'Tonight' star comes to area

'Gimme a little drum roll, Ed'

By CRAIG PIECHURA
You've all heard the "Tonight
Snow" drummer punctuate an obvious
punch line with a rim shot or a rap on
the cow bell, right?
Or, a dizzy starlet with only two vistile attributes might stroll across the
stage to a "boom-chukka-boom,
chukka-boom-boom" assessment
of her talents.
The man responsible for that rude
rhythm is Ed Sauginessy, staff
drummer on Johrny Carson's latenight talk show for the past 14 years.
And what does be get for 12', results
from Don Rickles and a comfortable
home in Woolland Hills, Calli.
Shaughnessy brought his drumsticks
to Canton Township Friday afternoon
for a free drum clinic at Arnoldt Williams' Music.
Although he's proudest of his work
with the lives of Court Breits. Trook
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for a free drum clinic at Arnoldt Wil-itams' Music.
Although he's proudest of his work with the likes of Count Basie. Tony Bernett, Peggy Lee and Duke Elling-ton, Shaughnessy is more familiar to viewers for adding a "cha-chinx-born" to Johny's one-lines.
"The funniest incidents usually hap-pen when Don Rickles is on the show." Shaughnessy explairs.
"He'll make a corument about the Irish and do a little ig and we'll join in. Of course, that brings a barrage of insults to the band.

"RICKLES MIGHT turn to me and ay 'That's Abe Lincoln's son over

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Melvin S. Larimer, will be touring Chicago, Cleveland and around the Detroit area.

All for mom

there—Abe let him out of the log cabin tonight'—referring to my sideburns.
"Or the other night I added a little 'cha-chink-hoom' during Johnny's monologue and he turned to me and said, 'Where does it say in the script, 'Drummer makes turny noise?'
"So I hold we ablank jees of some of the series of some of the series of the

'Drummer makes fumy noise?'
"So I hold up a blank piece of paper and say, 'Right here."
But Ed Shaughnessy isn't in the music business for laughs or the occasional on-air appearances.
He's there because he knows how to play any type of music and is considered one of the best big-band drumwers in the hustones.

ered one of the best big-oand drum-mers in the business.

He made a Michigan tour last week as representative for a drum com-pany. John Williams, vice-president of the music store, contacted the musi-cian's union and the local studios to let drummers know Shaughnessy was

dan's summers know Shanghnessy was coming, there was a good turnent Friday afternoon among members of the percussion fraternity. Shanghnessy didn't dazile the crowd with a 20-minute drum solo, he taught the drummers technique and style.

"I try to answer specific questions from drummers," he said, "Let's say a person is having a problem with a weak left hand; that's a common problem because your right hand is stronger and quicker. I'd tell them to practice one right and three lefts (raps once, then three times) a thousand times each day. It works wonders."

SHAUGHNESSY DIDN'T audition for the Tonight Show, he was asked to join. First he declined, figuring studio work was a good living and all he could handle. He gave it a try, though, It years ago, and has been at it since—undoubtedly appearing on the Touight Show more than its often-

Tonight Show more man is otten-absent host. He still manages to do some record-ings—with artists such as jazz singer Tony Bennett and soft-rocker Steven Bishop. This May, Shaughnessy will release a record of his own under the moniker, "Ed Shaughnessy's Energy Force."

Force."

The big band record will be cut live in the studio using a process called "direct-to-disc."

In this process, records are cut as they're being recorded. Sound quality is improved because the records are 'original' recordings, not a duplication from a master disc. There is no dubbing over or "layering" of tracks.

"Some of the guys in the band are a little intimidated by the process," Shaughnessy said. "They asked, "What if I make a clam (sour note)?"

"It all goes down on the disc, just like a concert. I told 'ern. It's your

THIS METHOD of recording, Shaughnessy feels, captures the impact and spark of a full band because everyone is playing off each

other and with each other.

"For a musician, it is no fun to do a layered recording where I go in first and lay down the rhythm section. They get that finished and the next day they pring in a bass part and the guys have to listen to our tracks on headphones. Maybe the third day they bring in the saxaphone and strings. It rever has the impact of a band playing together. It doesn't have the same spark. But it's a producer's dream."

More musicians are getting away from this sterile-technological type of production. Shaughnessy said that for professional reasons the tries to keep up with Top 40 because, undoubtedly artisst will do current numbers when they appear on understand. A case in the professional reasons the tries to keep up with Top 40 because, undoubtedly artisst will do current numbers when they appear on the same show. A case in the same show it is to be a supplementation of the same show. The same show it is to be supplement and Court Basis. Shaughnessy said he listens to progressive jazz artists such as Chick Corea and Herbie Hancock at home.

"But I don't like to narrow down my taste. I listen to everything, Indian music (tabla and sitart is a personal

"But I don't like to narrow down my taste. I listen to everything, Indian music (tabla and sitar) is a personal favorite of mine."
With that comment, Shaughnessy took a brown Sherman's cigarette out of his brown leather jacket and went back to the drums to play some blues.



Drummer in the NBC "Tonight Show" orchestra, Ed Shaughnessy showed his licks in Canton Friday afternoon. (Staff photo by Gary



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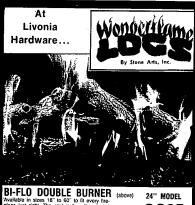


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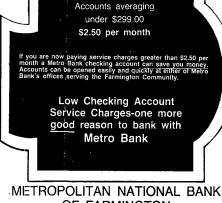
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