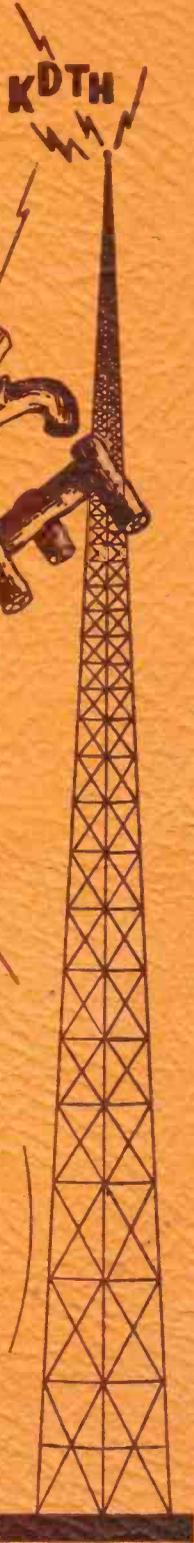


Mary Jane Battona

age 21

THE BARN DANCE

ALBUM



The Barn Dance Album

• •

A BIOGRAPHICAL AND PICTORIAL BACKGROUND

of the

KDTH Barn Dance

Produced by

MACK AND SANDY FORD

at

Melody Mill, Dubuque, Iowa

• •

Edited by Karl Anthony

Published by Mack and Sandy Ford

Photos by Bulkley

Mack Ford . . .

On a cold and dreary day, in fact on the 18th of December, there occurred an event in the little village of Lampasas, Texas, in the heart of the cattle district that was to have quite a bearing on the KDTH Barn Dance. It was on that day that a little bundle weighing six and a half pounds, and part Scotch, Irish and Cherokee Indian crept into the world. According to its size the Scotch played a heavy part.

This arrival created quite a problem, because it's customary to name an infant, and the doctor, the father and mother just couldn't make up their minds. So after a consultation, the elite of the town, including the sheriff, the blacksmith, the stage driver and their wives were induced to draw lots to select a handle for the newcomer. The doctor drew the first lot and after a half hour he gave up. That's the way it went on down the line. Everyone was frankly stumped.

Finally in desperation, the sheriff suggested that he round up an old Cherokee Indian chief, who he assured the anxious parents would be able to put a handle to the six and a half pound bundle. Well, the suggestion was favorably met, and the sheriff rode to the Indian camp where he found the Chief and explained the situation to him. The Chief's response was: "Me go."

When they returned the sheriff led the Chief into the room that housed the little visitor and everyone waited breathlessly as the blanketed Indian strode to the bunk and slowly turned down the covers from the new arrival. One glance, and his eyes turned the color of a collegiate suit. He scratched his head, and then said: "Huh, macks no difference." The doctor jumped to his feet and shouted: "That's it . . . Mack . . . Mack Ford!" And that's the "howcome" of the top man of the Barn Dance . . . Mack Ford.

Well, some five or six weeks passed when the family decided to move to Milam County, Texas, in company with other resi-

dents of the settlement. Accordingly a wagon train of about 25 wagons was organized. While enroute the wagon train ran into what is known as a "Texas Blue Norther," and several days were spent in the miserable snow, wind and ice. Eventually their destination was reached and they finally settled down in what was to be Mack's future home.

Since Mack's days in grade school he has been interested in the show business and at the first opportunity he went into that field. His first job was with Jimmie Eubanks Wild West Show and from there he went into vaudeville, musical comedy, became a producer and finally ended up in radio. Mack has traveled in all parts of the country and Canada. In 1936 he was called upon to take a top spot in the huge Texas Centennial where he entertained thousands, in addition to his technical tasks.

Finally while producing road shows he met the other half of the Mack and Sandy team. They married and decided that they would settle down in some Mid-western town and continue in the entertainment business. Mack and Sandy went on the air at KDTH in 1943 and were immediately accepted by the radio fans as regular folks. Many of the listeners met them in person during the first season of the studio Barn Dance, and through their public appearances in the Tri-State area.

