

RADIO STATION

W B R

WILKES-BARRE, PENNA.

NBC RED NETWORK

www.americanradiohistory.com





LOUIS G. BALTIMORE

PRESIDENT

WBRE's BEGINNING WAS HUMBLE when, in 1923, Louis G. Baltimore set up his ten-watt transmitter in his radio retail store and repair shop in the old Hampton Hall Building out on West Northampton Street in Wilkes Barre. WBRE was not a commercial radio station, at that time.

In 1924, with a power increase to 100 watts, a couple of operators and one announcer, our station was sought by local businessmen to tell their story. Mr. Baltimore did a good deal of announcing in those days.

More and better studios became necessary, soon, with the added volume of business, and 1927 saw the removal of equipment into new quarters on the fourth floor of the Liberty Bank Building. Pointing into the clouds, atop the same building, stood WBRE's transmitting antenna.

As radio became an increasing necessity for entertainment, education and civic service, WBRE hammered incessantly at the door of the Federal Communication Commission in Washington for greater power, to extend its service to those beyond the current sphere, and to improve the service to those who already listened. Finally, in 1938, permission was granted to more than double power — to 250 watts — during the day, and in 1939 WBRE was allowed to use that amount in the evening.

Meanwhile, in 1937, a new and more efficient location for the transmitter and antenna was established, near the outskirts of Wilkes Barre; and in 1939 brand-new modern and technically perfect studios were occupied at the present address.

Affiliation with Red and Blue Networks of the National Broadcasting Company in 1938, brought listeners the best radio features





S. R. BALTIMORE COMMERCIAL MANAGER

A. C. BALTIMORE SALES MANAGER

in the country. In addition, WBRE still retains its connection with the Quaker network to give special service to programs of regional import.

LOUIS G. BALTIMORE, President of WBRE, has been the spark for this continued schedule of growth. Following graduation from Penn State College, in 1918, he became City Forester of the City of Harrisburg for several years. His return to Wilkes Barre was the beginning of WBRE, for his radio retail store led to the broadcasting station. Mr. Louis Baltimore is a past president of the Wilkes Barre Lion's Club; his tastes are versatile and vigorous . . . motor-boating and swimming at his summer home at Harvey's Lake . . . printing (he has his own press) and photography as hobbies . . . excellent judgment in decoration, as evidenced by his home and studio surroundings . . . and driving a good automobile. He has one son, David, who attends M.I.T.

S. R. BALTIMORE, Commercial Manager, has been associated with his brother Louis for eight years. Formerly, he was an executive in a large credit agency and served with a correspondence school. A keen sense of humor is his foremost characteristic. "Sam" is the oldest of the three brothers.

A. C. BALTIMORE, Sales Manager, completes the trio. He, like his brother Sam, joined with the WBRE organization eight years ago. Married, his home attention is shared by Herman, student at Penn State College; Martin, attending Meyers High School; and the youngest — daughter Joy — who is eight. Horse racing and boxing lead the list of our sales manager's sports preferences.



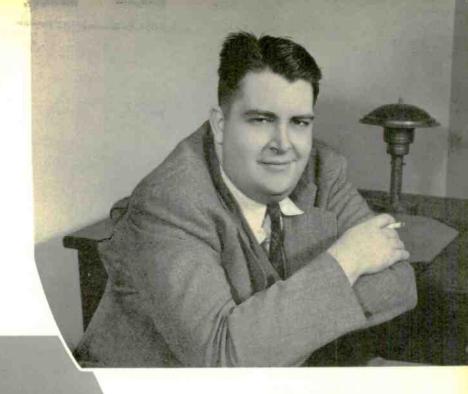
Television may be some ways off, as far as commercial radio possibilities are concerned, but from the standpoint of CHARLES SAKOSKI, Chief Engineer of WBRE, it is definitely here. Whatever new development radio tosses in, Mr. Sakoski lays his hand to. For relaxation from kilocycles and milovolts, there is always his hobby of 16 mm. sound movies to keep him occupied. And any quiet intervals in that routine are soon activated by an eight-year-old daughter, and two sons, fourteen and sixteen. Starting radio work in the army during the war, "Spuff" — as his friends call him - owned WNAH in 1922, and served in electrical and radio engineering concerns to develop his present knowledge of the radio mystery. Mr. Sakoski comes from Nanticoke, Pa.



