

# Author, Humorist Jean Shepherd To Be Speaker In Bicentennial Series

HAMMOND — Jean Shepherd, contemporary author, humorist and radio-TV personality, will speak at Purdue University Calumet Campus at 7:30 p.m. June 18.

A native of Hammond, Shepherd has chosen as his topic "Return to the Dear Old Region." He has written many short stories about growing up in the Calumet Region during the depression years.

Shepherd is appearing for the second Bicentennial Convocation Lecture at the Purdue Campus in Hammond. Admission is free to the presentation in Alumni Hall, 2233-171st St.

The event is part of a lecture series jointly sponsored by the Purdue Calumet Bicentennial Celebration Committee and the Indiana American Revolution Bicen-

ennial Commission.

Currently residing in New York City, Shepherd admits to being "persona non grata" back in Indiana because of the cracks he's made about life in The Region.

Hammond, he recalls fondly, "clings precariously to the underbody of Chicago like a barnacle clings to the . . . hulk of a tramp steamer." He remembers that at night in Hammond "the trains thunder through the dark on the way to somewhere else."

Shepherd is the author of such books as "In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash," and "Wanda Hickey's Night of Golden Memories and Other Disasters." They contain short stories spotlighting episodes in his childhood — like sloshing through the slush to

study exports of Peru at Warren G. Harding School, sneaking into a movie house to win dishes at Bank Night and fishing in the pristine waters of Cedar Lake.

Shepherd now hosts a nightly broadcast over WOH in New York City and other radio stations throughout the country. He just talks — alone, in a scriptless free form, about his life and about what he hears, sees and smells as an inhabitant of Manhattan and the world.

His popular television series, "Jean Shepherd's America," has returned to the air on the Public Broadcasting Network, because of overwhelming public demand.

He is also working on another project for PBS, an original teleplay entitled "The Phantom of the Open Hearth." It will feature a

live dramatization of some of the best of Shepherd's fiction and will include some previously unpublished stories. Years ago he worked straight night shifts at a local steel mill, but quit because "my brains were turning to jelly."

Also, he is busy adapting his award-winning best seller, "In God We Trust . . .," to the screen. The novel will be made into a major film by Canadian director Robert Clark, in association with Warner Brothers.

Shepherd continues to contribute articles and short stories to Harper's, Playboy and other magazines and is now completing his fourth novel. In addition, plans are in the works for a two-part special on George Ade for CBS-TV. He is an acknowledged expert on the works of Ade.