

## **LAUREL AND HARDY**

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This article may not appear to be on a Christian or moral topic until you realise that Oliver Hardy as very keen on the Bible and read it every day. I do not know if he ever encouraged Stan Laurel to do likewise. I wonder what effect Hardy had among his colleagues and friends for his devotion to the Bible.

Stan Laurel was British and born Arthur Stanley Jefferson in Ulverston in 1890. His father, Arthur, wrote plays, was an actor and producer, and his mother was an actress. They moved to Glasgow in 1905. Stan began his career in music halls and went to Hollywood with the Fred Karno troupe (real name Fred Wescott), together with his friend Charlie Chaplin (1889 - 1977) and they roomed together in New York for a while. Stan became a gag writer for Hal Roach studios. Incidentally, Roach was born in Elmira, New York in 1892 and died in 1992. As for Stan, he felt that he was washed up by the age of 36, wanting to be an actor but could not achieve this on his own. He tied up with Oliver Hardy and they became the greatest comedy duo of all time making films at the Hal Roach studio known as the Fun Lot or Lot of Fun. Many of the plots of the films were suggested by Laurel who won a Special Academy Award in 1960. He endured a long divorce and litigation struggle. He lived in Santa Monica and died in 1965 of a heart attack.

Oliver Hardy was born Norvell Hardy in 18 January 1892 in Harlem, Georgia and was in show business from the age of eight. His father, Oliver, was a lawyer and died young. His mother was Scottish, Emily Norvell. Ollie took singing lessons and had a fine tenor voice and was to specialise in songs such as Silver threads among the gold and When you and I were young, Maggie. He joined the Coburn's minstrel show for a short while. Ollie tried to enlist in World War I but was rejected as he was overweight. He teamed up with Stan Laurel in 1927 modelling his character on Helpful Henry, a cartoon character. He knew how to use the camera with his tie twiddling and exasperated looks. He was a very gracious man on and off the set. He read his Bible. He was known to his friends as Babe. He played golf at the Lakeside Club in the San Fernando valley with such people as Guy Kibbee, W C Fields and Bing Crosby. He died on 7 August 1957 after a stroke. Stan was with him at the time in the hospital holding his hand and weeping and Ollie's wife, Lucille, had nursed her husband with tender devotion..

Whenever Stan and Ollie visited England they found crowds waiting at the docks cheering them. It was very emotional for them. Stan always insisted that there was Bible in his room.

In their films they were always adults in trouble. They blew up kitchens, wrecked houses, always had trouble with their respective wives who often chased them with a shotgun. Often they were vagrants sleeping on park benches, going into miscellaneous businesses from detectives to musicians, workers in a saw mill to having a fishing business. They went to prison a few times too.

In their comedy films their stooge was often the Scottish actor James Finlayson (1877-1953) noted for his comic villains and exaggerated reactions. ZaSu Pitts (1898-1963) appeared in some of Laurel and Hardy films including On the Loose of 1931. John Loder (1898-1988), was also in this film as was another leading lady, Thelma Todd (1905-1935), who had a short and tragic life. She was found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning in her car and it was never determined whether this was suicide, an accident or murder but it is said that she was reluctantly involved with a gangster.

The most famous actress to appear in these films was also a tragic person. She was born Harlean (pronounced Harley-Ann) Carpentier in 1911, but known as Jean Harlow. She was married three times and died young of uraemic poisoning in 1937 and it is said that her mother, who was a Christian Scientist, refused her daughter medical help believing that the body could heal itself. Her two Laurel and Hardy films were Double Whoopee and Bacon Grabbers both of 1929. Double Whoopee was the first of her thirty films which she made at the age of seventeen.

Her early death was also a moral issue. Christian Science is a misnomer and any member of this organisation that prevents a doctor seeing someone who is ill is acting against common sense and the Bible.

The distinguished British actor, Peter Cushing (1913-1994), appeared in the 1939 film *A Chump at Oxford*.

Edgar Kennedy directed some of the films including *From soup to nuts* and appeared in some of the films such as *Bacon Grabbers* and *Night Owls*.

He was born on 26 April 1890 and was in vaudeville and with the Keystone Company and often known as E. Livingstone Kennedy. He was known for his slow burn and died of throat cancer in 1948.

Walter Long (1879-1952) was the tough-looking actor in several L & H films.

