

£2 United Kingdom/\$4 Australia & U.S.

LAUGH

The Comedy Magazine

Issue 7 1993



LAUGH is priced at \$4.00 per issue (plus \$1.00 postage) in Australia and the U.S. and £2.00 per issue (plus 50p postage) in Britain. Limited stock of Back Issues are also available at these prices. Subscription rates for four issues are \$20.00 (Aus and U.S.) or £10.00 (Britain) sent by air.

Subscriptions to LAUGH should be directed to the following addresses:

AUSTRALIA: c/o P.O. Box 394, Caulfield East, Victoria 3145. (Cheques payable to P. Tatchell)

GREAT BRITAIN: c/o 75 Priory Avenue, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1SG (Cheques payable to P. Tatchell)

UNITED STATES: c/o P.O. Box 5566, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46896-5566 (Cheques payable to W. Honor)

FAN CLUBS:

The Abbott And Costello Society (c/o P.O. Box 2084, Toluca Lake, California 91610 0084, U.S.A.)

The International Jack Benny Fan Club (c/o 3561 Somerset Avenue, Castro Valley, California 94546, U.S.A. and c/o 75 Priory Avenue, Haverfordwest, Dyfed SA61 1SG, Great Britain)

The Tony Hancock Appreciation Society (c/o 426 Romford Road, Forest Gate, London E7 8DF, Great Britain)

The Spike Jones International Fan Club (c/o 129 East Colorado Boulevard, California 91016, U.S.A.)

The Marx Brotherhood (c/o Darien 28 New Hope, Pennsylvania 18938, U.S.A.)

The Goon Show Preservation Society (c/o 27 Kew Drive, Davyhulme, Urmston, Manchester M31 2WW, Great Britain, c/o P.O. Box 114, Boronia, Victoria 3155, Australia, c/o 34 Denham Way, Thornlie, Western Australia 6108, Australia & c/o 7004 Westmoreland Road, Falls Church, Virginia 22042)

The Steptoe And Son Appreciation Society (c/o 47 Cornwell Crescent, Stamford Le Hope, Essex SS17 1DL, Great Britain)

We Love Lucy (The Lucille Ball Fan Club) (c/o P.O. Box 56234, Sherman Oaks, California 91413, U.S.A.)

The Official Red Dwarf Fan Club (c/o P.O. Box 29, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9TG, Great Britain & c/o P.O. Box 1044, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia)

CLASSIFIEDS:

● IT'S (The Monty Python Fanzine) has vacancies for new readers. Write to Sheila Gibson, P.O. Box 365, University Station, Syracuse, New York 13210, U.S.A.

● WANTED: The Utterly Utterly Merry Comic Relief Christmas Book (Fontana 1986). Contact: Claire Douglas, 3 Alexandra Esplanade, Bellerive, Tasmania 7018, Australia.

● WANTED: Video recordings of Rutland Weekend Television. Contact: Mark French, 15 Isham Close, Northampton NN2 7AQ, Great Britain.

● WANTED: Episodes of TV series Dick Turpin, Making Out, Love Thy Neighbour. Willing to buy or swap (I have a sizeable collection). Contact: Bill Frost, 10 Byrne Road, Balham, London SW12 9JD, Great Britain.

● WANTED: TV series Finn Family Moomintroll and children's picture book Who Will Comfort Toffle? (also the video version). Contact: D. Reis, 8 Valley Street, Kingaroy, Queensland 4610, Australia.

● THE TONY HANCOCK SOCIETY remembers the Lad himself with regular meetings, recordings & quarterly newsletters (featuring articles and interviews by those who knew and worked with him). UK/Overseas membership is £5 Sterling. Write to 77 The Avenue, Acocks Green, Birmingham B27 6NL, Great Britain.

● FOR SALE: Detailed guides to Steptoe & Son, ITMA, Band Waggon, The Burkiss Way, Round The Horne and others. Tony Lang, 52 Pembury Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8BT, Great Britain.

● THE AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION APPRECIATION SOCIETY collects and promotes the classic programmes of the 60's and 70's. P.O. Box 186, Reservoir, Victoria 3073, Australia.

● PYTHON/1948 SHOW/ISIRTA/COOK & MOORE: I am interested in trading recordings of these and other related programmes. Paul Redhead, 36 Well Rd., Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 5PS, England.

● Hundreds of THREE STOOGES licensed merchandise for sale. Also want to buy 16mm Stooges &/or Ted Healy films. Send long, self-addressed, stamped (2oz postage) envelope to Frank Reighter, 10220 Calera Rd, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19114, U.S.A.

● WANTED: Will Hay Films (Original VHS, in presentation case) Good price paid. Bob Barnes, 34 Calder Close, Haydon Wick, Swindon SN2 3QF, Great Britain. (Tel: 0793 722803)

BACK ISSUES:

Limited stock of back issues is available at regular prices and postage. Unfortunately our first issue is now sold out.

LAUGH #1 Barry Humphries/Jack Benny On Television/Monty Python On Disc/The Young Ones/Band Waggon

LAUGH #2 Steptoe & Son/Not Only... But Also/The Marx Brothers On Disc/Police Squad/George Wallace/Craig Ferguson On Disc

LAUGH #3 The Goodies/Roy Rene, 'Mo'/Tom Lehrer/The 'Doctor' Movies/Eddie Cantor On Radio & TV

LAUGH #4 Norman Gunston/The 'Doctor' TV Series/Bob Newhart On Disc/Not The Nine O'Clock News/Fred Allen

LAUGH #5 The Black Adder/Take It From Here/Victor Borge/Yes, What?/Abbott & Costello

LAUGH #6 Lenny Henry/Dad's Army/Jimmy Durante/John Clarke/Steve Martin

Ronnie Barker

by Peter Tatchell

Most comedians and comic actors would be delighted to star in a successful TV series. In Ronnie Barker's case, he's been in four shows regarded as classics ... *The Frost Report*, *The Two Ronnies*, *Porridge* and *Open All Hours*.

Born in Bedford in 1929, he originally wanted to be an architect. However, whilst working at a bank in the late 1940s he got his first taste of the footlights with the local amateur dramatic society. A number of years in repertory followed before he appeared in a series of West End dramas, musicals and a revue called *On The Brighter Side* in 1961.

By this time, Ronnie had also been cast as a regular on the BBC radio series *The Navy Lark* (which began a mammoth seventeen year run in 1959). He played the parts of the grumbling Able Seaman Johnson and the inept Lieutenant Queeg of the engine room. Along the way, there was also a brief spinoff series *The TV Lark*.

A brief part in the Jimmy Edwards television series *The Seven Faces Of Jim* led to regular appearances in the two sequels *Six More Faces Of Jim* and *More Faces Of Jim*. He also costarred with Leslie Phillips in a program called *Foreign Affairs* playing a Russian diplomat.

In the mid-1960s, *The Navy Lark* wasn't Ronnie's only radio show ... he had the lead in *Let's Face It* in early 1965, and a year later was featured in (Leslie) *Crowther's Crowd*. 1966 was to be a momentous year for the Barker career. He'd been asked to join John Cleese and Ronnie Corbett in BBC television's *The Frost Report*.

For thirteen weeks David Frost satirized aspects of everyday life under specific topics. Holidays, education, the law and love all came under scrutiny, with Cleese and the two Ronnies illustrating the subject with a series of sketches. The show was a tremendous success, due in no small part to a writing team headed by Marty Feldman and including most of the Monty Python team of several years later. A second series was shown in 1967.

Frost himself was now moving into the entrepreneurial sphere of show business in commercial television, and rewarded all three members of his team by backing them in individual ventures. Cleese would develop the ground-breaking *At Last! The 1948 Show*, Corbett would host *The Ronnie Corbett Follies*, and Barker would have his own 'comedy playhouse', all for Associated-Rediffusion (London's weekday franchise holder).

The six episodes of *The Ronnie Barker Playhouse* allowed Ronnie to portray a range of characters from a timid Scotsman and a loud-mouthed Welsh poet to a monk under silent orders. His most popular role was the eccentric Lord Rustless which he based in part on the great Fred Emney. Within a year Rustless would have his own spin-off series *Hark At Barker*.

By then, Rediffusion had become part of Thames Television, and Frost had helped set up the new London Weekend company in a major franchise shakeup. The two Ronnies were signed for *Frost On Sunday* which began two days into the new programming in August 1968. It was a continuation of the old *Frost Report* idea, but a more variety-orientated mixture of sketches and one liners. The program also featured a young



Michael Palin (in place of Cleese) and the female parts were handled by Josephine Tewson, who would appear with Barker in several shows over the next twenty years.

The first of these was *Hark At Barker*, which also had David Jason, playing a dithering gardener. It too dealt with a particular subject each week, with the Rustless host role being interrupted by sketches which allowed Ronnie to be seen in a gallery of colourful characterisations. Like *Frost On Sunday*, it ran to a second series.

With the arrival of the 1970s, Barker embarked on a second 'playhouse' type series, this time called *Six Dates With Barker*. This batch produced a myopic removalist (who would reappear nearly two decades later as Clarence), an evil Phantom Raspberry Blower in Victorian London (subsequently reworked as a *Two Ronnies* serial) and a futuristic laughter-dominated society in a story written by someone called Gerald Wiley. Wiley had first appeared on the entertainment scene contributing sketches to *Frost On Sunday* a couple of years before, but was something of a mystery man. No one had ever heard of him, and his scripts always arrived via an intermediary. Only after months of speculation as to who he might be (and his material was invariably useable) was Gerald Wiley revealed to be Ronnie Barker. At the time he wanted his writing efforts to be judged strictly on their potential and felt if he used a *nom de plume* he'd get a more honest response.

In 1971, London Weekend Television was in a state of executive turmoil and there were serious thoughts it would have its franchise terminated after only a handful of years in operation. Stepping out of the mess, Barker and his fellow Frost performer Ronnie Corbett were lured back to the BBC to star in a series built specifically round them ... *The Two Ronnies*. The show was a colourful mixture of one-liners, sketches, a ten-minute serial (usually written by 'Gerald Wiley') plus a spectacular musical offering near the end of each program. Added to this were a couple of guest vocalists (in the pop vein) and in the first series, a European sight act (juggler, mime artist or the like). *The Two Ronnies* was an enormous success from the start, and became a mainstay of BBC programming for nearly

two decades. It also enabled its two stars to develop their particular talents. Ronnie Corbett appeared in a weekly 'chat spot' relating a five-minute monologue which would continually interrupt itself with tangential storylines before ending up in a time-worn joke. Barker's solo piece would be as a bizarre spokesman for some appeal fund or government body and involve a cleverly worded routine full of puns and tricks of the language.

Being at the BBC also led to a series of radio programs titled *Lines From My Grandfather's Forehead* which included a vast collection of unrelated material (sketches, poems, one-liners) written by dozens of contributors, including Harold Pinter, Spike Milligan and Michael Palin. Performed without the aid of a studio audience, the show ran two series and a Christmas special.

In between TV work with *The Two Ronnies*, Barker brought back Lord Rustless in a batch of sitcoms called *His Lordship Entertains* which he wrote under the pseudonym of Jonathan Cobbold. This time, the old duffer has converted his ancestral home into an hotel, and the storylines revolve around the farcical situations encountered by his staff and the guests.

A year later, it was back to the 'playhouse' format for a third time with *Seven Of One*. Originally it was to be *Six Of One*, with a followup series to be called *Half A Dozen Of The Other*, but BBC executive wisdom destroyed the joke by wanting a seventh episode for their programming. It was to be a momentous collection of playlets, yielding not one but two gems which would later lead to the sitcoms *Porridge* and *Open All Hours*.

Porridge (expanded from the episode *Prisoner And Escort*) dealt with the exploits of Norman Stanley Fletcher, a 'career' criminal who regularly spends five years away from his family at taxpayer's expense. Supplied with brilliantly scripted stories by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais, and a supporting cast of Richard Beckinsale, Fulton McKay and Brian Wilde, it was to be Ronnie Barker's most endearing (and enduring) success. By the end of the decade there was also a motion picture spinoff.

Open All Hours was slower to develop, coming into its own in the 1980s after *Porridge* had ended. This time, Ronnie plays a North Country shopkeeper with an impediment in his speech and in his wallet. With David Jason as his nephew Granville (trapped in the environment in the same way as Harold Steptoe was a decade earlier) the penny-pinching Arkwright pursues the lust of his life, the buxom Nurse Gladys Emmanuel who lives opposite with her widowed mother. Scriptwriter Roy Clarke relied heavily on verbal rather than physical humour, although there is a sprinkling of slapstick throughout the programs.

After three series of *Porridge*, it was felt Fletcher should move on, or rather out of the confines of Slade Prison. *Going Straight* (screened in 1978) saw him back home in London trying to resist the temptation of crime with the help of his daughter Ingrid (played by Patricia Brake) and ex-cell mate Lenny Godber (Beckinsale). Though not having the magic of its parent program and lasting only one series, it did have some nice moments.

That same year, Barker joined with Corbett for a stage presentation of *The Two Ronnies* at the London Palladium. It was a very successful mix of sketches and musical items from the television version, some novelty acts and even had a short scene from *Porridge* (with series regular Sam Kelly playing his cell mate). After completing a triumphant British season, the show travelled to the other side of the world for an equally successful Australian tour in the early 1980s.

1978 was a big year for Ronnie Barker. It also saw him awarded an O.B.E. (along with his partner, Ronnie Corbett) for Services to Entertainment.

The Two Ronnies (live, and on TV) and *Open All Hours* occupied most of Ronnie's professional life in the first half of the 1980s, but not content to rest on his laurels he created yet another character, an histrionic Welshman Plantaganent Evans for the BBC in 1984. *The Magnificent Evans* centred on the roguish pursuits of an ebullient photographer with an Oscar Wilde turn of phrase who is assisted by his ladylove Rachel (played by Sharon Morgan).

Following their successful stage tour 'down under', Barker and Corbett returned in 1987 to record an antipodean version of *The Two Ronnies* for the Nine Network. In all, seven episodes were taped featuring much the same format as the BBC shows (but with Australian vocalists taking part).

On returning home, Barker resurrected one of the characters from his 1971 London Weekend series *Six Dates With Barker*, the short-sighted moving man from 1937. *Clarence* (on BBC2) traced the courtship of the character with a maid named Travers (played by Lord Rustless alumni Josephine Tewson) and the couple's eventual settling down in a cottage in the country. Ronnie again provided the scripts (under the name Bob Ferris) and filming took place near his own home.

When the series went out (in January 1988) the show business world was stunned when Ronnie Barker handed in his notice. After four decades in the business, he'd decided to take things easy and pursue his hobby as a collector of curios. In short, to 'stop and smell the roses'.

One of his first ventures was to recount the highs and lows of his career in an autobiography *It's Hello From Him*. And after that, it was a happy retirement for Lord Rustless, Piggy Malone, Norman Stanley Fletcher, Arkwright the shopkeeper and Ronnie Barker.

Radio

The Navy Lark

With Dennis Price (series 1 only), Leslie Phillips, Jon Pertwee, Stephen Murray (series 2 onwards), Ronnie Barker and Heather Chasen.

