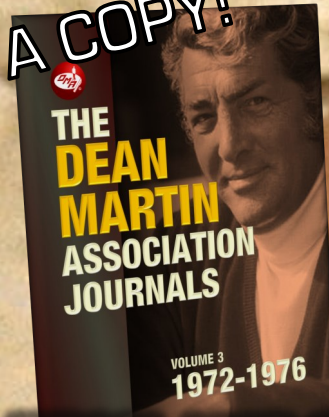


# Just Dino

The official journal of THE DEAN MARTIN ASSOCIATION

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## DEAN AND CHRISTMAS

A perfect combination?

## A WINTER ROMANCE

Serenading the season.

## FIRST COUSINS

Meeting Bill Cisario in Steubenville.

# DINO'S UTAH RETREAT

We head to the mountains with Annie Martin-Crocetti.



ISSN 2977-1935



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MEMORY HIVE

ISSUE 418

JANUARY 2024

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*Just Dino* is the exclusive and fully-authorized newsletter published only by us in the UK - and distributed worldwide since November 1960. The **Dean Martin Association** is totally lionized to the man himself, his life and career. Wherever you live, whoever you are, I dedicate your Association to Dean Martin and to you — as you support us by being a valued member.

**Bernard H Thorpe**  
Co-founder, President (1960-2015) and  
Chief Executive (1960-2015)

WITH THANKS TO: Carole Barker, Bill Cisario, Kent Edens, George Daniel Long, Pepper Martin, Annie Martin-Crocetti, Holly Salewski, Richard Shelton, The Estate of Bernard H Thorpe, DRP Touring Ltd, Hygge River Ranch Events and Veritas Entertainment Ltd

[NBC]



# SIDE BY SIDE with ELLIOT THORPE

To our dear members, friends, associates and everyone who supports the association year after year, we come to that time of year again when we all hope that the Christmas holiday season will be good for you and that the forthcoming new year will bring some good health, luck and fortune to you all.

That was written by Bernard for the 1992 Christmas newsletter, an astonishing 31 years ago! And the sentiment and our gratitude to you all still stands. Bernard would be amazed and humbled that the organization he co-founded in 1960 is still going strong and better than ever. We are confident too that our other co-founder, Mr Dean Martin, would be as equally surprised. Dino was never one to assume his fame nor expect or even want adulation from anyone, but nevertheless we endeavor to still honor him and his career in the best, most respectful way we can.

For many years, we and all of Dino's fans have been clamoring for more of his work to be made commercially available, whether that's his TV show, rare studio recordings, remastered editions of his movies and so on.

The news over the last few months of Dino's film, music and TV work becoming a 'property', one under the management of Iconic Artists Group, is therefore very intriguing.

Dino's work is owned by any number of film companies, and the rights to his TV shows are so convoluted that it would take a legal genius to unravel it. His Reprise catalog, however, is a much more simple affair in that EMI-Capitol are the licencees while ownership is held by The Dean Martin Family Trust, as far as is known. So what this means when it comes to Iconic we simply don't know: they gained the managementship in 2022 and so far

nothing has happened. We await therefore with keen interest as to what they intend to do.

We of course will still continue to share our love and affection for Dino by way of our social media sites and of course this very publication you are reading! The fact that we produce and publish it entirely for free demonstrates our stance that we are genuinely here to keep his name and legacy relevant.

We have had some great feedback on the relaunch of *Just Dino*, so we know we're headed in the right direction. Already we've increased our page count and are planning some marvellous things for 2024.

This edition we have some great articles and are absolutely delighted that Dean's daughter-in-law Annie joins us as guest contributor. Her insight into his home life is truly wonderful and we hope you enjoy it.

Christmas can be such a magical time for so many people, one that is truly enhanced by Dean's lush vocals. It's as if his voice was made for the holidays! He only recorded two seasonal albums during his career (see top and middle, right, and page 6) and we also highly recommend the two compilations from Capitol/EMI (right) as delightful additions to your Christmas playlist. Get them all wherever music is sold.

Of course, we can't talk about the Holidays without mentioning what Christmas also signifies for all of us as admirers of Dino. 28 years ago on Christmas Day 1995, dear Dino sadly passed away. So as you raise a toast to

days ahead, think of all who we have lost but never forgotten, those who are always in our hearts.

*For the good times.*

Finally, from Ron, Cindy, Thomas, Marisa and me, we wish you a very merry Dean Martin Christmas, and a happy, peaceful New Year.



The Dean Martin Association Yearbook 2024

FOREWORD BY FRANCIE MENDENHALL

Order now at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk)

## THE DEAN MARTIN ASSOCIATION YEARBOOK 2024

AVAILABLE NOW WORLDWIDE IN PAPERBACK

Dean Martin's extraordinary legacy continues and this very first DMA Annual celebrates his legendary career which now spans over 80 incredible years.

- ◆ illustrated throughout
- ◆ brand-new, exclusive essays and articles
- ◆ foreword from Francie Mendenhall, one of Dean's original Goldiggers
- ◆ all proceeds of the 2024 yearbook will be donated to [share4children.org](https://share4children.org)
- ◆ AVAILABLE FROM AMAZON ONLY UNTIL 31 AUGUST 2024

Join the party as we share our fondest memories and our favorite moments of one of the world's greatest and most remarkable entertainers.



# the dean martin forum

Keep those letters and cards comin' in, folks...