Mack is always striving toward something bigger and better, and eventually through his efforts Melody Mill, which has the largest dance floor in the state of Iowa was secured and a full cast of performers were booked. Every Saturday night finds Melody Mill filled with visitors to see the air show and the evening of dancing and fun that follows. The gayest individual in the crowd is Mack Ford, whose hearty laugh and infectious grin seems to beam from every corner of the ballroom. Knowing Mack as we do it's a cinch that he's thinking of something that will add to the entertainment fare for the Tri-State area, and although we don't know just what it could be, you can rest assured that it will be something top-notch.

Sandy Ford . . .

Sandy Ford is one of the mainsprings of the KDTH Barn Dance. She's the girl with the lilting voice, gay humor and nimble fingers that evoke the lovely melodies heard daily on the air waves. The Barn Dance staff and her many listeners agree that she is tops and a "regular person." That's the opinion of the boss of the Barn Dance, too. He happens to be her husband Mack Ford.

When you hear her sing the Western ballads and see her do the most difficult rope spinning tricks, you can't help but feel certain that she's a real daughter of the old West. (Perhaps that's why Mack took a shine to her.) However, our Sandy isn't a native Westerner.

Sandy was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and to hear Mack and her relatives talk you'd think she practically teathed on a guitar string. Well, with a gal like that it's impossible to keep her away from music so at the earliest opportunity she chose music as her profession.

Since the early days of her musical career she has been very successful and has worked with various stage and radio organizations in every State in the Union including Canada. Her last assignment however, was perhaps the pleasantest, because she married the producer of the show . . . Mack Ford.

Sandy is quite a domesticated little person, whose every spare moment seems to be spent in cleaning and polishing her apartment and cooking. Nevertheless, she does find time for hobbies, and her favorite is designing Western wardrobe. Next to that her scrapbook occupies her spare moments, and it looks like a tourists guide. Everyone agrees that her lovely voice on the air waves daily and every Saturday night is a real guide to pleasurable musical entertainment.

The Plains of Texas

By MACK FORD

• •

VERSE

I'm so lonesome
My mind's been roving
The time moves slowly away.
Nights are dreary and I'm so weary
Thinking of my pals across the way.

CHORUS

Out there on the plains of Texas
 Going back to my rope and my gun,
Going back to my horse and saddle
 The stars, the moon and the sun.
Out there on the blue sage prairie
 Out where the coyotes croon,
When they roundup in June
 I'll sing them this tune
Out where the blue bonnets bloom.



MACK AND SANDY

Karl Anthony . . .

On a clear autumn day . . . September 29, 1911, in order to be historically correct . . . children left their school rooms, and crowded on the playgrounds, housewives congregated on the lawns and shop keepers left their places of business. All gazed into the clear, blue autumn sky for the first airplane was being flown over the city of Dubuque. It was an intensely interesting spectacle.

Reluctantly the folks went back to their humdrum tasks. In the meantime what had happened? A new, small citizen had made his debut in Dubuque. Had he been dropped from the plane? None could say. Anyway there he was . . . the future "Ringmaster" Karl Anthony.

He grew up in the usual way, went to school, and says he wasted ten years trying to play the violin. Finally wrote several songs and has written a large amount of poetry. Over twelve years ago he met a charming school teacher, and married her and she's been making him behave ever since. His family consists of his wife Mary and his little girl Mary Ann Rita.

For a number of years Karl was engaged in the field of Art doing promotional and lecture work. He had always been interested in radio work and entered that field several years ago. In addition to the enjoyable task of being the Master of Ceremonies at the Barn Dance he is also News Editor at KDTH. Karl says that his hobby is people. He likes to meet them. One thing he's certain about is that everyone has plenty of fun at the Barn Dance and he looks forward to Saturday noon's program when he can say "So-long . . . Good Luck and . . . See you at the Barn Dance.

BARN DANCE ALBUM



KARL ANTHONY

"Skinny" Strader . . .

