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# Manitoba Calling



PROGRAM CONTEST  
RESULTS

THE HAPPY GANG

ADVENTURES IN RADIO

QUESTION BOX

PROGRAMS

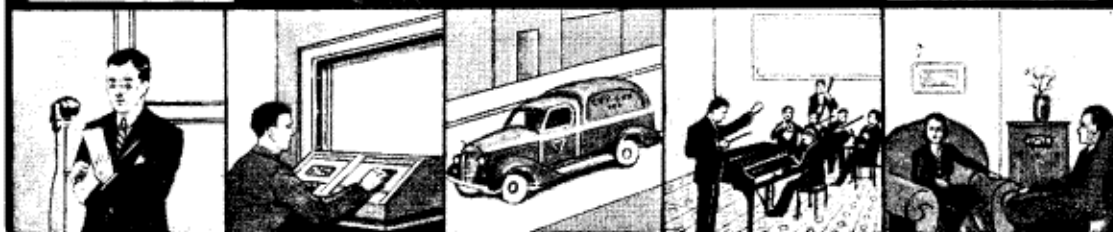
PICTURES

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RADIO BRANCH  
MANITOBA TELEPHONE  
SYSTEM

Vol. IV, No. 5

May, 1940



## Results of Our Program Planning Contest

In our April issue we announced a contest in which our readers were asked to make up lists of items to show how an ideal day's broadcasting should be planned. Of the considerable number of entries received, three were outstanding, not merely for the order of the programs submitted, since that must necessarily be a matter determined by the individual listener's taste and convenience, but rather for the novel suggestions included in the lists.

*The First Prize, of \$5.00, goes to—*

**Mike Kostynuik, Broad Valley, Man.**

*The Second Prize, of \$3.00, is awarded to—*

**Hazel Marson, Transcona P.O., Man.**

*The Third Prize, of \$2.00, has been won by—*

**Mrs. M. Hanzelman, 382 Cairnsmore Street, Winnipeg.**

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Among the suggestions included in Mr. Kostynuik's list were the following. Our Program Department may at some time be able to make use of them, perhaps in a modified form.

**"The Home Workshop"**—Talks describing workshop kinks, hobbies, model making, soldering, wood-working, etc.

**"International Records"**—Broadcasts of musical recordings covering all nationalities.

**"Talent Research"**—Amateur contests similar to those conducted so successfully by Major Bowes.

We thank all those who participated in the competition and we hope they will enter our next contest—to be announced shortly.

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## OUR JUNE ISSUE

New photographs of radio celebrities—More "Adventures in Radio"—A plan and description of CKY's studios.—Letters from listeners.—Many other features.

Place your orders early. Ensure regular delivery by subscribing to "Manitoba Calling", 60 cents for twelve monthly issues, post free.

Vol IV. No. 5.

Single Copy  
5c**MANITOBA CALLING**

May, 1940.

One Year, 60c.  
Post Free

Address all communications to Public Relations Department,  
Radio Branch,  
Manitoba Telephone System,  
Winnipeg

## *"Write Today, Enclosing . . . ."*

*Advice to listeners responding to premium offers.*

Listeners writing to CKY or CKX—or to any radio station for that matter—are advised to take reasonable precautions when enclosing money for premiums, etc. offered by various sponsors.

It sometimes happens that a letter addressed to one sponsor contains additional cash for several different articles offered in connection with other programs.

We are usually required to forward all such mail UNOPENED to the sponsor named on the envelope. The listener then wonders why there is delay in his receiving the promised flower seeds, spoons, or copies of "Manitoba Calling". Also, there is an added danger of loss in transit where many changes of hands are involved.

Our advice to listeners is that they enclose such requests in separate envelopes, each addressed to the sponsor concerned. If preferred, several such envelopes may be placed in a larger one addressed to CKY or CKX. We shall then be glad to make the proper distribution.

### *I AM YOUR RADIO*

I am silent, dead, inert—a piece of simple furniture, blended with taste into the decoration of your room.

Until you touch me with your finger-tips! Then, in an instant my leap to life summons the mechanical geniuses of the earth to serve you.

I make the ether waves your henchmen.

I sweep the ends of the earth to bring its treasures as an offering to you, a king enthroned in your easy chair.

Wit and wisdom, music and drama, entertainment and inspiration, news from everywhere and opinions from everyone, the sublime and the inane, the world's living problems of life and thought, tragedy and sin—these are yours, through me.

Use all that I bring thoughtlessly and without purpose of your own, and I will confuse and dwarf you.

Sift out from me that which fits the larger purpose of your life, and I will enlarge and empower you.

*I am Your Radio.*

## WORDS ABOUT WORDS

*When you hear a radio announcer or other speaker use a pronunciation which seems to you to be incorrect, write the word down. Make a list, and mail it to CKY.*

Twice during the past few weeks our telephone switchboard was overloaded with calls from offended listeners objecting to pronunciations used by our announcers. On one of these occasions the listeners were right and our announcer indubitably wrong. The word was ANEMONE, name of a flower. Making it ANNIE-MONE was an error concerning which our friend has heard much, mostly in good-natured banter. In the other case our critics hastened to object to Gla-DI-olus. Reference to a good dictionary would have shown them that both Gla-DI-olus and the commoner GLAD-e-O-lus are approved. Correct though it is, however, we must confess to disliking the pronunciation Gla-DI-olus as being pedantic, that is, suggestive of haughty-culture.

SPITE rhymes with KITE, but in the word RESPITE it should be nearer to SPIT, with the accent on the first syllable—RES-pit.

A correspondent reports hearing from Toronto DURESS with the emphasis on ESS. Our dictionaries give it as sounding like DURE-ess.

In a war bulletin from an American in Paris we heard what was described as a SEM-I-official statement, the I rhyming with PIE. Mis-usage may in time make it correct, but let us hope not.

