

Sunday, 9 April 2017

Cerfing With Jack Benny

Columnists always seem to be so chummy with the stars. It might have been true. In New York, show biz writers and the stars seem to have hung out in the same drinking spots.

Bennett Cerf was a high-power publisher in New York. He supplanted Hal Block as the resident punster for years on What's My Line. He penned a syndicated newspaper column. And he seems to have known Jack Benny well enough to have a few rounds of drinks with him (Jack, I understand, was a light drinker at best).

Here's Cerf's column (it was called, sigh, "The Cerfboard") of August 2, 1953 consisting of a smattering of short pieces involving Jack and the questionable caricatures you see below (Hope looks like Jolson, Burns looks like Mel Brooks and Eddie Anderson resembles Hal Smith).

BENNY IN BLOOM

JACK BENNY entered the CBS broadcasting studio in Hollywood recently with his bag of golf clubs slung over his shoulder. "Oho," quipped Georgie Jessel, "I see you've got a date with Eisenhower." Jack thought this was very funny and laughed. That established him immediately as practically unique. Very few important comedians laugh at other important comedians. Very few, in fact, even bother to listen.

The two comics who break up Benny by merely opening their mouths are George Burns and Danny Kaye. Rochester slays him, too. Like the day after the Walcott-Marciano fiasco, on which Rochester lost a bundle. "Do you think Walcott will ever fight again?" asked Benny. "Boss," answered Rochester, "he will if I run into

JACK was still sawing away on his fiddle in the two-a-day when he first met Mary Livingston toiling in a Los Angeles department store. For years, the details of their swift romance have been built into a running gag on their radio program, with the name of the store repeated over and over again.

This is the kind of publicity for which most outfits would pay thousands. A rival emporium, in fact, told them they could set their own price for substituting its name for the one where Mary actually had worked. They refused, of course. Mary's former boss, however, remains blissfully unaware that he hasn't exactly overwhelmed the Bennys with appreciation.

He even complained to an associate, "Imagine that Jack Benny not being able to give me tickets at the last minute to his TV show after all the times he's mentioned my name on the air!"

BOTH MARY and Jack are balmy over golf. They take lessons from Ben Hogan at the new Tamarisk Club in Palm Springs. I hope they'll do Mary more good than the course in automobile driving for which she and Barbara Stanwyck once enrolled. When the two girls felt they had achieved a certain degree of proficiency, they arranged to drive toward each other, and meet halfway for a victory luncheon. The traffic proved heavy, however, and neither dared stop in the midst of it. Nor did they feel equal to making a U-turn until they reached traffic circles. Result: they passed each other three times without being able to do a thing about it, and utterly frustrated, put their cars away and signed up for additional lessons.



THOUGH Jack Benny's fanatical nursing of a buck is wildly exaggerated in his radio characterization, his sense of values has never been upset by great success. At a fancy night club in New York, a bill for \$57 for a single round of drinks sent him moaning into the streets. His companion was even more completely undone. "What are you kicking about?" demanded Jack. "I paid the tab, didn't I?" "I know," agreed the companion

About Me



View my complete profile

Blogs to See





Yogi and Flintstones Comics -Some time ago, reader Richard Holliss

graciously offered to send scans of the Yogi Bear and Flintstones weekend newspaper comics he had collected over the ... 1 hour ago



🖺 Cartoon Research Bugz' Livez: Antz (pt. 2) -

We continue along lastweek's trail, following closely behind the protruding abdomen of a marching ant, as his column descends into the depths of a subter...

7 hours ago

Rip Jagger's Dojo



Five Million Years To Earth! - It's felt like five million vears sometimes.

I've yearned to have *Five Million Years to Earth *or as it's otherwise know* Quatermass and the Pit i*n mv ...

10 hours ago

Movies with Michael



Movie Review: The Angry Birds Movie

Michael's Movie

Grade: B+ To be honest I didn't care for the first* Angry Birds Movie*. I simply just did not find that film enjoyable. That is what made ...

