



Sunday, 3 February 2013

Life of Benny, 1962

One of the reasons Jack Benny's death in 1974 came as such a shock was that he was always so active, almost right up to his passing. He joked about being 39 but he really did look younger than his age (on camera at least) and it may have been because he was always doing something.

Here's a story from the Associated Press from 1962 about his latest tour which was to take him to New York. It's made out to be kind of a return-to-vaudeville story, though I doubt Jack shared the bill with Fink's Mules.

His comments about television are more interesting. One wonders if "being a breeze" begat complacency, especially considering the hours he poured into his show in his radio days. And while Jack said he never worried about ratings, it was his ratings that kept him coming into living rooms year after year.



Good to see Mary Livingstone again—even off-mike, she makes just as fine a "straight man" for Frank Sinatra as she always did for husband Jack Benny.

Jack Benny Going Back To Broadway

By BOB THOMAS

AP Movie-Television Writer

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 7 (AP) — Jack Benny is returning to the medium he left 31 years ago—the Broadway revue.

It was in 1931 when the young (37) Waukegan Ill., funnyman walked out on a tour of "Earl Carroll's Vanities," in which he had starred in New York. The move was decidedly not in keeping with his later fame as a penny-pincher.

"I was getting \$1,500 a week, and you can imagine how big that looked in 1931," he says.

But he declined the job because the show was beginning a rugged tour of one-nighters. Besides, he had his eye on something else called radio. And the rest, as they say along the Rialto, is history.

On Feb. 11, the comedian will open "The Jack Benny Show" at the O'Keefe in Toronto and head for a six-week stand at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York, starting Feb. 27. He'll take along a troupe of performers including Jane Morgan and the Beverly Hillbillies — that's his own zany combo not the television series.

Jack Benny is 68. He conducts a weekly television show, plays his fiddle all over the country to raise funds for longhair music, does his act in Las Vegas showrooms at less charitable fees. So why does he return to Broadway?

"Because it's fun," he said. "I like what I do; I always have. That's why I work. "This season in television has been a breeze for me. I've been able to play nine holes of golf every day. I get in an hour or two of practice with my violin each day. My only problem is what to do with my nights."

TV RATINGS

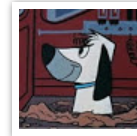
The Jack Benny Show has bounced back in the ratings after a rocky season last year. The shift from Sunday (opposite front-running "Bonanza") to Tuesday undoubtedly helped.

"But I can't worry about ratings," he remarked. "There are too many unknown qualities that determine them. Do you know that the change of one phone call can make your rating drop?"

"I'm gratified if the rating is good, especially since we're up against two strong shows, Dick Powell and 'The Untouchables.' I suppose we get some help from a good lead-in—Red Skelton precedes us. On the other hand, some people might say they've had an hour of comedy and they want something--dramatic. Who can tell?"

STANDARD OF QUALITY

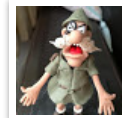
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3 hours ago

Fernando Liera Blog Cartoons



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

safety measures. - ©2020 fernandollera.com 4 hours ago

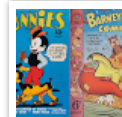
Movies with Michael



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..." 7 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

“All I know is that I maintain a pretty steady standard of quality. That’s all I can do.”

There’s no telling how long he will be doing so, Benny never seems to age or to slacken his pace. His secret seems to be a dedication to the sensible life. He works hard but unbends on the golf course. He eats sparingly and has only an occasional cocktail before dinner.

Performing stimulates him; the sound of laughter is a great tonic. Unlike other comics, he also is good listener. His fellow performers love to sharpen their wit before him, because they know what a ready audience he is. But his real secret of living may be his much-maligned violin. “When I play it, I can’t think about anything else,” he said. “It’s the greatest relaxation in the world.”

Posted by [Yowp](#) at [07:11](#)

Labels: [Bob Thomas](#), [Jack Benny](#)

1 comment:

J Lee 3 February 2013 at 07:58

Jack and his writers got [a full live half hour out of preparing for the trip](#) that is mentioned in the AP story. It's one of the guest star-less episodes that focuses on Jack's repertoire company and his stage persona, which IMHO are the strongest of his show, or at least hold up the best (Mary retiring in 1958 and Mel's car accident in '61 no doubt made it tougher to write ensemble stories for the show, but unless the star(s) could be worked into the Benny world, as with the Jimmy Stewart episodes, some of the star-based episodes with a more variety show feel tend to drag a bit by the 1961-65 period -- the shows with the stock company can just get right into the storyline, because nobody has to explain the set-up).

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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

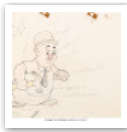
 TONIGHT, 11:54 PM. - COPYRIGHT 2020 BY MILTON KNIGHT
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Yowp

 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](#) -




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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