

Thanks for the memories: Bob Hope turns 90 on NBC

By Dan Rice

NBC celebrates the 90th birthday of its longest-shining star in the three-hour gala *Bob Hope: The First Ninety Years*, airing Friday, May 14. The special features clips from Hope's 69-year show business career, dozens of guest stars and hosts Jay Leno, Walter Cronkite, Roseanne and Tom Arnold, Angela Lansbury, Paul Kelsey, Garry Shandling, Tom Selleck and Betty White.

A veteran of more than 500 TV shows, Hope can and does draw up a birthday guest list the likes of which is seldom seen. Film co-stars Jane Russell, Phyllis Diller and Roy Rogers make appearances, along with Dale Evans, Johnny Carson, Candice Bergen, Donald O'Connor, Carol Burnett, John Forsythe, Garth Brooks, Colin Powell, Jack Klugman and Tony Randall. Also extending their regards are all six living American presidents: Clinton,

Bush, Reagan, Carter, Ford and Nixon. Les Brown and his Band of Renown supply the tunes, and An Jillian, Rosemary Clooney, Whoopi Goldberg, Lucie Arnaz, Michael Richards and Dave Thomas perform. And just so Hope will have an elder with whom to swap quips, 97-year-old George Burns will be on hand.

Born Leslie Townes Hope on May 29, 1903, in Eilthen, England, the perennial performer holds the distinction of being successful in every modern medium of entertainment: vaudeville, Broadway, radio, films and television. Hope even amused crowds in his short career as boxer Packy East. From his 1924 show business debut in a dancing act for the Fatty Arbuckle Revue to his string of *Road* pictures with Bing Crosby and his annual Christmas specials on TV, Hope has brought a smile to more faces than perhaps

any other comedian. No doubt his most appreciative audiences have been those he journeyed around the world to reach—American servicemen.

"March Field, 1941: They asked me if I would come down there and do a show," Hope recalls of the beginning of his relationship with the military. "I said, 'Yes sir.' I went down, and the audience was so damned good I said, 'Wait a minute, how long has this been going on?' And I started doing bases around different places. Then, of course, World War II started, and I went all over the world."

One of the key figures in the organization and success of the United Service Organization (USO), Hope continued to take his act to the front lines throughout World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Shield, with

Please turn to Page 8

Mr. Tile Co.

8"x8" Ceramic Floor Tile from 47¢	NEW LOCATION AT NOVI TOWN CENTER	Ceramic Mosaics From 79¢ sq. ft. <small>#ACRD</small>	Hartco Parquet Urethane Finish 3 Colors \$245 sq. ft.
Armstrong Linoleum from \$399 sq. ft.	No Wax Peel & Stick 69¢ sq. ft. <small>MANY PATTERNS</small>	Kentile Basement Tile FROM 42¢ sq. ft. <small>1/16 gauge</small>	

Professional Advice for Do-it-Yourselfers
 Experienced Personnel & Professional Installation Available
 Commercial or Residential - Prices good thru May 15, 1993
 Get Your Best Price and Then Call Mr. Tile!

NOVI NOVI TOWN CENTER <small>in the West Maryn's Ct. 26128 Ingersol Drive Mon.-Fri. 9-9; Sat. 9-5</small>	REDFORD <small>3300 Telegraph Road South of W. Chicago</small>
348-8850	255-0075