14 hours ago

(who happened to be myself), "but I reached for it."

One old crony who really stopped Jack cold borrowed two dollars from him at the stage door of the Roxy, promising to return it promptly. Six months later, Jack received this note from him:

"I've really hit it rich, Jack. Got me a great job and am engaged to a banker's daughter. Happy days are here again. Am enclosing one dollar. Will send the other as soon as possible."

THE LAST STRAW. Jack Benny not only laughs at his confreres, but cues them into repeating their best stories. It was at his insistence that Jesse Block, of the famous team of Block and Sully, told us of their appearance at the London Palladium, where Miss Sully suddenly discovered that her necklace was missing. "Don't worry," soothed Block. "There are no gangsters over here. All we have to do is summon Scotland Yard." In due course, exactly the kind of character they were expecting turned up from the Yard complete with walrus mustache, derby, rolled umbrella and black notebook. They heard nothing from him for 24 hours. Then Block was told he was calling. "What did I tell you?" he exulted.

When he returned to the dressing room, Miss Sully demanded, "Has he found my necklace?" "On the contrary," answered Block glumly. "He's lost his umbrella." - BENNETT CERF

Posted by Yowp at 06:50

Labels: Jack Benny

3 comments:



M. Mitchell Marmel 9 April 2017 at 08:03

LOL!

Reply



rnigma 10 April 2017 at 11:22

I remember Cerf's column "Try and Stop Me," but not "The Cerfboard."

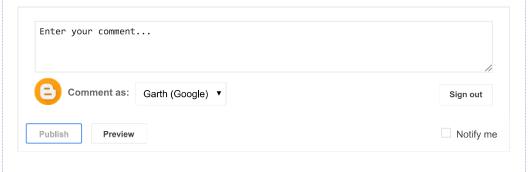
That Carl Rose caricature does look rather bizarre (reminds me of Xavier Cugat's caricatures), though he's closer to the mark on Allen and Cantor. Sometime later, Cerf used his son's college buddy Michael K. Frith (who later worked for Jim Henson, as did Christopher Cerf) to illustrate his books such as "Treasury of Atrocious Puns."

Reply

Errol 11 April 2017 at 08:29

The " What's My Line " where Jack Benny was the " mystery quest " was a classic. Cerf guessed who it was with a question berating Jack's violin skills. Jack's reaction..and " Oh Shut Up!! " still puts me on the floor.

Reply



Newer Post Older Post Home

Subscribe to: Post Comments (Atom)



News From ME

Recommended Reading -This piece by Ed Kilgore may bring comfort to some of my friends who think that if Donald Trump wins a second term, he won't get a third because there will... 16 hours ago

Termite Terrace headlines

Wisconstant Scools (Doc)

the Name Up: HB edition - A while ago I wrote about

the spelling

Walt Dinsey. Today, I'll be talking about Hanna and Barbera. We all know that William Hanna and Joseph Barbera defi...

2 days ago

🕒 Fernando Llera Blog Cartoons



Trump is high on gun reform chances despite NRA

resistance. ©2019

fernandolleracartoons.com 3 days ago

Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog



Sunday String Swing -*Continuing the thread from last Sunday's

post, as the following caricature of Django ... 3 days ago

The World of Knight



LAST NIGHT -The sky was a beautiful color last night.

1 week ago

Mark Kausler's CatBlog

Racketty Ann's Mystery Flight! - Here are pages 5 through eight of "Racketty Ann and the Lost World". There's delightful fantasy here as Racketty Ann and Bla Bla take a ride on the back o..

3 weeks ago

Peter Gray's Comics and Art



New blog on my Art work...Origi nal art...prints for sale

petergrayart

ist@gmail.com for prices

https://petergrayart.blogspot

.com/ Will update it like I do on facebook. 5 weeks ago

Supervised By Fred Avery: Tex Avery's **Warner Brothers** Cartoons



Coming Soon To This Blog...