Series 1: Light Program March 30 to July 12 1959 (16 episodes)

Series 2: Light Program October 16 1959 to April 8 1960 (26 episodes)

Series 3: Light Program November 2 1960 to March 15 1961 (20 episodes)

Series 4: Light Program September 15 1961 to March 9 1962 (26 episodes)

Series 5: Light Program January 25 to May 10 1963 (16 episodes)

• The first ten programs were titled *The TV Lark*

Series 6: Light Program September 27 1963 to February 7 1964 (20 episodes)

Series 7: Light Program July 11 to October 3 1965 (13 episodes)

Series 8: Light Program September 4 to November 27 1966 (13 episodes)

Series 9: Light Program July 2 to November 12 1967 (20 episodes)

• Ronnie Barker's participation in *Frost On Sunday* in late 1968 meant he was forced to leave *The Navy Lark* at this point. It continued on until 1976

Let's Face It

With Ronnie Barker, Rex Garner and Gwendolyn Watts.
Light Program January 8 to May 14 1965 (19 episodes)

Crowther's Crowd

With Leslie Crowther, June Whitfield and Ronnie Barker
Light Program April 17 to July 17 1966 (14 episodes)

Lines From My Grandfather's Forehead

With Ronnie Barker, Terence Brady and Pauline Yates
Series 1: R4 February 15 to April 5 1971 (8 episodes)
Series 2: R4 July 21 to September 8 1972 (8 episodes) plus
Lines From My Grandfather Christmas's Forehead R4
December 24 1971

Television

Six More Faces Of Jim

BBC November 15 to December 20 1962 (6x30m episodes)
The Face Of Fatherhood/The Face Of Renunciation/The Face Of
Wisdom/The Face Of Perserverance/The Face Of Loyalty/The
Face Of Tradition

More Faces Of Jim

BBC June 28 to August 9 1963 (6x30m episodes)
A Matter Of Amnesia/A Matter Of Growing Up/A Matter Of
Spreadeagling;/A Matter Of Upbringing/A Matter Of
Espionage/A Matter Of Empire

The Frost Report

Series 1: BBC1 March 10 to June 9 1966 (13x30m episodes)
Authority/Holidays/Sin/Elections/Class/The News/Education/
Love/The Law/Leisure/Medicine/Food And Drink/Trends
Also a 30 min compilation *Frost Over England* on March 26
1967

Series 2: BBC1 April 6 to June 29 1967 (13x30m episodes)
Money/Women/The Forces/Advertising/Parliament/The
Countryside/Industry/Culture/Transport/Crime/Europe/Youth/Sh
ow Biz

Also a 40 min special *Frost Over Christmas* on December 26
1967

The Ronnie Barker Playhouse

Associated Rediffusion April 3 to May 8 1968 (6x25m
episodes)

Tennyson

by Alun Owen

A loud-mouthed poet has been banned from a recitation contest,
so he arranges a bit of subterfuge.

Ah, There You Are

by Alun Owen

Eccentric Lord Rustless is forced to put off his roller skating
when a film crew arrives at his ancestral home.

• Pilot for Hark At Barker series

The Fastest Gun In Finchley

by Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke

A duel must be fought to decide who should be chairman of the
Hendon Cowpokes' Association.

The Incredible Mr. Tanner

by Johnnie Mortimer and Brian Cooke

An escapologist who performs for theatre queues yearns to be
the new Harry Houdini.

Talk Of Angels

by Hugh Leonard

A monk who mustn't talk finds himself in the midst of an
argument between a married couple.

Alexander

by Alun Owen

A bashful Scotsman with an overbearing mother works with a
group of possessive women.

Frost On Sunday

Series 1: London Weekend Television August 4 1968 to January
5 1969 (23x50m episodes)

Series 2: London Weekend Television January 4 to March 29
1970 (not on Mar 8) (12x50m episodes)

Hark At Barker

Series 1: London Weekend Television April 11 to May 3 1969
(8x25m episodes)

The Aristocracy/Females/Britain's Military/Etiquette/
Literature/Travel/ Astronomy/History

Series 2: London Weekend Television July 10 to August 21
1970 (7x25m episodes)

Music/Law/Communications/Cooking/Medicine/Do-It-Yourself/
Sport

Six Dates With Barker

London Weekend Television January 8 to February 12 1971
(6x25m episodes)

1937: The Removals Person

by Hugh Leonard

On Coronation Day a mover named Fred is helping an upper-
class household to relocate.

1899: The Phantom Raspberry Blower Of Old London Town

by Spike Milligan

The populace is being terrorized by a mysterious figure of evil.

1970: The Odd Job

by Bernard McKenna

A depressed husband contemplates suicide, and employs an
itinerant tradesman to help him go through with it.

1915: Lola

by Ken Hoare and Mike Sharland

A Mata Hari-like spy is hard at work during World War I.

1971: Come In And Lie Down

by John Cleese

A gasman expresses an interest in how a psychiatrist deals with
his strange patients.

2774: All The World's A Stodge

by Gerald Wiley aka Ronnie Barker

Hundreds of years in the future humour has become a religion
which dominates everyday life.

The Ronnie Barker Yearbook

BBC1 March 20 1971 (45m special)

The Two Ronnies

Series 1: BBC1 April 10 to May 29 1971 (8x45m episodes)

Includes the serial Hampton Wick with Madeline Smith

Series 2: BBC1 September 16 to November 4 1972 (8x45m
episodes)

Includes the serial Done To Death with Sue Lloyd

Series 3: BBC2 fortnightly September 27 1973 to January 3
1974 (8x45m episodes)



Plus *The Two Ronnies Old-Fashioned Christmas Mystery* on BBC1 December 26 1973 (60m special)

Series 4: BBC2 January 2 to February 20 1975 (8x45m episodes)

Includes the serial *Death Can Be Fatal* with Cyd Hayman

The Picnic

BBC2—January 1 1976 (30m special)

Series 5: BBC1 September 4 to October 23 1976 (8x45m episodes)

Includes the serial *The Phantom Raspberry Blower*

Series 6: BBC1 November 12 to December 17 1977 and January 2 and 7 1978 (8x45m episodes) Includes the serial *Stop, You're Killing Me*

Plus BBC1 December 26 1977 (45m special)

The Best Of The Two Ronnies

BBC1 August 29 1977 (45m compilation)

Series 7: BBC1 December 26 1978, January 1 and January 6 to February 10 1979 (8x45m episodes) Includes *Sid And Lily, George And Edie*

Series 8: BBC1 November 1 to December 13 and December 26 1980 (8x45m episodes)

Includes the serial *The Worm That Turned* with Diana Dors

Series 9: BBC1 December 5 to 19, December 25 1981 and January 2 to 23 1982 (8x45m episodes) Includes the serial *Band Of Slaves*

By The Sea

BBC1 April 12 1982 (50m special)

The Two Ronnies Christmas Edition

BBC1 December 25 1982 (45m special)

Series 10: BBC1 December 10 1983 to January 14 1984 (6x50m episodes)

The Two Ronnies Christmas Edition

BBC1 December 25 1984 (60m special)

Series 11: February 13 to March 20 1985 (not Feb 27)(5x50m episodes)

Series 12: December 25 1985 and January 4 to February 1 1986 (6x50m episodes)

The Two Ronnies Christmas Edition

BBC1 December 25 1987 (50m special)

20 Years Of The Two Ronnies

BBC1 October 12 to November 30 1986 (8x45m compilation episodes)

21 Years Of The Two Ronnies

BBC1 September 18 to November 6 1987 (8x45m compilation episodes)

22 Years Of The Two Ronnies

BBC1 September 2 to October 28 1988 (not September 30) (8x45m compilation episodes)

His Lordship Entertains

BBC2 June 5 to July 17 1972 (7x30m episodes)

Scripts by Jonathan Cobbold aka Ronnie Barker

1: Costs are mounting at Chrome Hall, but converting his ancestral home into an hotel leads to mixups with dallying wives and health inspectors.

2: The proposed closure of the local railway station threatens business.

3: The arrival of a voluptuous lady named Fifi de la Tour creates havoc.

4: A visiting sheik with ten wives shows an interest in Bates.

5: To attract more guests, Lord Rustless considers opening a safari park.

6: To entertain a visiting convention the staff puts on a cabaret.

7: A wedding at Chrome Hall is being disrupted because of animosity between the happy couple.

Seven Of One

BBC2 March 25 to May 6 1973 (7x30m episodes)

Open All Hours

by Roy Clarke

Penny-pinching shopkeeper Arkwright is led to believe he has a rival for the affections of the buxom nurse Gladys Emmanuel.

• Pilot for series

Prisoner And Escort

by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais

Norman Stanley Fletcher is being transported to desolate Slade Prison where he is to spend five years for his crimes.

• pilot for *Porridge* series

My Old Man

by Gerald Frow

An old man is unwilling to allow his home to be demolished to make way for a housing development.

Spanner's Eleven

by Roy Clarke

Albert Spanner is peeved by the poor form exhibited by his football team.

Another Fine Mess

by Hugh Leonard

A tribute to Laurel and Hardy, where "Stan" and "Ollie" are involved in a marital mix-up.

One Man's Meat

by Jack Goetz = Ronnie Barker

Alan Joyce has been forced by his wife to go on a crash diet and to prevent his cheating she's hidden his clothes.

I'll Fly You For A Quid

by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais

When old Owen, patriarch of the gambling-mad Welsh clan, finally goes off to meet his maker, there is confusion over his winning betting slip.

Porridge

all scripted by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais

Series 1

BBC1 September 5 to October 10 1974 (6x30m episodes)

New Faces, Old Hands

Fletcher sees his first day in prison as a time for arranging a single cell and a cushy job in the library. The Hustler Having a quiet game of cards in the coal cellar may be against the rules but the despicable nurk Ives doesn't want to be left out.

An Evening In

Lenny Godber is assigned to share Fletcher's cell and the two spend the night contemplating life's sweet tapestry on the outside.

A Day Out

Whilst on a working party to dig drains on the outside, Fletcher sees the occasion as an opportunity for a number of "perks".

Ways And Means

When racist taunts drive hot-headed McLaren to stage a protest on the prison roof, it's up to Fletcher to get him down.

Men Without Women

Fletcher's daughter Ingrid arrives on visiting day with the news that his wife Isobel is considering running off with another man.

Series 2

BBC1 October 24 to November 28 1975 (6x30m episodes)

Just Desserts

When Fletcher's tin of contraband pineapple chunks goes missing from his cell he's forced to conclude there's a thief in the prison.

Heartbreak Hotel

Godber receives a 'Dear John' letter from his fiancée Denise but the sight of Fletch's daughter Ingrid soon makes him forget his troubles.

Disturbing The Peace

The arrival of the no-nonsense Napper Wainwright, while Mr. McKay is away on a course, causes a deep depression over Slade Prison.

No Peace For The Wicked

Fletcher's desire for a quiet afternoon to himself in his cell is continually being thwarted by a procession of visitors.

Happy Release

Though laid low with a broken foot in the prison hospital, Fletcher finds time to assist the elderly Blanco retrieve his valuables from the evil Norris.

The Harder They Fall

Godber's participation in a boxing match leads to a considerable amount of interference from rival betting syndicates.

No Way Out

Christmas special

BBC1 December 24 1975 (45m episode)

Christmas festivities at Slade Prison are put in jeopardy when Grouty has been asked to organise an escape tunnel for one of the inmates.

The Desperate Hours

Christmas special

BBC1 December 24 1976 (45m episode)

Fletcher and Godber are caught up in a siege when a fellow prisoner takes over the Governor's office.

Series 3

BBC1 February 18 to March 25 1977 (6x30m episodes)

A Storm In A Teacup

When a bottle of pills is stolen, Grouty insists they be handed over for the commercial benefit of his enterprises.

Poetic Justice

Fletcher is flabbergasted when his new cell mate turns out to be the judge who convicted him.

Rough Justice

When Judge Rawley's valuable watch goes missing a kangaroo court is set up in the cell to establish the guilt of the suspected party.

Pardon Me

Old Blanco has served fifteen years for the murder of his wife and is due for parole if only he'll stop protesting his innocence.

A Test Of Character

Lenny is studying for an O level in history exam and is not at all pleased when Fletcher arranges to get hold of the questions beforehand.

Final Stretch

Godber's time in Slade Prison is almost up but his parole will be jeopardised if he continues to feud with another inmate.

Going Straight

all scripts by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais

BBC1 February 24 to April 7 1978 (not on March 31)(6x30m episodes)

Going Home

Having been released from Slade Prison, Fletcher is en route to London and finds Mr. MacKay a fellow passenger on the train.

Going To Be Alright

Fletcher has been waiting five years to collect some ill-gotten gains he buried in a turnip field in Essex.

Going Sour

Fletcher hopes his trust won't be abused when he tries to stop a homeless teenage girl from becoming a petty thief.

Going To Work

The manager of the Studleigh Hotel has offered Fletcher a job as night security officer but an argument with Ingrid and Lenny threatens his first shift.

Going Going Gone

Fletcher thinks he's being conned by an old lady in collusion with another ex-prisoner, and foolishly hands over some jewellery he's been asked to mind.

Going Off The Rails

As Ingrid and Lenny's wedding looms, Fletch has been offered a job in a forthcoming heist which would provide the money for a slap-up reception.

Open All Hours

all scripts by Roy Clarke

Series 1

February 20 to March 26 1976 BBC2 (6x30m episodes)

1. Arkwright uses his powers of salesmanship to market a supply of tinned goods without labels he bought at an auction.
2. Tired of making deliveries by bicycle, Granville suggests they buy a van but Arkwright sees the back as an ideal resting place for himself and Nurse Gladys Emmanuel.
3. Arkwright pretends to be ill to ensure a visit from Nurse Gladys Emmanuel but an accident en route causes Granville to receive her attention instead.
4. After a visit by a burglar, Arkwright installs an enormous guard dog on the premises, but the animal soon scares away customers.
5. When one of his valued customers dies, Arkwright is forced to leave Granville in charge of the shop to attend the funeral.
6. Arkwright is having second thoughts about his innovative central island of groceries which he now views as a haven for shoplifters.

Series 2

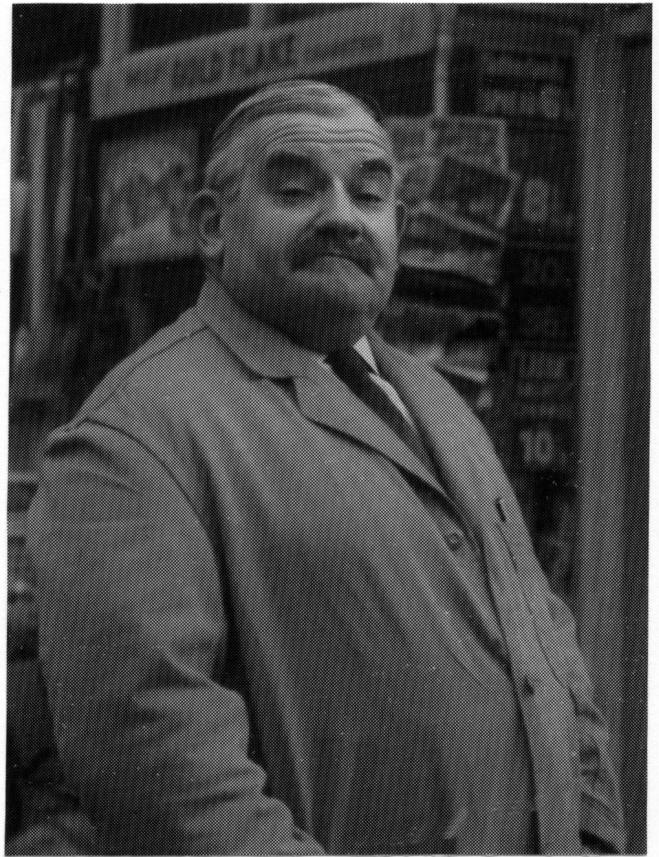
BBC1 March 1 to April 19 1981 (not April 12)(7x30m episodes)

1. Nurse Gladys Emmanuel is so shocked when she sees Arkwright's decrepit old washing machine she insists he buys a new one.
2. Granville wants the shop to himself for an evening of passion with the attractive milkwoman and asks Nurse Gladys Emmanuel to lure Arkwright away.
3. Whilst trying to entice Nurse Gladys Emmanuel with an amorous advance, Arkwright falls into the cellar and requires her professional services instead.
4. Nurse Gladys Emmanuel refuses to go out with Arkwright until he invests in a new suit.
5. At the insistence of Nurse Gladys Emmanuel, Arkwright agrees to expand his business, and sets up-a mobile grocery van.
6. Arkwright and Nurse Gladys Emmanuel are guests at a wedding-but the journey is disrupted by the strong smell of mothballs in his suit.
7. The visit of a mysterious Hungarian stirs up recollections of thirty years before, just before Granville was born.

