



Sunday, 28 May 2017

1002 Roxbury Drive

Jack Benny's favourite home, by his daughter's account, was the first house he owned in California. Jack and Mary Livingstone rented three different places in Los Angeles after leaving New York, then bought a piece of land in 1937 and had a home constructed on it. The address was 1002 Roxbury Drive in Beverly Hills. The home is still there but has apparently been renovated extensively inside. It's said the house was copy of the home of George Burns and Gracie Allen but larger.

Joan Benny related in her book that the area was still fairly rural at the time and vacant lots were not uncommon. It was a kinder, gentler time. The Benny home had minimal security, with a system which Jack sometimes activated accidentally. Fans could walk up to the door if they wished—and some did.

The Bennys called it home for 30 years before Mary Livingstone decided she wanted to move. She and Jack bought two 39th floor penthouses before tiring of life overlooking the Pacific and purchasing a house hidden away in the Holmby Hills area.

Radio Mirror took a tour through the Benny house on Roxbury and published its findings in the April 1940 edition. These poorly-scanned photos accompanied the story.

House of Laughter

Of course, it's just a "tumble-down shack," the Benny house on Roxbury Drive in Beverly Hills, California, or so Jack says. Just a modest little grey home in the West. Even if you remind Jack of its Venetian chandeliers, inch-thick carpets, movie projection room, five bathrooms, two bars and real Battenburg lace piano cover, he insists those were Mary's ideas, not his. As star of his new Paramount picture, the rip-roaring "Buck Benny Rides Again," he could hardly admit that he likes such fripperies. Then, you say what about his mirrored dressing room, his antique mahogany highboy and his fourposter bed, whereupon he grins and says, what the heck, a guy's gotta have a half-way decent place to live in, and shows you all around, pleased as punch with the house and with himself for building it.

Well, it is something! White French Provençal set in the middle of an acre or more of ground with a swell green lawn in front; mammoth patio, swimming pool and rose garden in the back. And from the moment you enter the spacious, circular hall, papered in gray, canopied by a gorgeous chandelier fully ten feet long and sentinelled by a beautiful grandfather's clock, you realize you are in not only a house but a home.

The drawing room (Jack won't call it that, but Mary does) is done in soft rose beige tones with harmonizing satin-striped wall paper. The carpet is beige, the drapes beige and apple green satin brocade and most of the furniture is antique with beige and apple green coverings. But here and there a scarlet chair or cushion provides a bright color accent.

Back of the drawing room is the playroom, a gay, homey place with corner seats upholstered in scarlet or green, pool, card and backgammon tables scattered conveniently about, and a projection room opening off one end, its door cunningly concealed by two large pictures.

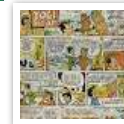


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Blogs to See



Yowp
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

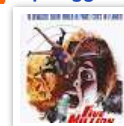
Bugz' Livez: Antz (pt. 2) -

We continue along last week'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



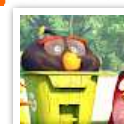
Five Million Years To Earth! - It's felt like five million years sometimes.

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

10 hours ago



Movies with Michael



Movie Review: The Angry Birds Movie 2 - 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



■ The library is a comfortable room with its blue Oriental rug and flowered draperies; below, the Bennys' living room, highlighted by the real Battenburg lace cover on the piano.



■ The den's center of attraction is its enormous fire-place. Soft rose beige is the color scheme.



■ Little Joan visits her mother's luxurious bedroom with the latest style in joined twin beds.

The very formal beige and brown dining room opens on a gay little chintz hung breakfast room, where Jack and Mary and Baby Joan eat when there isn't any "company." The library is a comfortable room with a blue Oriental rug on the floor, shelves full of books that look as though they have been read, and a handsome desk which Jack says is too fancy for any real transaction of business. Several secret closets, tucked away behind movable book shelves, were when we viewed them stuffed full of Santa Claus' Christmas presents for Joan.

Upstairs you'll find Mary's bedroom. It is very luxurious, decorated in the same quiet beige shades as the drawing room, but her dressing room, as big as some people's living rooms, is a gorgeous affair of mirrors and crystal fittings. Across a little hall, Jack's bedroom, dominated by the simply huge highboy we mentioned and his equally huge four-poster, is a pleasingly masculine room done in browns and tans, with leather upholstered chairs and even a leather upholstered chaise longue. And, yes, Jack's dressing room is lined with mirrors, though he vows he never looks in any of them—well, hardly ever!

Upstairs there is also a gay nursery for Joan and beyond that a sun deck built especially for her. There is a guest room, too, a pretty, quaint apartment complete with dressing room and bath.

The playhouse, a separate building beyond the swimming pool, has another big bar, more card and game tables, a barbecue pit and dressing rooms for swimmers. The furnishings are done in scarlet and



■ Oscar, the ape, and Joan, his adopted daughter, keep Jack busy when he gets home.

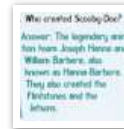


News From ME

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



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

Walt Disney. 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
fernandollercartoons.com
3 days ago



Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog

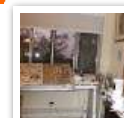


Sunday String Swing - *Continuing the thread from last Sunday's

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...Original art...prints for sale

petergrayart
ist@gmail.com for prices etc... -
https://petergrayart.blogspot

green.



There are several other things, too, about the Benny house which make it quite complete—things like huge servants' quarters, fireplaces in every room except the dining room and kitchen, a mammoth butler's pantry (well stocked with jello) and a perfectly ducky powder room on the first floor.

All in all, the house that Jack Benny built is something to be proud of—and who wouldn't be with a charming wife like Mary and a beautiful adopted daughter like Joan to share his long cherished dream?

Posted by [Yowp](#) at [06:25](#)

Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

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Preview

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.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**

[Paranoja \(Paranoia\)](#) - 'Paranoia' is a short film (lasting only four minutes) about a young man who thinks he's followed on the street.

2 days ago

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