



### A MERRY CHRISTMAS

We wish you who read these lines a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness and prosperity.

### WELCOME UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES!

Of the many groups of visitors who come to Winnipeg, none is more welcome than are the Mayors, Reeves and representatives of the rural municipalities of Manitoba who gather here in annual convention.

We are proud that CKY and CKX are the media through which the great majority of people in this province obtain their radio entertainment.

To meet in person any of the listeners whom we serve is always a delight; to meet the leading citizens of the communities, as represented by the Union of Municipalities, is indeed a privilege.

We extend to you all a cordial invitation to visit our studios in the Telephone Building.

### PROGRAM CHANGES

One of the difficulties broadcasters encounter is that of informing listeners of changes in the regular programs. Often these changes have to be made at very short notice. The distribution of printed schedules has always the disadvantage that they must frequently be incorrect by the time they reach many rural listeners. As a partial solution of the problem, we broadcast the program highlights each morning at 8.55, giving brief descriptions of those features which are new or not regularly on the air. It is possible that we may in the future include programs in the pages of "Manitoba Calling," but in that event we would be able to show only those which are not often subject to change. The reader would still be advised to listen for announcements of alterations.

### CKY'S TRUMPETER Recalls Colorful Memories



Charles Honey, who played "Last Post" and "Reveille" in CKY's Armistice Day program, has had a long and interesting career as a trumpeter.

Born in London, he inherited musical talent from his father, who was music master to the family of the Duke and Duchess of Fife. Charles joined the band of the 1st Life Guards in 1894. His duties included those of escorting royalty, British and foreign, to and from Buckingham Palace, St. James' Palace, and Windsor Castle, and attending at numerous state functions.

In Jubilee year, 1897, he performed as leading trumpeter, blowing fanfares at many historic events. He rode behind Queen Victoria's carriage when she visited Dublin, and he was near the remains of his sovereign in her funeral procession. With trumpet heavily draped, he was present when the

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## PETITION FOR A SONG

Petitioning is an ancient human habit. There have been petitions for changes in legislation, for the reprieve of condemned criminals, for and against the laying of new sidewalks, for the elimination of nuisances and for almost every conceivable right and favor. Now we have petitions for songs to be sung on the radio. Feeling that individual requests for popular numbers may be overlooked by the program authorities at broadcasting studios, folks are banding together and jointly signing persuasive missives praying that the songs of their choice may be given the ethereal right-of-way at stated times. The subject of one such petition recently presented to CKY is the inspiring ballad "Knitting a Singlet for Cecil." We are hastening to comply with the request, lest delay may lead to the formation of a "Society for the Insistence on Songs When We Want Them."

## "COL." WHEAT AND BRUCE

A series of talks which proved of considerable interest to rural and urban listeners alike last year has been resumed on CKY with "Kernal" Wheat and his friend Bruce back at the microphone, discussing agricultural problems. The first few dialogues deal with conditions relating to the settlement of Manitoba; the causes of instability affecting agriculture; our dependence on foreign markets and the fact that, economically, Western Canada is bound up with Europe; the variations of climate and their effects upon the soil; the West's relation to the rest of Canada; transportation problems, etc.—all matters of deep concern to Canadians, no matter what agreement or otherwise there may be with the views expressed, which, of course, are those of the sponsors.

PETER MACGREGOR—"I was very glad to hear 'The House of Peter MacGregor' again this morning. It seems like the return of an old friend. I very seldom listen to any other station except CKY . . . I always feel it is 'our' station . . ."—Snowflake, Man.

## WRITE FOR "MANITOBA CALLING"

"Manitoba Calling" is distributed to the public through offices of the Manitoba Telephone System. It may also be obtained by writing to the Public Relations Department, CKY, Winnipeg, enclosing stamps to cover cost of mailing. Readers are advised to send sufficient for several monthly issues, preferably for one year, to ensure regular delivery and to avoid disappointment.

## "EASY ACES"

One of the most popular comedies on the air seems to be "Easy Aces," broadcast by CKY on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings at 6.45. Goodman Ace writes all the material for the show, which depicts life in the Ace household.

## CKY'S TRUMPETER

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gun carriage bearing the Queen broke down and the horses had to be taken out to be replaced by blue-jackets. He remembers how, in the emergency, the horses had to be led into the royal waiting room at Windsor because there was no other accessible accommodation. Mr. Honey has good reason for retaining vivid memories of the occasion, for it was he who was ordered by the Colonel of the Life Guards to ride on and stop the procession until the gun carriage was able to proceed.