Send your letters and comments to [deanmartinassociation.com/contact](http://deanmartinassociation.com/contact) or via Facebook



## > JENNIFER W. EMAIL

Quite why anyone in today's world thinks Dean, Frank and Sammy are not any good must be mad. I've been a fan since I can remember, and used to run to my local record store to get the latest of Dean's LPs. I collected some of Frank's and Sammy's too but it was always Dean's I saved up for. The music my grandchildren listen to feels like it has no soul or life to it and I always make sure I'm playing one of Dean's whenever they come over or we're in the car going somewhere so that they get to know proper music!

## > JOHN S. EMAIL

I used to be a member of the DMA when Bernard was in charge. What a shame he can't see what you're doing now. I remember reading in *Just Dino* in 2011 that he wouldn't be writing them anymore. It was such a blow because I really enjoyed getting the newsletters every month. My son found your website and I'm so pleased about it—I had no idea you were still going. It's great too that you've brought back *Just Dino* after all this time. Whoever's idea that was, give them a raise! [*That was Cindy's Ed.*] I'm glad I'm a member again. Do you hear from many old members like me? [*We certainly do! Although sadly we doubt we still have many who have been with us since 1960... Ed.*]

## > LINDA S. EMAIL

I am a lifelong fan of Dean Martin and so excited to see the newsletter coming up.

## > DEREK M. EMAIL

I watched the Dean Martin program on TCM not so long ago by accident after surfing through some channels. I was hooked straight away and watched to the end. The guy was the description of cool and not what I thought he was. I was pleased to find a CD in a thrift store and it had your name in it, THE BEST OF THE CAPITOL YEARS [see image, top]. I googled you and didn't expect to find anything about you because the CD was 1989. I was shocked to see your website come up straight away, so joined your mailing list and I'm glad I did.

## > PAUL M. EMAIL

I love Dino, the Rat Pack and everything from that era. We have been going to the Dean Martin Festival for 14 years.

## > SCOTT R. FACEBOOK

So many great articles [in JD417]! Some of them perfectly put into words why I love Dino. Others taught me some facts about Dino that make me love him more than before, like the fact that his favorite thing on TV was *The Andy Griffith Show*, one of my favorite shows. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue and helped put it together!

## > JOHN H. JR EMAIL

Thank you so very much [for JD417], I've already devoured it, great, great stuff. I've come late to your party. Thanks so much for all that you do. Very excited to be on board...

## > DARLENE F. EMAIL

I just finished reading *The Dean Martin Association Yearbook 2024*. It was an excellent read. I learnt a few things. Last April I went to LA and went to the cemetery where [Dean] is entombed. Beautiful place but hard to find.

## > BOB M. EMAIL

I enjoy listening to your podcast and am amazed that you do this every month so far without fail. I've been a huge Dino fan all my life (I'm 67 now) and I'm still finding out things about him, and I thought I knew everything! It's marvelous to hear other fans talk about him too of course. You all seem to know different aspects of his life, but one thing that stands out no matter what you're all chatting about is the passion you have for him. I've often wondered what is that Dean Martin 'magic', and from listening to you talk, I think I worked it out. It's his ability to transcend the generations. He talks to everyone through his music and jokes and give everyone who likes him a common ground. Keep up the good work!

## > DAVID T. EMAIL

You've been around since 1960 so how is it I'd never heard of you guys before? I did some searching and your name crops up on some old albums and stuff, so I guess you know what you're doing! [*We had always worked behind the scenes on a good number of Dean's album re-releases and compilations over the years and as time has gone on we have maintained our position as ambassadors to his legacy. And yes, after 63 years and our combined knowledge we hope puts us in good stead to know what we're doing for another 63! Ed.*] JD



[Warner Bros.]

# DEAN AND CHRISTMAS: A PERFECT COMBINATION?

**THOMAS BRADY** peeks at the presents under the tree to find out.

**C**hristmas time for many is a time when loved ones get together, eat probably more than they should, drink possibly more than they should and, at times, have the odd family feud! My household was no different and Christmas time was always a special time for us when I was growing up. The tree was always decorated at the beginning of December and myself and my two sisters anxiously awaited Santa's arrival to see what he would bring.

As I mentioned in a previous article, my parents were far more into progressive rock music but at Christmas time, that always changed!

The classics from Dean, Frank, Perry Como among others was what was played. I don't think it could be called Christmas without hearing Dean croon "Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow". It is a staple anywhere you go.

In fact, just the other day as I was Christmas shopping, I walked inside an extremely festive Aspinall's of London store and Dean Martin happened to play while I was making my purchase. I casually asked the gentleman serving me if he knew who sang the song and his reply was, 'Dean Martin, I think.'

Now, I tend to find that people know who Dean Martin is but may they struggle to name a song of his and maybe, any other time of year, this man may not have known a Dean Martin song- but there is something so perfect about Dean Martin and Christmas that he knew exactly who was singing that quintessential Christmas song.

December falls and Dean's music fills the stores, emanates from every Christmas party, and blesses every Christmas day.

There are thousands of contemporary Christmas songs from modern artists that are in their own way very popular but still, somehow, they wane in the presence of the great crooners of old.

I think there is such a pull of nostalgia when you hear Dean Martin or Frank Sinatra singing their Christmas classics. A pull that modern artists could never quite match. Even at my big work Christmas party they play Dean Martin and obviously I tell anyone who happens to be near me that he is the best singer to have ever lived!

