



The Ontario
Farm Station

W. T. CRUICKSHANK, GENERAL MANAGER

920 KCS.

WINGHAM, ONTARIO

1000 WATTS

Dear Listener:

In presenting this life story of CKNX, I would like to mention a few men whose deeds and words of encouragement meant so much to me in the early days of the station. Over the years so many have helped in one way or another that it would take more space than is available, to mention all the names, and I feel it is because of this help that we are now so firmly established. I can only offer my grateful thanks to those who aided us.

Among them was the late Mr. George Spotton, who during our first five or six years, was the Huron County M.P., and who fought so vigorously on our behalf until he was successful in having our original amateur broadcast station preserved. at a time when most station licences were being cancelled.

There are also several of the early officers of the Wingham Radio Club, whose memory we cherish, in the persons of the late Dr. A. J. Irwin, J. A. Morton and W. J. Greer. Also Dr. George Howson, who is still practicing dentistry in Wingham, and the late Reg Douglas, who acted as announcers during many of our earlier years of operation and to Mr. W. A. Galbraith, whose work and advice as Secretary-Treasurer of the Radio Club, meant much to maintain interest.

During the year 1940, when we were endeavouring to get an increase in power and a better wave length, Mr. Robert Deachman, who was then Federal member for North Huron, arranged for our many interviews with radio authorities.

To these men and the many others, whose efforts were mostly behind the scene of action, we owe so much, as there were many times when words of encouragement, seemed to be all that kept the station going.

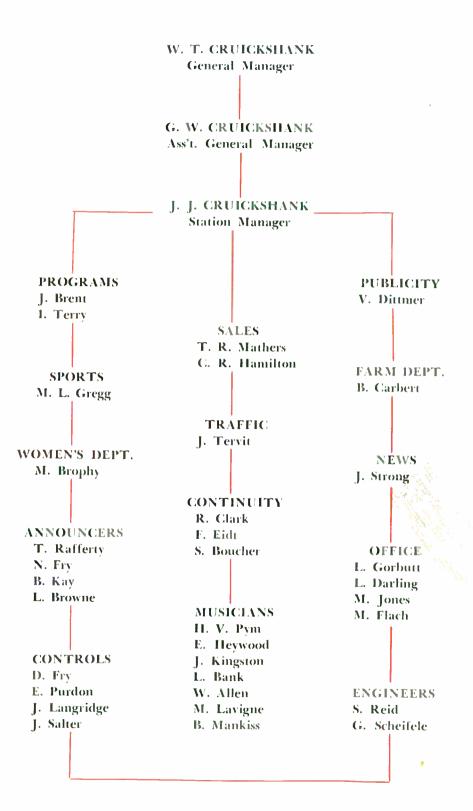
My thanks also to Howard Bedford, now operating his own station CHVC at Niagara Falls, for his untiring efforts during our early years of commercial operation, when funds were needed for expansion. To Harry J. Boyle, at present Manager of the Trans-Canada Network at the C.B.C., whose judgment and knowledge of the public's requirement of news, got us started on a sound policy of news gathering, which is still a most important part of our daily operation. While our rogress during the past ten years has been beyond my fondest hopes, I look with

fidence to the future, believing that with continued loyalty of the listeners, ay continue to serve our audience, and we will be constantly looking for new to serve, and to keep the station an integral part of Western Ontario,

VX COMMUNITY.

Sincerely

W.T. Conniclation



This is CKNX

The history of CKNX is so closely integrated with the life of W. T. "Doc" Cruickshank, that to tell the story of one, is to tell of the experiences of the other. Wilford Thomas Cruickshank was born in 1897 on a farm on the first concession of Morris Township, about two miles south of the town of Wingham. He moved to town with the family in 1912 and for a time attended the Wingham Public School. Owing to the death of his father in 1915, he had to quit school in grade 8 and go to work. He was employed at a local furniture factory for a time, then got a job chauffeuring a local doctor, which accounts for the nickname "Doc". In 1924 he was working at the Western Foundry ten hours a day, sold radios between 7 and 8 o'clock each evening and worked as projectionist at the local theatre from 8 to 11. His interest in radio increased, resulting in the decision to make it a full time job. The agency for a well known line of radios was taken on and a workshop set up. As broadcasting and radios became more popular his business went ahead. It wasn't long until the glamour of broadcasting became an obsession with him.

It was on February 20th, 1926, with no advance publicity or fanfare, that a new broadcasting station was started in Wingham, Ontario. On this date the first broadcasting signal of what was later to become CKNX, was sent out. It all came about as a result of W. T. seeing a working diagram of a transmitter in Popular Mechanics magazine. In a few days he had a working unit made up from bits and pieces from his radio servicing equipment. In 1926 there were very few broadcasting stations in Canada, so there was lots of room on the dial for another. The owner didn't know he was on the air until a Wingham resident phoned to say that it was coming in fine. This in itself was worthy of note because there were less than a dozen radios in the town at the time.

In these early days American stations would sign on the air at about noon and run till about two o'clock, then resume broadcasting again around six for a few more hours. Programs were strictly live talent as the use of phonograph records hadn't been adopted this early.

Doc Cruickshank estimates that his first transmitter had about two watts of power. As broadcasting was considered a pastime more than a business then, and his transmitter was such a weird looking outfit, he christened the new baby J.O.K.E.

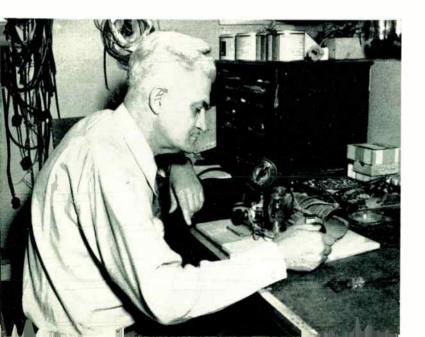
After running off and on for about three months, someone remembered that a license was necessary. Thus an amateur license was granted by the Canadian Department of Transport, allotting 1200 kilocycles on the wave band, with a power of live watts and a set of call letters "10 B.P." "The Voice of Western Ontario" was born.

As time went on, headaches piled on top of one another. Being an amateur station it wasn't permitted to sell time and "10 B.P." had neither advertisers nor sponsors. Progress was anything but fast. For four years it was a novelty that did little more than use up the owners money and time. With the financial pinch making things uncomfortable, the venture nearly collapsed several times. (Then the idea of a Radio Club was hit upon and formed with three hundred members at a dollar a year each.) This money went into better equipment and thrice-a-week programs of an hour or so were assured as well as church services on Sunday. Then the staff was doubled, another local radio enthusiast, George Howson helped out. This phase of 10 B.P. lasted for seven years.