Maurice, "Skinny" Strader, is known and loved by thousands in the Tri-State area. He is known not only for his madcap irresponsibility on the air but he is known personally by hundreds who believe with us that "Skinny" is tops. To drive through the country with "Skinny" is like taking the census. It seems that he knows everyone and no matter where one stops on the farm they're all mighty glad to see him and chat about this and that. Perhaps that's the reason for his great success on the Barn Dance. We do know that "Skinny" is the biggest thing on the Barn Dance, because his weight usually hovers around the 300-pound mark.

Speaking of hovering, it was about 34 years ago that the stork was hovering over a farm house near Osterdock, Iowa, one January night. The stork was so cold he decided to drop what he was carrying right there, and sure enough . . . it was "Skinny." Well, "Skinny" spent his early years in that part of Iowa, and passed a real boyhood in the hills that overlook the Mississippi.

Of course, the boys in the neighborhood tangled occasionally, and perhaps that's what gave "Skinny" the idea that he'd be a pretty good football player . . . and he was. However, he soon felt that football didn't give him an opportunity to express himself forcibly enough, so he went into the professional boxing game. It didn't take so very long however, before "Skinny" decided that he was getting too hard an impression of the fight game, (it was making an impression on his face) and he decided to quit and settle down.

Naturally, when a fellow thinks of settling down he has to look around for someone to help him along, and he certainly found a lovely and all around helpmate when he convinced Doris Anthony that she was the gal for him. When he married her he found not only beauty, but a keen sense of humor, good business sense, and plenty of ambition.

Today "Skinny" Strader's Triangle Hatchery is one of the largest business establishments of its kind in this part of the U. S., and it's growing by leaps and bounds. In fact, "Skinny" has implanted himself so firmly in the minds of the folks in the Tri-State area, that the word poultry and Triangle mean about the same thing to them.

"Skinny" is one of the sponsors of the Barn Dance and it's his hobby. He enters into the spirit of the fun wholeheartedly every Saturday night, and seems to have an endless series of surprises for the audience. Before he finishes the current Barn Dance series, we're afraid that he will have had every animal possible on the show. We know that he's always looking for something new, and as "Skinny" said: "This is one hobby my wife doesn't care how much I spend on." And knowing that Doris enjoys the fun as much as "Skinny," we'd say: "That sounds just like Doris!"

BARN DANCE ALBUM



"SKINNY" STRADER (Without Makeup)

Skinnygrams

• •

SKINNY SAYS:

You can't get up with the chickens if you're out with the chicks all night.

* * * *

In a divorce case it's not the high cost of living that's important . . . it's the high cost of leaving.

* * * *

Always put off until tomorrow what you should do today, because maybe someone else will do it in the meantime and you won't have to bother.

* * * *

Some of the modern swing songs should have been popular long ago and far away.

* * * *

A pessimist is the kind of a guy who insists on seeing the dark side of everything even if he's got to turn out every light in the place to do it.

BARN DANCE ALBUM



KARL ANTHONY and "SKINNY" STRADER

Kay Kody . . .

Kay Kody is one of the brightest stars on the KDTH Barn Dance. Kay is as lovely and curvaceous as a Hollywood star, yet has a sweet and shy disposition that has endeared her to the members of the cast as well as the audience. Like many Western singers Kay was born on a farm where she enjoyed all the outdoor work and recreation that makes farm life the healthiest and pleasantest of existences. When Kay was a cute little youngster only five years old, she was given a harmonica as a gift, and from that time on her every spare moment was filled with music. It wasn't very long before Kay was playing the old time favorites like "Red Wing," and "The Old Oaken Bucket."

Kay was very fortunate in having a mother with a musical background, and she encouraged her in her endeavors. Kay's mother was an unusually fine singer and her father was an instructor in wood carving, so she was blessed with a real artistic background. Her older brother was also a musician, and he taught her to play the guitar. Until 1941 they performed as a team, but at that time her brother enlisted in the U. S. Navy, and she was left to carry on alone . . . a job which she has done very well.

As would be expected Kay's hobbies are horseback riding, and record collecting. She's also an ardent radio fan, and (take it easy boys) she loves to bake. Bakes very well too, but says she prefers her mother's cooking, especially Mom's prune cake. Kay is especially fond of sports clothes and range togs and says her favorite color is blue. Kay Kody became a member of the Barn Dance staff in September, 1944, and since that time has won a host of friends and admirers throughout the listening area.