Born in 1988 in northern Scotland, I was very far removed from Dean's world. But with the wonders of the internet, I can now watch Dean's Christmas specials and transport myself back to the '60s and '70s.

The 1967 Christmas special of *The Dean Martin Show* is a particular favorite of mine. We chat about this particular special in our Christmas 2023 podcast (available to listen to on Spotify and YouTube from 15 December).

Anytime Dean is alongside his partner in crime, Frank Sinatra, you know it's going to be a good show! Dean and Frank were also accompanied by their kids, which definitely fits nicely in with the Christmas narrative of families being together. Watching Dean and Frank sing "How Do You Talk To Your Dad" with their sons Dino and Frank Jr. respectively is just an absolute treasure of a clip. There is a really wonderful connection between father and son and this just shines through in this clip and I can't help thinking about how amazing a party at Dean's house would be with the Sinatra's over, I think that would probably be the absolute epitome of cool.

Dean sings the melancholic "I'll Be Home For Christmas" as his song on the couch which coincidentally is one of my favorite Christmas songs, so

having Dean sing it live is a real treat.

I have a true envy of those who grew up watching Dean's TV show as I can only imagine it must have *really* felt like Christmas time had arrived when the program aired. Much like the turning on of the Christmas tree lights, or the unwrapping of gifts, having Dean and Frank grace the screen would bring the family gathering around the television set to watch them sing and clown around in the wonderful way only they could do.

Unfortunately, Dean's mother, Angela, died on Christmas Day, 1966, so Christmas must have always had a sad underpinning for Dean. But ever the professional and father, Dean never let that stop him from enjoying Christmas with his family or singing his popular festive songs on his television show. And yet, 29 years later, in a cruel twist, Dean Martin also passed away in the early hour of Christmas Day, 1995. Every Christmas I have a wee dram of whiskey and listen to some Dean Martin (not that I really need to be persuaded to do either of those things on any given day) as a way of honoring him.

I challenge anyone to imagine a Christmas without Dean Martin's music. There are so many festive songs that only Dean can sing so warmly and when I hear those songs, I am instantly taken back to being a young boy, on Christmas eve, roasting chestnuts on the fire in the cottage - and I think that's exactly the way Dean wanted people to feel when they listen to his Christmas songs, or any of his songs for that matter. To be taken back to those wonderful memories of years gone by, but also to create beautiful new memories in the present moment.

As long as there is Christmas, there will be Dean Martin. **JD**

# serenading the season



MARISA  
LAVINS  
examines  
Dean  
Martin's  
timeless  
classic  
a  
winter  
romance

**T**he Christmas season has always been and will remain my favorite time of year. From finding the perfect Christmas tree, to celebrating with friends and family, the season always brings back the magical nostalgia of childhood memories.

Another reason is that Dean Martin's music once again hits the radio waves.

All over the country, from shopping centers to peoples own living rooms, Dean's music is our soundtrack to countless holiday memories being made.

One of the most prominent trends of Dean Martin's career is his ability to transcend generations of listeners, and there is no greater example of Dean's ability to continuously impact popular culture than his ongoing popularity during the Christmas season, especially through his landmark Christmas album *A WINTER ROMANCE*.

Released by Capitol on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1959, *A WINTER ROMANCE* was produced during a year of extreme technical and social advancements. From the inauguration of the Jet Age with the introduction of the Boeing 707, to the debut of Barbie, the first toy that encouraged young girls to pursue a career path outside of motherhood, the world was an ever-changing place, teetering on the cusp of the 1960s counterculture movement.

While these changes were occurring, Dean Martin was unifying his listeners by bringing the classic nostalgia and beauty of the Christmas season that his audience was longing for during these changing times. *A Winter Romance* is not just a Christmas album, it also serves as a winter album, depicting winter themes focused on romance and arctic scenery.

While the album features such classics as "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "White Christmas", songs such as "A Winter Romance" and "The Things We Did Last Summer" makes it an appealing album to listen to all season long.

This album garnered great success, with Billboard magazine's sparkling review stating: "Martin sings them with his usual ease and nonchalance... A potent waxing for the holiday season."

With the great success of *ELVIS'S CHRISTMAS ALBUM* in 1957, many artists were beginning to feature rock n' roll style instrumentation and arrangements to classic Christmas hits. However, in classic Dean Martin fashion, he showcased his true artistic style in *A WINTER ROMANCE*, one that can be heard in many of his albums produced during the 1950s. From his smooth and warm vocals to his characteristic scoops he used so often, this album truly showcases Martin's trademark style.

My favorite song on this album is in fact "A Winter Romance". I have always been drawn to songs that have a true storytelling element, which is a common theme found in many of Dean Martin's songs. The tale of a winter love story coming to fruition over a happy accident and continuing no matter the season. The use of a string orchestra, piano, and chorus supports Martin's gentle and convincing lyrics as the lover amongst the winter scenery. While this song is not often played today, several other songs that are featured on this album are the most played during the Christmas season to this day.

Much like during the album's initial release in 1959, we are experiencing an enormous shift in technical and social climates today. From studying the future of humanity on Mars, to the reincarnation of Barbie, Dean is once again in our lives, bringing us the joy and nostalgia so many of us feel during the holiday season. While many of the songs from *A*

WINTER ROMANCE are often played during the holiday season, one song is arguably the most popular of his Christmas classics: "Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!"