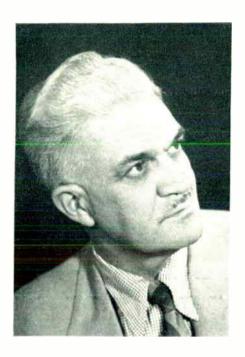
In 1935-10 B.P. became CKNX, a full commercial station with permission to sell time for advertising purposes. The power was 50 watts and the wave length stayed at 1200 kilocycles. It wasn't long until local businessmen started to make use of the advertising facilities and things took a turn for the better. As an amateur station prior to 1935 it had been a hobby . . . after 1935 with a commercial license it became a business enterprise.

Quite a number of people had a hand in building CKNX. On several occasions local members of parliament helped out. The late George Spotton worked hard to get higher power and better frequencies, later Mr. R. J. Deachman was in a large measure responsible for the station getting a commercial license and the present wavelength of 920 kilocycles.

After getting a commercial license and the call letters CKNX in 1935, two years later permission was granted to step the power up from 50 to one hundred watts. At this point the staff increased to seven members. It was then that the community service policies of the station were laid down. It was quite evident that to survive, programs had to be geared to the needs of the listener.



W. T. Cruickshank with the original 10 B.P.



W. 7. Cruickshank

General Manager of Radio Station CKNX, W. T. Cruickshank was born on a farm on the 1st line of Morris, two miles south of Wingham.

He participated in many sports in his younger days which accounts for the fact that he is an ardent sport fan today. Doc, as he is better known to the public, is very active in community work, being a member of the Wingham Town Council, the Arena Commission, Lions Club, the Western Ontario Athletic Association, Chamber of Commerce, besides being an honourary member of many outside organizations.

Until recently he made regular appearances before CKNX microphones and may still be heard occasionally.

W. T. does not take full credit for his achievements but shares it with his wife Mabel, who has contributed greatly through her understanding and words of encouragement.

All news—no matter what was going on in the world—was to have a 50 percent local content. Talent, wherever possible was to be live and local.

CKNX moved to modern quarters in 1941, stepped up to its present power of 1000 watts and moved from 1200 on the dial to 920 kilocycles. However, the changeover from 100 watts to 1000 watts wasn't as easy as that . . . For fifteen years the wolf hadn't been too far from the door, and he still was within howling distance. A piece of land was bought 3 miles south of town . . . a new transmitter was purchased . . . a transmitter house erected . . . towers raised . . . studios enlarged and hundreds of smaller improvements added until the cost ran up to around 30 thousand dollars.

Since 1941 most of the improvements have been in the form of strengthening of programs and the different departments that deal with community service. Today there's a full time staff of 36... live talent is still used extensively, in fact last year 17 percent of operating costs was made up of talent fees. A whopping telephone bill in the neighbourhood of three hundred dollars each month, is run up... mostly through the gathering of local news and for lines for remote broadcasts. With every service to the listener goes additional costs, and it certainly is very gratifying to the management to enjoy the confidence and friendship of thousands of faithful listeners.



Bud Cruickshank

Little did Gerald Bud Cruickshank know when he was born on September 26, 1924 that less than two years later his future would take shape. Yes, with CKNX, then 10BP, coming into existence, W. T. Cruickshank had high hopes that his son would figure prominently in the future of his radio station. Today those hopes have become a reality and Bud holds down the responsible position of Assistant General Manager, studying every phase of operation of the station which will enable him to carry on the service and traditions that has made CKNX one of the most-listened-to stations in Western Ontario. Besides his official duties, Bud also takes his place before the microphone and reports for duty early in the morning to add his talents to The Top of the Morning Show.

Bud was born in Wingham and served in The Canadian Army for two years. In 1947 he married Dorothy Wade of Belgrave and they have one daughter, Mary Ann.

Community Service

Blyth dedicates a new arena . . . the Ontario Crop Improvement Association meeting is held in Toronto . . . a farmer loses a dog . . . the Bruce County Agricultural Representative needs some recording equipment . . . the Junior Farmers are looking for help in arranging an oratorical contest . . . the Women's Institute is stuck for a guest speaker . . . a Walkerton man wants to know road conditions to Detroit . . . a war bride would like to send a recording back home . . . a distant church celebrates its centennial . . . promotion is needed for the March of Dimes campaign . . . the Kinettes want loudspeakers for their fashion show . . .

This is only the beginning of a long list of requests or events to which CKNX will always say, "Yes, we can help!" or "Yes, we'll be there!"

This is Community Service!

And it, too, is twenty-five years old.

Studios, staff, power . . . all else has changed in the quarter-century, but the guiding principle that created CKNX remains the causa sine qua non.

It is a peculiarity of Western Ontario that this vast area of over 11,000 square miles and 350,000 people served by CKNX is, in reality, but one community having common interests and privileges and living under the same laws. That is why a broadcast, say, of ceremonies dedicating a new hospital in a small Perth County centre has significance for such a broad listening area. The towns, townships, villages and crossroads of Western Ontario are banded together by one common factor: agriculture. CKNX gains and maintains listeners by catering to the many-sided aspects of this expansive topic.

After all, the slogan "The Voice of Community Service" is only an offshoot of another station break phrase . . . "The Ontario Farm Station".

Station Manager John Cruickshank discusses program business with sponsor





John Cruickshank

John Cruickshank, Station Manager, got his initiation into CKNX shortly after its opening, as a part time control operator. He became a full time member of the staff about 1937 and since that time gained experience in every department, which well qualified him for his appointment of his present position in 1947.

He was born in Wingham in 1912, and with the exception of about four years in the Canadian Army, has been a continuous resident ever since.

His hobbies lean strongly toward sports, having played bockey and baseball for a number of years and more recently fishing and golf have been his main interests along the sport line.

He was married in 1943 to the former Margaret Miller of Wingham. A third member to this branch of the Cruickshank family was added last Spring when Joan Patricia was born. John also takes his place before the microphone each week day on the Noon Markets heard at 12:35 p.m.

Bob Carbert

Here is a man well-equipped with sufficient understanding and natural background for the position of Farm Editor at CKNX. Bob was born on a farm in Fullarton Township in Perth County Ontario in 1921, and attended school in Hibbert Township. He assisted his father in the operation of a large farm in that township until 1942 when he enlisted in the Canadian Army. On discharge Bob returned again to the Hibbert farm. Ill-health forced Bob to give up the work on the farm and he turned to radio with CKNX, following a hidden desire to write. Genial Bob is married with one child Helen Ann. Bob is active as secretary of the Wingham Kinsmen Club. His hobby woodworking, takes up much of his spare time as does public speaking to various farm groups.



