



Sunday, 24 November 2013

Conn-ing Jack Benny

Harry W. Conn was doing well in the 1920s, writing the stage vehicles "Relaxation" (for ventriloquist Valentine Fox), "Dizzy 1928," "Twelve O'Clock at Night," "At the Station" and "Just Back From Abroad," among many others. The 1930s promised to be even better. He connected with vaudeville emcee Jack Benny, who had been hired by Canada Dry to front a radio variety programme. Benny quickly rose in the ratings. Conn knew who was responsible—Harry W. Conn. He proved otherwise by walking out on Benny, then failed writing a comedy show for Joe Penner and failed even more with his own radio comedy. By the '50s, Benny was still entertaining audiences while Conn was working as an usher in a New York theatre, dreaming of a comeback.

Conn did a little more than come up with gags for Kringelein and Alois Havrilla, who no one except hard-core fans associate with Benny's radio show. He came up with this little piece of comedy writing which appeared in the editorial pages of the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* of July 3, 1932, about two months after Canada Dry show debuted. You can see the foibles of the Jack Benny we know today aren't quite there yet.



HARRY CONN at one time worked with Jack Benny and his salary rose to \$1,500 a week, still a record for any radio writer. But they quarreled and Jack found other writers and Conn has not been able to adapt himself to other comedians.

Studio-logy

An interview in one act.

Scene: NBC Studio.

Cast of Characters: Jack Benny and reporter.

Q. Hello Jack Benny. How do you do? Mr. Benny, would you tell me a few things about yourself for The Brooklyn Eagle? A. I don't mind, but please spell my name right—I'm Jack Benny and not Jack Denny of orchestra fame, get it right. Benny—B, as in Bean Soup—E, as in Sharkee, the fighter—N, as in Knickers—another N, as in pneumonia and Y, as in the State of Y—oming.

Q. O. K., I'll remember that, Mr. Penny. By the way, how do you like broadcasting on the N. B. C. networks?

A. I think it is fine and the name's Benny, please.

Q. Do you like broadcasting as well as stage work?

A. I like it much better because I can't hear my audience hiss me.

Q. When did you first broadcast?

A: My first air work was in 1905.

Q. You did air work in 1905.

A. Yes, I was a parachute jumper, but I like golf much better.

Q. Where were you born, Mr. Benny?

A. Oh, er—I don't know; what cities do you like?

Q. I like Rochester, St. Louis, Boston and Syracuse.

A. That's one; make it Brooklyn.

Q. Were you born in Brooklyn?

A. No, but I like Brooklyn, and as soon as they start hitting the ball and get a little better pitching the pennant will be a cinch.

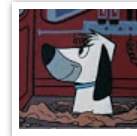
Q. That's fine; er . . . where were you born, Mr. Benny?

A. How do you like this new driver?

Q. Do you play golf every day?

A. Yes, you know, Gene Sarazen is the pro at our country club in Great Neck. I played 18 holes with him yesterday.

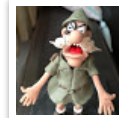
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2 hours ago

Fernando Liera Blog Cartoons

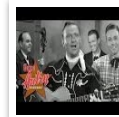


Vehicle Verification Centers of Mexico City will reopen in August with COVID

safety measures. - ©2020 fernandollercartoons.com

3 hours ago

Movies with Michael

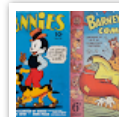


Cowboy Church #67 - Hello my friends and welcome back for another

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

6 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

Q. I suppose he won.

A. Yes, but it was very close. He shot a 69 but it took him 18 holes to do it. I got my 69 before I reached the ninth tee. The trouble with me is that I putt on the fairway and drive on the green—I like to be different, and

Q. Where were you born, Mr. Benny?

A. Just as you say; let's take politics. I don't mind talking about that at all. Each man is entitled to his political beliefs; let's take George Olsen who belongs to the Not-So-Liberal-Party.

Q. You mean the George Olsen who owns the orchestra on your radio program?

A. Yes. that fellow who wouldn't give a dime to see Texas Guinan become a reformer.

Q. I was out with Olsen and Ethel Shutta and I must say they paid for everything.

A. That's all right. I loaned him the money.

Q. Ethel Shutta is Mrs. George Olsen, isn't she?

A. Yes, and are you going to print what I said about Olsen?

Q. Of course, Jack.

A. Well, in that case let me tell you one thing, he's the swellest fellow in the world and spends like an oil king.

Q. Now, where were you born, Mr. Benny?

A. O. K. with me. Let's take the Sharkey-Schmeling fight . . I was there. What would you like to know about it?

Q. Where were you born?

A. Yes, I had a ringside scat. Row Z, Section X, seat Number 999 and it certainly was a great fight—so people tell me.

Q. Do you think we'll get repeal in this coming election?

A. Well, if you're going to keep harping on the subject, I was born in Lake Forest, Ill. I had one father and one mother. I spent eight years at college, the University of Illinois . . . and don't ask me if I was a freshman for eight years . . . I didn't attend the classes; I was a cook there. Then I wanted to become a radio announcer, so I practiced talking to myself, but I never got a job as an announcer as a few people listen in to every program and talking to yourself does a person no good. Well, so long, I'll meet you at the 19th hole, Remember—the name's Benny.

Posted by **Yowp** at [07:54](#)



Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

2 comments:



J Lee 24 November 2013 at 16:48

No flow to the piece, but Jack's later writers would wring some gags out of his golf game, so there's at least a germ of the future Benny in there.

[Reply](#)



Yowp 25 November 2013 at 01:48

It seems to me Conn wrote a routine on one of the 1936 shows where Jack avoids answering Don Wilson's questions about his age, much like he avoids answering questions in this "interview" about his birthplace (which doesn't really seem terrible funny).

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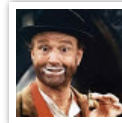
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additional covers you could share! ...

15 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...

1 day ago



Cartoon Research

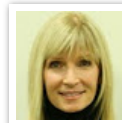
In His Own Words: H.T. Kalmus on Disney in Technicolor - Suspended Animation #276 Many references may be found regarding two-strip Technicolor. I have been guilty of discussing Walter Lantz's King of Jazz (1930)...

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

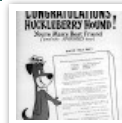


TONIGHT, 11:54 PM. - COPYRIGHT 2020 BY MILTON KNIGHT

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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

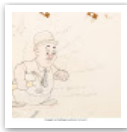
Wabbit Twouble: A Small Addendum to An Outstanding Podcast -

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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

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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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