

# IN NEW YORK



Reunion in Manhattan. Wilberforce J. Whiteman, of Denver, guest on "We, the People," with his son Paul, right after the broadcast



Cementing friendship. When Fred Waring (left) signed for current broadcast, David Ross was again made announcer for the Waring program



Radio discovery. After Eddie Cantor heard 12-year-old Morte Rappaport sing on Major Bowes' hour, he decided he wanted him on his show

NEW YORK.—To borrow the terms of the Hollywood motion-picture copy-writers, the RCA Magic Key's Navy Day Salute, heard on Sunday, October 23, was the most stupendous, colossal, gigantic broadcast your reporter has ever heard. I was literally sitting on the edge of my chair as I listened to one of the greatest jobs of radio-engineering ever completed. Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Naval Operations, directed the broadcast and issued orders from the studios in Radio City. In less time than you can say "uncle," the program was switched to Admiral Lackey, commander of the European fleet off the coast of France. Lackey then exchanged greetings with Admiral Meyers, stationed in Manila, and every word of their conversation was as clear as a bell. In a flash, Admiral Block reported from San Pedro, California, who in turn introduced Vice Admiral King, commander of the aircraft battle-force. King was heard flying over San Diego Harbor in the "Flying Dreadnought" issuing orders to his men to prepare for a bombing-attack. In a split second the show was switched from the Pacific to the Atlantic, where a demonstration of anti-aircraft defense at sea was given by the Atlantic squadron off the Virginia Capes. Next, listeners heard U. S. Marine Fighting Squadron One, flying over the Potomac River. Lieutenant Commander Browning's orders, "Simulate attack on Naval Air Station," from the command plane to the seventeen planes under his command, and then hearing the planes diving at tremendous speed, sent a chill up my spine. The highlight of the program, in my opinion, was when Announcer Ben Grauer, speaking from an observation tower, carried on a conversation with two naval officers who were describing the procedure of escaping from a submarine. Talk about your thrills—this hour had a thrill a second. Approximately seventy-five engineers were required to handle the many pick-ups from planes, ships and naval bases. So, to the RCA Magic Key program goes this department's salute for their Navy Day Salute, which will always remain in my memory as being one of radio's greatest broadcasts.

Everyone working on Columbia's new aviation serial, "Howie Wing," seems to have developed a tremendous enthusiasm for flying since the program began. For one thing, the writer of the show, Captain Willfred G. Moore, is very much of a flyer himself, holding the world speed record and the American altitude record for light planes. He's also a captain in the U. S. Air Corps Reserve. Moore not only uses technical details in his scripts but he takes the cast, and especially the sound-effects men, flying so they'll get the right atmosphere for the program. Neill O'Malley (Captain Harvey in the script) already has flying experience, having taken a six-month aviation course a few years ago. Raymond Bramley, who plays Burton York, has always liked flying, too, and spends a lot of time at the Long Island fields. But to the two principals—Bill Janney, who is Howie Wing, and Mary Parker (Donna Cavendish in the script)—flying is new. In fact, all radio is new to Janney, and he likes it a lot. Janney comes to radio from the films, where he played in seventy-five pictures in seven years—and mostly, he tells me, as someone's kid brother. Mary Parker, who plays opposite Bill in the script, is more of a radio veteran. Mary, small, dark and vivacious, has been called by N. T. G. the most beautiful actress in radio. You've heard her in "Easy Aces" and the "Snow Village" sketches. The day I was up at rehearsal was one of those rare days when only Janney and Miss Parker were in the script, but several of the other actors—Raymond Bramley, Floyd Buckley, who created "Popeye" in radio, and Neill O'Malley—dropped in anyway to see how things were going. They all had to look over the real pride of the cast, a miniature range-beam, complete in every respect to the real range-beams the big airliners use. It's up in the studio for every show, and at least keeps the cast from bringing a real trimotor plane with them to rehearsals.

