

The Start of a Career

Red Skelton, one of the most talented performers ever to walk on a stage, liked to tell this story. It concerned his boyhood in Vincennes, Indiana. He was eight years old.

One evening as he stood selling his newspapers, a stranger appeared and asked what was going on in town. Politely, Skelton replied that a comedian was giving a show down at the theater. The stranger inquired if the boy planned to go. Young Skelton indicated he would like to, but first he had to sell his papers. Persisting, the gentleman asked if he would go if he had a ticket. Thoughtfully, Skelton said he would have to ask his mother. Whereupon, the kind man bought all of Skelton's papers and agreed on a meeting place before the show.

The grateful and excited boy had a seat in the center balcony. When the curtain went up, Skelton peered down and, to his utter amazement, there stood the man who had bought his papers – Ed Wynn.

Skelton was so thrilled that at intermission he made his way through the crowd to backstage to see Wynn, who showed him many things. Indeed, the famous comedian held up the little fellow to a peephole in the curtain so he could see the audience.

Skelton declared that in that high moment he knew he, too, wanted to be a comedian.

What young person – in age or in tenure of a career – are you influencing? Your words and your actions are studied by others, oftentimes when we least expect it. Are they positively influenced by what they see and hear?

As leaders in Life Care, we have a professional responsibility, as well as a personal one, to set high standards for those who will follow us.

--Beecher Hunter