



Sunday, 13 April 2014

Being Jack Benny, 1936

Here's another "Life with Jack Benny" column supposedly penned by his wife, one of a number that popped up in newspapers in the mid-1930s. This one doesn't touch on how the two of them met, but we do read that Jack was a doting father, liked golf, enjoyed hanging out with his old comedian buddies—and that she didn't like his violin playing (years later, his daughter reported he had to practise in a part of the house where Mary couldn't hear him).

This is from the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, September 26, 1936.

RADIO DIAL LOG

By MARY LIVINGSTONE

(Batting for Jo Ranson)

Other radio artists may have a little difficulty writing a guest column, but they just aren't fortunate enough to have literary ability the way I do. Of course, poetry is my specialty but my prose is pretty good, too—I hope. Your radio editor has been good enough to let me play any tune I want on the typewriter. So if it is all right with you, I think I will devote this essay to answering the question that is put to me most frequently—to wit: What kind of a guy is Jack Benny away from the microphone?

On the air Jack portrays a rather quiet sort of fellow, on whom the rest of the cast is constantly picking. He has nobody but himself to blame because he gets up the scripts. Off the air he is equally quiet but hardly the browbeaten lad he pretends he is when showing off for you listeners. If he is browbeaten he never lets on to me. Or perhaps I just don't notice it.

When we're home he never tries to be the comedian, I am very glad to say. As a matter of fact, he does a lot of worrying—he starts in worrying about next week's program the moment this week's is over. Sometimes even sooner. If you see him in the movies you may think he has black hair. Actually there are a few streaks of gray here and there. If he were not doing radio, he wouldn't have those. And if he weren't doing radio he wouldn't be in pictures. So he does not have to worry about that, anyhow.

The greatest fault I find with him is his perpetual good nature.

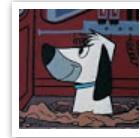
He makes me furious because he is one of those people who always feel good in the morning and gets up early feeling bright and cheery, no matter how late he has been up the night before. Another thing that gets me down is that he will never start an argument. We have our differences of opinion, just like any other couple. But somehow or other I am always the one that starts things.

People often ask if Jack tries to be funny when we have visitors at home. Apparently they think that because a man makes his living by getting other folks to chuckle that he never relaxes. It so happens, that our closest friends are in the business of producing laughs also—the Freddy Allens, Burns and Allen, Block and Sully, the Jack Pearls, and so forth. Benny Rubin, Jane and Goodman Ace and the Eddie Cantors are people we see frequently, too. Whenever we get together with any of them Jack likes to take the part of the audience and get them do their stuff for him. He is a sucker for anything that George Burns says or does, for example. All George has to do is walk in the room and say "Hello," and Jack prepares himself for a fine evening of laughter—at no expense to him.

I'm very much afraid that our existence must be a great disappointment to the fan magazine writers, because we do not go in very strongly for things they consider suggestive of "GLAMOUR." Our lives and tastes are very



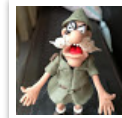
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[Knox...and families of these comic artists can see these gems...](#) - made with fimo clay I had ago and its not very easy to do...
2 hours ago

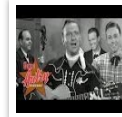
Fernando Liera Blog Cartoons



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

[safety measures.](#) - ©2020 fernandollera.com
3 hours ago

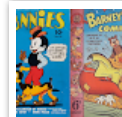
Movies with Michael



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

simple. Jack does not care a hang about flashy clothes, late parties and night clubs. He is much more fond of a quiet and easygoing life. If Jack wants to be exceptionally gay and and giddy he will suggest going to a show and top it off by taking in a midnight movie. Try to get glamour out of that!

We do not listen to the radio much, except to news and music. We seldom, if ever, tune in on other comedians. Jack avoids doing so, because he doesn't want, even subconsciously, to be influenced by what the other boys are doing. He really loves fine music, though you would never guess it from hearing him torture "Love in Bloom." He is also pretty fond of golf, but plays a terrible game. He ought to give it up entirely. One of his greatest pleasures is getting together with his cronies at the Friars Club and just chewing the rag. Our baby daughter, Joan Naomi, takes up a lot of his time. No matter how busy he is, he tries to take off an hour every day to wheel her. Last week he went around showing his friends the newest scratch she had given him on the nose. He seemed to get more kick out of it than springing a new gag on his pals. He enjoys driving a car a great deal, but I always prefer to hop the trolley. It's not that he goes in for speeding—to the contrary, he just crawls along. But he always seems to be thinking about something else other than where he is going. He is an avid follower of sports and devours the sport page of every edition he can lay hands on. Horse racing gets a lot of his attention, but he picks 'em so badly I have made him stop betting. I hope this gives you some sort of notion of the kind of bird J. Benny is when, he isn't working. In any case I am grateful to Jo Ranson for the opportunity to display my talent as a writer.


Posted by [Yowp](#) at [07:13](#) 

Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

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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...
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

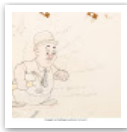
 **Yowp**



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 -




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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