

Person To Person

Edward R. Murrow - was born Egbert Roscoe Murrow in North Carolina. He joined CBS as director of talks and education in 1935 and remained with the network for his entire career. He first gained prominence during World War II with a series of live radio broadcasts from Europe for the news division of CBS.

On November 18, 1951, Murrow's radio program *Hear It Now* moved to television and was renamed *See It Now*. This program was best remembered as the show that publicly confronted Senator Joseph McCarthy, criticized McCarthyism and the Red Scare. On October 2, 1953, Murrow launched a second weekly television program, a series of celebrity interviews entitled *Person To Person*. His very first guest on this program was Brooklyn Dodgers catcher, Roy Campanella. On this program, he was always seen with his trademark Camel cigarettes in which he smoked over three packs a day. Murrow served as host of this show from 1953 to 1959 in 211 episodes.

Dick Clark - Aired April 25, 1958

Born Richard Wagstaff Clark. He was married three times. His first marriage was to Barbara Mallery in 1952. The couple had one son, Richard A. Clark. They divorced in 1961. He married Loretta Martin in 1962. The couple had two children, Duane and Cindy. They divorced in 1971. His third marriage, to Kari Wigton, whom he married in 1977, lasted until his death. He also had three grandchildren.

In 1945, Clark began his career working in the mailroom at WRUN, an AM radio station in Utica, New York. Soon after, he was asked to fill in for the vacationing weatherman. Within a few months, he was announcing station breaks.

In 1952, Clark moved to Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. He took a job as a disc jockey at radio station WFIL, now going by the name of Dick Clark. WFIL had an affiliated television station which began broadcasting a show called Bob Horn's Bandstand in 1952. Clark was responsible for a similar program on the company's radio station and served as a regular substitute host when Horn went on vacation. In 1956, Horn was arrested for drunk driving and was subsequently dismissed. On July 9, 1956, Clark became the show's permanent host.

Art Linkletter - Aired November 15, 1957

He was born Gordon Arthur Kelly on July 17, 1912. He was the host of House Party, which ran on CBS radio and television for 25 years along with *People Are Funny*, which aired on NBC radio and television for 19 years. Linkletter also worked on *Life with Linkletter* and *Hollywood Talent Scouts*. Plus, he acted in two movies, *People Are Funny* (1946) and *Champagne For Caesar* (1950). Following an appearance in *No Greater Love* (1960), Linkletter stopped appearing in feature films.

He became a naturalized United States citizen in 1942.

Linkletter turned down the opportunity offered by his friend Walt Disney to invest in the Disneyland theme park project, along with building and operating the Disneyland Hotel, due to Linkletter's doubts about the park's prospects. However, out of friendship for Disney, Linkletter volunteered his experience as a live program broadcaster to help organize ABC's coverage of the Disneyland opening in 1955 on what was Linkletter's 43rd birthday.

The Linkletter home, built in 1937, was located at 219 South Mapleton Drive in the Holmby Hills area of Los Angeles, California. This home sold for \$26.1million in 2020.

Dean Martin - Aired February 7, 1958

Martin was nicknamed "The King of Cool" and gained his career breakthrough together with comedian Jerry Lewis, billed as Martin & Lewis, in 1946. They performed in nightclubs and later had several appearances on radio, television and in motion pictures.

When their partnership ended in 1956, Martin established himself as a singer by recording contemporary songs as well as standards. He became one of the most popular acts in Las Vegas being known for his friendship with Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr., along with Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop who formed the Rat Pack.

In 1965, Martin began his weekly NBC comedy-variety series, *The Dean Martin Show*, which ran for 264 episodes until 1974. The final season of his variety show was changed to a format of celebrity roasts.

After having no contact with Jerry Lewis for 20 years, Martin surprised Lewis with an emotional walk on during his Muscular Dystrophy Telethon on Labor Day weekend in 1976. Over the following years, they maintained a quiet friendship. On Martin's 72nd birthday in 1989 at Bally's Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas, Martin and Lewis had one final public reunion.

