



Sunday, 27 March 2022

## An Interview?

There are several kinds of celebrity interviews. There's the kind where they bare their souls and you get something pretty honest. Then there are the fan magazine fluff interviews where the writer will add a helping of fiction if it makes the story read better. And then there are joke interviews where nothing is real and it can't be taken seriously.

Jack Benny did all three kinds. An example of the last kind is below, taken from *Microphone*, a newspaper aimed at fans, from November 23, 1934. It's pretty evident the conversation below never happened. Mary's character at the outset was somewhat of a ditz. You can see that here. Jack and Mary were on a comedy show so the newspaper did a comedy interview. The photo accompanied the article.

### The Bennys At Home, Or Jack And Mary On Speaking Terms

#### Jack Bares All In An Interview

##### *They Have Tiffs Like Everyone*

The scene is the living room of the Mr. and Mrs. (MARY LIVINGSTONE) JACK BENNY apartment in New York City.

It is impossible to give the time or the day because Mr. and Mrs. BENNY are never at home. Or practically never, what with broadcasting, personal appearances, theatrical work and earning a living.

Nevertheless, through the use of tiny mirrors, the BENNYS are in and are observed seated as follows: (Left to write) MARY LIVINGSTONE (she is Mrs. JACK BENNY) and JACK BENNY, who is the husband of MARY LIVINGSTONE. No one else is present except dust on the piano.

#### A Crisis in the Family

It is apparent (no puns about fatherhood) that there is a crisis in the lives of the BENNYS. JACK is biting his nails and clipping his words. MARY has her words all neatly clipped. A look of deep concern, even care, yes, even anxiety is noted on the faces of both.

JACK is poring over a folder. MARY is pouring a roast beef sandwich. A folder has just arrived by dog train from the National Broadcasting Company. Peeking over JACK'S shoulder (excuse it, please) we find it is a questionnaire sent to JACK to fill out for publicity purposes.

One glance, well perhaps two, and JACK has found that to answer the questions he "must bare all." He can hardly bear it. So can MARY.

There are millions of questions, or so it seems. But hush, the microphone is open. They are speaking—and to each other.

JACK—But MARY, it asks my professional name and my real name. What does that mean?

MARY—Oh, just say you're my husband and let it go.

JACK—Oh, all right (Writes) "Mr. MARY LIVINGSTONE."

MARY—This next question about where you live and your telephone number. Skip it.

JACK—But MARY . . .

MARY—I said, skip it.

JACK—Have we got a press agent?

MARY—Yes; MARY LIVINGSTONE and JACK BENNY.

JACK—Now it asks, "What do you do?"

MARY—Well, we have fun.

JACK—But it wants to know what we do on the radio.

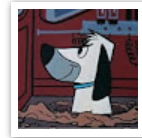
#### They "Have Fun"

MARY—Oh! Well, well, tell 'em we have fun. It IS fun, isn't it?

JACK—For you, yes. But think of all the hard work I do. All you do is act natural.

MARY—Is that so? Just because you write dumb lines in for me, I suppose you think I'm that way. I was smart enough to marry you, wasn't I? And besides—

## About Me



[View my complete profile](#)

## Blogs to See

**Fernando Llera Blog Cartoons**  
Mexico City's Ambulance Certification Process is due next week and still 100 ambulances remain to comply. - ©2022 fernandolleracartoons.com 3 hours ago

**Yowp**  
Flintstones Daily Comics, Dec. 1961, Pt. 1 - There's a site which has posted the Monday-through-Saturday newspaper comic strips of The Flintstones. I wasn't going to post my copies because of that, bu... 7 hours ago

**News From ME**  
ASK me: The Ranks of the M.M.M.S. - The other question put to me by Adam J. Elkhadem concerned Marvel's official, company-run fan club in the sixties, the Merry Marvel Marching Society... I was... 14 hours ago

**Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog**  
The Golden Age Of Radio Cartoons - "Pondering the links between animated cartoons and the... 21 hours ago

**Old TV History**  
December 1945 - Santa Claus wasn't able to do it. Anyone expecting Jolly Old St. Nick to bring them a nice, shiny, post-war television for Christmas in 1945 would be dis... 22 hours ago

JACK—Jump it. What program are we on now?

MARY—Some General; but I don't remember whether its Tires or Foods.

JACK—Look it up in the papers.

