

### JINX

Although most of our shows were of a more intimate nature, we did manage to appear in the public eye on more than one occasion.

*(HE takes two clippings from his pocket.)*

#### #23 – Newspaper Underscore

The Scranton Chronicle, April 19th, 1959: "Bobby Darin sells out at the Safari Room of the Sheraton. Don't worry, there are plenty of seats across the street at the Swinglane Alley, where the Ladies Championship Bowling League will be crooned to by local singing group, Forever Plaid. This group's sound is to contemporary music as Tang is to orange juice."

### FRANKIE

We decided to take that as a compliment.

### JINX

The Bethlehem News Dispatch, December 15, 1961. "Auto collision leaves star of Kraft Music Hall, Perry Como, stranded in town."

#### #24 – The Christmas Cardigan

*(With piano trills, SMUDGE and FRANKIE hang colanders on the front side of the portals.)*

DREAM ALONG WITH ME  
I'M ON MY WAY TO A STAR.

*(JINX and FRANKIE pull on light 'zip' cords on the colanders and THEY light up. Under the following speech, the songs are performed ever so discretely and quietly.)*

### SPARKY

This is the story...

*(SPARKY realizes he's out of light. HE subtly pushes the stool and himself into the light.)*

### SMUDGE

BUM BUM BUM BUM  
BUM BUM BUM BUM ETC.

### SPARKY

*(Relishes each word as if specially chosen.)*

This is the story of the Christmas Cardigan. One blizzardy, December day, we, the Plaids, received an emergency call to be the substitute Fill-in guy group for the Hep-Tones at the opening of the annual Fondue Festival, which was being held at the Knights of Columbus meeting hall in Bethlehem—Pennsylvania. The blizzard conditions were a-sturmin' and a-drangin'.

## SPARKY

Although it was a perilous journey, we accepted in a trice. We knew that Perry Como was coming to Bethlehem to do his NBC Christmas special. We were just numb with excitement at the chance to actually see a glimpse of Perry or even his car or even his chauffeur or even his treadmarks. We knew we had a terrific challenge. We were ultra nervous because Jinx had gotten his tongue frozen to a stop sign and had lingual frostbite. He couldn't pronounce any consonants.. Oy oo a orld.

## JINX

Sparky!

(JINX, FRANKIE & SMUDGE whistle "The Christmas Cardigan" into "Magic Moments")

## SPARKY

It was almost show time. There we were, backstage at the Knights of Columbus cafegymnatorium. As we peered through the crushed velveteen curtain we were inspired by the splendiferous table settings, lovingly provided by Bethlehem's gourmet shop 'Cheeses of Nazareth.' Just then, as the lights dimmed, outside the service entrance, we heard a crash.

## SPARKY

Perry Como's Fleetwood limo had skidded into our Cherry Red, 54 Mercury Convertible. This was great. Now we'd have to see him. At least in court. But wait, it gets even better! He had to wait inside the hall for alternate transportation. He was forced to watch our show. As if that wasn't great enough, his back up singers were in a near fatal collision and were stranded over two hundred miles away. The fates were smiling down on us like a Jackie Gleason moon. The curtain rose. We froze for a second. It wasn't stage fright, we were just cold. The warm lights hit us. To our surprise, the show was going great....

## JINX, FRANKIE &amp; SMUDGE

MAGIC MOMENTS

MEMORIES WE'VE BEEN SHARING

### #24a - Mambo In A Winter Wonderland

## ALL

UII!

SLEIGH BELLS RING ARE YOU LISTNIN'

IN THE LANE SNOW IS GLISTNIN'

A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT

(ALL)

WE'RE HAPPY TONIGHT  
MAMBO IN A WINTER WONDERLAND UHH  
GONE AWAY IS THE BLUEBIRD  
HERE TO STAY IS THE NEW BIRD—

(SPARKY breaks out as SMUDGE, JINX and FRANKIE continue the song.)

SPARKY

Then in the middle of the MAMBO  
combo— I stopped the number. I realized  
that I had to seize fate by the maracas. 'Mr.  
Como', I said, 'we realize that you don't  
have your back up singers for your  
Christmas special tomorrow. And we know  
that nothing should silence the true voice of  
Christmas, which we believe yours is.  
There are those that think Bing Crosby's is,  
but he just has that one song, and you are a  
tradition. We are available to be of service  
to you in any position you like.

JINX, FRANKIE & SMUDGE

HE SINGS A LOVE SONG—  
AS WE GO ALONG,—  
MAMBO IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

(SPARKY)

And please, don't consider it an imposition. We know every song and arrangement that  
you ever did. It has always been our dream to sing with you. I don't mean to put you on  
the spot, but a Plaid's gotta do what a Plaid's gotta do. On this night so dear, as we  
pray for the safety of your snowbound backup singers, we would like to audition to be  
your new backup singers. So, sit back, relax, and we hope you enjoy some of your  
favorite back up vocal lines — the backup vocals to 'Catch a Falling Star.'

# #24b – Swell Backups

ALL

BUM-BUM-BA BUM  
BUM BUM-BA-BUM  
BUM-BUM-BA-BUM  
BUM-BUM-BA-BUM  
BUM-BUM BA-BUM  
BUM BUM-BA-BUM  
BUM-BUM-BA-BUM  
BUM-BUM-BA-BUM

SPARKY

Round and round.