

Radio-Television

TELE-VIEWS

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By DAVE BLACKMER

A Salem television salesman informs us that Monday night was his night to stay home with the baby . . . Says he couldn't find anything to do so decided that he would tinker with his TV set. Just joking of course but he wanted to get in a dig at the TV set owners that are constantly tampering with their TV sets . . .

Been trying to locate some Red Skelton fans in this area and having a hard time doing so . . . Portland columnist claim Red is long gone . . . Tele-Views was going to stage a challenge on the subject, however. The Skelton fans in Salem must be hiding because we can't find any . . . Drop us a line if you still like Red.

The Burns and Allen Show on KPTV Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. is currently rating very high in the Portland viewing area . . . Salem TV fans enjoy the comedy team . . . (See story on Burns and Allen elsewhere on this page).

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

Tootsie Hippodrome at 5:30 Jim Lynch bow and arrow expert as guest.

Fabel Bouts at 7:00 George Araujo of Providence, R.I. vs. Teddy Davis of Hartford, Conn. 10-round, lightweight bout from Cleveland arena.

Hollywood Opening Night at 8:00. "The Invited Seven." Boris Karloff in a mystery drama that goes beyond the flying saucer headlines of today.

I Married Joan at 9:00. Joan goes on a diet and almost dies of starvation because she wants to slim down to make a TV appearance endorsing a salad dressing.

Kraft Theater at 10:00. "So Very Young." Patty O'Neil as 17-year-old whose father thinks she is too young to marry.

March of Time at 11:00 Green Paradise of Goa.

Nite Owl Theater at 11:30. "Whispering Footsteps." John Hubbard, Rita Quigley.

THURSDAY

Kate Smith Show, at 1:00. The Kateds, DeMarco sisters and America sings.

Matinee Theater at 3:00. "The Girl Who Dared." Lorna Gray, Peter Cookson.

MY Hero at 7:00. Beamblossom's marvelous memory wins him an important mission to Washington with a "Top Secret."

Burns and Allen at 8:30 A make-up man whistles in Geo. and Gracie's dressing room at they prepare to do "Romeo and Juliet." The superstition prompts Gracie to hide the car so George won't have an accident.

The Unexpected at 9:00. "Leopards in Lightning." Group goes into the plateau country of Congo Basin and members of the safari were never heard from again. American detective unravels the mystery.

Ford Theater at 9:30. Dan Durvae, George Brent in "Double Exposure."

Hollywood Wrestling at 10:30. Mr. Moto and Hans Schnabel vs. Lord James Blears and Bobby Managoff. (tag teams).

George Burns Can't Answer All Questions About Gracie

When anyone asks George Burns "And how is your wife, Gracie?" he usually finds himself at a loss for words. And little wonder.

George Burns happens to be married to a little woman named Gracie Allen, who must easily be the most unusual little woman in the entire history of the human race.

During her career, Gracie has run for the office of president of the United States; she has played her piano composition "Concerto for Index Finger" at Carnegie Hall and in the Hollywood Bowl; her surrealistic paintings made several thousand dollars for the American Red Cross some years ago; she is the author of the mystery, "The Gracie Allen Murder Case"; her current daily column runs in some ninety-odd leading newspapers; and, among other things, she lectures, stars in movies and on television, and is the mother of Sandra and Ronnie Burns.

Because George represents the long-suffering, trying-to-be-logical, plain, average American husband, and Gracie, in her own way, represents the slightly giddy, illogical, friendly, confused but triumphant American housewife who always spends a little more than she should on hats, this couple has become solidly identified in the hearts of millions as Mr. and Mrs. America.

That the people enjoy seeing themselves as others see them is evidenced by the fact that the George Burns and Gracie Allen TV program rates among the top comedy shows of the nation.

Gracie was born in San Francisco on July 26, the daughter of a song and dance man, and began acting when she was three. Eventually, she and her three older sisters became the Allen Sisters, song-and-dance act. Irish jigs and brogue were Gracie's specialty. When she disagreed with the company manager over a question of billing, she left the act and sedately undertook a secretarial course in New York.

Meanwhile, George Burns was getting on with his career . . . after a fashion. George was born (January 30) to a family of fair means on New York's East Side, which has been the proving ground of so many comedians. At seven, he started in as a member of the Pee Wee Quartet, receiving \$1.25 for his first evening's work. Later Gus Edwards took over the act, but by that time a changing voice made it necessary for young George to try something else.

He joined a roller-skating act, and by 1922 was doing a comedy song-and-dance turn with Billy Lorraine. It was at this point that Gracie entered his life. Gracie, playing hooky from her secretarial school, made a trip to Union Hill, N. J., with a friend who was trying out an act. Backstage she

mer George Burns, and they became friends.

Later he dissolved his partnership and teamed with her. Since he had written the act, he made himself the comedian. Gracie asked the questions and he gave the answers. However, he admits today that she was the natural comedienne and at the first show everyone laughed at her questions. After the show, he switched parts and has been playing "straight" ever since. For a while, George and Gracie were a "disappointment" act, one used as a last-minute replacement. Then times got better and they began to have long-term vaudeville contracts.

Gracie had been with the Reilly show so long that during the first season of their act she couldn't drop her Irish brogue, so continued to use it. Later, she adopted her present successful characterization of the "dainty girl."