Series 3

BBC1 March 21 to April 25 1982 (6x30m episodes)

1. Arkwright's attempts to instil a tougher degree of salesmanship into young Granville result in him gaining sympathy from the lady customers.
2. In an attempt to move a surplus supply of ginger cake, Arkwright starts a rumour about their previously unknown benefits.
3. Granville feels his romantic appeal is being hampered by the shop's rickety delivery bike, but Arkwright's attempts at repair are ill-advised.



4. With a view to increased profit by cutting out the middleman, Arkwright decides to produce his own brand of firelighter.
5. Jealousy rears its ugly head when Nurse Gladys Emmanuel is visited by an old flame who receives an extremely warm welcome.
6. Granville decides it's time he abandon his square image and dress in a more "with it" style.

Series 4

BBC1 September 1 to October 6 1985 (6x30m episodes)

1. Granville hopes to meet the girl of his dreams by placing an advert in a lonely hearts magazine, but he hasn't been altogether truthful with the wording.
2. Arkwright is stunned when a rival Pakistani shop keeper beats him at his own game in the salesmanship stakes.
3. To make Nurse Gladys Emmanuel jealous enough to marry him, Arkwright advertises for a live-in housekeeper, but things don't go according to plan.
4. Having been referred to as the shop's 'under-manager', Granville tries to impress a shapely assistant at the local boutique with his executive status.
5. As a ploy to cure Arkwright's rudeness, Nurse Gladys Emmanuel and Granville arrange for a visit from a phony "Good Shop Guide" inspector.
6. Granville is forced to act as a burglar when Arkwright schemes to enter Nurse Gladys Emmanuel's bedroom in the guise of a crime patrol.

The Magnificent Evans

all scripts by Roy Clarke

BBC1 September 6 to October 11 1984 (6x30m episodes)

1. Plantagenet Evans photographs a lot of wedding parties but tact is not one of his strong points when dealing with the happy couple.
2. Evans has been hired by the local newspaper to photograph a municipal figure and the winner of a song contest.
3. Evans has been commissioned to photograph the successful angler in the village's annual fishing contest.
4. A pair of championship ballroom dancers are to be the subject of Evans' latest engagement.
5. Evans is eager to entice wealthy American tourists to the valley.
6. When Rachel acquires a wedding dress, everyone wonders if Evans will finally propose.

The Two Ronnies (In Australia)

Nine Network October 15 to November 5 1986 and July 17 to 31 1987 (7x45m episodes)

Clarence

all scripts by Bob Ferris aka Ronnie Barker

BBC2 January 4 to February 8 1988 (6x30m episodes)

1. In 1937, removalist Clarence Sale forms a friendship with Travers, a maid in the employ of a household he's been hired to relocate.
2. Before agreeing to marriage, Travers talks Clarence into a trial relationship in the Oxfordshire countryside.
3. The decrepit country cottage is in urgent need of repair, and when the spare bedroom's ceiling collapses Travers and Clarence are forced to share.
4. Travers decides the cottage should boast a chicken run but Clarence isn't exactly a dab hand at building.
5. A visit to the local labour exchange results in Clarence being given a job with the local council.
6. Clarence and Travers have both found work with the same employer and seem secure enough to embark on wedded bliss.

Recordings

Irma La Douce

Philips BBL 7274 (LP)(1958)

Highlights from the 1958 Lyric Theatre, London revue which featured Keith Michell, Clive Revill, Ronnie Barker and Julian Orchard.

Ronnie is featured on two tracks: Tres, Tres Snob (with John East)/That's A Crime (with John East)

On The Brighter Side

Decca LK 4395/SKL 4134 (LP)(1961)

Highlights from the 1961 Phoenix Theatre, London revue which featured Ronnie Barker, Stanley Baxter, Judy Carne, David Kernan and Betty Marsden.

Ronnie is featured on six tracks: Grounds For Divorce (with Baxter and Marsden)/The House That Jack's Building (with Baxter and Kernan)/Table Talk (with Marsden)/Auf Wiederseh'n (with Baxter, Kernan, Bob Stevenson and Victor Duret)/A Resounding Tinkle (with Baxter, Marsden and Company)/Lord Oxshott's Dilemma (with Baxter and Marsden)

The Frost Report On Everything

Pye NPL 18199 (LP)(February 1968)

Highlights from the soundtrack of the 1966 series of the BBC1 series *The Frost Report* which featured David Frost, John Cleese, Ronnie Barker, Ronnie Corbett and Sheila Steafel. Tracks are not itemised, but Ronnie is featured on The Garden Fete, The Politician, Theatre Critic, String and two versions of The Class System.

A Pint Of Old And Filthy

M.G.M. C 8107 (LP)(1969)

They Tell Me There's A Lot Of It About/All Sorts/I Go Oompah/Billy Pratt's Bananas/Not Round Here/The State Of The Economy/Black Pudding March/Not Too Tall, Not Too Short/I Put It In The Hands Of My Solicitor/Bang Crash Ooh Ah!/I Can't Stand By And Just Watch Others Suffer/Our Mary Ann/Nell Of The Yukon/I Believe In Doing Things In Moderation

Vintage Variety

BBC Records REC 134M (LP)(1973) contains an extract from Crowther's Crowd with Ronnie Barker and June Whitfield

Fifty Years Of Radio Comedy

BBC Records REC 138M (LP)(1973) contains an extract from The Navy Lark with Leslie Phillips, Jon Pertwee, Stephen Murray and Ronnie Barker

Jehosophat And Jones

Philips 6308 190 (LP)(1973)

Studio recordings of Ronnie Barker/Ronnie Corbett duets originally featured on BBC1's *The Two Ronnies*: Up Cat Pole Cat/Stuttering Bum/The Gal Who's Gonna Marry Me/Railroad Man/Dimples/Our Mary Ann/We Knew What She Meant/Nell Of The Yukon/It Blows My Mind/In The Summertime/Gal From Arkansaw/Barn Dance

The Best Of The Two Ronnies

Transatlantic TRA 328 (LP)(1976)

Studio recordings of Ronnie Barker/Ronnie Corbett musical routines originally featured on BBC1's *The Two Ronnies*: Moira McKeller And Kenneth Anderson/The Brass Band/The Plumpstead Ladies Male Voice Choir/Gilbert And Sullivan/The Scouts Jamboree Show/The Russian Choir/ The Boys In The Ballet/The Short And Fat Minstrels

The Two Ronnies

BBC Records REB 257 (LP)(1976)

Highlights from series 4 of BBC2's *The Two Ronnies* (and one sketch * from series 3): Opening News/The Strange Case Of Mrs. Mace/Plain Speaking/Grublian*/ Dr. Spooner Revisited/A Doctor's Life (i)/About A Bout/Closing News/ Opening News/Doctors Anonymous/Jolly Rhymes/The Complete Rook/Ronnie Corbett's Chat Spot/A Doctor's Life (ii)/Closing News

The Two Ronnies—Volume 2

BBC Records REB 300 (LP)(1977)

Highlights from series 5 of BBC1's *The Two Ronnies*: Opening News/Train Of Events/Mispronunciation/Put Me Down For Two + Late News/Night, Night/Cheers/Cricket Commentators/Closing News/Opening News/ All In A Day's Wonk/Sex Equality/Late News + Pam Ayres/The Castaway/ You're Welcome, Milord/Closing News



The Two Ronnies—Volume 3

BBC Records REB 331 (LP)(1978)

Highlights from series 6 of BBC1's *The Two Ronnies*:

Opening News/How's Your Father?/Ice Cream Parlour/Dr. Spooner In The Bookshop/ Teach Yourself P.C./The Ronnie Corbett Solo/Limerick Writers/The Late News/ The News + Mark My Words/The Restaurant/Trouble And Strife + More Worms/ Put Your Back Into It/The Closing News

The Two Ronnies—Volume 4

BBC Records REB 393 (LP)(1980) highlights from series 7 of BBC1's *The Two Ronnies*:

Opening News/Chacun A Son Gout/British Rail/Ouija Board/Conversation Piece/ Council House/Closing News/ Opening News/You Are What You Eat/Rupert Baird/ Language Barrier/Allied Tiches/Yes Man/Closing News

Porridge

BBC Records REB 270 (LP)(1977) soundtracks of two editions: An Evening In/Heartbreak Hotel

Ronnie Barker's Unbroken British Record

K-tel NE 1029 (LP)(1978)

The Irish Medley: I'll Have A Drink With You + Thump Thump + It Pays To Listen/Plain Speaking/The Redskins Annual Dinner/The Vicar Of St. Cain And Abel/The Chelsea Pensioners Medley: Madeleine + Daisy + Katie + Ivy + Mary + Phyllis Hooter's Ball + Folly Gray/The Scottish Medley: Amazing Grace + The Ball Of Kirriemuir + McTourism + The Yiddish Soldier/They Tell Me There's A Lot Of It About/Not Round Here/Pismonunciation/The Welsh Medley: All Through The Night + A Girl Called Megan + The Gogogoff Eisteddofod

Going Straight/String Bean Queen

E.M.I. EMI 2768 (7" single)(March 1978)

the following releases feature reissues of the above material:

The Very Best Of Me And The Very Best Of Him

BBC Records REC 514 (LP)(October 1984)

But First The News/Plain Speaking/Mark My Words/Train Of Events/British Rail/Night, Night/Limerick Writers/The Complete Rook/The Restaurant/The Castaway/Language Barrier/Cheers/The Late News

Comedy Special

BBC Records REH 294 (LP)(October 1977) features a *Porridge* extract: A Quiet Night In, and a *Two Ronnies* sketch: The Strange Case Of Mrs. Mace

Comedy Spectacular

BBC Records REB 249 (LP)(October 1976) features a *Two Ronnies* duet: We Knew What She Meant

Fun At One

BBC Records REB 371 (LP)(1979)

Features Mispronunciation

The Golden Hour Of Comedy

Pye/Golden Hour GH 530 (LP)

Features an extract from *The Frost Report On Everything*

The Golden Hour Of Comedy

Pye/Golden Hour GH 530 (LP) features an extract from *The Frost Report On Everything*

The Laughing Stock Of The BBC

BBC Records LAF 1 (LP)(April 1982) includes two *Two Ronnies* sketches: Ice Cream Parlor and Chacun A Son Gout

More Fun At One

BBC Records REB 399 (LP)(November 1980) features a *Two Ronnies* sketch: The Restaurant

We Are Most Amused

Ronco RTD 2067 (2LPs)(November 1982) features a *Two Ronnies* sketch: The Restaurant

Books

It's Goodnight From Him

by Ronnie Barker (Hodder and Stoughton, 1976)

A collection of sketches, originally performed on The Two Ronnies

Fletcher's Book Of Rhyming Slang

by Ronnie Barker (Pan ppk, 1979)

It's Hello—From Him

by Ronnie Barker (New English Library, 1988)

Ronnie has also compiled a number of books featuring collections of classic postcards:

Ronnie Barker's Book Of Boudoir Beauties

Ronnie Barker's Book Of Bathing Beauties

Sauce

Gentleman's Relish

Sugar And Spice

Ooh-La-La! The Ladies Of Paris

Pebbles On The Beach.

Various collections of one-liners, sketches, and novelisations of storylines have been published relating to Ronnie Barker's television work:

The Two Ronnies—But First The News

(compiled) by Peter Vincent (Star Books ppk, 1977)

The Two Ronnies—Nice To Be With You Again

(compiled) by Peter Vincent (Star Books ppk, 1977)

The Two Ronnies—In A Packed Program Tonight

(edited) by Ian Davidson (Star Books ppk, 1978)

The Two Ronnies—And It's Hello From Him

(edited) by Ian Davidson (Star Books ppk, 1980)

The Two Ronnies—Time For A Few Extra Items

(edited) by Ian Davidson (Star Books ppk, 1981)

The Two Ronnies—It's Goodnight From Him

(edited) by Ian Davidson (Star Books ppk, 1982)

The Two Ronnies Sketchbook

(edited) by Peter Vincent (Star Books ppk, 1978)

The Two Ronnies Comic Book!

by Denis Gifford (Corti-Carousel ppk, 1978)

The Two Ronnies Annual

(Brown Watson, 1979)

Porridge

by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais (adapted by Jonathan Marshall) (BBC Books ppk, 1975). Novelisations of pilot episode plus series one.

Another Stretch Of Porridge

by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais (adapted by Paul Victor)(BBC Books ppk, 1976). Novelisations of series two plus the 1975 Christmas edition.

A Further Stir Of Porridge

by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais (adapted by Paul Victor)(BBC Books, 1977). Novelisations of the 1976 Christmas edition and series three.

Going Straight

by Dick Clement and Ian La Frenais (adapted by Paul Victor) (BBC Books, 1978). Novelisations of all six episodes.

Open All Hours

by Roy Clarke (adapted by Christine Sparks)(BBC Books ppk, 1981). Novelisations of series one episodes.

Video

Open All Hours

BBC Video BBCV 4321

82 minutes compiled from the first three programs of series one.

Porridge

BBC Video BBCV 4319

Contains three episodes: Prisoner And Escort/Just Desserts/The Desperate Hours

Porridge

BBC Video BBCV 4459

Contains three episodes: A Day Out/Ways And Means/Disturbing The Peace

The Two Ronnies: By The Sea and The Picnic

BBC Video BBCV 4365

The Best Of The Two Ronnies

BBC Video BBCV 4004

45 minutes of highlights

The Best Of The Two Ronnies

Polygram/BBC BBCMS 012

60 minutes of highlights

A Home Of Your Own

Warner Home Video PES 39194

Porridge

Channel 5 CFVO 2822/SPCO 0272, 4 Front Video 0842583

The feature film version.

Coming Up in
LAUGH
issue eight

JASPER CARROTT

DANNY KAYE

THE AMNESTY CHARITY CONCERTS
& MUCH MORE

Stan Freberg

by Peter Tatchell

In the 1950s, the undisputed king of audio comedy was Stan Freberg. His send-ups of popular hit records and television shows were popular all around the world, not only for their clever satirical content, but also for their outlandish sense of fun. It's been suggested he was born a decade too late to reap the benefits of American network radio, but a major part of his success came from lampooning the music and television of the early days of the rock 'n' roll era.

Freberg was born in August 1926 of Swedish descent (his father was a Baptist minister) and grew up in a suburb of Los Angeles during the golden days of radio. A magician uncle whetted his appetite for the world of show business and at the age of seventeen he auditioned for the cartoon department at Warner Brothers (the home of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck and dozens of others). Performing a selection of impersonations and character voices from behind a curtain, the youngster so impressed the gathering of directors and decision makers he was hired on the spot.

Over the next few years, Stan provided vocal interpretations of mice, gophers, bears and a myriad of other species for not only Warner Bros., but also Walt Disney, Paramount, Walter Lantz and MGM. In 1945 he took part in the breakfast session of a local radio station, and in the absence of a studio audience Stan did a range of characters as substitute interviewees.

