

**Capitol Cloak Room**

Reviewed May 26  
Sustaining Via CBS

Wednesdays, 10-30-11 p.m.  
Producer, Ed Scovill; production supervisor, Leon Levine. Interviewing newsmen this program: Bill Shadel, Griffing Bancroft and Don Pryor. Interviewee this program, Rep. Clarence J. Brown (Rep., O.), chairman of executive committee of Republican National Committee.

No Hooperating—program is too late in the evening.

This show is an expansion of an experimental 15-minute series started several weeks ago by Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS). The half-hour ailer presents a top congressional figure each week, quizzed by three CBS Washington staffers, in a manner similar to Mutual Broadcasting System's *Meet the Press*. However, the CBS version did not have the same rough-and-tumble atmosphere of its older rival, and being more gentlemanly in tone, the show never quite got the gloves off.

First of the new series had Rep. Clarence J. Brown (Ohio) on the grill. Brown is chairman of the executive committee of the Republican National Committee, and campaign manager for Sen. Robert A. Taft and a member of the potent House Rules Committee. In all these capacities, he should have been a lively sparring partner for the newsmen, but Bill Shadel, Griffing Bancroft and Don Pryor seemed a bit in awe of Brown and were content to keep their distance.

Discussion centered first about legislation passing thru the rules committee, such as the draft law, and when a hesitant remark was made about the criticism leveled at what many term the group's "gag tactics," Brown turned to the offense and criticized the newsmen for not knowing exact technicalities of the committee's procedure and the precise status of certain legislation mentioned.

In the role of Taft's campaign manager, the Republican pooh-bah predicted a hard-fought GOP convention, running four to eight ballots, with his man triumphant. He denied all rumors of an impending Taft-Dewey "deal," scoffed at Stassen's optimistic forecasts, ducked a query about how the Republican candidate might fare against Eisenhower and denied that Vandenberg was seriously in contention. He also protested talk that he, as campaign manager, might get a cabinet post should Taft be elected. His one embarrassing moment came when he was queried about Taft's public housing legislation, but Brown said that it called for government activity within the framework of the free enterprise system, and anyway, it wasn't a major factor in the lives of the people. Tried to get an apartment lately, congressman?

A little less awe and a little more aggressiveness on the part of the newsmen would make this show a little less dull. *Sam Chase.*



**Radio and Television Program Reviews**

**Call the Police**

Reviewed June 1

Lever Bros.' Company

David C. Ketner, Asst. Adv. Mgr., Chg. Rinso

Thru Ruthrauf & Ryan, Inc.

Leland G. Frierson, Acct. Exec.

Via NBC

First broadcast, June 1, 9-9:30 p.m.

Thereafter, beginning June 8, 9:30-10 p.m.

**Estimated Talent Cost:** \$5,500. Director, John Cole; writer, Peter Barry; musical director, Ben Ludlow; announcer, Hugh James. Cast: George Petrie (Bill Grant), Robert Dryden (Maggio), Bret Morrison (Gerald Merrimac), Michael Fitzmaurice (Larry Salzwasser), Kathleen Cordell (Ann Prelan), Alice Reinheart (Tiny Salzwasser), James Vandyck (Louis Agglieri), Jack Orrison (The Boy).

Current Hooperating of the program (Starts June 1) .....None

Current Hooperating for shows of this type (mystery drama) .....9.1

Current Hooperating of show preceding ("Amos 'n' Andy") .....17.1

Current Hooperating of show following ("Bob Hope") .....16.9

**CURRENT HOOPERATINGS OF SHOWS ON OPPOSITION NETWORKS**

ABC, MBS: Sustaining.....None

CBS: "Adv. With Chris Wells" .....7.0

*Call the Police*, whodunit subbing for *Amos 'n' Andy* during the torrid months, got off to a flying start last week in its initial outing of the season. Altho its production line-up was much the same as last year's first opus, *Case of the Missing Marrow Bone* was stronger than anything turned out during last summer. Maybe it was the season's experience under the belt of those concerned that made the difference, but the first of this year's group was written with punch and verve and brought life by excellent characterizations from the thespis.

Commissioner Bill Grant, 1948 model, as played by George Petrie, is a hard-talking copper with a flair for droll phraseology. Penned by Peter Barry, the script included many characters for a summer crime show, but Barry was able to draw them clearly, with distinct personalities and without crowding or confusing the action. Plot had some good twists, with suspicion falling first on an effeminate writer of Mother Goose verse, who was described varyingly as wearing nail polish and butterfly neckties, flouncing in and out doors, and arranging some too, too charming curios. By the end of the show, however, the logical suspect naturally proved quite innocent, while the dame with the sex appeal turned out to be the double killer in the best Dashiell Hammet tradition.

The program was not all murder and sex restrained. There were some neat bits of humor interlarded, and the show never took itself so seriously but what a little out-of-character rib couldn't be inserted and look quite natural. As when the commissioner, asked a series of questions by his assistant, shot back: "What is this, a quiz show? Go and find out."

As last year, the show is dedicated to the nation's police forces and winds up with an award of valor to a bluecoat for an outstanding deed, in this case to a cop who pulled a woman out of a burning building. Commercials, for Rinso, stressed another "new ingredient"—"solium, the sunshine ingredient which puts sunshine in your wash." Even repeated doses of solium, however, could not wash away the impression that *Call the Police*, if it keeps to the pace, can be a mighty good summer show. *Sam Chase.*

**Red Barber's Club House**

Reviewed May 29

Sustaining Via CBS

Saturdays, 10-10:30 a.m.

Rebroadcast, Saturdays, 5:30-6 p.m., via WCBS, New York.

