

RED BUTTONS DIED HEARTBROKEN OVER LOSING HIS WIFE TO ANOTHER WOMAN!

By **ROBIN MIZRAHI**

OSCAR WINNER Red Buttons made folks laugh till his dying day — but the carrot-topped funnyman took a tragic heart-break with him to his grave: He never got over the loss of his late ex-wife, who left him for another woman after 37 years of marriage.

"Red had the biggest heart in Hollywood, but it shattered when he lost Alicia," a close pal told *The ENQUIRER*.

"They were a team for almost 40 years. After she deserted him for a girlfriend, Red was never the same."

Friends say that although Red's health had been going downhill for years, the 87-year-old comic's wit was as sharp as ever when he died of vascular disease on July 13.



"The last time I saw him I had tears in my eyes from laughing so hard," said the pal. "He just couldn't let up with his schtick."

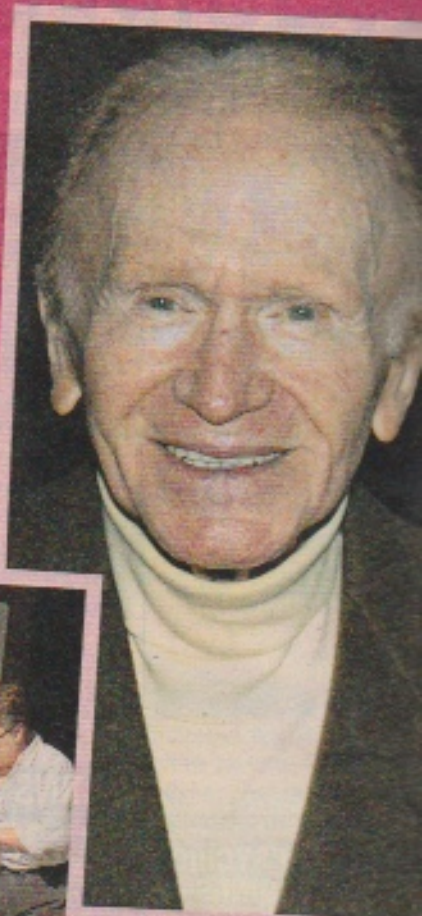
"And this was when he was on his deathbed!"

But behind the laughter was a broken heart, said friends, and Red



continued to defend his former wife even after she was arrested twice for marijuana and cocaine possession in 2000.

"He could never get his mind around how abruptly she left him



Far left, Red with his wife Alicia. At left, Alicia with her girlfriend

for her girlfriend," continued friend. "He still loved her even the drug arrests."

"And when she died after a transplant about five years a part of him died, too."

"He talked about Alicia till his dying day. He still adored her."

"While we'll all miss him till I'd like to think they're together again now."