

# Radio Talent

## New York

By JERRY LESSER

HERE'S a tip for some advertising agency. ED KAHN is no longer with PHIL LORD. During his six years with LORD, KAHN, as supervisor of programs, was instrumental in presenting such successes as *Mr. District Attorney*; *We, the People*; *Seth Parker*, *Sky Blazers*, *Gangbusters* and *By Kathleen Norris*. . . . MARJORIE ALLEN, commentator on FM Station NY47, is the only woman transmitter operator working in a radio station in the U. S. . . . For the first time in their radio careers, playwright JOHN MONKS and his brother, JAMES MONKS, the movie and radio actor, appeared on the same radio program. Both supported EDWARD G. ROBINSON in *Big Town* last Thursday. . . . BRUCE WENDELL, who conducts the daily *Music Shop* program over WHN, is doubling as emcee at *Kelly's Stable*. . . . MARK HAWLEY'S thrice weekly news spot on CBS has been renewed by Mueller's Spaghetti. . . . WILLIAM (Bill) HARGRAVE, who came from the Coast in 1934 to be featured on FRANK FAY'S *Tattle Tales*, is now the baritone on *Prudential Family Hour*, and he appears again this week as principal soloist in the new *Songs of Marching Men* program on WOR.

HEARD the first of NBC's "Swap Night" shows, and it seems to me that NBC made a mistake when it turned down MAURY LOWELL'S *Radio Classified*. . . . Remember my telling you what a great bet CHICK VINCENT was as a director? Well, since he has taken over the direction of *Pepper Young's Family*, it has jumped from 16th to 6th place in the CAB. . . . EUNICE HOWARD'S ambition was realized last week when she played one of the witches in *Macbeth*, with JUDITH ANDERSON and MAURICE EVANS on a *Treasury Show*

program. . . . One of the most interesting of the spellers is JACK MILEY, who makes a sports resume downright thrilling on WJZ at 6:15 p.m. daily. He seems to let his audience in on behind-the-scenes tidbits that you don't read in the newspaper reports. . . . JACK RAYMOND, of the Henry Souvaine agency, was found physically fit by your Uncle Sam and placed in 1-A. . . . Have you heard the swell job of ELEANORE AUDLEY as Mrs. Selby on *Valiant Lady*? . . . Seems that writer JERRY MCGILL has found the needed hypo for the Mr. D. A. scripts, as they are packed with plenty of wallop and human interest since he has taken over the writing assignment.

A NEW firm called Airadio Productions has a script that will hit the air in the near future. It will be produced by BILL GREY. . . . SAM RASKYN is doing both radio and television, having appeared last week in television's *Thirteenth Chair* and radio's *Grand Central Station*. . . . Is also the end man with NBC-Television's *Gus Van's Minstrels*. . . . The *Let's Face It* company's bowling team is really going to town. It has defeated the *Best Foot Forward* company's team twice, and one each for *Son o' Fun* and the ice show. Team includes MARY JANE WALSH, NANNETTE FABRAY, BENNY BAKER, TOMMY GLEASON, GARRY DAVIS, OLLIE WEST and FRED IRVING LEWIS, the brains behind the gang. . . . KEN ROBERTS, veteran announcer of Mutual's *Shadow* series, is spelling anticipatory praises for that heir, due soon to KEN and his missus. . . . LIEUT. GIZ RICE, World War I composer, has written a new one called *Follow the President*, which will be introduced by VAUGHN MONROE'S ork Friday night on BOB HAWK'S *How'm I Doin'?* show.

# Chicago

By SAM HONIGBERG

KATE SMITH spent her spare time in town last week collecting old American glass—her favorite hobby. . . . JACK FULTON will return here soon and probably sing over WBBM. . . . ED ROBERTS and ED ALLEN, WGN announcers, back from brief winter vacations in Wisconsin. . . . The other day DON NORMAN dared any female in the studio audience who watched his *Your Date* program to kiss Bob Baird, engineer, who celebrated a birthday. Two women rushed into the control room and took care of the assignment, much to the embarrassment of Baird. . . . THE DALTON BOYS, who are familiar to listeners of the *WLS Barn Dance* programs, open an engagement at Harry's New Yorker here Wednesday (25). . . . JAY MERRICK, radio actor and former Dead End kid on the stage, has enlisted as an apprentice seaman. . . . BUDDY CLARK, winding up his radio activities on his own show as well as Wayne King's program this week, goes on a theater tour with Jan Savitt's band starting Friday (27) at the Orpheum, Minneapolis.

