

March 2, 2020

Do You Remember Fred Clark?

Born Frederick Leonard Clark on March 19, 1914 in Lincoln, California. His interest in college was in medicine and he pursued his pre-med studies at Stanford University. A chance role in the college play *Yellow Jack* changed his plans. With a scholarship to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, he performed in local community theater and summer stock. At age 24, he was making his Broadway debut and later to appear in the melodrama *Ringside Seat*.

During World War II, he served as a Navy pilot in 1942, but later joined the Army and spent nearly two years with the Third Army in Europe.

During the post-war years, he appeared in films such as *The Unsuspected* (1947), *Ride the Pink Horse* (1947), *Cry of the City* (1948), *Flamingo Road* (1949), *White Heat* (1949), *Alias Nick Beal* (1949), *Sunset Blvd.* (1950), *The Jackpot* (1950), *The Lemon Drop Kid* (1951) and *Meet Me After the Show* (1951).

On television, he joined George Burns and Gracie Allen on their popular sitcom *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show* (1950) into its second season paired with comedienne Bea Benaderet (as wife Blanche). Together they provided perfect foursome chemistry with Burns and Allen, much in the same way Vivian Vance and William Frawley did for Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz on *I Love Lucy*

(1951). He left the show in the fall of 1953 following a salary dispute.

In the following years, he continued to be high in demand in film, usually playing some high-ranking military officer, gang boss, shifty politician or executive in films such as The Martin & Lewis comedy *The Caddy* (1953), *How to Marry a Millionaire* (1953), *The Solid Gold Cadillac* (1956), *Don't Go Near the Water* (1957), *The Mating Game* (1959), *Auntie Mame* (1958), *Bells Are Ringing* (1960), *Visit to a Small Planet* (1960), *Boys' Night Out* (1962) and *Move Over, Darling* (1963). He appeared in three Academy Award Best Picture nominees : *Sunset Blvd.* (1950), *A Place in the Sun* (1951) and *Auntie Mame* (1958). On television, he contributed to such comedy shows as *The Beverly Hillbillies* (1962), *I Dream of Jeannie* (1965) and *The Dick Van Dyke Show* (1961). He also received some attention promoting potato chips in commercials.

Fred Clark died on December 5, 1968 from liver disease at the age of 54 with 108 film and television credits in a 21 year career.

Burns and Allen - Locked Out Of The House - Aired Monday evening, August 10, 1953 at 8:00PM on CBS.

This same idea was reworked in another Burns and Allen episode in June of 1958.

Filmed at General Service Studios 1040 N. Las Palmas, Hollywood, Los Angeles, California. The exterior of their home at 1720 Maple Drive in Beverly Hills, California was sometimes shown at the beginning of an episode.

George Burns - At the time of his Oscar win as Best Supporting Actor for *The Sunshine Boys* (1975) at 80 years old, he was the oldest recipient of an Academy Award. Christopher Plummer broke that record when he was 82 and won for *Beginners* at the Academy Awards ceremony 2011. George Burns was known to have smoked as many as ten cigars a day.

Quotes From George Burns:

I've been a straight man for so many years that from force of habit I repeat everything. I went out fishing with a fellow the other day and he fell overboard. He yelled, "Help! Help! Help!" so I said, "Help? Help? Help?" And while I was waiting for him to get his laugh, he drowned.

At the age 87, he said "I was brought up to respect my elders and now I don't have to respect ANYBODY."

"I would go out with women my own age, but there are no women my own age."

"When I was born, the Dead Sea was still alive".

Gracie Allen - In the early 1940s, during the height of their popularity, George had a brief extramarital affair. He apologized to Gracie Allen by giving her a new coffee table and nothing more was said about it. Years later, when Gracie was serving coffee to a friend in their living room, George overheard her say, "You

know, I wish George would have another affair. I really need a new coffee table".

Bea Benadaret - As Lucille Ball's best friend on radio's My Favorite Husband, Bea was originally offered the role of Ethel Mertz on I Love Lucy, but had to turn it down due to her commitment as Blanche Morton on The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show. Benadaret was also considered for the role of Granny on The Beverly Hillbillies. Instead, she was cast as Cousin Pearl Bodine. She was the one who suggested Irene Ryan for the part of Granny. She performed numerous female voiceovers for Warner Brothers Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies cartoons. During the 1960's, she was the voice of Betty Rubble on The Flintstones and starred as Kate Bradley, the mother of Bobbie Jo, Betty Jo and Billie Jo on Petticoat Junction.

Fred Clark - was Harry Morton on the George Burns and Gracie Allen Show from 1951 to 1953. He left the show over failed contract negotiations and was replaced by Larry Keating.

Harry Von Zell - began working in radio in 1927. Von Zell appeared in both comedy and drama roles in motion pictures. He is credited with one of the all-time classic bloopers: When making a presentation in honor of President Herbert Hoover's birthday he said, "Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States, Hoobert Heever."

Bob Sweeney - along with Hal March, they performed as a comedy team in the early 1950's. In addition to acting in television shows such as *The Adventures Of Ozzie and Harriet*, *Our Miss Brooks*, *I Married Joan* and many others, Sweeney was also a successful director on programs such as *Fantasy Island*, *The Love Boat*, *The Dukes Of Hazzard* to name a few.

