

Sunday, 27 May 2018

War-Time Benny

What do radio stars do when their show takes a rest for the summer? Well, during World War Two, many of them were involved in war work. Bob Hope was famous for entertaining troops around the world but, at the time, some columnists said Jack Benny did as much as Hope.

This short newspaper column from 1942 gives you an idea of what Benny and his cast did during the show's down-time. NBC and General Foods might have wished Benny had stayed through the summer. His replacement show was The Remarkable Miss Tuttle. It starred Edna Mae Oliver. Then she became sick and was replaced with Mary Boland. The irony was Boland was ill earlier in the year, but the Theatre Guild was sceptical and went to Actors Equity claiming she had jumped her contract.

Jack's wife, Mary Livingstone, never travelled overseas with him but still contributed to the war effort. You'll notice to the reference to her poems. She gained her original fame on the show in 1932 reading silly poems. She had pretty much stopped ten years later, but the reputation lingered.

Benny Back After Busy Vacation

Jack & Co. Return Over WBEN Tomorrow After Many War Shows

Special to the BUFFALO EVENING NEWS.

HOLLYWOOD, Oct. 3. — Jack Benny's notably longest vacation in radio was not all as Noah Webster defined the word. And that went, too, for other members of the premiere comedian's gang. Since last season's final broadcast on May 31, the NBC funsters worked hard-each in his or her own waycontributing to the welfare and morale of civilians and fighting

The program returns to its prized Sunday spot tomorrow evening at 7 o'clock over WBEN.

One of the first comedians to abandon writing new gags for the same old situation, Jack Benny insists on fresh new situation material as soon as he feels that his current idea has reached its peak in audience popularity.

He has popularized the usage of Western situations, of smart-cracking hecklers, of talking maestros, household help, and pet polar bears. This year marks a wide deviation in scenery and characters, for Jack and his troupe plan still more tours of Army and Navy posts and bases; thus comedy routines will be built around them quite often.

Jack himself has been working on a new picture, an adaptation of the stage play, "The Meanest Man In the World." He rallied his cast from far and near for the farewell show of the "Victory Parade" series Aug. 23, with only the touring band leader, Phil Harris, missing.

Mary Entertained, Too

Mary Livingstone, meanwhile, took time out from "po'try writin'" to help entertain soldiers as a member of the VACS (Volunteer Army Canteen Service), steering film stars to West Coast entertainment spots for service

Don Wilson, too, did a big job. He worked almost constantly on one war effort program or another. "Victory Parade" and "Command Performance" took many hours. In addition to his radio work, the portly actorannouncer serves at an air-raid listening post.

Rochester was far from idle. While acting in Jack's new picture, he did a lot of outside work entertaining soldiers.

About Me



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Blogs to See

Cartoon Research

Silent Era Aesop's Fables -This week, animator Mark Kausler posts a selection of silent Paul Terry Aesop Fables cartoons, from his collection of Commonwealth Home Movie prints.

5 hours ago

Rip Jagger's Dojo



Sanjulian's Demon Queen! -She's one of those ladies vou cannot

forget. Manuel Sanjulian's "Demon Queen" from the cover *Eerie* magazine is at once an attractive and repulsive figu... 7 hours ago

Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog



And This **Blog Loves** George Burns & Gracie Allen - * On

a Sunday in which temps hit 90 degrees Fahrenheit - rough on this weather wuss ...

12 hours ago

News From ME

Today's Video Link - Oh, you'll like this. Boy, will you like this. For a number of years at Comic-Con, I had the honor/privilege/thrill (it was many other things, as well) of ..

16 hours ago

Fernando Llera Blog **Cartoons**



Furopean **Heat Wave** expected to ease up as rain and

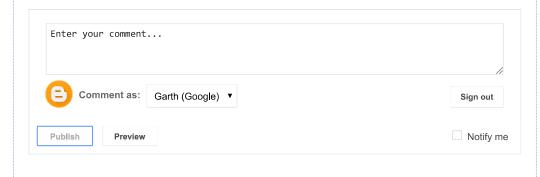
Dennis Sang at Camps

Dennis Day visited many service camps and canteens. Aside from singing in such spots as the Stage Door Canteens of Philadelphia and Cleveland and the Chicago Service Men's Center, Dennis entertained one Naval audience on the afterdeck of a battleship in New York. Phil Harris brought his orchestra's tour to an end in the East in time to join the rest of the cast for the opening program.

Posted by Yowp at 06:51 Labels: Jack Benny

No comments:

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thunderstor

ms move in. - @2019 fernandolleracartoons.com 21 hours ago



Movies with Michael



Cowboy Church #20 - Hello my friends and welcome back for another

Cowboy Church service. We begin our musical selection off with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans performing the Sout... 22 hours ago





Explaining Cats -Hanna-Barbera made good copy in

1961. The proof is in a search through

newspapers as Arnie Carr's PR department successfully pushed the studio's newest

1 day ago

Termite Terrace headlines



Popeye Cans the Spinach (Commerci al 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...

6 days ago

The World of Knight



SATURDAY **AFTERNO** ON - Nice view. I actually drew it into a panel

today. 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...

1 week ago

Peter Gray's Comics and Art



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

petergravart

ist@gmail.com for prices

https://petergrayart.blogspot

.com/ Will update it like I do on facebook.

3 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

FernGully: The Last Rain Forest - Up until the rise of computer animation in the late 1990s, with powerful players entering the field (first Pixar, then Dreamworks, followed by BlueSky, Son... 2 days ago

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A Postman, A Pig and 998 More

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A Hat Full of Hope For a Singing Career

Seeing Red (But Only Briefly)

Outpost

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Silent Stars, 1924

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Owlight

A Change For Lucy

How to Hatch a Bull

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