

Dale Carnegie

5-Minute Biographies

Author of "How to Win Friends and Influence People."



HAROLD LLOYD

A Fire, An Astrologer, And Some Horned-Rimmed Glasses Made Him The Richest Actor In The World

My first sight of Harold Lloyd was a distinct shock. I should never have known him off the screen, but he says, for that matter, no one does. For example, on one occasion, he was at a party with a friend who wears glasses. (Lloyd himself never wears them off the screen.) This friend didn't resemble him at all; but everybody thought that the chap in the horn-rimmed glasses must be Harold Lloyd.

One day as he was drifting home from school in Omaha, Nebraska, he came across an astrologer standing on a street corner

surrounded by colored charts. This astrologer claimed he could read your fortune by the stars. Little Harold listened, pop-eyed with excitement. Suddenly a fire engine dashed by, and the other boys ran after it. But he didn't. He kept listening to the astrologer. That was a strange thing for a boy to do and one of the men in the crowd noticed it.

The fellow that noticed it was John Lane Connor, the leading man in the Burwood Stock Company of Omaha. He walked over to Lloyd, got acquainted with him and asked him if he knew of some

nice place where an actor could get board and room . . . Did he? Harold leaped at the chance? Harold's mother was a dress-maker and his father sold sewing machines. One day his father got smashed up in an automobile accident and hurt his back, and the insurance company paid him \$3,500. That was a fortune, so he decided to pack up and leave the middle west and try his luck somewhere else.

Finally Harold's father said: "Let's flip a coin. If it's heads, we'll go to California. If it's tails, we'll go to New York."

But heads came up, so the family moved to San Diego, and Harold did odd jobs about the theatre there. Day after day, he called at the casting offices; and day after day, he was turned away. He was desperate. He must get by that doorman. He noticed that at noon all the actors came out of the Universal lot and went across the road to a lunch counter, and he also noticed the doorman didn't pay any attention to them when they came back with their grease paint on. So the next day, Harold Lloyd hid behind a bill-board at noon, put on some make-up himself and slipped by the doorman in the crowd.

There was an actor by the name of Hal Roach who was playing small bits on this lot. He told Lloyd one day that his aunt had died and left him a little money so he was going to make pictures himself, comedies, and wanted Harold to join him.

One day he picked up an idea that was worth a fortune to him—picked it up quite by accident. He was tired, so he drifted into a theatre and saw an actor with a straw hat and a pair of horn-rimmed glasses playing the part of a preacher. This actor wasn't trying to be funny; but he was really a scream. Lloyd decided then and there to make horn-rimmed glasses his trade mark and to play the part that has since made him famous.

The funniest thing I know about Harold Lloyd is that he himself didn't know he was funny until he was twenty years old. Before that, he used to go around reciting Shakespeare. And when he first started making pictures, the directors told him he wasn't

a comedian and never could be a comedian and they advised him to get out of pictures and make his living at something else. But he kept right on—and now he is the richest actor in all the world. In fact, he is the richest actor who ever lived.

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SWAN CREEK

Rev. N. T. Jarvis of Roaring River, filled his regular appointment at Swan Creek Baptist church Saturday afternoon. Rev. D. C. Swaim of Winston-Salem, was in charge of the Sunday morning service. There were 164 present for Sunday school Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Couch, R. R. Swaim and daughter, Evelyn Swaim, spent last Saturday in North Wilkesboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vestal, Miss Pearl Mathis, Feimster Morrison and Phillip and Alton Vestal spent Sunday in Greensboro, the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Coy Vestal.

Misses Myrtle and Vesta Mathis visited their sister, Mrs. Coy Calloway, and Mr. Calloway, of Cycle, Saturday.

Mrs. Glenn Swaim and children of Ronda, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Myers Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Martin of Elkin, were the overnight guests of Mrs. Martin's mother, Mrs. R. G. Myers, Saturday.

Rev. D. C. Swaim of Winston-Salem and Miss DeEtte Swaim visited Mr. and Mrs. Rob Cheek at Mountain Grove Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Lizzie Stokes of Cycle, and Mrs. Carrie Swaim of Elkin, visited their brother, H. C. Cook, Sunday.

Rev. N. T. Jarvis of Roaring River, was the dinner guest Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Pardue.

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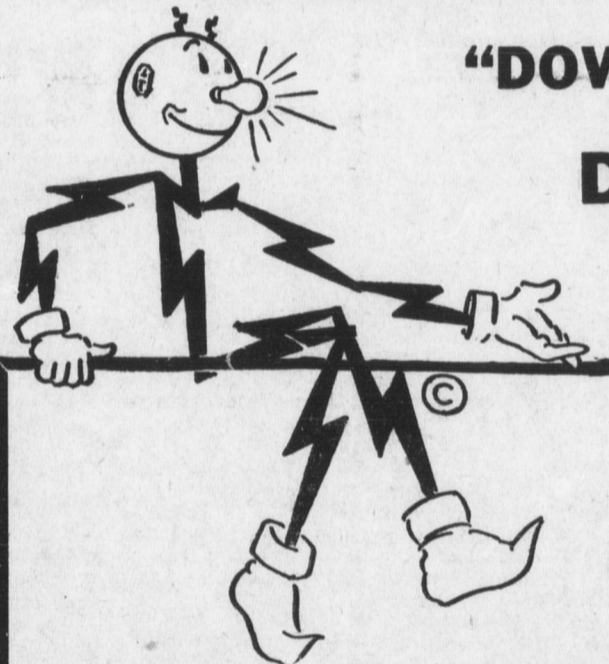
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