Another choice one from our loud speaker was Dis-CREE-tion. Fortunately, the speaker was many miles away, or he might have found that Dis-CREE-tion was not the better part of valour.

Slips of the tongue will happen, of course. There was the recent one which referred to manoeuvres of some United States' warships. The word COMPRISED was mis-read with strange effect, thus: "A contingent based at San Diego COMPROMISED 140 ships. . . .".

A listener writes: "Would not CKY do well to use the English pronunciation of ESPIONAGE. The word (whatever

## The Happy Gang



Colgate-Palmolive Joy-makers

Here they are! Bert Pearl, seated on left; Eddie Allen, centre; Blain Mathe, kneeling; George Temple, standing at left; Hugh Bartlett, with the expansive white neckerchief; Kathleen Stokes, the only girl; and Bob Farnon, with the spotted cravat.

may be said about the methods it describes) has a perfectly honourable place in the English language, and the spelling is not the same as that of the French equivalent. Furthermore, the word is in its remote origin Teutonic. . . .".

Some say "Tom-AH-tow" and some say "Tom-AY-tow", and both seem to be permissible, but a listener complains that a learned professor has been heard to pronounce it "TOM-a-TOW". Will you please pass the POT-a-TOES!

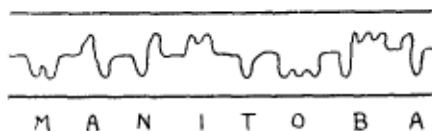
Several listeners seem to have suffered horrors on hearing a reader of poetry in Vancouver pronounce HORIZON with a short I instead of with the long I used by most people and approved by the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

## ADVENTURES IN RADIO - 10

By D. R. P. C.

### SOME EARLY RECOLLECTIONS

My interest in radio was first fired by a public demonstration, back in 1906, when one of Mr. Marconi's associates explained the principles of wireless telegraphy and transmitted with a spark coil a message which was received and printed in code characters on paper tape emerging from a Morse inker on a table at the other side of the stage. In 1910 I gave up my job and went to a school in Stockwell, south-west London, to study a number of different systems of telegraphy, including landline methods, some of which would seem very quaint today. There were instruments employing alphabetical push buttons, the Hughes "piano" with which we transmitted messages by pressing levers like piano keys, as well as the single and double-needle systems used in railway telegraph offices in Great Britain. Also, we were taught submarine cable telegraphy, using both the siphon recorder and the mirror galvanometer, the latter, by the way, the first instrument to make trans-Atlantic communication possible.



Siphon Recorder Signals

Dots are indicated by loops above the centre line on the paper tape. Loops below the centre line are dashes.

The siphon recorder makes a wavy ink line on paper tape and the operator learns to interpret the wiggles of the line as dots and dashes, though to the uninitiated it might as well be Sanskrit or Chinese. The mirror galvanometer receiver is a tiny circular mirror attached to a little magnet and suspended on a fine silk thread. The mirror reflects a spot of light which moves from side to side on a graduated scale. In the course of time, if your eyes survive the strain, you learn to follow the wanderings of the light spot and translate them into dots and dashes of the code, according to whether the spot moves to the left or to the right. This gentle art is called "spot

dodging". A few submarine cable companies were still using it in 1911, and some of us took an intensive course in the expectancy of being sent to Cuba or up the Amazon. Then at the school we had several wireless telegraph stations, including one of the earliest types of Marconi and what was known as the Poulsen Arc system. There was also a thoroughly up-to-date ship transmitter and receiver similar to those used by hundreds of vessels for years afterwards.

We had a lot of fun, in and out of school. As we paid a year's fees in advance it was to the school's advantage to push us on and find employment for us as quickly as possible. So, even before we were sufficiently skilled, we were sent in groups to the London offices of the principal telegraph and cable companies of the world, on the off-chance that some of us might squeeze through an examination and be packed off to India, the south of Ireland, Bermuda, or perhaps to an island in the southern Pacific. It was exciting to wonder just where your destination might be. Looking backward, I have often thought of the small chance that brought me to Canada. Four of us were ordered to appear one morning in the office of the proprietor of the school.

### "Eenie-meenie"

We stood in line facing the master's desk and wondering what was in the wind. Our order from left to right was exactly as we happened to enter the door of the sanctum. The chief looked us over, drew some papers towards him and said, indicating the man on our extreme right:—"You will go to India House to be examined for a position in the Karachi office of the Indo-European Telegraph Company. You (indicating the next man) will also go to India House immediately to be examined for a job in the Teheran office of the same company." I was next in line, and awaited my orders with mixed feelings. "You two men," said the chief, "will proceed to the Pacific Cable Board's offices in Victoria Street, to be

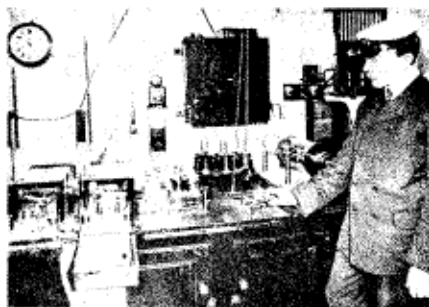
examined for work on the trans-Canada landline in Montreal, Canada." Had we lined up in different order, it might have been Karachi or Teheran for me. . . .

One of our school wireless stations was in Tooting, a suburb of London. Advanced students, in pairs, used to go there by tram-car and spend afternoons communicating by wireless with the school. The first student to accompany me in this duty was Harold Bride. We used to call him "Judy" Bride. Judy and I let the school station call in vain for a few minutes while we sat on the roof admiring the scenery in the neighborhood of the Crystal Palace. . . . Those were happy days, a mixture of loafing and hard work, with romance and adventure ahead of us. We didn't know it then, but Judy Bride was to go to sea a few months later. So, also, was another student, Cyril Evans, who for some reason was nick-named "Corp". Judy Bride and Corp Evans were to hear more of each other. . . .

