

AMOS 'N ANDY, COMEDIANS OF THE RADIO ARE POPULAR; PULL DOWN LARGE SALARIES

Why are Amos 'n' Andy so popular? How do they get their uncanny ability to make people laugh? What situation does the couple use to make their program so successful? Who are Amos 'n' Andy? How much do they earn a year? These questions are answered fully in the following article as told by A. A. Brill to Michel Mok. Dr. Brill is a noted psychiatrist in New York and has written extensively along Freudian lines. He practically rips Amos 'n' Andy apart in order to get at the bottom of their success. Read what he says about the pair, and you will enjoy their next broadcast a lot more.

Amos 'N' Andy Explained

In recent months the Amos 'n' Andy popularity has grown into a veritable craze. It is a standing rule at the National Broadcasting Company that nothing is allowed to interfere with their program except the president, other high Government officials commanding the radio for announcements of national importance, and SOS calls.

So anxious are persons in all walks of life to hear them that telephone conversations in the eastern part of the United States have decreased to an unprecedented minimum between seven and seven-fifteen, the Amos 'n' Andy period. At moving picture theatres, attendance at the so-called supper show has dropped to a marked degree. But perhaps the most striking evidence of their popularity is the fact that they are influencing the language. Persons in all walks of life are saying "Ise regusted," or check and double check." Staid business men write "propolition," instead of proposition.

Briefly, then, we are confronted with a phenomenon the like of which has never been known before anywhere. What is the secret of Amos 'n' Andy's tremendous popularity?

Amos 'n' Andy have an almost uncanny ability to make people laugh. As one intelligent man said to me, "You sit in your chair forget everything and just laugh." From the earliest civilized times those possessing that particular gift have been the darlings of humanity. They were forgiven anything. The court jester could be as impudent as he pleased; so long as he amused the king, he was immune from punishment.

Why are funny men such great favorites? Because wit, or humor is one of the outlets civilized man has evolved to give vent to pentup or tabooed emotions. Through it he obtains release from repression and oppression. Laughter is a narcotic. Wit is one of civilized man's means of freeing himself from oppression, and of realizing desires in a concealed way.

One of the elements of the success of Amos 'n' Andy, then, is the lure of the forbidden. "But they are as innocent as the day is long!" I can hear you protesting. "Their stuff is absolutely clean."

Right, But a great many things are forbidden in civilization that are not unclean in the least. One of these is talk improperly. From the time we are children we are told constantly to speak correctly if we do not, we are punished. All through our lives we unconsciously long to return to the happy days of "eeen! meeple-min!-me." Puns and baby talk! No wonder children and grownups alike are extremely fond of them. For the children, "the lid is off." Improper English is not only permitted it is funny and admirable.

But the necessity for talking properly is by no means the only oppression under which we chafe. We are all oppressed by somebody or something. One man is oppressed by his boss; a second by his competitors; a third by his bank; a fourth by the stock ticker. Government oppresses some of us; religion thers. Many people are oppress-

ed by poverty; a few by riches. Thousands are oppressed by ill-health and by real or fancier hard luck. Children are oppressed by their parents, their older brothers and sisters, their teachers.

One quick and easy escape from all these forms of stress is wit and humor. But some forms of humor are more "sure-fire" as they say in the show business, than other. Aside from their garbled words and puns, Amos 'n' Andy use few if any jokes or "gags". They rely mainly for their laughs on situations.

This comedy is of the blackface variety. This always is "sure-fire." From time immemorial, people have always made fun of these minorities among them who did not speak the language well.

As for the situation, Amos 'n' Andy use the time-honored device of the big fellow bullying the little fellow, who, however triumphs in the end by dint of greater smartness. Andy is lazy stupid conceited domineering. Amos is industrious submissive, modest, but comparatively clever. This, too, is "sure fire." It is the idea underlying the Mutt and Jeff comic strip, the widest read of all newspaper cartoons. It is also the secret of Charlie Chaplin's success.

Another "sure-fire" quality in the Amos 'n' Andy comedy is that their humor is grim. Carefully analyzed, there is nothing jolly about this material. The characters are in constant difficulty, their financial and love affairs are always in a muddle. But they make the best of a bad bargain. This is known as "the humor of the gallows." It is the kind of humor that makes the spectator or listener feel: "Well, if those fellows with all their troubles can laugh at their hard luck, I am, after all, not so badly off myself."

The secret of Amos 'n' Andy success then, is that, either by accident or design, they have taken several "sure-fire" comedy devices and welded them into a whole—garbled words and puns, black-face dialect, the big-fellow-and-little-fellow situation, funny nicknames, and the humor of the gallows. And they present this mixture in a manner so childish and simple that it can be followed and understood by anyone without the slightest effort.

