



Sunday, 17 February 2019

## Backswing Benny

Several episodes of the Jack Benny radio show, and at least one on his television show, involved golf with the plot showing Jack was a pretty lousy golfer. It was based on fact. Jack did play golf. And he wasn't all that great at it.

When Benny accepted a humanitarian award in Boston in 1955, he had a chance to fit in a round on one of the local courses. The *Christian Science Monitor* decided to see how he fared. This was published May 6, 1955.

### Jack Benny, the Golfer, As Seen by His Caddie

By Harry Molter

*Sports Writer of the Christian Science Monitor*

As one of the outstanding comedians of our time Jack Benny has been seen, heard and laughed at by millions of people all over the country.

But there is another, more relaxed side to him—that of Jack Benny, the golfer.

Like President Eisenhower, Benny likes to do his relaxing by playing a friendly round of golf as he did yesterday at The Country Club in Brookline with Francis Ouimet, Joe Cronin and Elmer Ward.

And you can take it from the young man who carried the clubs for Benny that he is as entertaining on the golf course without his gag writers, as he is on radio or television with a prepared script.

"A very enjoyable round," said Guy Guarino, who cut five classes at Boston College for the chance to caddy for Benny. "He never stopped telling funny stories or cracking jokes. He kidded Cronin (Red Sox general manager) about being a long-ball hitter, laughed about his own bad shots and was strictly out there for pleasure. It was lots of fun, and for me a real thrill."

Then, with the skilled appraisal of a man who has caddied eight years, young Guarino gave a cold, calculating caddie's-eye view of Jack Benny, the golfer.

#### Hands Like Violinist

"He's accurate off the tee but not too long, probably because he has small, soft hands for a golfer. (Ed. Note: More like the hands of a concert violinist.)

"He didn't get in too much trouble and was good out of the sand traps. His putting was consistent. I think Mr. Ouimet (National Open champion in 1913) helped him read the greens.

#### Dress Rehearsal

"Over-all, though, I'd have to say Mr. Benny was a little erratic," continued the college freshman. "Like on the short 16th where he hooked his drive into some trees, then played a delicate approach shot over a trap and right up to the pin. He had some pars, but he also had a few sevens mixed in and took two shots to get off the first tee."

In "clubbing" Benny, Guarino advised him to take a little more club than he would the average player. "He took a practice swing before every shot," laughed Guarino. "Sort of like a dress rehearsal."

Benny seemed very pleased to play with someone like Ouimet and called him "The professor" whenever he (Ouimet) hit an especially good shot, added the caddy.

On Benny's behalf, it might be pointed out he was playing on a strange course with borrowed clubs and borrowed shoes. Asked later how he plays, he said: "Not as well as I should after 30 years or so.

"I took the game up for relaxation during my vaudeville days and it still takes my mind off all my troubles when I get out on the course. It's my only hobby. I can be on the Hillcrest course, near my Beverly Hills home, five minutes after I leave work. I play about four or five times a week."



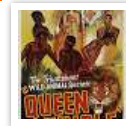
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## Blogs to See

### Rip Jagger's Dojo



Queen Of The Jungle! - "Queen of the Jungle" is a 1935 serial from Mascot

which takes footage from an even earlier silent film and tries to bond some new scenes. It's not reall...

11 hours ago

### Cartoon Research

Disney Rareties - This week, two Disney oddities in Mark Kausler's film closet - one, a lost educational film from the 1940s, the other some rare behind the scenes footage ...

13 hours ago

### News From ME

Sunday Evening - Convention's over. Now, we can concern ourselves with more important matters... like what kind of silly news stories is Trump going to create to divert attent...

14 hours ago

### Fernando Llera Blog Cartoons



Longest living animals in Chapultepec's Zoo in need of special

care. - ©2019 fernandollera.com  
23 hours ago

### Movies with Michael



Cowboy Church #19 - Hello my friends and welcome to another addition of Cowboy Church. We start

Benny has a 15 handicap, which means he shoots in the 80s—about the same range as the President's game. His wife, Mary Livingstone, is also a regular on the golf course.

"But we don't play much on weekends," adds Benny in his dead-pan manner. "We're usually pretty busy then."

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

Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

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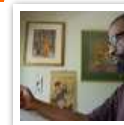
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our music selection off with The Sons of the Pioneers' 1947 recording of the go...  
1 day ago



**The World of Knight**



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

today.  
1 day ago



**Termite Terrace headlines**



Animation Websites in the Archive #1 - The newest series!

These are some of the best websites on animation that are either unsung or just have been wiped out from the internet. Some of these si...  
1 day ago



**Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog**

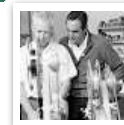


The Classic Comedy Rorschach Test - \* In 13 years and 1072 posts, onl...

2 days ago



**Yowp**



Fewer Drawings, More Gimmicks - Adult humour today isn't

what it was 60 years ago. Today, "adult" humour brings to mind a lot of sexual references and crudity. In other words, the stuff...  
2 days 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 days 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.com/> Will update it like I do on facebook.  
2 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**

**Zozor ruine la réputation de sa famille (Zozor Ruins the Reputation of His Family)** - After his move to the United States in 1912 Émile Cohl starting experimenting with putting the idiom of comic strips to the animated screen, being the firs...  
2 hours ago

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