



BIOGRAPHICAL

INFORMATION

NAME Red (Richard) Skelton BIRTHPLACE Vincennes, Indiana BIRTHDAY July 18
HEIGHT 6' 3" WEIGHT 195 lbs. COLOR HAIR Red COLOR EYES Brown
FATHER Joseph Skelton OCCUPATION Clown RESIDENCE Deceased
MOTHER Ida Skelton OCCUPATION _____ RESIDENCE _____
EDUCATED Vincennes High School.

MARRIED TO Edna Stillwell, June 1, 1931; divorced, 1944.
Georgia Davis, March 9, 1945.

CHILDREN (Names & Date of Birth) Valentina Marie, May 5, 1947 ; Richard Freeman,
May 20, 1948.

CITIES LIVED IN Throughout United States and Canada making appearances in
shows and vaudeville. In Italy serving in World War II.

STAGE AND RADIO EXPERIENCE Dr. R. E. Lewis' Medicine Show, Lawrence Stock
Company (a tent show), Hagenbeck & Wallace Circus, Walkathons, Roxy Theatre (NY),
Loew's Circuit, has had own radio show since 1940.

RED SKELTON

Whether it be before an audience of two or two thousand, Red Skelton, Hollywood's celebrated comedian, enjoys making other people happy. The man who obviously has a great love for his work never passes up an opportunity to bring pleasure to others by making them laugh.

Red, at first named the more conventional Richard, was born July 18 in Vincennes, Indiana, the son of Ida and Joseph Skelton. His father, a clown with the Hagenbeck & Wallace Circus, died two months before Red's birth.

The comedian's first impressions of this world were far from amusing. At the age of ten, in addition to attending school, he was already working to contribute to the family support. However, life quickly became exciting when Dr. R. E. Lewis' Medicine Show came to town and Red got a job with them playing a guitar and selling patent medicine.

Red had found his heart's delight -- an audience!

In the next few years, he worked with the John Lawrence Stock Company (a tent show), and then was a member of Hittner's Showboat, Cotton Blossom, touring the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

When Red was 15, he followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Hagenbeck & Wallace Circus. In addition to being a clown, he also tried his hand at learning to be a lion tamer. However, the day a lion jumped at Clyde Beatty, Skelton "jumped" the circus!

By this time, the comedian had worked out several routines for himself and appeared in theaters and night clubs. When the walkathons became a popular craze, he joined the parade as a nonstop talking master of ceremonies. These activities took him to the Roxy Theatre in New York, the shows on the Loew's Circuit, and appearances all over

the United States and Canada.

He won national recognition with a 35-week show on radio and this was followed by his first film, "Having a Wonderful Time".

He signed his long-term contract with M-G-M in 1940, and his first film appearance at that studio was a dramatic role in "Flight Command".

With the outbreak of war, Skelton staged Army shows until his own induction into the service in 1943. He was sent to Italy where he established a front-line record for the number of shows he staged for servicemen.

His good-humored quip when he was given his honorable discharge was that he was "the only Hollywood star to leave the service in the same grade he entered -- a private."

On his return to Hollywood, he married the former Georgia Maureen Davis. They now have two children, Valentina Marie and Richard Freeman.

Immediately after the war, Skelton resumed his acting career at M-G-M and appeared in "Ziegfeld Follies", "Three Little Words", "Excuse My Dust", "Lovely to Look At", and "The Clown" among others.

TINTYPE

RED SKELTON...The Clown...loves a laugh but always ready to talk seriously about his favorite -- Abraham Lincoln...introduced the household expression "I Dood It!"...a fine painter in oils of clowns -- refuses to sell any of them because he wants it to remain a hobby...considers Charlie Chaplin's applause of the Skelton pantomime performances his greatest compliment...always carries a cigar as a prop but never smokes. ..wanted to be a lion tamer...collects hats.

PICTURES

"HAVING WONDERFUL TIME", 1938
"FLIGHT COMMAND", 1940
"LADY, BE GOOD", 1941
"PEOPLE VS. DR. KILDARE", 1941
"WHISTLING IN THE DARK", 1941
"SHIP AHOY", 1941
"PANAMA HATTIE", 1942
"MAISIE GETS HER MAN", 1942
"WHISTLING IN DIXIE", 1942
"DU BARRY WAS A LADY", 1942
"I DOOD IT", 1943
"WHISTLING IN BROOKLYN", 1943
"THOUSANDS CHEER", 1943
"BATHING BEAUTY", 1943
"ZIEGFELD FOLLIES", 1946
"THE SHOW-OFF", 1946
"MERTON OF THE MOVIES", 1947
"THE FULLER BRUSH MAN", 1948
"A SOUTHERN YANKEE", 1948
"NEPTUNE'S DAUGHTER", 1948
"THE YELLOW CAB MAN", 1949
"THREE LITTLE WORDS", 1950
"WATCH THE BIRDIE", 1950
"EXCUSE MY DUST", 1950
"TEXAS CARNIVAL", 1951
"LOVELY TO LOOK AT", 1951
"THE CLOWN", 1952