But even this, though it explains the universal appeal, does not account for their overwhelming popularity. This, of course, is where the radio comes in. They are known and liked by millions instead of thousands as might be the case were they stage entertainers.

Who are the workers of this modern miracle? Freeman F. Gosden, the Amos of the Pair, was born in Richmond, Va. Thus the southern dialect comes naturally to him. He is 31 years old, married and has a 20-months-old son. Chas. J. Correll, Andy, is a native of Peoria, Illinois. He is 40 and married.

All the material is written by Correll and Gosden themselves, usually between nine a.m. and noon Correll (Andy) operates the typewriter, while Gosden walks up and down, usually jingling a handful of coins. Both contribute ideas. Like composers of music they marry their manuscript with the "mood" in which the dialogue is written, such as "sad," "gay," "lazy," "peppy." This is done so that "Bill" Hay their announcer, can rest his announcement in the same tempo and mood as the rest of the broadcast.

They take their work very seriously, and "live" their characters before the microphone. Correll projects Andy's booming voice by speaking close to the microphone. Gosden produces his falsetto about a foot and a half away from the "mike."

The National Broadcasting Com

LICENSES FOR CARS GOOD UNTIL MARCH 1ST, 1931

Winter. Operation of Motor Vehicles is Fostered — Drivers' Permits Also Extended.

New Brunswick 1930 Motor Vehicle Licenses are good for use until February 28th, 1931, according to an order published in the Royal Gazette by Hon. D. A. Stewart, Minister of Public Works, acting under provisions of the New Brunswick Motor Vehicle Act, extending until February 28th, 1931, all licenses which would otherwise expire on December 31st, 1930.

This means that March 1st, 1931 is the date when all motor vehicles owned or licensed in New Brunswick must have 1931 license plates to be legally operated upon the highways. Granting this extension avoids the year-end rush for new plates in the Motor Vehicle Branch of the Public Works Department at Fredericton and at the other issuing offices throughout the Province, where there had annually been congestion during the holiday period, and it encouraged the operation of automobiles during the winter season, with consequent returns of gasoline tax receipts to the Provincial Treasury that would not come if cars were laid up. It is a repetition of changes inaugurated three years ago and which have proven highly popular and annually in a great many districts a growing number of cars and trucks are being operated throughout the entire winter.

With the extension of the license for vehicles there has also been granted an extension for the same period of owner's and drivers' permits, which are issued largely with the license plates; but this is not applicable to licenses of registered chauffeurs, whose licenses must be renewed not later than January 1st, 1931, in order that they may legally operate a motor vehicle on the highways. Merchants and business interests generally welcome the extension of the licenses for motor vehicles because it means more money will be available for Christmas shopping, and thus proves an incentive to trade with the new plates not having to be secured and paid for until two months after the gift-buying season.

Arrangements have been made to commence issuing 1931 New Brunswick automobile license plates from the Motor Vehicle Branch of the Department of Public Works before the commencement of the new year. The 1931 plates will therefore be available for the registration of new cars, which are given for Christmas presents and otherwise purchased during the remainder of the present month and also for the licensing of those cars whose owners want to use their 1931 plates from the start of the new year.

The State of Maine authorities are being asked to grant the same courtesies as a year ago, so that motor vehicles crossing the international boundary from New Brunswick will not be held up. Other States as well as the Provinces throughout Canada are being notified of the extension, so that there will be no interference with operation of New Brunswick licensed cars during the period of extension.

Notwithstanding they say money does not go so far as in the old days, it used to stop at the corner saloon and now it goes on to the gas station.

Russia is considering the idea of doing away with money altogether. She is already for advanced in the reform of abolishing food and religion.

The rum chasers you read about are not water and ginger ale.

pany pays them \$100,000 a year for their Amos 'n' Andy broadcasts. A revealing sidelight on the character of the two men is the fact that they split the sum in three parts paying one third to "Bill" Hay their announcer, for no other reason than that "he has been with us from the start."

As this is written, they are negotiating with a motion picture company for the making of a talkie. It is said they will receive \$250,000 for 15 weeks work. Exorbitant! Not a bit of it. Anyone who has the ability to make millions happy is worth all he can get.—Readers Digest Article, condensed from Popular Science Monthly.

SECRET OF LIFE BELIEVED TO BE HIDDEN IN TEST TUBE

Chicago, Dec. 8.—The Chicago Tribune in a special dispatch from Cleveland said today that "the secret of life, for which science has been searching for years, may lie in a test tube in the biological laboratory of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, over the noted scientist, Dr. G. W. Crile, is the guiding genius."