Back in 1931, undaunted by what seemed an impenetrable blanket over enterprise, a young fellow who hadn't worn out very many pairs of long pants was putting out a weekly newspaper of his own. And FRANKLIN D. COSLETT, Program Director of WBRE, has kept busy . . . very busy . . . ever since. As newsboy, reporter and editor, Frank looked toward a career in journalism, until his poetry reading on the air led to sports commentation and his present job in 1934. Not satisfied with a frenzied schedule of announcing, sports, special events, writing, publicity and program production at WBRE, he followed the lead of his father and his father's father to enter public life as an official of Edwardsville borough this fall. Unmarried and in his twenties, "Franklin D" likes music, poetry, sports and quiet women.

Right-

From Detroit comes this jovial fellow of our announcing staff. They call **E. A. HAMRICK** "Tiny"—he stands six feet, eight inches, without heels 'er nothin'. One time "Tiny" sang a radio program with the high school glee club in Oklahoma City, and has been in radio or dramatic stock most of the time since. At Duke University, he wanted to become a lawyer—but it proved to be one of those "good-ideasat-the-time". To "Tiny", nothing has the soothing effect at bedtime of a nice rare murder story, but anyone who feeds him spinach is liable to have the murder without the story.



ANNOUNCERS

Down in Plymouth, Pennsylvania — the home of Governor James — there was plenty of excitement one day in 1912. It marked the arrival of one JAMES J. McCARTHY, WBRE announcer. Of course, he did his share of announcing, then, but not this kind. Before becoming a member of our staff, and father of a four-year-old James J. McCarthy, Jr., Jim was to do a great deal of work in musical comedy, dramatic stock and "little theatre" companies. To this is added military and commercial education, and sales work. Usually unruffled, "Mac" throws a feather or three when it comes to liking his wife's hats.

Right-

From messenger boy, to steepleiack's assistant, to window dresser, to hotel clerk, to scenic artist, to vocalist, to radio—meet announcer JERRY BUTLER. It was part of the family tradition that Jerry should walk the vaudeville stage, but that didn't appeal to him. But radio was another thing, so, with his voice experienced with much singing, he carried some equipment into a theatre organ broadcast, one day, and sold the company on his musical ability—without an audition! Emily Post or no Emily Post, Jerry STILL likes to wear his hat while he is announcing. His nickname — "Buckets".









As Jerry Butler brings only partly edited the teletypenews and containing stories copy from the ma- from all points-local chine, it is still in a and foreign. long, continuous strip,

Right-

From the four corners of the earth, from seasoned news observors whose "nose for news" pick out vital developments whereever they may be, into the offices of WBRE come stories of history in the making with uncanny speed — accomplished by the teletype machine. which automatically prepares a typewritten copy of a newsstory a fraction of a second after it is dispatched from New York. Jerry Butler scans the strip of copy as it ticks off the roller, while Franklin Coslett communicates with news headquarters for more details on a story at the teletype sending machine.



THE WORLD IN NEWS

Right-

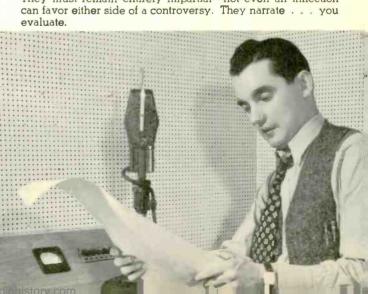
News items must be sorted to eliminate repetition, then comes the important job of "editing". Time is precious in radio, so every superfluous word must be deleted, misconstruing sentences reconstructed, unimportant items cut out-the whole copy boiled down for clarity and economy of time. Here, Jimmy McCarthy edits.

