

WHAT A CARD!

The Story of Clellan Card and Axel and His Dog

By Julian West



Birdie with a yellow bill
Hopped upon my windowsill,
Cocked his shining eye and said:
Hey, I hear you took a bath –
Matt!

FROM 1954 TO 1966, Minnesotans heard that “Birdie” rhyme countless times, each with a different nonsensical last line, on the children’s TV show *Axel and His Dog*. Clellan Card starred as Axel, a screwy Scandahoovian scatterbrain who lived in a tree house. Famed Old Log Theater director Don Stolz played Axel’s dog, Towser, as well as his cat, Tallulah. Singer and entertainer Mary Davies also joined in the merriment as Carmen the Nurse. WCCO-TV director Harry Jones did his best to keep the rambunctious proceedings from disintegrating into chaos.

What a Card! The Story of Clellan Card and Axel and His Dog evokes the fun and excitement of the early days of broadcasting as it traces Card’s career from his heyday on radio in the 1930s to his twelve-year run as Axel on television. His fractured version of “The Night Before Christmas” was a seasonal favorite that is still fondly remembered by generations of Minnesotans. For people who watched *Axel and His Dog*, the book is a wonderful trip down memory lane. For those who never saw the show, it’s a fascinating look at an era that is gone forever.

WEB SITE: www.mnkidvid.com



BOOK INFORMATION

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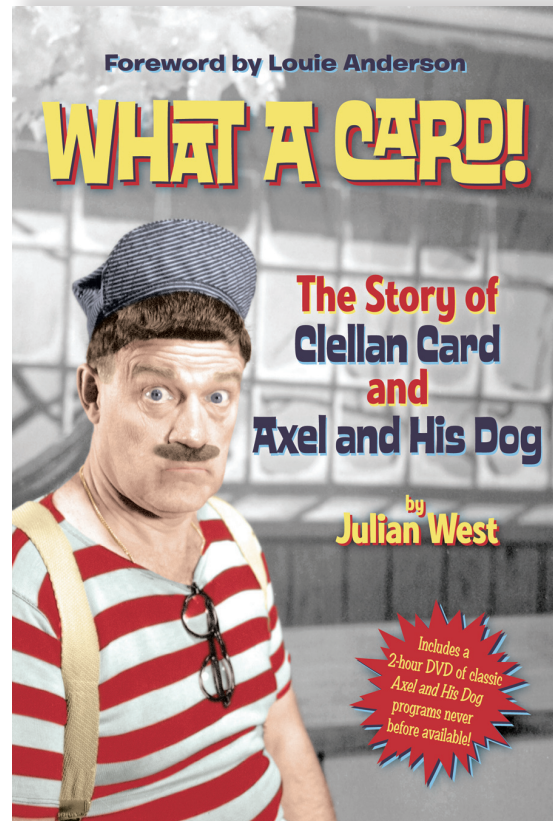
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JULIAN WEST is a baby boomer who spent most of his childhood in Little Falls, MN, where he watched too much TV under another name and his sense of humor was permanently disfigured by exposure to Axel. In high school, his long hair caused chaos and anarchy until he made a federal case out of it. As the owner of Comic City in the 1970s he sold comic books, which was only slightly less disreputable than the way he’d made his living before. When he finally allegedly grew up, he somehow managed to get into the U of M where he majored in ancient history, which is why he wrote a book about a man who lived from 1903 to 1966. He now lives in Minneapolis, Minnesnowta, but doesn’t have a dog. His hobbies include playing music with his band The Very Idea!, collecting juvenile ephemera, and searching for items that his girlfriend has misplaced.

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