



Sunday, 11 March 2018

Daddy Day

On the Jack Benny radio and TV shows, Dennis Day was a naïve young single man. In real life, Dennis Day was married with (eventually) ten children and, by all accounts, a fairly savvy businessman.

Just after Dennis' ninth child was born in 1963, columnist Bob Thomas of the Associated Press caught up with the singer (the photo to the right accompanied the article). That wasn't easy as Day was performing in Vegas and other spots around the U.S., pulling down money that could easily support a family of ten.

How he and his wife cope with that many kids? Here's the answer. It appeared in papers starting June 7, 1963.



Dennis Day Stays Busy As Dad

By **BOB THOMAS**

AP Movie-Television Writer

HOLLYWOOD (AP)—The father of this or almost any year in Hollywood appears to be Dennis Day, Jack Benny's madcap tenor who has made a serious business of raising a family.

"We've never been out of diapers at our house," says Dennis, who seems somewhat astounded himself at the size of the Day (McNulty) tribe.

Here's how they will line up on Father's Day Sunday June 16.

Patrick James, 14.

Dennis Eugene, 13.

Michael Joseph, 11.

Margaret Mary, 10.

Eileen Maria, 8.

Paul Thomas, 7.

Thomas Francis, 5.

Mary Kate, 2.

Daniel Gerard, 6 weeks.

During a rehearsal break at the Jack Benny Show, Dennis rattled off the names and numbers with confidence—until he arrived Thomas. He made several stabs at the middle name before arriving at Francis. I checked with his wife later and discovered he was correct.

How do they manage such a crowd scene?

"It's my wife Peggy who gets the credit," said Dennis. "The burden is on her, because I'm out of town six months of the year; that's the way it is with performers nowadays."

"We have one live-in help and a day girl, but we've never had a baby nurse. Peg has done it all herself. Nine babies, and every one of them has had the colic for the first six months! We've tried every formula and every preparation that is made. You name them and we've had them."

Dennis admitted that the logistics for a family of nine children can be staggering. They manage to find room for sleeping accommodations in their expanded Mandeville Canyon home—now five bedrooms. The three oldest boys board at military school in Anaheim, so that's a help.

When the family goes for a weekend at their Palm Spring house, it's a regular caravan. Sleeping bags are a must.

Outfitting the nimble nine is a major operation.

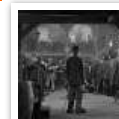
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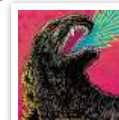


[Seeing The Gold Rush \(1925\) at the Old Town Music Hall - Last night I had](#)

the incredible pleasure of watching Charlie Chaplin's* The Gold Rush* (1925) at the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo, CA. This is a movi...

11 seconds ago

Rip Jagger's Dojo



[Godzilla - The Criterion Era! - What a](#)

magnificent dilemma! In

a few months The Criterion Collection folks will be issuing the Showa Godzilla movies. When I first heard they were going ...

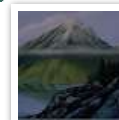
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News From ME

[This Evening...](#) - I'm going to get away from the TV where people argue and shoot each other. Instead, I'm going to go see a 93-year-old man sing and dance and maybe even tri...

13 hours ago

Yowp



[The House of the Seven Gargoyles - Dick Thomas pulled a](#)

huge workload at the Hanna-Barbera studio. He arrived in 1959 from Walt Disney (after almost two decades at Warner Bros.) to work on t...

1 day ago

"Shoes!" muttered Dennis, shaking his head. "We're always buying shoes. I got the boys shoes with a guarantee the soles couldn't wear out in six months. Know something? They beat the guarantee. "I was in New York recently, and I looked up some wholesalers I know—I haven't worked for Benny for 24 years without learning some tricks. I went through the racks of girls' dresses and said, 'I take this and this.' That's the way we shop."

Dennis was one of six children, who have now produced 31 of their own-sister-in-law Ann Blyth has five. "I think large families are closer," said Dennis, an obvious advocate.

Any hazards to rearing children in Hollywood?

"It's no different from other towns," he said. "You can't let other people raise your children. You've got to know your kids and keep the lines of communication open.


"I tell mine if they ever have any problem to bring it to me; I won't belt them if they've done something wrong. So far we've done pretty well on that system."

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

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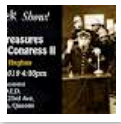
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*Tomorrow afternoon, That Slapstick Show celebrates its 5th anniversary show with a special screening of unseen American silent comedies from the Library...
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Cartoon Research
Danny Kaye's Weavie-Weavies - Walt Disney was always looking for opportunities to find additional work for his artists. One solution was supplying short animated segments for features ...
2 days ago



Termite Terrace headlines
Popeye Cans the Spinach (Commercial Corner) - Due to the Tom and Jerry hiatus, the monthly commercials are returning. This month we'll look at Popeye canning the spinach and advertising with other a...
1 week ago



The World of Knight
SATURDAY AFTERNOON - Nice view. I actually drew it into a panel today.
2 weeks 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...
2 weeks ago



Peter Gray's Comics and Art
New blog on my Art work...Original art...prints for sale



petergrayartist@gmail.com for prices etc..

<https://petergrayart.blogspot.com/>

Will update it like I do on facebook.
4 weeks ago

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

Coming Soon To This Blog...



1 month 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

Cool World - Cool World' looks like a poor man's version of 'Who Framed Roger Rabbit'. Sure, the film boasts Brad Pitt and Kim Basinger as leading actors, and it even f...

4 days ago

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