Quote from Jerry Lewis about their 1976 reunion:

“And while I was thanking him (Sinatra), he interrupted saying, ‘I have a friend who watches what you do here every year and thinks it’s terrific. I’d like to have him come out.’ Frank then yelled, ‘Hey, send my friend out here will you?’ And out walked Dean Martin, my partner and I was in a time warp. My hands got sweaty, my mouth turned dry. I tried to stand tall as he approached me and we hugged hard, very hard. He kissed me on the cheek and I did the same to him. The audience in the theater was going wild! For the first time in twenty years, we stood side-by-side, as always Dean stage right, me stage left.

‘I think it’s about time don’t you?’ Frank said. The two of us nodded yes in tandem. We talked....a little. I prayed to God for something to say that wouldn’t make me sound like an emotional idiot. ‘You workin?’ I finally asked, looking directly into Dean’s eyes.”

REFERENCES:

Dean & Me by Jerry Lewis and James Kaplan

Wikipedia

Internet Movie Data Base

This Is Your Life - Laurel & Hardy

This Is Your Life - Aired on Wednesday evening at 10:00PM, December 1, 1954 on NBC.

This was the first and only time Ralph Edwards' production staff had attempted to share two biographies on the same show. Since the program was only 30 minutes long, precise timing of everything was mandatory.

Laurel & Hardy were in Room 205 at the Hotel Knickerbocker in Hollywood. The hotel opened in 1929. In the 1950's, Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio often met in the hotel bar. Elvis Presley stayed at the hotel (Room 1016) while making his first film, *Love Me Tender* (1956).

Other memorable moments in Hotel Knickerbocker include on Halloween 1936, Harry Houdini's widow held her tenth séance to contact the magician on the roof of the hotel. On January 13, 1943, Frances Farmer was arrested in her room at the hotel after failing to visit her probation officer for a scheduled appointment. On July 23, 1948, filmmaker D. W. Griffith died of a cerebral hemorrhage on the way to a Hollywood hospital, after being discovered unconscious in the lobby of the hotel. On March 3, 1966, character actor William Frawley was walking down Hollywood Boulevard after seeing a film when he suffered a major heart attack. His nurse helped him to the hotel where he died in the lobby.

In 1970, a renovation project converted the hotel into housing for senior citizens. In 1999, a plaque honoring D. W. Griffith was placed in the lobby.

According to Stan Laurel's daughter, **Lois Laurel Hawes**, her father "was going to the Knickerbocker Hotel for a business conference with his attorney Mr. Shipman, and Mr. Delfont was there to discuss a tour. I did not know until that morning of this. Lucille (Mrs. Hardy) knew about this quite a way in advance and then under pressure, got pictures from Ida (Mrs. Laurel) who

didn't even know until the last minute because they were afraid she would slip. I got a phone call that said 'Be at this beauty shop in Beverly Hills at such-and-such a time'. Someone was doing a surprise for my father. I had no idea it was televised. I thought it was just a party or something."

If Ralph Edwards appears to be in a state of panic, it's because Ralph Edwards was in a state of panic. Over the years, different explanations were given as to the delay of Laurel & Hardy's arrival to the show. Again as per **Lois**, "The taxi had a flat tire! My dad said it was so funny because Babe got in and sat down and when they started off, the tire went flat! Somebody took them down a little alleyway which was quicker. They should have thought of that in the first place because it would have taken longer for the cab to go around the block. They could have just gone out the back door to the hotel and down through the alley to the theater on Vine Street."

The program was filmed at the El Capitan Theater on Vine Street. It opened in January of 1927. Originally called the Hollywood Playhouse, it was renamed during the 1940's. In 1963, the theater was called the Jerry Lewis Theater during Lewis' brief weekly television show. It was renamed again in 1964 as The Hollywood Palace. By 2002, the building was called Avalon.

As a result of this delay, Edwards had to rush through many of the guests to stay within the network time frame of 30 minutes.

Overall, Stan Laurel being a perfectionist, felt unprepared being this program. Oliver Hardy seemed pleasantly surprised seeing his boyhood friends.

1954 Plaque Dedication:

LAKE LAUREL AND HARDY

SO NAMED BECAUSE THESE TWO WORLD FAMOUS COMEDIANS WERE FIRST TEAMED HERE AT THE HAL ROACH STUDIOS AND BECAUSE THEY, MORE THAN ANY OTHERS, WERE IN AND OUT OF THESE WATERS.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE
DECEMBER 1, 1954

REFERENCES

Laurel & Hardy: From The Forties Forward by Scott MacGillivray
Wikipedia