

Radio Talent New York

By JERRY LESSER

SHEILA BROMLEY, of pictures, is here to break into radio. Heard her this week on *Michael and Kitty*. She shows great promise. . . . **DON McLAUGHLIN**, who has a son about two, has rounded out his family by getting himself a daughter, **JANET IRENE**, born December 29. . . . **LADDIE SEAMAN** lands the role of Mickey on *Front Page Farrell*. . . . **FRANK LOVEJOY** joins the cast of *Bright Horizon* this week. . . . **ADRIAN MARDEN'S** husband, **WHITNER BISSELL**, of the theater, is also trying his hand at radio, making his debut on *Grand Central Station* this week. . . . **LARRY ELLIOT** is constantly thinking up new ways to get people to buy more Defense Bonds. **ELLIOTT** bought himself \$20 worth of Defense Stamps and used them to pay his expenses for the day. The stamps were accepted without question by everyone he dealt with, and that night **ELLIOT** placed all the the left-overs in his own book. . . .

ARNOLD STANG, who for years played Seymour on *The Goldbergs*, appears soon in his first legitimate production, *All in Favor*. Play opens on Broadway soon. . . . **JOHNNY**, diminutive call boy on *Philip Morris Playhouse*, has turned over his motor cruiser to the U. S. Coast Guard. . . . **MAURICE TARPLIN** and this writer are in the midst of their sixth year on *Gangbusters*, the show whose rating rises and rises with each succeeding year. . . . **LARRY LESEUER**, CBS correspondent with the hard-hitting Red Army, threatens to start the war-trophy flood all over again in the United States. As the Russian soldiers corral the munitions and military equipment which the retreating Nazis leave behind them, **LARRY** is

doing a little collecting. A cabled Christmas message from **LESEUER** to the folks in the CBS newsroom in New York informs: ". . . and I have German trophies for all." **LARRY** evidently finds his assignment a bit tame, as there's a wistful note in his cable which reads: "Would like to be sharing your exciting times back home."

TIP of the week: Look for a new actor in the *Mortimer Snerk* role soon after the first, as **FRANK READICK** is retiring from the part. Doesn't feel easy in it. . . . **JOAN BLAINE** starts her new series, *So Big*, over CBS January 13. . . . They tell us that a Chicago ad agency has optioned **AL JOLSON'S** services for the new year. . . . **MILTON HERMAN**, who deserted the stage years ago for radio, has accepted his first stage play in many years. Is now in rehearsal. . . . **WALTER KINSELLA** is a newcomer to the *Court of Missing Heirs* cast.

EACH year we say the same thing to all readers: This is your column and it is a joy to us to print any cute happening or funny incident or juicy news tidbit concerning yourselves. But you've got to let us know about it. Just a note or a post card will do the trick.

HERE are a few laughs for you: **Trumpeter HARRY JAMES** says he heard of a very wicked ghost who is the black sheet of the family. . . . **JOHN KIRBY** knows a very tight radio producer. When one of his actors asks for a raise, the producer gives him a box to stand on. . . . Sooner or later, says **PATTI ANDREWS**, the man who spends his money like water will be around trying to float a loan.

Chicago

By NAT GREEN

THE Lind Brothers have changed their billing to the Noteworthy's for the new **WBBM** sustainers, *Sing and Swing Unlimited*, which started its Saturday morning series January 3. . . . **RUSS BROWN**, new staff baritone; **VERA LANE** and **CAESAR PETRILLO'S** band will augment the talent line-up. . . . **LESTER ELLIOTT**, producer of three successive legit flops at the Great Northern, will not give up following the closing of the current *Take My Advice*, which is good news to local radio performers. About 90 per cent of his casts are plucked from radio row. Present show has **SUNDA LOVE**, **FRANK PACELLI**, **NORMA JEAN ROSS**, **JOHN CONNOR** and **DOUGLAS HOPE**. . . . **XAVIER CUGAT** will air his next 10 Camel shows from town, since he will be stationed at the Palmer House here for the next couple of months. Program switched to **NBC-Blue** Tuesday (6). . . . **BETTY WINKLER** was back in her home town over the week-end long enough to play the lead in *Knickerbocker Playhouse's A Corpse Is Doing Nicely*.