Farm Service



Since the days of 10-B-P, Wingham's Radio Station has been basically, the voice of the farmer. Since those days, some 25 years ago when the first feeble signals were sent into the air, farm items have been very important in the Station's programming. As the Station has grown, so has the Farm Department. CKNX now has a full time Farm Editor, who looks after the Farm Markets Broadcasts, reports the Farm meetings, summarizes the trends and developments in the sphere of agriculture, and keeps the farmers informed to the best of his ability. It's a full time job, and when you consider that one man must cover the farming events in three basic counties, and the outlying portions of at least four more, you will appreciate the work of our farm department.

Details of all Fall Fairs, Annual Meetings, Plowing Matches, Protest Meetings, and Junior Farmer Events are reported to the listeners as they appear to the Farm Editor. For example, take the programming of farm items that occur in one day at CKNX. Starting at 7.15 in the morning, it's the Early Morning Farm Review, with a summary of the Markets, Weather forecast, Farm News and coming events. One half hour later at 7.55, for the benefit of those who were doing the morning chores, a review is given in the form of a Farm Bulletin, with the markets of the previous day, as well as a summary of the Auction Sales and Farm Meetings that will be held that day. At 12.35 noon, it's the noon Markets Broadcast, which features 25 minutes of Auction Sale advertisements, Farm Produce ads, Farm Machinery ads, Lost and Found notices, not to mention the noon-time summary of the Toronto Livestock Market Report and the Ontario Weather Forecast. At 6.00 in the evening, your CKNX Farm Editor, Bob Carbert, again returns with 15 minutes of farm items. In this program you will find packed, the Farm News, Editorials on Agriculture, the Ontario Weather Forecast, and a complete Markets broadcast. In this Markets summary is found the closing Toronto Stockyard Market report, reports from Montreal, Detroit and Local Livestock Markets, Produce Market report from Toronto and regional outlets, with the prices paid, up to closing time. No matter what is to be sold on the farm, cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry, cream, eggs or butter, you can be brought up to date on the latest prevailing prices through the medium of "On the Farm Front" program.

There are many other programs on CKNX that will interest the farmer, most of these presented as a Community Service, without the benefit of sponsors. Each Monday noon at 12.15, it's a ten minute Federation of Agriculture Report, when the Fieldmen of the neighbouring counties, are given the privi-

lege of reporting to their members. Each Wednesday noon at 12.10, the Assistant Agriculture Representatives for Huron and Bruce report to the Juniors. Fred Wilson and Doug Tipper of these two counties do a good job of reporting the events in their respective areas. On Saturday noon at 12.10, the Agriculture Representatives are invited to report to their counties, and George Gear of Bruce and Gordon Bennett of Huron, alternate this service week by week.

The CKNX Farm Department works all week long, and for the benefit of those who may have been busy during the week, a new program has been developed for Sunday afternoon. It is a 15-minute Sunday afternoon review of the farm happenings of the week, as summarized by Farm Editor Bob Carbert. This program comes your way at 2.45 each Sunday.

These are a few of the services that have been developed for the benefit of the Western Ontario farmer.



Studio "A"



John Strong

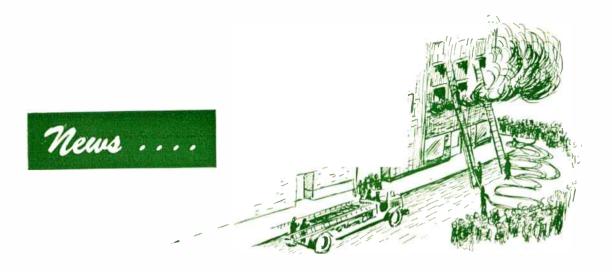
Meet this fellow you hear four times daily airing the news and views. John first made his bass voice heard over CKNX in August of 1947-after three years of service with the Voice of the Telephone City-CKPC Brantford. Coming to Wingham as an announcer-John assumed the news editorship of the station in February 1949 and since that time has confined his activities to that department and the airing of his daily newscasts. Incidentally one of the surest ways of getting into an argument with this fellow is to start a discussion on the merits of the nation's three Armed Services. Although a peaceable man-John is rather proud of his Navy experience. (Even though he did spend over four years in the R.C.N. stationed "on the beach" with the radar and special wireless branch). John is happily married and the proud father of five children. His sparetime activities include model-railroading and woodworking.

Lillian Gorbutt

Born in Wingham on May 8th, 1926, Lillian Gorbutt received her education at the Wingham Public and High Schools. In April, 1943 she joined the staff of CKNX as a stenographer. Lillian took the marriage vows one month later and continued at her position while her husband Jack served overseas during World War II.

Monday through Saturday, Lillian Gorbutt may be heard on the air on the five minute feature "Women In the News" which is presented each morning at 9.45 a.m.





Perhaps the news department is where the CKNX "community service policy" shows to best advantage—giving the listeners of Western Ontario a complete and accurate account of the news of the world and of their town—town-ship or county. The facts behind this service are a story in themselves. Most listeners are acquainted—via the radio waves—with John Strong the featured newscaster on the station and other announcers reporting to the people many times daily—but when it comes to knowing how this information is gathered from around the world and around home and condensed into concise listening form—perhaps they are not so familiar.

CKNX maintains in its newsroom—a complete news service—meaning it has the facilities for reporting to the people "The World's Best Coverage of the World's Biggest News"! By this we mean the British United Press news service with head office in Montreal. Despatches from bureaux and correspondents strategically located around the world and across this nation reach the newsroom by Bell teletype 24 hours a day. It may be the latest on the "nervous" International scene—or the outbreak of a bad fire in Halifax or Vancouver—the score of a hockey game in New York or Chicago—the latest fashion trend from Paris—you can be certain of hearing the whole story speedily over the friendly farm station.

However most of this information may be heard on most any station on the North American continent. What then—is the secret of the popularity of the "920 dial-spot" when it comes to the news of the day? It's the local coverage—the news of your neighbours and friends—that spells success when it comes to holding the interest of the listeners. This of course means an entirely different set-up for news gathering, however. The best way to learn the news around your town and amongst the people of your county is to go to you!

With this in mind The Ontario Farm Station maintains on its staff over 40 Western Ontario news correspondents—one of whom is in your locality! These men and women—they may be a doctor—dentist—housewife—or theatre manager—report the accidents—meetings—fires—deaths—wedding anniversaries and other items of local import and of particular concern to you the listener.

At election time—these and many helpers co-ordinate their efforts with John Strong the CKNX News Editor to give the finest possible coverage to town and country alike. For example—within two short hours after the polls closed on the recent municipal elections in Bruce—Grey—Huron and parts of other counties—listeners had the complete picture of who was elected and with what majority;—Another reason for the popularity of the station's news coverage.

An example of the speed with which this system operates can be seen in the case of the Langton bank hold-up last summer. A tip from one of the correspondents enabled CKNX-100 miles from the scene—to broadcast the news of the Langton robbery while the robber was driving away from the bank with his loot. The resulting story gave listeners full coverage on the gun-battle and capture of the murderer—as he turned out to be.

