

# Annie People



MEMBER



A Newsletter for Annie Fans

No. 15, May 1985

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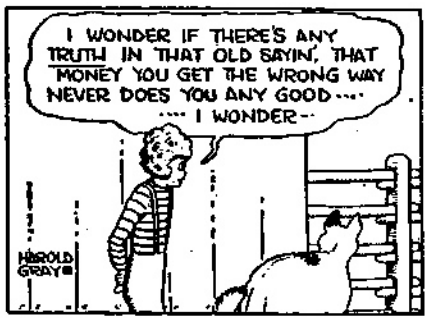
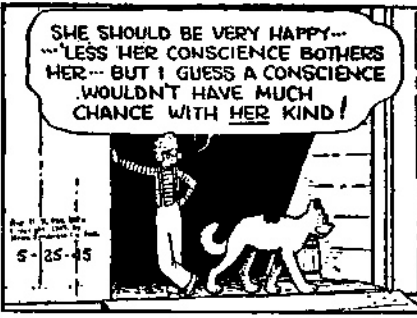
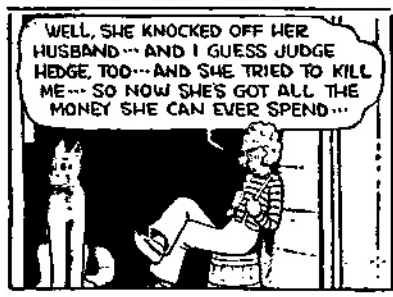
Hello, Annie People, once again! Lotsa pictures in this issue, some brand-new ones and some old ones too--we sure hope yuh like 'em!

A first for AP: One of the editors is part of an Annie production. Tricia is currently the trombone player in the orchestra of a community production in Montville, New Jersey, which will run for twelve performances in May and June. Tricia admits not having played her instrument much in the last year or so, but a little brushing up got her all set to go, and she's having a ball being part of Annie ("Leapin' lizards, why does 'It's the Hard-Knock Life' have to be written in the key of 5 sharps?" moans Tricia). Tricia also recently had a large spread in the Newark (NJ) Star-Ledger showing pictures of her in her Annie room, and AP gained many new readers from Annie fans who saw the article.

Meanwhile, Jon is at this moment counting down to birthday #40, due to hit on the 25th of May. Way back in the years B.A. (Before Annie), he found a copy of the New York Daily News dated the day he was born, and, sure enough, upon closer scrutiny some time later, there was the appropriate Little Orphan Annie strip. Of course, that was back in the days when LOA was the only comic on the page; all the other less-important comics were bunched together on a later page. Does a Harold Gray strip collector have any idea what Annie is talking about in Jon's birthday strip? If so, please let us know! (That's one of the great as-yet-unanswered Annie questions here at AP, right up there with why it was so important to Grace to have cheese served at Annie's adoption party.)

## ORPHAN ANNIE

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Thanks so much for sending me a copy of Annie People. It's really nice to know that there are so many other people in the world who are Annie-mad....

Lisa McArdle  
Christchurch, New Zealand

I just read about you in the Star-Ledger....I have a lot of memorabilia and I've seen the movie 26 times. I'm really glad to know other people love Annie like I do. I am 14 years old and I'll never stop loving Annie....

Jo Annie Goldberg  
Clark, NJ

Please put us on your mailing list to receive Annie People. We have a tape of Annie and we watch it every Sunday!

Phyllis Taub and  
daughter Cathy  
Elizabeth, NJ

I've been so busy between school and modeling and singing. I filmed a commercial last week for a radio station in Virginia. It was so much fun. But--we had to do the commercial 93 times!....

Robyn Lee Tuerkheimer  
Plantation, FL

\* \* \* \* \*

There was quite a bit of response to the editorial in the last issue of AP. This letter sums up in her own words an Annie star's point of view about fan mail and tells us what it is like on the receiving end. --Ed.

Your article regarding fan mail really hit home. So often I have felt so guilty for not answering fans' letters. I have been receiving fan mail steadily for the past five years. While in Annie I had volumes of fan letters. In the beginning I tried answering them all.

I had just turned ten, was performing a very demanding role eight times a week, making personal appearances, went to school full time, tried to squeeze in homework between shows on matinee days and before the show at evening performances.

It really was too much for me to do all that and answer fan mail too. My mom used to go through the mail and we made sure that all pleas from sick kids were answered.

Having played the role on Broadway for nearly three years, then again at Westbury Music Fair and the Cape Cod Summer Tour, also Sacramento, California Music Fair, you can imagine how the amount of mail could overwhelm me.

