

George Burns and Happiness

One of my all-time favorite entertainers was that cigar-smoking, wise-cracking George Burns – a comedian, actor and writer born in 1896 who died in 1996.

If anyone was ever born for the stage – or, for that matter, radio and television – Burns was. His career spanned vaudeville, radio, television and the movies.

He could be funny without speaking a word. He could look at an audience with an expression fit for any moment and draw laughter.

But I particularly like what he said in an interview once in a serious moment:



If you were to go around asking people what would make them happier, you'd get answers like a new car, a bigger house, a raise in pay, winning a lottery, a facelift, more kids, less kids, a new restaurant to go to; probably not one in a hundred would say a chance to help people. And yet, that may bring the most happiness of all.

I don't know Dr. Jonas Salk, but after what he's done for us with the polio vaccine, if he isn't happy, he should have that brilliant head of his examined. Of course, not all of us can do what he did. I know I can't do what he did; he beat me to it.

But the point is, it doesn't have to be anything extraordinary. It can be working for a worthy cause, performing a needed service, or just doing something that helps another person.

Burns' observation about life and its real meaning – the road to true happiness – is one that the associates of Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home have learned and practice every day.

It didn't take a comedian to point that out to them.

– Beecher Hunter