A director of some of the L & H films was Lewis Foster (1899- 1974) who won an Oscar for *Mr Smith goes to Washington* in 1939.

Emperor Ming in the *Flash Gordon* series was played by Charles Middleton (1874-1949) who appeared in some films including *Beau Hunks* and *Pack Up Your Troubles*. He was brilliant in *The Fixer-Uppers*

A regular was Mae Busch who sometimes played Mrs Hardy or a vamp. She was born in 1897 and went to a convent school in New Jersey and joined the Keystone Company. She appeared with Eddie Foy and married Francis MacDonald. She died in Melbourne in 1946. MacDonald lived from 1891 to 1968 and was often a Western hero before becoming villains. He starred in famous films such as *The Plainsman*, *Union Pacific*, *Duel in the Sun*, *Samson and Delilah*, *Rancho Notorious* and *The Ten Commandments*.

Charley Hall was born in 1899 in England and was a comic and music hall actor and a member of Fred Karno's troupe and went to the USA in the 1920s. He died in 1959.

Charley Chase was born in 1893 and was the brother of James Parrott and starred in many films until his death in 1940. James Parrott was born in 1892 and died in 1939.

It was the gravel voice of Eugene Pallette that make him memorable in talking pictures. He was born in 1899 and died in 1954 and was well known as Friar Tuck in *The Adventures of Robin Hood* of 1939. He appeared in a few early L & H films.

Of course, the earliest Laurel and Hardy films were silent films.

Some of their films were risqué for the day. Men ripping off other mens trousers, Laurel in a kilt losing his underwear and the wind raising his skirt in *Putting the Pants on Philip*, Laurel dressing up as Agnes the chambermaid, the boys finding a pair of knickers in *Men o' War*, Laurel kicking the backside of the young nanny pushing a pram in *The Music Box* and the crazy Coney Island sequence of dresses flying up in *On the Loose*. The boys played their own children in *Brats*.

Was this good entertainment?

Many of their films repeated gags and events. Some of them are classics and others become a little tedious. The full length features are often long winded and do not hang together, except, of course, the superb *Way Out West*.

There were some great one liners such as *If you must make a noise do it quietly* and *You can lead a horse to water but a pencil must be lead*.

Some of their early films did not give them top billing such as *Fluttering Hearts* with Charley Chase, *Martha*

Sleeper and Eugene Palette, and Prudence with Max Davidson, Johnny Fox and Martha Sleeper. Forty five minutes to Hollywood starred Glenn Tyron and also starred Charlotte Mineau and Rube Clifford.

Directors included Fred L Guiol ((1898- 1964) James Parrott, George Marshall, born in Chicago in 1891-1975, Clyde Bruckman (1894-1955) who suffered from alcoholism, and J Wesley Horne (1880-1942) who appeared as a villain in Beau Hunks; the usual editor was Richard Currier and the recording engineer was Elmer Raguse and the dialogue was by H M Walker.

MGM took over as the studio from Hal Roach Studios for some of the Laurel and Hardy films.

Some of their films are listed below but, first, a few explanations

D stands for director and where this has not been filled it, it is because it is not given in my copy of the film. The symbol K is for my personal use.

Sometimes actors names differ slightly. For example one actor, Richard, spells his name Rychard in one film. Vivian Oakland (1898-1958) has two spellings for her first name and sometimes Stanley Sandford is Stanley Sanford.

Often actors and actresses are not billed even though whose appeared in many L &H films

Little rascals: Thundering fleas      see under 1931

Along came Auntie 1926      D Fred L Guiol with Glenn Tryon, Vivien Oakland, Martha Sleeper Tyler Brooke, Lucy Beaumont, Oliver Hardy. A woman fears she may lose her wealthy aunt's estate because she is divorced and has remarried and auntie is against divorce.

45 minutes from Hollywood 1926      D Fred L Guiol with Glenn Tryon, Charlotte Mineau and Rube Clifford, Oliver Hardy, Edna Murphy. A family has to go to Hollywood to pay a debt or face legal action. They have to race against the clock

Fluttering Hearts 1927      D James Parrott with Charley Chase, Martha Sleeper, William Burress, Eugene Palette, Kay Deslys and May Wallace. A fight over the sale of sheets in a store as Martha begins dating a rich celebrity against her father's wishes. He is being blackmailed for an indiscretion with the blackmailers sister and so the incriminating letter must be recovered. Excellent performances from Martha Sleeper and Eugene Palette as a police officer who loses his shirt. There is a funny sequence with Chase passing off a mannequin as a live girl and fooling Ollie.

