheville Reception: February 10, 7:00 p.m.
February 16, 7:30 p.m.	Lem Tucker, CBS News Correspondent Funded by a portion of a grant from the Biddle Foundation

Virtually all exhibitions and performances are open to the public at no charge on reservations made by telephoning 254-6345. For information about leasing the facilities, contact Mr. Chase Ambler, Walker Center Director.

Cast Notes Continued.

BARBARA REID is making her acting debut in the role of Sarah but is a longtime theatre enthusiast. She is secretary at the Minerals Research Laboratory, and her spare-time interests include singing in the St. Lawrence Catholic Church Choir, playing piano and enjoying diverse musical interests.

MELANIE REID made her acting debut as Little Fan last year, and the experience sparked her interest in theatre. She appeared in Owen High School's "Oliver," also a Tanglewood Children's Theatre production, and she is cast as Little Fan again this year. A fifth-grader at Haw Creek School, Melanie enjoys piano and dance classes and playing with her cat, Mistletoe.

TIM REID is cast as Mr. Fezziwig, young Ebenezer's first boss who throws a party at Christmas. When not dancing a jig as Fezziwig, Tim can be found at the Asheville Citizen-Times, where he is suburban editor. His hobbies include photography, chess and woodworking.

HAZEL ROBINSON, director of "A Christmas Carol," is the founder of the Montford Park Players. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, she received a Rockefeller Fellowship following her B.A. in dramatic arts. Hazel has worked on stage and off with local theatre companies including Smoky Mtn. Repertory Theatre, ART, and Tanglewood, and was technical director for ACT from 1967-1971. Hazel will direct the upcoming production of "Hamlet" for the Players' 14th season.

JOHN E. ROBINSON, one of the group which started MPP in 1973, and an ex-Tanglewooder, is repeating the role of Scrooge, which he played in 1979. He has portrayed the roles of Oliver, Oberon, Petruchio, McDuff, and Sganarelle, and played Dracula last month at the Willow Street Theatre in Hendersonville.

JOHN WILLIAM RUSSELL returns in the role of Bob Cratchit and is technical director. He appeared this summer as Claudius, King of Denmark, in "Hamlet".

JOHN WILLIAM RUSSELL IV, a student at Black Mtn. Primary, returns to the stage in his triple roles of Boy Ebenezer, Arthur and Caroler. He most recently appeared in "Hamlet".

DAVID SEYMOUR, an employee at Handiskills, is in his fourth season of "A Christmas Carol" as John. He also appeared in the Players' production of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". David collects books and has a special collection of works by Dickens.

ANGELA SWEENEY, a paralegal major at Cecil's Junior College, is playing Martha Cratchit and Betsy Fezziwig in her third holiday season. She works at the Wall Street Bead Shop.

KEITH YEATMAN, a native of Toronto, Canada, has worked with several theatre groups in the area including MPP's Shakespeare in the Park. He appears as Lawrence in the party scene and as Old Joe.

JOE YOUNG has spent a good part of his life on or back stage, from the youngest child in ACT's "Life With Father" to Dickens' callous Businessman. Now working on his PhD in chemistry at Clemson, Joe still has time to commute to Asheville for "A Christmas Carol."

The Montford Park Players Present

William

Shakespeare's

Hamlet prince of Denmark

JUNE

A Midsummer Night's Dream

JULY

Olympias

a new play by Richard James

AUGUST

7:30 pm

MONTFORD AMPHITHEATRE

No Admission Charge