PATTY ANDREWS, of the Andrews Sisters, now at the Chicago, celebrated a birthday Thursday (19). She tossed a party for the press and radio execs in

the theater's Radio Room. . . . CLIFTON UTLEY turned over his new shows to LOUIS ROEN for a spell last week to rest his vocal chords and shake off a cold. . . . MURIEL BREMNER, of *Road of Life*, staged a reunion in New York last week with an old chum, JUDITH EVELYN, who is appearing in *Angel Street*. Worked together at the Pasadena Playhouse, Hollywood, in 1937. New on *Road of Life*, incidentally, are ARTHUR KOHL, HELEN VAN TUYL, SARAJENE WELLS, EVA PARNELL and BRET MORRISON. . . . Add local AFRA members who have recently joined Uncle Sam's armed forces: WYLEY HANCOCK, TED STEPHENS, CLAUDE KIRCHNER, RANDALL ATCHER, GLENN TAYLOR, FRANK PAYNE, JOHN MATTHEWS and JACK O'DELL. . . . The Detroit flesh show, *Hermit's Cave*, is heard on WBBM in wax form a week later (Sundays, 10:30-11 p.m.). A number of Detroit veterans now working in town make a weekly trip to the Motor City to appear on the show. . . . A *WLS Barn Dance* unit playing the Paramount Theater in Aurora, Ill., last week played to a record turnout of 5,200 customers in one day. LULU BELLE and SCOTTY were featured. . . . PAHEY FLYNN, WBBM announcer, has been pinch-hitting for TODD HUNTER, who is ill.

# Hollywood

By SAM ABBOTT

GINNY SIMMS busy ground-breaking on her ranch in San Fernando Valley and working with an architect in designing a ranch house. . . . BOB GARRED, who has 30 newscasts a week over KNX-CBS, is back on the job following an attack of laryngitis. . . . HELEN SAWYER and FRANKLYN (PINKY) PARKER stole a march on fellow workers at KNX and eloped to Yuma, Ariz., on St. Valentine's Day. . . . PHIL HARRIS, heard on the Jack Benny Jello show, has been renewed indefinitely at the Biltmore Bowl of the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. . . . ELLIOT LEWIS, HANS CONRIED, JAY NOVELLO, FRED MACKAYE and DICK

LEGRANDE are in the cast of *Big Shot*, a special dramatic production directed by Myron Dutton and aired over the Blue network. . . . RED SKELTON, heard on the Raleigh cigarette show, has finished *Ship Ahoy*, a new MGM picture. . . . HORACE HEIDT and his Tums orchestra embark on a Coast-to-Coast tour March 3 for the promotion of Defense Bonds and Stamps sales. . . . SHARON DOUGLAS, who plays the leading role in *The Second Mrs. Burton* daily over CBS Western Stations, this week added to her patriotic duties by posing for a Red Cross poster to be executed by former Disney artist David Rose. . . . RED SKELTON, BENNY RUBIN and BILL

# Philly News "Experts" Bask in Glory; But Get Paid in Vittles

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 21.—Local news announcers and self-anointed commentators are now basking in the local spotlight, once showered on radio singers and, until recently, upon those who peppered their playing of phonograph records with corny gags and wheezes. Fact that most of the news "specialists" have been no farther overseas than Camden, N. J., directly across the Delaware River from here, matters none. Populace is hungry for someone who will tell them that Germany will be licked by Memorial Day and the Japs are just as good as dead. Since local groups, for the most part, can't afford fancy lecturers out of New York or the foreign correspondents fresh off the boat, townfolk are content to turn out en masse at their meetings for the local news announcers.

