



Thursday, 26 July 2012

Hollywood Loves Vin Scully

The United Press International's Hollywood correspondent proved his point, albeit unintentionally.

Vernon Scott wrote a story published 52 years ago today explaining how Los Angeles Dodgers baseball announcer Vin Scully was unknown in most of the U.S. Except in the column, Scott called him "Vince."

It was in January 1950 that another national columnist, Hugh Fullerton, Jr., revealed that Vin Scully, ex Fordham outfielder and announcer, would be helping out on the Brooklyn Dodgers broadcasts in the summer. And he's still doing it, 62 years later.

Getting back to Scott's column, you might wonder why a Hollywood reporter would choose a baseball announcer as his subject. It's very simple. Hollywood loved baseball.

Bob Hope and Bing Crosby each had a piece of major league clubs. Joe E. Brown had played ball before he made movies (his son was later general manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates), including the baseball-themed "Elmer the Great" (1933). Bill Frawley had a clause in his "I Love Lucy" contract that he was to be given time off to see World Series if the Yankees were playing. Hollywood was the home of the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League, in those days practically a major league circuit. Stars filled the box seats, some bought shares in the club. And Brooklyn manager Leo Durocher pushed his way into a show business career, guest starring hither and yon on radio comedy/variety shows.

Several of Jack Benny's radio broadcasts revolved around Benny attempting to listen to a ball game, but being thwarted by the channel switching to wailing soap opera actresses (Bea Benaderet), sinus-congested singers (Sara Berner), cheesy commercials (Frank Nelson) and a variety of running gags. On one show, Nelson pulls off one of the funniest routines of all time as an announcer calling the bottom of the ninth with his mouth stuffed with a hot dog so no one can understand how the game ended. Another broadcast had Jack and Mary watching a PCL contest involving the Los Angeles Angels and the Seattle Rainiers with The Sportsmen Quartet singing a Lucky Strike commercial to "Nobody Loves an Umpire."

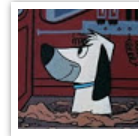
And so it is that Jack and Vin Scully are connected in Scott's column.

Even Benny Listens to This Celebrity By VERNON SCOTT

HOLLYWOOD, July 26—(UPI)—Jack Benny fired off the first fan letter in his long career to the most listened-to man in Cinema City—a celebrity's celebrity who has stars and moguls hanging on his every word. Outside of Southern California and Brooklyn this imposing figure is almost entirely unknown. But he can break up concerts, stop shooting on the sets and commands fan mail on the grand scale. He's Vince Scully, the man who announces the Dodgers baseball games. An 11-year veteran with the ball club, Scully has made Southern Californians a sect of transistor radio fanatics. When Dodger games are in progress, movie sets, TV stages and the streets are filled with semi-conscious listeners with wires running from tiny radios to their ears. Scully, an engaging Irishman with a shock of fire-red hair, is delighted with his popularity among movietown's bigwigs.



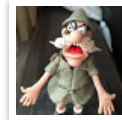
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Peter Gray's Comics and Art



Spencer Jordan's amazing work... we are hoping artists like Ian

Knox...and families of these comic artists can see these gems... - made with fimo clay I had ago and its not very easy to do...
4 hours ago

Fernando Liera Blog Cartoons



Vehicle Verification Centers of Mexico City will reopen in August with COVID

safety measures. - ©2020 fernandollercartoons.com
5 hours ago

Movies with Michael



Cowboy Church #67 - Hello my friends and welcome back for another

service of cowboy church. Today's musical selection begins with Gene Autry singing "Dear Hearts and Gentle Pe..."
8 hours ago

Termite Terrace headlines



Question for All You Cartoon Collectors! - OK so I've been doing some looking around. Bosko apparently had a comic book and I'm wondering if any of you know of

"I guess my biggest fan is producer Mervyn Leroy," Vince said. "He gave me a small role in one of his pictures just for the heck of it. "Benny sent me a telegram of congratulations for the job I'm doing. He said it was the only fan letter he'd ever written. Kirk Douglas also sent me a nice letter."

During games in the Coliseum fans can hear Scully's account of the action clearly—there are that many transistor radios blaring throughout the crowd.

"I think that's because so many Californians are unfamiliar with major league baseball," he explained, "and they like to understand what is happening out on the field."