Chuckie Bradley - made several appearances on *The Jack Benny Program* in various roles from 1952 to 1957.

The Twilight Zone - A Most Unusual Camera - Aired Friday evening, December 16, 1960 at 10:00PM on CBS.

Filmed on the MGM Studios lot in Culver City, California.

This episode features an instant camera that predicts the future. The first commercially available instant camera was invented in 1948.

This episode is the inspiration for the 1992 Goosebumps book *Say Cheese and Die*.

This episode was directed by John Rich who directed many well known programs which include *Gunsmoke*, *All in The Family*, *Gomer Pyle U. S. M. C.*, *The Brady Bunch*, and *The Dick Van Dike Show*.

Fred Clark - *Bells Are Ringing* with Dean Martin, Judy Holiday and Fred Clark was released one month before this episode went on the air.

Jean Carson - best remembered for her appearances on *The Andy Griffith Show* as one of the "Fun Girls" with Joyce Jameson and also as one of the three escaped convicts holding Floyd the barber and Barney Fife hostage in a mountain cabin.

Adam Williams - had over 100 roles in films and television. He is best remembered as the character Valerian in *North By Northwest*.

Marcel Hillaire - excelled in comical portrayals and was most memorable in his first motion picture, *Sabrina* (1954) as 'the professor' who tries to teach Audrey Hepburn how to break an egg. One of Marcel's most hilarious caricatures was that of 'Fritz', in Woody Allen's comedy *Take the Money and Run* (1969).

The Beverly Hillbillies - Hair-Raising Holiday - Aired Wednesday evening, October 2, 1963 at 9:00PM on CBS.

Filmed at General Service Studios in Hollywood, California

The 10 acre, 25,000 square foot estate featured in this series was actually at 750 Bel-Air Road in Bel-Air, California. It sold in 2019 for \$150 million dollars.

Despite respectable ratings, the show was canceled in the spring of 1971 after 274 episodes. Originally filmed in black and white for the first three seasons (1962-1965) and all subsequent episodes from 1965 to 1971 were filmed in color.

When the show debuted on, September 26, 1962, Jed Clampett's fortune was given as \$25 million. After adjusting for inflation, this amount would be equivalent to \$195 million as of 2014.

The 1993 movie version of *The Beverly Hillbillies* was released starring Jim Varney as Jed Clampett and featured Buddy Ebsen in a cameo as his other famous television character, *Barnaby Jones*.

Irene Ryan - was born Irene Eileen Noblett in El Paso Texas. While in vaudeville she met writer-comedian Tim Ryan. They were married in 1922 and divorced 20 years later. Next, she accompanied Bob Hope on his military tours and was known as "the gal who makes Bob Hope laugh." Irene Ryan (as Granny) once stated in an interview that she really enjoyed "hitting" Jethro. She said that anytime the script called for her to hit him, she would "let him have it". She played the same character ("Granny" Daisy Moses) on three different series: *Mister Ed* - Episode: *Love And the Single Horse* (1965), *The Beverly Hillbillies* for nine seasons and two episodes of *Petticoat Junction* in 1968.

Buddy Ebsen - was offered the role of Jed Clampett on the strength of his playing a similar role in *Breakfast At Tiffany's* (1961). Originally cast as the Tin Man in *The Wizard Of Oz* (1939), Buddy was hospitalized as a result of inhaling aluminum powder used as part of his make-up and was replaced by Jack Haley. Director Norman Foster first recommended Ebsen to Walt Disney to play Davy Crockett, but after Disney saw Fess Parker in the sci-fi film *Them!* (1954) he cast him in the title role. Ebsen was signed on as Crockett's sidekick, George "Georgie" Russell. Parker and Ebsen remained friends for 49 years.

Raymond Bailey - His first job in Hollywood was as a laborer, but was fired for sneaking into a crowd scene during a movie shoot. Before getting into show business, he went into a career of high finance working as stockbroker and banker.

Nancy Kulp - had a Masters Degree in English and French from the University of Miami. After *The Beverly Hillbillies* ended its nine year run, Kulp found work in theater, Broadway and

television. She also taught acting and retired to a farm in Connecticut and later Palm Springs.

Personal quote: "I was a brain symbol, not a sex symbol."

Fred Clark - plays Dr. Roy Clyburn in this episode.

Max Baer, Jr. - His father was boxer Max Baer. His acting career began in 1960 on such popular television programs as *Maverick*, *Cheyenne*, *Hawaiian Eye* and *77 Sunset Strip*. He appeared as Jethro in all but two of the 274 episodes of *The Beverly Hillbillies*.

Donna Douglas - was Miss Baton Rouge and then in 1957, she was Miss New Orleans. After her career in show business ended, she was a popular real estate agent in Beverly Hills, California. One of her most memorable roles was on *The Twilight Zone* (1959) *Eye of the Beholder* in which she plays a woman who tries to undergo a series of experimental treatments to make her beautiful, only for the treatments to fail. The twist was she was very beautiful to the television viewers, but considered hideous to the truly ugly people on the planet.

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