TRALFAZIAN STUFF

Sunday, 25 August 2019

Youth and Violins

Loads of laughs came Jack Benny's way because of all the things he really wasn't. He really didn't drive a Maxwell. He really didn't live next door to Ronald and Benita Colman. He really wasn't tight with a buck. He really wasn't a hopelessly inept violinist. And he didn't wear a rug.

Well, I should qualify that. He did have a small one in some of his pictures in the 1930s. Perhaps that's why he joked about it on his radio show for years. Interestingly, his buddies George Burns and Georgie Jessel both wore one. And so did Eddie Anderson on his TV show.

Jack talks about his hair and violin playing in this 1959 news syndicate story. He was about to receive a reward for his music which, no doubt, thrilled him. After reading a

number of these interviews, I truly get the feeling he wasn't kidding when he said he wished he could have been a great violinist.



Benny Gets Kick Helping Music By BILL SLOCUM

Hearst Headline Service

NEW YORK, Nov. 28 — Talked with Jack Benny, 39, the other afternoon. Heavens, but the man has aged. Looked 43 if he looked a day.

In truth, he must be the best preserved Hollywood denizen in history. He is looking his 66th birthday in the face. Youthfully.

He was passing through, en route to Washington to receive the laurel leaf award at the National Press Club. It was given annually for contributions to music. Such as Stokowski and George Szell have won it.

For three years now he has been toting his Stradivarius around the land doing concerts to help local symphony orchestras. He was bubbling with pleasure as he recounted concerts last week in Detroit, St. Louis, and Rochester, N. Y.

A TEASER

"You know the people who gave, me this award tell me I won if for helping music. The money raised didn't hurt music, of course, but they think I help make fans for serious music. People attend a concert to laugh at Benny and they hear some Beethoven and Bach before they get Benny. They find they like Beethoven and Bach and come back to hear it without the jokes."

He endeared himself with a hit of candor unique among performers. He showed some newspapers with front page pictures and said "I enjoy doing this concert stuff for itself. And it isn't bad publicity, either. I could never get this kind of press if I went to Detroit just to do a broadcast."

I explained to Benny that I had a tin ear and was not capable of judging his music. What kind of a violinist was he?

He showed a St. Louis review. The critic wrote, "can Jack Benny play the violin? My answer is 'yes' and 'no." Benny said that was a fair description.

TRIES TO TIE

"I think I fool a lot of people with my violin," he added "I play straight. I don't have to hit any clinkers for laughs I can hit enough without trying. But I also have to stay even with the orchestra and finish in a tie. I usually do."

About Me

bitslayer604@gmail.com Dashboard Sign Out



View my complete profile

Blogs to See

Movies with Michael



Some Cartoons For Saturday Morning #80 - Hello

my friends and welcome back for another selection of classic cartoons. Today's selection begins with one of the great Mickey, Donald and Goofy car...

32 minutes ago

Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog



Born on July 18, 1913 - Red Skelton -*Today's post

commences

with the Guzzler's Gin routine (from Ziegfeld Follies) by R... 1 hour ago

E Fernando Llera Blog Cartoons



'Cozy Bear' Group Tied to Hacks on Covid Vaccine Research. -@2020

fernandolleracartoons.com 15 hours ago

News From ME

Sorry... - As far as I know, I do not have any diseases. I just have too much to deal with right now so I won't be blogging much if at all. I'm postponing all the web...

19 hours ago

Cartoon Research

In His Own Words: H.T. Kalmus on Disney in Technicolor - Suspended Animation #276 Many

Benny gave a clue as to the seriousness with which he approaches the serious parts of his concerts when he said, "I had to start practicing all over again. I hadn't practiced in 40 years until these concerts came up." He summed up his violin talent with a quote from his good friend, Isaac Stein, the great violinist. Stern told him, "when you make your entrance in tails and filled with aplomb you look like the world's greatest violinist It's a shame that right after such an entrance you have to play."

When you interview Benny he is pleasant but more often serious than not. He flashes humor now and then but unlike most of his colleagues he is not "on" every second. You gather that he takes being funny very seriously. And that he leaves nothing to chance.

He was enjoying his New York stay—"old friends" — but ample time was set aside to carefully prepare the ad libs for his speech in Washington. I mentioned how young he looked — that has never upset any interviewee I ever met—but he discussed that subject seriously.

HAIR HIS OWN

"I do look young for my age," he said. "That's why I used the gag about being 39. If I looked 65 and said I was 39 it would be macabre. I look about 55 (a modest estimate) and I'm lucky. I do have the feeling I'll wake up some morning and everything will have collapsed and I'll look my age. But, so far so good."

As we parted, he scratched his head and I said, "you're the first Hollywood male star I've interviewed this year who didn't have to lift his toupe to scratch his skull."

Benny grinned. "Print that, he suggested. "A few people think I'm 39. But the whole country is sure I wear a toupe."

He doesn't. His hair, like his talent, wears well.

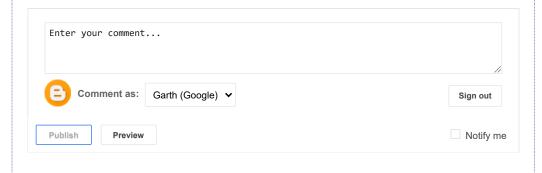
Posted by Yowp at <u>07:00</u>

MBLFO

Labels: Jack Benny

No comments:

Post a comment



Newer Post Home Older Post

Subscribe to: Post Comments (Atom)

references may be found regarding two-strip Technicolor. I have been guilty of discussing Walter Lantz's King of Jazz (1930)...

