



Sunday, 10 January 2016

Overcoming the Yawning Maw

Jack Benny's success spanned radio and into TV. In a way, one was an extension of the other. Perhaps it shouldn't be too surprising, as there wasn't much of a difference in content for shows like *Our Miss Brooks* and *The Life of Riley* when they moved from one medium to the other.

But other than maybe *Ozzie and Harriet* (where the plot focus changed as the sons got older) and Red Skelton, nobody from the radio days had the on-air staying power as Jack.

He talked about the reasons for his success many times in print. Here's a UPI column from January 29, 1961. He still had a few more years as a TV regular to go after this was published.

Maybe Jack Really Is Only 39

By VERNON SCOTT

UP-International

Hollywood — Jack Benny, that blue-eyed bundle of boffolas, has signed his contract for a weekly TV show again next year, proving he is only 39 years old in spirit if not in fact.

Men half his age have passed up weekly comedy series complaining that the grind is too much for them. Benny thrives on the man-killing schedule.

"This year is the best I've ever had," he said. "The shows have been better than ever, and it's all because the program goes on the air every week instead of once a month or even two weeks.

People connected with the program get in the groove, just like they did in the old radio days.

"Part of the success is that viewers know I'm going to be on the air at a certain time on Sunday nights each week.

There's no confusion about it, and the work actually seems easier."

Other comedians excuse themselves from the weekly treadmill groaning that their writers can't come up with enough material to pour into video's yawning maw. Nonsense, says Benny. His scriveners do it.

"I have to give them an argument about that," he said.

"Perhaps it is true with comedians who haven't established a character and must rely on standup material.

"Fortunately," he added grandly, "I have established a character."

Several, in fact.

Jack has more facets to his ersatz TV personality than a roomful of comics. He's a cheap skinflint. He plays the fiddle outrageously. He's a lowbrow trying to crash the upper crust. He pouts like an old lady when thwarted. He fights with Don Wilson, Dennis Day and Rochester. He drives a Maxwell. And he's a constant loser.

"It's taken me 25 years to establish these characteristics," Benny said.

"And they've been invaluable.

"All I need now is fresh material to go along with that background and I'm in business. Basically, I'm the fall guy with most of the guests getting the comedy lines.

"If I had had the upper hand with the cast members and guests I don't think I'd have had as much success.

"Also, we make it a point to change the pace every week. Sometimes Dennis and Rochester aren't on the show for weeks."



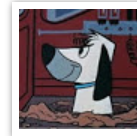
JACK BENNY

Posted by Yowp at 07:20



Labels: Jack Benny, Vernon Scott

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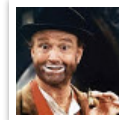


Some Cartoons For Saturday Morning #80 - Hello my friends

and welcome back for another selection of classic cartoons. Today's selection begins with one of the great Mickey, Donald and Goofy car...

6 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 (from Zieg...

7 hours ago

Fernando Llera Blog Cartoons

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



21 hours 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

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Animation #276 Many references may be found regarding two-strip Technicolor. I have been guilty of discussing Walter Lantz's King of Jazz (1930)...
1 day 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

3 days ago

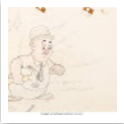
Yowp



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



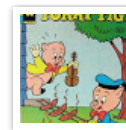
Wabbit Twouble: A Small Addendum to An Outstanding Podcast -

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

Termite Terrace headlines

Porky's Hot Dog Intake - Western Publishing definitely isn't free of



cannibalism
when it
comes to
comics
featuring
Porky Pig.
These are

just some of the covers in
which Porky is ei...

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.blogspot.com/2020/02/original-art-for-sale.html>

https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/graphite47/m.html?__nk=__armrs=1&_ipg=&_from=

rom=

5 months 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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