One morning in April, 1912, there came over our P.C.B. wires in Montreal a story which sent dismay into many hearts — a story which, as it reached newspaper offices, set the presses of the world rolling out big headlines. The giant luxury liner *Titanic* had struck an ice-berg and sunk. More than fifteen hundred men, women and children had perished. Jack Phillips, chief wireless operator, went down with the ship. The assistant operator was hauled into a boat and saved, though at the cost of many hours of agony during which someone sat on his feet till they were crippled and half frozen. The *Titanic* had left Southampton on April 10th. By April 14th she was approaching a vast field of ice, warnings of which had been sent out by a number of ships in the vicinity. Late that night, the liner *Californian* was stopped by ice within twenty miles of the place at which the *Titanic* later struck.

#### A Costly Sleep

Lone wireless operator on the *Californian* was Corp Evans. Some time that night Corp tried to tell Phillips of the *Titanic* about the ice conditions, but Phillips was busy exchanging traffic with Cape Race and told Corp to "shut



#### Early Ship Wireless

The coherer apparatus is on the left. On the right is the spark coil transmitter. Such equipment was in use up to 1910-'11.

up." At about midnight, Evans, who had been on duty since 7 a.m. called it a day and turned in. His ship was stopped; there seemed nothing more to do, and he must sleep some time; so he removed his headphones and went to bed. There were no loud speakers in those days. So, when the *Titanic* sent out her SOS, the *Californian*, such a little distance away, had no ears to hear. No one could blame poor Corp. I have been in ice and fog many times since then and have had finally to turn in after as many as thirty hours of straight duty at the headphones—wondering if something might happen to a nearby ship and I might experience the mental sufferings which must have been Corp's when he awoke next morning and learned the news. The *Titanic's* second wireless operator, among the rescued when more distant vessels eventually reached the scene, was our mutual friend—Judy Bride. All through those hours of tragedy my two pals of the London school were very near each other—"so near, and yet so far"—Evans sleeping serenely in his bunk, hove to in the ice-field, and Bride fastening a lifebelt on Phillips as he sat at the key—sticking to his post till the *Titanic* took her final plunge—Phillips waving his last goodbye as the sea rose towards him—Bride jumping into the swirling waters and the struggling mass of arms and legs—the giant ice-berg towering above, its white-green massiveness floating there—a misplaced mountain with a murderous projecting spur that had ripped the bottom out of

man's greatest achievement in naval architecture.

#### Captured by Wireless

The combined stories of many graduates of the British School of Telegraphy would make a series of adventure books to satisfy any boy's demands for realism in literature. There was a newspaper clipping displayed on the school notice board when I joined—a write-up and photograph of one of our alumni, Jones, I think was his name. He was wireless operator of the *Montrose* in 1910, when radio first declared its partnership with justice by reporting Captain Kendall's suspicions that two of his passengers were Dr. Crippen and his lady companion disguised as a boy—in connection with the death of Crippen's unlucky wife. The subsequent chase in the faster *Laurentic* and arrest of the pair at Father Point are matters of history. It was a queer turn of fate that triumph and disaster, years apart, should meet Captain Kendall at Father Point. He and his wireless man were front page news in the Crippen case, climaxed when Inspector Dew of Scotland Yard boarded the *Montrose* at Father Point. The gallant skipper made the front pages again in the summer of 1914, when his new command the *Empress of Ireland* encountered the *Storstad* and stark tragedy—at Father Point. On a visit to England in 1921 as a "shilling-a-month" operator on a Canadian Pacific steamship, combining business with pleasure in a manner now, unhappily, not so easily arranged, I had to report to the Marine Superintendent at Surrey Commercial Docks. He was the famous Captain Kendall. He retired a year ago, after 50 years of service. What pictures must curl upwards in the smoke of his pipe! Can he ever forget the little wireless cabin on the *Montrose*—the crash of the noisy spark (which would have warned Crippen had he been able to read the code!)—The scene at Father Point when the Law climbed aboard attired as a pilot—Then fame—promotion—four years. . . and the tearing shock of collision in the night—Again the staccato rip of the radio spark, this time summoning help—the *Empress of Ireland* filling rapidly through a gaping wound and listing slowly to her grave. . .

I had a special interest in that ship, but that's another story.

## CKX HIGHLIGHTS

Numerous programs not carried by CKY are available to listeners who tune in CKX, Brandon. Some of these are listed below.

### DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS

- 7.30—Musical Eye Opener.
- 9.00—Opening Markets.
- 9.05—What's in the Air.
- 10.00—Over the Backyard Fence.
- 5.30—Afternoon News.

### SUNDAY

- 11.15—Just Mary—CBC.
- 12.30—Devotional Period—CBC.
- 6.00—Charlie McCarthy—CBC.
- 6.30—One Man's Family—CBC.

### MONDAY

- 8.00—Livestock Bulletin.
- 8.05—Wake Up and Sing.
- 9.10—On Parade.
- 12.30—The Melodiers' Orchestra.
- 2.00—Closing Markets.
- 2.45—Swing Time.

### TUESDAY

- 8.00—Wake Up and Sing.
- 9.10—Key Board Kapers.
- 2.00—Closing Market Quotations.
- 3.30—On the Dance Floor.
- 5.00—University Lecture.
- 5.15—Moments of Melody—CBC.

### WEDNESDAY

- 8.00—Livestock Bulletin.
- 8.05—Wake Up and Sing.
- 9.10—Accordion Parade.
- 10.30—The River Boat Shufflers—CBC.
- 2.00—Closing Markets.
- 2.45—Radio Special.
- 3.30—From the Shows.
- 6.30—Sevillana—CBC.

### THURSDAY

- 8.00—Wake Up and Sing.
- 9.10—Newsy Jigsaw.
- 12.30—Bill Reid's Serenaders.
- 2.00—Closing Markets.
- 2.45—Latin American Rhythms.
- 3.30—The Band of the Week.
- 5.00—University Lecture.
- 6.00—Miss Trent's Children—CBC.

