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PREFACE --FRANK NELSON

My career started in Denver, Colorado, in 1926. At a rather tender age, I auditioned for the part of a man in his 30's with 30 other applicants. After a series of auditions, I was selected for the part. It was for a 26-week series featuring a married couple and was for a local bank. (Needless to say, I never did really understand the part.) My wife was played by a very lovely 32-year-old redhead. So much for missed opportunities! The show was on KOA. I next worked as an announcer at KFEL in Denver.

Left there and came to Hollywood, California at the end of 1929. Worked here on all of the local drama shows, mainly as a leading man, up to 1932. In 1932, returned to staff announcing and worked briefly for KGB in San Diego, then back to L.A., where I announced at KFAC-KFVD and KMTR. The night before I was to be married in January of 1933, I received a wedding present from KMTR-- I was fired!

Returned to freelance acting and freelance announcing where I have remained ever since. Some of the better-known shows in Los Angeles during that period, on which I was the leading man, were "Tapestries of Life", "The Three Musketeers", "Vendetta", "The Witches' Tale", "Makers of History", "Calling All Cars", etc.

It was not until 1933 that any transcontinental shows emanated from Hollywood. The first of these was a sustaining show done by RKO and was called "Hollywood on the Air". I announced the show and also worked as an actor. Sometimes when a star scheduled to appear failed to show up, I did the star's part, too. The show ran 1933 and part of 1934.

The first sponsored transcontinental show from here was called "Flywheel, Shyster & Flywheel", and starred Groucho and Chico Marx. It ran for 26 weeks and I was on all the shows. The show was done live from a movie sound stage on the RKO studio lot, as the NBC studios did not exist at that time.

The following list is composed of shows on which I worked during my career. The dates merely indicate the first time I performed on each. They are, of course, all network shows.

1934

- ✓ Feb. 7 - Burns & Allen
- April 8 - Hall of Fame
- May 6 - Chase & Sanborn
- June 1 - Jack Benny (38 years)
- Oct. 3 - Log Cabin

1935

- Feb. 13 -- Mary Pickford Show
- Feb. 26 - Bing Crosby Show
- ✓ March 8 - Hollywood Hotel (Leading Man for Motion Picture Stars)
- June 4 - Red Trails
- June 29 - Shell Chateau (Announced show for two years)

1936

- March 1 - Leslie Howard Show
- ✓ March 13 - First Nighter
- ✓ June 1 - Lux Radio Theatre (Announcer for two years)
- Oct. 1 - Joe E. Brown Show (Featured Performer during run of show)

1937

- ✓ Jan. 4 - Amos 'N Andy
- ✓ Jan. 12 - The Al Jolson Show
- Jan 24 - Walter Winchell
- Feb. 16 - Jack Oakie College
- Feb. 17 - Frank Morgan Show
- March 16 - Alka-Nox
- ✓ April 25 - Eddie Cantor Show
- June 5 - Grace Moore Show
- Aug. 5 - Showboat
- Sept. 29 - One Man's Family
- Nov. 14 - Silver Theatre

1938

- Jan. 16 - Tyrone Power Show
- April 1 - Lum 'N Abner
- April 30 - I opened the new CBS studios on Sunset Blvd., as I started and ~~finished~~ every show starting at 6AM and finishing at midnite. Charlie Vanda of CBS hired me for the day for \$50.00. I later told him that had AFRA been in existence, it would have cost him a couple of thousand. To which he replied - "Hell, if AFRA had been in, I wouldn't have hired you!"

- July 3 - Passing Parade
- Sept. 29 - Good News of 1938
- Oct. 5 - Texaco Star Theatre
- Nov. 17 - The MGM Show

1939

- Jan. 10 - the Hedda Hopper Show
- Jan. 30 - Those We Love
- ✓ Jan. 31 - Fibber McGee & Molly
- June 7 - Kay Kyser & College
- June 13 - Big Town
- ✓ July 24 - Blondie (I was Herb Woodley, the next-door neighbor 6 yrs.)
- Sept. 7 - Good News of 1939
- Nov. 6 - Sherlock Holmes
- Nov. 10 - Sunkist Show
- Dec. 23 - Arch Oboler Show
- Dec. 30 - Gene Autry's Melody Ranch

1940

July 21 - Signal Carnival

Oct. 18 - I Want a Divorce

✓ Oct. 24 - Rudy Vallee Show

1941

March 24 - Point Sublime

April 24 - Tommy Riggs Show

Sept. 12 - 3-Ring Time (39 weeks with Milton Berle)

Sept. 14 - Great Gildersleeve

Oct. 12 - Flagg & Quirt Show

Dec. 17 - The Dizzy Duncans (Starred in show)

Dec. 30 - Horace Heidt Show

1942

✓ Feb. 2 - Orson Welles Show

✓ March 29 - The Screen Guild Show

1943

Feb. 18 - The Bob Burns Show

Feb. 28 - The Ransom Sherman Show

June 30 - Date With Judy

1944

✓ Jan. 4 - Red Skelton Show

Jan. 13 - Sealtest Show (Featured Performer over 2 years)

