

ONE GOOD TURN

Newsletter of The *One Good Turn* Tent, Oasis 156, of The Sons Of The Desert

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <div data-bbox="266 491 613 726" data-label="Text"> <p>Flying Deuces L&H 1939</p> </div> <div data-bbox="266 768 613 1003" data-label="Text"> <p>Long Fliv the King Charley Chase 1926</p> </div> <div data-bbox="266 1045 613 1281" data-label="Text"> <p>Sun., December 7 Sabini Theatre Mingle 2:30 p.m. Movies 3:00 p.m.</p> </div> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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Gee, I'm Glad to See You

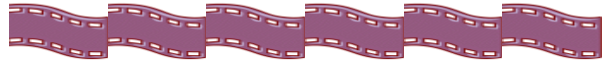
If you recognize that as the last line of the Boys 1939 film, *The Flying Deuces*, then you're sure to love the full 69 minutes of classic dialogue and laughs. We haven't screened this movie in 5 years, so consider it the first of your Christmas treats. The other is a silent short we've never screened before (I'm so jealous). So come and be merry at our holiday meeting on December 7.

As usual, movies will start promptly at 3:00 p.m. with everyone invited out for a meal after the screenings. Cost is \$5 per family to cover cleaning costs (meal extra). If you bring a snack to share, just remember to take your leftovers with you. RSVP by contacting Lou

(lousabini@gmail.com), or George
(gpappas@pace.edu)

DIRECTIONS TO THE SABINIS:

Merritt Parkway to exit 35, High Ridge Rd. At bottom of ramp turn right. At 7th light (approx. 1.3 mile) turn right onto Ridge Park Ave (church on corner). Bear right onto Wood Ridge Drive. #151 is on the corner of Wood Ridge and Rosano.



The Sheik Speaks

From the Sheik Speaks column of October 1999.

Flying Deuces was the only picture with the boys which was released through RKO Radio Pictures. It was



produced by Boris Morros, a musical director turned producer, who needed a surefire winner at the box office. At this period, Laurel and Hardy's fame was at an all-time high, thus prompting the wily producer to sign on the team. The screenwriter, Alfred Schiller, proved to be a bad choice for L&H's brand of humor. The dialogue that he had written for the boys was filled with "one-liners" and wisecracks, more adaptable to Abbott and Costello's characters rather than the innocent buffoonery of Laurel and Hardy. In a haste, Stan Laurel interceded, and with the help of writers, Charles Rogers, Harry Langdon and an assortment of gagmen, turned in a story which seemed like a remake of their earlier effort "*Beau Hunks*" (1931).

The director was British-born Edward Sutherland (1895-1974), an ex-vaudevillian, who began directing under Charlie Chaplin as his assistant on the 1923 feature "*A Woman of Paris*". Later on, he was to become one of W.C. Fields' favorite directors, working with the temperamental comedian on films like "*International House*" (1933), "*Mississippi*" (1935), and

"Poppy" (1936). He also worked with Eddie Cantor in the delightful "Palmy Days" (1931) and was the director of Abbott and Costello in their film debut "One Night in the Tropics" (1940). He remembered *The Flying Deuces* as being an unhappy experience. When asked what his working relationship was like with Stan Laurel, he replied, "I'd have rather worked with a tarantula". Happily, this undue friction isn't evident in the finished product, because as it is, *The Flying Deuces* remains a delightful film, much better in fact than its Roach predecessor, *Swiss Miss*.

Stan and Babe's female lead was beautiful Jean Parker, an ex-MGM contract player, who appeared in top vehicles like "Gabriel Over the White House" (1933), George Cukor's "Little Women" (RKO; 1933), in which she played the ill-fated Beth opposite Katharine Hepburn, and many others. By 1939, her career was spiraling downhill and she was cast in the Hal Roach production "Zenobia", which featured Oliver Hardy in his first solo role since his initial teaming with Stan Laurel. Apparently, Babe got along quite well with his leading lady, and one can only guess that it was he who suggested her for the role of Georgette. By the mid-1940's, she found herself working for poverty row studio Monogram Pictures, where she was cast in many low budget "who done it" type films such as "Detective Kitty O'Day" and "Dead Man's Eyes" (both 1944). It wasn't until 1950 that she landed an excellent supporting role in the classic western "The Gunfighter" starring Gregory Peck.