### FRIDAY

- 8.00—Livestock Bulletin.
- 8.05—Wake Up and Sing.
- 9.10—Bands of the Salvation Army.
- 10.30—Helen Wyant—Organist—CBC.
- 2.00—Closing Markets.
- 2.45—Swing Time.
- 5.00—London Calling—CBC.

### SATURDAY

- 8.00—Wake Up and Sing.
- 9.15—Radio Train.
- 9.45—Hawaiian Echoes.
- 12.00—The Melodiers' Orchestra.
- 12.30—Closing Markets.

## AN OUTLINE OF CKY'S PROGRAMS

In these pages are listed programs which are usually to be heard on the days and at the times shown, during the current month. As changes are liable to be made at short notice, it is impossible to guarantee the accuracy of these listings.

ALL TIMES CENTRAL STANDARD.

### SUNDAY

- 11.00—Church Service.
- 12.25—British United Press News.
- 12.30—British Bands—Burns & Co. Ltd.
- 1.00—New York Philharmonic Orch.—CBC.
- 2.30—Canadian Unity—Talk—CBC.
- 3.00—The Church of the Air—CBC.
- 4.00—Silver Theatre—CBC—International Silver Co.
- 4.30—The World Today—CBC.
- 4.45—Canadian Press News—CBC.
- 5.00—Jack Benny—CBC—Jello.
- 5.30—String Orchestra—CBC.
- 7.00—Church Service.
- 8.00—The Mark of the Duke—CBC.
- 9.00—Canadian Press News—CBC.
- 10.00—Miniature Musicale—CBC.
- 10.30—Favorite Hymns—CBC.
- 11.00—Two Piano Recital—CBC.
- 11.30—Sanctuary—CBC.

### MONDAY

- 7.00—Reveille.
- 7.15—Morning Merrymakers.
- 7.45—British United Press News.
- 8.25—Manitoba Calling.
- 8.30—The Man I Married—CBC—Oxydol.
- 8.45—The Right of Happiness—CBC—Crisco.
- 9.00—Home Folks' Frolic.
- 9.15—Stars of the Week—United Radio Advtg.
- 9.30—Big Sister—CBC—Rinso.
- 9.45—Life and Love of Dr. Susan—CBC—Lux.
- 10.15—Allan Caron—Organist.
- 11.00—The Happy Gang—CBC—Colgate-Palmolive.
- 11.45—Refreshment Time with Singin' Sam—Coca Cola.
- 12.00—Against the Storm—CBC—Ivory.
- 12.15—Road of Life—CBC—Chipso.
- 12.45—British United Press News.
- 1.00—The Story of Mary Marlin—CBC—Ivory.
- 1.15—Ma Perkins—CBC—Oxydol.
- 1.30—Pepper Young's Family—CBC—Camay.
- 1.45—The Guiding Light—CBC—P. & G. Soap.
- 2.00—Club Matinee—CBC.
- 3.45—B.B.C. News—CBC.
- 4.15—Backstage Wife—Sterling Products.
- 4.30—The Gospel Singer—Oxydol.
- 4.45—University Lecture.
- 5.45—British United Press News.
- 6.15—Light Up and Listen—Imperial Tobacco.
- 6.30—Tarzan—St. Lawrence Starch Co.
- 6.45—Easy Aces—Anacin.
- 7.00—Lux Radio Theatre—CBC—Lux.
- 8.00—Contented Hour—CBC—Carnation Milk Co.
- 9.00—Canadian Press News—CBC.
- 10.00—Theatre Time—CBC.
- 10.30—The Old Brigade—CBC.
- 11.00—Classics for Today—CBC.
- 11.30—With the Troops in England—CBC.
- 12.00—British United Press News.

### TUESDAY

- 7.00—Reveille.
- 7.15—Morning Merrymakers.
- 7.45—British United Press News.
- 8.25—Manitoba Calling.
- 8.30—The Man I Married—CBC—Oxydol.
- 8.45—The Right of Happiness—CBC—Crisco.
- 9.00—Home Folks' Frolic.
- 9.15—Stars of the Week—United Radio Advtg.
- 9.30—Big Sister—CBC—Rinso.
- 9.45—Life and Love of Dr. Susan—CBC—Lux.
- 10.00—Peggy's Point of View.
- 11.00—The Happy Gang—CBC.
- 11.30—Pelham Richardson's Orchestra—CBC.
- 11.45—Refreshment Time with Singin' Sam—Coca Cola.
- 12.00—Against the Storm—CBC—Ivory.
- 12.15—Road of Life—CBC—Chipso.
- 12.45—British United Press News.
- 1.00—The Story of Mary Marlin—CBC—Ivory.
- 1.15—Ma Perkins—CBC—Oxydol.
- 1.30—Pepper Young's Family—CBC—Camay.
- 1.45—The Guiding Light—CBC—P. & G. Soap.
- 2.00—Club Matinee—CBC.
- 2.45—Donald Novis Sings—Libby's.
- 3.45—B.B.C. News—CBC.
- 4.15—Backstage Wife—Sterling Products.
- 4.30—The Gospel Singer—Oxydol.
- 4.45—Dr. W. T. Allison—Book Review.
- 5.00—The Voice of Inspiration—Young United Church.
- 5.45—British United Press News.
- 6.00—Big Town—CBC—Rinso.
- 6.30—The Family Man—CBC—Lever Bros.
- 7.00—Top Flight Tunes—CBC—Wings Cigarettes.
- 7.30—Fibber McGee and Molly—CBC—S. C. Johnson & Son.
- 8.00—Treasure Trail—Wrigley Co.
- 9.00—Canadian Press News—CBC.
- 10.30—Songs of Empire—CBC.
- 11.00—Chamber Music—CBC.
- 11.30—Speaking of Books—Talk—CBC.
- 11.45—British United Press News.