It has been quite some time since Kay Kyser's name has appeared in this space. As a matter of fact, it has been weeks since I've seen him, which prompted the genial professor to call and find out the reason for my absence. I accepted his invitation to come down to the Madhattan Room at the Pennsylvania Hotel, where the band is playing, to act

as judge during the regular Tuesday night quiz session. When I walked into the room, I was amazed to find all the waiters wearing collegiate skull-caps and the head waiters wearing the traditional cap and gown of a graduating class. The diners seem to have just as much fun as the audience at a regular Wednesday night program. Kay had a "student" up on the bandstand and the question was, "The band is going to play a few bars of a song; see if you can name it and tell me who made it famous." The band played, but the student didn't know, so Kay asked the on-lookers and they all shouted, "Mammy." Turning back to the lad, he asked, "Now can you tell me who made 'Mammy' famous?" Without the loss of a second, he replied, "Pappy!" It was several minutes before Kyser could continue.

Walked into the CBS Playhouse to watch a rehearsal of Helen Menken's "Second Husband," and was amazed to see the cast throwing a football across the stage. At first I thought I was in the wrong place, but was told the sound-effects man brought a football to rehearsal for a certain effect which they needed. As soon as the cast and production men caught sight of it, they started tossing it around all over the theater. CBS production man Larry Harding used to play football on his college team and he seemed to be getting the biggest kick out of it. No, not drop-kick.

For a few moments the audience at a recent Carnegie Hall concert wasn't sure they were witnessing a concert or a football game. The orchestra started to play the "William Tell Overture," which was one of the selections on the program. An old gentleman in the audience recognized the number as the theme song for the "Lone Ranger" serial. He got up out of his seat and yelled, "Hi Yo, Silver!" It almost broke up the concert.

## AIRIALTO LOWDOWN



BY MARTIN LEWIS

Which reminds me that in looking over the list of sweepstake winners in the New York area, one lucky person was signed "The Lone Ranger" and another "Hi Yo, Silver." Other winners were "Easy Aces" and "I Hope, I Hope, I Hope." The winners should send at least ten percent to the original radio people, don't you think? Or don'tcha?

In going through the files of RADIO GUIDE, I picked up the issue for the last week in October, 1933. Here are some of the names that made radio news five years ago. Listeners were hearing a couple of vaudeville comics, Olsen and Johnson, who found their way to the airwaves via the Rudy Vallee hour. Today they are stars of a Broadway hit, "Hellzapoppin," thanks to Sir Walter Winchell, who entered the ring and fought with the snooty critics who attempted to lambast the show. Ethel Shutta, Walter O'Keefe and Don Bestor's orchestra were heard in a regular Friday night series . . . Jack Denny's orchestra, with Jeannie Lang, was starting a new series . . . Ditto for sepia songstress Ethel Waters . . . Jack Pearl's "Vas you dere, Charlie" was on the lips of practically every school kid . . . Show Boat was a "must listen" program in a great many homes . . . Don Voorhees was one of the busiest bandleaders in radio . . . Gertrude Niesen (she's now a sensation over in England) was thrilling us with her songs . . . Ditto Ramona, Conrad Thibault, Nino Martini, Anthony Frome, "The Poet Prince," and Vera Van . . . "Crime Clues" was one of the most popular mystery dramas . . . Tony Wons had a tremendous listening audience . . . Another name featured five years ago was that of Ruth Etting, whose name made front-page news in every newspaper in the country a couple of weeks ago when her husband was shot by her former mate. Not one of the above-mentioned is heard on the air in a regular series.

Behind the "seen": Paul Whiteman sitting on a wooden box backstage while his dada was a guest on a recent "We, the People" broadcast. They tried to get Paul out on the stage to take a bow, but he refused because he didn't want to take the thunder away from his dad . . . At the CBS Playhouse, Henny Youngman standing at the door before the broadcast to make sure that his mother, father, relatives and neighbors get in . . . Kay Thompson rehearsing for the first Al Jolson broadcast from New York, painfully suffering after having a wisdom tooth extracted.