1 day ago

AFRTS Archive



Mary Turner 1985 - Mary Turner today Mary Turner really

rocked the house. Normally when any of the jocks got a reaction, it'd be split. The ones that were really liked wou...

3 days ago

The World of Knight



TONIGHT, 11:54 PM. -COPYRIGH T 2020 BY MILTON KNIGHT

3 days ago

Yowp



Hanna-Barbera Birthday Did-You-Knows - 63 years ago today, some

forms were signed by George Sidney, Bill Hanna and Joe Barbera creating what eventually became the biggest TV cartoon operation i...

1 week ago

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



Wabbit Twouble: A Small Addendum to An Outstanding Podcast -

Original animation drawing from Wabbit Twouble with color notations for the ink and paint department. Release date: 12/20/41 Availability: Looney Tunes Gol...

3 weeks ago

Mark Kausler's CatBlog

The Lady and the Tiger From the Cathy Hill Archive
of Unpublished Comics
comes "The Lady and the
Tiger". This story was
drawn before Cathy started
the "Mad Raccoons" series.

4 weeks ago

Termite Terrace headlines

Porky's Hot Dog Intake -Western Publishing definitely isn't free of cannibalism when it comes



to comics featuring Porky Pig. These are just some of the covers in which

Porky is ei... 4 weeks ago

Peter Gray's Comics and Art



An early Tom Thug page for sale and other comic art by Lew Stringer go

to link and ebay .. -

http://lewstringercomics.blo gspot.com/2020/02/originalart-for-sale.html https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/ graphite47/m.html? _nkw=&_armrs=1&_ipg=&_f rom=

5 months ago

What About Thad?

Cartoon Logic Podcast -

And yet another distraction from this brick and mortar blog... I've entered the world of podcasting with renowned animation director and historian Bob Jaques...

10 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...

1 year ago

Dr. Grob's Animation Review

The Flying Man - 'The Flying Man' is a very short absurdist film in which a man drops his coat to take a swim in mid air. Another man with a dog drops by, tries the same th...

1 day ago

Blog Archive

- **2020** (215)
- **2019** (376)
 - ▶ December (32)
 - November (30)
 - October (31)
 - ► September (31)
 - ▼ August (32)

Walt Disney Says "We're Not a Company"

Rhoda

What's That On the Wall?

How To Put Together a Cow

To Leave or Knotts to Leave

I'm Multiplyin'

Tex Smears the Cat

Youth and Violins

One of the Flip Cel Flippers

The Multi Door Gag

The Cupboard Was Bare (In the Next Frame)

Howard Morris, Crocodile and Comic Genius

How Rubber Hose Runs

Butt Walk

Jack Benny, Jail Bird

The Troubled Composer

Evil Woody

Casanova Cat Take

Mommy, Where Do Jokes Come From?

Crazy, Darn Fool Duck

Oceans of Beer

The Working Ham

Alvin and Calvin (And The Rest)

Boom Boom Bust

Jail Break!

Hans Conried, a Paart of the Show

Hey, What Does That Say?

Friz is Better Than Fritz

A Bit About Some Minor Players

The Accidental Cartoon Producer

Shakespeare Silhouettes

The Leaking Mouse

- ▶ July (31)
- ▶ June (30)
- ► May (32)
- ► April (31)
- ► March (31)
- ► February (30)
- ► January (35)
- **2018** (379)
- **2017** (380)
- **2016** (396)
- **2015** (389)
- **2014** (390)

- **2013** (388)
- **2012** (397)
- **2011** (106)

Labels

Labels
Aline Mosby (17)
Art Davis (33)
Bad Luck Blackie (9)
Bob and Ray (10)
Bob Clampett (82)
Bob McKimson (59)
Bob Thomas (53)
Chuck Jones (142)
Columbia (33)
Counterfeit Cat (8)
Cynthia Lowry (26)
Dick Thomas (14)
Don Patterson (17)
Earl Wilson (6)
Erskine Johnson (37)
Felix the Cat (27)
Film Daily (50)
Fleischer (154)
Frank Tashlin (24)
Fred Allen (43)
Fred Brunish (11)
Friz Freleng (137)
Gene Deitch (18)
George Pal (10)
Grant Simmons (4)
Hanna and Barbera unit (99)
Hanna-Barbera (2)
Harman-Ising (61)
Henry Morgan (13)
Irv Spence (8)
Jack Benny (453)
Jay Ward (30)
Jimmy Durante (17)
John Crosby (84)
John Sutherland (28)
Johnny Johnsen (27)
Kenny Baker (6)
King-Size Canary (8)
Laugh-In (11)
Little Rural Riding Hood (7)
Magical Maestro (9) Maurice Noble (12)
Mel-O-Toons (4)
MGM (553)
Norm McCabe (5)
Pat Matthews (10)

Paul Julian (13) Paul Terry (2) Sara Berner (5) Screwy Squirrel (34) Spider-Man (1) Terrytoons (84) Tex Avery (468) Tom and Jerry Human (29) Tralfaz Sunday Theatre (17) Ub Iwerks (80) **UPA** (57) Van Beuren (94) Vernon Scott (42) Virginia MacPherson (14) Walt Disney (145) Walter Lantz (241) Warner Bros. (586) Who Killed Who (10)

