

Wire Recorder

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fect on yourself is better. So, while speaking broken French that not even Maj. Reid and Capt. Harvey understood (had I talked English they at least would have known my wants) I rigged up a recording studio in the Cacace living room. Furniture was appropriately moved. But the stumper was how to rig the microphone above the piano.

Mike on Curtain Pole

In pidgin French and English I wondered aloud, with gestures, if Signor Cacace owned a hat-rack or hall-tree about so high. He disappeared and came back with a stepladder. Then I asked for a broom handle, to the accompaniment of graceful sweeping gestures above the Cacace rug. He came out with a curtain pole. *Mul-to bono.*

So the curtain pole was stuck through the top steps of the ladder, fastened with wire, and the mike was hung at the end of the pole, extended, boom-like, to the very spot where Capt. Harvey's expert ear had directed it in some tests. Then, his artistry not the least bit hampered by this Rube Goldberg contraption, and with Major Reid pulling faithfully at a piece of string tied to an ailing lacing arm on the machine, the two lovely compositions, "Neopolitan Countryside" and "Sonata Elena" were solemnly recorded.

Today, through the cooperation of Maj. Walter Brown, former NBC engineer, Capt. Warren S. Bell, formerly of WOL Washington, and Sgt. Richard Brabeck, ex-Minneapolis radio technician, the wire recording was dubbed off onto wax at a portable PWB recording van which happened to be anchored on a nearby hilltop. The precious disk was promptly shipped by Captain Harvey back to his home in London.

This simple story has several dramatic elements if one would trouble to develop them: inter-allied cooperation and hands-

BBC'S LEATHERNECKS

New Show Traces History of Marines for British

NEW British Broadcasting Corp. series, *They Call 'Em Leathernecks!* continues the cycle of the Army, Navy and Marines which the BBC is presenting to acquaint the British public with U. S. fighting forces and vice versa. Produced by Roy Lockwood, script by Merrill Dennison, special music written by Richard Arnell, with the USNR Midshipman's School, New York, furnishing the choral effects, the show depicts the history of the Marines from their earliest formation in 1775 through the historical battles still raging in the Pacific. The entire production was in close cooperation with the United States Marine Corps.

League Studies FM

EDUCATIONAL directors and news editors of the Cooperative League of the U. S. A. will meet at the Hotel Morrison, in Chicago, April 24-25, to discuss educational plans for the immediate present and for the post-war period. Discussion will cover a plan for the acquisition of FM stations to promote the co-op movement. Sponsorship of another radio series, such as *Here is Tomorrow* [BROADCASTING, Jan. 18, 1943] will also be considered. If the FM plan is approved, application for licenses would be filed shortly. Chairman of the two-day session will be William Torma, educational director, Central States Cooperative.

KLZ, self-styled as the station that "delivers the Denver market", has received favorable comment on its use of the Sonovox recorded station breaks. Words and music of the recordings are especially suited to the western country served by KLZ.

across-the-sea; Mars defers to Pallas Athena—and so on.

Anyhow, the music is preserved for posterity. The wire recorder is taking no chances. It is serving two masters. For the hot-tempered present it records the cacophonous orchestrations of war; for a saner future, it gathers to itself a gentle sonata, in a moonlit-flooded villa on the Bay of Naples.

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