At the unveiling of the memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral to overseas troops who fell in the South African war; at the proclamation of King Edward VII; and at the coronation of that monarch; trumpeter Honey had proud duties to discharge. At many a regal banquet he has seen at close range the tables laden with solid gold plate and surrounded by rulers and dignitaries, many of whose thrones have since tumbled and whose names are now written in history. He has but to close his eyes to see again the lights glinting on precious stones and dazzling uniforms; his own trumpet of shining silver, with its heavy banner brilliantly embroidered with the Royal Arms. . . .

When he left the Life Guards, Mr. Honey turned to theatre work, playing in the orchestras of such famous houses as the "Gaiety," the "Holborn Empire," "Hengler's Circus" (now the Palladium), and several others. In more recent years our trumpeter, whose burnished breastplate and gay regimental trappings were long ago admired by London crowds, has ridden in majesty through the streets of Winnipeg on a very important day in the festive season, acclaimed by thousands of boys and girls who were rewarded by a nod of his head or a wave of his hand. Such occasions have reminded him of old times, except that in Winnipeg the trumpets have been blown for him and it has been in his honor that the bands have played and the clowns have gambolled between the decorated floats. Our trumpeter who rode with kings has thus, more than once, been ruler for a day of a kingdom which is in the hearts of little children.

## THE LISTENER WRITES

*We are always glad to receive letters from listeners commenting on radio programs. Criticism is as acceptable as praise. Names of correspondents will be treated as confidential. No attention is given to unsigned communications. Letters should be addressed to "Public Relations Department, CKY, Winnipeg."*

**PYROTECHNICS** "Our radio gets any program anyone wants, but just let anyone move the dial from CKY—Then the fireworks start . . ."—Winnipeg.

**HATES SERIALS**—"Need we be obliged to spend three or four hours of the day listening to those nonsensical serials? . . ."—Minnedosa, Man.

**LIKES SHAKESPEARE**—"The C.B.C.'s Sunday night broadcast of 'Othello' was a triumph . . ."—Minnedosa.

**ARMISTICE** "Armistice Day for Canadian listeners was a mixture of excellent offerings well delivered and the cheapest kind of tripe badly served . . ."—Brandon, Man.

**STAYS WITH CKY**—"I have my radio on about eighteen hours a day, starting with Bobby Morrison, and, with very few exceptions I stay tuned to CKY . . ."—Transcona, Man.

**HINT TO PROGRAM DEPT.**—"Knitting a Singlet for Cecil may be a good number, but it becomes tiresome after the fifteenth or twentieth hearing . . ."—Phumas, Man.

**ANNOUNCERS ARE HUMAN**—"I do not mind an announcer making a mistake. We know they are human and not just mechanical voice boxes . . ."—Cypress River, Man.

**'CHILDRENS' PROGRAMS** "When I hear criticism of the childrens' programs, I think that if mothers themselves were to sit down and listen to them they would find many good points in them. The heroes often give little lectures in the course of the stories that are really beautiful. If some of the programs for grown-ups were written as well, it would be a good thing . . ."—Winnipeg.

**TARZAN**—"My classmates, consisting of about eighty pupils, have chosen me as the one to represent them in writing to inquire why 'Tarzan of the Apes' is not heard on the air any more . . . We were all interested in that program and are anxious to hear Tarzan's thrilling adventures again . . ."—Fisher Branch, Man.

## STAFF PORTRAITS—18

**R. H. ROBERTS,**  
Program Director, CKY

Robert Herbert Roberts was born of Welsh parents in Walton, a suburb of Liverpool, England. The family came to Winnipeg in 1913. Herb's first job was in the office of Mr. S. J. Hungerford, who was at that time Superintendent of Rolling Stock, Canadian Northern Railways. Following



some secretarial positions with various commercial concerns, he joined the staff of the Canadian National Railways in January, 1924. His radio experience commenced in the winter of 1923, when he brought a number of concert parties to the old CKY studio in Sherbrooke Telephone Exchange. When the C.N.R. added broadcasting to their public services, Mr. Roberts was the logical man in their organization to handle local programs, so he was transferred to a position which was a step towards his eventual appointment as Radio Representative in charge of C.N.R. programs on western stations. His duties also included control of the men who attended the receiving sets installed on trains, and it was his responsibility to see that passengers on the western lines were satisfactorily entertained by radio en route. Listeners of those days will remember him best by his voice on CNRW. The first official program announced by him on that station was a special broadcast in September, 1924, directed to the royal train carrying H.R.H. the Prince of Wales to his ranch in Alberta. As the railway company's broadcasting facilities extended, Mr. Roberts was moved to Montreal, where he became studio assistant to the Director of Radio, Mr. E. A. Weir. Changes in policy and the ultimate abandonment of C.N.R. broadcasting soon brought Herb back to Winnipeg. Here, in April, 1932, he joined the announcing staff of CKY.