At 12:30 each Sunday you may hear a ten-minute summary of the previous local news happenings—condensed for easy listening. Thus the listener may catch up on the week's events sitting in the ease of his armchair.

The up-to-the-minute coverage of the latest world and local events may be heard many times daily over this station. From 7:00 in the morning until sign-off time at 11 p.m. a CKNX newsman is on the job to serve you and receive your calls. The office welcomes authentic items from most anyone—providing they measure up to the news-value standard! Next time you see or hear of an accident—a fire—or attend a special meeting—pick up the telephone and call collect at the CKNX newsroom. Just ask the operator for local 6. This is the story behind the story of the newsroom. By careful editing and constant attention to what listeners tell us—CKNX aims to please most of the people most of the time, with the news they want to hear—accurately and speedily!

Tory Gregg and Elmer Purdon are off to a Fall Fair

From early Spring to late Fall, "Tory" Gregg represents CKNX as master of ceremonies at many horse shows, race meets and fall fairs. Elmer Purdon, technician, assures greater success of these events with the services of the station's mobile public address system. (Below) "Tory" and Elmer are off to a Fall Fair.



Mervyn Lloyd Gregg

M. L. "Tory" Gregg was born at Eden Grove in Bruce County. He moved to Paisley at the age of four and attended Paisley Continuation School until he left to play Junior hockey with the Owen Sound Greys in 1925-26. Tory played for the South Porcupine Intermediates, N.O.H.A. champions in 1926-27 and turned pro with the Windsor Hornets at the end of the 1927 season. He played pro hockey with Windsor Hornets and Windsor Bulldogs for five seasons; one year with Toronto Millionaires; two years with the Pittsburg Yellow Jackets and two years with the London Tecumselis. After retiring from hockey, Tory was a salesman with Coleman Packing Company of London until he joined the staff of CKNX in December, 1944 as sports organizer and reporter. Each weekday at 6.15 p.m. Tory reports the world and local sport news.

Tory Gregg is married to the former Anne Loretta Mackay, school teacher from the 4th of Bruce and they have three children, Joan, Kenneth and Patricia Ann.





Jean Tervit

While Jean was born in Walkerville, Ontario, she has lived most of her life on a farm near Wingham. In search of higher learning she took a commercial course at the Wingham High School, and came to CKNX in March of 1941. When the Western Ontario Athletic Association was organized in December 1944, Jean took over the Secretary's duties, a position which she still holds, besides her responsibilities as Traffic Manager.

Jean is an attractive brunette and is a rabid fan of baseball and hockey. She is also a member of the Canadian Legion Auxiliary and Order of the Eastern Star.



Sports

It's been said that the future citizens of any community have to be good sports to assure themselves of success. It's been proven that the person who can extend a friendly handshake to his conqueror in the field of competition, has the qualities of leadership and the will to strive towards making this a better world to live in. Good sportsmanship is something that should be taught to everyone as soon as a person has reached the age of reasoning. Man is lost without the ability of being able to give and take and what better way can be experience this feeling than through the medium of sport. This is the belief of the CKNX Sports Department and every day, the public is kept fully informed of the results and developments of all games in sport. The most important factor towards the building of better sports in Western Ontario was the forming of the W.O.A.A.

The Western Ontario Athletic Association which has now grown into a huge organization was organized in December, 1944. A group of 12 sportsminded citizens from Wingham and surrounding towns held a meeting and discussed the possibilities of forming an association whereby both ball and hockey for the youth of Western Ontario could be sponsored; something that had been lacking through this section. The Western Ontario Athletic Associa-

W. T. Crnickshank admires W.O.A.A. Trophy with sports organizer and reporter M. L. "Tory" Gregg





tion was formed at this meeting. It was felt that it should start very small, therefore, the first winter just one series in hockey, namely midget was supported. Thirteen teams competed and the championship went to the Listowel Midgets. The following summer, baseball and softball for men and boys and also a ladies' softball series was promoted. Thirty-three teams in all were seen in competition in the summer of 1945. Since that time, the league has grown in leaps and bounds until in the summer of 1950, one hundred and seventy-nine ball clubs submitted their entries and in the 1950-51 hockey season, one hundred and twenty-nine teams got under way.

A total of well over seven thousand players have signed W.O.A.A. certificates during the past year. The league now boasts thirty-eight trophies being competed for annually, donated by business firms and private individuals interested in sport throughout Western Ontario. Teams are entered from as far north as Wiarton, east to New Hamburg and south to Strathroy, but as yet city teams have been refused admission.

The President, ever since the league was organized, has been the sports organizer and reporter of CKNX, M. L. "Tory" Gregg. Secretary since its inception is Miss Jean Tervit, Traffic Manager of CKNX. The position of treasurer is filled by Alfred J. Lockeridge who also took office at the formation of the league.

Financially, the W.O.A.A. has a very solid foundation, having built up their capital to almost the three thousand dollar figure. This report is remarkable when taken into consideration that a team has never been charged more than a five dollar entry fee. Each and every team is supplied with rule books and certificates, free of charge. The league requests only five percent of the gate receipts when teams play off within their respective groups . . . ten percent between group winners and fifteen percent only in the finals of each championship series. The Western Ontario Athletic Association is now rated one of the strongest sports organizations in the country and is affiliated with the O.H.A. and O.M.H.A. in hockey; the O.B.A. in baseball and the O.A.S.A. in softball. In other words, the respective winners in the W.O.A.A. hockey and ball series have a two fold proposition whereby they can win their own league championship and then advance into the provincial playdowns through their affiliations with these other leagues. The President of the Association, M. L. "Tory" Gregg is 2nd Vice President of The Ontario Hockey Association and also an executive member of The Ontario Baseball Association.





Lillian Darling

It was in July, 1945 that Lillian Darling first took her place behind the desk in the accounting department at CKNX. Her knowledge of bookkeeping and accounting was obtained at Canada Business College in Toronto. She also has a thorough knowledge of music and taught piano for three years. Lillian is now organist at Knox Presbyterian Church in Belmore.

Lillian Darling was born in Carrick Township, near Midmay in Bruce County, is single and spends her spare time enjoying her hobbies of woodworking, needlecraft, music and outdoor sports.

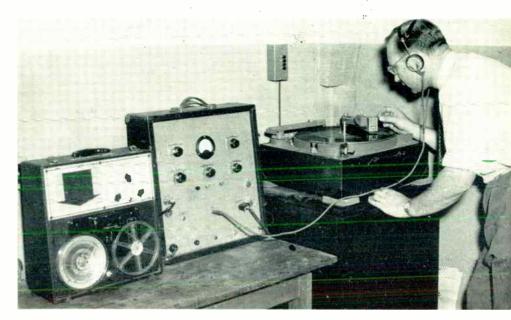
Norman Fry

Norm calls Wingham his home town. He has lived most of his life in this town except for a hitch with the R.C.A.F. According to the man himself, he won the title of the greasiest grease monkey of World War II. After 1946 Norm was looking for a job again, and after a multitude of diverse positions joined CKNX.

