



## Tuesday night specials, unlimited

Beginning at 7:30 p.m., Channels 7 and 9 will broadcast a series of four holiday specials, beginning with Dickens' "Christmas Carol" (center), featuring Tiny Tim and Bob Cratchit; followed by "Octopus, Octopus" from the

"Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau" at 8 (left) with "Land of the Small," narrated by Gregory Peck filling the screen at 9 (right) to be followed by a Danny Thomas special (below) at 10.

# Tues. night belongs to ABC

By DON ROYAL

Sun Special Correspondent

NEW YORK — ABC's Christmas specials for viewers is an evening of specials this Tuesday, Dec. 21, opening with Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," at 7:30 p.m.

The essence of the spirit of Christmas, the beloved classic receives an all-new, uniquely authentic treatment. Done in animation and styled in the fashion of the 1840s, it features the voices of Sir Michael Redgrave as narrator, Alistair Sim as Scrooge, and Michael Hordern plays the troubled ghost of Marley.

SPECIALS FOR the balance of the evening are as follows:

ABC News' "Octopus, Octopus" on "The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau," at 8; "Land of the Small," an ABC News special narrated by Gregory Peck and exploring the insect realm as it mirrors our human society at 9, and "The Danny Thomas Special — City Versus Country," at 10.

"Christmas Carol" producer Richard Williams, the man responsible for the award-winning animated segments of the film "The Charge of the Light Brigade," explained: "We set out to do Dickens as though he and his illustrators had an animation studio in 1843. We have, in effect, become his illustrators. We were after the exact flavor of the true Dickens tale.

"It is a highly compressed version of the book," said Williams. "There isn't one word of our own. When some of the actors asked to see a script, we told them to read the book and imagine it as a half-hour program."

Until he began working on "A Christmas Carol," Williams had been unimpressed with the classic because of its past re-creations. When he read the actual story, he found it "much more powerful, much less sentimental, much funnier, and more satirical."

Chuck Jones, executive producer of the network's "Curiosity Shop" children's series, supervised production of "A Christmas Carol."

FAMED underwater adventurer, inventor and authority on marine ecology, Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau follows on ABC's "Night of Specials" with "Octopus, Octopus."

A special in the award-winning series, "The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau," this action-filled hour takes

viewers to the mysterious yet beautiful realm of *Octopus Vulgaris*—the so-called "Devil Fish."

Surely few marine creatures have received greater attention from fiction writers than the octopus. Writers of such stature as Victor Hugo and Jules Verne have related lurid tales about this singular sea creature.

And, over the years, this remarkable mollusk with its long, flexible tentacles and horny parrot-like beak has been given a sinister reputation for attacking divers, threatening ships, and even killing enormous sperm whales.

On "Octopus, Octopus," Cousteau and the crew of the research vessel *Calypso* set out to separate fact from fable.

In the Mediterranean, viewers learn

that octopi are largely small and harmless, alternately curious and shy, tending to hide in holes and caves.

But the *Calypso's* divers discover that there are dangerous octopi as well—potentially deadly to divers and swimmers because they can cling to rocks or kelp with any one of their eight sucker-studded arms and, with their other appendages hold the diver down until he drowns.

Vivid underwater scenes include a fight between two female octopi competing for a home in which to lay their eggs, the pulsating swimming technique—in itself a study of beauty and grace of movement—and special microscopic photography revealing the birth of young octopi breaking out of the prison of their cocoons.

Through working with the octopus, feeding it and taming it, Cousteau says he is convinced that there is some communication between Man of four appendages and Mollusk of eight.

THE ABC News special, "Land of the Small," with Gregory Peck narrating, takes viewers on a fascinating journey to a seldom-seen world—the realm of the insects.

Through the process of photomicrography, Chris Petersen Productions in association with ABC News has given viewers a unique window on the world of insects—and has provided a sometimes beautiful, sometimes awesome and thoroughly startling nature documentary.

Implicit in the program is a conclusion—although insects are in almost every way entirely different from man, their societies can parallel ours, and their basic life concerns are not very different at all.

AN HOUR of musical comedy rounds out the evening—"The Danny Thomas Special—City Versus Country." Danny, with guest Florence Henderson, take the position that the city is the best place to be. On the other hand, Tennessee Ernie Ford, backed by singer Anne Murray, argue that country livin' is the only civilized way.

A delightful list of extra special guests poke their familiar noses into the quarrel—George (Goober) Lindsay, Sid Melton, Milton Berle, Dean Martin, Joey Bishop, Jack Benny, Howard Cosell, Andy Griffith, and Phil Silvers.

## Rock festival on tap Monday

BOSTON — From 8:30 — 9 p.m. Channel 7 will present a holiday special, the "Zayre Television Rock Festival," featuring ten top rock recording artists. Disc jockey Johnny Williams hosts the half-hour of popular entertainment, and introduces such well-known singing groups as Chicago, Santana, Ten Years After, and Poco, singing some of their most popular hits.

Also featured are singers Taj Mahal, Edgar Winter and Johnny Winter and groups Madura, It's a Beautiful Day and Boz Scaggs. The fast-paced half hour should delight young rock enthusiasts, and perhaps to introduce to their parents what their music is all about.



## Switching roles

Danny Thomas (left) and Tennessee Ernie Ford switch sides as the confirmed city slicker, Thomas, tries it down-home, and Tennessee Ernie goes full cycle to dude on "The Danny Thomas Special—City Versus Country." The combination of music and comedy airs Tuesday at 10 p.m. on Channels 7 and 9.