BARN DANCE ALBUM



KAY KODY

The Barnstormers . . .

The Barnstormers, under the direction of the able baton of genial and popular Clarence Zahina, are the boys that give out with the music that sets the feet a'tingling at the Barn Dance every Saturday night. The fellows are just like one big happy family and Clarence is largely responsible for the carefree atmosphere that reigns in his group for his is certainly a likeable personality. For the past five years he has been directing the present musical organization and has been in the musical field for the past fourteen years.

Clarence has covered a lot of territory during his musical career and, incidentally, his first job was playing in a cowboy band. He has been exceptionally popular in the Midwest and has broadcast over nine radio stations. He claims, however, that he is the most popular with four very important people . . . his wife, and three daughters, Mary Jane, Darleen, and Janaan. We heartily agree with him that they are very important people indeed.

The boys in the band are all regular fellows. When you hear Fritz Wetter on the guitar, Skinny Ellis on the base, Herb Grewe on the drums, with clarinetist Tex Schulz helping Jimmy Scherr on the trumpet, you'll agree with us that Clarence has an outfit to be proud of. Jimmy and Tex are the vocalists, and with their fine voices and clowning add a real sparkle to the Barn Dance every Saturday night.

BARN DANCE ALBUM



"FRITZ"—"JIMMY"—"CLARENCE"—"TEX"—"SKINNY"
"HERB"

The KDTH Barn Dance . . .

One day in February, 1944, on a snowy afternoon, Mack and Karl were sitting around talking things over in regard to entertainment for the folks when up popped the question: "Why not have a Barn Dance?" There's always plenty of fun at a Barn Dance. So the boys talked it over with Sandy and she thought it was just the thing.

Well, things moved fast after that and the next month the Farm Family Circle audience was invited to attend the first Barn Dance featuring Mack and Sandy Ford and Ringmaster Karl Anthony, together with the best amateur talent in the area. That first night in March really was something. The show was scheduled to go on the air at 9:00 p. m. and by 6:45 the studio audience was already starting to fill the large studio A. About 7:15 rain started falling and most of the staff felt that it would keep some of the crowd away. But it seemed that there was no end to the crowd and by 8:30 the large studio was filled, the observation room was packed, the front lobby filled, standing room under the marquee was taken and the sidewalk was jammed for half a block.

The Barn Dance was an immediate hit, and due to the fact that so many from the Tri-State area could not attend due to the limited facilities, it was decided to limit the studio audience to 100 a performance. Nevertheless reservations were taken weeks in advance, and during the thirteen weeks of the first period the list grew and when

the program closed for the summer many fans had not been given an opportunity to see the show.

Well, there the matter stood, and one summer day while Mack and Karl were discussing the Fall and Winter series Mack said: "Look, we've got to get a bigger place so everyone can see the Barn Dance." Of course there was only one catch. "Where are you going to get a bigger place." It seemed that Mack had heard that Melody Mill was one of the largest entertainment spots in the state, so nothing would do but that we get it for the Saturday night KDTH Barn Dance.

Naturally a set up like that costs money, but Mack said he'd gamble with KDTH on it and open up his lil' old pokey. The first show was presented at Melody Mill on September 9, 1944. Over two thousand fans crowded the floor, and a two mile string of cars jammed the highway lighting it up like Broadway. As one observer remarked afterwards: "Not even when the combined Barnum and Bailey and Ringling Bros. circus came to town was there such a crowd." And what did Mack say? You guessed it. "I think we need a bigger place."

Since the opening performance the attendance has been in the thousands every Saturday night, and the Barn Dance show now consists of 16 regular staff members. And is Mack Ford satisfied? Nope. He has plenty of ideas up his sleeve, and when he starts laying them on the table you can bet that it's just another step toward making Dubuque and the Tri-State area the family entertainment center of the Midwest.

Texas Red . . .

People have said that all Texas Red has to do to win the hearts of his audience is to amble out on the stage and say: "Hello Folks." Well, we don't know if that's just quite true, but we do know that from the moment Tex begins his chatter the audience is with him, and certainly are responsive to his gay songs and banter.