During the 2022 season, it hit #7 on the Billboard Hot 100 Christmas charts. While many artists such as Michael Bublé have released covers of this classic hit, Martin's version remains the unmistakable standard for listeners today.

Martin's popularity during the holiday season today has encompassed mediums beyond his recording career, most notably television. During the height of the variety show genre in the 1960s, it was common for the holiday season to be highlighted with various Christmas specials from America's favorite stars.

Of course, Dean Martin's Christmas specials ranging from his traditional show format, to being filmed on his beloved ranch in California, were a favorite amongst TV watching audiences.

With the re-release of *The Dean Martin Show* special *Christmas with The Martins and Sinatras* on PBS in 2021, Dean's Christmas music was once again brought to audiences in a new and entertaining way.

While many of us may not realize it, the holiday season offers an opportunity for new audience members to hear the great music of Dean Martin.

Dean has once again proven his timeless style and musicianship by remaining a permanent fixture in our popular culture through his classic Christmas songs that will continue to play for generations to come.



Buy A WINTER ROMANCE (on vinyl, CD, download or streaming), wherever music is sold. **JD**



THOMAS BRADY's choice of song is "The Christmas Blues", and here he explains why...

**D**ean Martin and Christmas go together like Santa and his sleigh. It's that time of year where you may be out Christmas shopping for loved ones, or wrapped up outside drinking a hot chocolate at a Christmas market and undoubtedly you will get to hear one of the many, many Dean Martin Christmas songs. From "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow" to "White Christmas" you are sure to know one of his major Christmas hits but I'm in the DMA Listening Booth and spinning "The Christmas Blues".

Recorded October 5th, 1953, with Dick Stabile and his Orchestra, Dean's voice brings his natural warmth to this winter track. Although it may be a tad on the sad side singing about having the blues, Dean still manages to give you that Christmas feeling, especially when accompanied by the percussive notes on the line "...those brightly packaged, tinsel covered, Christmas Blues".

Bob Dylan also recorded this song for his 2009 album *CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART*, which definitely gives a different styling with Dylan's gruff, raspy vocals. Although I do not dislike the track, when compared to Dean's version, there is no competition.

Personally, I believe Dean's voice was its finest in the '50s and '60s. It had such a tight vibrato and such an ease when sliding from note to note. And boy, does it shine through on this track. As soon as I hear this song, I can't help but feel like Christmas time is truly here. **JD**



# DINO'S WINTER WONDERLAND

**ANNIE MARTIN-CROCETTI**, with **CINDY WILLIFORD**, takes us to Utah now and to a particular, quaint little mountain cabin that her father-in-law Dean Martin would often frequent in his autumn years...

**C**lose your eyes and imagine being surrounded by the beauty of mountains and a tree-lined river. This seems too good to be true, right? Surrounded by the Uinta Mountains to the east and the Wasatch Mountains to the west, the Provo River on the South and the Weber River to the North is a little community known as Kamas, or the Kamas Valley.

And this little community is the home to one of Utah's most hospitable Airbnbs, which just happens to be owned by Dean's granddaughter, Pepper Martin [the daughter of Annie and the late Ricci Martin].

The cabin's name is Hygge (pronounced Hue-guh) which is a Danish / Norwegian word meaning 'a cozy, contented mood evoked by comfort and warmth'. And that is exactly what you will experience when visiting this beautiful piece of property. Hygge was originally a guest house to the main house on the property of where Pepper grew up with her parents.

In 2016, Pepper decided to purchase the cabin, along with the two existing cabins. The Hygge cabin was built in 1991-1992 specifically for her grandparents, Dean and Jeanne Martin.

Though it was just a short time before Dean passed away, he and Jeanne would go to visit the family as often as they could.

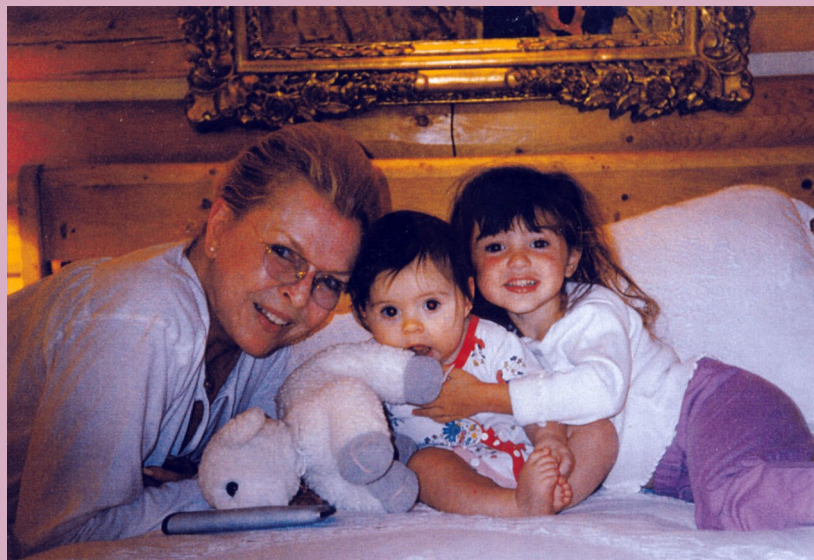
Dean and Jeanne would come to the cabin to relax, watch TV, and spoil little Pepper. One of the things that he loved doing was sitting by the river and watching all the wildlife. Pepper's uncle, Harry Rasmussen, who is a beautiful fly fisherman, would be in the river fishing while Dean watched. Time was spent chatting, telling stories, and laughing a lot. Dean also enjoyed walking to the state-of-the-art recording studio which was crafted by Ricci. Dean would walk down to the studio to listen to what Ricci was working on. Often, Pepper would join her grandfather and father in the studio. For many years, it was a working studio to many famous musicians / bands as well as local famous musical bands or solo artists.