It remains now for this biographer to pay a personal tribute to one who has made many useful contributions to the art of broadcasting. Herb Roberts is always to be relied upon in important matters relating to the production of radio programs. His precision in what might be called the "mechanics" of studio practice is matched by his consistency, since the beginning of his experience, in encouraging the better uses of broadcasting as an entertaining and a cultural medium.

## CKY STUDIOS MECCA FOR VISITORS

Radio studios, since the days when they were tiny, ill-lighted and poorly ventilated boxes containing little but an upright piano, a phonograph and a microphone, have always attracted visitors desirous of seeing the place in which the programs originated.

In the infant stages of the art, backstage in broadcasting was interesting because it was something new, rather than for any beauty of design in studios or efficiency in equipment. The place might be abominably stuffy; visitors might have to squeeze in to gain admittance; and what they saw when they entered might be the crudest furnishings; but to be able to say one had been there, was to make one's neighbors a wee bit envious—and that was something.

Today, the desire to give better and more extended service to the listeners has necessitated such improved facilities that modern studios have become achievements in engineering and architectural skill, worthy of being seen as examples of building technique. So, though broadcasting is no longer a novelty and really new ideas in programs may be rare, since nearly all that sound can do seems to have been done, radio studios are still a mecca for visitors. CKY is, in fact, numbered among the "show places" which out-of-town callers are making a point of seeing.

The hours of 2 to 4 p.m. on week days, including Saturdays, have been set aside for conducting people through CKY. When parties of more than two or three are contemplating a visit, it is advisable to write or telephone the office in advance, so that suitable plans may be made for their reception. Tours of the studios at other times are by special invitation. Clubs, school classes, etc., desiring such arrangements should communicate with the Public Relations Department, CKY — Telephone 92 191.

## ARMCHAIR RADIO ROMANCES

Described as "masterpieces of radio drama," a new series being broadcast by CKY, at 11.30 on Friday mornings, presents a cast of notable actors directed by Ralph Scott, the latter already well known to radio fans for his excellent work in "Chandu," "Tarzan," "Hollywood Hotel" and numerous equally successful shows. Cy Kendall, Hanley Stafford, Jeanette Nolan and their announcer John McIntyre have all gained high reputations in Columbia and N.B.C. productions.

## UNIVERSITY LECTURES

### CKY—CKX

**Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**  
4.00 p.m.

- Dec. 16: "Forecasting the Weather"—D. C. Archibald.  
Dec. 19: "The University Then and Now"—R. H. Tarr, President of the Alumni Association.  
Dec. 21: "I Believe in Santa Claus"—Prof. Roy Daniells.  
Dec. 23: "How to Get Your Vitamin Supply"—Prof. Mary C. Hiltz.  
Dec. 28: "I Believe in Symbols"—J. W. Lawson, Lecturer in Mathematics.  
Dec. 30: "The Varsity Quarter Hour"—the University of Manitoba Students' Union.

### CKX

**Tuesdays and Thursdays**

1.25 p.m.

- Dec. 20: "The Discovery of Vitamins"—Prof. Mary C. Hiltz.  
Dec. 22: "The Results of Lack of Vitamins"—Prof. Hiltz.  
Dec. 27: "The Trends in Animal Production"—Prof. G. W. Wood.  
Dec. 29: "The Trends in Animal Disease Control"—Prof. Alfred Savage.



## AROUND THE STUDIOS

**STRANGE ACCIDENT**—One of our control operators, according to current rumor, walked into a frozen shirt hanging on a clothesline the other day. The shirt was so stiff and its edge so sharp that it cut the victim's face.

**A MODEL** exhibited in the foyer of CKY's offices shows how the studio walls, floors and ceilings are mounted on springs. This is very helpful in explaining to visitors the intricate structure of the studios.

**CALVIN PEPPLER** is the name of the young man who conducts callers on studio tours.

**DELIGHTFUL PERSONALITIES** often to be met in our corridors are those two clever comedians who write their own gags and impersonate innumerable characters—"Woodhouse and Hawkins" of the C.B.C.

**RECORDING EQUIPMENT** of the latest type has been installed at CKY.

**TEACHERS** from Winnipeg's elementary schools have been coming in groups of forty and fifty for several Saturdays past to learn about studio design and operation.