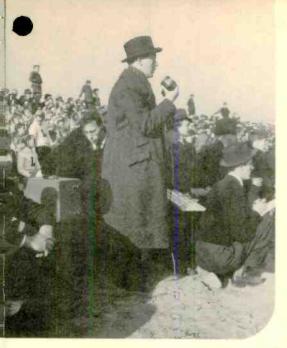
Below-

Local news is broadcast directly from the city desk of the Times-Leader Evening News. Standing beside "Tiny" Hamrick is John McSweeney, editor of the newspaper, who prepares local stories for broadcast each day. Thus, WBRE covers both the local and foreign news sources for its



And then, on the air, News announcers, like Franklin Coslett, must be familiar with hundreds of foreign proper names and descriptive phrases. They usually read an entire line ahead of the words they are speaking to catch any errors in print. They must remain entirely impartial—not even an inflection can favor either side of a controversy. They narrate . . . you





Left-

Franklin D. Coslett broadcasts the football games in the neighborhood of Wilkes Barre. At the Larksville-Coughlin High game, operator Ted French, with headphones, listens and watches his volume indicator behind Frank, while commentator Carl Mau checks the playing-position board at Coslett's left, preparatory to his between-periods analysis of the game.



SLATS OBITZ, who provides sports commentation over WBRE.



WBRE SPORT SHOWS



In the above game, Larksville scores the only, and upsetting, touchdown . . . the crowd goes wild, so Coslett picks up their cheers and band music for a moment.

Below-

At ringside during the Catholic Youth Organization Boxing Tournament, Franklin Coslett picks up the voice of referee Joe Sweeney counting out an amateur fighter. Arnold Kraft, Plains Township High School Athletic Director, who assists Coslett, is seated the first to the right.

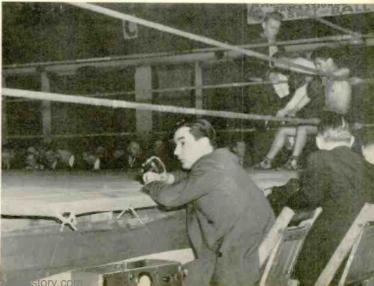




Basketball also falls within the sports realm of WBRE. Games of the Wilkes-Barre Barons, fastest basketball in the country, as well as local scholastic matches, are described by Franklin Coslett, Arnold Kraft and Carl Mau.

Below—

Between rounds "color" is given; i.e., description of the crowds and general scene.





OFFICIAL EVENTS

Left-

Remember this occasion? On Mitchell Day in 1936, President Roosevelt came to Wilkes-Barre's Miner Park. John L. Lewis is next to the last on right of speaker's stand, former-Governor George H. Earle is at the President's left. And at his right is former - W B R E announcer "Little Bill" Phillips with the WBRE microphone.

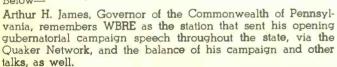
Right-

The world premier of young star Gloria Jean, "The Underpup", called Franklin Coslett with the WBRE "Mike" to the Strand Theatre, Scranton. The famous Graham McNamee, NBC announcer, was on hand to interview the star at her reception. Gloria Jean is the little girl on the left. Coslett in front of McNamee.



Below-

Opening of the Comerford Theatre in Wilkes-Barre was an affair to be remembered, so announcers Coslett and McCarthy showed up with a WBRE "mike" and are seen interviewing a "gag" character who appeared.







• FEATURES

Below-

Fred S. Pettit, familiarly known as either "the Poultry Man" or "the Baby Chick Man", 'broadcasts just as you see him here. He never uses copy or script; usually sets one foot up on a chair, or rocks on his heels.





Below—Sterling L. Wandell, vice president of the Wyoming National Bank of Wilkes Barre, is the announcer you hear on his institution's program, "Banking Pioneers of 1829".

Below -

Charles A. McCarthy, Jr., announcer for monthly broadcasts of Mass from St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church of Pittston. Also directs and announces Irish Hour.