One of the favorite things that was enjoyed with the family during Dean and Jeanne's stay were the dinners and cocktails. A round of charades, Pictionary, blackjack and scramble were some of the things they did for entertainment. Because there was a professional blackjack & poker table in the main house, Dean would love showing off his card tricks. He had such big hands; he could easily do some very incredible tricks.

Several of Dean's movies were shot in the mountains of Utah as well as California, New Mexico, and Arizona. Being surrounded by the mountains while at the cabin, brought back beautiful memories. He would often chat about those movie days.

Jeanne continued to travel to the cabin after Dean had passed away. She loved the mountains and the snow. She would come out often during the winter months to watch the girls and Annie ski down the mountains. Because Annie grew up in Europe and had lots of experience skiing in the Swiss and French alps, she taught the girls how to do all winter sports. Jeanne loved watching the girls fly down the mountain!

In 2017, the guest house became the Hygge Airbnb. The venue offers a wide assortment of activities for their guests. They offer



fly-fishing lessons, both half day and full day sessions, with a riverside lunch and / or cocktails with *hors d'oeuvres*. Wine, beer and Tequila tastings, as well as Italian soda tasting with pairing *hors d'oeuvres* is also available. Guests can have either an in-cabin or river-side massage.

They also host corporate events as well as weddings and rehearsal dinners. Many times, those guests who have had their weddings and / or honeymoons at the cabin, come back to experience the beauty and tranquility.

Whatever there is to celebrate, it can be done on this beautiful 5 ½ acre piece of river front property from June to October.

It is truly a sacred place for all. People come to reset and restore their souls.

And as Pepper and Annie visit with their guests, they share all of their magical experiences while at the cabin. It really is a lighthouse for everyone's soul.

Dean and Jeanne always loved their time here.

Recently, Pepper achieved a much-coveted spot for those who are part of the Airbnb network. Pepper was named the most hospitable Airbnb host in the State of Utah.

Receiving such an honor does not come easy. In order to be identified as an hospitable host, you must have earned five-star ratings in the area of cleanliness, check-in and communication. Hosts also must have a minimum of 100 reviews.

One thing that sets Pepper apart from other Airbnbs is her dedicated willingness to make sure that the stay of guests is a memorable one.

But that takes time and attention to detail.

**JD**



For booking information, please visit [HyggeRiverRanchEvents.com](http://HyggeRiverRanchEvents.com)





This page: the cabin at dusk  
Previous page, top: Jeanne Martin at the cabin with her and Dean's grandchildren Pepper and Montana  
Previous page, bottom: Christmas in Hygge [PEPPER MARTIN/ANNIE MARTIN-CROCETTI]

# Mistletoe and Palm Trees

## Marisa Lavins on Dean Martin's Christmas in California specials

**A**n element of Dean Martin's career that is just as nostalgic and enjoyable for his audience as his Christmas music, is his popular Christmas specials that were aired throughout the 1960s.

While his audience was accustomed to seeing Dean donning chaps and a cowboy hat in his popular western films, he was mostly known for his sharp black tux and easy voice on *The Dean Martin Show* during the 1960s. However, as the 1960s ended, and TV audiences were no longer interested in the traditional musical variety show, Dean's last episode aired on April 5th, 1974. After the conclusion of his regular program, Dean along with his producer Greg Garrison developed *The Dean Martin Celebrity Roast*, a comedy special born from a piece introduced in the latter episodes of the *The Dean Martin Show*. A selected guest of honor would be heckled by friends and colleagues, with Dean at the helm of the merriment.

However, Dean and Greg Garrison wanted to return to what Dean did best, singing and performing for his audience. With this in mind, Greg Garrison proposed the idea of reviving the classic Christmas special, but with a twist. Instead of having Martin perform in his usual studio setting, they would take the special outdoors and into the country, where Dean felt the most at home. It was with this idea that the TV special *Dean Martin's Christmas in California* was born.

Growing up in the town of Steubenville, Ohio, young Dino Paul Crocetti grew up with many white Christmas mornings. However, as Dino became Dean, and the legendary career he longed for came to new heights, he began to experience Christmas in the beautiful sunny scenery of California. From this distinct change in lifestyle, Dean Martin grew a passionate love for country living, and all the benefits that come with it. From owning his own ranch, to breeding and caring for horses, Martin embraced the beauty and peace of rural living.

*Dean Martin's Christmas in California* special comprised of three episodes between the years 1977 and 1979, showcasing Dean in various outdoor locations including his horse ranch, the zoo at San Diego, and even Sea World. The first episode aired December 18th, 1977, and was filmed at Dean's Hidden Valley Ranch, where he bred his Andalusian horses, as well as Leo Carillo Beach.

