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dead. They lived in our midst for the past Billy Buckley and a cast of thousands are Doug Davies: Rum & ragtime renaissance man Santa Claus, Oliver Hardy, Buckle SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1993 THE TRIBUNE

a week or so ago. named Doug Davies who left us at age 57 23 years disguised as a gentle giant Like all who make a real contribution

to the world we live in, Doug was a high He was a bear of man who early on learned the Nevada way: keep several profile guy who often went unnoticed because he fit this state so perfectly well.

a runaway pig around a shopping center Davies as a talking computer with a cold. Davies chasing the Easter Bunny around

camera. I remember him as Oliver Hardy miracle on 34th Street. ter, where Davies once lived in real-life awards for excellence. They were filmed (Jack) Marston as Stan Laurel, that se graduate and Hollywood actor Herman and we ate the spare.) With Reno High taking a hot pizza in the face (I threw one but Doug was just as good in front of a Sherwood Forest. by John Hanks, former owner of Pauline's ries of television commercials won two unflinchingly starting into the lens while portswear in Greenbrae Shopping Cen-You can get away with a lot on radio

ness of syrup.

hat oriental weavers intentionally build

The rich texture hid a secret. I've reac

and TV, you have heard that voice comeither man. A thousand times on radio

bine the depth of oceans with the sweet

Welles. He had the boom of James Ear most magnificent voice since Orson formidable set of irons, starting with the

last here. Davies was armed with one

frons in the fire at all times or you don't

Jones, but without the harsh edge of

eventually got his chance, winning some nouncer doing the usual plastic ho-ho-ho. He was Hollywood material, and ally hearing Santa Claus, not an anmercial as Santa Claus, I ended up actuasked Doug Davies to do a radio combeard and all, to the delight of several hundred little Sparks kids. Whenever I Guy created another instant character show. Hanks called Doug and the Big One day near Christmas, Santa didn't

radio spoof. Davies as a reporter chasing ing mobile homes in a super-intellectual snobbing William F. Buckley while sell in making sure the rapt listener never had a lisp. He was better than Churchil tury, Winston Churchill, the great Davies it. Like the greatest orator of the cenpossible to find unless he told you about loom, the Davies imperfection was imperfect. As with the finest fabric from the losophy that nothing but God should be one flaw into Persian rugs on the phi-

Oh, what times we had! Davies out

small parts in Hollywood films shot in Nevada.

entitled "Dill Pickles." That commercial supplied himself, furiously playing a rag crossed paths with Doug Davies many scored us another award. I still have the ground music for a commercial series was also an excellent ragtime pianist, Doug Davies will never depart the high desert. He left too much behind. The Renaissance Man with the big hands black-and-white silent movie campaign. entitled "The Apparels of Pauline," a maker Hanks and I needed some back-City ragtime festival. One time, filmone of the movers of the annual Virginia has used ragtime theme songs since he northern Nevadahistory, Travus T. Hipp, The highest-rated talk show host in years ago. He knew classical music and Our paths first crossed briefly in Las

executive. By the time I got promoted and KRNV TV-4). He later worked at radio and television (now KROW-AM and moved here in 1971, Davies was at KLAV and I was a green advertising Vegas about 1970 when Davies worked KPTL-AM in Carson City and KOH-AM firmly entrenched as the voice of KCRL

ways involved a long 747 ride, usually to town with a huge rollercoaster. The ser-747 jumbo jet hanging from the ceiling. was very well done, but it lacked a few Doug's idea of the perfect vacation al-Davies touches, like a big scale model His memorial service last Thursday

vice also needed a bar set up with the guished member. Hardy society, of which he was a distinwere members of the local Laurel & nies. Sometimes, I'm sure, the guests then playing croupier in a game for penserving them good food and drink, and ing meant inviting over some friends, dice table. His idea of the perfect gatherchapel really needed Doug's miniature ous before or since. Walton's Sparks min C was never so tempting or dangerfamous Davies exotic rum drinks. Vita-

racial or ethnic composition of such dis-

places or election districts where the

any ballot security activities in polling territories...refrain from undertaking will in the future, in all states and tee and State Committee agree that they that "The Republican National Commit-

Republicans last week. It reads, in part and apparently violated by New Jersey

National Guardian alarm systems. Of as part of newspaper and outdoor ads for ing unshaven suspect in a police lineup media appearance portraying a scowlheight of irony that he made his last booming voice was a big kid. It was the course, he played the part well. In many ways, the big man with the

or drive a brand new car. A long time ago. a 747. "I'll tell you something about me, matter, and I'll spend my money gather-I figured out that memories are all that Barbo. I'll never wear the fanciest clothes about an upcoming trip to Hawaii aboard ing some spots. He was very excited I worked late at a radio station produc-Ing them."