Left-

J. J. O'Malley, friendly President of The First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Wilkes Barre, is heard each Monday, Wednes-

day and Friday noon.

He is also Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh,

member of the Federal Savings and Loan Advisory Council, Wash-

ington, D.C., and pastpresident of the Pennsylvania League of

Building and Loan As-

Ed Thomas, right, who, as "the radio poet", presents bits of philosophy and verse, exchanges thoughts with Seward Symons, executive secretary of the Community Welfare Federation, which sponsors Ed Thomas' programs on

sociations. Below—

occasion.









Above-

Anthony Kotulak, accordinate who is heard on many WBRE presentations, as well as his own "Accordinate", is recognized as Northeastern Pennsylvania's finest piano accordian artist.

Below-

The Polka Dot Orchestra, playing internationally known dance melodies, is directed by Joe Bednarek. Polish and Slavonic tunes are featured. At extreme left is Emil Siwak, popular Polish announcer and singer.



Above-

"Caressing Violins", a lovely non-commercial program from WBRE, is played by—left to right—Joe Bednarek, Emmanuel Horowitz, Emmanuel Holland, Ralph Paul and Louis Savitt.

Above-

Announcer Jim McCarthy, left, and leading man Gene Lavery, right, discuss a Radio Theatre script with director Fred West, center.

Below-

The Radio Theatre Group in a scene from "Tales of the Supernatural". At microphone are Natalie Mac-Murtrie, Bradley West and Gene Lavery. Sound effects crew in rear.





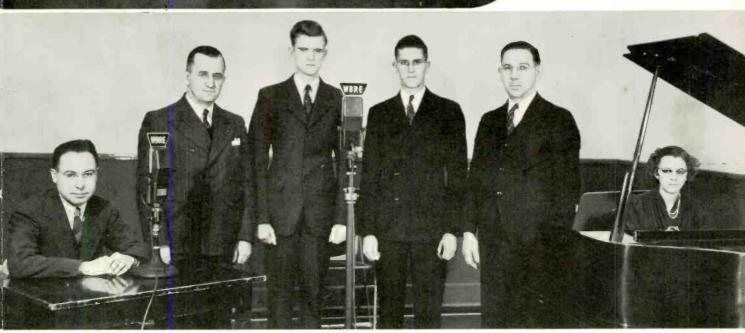


Left-

Leo Jacobs' Polish - American Orchestra. Leo is a veteran at WBRE, formerly a staff musician and Polish announcer. At the microphone with him is vocalist Jean Kaskiel.



The Fireside Four, male quartet with their own announcer and accompanist, sing you the old lovely secular and sacred hymns and ballads on Monday evenings.



The WPA Concert Orchestra, directed by Joe Marrone, on podium at right, present radio concerts under the auspices of the Federal Music Project of WPA.

The Telephone Request program keeps the wires hot with the calls for favorite tunes. Conducted by "Tiny" Hamrick, who has the help of maintenance men Tommy Sutton and James Baltimore.







Emilio Mesolella, director of The Italian Broadcasting Service, which has presented the pioneer Italian Hour of northeastern Pennsylvania with outstanding talent for nine years.



S. J. Collini, Italian Hour announcer; graduate of University of Padua, Italy; accomplished linquist—English, French, Spanish and Italian



THE ITALIAN HOUR

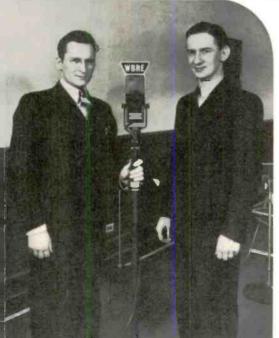
Each weekday at 2:00 p.m., noon on Sundays, this group meets in WBRE's studio to present The Italian Hour. At the microphone are announcers Donna Rosa Marie and S. J. Collini; just visible over the violin is Professor Alberto Amadi, formerly of the Metropolitan Opera Company, beside John Hickey, baritone.

