

Nostalgia Quiz (and Contest!)

The Linking Game

By Roger M. Grace

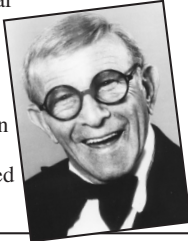
Not long ago, TV Land, a cable network featuring shows from earlier decades, aired a quickie segment during breaks in which links between one TV star and another were reeled off.

Let's take a hand at the game.

Here's an example:

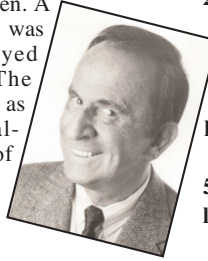
How is Jackie Gleason linked to Andy Griffith?

Answer: Gleason played



opposite Audrey Meadows in "The Honeymooners." Audrey Meadows' sister was Jane Meadows, who was married to Steve Allen. A regular on Steve Allen's show was Don Knotts, who later played Deputy Barney Fife on "The Andy Griffith Show" (as well as Griffith's neighbor, Les Calhoun, during three seasons of "Matlock").

See how well you do on making the connections. The answers appear below.



1. How is Dick Van Dyke linked to Don Adams?
2. How is Roy Rogers linked to Maureen O'Hara?
3. How is George Burns linked to Rin Tin Tin?
4. How is William Shatner linked to Dinah Shore?
5. How is Jack Paar linked to Mike Wallace?



ANSWERS:

1. Dick Van Dyke played opposite Mary Tyler Moore (Laura Petrie) in "The Dick Van Dyke Show." In "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," Gavin MacLeod had the role of Murray. MacLeod went on to portray Captain Stubing in "The Love Boat." A regular on that show was Bernie Koppel, the doctor, who earlier played a KAOS agent (Siegfried) in "Get Smart," starring Don Adams.

Another link is that Van Dyke won the Emmy for Outstanding Continued Performance by an Actor in a Series in 1964 and (with revamped categories) Outstanding Continued Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Comedy Series in 1965 and 1966; Adams won the Emmy for Outstanding Continued Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Comedy Series in 1967, 1968, and 1969.

2. Roy Rogers' sidekick was Pat Buttrum, who later portrayed Mr. Haney in "Green Acres," which starred Eddie Albert (along with Eva Gabor). Albert went on to co-star with Robert Wagner in "Switch." Wagner was married to Natalie Wood, who, in "Miracle on 34th Street," played the daughter (Susan Walker); Maureen O'Hara played the mother (Doris Walker). Also, both appeared in movies with John Wayne. Rogers had a role in Wayne's "Dark Command" (1940). Wayne and O'Hara co-starred in "Rio Grande" (1950), "The Quiet Man" (1952) and "McLintock!" (1963).

3. George Burns and Gracie Allen, in their TV show, had a fictitious next door neighbor, Blanche Morton, played by Bea Benaderet — who later assumed the role of the matriarch (Kate Bradley) in "Petticoat Junction." Edgar Buchanan was "Uncle Joe" in that series. Earlier, he was Hopalong Cassidy's sidekick (playing "Red Connors") in the TV series. One of Hoppy's two previous sidekicks in TV episodes (condensed from movies) was Rand Brooks ("Lucky"). Brooks went on to play Corporal Boone in the "Rin Tin Tin" TV series.

There is, of course, the Robards connection. George Burns won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1975 ("The Sunshine Boys"); Jason Robards Jr. won that award in 1976 ("All the President's Men") and 1977 ("Julia"). Jason Robards Sr. co-starred with Rin Tin Tin in 1927 in two Warner Brothers' movies ("Hills of Kentucky" and "Tracked by the Police"). Also, George Burns had a role in the 1933 movie, "College Humor." So did Joe Sawyer. Sawyer later played Sergeant O'Hara in the TV show, "Rin Tin Tin."

4. William Shatner was Captain Kirk in "Star Trek"; Leonard Nimoy was Spock. Nimoy next had the role of Paris during two seasons of "Mission: Impossible." The lead actor was Peter Graves. His brother is James Arness, best known as Marshal Dillon in "Gunsmoke." A regular on that series was Burt Reynolds, who was romantically linked to Dinah Shore. Both won the Banff Television Festival Award of Excellence —

Shore in 1984 and Shatner in 1994 — both were born in March, both names start with "Sh," and the late Shore was, and Shatner is, Jewish.

5. Jack Paar's announcer was Hugh Downs. Downs became co-host of "20-20," the other half of the team being Barbara Walters. Walters had earlier been paired, unsuccessfully, with Harry Reasoner on the ABC News. Reasoner had been a reporter on CBS' "60 Minutes," along with Mike Wallace. The two actually have much in common: both got their starts in broadcasting on Michigan radio stations. Both hosted network quiz shows in the 1950s, Paar emceeding CBS' "Bank on the Stars" in 1953 and Wallace presiding over various quiz shows, most notably NBC's "The Big Surprise" in 1956-57. They competed with each other for late night viewers in 1961-62 while Paar was hosting NBC's "Tonight Show" (at that point known as "The Jack Paar Show") and Wallace was hosting the East Coast end of "PM East, PM West." And both were born in early May, 1918 (Paar on May 1 in Ohio and Wallace on May 8 in Massachusetts).



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