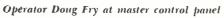
He started in the control room as operator, and with his spare time started reading scripts for his own amusement. Norm progressed to the point where he felt confident of taking over his announcing duties, and has been a valued announcer ever since.

Norm is married and when he can get away from the duties of making a home, enjoys a game of golf.





Chief Engineer Scott Reid records special program to be aired at a later time

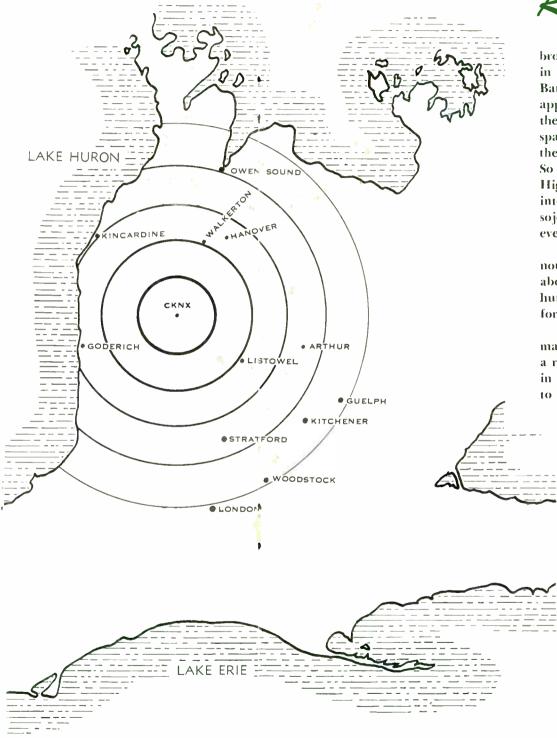






Bert Mathers

Here is a man who is well-qualified for his vocation of radio time salesman. Bert has been selling continuously for the past 18 years which makes him one of the veterans in Western Ontario. Bert was born in the small Michigan city of Escanaba, and at the tender age of four moved to Ontario with his family. He attended the Wingham public school and graduated from the Wingham Business College. In 1932 he joined the Superior Converters of Toronto and Mt. Forest as sales representative for Western Ontario. Bert came to CKNX as salesman in 1942 and according to the man himself he's enjoyed every minute of it. He should because Bert's hobby is listening to the radio and playing bridge.



Ross Hamilton

The questionable ability to play the trumpet brought Ross into his first contact with CKNX back in 1940 when he was a member of the "Little German Band" which played regularly on the air. He was apparently fascinated by radio . . . so much so, that the next couple of years found him spending his spare time after school and on week-ends watching the various phases of the operation of the station. So by 1942, when Ross graduated from Wingham High School, he was well enough experienced to step into a full time job . . . and with the exception of a sojourn in the R.C.A.F. (Aircrew), he's been there ever since.

Ross has served as script writer—operator—announcer—newsman and sportscaster . . . in fact, just about every department is familiar to this 6' 4", two hundred pounder . . . all of which fitted him well for his appointment to the sales department in 1949.

Ross was born on Friday, July 13th, 1925, is married to the former Lois Whitney of Seaforth, once a receptionist at the station. He is keenly interested in community work, giving a lot of his spare hours to Kinsmen projects.



Johnny Brent

One of the oldtimers of CKNX, Johnny Brent first was heard on the 920 dial spot in January, 1942. Since that time, he has been tabbed, "The Early Bird" for it is his voice that opens the broadcasting schedule of CKNX every weekday at 6.30 a.m. on The Top Of The Morning Show. He is also heard on various other programs including The Hayloft Hoedown every Wednesday from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. Johnny's radio career started in 1940. He is manager of The CKNX Barn Dance and is in charge of live talent at the station.

Born in Waterloo, Ont., on October 24, 1921, Johnny attended St. Jerome's College and Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate. He is a sport enthusiast and has participated in almost every game there is. His most eager fans are his two sons who hope to carry the name Brent before the public in years to come.





Elmer Purdon

Most people call him "Judge" because of his thorough knowledge of the laws of remote broadcasting that are essential in his capacity as control operator at the station and technical advisor of the Barn Dance. Elmer Purdon hails from Huron County, is 5' 8" tall. He attended Wingham High School and later specialized in telegraphy. Elmer certainly is a square shooter, being a crack rifle shot. He was at one time Canadian champion.

Elmer joined the staff of CKNX in 1944, is married to the former Florence Douglas of Belmore and has one daughter Gail.

The CKNX Barn Dance

This is the story of The CKNX Barn Dance which started as a recorded program, switched to live talent and today is known as Canada's Largest Travelling Barn Dance.

The CKNX Barn Dance began back in 1937 when Broadcasting Station CKNX thought that the rural audience who set their dials to the 920 spot, might enjoy a program of old fashioned songs and home chatter as a source of relaxation after a week of hard work. So it was that a half hour of recorded oldtime music was presented and called The CKNX Barn Dance.

Favourable comments assured that this idea was a good one. Three months later another suggestion was offered; that of replacing recorded artists with local talent with the hope that it would bring the program closer to its listeners. That idea clicked too and probably was the main factor towards making the Barn Dance the most-listened-to program on CKNX.

In 1942, Johnny Brent joined the staff of CKNX and took over the reins of the Barn Dance. His first move was to make the show a travelling unit, enabling listeners to see, as well as hear, the program. Since then, professional talent has been hired, the broadcast lengthened to three hours and the territory for travelling thrown wide open to enable The CKNX Barn Dance to visit many of the centres of the ten counties in its coverage. Each year, over forty thousand fans attend these remote broadcasts and it boasts one hundred and fifty thousand listeners every Saturday night.

Charitable organizations are given the opportunity to sponsor the shows. For their endorsement CKNX has made it possible for them to realize close to ten thousand dollars annually to further their work.

From Tobermory to Port Dover . . . From Sarnia to Toronto . . . in some city, town or village along the way to these points, every Saturday night at eight o'clock comes the invitation to join in the fun at another CKNX Saturday Night Barn Dance.







"Top of the Morning" crew (left to right)
Bud Cruickshank, Scott Reid, Johnny Brent (emcee), Rob Carbert



Glenn Scheifele

Glenn is one of the nuheard, unseen and usually unsung members of a radio station staff. Glenn is Chief Transmitter Engineer at CKNX and was born in Waterloo, Ontario in 1922. His education was formalized at the Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate, and in 1942 attended the Canadian Electronic Institute, Toronto, where he received a Certificate of Proficiency in radio from the Department of Transport, Ottawa. From 1943 to 1945, Glenn was in the Merchant Marine and joined CKNX in his present capacity in 1945. Glenn is married and has one son, Ray. His hobbies are landscaping and gardening.