Below-

The Italian Hour orchestra and group. Standing at piano with his violin is orchestra leader Louis Savitt, with Prof. Alberto Amadi and John Hickey standing at his left. Left to right in the rear: Announcer S. J. Collini, Mary Russoniello, soprano, Donna Rosa Marie and Director Emilio Mesolella.







Above-

Brunon Kryger's International Orchestra which provides the music for the Sunday afternoon Polish Program over WBRE.

Left-

Boleslaw Filipczyk and Albert Straub, officers and spokesmen of the White Eagle Club, composed of young Polish-Americans, are heard on the Sunday program.

Right-

While directing his orchestra, Brunon Kryger turns and sweeps and jumps like a dervish, meanwhile playing his violin with unbelievable precision.





THE POLISH PROGRAM

Left-

Father Francis Kasaczun, one of the noted leaders of Polish-Americans, accepts a check for Polish war-relief raised by the Polish Program. Director Kryger presents the check.







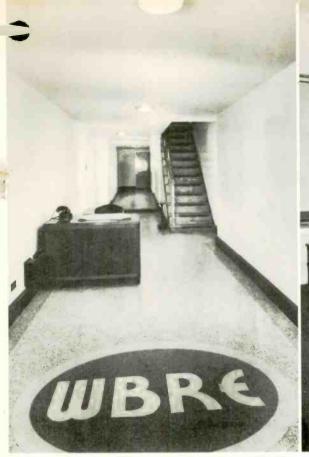
RECEPTION LOBBY

TRANSMITTER, CENTER, AND OPERATING EQUIPMENT AND BELOW

STUDIO CONTROL ROOM FROM STUDIO "A"

THE HOME OF RADIO STATIC





BASEMENT ENTRANCE AND TALENT OFFICES



BUSINESS OFFICE

n wbre, wilkes barre, pa.







St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, from which services are broadcast each Sunday morning at eleven.



Reverend Gardiner M. Day, rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, conducts the Sunday broadcasts.

WBRE RELIGIOUS SERVICES



Left-

St. Stephen's Choir in recessional. Extreme right stands Dr. J. Fowler-Richardson, for thirty years organist and choirmaster. In front of cross, Rev. Day, with his assistant, Rev. Edward Tate.

The third Sunday of each month, St. Stephens makes way for a broadcast of the High Mass from St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church of Pittston. Rt. Rev. Monsignor P. J. Boland is pastor of St. Johns.

₩BR€



IIIBRE

Morning Devotions. Each weekday morning at 7:45, the Wyoming Valley Ministerial Association presents a different minister and choir. Here, announcer Tom Matthews is introducing Rev. G. Hale Bucher and his choir of the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. Marjorie Briggs George directs the singing group.

The Christian Science Radio Group is heard Sundays at six p.m. Left to right: Mrs. Bella M. Mahoney, Shubel Freeman Kelly, Mrs. Beth R. Roberts, Mrs. Gertrude Smythe and accompanist Miss Betty Gretchell.





The Church of the Lighted Cross Radio Group have conducted Pentecostal services on the air for seven years. Rev. Byron D. Jones stands next to the piano.

WBRE



■COME AND JOIN THE JUBILEE



"Professor Guglimo" (Webster Bond) caught at the piano minus his radio-famed long whiskers. Hilda Man Hertz, director of the children's program, sheds a smile on the scene.



A high school pep show in the making with the Children's Jubilee Group. Eleanor Hazlinski, Betty Honeywell and Sam Trumintanti are at the microphone.







The studio orchestra in rehearsal: Louis Savitt, Joe Bednarek, Charles Pclisky and Ralph Paul.



Above-

The Liar's Club—a daily broadcast of organ music, fun, tall tales and—stuff, from Fela's Grill in Hanover Township, features a couple of double-twist screw-balls: Phil Cusick and Jerry Butler.

Left-

Bandleader Junior Maguire with his two lovely vocalists, Ruth Foxx and Kay Jones. They are heard usually on the Sunday afternoon Dance Parade.