MARY—Ohh, look! It says how tall are you. Well, put down that you have to bend over a little when you kiss me and that you weigh too much to sit on my lap but not enough to ruin your figure and that you've got the nicest complexion, all tanned and everything, and that your hair is fascinatingly black and grey.

JACK—This was a questionnaire, not a romantic novel . . .

MARY—Ain't I telling the truth?

JACK—I know, but let's get on with this. What is my marital status?

MARY—Oh, we have our little tiff the same as other folks.

JACK—No, MARY. You don't get it—my marital status!

MARY—Well, I said you were about five feet and nine inches.

JACK—All right, all right. I'm married. That's the answer.

MARY—That's what I've been telling everybody.

JACK—(Reads) "Where and when were you born?"

MARY—I wasn't there at the time so you'll have to answer it by yourself. And probably get it wrong.

### The Aging Mr. Benny

JACK—All right. Chicago, on—but perhaps I shouldn't tell my age.

MARY—Oh, getting temperamental?

JACK—No, just cautious.

MARY—All right, all right. (Reads) "First professional engagement? Any special circumstances? Anecdotes? Humorous incidents?" How would you answer that one? Hey Toots?

JACK—Excuse me, Miss LIVINGSTONE, this is serious.

MARY—Wrong again. The serious was in Detroit and St. Louis.

JACK—Delete it. Anyway I left school to take a job in vaudeville in a theatre in Waukegan, Ill. The theatre closed the following week.

MARY—Why knock yourself?

JACK—I had nothing to do with it.

MARY—You can believe that—if you care to.

JACK—But I haven't got any anecdotes.

MARY—Well, if you have, save 'em for the program. It needs them.

JACK—Why, MARY!

### Using the "Old Ones"

MARY—I'm sorry, JACK. You ARE using all those old ones, aren't you?

JACK—Why, MARY!

MARY—Skip it!

JACK—That settles it. I won't do anything more. You're even stealing my lines in private life.

MARY—Anyway, people don't want to know about you. Just wait until they send me a questionnaire. I can ask as many questions as anybody.

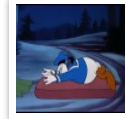
JACK—But you don't ask questions in a questionnaire, you answer them.

MARY—Well, they shouldn't have sent you one, then. Remember the other night when I asked you why you kept me waiting . . .

JACK—Skip it, twice.



### Movies with Michael



Some  
Cartoons  
for  
Saturday  
Morning  
#189 - Hello

my friends and happy Saturday morning. Once again it is time for some classic cartoons. Today's cartoon selection begins with a delightful Donald...

1 day ago

### Cartoon Research

The Problem with Pooh - Suspended Animation #385 Oh bother! The bear with very little brain through no fault of his own certainly seems to be a troublesome bruin and for many yea...

2 days ago

### Pegbar Profiles

Pegbar Profile: Emery Hawkins (Part 3) - \*Muriel Cigars spot, produced by Shamus Culhane's studio in New York.\* Upon his arrival out East, Hawkins found work in film and television ad production...

6 days ago

### AFRTS Archive

File download - So the good news is that I did receive a refund from our file host. Still no replies. I'll have to start over. So, do you know a file storage provider w...

2 weeks ago

### Inbetweens: The Cult Classics of Animation

Throwing the Bull: Heckle and Jeckle in The Intruders - Until the mid 40s, Fox had many issues with the Terrytoons Studio, and over the years complaints were regularly sent. Particularly, the lack of true s...

2 weeks ago

[Show All](#)

### Dr. Grob's Animation Review

Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbours Wife - 'Thou Shalt Not Covet Thy Neighbours Wife' is the tenth and last of Phil Mulloy's Ten Commandment films. This installment is the longest of the ten, clocki...