Later that year Freberg began two years of military service (at the request of "Uncle Sam") and upon his discharge got a job playing guitar with a novelty band in the Spike Jones tradition. In 1949, he teamed with another young voice artist Daws Butler to mouth the dialogue for a fifteen minute-a-day live-to-air puppet series *Time For Beany* on Los Angeles' first commercial television station. Despite a miniscule budget and production values to match, the constant adlibbing throughout the storyline soon made the program something of a cult favourite and it won a number of awards during its five year run.

Soon after *Beany* had started, Stan was asked to make a test recording of a novelty routine he'd perfected whilst touring with the band ... a strange satire of soap operas called *John And Marsha* where the two names are repeated over and over with various inflections conveying a range of emotions. Despite a good deal of scepticism within Capitol Records, the disc found favour with the company's president and founder, Glenn Wallichs and upon release, the number rocketed up the charts. Stan Freberg was now a recording star!

In early 1952, Stan decided he'd had enough of Johnny Ray's *Cry* which was echoing forth from radio sets across the country and penned a parody version titled *Try*. Within weeks, Freberg's response was also sweeping the airwaves. The notoriety caused by the rendition even resulted in an article in *Time* magazine.

A little over a year later, Stan zeroed in on the enormously popular television police series *Dragnet* and (with Daws Butler and June Foray) created his incredibly successful spoof "Dragonet". Jack Webb, creator and star of the original, was delighted with the send-up and even allowed the show's theme music to be used on the disc.

Not all of Freberg's targets went along with his satire, however. Lawyers for both Ed Sullivan and Arthur Godfrey



(then top TV names from coast to coast) objected to the ridicule Stan had heaped upon their clients and forced the offending tracks to be locked away in Capitol's vaults. In both cases they have still not been released.

Freberg's recording success had resulted in his appearing on quite a bit of television himself in those early years of the 1950s either as a panelist (on such shows as *Musical Chairs* on CBS) or performing his latest Capitol release on variety programs. He also found his way in front of the movie camera in MGM's *Callaway Went Thataway* and Republic's *Geraldine*. In 1954 he starred in a radio sitcom on CBS called *That's Rich* which aired for a season.

By the mid-1950s Stan was becoming known as one of the country's leading satirists through his Capitol releases. Television targets ranged from Ed Murrow's *Person To Person*, *The Lone Ranger* and *The Honeymooners* to a daring sendup of the controversial McCarthy Un-American Activities hearings. The arrival of rock 'n' roll music sent him racing into the studios and Freberg versions of **Sh-Boom** and **Heartbreak Hotel** were soon in the record racks. He even vented his spleen against Harry Belafonte's **Banana Boat Song** much to the displeasure of the artist.

On August 31st 1956, The CBS Radio Workshop devoted a half hour program to *An Analysis Of Satire* presented by Stan and his 'regulars' Daws Butler and June Foray. The show poked fun at political conventions and hi-fidelity sound buffs and even included a performance of the previously censored Arthur Godfrey lampoon.

Later that year Stan travelled to Australia and was delighted to find the locals were not averse to having their impending Olympic Games mocked by an American whose only prior contact had been via his 78rpm records. He was also surprised at the enthusiastic reaction given to his parodies of US television programs, in a country where the medium had not yet arrived. He made a follow-up tour with Frank Sinatra three years later.

In mid-1957, CBS radio had been so impressed by his earlier offerings that they premiered a sponsorless half-hour *Stan Freberg Show* every Sunday night. Though the series ran for only fifteen weeks it produced some inspired moments of comedy, and a handful of routines which have now become classics.

Apart from capitalizing on Freberg's recording career with renditions of **The Banana Boat Song**, **Yellow Rose Of Texas** and **Rock Island Line** and new versions of his television sendups **St George And The Dragonet** and **The Honeyeaters**, the program yielded a notorious spoof of popular musician Lawrence Welk "Wun'erful, Wun'erful" which would be released as a single soon after. Regular characters on the show included Robert E. Tainter, an investigative reporter of historical greats, Mrs. Hagmire Prill, birdwatcher and sculptress in margarine, the Zazaloph Family (radio's first, and possibly last, acrobatic group) and Professor Herman Horne, hi-fidelity aficionado. It truly was the 'theatre of the mind'.

Despite having a cast of recording alumni such as Daws Butler and June Foray, one of the most popular sketches featured Stan interviewing himself, in the guise of the Abominable Snowman. So well received were the vocal gymnastics that it was reworked in two later editions. Also popular was Stan's attempt to sing the classic **Ol' Man River** while being interrupted by the infuriating Mr. Tweedly, who finds offence at nearly every line of lyric.

The Stan Freberg Show was an oasis in a medium quickly sinking into a morass of wall-to-wall pop music, and the economics of 1957 radio prevented it continuing beyond a short season. It was the peak of Freberg's performing career and a double-LP of highlights remains testimony to its triumph.

As a child of radio, Stan regarded the spoken word and the images built up by sound as the mainstay of his craft and it must have been acutely disappointing to realize the medium of broadcasting could no longer offer an outlet for his talents. Not in the traditional sense anyway.

By the end of the 1950s, Freberg charted a new career path. Like millions of Americans he was affronted by the repetitive drivel put out by the advertising agencies (he'd even satirized the industry on his radio series). Why not create commercials that actually contained a modicum of wit to get their message across?

He formed his own company and set about promoting everything from aluminium foil and Chinese food to a mammoth six-and-a-half minute production for a brand of coffee. The public supported his efforts by dramatically increasing the sales of the products marketed.

From the early 1960s onwards, Stan was rarely seen (or heard) performing, with his creative juices channeled through his agency Freberg, Limited (but not very). On occasion though, he also lent his acting talents to his advertisements.

There were a couple of ventures for Capitol Recordis as well. In 1961 he put together a satirical history of the United States, from Columbus to the War Of Independence. A follow-up volume was planned but with the success of the disc a full-scale Broadway musical version was scripted instead, which would include both the released material and the new sketches. Unfortunately after a series of setbacks the production was abandoned, and the additional items have remained in limbo ever since.

In 1966, Stan decided to rekindle some of the magic of his radio show with an LP called **Freberg Underground!**. One of

the tracks tried to explain the greatness of the golden days of broadcasting to his young daughter Donna, with "little old lady" June Foray declaring that compared to The Shadow 'James Bond is a fink!'. Billed as an experiment in 'Pay Radio', it has unfortunately inspired no sequels.

It would be twenty-five years before Freberg would step out from his guise of advertising man (apart from supplying the voice for the title character in *Family Dog*, an animated edition of Steven Spielberg's *Amazing Stories* television series in early 1987).

For Thanksgiving 1991, Stan scripted a one-hour special for American National Public Radio (in conjunction with Britain's BBC, who aired it as two half-hour programs). Modern day targets for the Freberg wit included Madonna, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Michael Jackson and Yassar Arafat. Telephone answering machines and faxes also came under scrutiny, and there was a welcome return of old favourite The Abominable Snowman.

Four decades after his heyday the enterprise proved Stan Freberg had lost none of his wit and sense of silliness. Let's hope he can be persuaded to come back into the limelight for further encores.

Recordings

John And Marsha/Ragtime Dan

Capitol F 1356 (78rpm)(Nov 7 1950/late 1950)

I've Got You Under My Skin/That's My Boy

Capitol F 1711 (78rpm)(June 22 1951)

Tele-Vee-Shun (1st version)/Maggie

Capitol F 1962 (78rpm)(early 1952/Nov 7 1950)

Try/Pass The Udder Udder

Capitol F 2029 (78rpm)(Mar 3 1952)

Abe Snake For President/Ba-Ba-Ball And Chain

Capitol F 2125 (78rpm)(Mar 3 1952)

The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise/The Boogie Woogie

Banjo Man From Birmingham

Capitol F 2279 (78rpm)(Oct 2 1952)

St. George And The Dragonet/Little Blue Riding Hood

Capitol F 2596 (78rpm)(Aug 26 1953)

Yulenet (aka Christmas Dragnet)(parts 1 and 2)

Capitol F 2671 (78rpm)(Nov 4 1953)

A Dear John And Marsha Letter/C'Est Si Bon

Capitol F 2677 (78rpm)(Nov 12 1953)

Point Of Order/Person To Pearson

Capitol F 2838 (78rpm)(mid-1954)

Sh-Boom/Wide Screen Mama Blues

Capitol F 2929 (78rpm)(Aug 26 1954)

The Lone Psychiatrist/The Honeyeaters

Capitol F 3138 (78rpm)(Mar 23 1955)

The Yellow Rose Of Texas/Rock Around Stephen Foster

Capitol F 3249 (78rpm)(Sep 6 1955)

Nuttin' For Christmas/The Night Before Christmas

Capitol F 3280 (78rpm)(late 1955)

The Great Pretender/The Quest For Bridey Hammerschlaugen

Capitol F 3396 (78rpm)(Mar 3 1956)



Heartbreak Hotel/Rock Island Line

Capitol F 3480 (78rpm)(Jun 12 1956)

Banana Boat Song (Day-O)/Tele-Vee-Shun (2nd version)

Capitol F 3687 (45rpm)(Mar 6 1957)

Wun'erful, Wun'erful (parts 1 and 2)

Capitol F 3815 (45rpm)(Sep 11 1957)

Ya Got Trouble/Gary, Indiana

Capitol F 3892 (45rpm)(Oct 27 1958)

Green Christmas/The Meaning Of Christmas

Capitol F 4097 (45rpm)(Oct 27 1958)

The Old Payola Roll Blues (parts 1 and 2)

Capitol F 4329 (45rpm)(late 1959)

Comments For Our Time (parts 1 and 2)

Capitol F4433

Omaha

Capitol EAP 1-1101 (45rpm)(1959)

Overture/Whatta They Got In Omaha?/Omaha Moon/Omaha/I Look In Your Face/Reprise

Dinky and Pinky

Capitol CASF 3162

The Best Of The Stan Freberg Shows

Capitol WBO 1035 (2LPs)(Sep 1958)

Highlights from the 1957 series which also starred Daws Butler, June Foray, Peggy Taylor, Peter Leeds and Jud Conlon's Rhythmairs.

Opening/Elderly Man River/Face The Funnies/The Zazaloph Family/Bang Gunleigh, U.S. Marshall Field/Tuned Sheep/ Incident At Los Voraces// Opening/Abominable Snowman Interview/Freberg In Advertisingland/ Herman Horne On Hi-Fi/Literary Giants Of Our Time/Cocktails For Two/ Son Of Herman Horne On Hi-Fi/Grey Flannel Hatful Of Teenage Werewolves/ Conclusion

The United States Of America

Capitol (S)W 1573 (LP)(July 1961)

Overture/It's A Round, Round World/Take An Indian To Lunch This Week/Under The Double Turkey/Top Hat, White Feather And Tails/The Boston Tea Party/A Man Can't Be Too Careful What He Signs These Days/Everybody Wants To Be An Art Director/Command Decision/Yankee Doodle Go Home/The Battle Of Yorktown/Finale

Freberg Underground! Show #1

Capitol (S)T 2551 (LP)(Nov 1966)

With June Foray, Peter Leeds, Naomi Lewis, Byron Kane, Charles Lane, Bill Woodson, Donna Freberg Jr. and Jud Conlon's Rhythmairs.

Opening/Father Of The Year Award/The Shaft Theatre: The Flackman And Reagan/ Digit Dialling Demonstration/Pop Art Interview/Anybody Here Remember Radio?/ Folk Songs For Our Time: Oh Dat Freeway System-Poor Bobby Baker-Dey Took Away My Diner's Club Card-Which Is The Girl? Which Is The Boy?/ Closing

The following releases feature reissues of the above material:

Stan Freberg

British Capitol eap1 496 (45rpm EP)

John And Marsha/The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise/Try/I've Got You Under

My Skin

Real St. George

British Capitol eap1 628 (45rpm EP)

St. George And The Dragonet/C'Est Si Bon/Sh-Boom/That's My Boy

The Great Pretender

British Capitol eap2 0050 (45rpm EP)

The Yellow Rose Of Texas/The Great Pretender/Banana Boat/Rock Island Line

Freberg Again

British Capitol eap1 20115 (45rpm EP)

Point Of Order/Person To Pearson/The Lone Psychiatrist/The Honeyearthers

It's Stan Freberg

Australian Capitol eap 006 (45rpm EP)

The Honeyearthers/A Dear John And Marsha Letter/The Lone Psychiatrist/Little Blue Riding Hood

A Child's Garden Of Freberg

Capitol T 777 (LP)(mid-1957)

St. George And The Dragonet/C'est Si Bon/Try/Wide-Screen Mama Blues/Heartbreak Hotel/Rock Around Stephen Foster/The Yellow Rose Of Texas/John And Marsha/The Great Pretender/That's My Boy/Rock Island Line/Sh-Boom

Stan Freberg With The Original Cast

Capitol T 1242 (LP)(Oct 1959)

Banana Boat/Wun'erful, Wun'erful/The Quest For Bridey Murphy/Trouble/Tele-Vee-Shun (2nd version)/Little Blue Riding Hood/Ba-Ba-Ball And Chain/Green Christmas

the above disc was reissued in Australia as:

Stan Freberg Encores

Australian E.M.I./Encore ENC 9070 (LP)

Face The Funnies

Capitol T 1694 (LP)(Apr 1962)

Comprises disc 1 of "The Best Of The Stan Freberg Shows" 2LP set

Madison Avenue Werewolf

Capitol T 1816 (LP)(Jan 1963) comprises disc 2 of "The Best Of The Stan Freberg Shows" 2LP set

The Best Of Stan Freberg

Capitol T 2020 (LP)(Jan 1964)

The Yellow Rose Of Texas/John And Marsha/St. George And The Dragonet/Banana Boat/Trouble/Tele-Vee-Shun (2nd version)/C'est Si Bon/Heartbreak Hotel/Rock Island Line/The Great Pretender/The Quest For Bridey Hammerschlaugen/Try

Stan Freberg vs. Rock 'n' Roll

Australian Raven RVLP 1019 (LP)(1987)

The Old Payola Roll Blues/Heartbreak Hotel/Sh-Boom/The Great Pretender/Try/Rock Island Line/The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise/C'est Si Bon/I've Got You Under My Skin/Banana Boat/The Yellow Rose Of Texas/Ba-Ba-Ball And Chain/Rock Around Stephen Foster/Folk Songs Of Our Time (ext)/Rock Around Romeo And Juliet (from Incident At Los Voraccs)/Wide Screen Mama Blues/Omaha/Australian Radio Jingles

The Capitol Years

British Capitol 7 91929 1 (LP), 7 91929 2 (CD)

The Yellow Rose Of Texas/St. George And The Dragonet/Sh-Boom/C'est Si Bon/Rock Island Line/Tele-Vee-Shun (2nd version)/Rock Around Stephen Foster/Wun'erful, Wun'erful/Banana Boat/Little Blue Riding Hood/I've Got You Under My Skin/Heartbreak Hotel/The Quest For Bridey Hammerschlaugen/The Great Pretender/The Old Payola Roll Blues/Green Christmas

Collector Series—Stan Freberg

Capitol CDP 7 91627 2 (CD)

John And Marsha/I've Got You Under My Skin/That's My Boy/Try/The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise/St. George And The Dragonet/Little Blue Riding Hood/Yulenet/C'est Si Bon/A Dear John And Marsha Letter/Sh-Boom/The Yellow Rose Of Texas/The Great Pretender/Heartbreak Hotel/Rock Island Line/Banana Boat/Tele-Vee-Shun (2nd version)/Wun'erful, Wun'erful/Green Christmas

Stan Freberg's Greatest Hits

Curb D2-77615 (CD)(1993)

St. George And The Dragonet/John And Marsha/Wun'erful, Wun'erful/Try/I've Got You Under My Skin/Little Blue Riding Hood/The Yellow Rose Of Texas/Banana Boat/The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise/Heartbreak Hotel

Radio

That's Rich

CBS Thursdays July 8 to September 23 1954 (12 episodes)

The Stan Freberg Show

CBS Sundays July 14 to October 20 1957 (15 editions)

With Daws Butler, June Foray, Peggy Taylor, Peter Leeds and Jud Conlon's Rhythmaires.

