

FAMILY FARE

LET'S TALK

Week filled with holiday specials

By Lee Irby

Frosty, that "jolly, happy soul" whose old silk hat full of magic has turned him into a musical Christmas legend, demonstrates his unique showmanship in the popular holiday perennial *Frosty the Snowman*. The animated special is narrated by Jimmy Durante and is to be rebroadcast Wednesday, Dec. 19, on CBS.

Comedian Jackie Vernon provides the voice for Frosty in the musical Christmas fable based on the popular song of the same title by Jack Rollins and Steve Nelson.

Another Christmas favorite, *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, is back this year. Charlie and Linus weed through all the commercialized trees to find the true, unornamented meaning of the Yuletide season. The show is also broadcast on Dec. 19 on CBS.

For a true trip back to the past, tune in to *The Judy Garland Christmas Show* on The Disney Channel, Sunday, Dec. 16. Legendary singer Judy Garland will be featured in a series of specials on The Disney Channel's *Sunday Night Showcase*. Garland performs holiday melodies with her children Liza Minnelli and Lorna and Joey Luft. She also gives a moving rendition of "Over the Rainbow."

TBS is showing a plethora of Christmas movies all week including *Pocketful of Miracles*, *The Bells of St. Mary's*, *Miracle on 34th Street*, *A Little House Christmas*, *A Christmas Story* and *It's a Wonderful Life*.



The jolly old snowman spreads holiday cheer in *Frosty the Snowman*, Wednesday on CBS.

Roger Whittaker backs efforts to save African black rhino

By Polly Vonetes

Q: I have read that Roger Whittaker's new album will be available in record stores. I thought he only sells his records on TV. He was truly wonderful in concert here in Los Angeles. At the concert, he mentioned he was an environmentalist and gets involved in good causes. Could you tell me what causes he is associated with and where I can send him correspondence? —Sid Shiner, Los Angeles, Calif.

A: No, Roger Whittaker's records are available in record stores across the country. Living and Loving, his newest recording, will be available in January, 1991, under the Capitol/Nashville label. Currently available is I'd Fall In Love Tonight, released under the Universal Records banner. He is active in efforts to help save the endangered African black rhino. Proceeds from program sales at concerts and recording royalties are donated to the Rhino Rescue Trust to create sanctuaries for the rhino in Kenya. Write to him: c/o Flo Selfman Public Relations, 330 Washington St., No. 400, Marina del Rey, CA 90292.

Q: For the last four years I have been watching Wheel of Fortune trying to find out how to write in and become a contestant. I watch every day and have not been able to find out what I need to do. I feel that I am a very comparable contestant and need to be on the show. —Danny Moore, Nacogdoches, Texas

A: You aren't the only one who has become frustrated looking for this information. All you would-be contestants write to: Wheel of Fortune, c/o Mery Griffin Enterprises, 1541 Vine St., Los Angeles, CA 90028.

Q: Please settle a dispute for us; recently we have seen Abe Vigoda star on a couple of shows. A few of us were under the impression that he passed away. Is he still living? —E., Rhinoclander, Wis.

A: Poor Abe, they have been burying him since Barney Miller went off the air. Born in 1921, he is an active senior-citizen actor of just 69 years.

Q: I am writing to inquire about the actor James Garner. I remember some months ago he had heart surgery. However, I haven't seen anything or heard about him in the news or in magazines. Did he go back to acting



Roger Whittaker

after his surgery? One other question. When and how did Richard Long of The Big Valley die? —Dixie Muellerleite, Mankato, Minn.

*A: I may have missed something along the way, but I don't think James Garner ever had heart surgery. In 1984 he starred with Mary Tyler Moore in the ABC Movie Special *Heartsounds*, the story of Dr. Harold Lear, who suffered and lived through a series of heart attacks. Garner recently starred in the NBC Hallmark Hall of Fame presentation *Decoration Day*. Richard Long succumbed to a heart ailment Dec. 21, 1974. He was 47 years old.*

Q: What can you tell me about a young lady called Erin Moran from Happy Days? She is married and lives in Ventura County. I would like to have her address so that I may write to her. —John Daniels, Chicago, Ill.

A: Mr. Daniels, I must tell you, I have received all your letters requesting this address, and believe me I have looked. Your best chance of receiving information about her is to write to: Screen Actors Guild, 7065 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028. Meanwhile, I will ask the readers of this column if they have information on Erin to please write me and I will pass it on to you.

Send your questions about the world of entertainment to: Polly Vonetes, Let's Talk, P.O. Box 17748, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0748. Because of the volume of mail, only questions of general interest can be answered.