

Sunday, 7 June 2020

Benny Keeps Punching



Jack Benny's television series wasn't on every week at the beginning, and the comedian seemed to vacillate over how many appearances in a season were best for him.

In 1953, he had moved from once a month to once every three weeks. He didn't appear once a week until the 1960-61 season. Yet back in '53, he mulled over whether that would have been better for him. (We've posted other interviews here where he thought once a week was overkill).

Here are a couple of stories from New York-based reporter Jack Gaver. The first is from September 20, 1953, the second was published September 4th. The first was part of a column of miscellaneous items; I suspect he held onto it from his original story to get some extra inches from his interview.

Benny's weekly appearances ended in 1965 when his show was killed off in the ratings by *Gomer Pyle*. He followed the Bob Hope format afterwards—occasional specials under his NBC contract—and did that until he died. He still popped up as a guest elsewhere, meaning these were still lots of Benny on TV for his fans.

Benny Favors Weekly Show, Citing Continuity of Gags

By JACK GAVAR

United Press Staff Correspondent

Despite what would seem to be a lot of extra work, Jack Benny feels it would be easier to do a television show every week instead of once every three weeks, as he is doing this season. Last year he was on once a month. "The reason is simple," the comedian explained on a recent quick trip to New York. "With a show once a week you can have some continuity of gags or situations working for you. We've done that in radio for years. "But when you come on only once every three or four weeks, you're starting from scratch each time. The listener can't be expected to carry around for that length of time some thought you might have expressed on your previous show."

Waukegan Virtuoso Starts Another Season

By JACK GAVAR

NEW YORK (UP) — The old—39, that is—virtuoso from Waukegan was in prime shape to start another radio-television season last Sunday and he attributes this happy state of affairs to the attitude of himself and staff toward their work.

"We work always with the idea of doing the best we can," Jack Benny explained, "but we don't fret about it. If we happen to hit a low spot one week — and everyone does now and then—we don't get into a panic and tell ourselves the next show has to be extra good to make up for it. We just try to make the next one good.

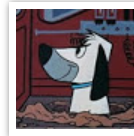
Do Not Press

"Also, if we happen to have an unusually good program, we don't begin to press with the idea that the next one has to top it or we'll look bad." The comedian and his usual radio family will be operating at the old CBS stand every Sunday night. This will be Benny's fourth season on TV and his most active. This time he will do a Sunday TV show every three weeks instead of one a month as last season.

Taped in Advance

"The radio shows will be taped in advance, as we have been doing for some time," Benny said. "Most of the television shows will be 'live,' but we have put four of these half-hour programs on film already and we will spot them when circumstances make it difficult for me to do a 'live' show."

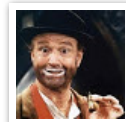
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with the Guzzler's Gin routine (from Ziegfeld Follies) by R...

32 minutes ago

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

fernandollercartoons.com
13 hours ago

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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...

18 hours ago

[Movies with Michael](#)



Summer Concert Series: Bob Dylan: No Direction Home (2005) -

Anyone who thinks because this film was directed by Martin Scorsese, it will be anything like "The Last Waltz" *(1978) is dead wrong. This is much less of ...

1 day ago

[Cartoon Research](#)

In His Own Words: H.T. Kalmus on Disney in Technicolor - Suspended

"Funny thing, doing a half hour TV show of my type is tougher than if I did an hour show. In an hour show you can make clean breaks for the commercials. With the half-hour type you have to integrate the commercials so you don't lose any more time than necessary.

"Everything in a half hour show has to be dovetailed and pointed to getting in the most in that space of time. I have to keep punching every minute. With an hour show, I could wander in and out from time to time, using a long sketch if I wanted to, and other performers would get more of a chance.

Public Reaction

"Now, last season we did a long Jekyll-Hyde sketch on one program. Writers and directors who saw it said it was the best thing we'd done. But the public's reaction wasn't nearly so good. You know why? The sketch used up nearly all of the 30 minutes and there wasn't time for the usual fooling around that the audience has come to expect from me when I'm out there just as Jack Benny."



Posted by [Yowp](#) at [06:56](#)



Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

1 comment:

 **J Lee** 7 June 2020 at 09:32

Looking at the weekly series in hindsight, I thought it held up pretty nicely compared to the bi-weekly or once every three weeks efforts for about the first 3 1/2 years. The last half-season of his CBS shows and the 1964-65 efforts on NBC do seem to have a little lower energy level, though I don't know whether or not that's because the material was being used up too fast or just everyone's natural aging process (there were still some good bits over that time period, just not as frequently).

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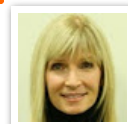
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Animation #276 Many references may be found regarding two-strip Technicolor. I have been guilty of discussing Walter Lantz's King of Jazz (1930)...

1 day ago

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[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...

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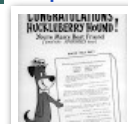
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TONIGHT, 11:54 PM. - COPYRIGHT 2020 BY MILTON KNIGHT

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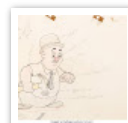


[Hanna-Barbera Birthday Did-You-Knows](#) - 63 years ago today, some

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

[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.blogspot.com/2020/02/original-art-for-sale.html>

https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/graphite47/m.html?__nk=__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...

23 hours ago

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