John Harrington Jr., eight weeks old. . . . The *Carnation* show celebrated its 10th birthday Monday (5). . . . **WIND** is now playing a prominent spot in the band-remotes picture, picking up the musical combos at the *Paradise Ballroom*, *Eitel's Restaurant* and the *Rumba Casino*. . . . **WGN** has three more *Theater of the Air* operas slated for this series—*Faust*, January 17; *La Boheme*, February 21; *Lohengrin*, February 28. To boost these shows **HAROLD TURNER**, staff pianist, started an *Operetta Preview* program Thursday (1), during which he plays some of the tunes from coming productions. . . . **CALDWELL CLINE**, formerly of **WWNC**, Asheville, N. C., is a new producer at **WBBM**. . . . Bands in this area will get a break on *Coca-Cola's Spotlight Bands* programs this month when the show originates from **WGN**. Already set for spots are **LAWRENCE WELK**, **DICK JURGENS**, **DEL COURTNEY** and **ART KASSEL**. . . . **ANN HUNTER**, **WAIT** news commentator, is benefiting by a publicity build-up designed by her sponsors, *Old Settler Bread*. . . . **WBBM** started a new Friday afternoon musical, *Song of the Islands*, featuring popular Hawaiian music as interpreted by **Caesar Petrillo** and band.

JOHN HARRINGTON, **WBBM** announcer, is spending a three-week vacation in Florida. His companion is

Hollywood

By SAM ABBOTT

LUM AND **ABNER** have agreed on *The Bashful Bachelor* as the title of their second picture, recently completed at **RKO-Pathé**. . . . **RUDY VALLEE** has been renewed for the *Kraft Sealtest* show. . . . When **LOU BRING'S** young son was asked what shows he liked he named **Gene Autry's**, **Gene Simmons's** and **Al Pearce's**. **Poppa Bring** is musical director for all three. . . . **HAL PEARY'S** show, *The Great Gildersleeve*, will reach **NBC-Red** listeners at 8 p.m. **PST** beginning January 4. Program has been heard in the past at 3:30 p.m. **PST**. . . . **WEN NILES**, announcer for *Al Pearce and His Gang* over **CBS**, will appear in a new Republic Studios production starring **Margaret Lindsay** and **John Howard**. . . . **BILL GOODWIN**, *Blondie* announcer, is a gentleman-farmer in the

San Fernando Valley. . . . **LEITH STEVENS**, musical director of *Big Town*, had a big housewarming at his new Tarzana ranch New Year's Day for the cast. . . . **GALE GORDON**, heard with **SHARON DOUGLAS** on *The Second Mrs. Burton*, is an air warden in his home district. His wife, **VIRGINIA CURLEY**, is also a volunteer defense worker. . . . **GINNY SIMMS** left for Yosemite following her December 26 broadcast, for her first vacation in four years. . . . **FIBBER MCGEE** is working on a flood control project for his Encino home. He is Encino's Chamber of Commerce president. . . . **MEL BLANC**, dialectician on *Signal Carnival*, in addition to being **Pedro**, has been heard as an Irish cop, a Brooklynite, a Cockney and several others.

D of J's Action Against CBS, NBC More Drastic Than FCC's Rulings; Nets Stress Injury to War Effort

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Chain broadcasting rules, ordered by the Federal Communications Commission, are mild compared to reforms sought by the Department of Justice in civil anti-trust actions brought Wednesday (31) against **National Broadcasting Company** and **Columbia Broadcasting System** in Chicago, trade observers here believe. Should the government arm of the law have its way in the courts, **NBC** would be required to put one of its two networks (**Blue**) into hands of receivers for sale to outside parties. **CBS** also would have to put three of its own operating properties (possibly **WBT**, Charlotte, N. C.; **WCCO**, Minneapolis, and **KMOX**, St. Louis) into receiver's hands for sale. Talent operations of **NBC**, since sale to former officers of the company, are said to be negligible and not subject to complaint of Justice Department. Action filed by **Thurman Arnold's** Anti-Trust Division, however, said that "artists have submitted to terms of (**NBC**) management contracts and have refused to contract with so-called independent concert or artist management agencies because of **NBC's** power to popularize talent thru performance over radio networks to a degree not enjoyed by any other management services." It asked that the court enjoin **NBC** from ever acting in this capacity again.

Entire alphabet nearly came into use as **Victor Waters**, special assistant to the attorney general, listed his charges, beginning with **A** and ending with **U**. So far as talent is concerned it was charged that there are "unknown thousands of individuals" in America possessing talent, many of whom could rise to national fame if given equal opportunity to appear before the network microphones. Justice Department spokesmen denied there had been any basis to earlier reports of the broadcasting anti-trust case being delayed by differences of opinion within the department itself. Instead it was asserted that this case, which has been underway for more than a year, pursued its normal course. Further it was declared there is no connection between this case in Chicago and the networks' injunction suits against the **FCC**, now pending in the New York courts.