2 days ago

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



Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

## No comments:

## Post a Comment



Enter comment

## Blog Archive

- ▼ [2022](#) (241)
  - [August](#) (22)
  - [July](#) (34)

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

- [June \(30\)](#)
- [May \(31\)](#)
- [April \(30\)](#)
- ▼ [March \(32\)](#)
  - [They're Still Hungry](#)
  - [Before Lucy](#)
  - [Look of the Cook](#)
  - [Flea Sees Flea](#)
  - [An Interview?](#)
  - [Sing Like Stalling](#)
  - [Not Enough Overlays](#)
  - [Becoming Mr. Mouse](#)
  - [New! Mild! Bob and Ray!](#)
  - [Cat Tail For Spring](#)
  - [Wolf, Stay Away From My Door](#)
  - [Writing For Jack Benny, 1941](#)
  - [Freddie Fudsie, Cartoon Star](#)
  - [Familiar Poses](#)
  - [Turnaround Cat](#)
  - [Desi](#)
  - [Flypaper Kitten](#)
  - [Smearing Bogie](#)
  - [Staying Young Part 1](#)
  - [Staying Young, Part 2](#)
  - [More Studio, Less Money](#)
  - [Noble's Surburbia](#)
  - [First Tooth](#)
  - [Comeback For Q](#)
  - [The Dirty What?](#)
  - [Hay and Hey](#)
  - [Stuntman Benny](#)
  - [Why Are Cartoons For Kids?](#)
  - [But It Works For Bugs Bunny](#)
  - [Spot the Radio Stars](#)
  - [Grey Hair on Red's Gags](#)
  - [Singing Faces](#)
- [February \(28\)](#)
- [January \(34\)](#)
- [2021 \(380\)](#)
- [2020 \(389\)](#)
- [2019 \(376\)](#)
- [2018 \(379\)](#)
- [2017 \(380\)](#)
- [2016 \(396\)](#)

- [2015](#) (389)
- [2014](#) (390)
- [2013](#) (388)
- [2012](#) (397)
- [2011](#) (106)

## Labels

<a href="#">Aline Mosby</a> (18)
<a href="#">Art Davis</a> (39)
<a href="#">Bad Luck Blackie</a> (11)
<a href="#">Bob and Ray</a> (15)
<a href="#">Bob Clampett</a> (103)
<a href="#">Bob McKimson</a> (75)
<a href="#">Bob Thomas</a> (61)
<a href="#">Chuck Jones</a> (169)
<a href="#">Columbia</a> (56)
<a href="#">Counterfeit Cat</a> (10)
<a href="#">Cynthia Lowry</a> (35)
<a href="#">Dick Thomas</a> (18)
<a href="#">Don Patterson</a> (19)
<a href="#">Drag-a-Long Droopy</a> (14)
<a href="#">Earl Wilson</a> (17)
<a href="#">Erskine Johnson</a> (43)
<a href="#">Felix the Cat</a> (32)
<a href="#">Film Daily</a> (50)
<a href="#">Fleischer</a> (190)
<a href="#">Frank Tashlin</a> (35)
<a href="#">Fred Allen</a> (51)
<a href="#">Fred Brunish</a> (11)
<a href="#">Friz Freleng</a> (173)
<a href="#">Gene Deitch</a> (21)
<a href="#">George Pal</a> (11)
<a href="#">Grant Simmons</a> (9)
<a href="#">Hanna and Barbera unit</a> (121)
<a href="#">Hanna-Barbera</a> (4)
<a href="#">Harman-Ising</a> (83)
<a href="#">Henry Morgan</a> (14)
<a href="#">Irv Spence</a> (12)
<a href="#">Jack Benny</a> (561)
<a href="#">Jay Ward</a> (34)
<a href="#">Jimmy Durante</a> (21)
<a href="#">John Crosby</a> (99)
<a href="#">John Sutherland</a> (37)
<a href="#">Johnny Johnsen</a> (37)
<a href="#">Kenny Baker</a> (6)
<a href="#">King-Size Canary</a> (9)
<a href="#">Laugh-In</a> (16)
<a href="#">Legend of Rockabye Point</a> (6)
<a href="#">Little Rural Riding Hood</a> (7)
<a href="#">Magical Maestro</a> (9)
<a href="#">Maurice Noble</a> (12)

- Mel-O-Toons (5)
- MGM (678)
- Norm McCabe (6)
- Pat Matthews (12)
- Paul Julian (15)
- Sara Berner (5)
- Screwy Squirrel (38)
- Spider-Man (1)
- Terrytoons (104)
- Tex Avery (584)
- The Cat That Hated People (10)
- Toby the Pup (3)
- Tom and Jerry Human (45)
- Tralfaz Sunday Theatre (19)
- Ub Iwerks (110)
- UPA (69)
- Van Beuren (123)
- Vernon Scott (51)
- Virginia MacPherson (14)
- Walt Disney (182)
- Walter Lantz (293)
- Warner Bros. (756)
- Who Killed Who (10)