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MANTAN MORELAND/Elsie's Sportin' House: Charlie Chan's sidekick put down the chop sticks long enough to hit the chiltin circuit well before his death 40 years ago to deliver a load of period comedy that has fallen into disrepute today (and at times is pretty hard to understand). A wily cat that did what he had to do in light of the times, even if it doesn't fit the format today, this stuff is as historically significant as Lord Buckley or Lenny Bruce. And if you pay attention, it's pretty damn funny as well. Actually, if it wasn't for the 'blackface schtick', most of the content would fit right in with what most left leaning comics are doing today.

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