

Playwright Pub Packs Punch... Participants Pronounce Premier Perfect!

With apologies to **VARIETY**, we couldn't resist adding our rave review to the Grand Sheik's. If we had to move out of the cozy surroundings of Lou & Sue's house, the Playwright is the next best thing. We only have one change to announce for future meetings. It seems we made a little financial faux pas (picture a tie twiddle here, folks). The price is \$17 per person (not \$15 as we had at our opening night). That includes the choice of meals, coffee, tea or soda with the meal, tax, and tip. We hope this won't inconvenience you too much. As before, there will be a cash bar. We hope you will join us for the May meeting. The Playwright Pub is at 488 Summer St, Stamford, phone is (203) 353-1120.

From I-95 Westbound

Take the ELM STREET exit, exit number 8. Turn RIGHT onto ELM ST. ELM ST becomes GROVE ST. Turn LEFT onto BROAD ST. Turn RIGHT onto BEDFORD ST. Turn LEFT onto NORTH ST. Turn LEFT onto SUMMER ST. Continue to 488 Summer Street.

From I-95 Eastbound

Take the GREENWICH AVENUE exit - exit number 7- toward CT-137 N. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto S STATE ST. Turn LEFT onto WASHINGTON BLVD. Turn RIGHT onto NORTH ST. Turn RIGHT onto SUMMER ST. Continue to 488 Summer Street.

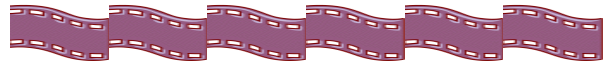
Merritt Parkway

Take exit 35 (High Ridge Road). HIGH RIDGE RD becomes SUMMER ST., follow Summer Street downtown (about 2 miles) to 488 Summer.

If you plan on attending, please contact Lou (Isabini@optonline.net) or me (cerinc1@earthlink.net) no later than April 28.



We have been a bit remiss in welcoming people in the newsletter. Now that we're in the restaurant and milling about is easier, please take a moment to greet any new faces. We would like to welcome to our tent two new members: Gary Theroux and Perren Page. If you haven't already met Steve Taft, he joined us earlier this year. Also, attending our first Pub meeting was long-time member, but first-time visitor, Tom Kessel and his guest from the Leave 'Em Laughing Tent. George and Kathy Pappas brought along Mike Lori (who has visited with us before) and guest, and Don and Diane Costello also brought guests. We hope the convivial atmosphere will bring out even more L&H aficionados. Welcome, one and all!



Many interesting sightings this month:

- 1) A member of the L&H newsgroup attended a recent paper and book fair and discovered L&H references in the following books. If any of you have any of these books, how about bringing them to the next meeting for a show and tell: A SHORY HISTORY of the MOVIES, 4th ed., by Gerald Mast, c-1986, ISBN 0-02-580500-2. The MARCEL MARCEAU Counting Book, by George Mendoza c-1971, Library of Congress Cat. Card # 77-143612. CLASSICS of the SILENT SCREEN, by Joe Franklin c-1959 (Research assistant, Wm. K. Everson), Library of Congress Cat. Card # 59-14063. THE TALKIES, Articles and Illustrations from "Photo Play Magazine" 1928-1940. "Tear-Stained Laughter" June 1933 by Richard Griffith c-1971, Library of Congress Cat. Card # 75-154347.
- 2) TCM was running several of the Ken Murray home movie compilations. At the end of one, he concludes by thanking all the stars who lent him

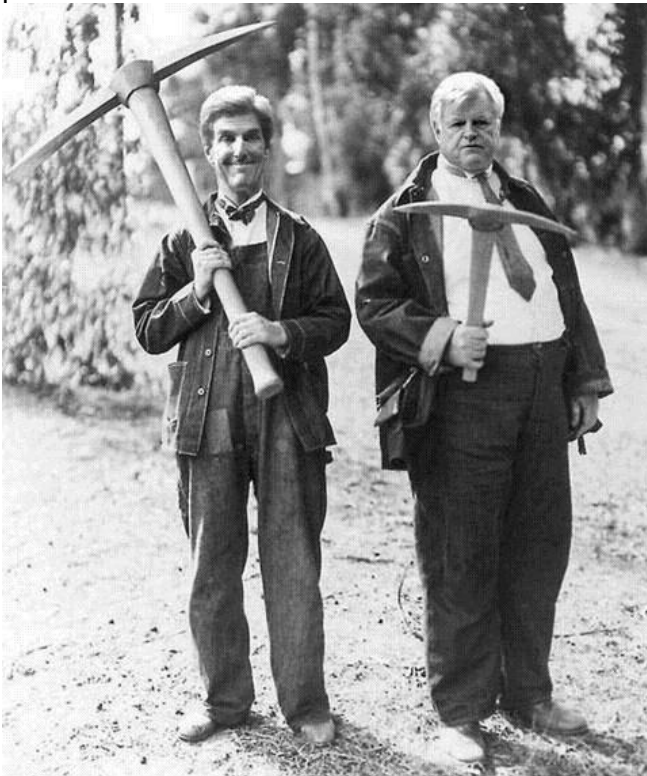
some of their own home movies – Stan's photo was among the contributors.

