

Sunday, 22 December 2013

Christmas Party-Pooper Benny

Network radio was live, at least until after World War Two, so that meant if a radio show fell on Christmas Day, the stars showed up live to do it (and they did two shows, one for the Eastern and Central time zones, the other for the Pacific). And there were specials, too. For example, I've spotted Jack Benny as one of the guests of a two-hour show sponsored by Elgin in 1943 and 1945. The odd thing is the Benny show was on NBC at the time, while the Elgin special was on CBS.

The Benny Christmas shopping shows are considered high points in his broadcasting career, mainly because of Mel Blanc's overwrought performance. The following week or two, he'd do a Christmas show involving "the gang" at Jack's home with Dennis Day (or Larry Stevens) singing a carol at the end. But what did Jack really do Christmas Day? Let Uncle Miltie tell you. This short unbylined piece appeared in newspapers in December 1977.

Berle Tells Xmas Story

NEW YORK (NEA)—If you find yourself at a party this upcoming holiday season, surrounded by holly and less-than-jolly folk, you might find comfort in this story told by Milton Berle.

For 25 years, Berle shared Christmas time with the late Jack Benny—always the same way.

Every Christmas Day, recalls Berle, a prominent theatrical attorney held open house at his Beverly Hills mansion. And every year the place was packed with wall-to-wall celebrities.

"And every year, around noon," said Berle, "I'd get the same phone call: 'Hello, this is Jack.'

"I'd say, 'Jack who?' and he'd say, 'Jack, Jack Benny,' I'd say, Oh, I thought it was Jack Oakie.' Then he would say, 'Are you going to the...'" and I'd interrupt with 'You mean the Christmas party?' The answer is yes, and you want me to pick you up, right?" "To which Jack would say, 'How did you know?'"

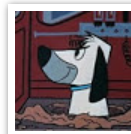
"Anyhow, I'd pick up Jack and we'd go to this beautiful home. We'd squeeze our way into the front doorway, the maid would start to take our coats and Jack would look around, fingers to cheek in his typical fashion. After milking the moment as only he could, he would turn back to me and say, 'I'm ready (to go) anytime you are.'

"But then next year on Christmas Day around noon I'd get the same phone call. Not once did I get to stay at that party."

Here's one of the Benny Christmas shopping shows from December 19, 1948. It not only features Blanc but Frank Nelson, Artie Auerbach and Elliott Lewis.



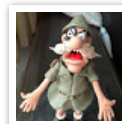
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2 hours ago

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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

Posted by Yowp at 06:36



Labels: Jack Benny

1 comment:

**J Lee** 22 December 2013 at 08:27

Thanks to the old-time radio channel on XM, one of the standard of the drive home for Christmas the past decade has been the chance to listen to several of the Benny Christmas shows on Christmas Eve. I'm assuming they'll again be part of the channel's line-up for the drive this Tuesday.

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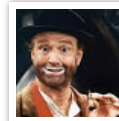


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additional covers you could share! ...

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**

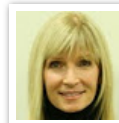
Sorry... - As far as I know, I do not have any diseases. I just have too much to deal with right now so I won't be blogging much if at all. I'm postponing all the web...

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

4 days ago**Yowp**

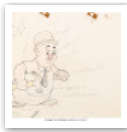
Hanna-Barbera
Birthday
Did-You-Knows - 63
years ago
today, some

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

Blog Archive

- ▶ 2020 (216)
- ▶ 2019 (376)
- ▶ 2018 (379)
- ▶ 2017 (380)
- ▶ 2016 (396)
- ▶ 2015 (389)
- ▶ 2014 (390)
- ▼ 2013 (388)
 - ▼ December (31)
 - Montage of the Match Girl
 - Double Your Stereotypes
 - Radio's Bottle Beater
 - They Talk For Cartoons

[Shearing Cattle](#)

[Gift Wrapped
Backgrounds](#)

[Christmas Comics of 100
Years Ago](#)

[Reflections of Christmas
Eve](#)

[The Reversible Wreath](#)

[Christmas Party-Pooper
Benny](#)

[Timberrrrr Santa](#)

[Arnold Stang](#)

[Consumer Propaganda
the Cartoon Way](#)

[Cartoons of 1938, Part 3](#)

[Fractured, Not Tangled](#)

[Hawley Says Drink It!](#)

[Mary on Jack](#)

[Music in the Animated
Cartoon](#)

[Spinning Woody](#)

[The Skeleton Violin](#)

[He's Worth \\$1,400 a
Word](#)

[Familiar Ending, Isn't it?](#)

[Today's Merrie Melodies
Hidden Staff
Reference](#)

[The Brief Tenor](#)

[Snow White on the Move](#)

[Milo in a Bottle](#)

[Next Event, Baseball](#)

[Making Fun of Radio](#)

[Kitten Smears](#)

[Smokey and the Boy
Backgrounds](#)

[What's on Your Head](#)

- [November](#) (31)
- [October](#) (34)
- [September](#) (31)
- [August](#) (33)
- [July](#) (33)
- [June](#) (34)
- [May](#) (33)
- [April](#) (30)
- [March](#) (36)
- [February](#) (29)
- [January](#) (33)

► [2012](#) (397)

► [2011](#) (106)

Labels

[Aline Mosby](#) (17)

[Art Davis](#) (33)

[Bad Luck Blackie](#) (9)

[Bob and Ray](#) (10)

[Bob Clampett](#) (82)

[Bob McKimson](#) (59)

[Bob Thomas](#) (53)

[Chuck Jones](#) (142)

[Columbia](#) (33)

[Counterfeit Cat](#) (8)

[Cynthia Lowry](#) (26)

[Dick Thomas](#) (14)

[Don Patterson](#) (17)

[Earl Wilson](#) (6)

[Erskine Johnson](#) (37)

[Felix the Cat](#) (27)

[Film Daily](#) (50)

[Fleischer](#) (154)

[Frank Tashlin](#) (24)

[Fred Allen](#) (43)

[Fred Brunish](#) (11)

[Friz Freleng](#) (137)

[Gene Deitch](#) (18)

[George Pal](#) (10)

[Grant Simmons](#) (4)

[Hanna and Barbera unit](#) (99)

[Hanna-Barbera](#) (2)

[Harman-Ising](#) (61)

[Henry Morgan](#) (13)

[Irv Spence](#) (8)

[Jack Benny](#) (454)

[Jay Ward](#) (30)

[Jimmy Durante](#) (17)

[John Crosby](#) (84)

[John Sutherland](#) (28)

[Johnny Johnson](#) (27)

[Kenny Baker](#) (6)

[King-Size Canary](#) (8)

[Laugh-In](#) (11)

[Legend of Rockabye Point](#) (6)

[Little Rural Riding Hood](#) (7)

[Magical Maestro](#) (9)

[Maurice Noble](#) (12)

[Mel-O-Toons](#) (4)

[MGM](#) (553)

[Norm McCabe](#) (5)

[Pat Matthews](#) (10)

[Paul Julian](#) (13)

[Paul Terry](#) (2)

[Sara Berner](#) (5)

[Screwy Squirrel](#) (34)

[Spider-Man](#) (1)

Terrytoons	(84)
Tex Avery	(468)
Tom and Jerry Human	(29)
Tralfaz Sunday Theatre	(17)
Ub Iwerks	(80)
UPA	(57)
Van Beuren	(94)
Vernon Scott	(42)
Virginia MacPherson	(14)
Walt Disney	(145)
Walter Lantz	(241)
Warner Bros.	(586)
Who Killed Who	(10)

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