After four years as a team, Burns and Allen signed a six-year contract with RKO theaters. George decided he loved Gracie, but she couldn't make up her mind. He finally gave a ten-day ultimatum, and they were married.

Their first hit act was "Lamb Chops," and its success brought them big-time bookings—given the Palace theater in New York, mecca of all vaudevillians. They played in Europe. In London, in 1930, they made their first radio broadcast, appearing for 15 weeks for the British Broadcasting Company. During the later part of 1930, George Burns and Gracie Allen made their film debut in short subjects for Paramount. While George and Gracie

were playing the Palace theater in New York, Eddie Cantor, who was on the same bill, asked Gracie to do five minutes with him on his radio show. She did, and was so well liked that she and George were signed to star on their own radio program which was an immediate hit. They continued on radio until 1950, when they switched to TV. Their program is filmed in Hollywood for release throughout the nation.

George and Gracie live in a conservative two-story home in Beverly Hills, and have two adopted children—Sandra, born July 28, 1934, and Ronald (Ronnie), born July 9, 1935. Off the air, George says Gracie is a typical housewife who reads, books and "ties up the telephone, just like other women."

Motion pictures in which George Burns and Gracie Allen have appeared include: Big Broadcast of 1932, International House, College Humor, Six of a Kind, Many Happy Returns, We're Not Dressing, Love in Bloom, Here Comes Cooke, Big Broadcast of 1936, Big Broadcast of 1937, College Holiday, College Swing, and The Gracie Allen Murder Case, all for Paramount; Damsel in Distress, RKO; Honolulu, MGM; and Gracie in Mr. and Mrs. North, and Two Girls and a Sailor, both MGM.

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President's Recipe for Chili Con Carne on TV

For his White House story of the week Bill Costello gave President Dwight D. Eisenhower's favorite recipe for Chili con carne, and then confessed that he had a few mimeographed copies of listeners wanted them.

That was Sunday, March 1, at 10:45 p.m. (PST), and it lit up the switchboard at the CBS Radio Washington affiliate WTOP all afternoon. By Monday midday the supply was exhausted and the mimeograph had to be restarted. Here's Ike's recipe:

"Into a large iron skillet or Dutch oven put about two or three heaping tablespoons of beef grease. When hot, set up six to eight medium-sized onions and one large or two medium-sized cloves of garlic. Let this glass or cook for about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, then add two pounds of ground roundsteak or chuck meat, not too fat. When this has lost its red color add a good tablespoon of salt and

two ounces of chili powder. Stir well and add one-and-one-half quarts of hot water. Boil slowly for about 45 minutes to an hour, then add two or three cans of red beans. Do not use kidney beans. Then add one heaping teaspoon of ground cumminseed and then make a small mixture of flour and water to add to the whole in order to take up excess grease and give the gravy greater consistency. It is recommended that this be cooked several hours before it's to be served or even better, a day ahead of time, and then reheat it at meal time.

The recipe dates back to the President's Kansas boyhood days, and furnishes a one-dish meal for eight to 10 people.

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- WEDNESDAY
11:45 a.m.—Garry Moore
12:30 p.m.—The Big Parade
1:30 p.m.—Welcome Travelers
2:00 p.m.—Kate Smith
2:30 p.m.—Doris Keane
3:00 p.m.—Strike It Rich
3:30 p.m.—Matinee Theater
4:15 p.m.—Search for Tomorrow
4:45 p.m.—Love of Life
5:00 p.m.—Howdy Doody
5:30 p.m.—Tootsie Hippodrome
6:00 p.m.—Strike It Rich
6:30 p.m.—Doris Keane
6:45 p.m.—Time for Beany
7:00 p.m.—Fishes
7:45 p.m.—News Caravan
8:00 p.m.—Hollywood Opening Night
8:30 p.m.—Arthur Godfrey
9:00 p.m.—I Married Joan
9:30 p.m.—This Is Your Life
10:00 p.m.—Kraft Theater
11:30 p.m.—March of Time
11:30 p.m.—Nite Theater

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- THURSDAY
11:00 a.m.—Freedom Rings
11:30 a.m.—Hollywood News
11:45 a.m.—Garry Moore
12:30 p.m.—The Big Parade
1:30 p.m.—Welcome Travelers
2:00 p.m.—Kate Smith Show
2:30 p.m.—The Feminine Angle
3:15 p.m.—Arthur Godfrey
3:30 p.m.—Strike It Rich
3:50 p.m.—Matinee Theater
4:15 p.m.—Search for Tomorrow
4:45 p.m.—Love of Life
5:00 p.m.—Stranger Than Fiction
5:30 p.m.—Howdy Doody
6:00 p.m.—Randy Rider
6:30 p.m.—Doris Keane, News
6:45 p.m.—Time for Beany
7:00 p.m.—My Hero
7:30 p.m.—Dinah Shore
7:45 p.m.—News Caravan
8:00 p.m.—Ceccho Marx
8:30 p.m.—Burns and Allen
9:00 p.m.—The Unexpected
9:30 p.m.—Ford Theater
10:00 p.m.—Martin Kane
10:30 p.m.—Wrestling
11:30 p.m.—Nite Owl Theater

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