3) This link was sent to me and I was pleased to find a L&H reference in it. Click here and enjoy (be sure to scroll all the way to the end):

<http://www.biomagic.com/email/eud2.html>

4) An eagle-eyed member of the L&H newsgroup noted the following: "In a recent episode of "The Simpsons," Bart and a girl escape from juvenile hall, chained together, alá "The Defiant Ones." They go to a blacksmith to get their chain severed, but find a long line of escaped convicts ahead of them. Two of the convicts appear to be Laurel and Hardy, although Laurel is drawn with gray hair. You had to be really sharp-eyed to catch it. Like many Simpsons visual jokes, it lasted about one second. But it was a good gag."

5) Member Gino Dercola spotted the following political cartoon:



"Say, Ted, why do they keep calling me a gold digger, anyways?"



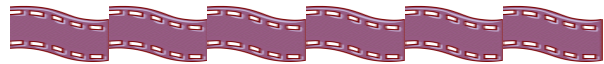
IN MEMORIAM

We have received word of the passing of two people with Laurel & Hardy connections.

On March 28, Jan Berry, a member of the duo Jan & Dean, which had the 1960's surf music hits

"Dead Man's Curve" and "The Little Old Lady (From Pasadena)," died. He was 62. He had been in poor health recently from the lingering effects of brain damage from a 1966 car crash. He was an avid Laurel and Hardy fan and would watch their films during his long recovery from his car accident. He cited Laurel and Hardy as among the reasons why he managed to survive and commemorated his appreciation in a 1968 song, entitled simply "Laurel & Hardy." The lyrics include the line "And I know they keep folks happy, in the laughing sky."

Former long-time member Stan Taffel passed this news along: "June Chase Hargis, Charley's daughter, whom he used to call his "pal", has passed away. Charley's sole surviving daughter died on Christmas Eve, 2003. She recently moved to an assisted living complex and was not seeing anybody except her immediate family. She was eighty six years old, in very frail health and was the second daughter of Charley and Bebe Chase. Their first daughter, Pauline, whom Charley wanted to name Polly (the family last name was legally Parrott-- Polly Parrott) died many years ago. It was at her late husband's insistence that she not give interviews about her famous father. Only after his passing did she make a few scant appearances. It was an honor to be with her and to show her some of her father's films. Her face would light up when she saw him on the screen. A treasure never to be forgotten."

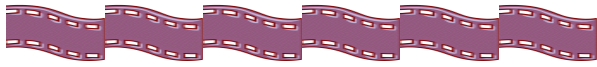


PLAY BALL!

Grab your catcher's mitts and prepare to be dazzled, sports fans. We're all set for Friday, July 9 at Harbor Yard to watch the Bridgeport Bluefish. That was the night that had the best response among members. We have 20 tickets reserved in the same section of the Harbor Club as last year (behind home plate), only this year we're in the 1st, 2nd and 4th rows. Any closer to the field and they'd make us bat cleanup. I hope to have the tickets in time for the May meeting. Tickets are \$17 each and I will have enough for everyone who signed up plus a few extras. Game time is 7:30 and there are fireworks scheduled for after the game. Our group name will be on the display board so come and whoop it up.

JUNE MEETING

It's not too early to begin planning our end of year extravaganza. Lou and Marietta Sabini have graciously offered to host a pool party at their lovely home for our June meeting. We are trying to determine if a Saturday night (June 5) with a later start (say about 7 p.m.) might be better so that it will be dark enough to show movies by the pool. We'll discuss this at the May meeting. We would also like to charge a nominal \$5 per person to cover the cost of food and paper goods. Anyone who attended last year's pool party knows that Lou and Marietta went above and beyond the call so we are looking forward to another fun evening.



DUES INCREASE

One of the decisions reached at the February meeting was to increase the annual dues from \$15 a year per household to \$20 a year per household. Much of the increase is to offset postage costs, but we are also trying to fund our website. Webmeister Andy Lehrfeld has been doing a stellar job of maintaining a site that has not only brought us a number of new members, but has brought interesting requests and stories from around the world. I thought I'd like to share the latest with you:

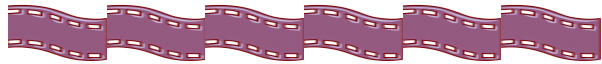
i am 6 years old and after visiting the laurel and hardy museum on my birthday i would like to join a fan club, i already have 53 of their films please tell me how do i sign up. aaron mcmaster thomson
92 mostyn avenue, liverpool england

I forwarded Aaron's note to our Laughing Gravy Sons, Steve Smith and John Ullah, and have been assured that Aaron will be contacted for membership closer to home. There's our future, folks, so I consider the web fund a worthy cause. Now if we can just get Aaron to learn about the Caps key.



SEPTEMBER MEETING

Some of you are probably thinking, "September? Is she crazy?" Well, yes, but that's beside the point. In planning our outdoor meetings, the Sabinis asked for June and that leaves Andy Lehrfeld and his terrific outdoor screen for September. He has requested that we do a Saturday night. The first Saturday is September 4 and it's part of the Labor Day weekend. If enough members can't make it, we'll push it to the following Saturday. Just put it in your calendars for now and we can discuss it further at the May meeting.



Sons of the Desert

See you May 2