TRALFAZIAN STUFF

Sunday, 12 July 2015

# Am I Blue?

There was a running gag on the Jack Benny radio show about his eyes. "Oh, they're blue, aren't they?" Bea Benaderet or some secondary character would remark. "Bluer than the thumb of a cross-eyed carpenter," Jack would reply, or say something descriptive along those lines.

One thing people never accused Jack of being on the radio (or TV) was blue, a quaint term these days referring to un-family friendly material. Part of the reason was simply because the FCC wouldn't permit it even if it slipped past sponsors or censors. But there was no FCC on the Las Vegas strip and it appears late in life, Jack's material changed a bit.

But judging by this story from the Associated Press, Jack knew his audience very well and it wouldn't let him get away with too suggestive material. He talked about it in this interview which also touched on his phoney age. It must have seemed to Jack like "39" was Mount Rushmore—it was carved in stone and there wasn't much he could do to change it. And if it got laughs (and I suspect it still did), why change it?



### Jack Benny, Once Again, Is 39 By CYNTHIA LOWRY

AP television-Radio Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—The world's oldest 39-year-old man—or perhaps its youngest 74-year-old—had a birthday Wednesday, but he was much too busy to pay much attention to it.

"I say I'm 39," said Jack Benny with mock severity. "And anything else you want to guess is entirely up to you." Jack was stopping over briefly in New York, en route from a concert with the Boston Symphony to a night club date in Miami. He will be one of the guest stars next Sunday in an NBC special saluting his homestate of Illinois, and he recently finished shooting a special comedy program to be shown on March 20, also on NBC. He is now busy polishing up some material for use during a four-week engagement in April at New York's Waldorf Astoria.

Even after a half century in show business, he still prefers the tensions and excitements of the theater. "A few years ago when we were doing the television series we had a show in which I was finally going to celebrate my 40th birthday," Jack recalled. "Before we got it on the air, we started getting all sorts of mail and there were even editorials in important newspapers, all asking me not to do it. They said that 39 had become a symbol of youth and determination for many people, and they wanted me to stay 39.

"Well, it was too late to drop the show, so we went ahead and showed it But then we dropped it, forgot it and I went back to being 39."

Benny wears his calendar years lightly. He maintains his enthusiasm for his music and for playing in concerts. He practices the violin for a couple of hours daily, even when he is away from his Los Angeles home. And he works constantly over his comedy material.

Jack discussed the current use of controversial topical material and the injection of risque material into comedy routines.

He is the acknowledged master of timing, and his own style is built around the stingy, vain and somehow lovable character he has been playing for more than 30 years.



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### Blogs to See

#### 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...

56 minutes 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 additional covers you could share! ...

9 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

(I... 23 hours ago

# E Fernando Llera Blog Cartoons



'Cozy Bear' Group Tied to Hacks on Covid Vaccine Research. -©2020

fernandolleracartoons.com 1 day ago

"I've never gotten laughs by zinging anybody else," he said. "There is a rapport with an audience, and you've always got to be careful not to spoil it. With an audience it is important to be especially careful with the first couple of jokes. Hope has his way, and I have mine, which is usually getting into things by explaining why I happen to be on stage or why I'm doing a TV special."

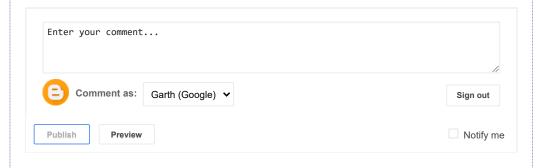
"It's a strange thing about risque material," he continued. "Occasionally there may be something that might be considered risque in material I might use in a night club—never on TV, of course. But critics are always writing about how clean my material is. I've got a hospital thing that I do that certainly might be considered risque, except that when I'm talking, it is about how much all these things cost, and everything else seems to slip by

Benny, in his only special of the year, will share honors with Lucille Ball, Johnny Carson and "a cute singing group that you have to put in shows these days for the kids in the audience."

MBLFO Posted by Yowp at 07:00 Labels: Cynthia Lowry, Jack Benny

# No comments:

# Post a comment



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### 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 quilty 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..

3 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

# Peter Gray's Comics and Art



An early
Tom Thug
page for
sale and
other comic
art by Lew
Stringer go

#### to link and ebay.. -

http://lewstringercomics.blo gspot.com/2020/02/originalart-for-sale.html https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/ graphite47/m.html? \_nkw=&\_armrs=1&\_ipg=&\_f rom= 5 months ago

#### o mommo 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...

1 day ago

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