### WEDNESDAY

- 7.00—Reveille.
- 7.15—Morning Merrymakers.
- 7.45—British United Press News.
- 8.25—Manitoba Calling.
- 8.30—The Man I Married—CBC—Oxydol.
- 8.45—The Right of Happiness—CBC—Crisco.
- 9.00—Home Folks' Frolic.
- 9.15—Stars of the Week—United Radio Advtg.
- 9.30—Big Sister—CBC—Rinso.
- 9.45—Life and Love of Dr. Susan—CBC—Lux.
- 10.00—The House of Peter MacGregor—Greyhound Travel Bureau.
- 10.15—Allan Caron—Organist.
- 11.00—The Happy Gang—CBC—Colgate-Palmolive.



- 11.45—Refreshment Time with Singin' Sam—Coca Cola.  
 12.00—Against the Storm—CBC—Ivory.  
 12.15—Road of Life—CBC—Chipso.  
 12.45—British United Press News.  
 1.00—The Story of Mary Marlin—CBC—Ivory.  
 1.15—Ma Perkins—CBC—Oxydol.  
 1.30—Pepper Young's Family—CBC—Camay.  
 1.45—The Guiding Light—CBC—P. & G. Soap.  
 2.00—Club Matinee—CBC.  
 2.45—Donald Novis Sings—Libby's.  
 3.45—B.B.C. News—CBC.  
 4.15—Backstage Wife—Sterling Products.  
 4.30—The Gospel Singer—Oxydol.  
 4.45—University Lecture.  
 5.45—British United Press News.  
 6.00—Guess What—Public Finance.  
 6.15—Light Up and Listen—Imperial Tobacco.  
 6.30—Tarzan—St. Lawrence Starch Co.  
 6.45—Easy Aces—Anacn.  
 7.00—Mutiny on the High Seas—Red Rose Tea.  
 7.30—Serenade for Strings—CBC.  
 8.00—Dr. Query—CBC—Stephens Paint Co.  
 8.30—Midweek Commentary—CBC.  
 9.00—Canadian Press News—CBC.  
 10.00—Everyman Theatre—CBC.  
 10.30—Hawaiian Music—CBC.  
 11.45—British United Press News.

THURSDAY

- 7.00—Reveille.  
 7.15—Morning Merrymakers.  
 7.45—British United Press News.  
 8.25—Manitoba Calling.  
 8.30—The Man I Married—CBC—Oxydol.  
 8.45—The Right of Happiness—CBC—Crisco.  
 9.00—Stars of the Week—United Radio Advtg.  
 9.15—Smilin' Jack—United Radio Advtg.  
 9.30—Big Sister—CBC—Rinso.  
 9.45—Life and Love of Dr. Susan—CBC—Lux.  
 10.00—Peggy's Point of View.  
 10.15—Allan Caron—Organist.  
 11.00—The Happy Gang—CBC.  
 11.30—Pelham Richardson's Orchestra—CBC.  
 11.45—Refreshment Time with Singin' Sam—Coca Cola.  
 12.00—Against the Storm—CBC—Ivory.  
 12.15—Road of Life—CBC—Chipso.  
 12.45—British United Press News.  
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 1.15—Ma Perkins—CBC—Oxydol.  
 1.30—Pepper Young's Family—CBC—Camay.  
 1.45—The Guiding Light—CBC—P. & G. Soap.  
 2.00—Club Matinee—CBC.  
 2.45—Donald Novis Sings—Libby's.  
 3.45—B.B.C. News—CBC.  
 4.15—Backstage Wife—Sterling Products.  
 4.30—The Gospel Singer—Oxydol.  
 5.00—The Voice of Inspiration—Young United Church.  
 5.45—British United Press News.  
 6.15—Light Up and Listen—Imperial Tobacco.  
 6.30—On Parade—CBC—Robin Hood Flour Mills.  
 7.00—True or False—J. B. Williams.  
 7.30—The Shadow of the Swastika—CBC.  
 8.00—Kraft Music Hall—CBC—Kraft Phenix Cheese Corp.  
 9.00—Canadian Press News—CBC.  
 9.30—Stag Party—CBC.  
 10.00—Modern Strings—CBC  
 10.30—Choral Group—CBC.  
 11.45—British United Press News.

FRIDAY

- 7.00—Reveille.  
 7.15—Morning Merrymakers.  
 7.45—British United Press News.  
 8.25—Manitoba Calling.  
 8.30—The Man I Married—CBC—Oxydol.  
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 1.30—Pepper Young's Family—CBC—Camay.  
 1.45—The Guiding Light—CBC—P. & G. Soap.  
 2.00—Club Matinee—CBC.  
 2.45—Donald Novis Sings—Libby's.  
 3.45—B.B.C. News—CBC.  
 4.15—Backstage Wife—Sterling Products.  
 4.30—The Gospel Singer—Oxydol.  
 4.45—University Lecture.  
 5.45—British United Press News.  
 6.15—Light Up and Listen—Imperial Tobacco.  
 6.30—Tarzan—St. Lawrence Starch Co.  
 6.45—Easy Aces—Anacn.  
 7.00—Waltz Time—CBC—Sterling Products.  
 7.30—Along the Boulevard—CBC—Sterling Products.  
 8.30—Our Canadian Heritage—CBC.  
 9.00—Canadian Press News—CBC.  
 9.30—Woodhouse and Hawkins—CBC.  
 10.00—Drama—CBC.  
 11.30—Notes on Travel—Talk—CBC.  
 11.45—British United Press News.

