



Sunday, 22 May 2022

## Benny and Connie



**HILIBILLY SPOOF** — Jack Benny, his guest star, Connie Francis parody life in the Ozarks as the popular singer entertains with a medley of popular tunes on *The Jack Benny Program* Friday (9:30 p. m., Channel 40). Colorful Connie makes her songs zing.

Jack Benny's treatment of guest stars on his television show got a ringing endorsement, but it shouldn't have been much of a surprise.

Everyone in Hollywood certainly knew Jack was no baggy-pants comic squirting seltzer at anyone on stage with him or hogging all the lines. They knew from radio that he made himself the butt of the jokes, and showcased the people who appeared with him, such as Ronald and Benita Colman or Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Marilyn Monroe and her multitudinous handlers trusted Jack more than anyone for her to make her TV debut.

Harold Heffernan's syndicated column for the North American Newspaper Alliance revealed another name, someone who appeared on Benny's final season. CBS' smiling cobra Jim Aubrey may not have liked Jack (who hightailed it to NBC in 1964) but a popular singer certainly did. This short piece was part of one of Heffernan's columns around October 22, 1964.

### High-Priced Coach

Hollywood, Cal. (NANA)—Guess who's turned into the highest-priced coach in show business? Jack Benny, that's who, and he won't take a dime for his services.

He has only one pupil, too, and she's a rich and famous one at that.

The student is Connie Francis, who makes her second appearance on the "Jack Benny Program" over CBS October 30.

"And Jack's the only comic with whom I'll appear," says the brunette singer whose record sales and bank account both run into the millions.

"That's because Jack coaches me so beautifully on timing and how to read and put over lines in just the right way. I can't help but look good and let's face it, I can't afford not to look good on such a popular show as his.

"One must consider, too, that I haven't had quite the years of experience playing comedy that Jack has, because I'm not 39 yet," she grinned impishly. Connie, like all top singing stars, is in great demand from variety shows reaching out for novelty pepper-uppers, but she's turned down all but Benny. "Nobody else offers me free coaching and pays me big for singing just a couple of songs," she explains.

Connie evidently changed her mind very quickly. Or maybe her agent changed it for her. Jack was the "only" comedian for another ten days. On November 9th, she appeared on *The Jonathan Winters Show*, a special on NBC.

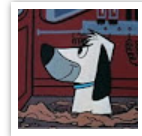
As for Jack's TV show, the 1964-65 season was the last and filled with sketches reminiscent of earlier days when they were done arguably better. The one Francis appeared in had been done twice on radio, except it had the benefit of Mary Livingstone, Dennis Day, Andy Devine, a live audience, and Mel Blanc getting a huge, long laugh from the audience by playing a jackass.

Despite this, Jack and Miss Francis worked well together. And they did appear together again. They



**GOING HILIBILLY**—No, it's not Daisy Mae, it's "Connie Francis in the shtilly setup, with her post, Jack Benny, togged out in overalls. Connie will be the guest star on the "Jack Benny Program" Friday night at 9:30.

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## 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 fernandollera.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

performed in a benefit at the Riviera in Vegas in November 1966 for the St. Jude Ranch for Homeless Children.

Posted by [Yowp](#) at [06:57](#)



Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

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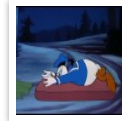
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#### **Movies with Michael**



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*

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