Scully considers his broadcasting job a part of show business.

"There is always excitement and drama in a ball game, and I depend a great deal on the roar of the crowd to give it punch.

"There have been complaints from the Hollywood Bowl and theaters in this area that people can't hear what's going on because of the radios smuggled in to performances. Even the actors can keep up with the games by listening from the stage between lines."

One performer was embarrassed in a restaurant recently when he approached a patron wearing an ear phone to inquire about the Dodgers' score. It turned out the man he had asked was wearing a hearing aid.

"We're all mighty happy that the club is so welcome here," Scully concluded. "Underneath it all, Los Angeles fans are almost exactly the same as the ones we left in Brooklyn."

What makes Scully a great play-by-play announcer? Perfect timing. Makes going on the air seem effortless. Avoids phoney hype and just builds on the situation as it unfolds around him. Dependable, year in and year out. And a genuine guy.


That descriptions fits one of Scully's biggest fans, too. It can be said that Vin Scully, really, is the Jack Benny of baseball broadcasters.

Posted by [Yowp](#) at [08:07](#)



Labels: [Jack Benny](#), [Vernon Scott](#)

1 comment:

 **J Lee** 26 July 2012 at 08:42

There's been a push the last couple of seasons to include Scully as part of the broadcast crew on Fox's World Series broadcasts, and he was lead announcer on several Series back in the 1980s. And it certainly would make sense if the Dodgers climb out of their current swoon and make the Series, but saddling him with Tim McCarver or some other color commentator would cancel out in large part what Vin Scully's been about, which is the ability to paint the picture of the current and possible future actions on the field while at the same time intergrating the history of the players involved and the game itself.

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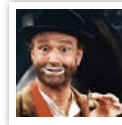
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additional covers you could share! ...

17 hours ago

 **Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog**



Born on July 18, 1913 - [Red Skelton](#) - *Today's post commences

with the Guzzler's Gin routine ...

1 day ago

 **News From ME**

Sorry... - As far as I know, I do not have any diseases. I just have too much to deal with right now so I won't be blogging much if at all. I'm postponing all the web...

2 days ago

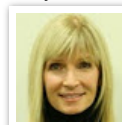
 **Cartoon Research**

In His Own Words: [H.T. Kalmus on Disney in Technicolor](#) - Suspended Animation #276 Many references may be found regarding two-strip Technicolor. I have been guilty of discussing Walter Lantz's King of Jazz (1930)...

2 days ago

 **AFRTS Archive**

[Mary Turner 1985](#) - Mary Turner today Mary Turner really rocked the house.



Normally when any of the jocks got a reaction, it'd be split.

The ones that were really liked wou...

4 days ago

 **The World of Knight**



TONIGHT, 11:54 PM. - COPYRIGHT 2020 BY MILTON KNIGHT

4 days ago

 **Yowp**



[Hanna-Barbera Birthday Did-You-Knows](#) - 63 years ago today, some

forms were signed by George Sidney, Bill Hanna and Joe Barbera creating what eventually became the biggest TV cartoon operation i...

1 week ago

 **Supervised By Fred Avery: Tex Avery's Warner Brothers Cartoons**

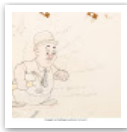
[Wabbit Twouble: A Small Addendum to An Outstanding Podcast](#) -

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Original animation drawing from Wabbit Twouble with color notations

for the ink and paint department. Release date: 12/20/41 Availability: Looney Tunes Gol... 3 weeks ago

Mark Kausler's CatBlog
The Lady and the Tiger - From the Cathy Hill Archive of Unpublished Comics comes "The Lady and the Tiger". This story was drawn before Cathy started the "Mad Raccoons" series. U... 4 weeks ago

What About Thad?
Cartoon Logic Podcast - And yet another distraction from this brick and mortar blog... I've entered the world of podcasting with renowned animation director and historian Bob Jaques... 10 months ago

 **Likely Looney, Mostly Merrie**
That's all, folks! - My posts have gotten thinner over the years. I'm aware of that. I've been hopeful for a long time, that I can remain active with blogging and sharing furth... 1 year ago

 **Dr. Grob's Animation Review**
The Flying Man - 'The Flying Man' is a very short absurdist film in which a man drops his coat to take a swim in mid air. Another man with a dog drops by, tries the same th... 2 days ago

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