

CHICAGO.—The town that develops and uses radio's own talent sends another of its favorite daughters to Hollywood:

Lillian Cornell—

Crossroads singing glamour girl has followed in the footsteps of Gale Page and "gone west." The brunette charmer—formerly heard on many NBC-Chicago programs, such as "Club Matinee," "Roy Shield Revue," "Jamboree," "Sunday Dinner at Aunt Fanny's" and others—is now in Hollywood under contract with Paramount and specifically working on the forthcoming "Buck Benny Rides Again."

It was like a fairy-tale how it came about. Lillian, a few weeks ago, received a phone feeler from Hollywood officials who had noticed her work. Then NBC put on a special broadcast featuring the songbird at her best as a long-distance audition. It clicked and Lillian planed to the Coast for a screen test—also successful. It wouldn't be surprising if Lillian signed her contract with a bewildered falter or a triumphant flourish after such a whirlwind success sequence.

To Let You Know That—

Johnny Burke, who has been making America laugh for the last thirty years, is now a regular on the "National Barn Dance" . . . Betty ("Girl Alone") Winkler was voted "the radio actress best idealizing the modern homemaker" by the Illinois Radio and Electrical Dealers Association . . . Pat Murphy (boy friend of "Girl Alone") claims a "Right to Happiness" with a new part in that serial . . . Stan Harris, star of "Trouble with Marriage," has a "live and let live" philosophy which many other radio stars might do well to copy. Incidentally, Stan should have no "trouble with marriage," since he has a wife who is not only a beautiful professional model but is also charmingly sociable.

Ken "Hot Shot" Trietsch is building a new home in the Bon-Air section . . . Another "Hot Shot," Gabe Ward, put too much oomph into his clarinet playing at a recent personal appearance—the instrument broke in two and flew across the stage. Gabe finished with a cornet, but immediately after the performance he had his old pet clarinet repaired . . . Curt Massey, of the "Plantation Party" Westerners, plays a genuine \$6,000 Amati violin, which he bought in New York from an antique dealer who thought he was making money at \$400 . . . Betty Lou Gerson is mighty proud of those murals she has painted on her apartment walls.

Don Merrifield, the father in "Arnold Grimm's Daughter," gets a mark on radio's scroll of veterans. He celebrates his fifteenth year on the air this month, having played in Chicago's first radio drama, "The Valiant," in 1924 . . . Ditto the "Breakfast Club," which has just passed its seventh birthday . . . Arky, the Arkansas Woodchopper, is writing a new song tentatively titled "I'm Just a Square Dance in a Round Hole" . . . Alec Templeton demonstrated his expansive repertoire recently when, playing a theater engagement in Milwaukee, he performed at nine consecutive shows before repeating a single number, and then he did so on the tenth only because of numerous requests.

BACKSTAGE IN CHICAGO

Lillian Cornell goes to films; Tony Wons returns

BY DON MOORE

Couldn't Help Noticing—

Red Skelton, who really doesn't smoke, carrying a stage-prop cigar on a cigarette-sponsored program—and a woman saying to a page, who was passing out Avalon cigarettes to the departing "Avalon Time" audience, "May I

have another one for my little girl?"

Kate Smith at the station on her way from Hollywood to New York being cordial to press men and autograph-askers and still more sociable with maids, porters and youngsters. That's one reason she's first lady of radio.



Dramatis Personae

This week it's "Caroline's Golden Store," where the proprietress passes out goods, greetings, pieces of wisdom and nice commercials:

Caroline Ellis—Caroline Ellis (also author).

Mrs. Elizabeth Lang—Barbara Winthrop.

Theodore Collins—Frank Behrens. Mary Ellen Beckman—Joan Kay.

Uncle Jim Bentley—Cliff Carl. Sam Jefferson—Jack Brinkley.

Jane Mitchell—Janice Sedgwick. Ione Duncan—Virginia Jones.

Mrs. Snyder—Melba Hardaway. Magnolia—Harriette Widmer.

Mrs. Crowley—Dorothy Day. Mrs. Sargent—Marie Tolan.

Back o' the Yards—

Lives Patty Conley, thirteen years old, with his twelve brothers and sisters, his unemployed father and his invalid mother. In his few years Patty has had little fresh air—only the stench of the stockyards; little of sunshine and blue skies—only gray smoke and dark walls; no green grass—only rough, dirty streets. But Patty Conley has a grin and a sparkle in his eyes that he got from inside himself. Now his freckled face is just about as bright as the sunshine he has missed and there's something in his voice that hasn't been there before.

Maybe you've detected that something if you've heard the script-show "Scattergood Baines" since October 27. Since then Patty Conley of the Yards has become Patrick Conley of radio, playing the role of Spotty in that sketch. The kid had appeared in a minor role in a program sponsored by the Chicago Park District last winter over WBBM. That something asserted itself and CBS officials noticed it. And Patty got his break because of the spark that adversity could not put out.

Wons a Philosopher—

Always a philosopher. The pun is too true to pass up. Tony Wons himself says he guesses his name is a natural for quips and he himself is a sucker for radio. So he's back on the air with his familiar "Are yuh listenin'?" and his beloved Scrapbook and his hopeful "All is well." At present Tony is broadcasting only over a local station, WMAQ, on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. But it's news to thousands from Coast to Coast that he's back on the air, and it's further news that the program will expand to a nation-wide network after thirteen or twenty-six weeks.

Tony retired from radio several years ago while still at the peak of his popularity. He was sick—somewhat physically, but chiefly sick deep inside himself with the superficiality and twisted values and silly speed of New York's city life. So he quit, went home to Kenosha, Wis., and settled down to the simple life, making violins in his ramshackle barn. Now he's full of pepper again and feels he has a right once again to chat with his friends about life and say sincerely, "All is well."

—Maurice Seymour

Lillian Cornell (left), brunette beauty and singing star of many Chicago programs, heeded the call of Hollywood in story-book style