#1 Opening: We're All Stan Freberg/Tuned Sheep/Incident At Los Voraces

#2 Opening: John And Marsha Interrupted/Abominable Snowman/Great Moments From History: Barbara Fritchie/Margarine Sculptures At Mount Rushmore/Wrong Number/Rock Around Stephen Foster

#3 Miss Jupiter/Skin Diving Mandolin Serenaders/Bird Watching/The Zazaloph Family/Robert E. Tainter: Custer's Last Stand

#4 Opening: Too Piercing!/Paul Revere/Herman Horne On Hi-Fi/Lox Audio Theatre: Rock Around My Nose/The Yellow Rose Of Texas

#5 Opening: Stan Freberg Show Played Backward At High Speed/Moon Man Orville (incl. Hello, Out There, Hello)/Herman Horne On Hi-Fi *2,Wun'erful, Wun'erful/A Universal Plea For One Minute's Tap Dancing

#6 Opening: Theme From "I Was A Teenage Werewolf"/Elderly Man River/Robert E. Tainter: The Boy Stood On The Burning Deck/Face The Funnies/Rock Island Line

#7 Opening: The Outcome Of The Floyd Patterson Fight/The Lone Psychiatrist/Monsieur Toulet And His Nose Flute/There You Are: The Driving Of The Golden Spike/Banana Boat Song

#8 The Zazaloph Family Return/Uninterrupted Melody—The Story Of The Good Humor Ice-Cream Men/Face The Funnies *2/St. George And The Dragonet

#9 Opening: A Condensed Version Of The Confidential Magazine Trial/The Abominable Snowman And Fiancee/Robert E. Tainter: Washington Crossing The Delaware/The Honeyeaters

#10 Audience Gripes About Freeways/The Freberg Do-It-Yourself Grand Piano/Literary Giants Of Our Time: Fortune Cookie Writer Albert T. Wong/Herman Horne On Hi-Fi *3/Heartbreak Hotel

#11 College Footballer Francis "Butch" Sharmley/The Monkey Song/Foster Pelt, Theatrical Agent For Dog Acts/Bang Gunleigh—U.S. Marshall Field

#12 Land Speed Attempt/The Home Handyman/Robert E. Tainter, Labor Racketeer/Sh-Boom!

#13 Cocktails For Two/Circus Discussion/Grey Flannel Hat Full Of TeenageWerewolves

#14 Stan Sponsors Himself/Miss Jupiter Returns/Freberg In Advertisingland/Private Eye Sam Spillade

#15 Special Encore Show: Elderly Man River/Bang Gunleigh/Banana Boat Song/Wun'erful, Wun'erful/Abominable Snowman

The (New) Stan Freberg Show

National Public Radio/BBC co-production

60-minute version played over PBS on Thanksgiving 1991, two 30-minute versions played on BBC Radio 2 on December 26 1991 and January 2 1992

With Ray Bradbury, David Ogden Stiers, June Foray, Naomi Lewis, Harry Shearer, Donovan Freberg, Donna Ebsen and the Jimmy Bryant Singers

#1 Sounds of Arnold Schwarzenegger Falling Off His Wallet and Madonna (In Cone Bra) Jogging Into The Studio Wall/Freberg's Theatre Of The Mind/Being A Spy After Glasnost/The Giraffe In The Smithsonian/Arafat's Beard Theory/Sony Boy/Freberg Zone vs. Ray Bradbury Theatre/Ozone Update/Francis Scott Key Goes Commercial

#2 Sound Of The Communist Party Winding Down/Facelift The Nation/Stephen Foster Craving Inspiration/Yuppy Restaurant/Answering Machines/Fugue For Fax/The Abominable Snowman Returns/Night Of The Living Democrats

Book

It Only Hurts When I Laugh

by Stan Freberg

Times Books/Random House, New York, 1988.

Billy Connolly

by M.J. Simpson

Glasgow's most famous son (well, one of them) has had a long and varied career, beginning as a folk singer and half of the Humblebums (the other half being Tam Harvey then Gerry Rafferty). In the comedy desert of the 1970s (in between *Monty Python* and *Not The Nine O'Clock News*) he emerged as one of the country's leading stand-up comics, along with three other ex-folkies. Wales gave us Max Boyce, Northern England gave us Mike Harding, the Midlands gave us Jasper Carrott, and Scotland produced Billy Connolly.

Like the other three, Connolly concentrated mostly on producing albums of his live shows, whilst occasionally recording a novelty single. In 1975, his spoof version of Tammy Wynette's dreadful **D.I.V.O.R.C.E.** unexpectedly went to number one, although his chart success since then has been sporadic.

The Humblebums

The First Collection Of Merrie Melodies

Transatlantic TRA 186 (LP)(?/1968) track listing unknown

Saturday Roundabout Sunday/Bed Of Mossy Green

Transatlantic BIG 122 (single)(?/1969)

Coconut Tree/Her Father Didn't Like Me Anyway

Transatlantic BIG 127 (single)(?/1969)

The New Humblebums

Transatlantic TRA 201 (LP)(?/1969) track listing unknown

Shoeshine Boy/My Apartment

Transatlantic BIG 130 (single)(?/1970)

Open Up The Door

Transatlantic TRA 218 (LP)(?/1970)

My Apartment/I Can't Stop Now/Open Up The Door/Mary Of The Mountains/All The Best People Do It/Steamboat Row/Mother/Shoeshine Boy/Cruisin'/Keep It To Yourself/ Oh No/Song For Simon/Harry/My Singing Bird

The Humblebums

Liberty LST 7636 (LP)(?/1970) a rare U.S. album, possibly the above tracks.

Coconut Tree/Shoeshine Boy

Transatlantic BIG 520 (single)(Nov 1974)

The Complete Humblebums

Transatlantic TRAT 288 (3LP boxed set)(Oct 1974) collection of TRA 186, TRA 201 and TRA 208

The Humblebums

Transatlantic/Logo MTRA 2006 (LP)(?/1979)

Look Over The Hill And Far Away/Saturday Round About Sunday/Patrick/Everybody Knows That/Rick Rack/Her Father Didn't Like Me Anyway/Please Sing A Song For Us/Joe Dempsey/Blood And Glory/Coconut Tree/Silk Pyjamas/ Goodbye-ee

The Humblebums

Transatlantic TRS 107 (LP), KTRS 107 (cassette)(June 1981) reissue of the above MTRA 2006



The Humblebums

Cambra CR 134 (2LP set), CRT 134 (double cassette)(April 1984)

Open Up The Door/Will You Follow Me?/Cruisin'/Oh No/Keep It To Yourself/Song For Simon/Now I Feel So Old/Give Me A Little Of Your Time/All The Best People Do It/Look Over The Hill And Far Away/Patrick/Rick Rack/Everybody Knows That/Silk Pyjamas/Blood And Glory/My Apartment/I Can't Stop Now/Harry/My Singing Bird/Coconut Tree/Come Drink My Wine/Cripple Creek/Joe Dempsey

• Humblebums tracks are featured on the following Gerry Rafferty albums:

The First Chapter

Cambra CR 132 (double LP), CRT 132 (double cassette)(April 1984)

Includes Patrick/Rick Rack/Blood And Glory/Coconut Tree/Steamboat Row/ Shoeshine Boy/Song For Simon/My Singing Bird

The Early Collection

Transatlantic TRACD 601 (compact disc)(July 1987)

Includes Look Over The Hill And Far Away/Patrick/Rick Rack/ Her Father Didn't Like Me Anyway/Please Sing A Song For Us/Blood And Glory/ Coconut Tree/Steamboat Row/Shoeshine Boy/All The Best People Do It/ Song For Simon/Keep It To Yourself

Blood And Glory

Demon ??? (LP)(June 1988) includes Please Sing A Song For Us/Rick Rack/Patrick/Shoeshine Boy/Song For Simon/Steamboat Row/Look Over The Hills And Far Away/Blood And Glory

Billy Connolly (Solo)

Live!

Transatlantic TRA 258 (LP)(?/1972) reissued as TRS 103 (LP), KTRS 103

(cassette)(February 1981)

Stainless Steel Wellies/Govan 'Dunne' Blues/Song For A Small Man/The Donkey/Telling Lies/Glasgow Central/Good Love/A Little Of Your Time/Near You/Winchburgh Junction/Oh Dear/McGinty

Solo Concert

Transatlantic TRA 279 (double LPz)(May 1974)

Glasgow Accents/Nine And A Half Guitars/Marie's Wedding/Harry Campbell And The Heavies/Nobody's Child/A Life In The Day Of/The Jobbie Wheecha/The Short-Haired Police Cadet/Leo McGuire's Song/The Crucifixion

If It Was'nae For Your Wellies

Transatlantic XTRA 1144 (LP)(?/1974)

Compilation album including two new tracks (exact track listing unknown)

Cop Yer Whack For This

Polydor Super 2383 310 (LP in gatefold sleeve), 3170 210 (cassette),

3820 139 (8-track cartridge)(December 1974)

Three Men From Carntyne/Help Me Make It Through The Night/Lucky Uncle Freddie/Tam The Bam/What's In A Name?... Constantine!—Tyrone!/Talkin' Blues/Late Call/Funny Thing Religion .../The Afternoon After The Morning After The Night Before/Cripple Creek/George, My Faithful Roadie/Sergeant, Where's Mine?/Scottish Highland National Dress/The Welly Boot Song

(Recorded at the King's Theatre, Glasgow)

Words And Music

Transatlantic TRA SAM 32 (LP)(?/1975)

If It Was'Nae For Your Wellies/Everybody Knows That*/Saltcoats At The Fair*/Silk Pyjamas*/Harry Campbell And The Heavies/Leo McGuire's Song/Stainless Steel Wellies/Little Blue Lady*/Give Me A Little Of Your Time*/The Music Teacher + Marie's Wedding (* indicates Humblebums tracks)

Welly Boot Song/Sergeant, Where's Mine?

Polydor 2058 558 (single)(?/1975)

Get Right Intae Him

Polydor 2383 368 (LP)(November 1975) reissued (with same

title) as ACBR 267 minus two tracks (marked #) "Wellies" On/A Wee Swearie/A Four Letter Word/D.I.V.O.R.C.E./Me And The Terries#/Weekend Soldier/Join The Army And .../Coat Of Many Colours/ Wellies/Willies/Schooldays Happiest Days?#/The Janny Song/Ivan The Terrible/ No Place Like Home/The Queen's Christmas Party/Leather Breeches/Back To School/Oh! No!/"Wellies" Off

D.I.V.O.R.C.E./Cuckoo

Polydor 2058 652 (single)(November 1975)

No Chance (No Charge)/It's No Gotta Name

Polydor 2058 748 (single)(July 1976)

The Connolly Golden Gift Box Transatlantic GAR 1 (3LP boxed set)(October 1976) contains Live! and Solo Concert (double LP)

Atlantic Bridge

Polydor 2383 419 (LP), 3170 419 (cassette)(November 1976)

Dunfermalino/Stars On Sunday/The Orient Express/The Two Laplanders/Rentalough/The Vaselihe Salesman/Rodney And Cynthia/My Grandfather's Clock/A Partick Lullabye/The Shitkickers Waltz/Half-Stoned Cowboy (Rhinstone Cowboy)/The Optician/They'll Never Put This On A Record/Death/Hot Time In The Old Town (Tonight)/Japanese Doctor/The American Welly Boot Song

Billy Connolly

Pickwick SHM 927 (LP)(August 1977)

Stainless Steel Wellies/Song For A Small Man/A Life In The Day Of/Give Me A Little Of Your Time/The Crucifixion

Raw Meat For The Balcony

Polydor 2383 463 (LP), 3170 463 (cassette)(October 1977)

Isn't It A Shame/Pain In My Ass/The Walker ... The Parachutist/As Usual/Have You Ever Thought About Being A Pervert?/Football Violence/John Stonehouse Went Swimming/Gandhi's Revenge/Two Little Boys In Blue/The Death Of Robin Hood/The Scottish Fighting Man/Cryin' Time/The Welly Boot Song

Isn't It A Shame/You Got Me Running

Polydor 2058 917 (single)(?/1977)

Anthology

Transatlantic MTRA 2008 (LP), KTRA 2008 (cassette)(July 1978)

Stainless Steel Wellies/Talkin' Blues/The Jobbie Wheecha/

The Short-Haired Police Cadet/The Music Teacher + Marie's Wedding/Glasgow Central/The Crucifixion

In The Brownies/Woke Up This Mornin'

Polydor 2059 160 (single)(August 1979) (• a mega-rare promo-only 12" version was also pressed as Polydor BC 1, with an otherwise unavailable disco mix of Connolly's Village People parody)

Riotous Assembly

Polydor 2383 543 (LP), 3170 543 (cassette)(October 1979). reissued as 849 440-4 (cassette)(?/?)

In The Brownies/When In Rome/Teenage Parties/Marvo And The Lovely Doreen/ The Old-Fashioned Tennessee Waltz/The Welly Blues/The Doctor ... The Optician/Glasgow High Court/Sexie Sadie And Lovely Raquel/In Appreciation (The Welly Boot March)

The Billy Connolly Collection

Pickwick PDA 035 (double LP)(February 1978), PDC 035 (double cassette) (December 1979) Stainless Steel Wellies/A Life In The Day Of/The Crucifixion/ The Short-Haired Police Cadet/The Jobbie Wheecha!

The Big Yin

Transatlantic TRA SAM 38 (LP)(?/1979)

Glasgow Accents/Near YouzHarry/Oh Dear/Why Don't They Come Back To Dunoon/Cruisin'/A Life In The Day Of

Tell Laura I Love Her/Song For Yootha

Polydor POSP 201 (single)(November 1980)

The Pick Of Billy Connolly

Polydor POLTV 15 (LP)(November 1981). Reissued as SPELP 57 (LP), SPEMC 57 (cassette)(November 1983) and 835 532-2 (compact disc)(?/?)

D.I.V.O.R.C.E./Tell Laura I Love Her/Football Violence/Welly Boot Song/When In Rome/Scottish Highland National Dress/Sexie Sadie and Lovely Raquel/The C & W Super Song/Marvo and the lovely Doreen/In Appreciation

Billy Connolly In Concert

Pickwick/Spot SPR 8530 (LP), SPC 8530 (cassette)(February 1983)

The Short-Haired Police Cadet/Glasgow Accents/Everybody Knows That/ Harry Campbell And The Heavies/Silk Pyjamas/The Jobbie Wheecha/ Why Don't They Come Back To Dunoon?

