

ONE GOOD TURN

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

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Back to School

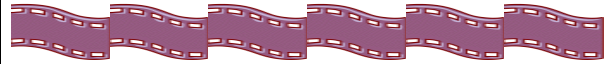
Even if you're not sitting on one or the other side of a school desk this year, there is something about September that just begs for school memories. Lou's picks make you wonder what kind of school experiences Hal Roach must have had. Join us for a pea-shootin', apple polishin', spitballin' good time.

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 (Isabini@optonline.net), or George (gpappas@pace.edu)

DIRECTIONS TO THE SABINIS:

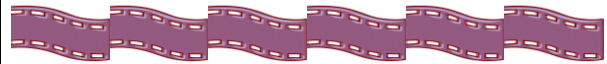
Merritt Parkway to exit 35, High Ridge Rd. At bottom of ramp turn right. At 7th light (approx. 1.3 mile) turn right

onto Ridge Park Ave (church on corner). Bear right onto Wood Ridge Drive. #151 is on the corner of Wood Ridge and Rosano.



DUES REMINDER

2014-2015 DUES ARE DUE AT THE MEETING. IF YOU WANT TO MAIL THEM, PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO GEORGE PAPPAS AND MAIL TO LOU SABINI AT 151 WOOD RIDGE DR, STAMFORD, CT 06905



Notes on This Month's Films

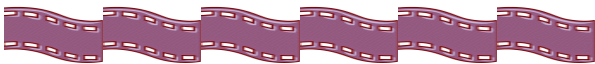
By Lou Sabini

Now that summer is almost over, we are back sharing some laughter with our beloved comedy duo, Laurel and Hardy. This month, our theme is "back to school," which I know many of our teachers, like George and Sue, can relate to... We will be starting off the program with a Boy Friends short from 1932, called YOU'RE TELLING ME, which was directed by Robert A. McGowan, who used the pseudonym, Anthony Mack, to avoid confusion with his uncle, Robert F. McGowan, who helmed many of the best Our Gang Comedies. This entry is from the last season of the series and many of the "regulars" had, by this time, departed for "greener pastures," leaving the proceedings to fall into the less capable hands of Mickey Daniels and Grady Sutton. Laurel & Hardy foil, blustery Billy Gilbert, is on hand, and steals most of the show from the two leads. Next, we have, what I consider THE best Our Gang Comedy entitled TEACHER'S PET (1930), which was the first film to incorporate the tune "The Good Old Days," which became the theme song for all subsequent

ventures until Hal Roach sold the series, lock, stock and barrel to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in 1938. Also, this was the first short that cast lovely June Marlowe as schoolteacher, Miss Crabtree, who becomes the apple of young Jackie Cooper's eyes. This entry mixes mild doses of comedy and pathos so successfully that two other "sequels" were produced later that year...SCHOOL'S OUT and LOVE BUSINESS.



Our feature presentation is the 63 minute version of A CHUMP AT OXFORD (1940) starring Laurel & Hardy, which sends our two heroes to Oxford University, where they hope to attain an education ("We're not illiterate enough."). This was the second to last film the boys made for producer Hal Roach and it's one of the funniest, with Stan Laurel delivering what is probably his best performance in any of their vehicles, where it is discovered that he was once one of Oxford's greatest scholars and athletes many years prior, but a bump on the noggin, caused him to suffer a severe case of amnesia, thus resulting in the loveable simpleton we have all come to love. Incidentally, this was the second film that future horror film great, Peter Cushing, appeared in (he's very evident as one of the students). The director was Stan's good friend Alf Goulding, who had been with the Hal Roach Studios since they first opened their doors in 1914. It's been a number of years since we've seen this excellent comedy, so this one might be new to some of you...