Lance Browne

Lance is a local Wingham boy born in 1916. However, after receiving his early education here he broadcast hockey games for CKNX starting in 1936. Lance was quite a sportsman, and while in his tender years, played hockey and baseball. He left Wingham 16 years ago and in the interim was a transport driver and restaurant proprietor. However, broadcasting was still close to his heart, and when the opportunity presented itself he returned to CKNX in 1951 as play-by-play reporter of hockey games. Lance is married and has two children . . . twin girls, ten years old. He is a sportsman from way back, and his hobbies revolve around his favourite sports, whether he's working or just a spectator.

Jona Terry

If life is what you make it, then Iona Terry's must be wonderful. When it's not music, it's boats. It sounds like a life of luxury, but she does work . . . in the library at CKNX. As she plans the music for the next day's programs, she puts the records and transcriptions in the order that they will be played. Then there are the little dull jobs that have to be handled like filing index cards.

Just in case you are wondering what is the difference between a record and a transcription, here's the chief difference: a record travels at a speed of 78 revolutions per minute and can be purchased by the public; a transcription goes 33 1/3 r.p.m.'s and is exclusively for radio.

Music set aside, it's time for boats. That comes natural, because Iona grew up beside Lake Ontario, not far from the Bay of Quinte. Hailing from Prince Edward County, she attended Wellington and Picton High Schools and Normal School in Peterborough. Iona was a teacher for 3 years . . . spent 1 year at CKNX . . . 27 months in the Navy and returned to CKNX to take up her present position.





St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wingham, was one of the first churches to broadcast Sunday Services over station. Pictured above is present pastor Rev. Alexander Nimmo. Harold Victor Pymn plays a familiar sacred selection on the program Hymn Time heard each weekday morning at 9 o'clock.

Religious Broadcasts

As religion should be a motivating factor and driving force in our daily lives, so religion should make up an integral part of a community broadcasting station's schedule. Ever since the outset, CKNX has endeavoured to present every shade of religious opinion pertaining to its area.

One of the most historic features, but certainly not the only one, is the regular church service broadcast morning and evening. Each Sunday, our listeners are brought the comfort and solace of the actual service as it is going on in various local churches. The Ministerial Association, which is a vital force behind these broadcasts, also felt the need to further expand these particular services, in order that our daily lives reflect the good which derives from our own meditations. As a result of this, the Church Of The Air is heard every week-day morning at 10.30. It is expanded to present ministers and their radio services over a wider area than could be achieved by the Sunday broadcasts. Needless to say, these broadcasts are achieving an ever-widening audience who like to include God in their daily work.

Of a more secular nature, CKNX presents many recorded periods of religious music such as The Community Chapel, which takes us away from the work-a-day world for a few minutes of reflection.

In regard to religious broadcasting we also have such denominational broadcasts as The Lutheran Hour, All Aboard For Adventure and Family Theatre.

An innovation of recent years is the annual broadcast of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, which now has become an integral part of its broadcasting schedule.

Naturally, there are many different hues of religious colouring over such a wide area as CKNX penetrates. And naturally too, there are times when problems arise in regard to these broadcasts, which are always solved by the cooperation of everyone interested in this work. Ever since the inception of the station, the religious broadcasting has been a popular feature on the schedule every day of the week. It has expanded so that every church in Wingham is equipped with line facilities for direct broadcasts, and anniversary and special services from distant points of origination are also featured.

The interest on the part of the participants themselves has reached the point where the Wingham United Church recently played host to a one-day broadcasting school for the ministers involved in the Church Of The Air broadcasts.

While there are still times when it is felt that some phase of religious broadcasting could be more fully implemented, it is noted that the comments from both participants and listeners, reveal that the CKNX religious features are meeting, not only with general approval, but also filling a great need in the lives of many people.

Another of the first churches to present Sunday broadcasts is Wingham United Church.

Below, Dr. W. A. Beecroft delivering message to congregation.







Doug Fry

Dong is an operator-announcer at CKNX. He was born in 1925, in Wingham, received his education in Wingham elementary and secondary schools, and joined the R.C.A.F. in 1943. After being mustered out in 1945, Doug joined CKNX as announcer-operator. At the present time Doug may be heard on such shows as Folk Favorites of the Week and the CKNX Dancing Party on Saturday night, and various programs Sunday afternoons.

Doug resides in Wingham, is married and has two fine youngsters. While not specifically queried as to hobbies, Doug is an ardent hunter and trout fisherman.

John Langridge

Here is a well-travelled voung man! John was born in London, England in 1920, and prior to joining the army as a radio operator in 1940, worked in one of England's largest printing and publishing firms. John has been to South Africa, Egypt, Cyprus, Palestine and Iraq, and was an enforced visitor in Lybia, Italy and Germany for three years as a prisoner of war. He returned home for a few months after the war and then went back to Germany and Belgium. Back in England again still with the desire to travel, he married and brought his wife Joyce to Canada. He joined CKNX as a control room operator in March 1949. Both he and his wife like the Canadian way of life and have decided to make their home here. They have one son, David. John's hobbies are gardening, the study of Typography and tinkering now and then with an old printing press.





Barry Kay

It isn't remarkable that this young man and a town have so much in common. He was born in Barrie, Ontario and has travelled some since then. Barry was active as an organizer and counsellor for youth canteens in Winnipeg before getting into radio. During a community chest drive, supported by the various local canteens, the local youths decided that Barry would be the logical choice for their campaign speeches via the ether. This led to a full-time radio career, first in Winnipeg, and then at the head of the lakes in Port Arthur. By way of a rather circuitous route, Barry joined CKNX. Barry is married and he has two children, Lesley and Paul Marlowe. Barry is a real hobby man with sports, drama and woodworking taking top honors in this department.

Mildred Jones

Meet Mildred Jones receptionist . . . the girl who greets you with a smile as you enter the CKNX studios. Mildred was born near Creemore, but claims Wingham as her home town. After having attended Wingham High School, she joined the staff of CKNX in 1944. As well as a switchboard operator, Mildred lines up the "Kiddies Studio Party". She also writes such well-known programs as "The Entertainment Guide". Among her hobbies, Mildred lists music, amateur photography and leathercraft.



Forward With Youth

Back in 1937, a group of children in Wingham were rounded up to fulfill a wish of listeners to hear from the younger members of this Western Ontario Community. It took a little time, but as all good things usually do, everything got underway.