Now that I am on Kate and Allie and am getting letters from fans of the series plus from Polly's fan club I am working hard at answering, but I am months behind.

I hope that the people who are kind enough to write will have a better understanding and know as your article stated: Yes, your letters are received and are appreciated.

Allison Smith  
Waldwick, NJ

ALYSON KIRK BACK ON BROADWAY IN TAKE ME ALONG

On Saturday, April 13 I went to a preview of the revival on Broadway of Take Me Along, a tuneful and entertaining musical which featured fifth and final Broadway Annie Alyson Kirk. This was a revival of the original musical of the same name which first ran twenty-six years ago.

This was 15-year-old Alyson's first Broadway role since Annie's January 1983 closing, and it was great to see her on stage again. Like Julie Stevens, Broadway's final Pepper, Alyson had begun her Annie career back when she was an Orphan in the 3rd National, and then eventually the two close friends ended up together on Broadway. Alyson took over the title role from her Waldwick, New Jersey schoolmate Allison Smith in September 1982 and played until the show closed. She then toured in New England as Annie in summer 1983 in a Robert Fitch-directed production (rounding out a total of some 800 performances in Annie), and last year she was in a TV movie with Mickey Rooney called It Came Upon the Midnight Clear. Alyson is back to being blonde and long-haired now and still has yet to top five feet, but she still has one of the prettiest and warmest smiles ever seen on an Annie stage.

Shortly after an enjoyable hour or so reminiscing with Alyson and being shown around backstage at the theater, I ran into Kimi Parks outside, who happened to be at Alyson's show the same time I was. Kimi, all four feet five inches of her, was the very last Tessie in the 4th National, and then toured with Alyson and Robert Fitch. Most recently the talented Long Islander was in The Rink on Broadway and in A Broadway Baby at the Goodspeed Opera House.



While I found that Take Me Along was a delightful experience to watch; apparently the New York newspaper critics did not agree. It opened on April 14 to generally ho-hum reviews and closed after that one performance. This well-done play certainly deserved much better treatment than that. In general, it has been somewhat of a disaster on Broadway for several very short-running shows that have opened in the last year or so. Where is Annie now that we really need it?

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A message for all of you who have written to Deana Brinkmann about the Shelley Bruce Fan Club: Deana's serious illness continues to send her back and forth to the hospital for extended stays, which has caused a delay in her getting the club going. In between operations Deana is trying to keep up with her school work (she's in 11th grade) and with her correspondence, and she hopes to catch up in the near future. She lives at 6023 Belair Drive in Florence, Kentucky 41042 and would really love to hear from other Annie People readers. Some cheery words to Deana and encouragement for her recovery would do a world of good for a long-time devotee and friend of Annie.

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LEONARD STARR STRIP COLLECTORS: After rereading some of the Starr strips recently, I considered a change in my list of stories and their dates which appeared in AP #13. I now think that the Sawyer/Wilda Oates story should be extended another week, and the Kneck Brothers story should consequently begin one week later. Any comments? Concurrences? Gripes?

