

Sunday 26 November 2023

Unreal Benny

Perhaps it's a tribute to his acting ability, but Jack Benny was able—quite easily, it seems—to convince listeners what they heard on his show was a biography, not a sitcom full of fiction.

On more than one occasion, he was dumbstruck by how intelligent people really thought Rochester was his butler and Dennis Day mowed his lawn as part of his weekly salary.

He complained in print a number of times that he was forced to leave huge tips so people wouldn't think he was really a cheapskate.

Here's a piece from the *Detroit Free Press* of May 27, 1950. Jack was whistle-stopping in the Midwest in the latter half of the month.

Air Role Embarrasses Lots-of-Jack Benny

BY JAMES S. POOLER

Free Press Staff Writer

Jack Benny the comedian embarrasses Jack Benny the man.

As a comedian known for throwing a fast half-nelson on a dime, he causes waitresses to faint when he lays down a buck tip in real life.

They are slow to pick it up. They think Benny has it attached to a rubber band up his sleeve. So fine has Benny etched his radio character of the tightwad, the feudist with Fred Allen, the perennial 39-year-old, that everybody takes that for the real Benny.

BENNY, AN affable, easy-going guy, related when he visited the Free Press Friday how he is haunted by his radio ghost—like Scrooge by Marley—wherever he goes.

When he gave a hat check girl in Earl Carroll's cafe a buck tip she pushed it back. "Please, Mr. Benny," she said, "leave me with one illusion."

Everybody assumes he really drives around in a Maxwell and every press agent thinks he is the first to meet Benny at the station with a beat-up Maxwell. Detroit-ers, undoubtedly, would like to know that the real Benny travels in a Cadillac convertible, for which he paid.

PEOPLE THINK Rochester works in Benny's house.

Rochester's got a house—and butler—of his own.

Every novelty manufacturer in the country keeps

writing Benny that he's got a great idea for a toy—a little safe that creaks and makes a sounds like Benny's radio vault.

When he toured the fronts in the war his hardest job was mustering up a "big take" and a big laugh for the same gag: Every outpost thought it was the first to put up a sign saying "Welcome, Fred Allen."

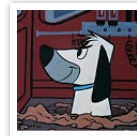
"I don't think I ever disappointed the kids," he said. "But after a few hundred times it was rugged always being surprised by the same old thing."

OLDSTERS ALWAYS cackle when they meet him and say, "I'm the same age as you—39." Even the Veep, although he varied it, was guilty of giving Benny the same old stuff.

When they met recently in Washington, Vice President Alben W. Barkley cracked, "If you're 39, I won't be vice president for 12 more years."



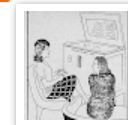
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Old TV History



September-October 1940 - New Yorkers finally had television

again at the end of October 1940. W2XBS had switched frequencies as ordered by the FCC and returned to the air after alm...

19 hours ago

Yowp



A Few Hanna-Barbera Staff Pictures - There's

something pleasing about seeing pictures of the people who worked on the classic Hanna-Barbera cartoons. Of course, publicity photos of Bill Hanna ...

1 week ago

Blogs to See

Fernando Llera Cartoons



International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

observed today. - ©2023 fernandollera.com
10 hours ago

Halfway around a swing of 21 cities in 21 days with his Detroit appearance, Benny admitted he was weary. Maybe you have an idea now of what helps make him tired.

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

Labels: [Jack Benny](#)

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Mark Kausler's CatBlog
[So Long Mabel](#) - H Here, as an early Christmas present, are the remaining "Now Listen Mabel" strips by George Herriman from 19191222 to 19200110. The parallels with "Kraz...
10 hours ago

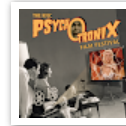


News From ME

[Marty Krofft, R.I.P.](#) - This one's tough. I worked for Sid and Marty Krofft off and on from early 1978 until... well, I wrote and sometimes produced shows for the company that got on...
12 hours ago



Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog

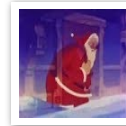


[One Week From Today: The 31st Anniversary KFJC](#)

[Psychotronix Film Festival](#) - *On Saturday December 2 of 2023, the KFJC Psychotronix Film Festival returns to Foothill College's Room 5015 with ...
19 hours ago



Movies with Michael

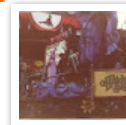


[Some Cartoons for Saturday Morning #253](#) - Hello

my friends and happy Saturday morning. Once again it is time for some classic cartoons. "Santa's Surprise" (1947) is an especially delightful Chri...
1 day ago



The Exposure Sheet



[Hanna-Barbera Macy's Thanksgiving Floats](#) - Yesterday, I

looked at the several Hanna-Barbera Thanksgiving balloons we've seen over the years. Now, it's time to do the same for the floats focused on ...
2 days ago



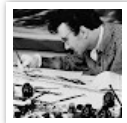
Cartoon Research

[Small Wonder: The 25th Anniversary of "A Bug's Life"](#) - In the twenty-five years since its release, this film has been somewhat overshadowed by the Pixar blockbuster films that followed.
2 days ago

AFRTS Archive

AFVN Day
After
Thanksgiving 1970 - On
Thanksgiving it's hard

to not think about home.
When Billy Williams was at
AFVN a few years later, he
found a station composite of
the day after Th...
2 days ago

Pete Hale

Some
Norman
McLaren - I
just
yesterday
discovered

the amazing world of
experimental animation, so
now I'm hyped. I was really
looking for Oskar
Fischinger, but I stumbled
upon...
4 days ago

**Termite Terrace
headlines**

Today's
Post: The
1964
World's Fair
Documenta
ry and other

64 World's Fair stuff - This
documentary is quite good.
Most of you have probably
already seen it, but I'm
sharing it here anyways.
While I'm add it, why not
share some ...
2 weeks ago

[Show All](#)

Why Not Read...

[Cartoonerific](#)
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[Format Films Roadrunners](#)

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