You Take My Photograph (I Break Your Face)/Oz Moz

Polydor POSP 549 (single)(June 1983)

A Change Is As Good As Arrest

Polydor POLD 5077 (LP), POLDC 5077 (cassette)(July 1983). Reissued as SPELP 89 (LP), SPEMC 89 (cassette)(February 1985)

Jesus Christ I'm Nearly 40/Bram Stoker Sucks/How Rotten For Daphne/Hey! Dolores/Jock's Rap/You Take My Photograph (I Break Your Face)/A Day In The Country/Oz Moz/Goodbye Wranglers, Hello Calvin Klein/The Half Bottle/I Wish I Was In Glasgow

• released in Australia as **You Take My Photograph (I Break Your Face)**

Goodbye Wranglers, Hello Calvin Klein/Jesus Christ I'm Nearly 40

Polydor 810 955-7 (single)(?/1983)

• as can be seen from the catalogue number, this is an Australian release only

A Big Yin Double Helping

Cambra CR 133 (double LP), CRT 133 (double cassette)(April 1984)

The Donkey/Leo McGuire's Song/The Crucifixion/Travel Away*/Everybody Knows That*/Marie's Wedding (A Musical Appreciation)/Telling Lies/Nobody's Child/Close Your Eyes*/The Jobbie Wheecha/A Little Of Your Time/Joe Dempsey*/Little Blue Lady/Near You/Nine And A Half Guitars/Saturday Round About Sunday*/Good Love/The Short-Haired Police Cadet/Oh Dear/Will You Follow Me* (* indicates Humblebums tracks)

Super Gran/Yootha's Song (with Ralph McTell)

Stiff BUY 218 (single)(February 1985)

• in a picture sleeve. Connolly also appeared on the children's TV series to which this was the theme

Super Gran (A-side only)

Stiff D BUY 218 (bicycle shaped picture disc single)(February 1985)

Freedom (B.C., Chris Tummings & The Singing Rebels Band)/Celebration (Jimmy Helms) Audiotrax ATX 10 (single)(June 1985)

• two tracks from the soundtrack of the film Water. Probably the most collectable Connolly single, since The Singing Rebels Band includes Eric Clapton, George Harrison and Ringo Starr all of whom can be seen in the photo on the picture sleeve. The A-side was written by Clapton and scriptwriter Ian Le Frenais)

Wreck On Tour

Philips PHH 2 (LP), PHHC 2 (cassette)(December 1985)

Swearing And The Use Of Bad Language/Weather Persons/Holidays In Aberdeen/Scuba Diving In The Carribean/Policemen And Soldiers/Attending The Birth/Washing Hair/Buying Shampoo/Pubic Hair/Vegetarian Dinner Parties/Unfinished Blues/Songwriting (Pre-Rock And Roll)/Roy Castle And His Trumpet/Chick Murray's Wife In Blackpool/Noises In Taxis And Dark Places/Men In Public Toilets/Train Journeys With Stinkbombs/Clingfilm Over The Porcelain/Mario Lanza (Not Singing Softly Softly)/Cycling Equipment/Shop Assistants/The Rowan Tree/Barwick Green

Billy And Albert

Ten DIX 65 (LP), CDIX 65 (cassette), DIXCD 65 (compact disc)(November 1987)

President Of America/The Pope/Australian Talent Show/Edinburgh Festival/Learning The Banjo/The Dachshund/Nuclear/Jet Lag/Box Of Chocolates/Hotel Room In Perth/Condoms/Variety Theatre/Childhood Songs/Visiting Scotland/Wee Brown Dogs/Neck Lumps/The Casual Vomit/Driving The Porcelain Truck/Something has to Give

• Recorded at the Royal Albert Hall, London in July 1987.

The Portrait

Scotdisc ITV 451 (double LP), KITV 451 (cassette), CDITV 451 (compact disc)(February 1989)

Reissue of solo concert (double LP).

The Collection: On Tour With The Big Yin

Castle Collector Series CCSLP 218 (double LP), CCSMC 218 (cassette),

CCSCD 218 (compact disc) (August 1989)

Glasgow Accents ... Nine And A Half Guitars/Marie's Wedding (Musical Appreciation)/The Jobbie Wheecha!/The Short-Haired Police Cadet/Harry Campbell And The Heavies/A Life In The Day Of/Stainless Steel Wellies/The Crucifixion

Irish Heartbeat/Under Pressure

Dover ROJ 11 (7" single), ROJMC 11 (cassingle) (November 1990) Irish Heartbeat (edit/Irish Heartbeat (7" version) /Under Pressure/ I Wish I Was In Glasgow Dover ROJX 11 (12" single) (November 1990) Irish Heartbeat (edit) /Irish Heartbeat (7" version) /Under Pressure Dover ROJCD 11 (compact disc single) (November 1991)

• a live version of the old Van Morrison song, backed with an original composition, NOT the Queen/David Bowie song. Featuring 'guest vocalists' Julie Gibson (A-side) and Ralph McTell (B-side). The A-side also features a full pipe band. Both 7" and 12" versions came in a picture sleeve.

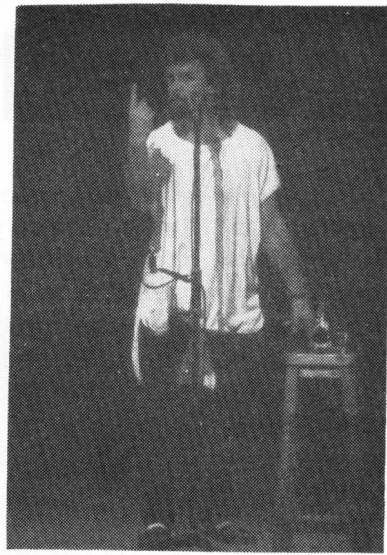
The Urpney Song (BC, Frank Bruno and Ozzy Osbourne)/The Whirlyped Launch (Mike Batt)

Adventure ADVTS 102 (7" poster sleeve)ADVTSP 102 (7" picture disc), ADVTSC 10 2 (cassingle) (November 1990)

• probably the most bizarre artist credit on any record ever, but nevertheless true. Both of these tracks are taken from the soundtrack album to the children's TV series "The Dreamstone". A hard to find single, particularly the picture disc. Just think how embarrassed all the Ozzy Osbourne completists must be, having this in their collection!

Billy Connolly Live

Virgin TCV 2678 (cassette), CDV 2678 (compact disc) (?/1991) Doomsday/Parliament/Pit Bulls/Sheepdogs/Doggy Sex/Multiple Orgasms/Longevity Of Sex/Algebra/Chatting Up Women/



Crimpolene Suits/Underpants/Tweed Trousers/Scottish Holidays/Don't Drink The Water/Sunny Spain/Fresh Air Fortnight/Army Beds/Swimming In The North Sea/Sumo Wrestlers/We Don't Belong In There/I Laughed/It Goes Away
Recorded at the Hammersmith Odeon, London.

The Crack (1974—1991)

Laughing Stock LAFFC 10 (cassette) (June 1992)
The Jobbie Wheecha!/The Crucifixion/Marie's Wedding/Two Little Boys In Blue/Nuclear Weapons/Jet Lag/A Box Of Chocolates/A Hotel Room In Perth/We Don't Belong In There/I Laughed

Billy Connolly (other albums)

A Bellyful Of Laughs

Transatlantic XTRA 1167 (LP) (?/1976) includes The Music Teacher + Marie's Wedding

The Secret Policeman's Ball Island

ILPS 9601 (LP) (December 1979), ICT 9601 (cassette) (May 1981). Reissued as Laughing Stock LAFFC 2 (cassette) (September 1991) includes two new recordings: The Country And Western Super Song/ Two Little Boys In Blue

Not The Nine O'Clock News

BBC REB 400 (LP), ZCF 400 (cassette) (October 1980)
Reissued as Music For Pleasure MFP 58 1 0 (LP), TCMFP 58 1 0 (cassette) (October 1987)

• contains one word by B.C. on Airline Safety track

The Secret Policeman's Other Ball

Springtime HAHA 6003 (LP), CHACHA 6003 (cassette) (November 1981) includes one new recording: Drinking

We Are Most Amused

Ronco RTD 2067 (double LP), 4C-RTD 2067 (double cassette)(November 1982)
Includes Welly Boot Song

Water (Original Soundtrack)

London YEAR 2 (LP)(June 1985) includes: Freedom

Comic Relief Presents — Utterly Utterly Live

WEA WX 51 (LP in gatefold sleeve), WX 51C (cassette)(May 1986) includes one new recording: A Dangerous Place

The Dream Stone

Original TV Soundtrack

Adventure ADVTLP 1001 (LP), ADVTC 1001 (cassette), ADVTCD 1001 (compact disc) (October 1990) includes: The Urpney Song

The Complete Secret Policeman's Other Ball

Castle ESDMC 152 (double cassette), ESDCD 152 (double compact disc) (October 1991) includes two new recordings: Drinking/More Drinking

•expanded reissue of HAHA 6003

Videos

The Pick Of Billy Connolly

Chrysalis CVHS 5019
(recorded at the Cambridge Theatre, London)

Billy Connolly Bites Yer Bum!

Chrysalis CVHS 5012
(recorded at the Apollo Victoria, London in February 1981)

An Audience With Billy Connolly

Virgin Comedy Club VVD 586
(expanded version of the October 26 1985 Channel 4 T.V. special)

The Comic Relief Utterly Utterly Rude Video

Virgin Video VVD 169
(includes one routine by Connolly)

Billy Connolly Live

Virgin Comedy Club VVD 863
(recorded at the Hammersmith Odeon, London)

Billy And Albert

Virgin Video VVD 258
(recorded at the Royal Albert Hall, London in July 1987)

• *Billy And Albert* and *An Audience With Billy Connolly* were also issued as a double pack Virgin VVD 969

Connolly may also be seen (in an acting capacity) in video releases of the films *Absolution*, *The Big Man*, *Blue Money* and *Water*. His first film *Big Banana Feet* (a recording of a 1975 Dublin concert) has not yet been issued on video.

Book

Gullible's Travels by Billy Connolly (compiled by Duncan Campbell)
(Pavilion Books/Michael Joseph London, 1982)

Graham Kennedy

by Peter Tatchell

If Roy Rene is regarded as the top stage comedian in Australian theatrical history, the king of its television era is undoubtedly Graham Kennedy. In addition to sharing the same birthday (February 15th) and for a time the same scriptwriter (Fred Parsons), both earned their share of notoriety from the more prudish elements of their audience. To the vast majority though, they were regarded as the cheeky larrikin poking fun at authority whilst occasionally getting away with 'blue' murder.

Graham was born in the Melbourne suburb of Balaclava in 1934. As an only child in a family struggling through tough times, his chief pastimes were visits to nearby Luna Park and St. Kilda beach. Like millions of other children in the 1930s and 1940s, he was fascinated by the wireless. It was a time when its stars had personality ... they were real people who related to the streets and shops of their local audience.

By the time he'd reached his mid-teens in the late-1940s, Kennedy was employed after school as a news-runner for the A.B.C.'s Radio Australia, delivering the bulletins from the journalists to the studio (then located in different buildings). When he left school soon after, he went to work in the record library of a Melbourne commercial radio station 3UZ.

By a stroke of luck, the top name on the local airwaves 'Nicky' (Cliff Whitta) was lured to 3UZ some months later and young Graham found himself making tea and running errands for a man he and most of Melbourne idolised. And when Nicky's regular panel-operator was conscripted for a period of National Service, the lad from Balaclava was chosen to replace him in the on-air studio.

The early 1950s saw the emergence of a talented offsider for the radio legend as Kennedy grew in confidence and learned the tricks of the trade from one of the best in the business. In reality, the morning program was little more than a succession of advertisements but the attraction was in the intimate conversational style they were delivered to the listeners. That, and the ever present banter.

Nicky and Graham were not only attracting listeners at home ... when they were involved in outside broadcasts the scene was guaranteed to be jam-packed with eager fans. The duo was highly sought after on the cinema screen as well. Not as movie stars, but extolling the virtues of a variety of grocery items (colour footage survives of one of their ice-cream advertisements).

By the mid-1950s it was assumed both would be successful on the new medium of television, due to start in time for the Melbourne Olympic Games at the end of 1956. But it was not to be. Two months before, Cliff Whitta suffered a heart attack and died, leaving his protege and millions of avid listeners stunned.

For a time, Kennedy continued on radio with Happy Hammond, then the following May transferred to the recently-opened Channel 9 for a five-nights-a-week variety show *In Melbourne Tonight*. There weren't a lot of television sets in use at the time, which was just as well as the on-camera talent (who were mostly from radio) and the production personnel were full of inexperience.

Patterned on the American *Tonight Show* formats, the local model had a cast of resident singers, dancers and an orchestra plus Graham and offsider Geoff Corke to link the segments and

tout the sponsors' wares. Any comedy content was basically adlib that first year, but the program quickly built up a loyal following of viewers and enticed a lot of people to buy a television set to see what the fuss was about.

Within twelve months, ex-Vaudeville comedian Joff Ellen had joined the team, not only to appear on screen, but to remember dozens of his old stage sketches which could be adapted for the program. Kennedy himself preferred lending his talents to these traditional routines rather than the standard interview segments which formed a mainstay of similar shows overseas.

As television became more popular in the late-1950s, budgets were allowed to increase, and by the turn of the decade *In Melbourne Tonight* was able to boast a supporting cast that included Evie Hayes, Hal Todd, Bill McCormack, Bob Horsfall, Jack Little, Phillip Brady, Elaine McKenna, Dorothy Baker, Barry McQueen and barrel girl Panda. One of Kennedy's early rivals, on Channel 7's *Late Show*, was Bert Newton but he resigned from the station in March 1959 and was snapped up by *I.M.T.* soon after.

By the start of 1960, Kennedy had become the medium's top performer and three years of Monday to Friday exposure was beginning to drain his creativity. It was decided to limit his appearances to three nights a week (with Newton eventually taking over the other two). Channel 9 were also eager to introduce him to the Sydney market and a special one-hour Friday edition of *In Melbourne Tonight* (retitled *The Graham Kennedy Show*) was produced for both cities. In addition, a local 30-minute extension aired for Melbourne audiences following the national program.

The introduction of television may have delivered a body blow to live theatre but variety shows were among the most popular on the box (and provided regular employment many singers, dancers and comedians). Comedy writer Fred Parsons was hired to help -supply- a steady input of material, and along with Johnny Ladd and Mike McColl Jones was responsible for *I.M.T.*'s emphasis on humour throughout the 1960s. On the performing side, Joff Ellen had been joined by Rosie Sturgess (who, like Ellen had worked with such theatrical greats as George Wallace in stage revues).

One of the most popular regular routines featured Graham and Rosie as elderly pensioner couple "The Wilsons". As the toothless old reprobate in constant need of laxative assistance, Kennedy was forever milking every nuance for a laugh and along the way causing a great deal of 'breaking up' mid-sketch. The segment also had a catchphrase "It's a joke, Joyce" in response to one of George's unsuccessful attempts at wit. Like those created for Parson's "McCackie Mansion" two decades earlier, it also entered the Australian idiom.

Despite his continuing popularity in Melbourne, Sydney audiences were not won over by Kennedy's talents and the two-cities show was discontinued after a couple of years. In 1965 a further attempt was made to break down the traditional interstate rivalry by having Kennedy and New South Wales host Don Lane engage in special coaxial cable linkups. It would take until the 1970s for Kennedy to be accepted by viewers in the Harbour City, however.



Graham hosted three *I.M.T.*s a week until the end of 1968, with salary demands by his newly-acquired manager Harry M. Miller being invariably agreed to, lest he desert the network for one of the many lucrative offers made by the other channels. The industry not only valued his comedic talents; his advertising skills (well-developed in his days with Nicky) meant solid response at the cash registers.

As the sixties drew to a close, Kennedy was growing tired of the treadmill. Financial inducements lured him back for two-nights-a-week appearances in 1969, but by the end of the year he'd made it known he'd had enough. He wanted some time off, and was eager to try something new. As a result, the 1970 model *In Melbourne Tonight* featured four hosts: Ugly Dave Gray, Stuart Wagstaff, Bert Newton and Jimmy Hannan. A little over a year later all four hosts had gone, and an institution named *In Melbourne Tonight* was no more. Graham meanwhile returned to radio on Melbourne's 3XY.

