

Father Makes Good

US : 1950 : dir. Jean Yarbrough : : 61 min
 prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:
[Gary Gray](#); [George Nokes](#)
 Raymond Walburn; Walter Catlett; Barbara Brown; Gertrude Astor

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ € Z ♂	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5641	1½	2	1	599	3 - - - -	No	unseen



Milk or moonshine? - Gary Gray has a mischievous glint in the eye as he decants another pail of dad's tax-dodging white stuff. The boy with the Elvis quiff is unidentified.
 Source: indeterminate website

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Mild little film in Walburn series about small town man who purchases a cow to show his contempt for new milk tax. *½"

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review – identical to above

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Gray:

“Anagrammatic Gary Gray’s father, a businessman, let him do a little acting as a tot. He got picked as an extra for a Joan Crawford weepie, but everyone liked him so much he was given a few lines. He hardly stopped working in movies for the next dozen years, besides playing in several "little theater" stage productions. Gary was fair and blue-eyed, with an earnest, doggy expression. (In his early teens he frequently co-starred with dogs - Pal,

Shep, Lassie, etc - when not playing a junior member of Raymond Walburn’s family in the **HENRY** and **FATHER** comedies. But he managed to avoid most of the **RUSTY** series.) Though occasionally stropky and mischievous, as in "**RACHEL AND THE STRANGER**", he was almost invariably the Good Guy - brave, honest and loyal to the end.

"FATHER IS A BACHELOR", by the way - which also features the unrelated but equally admirable Billy Gray - was not part of the **FATHER** series, in which the tough little George Nokes played Gary’s kid brother.

Gary made a few more films after 1952: "**EMERGENCY HOSPITAL**" (56), "**TEEN-AGE REBEL**" (56), "**THE PARTY CRASHERS**" (58), "**WILD HERITAGE**" (58) and "**TERROR AT BLACK FALLS**" (62).”

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Nokes:

“George, a tough, rather mean-looking little blond, had only one leading role —in "**SHAGGY**", a dog story – but seemed to be in almost all family films for a few years. He was a torment to Bing Crosby and Bobby Driscoll, and finally to Raymond Walburn in the **FATHER** films.”

No further information currently available. Considering that small-budget studio comedies of this ilk were the direct antecedent of the television sitcoms and soaps, they’ve been very largely forgotten. The **Henry / Father** series may have been nowhere near as successful as the **Blondie** or **Andy Hardy** series, but who wouldn’t sooner watch one of these 1950’s also-ran situation comedies than a weekly “omnibus edition” of some three-times-a-week soap?

Dogged Gary Gray was 13 and, if not quite a child star, certainly a very familiar face to filmgoers of the 1940s, in family Westerns, war films, crime thrillers and, as here. domestic comedies. George Nokes was also about 13, less prolific, but with some more familiar film titles to his name, including "**GOING MY WAY**", "**IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE**" and "**SONG OF THE SOUTH**".

See also "**HENRY, THE RAINMAKER**", "**LEAVE IT TO HENRY**", "**FATHER’S WILD GAME**", "**FATHER TAKES THE AIR**", and subject index under **COMEDY**.