CORRECTION

9. Sawyer and Wilda Oates	10	3/1/82-5/9/82
10. Dog Pound, Kneck Brothers	12	5/10/82-8/1/82

# ★ Annie Stars Since Annie ... ★

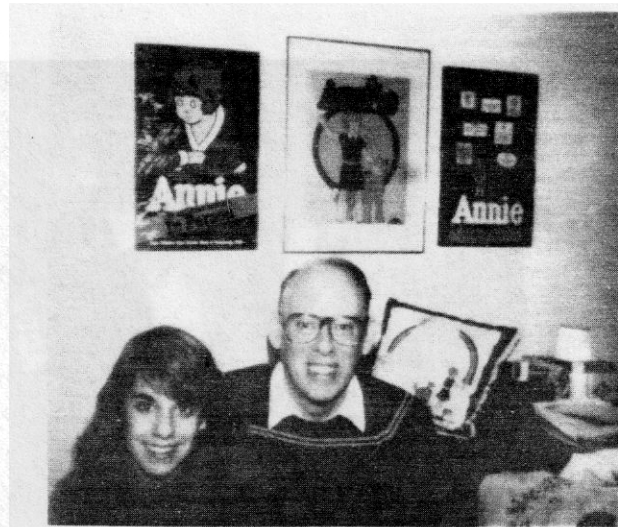
ALYSON KIRK was recently back on Broadway playing the part of Mildred Miller in Take Me Along, a revival of an old Broadway show from the '50s (see page 3) ... Two other Annie kids are currently on Broadway in Sunday in the Park With George. SHERRI LEIDY, who was the Swing Orphan in the 1984 National Tour, is in the show, as well as NATALIE POLIZZI, who played Annie in Edison, New Jersey last August.... There seems to be no stopping MOLLY RINGWALD's remarkable success. At the same time The Breakfast Club is sweeping the country, she has already been signed to do a new movie for Paramount, Pretty And Pink, to be directed by John Hughes.... A big crowd of former Annies and Orphans came together to perform in Dream Makers '85 in Ocean City, New Jersey in March. KRISTI COOMBS from the 2nd National was there, as well as many who were also in the March of Dimes telethon in that area in February. DANA DEWES, ARLENE KULIS, and CHRIS NOEL CANTERA (2nd National), PATTI GILBERT (3rd National), and NICOLE NOWICKI and LOREN KAUFMAN (Broadway) were all back together to perform in the excellently produced musical revue. Also performing were several Orphans from recent New Jersey/Pennsylvania companies of Annie, including STACEY NOWICKI, who was with big sister Nicole in Annie in '83, and HEATHER MURPHY, who played Kate at the Bucks County Playhouse in '83 when STEPHANIE VINE was Annie.... ALLISON SMITH and HARVE PRESNELL were on hand at the Easter Egg Rolling ceremony at the White House this year. Harve is going to reprise his Oliver Warbucks role in a production of Annie this summer in Salt Lake City.... Remember LOIS DeBANZIE in the movie ("...plawnting trees...")? She was recently on an episode of Punky Brewster on NBC.... DANIELLE (KELLY) TETRO, who toured as Kate in 1983 with ALLISON SMITH and again with TARA KENNEDY in 1983, played the title role in a dinner theater production of Annie in Somerset, NJ this past winter.... Stephen Russo spotted THE DALE HENNESY STREET in the final episode of the V series on TV. He recognized the front of the Orphanage and a sign reading "Hennesy Street".... LAURA DEAN, who was an original Orphan going all the way back to Goodspeed, was in a play last year in New York called Feathertop.... I'm sure you've all seen and recognized ALYSON KIRK in that wonderful commercial for Pepsi in which she talks about the change in Coke. Alyson was picked for it on a Thursday, she shot it on Friday, and on Saturday night it was aired on the networks. Pepsi was so eager to get this spot out in a hurry that they videotaped it rather than filming it.... Broadway's SANDY traveled to Florida in February to play himself in a production of Annie at Rosarian Academy in West Palm Beach. Sandy's colleagues MOOSE and ROXANNE have been busy also; Roxanne played in a college version of Annie in Jersey City, NJ in March, and Moose is currently in a run of Annie this month in Montville, NJ.... Recently at work at AT&T I found a tape of a promotional song called "We're AT&T," which was done for the company to play at business meetings and conventions. It was done about three years ago, but right away I recognized the voice as being unmistakably that of ANDREA McARDLE.... Something else interesting I recently discovered was a couple of records done by KRISTI COOMBS. One was "I Wanna Take a Peek at Santa" and "Mommy's Getting a New Baby for Christmas" on the Gold label, and the other was "I'd Like to See the Easter Bunny Disco" on the GP label. These two records were done by Kristi when she was only six years old, shortly before she joined the cast of the 2nd National.... Did you see Lauri Hendler of Gimme A Break being forced to wash dishes in a restaurant on TV's Practical Jokes and Bloopers show? The chef in that sequence was the 3rd National's FDR, JACK DENTON.... Birthdays: CHARLES STROUSE, 57 on June 7; LOREN KAUFMAN, 12 on June 16; AILEEN QUINN, 14 on June 28; DANIELLE BRISEBOIS, 16 on June 28; LARA BERK, 13 on July 12, LAURA BAKER, 13 on July 22. Belated greetings to SHARON JORDAN (Pepper in the 3rd National), who turned 13 on April 22.



Submitted by Danielle Tetro



CLEVELAND, OH - Summer 1983  
Top row from left, Danielle [Kelly] Tetro, Allison Smith (Annie), Missy Menasce, Tammy Kauffman; bottom row from left, Caroline McMahon, Jennine Babo, Dana Dawson



With Julie Stevens March 1985



SOMERSET, NJ - From left, Amanda Trombetta, Danielle Tetro (Annie), Suzanne Lawrence, Sharon Coyle



. . . and, in the same order, the same group during a visit to Jon's Annie room



DREAM MAKERS '85, Ocean City, NJ, March 1985 - Top row from left, Dana Dewes, Kristi Coombs, Patti Gilbert, Arlene Kulis; Bottom row from left, Loren Kaufman, Nicole Nowicki