Texas Red is no newcomer to the music world, for he's been playing and singing for almost sixteen years. Throughout the course of that time he's traveled in five states of the Midwest making personal appearances and guesting on various radio stations and radio programs. Tex has been with KDTH for a number of years and is one of the veterans of the Barn Dance.

Tex is very enthusiastic about his hobbies. His favorite is trick fiddling. The harder the feat is to accomplish, the better he likes it. The other hobby, (so help me) is rabbits. Yes, Tex is a rabbit fancier and raises some of the finest varieties of the hoppy, longears you've ever seen. Tex is married to a mighty fine and lovely lady, and always calls her Maw. He has two youngsters, both boys, and he insists that they're both musical hillbilly sprouts.

Our red-headed cowboy is an admirer of fine horses and would walk blocks out of his way to see a fine horse. We'd like to hear Texas Red on the air waves more than we do, but during wartime everyone pitches in and helps the war effort and Tex is no exception. Tex is working a regular full shift at a local war plant in addition to his work on the air so he's plenty busy at all times.

BARN DANCE ALBUM



TEXAS RED

The Head of Golden Curls

By Mack Ford

• •

I've been on the land
I've been on the sea
I've been on the ocean far and wide,
But never while there could I forget
The head of golden curls.

CHORUS

They haunt me by day
I dream of at night
A pair of bewitching blue eyes.
They haunt me by day
I dream of at night
The head of golden curls.

I've been in New England
I've been in Alaska
I've been in the fashionable city of Parea
But never while there could I forget
The head of golden curls.

I've been in theatres
I've been in saloons
I've been in guilty ballrooms,
But never while there could I forget
The head of golden curls.

I've been in churchyards
I've been in cemeteries,
No place to me more dear
For there beneath the white magnolia
Lies the head of golden curls.

Saturday Night

• •

When the work-a-day week is over
And the moon creeps o'er the hill,
Then the folks from near and far are waiting
For the carefree hours out at the Mill.

There's Jim and Joe from Platteville . . .
Sherill's "Eddie" light upon his feet,
All prepared to trip the "light fantastic"
In the barn where old friends meet.

There's Mom and Dad and all the kiddies . . .
How those youngsters quiver with delight
At the music and the jolly antics
At the Good Old Barn Dance Saturday night.

You can have your swagger ballroom . . .
With a costumed waiter at your glance,
But I wouldn't trade it for a moment
At that Good Old KDTH Barn Dance.

—K. A.

The Sunshine Sisters . . . (JEAN AND ELINOR MARTENS)

Like musical rays of sunshine, the voices of Jean and Elinor perk up the air waves on Saturday night. They're a happy, cheerful pair, as bright as their name. Both of these charming misses' have brown eyes and light brown hair and until a short time ago folks often mistook them for twins.

Elinor is the younger, and believe it or not, says she was born on Halloween Eve. They have been singing in harmony for about eight years, and went into radio about three years ago. In addition to their vocal accomplishments the girls play the accordion, guitar and harmonica.

The girls have a number of hobbies, and of course, their favorite is music. Jean and Elinor spend all their spare time practicing new numbers and trying out variations of the old. Some performers call this work, but the girls declare that it's lots of fun, and we'll take their word for it. Next to singing the girls declare that art is their favorite hobby and they really are accomplished artists turning out some mighty fine sketches. Naturally they also enjoy skating and outdoor sports, and are very much typical American girls.

Elinor and Jean were guest stars on the first season's Barn Dance presentations in the spring of 1944, and when the Fall and Winter series opened in September of that same year, they became members of the regular Barn Dance staff. Their listeners agree with us that they are really radio's little "rays of sunshine."



THE SUNSHINE SISTERS

Marilyn Kerth . . .

“Lovely to look at, lovely to hear,” are the words that best describe Marilyn Kerth, one of the featured vocalists on the Barn Dance. A talented performer, she gives to her songs the freshness of a spring breeze. Marilyn is an Iowa girl and the youngest of eight children. Her mother died when Marilyn was only eighteen months old and upon her father’s shoulders fell the task of raising the family. He was a great lover of music and taught Marilyn to sing simple tunes when she was only two years old.