Call of the Cuckoo 1927      D Clyde Bruckman with Max Davidson, Spec O'Donnell, Leo Willis. Preparing the house for a house warming party is fraught with problems and ends up with the guests fighting. Ollie, Stan and James Finlayson make a very brief appearance at the end.

Battle of the century 1927      D Clyde Bruckman. Stan is a boxer known as The Human Mop. Ollie is his manager. Stan 'wins' a fight but will not go into the neutral corner, fights the ref and has to fight his opponent again Eugene Palette sells Stan life insurance and there is a fight with Charley Hall, a pie salesman. A young woman gets involved (K) as do others. The pie fight is good. The end of the film is missing.

Do detectives Think 1927	D Fred L. Guiol with James Finlayson. Ollie and Stan are detectives sent to protect Judge Foozle who has sent the throat slasher to jail. He escapes and becomes the judge's butler.
Why Girls love sailors "1927	D Fred L. Guiol. Stan flirts with his finance and has to contend with a rival for her affection who dumped his wife at the last port. But she turns up. K
Duck Soup 1927	D Fred L. Guiol with James Marcus, Stuart Holmes, Madeline Hurlock, William Austin, Bob Kortman. Vagrants Stan and Ollie escape the authorities and find refuge in a empty house about to be rented. Two people come to rent the house and the boys pretend to be the owner and the maid.
From soup to nuts 1927	D Edgar Kennedy. Stan and Ollie are waiters at a important dinner party.
Putting pants on Philip 1927	D Stan is a Scotsman, Philip, who comes to the USA and is met by his uncle, Ollie. Philip causes a stir as he wears a kilt and he has an eye for the ladies.
Sugar Daddies 1927	D Fred L Guiol with James Finlayson. Ollie is Finlayson's butler. S Finlayson apparently married a woman in a lions' cage the night before and the family are claiming damages. Stan is an attorney. A newspaper article portrays Finlayson as a lecher and seek to find him. There are a lot of attractive extras. The escape is with Stan on top of Finlayson with a long coat concealing him. There is the trip to the Fun House later developed in On the Loose. K
Slipping Wives 1927	D Fred L Guiol with Priscilla Dean, Herbert Rawlinson, Albert S Conti. The story of a drifting couple who not longed talked to each but barked. The husband is an artist surrounded by beautiful girls. A plan is hatched to make Leon, the husband, jealous. Enter Stan. Ollie, the butler, has to force him to be the lover. Stan's version of Samson and Delilah is absurd and when the cat appears with a sock over it that causes some anxiety.
Sailors beware 1927	D Hal Yates. Ollie is a shipping clerk and Stan a taxi driver. On the ship Stan is an accidental stowaway and forced to be a steward. We have a baby smoking a cigar and playing tricks! We have some bathing beauties One of the most original films
With love and hisses 1927	D Fred L. Guiol. The Home Guard are off to camp with senior officer Finlayson.
The second 100 years 1927	D Fred L. Guiol with James Finlayson and Stanley Sandford. The boys are in prison and building a tunnel to escape but dig into Governor Finlayson's office. They escape as painters and paint everything including a woman's bottom. Disguised as prison inspectors, they return to the prison.
Flying Elephants 1928	D Fred Butler. The boys are caveman seeking wives.

