



Through many years, Jack Benny and George Burns have been friends with but a single thought—"What'll I do to top him?"

these two comedians 38 years ago—and is still happening

if he phoned me I'd hang up in the middle of the conversation. Rubin took the bet, went to his room, called me, and told me about it. He went back, and Jack phoned me. I talked to him for about half an hour. Finally Jack said: "George, aren't you going to hang up?"

I said: "No, I've got half of Benny Rubin's bet."

A few years ago, Gracie and I played the Palladium in London. Unknown to us, Jack flew all the way to England to surprise us on opening night, something of an accomplishment because it isn't easy for anyone as prominent as Jack to sneak into England without reporters and photographers spotting him.

The night before the opening, Val Parnell, managing director of the Palladium, gave a party in our honor. The affair was about half over when Val came over and said there was a phone call for me. When I picked up the receiver, a deep voice with a Cockney accent said a Mr. Benny was calling from Beverly Hills, Calif. A moment later, I heard Jack's voice clearly.

"Hi, George," he started out, "how do you feel? How's Gracie?" And he hung up. I went back into the living room and told the other guests what a crazy fool Jack was, calling me all the way from Beverly Hills and then hang-

(Continued)

Since the retirement of their wives, Mary Livingstone and Gracie Allen, Jack and George have appeared together on TV.



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