After a two year absence, Graham signed to appear in a couple of special programs, on a prerecorded basis. Two 60-minute shows, backed by Screen Gems, were produced at Channel 9 in Melbourne and featured *I.M.T.* regulars Newton, Sturgess, Joy Westmore, Pete Smith and Bruce Mansfield. More akin to the Benny Hill format they featured an opening monologue and a series of sketches.

By the end of 1972, Kennedy agreed to return to his traditional Tonight Show presentation and The Graham Kennedy Show aired on Tuesday and Thursday nights for a little over a year. Then, again, he said he wanted a break.

After another year away from the cameras, the introduction of colour to Australian television enticed him back for a further

series of shows, again for the Nine Network. In his absence, Ernie Sigley had become popular in Kennedy's old timeslot, and it was decided they should each do two shows a week.

1975's *Graham Kennedy Show* featured Bert and Patti Newton, Rosie Sturgess, Phillip Brady, Johnny Ladd and Joy Westmore but despite being a gathering of old friends the program was not destined to be a long runner. More and more Kennedy was accused of indulging in innuendo for cheap laughs. In reality he was merely reflecting the more liberated attitudes of the era, but on one celebrated telecast adlibbed an impersonation of a crow call which sounded somewhat similar to a certain four-letter word not then permissible. Wowsers elements around the country considered this time he'd gone too far, and flooded the network with complaints. As a result, it was decreed the show would henceforth be prerecorded to allow the deletion of any future indiscretions, a situation not displeasing to the host who could now be home a lot earlier.

A month later, however, Graham found considerable irritation with the delayed-to-air transmissions when some of his opening comments (satirizing a leading politician) were removed from the program before it went to air. He disagreed with the Network's view that the remarks were defamatory, and walked away from the series in disgust. Such was the general explanation of the events, but it was also speculated the whole situation was merely an excuse to end the extremely costly venture, which at that point was not proving as popular as its significantly cheaper Sigley stablemate.

Whatever the reason, Graham Kennedy had done his last *Tonight Show*. Later that year he ventured back into radio, first at 3LO in a drivetime show with Richard Coombe, then a year later on an afternoon show with Denis Scanlon. He also travelled to London for a week's Royal Jubilee broadcasts in mid-1977 (again for 3DB). After three decades in the business he relied heavily on good preparation for what he was going to say on air, and as the years went by was becoming more and more interested in the joys of the English language. A mixture of wit and good old-fashioned hokum were now becoming a mainstay of his work (and would dominate a good deal of his 1980s television appearances).

Straight acting was also entering his repertoire with roles in TV's *Power Without Glory* and the movie *Don's Party* earning him critical acclaim. With the resurgence of the Australian film industry, he was also cast in *The Odd Angry Shot* and *The Club* (and later, in *Travelling North*).

In early 1977, television again entered his life when he agreed to host a game show *Graham Kennedy's Blankety Blanks* for the 0/10 Network. Despite having two contestants competing for prizemoney, the program was in reality a vehicle for Kennedy to indulge in a considerable amount of banter with show biz friends like Ugly Dave Gray, Barry Creyton, Noel Ferrier, Stuart Wagstaff and Carol Raye. And despite its 7pm timeslot the adlibs often bordered on the suspect variety. It quickly became enormously popular and spawned an LP, a can of soft drink, a board game, and several other moneymakers.

Apart from becoming another personal success, the program also led Kennedy to deserting his home town of Melbourne to move permanently interstate. *Blankety Blanks* was taped in Sydney, and after living in a hotel for some months he eventually bought a residence on the harbour.

In 1979, Graham joined the *Naked Vicar Show's* writing team of Cary Reilly and Tony Sattler for an ABC radio series *Graham Kennedy's RS Playhouse*, a collection of eight unrelated



playlets with Kennedy in the lead role. In the early eighties he utilised his acting talents in a telemovie *Silent Reach* (with Robert Vaughn) and a couple of minor league theatrical films.

1984 saw him venturing back into television in a capacity not entirely in keeping with his range of experience thus far ... he'd been asked to fill in as host of the Seven Network's morning news hour *Eleven AM*.

Originally signed for five weeks, Graham eventually stayed eight and his repartee with newsreader Ross Symonds produced some delightful television. A regular feature centred on his penchant for correct pronunciation, and a question-and-answer segment between the two soon had viewers writing in with queries.

This association with his third commercial network led to a series of specials a year later *Graham Kennedy's World Of Comedy* in which he'd provide the links for a number of extracts from various overseas sketch comedy shows owned by Seven. With material written by Gary Reilly and the Samuel Pepys radio show writers, Graham introduced pieces from Britain's Stanley Baxter, *Three Of A Kind*, Kenny Everett, *Assaulted Nuts* and the U.S. *Not Necessarily The News*.

With the success of Kennedy's involvement on *Eleven AM*, the Seven Network had continued the idea late at night with Clive Robertson (a Sydney radio announcer) in a program called *NewsWorld*. With Don Lane signed to appear in a *Tonight show* format on Ten, executives at Channel 9 decided the best way to compete with both was to lure Graham Kennedy back on air.

Originally titled *The Graham Kennedy News Show*, Graham joined sports reporter Ken Sutcliffe for a review of the day's major items and quite a bit of joking about. Working to a floor crew for response to the humour, Kennedy soon decided he'd prefer to work with an actual audience in the studio to liven things up. And (for the first time anywhere) a news program played to a studio audience. And once again Graham Kennedy was a hit.

For its second year the show was retitled *Graham Kennedy Coast To Coast*, and Sutcliffe (who left to pursue his interest in sporting presentation at the Network) was replaced by John Mangos. Ever the perfectionist, Graham had created another time-consuming monster and despite the program being prerecorded at eight o'clock at night (with the news update inserted live during the actual transmission a couple of hours later) by the end of 1989 he decided to relinquish the program. In an ironical twist, he was eventually replaced by Clive Robertson, whose program at Seven had been dropped because of Kennedy's success.

Unwilling to lose a ratings-winner like Kennedy entirely, the Nine Network offered him the hosting role in a weekly collection of amateur video bloopers (and were even prepared to allow him to film his introductions at home!). When *Graham Kennedy's Funniest Home Video Show* debuted in March 1990 it was taped at Nine's Sydney studios in front of an audience, and proved to be just as successful as nearly everything else he's been involved in the preceding forty years.

Again he became bored with the venture after a year, and has decided to enjoy a bit more retirement on his farm in country New South Wales until something enticing comes along. Let's hope that day won't be too far away.

Radio

3UZ: 1950 to 1956 (with Cliff 'Nicky' Whitta)

3AK: 1961 and 1962 (with Bert Newton)

3XY: 1970

3LO: June to December 1975 (with Richard Coombe)

3DB: September 20 to November 5 1976 (with Denis Scanlan) and June 6 to 10 1977 (with Mike Lester, in London)

ABC: *Graham Kennedy's RS Playhouse*: August 11 to September 22 and September 23 1979 (8x30m editions)

The Birthday Boy/Because He's My Brother/You Only Live Once/Sunday Morning Fever/The Chocolate Milkman/The Pawnbroker/Mad Jack's Dentist/The Good Morning Show

Television

In Melbourne Tonight

(90m) Channel 9 Melbourne

May 6 1957 to December 23 1969 (five nights a week until the end of 1959, three nights a week 1960 to 1968, two nights a week in 1969)

Graham Kennedy's Daylight Saving Show

(60m) 9 Network

November 15 1971

Graham Kennedy Show

(60m special) 9 Network

March 2 1972

The Graham Kennedy Show

(90m - Tuesdays and Thursdays) 9 Network

September 19 to November 23 1972

February 6 to November 27 1973

The Graham Kennedy Show

(90m colour - Mondays and Wednesdays) 9 Network

March 10 to April 23 1975

Graham Kennedy's Blankety Blanks

(30m - Monday to Fridays) 0/10 Network

February 7 to December 23 1977

January 9 to September 15 1978

Eleven A.M.

(60m - Monday to Fridays) 7 Network

Graham hosted from April 16 to June 8 1984(8 weeks)

Graham Kennedy's World Of Comedy

(7x 60m specials) 7 Network

April 18/June 3/July 4/July 29/September 24/November 5 1985,
July 2 1986

The Graham Kennedy News Show

(60m - Monday to Fridays) 9 Network

April 25 to December 9 1988

Graham Kennedy Coast To Coast

(60m - Monday to Fridays) 9 Network

February 13 to December 8 1989

Graham Kennedy's Funniest Home Video Show

(30m) 9 Network

March 29 to November 15 1990

• final edition ran 60 minutes

Films

1959 *On The Beach* (appears as an extra only)

1966 *They're A Weird Mob* (cameo)

1975 *The Box*

1976 *Don's Party*

1979 *The Odd Angry Shot*

1980 *The Club*

1982 *Silent Reach* (telemovie)

1982 *The Return Of Captain Invincible*

1983 *Stanley*

1983 *The Killing Fields*

1987 *Travelling North*

Bibliography

The Graham Kennedy Story

(pictorial magazine, published by Southdown Press
c. 1960)

Graham Kennedy's Melbourne

(Thomas Nelson, Australia, 1967)



Records

Mother's Day With Nicky

W & G Records WG.FL. 628 (EP)(1956)

Features **Poor Old Mum** (with Cliff 'Nicky' Whitta)

Carolina In The Morning (with Smacka Fitzgibbon)/Smacka

Fitzgibbon solo: **Miss Annabelle Lee**

Magnasound MSP 08 (7" single)

Graham Meets Smacka

Magnasound MEP 18 (EP)

features two Kennedy vocals: **Shine On Harvest Moon** (with Smacka Fitzgibbon)/ **Are You From Dixie?** (with Smacka Fitzgibbon)

Graham Kennedy Sings The Shows

Warner Bros. WS 20013 (LP)(1973)

If You Could See Her/Yellow Drum/Corner Of The Sky/Do I Hear A Waltz +Embassy Waltz/Applause/My First Love Song/Musical Comedy Man/Herod's Song/No Time At All/Let's Go Back To The Waltz

Graham Kennedy's Blankety Blanks

R.C.A./Laser SP 196 (LP)(1977)

features soundtrack highlights from the 0/10 Network game show: **Million Dollars/Slick Dick/All The Horsemen Knew Her/Stuffed Turkey/Rusty Bottom/The Hitch-Hiker/Everybody Crap/A Mouse In Her Pussy/Rosalyn's Curry/ Cyril, Horse And Carts/Dick Without A Hole/Rhythm Method/Who Is Bernard King?/Barry's Lunch/Did It Need Picking?/Crabs/Cocky, Crutch And Stump/ Too Soft/Midnight In The Toilet/Cyril At The Doctor's/Dick The Butler**

Television Comedy

A Guide to Episode Guides

With the coming of the home video era, comedy fans are now able to tape copies of their favourite television shows or buy specially-issued releases of selected episodes. To cater to this new breed of collector, many Books and Magazines have been published which itemise programs with titles, storylines and original airdates listed.

Laugh itself can be included in this category of fanzine, and with such a wealth of programming not yet researched (particularly relating to British and Australian shows) we do not propose to republish information already in print. We can, however, supply our readers with a rundown of what's already about (with varying degrees of availability).

The following does not include novelisations of episode storylines or collections of scripts ...

The Abbott And Costello Show

Book: *The Abbott And Costello Book* by Jim Mulholland (Popular Library, New York, 1975) Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 5, 1993)

The Addams Family

Book: *The Addams Chronicles* by Stephen Cox (Harper Perennial ppk, 1991)

Magazines: *Reruns* (issue 2, 1980) *Epi-log* (issue 8, 1991)

ALF

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issue 24, 1992)

Batman

Books: *The Official Batman BatBook* by Joel Eisner (Contemporary Books ppk, 1986) and *Fantastic Television* by Gary Gerani (Harmony Books ppk, 1977) Magazine: *Epi-log* (issue 6, 1991)

The Beverly Hillbillies

Book: *The Beverly Hillbillies* by Stephen Cox (Contemporary Books ppk, 1988)

Bewitched

Book: *The Bewitched Book* by Herbie J. Pilato (Delta ppk, 1992)

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issues 23 and 24, 1992)

Black Adder

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 5, 1992)

The Brady Bunch

Books: *The Brady Bunch Book* by Andrew J. Edelstein and Frank Lovece (Warner Books, 1990), *Bradymania!* by Elizabeth Moran (Bob Adams Inc., 1992)

Bridget Loves Bernie

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issue 2/42, 1989)

Captain Nice

Magazines: *Reruns* (issue 8, 1981), *TV Collector* (issue 2/2, 1982), *Epi-log* (issue 6, 1991)

Car 54, Where Are You?

Magazine: *Reruns* (issue 5, 1980)

Dad's Army

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 6, 1993)

The Dick Van Dyke Show

Book: *The Dick Van Dyke Show* by Ginny Weissman and Coyle Steven Sanders (St. Martin's Press ppk, 1983/1993).

Magazine: *Reruns* (issues 14, 1982 and 17, 1983)

Dobie Gillis

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issues 2/7 and 2/8, 1983)

Doctor In The House/Doctor At Large/Doctor In Charge/Doctor At Sea/Doctor On The Go/Doctor Down Under/Doctor In Trouble

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 4, 1992)

The Eddie Cantor Comedy Theatre

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 3, 1992)

The George Burns And Gracie Allen Show

Book: *Say Goodnight, Gracie!* by Cheryl Blythe and Susan Sackett (Dutton, 1986)

Get Smart

Book: *The Life And Times Of Maxwell Smart* by Donna McCrohan (St. Martin's Press ppk, 1988) Magazines: *Reruns* (issue 19, 1984: series 1-2 only), *Epi-log* (issue 5, 1991)

The Ghost And Mrs. Muir

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issue 23, 1992)

Gilligan's Island

Book: *The Unofficial Gilligan's Island HandBook* by Joey Green (Warner Books ppk, 1988)

The Goodies

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 3, 1992)

Green Acres

Book: *The Hooterville HandBook* by Stephen Cox (St. Martin's Press ppk, 1993)

Grindl

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issue 2/46, 1990)

Gunston's Australia

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 4, 1992)

Hancock's Half Hour/Hancock

Book: *Tony Hancock, Artiste* by Roger Wilmut (Eyre Methuen, 1978)

Hank

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issue 2/14, 1984)

The Hathaways

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issue ?)

He And She

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issue 2/4, 1982)

The Hero

Magazine: *Reruns* (issue 8, 1981)

Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issue 12, 1991)

The Honeymooners

Books: *The Honeymooners' Companion* by Donna McCrohan (Workman Publishing ppk, 1978), *The Official Honeymooners Treasury* by Peter Crescenti and Bob Columbe (Putnam/Perigee ppk, 1985), *The Honeymooners Lost Episodes* by Donna McCrohan and Peter Crescenti (Workman Publishing ppk, 1986)

I Dream Of Jeannie

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issues 23 and 24 1992)

I Love Lucy

Book: *Lucy & Ricky & Fred & Ethel* by Bart Andrews (Dutton, 1976), reprinted as the *I Love Lucy Book* (Doubleday pbk, 1985)

I'm Dickens, He's Fenster

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issue 2/1, 1982)

It's About Time

Magazines: *TV Collector* (issue 2/3, 1982), *Epi-log* (issue 24, 1992)

The Jack Benny Show

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 1, 1991)

Love American Style

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issues 2/51, 1990 and 2/52, 1991)

*M*A*S*H*

*M*A*S*H*—The Exclusive Inside Story Of TV's Most Popular Show by David S. Reiss (Bobbs-Merrill pbk 1980: series 1—8 only, updated to series 11 in 1984), *The Complete Book Of M*A*S*H* by Suzy Kalter (Columbus Books, 1984)

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issue 14, 1992)

McHale's Navy

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issue 13, 1992)

Mister Ed

Book: *The Famous Mister Ed* by Nancy Nalven (Warner Bros. Books ppk, 1991)

Monty Python's Flying Circus

Magazine: *Primetime* (issue 16, 1990)

Mr. Terrific

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issue 6, 1991)

The Munsters

Book: *The Munsters* by Stephen Cox (Contemporary Books ppk, 1989)

Magazines: *Primetime* (issue 11, 1986), *Epi-log* (issue 8, 1991)

Murphy Brown

Book: *Murphy Brown—Anatomy Of A Sitcom* by Robert S. Alley and Irby B. Brown (Delta ppk, 1990)

My Favorite Martian

Magazines: *Reruns* (issue 20, 1984: series 1 only) *Epi-log* (issue 7, 1991)

My Little Margie

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issue 2/35, 1988)

The Norman Gunston Show

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 4, 1992)

Not Only ... But Also

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 2, 1991)

Occasional Wife

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issue 2/50, 1990)

Our Miss Brooks

Magazine: *Reruns* (issue 11, 1981)

Please Don't Eat The Daisies

Magazine: *TV Collector* (issue 2/11, 1984)

Police Squad!