Their Purple Moment 1928	D James Parrott with Anita Garvin, Kay Deslys, Fay Holderness, S J S Sandford, Lyle Taro, Leo Willis. This a tale of husbands who have. to give their complete wage packets to their wives. They help two girls in distress whose boy friends have ‘forgotten’ to play for their theatre tickets. The boys offer to help and become their escorts and, of course, can’t pay. It ends with a food fight.
The Finishing Touch 1928	D Clyde Bruckman with Dorothy Coleman and Ed Kennedy. The boys are building contractors who have a day to finish a job. A nurse at the nearby hospital complains to a policeman about the noise. The battle with the nurse has its moments! As for swallowing handfuls of nails...
You’re Darn Tooting 1928	D Edgar Kennedy. The boys are two musicians in a band and sacked and fall into arrears with their rent. They become buskers.
Early to bed 1928	D Emmett Flynn. Ollie’s uncle has left him a fortune and Ollie makes Stan his butler but Ollie cannot escape his childish ways. Neither can Stan
‘Two tars‘ 1928	D James Parrott with Edgar Kennedy, Thelma Hill and Ruby Blaine. The boys pick up two girls and wreck a chewing gum machine and then have to rush back to their boat and, with the girls, get stuck in a traffic jam. Car wrecking follows. K?.
Habeus Corpus 1928	James Parrott with Richard Carle and Charlie Rogers. A scientist offers the boys \$500 to rob a grave and bring back a body for his experiments.
We faw down 1928	D Leo McCarey with Vivien Oakland, Bess Flowers, Kay Deslys and Vera White. The boys want to escape from their wives and pretend their boss wants them at the Orpheum Theatre which has burned down, unbeknown to the boys, who have been splashed and taken to the apartment of two girls to dry their clothes.
Leave ’em laughing 1928	D Clyde A Bruckman. Stan has toothache. At the dentist it is Ollie who has a tooth pulled but the effects of the laughing gas on both of them leads to a perilous drive home and traffic chaos.
Should married men go home? 1928	D James Parrott. Mrs Hardy sees Stan coming and complains that he will stay for hours. All three are bored. Stan creates havoc. Ollie wrecks the gramophone. Mrs Hardy tells them to go and play golf. But it’s foursomes only day, and so two girls join the boys. They ask for a drink but the boys are short of cash (Men o’War had the same problem the following year!) On the golf course there is an appearance of Edgar Kennedy complete with wig The mud throwing sequence is good. K.
Big Business 1929	D J Wesley Horne. The boys are Christmas tree salesmen and when James Finlayson refuses to buy one, things get out of hand and they end up wrecking his house and he wrecking their car.
Double Whoopee 1929	D Lewis Foster with Jean Harlow. Ollie is mistaken at a hotel for a prince but he and Stan are new employees. Stan inadvertently shuts the cab door and Jean Harlow leaves the back of her gown behind.

Berth marks 1929	D Lewis Foster. The boys are musicians and are travelling on a train to Pottsville. They have trouble with their sleeping quarters, irritate other passengers and fights break out even breaking into young ladies' berths.
Men o' war 1929	D Lewis R Foster with James Finlayson and Anne Cornwall. A laundry maid drops a pair of knickers and the boys find them. Two girls admit one of them has lost something and the boys think it is the underwear. They have drinks but can only afford three and go on the boating lake and sink everyone in sight
The Hoose Gow 1929	D James Parrott. The boys are delivered to prison. They work on a chain gang digging ditches. The Governor (James Finlayson) and his party come to inspect the camp. The boys put rice in the radiator of the car which boils over and a fight ensues.
Angora Love 1929	D Lewis Foster. Penelope the goat is said to be stolen but she has broken loose and attached herself to the boys
Liberty 1929	D Leo McCarey with James Finlayson. The boys are escaping convicts and have trouble changing out their prison wear into civvies. Everywhere they attempt to change their trousers they are caught! They end up high on girders of a building in progress and Ollie has a live crab in his trousers.
Wrong Again 1929	D Leo McCarey. The boys are stable hands and Blue Boy has been stolen which the boys recover and take it into the owners house.
That's my wife 1929	D Lloyd French. Ollie's wife is fed up that Stan dropped in to stay five minutes and stayed for two years. She leaves, but the boys argue and fight. Uncle Bernal arrives who will leave all his money to Ollie if he remains married. Stan has to be Ollie's wife whom the uncle has not yet met. Mayhem in The Pink Pup ensues
Unaccustomed as we are 1929	D Lewis R Foster with Edgar Kennedy, Mae Busch and Thelma Todd. Ollie takes Stan home to meet his wife who is not pleased and argumentative. She leaves and Ollie prepares a meal and Stan forgets to light the oven. Mrs Kennedy (Todd) tries to help as has to remove her burning dress. Her husband turns up as does Ollie's wife. Mrs Kennedy is hidden in a trunk. K
Perfect Day 1929	D with Edgar Kennedy, Kay Deslys and Isabelle Keith. All abroad for a picnic complete with Edgar Kennedy who has a bandaged foot. A tack punctures a tyre and things go from bad to worse. How many times does Goodbye get said in this somewhat tedious film? Over 34 times at one point, about 15 times on the next round!.
They go boom 1929	D James Parrott. Ollie has a cold. Stan burst a pipe which wets the bed, makes a mustard bath and proves to be a useless nurse. And what fun with the air mattress!
Below zero 1930	D James Parrott. The boys on a keyboard and double bass are buskers in the freezing winter of 1929. They try to find a better spot to perform after playing outside the deaf and dumb institute. There singing of