Producer, Jack Carney; writers, Judson Bailey and John Derr; announcer, Sandy Becker; emcee, Red Barber; guest, this program, light-heavyweight champion Gus Lesnevich.

Current Hooperating of the program (Sustaining) .....None

Current Hooperating of show preceding (Sustaining) .....None

Current Hooperating of show following ("Mary Lee Taylor").....2.0

**CURRENT HOOPERATINGS OF SHOWS ON OPPOSITION NETWORKS**

ABC: "Your Home Beautiful (10-10:15)..." 2.1

Sustaining (10:15-10:30).....None

MBS & NBC: Sustaining.....None

The Ole Redhead, Walter (Red) Barber, has added a new chore to his daily broadcasts of all Brooklyn baseball games, his Saturday evening Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) show and his duties as CBS director of sports. This teen-age quiz show, with Barber at the reins, is a recent addition to the web's Saturday morning sked. Stress is on good citizenship and similar virtues, and one could hardly think of a better guy with more influence on the sandlot set than Barber to run the show.

Each week's ailer pits one boys' club against another in a quiz game based on sports. Midway in the show, Barber pauses to interview a sports celebrity, such as light-heavyweight champion Gus Lesnevich, who appeared on the show caught. Ailer also has Barber presenting a cash award to a different club each week along with a certificate for promoting good citizenship thru sports. This show found a Macon, Ga., club gaining the moola upon recommendation of the Macon CBS outlet.

Barber, as usual, was completely at ease in his role. He had the kids eating out of his hand, and even lead the studio in singing *My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean*. His chit-chat with Lesnevich dealt mainly with a fighter's training routine and boxing as a profession. This could be an attractive show for the youth trade, but is not likely to hold the adult's attention long. *Sam Chase.*

**Wonder House**

Reviewed Thursday (27) 5 to 6 p.m. Presented sustaining on WGN-TV, Chicago. Dick (Two-Ton) Baker featured as emcee. Marionettes and puppets by Art Nelson; Pauline Babrov, director; Helene Herzfeld, assistant director; John McGiver, writer.

WGN-TV's bid for the kid audience, this hour daily program featuring Two-Ton Baker, marionettes and film cartoons, is well on its way toward becoming one of the most popular shows in Chicago. An expensive show, estimated to cost about \$800 daily, including time, program so far has not garnered a sponsor, but a couple of live ones are on the hook.

Backbone of the show is Baker, well-known radio talent in this area and Mercury recording star. Baker's piano playing, his action and facial mannerisms are made for television. His conversation with marionette and puppet characters adds plenty to the program.

Way in which marionette characters Bushmite (a monkey) and Half-Ton (a replica of Two-Ton Baker) are presented is unique. Characters go thru their paces, acting out indi-

**Criminal Casebook**

Reviewed June 3

Sustaining Via ABC

Thursdays, 8:30-9 p.m.

**Estimated Talent Cost:** \$2,500; producer, Robert Maxwell; director, Jessica Maxwell; editorial continuity, Edwin J. Lukas, executive director of the Society for the Prevention of Crime; music, John Gart; narrator, Nelson Case; cast, this program, Chuck Webster, Bryna Raeburn, Dicky Leone, Edwin Bruce, Gil Mack, Paul Mann, Paul DuBov, Danny Leone.

Current Hooperating of the program (Sustaining) .....None

Current Hooperating of show preceding (Sustaining) .....None

Current Hooperating of show following ("Wille Piper").....4.3

**CURRENT HOOPERATINGS OF SHOWS ON OPPOSITION NETWORKS**

CBS: "Mr. Keen".....7.0

Johns-Manville News.....8.0

MBS: Billy Rose.....3.3

NBC: George Burns and Gracie Allen.....10.1

*Criminal Casebook* probes the emotional motivation behind crime. That is, it analyzes the criminal's personality, dramatizes portions of his early life, and traces significant elements of his family background and environment. In this way the program producers hope to prove their thesis that crime is symptomatic of a personality disturbance—and that recognition of this fact is perhaps more important than a consideration of suitable punishment for any particular crime. This obviously is a laudable purpose. The program reviewed presented the case of one Tony, whose extreme love for his mother drove him to criminal actions. Various plants thruout the dramatization pointed up the unhealthy relationship between the two and gave a foreboding of the inevitable disaster. The personality distortion finally wound up with Tony a convict.

**Lukas Explains**

Edwin J. Lukas, executive director of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, for which the show is produced, takes the mike during the latter part of the program to interview the man whose story was dramatized. Via the interview, Lukas helped to buttress the theory that the particular case was driven to criminality by an Oedipus complex.

It is presumed, of course, that cases on this program are gone into fully from a psychiatric point of view before they are dramatized. Granted that this is so, *Chase Book* assumes an educational tinge. As once expressed by Mr. Lukas, it is a "why dunit" rather than a whodunit. And this is all to the good.

The program caught, incidentally had some revealing sidelights on the lack of educational facilities at penitentiaries.

Production-wise, the cast did a good job, with excellent narration by Nelson Case and tight direction by Jessica Maxwell. *Paul Ackerman.*

vidual daily adventures and carrying on their conversations with Baker on top of Baker's baby grand piano. This allows plausible setting and close-ups and wide angle shots without shifting of scenery or locale.

On program caught dialog between puppet and marionette characters and between Baker and characters was dull and insipid much of the time, accounted for by the fact that script had not been written in advance due to illness of the writer, John McGiver. Also noticeable was poor sound pick-up which often resulted in volume fading.

Only over-all negative factors about this program are use of old cartoons of poor quality and the fact that the program is too much of a copy of WBKB's *Junior Jamboree* which originated here the use of marionettes and puppets for continuous kid series. *Cy Wagner.*

**Worcester**  
**WTAG**  
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