With guests Crystal Gale, Linda Lavin, and Johnathan Winters, this very unique Christmas special showcases the unique scenery and holiday celebrations that take place in the California sun. One of the most interesting aspects of this show is that there is not a traditional Christmas song featured. Instead, Dean is singing songs such as "Back in your Own Back Yard" and "Almost Like Being In Love", painting a story of a man enjoying his Christmas holiday on his ranch with family and friends. In addition, a segment of the show is dedicated to Dean's many horses, with a voice over of Dean introducing them to his audience and showcasing the dedication and love he held for his prized stallions. The reviews of this special were remarkably positive, with a local reviewer stating, 'Dean turned all the traditional Christmas

shows topsy-turvy in his own inimitable style and by golly, it worked."

After the great success of this initial Christmas special, NBC approved a budget for taping of two more consecutive specials, meaning Dean Martin was back in his element, singing and celebrating the holiday season.

While watching the various Dean Martin's Christmas in California specials, one particular moment stands out to me as one of the most important moments in Dean Martin's career in television.

At the end of the special filmed in 1978, Dean is featured inside of a rustic living room singing the infamous Irving Berlin ballad "White Christmas" directly to his audience. Shortly after taping was completed, producer Greg Garrison received a call from none other than Irving Berlin himself. Berlin stated that Martin's rendition of the song was by far his favorite that he had ever seen, and truly depicted what the song was meant to be about.

After all, the rarely sung introduction of "White Christmas" states:

*The sun is shining, the grass is green,  
The orange and palm trees sway,  
There's never been such a day,  
In Beverly Hills, LA.*

The combination of Dean's warm and simple interpretation of the song combined with the California setting, was exactly what Berlin had always intended his landmark Christmas song to be about. When Greg relayed this complement to Dean at his next taping, he was truly touched stating simply, 'hey,' with a humble look of amazement on his face.

On December 13th, 1979, Dean Martin would star in his final *Dean Martin's Christmas in California* special alongside his good friend and peer Shirley Jones. This special features Dean singing and interacting with exotic animals such as monkeys at the local Wild Animal Park and San Diego Zoo.

As the new decade of the 1980's approached, young TV audiences were shifting their interests to new musical mediums such as MTV and were not as interested in the musical variety shows that were so popular with previous generations. While the changing times had prevented Dean from carrying on the tradition of the television Christmas special, he continues to remain one of the most popular artists of the Christmas season, and will continue to be heard for many holiday seasons to come.

JD



[NBC]

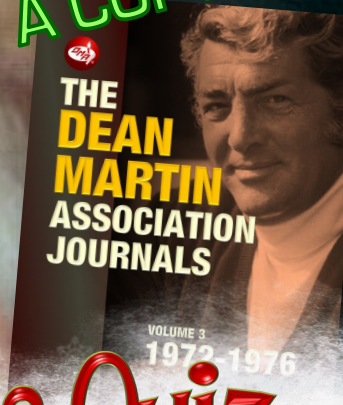


HO HO HO!

It's the return of

# The DMA Christmas Quiz

WIN A COPY!



Send your answers via [deanmartinassociation.com/contact](http://deanmartinassociation.com/contact) and the **first correct set of answers received\*** will win a paperback copy of *The Dean Martin Association Journals Volume 3*. Entry closes 31 December 2023 at 11pm Pacific Time.

- 1 Dean Martin was born June 7, 1917, 319 South Sixth Street, Steubenville, Ohio at 11.55pm. What was his birth name?
- 2 Dean made his First Holy Communion on May 15, 1927 and was Confirmed on April 30, 1928 at St. Anthony's Church. What name did he take as his confirmation name?
- 3 Dean was in the Boy Scouts and performed in many Minstrel Shows in Steubenville, playing what instrument?
- 4 Elvis Presley's favorite singer was Dean Martin. Who was Dean's favorite singer?
- 5 What was Dean's favorite color?
- 6 Dean had two favorite pasttimes. One was watching old Westerns. What was the other?
- 7 What was Dean's favorite food, besides Italian?
- 8 *The Dean Martin Show* started in 1965. What year did it end?

- 9 On August 15, 1964, Dean Martin knocked a famous group out of the #1 spot with his song "Everybody Loves Somebody". Name the group.
- 10 Dean fought as an amateur welterweight boxer and prizefighter under what name?
- 11 Dean Martin pledged for a Fraternity in 1934, becoming a member in 1935. What Frat was it?
- 12 What was Dean's favorite song when he lived in Steubenville?
- 13 Dean Martin was in a band with Helen and Mario Camerlengo. What was their band's name?
- 14 When Dean was in the Boy Scouts, he got into a fist-fight with Archie DiAngelo and received a black eye. Did he win or lose the fight?
- 15 What color were Dean's eyes?
- 16 What year was Dean honored with a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award?

\*TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The DMA Christmas Quiz, 2023 - The first correct set of answers received no later than Sunday 31 December 2023 2300hrs Pacific Time will win one copy of the paperback book *The Dean Martin Association Journals Volume 3* (DMA Books, 2023). **The correct set of answers must only be sent via [deanmartinassociation.com/contact](http://deanmartinassociation.com/contact) ; they will not be accepted through any other channels or means under any circumstances.** The winner will be notified by email on Tuesday 2 January 2024 and announced in the subsequent issue of *Just Dino*. The competition is not open to DMA or Memory Hive Production staff, nor to their family members. **The decision of the winning entry is final and correspondence will not be entered into.**

# MEETING BILL CISARIO

**CINDY WILLIFORD** met Dean's cousin Bill in June 2023 at The Dean Martin Festival in Steubenville.

visit [www.visitsteubenville.com](http://www.visitsteubenville.com)

Interestingly, Bill says that he didn't recognize Dean as being famous until he saw him in the movies. Dean did return to Steubenville in the summer of 1950 for the city's annual festival, though, as its celebrity guest. That's how humble Dean was about his work, even in those early years.