Good old summer time annoys passersby. They do get a donation of an egg. Snowball fight break out. A very tall woman breaks their instruments. They find a wallet and invite a policemen to a meal but the wallet is his. They are thrown out of the cafe.

Brats 1930

D James Parrott. This is the film where Stan and Ollie play themselves and their sons whom they call brats.

Blotto 1930

D James Parrot with Linda Loreda. Stan wants to go out but his difficult wife objects. Anyhow he goes out with Stan with a bottle of liquor but Stan's wife has filled the bottle with cold tea. At a night club there is a fine dancer, a tenor who sings a sentimental song and then Stan's wife turns up with a shotgun. Also in Spanish as La Vida Nocturna with extra scenes of a dancer with a balloon and Stan with the soda water and a lady sitting on the wet chair, Stan asleep in his chair, the hiccups, the boys singing, and another exotic dance. K

Beau Hunks 1930

D with Abul Kasim K'Horne, Charles Middleton Broderick O'Farrel and 'Harry Schultz with 3897 Arbas 1921 Riffians and four native Swede guides!' Ollie dumped by his fiancée, Jean, joins the Foreign Legion to forget her only to find other recruits were also jilted by her. The boys become heroes in defeating the Riffians mainly with nails.

Hog wild 1930

D James Parrott. Ollie cannot find his hat. His wife insists that he pputs up the radio aerial with Stan's help. Eventually Ollie is up a ladder erect in Stan's moving car. Excellent stunts for its time

Night Owls 1930

D James Parrott with Edgar Kennedy, James Finlayson, Anders Randolph. A lack of arrests for burglaries causes Police Officer Kennedy to invent a burglary employing the boys. Also made in Spanish as Ladrones.

The Laurel and Hardy

D James Parrott. All relatives of a Mr Laurel are to attend the Murder Case 1930 reading of the will only to find that the police are investigating murder. One by one the guests take a telephone call and disappear. The boys have to deal with ghosts and a bat in a sheet. But it was only a dream! Also Spanish version Noches de duendes

Our wife 1931

D James W Horne. Ollie is playing to get married. His intended has to elope, as her father (James Finlayson) is against it. Stan confuses the issue and at the wedding the judge is cross eyed (Ben Turpin?) and it is Stan who married.

Pardon Us 1931

D James Parrott with June Marlowe, Wilfred Lucas, James Finlayson, Walter Long and Stanley J Sanford. Stan needs a tooth fixed. The boys are into making alcohol and are sent to prison. They escape to join the cotton pickers disguised as coloured people. Ollie sings Lazy Moon. They are returned to prison and, later, to the prison dentist and it is Ollie that has a tooth out as in Leave 'em laughing. There is a final prison riot but the boys save the day.

