

Thirteen

WNET/THIRTEEN MEMBERS' GUIDE

FEB., 1979

"The Shakespeare Plays" begin...
Pennies From Heaven...
Film: Academy Leaders

"Bill Moyers' Journal" Returns to
Public Television This Month...



FEBRUARY AT THIRTEEN

African Art Magazine
 American Broadcasting Company
 Antique Collecting Magazine
 The Antiques Dealer Magazine
 Antique Monthly—Update
 Antiques and the Arts Weekly
 (Newtown Bee)
 The Magazine Antiques
 Antique World
 Art Forum
 Art in America
 ARTnews
 Art World
 Harold Black, Inc.
 Bock Trucking Company of New York City
 The Clarion
 The Collector
 The Collectors Club Philatelist
 The Connoisseur
 Crafts Bulletin
 Day and Meyer, Murray and Young
 Corporation of New York
 Duggal Color Projects, Inc.
 Florentino Associates
 Gallery Guide
 Joyce Golden and Associates
 Max Granick Framers, Inc.
 Grosso Moving and Packing Company
 Horizon Magazine
 Indian Trader
 Sam A. Kaufman and Son—Division of
 Columbia Letter Co.
 Lanier Business Products
 M&S Movers, Packers, Storage
 Maine Antiques Digest
 Meehan Tooker—Division of
 John Blair, Inc.
 Milton Paper Company
 Moore Business Forms, Inc.
 New York Antique Almanac
 Newsweek
 Nineteenth Century Magazine
 Ohio Antiques Review
 Pen and Quill of Universal Autograph
 Collectors Club
 Saxon Graphics
 Simpson Paper Company
 Sotheby Parke Bernet, Inc.
 Stamps Magazine
 Stamp Show News
 Transo Envelopes

FROM THE FRIENDS

Subscriptions are still available to a series of three Shakespeare lectures being offered by the Friends of THIRTEEN in connection with the broadcast of *The Shakespeare Plays* beginning this month. Lecturers will include Maynard Mack, Sterling Professor of English at Yale University; Samuel Schoenbaum, Distinguished Professor of Renaissance Literature, University of Maryland; and Daniel Seltzer,

Professor of English, Princeton University. John F. Andrews, Director of Academic Programs at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., will host the series. The fee for three lectures is \$50.00 (not \$35.00 as indicated in the January issue of *Thirteen*) and includes a reception and an opportunity to meet each speaker. The lectures will be held at the library and Museum of the Performing Arts of the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center; the Sunday afternoon session will meet 2/25, 3/18 and 4/22 at 2:30 p.m. or, you may join the Monday evening group meeting on 2/26, 3/19 and 4/23 at 8:15 p.m. For information, call (212) 560-2800.

Looking ahead to March, the Friends of THIRTEEN membership luncheon is scheduled for March 14 at the Plaza Hotel, with Mrs. Alfred A. Rosenberg and Mrs. Mortimer Levitt as hosts of the event. Sir Huw Wheldon, the guiding light behind last season's *Royal Heritage* series, will be the guest speaker. For information, call (212) 560-2800.

THIRTEEN Needs YOU!

The recently created VOLUNTEER CENTER THIRTEEN is anxious to welcome new volunteers and renew old acquaintances. There are many meaningful and interesting volunteer positions at THIRTEEN, and new ones seem to develop daily. Right now, we're beginning to gear up for Festival '79—the all-important national public television fund-raising event in March—as well as the Auction in May, in addition to many on-going station activities.

If you have time to give to THIRTEEN, call Nina Phillips at (212) 560-2711 to arrange an appointment, or write to her at VOLUNTEER CENTER THIRTEEN 356 West 58 St., NY, NY 10019.

ON OTHER FRONTS

■ Among the more steely eyes watching the actions of the 96th Congress this session will be those of the television camera. If all goes according to schedule, six color television cameras will take up residence in the U.S. House of Representatives sometime this month. And even though 44 out of 50 state legislatures have already opened their sessions to television cameras as have the parliaments of other Western countries including Canada and West Germany, it has taken the U.S. Congress a full 34 years to reach its decision.

Test runs have already been made on a closed-circuit black and white system along with experiments in radio broadcasting, but lighting and sound improvements in the House chamber have not been completed and the cameras themselves have yet to be installed. Although no one is certain just how all of this gavel-to-gavel footage will be used, complete coverage will be fed to any accredited broadcaster.

■ There may yet be hope for the American television audience. *The New York Times* reports there is a movement afloat, supported by "influential individuals within the government, the broadcasting industry and the non-profit sector" to supplant the dreaded Nielsen ratings; "the numbers" that determine life or death for programs on commercial television. The new system would report not just how many people are watching a program, but how much, or how little, they like it. Those in favor of the proposal feel qualitative ratings would actually benefit the viewing public by giving them a greater input into television programming.

■ What Watergate did for public television, so the Panama Canal hearings have apparently accomplished for National Public Radio (NPR). "Panama was our coming of age," reports NPR President Frank McKiewicz. "For the first time, millions of Americans outside the Senate gallery could hear what Senators were saying about an issue."

NPR has several promising projects in the works for 1979. The radio network hopes to carry the SALT treaty debate from the Senate; a series of radio dramas (including science fiction and detective stories) featuring American actors in U.S. productions; children's radio, especially a storybook series for family listening; and a series with Richard Thomas dramatizing the life and work of author F. Scott Fitzgerald. In New York, NPR programming is carried by WNYC-FM.

■ And now for something completely different...In an effort "to test how rigid the FCC's (Federal Communications Commission) Fairness Doctrine is," WCBB-TV, the public television station in Augusta, Maine is actively seeking controversial, exploitative, even offensive documentary material for air. Michael Mears, the program manager responsible for the Monday evening 9:30 strip even went so far as to name his creation "Seven Dirty Words" in honor of the infamous George Carlin routine that went all the way to the Supreme Court. As reported by *Variety* in November, "Seven Dirty Words" has already presented "Last Resort," about nuclear power plants and "CIA Case Officer." Scheduled for the future are "Attica" and THIRTEEN's own "Bad Boys," about the selection of which we, of course, have "no comment."