

Glassy Eye

By Dave Meile

Friday 1:30 p.m. ETV Ch. 12.
"Six of a Kind," (1934) Burns and Allen, W.C. Fields.

Burns and Allen as well as husband-wife comedy team Charlie Ruggles and Mary Boland pile into a car (with a Great Dane) for a sweltering cross-country trip. There's far too much shrill Gracie comedy but the film is redeemed by Fields' bits as Sheriff Honest John Hoxley.

"Tell me, how'd you get the name Honest John?" says longtime Fields antagonist Tammany Young.

"I'm tending bar up at Medicine Hat. A guy used to come in there with a glass eye," bleats W.C. as he downs a pint of rye and embarks on one of his famous billiard routines.

W.C. on hangovers: "I feel as though the Russian Army has been walking over my tongue in their stocking feet."

Director Leo McCarey was fortunate enough to have worked with some of the screen's greatest comic talents such as The Marx Bros. ("Duck Soup") and Harold Loyd. McCarey won the Oscar for best director for the 1937 screwball comedy classic "The Awful Truth," before moving on to real sappy stuff like "Going My Way."

Saturday 1 p.m. WGN Ch. 2.
"Tarzan's New York Adventure," (1942) Johnny Weissmuller.

Weissmuller, the famous non-acting, swimming kinda guy had to kick a lot of butt through the years. He fought big spiders, Nazis, guys in gorilla suits, white guys pretending to be black guys, and pygmies, so for the last MGM Tarzan flick they all go to the Big Apple because Boy has been kidnapped. Tarzan rides on the subway, does some cool double somersaults off the Brooklyn Bridge, and goes to court because he and Jane have been living in sin. With Chill Wills (the voice of Francis the talking mule) and black comedian Mantan Moreland in another of many demeaning roles.

Saturday 3:25 a.m. WOWT Ch. 6.
"It Came From Outer Space," (1953) Richard Carlson.

Amateur astronomer John Putnam (Richard Carlson) and his fiance Ellen (Barbara Rush) are out in the eerie California desert discussing life in '50s America when a tremendous meteor crashes nearby. Naturally all the fuss-buckets in town don't believe this eccentric scientist until sweaty townspeople are taken over by aliens. The professor from "Gilligan's Island" shows up as a telephone company worker and like most employees of the phone company it turns out his mind is controlled by fuzzy, gaseous, one-eyed aliens from another galaxy. Soon the beasties duplicate a bunch of the locals and stash them in a nearby cave where they work to repair the damaged spacecraft.

Director Jack Arnold ("Creature from the Black Lagoon") has long been a favorite among sci-fi film fans despite the fact that much of his work is rather uninspiring. "It Came from Outer Space," his first sci-fi film, has some striking images. The meteor crash is impressive and the scene of Putnam descending into a crater to observe the mammoth alien spacecraft is one of the most famous scenes in '50s science fiction films. This film, along with "Tarantula," (1955) and "Monster on

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