Full length feature

German version Hinter Schloss und Riege

- One good turn 1931  
 D James Parrott with Mary Carr and James Finlayson. The boys also known as are camping. Stan burns the tent. They now have to beg for food. Seeing America. For the food, they agree to chop wood for the old lady. Mealtime is disastrous. Finlayson is to foreclose the old lady's mortgage. The boys decide to get the \$100 for her. Billy Gilbert offers the money. Ollie accuses Stan of stealing money from the old lady. The Finlayson demanding money was merely the rehearsal for a play.
- Be big 1931  
 D James W Horne. The Hardys are off to Atlanta City with the Laurels but his club have arranged a night out for the boys. Ollie feigns illness. The same plot as Sons of the Desert. The girls miss their train. Ollie has trouble getting his boots on. The girls return.  
 Also made in French as Les Carottiers
- Little rascals: Thundering Fleas 1931 on film but 1926 is correct a restored version is dated 1971  
 D Robert F McGowan with Oliver Babe Hardy, Martha Sleeper, James Finlayson, Charley Hall. A film which has some animation in it. Ollie is called Babe in the title credits and Finlayson is minus his moustache. Stan is not in this film. The little rascals are a group of children. We have fleas on dogs and leaping fish out of a smashed goldfish bowl. Ollie catches the fleas and has to remove his trousers. Classic line, "Gimme me the fleas, I want to train one to ride a bicycle". The fleas invade a wedding. The bride's sister, Mary, (K) is blamed for bringing the fleas to the wedding. Some very funny moments.
- Come clean 1931  
 D James Parrott with Mae Busch, Gertrude Astor and Linda Lored. The Laurels arrive to the annoyance of the Hardys. The boys go out for some ice cream and save a woman from drowning and she comes back to the house and the boys try to hide her.
- On the loose 1931  
 D Hal Roach with Zasu Pitts, Thelma Todd, John Loder, Claud Allister, William Gilbert. The two girls are fed up with Coney island but when John Loder splashes their clothes and buys them new ones they take the girls to Coney Island. The fun factory provides some risqué and hilarious moments.
- Another fine mess 1931  
 D James Parrott with James Finlayson. This is the comedy introduced by two girls. Colonel Buckshott is leaving for an extended holiday and wants to rent his property. The boys are on the run from the police enter this house and pretend to be Buckshott and Stan has to be Agnes and Hives. Lord Leopold Plumtree and his wife come to rent the place and then Buckshott returns unexpectedly.
- Laughing Gravy 1931  
 D James W Horne. A snowy night and sleeping is difficult. The landlord is unaware that the boys have a dog Laughing Gravy. It barks and annoys the landlord (Charley Hall) and trouble follows
- Chickens come home 1932  
 D James W Horne with James Finlayson. The boys deal in fertilizer and Ollie is the peoples choice for Mayor. An old flame turns up (is this Linda Lored. of Come Clean?) to blackmail Ollie. They agree to meet at 7 to make a final settlement. A gossip tells Mrs Laurel that men cannot be trusted as Stan has to 'work late' to entertain the blackmailer. K? Stan's fight with the blackmailer is well staged. When

Stan and the blackmailer arrives Stan announces them as Mr and Mrs Laurel.

Pack up your troubles 1932

D George Marshall and Raymond McCarey with Donald Dillaway, Jacqui Lynn, Mary Carr, James Finlayson, Rychard Cramer, Adele Watson, Tom Kennedy, Charles Middleton, Richard Tucker, Muriel Evans, Grady Sutton, Montague Shaw, Billy Gilbert. Men are being recruited for the Great War and the boys reluctantly go in for training. They deliver rubbish to the General. They go to war. Their friend, Eddie, is captured and the boys have to capture a German. They capture a whole troop in a runaway tank. The war over and Eddie's little girl (K) is waiting for her father to come home but he never will. The boys adopt her until they find her grandparents. They interrupt a wedding of an Eddie Smith saying that they have Eddie's baby. Charles Middleton is a law officer who wants to put the child in an orphanage. The boys rob a bank to escape but the bank manager is Eddie's father. Full length feature.  
Jacqui Lynn is the little girl.

Helpmates 1932

D James Parrott. Ollie calls for Stan's help to clear up after a party in his wife's absence and learns she is on her way home.

Any Old Port 1932

D James W Horne, with Walter Long and Jacqueline Wells The boys prevent the obnoxious Walter Long forcibly marrying Jacqueline Wells who works in his hotel.

The Music Box 1932

D James Parrott, with Billy Gilbert. The boys have to deliver a piano at the top of several flights of steps

The Chimp 1932

D James Parrott with James Finlayson. The boys, working in a circus, are paid in kind. Ollie inherits Ethel the chimp and Stan the flea circus.

County Hospital 1932

D Ollie is in hospital with a broken leg. The visit of Stan results in the doctor (Billy Gilbert) hanging out of the window, Stan sitting on a needle containing a sleeping draught and there is a perilous car ride home since Stan cannot stay awake.

Scram 1932

D Raymond Mc Carey, with Richard Cramer, Arthur Houseman and Vivien Oakland. The boys are charged with vagrancy but in helping a drunk they are rewarded with a night in his house but it is the wrong house. It belongs to the judge.

Their First Mistake 1932

D George Marshall with Mae Busch and Billy Gilbert. Ollie escapes from his wife to go out with Stan. She leaves him and so he adopts a baby to win her back.