SATURDAY

- 7.00—Reveille.  
 7.15—Morning Merrymakers.  
 7.45—British United Press News.  
 8.25—Manitoba Calling.  
 9.00—Home Folks' Frolic.  
 9.30—Allan Caron—Organist.  
 10.00—Peggy's Point of View.  
 10.30—Children's Scrapbook.  
 11.00—Prof. V. W. Jackson—Nature Talk.  
 12.30—Pinto Pete—Dominion Fur Auction.  
 12.45—British United Press News .  
 1.00—Garrison Theatre—CBC.  
 2.00—Club Matinee—CBC.  
 3.45—B.B.C. News—CBC.  
 4.30—CKY Studio Strings—Manitoba Telephone System.  
 5.00—British Variety Hour.  
 5.45—British United Press News.  
 6.00—Share the Wealth—CBC—Colgate-Palmolive.  
 6.30—Wayne King's Orchestra—CBC—Colgate-Palmolive.  
 7.00—Charlie Chan—Listerine.  
 8.30—Let's go to the Music Hall—CBC.  
 9.00—C. P. News—CBC.  
 10.00—Old Time Barn Dance—CBC.  
 11.30—Murder at Mr. Garcia's—Drama—CBC.  
 12.00—British United Press News.

## ANOTHER LISTENER LOOKS AT RADIO

Mrs. F. Owen, of Miami, Manitoba, recalls some thrills

Away back in 1926 I invested my turkey money in a radio. The set had three tubes and a pair of headphones. We had a loud-speaker, too, but it was not satisfactory so we bought more headphones. We used the phones for several years and they were much easier on the rest of the family because the set had a terrible squeal if not tuned just right. What pleasure we got out of that radio! The children hurried in from school to listen. The dishes were done in double quick time. Every night all winter the family gathered about the radio. Headphones were divided if a neighbor dropped in. Many an hour of beauty-sleep was lost when someone would get it all to himself or herself and go "sky-riding" till the wee small hours. We never came in late from a concert or dance without tuning in and seeing how many stations we could get.

We had a log of well over 125 stations listed. We could get Toronto at about five o'clock in the afternoon, although at that time it was generally considered very difficult to get stations in the east. Then, after twelve at night we could hear CNRV, Vancouver, San Diego would come in clearly when some of the more powerful stations had signed off.

We heard no net-work programs in those days. Many stations played records, and after each piece they would announce their call letters and plead for someone to please send a post card and let them know how the program was coming in. Oh, the thrill of sky-riding in those days!

Then came the first time the King spoke over the radio. We had to get up early. My small daughter insisted on getting up to hear that broadcast. She was the first out of bed when the alarm clock rang. "Well," she said, "I can tell my grand-children about the first time a King spoke to his people in Canada by radio." Then the first Empire broadcast at Christmas. How thrilled we all were! Little daughter listening here while on the other side of the world, "down under", in New Zealand, her great-grandmother was waiting and listening for the voice of CKY's Mr. Roberts. It was some time early in the morning of Boxing Day there, but I do

not believe she went back to bed. She sat down and wrote to us right away to tell us of the thrill she got when she heard Winnipeg, Manitoba. "I was thinking of you all", she wrote, "and I felt sure you were thinking of me. Mr. Roberts' voice came in so clearly—better than most". Later, we received a newspaper account of the broadcast as heard in New Zealand. Grannie was very deaf, so had her wireless, as she called it, fitted with a special set of headphones. With these she could hear perfectly. She was very fond of visiting her many relatives and friends in various parts of New Zealand. Everywhere she went her wireless went too. She never missed an Empire broadcast and always wrote and told us about it. It seemed to be a link between her and her loved ones far away. Although so old, nearly ninety, she was one of the keenest radio fans.

### Early Hockey Broadcasts

I don't think I have ever enjoyed hockey games like those first ones. One series I well remember. It was an Allan Cup final, played at Winnipeg between Port Arthur and St. Francois Xavier. Herb. Roberts was doing the story. How excited my mother got over those games! In those days our four headphones were tied together in series with elastic bands. Anyone who did not sit still caused a clicking sound which was very annoying. Those games were too much for mother. She just couldn't sit still, so all the exciting parts were punctuated with "click-click-click". I am sure if she had been at the game her hat would have been down on the ice during the big fight in the final game.

One of my brothers always enjoyed a certain American announcer who could rattle off names and addresses of people requesting songs at a tremendous rate. My brother would sit and listen, fascinated. "One of these times that fellow will trip," he would say. I don't remember whether he did or not.

Those were the days when the radio was really listened to. There was no turning it on and letting it run for hours with no one paying any attention to it, as happens today. We got the good

## C.B.C. VIOLINIST



Jean de Rimanoczy

Jean de Rimanoczy was first introduced to radio listeners by CKY in 1926. This brilliant violinist studied in Budapest with the great Hubay.

of the program; lectures, church services, and so on. How we enjoyed Family Night at CKY! The sing-song, the play, "Ebony and White", Reuben Spinach. Later the talks on Sunday afternoons were never missed. We had four miles to drive to afternoon church service, and it was nip-and-tuck to hear the finish of "Let's Go a-Visiting" and get to church in time, but we did both.

The world is at our door. We turn a switch and in a moment the magic carpet carries us to the ends of the earth. We hear the royal procession, the roar of aeroplanes, the deep whistles of the mighty queens of the sea, the voices of kings and leaders speaking to millions . . . But the thrill is gone. Now we enjoy the programs and endure some of the advertisements, but . . . we look back with happy memories to those days and nights of early radio.

*This Month**. . . in our Diary*

**May 1st, 1923:** Announcement was made of a forthcoming series of "Boost the West" talks by speakers representing the Winnipeg Board of Trade, to be broadcast by CKY weekly.

**May 3rd, 1923:** Broadcast lecture by Professor Buller on "The Romance of Wheat."

**May 10th, 1923:** We commenced using a whistle, making in code the letters "CKY" as a signing off signal, instead of chimes.

**May 13th, 1923:** Broadcast hymns by the bells of St. Luke's Church, Winnipeg. Used a microphone in the front porch of a nearby house for picking up the bells. (Later we placed a microphone in the belfry, where it remained for some years.)

