



Sunday, 21 February 2016

Gracie's Party

So what were those Hollywood parties really like?

Let's find out from the pages of *Radio Guide* of July 30, 1938. It sent photographer Jack Albin out to capture on film a lavish party that George Burns' wife threw for Jack Benny's wife. George and Jack had been best friends since touring in vaudeville in the early '20s and remained so until Benny died in late 1974.



If anything so sentimental as a birthday party can be considered from the financial angle, Mary Livingstone's presents represented investments of about \$50 per couple, or \$4,700! The cake was a miniature of the house Jack and

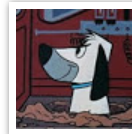
Mary are building. Around it, above: Jack Haley, George Burns, Fannie Brice, Jack, Mary, Harold Grievens (decorator for the party), Gracie Allen. The Bennys and Burnses attend nearly all Hollywood functions together

Here are the other pictures from the magazine as well as the opening paragraph; you can make each picture larger by clicking on it.

THE ECONOMICS OF ENTERTAINMENT

IN A recent broadcast, Hollywood Aireporter Jimmy Fidler turned economist to opine that lavish parties such as Gracie Allen's, honoring her best friend, Mary Livingstone, on the latter's birthday, June 18, were not anti-social in hard times, as he had once thought, but excellent stimulants to recovery. Good or bad, this sort of money was spent: Dinner for 188 guests at \$3 each—\$564; refreshments, including bartenders' pay, approximately \$500; tents to cover lawns where party was held, including pay for ten tenters, four truckmen, one draper, two janitors, as well as rental on grass matting (\$60), tables (\$225) and garden furniture (\$175), totaled over \$700; portable dance floor, \$20; lanterns and electricians' pay, about \$165; floral decorations, \$500; insurance against guests getting hurt, \$20; paid entertainers, including a seven-piece orchestra, about \$1,500. Thus Gracie's expense was well over \$4,000! These pictures show what that money bought.

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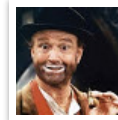


Some Cartoons For Saturday Morning #80 - Hello my friends

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

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

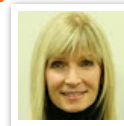
In His Own Words: H.T. Kalmus on Disney in Technicolor - Suspended



You may notice some people are conspicuous by their absence. None of the members of Benny's cast, save Andy Devine, appear to have been there. Jack didn't hang out socially with very many people on his show. In later years, he went water skiing with Mel Blanc (and visited Mel in hospital every day after an almost fatal car crash in 1961) and would go on car trips with guitar player Frank Remley, but that was about it. But the people

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

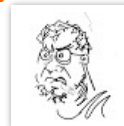


Mary Turner
1985 - Mary Turner today Mary Turner really

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

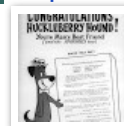
The World of Knight



TONIGHT,
11:54 PM. -
COPYRIGHT 2020 BY MILTON KNIGHT

3 days ago

Yowp

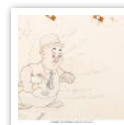


Hanna-Barbera Birthday Did-You-Knows - 63 years ago today, some

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 Twooble: A Small Addendum to An Outstanding Podcast -

Original animation drawing from Wabbit Twooble 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

on the Benny show loved their boss nonetheless, just as everyone else did in Hollywood and listening or watching Jack's antics in their living rooms for years.

Posted by [Yowp](#) at [06:47](#)



Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

2 comments:



azz710 21 February 2016 at 08:00

Another great post!

[Reply](#)

COOP 22 February 2016 at 12:12

don't know if the caption is implying that its Joan Blondell dancing with Jack Haley, but if so, its not (is it?)

[Reply](#)

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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=

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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