Towed in a Hole 1932

D George Marshall with Billy Gilbert. The boys buy a boat to help their fish business and in repairing it, havoc ensues.

Busybodies 1933

D Lloyd French. The boys work in a sawmill where they have many accidents. This is also the film where they have a record player under the bonnet of their car. We have a burst water pipe, a falling circular saw, Ollie getting his hands stuck in a manufactured window frame, a

paint brush stuck to his chin which requires a resultant shave, having the back of his trousers planed off and so on.

Twice two 1933

D James Parrott. Ollie is a brain specialist and he has married Stan's sister and Stan has married Ollie's sister. In this film the boys play the wives as well. Stan goes out for ice cream and that is not simple.

Me and my pal 1933

D Charles Rogers with James Finlayson and Marion Bardell. Ollie is to marry Miss Cucumber. Stan is to be best man but they are delayed by fascination with a jigsaw, Stan has bought for a wedding present, as is the taxi driver. The taxi is booked for parking and the police officer gets involved in the jigsaw as well.

Sons of the Desert 1933

D William A Seiter with Charley Chase, Mae Busch, Dorothy Christie, Lucien Littlefield. Sons of the desert is a male organisation and have a convention in Chicago and all give an oath that they will go. The wives will not let them go. Stan pretends to be ill to gain sympathy and the doctor is bribed to allow Ollie to have a holiday in Honolulu whereas he will go to the convention. So the boys go. Everyone plays pranks on each other. A person at the convention has a sister whom he has not seen for years. It turns out to be Ollie's wife. And the Honolulu liner sank!

The Midnight Patrol 1933

D Lloyd French. The boys are police officers in car 13. Someone is stealing their spare tyre. They have to go to 24 Walnut Avenue where a man is breaking in.

Dirty Work 1933

D Lloyd French. The boys go to sweep the chimney of a scientist who has discovered the secret of rejuvenation and Ollie falls in to the solution. The chimney sweep section and falling bricks is a classic.

The Live Ghost 1934

D Fred L. Guiol with Walter Long, Mae Busch and Arthur Houseman. Walter Long gets the boys to shanghai men to become crew on his old boat which is said to be haunted. The boys get shanghai'd as well. Charley Hall is one such catch and Arthur Houseman makes his usual brilliant drunk who falls into whitewash and appears to be a ghost..

Oliver the Eighth 1934

D Lloyd French with Mae Busch and Jack Barty. A wealthy young widow advertises for a husband but his name must be Oliver. The boys sell their hairdressing salon and visit her. She has cut the throats of seven other Olivers. The servant is hilarious who plays cards without cards, pours invisible soup and has some great sayings such as Nice weather we had tomorrow. It all turns out to be a dream

Going bye bye 1934

D Charles Roger with Mae Busch and Walter Long. The boys that bring Butch (Walter Long) to justice are leaving town and a lady asks to join them. She has a large trunk and hidden inside is Butch who has escaped

Them thar hills 1934

D Charles Rogers with Mae Busch, Charley Hall and an unbilled Billy Gilbert. Dr Gilbert attends Ollie who has gout and recommends a holiday in the hills. So off they go. Some bootleggers have dumped some liquor in the well of the cottage the boys are to occupy. You can

imagine the rest. Mr Halls get drunk. At last Charley Hall is billed. He appears in many L & H films such as the landlord in Laughing Gravy.

Tit for tat 1935

D Charles Rogers with Mae Busch and Charley Hall. The boys have an electric store but their neighbours are the ones from Them the Halls and Charley Hall is unpleasant remembering how the boys got his wife drunk. Friction builds up and the typical wrecking scenario takes place. Every time they leave the store someone comes in to take items away.

The Fixers Uppers 1935

D Charles Rogers with Mae Busch, Arthur Houseman, Charles Middleton. The boys sell Christmas cards but help a lady who feels her husband does not love her. You make him jealous she gets Ollie to make love to her. The husband returns and challenges Ollie to a duel.