Bill moved to California in 1950, staying with Aunt Angela for a few months. During that time, he would often spend time with Dean, a period of his life he is very fond of.

Sunday dinners were particularly special, with Bill proudly seeing the love and respect Dean had for the family. As removed as we are from the private Dean, it is still not difficult to picture the scene: a typical Italian family gathered around the dinner table, sharing and supporting, laughing and chatting. As a family man, Dean was very private indeed and Bill still speaks highly of Dean's humility and desire for his privacy.

Bill closed our time together with a cute little story of Dean. He and his wife Bunny were invited to one of the children's birthdays parties one year.

Upon arrival, Bill asked Jeannie where Dean was. She directed him to the back room where he found Dean on his own watching a Western movie.

When Bill asked Dean if he was going to join the party, Dean chuckled, saying: 'There are too many people out there, Bill...' JD

Above: Cindy with Bill Cisario and his daughter Gina in Steubenville, June 2023  
Below, right: Bill and Gina in the Dean Martin Festival parade, Steubenville, June 2023

Over the past summer, I was fortunate to attend the Dean Martin Festival in Steubenville. I had read that Dean's first and second cousins would be in attendance for the festivities. In the back of my mind, I longed to meet him.

As I stood in front of the Grand Theater watching the parade roll down the street, my dream was one step closer. Stopped in front of me was Bill Cisario and his daughter Gina. I snapped a photo of them and walked back to my spot.

Later that evening at *The Rat Pack Show* at Froehlich's Classic Corner, I chatted with them and then had the opportunity to visit with Bill person to person and asked him a few questions.

Some of Bill's fondest memories of Dean were the times they played golf at the Bel-Air Country Club which was a lot of fun for the two of them together. He said that, with Angela (Dean's mom) being very active in the Italian Women's Club, in Hollywood, it was enjoyable to attend the annual events with his wife, Bunny.



## NEXT ISSUE...

NEWS • REVIEWS • AND SO MUCH MORE!

- ⇒ REVIEWED: Deana Martin In Concert
- ⇒ Dean Martin - The Man Who Put Steubenville On The Map
- ⇒ Dean and Shirley: An Entertainment Partnership

**Just Dino**  
The official journal of THE DEAN MARTIN ASSOCIATION

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# MOVIE MOMENTS:

# "Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed?"

Dean Martin puts it on the line in this sexagenarian comedy romp from Paramount, co-starring Elizabeth Montgomery, Carol Burnett, Jill St John and Richard Conte. Elliot Thorpe checks under the covers for answers...



**A** part from the BBC/Disney+ series *Doctor Who* enjoying its 60th anniversary on 23 November this year, there's a smaller, more intimate birthday to be had on Christmas Day.

It's also celebrating a 60-year milestone and it is indeed *Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed?*, the selection for this edition's Movie Moments, originally release by Paramount Pictures on 25 December 1963.

There are no bears, no bowls of porridge and Goldilocks definitely doesn't make an appearance. Instead, the title is just as misleading for the audience by what the plot *does* involve!

Dean plays Jason Steel, an overworked, exhausted TV actor, struggling with the starring role in *Ask Dr Adams*, a medical-soap series in the fiction of the movie. He's finding the storylines dull, repetitive and underwhelming. He wants more drama, more action, more everything, and is on the verge of hanging up his surgical gloves for good if something doesn't improve. He is also growing increasingly agitated about the arrangements of his forthcoming wedding to Melissa Morris (Elizabeth Montgomery). His only outlet for his stresses is a regular Wednesday night poker game with friends and work colleagues.

His poker buddies are married, but seem worn-down by their wives, who all take issue with said poker game. Their husbands don't show much recourse to alter the gathering, even when it clashes with anniversaries or nights out. Who then do the wives turn to for consolation?

Hiding the wives from each other one by one when they knock on his door, distracting the husbands when the wives call him during the poker games, could all very well lead the audience to consider Steel to be a womanizing, double-crossing-yet-forgivable narcissistic gynephiliac. He's not. In fact he's a character that struggles with the situations he is placed in. He doesn't want the attention, he has no desire to offer

consolation in the ways that his friends' wives demand from him.

As a result, he's a very sympathetic and misunderstood individual, that latter adjective neatly summarising the dilemma of the movie.

The film poster declaring *Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed?* as 'not suitable for children' clearly demonstrates how society and the subject matter the story deals with has changed over the last 60 years.

This is no raucous, outrageous sex-comedy. Far from. It's a comedy of errors, a farce of middle-class suburban proportions.

Dean is absolutely perfect for the role, enjoying the screen time with the roll-call of actresses whose infidelity-driven characters swoon over him, shining bright next to the actors who portray the blissfully unaware husbands and at one point doing a cracking Cary Grant impression.

Screen writer Jack Rose had already worked with Dean the year before on *Who's Got the Action?* (Paramount, 1962) as writer and co-producer, cutting his early writing teeth on lines for Milton Berle and Bob Hope. His first screenplay was *Road To Rio* starring Hope and Bing Crosby in 1943. Academy Award-nominated for later scripts, Rose created a balanced story that bounces along, easily digestible and never falls short.