After a time, the program "Kiddies Frolic" branched out to Public School Children up to 6th grade, in a radius of about 40 miles. Music teachers in the area, rehearsed the children, and the program began to be used as an encouragement to their musical education. Many children who appeared on these early programs, are today, accomplished artists. Many, making names for themselves on district Radio Stations.

During the early stages of "Kiddies Frolic", the children arranged their own programs, selecting their own Master of Ceremonies. This pattern was dropped in 1944, with the present pattern being adopted. The children are taught Microphone Technique, and except for two months absence during the summer months, the program is heard each Saturday morning over CKNX from 11:15 to 11:45. Now, however, the program title has been changed to "Kiddies Studio Party", and boys and girls from towns and villages over three big counties gather for this program of songs, recitations and dialogue for children, by children.

Another special feature pertaining to the younger listeners, may be heard each Sunday morning from 9 through 9:30. The program features the reading of funnies, plus recorded children's stories. This program has changed in format, wherein it was at one time based on a "Father and Son Angle", with a studio audience in attendance.

These are just two of the ways CKNX has of helping our "Citizens of Tomorrow". By continued patronage of Music Festivals, School Operettas and other phases of musical activities, CKNX hopes in some small way to do its part.

Youth must be served . . . The children of Western Ontario are given their opportunity, to a knowledge of musical education, as we go . . . "Forward with Youth"!

Announcer Vin Dittmer smiles his approval as the children sing out on the Saturday Morning Kiddies Studio Party



At Home with the Ladies

It's often been said that a housewife's work is never finished. Be that as it may, CKNX has been endeavoring to lighten the burden of these ladies who keep the home fires burning. Through the medium of eight programs a week, Western Ontario housewives are discovering shortcuts in their daily routine, new consumer products and ways to handle and ease their household budget. There's really nothing new in this since it's been going on for 10 years. The CKNX Women's Editor has just celebrated her tenth year as hostess on the daily half hour feature At Home With the Ladies.

Margaret Brophy is the girl in question and she has seen many chauges in women's programming during the decade. Studio musicians have been added over the years, along with studio interviews with such outstanding personalities as Dr. Leslie Bell, Eileen Seigh, International Ice Revue star and Miss Belle Hetzel, Flying School Teacher of Omaha, Nebraska as well as specialists in the varied phases of the homemaking arts in Western Ontario. Above all, the object of these programs is to provide a neat balance between information and entertainment, and the result has been one of the "homiest" programs on the air. The concensus might be summed up in one of the letters received during the past ten years. "It's one of the chit chat programs" the writer says, "but it's loaded with local news and good music". The local aspect of the program receives a boost, thanks to the organization of a string of correspondents throughout the CKNX area.

Women's organizations of Western Ontario also add to the local file of news items. Club Women Report heard thrice weekly keeps the ladies informed on local meetings, membership, social events and new organizations. Following the slogan of "Community Service", the Women's Department has been expanded to include visits to local women's groups and Margaret Brophy is a frequent visitor whenever and wherever women get together in this section of the country. Addresses of outstanding speakers at these meetings

Women's Editor Margaret Brophy (r) chats informally with Mrs. Ken Kerr of Wingham during one of her programs "At Home With The Ladies"



are recorded and are broadcast later for the enjoyment of all homemakers. Margaret Brophy is variously called upon to speak at women's meetings, act as commentator at local fashion shows, and occasionally fills the roll of judge at district Junior activities.

Following the general policy, week by week, month by month and year by year the homemaker's service continues to grow and will keep on growing through the ensuing years as the demand calls for it.



Margaret Brophy

Margaret Brophy is one of the oldest members in the point of service of the CKNX staff. This Irish lass was employed as stenographer on January 20, 1939 and since that time has added to her duties, Women's Editor and Treasurer of CKNX. Her pleasant voice is heard Monday through Friday from 11.00 to 11.30 on the program "At Home With The Ladies" and every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1.45 to 2.00 p.m. on the show "Club Women Report".

Although she sings the praises of the Emerald Isle, Margaret was born in a Scotch community, R.R. 2 Lucknow, Ontario on February 25, 1923. At the age of nine she went to live with her grandparents in Pinkerton, attending Pinkerton Public School and later took a business course at Wingham High School.

Margaret Brophy is 5' 4" and enjoys dancing, skating and music.

70m Rafferty

Tom was born in Waterloo, Ontario in 1922. He received his early education at St. Louis School Waterloo, and his secondary education at St. Jerome's College in Kitchener, Ontario. He entered radio at CKCR, Kitchener, went to CFCH North Bay and CJKL Kirkland Lake. Tom came to Wingham in 1945, and transferred to CKCW Moncton New Brunswick. He returned to CKNX in 1948. While on the east coast, Tom was heard on the Joan Marshall Show each day to the Dominion Eastern Network. On returning to CKNX, he wrote the script and narrated the sound track for the film "The Books Drive On" a documentary motion picture for the Huron County Library Association. Tom is married and the proud father of a new son, Timothy Russell born in September 1950. Fishing is his hobby with bass and pike predominating.





Scott Reid

Scott Reid, Chief Engineer at CKNX is a native of Wingham . . . was born in 1921 and received his education in his home town. In 1938 he started working part time on the technical staff as a control operator and made it a full time duty in 1941. In the spring of the following year, Scott enlisted in the radio branch of the R.C.A.F. receiving promotions until he earned the rank of Flt. Lieut. He served overseas in both Great Britain and European Theatres of operations, returning to Canada and civilian life in 1945. By this time Scott's increased knowledge of the radio field qualified hm for the position of Chief Engineer.

Scott married a Wingham district girl in June 1950. His hobbies include fishing and photography.

Jack Salter

Jack is one of the younger members of the CKNX staff. He was born in East Wawanosh in 1932 and went to S.S. No. 7 Morris for his primary education and then attended the Wingham High School. Jack started as part-time transmitter operator in 1948, and took a full-time job in 1949. At the present time Jack's education is still going on with an Engineering course with the Radio College of Canada to better fit him for his duties. When the subject of hobbies was brought up, Jack said that he liked carpentry and skiing, which along with his work, should make him a very busy young man.







Chief Engineer Scott Reid does some adjusting in one section of 1000 Watt R.C.A. Transmitter Johnny Brent checks transcription on audition system while Barry Kay pulls program from library of over 40,000 selections

Technically Speaking

Perhaps one of the best ways to describe the technical aspects of CKNX would be to attempt to answer some of the more commonly asked questions.

The broadcasting equipment of a radio station is divided roughly into two sections, the studio equipment and the transmitting equipment. In the case of CKNX, the former is located in the studios in Wingham and the latter in the transmitting building on No. 4 highway, just north of Belgrave. The studio equipment is contained in a Control Room in the heart of the broadcasting studios. The equipment is comprised of a control panel, numerous amplifiers, volume controls, switches, indicator lights, telephone jacks, etc.; four turntables for playing recordings and transcriptions; an emergency 100 watt transmitter and an emergency gasoline driven power generator for use during hydro failures.