26TH ANNUAL OLIVER HARDY FESTIVAL

Back in 2006, the Harlem, Georgia, tent hosted the International Sons of the Desert Convention. This tiny town has built a major industry around commemorating the birth of its favorite son, Oliver Hardy. Even the water tower bears his image. The biggest event of all is the annual Oliver Hardy festival, being held this year on the weekend of October 3. In the event any of you have a chance to take in this extravaganza, here's what to expect:

Friday, October 3rd, will be a good time to walk around downtown Harlem, see the sights associated with Norvell Hardy, visit the Laurel and Hardy Museum, visit the city's shops/stores to say hello, and drive around the city and nearby communities. Early that evening, the city will have a special reception and dinner, the theme being "The Stolen Jools," for all visiting Sons. This is a private event and includes an RSVP, as it will be catered by Harlem's newest sponsor, Applebee's. Their hope is that all come in costume! They want to make this more festive and more fun than years past...if this is possible! This will be held outdoors (weather permitting) in downtown Harlem and will include local dignitaries. In years past, this has been a lot of fun and a great success. After the dinner reception, Sons will visit the Museum to relax and enjoy each other's company. There will be a brief meeting of the local Berth Marks Tent in Babe's Bijou in the rear of the museum, and the viewing of some films.

On Saturday, the Festival will be in full swing by 9:00 a.m., with hundreds of vendors on the closed streets of Harlem. The main parade starts at 10:00 a.m. down Harlem's main street (this is always first-rate and fun). The Festival is over about at 5:00 p.m. Sometime after 6:00 p.m., Sons will meet at Gary and Jean Russeth's nearby museum for a bite to eat and just relaxing and socializing the rest of the evening.

Every Son I know who has attended in the past has had a blast. So, if you get a chance to go, be sure and give us some commentary when you get back.

Now *THAT'S* a Photo Op

While I hope I didn't wear you out with all of the news about the Convention, I would be remiss if I didn't share the most incredible memory of the entire convention. Seven of the surviving Our Gang kids gathered to share memories (or what their parents told them). It was an amazing afternoon. We would see the short in which the "child" most famously appeared and then they would speak for 15 minutes, pose for pictures and then sign autographs. How many of these shots do you recognize?

Back (L-R) Bill Minderhout (recites Peter Piper in "Pinch Singer"), Priscilla Montgomery (Rushin' Ballet), Dickie DeNuet (Fishy Tales), Leonard Landy; Front (L-R) Margaret Kerry (appeared in Our Gang as Peggy Lynch), Mildred Kornman, Lassie Lou Ahern, Betsy Gay.

This was an opportunity guaranteed not to be repeated.



We also got to tour the cemeteries and see the burial sites for Stan and Ollie. The Sons delivered floral tributes to each.



The next convention is going to be in England and while it won't be possible to match the experiences only a Hollywood Convention could provide, it is guaranteed to be a fun event. As more details become available, I will pass them along.



Busy Bodies

Gino Dercola sends many interesting items most of which I forward as I get them. However, this poster art was so striking, I

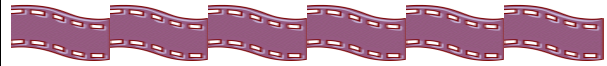
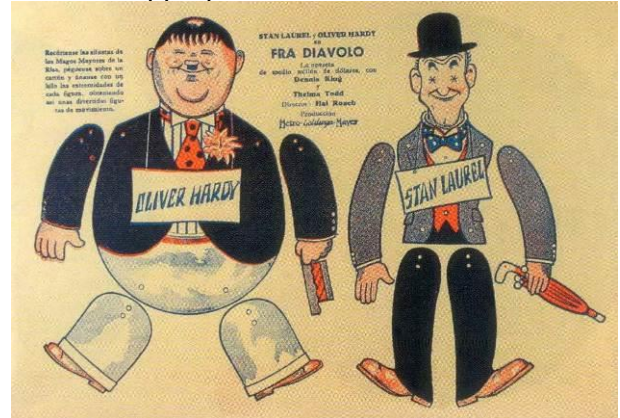


kept it just for us. Here's his description:

The artwork and color on many Laurel and Hardy posters are just amazing. It's an expensive hobby to collect the choice ones, but there is a lot of satisfaction in having such gems. Here's one example from the internet (it's Italian). The title, "Via Convento" is a collection of three Italian comedies of Stan and Babe from 1947. The title of the three comedies are Me and My Pal, Scram, and One Good Turn. Thanks to Giancarlo Manfredini of the Blotto Tent of Italy for filling in some of the information about his poster.



Gino also sent this interesting paper doll art, supposedly for Fra Diavolo, but the images don't seem at all appropriate for that film.



SEE YOU September 7



Suns of the Desert