Talk about town, altho unconfirmed, still insists that the Justice action against **NBC** and **CBS** is to be implemented by another civil anti-trust complaint to be filed by the **Mutual Broadcasting System**. It is reported that the **Mutual** system would ask triple damages for being kept out of major markets and deprived of network business because of alleged conspiracy between **CBS** and **NBC**.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.—Filing of civil suits in Federal District Court, Chicago, Wednesday, against the **National Broadcasting Company** and **Columbia Broadcasting System**, alleging monopoly and calling for a drastic revamping of network radio as it exists today, elicited prompt statements of rebuttal by both **NBC** and **CBS**, **NBC** meanwhile announcing that the new developments would not hinder its plans for the separation of the **Red** and **Blue** networks. **NBC's** plan is still to hold its meeting of **NBC-Blue** affiliates in Chicago January 15 to ratify, if possible, plans for separation of the **Red** and **Blue** so that the **Blue** can begin operation by February 15 under the presidency and executive vice-presidency respectively of **Mark Wood** and **Edgar Kobak**.

Meanwhile, the chains regarded the Department of Justice's suit with a mixture of amazement and belligerence, **Niles Trammel**, **NBC** president, stating, "Substantially these same matters are already in suit in a case brought by the **NBC** against the Federal Communications Commission in the Federal Court in New York, which is already set for a hearing during the next two weeks. Why another suit was brought in Chicago on the same matters prior to the determination in New York of the powers of the Federal Communications Commission, we are at a loss to understand."

Trammel here refers to the **NBC** suit seeking to secure an injunction restraining the **FCC** from putting into effect its rulings of October 11. This comes to trial on January 12, and in it **NBC** will try to secure a clarification of the powers of the **FCC**.

Trammel further pointed out inconsistencies between demands of the **FCC** and the **D. of J.** as regards their attacks on the chains. **Trammel** states: "The suit in Chicago . . . asks liquidation of one of the two networks operated by **NBC**. It is inexplicable to me why one branch of the government should seek to compel liquidation of one of our networks when another branch of the government only recently suspended indefinitely its prior rule in that regard." **Trammel** then quoted the **FCC**, which in its last public statement on the subject said, "Any policy requiring the sale of substantial properties should be applied with due regard for the preservation of fair values, and the Commission wishes to avoid the semblance of a forced sale."

Trammel, adding that the "American public knows that no monopoly exists in radio broadcasting and that there is keenest competition for stations, artists, programs and advertisers," stated that the American system of free radio is threatened. He went on to add that "The confusion as to the purpose of this new Chicago suit is heightened by the fact that, since the declaration of war, other high authorities of the government have expressed to us their wish that nothing be done to disturb the present network structures of the **NBC**, as the full facilities of these networks are urgently needed to serve the government and the public during the present war."

"I can imagine nothing more certain to destroy this vital asset than to follow the plan of receivership and liquidation now demanded by the Department of Justice."

William S. Paley, president of **CBS**, described the Chicago proceeding as "An outgrowth of the persistent attempt by the **FCC** to tear apart the present system of network broadcasting in favor of its own impractical theories." **Paley** argued that chaos would result, freedom of the air would be destroyed and added that "CBS has challenged the Commission's right to make such regulations, and the regulations themselves, before a statutory Federal Court in New York, and this case is to be argued January 12."

He added that the Department of Justice has adopted the Commission's philosophy "in toto," and that it is "unfortunate that the networks should thus be harassed in wartime, when their whole energies should be bent to the furthering of the national effort."

CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—Radio Corporation of America, **NBC** and **Columbia** are the defendants in two civil suits filed here in United States District Court by **Daniel Britt**, assistant attorney general in charge of the anti-trust division. Suits charge the defendants with alleged monopolistic practices and seek to restrain them from entering into an exclusive contract with any radio station, from signing any station contract for more than two years, and from barring electrical manufacturers from "reasonable access" to their studios for transmission of recordings.

The suits seek to compel **RCA** and **NBC** to abandon either their **Red** or **Blue** network and enjoin **CBS** from turning over to receivers its stock interests in stations in towns with fewer than four stations. (**NBC**, in the meantime, called a meeting of **Blue** network station execs to be held at the *Drake Hotel* here January 15 to discuss the future operations of that network).

Suits charge that the two radio chains, by owning key stations and using exclusive contracts, control the broadcast time of 268 of the 800 commercial stations in the United States, with 50 of the 52 clear-channel stations among them.

Britt explained that the local action is independent of any ruling or order given by the Federal Communications Commission, this being a legal proceeding rather than an administrative regulation.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 3.—Possibility is that one of the local stations will go highbrow all the way, adopting the set-up of **WQXR** in New York. **WHAT**, *Philadelphia Record* part-timer, awaiting a power increase and full-time go-sign from the **FCC**, has designs on the **WQXR** program formula, with nothing but classical music to be featured.