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 2, 1991)

Red Dwarf

Books: *The Official Red Dwarf Companion* by Bruce Dessau (Titan Books ppk, 1992) *The Red Dwarf Program Guide* by Howarth and Lyons (Virgin ppk, 1993)

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issue 8, 1991: series 1—4)

Run, Buddy, Run

Magazine: *Reruns* (issue 8, 1981)

Sergeant Bilko

Book: *Bilko—The Fort Baxter Story* by David Thomas and Ian Irvine (Vermilion/Hutchinson ppk, 1985)

Magazine: *Primetime* (issue 6/7, 1983)

Steptoe And Son

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 2, 1991)

Taxi

Book: *Hailing Taxi* by Frank Lovece and Jules Franco (Prentice Hall ppk, 1988)

When Things Were Rotten

Magazine: *Epi-log* (issue 23, 1992)

The Young Ones

Magazine: *Laugh* (issue 1, 1991)

In addition to the above, the Book *Television Comedy Series* by Joel Eisner and David Krinsky (McFarland & Co., 1984) itemises nearly 140 programs released to syndication, with episode titles and brief storylines. Original airdates are not given. Shows featured are:

Abbott And Costello Show/The Addams Family/The Adventures Of Ozzie And Harriet/Alice/All In The Family/Amos 'n' Andy/The Andy Griffith Show/The Ann Sothern Show/Bachelor Father/Barney Miller/Batman/The Beverly Hillbillies/Bewitched/The Bill Cosby Show/The Bob Cummings Show/The Bob Newhart Show/The Brady Bunch/Bringing Up Buddy/The Burns And Allen Show/Camp Runamuck/Captain Nice/Car 54, Where Are You?/Carter Country/Chico And The Man/Colonel Flack/The Courtship Of Eddie's Father/December Bride/Dennis The Menace/The Dick Van Dyke Show/Diff'rent Strokes/Dobie Gillis/The Donna Reed Show/The Doris Day Show/Dumplings/Ensign O'Toole/F Troop/Family Affair/The Farmer's Daughter/Father Knows Best/Fish/The Flying Nun/Get Smart/The Ghost And Mrs. Muir/Gidget/Gilligan's Island/The Girl With Something Extra/The Goldbergs/Gomer Pyle/Good Times/The Great Gildersleeve/Green Acres/Guestward Ho!/Happy Days/The Hathaways/Hazel/He And She/Hennesey/Here's Lucy/The Hero/Hey Landlord/Hogan's Heroes/The Honeymooners/House Calls/How To Marry A Millionaire/I Dream Of Jeannie/I Love Lucy/I'm Dickens, He's Fenster/It's About Time/The Jack Benny Show/The Jeffersons/The Jim Backus Show/The Joey Bishop Show/Laverne And Shirley/Leave It To Beaver/The Life Of Riley/Love American Style/Love On A Rooftop/The Lucy Show/Make Room For Daddy/Many Happy Returns/The Mary Tyler Moore Show/M*A*S*H/Maude/Mayberry R.F.D./McHale's Navy/McKeever And The Colonel/Mister Ed/Mr. Roberts/Mr. Terrific/Mrs. G. Goes To College/The Monkees/Mork And Mindy/Mothers-In-Law/The Munsters/My Favorite Martian/My Hero/My Little Margie/My Mother The Car/My Sister Eileen/My Three Sons/Nanny And The Professor/No Time For Sergeants/The Odd Couple/One Day At A Time/Our Miss Brooks/The Partridge Family/The Patty Duke Show/The Paul Lynde Show/The People's Choice/Pete And Gladys/Peter Loves Mary/Petticoat Junction/The Phil Silvers Show/Please Don't Eat The Daisies/Pride Of The Family/Quark/Rango/The Ray Milland Show/The Real McCoys/Rhoda/Room For One More/Room 222/Run, Buddy, Run/Sanford And Son/The Tab Hunter Show/Taxi/That Girl/This Is Alice/Three's Company/The Tom Ewell Show/Topper/To Rome With Love/The Ugliest Girl In Town/Welcome Back, Kotter/Wendy And Me/What's Happening!/When Things Were Rotten/WKRP In Cincinnati

Reverend Warren Debenham—Comedy Collector

Many people collect recordings of their favourite musical artists ... here we talk with a man who specializes in comedy discs.

Laugh There aren't too many collections of comedy recordings larger than yours. Ever taken a count of exactly how many you'd have?

Warren Counting C.D.s and LPs I have 8000 that I call comedy, and another 7500 that I call novelty. I don't have that many titles—I'll collect a mono and a stereo of the same title if available, and will also collect any English, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand and South African issues as well. In addition, I have about 8500 comedy and novelty 45rpm discs and a further 6000 78rpm records.

Laugh When did you start collecting?

Warren I first remember enjoying comedy records in high school about forty years ago. I had a few early 78rpm albums in the Top Ten series (Jack Benny, Burns & Allen, etc.). The record shelf slowly expanded and I remember the collecting bug catching me in my 30's, where I would be looking for comedy records that I didn't necessarily enjoy but wanted in the collection.

Laugh Which artists survive the test of time well?

Warren Many of the comedians of the 1960s have produced material that still works today. I think of Bob Newhart, Jonathan Winters, and Mike Nichols and Elaine May. Tom Lehrer's songs about pollution, drugs, and nuclear danger are still relevant today.

Laugh Any particular favourites?

Warren My favourites would be Bob And Ray, Woody Allen, Kathy And Mo, Richard Pryor, Mel Brooks, Albert Brooks, Barry Humphries, Ellen DeGeneress, Robin Williams, Royal Canadian Air Farce, Moms Mabley, Rick Reynolds, Peter Cook And Dudley Moore, Whoopi Goldberg, Steven Wright, Rowan Atkinson, Paula Poundstone, and the like.

Laugh What is the earliest performance in your collection, and the one you'd regard as the rarest of all—or most difficult to replace?

Warren I have an 1899 Berliner label seven-inch one-sided 78rpm record by George Graham entitled "Street Fakir", but the rarest would be a ten-inch LP that Lenny Bruce put out himself as evidence for his defence in his 1962 San Francisco obscenity trial. I don't know if he pressed ten or one hundred copies, but I know of only five.

Laugh Do you feel recorded comedy had a peak era?

Warren I believe the "golden age" for comedy records was in the late 1950s through the 1960s. There was an explosion in comedy on record then, and much of it was quite good. In addition to the artists mentioned above, I would list Lenny Bruce, Mort Sahl, and many other political comedians, Phyllis Diller, Joan Rivers, Rusty Warren, and many lesser known comedians whose night club acts were put on record. Today in America we have an explosion of comedy clubs, and comedians to fill them. There is still some good political comedy and many impressions of those in office. Women have become much more prominent, and comedy can be sophisticated, low, topical, personal, or about any other flavour that you could imagine.

Laugh Are there relatively unknown performers you'd care to recommend (of any era)?

Warren Here are several less known performers that I enjoy: Crandall and Charles (Dick Crandall and Frank Charles), who



did silly night club routines and seemed to love being on stage and performing, Kalil and Taylor (Frank Kalil and Jay Taylor), who did take-offs on different professions (a plumber who flunked out of medical school and operates his office like a doctor's surgery, a Japanese society photographer who photographs suicides, a railroad public relations man whose job it is to discourage passenger travel, etc.), Alice Arthur, Skiles and Henderson (William Skiles and Peter Henderson), who did some clever routines with sound effects that they created, Pat McCormick, former writer for Johnny Carson and a wonderful improviser, Jean Carroll, Marsha Warfield, and Jack Sheldon and Pete Barbutti, two musicians who can be very funny when they want to be.

Laugh Tell us about your book.

Warren Laughter on record lists about 4000 comedy LPs (it came out in 1988 before CDs had taken hold) with listings including title, record number, reissues and foreign issues, and added information where needed. It has an index that lists the LPs by subjects (those with fat jokes, golf jokes, etc.). It is priced at US\$35 (hardbound) and can be obtained from Scarecrow Press (P.O. Box 4167, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840, U.S.A.), or from me at 143 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley, California 94707, U.S.A.).

Laugh Do you see the advent of the compact disc as a boon to the comedy collector, and will LPs disappear on the secondhand market in the foreseeable future?

Warren I feel CDs just continue the availability of comedy on records. There are many more comedians out there today than in the past, and the record companies are selective as to whom they chose to put on disc. One thing that is a plus—many of the old LP titles have been reissued on CD. The quality of the sound is not as much a factor with spoken material as it is for music, but reissues do generate more interest. I have found five stores that have opened in the San Francisco bay area within the past two years that feature LPs, and only one of these stores has a strong selection of CDs as well. I believe that LPs will still be collected and valuable for various reasons: some people want the original, some LP comedy material will not be reissued on CD, and a few people actually prefer the sound on an LP to that of a CD.

COMPACT DISCS:

Gratuitously Groucho (Raven RVCD 30)
A Selection of tracks taken from 1940's radio broadcasts, early 1950's studio recordings and a film soundtrack:

Greetings From Groucho, 1972/Groucho U.S.M.C./Hooray For Captain Spaulding/Livingston Marx, African Explorer/Dr. Hackenbush/Hackenbush At Blue Ribbon General/Go West Young Man/We're Here For Beaubrick/Game Show Groucho/Lydia The Tattooed Lady/Germs And Groucho/G. Marx, Attorney At Law/Life Is So Peculiar

Dead Parrot Society (Springtime/Rhino R2 71049)
Tracks taken from Amnesty concerts *A Poke In The Eye (With A Sharp Stick)* and *The Secret Policeman's Other Ball*, Private Eye flexi-discs and studio recordings by The Portsmouth Sinfonia:

Also Sprach Zarathustra/The Dead Parrot/The Courtroom #1/Memoirs Of A Miner #1/Protest Song/Happy, Darling?/The Courtroom #2/Psychedelic Baby/Crunchy Frog/Memoirs Of A Miner #2/The Oral Majority #1/The William Tell Overture/The Courtroom #3/The Audition/Top Of The Form/Transidental Mastication/The Courtroom #4/Overture + Pinball Wizard/The Penultimate Supper?/Take Off Your Clothes/The Courtroom #5/Memoirs Of A Miner #3/The Oral Majority #2/Balls/The Courtroom #6/The Argument Clinic/Classical Massacre/The Lumberjack Song

Eddie Cantor - The Original Complete Carnegie Hall Concert (2CDs) Original Cast OC 9217

Contains the March 21 1950 concert featuring songs and humorous anecdotes, previously 'recreated' in 1960 for an Audio Fidelity LP.

Andy Griffith - American Originals (Capitol CDP 7 98476 2)
Reissues of 1960's material:

The Fishin' Hole/What It Was, Was Football/Cindy/To The Lovely Juanita Beasley/Make Yourself Comfortable/North Carolina, My Home State/The Preacher And The Bear/Romeo And Juliet/Togetherness/Swan Lake/Flop Eared Mule/Hamlet/The Discovery Of America/Don't Look Back/Opera Carmen/Andy And Cleopatra/The Midnight Special/The Andy Griffith Theme

Radio's Favorite Comedy Teams (GAA 49010)

An hour of highlights from radio's golden age, featuring Amos 'n' Andy, Phil Harris and Alice Faye, Martin & Lewis, Burns & Allen and others.

Radio's Favorite Situation Comedies (GAA 49011)

An hour of highlights from radio's golden age, featuring The Goldbergs, Amos 'n' Andy, I Love Lucy, Ozzie And Harriet and others.

Radio's Favorite Bloopers (GAA 49012)

Fifty minutes of highlights from the golden age of live radio.

Radio's Favorite Blondes (GAA 49013)

An hour of highlights from radio's golden age, featuring Mae West, Marilyn Monroe & others.

Denis Leary - No Cure For Cancer (A & M 0055)

Asshole/Drugs/Rehab/More Drugs/Smoke/Meat/Death/The Downtrodden Song/Traditional Irish Folk Song/Voices In My Head

WHAT'S NEW

Yes What - Volume 2 (Columbia 473945-2) Double CD

House Of Tudor Exam (#236)/Mr. Snootles Salary Arrears (#281)/Averdupois Tables (#289)/Looking For An Escaped Lunatic (#257)/Bottomly

Cleans The Blackboard (#265)/Hide And Seek (#308)/Advertising Eggs (#242)/ Mr. Snootles Returns From Holidays (#327)/The Bucket Hits Greenbottle (#315)/De Pledge Meets Mr. Snootles (#349)/Mr. Snootles Seeks Back Wages (#357)/De Pledge Is Late For School (#360)

Jimoein - Goin' Off (Mushroom D 30969)

Walk On The Wild Side/Danny Man/Stand Up/Betrayed/Luna Blue/Stone House/Just Me/Ain't Love The Fool/ Never Meant To Stay

BOOKS:

The World Of Jay Leno by Bill Adler & Bruce Cassiday (Carol Publishing)

The Little Rascals by Leonard Maltin & Richard W. Bann (Random House paperback) enlarged edition of *Our Gang Penn And Teller's How To Play With Your Food* (Random House paperback)

The Woody Allen Companion by Steven J. Spignesi (Andrews McMeel paperback)

Quinlan's Illustrated Directory Of Film Comedy Actors by David Quinlan (Holt)

The Adventures Of Amos 'n' Andy by Melvin Patrick Ely (MacMillan paperback)

Life (Before And) After Monty Python by Kim "Howard" Johnson (St. Martins paperback)

Richard Pryor - If I Stop I'll Die by John A. Williams and Dennis A. Williams (Publishers Group West paperback)

Gilligan, Maynard And Me by Bob Denver (Carol paperback)

Here On Gilligan's Isle by Russell Johnson and Steve Cox (Harper Collins paperback)

Mae West - When I'm Bad, I'm Better by Marybeth Hamilton (Harper Collins paperback)

The Get Smart Handbook by Joey Green (MacMillan paperback)

Coach - My World And Get The Hell Out Of It! by Barry Kemp, Judd Pillot & John Peasless (Hyperion paperback)

The Official Andy Griffith Show Scrapbook (Carol paperback)

The Secret Life Of Bob Hope by Arthur Marx (Publishers Group West)

Desilu - The Story Of Lucille Ball And Desi Arnaz by Coyle Steven Sanders & Tom Gilbert (William Morrow)

VIDEOS (All N.T.S.C.):

The Beverley Hillbillies (Volume 1 to 4)

Absolutely The Best Of The Soupy Sales Show

features two 30-minute shows from 1965 and 1979

The Honeymooners (Volume 1 to 7)

Topper

features: George's Old Flame/Henrietta Sells The House