Elizabeth Montgomery however did seem somewhat underused as Dean's screen fiancée Melissa. While she begins to suspect her his apparent unfaithfulness, she rarely seems distraught, turning to the fired-up Carol Burnett for comfort.

Burnett, on the other hand, steals the show when sharing scenes with Montgomery. Her screen debut, Burnett nevertheless was reported as saying she was confused, bored and missed the spontaneity of a live audience.

When of course it comes out that Jason Steel has

been secretly meeting up with his buddies' wives, he's labelled as a lusting no-good scoundrel, much to his chagrin. With a plot that turns Melissa against Steel, Steel finds it hard to trust, having been lied to by the only honest woman he has ever found.

It's interesting that Dean's character is the one who loses faith in love and marriage when it could so easily have fallen into the movie cliché of the trodden-on wife, especially in a light film such as this.

*Directed by Daniel Mann and produced by Jack Rose from a script by Jack Rose. Cinematography by Joesph Ruttenberg. Music by George Duning. Released by Paramount Pictures, 25 December 1963.*



Right & far right: Elizabeth Montgomery and Dean Martin in *Who's Been Sleeping In My Bed?* [Paramount, 1963]

# Meanderin'

News, events and dates for your diary.



## Daughter Deana's Christmas Dinner



Deana Martin is in concert at the Valley Dale Ballroom, Columbus, Ohio for one night only on December 16, 2023.

This special holiday

dinner show will feature selections from her album *WHITE CHRISTMAS*, accompanied by the Rick Brunetto 17-piece orchestra.

Deana takes the audience on a musical journey, honoring her legendary father Dean Martin and other great performers who shaped American music and popular culture for over four decades. She sings the sound track of our lives, the classics made popular the world over by her father and his friends.

She performs many of Dean's greatest and most enduring hits, including: "Memories Are Made Of This", "That's Amore", "Everybody Loves Somebody", and many more of the world's favorites. Her on-stage performance treats the audience to an intimate repartee, sharing with them a look into Dean's life, by way of, her personal anecdotes and a video montage, comprised of rare never before seen home movies and private photos. You will relive with Deana some of the most treasured moments from Dean Martin's long and illustrious career.

Enjoy a fabulous dinner and evening of fabulous entertainment for the whole family.

The DMA will be there too, so hopefully we'll get to meet some of you!

To book, visit [valleydaleballroom.com](http://valleydaleballroom.com). Tickets priced at \$89 for dinner and general admission seating; \$109 for dinner and special VIP seating. Doors open 6.30pm; Dinner 7pm; Show 8pm.

## Two Dinos Take the Stage

Joe Scalissi, long-time Dean performer, has a handful of shows to take us into the New Year. Praised by Dean's own daughters, Joe puts on a thoughtful and entertaining review of the great man's career. He'll be at Illinois and Ohio on selected dates throughout December, culminating in *The Rat Pack In Concert* on 30 December 2023. Visit [joescalissi.com](http://joescalissi.com).

Las Vegas headliner Drew Anthony's jaw-dropping performance captures the charm, style and essence of Dean in his show *Dean Lives*. With guests, he's in Connecticut for the Christmas season. Visit [drewanthony.com](http://drewanthony.com).

## A Swingin' West End Christmas

Veritas Entertainment's tremendous *The Rat Pack – Swingin' At The Sands* will be heading to the world-famous Adelphi Theatre in London, UK for one night only this festive season for the ultimate Christmas party. They'll be there 5 December. Miss it! Miss the party! Visit [swinginattthesands.co.uk](http://swinginattthesands.co.uk).



## A Definitive Vegas Christmas

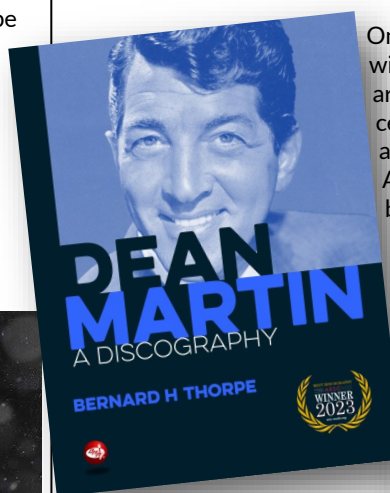
*The Definitive Rat Pack* continues its UK tour into December, bringing the taste of Christmas from the sweltering Vegas strip to chilly British cities. Make it your Christmas promise to catch the boys on the 10th at The Mill at Sonning, Reading, then Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow on the 13th, down on the 14th to Bridgewater Hall, Manchester and for two performances on the 16th at Cadogan Hall in London. Visit [thedefinitiveratpack.com](http://thedefinitiveratpack.com).



## Award-Winner Arrives in Hardback

On 18 December 2023, the award-winning *Dean Martin - A Discography* arrives in hardback for the first time to celebrate its author's quite wonderful achievement. Revised and amended. Available from Amazon and wherever books are sold online.

We also have *The Dean Martin Association Yearbook 2024* available in paperback. This 47-page digest is



available only from Amazon and only until 31 August 2024. All proceeds will be going to [share4children.org](http://share4children.org).

The third volume of *The Dean Martin Association Journals* is also out in paperback from Amazon and wherever books are sold online from 18 December. JD