Nevada is richer because Douglas One night many years ago, Doug and

and embraced us. Langley Davies once gathered around

found a copy of the polling place intimidation consent decree signed in 1982 anything away. Deep in an old file, DIRTY TRICKS DEPT. I never throw

new. No less than now-Chief Justice of value to vote or not vote." If the New every candidate or office holder alive finer print reads that you can be impris-oned "if you influence or try to influence rent New Jersey allegations, the smaller true, let's hope somebody can make that should be in jail right now. (Give 'em a voter how to vote." By that standard, copy of a poster from Dallas bearing the ers from voting... conduct...activities to deter qualified vot-William Rehnquist has long been aclast statement come back to haunt the to offer or accept money or anything else incarceration "if you offer, accept or agree time.) The Texas poster also threatens type on the signs is almost comical. The and Hispanic areas. In light of the curing places in — you guessed it — black letters. The signs were posted near pollwords "you can be imprisoned" in huge broken within weeks in Texas. I have a tricts is a factor in the decision to perpetrators. This type of activity is not Jersey vote-suppression charges prove That 1982 agreement was apparently

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cannot deny all proposed projects for that site consistent with the zoning.

services, including schools, fire and popay its way for roads and all government consideration to making growth fully whether the Reno City Council has given Another issue raised by the letter was

The Reno City Council has been a leader in this area. Eight years ago I

ful in getting the Legislature to pass that by the Legislature and we were successwas necessary for us to get a law passed ment. In order to implement these fees it proposed impact fees for new develop-The law does provide for impact fees

successful in getting a law passed to fund hies in downtown Reno. We were also increase in property taxes for the properdowntown area which is funded by an us to create a special police district in the cessful in getting a law passed to allow for fire and police. Once again we went back to the Legislature. We were sucpermit local government to impose fees for roads, but the Legislature did not

lingerie.

everything's fine.

erty taxes for the businesses in the downdowntown area by increasing the propthe maintenance of the sidewalks in the

which are then dedicated to the city of sufficient to serve that new development hook-up fees and purchase water rights development is required to pay sewer way. In addition to impact fees, new when it comes to ensure growth pays its Council record is the best in the state All in all, I believe the Reno City

Pete Sferrazza is the mayor of Reno. His column appears Sunday in the Triis appropriate, to vote against the growth in Nevada and has been willing, when it the toughest campaign disclosure laws The Reno City Council has adopted

bune.

week's column on the lucrative life led by

MISSISSIPPI UPDATE: After last

some in the growing Mississippi gam-

in the Sunday Tribune.

resident. Barbwire by Barbano originates dicated columnist and 25-year Nevada

Andrew Barbano is a Reno-based syn-

tent until one of those stone statues at the Capitol seizes Packwood and takes The ironies have been thoroughly reclaiming the obvious invasion of privacy, This line of investigation requires Packwood to surrender his apparently extensive diaries. Packwood resists,

him down to hell.

of the man at the next plate coming to rest on her knee.

Didn't it anger her? Not really, she said. It made her contemptuous. Wash-

syndica ladies. Russ



there comes a four-minute interval dur-

mammogram and the shakes,

N MORTALITY MONDAY,

ing which I believe I have breast cancer.

46,000 women each year. who have had breast cancer, which kills Nobody has done this better than those

therapy until the doctor returns to re-

lumpectomy, mastectomy and chemo-

bechnician says, and she takes them and

But afterwards I remember the thought I had while I waited in my pink paper bolero: better breast than ovarian. vamoosed, vanished, have a nice year, port that there was some problem with the film and all the little spots are gone, I immediately go out and purchase and liver cancers combined. Breast canspends more for research on breast canmoney in the NCI budget as lung cancer, women, but it receives twice as much cer than for prostate, ovarian, colo-rectal which is No. 1. cer is the second leading cancer killer of The National Cancer Institute now

Watching people with AIDS over the cer, it's because it is. If that sounds like competitive can-

could turn illness into sound, fury and last decade, seeing how successfully they With a finite pool of research money

learned to be lobbyists for their disease

government action, cancer survivors have

such a sign, and witnessed armed guards suppression campaign in Phoenix in cused of working in just such a voter and lawyers hassling people near polling from page 4A 1964. If you were a black person, saw

Similar activities were alleged in places, would you stick around to vote? neighbors voted. neglected to mention what he paid: outside of Biloxi on the Gulf Coast. square foot house on five acres 21 miles preciate that deal, no matter how the \$52,000. Even Rhett Butler would apexpatriate recently bought an 1,800 one item. I wrote about how one Reno

> Ovarian cancer killed my mother when she was the age I am today — hence the with medicine. with petitions and demonstrations as

not only because the survival rates are annual diagnostic sonogram. the nation is focused upon it. better, but also because the attention of cancer would be the better worst case, radiologist's it occurred to me that breast But for that one mad moment at the

with how survivor advocacy has driven research dollars. relentless. it have been organized, outspoken and There's something wrong with that,

Cancer Institute—choices must be made \$2 billion this year at the National a coherent government cancer research funding policy based not on the vagaries doing precisely what I would do in their But because of the obvious absence of Not because of the survivors, who are

of politics but on science. This reached its nadir when the Army was given \$200 million to study breast

That's right — the Army. Senators

thanou

turn.

And

bling business, I got several calls about

research; when they were foiled, Conwriter of breast cancer research. Army become the nation's largest under gress voted overwhelmingly to let the the domestic budget to pay for more wanted to move money from defense to The problem is that many scientists

which,

we shou

decisio

all our

bestre

cer isn't the best way to cure it. Some believe that basic research, which will believe money earmarked for breast can-

syndica

ompetition is not the best method to attain be Today those choices have as much to do

eventu

eases, 1

because thousands of women who have Congress wants to fund it. And all sensitiv skeptic thing to allocati withou little to targete Othe and wh cal of a welcon about money more, mission already ture co search lagree unfair in resea heavily Afte But Still