Below-

Ralph Paul and His Music Masters, a popular dance aggregation, are heard both from studios and remote spots. Vocalists Bill Ross and Jule Oliver sit on either side of the band. Jule is a graduate of our Children's Jubilee Group.



Right-

The show is over, everybody's happy, all lined up, costumes 'n everything-so we have a picture of the boys and girls, with their directors, who present The Kathleen R. Sweeney Revue each Saturday morning at eleven. Miss Sweeney, who directs the show, stands by the piano; and that's Allan Ramsay at the keyboard. Announcer Jerry Butler has his coat buttoned too tightly, over at the extreme left.





KATHLEEN R. SWEENEY REVUE

Left-

"The show is on" — brunette Doris Tucker, and blonde Jane Post — set their toes to the tap-board for a moment of rythmic terpsichore, while the cast of Kathleen Sweeney's Revue watch their flying feet, and Allan Ramsay, over at the piano, smiles his approbation.

Right-

"Ladies and gentlemen, may we now present — tiny Irene Elko, diminutive mistress of melody, accompanied by the guitar of youthful Mister Carl Witzigman"... and there, in what might well be the words of announcer Jerry Butler, you have the scene in this picture during the Kathleen R. Sweeney Revue.



WBRE





Left-

"Sweet and smooth" characterizes the melody of these nine tune tinkers — Al Kearney's Orchestra. At the microphone, saxophone in hand, stands the maestro of this band—Al Kearney, who puts out music for WBRE listeners on numerous occasions during the week.



Exotic harmonies is the stock-in-trade of Lenio Brothers' International Orchestra, heard on Tuesday evenings. The charming announcer and vocalist of the group is Marysia, at the extreme right.



MilsomHughes, twenty-one year old classic baritone, lends his fine voice to the 10:15 Sunday morning program.

Below-

The Radiotising Associates Dramatic Group has been the means of presenting such shows as "Backtracking History", "Challenge To Crime", "Christmas Carol" by Dickens, and others. Todd Rippard is director, Margo Scureman, dramatic supervisor, and Livingston Clewell, producer. At the "mike": Robert Weintraub and Irene Pisczek.





Each afternoon, Gerry Montana's Rocky Mountain Ramblers serve up their menu of cowboy and hillbilly music and incidental chatter. The two "galloping gals" at the microphone are Yodeling Rosalie and Gerry Montana, herself.



Vivacious Gerry Montana, girl leader of the Rocky Mountain Ramblers, swings into action on a hoe-down.



Donlin's Pennsylvanians are one of the veteran dance music organizations heard on WBRE. At extreme left is Bill Donlin—brother Tommy Donlin stands at the other end of the group.

On Saturday afternoon, Vincent Carrozza, pianist, Clem Warren, vocalist, and Joe Bednarek, guitarist, combine their talents for a period of musical enjoyment. We caught them during a rehearsal discussion.



Al Bianco, interpreter of popular ballads, presents his program with accompanist Marvin Harlos on Wednesday evenings.





Left—

At 7:30 each morning, WBRE starts broadcasting—the honor of which reposes on the alert brow of one Jerry "Buckets" Butler. By disguising our camera as a postage stamp stuck to the front of our cameraman, dressed as a fan letter, we caught this shot of Jerry 30 seconds before he was to "Wake Up Wilkes-Barre".

Below-

Although sign-off for WBRE is at one o'clock in the morning, our staff is always bright and on its toes. Jim "Bingo." McCarthy shows all the disappointment felt by those who sign off radio station, because there is only five more minutes to enjoy the art of radio announcing. Please note the vigor with which Jim approaches his work.



Above-

Classic and operatic arias are proffered by baritone John Hickey with the accompaniment of William Shafer during the weekday evenings.

Relow_

More "rhythm from the range" is provided by "Rawhide and Tumbleweed"— the name roles taken by the two hearties with the white button behind the microphone. Brother Jack is on the left and Yodeling Patsy flashes her smile and fancy boots on the right.