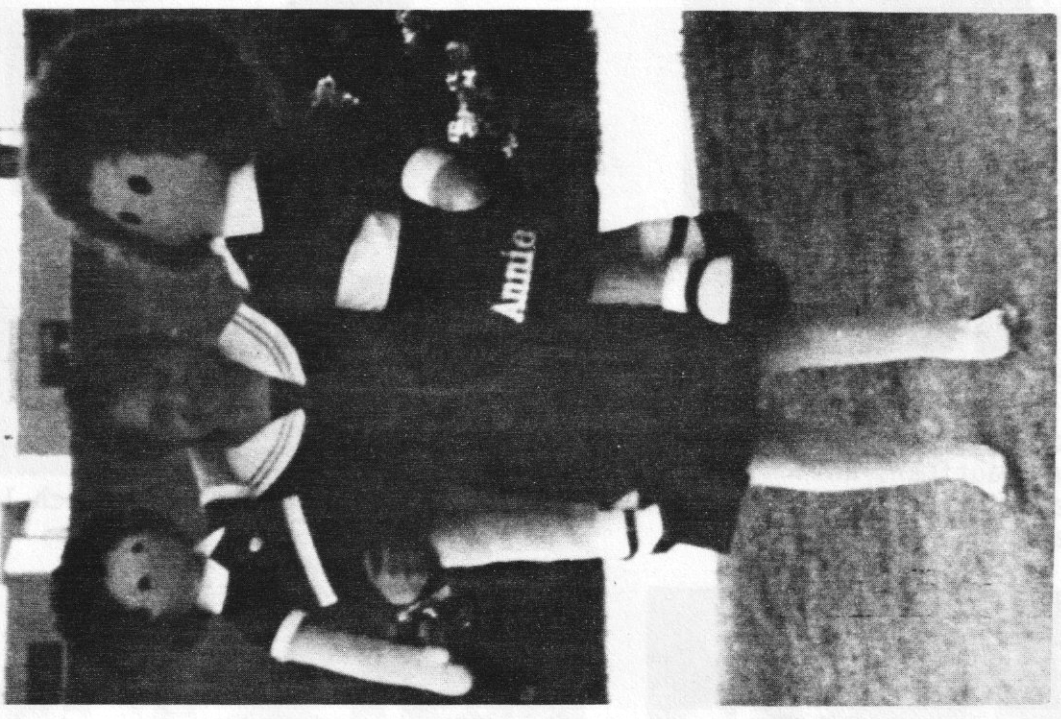


JERSEY CITY, NJ - The entire cast poses with Angela Gonzalez (Annie) and Roxanne (Sandy)

Thanks to Tammy Saphiloff for finding this rare photo of the 1976 Goodspeed Annie cast showing Andrea McArdle as an Orphan and Kristen Vigard as Annie.

