

April 17, 2019

Our Wife - Filmed March 9 through March 14 then resumed March 17 and 18, 1931. Released May 16, 1931.

Babe London - born Ruth Glover in Des Moines, Iowa in 1901. When she was 17, her film career began at the Charlie Chaplin Studios in Niles, California. By the time she arrived in southern California, Ruth's professional name was Jean "Babe" London. London was her maternal grandmother's maiden name. Before working with Laurel & Hardy, she worked in two Stan Laurel comedies: *The Weak-End Party* (1922) and *The Handy Man* (1923). In a career that lasted until 1960, Babe also worked with W. C. Fields, The Three Stooges, Harry Langdon, Buster Keaton and Bob Hope. She remained good friends with Stan Laurel during her retirement years, visiting him many times at his home in Santa Monica, California.

Ben Turpin - This was his first appearance in a Hal Roach Studios comedy. According to Ben Turpin, next to Mickey Mouse, Laurel & Hardy were his favorite comedians. Born September 19, 1869 his eyes were not always crossed. While playing the part of Happy Hooligan with the Mabel Paige Southern Company on stage, Ben would cross his eyes as the character for 10 to 12 minutes at a time for over three years. One morning he got up to shave and looked in the mirror and saw that his right eye had crossed. In his own words describing his Happy Hooligan character, "I had to roll my eyes around so much that I pulled a muscle loose sometime when I didn't realize it".

Blanche Payson - this time we see her as the unhappy wife of Justice of the Peace, Ben Turpin. She had worked with Turpin before at the Mack Sennett Studios in *A Raspberry Romance* and

When A Man's A Prince. Ben Turpin fondly referred to Blanche Payson as "the old truck horse". Blanche Payson also can be seen in Laurel & Hardy's *Below Zero* as the angry woman who destroys the boys' musical instruments in the snow.

James Finlayson - appears as the father of Dulcey (Babe London) and very unhappy potential father-in-law of Oliver Hardy.

During this time, the Depression was having an affect on the Motion Picture Industry. In order to save money, The Hal Roach Studios were closed from March 21 to May 4, 1931.

In an interview with Babe London, she claims that the car scene was not as uncomfortable as it looked and took about two days to shoot.

Me And My Pal - Filmed March 15 through 25, 1933. Released April 22, 1933.

Originally titled *The Best Man*, the final name on this film was a play on words from the popular film with Spencer Tracy and Joan Bennett, *Me And My Gal*.

The painting in the jigsaw puzzle is titled *White Feather* and was painted by R. Atkinson Fox in 1930.

The exteriors of this comedy were filmed on Wellington Road in the Lafayette Square district of Los Angeles, California.

Frank Terry who plays Ollie's butler is also the radio announcer in this comedy. He was also the safecracker in *The Midnight Patrol*. Born Frank Ernest Edwards, he also went by the names of

Nat Clifford, Pat Forde and Frank Terry. During his lifetime, he worked as an acrobat in a circus, was in a train crash while traveling to Johannesburg, was a songwriter for music hall comedians, an on stage performer, had a drinking problem, he was at one point reported dead to avoid the law in a marriage scandal, he was a bigamist, was a stowaway on a ship to China, was an escaped prisoner, a boxer and a pimp. He eventually landed in Hollywood, working with Mack Sennett and Hal Roach. Frank Terry was also the man who handed Harold Lloyd the prop bomb in 1919 that turned out NOT to be a prop and exploded in Lloyd's hand causing him to lose his right thumb and index finger. After Terry's film career ended, he went to Hawaii and became a missionary and a chaplain in a leper colony there. He returned to Los Angeles in 1948 and died a few months later. His headstone at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California reads: Reverend Frank E. Edwards, R. H. H. N.

James Finlayson - (Ollie's future father-in-law)

Bobby Dunn - (telegram delivery man) - At the age of nine, he started out doing acrobatic high dive stunts at amusement parks and other outdoor shows including Doc Carver's Wild West Show. The dangerous work ended up knocking out his front teeth and destroying an eye, which had to be replaced with a glass one that gave him a cross-eyed appearance. From 1912 through 1937, he made 250 appearances in films with Mack Sennett, Vitagraph, Fox and Hal Roach which included 12 with Laurel & Hardy.

Eddie Dunn - (cab driver - no relation to Bobby Dunn) - His film career began in 1915 working in comedies with Larry Semon and Jimmy Aubrey. His nearly 400 credits included roles in the early days of television.

James C. Morton - (policeman) appearing in one of his 11 comedies with Laurel & Hardy. Of the more than 200 film credits

he had, James was a policeman in 36 of them. He also worked in 10 films with the Three Stooges.

Oliver The Eighth - Filmed December 15 through 20, 1933. Studio then closed for the holidays. Filming resumed on January 7 through 16, 1934.

This was the final three reel comedy made by Laurel & Hardy.

A week before filming on this comedy began, the Hal Roach Studios celebrated its 20th anniversary on December 7, 1933 with a special dinner held on the studio lot. Among those in attendance were former employees Will Rogers, Jean Harlow, Harold Lloyd and Janet Gaynor. This event was broadcast on NBC Radio.

Stan Laurel's performance in this comedy was wonderful as usual. Unfortunately, while filming this comedy, his 33 year old brother, Teddy, died of heart failure while in the dentist's chair. Production was suspended while Stan attended to the funeral arrangements.

Phyllis Barry was originally going to play the role of the wealthy widow. For reasons unknown, she was replaced by Mae Busch.

Some of the sets in this film were also used in the Laurel-Hardy Murder Case from 1930.

The dinner routine is a reworking from Our Gang's 1929 short, *Moan & Groan, Inc.* with Max Davidson.

Mae Busch - This was one of her thirteen appearances with Laurel & Hardy. Before her film career began, she worked on

stage in legitimate theater and vaudeville. By 1946, she more than 125 film credits to her name.

Jack Barty - While this is his only Laurel & Hardy comedy, he appeared in 10 Hal Roach films during the years 1933 and 1934 before returning to his native England.

REFERENCES

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