

Sunday, 17 June 2018

## It's Not Dean Martin

I wonder if Jack Benny thought, as he was taking a limo to Palmer House in Chicago to perform in 1969, that when he was born in that city, there were no limos—at least ones that were powered on their own. However, the Palmer House was there in 1894, and still is today.

Here's a little story from December 4, 1969, describing the cute and funny entrance Jack used in his show there. It's a little sad reading about him being left alone before he went on stage. But Jack enjoyed making people laugh, and that's why he continued performing across the continent until pancreatic cancer stopped him not too many weeks before his death; he certainly was in no need of money.

#### Benny's Like Liquor, Gets Better With Age **By BOB GREENE**

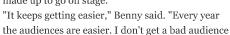
Chicago Daily News Service

CHICAGO—The people in the Empire Room, their clothes bright and glittering, were dancing while the man sang "You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You." The room was all gold and green and white, and on every spotless table was a little white card. On each card was the famous face of Jack Benny.

Jack Benny is the reason that all the people had dressed so expensively and fought the traffic and paid so much money to be crowded into the Empire Room of the Palmer House.

They were waiting for him to come on stage and tell jokes to them. While they waited, Jack Benny sat, all alone, in front of a rollaway cart in his 19th-floor suite.

A VISITOR walked into the room and there was Benny-this old comedian who has had it all and is a part of everyone's memories—sitting in a blue bathrobe, eating dinner alone at the little cart. He is 75 years old and he does not look young any more, but still he takes six months from every year to go on the road and make people laugh. His wife, Mary Livingston, does not like to travel, so he goes with his writer, Hilliard Marks, and his manager, Irving Fein. Tonight both of them were out of the hotel, so he finished the meal by himself before getting dressed and shaving and having his face made up to go on stage.



any more. It's not so much of a challenge. So I make my own challenge. I keep making myself do different kinds of things.

The lights in the Empire Room went down. Everyone was looking toward the stage.

The announcer said: "And now... the star of our show, Dean Martin!", and in walked Benny, right through the main entrance, holding a drink in his hand.

"I'm not really Dean Martin," he said. And then he gave The Look. Just folded his arms and looked around the room. The people were almost screaming. He didn't have to say a thing.

"HERE," I have to get rid of this drink," he said. He walked over to a man at a nearby table. "Do you want it?" the man took the drink.

"That'll be a dollar," Benny said. The laughter again.

It was like that for more than an hour. He talked about all the familiar things—George Burns, money, his wife, Bob Hope. And what he said earlier was right. The crowd wasn't even a real challenge. They were happy just to be seeing Jack Benny.

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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

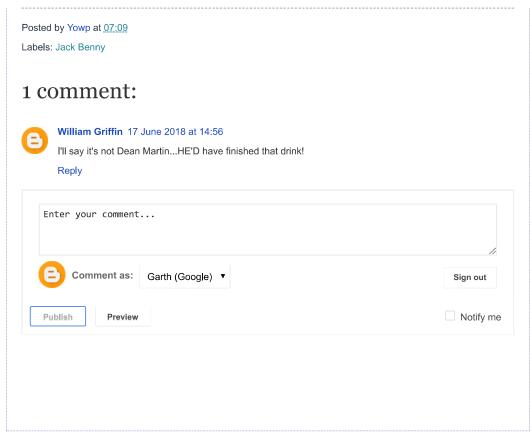
Today's Video Link - Oh, you'll like this. Boy, will you like this. For a number of years at Comic-Con, I had the honor/privilege/thrill (it was many other things, as well) of ..

16 hours ago

#### Fernando Llera Blog **Cartoons**



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



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thunderstor

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





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

### Yowp



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

#### E 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

1 week ago

today.

#### 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

petergrayart

ist@gmail.com for prices https://petergrayart.blogspot 7/29/2019 Tralfaz: It's Not Dean Martin

.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

#### E 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

#### **Blog Archive**

- **2019** (217)
- **▼ 2018** (379)
  - ► December (32)
  - November (32)
  - ► October (31)

7/29/2019 Tralfaz: It's Not Dean Martin

- ► September (34)
- ► August (35)
- ► July (32)
- ▼ June (30)

Koko and Max Silence the Wise Ones

Rover is Carmen Miranda

Iwerks' Bosko

The Crazy Smash Hit

It's Higgins, Sir

Library Check Out, the Martian Way

Domestic Life With Phil and Alice

Playhouse Pictures Presents:

Goosophone

A Twist on a Bugs Bunny Gag

The Toughest Job in the Woild? A Comedian

Following the Rabbit

Doghouse Battle

It's Not Dean Martin

A Few Words From Bob Clampett

Here Comes Mickey

Early Bird Gets the Cat

Vallee, the King, Santa and Ozzie

**Electric Batcats** 

The Eyes of Louie

Jack Works For Mel

Omnimoose

Popeye and Catwoman

Woo Hoo!

The Granny of Beverly Hills

The Critics Have Enough

Mother-in-Law of Tomorrow

The Cartoon That Jack Built

Bugs Bunny, Wartime Icon

Carving the Pig

- ► May (31)
- ► April (30)
- ► March (31)
- ► February (28)
- ► January (33)
- **2017** (380)
- **2016** (396)

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

## Labels

Labels
Aline Mosby (16)
Art Davis (30)
Bad Luck Blackie (9)
Bob Clampett (72)
Bob McKimson (51)
Bob Thomas (53)
Columbia (35)
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 (136)
Frank Tashlin (21)
Fred Allen (37)
Fred Brunish (9)
Friz Freleng (126)
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 (401)
Jay Ward (29)
Jimmy Durante (15)
John Crosby (78)
John Sutherland (23)
Johnny Johnsen (25)
Kenny Baker (6)
King-Size Canary (6)
Laugh-In (10)
Maurice Noble (12)
Mel-O-Toons (4)
MGM (498)
Norm McCabe (4)
Pat Matthews (10)
Paul Julian (13)
Sara Berner (5)

7/29/2019 Tralfaz: It's Not Dean Martin

Screwy Squirrel (32)
Spider-Man (1)
Terrytoons (67)
Tex Avery (412)
Tom and Jerry Human (24)
Tralfaz Sunday Theatre (14)
Ub Iwerks (65)
UPA (51)
Van Beuren (80)
Vernon Scott (40)
Virginia MacPherson (14)
Walt Disney (125)
Walter Lantz (212)
Warner Bros. (520)
Who Killed Who (10)

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