

March 9, 2020

Home Run Derby - Aired in syndication on January 9, 1960.

This program was filmed at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles, one of the three Wrigley Fields.

The most notable Wrigley Field is the home of the Chicago Cubs on Addison Street in downtown Chicago.

The Chicago Cubs also held their spring training camp at Wrigley Field on Catalina Island from 1921 through 1951.

Wrigley Field in South Los Angeles was built in 1925 on Avalon Boulevard and 42nd Place. Named for William Wrigley, Jr., (the chewing gum magnate) it was the home of the Chicago Cubs Pacific Coast League top farm team, Los Angeles Angels from 1925 to 1957. The Brooklyn Dodgers bought the park in 1957 and opted at one time to enlarge it for their use when the team moved to Los Angeles the following year. The Dodgers eventually opted to play in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Later Wrigley Field became the home of the expansion major league team Los Angeles Angels for one year in 1961. The park was demolished in January of 1969. Today, the location is the site of the Gilbert Lindsay Recreation Center.

Wrigley Field was known to have been used as a shooting location in 1927's *Babe Comes Home*, a silent film starring Babe Ruth. Some well-known movies that were filmed there are *The Pride Of The Yankees*, *It Happens Every Spring*, *Kill The Umpire*, *The Pride Of St. Louis*, *Alibi Ike*, and *Damn Yankees*. When Frank Capra filmed the public rally scene at Wrigley for *Meet John Doe* in

August 1940, massive sprinklers simulated a downpour because the director included one rainy scene in each movie as good luck. The film noir classic *Armored Car Robbery* had its title heist set at Wrigley Field. Episodes of television shows such as *The Twilight Zone* ("The Mighty Casey", 1960), *Mannix* ("To Catch a Rabbit", 1969) and *The Munsters* (1965) were also filmed there. Some closeups were filmed there for insertion into the 1951 film *Angels in the Outfield*, a film otherwise set at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh. A 1932 movie short starring Babe Ruth titled *Just Pals* was also filmed at Wrigley Field.

Mickey Mantle - who made five appearances on Home Run Derby, played for the New York Yankees from 1951 through 1968. He was a 20 time All-Star**, 7 time World Series Champion and 3 time Most Valuable Player in the American League. As a switch hitter, he had a lifetime .298 batting average with 536 home runs. Mantle was elected to the Hall Of Fame in 1974. Mickey Mantle's salary in 1960 was \$60,000.

**(From 1959 to 1962, two All-Star games were played each of those seasons.)

1961 - Mantle and Roger Maris were both trying to break Babe Ruth's home run record for a single season. Ruth hit 60 home runs in the 154 game 1927 season. Maris had hit 59 home runs by game 154 and his 60th in Game 159. *He hit his 61st home run in game 162 on October 1, 1961. Mantle ended the season with 54 home runs in 157 games.

*Mark McGwire hit his 62nd home run on September 8, 1998 in game 145. He would finish the season with a total of 70 home runs that year.

*Sammy Sosa hit his 62nd home run on September 13, 1998 in game 150. He would finish the season with a total of 66 home runs that year.

*Barry Bonds hit his 61st, 62nd and 63rd home runs on September 9, 2001 in game 144. He would finish the season with a total of 73 home runs that year.

Willie Mays - who also made five appearances on Home Run Derby, played for the New York and San Francisco Giants from 1951 to 1972 minus two years when he served in the United States Army (1952-1953). In 1972, Mays was traded to the New York Mets where he finished his career in 1973. He was a 2 time Most Valuable Player in the National League and Rookie Of The Year in 1951. He played in 24 All-Star games with a lifetime batting average of .302 and 660 home runs. He was on the New York Giants 1954 World Series championship team. Mays was elected to the Hall Of Fame in 1979. Willie Mays' salary in 1960 was \$80,000.

Willie Mays was the batter on deck when Bobby Thomson hit "The Shot Heard 'Round The World" on October 3, 1951.

"The Catch" - took place on September 29, 1954 at the Polo Grounds in New York. Willie Mays made a great over-the-shoulder catch of a fly ball off the bat of Cleveland's Vic Wertz.

Mark Scott (Host) - In addition to acting in small roles, he worked mainly as an announcer and narrator. He had been an announcer for the 1956 Cincinnati Reds and for the Hollywood Stars of the Pacific Coast League.

Art Passarella (Umpire) - was an American League umpire from 1941 to 1942 and again from 1945 to 1953, missing two years due to military service in World War II. Passarella umpired 1,668 major league games in his career which included three World Series (1945, 1949 and 1952) and two All-Star Games (1947 and 1951).