**May 18th, 1923:** Broadcast a band concert from the Olympic Rink—the combined pipe and brass bands of the Canadian National Railways' workshops.

**May 31st, 1923:** Concluded first series of University Extension Lectures broadcast in Canada.

★

### NEW MORNING PROGRAM ON CKY

Designed to provide a rollicking live-talent program each week-day at 7.15 a.m., a new feature "Morning Merry-makers" is now originating in CKY's studios. "Morning Merry-makers" will bring back to the microphone many old favorites. During the summer months, CKY commences week-day operations at 7 a.m. The popular curtain-raiser "Reveille" begins the proceedings on Mondays through Fridays, with Tom Benson in charge. On Saturday, Eric Davies opens with "Sunrise Serenade". "Manitoba Calling", in which the day's programs are discussed, is now being broadcast at 8.25 a.m.

## The Story of CKY's Studios

*In this series of articles we shall sketch the development of our studios from a barely furnished cubicle to the present fully modern suite of acoustically efficient compartments, undraped, uncarpeted, but designed in accordance with scientific principles which were little understood if known at all when CKY first opened.*

CKY's studios have developed from a single room, used as both office and studio, in the Sherbrooke Telephone Exchange when the Manitoba Telephone System introduced Canada's first publicly owned broadcasting service in 1922.

As the art and business of broadcasting progressed, there came demands for more and better programs, involving extended hours and improved facilities. Separate office accommodation was provided, though there was still no waiting room for the artists. The latter frequently brought their friends along, with the result that the studio would be packed with people, a condition which seriously affected the temperature, humidity and acoustics, not to mention the artists' and announcer's nerves. Some relief was enjoyed when automatic telephones replaced the manual plant in the Sherbrooke Exchange and released space for a second studio. In those days of uncertainty, when it was felt that any

studio accommodation must be temporary and likely to be abandoned at short notice, prudence restrained us from indulging in anything suggestive of lavish expenditure. We put up with many inconveniences, labored under severe handicaps, and yet managed to conduct a radio service which compared very favorably with any received in this territory.

### Radio Growing Up

It was not to be expected, however, that the pioneering conditions could continue indefinitely. Listeners were increasing in number. Broadcasting was becoming "show business", and the receiver a household utility rather than a plaything for grown-up children. The educational possibilities of the new art had been demonstrated since CKY's inauguration. People were being persuaded to listen through entire programs instead of continually turning their dials



A CKY orchestra in the Sherbrooke Studio. Note the drapings on wall and ceiling.

to capture scraps from as many stations as possible per evening. A more appreciative audience meant also a more critical one.

To keep pace with some improved practices elsewhere, and to maintain the lead which we had set in others, we had to make extensions. These included a succession of increases in time on the air; the provision of more efficient microphones with each advance in design; similar modernization of associated equipment, amplifiers, signal systems, etc.; improvements in studio furnishings, wall and ceiling drapings, artists' accommodation, etc. By the end of 1936, CKY's responsibilities as a basic national network station required to originate programs for coast-to-coast audiences made it imperative that we move to larger and more convenient premises.

#### New Quarters

Thus, in May, 1937, we transferred our headquarters to the Telephone Building. Here we had prepared studios designed in accordance with the recommendations of the best acoustic experts in North America. As the reader will see by the descriptive material to follow in this series, much more detail and much heavier expense is involved in the construction of studios for radio purposes than in building most other structures. Doors, for instance, are not merely wooden or steel panels with hinges and handles. For the radio studio they must be as soundproof as science can make them, while still having to be opened and closed with a minimum of effort. Ours weigh about 300 pounds apiece and each consists of a sheet of steel which forms the "meat" of a sandwich. Five-ply wood makes the visible surfaces, and between the wood and the steel there is packed mineral wool. The edges of the doors are bevelled and when closed they press against rubber tubing. Thus the top and side edges are made to fit tightly against the jamb so as to help prevent sound escaping into or out of the studios. On the bottom edges of the doors there are other devices to achieve the same purpose. Thresholds are subject to wear, and doors well sealed at these points when first installed would soon develop leakage as the passing feet wore the thresholds concave. In our doors we have mechanism, operated by closing the doors, which presses two

#### SUMMER TIME

With Daylight Saving going into effect in some parts of the continent and Standard Time continuing in others, arranging radio programs becomes a matter of increased difficulty. The problems which face the C.B.C. and the American nation-wide network authorities are greatly complicated by the twice-a-year change of clocks. We who receive programs via the networks from the principal centres in Canada and the United States, and must also fit in our own local features, have our troubles, too. As we go to press it appears that CKY's summer schedule is all set up as listed on pages 8 and 9. Before the ink is dry, however, we shall probably be advised of a number of revisions. In the circumstances, we hope our readers will appreciate that we have done our best.

#### ★ VISUAL BROADCASTS

Certain C.B.C. and local CKY broadcasts may be watched by the public. Tickets for admission to the studio during C.B.C. broadcasts are obtainable from the C.B.C. offices, Telephone Building, Winnipeg. For admission to the observation rooms, application should be made to the Public Relations Department, CKY, in the same building. CKY's policy is to admit visitors to the studios only with the permission of the sponsors of the programs being broadcast, whether C.B.C. or others. The observation rooms have been specially provided for people wishing to see and hear without being actually in the studios.

parallel strips of felt downwards on to the thresholds. All the precautions described are contributions towards making the doors soundproof—but perfection does not yet appear to have been achieved. A door can be made completely soundproof, or it can be made very easily workable as a simple door. Combining the two requisites with complete success is a problem still awaiting solution. So, since single doors were considered insufficient, our studios were designed to compel entry through two doors instead of one. Thus, outside each studio door there is a small vestibule and an additional door, providing what might be termed a "sound lock".

