



Sunday, 14 February 2016

Life At 80

One of the reasons so many people were shocked when Jack Benny passed away in 1974 was that even though he was 80, he had the appearance and energy of a man who was, well, not 39, but considerably younger. It just shows how insidious cancer is and how quickly it can kill.

Jack seems to have been on a never-ending parade of media interviews up until he died. Both Jay Sharbutt (Associated Press), Vernon Scott (United Press International) and Peer J. Oppenheimer (Family Weekly) interviewed him around his 80th birthday. We've re-printed Oppenheimer's and Sharbutt's feature stories (Sharbutt's father was Del Sharbutt, who was one of the Lucky Strike announcers on Jack's radio show). Here is Scott's, published February 10, 1974.

Jack: 39 for 40 Years

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—Jack Benny will celebrate his 80th birthday this week when Frank Sinatra hosts a party for him in Palm Springs.

The comedian contemplated the celebration with mixed feelings. Clearly he did not relish turning 80—two years older than his pal George Burns. But he was looking forward to the Sinatra clambake.

Benny sat in his Beverly Hills office puffing contentedly on a cigar. He was dressed in expensive blue slacks, sports shirt and highly polished shoes. Whenever possible he directed the conversation to his activities and away from his age.

For a man who told national radio and television audiences he was 39 years old for 40 years, Jack took no notice that he more than doubled those years.

Benny's mind is keen, his memory unfailing. He walks more than three miles to his office every day. His weight is 145 pounds, lighter than he has been for many years.

"I don't eat very much so I don't have to worry about getting fat," he said. "I have a highball before dinner at night with Mary. Other than that I don't drink.

"I play golf as often as I can. And the caddy who gets me is lucky. He rides in the cart and I do all the walking. Best thing in the world for me.

"Most nights I go to bed early unless we go to somebody's house to see a movie. I'm usually in bed by 9 o'clock and fall asleep watching TV."

Benny has his own projection room but seldom uses it. His home is a large mansion surrounded by manicured gardens, set well back from the street in Holmby Hills, a fashionable enclave of the wealthy tucked between Beverly Hills and Bel-Air.

He wears his wealth unostentatiously. He wears his years lightly.

"I've made more than 500 appearances on television, counting my own shows and guest shots," he said with a note of pride. "I can still remember the exact date of my first radio job.

"It was May 10, 1932. I'll never forget it. If you asked me any other date I couldn't tell you. I remember my opening line of my first show: "Good evening ladies and gentlemen, this is Jack Benny—I will now pause while everybody says, 'Who cares?!'"

As it turned out, millions cared, and still do.

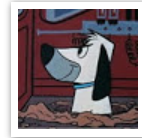
Jack Benny recently starred in the television special "Jack Benny's Second Farewell Appearance." His first won the highest ratings he'd ever received. He plans a third, fourth and as many other farewells as he can. But through the years the comedian has given higher priority to his violin concerts with symphony orchestras for which "I don't get paid a dime."

He reckons he has saved dozens of such orchestras in the United States from bankruptcy. "I should practice the fiddle more. But I do take two lessons a week and I try to practice two hours a day.

"Actually, I'm playing better than ever now. I love the violin and it's a great form of entertainment for me because I can play and talk at the same time.

People come to the concerts out of curiosity. They hear the best violinists in the world, so I can't play too lousy.

About Me



[View my complete profile](#)

Blogs to See

Movies with Michael

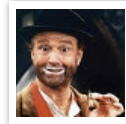


Some Cartoons For Saturday Morning #80 - Hello my friends

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 fernandollera.com



20 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

"Isaac Stern, my closest friend in the music world, tells people, 'Jack plays the violin well enough for his purposes.' But I'm proud to say no critic has ever panned my playing. "I love getting into white tie and tails and walking out in front of a 90-piece orchestra. It's the greatest feeling in the world. At every concert I get a lot of laughs, but I'm also playing the very best I can."

Jack, who enjoys good health and good friends, has no plans to retire. His youthful outlook forbids even mentioning the word retirement.



Posted by [Yowp](#) at [07:00](#)



Labels: [Jack Benny](#), [Vernon Scott](#)

1 comment:



Will Byron 14 February 2016 at 09:12

Thanks for posting this.

[Reply](#)

Enter your comment...



Comment as:

Garth (Google) ▼

[Sign out](#)

[Publish](#)

[Preview](#)

☐ [Notify me](#)

[Newer Post](#)

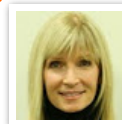
[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

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

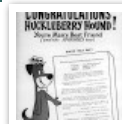
[The World of Knight](#)



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=&_f

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

Blog Archive

- 2020 (215)
- 2019 (376)
- 2018 (379)
- 2017 (380)
- ▼ 2016 (396)
 - December (34)
 - November (33)
 - October (31)
 - September (32)
 - August (33)

- ▶ [July \(34\)](#)
- ▶ [June \(32\)](#)
- ▶ [May \(34\)](#)
- ▶ [April \(34\)](#)
- ▶ [March \(36\)](#)
- ▼ [February \(31\)](#)
 - [Death of the Pincushion Man](#)
 - [Tralfaz Sunday Theatre – The Romance of Transporta...](#)
 - [Isaac Stern One-Liner Tops Jack Benny](#)
 - [Maurice Noble Meets John of the Bon Ton](#)
 - [The Owl and the Woodpecker](#)
 - [Soggy Sylvester](#)
 - [Fred the Schnauzer, Times Two](#)
 - [Brotherly Love Backgrounds](#)
 - [He's Right](#)
 - [Gracie's Party](#)
 - [Cartoons of 1953, Part 1](#)
 - [A Moving Dingbat](#)
 - [Butterflies Perform for Molly](#)
 - [A TV Newcomer Named Milton Berle](#)
 - [Anti-Aircraft Gun of Tomorrow](#)
 - [I'm Forever Breaking Bubbles](#)
 - [Life At 80](#)
 - [Fun From Pelican Films](#)
 - [Yeah, We Get It, Walt](#)
 - [The Chickens Love Sinatra](#)
 - [You're Charlie the Bank Teller, Right?](#)
 - [Little Rural Riding Hood](#)
 - [Van Beuren Lays an Egg](#)
 - [Jack Benny, 1937](#)
 - [Jay and Bill on Moose and Squirrel](#)
 - [Reason No. 897 Why Mike Maltese Was Great](#)
 - [Reason No. 896 Why Mike Maltese Was Great](#)
 - [Joe Alaskey](#)
 - [Tracking Bob and Ray](#)
 - [Is It Spring or Summer?](#)
 - [A Quick Change of Scenery](#)

- ▶ [January](#) (32)
- ▶ [2015](#) (389)
- ▶ [2014](#) (390)
- ▶ [2013](#) (388)
- ▶ [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](#) (453)
- [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)