Not knowing that it all comes off the news ticker, just as they read it in the local gazettes, hometowners, especially local gazettes, home towners, especially the news announcer or commentator knows the "inside stuff," and he'll spill it if dragged up to their meeting. As long as the voice sounds "authentic," the lodges and auxiliaries are content to believe they're getting the stuff the censor blue-penciled. Even Betty Hurd, whose air chores are restricted to chit-chat about civilian defense, is much in demand for speeches.

As yet the speech-making is all on the cuff, paying off in free feed-bag and maybe a picture in the lodge's monthly bulletin. But it's a new experience for the news announcers, and they are content to bask in the glory. Station press agents encourage it as a good-will gesture.

Some of the local air commentators have cracked the big-time class. Cal Tinney, doing his Mutual shots here, gets more calls than he can handle, drawing down \$300 a call. But between his many air shots and the fact that he has to prepare special speeches for the outside because of his Will Rogers character, Tinney accepts few dates. Melvin K. Whiteleather, legit foreign correspondent back for almost a year from overseas, also much in demand via his KYW connection. Draws down about \$75 a date, but has to restrict his bookings because of his column chores for *The Evening Bulletin*.

Biggest play before the local groups is pulled down by John Corcoran, who comments nightly on WFIL for the Morris Plan Bank. Has spent a good number

of years on the Continent, but before the conflict, and has built up a big local rep with his "predictions." Getting from \$25 to \$50 per speech—and with it goes his authentic British accent, which serves in excellent stead these days.

# CBS Commercial Time on Increase

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.—Despite the war and priorities situation, Columbia Broadcasting System has increased its commercial time since January 1, 1942. A recapitulation of commercial time canceled and commercial time added shows that the network added six and a quarter hours as against total cancellations of four and a half hours.

Cancellations included the one-hour Ford Symphony program, the half-hour Lipton's Tea program with Helen Hayes, the half-hour *We, the People* show sponsored by General Mills, the 25-minute *Duffy's Tavern* show sponsored by Schick Razor, the loss of 30 minutes on the Chrysler Major Bowes' program, loss of 45 minutes thru cancellation of *Armour's Treat Time*, Wayne King's half-hour show for Juxor, and Macfadden's cancellation of Paul Sullivan's 20 minutes of news.

As against this total loss of four and a half hours, the chain, since January 1, added *That Brewster Boy* for Quaker Oats, 30 minutes (the first time that sponsor is using CBS since 1929); Procter and Gamble added one hour, including the Shirley Temple show slated to begin soon and the half-hour Ransom Sherman show; General Electric, which never has had a show on CBS, sponsors *Frazier Hunt* in 45 minutes of news, starting March 3; *Duffy's Tavern*, dropped by Schick, has been picked up by General Foods for Sanka Coffee, starting March 17; B. T. Babbitt, Inc., whose last CBS show was in 1932, has returned with *David Harum*, in a quarter-hour series five times weekly; United Fruit, never on CBS before, February 2 started sponsoring *The World Today*, quarter-hour shot five times weekly; Celanese Corporation, which has never used radio, inked pact January 7 for sponsoring *Great Moments of Music*, half-hour shot, and William Wrigley Jr. added half-hour with his half-hour show presented in the interests of the United States Navy.

# Sweeney to Blue Network

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 21.—Kevin Sweeney, formerly of the KNX-CBS sales promotion department, has joined the Blue sales promotion department as Western Division manager. He replaces David Lasley, who was assistant sales promotion manager for NBC Western Division before being named manager of the Blue department. Lasley leaves the end of this month for the army.

## STATIONS ADVERTISING AGENCIES PRESS AGENTS

Are Invited To Submit Entries For

## The Billboard's Fifth Annual Radio Publicity and Exploitation Survey

The country's radio editors will name the best network press department, best ad agency and the best independent press agent in radio.

The Awards Committee will name exploitation winners in network, clear channel and local station divisions, as well as in agency and press agent categories.

In order to ease the work connected with examining all entries, stations, agencies and press agents are urged to submit material as early as possible. Entries, covering the period from January 1, 1941, to January 1, 1942, should be sent to Radio Department, The Billboard, 1564 Broadway, New York.