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Sunday, 10 November 2019

He's Epistolic

Entertainers did their part during the World War Two. Some enlisted. Others entertained.

Jack Benny was in the latter category. He toured the South Pacific, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. He performed his radio show from bases in the U.S. He pushed bond sales in the U.S. and Canada. His daughter Joan discovered her father spoke to injured service members in hospitals overseas, wrote down their names, and then wrote their families to provide some comfort.

Jack tried touring during the Korean War but found it too grueling for him after one trip.

As Germany was about to surrender, Benny found himself with the American soldiers there. Here's part of an Earl Wilson column from the New York Post, August 2, 1945 where one of Jack's funny letters is transcribed. (Another portion involves Ed Gardner overseas, complaining about the incompetence of some USO special service officers).

Jack wasn't as prolific a letter writer as Fred Allen (whose letters were posthumously collected into a book), but he did write a fair bit and his letters are in a collection at the University of Wyoming.

Benny's A Man of Letters

By EARL WILSON

I GUESS I'm the first columnist brave enough to come right out and write about Jack Benny's epistolary habits. I've known of his epistolary tendencies for months, but it took this epistle, which he wrote to Goodman Ace from Landau, Germany, to bring out he's an epistolary genius.

"Dear Goodie: For the past three weeks I've been running around over Germany and nothing I have ever seen is as beautiful as these German towns bombed right down to the ground. Nothing is left of Nuremberg but debris. If didn't I spell debris right you can jump in the lake because I have other things to worry about. If you think I'm going to make myself a nervous wreck worrying about spelling debris, you're

"I'M WORKING very hard while you're doing nothing, yet you're the kind of a louse that'll go around showing everybody how I spelled debris. I could have said bricks and dirt or I could have spelled it dee-bree. But no, you're not satisfied receiving a letter from me from Germany and have to make a lot of stinking remarks about my spelling and education.

You're just not the friend I thought you were.

"INSTEAD OF WASTING my time writing to you, I could have written to Allen Jenkins or C. Aubrey Smith or even my wife, but no, I write to you! Just because you were a newspaperman doesn't necessarily mean you have sit there like a damned idiot wondering how I got where I did in show business. Why, if I hadn't started this letter, I wouldn't write you if I lived to be 1000 years old. That's all I've got to say to you." Then he added a P.S.: "You can change the start of this letter from 'Dear Goodie' to 'Dear Goodman.'"

Posted by Yowp at 07:24



Labels: Jack Benny

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Movies with Michael



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...

21 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

🕒 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

2 comments:



bgrauman 12 November 2019 at 02:55

Jack and Goodman Ace shared the same kind of sarcastic, witty humor. That's one reason why they were good friends for years.

Reply



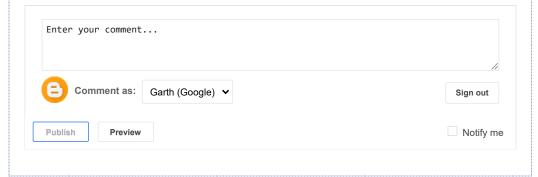
bgrauman 12 November 2019 at 03:27

A probable response from Mr. Ace:

"Dear Jack:

The word debris- or a similar word more potent (and more pungent)- has been bandied about by the ad agency when they recently offered their opinions about several of my "Easy Aces" scripts. Now, I tend to ignore them because they sure as hell don't listen to the show, anyway. But when they informed me that Jane shouldn't say this or that...including a veiled reference to the fact there IS a shortage of medicinal products, including my sponsor's product, that's when I got very angry. I said to them, "Don't you know there's a war on?". And they acted as if there weren't anything else that exists besides headaches, neuritis, neuralgia, Anacin, and lousy sales. Well, one of these days, I just might have a headache and use Bayer, just to spite them. And if this kind of nonsense keeps up, I just might hit myself on the head with a hammer and have one, anyway......"

Reply



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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

E 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. U...

4 weeks ago

E 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

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