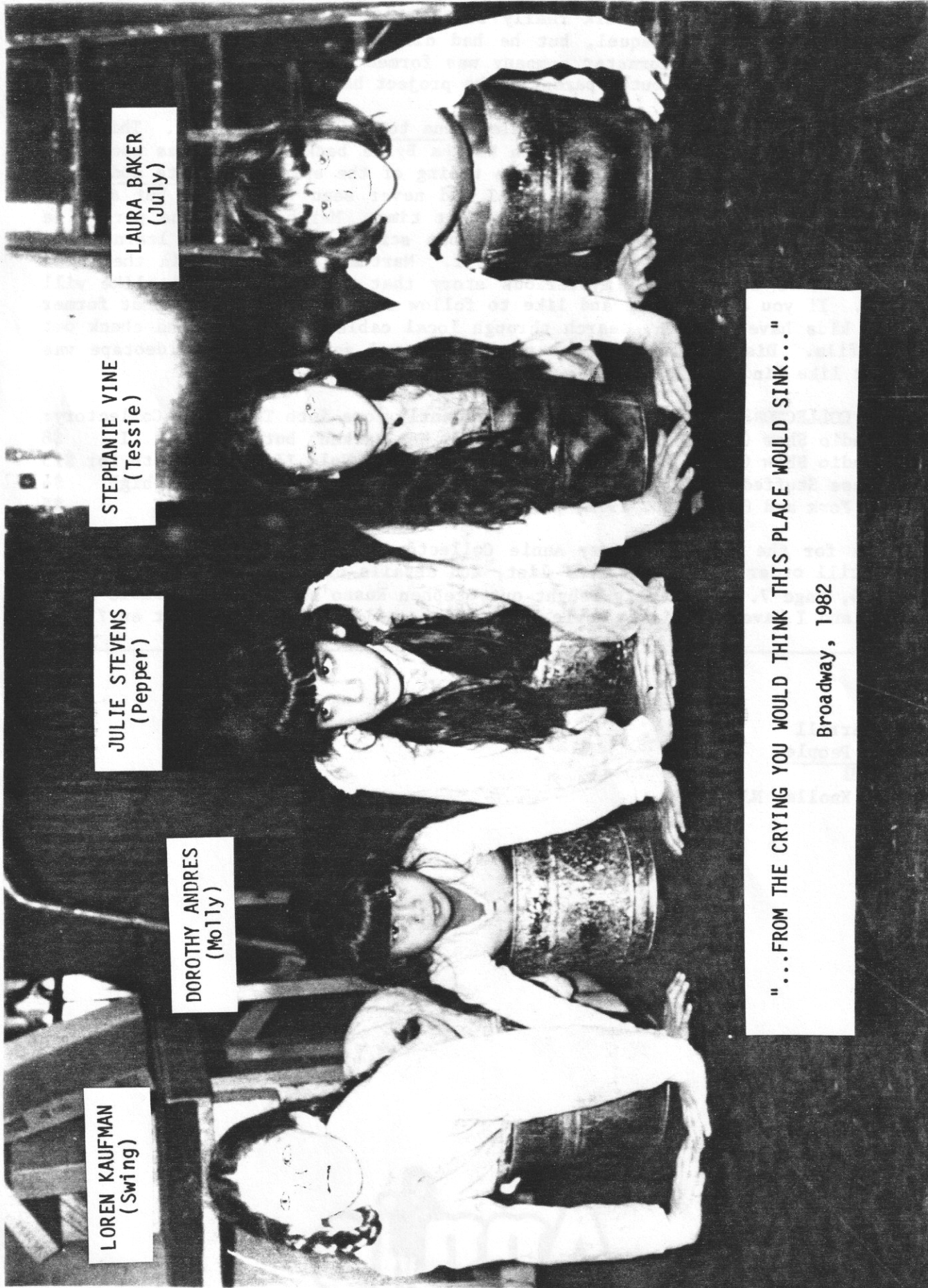
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**Price's 1976 Annie** cast included (clockwise from top left) Reid Shelton, Sandy Faison, Raymond Thorne, Kristen Vigard (who played the lead at Goodspeed), Janine Ruane, Andrea McArdle, Danielle Brisebois (now in *Archie Bunker's Place*), Diana Barrows and Laura Dean.



And here's Tammy herself at her Granada Hills, CA home with a couple of big armfuls of Annie.





LOREN KAUFMAN  
(Swing)

DOROTHY ANDRES  
(Molly)

JULIE STEVENS  
(Pepper)

STEPHANIE VINE  
(Tessie)

LAURA BAKER  
(Jully)

"...FROM THE CRYING YOU WOULD THINK THIS PLACE WOULD SINK..."  
Broadway, 1982

MOVIE SEQUEL DEAD: It really looks now as if The Perils of Annie has been scrapped for good. Ray Stark really believed in Annie and was determined to keep her going via a sequel, but he had difficulty finding others to go in with him on it. The Turnstar company was formed by Ray Stark and Ted Turner to produce the sequel, but apparently the project has been dropped for now.

DISCOVERY OF THE MONTH: A movie called Anna to the Infinite Power. This 1982 movie starred former Broadway Orphan Martha Byrne back when she was about 12. Up until the time I saw Martha at the taping of the episode of Kate and Allie on which she appeared with Allison, I had never seen the movie, but shortly after that, I finally saw it for the first time. Martha plays the part of a young math whiz who aspires to be a famous scientist, until she learns of a very bizarre family secret about herself. Martha is wonderful in the title role in this suspenseful, mysterious story that parents and kids alike will enjoy. If you are like me and like to follow the plays and movies that former Annie kids have been in, search through local cable TV listings and check out this film. Discovering this gem of a movie and getting it on videotape was almost like finding another prize Annie collectible for my room.

ANNIE COLLECTORS: Some new items have recently come into The Annie Collectory:  
LOA Radio Show (1940) LP (Mark 56 Records), not marked, but it is Vol. I \$8  
LOA Radio Show (1940) LP (Mark 56 Records), marked Vol. II \$8; or both for \$15  
Applause Stuffed Sandy (small) \$6 Annie Hanging Shoe Bag, 3 feet high \$4  
Annie Fork and Spoon set, 1978, pre-movie, stainless steel, VERY RARE \$5

Thanks for the orders from my Annie Collectory catalog in the last AP. You can still order items from that list, and details on ordering can be found in AP #14, page 7. I recently bought out Stephen Russo's Annie collectible business, and I have many Annie movie b/w stills available. Anybody want any?

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