"Penetrating to a slight degree the wall that has been erected about what may be one of the most startling of scientific discoveries, The Tribune said, "a reporter was able to catch a glimpse of the unnamed thing that may verify certain radical scientific theories concerning the nature of the force called life."

"This promise might be fulfilled," The Tribune said, "if the creature that is said to live and breathe in the biologist's test tube, a thing without parents and reputedly born in defiance of all accepted and recognized processes of precreation, does not disappoint its human creators."

The Tribune story said the discovery might reveal that the force of life is closely allied to electricity, "if, indeed, it is not electricity as man knows it."

The storm said that one unnamed person connected with the experiment admitted reluctantly that "something approximating life" has been produced and "that something amazing and revolutionary has taken place there."

The experiment was described as follows:

"Brain tissues taken from a freshly killed animal were reduced to ashes electrically. From the resulting substances certain salts and other elements were obtained. To this substance was added protein, and perhaps, some other elements and chemicals. The whole was treated electrically."

"Before the eyes of the astonished scientists the appeared a 'thing' with characteristics of a living cell or protozoa. "The 'thing' possessed the power of locomotion. It also possessed and utilized the power of precreation by fussion or cell division. It fed on the protein in the test tube, consuming it as other unicellular animals do their nourishment."

"In addition it was found that the 'thing' was susceptible to narcotics becoming dormant when subjected to certain drugs and later recovering."

"It was declared that owing to the care taken in the experiment no living thing could possibly have entered the ingreience of the concoction."

The Tribune quoted Dr. William E. Lower, an associate of Dr. Crile, as expressing the opinion that the latter would lay his facts before the meeting of the American Society for the advancement of Science, which meets in Cleveland Christmas week.

LONDONERS PLAY FOOTBALL IN DENSE FOG

London, Dec. 9.—Fog, which has enwrapped England for the past three days, affected football games over the whole country, and in most place it was only possible to just see across the field. At Highbury, where the match between the First Division leaders, Arsenal, and Grimsby Town was called off fifteen minutes after the interval with the Londoners leading by one goal to nil, spectators lighted newspapers as flares to try and see the play. The mainspring of the Arsenal attack was Jack, but it was James, the Scottish star, who scored, thus netting his first goal this season.

Chelsea who were badly beaten in the end of Derby County at Derby, made a number of changes in their line-up. Jackson resumed his normal position at outside right, Crawford swung over to outside left and Gallacher returned as partner to Jackson, while Mills, the former amateur, went to centre forward. McIntosh, reserve goalkeeper, was between the posts instead of Millington. The changes seemed to bring good results in the first half, though the Londoners' tricky forwards were a trifle lucky when Miller netted when the Derby goalie dropped the ball.

CHESS PLAYERS TRAIN JUST LIKE SHARKEY

(New York Sun)
"Did you know," said a chess expert at the American Chess Club the other day, "that chess and checker champions about to enter a tournament must train with almost the same rigidity and care that a heavyweight fighter employs in tuning up for a big match?"

"There is nothing more exhausting to body or mind than one of these long-drawn-out chess or checker tournaments, with their intensely deliberate action and greatly prolonged sessions. To meet the strain on mind and body the experts train very carefully so that they go into a tournament in the pink of condition. Here and there are great chess or checker players who would be utterly helpless with boxing gloves. A child could whip them. That isn't the point. They have the endurance to stand their peculiar grind."

"Not long ago William Banks, one of the greatest checker players in the country, described the course of training he went through to prepare himself for an arduous championship tournament. This training consisted of roadwork, skipping the rope and jumping, and playing handball and swimming. Close attention was given to diet and certain foods were rigorously excluded. Frank Marshall, the American chess champion, trains for every tournament. So do other champions. This used to excite ridicule among people who did not understand what a hard grind tournaments are, and what a demand they make upon participants. It is as necessary to train physically for chess as it is for football or baseball or the boxing ring."

Two lady evangelists are holding services in Death Valley. That's where you get samples of hell's heating system right on the premises.

Jackson added a second two minutes later but Stephenson reduced the lead when he converted Mees' centre just before the half time.

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Mrs. Wm. Diette, Glensandfield, Ont., writes:—"For a long period I suffered from heart trouble, and became very weak and run down. I tried various remedies, but they did me no good. One day I met a friend and told her of my trouble. She said she had had heart trouble for two years too, but after using Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills for a short time she had been relieved of her trouble, so I got two boxes and after taking them I was again feeling fine, and always recommend H. & N. Pills to anyone complaining of heart trouble."

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