A look now at the equipment at the transmitting site discloses something of a similar nature but on a larger scale. The transmitter building houses the transmitter proper, a piece of radio equipment 10 feet long, 7 feet high and 2 feet deep, weighing 1½ tons. It is this equipment that actually put the program "on the air". The radio tubes used, between 50 and 60 in number, vary in size from those one inch high to those twelve inches high and six inches in diameter. To radiate 1000 watts into the air, this equipment consumes almost 6000 watts of power from the hydro lines. The radiating elements themselves are two steel towers 187 feet high and lined up in a north-south direction. An intricate ground system is necessary for broadcasting and that of CKNX consists of between 9 and 10 miles of buried copper wire fanning out like the spokes of a wheel from the bases of the two towers.

The question is frequently asked as to why the station wasn't built on a nearby hill. The excellent grounding conditions available on the marshy land in the valley where the transmitting site is located, far outweighs the extra fifty or sixty feet additional altitude a location on the hill would offer.

CKNX requires two towers for one reason only and that is to beam our program northerly at night in order not to interfere with a station in West Virginia, which is also on 920 Kc. This protection is required by an International Radio Agreement which gives the West Virginia station a priority on this frequency because they were using it before CKNX was assigned to it also. This protection is required only at night. Consequently only one of our two towers is used during the day and our signal is sent out equally in all directions. It should be made clear that there is no reduction of power at night, only a beaming in a northerly direction. What is reduced in the south is gained in the north. In addition to this however, the West Virginia Station more than doubles its power in our direction at night. These two facts account for the periodic interference on the CKNX frequency after sundown.

It still remains to describe how the program is sent from the control panel at the studios to the control panel at the transmitter. This is done by means of a specially selected and equipped pair of wires in the Bell Telephone cable, running south from Wingham. Although this line goes through the local telephone office, there is no connection between it and the telephone switchboard so there is no danger of program interruption.

Many listeners have wondered how Remote programs, that is programs originating from points outside the studios, are sent back to the studios for broadcast. Here once again the Bell Telephone Company is called upon for service. Let us take the CKNX Barn Dance for instance. The CKNX Technical Department takes a small control panel to the hall where the Barn Dance is to be presented. The local telephone company installs a line from the hall to the local telephone office, where it is connected to a Bell Telephone long distance circuit to Wingham. At the Wingham Telephone Office this long distance line is connected to a line running to the control panel at the studios. Network programs are brought in by telephone line in a similar manner. CKNX maintains its own lines to four Wingham churches, the Wingham Arena, Town Hall and Armouries.

Recording is playing an increasingly important role in broadcasting, especially in the special events field and CKNX keeps abreast of the times with the most up to date recording equipment.

CKNX has its own well equipped repair department. With the best in tools and test equipment, troubles can, most of the time, be prevented rather than remedied. Those that do occur, however, can be given immediate attention in the CKNX workshop.

As for the future, it is the policy of CKNX to keep abreast of technical developments. No doubt, if and when Television becomes feasible in small centres and when seemingly unsurmountable difficulties have been cleared up, CKNX too will be televizing as well as broadcasting.

In conclusion, an invitation is extended to all interested in the technical operations of CKNX and you are welcome at any time to visit either the studios or transmitter for a more detailed description.



Vin Dittmer

Publicity Director and announcer at CKNX, Vin was born in Toronto, is married and has one son Van. His broadcasting career began in 1943 at CKWS, Kingston and later took him to Latin America. Vin also taught school in Havana, Cuba.

Vin has been with CKNX since 1946 except for a 10 month period with Horace N. Stovin and Company as sales representative for CJBC, Toronto.

Familiar with Western Ontario, he spent his boyhood vacations in the Brodhagen district. His hobbies include dramatics, golf and bridge.

You may hear his pleasing voice on "The Four O'Clock Show" heard Monday through Friday.

Shirley Boucher

A veteran of nearly three years service in the continuity department of CKNX, Shirley Boucher is a native of Belgrave, Ontario where she was born on July 17, 1927. She was brought up on a farm and with her home town being only 6 miles from Wingham, it was here that she attended High School.

It was while working at this station that she met and married a former CKNX musician, Leander Boucher in 1947. It was at that time that she gave up her position temporarily to take up the duties of housewife. Shirley returned to CKNX in the summer of 1950.

The Bouchers have one little boy Lonnie, Paul, $2\frac{1}{2}$ years of age. This brunette script-writer is 5' 4" and her hobbies are handcrafts and oil paintings.



Mary Louise Flach

Although she spent most of her life in Walkerton, Ontario, Mary Louise hails from Kerrobert, Saskatchewan where she resided until the age of 10. She was born on May 31st, 1928 and attended Walkerton Sacred Heart High School and was acclaimed one of their outstanding students. It was in July 1944 that Mary Louise joined the CKNX staff as a bookkeeper.

Her spare time interests are music, sports, knitting and needlework.





Frank Eidt

Here is a man who, by his own admission, "puts words into the announcer's mouth. Frank is Continuity Editor at CKNX and is a native of Walkerton. He attended Walkerton public and high schools, and acquired a B.A. at the University of Western Ontario.

Frank, like many young men, traded the B.A. for A/B in the R.C.N.V.R. In the fall of 1947 he started a course in radio announcing and production at the Training and Re-establishment Institute in Toronto.

Frank was married in 1948, and after D.V.A. School and four days of married life left for his first radio job at CFNB in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Frank returned to Ontario in May of 1949 to join the continuity department of CKNX. This man of many travels and talents is the proud father of two children, Annis and Scott.

Bob Clark

Bob was 12 pounds when he was born on a foggy day in Montreal in 1922. Bob has kept up his weight and his bubbling personality ever since. Bob stayed in Montreal till 1940 at which time he joined the R.C.A.F. In 1941 he joined the R.C.A.F. Western Air Command Entertainment Unit, and covered Western Canada, until they shipped him off to Gander, Newfoundland in 1943. At that time he joined the staff of radio station VORG and remained there until 1945 when he was discharged. That same year Bob attended the Training and Re-Establishment Institute in Toronto for a technical radio course, and returned to Toronto in 1947 and completed a course in Radio Announcing and production. He came to CKNX in 1947, and has been employed as Script Writer. Bob also has appeared on the CKNX Barn Dance from 1947 till 1950. Bob is married and has three children, Georgina, Caroline and Bobby. He is a member of the Wingham Kinsmen Club and his hobbies include drumming and collecting old scripts.



Complete and modern mobile units enables CKNX departments to visit communities to cover important events





Doug Fry

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This is

CKNX



1926 - 1951

25 Years of Community Service



This story has been prepared for the CKNX listener

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