✓ Jan. 23 - Life of Riley

Feb. 23 - Frank Sinatra Show

Feb. 26 - Corliss Archer

March 3 - People Are Funny

April 12 - Dr. Christian

✓ June 8 - Dinah Shore Show

1945

Jan. 6 - The Danny Kaye Show

April 25 - The Bille Burke Show

May 20 - The Eddie Bracken Show

May 30 - The Jack Carson Show

June 20 - The Saint

1946

✓ Jan. 6 - The Baby Snooks Show (worked weekly thru entire series)

March 15 - The Ginny Simms Show

May 3 - Duffy's Tavern

June 7 - The Alan Young Show

June 8 - The Jack Kirkwood Show

July 22 - Roma Wine Show

Sept. 7 - Judy Canova Show

Sept. 30 - The Maxwell House Show

July 18 - The Phillip Morris Show

Sept. 14 - The Joan Davis Show

Sept. 17 - Toasties Time

Oct. 1 - Hall of Fame

✓ Oct. 29 - Ozzie & Harriet

July 19 - Maisie

Sept. 23 - The Fannie Brice Show

Oct. 25 - Abbott & Costello

Nov. 30 - Durante-Moore Show

Oct. 3 - The Dick Haymes Show

✓ Oct. 8 - Bob Hope Show

Oct. 13 - The Phil Harris Show

Nov. 19 - My Friend Irma

1947

- May 12 - The Victor Borge Show
 May 28 - The Dennis Day Show
 Oct. 19 - Meet Me At Parky's (Featured Performer thruout Series)
 Nov. 26 - The Jack Paar Show

1948

- ✓ Jan. 30 - The Danny Thomas Show
 Feb. 4 - The Tony Martin Show
 ✓ Feb. 11 - The Jimmy Durante Show
 March 24 - Beulah
 June 17 - Hallmark Theatre
 June 26 - Steve Allen Show
 ✓ Sept. 27 - Our Miss Brooks
 Oct. 16 - My Favorite Husband

1949

- Jan. 30 - Life With Luigi
 April 5 - Martin & Lewis

1950

- Jan. 27 - Screen Directors Playhouse
 June 15 - Sara's Caper

1951

- ✓ March 28 - Dr. Christian

1952

- ✓ Feb. 3 - Donald O'Connor Show (TV)
 Feb. 27 - Eb & Zeb (TV)
 ✓ March 9 - Jack Benny (TV)
 April 11 - I Love Lucy (TV)
 May 21 - Edgar Bergen Show
 Oct. 17 - Corliss Archer

1953

- ✓ April 5 - Life With Luigi (TV)
 ✓ June 16 - My Little Margie
 June 27 - Saturday Nite Revue (TV)

1954

- Jan. 11 - The Ray Milland Show
 March 9 - Suspense
 Jan 30 - The Roy Rogers Show

1955

- ✓ July 28 - Make Room for Daddy (TV)

1956

- Feb. 1 - Private Secretary (TV)
 ✓ June 28 - Climax (TV)

1957

- Oct. 14 - Sally (TV)

1958

- Feb. 13 - Shower of Stars (TV)
 ✓ Nov. 19 - The Real McCoys (TV)
 Feb. 19 - The Betty White Show (TV)

1959

- ✓ Feb. 26 - I Married Joan (TV)

1960

- ✓ April 8 - The Flintstones (TV)
- ✓ July 28 - Dennis The Menace (TV)

Sept. 22 - Oh, Those Bells (TV)

1961

Feb. 15 - Angel (TV)

✓ Dec. 12 - Pete & Gladys (TV)

1964

✓ Jan. 2 - The Phil Silvers Show (TV)

✓ Aug. 27 - The Addams Family (TV)

1966

✓ Dec. 13 - Petticoat Junction (TV)

Actually from 1961 on, I have concentrated my work in the Commercials field, plus Jack Benny Specials. For the past 18 years, I have been the voice of the symbol of Harris Trust and Savings in Chicago. I am Hubert, the Harris Lion.

My most recent credits would be "The Oddball Couple", a cartoon series in which I co-star with Paul Winchell. He plays Fleabag, the slob dog, and I am Spiffy, the elegant cat. Also a number of "Sanford and Son" show.

As well as performing as an actor, I announced such shows as "Hollywood on the Air", "Lux Radio Theatre", "Shell Chateau", "The Al Jolson Show", and others.

Worked as a leading man opposite Motion Picture Stars on shows such as "Hollywood Hotel", "The Leslie Howard Show", "Texaco Star Theatre", "Screen Directors Playhouse", "Arch Oboler", etc.

Enough already!

~~Spiffy~~

Dinky + Dog } Harold Barbara
 Mouschieu }
 Snorks }

1st Jack Benny June 1, 1934

#2. Gold Key reference to records
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