Thicker than water 1935

D James W Horne with Daphne Pollard and James Finlayson. Mrs Hardy is frustrated that Stan has not paid his room and board. The boys are hopeless at washing up and Stan stacks clean plates on lighted gas. Finlayson calls to collect a payment on the television. Against his wife's advice Ollie takes his money out of the bank to pay off all the debts on his furniture but attend an auction and bids on behalf of a woman who leaves. The boys have bought a large grandfather clock which is run over. Ollie ends up in hospital and when Stan visits him he eats the flowers and Ollie needs a blood transfusion

The Bohemian Girl 1936

D James W Horne and Charles Rogers, a comedy based on the opera by Balfe with Thelma Todd, Antonio Moreno, Darla Hood, Jacqueline Wells, Mae Busch, William A Crelton. James Finlayson, Zoffie Tibury, Mitchell Lewis, Felix Knight. The boys are gypsies. Ollie is 'unaware' of his wife's infidelity A little girl is kidnapped from the Court of a nobleman and brought up by the boys. K. There is a curious scene of pickpocketing.

On the Wrong Trek 1936

D Charles Parrott and Harold Law with Charley Chase, Rosina Lawrence, Clarence Wilson and Bonita Weber. Charley, his wife, his mother in law and they encounter crooks on the highway. They push a car over a cliff leaving a couple stranded. They come across an open air convention. Charley and Rosina entertain. The car breaks down and they have to thumb a lift home.

Our Relations 1936

D Harry Lachman with Alan Hale, Sidney Toler, Daphne Pollard, Betty Healey, James Finlayson. Lona Anders, Iris Adrian, Ralf Harolde, Noel Madison, Arthur Houseman. Some have said that this is a masterpiece: others that it is too long and confusing. There are two lots of Ollie and Stan hence the title. There is a saga of a pearl ring, dating other girls and not being able to pay the bill and gangsters. It is episodic and does not hang together and, as a full length feature, it becomes tedious.

Blockheads 1937

D John G Blystone with Patricia Ellis, Minna Gombell, Billy Gilbert. James Finlayson. Stan does not know that the Great War has ended and twenty years on he is still guarding the trench. He is eventually rescued and reunited with Ollie. At first Ollie thinks Stan has lost a leg. He wrecks the Hardys car, goes to meet Ollie's wife on the 13th

floor. Ollie fights with Finlayson, gets his key stuck in the lock and tears his trousers. Stan smokes an invisible pipe and using his thumb as a match and the house is wrecked. Mrs Gilbert offers to help who has punch thrown over her. But she is locked out. She changes into some of Ollie's pyjamas and Mr Gilbert returns.

Full length feature.

Way out West 1937

D James W Horne with Sharon Lynne, James Finlayson, Rosina Lawrence, Stanley Fields, Vivien Oakland and the Avalon Boys. Clearly the best of the L & H full length features about the boys wrongly delivering the deeds to a gold mine to the wrong party and fighting to get it to Rosina Lawrence. Some fine singing and the song The Trail of the Lonesome Pine.

Swiss Miss 1938

D John G Blystone with Della Lind, Walter Wolf King, Eric Blore, Adia Kuznetzoff, Charles Judels and Ludovico Tomarchio. The boys are selling mouse traps in Switzerland. They sell their business and receive counterfeit money and cannot pay their hotel bill and have to work in the kitchen with the chef they have insulted. The song Click click goes the cricket follows. The wife of the composer of this song to feature in his new operetta turns up. The scene with the St Bernard and the brandy is fun. The boys have to deliver a piano up a mountain and across a rope bridge to the composer who wants peace and quiet. But there is a gorilla. Then the organ is used in the hotel lobby but it is filled with soap suds. Ollie serenades the wife with Stan playing brass. The final song and dance is enjoyable.

This is a full length feature.

A Chump at Oxford 1939

D Alfred Goulding with Forrester Henry, Wilfred Lucas and Peter Cushing. The boys are rewarded with scholarships to Oxford for foiling a bank robbery.

Saps at Sea 1940

D Gordon Douglas. Everyone who works in the horn factory ends up with a nervous breakdown and so does Ollie. A sea trip is recommended by James Finlayson. Stan makes matters worse in the preparation for the trip. They rent a boat taking a goat with them as goat's milk is said to calm nerves but they intend to stay in dock. A gangster on the run comes aboard and the boat drifts out to sea. The boys have to make some impromptu food which the crook does not eat and forces the boys to eat it. Stan plays the trombone making Ollie mad and he defeats the gangster

There may be many moral issues here which are addressed in some of these films.

Whatever else is said the world has not stop laughing at Laurel and Hardy.

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