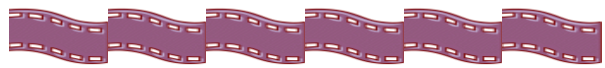
Also in the cast is Reginald Gardiner, whose forte in movies was playing pompous, fussy British types. Among his more memorable efforts were "The Man Who Came to Dinner" (1942) with Bette Davis and Monty Woolley, and the Jack Benny comedy "The Horn Blows at Midnight" (1945). Also on hand are L&H regulars Jimmy Finlayson, Rychard Cramer, whose short cameo is a hoot, and perennial drunk, Arthur Housman.

It's unfortunate that a few years later, the studio heads at Fox and MGM didn't follow the good example of Boris Morros by letting Stan take control of their films from 1941-45. At least there is one non-Roach Laurel and Hardy film that rates with their earlier vehicles.



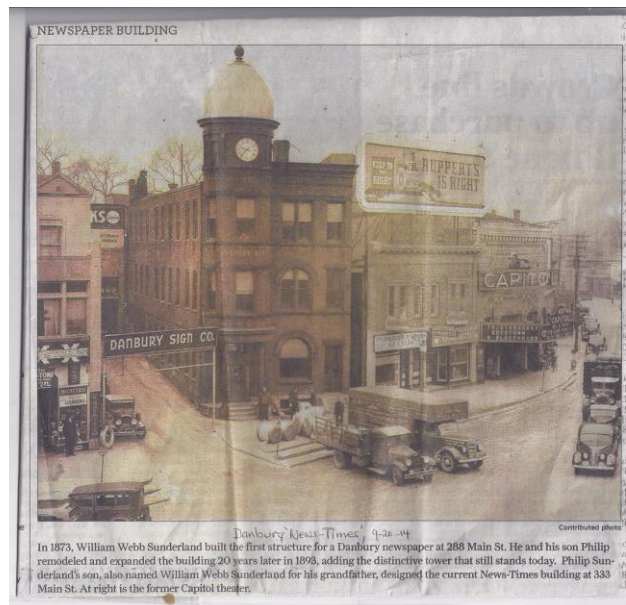
Long Fliv the King

What a funny short this sounds like – just for the cast alone: Charley Chase, Martha Sleeper (remember the hapless daughter in Pass the Gravy?), Max Davidson (the even more hapless father in Pass the Gravy), and Ollie without Stan. Charley Chase is sentenced to die but a Princess visiting America hears that her father, the King of Thermosa, has died and she can only inherit the throne if she is married. On the out-of-sight-out-of-mind premise she elects to marry Charley who isn't going to be around very long. But his wrongful conviction is over-turned, and he is anxious to hie himself to Thermoas and tend to matters of the state. First, he has to tend to the Royal Guard.



Capital Theater in Danbury

Last month Don Costello shared a very interesting sighting. In an article about some of the changes on



Danbury's Main Street, there's a picture of the Capital Theater. If you blow up the image, you'll see that the marquee boasts a 1939 Double Feature: Boys Town starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney and BlockHeads, starring you know who. Thanks to eagle-eyed Don for sending us this.

How Many More Shopping Days?

Santa has a lot to choose from for the film lover on your shopping list. Some of these I've passed along in recent months; others are new.

- "Laurel and Hardy – American Legends" by Charles River Editors, California; it's a softback, 44 pages, in English, size 6" x 9"; ISBN-13:978-1499644357; available on Amazon.com
- A site called Redbubble <http://www.redbubble.com/people/iconic-arts/works/12975292-laurel-and-hardy?p=sticker> will put a certain L&H image on just about anything (like this throw pillow)
- There's a similar site at Fine Art America <http://fineartamerica.com/products/laurel-and-hardy-bliss-of-art-canvas-print.html>
- "Laurel and Hardy – The European Tours." by A.J. Marriot, go to <http://www.laurelandhardythebritishtours.com/eutindex.html>
- "Nobody's Stoooge - Ted Healy" by Bill Cassara (a California Son with several book credits to his name) available now from Bearmanor Media.
- For the Lego enthusiast, get your own Stan & Ollie figures. It's a British site and they say the cutoff for



mailing orders outside the UK has passed. US orders will be sent in January.

<http://minifigs.me/shop/laurel-hardy-lego-minifigures/>

- Wolfgang Gunther, long-time German Son has created a L&H calendar for \$26.90 plus shipping. Contact Wolfgang at laurel.hardy.museum@t-online.de
- And if you're really wanting to splurge, start saving for two different European events: the UK convention in 2016 and an Italian charity event during the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, May 24-25, 2015; that occasion will be dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Stan Laurel.

So dig out your pennies, pounds and Euros and have a happy shopping spree!



**MAY EVERYONE HAVE THE SAFEST AND HAPPIEST
OF HOLIDAYS
SEE YOU DECEMBER 7**