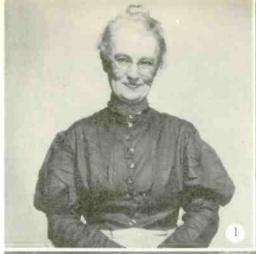
Ray Franconi's Orchestra activates the kilocycles from WBRE with dance rhythms several evenings each week. Ray is the man with the baton.





STARS BY Transcription

1—Ma Perkins, "America's Mother of the Air". 2—Mary Lee Taylor, of the tempting recipes. 3—Nannette Sargent, as Elsa Morgan in "Secret Dairy". 4—Marek Family, a drama in Polish. 5—Checkerboard Time cast. 6—Pinky Tomlin, bandleader. 7—Irving Aaronson, director of The Commanders. 8—Anson Weeks, famous orchestra head. 9—Chuck Foster sends music from the west coast.



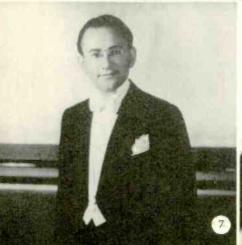












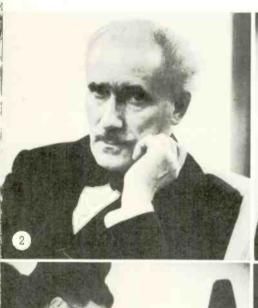




FROM NBC NETWORK OVER WBRE

- 1—Gabriel Heatter, famous news commentator.
- 2—Arturo Toscanini, distinguished NBC Symphony conductor.
- 3—Ransom Sherman, emcee of Club Matinee.
- 4—Don McNeill, emcee of the Breakfast Club.
- 5—Benny Goodman, on Camel Caravan.
- 6—Cal Tinney, heads "Youth vs. Age".
- 7—Garry Morfit, emcee of Club Matinee.
- 8—"The Duke of Paducah", Whitey Ford, Plantation Party.
- 9-Mort Lewis, emcee of "Fun For the Famous".



















FROM NBC NETWORK OVER WBRE

- 1—Alec Templeton, blind pianist heading his own show.
- 2-Bill Stern, alert sportscaster.
- 3-Sam Taub, boxing announcer.
- 4—Walter Damrosch, NBC Music Appreciation Hour.
- 5—The Grouch Club plans a program.
- 6-Horace Heidt leads the Musical Knights.
- 7—Don Ameche, emcee on Chase and Sanborn Hour.
- 8—Fred Waring whose Pennsylvanians play "Pleasure Time".



















FROM NBC NETWORK

- 1—Milton J. Cross, dean of NBC announcers.
- 2—Jack Benny, Mary Livingston and vocalist Dennis Day.
- 3-Ruth Lyon, soprano, on Words and Music.
- 4—Ray Noble, the bandman from England.
- 5-Will Osborne, of dance band fame.
- 6-Russ Morgan, Wyoming Valley boy who went "big time".
- 7—Little Jack Little, the "yours truly" of the piano.
- 8—Jan Savitt directs his dance band over NBC.
- 9—Larry Clinton, the "Dipsy Doodle" bandman.



FROM NBC NETWORK OVER WBRE

- 1-Jimmy Dorsey, with The Magic Clarinet.
- 2—Artie Shaw whose orchestra is making swing history.
- 3-Tommy Dorsey, freckled and red-hot.
- 4-Enrico Madriguera leads the exotic band.
- 5-Meredith Willson, conductor on "Good News of 1940".
- 6-Josef Honti, conductor on "Fun For the Famous".
- 7—Nancy Martin sings on "Breakfast Club" and "Club Matinee".
- 8—Walter Blauffus, conductor, and Everett Mitchell, emcee, of National Farm and Home Hour.
- 9-Gene and Glenn





















Photography by Ace Hoffman Studios Editor, Hal Hubert, N.R.P.I. Associate Editor, Franklin D. Coslett, WBRE WBRE TRANSMITTER -**BUILDING, KINGSTON** SHOWING 202 Foot VERTICAL TRANSMISSION RADIATOR.

