

Sunday, 18 May 2025

The Blanc Two-Step

An almost fatal car accident didn't stop Mel Blanc. (You can read an account about it [in this Yowp post](#)).

He continued recording voices for Hanna-Barbera and Warner Bros. He had formed Mel Blanc Enterprises to produce humorous commercials. And there was a happy, Christmas-time reunion on the Jack Benny television show in 1961.

But he obviously slowed down. In looking through newspapers in the first half of 1963, I can find only two on-camera appearances—one with Benny and another, somewhat improbably, with Arthur Godfrey.

Godfrey had been ubiquitous on CBS television in the 1950s. Things had changed by the '60s, perhaps because of the discovery that he wasn't as charming and laid back in real life as he was on camera. He co-hosted part of a season on *Candid Camera* in 1960 before walking off annoyed at the show's owner, Allen Funt (who didn't have much good to say about Godfrey, either).

The network was still interested in Godfrey's talents and signed him to host specials. One in early 1963 featured Blanc. It turned out the two men had something in common, as Earl Wilson reported in his column of March 8, 1963. As you might have expected, Blanc had a Jack Benny story.

INJURED, BUT THEY'LL DANCE

Arthur Godfrey and Mel Blanc—each survivor of a near fatal auto accident, each held together by silver plates and pins—will try to forget March 18 that they've had to use canes . . . and will try to dance on TV. Mel Blanc, while still on a cane, learned about this ambitious undertaking when he reported to the big red-head Arthur (who'll be 60 in July) for rehearsal for CBS' "Arthur Godfrey Loves Animals" TV show. "Tell me about your accident," Arthur said first. "Well, this leg here had 22 breaks in it . . . I had five fractures in my spine . . . I was unconscious for 21 days . . . they kept telling my wife, Estelle, that I couldn't make it . . . she'd cry and beg them 'Please don't say THAT!' . . . there were 18 doctors on duty at the UCLA Medical Clinic . . . practically all of them worked on me . . . I was in a cast eight months, but it was two months before they could put me in a cast . . . 'I've still got six silver screws through my leg . . .'" Blanc'll do Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Speedy Gonzales, and Pepe Le pew, the French skunk, as well as the sound of Jack Benny's expiring Maxwell, on the Godfrey show.

"THE ONE MAN who never forgot us when I didn't know whether I'd pull through," Mel said, "was Jack Benny. He's come to see us every 10 days."

"One night we were having chicken-in-the-pot in the kitchen. He said he had to go to dinner at Dave Chasen's, but he'd just have some soup with us. Pretty soon he said he'd have dinner with us, and have



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Comments on an article will be limited to the first few days after it is posted. This blog is virtually retired, with daily posts ending May 25.

My Blog List

Old TV History



April 1937 - CBS was the leader in television programming in the

early 1930s, but by the end of the decade, it was playing catch-up to NBC. The company had taken W2XAB...

21 hours ago

Yowp



Iwao, a Happy 100 - Iwao

Takamoto would have turned 100

today. While this blog isn't much on birthdays, Iwao's career at Hanna-Barbera began at the tail-end of "The Yogi Bear ...

2 weeks ago

Blogs to See

News From ME

Today's Video Link -

Charles Strouse died on Wednesday...an important figure in the annals of musical comedy. He wrote the music for a great many shows including Bye Bye Birdie, ...

7 hours ago

dessert at Chasen's. Then Estelle brought out dessert and he said 'Never mind, I'll just have coffee at Chasen's.' He wound up going to Chasm's for an after-dinner drink."

A news release about the special said "With Mel Blanc, Arthur gets a taste of the wiles of Bugs Bunny when the sassy rabbit tried to fast-talk him into a television appearance while Sylvester and Pepe Le Pew interrupt with idea of their own." The *Boston Globe's* review added Blanc demonstrated the voices of "Sweetie Pie" and "baby Deeno." Percy Shain evidently needed to watch more cartoons.

There was an interesting and unique follow-up to this story in the *Fremont Tribune* of June 17, 1963. The columnist in this Nebraska newspaper was not an entertainment writer. He was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. We'll leave him with the last line, again showing the selflessness of a supposed 39-year-old.

