

“Happy Days” was a weekly, one-hour variety show which aired on CBS-TV as a summer replacement series (for Jim Nabors’ show) from June 25, 1970 through August 27, 1970.

It was taped at Studio 43 at CBS Television City, 7800 Beverly Blvd. in Los Angeles.

Featured guest stars were several bandleaders and other celebrities from the ‘30s and ‘40s. The orchestra was conducted by Jack Elliott.



A series preview for CBS affiliate stations took place behind closed doors during the last week of May 1970.

“And if the series is as good as the preview,” entertainment reporter Rick Du Brow wrote, “the middle aged generation may spent part of the summer swooning and jitterbugging. And the younger generation may get a clew [sic] as to what turned on its parents back in the 1930s and 1940s.”

Performers at the preview included Tex Beneke, The Modernaires, Bob Eberly, Lionel Hampton, Alan Copeland (who sang *Marie*), and a surprise - actor Peter Graves of the TV show “Mission: Impossible,” which chronicled a team of secret government agents, played the clarinet part on Artie Shaw’s version of *Begin the Beguine*.

“Artie Shaw was my idol,” Graves later explained. “What I wanted more than anything was to play in a big band like Artie Shaw. Benny Goodman was big in those days, too, and I admired his drive, his hard-hitting guttiness but Artie Shaw was always more facile. I liked his tone, his subtlety, his whole approach.”

“There’s life in the old gang yet,” Du Brow observed. “And the best part of the show was simply to prove again that good music holds up, regardless of how old it is.”

Comedian Louis Nye was selected as the host of “Happy Days.”

“It took me a week to figure out what the show was all about,” Nye admitted. “There are a lot of ‘23 skidoos’ and ‘O, you kids’ and things like that and old Tex Beneke will be up there singing ‘Chattanooga Choo Choo.’ Of course, he’s a few years older.”

“Were the ‘30s and ‘40s really ‘happy days’?” writer Carol Kramer asked Nye. “Wasn’t there a depression and a war?”

“That’s a damned good point,” he said. “I guess we just think of that era as a simpler time.”



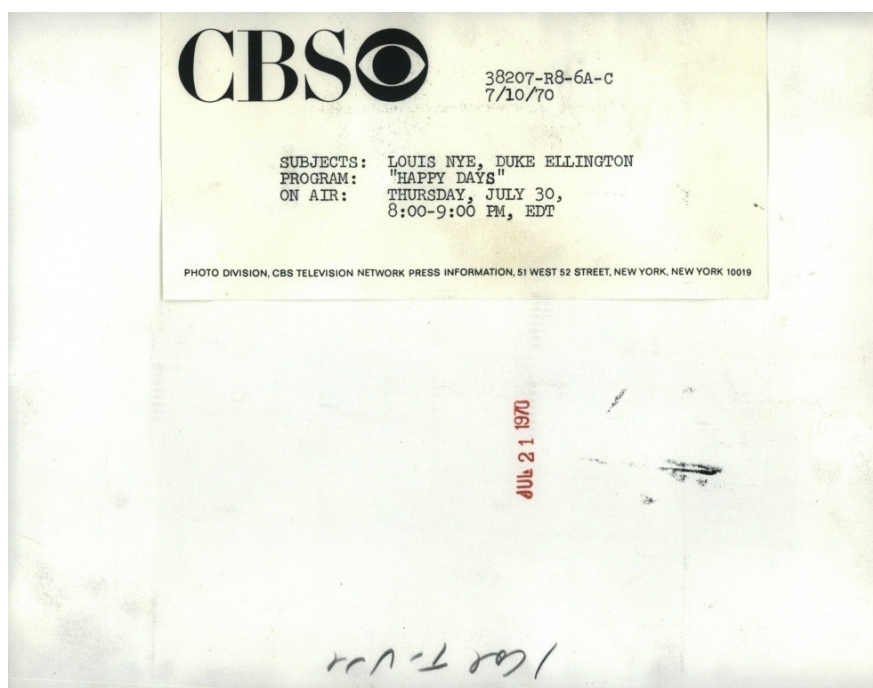
PETER GRAVES



LOUIS NYE

"HAPPY DAYS" EPISODE GUIDE

#1.1	June 25, 1970	Buddy Rich, Helen O'Connell
#1.2	July 2, 1970	Harry James (<i>Don't Be That Way</i>), Helen Forrest (<i>I Had the Craziest Dream, I Don't Want to Walk Without You</i>), Alan Copeland (<i>Easy to Love</i>)
#1.3	July 9, 1970	Tex Beneke
#1.4	July 16, 1970	Lionel Hampton
#1.5	July 23, 1970	Helen O'Connell, Bob Eberly
#1.6	July 30, 1970	Duke Ellington



The back of a publicity photograph promoting Duke Ellington's appearance shows that the picture was taken July 10th and the show aired July 30th.

#1.7	August 6, 1970	Ray Eberle
#1.8	August 13, 1970	Duke Ellington
#1.9	August 20, 1970	Harry James, Helen Forrest, Alan Copeland
#1.10	August 27, 1970	Buddy Rich

**close
up**

HAPPY DAYS (C)
8:00 5 10 46

MUSIC AND COMEDY OF YESTERDAY

Harry James and singer Helen Forrest are the guests as this summer series continues its fond remembrances of the '30s and '40s.

Comedy . . . Bob and Ray with an interview routine about a fishmonger; Chuck McCann as Superman and inept escape artist Voodini the Great; "song tester" Louis Nye reviewing the lyrics of a Gershwin tune; and Jack Burns with his marathon-dance spiel.

Alan Copeland, Laara Lacey, Julie McWhirter, Clive Clerk, Happy Days singers, Wisa D'Orso dancers.

Highlights . . . Harry: "Ciribiribin," "Don't Be That Way." Helen: "I Had the Craziest Dream," "I Don't Want to Walk Without You." Singers: "Hut Sut Song." Alan: "Easy to Love." Julie: "Baby Face." (60 min.)



Helen Forrest and Harry James

TV GUIDE LISTING FOR THE JULY 2, 1970 SHOW



TEX BENEKE



RAY EBERLE



SOURCE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Rick Du Brow. "Happy Days Helps Plug Generation Gap," Chicago Tribune, June 4, 1970, p.D18.

Donald Freeman. "Shaw was idol, says Graves,"

Internet Movie Database (imdb.com).

Carol Kramer. "TV Today: Louis Nye's Well Qualified to Host a Nostalgic TV Series," Chicago Tribune, June 8, 1970, p.B27.

Popa Family Collection.

RadioGOLDINdex, University of Missouri-Kansas City (radiogoldin.library.umkc.edu).

Larry Townsend. "Music: The BIG band sound is back!," Chicago Tribune, Jul. 3, 1970, p.B1.



IMAGE ATTRIBUTION

CBS-TV

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