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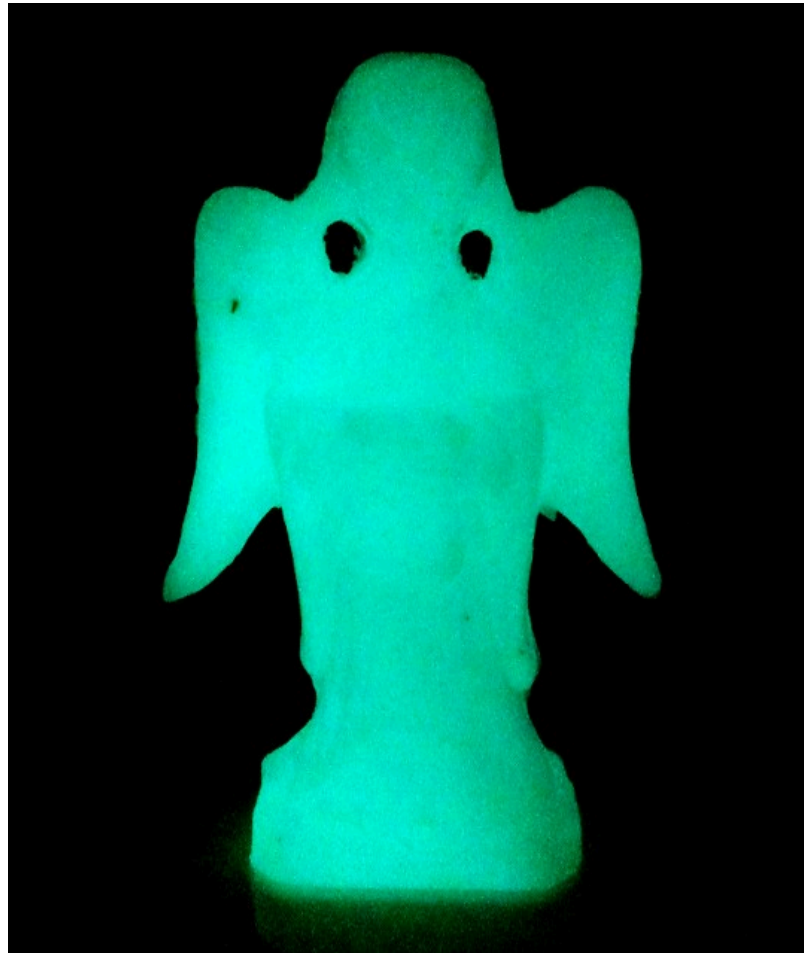


Club-A-Rama Week 17:

GLOWING ANGEL

1980s

MERRY CHRISTMAS from MOLDVILLE!



I finally figured out how to make a GLOW figure - just in time for Christmas! And after some thought as to which figure to make 'glow', I thought there could be no figure better than Eldin Irwin's **ANGEL**.

I had a **BLAST** making this week's figure - but by the time I was done **EVERYTHING** seemed to be glowing. The garage floor had glowing trimmings, the shelf of figures was alit like a torch, the vat of hot wax was glowing - even I was glowing!!



This is the vat of hot wax after less than a minute exposed to light. This stuff is WAY TOO COOL! (Quite expensive too, actually, but COOL!) The specifications on the glow, technically an AQUA BLUE color, says it glows for 22 HOURS! I do know that it DOES glow all night on my bedside table. I put one in our manger scene, and it stays lit after I turn the lights off for the night.

Growing up I was a huge fan of the Apollo space program, and one of my most poignant memories of Christmastime during the height of Mold-A-Rama in the 1960s was in 1968, which was a year unlike any other in the United States. The Vietnam war was raging, and the Tet Offensive was a military bust for the North Vietnamese but PR wise would shock the United States into a "lets win - or get out" approach. Dr. Martin Luther King was killed, sparking riots across the country. Robert Kennedy was killed. There was insane rioting around the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. Things seemed crazy - violently crazy - and America and much of the world needed hope and faith to carry on.

In the midst of that confusing time in our history there was the space program. Apollo 8 was launched in late December of 1968 to take man to see the backside of the moon for the very first time, in preparation for the first moon landing less than a year later. That Christmas eve in 1968, Apollo 8 had just achieved lunar orbit thrusting man to the backside of the moon for the first time. Each orbit was harrowing as the spaceship would go around the backside of the moon and lose all communications with Earth until they came around the other side. That Christmas eve evening, as the Apollo 8 astronauts came out from the backside of the moon and saw what they called "the lunar sunrise", we amid all the madness on earth were affixed as one as we heard voices from space reading from The Book of Genesis:

(Also in 1968: Eldin Irwin was leasing Mold-A-Rama machines. He would buy his first machines the following year in 1969.)



This is Eldin Irwin's original sculpture that he himself made in 1980, from which the ANGEL moldset was formed.





The standing ANGEL is seen every year at Christmastime at a few locations (though there are a relatively limited number of the standing ANGEL moldsets in existence), perhaps most famously remembered for being at the CHILDREN's WONDERLAND in Toledo, OH for 43 of the past 46 years.



The SANTA moldset at The Children's Wonderland



The SNOWMAN moldset at The Children's Wonderland



The REINDEER moldset at The Children's Wonderland

These machines, unfortunately, are no longer at the Children's Wonderland. After 45 years, Children's Wonderland closed. In search of a new venue to carry on, the Children's Wonderland display made a 10-day appearance in Downtown Toledo that first year after closing, then sold for \$1 to a new venue at Tam-O-Shanter where it has been for the past two seasons, last year for a 10-day run, and this year for a 20-day run. Sadly though, the new owners of the Children's Wonderland have not seen fit to include accommodations for the Mold-A-Rama machines that thrilled kids (and parents) for nearly half a century (and for nearly all of its existence.) After a couple years of hoping, it was not to be, and this past fall the four machines formerly at Children's Wonderland were brought home. I think a campaign to bring Mold-A-Rama back to Children's Wonderland in Ohio might be in order!



This is a view of the airbrushed plexi for the ANGEL at SANTA'S ENCHANTED FOREST in Miami, FL. The face of the airbrushed angel with its wings spread apparently is a self-portrait of the airbrush artist himself!

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THE MAGIC SOUVENIR MAKER



The standing ANGEL moldset was designed and made by Eldin Irwin in the 1980s. Eldin did not number any of his moldsets.

Disclaimers: The color and/or exact condition of the MOLD you get in the CLUB-A-RAMA may or may not be as shown. Not for children under 3.

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/MOLDVILLE/156515454416041?success=1>

If YOU would like to own this very moldset (and perhaps even include a fully operating MOLDVILLE machine to go with it) so you can reissue your own souvenirs from 50 years ago, please email MoldvilleMachine@gmail.com TODAY - before someone else beats you to it!

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