(To be continued)

## THE LISTENER WRITES

*We welcome letters from our listeners at all times. Names and addresses of the writers must be given but will be treated as confidential.*

**HUMAN ANNOUNCERS**—"My husband and I get a big laugh out of the announcers' mistakes as it shows us that they are human beings too. I don't think anyone should find fault with them as it is almost impossible to speak perfectly all the time. . . ."—Woodlands, Man.

**GOOD NEIGHBOR**—"A great many Manitoba folks are my customers. I have a filling station in this city. You asked us one morning if anyone had any ideas about the programs. I think they are just fine as they are. . . ."—East Grand Forks, Minn.

**HOPES WILF IS HOMELY**—"I wish you would publish a picture of Wilf Davidson—and I hope it is as homely as a hedge-fence, so that my niece will be cured. . . ."—Lundar, Man.

**DO DRAMAS HOLD UP HOUSEWORK?**—"There are far too many plays. One can enjoy music while going about one's work, but not so with a play. . . ."—Winnipeg.

**SOPHISTICATED BABIES**—"I think it would be better if the children that sing over the radio would sing children's songs. It would be nicer than trying to sing love songs and cowboy songs that are too old for them. . . ."—Bowsman, Man.

**BOUQUET**—"I am a regular listener to CKY and enjoy the programs very much. I listen to other stations but always turn back to CKY. I must congratulate CKY on their choice of announcers. Their voices are very pleasant and make even advertising interesting. At other stations I very often turn the radio off when the advertising comes, but the announcers' voices at CKY hold my attention enough to prevent that. . . ."—Winnipeg.

**KICK**—"On Tuesday evening last, as we sat down to our evening meal, I tuned in to CKY so we could get the news. All of a sudden came an announcement about vital juices and details of the human interior. Imagine having company for tea and hearing such remarks. My husband got up, disgusted, to turn off the radio, but I told him the news would be on shortly. Oh,

yes, there IS room for improvement. . . ."—Winnipeg.

**ANY SOAP RECIPES WANTED?**—"Some of the soap companies' advertisements get us down at times. They make it sound good enough to eat! . . . ."—Winnipeg.

**STAR DUST AND SLEEPY DUST**—"The only thing I am tired of is 'Star Dust'. I would rather hear Winnipeg singing, but we can't have all we want. . . ."—Winnipeg.

**GANGSTER PLAYS AND COMICS**—"We hope that some day crime and gangster plays will be entirely eliminated and comic sections of newspapers. . . . Regarding the pronunciation of announcers, I would say they are doing a pretty good job and if this war spreads their job will be much more difficult. . . ."—St. Vital, Man.

**SWITCHING PLAYERS**—"We listen to nearly all the stories in winter. We hate to have a favorite character suddenly changed without saying why. It is hard to get used to the new voice taking the old part. . . ."—Portage la Prairie, Man.

**OBJECTION**—"I think more care should be taken in the plays to avoid discussions of intimate personal conditions which no lady would talk about in mixed company. It is a shame that our homes are being invaded by objectionable material of that kind. Programs should be put on by people of good taste, or censored by someone with a sense of decency. . . ."—Winnipeg.

**LOYAL TO CKY**—"I think I can safely say that CKY is our main station. . . . We are all fond of old-time music and miss the old-time music on Saturday nights—the Farmer Fiddlers. . . ."—St. Claude, Man.

**NEWS**—"Our western stations are to be congratulated on the small amount of advertising included with the news broadcasts as compared with those elsewhere. Interruptions in the middle of vitally important world news these days are an affront to the listener and must ultimately be bad business for the sponsor. . . ."—Winnipeg.



## Our Wandering Camera

(1) Wilford Davidson, CKY's chief announcer, reading the British United Press Bulletins, sponsored by the Maple Leaf Milling Company. (2) A candid snapshot of announcer Tom Benson. We'll get a better one of him next time! (3) "Brad", Winnipeg's star clown, entertaining T. Eaton Company's "Good Deeds Club" members who packed the Metropolitan Theatre on Saturday morning, April 13th. (4) The two gents in this picture are that famous comedy team Woodhouse and Hawkins. Art. McGregor (left) and Frank Deaville (right) are seen engaged in preparing one of their C.B.C. programs. Seated thus side by side, the boys spend many hours writing their script and discussing the suitability of gags drawn from their extensive classified collection. If published, their dialogues would fill several books which would make a valuable contribution to Canada's humorous literature. (5) Comedian and player of many radio parts, Tommy Tweed (left) is propounding a great idea to Wilf. Davidson.

## The Question Box

*We shall be pleased to answer questions relating to radio. Selected questions and replies will be published in this column. Others will be answered by mail.*

All our questions this month came from a young lady who is a pupil at Marne School, Ashern, Man.

**I.K.:** How are broadcasting stations financed? Broadcasting in Canada is financed partly through license fees, but more largely from advertising revenue provided by the sponsors of various programs and announcements. In Great Britain the system is maintained directly by the listeners through license fees. In the United States the service is supplied by private commercial concerns which rent time to advertisers, the listeners paying no license fee.

**What are the differences between short-wave, long-wave and standard-wave?** Standard broadcast wavelengths are from 187.5 metres to 550 metres. Waves longer than 550 metres are known as long waves. Those from 187.5 down to 10 metres are short waves, and those below 10 metres are called ultra-short waves. The terms are, of course, relative. Years ago, all wavelengths below

200 metres were regarded as short, but since those days research has extended the useful radio spectrum down to fractions of a metre.

**Are there any electrical powers in the air which interfere with the sound waves?** There are electrical forces which interfere with radio waves, but you should remember that the waves which come to you through space from broadcasting stations are not sound waves but electric waves. The only sound waves involved are those which depend upon the air for their transmission, namely those between the radio performer and the microphone and those between the loud speaker and the ear of the listener. Strictly speaking, it is quite incorrect to say that a station goes "on the air" and to use such expressions as "over the air waves", etc.

**When was the first radio installed in Manitoba?** The first broadcasting station here went into regular operation in the spring of 1922.

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