2 months ago

What About Thad? Chris Reccardi Interviewed

- I don't want to start a practice of publishing an interview every time someone from Ren & Stimpy dies, but Chris Reccardi (1964-2019) was too important a f... 2 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... 6 months ago

Kids, Eh? #1288: Bird Call - #1288: Bird Call 10 months ago

Cartoons, Model Sheets, & Stuff



Pete Hothead Model Sheets -Here are a few model sheets from

the first Pete Hothead short. Released in 1952 and directed former Tom & Jerry animator Pete Burness. Ted Parmelee was the...

1 year ago

Dr. Grob's Animation Review

Posljednji valcer u starom mlinu (Last Waltz in the Old Mill) - În this latter-day Zagreb Film studio short two grains change into a prince and princess who waltz around a remote water mill. 1 hour ago

Blog Archive

- **2019** (234)
- **2018** (379)
- **▼ 2017** (380)
 - ► December (33)
 - November (32)

- October (32)
- ► September (32)
- ► August (33)
- ► July (33)
- ▶ June (31)
- ► May (31)
- ▼ April (30)

The Jack Benny BT Interview

UPA Acclaim

Wile E. Cat

More Fun Than a Barrel of Skeletons

Children of the Radio

Flapping Foggy

Maybe It Does Strike Twice

Generous Jack

Early Bouquets For George Pal

Today is Not 1934

Is Leon a Dog?

The Senator From the South. The South, That Is

The Jaywalker Backgrounds

Three-Headed Goose

How To Treat A Guest Star

Making Cartoons is Fun

A Contract With Warner Bros.

Fish Fry Fun

She Always Knew It Was Comedy

Milking the Milk Bottle Gag

Singing, Van Beuren Style

Cerfing With Jack Benny

The Appeal of Quincy Magoo

The \$20 Gold Piece

Jerry Mouse Gets His

The Sounds of Stan

We Now Pause

Odds Fish

The Contradictions of Benny

Making Cartoon Commercials, 1939

- ► March (31)
- ► February (29)
- ► January (33)

- **2016** (396)
- **▶** 2015 (389)
- **2014** (390)
- **2013** (388)
- **2012** (397)
- **▶ 2011** (106)

Labels

Labeis
Aline Mosby (16)
Art Davis (30)
Bad Luck Blackie (9)
Bob and Ray (9)
Bob Clampett (72)
Bob McKimson (51)
Bob Thomas (53)
Chuck Jones (134)
Columbia (25)
Cynthia Lowry (24)
Dick Thomas (12)
Don Patterson (16)
Earl Wilson (6)
Erskine Johnson (36)
Felix the Cat (24)
Film Daily (50)
Fleischer (137)
Frank Tashlin (21)
Fred Allen (37)
Fred Brunish (9)
Friz Freleng (127)
Gene Deitch (16)
George Pal (9)
Grant Simmons (3)
Hanna and Barbera unit (91)
Hanna-Barbera (2)
Harman-Ising (54)
Henry Morgan (13)
Irv Spence (8)
Jack Benny (403)
Jay Ward (30)
Jimmy Durante (16)
John Crosby (79)
John Sutherland (23)
Johnny Johnsen (25)
Kenny Baker (6)
King-Size Canary (6)
Laugh-In (10)
Maurice Noble (12)
Mel-O-Toons (4)
MGM (501)
Norm McCabe (4)
Pat Matthews (10)

Paul Julian (13) Sara Berner (5) Screwy Squirrel (32) Spider-Man (1) Terrytoons (68) Tex Avery (415) Tom and Jerry Human (25) Tralfaz Sunday Theatre (14) Ub Iwerks (65) **UPA** (51) Van Beuren (81) Vernon Scott (40) Virginia MacPherson (14) Walt Disney (126) Walter Lantz (212) Warner Bros. (523) Who Killed Who (10)

Watermark theme. Powered by Blogger.