Reflections

Two Entertainers Offer Lesson in Enduring Woe

By CHARLES S. RYCKMAN

The capacity for achieving amazing triumphs over physical handicaps seems to be in some people in proportion to the severity of the disability. The most complaining and despairing sometimes are those with minor and temporary impairment of their bodily faculties.

Those with major loss of physical powers, and especially those with long and perhaps permanent experience with agonizing suffering, often rise to the highest peaks of endurance and accomplish the greatest degree of mastery over the tragedies with which they must live for the remainder of their years.

The current activities of two great entertainers offer vivid illustration of these facts. Radio and television personality Arthur Godfrey is one. The movie and TV veteran Mel Blanc is the other. They appeared together on Godfrey's television program in March, supporting themselves on canes. They danced, told jokes, kidded each other and themselves, treating their own disabilities so lightly and casually that viewers had little understanding of the bitter hell both men have known, and still must know as long as they live.

Arthur Godfrey was an auto accident victim many years ago. He has had so many operations he has lost all count. His body is so pieced and patched that what he was born with and what now holds him together are so intermingled that identification, like the lady's hair color and her hairdresser, is known only to his surgeons.

Mel Blanc went down into his purgatory by the same route, but much later. One leg had 22 fractures. There were five breaks in his spine. He was unconscious for 21 days. It took two months to get him in condition to wear a cast, and he wore the cast for eight months. He still has six silver screws in the formented leg.

But you knew mighty little of this as they danced, gagged and entertained millions of people. They themselves seemed scarcely conscious of the tortured road by which, they had come. They know about it, well enough. Neither is a stranger to pain and fear nor ever will be again.

And, for a wry item, of all Mel Blanc's friends only one was a constant visitor at his bedside through-out the long months of his ordeal. That was comedian Jack Benny, who works so hard to develop an image of himself as a selfish man.

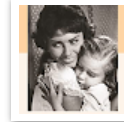
Posted by [Yowp](#) at [07:11](#)

Labels: [Earl Wilson](#), [Jack Benny](#)

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Movies with Michael

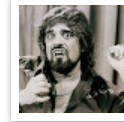


Working Kid: A Memoir of a Child Actor of the 1950s and

1960s - Though many of you have probably never heard the name Mimi Gibson, if you are a fan of movies and/or TV shows of the 1950's and 60's, you have seen h...

9 hours ago

AFRTS Archive



Wolfman Jack 1974 -

It howls! Been quite a winter so far. Play

this really loud. It's late 1974 and the Wolf Rocks!! *Wolfman Jack - 1974*

More Wolfman Jack

16 hours ago

Fernando Llera Cartoons



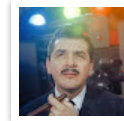
52% of Mexican exports are made outside the USMCA. -

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22 hours ago

Way Too Damn Lazy To Write A Blog



Still More Ernie Kovacs & Edie Adams-Related

Coolness -

1 day ago

Cartoon Research

A Real Throwback: The 25th Anniversary of Disney's "Dinosaur" - "I knew the job was dangerous when I took it," laughed supervisor of digital effects Neil Eskuri when discussing Dinosaur in an interview in 2000. He also...

2 days ago

Mark Kausler's CatBlog

Felix Ends 1932! - At last we finish "Felix 1932"! All the strips from 12-18 to 12-31-1932! I like the gag in the 12-22, where Felix keeps the Wolf from Danny's door by sho...

4 days ago



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Tom and Jerry: Toon by Toon



Royal Cat Nap (1958)

- Note: This review contains spoilers.

This short film marks the fourth and last of the cartoon featuring Jerry and Nibbles as the famous Mouseketeers...

5 days ago

The Exposure Sheet



Daws and Don Congrat Bill and Joe - I've got a neat find for today's blog post. Below is a 1977 print ad that appeared in several entertainment trades (this copy in particular came from Vari...

1 week ago

Pegbar Profiles



The Animator, January 1938 - The second issue of

The Animator is missing as of this writing, so here is the third edition from the start of January 1938.

*Snow White *had its Ca...

6 months ago

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Why Not Read...

Cartoonerific Podcast

Dr Grob's Animation Review

Tex Avery at Warner Bros

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Tubby Fights the Civil War

She's a Piano Top and an Underwater Pen

Let the Game Begin . . . After a Slight Delay

Porky's Celebrity Guest

And the Michael Goes To...

https://tralfaz.blogspot.com/2025/05/the-blanc-two-step.html

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