Henry Aaron made the most appearances (7) with the most wins (six) on this show. He also won the most money at \$13,500. Both Mickey Mantle hit the most total number of home runs with 44 in all of his appearances.

Lou Breslow, who produced this program, was also a writer and director for films and television working with Bob Hope, Laurel & Hardy, Abbott and Costello and The Ritz Brothers.

Film Editor **Tony Martinelli** (on right) worked for over 50 years in numerous films and serials including *Wagon Train*, *Dagnet*, *It Takes A Thief* and *Ironsides* at Republic Studios, ZIV Television and Universal. Pictured with film editors Gene Palmer (left) who during his 35 plus year career edited many episodes of *Tales Of Wells Fargo*, *Wagon Train* and *Laredo*; and Sam Waxman (center) who during his 40 plus year career edited 56 episodes of *Adventures Of Superman* and 123 episodes of *McHale's Navy*. The three men represent over 125 years of film editing for motion pictures and television.

The show was on for only one season with 26 episodes. It ended as a result of the sudden deaths of the host Mark Scott in July of 1960 and its director Benjamin Stoloff just two months later.

You Bet Your Life - Aired Thursday evening, February 26, 1959 at 10:00PM on NBC in Studio A.

Louis Rich - According 1940 Census records, he was living in Los Angeles at that time and working as a real estate salesman. He was born on October 29, 1864 in Pennsylvania and died on June 3, 1967, four months before his 103rd birthday. His wife, Amy was born in 1877 in Canada.

Groucho gave Don Drysdale a hard time on this program regarding the Dodgers poor 7th place showing during the 1958 baseball season which was the Dodgers first year in Los Angeles. By the end of the 1959 baseball season, the Dodgers not only won the National League pennant but also the World Series against the Chicago White Sox in six games. Drysdale won 17 games and lost 13. He was the winning pitcher in game 3 in the World Series. He made \$19,000 that year.

Don Drysdale - (6' 5" - 190 lbs.) attended Van Nuys High School where one of his classmates was Robert Redford. Married Ginger Dubberly on September 27, 1958 and divorced in 1982. Elected to the Hall Of Fame in 1984. After retiring from baseball, Drysdale would go into broadcasting for ABC Sports and the baseball teams Montreal Expos, Texas Rangers, California Angels, Chicago White Sox and finally the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale were involved in a much celebrated and publicized 32-day holdout in which the pair asked for a million dollars combined salary over a three year period. This would have each player earn approximately \$167,000 per year. They signed a one year contract for 1966 where Koufax received \$125,000 and Drysdale received \$110,000.

Drysdale retired at the age of 32 in 1968. Koufax retired at the age of 30 in 1966.

People Are Funny - This episode aired Sunday evening, February 28, 1955 at 7:00PM on NBC.

This show was filmed in Studio D at NBC on Sunset Blvd. and Vine Street in Hollywood. Among some of the other programs filmed in this studio were *Coke Time With Eddie Fisher* (1956-57), *The Dinah Shore Show* (1951-57), *The George Gobel Show* (1954-59), *The Gordon MacRae Show* (1956) and *Truth Or Consequences* (1954-56). The NBC Studios Hollywood location was demolished in 1964.

The series began in 1938 when John Guedel made an audition recording for a concept of a comedy stunt show aired in Los Angeles as *Pull Over, Neighbor*, which was later reworked into *All Aboard*. Watching a bored, unreceptive audience listening to an after-dinner speaker, Guedel scribbled, "People are funny, aren't they?" on a napkin, hence the new title for the show.

In 1942, learning of a show that was canceled, he pitched *People Are Funny* to NBC, and it went on the air July 3, 1942, with Art Baker (*You Asked For It*) as host. On October 1, 1943, Baker was replaced by Art Linkletter, who continued on radio for the rest of the series which ended in 1959. The program ran on television from 1954 to 1960 with encore episodes airing until 1961.

The *People Are Funny* film with Jack Haley and Frances Langford was released in 1946.

A film based on the radio program People Are Funny was released by Paramount Studios in 1946. The film starred Jack Haley, Rudy Vallee and Ozzie Nelson. Art Linkletter played himself in this film.

REFERENCES

Catalina Island Visitors website

Once A Bum Always A Dodger by Don Drysdale

Baseball Reference. com

Family Search website

Internet Movie Database

Wikipedia