Throughout her school years Marilyn held true to her musical ambitions, and she says that as far back as she can remember she looked forward toward the opportunity of doing cowgirl songs on the radio. But it’s a long, hard road to travel in order to achieve the things we desire. In the meantime Marilyn sang in school programs, worked very hard on her music and of course found time to indulge in her hobbies.

Her favorite hobbies are dancing and roller skating, but she has another one that her family appreciates just as much as her singing . . . cooking! When she turns out a meal . . . boy, that is a meal! However, Marilyn is energetic and ambitious so while the cake bakes in the oven or the roast finishes to a turn, she practices on the accordion and guitar.

Consistent work coupled with ambition always achieves a measure of success, and eventually Marilyn secured an audition for the Barn Dance and appeared as a guest artist. Her work was so well received that she became a regular member of the Barn Dance, and since that time has been one of the featured stars in the Saturday night’s festivities.

She says that blue is her favorite color, because it matches her eyes . . . but we know one thing for certain, and that is there’s not one of her listeners could feel even a little “blue,” when her songs of the range and mountains light up the air waves on Saturday night.



MARILYN KERTH

“Uncle Fiddlin’” Charlie . .

One of the featured performers known to thousands as “Uncle Fiddlin’” is in reality Charles Cain, chief engineer of Radio Station KDTH. Our Uncle Fiddlin’ was born in Dubuque in 1912 and received his education in the Dubuque Public schools and studied engineering at Iowa State College.

“Uncle Fiddlin’” is an old hand in the entertainment field and has worked with dance bands and entertainment units making radio and public appearances throughout the middlewestern states and the southern states. At all times, however, radio remained his profession, and prior to the 1940’s he maintained his association with radio stations and theaters both from a standpoint of operation and management.

Although “Uncle Fiddlin’” is known for his fiddling and refreshing humor on the Barn Dance, this is by no means the limit to his entertainment ability. His guitar playing is really out of the ordinary, and he enjoys playing that instrument almost as much as the fiddle. All his fiddle tunes come from the Ozark mountains where he spent a number of years in the entertainment management field.

“Uncle Fiddlin’s” hobby is his home and family, namely, his wife Bernice and three boys, James, Dale and Dean. His home is situated near Sandy Hook, Wisconsin, and that’s the “Poverty Ridge” of Barn Dance fame. Here, amid this lovely rural setting “Uncle Fiddlin’” spends his spare moments beautifying the landscape and the surroundings. If he keeps on we’ll soon have to change the name to “Paradise Ridge,” but to the Barn Dance it will always be “Uncle Fiddlin’” Charlie, from “Poverty Ridge.”

BARN DANCE ALBUM



UNCLE FIDDLIN' CHARLIE

The Stuttering Song

As Sung by Sandy Ford

• •

Oh I've a D-D-D-D Darling little brother
He's the im-im-im-im image of his mother
And he t-t-t-t talks just like his father
And like m-m-m-m me he stutters too.

CHORUS

Oh what a p-p-p-p pity that he stutters
How he st-st-st-st stammers and he mutters,
All the p-p-p-p people close their shutters
When they s-s-s-s see us passing by.

Oh, I've a d-d-d-d darling little cousin
She's got s-s-s-s sisters by the dozens
And they k-k-k-k keep their tongues a'buzzin'
For like m-m-m-m me they stutter too.

You should have seen my sister's feller when he kissed her
You'd have th-th-th-th thought he raised a blister
For he went (*make kissing noise four times*)
And then he missed her.
For like m-m-m-m me they stutter too.

But you should have seen my sister when she got married
You'd have th-th-th-th thought she would have tarried
For she was just three weeks in getting married
For the p-p-p-p parson stuttered too.

A Word of Appreciation . . .

The entire Barn Dance staff wishes to thank every one for the fine and favorable response with which the Barn Dance has been accepted. We sincerely hope that the background and pictorial material contained in this album will give our many listeners a feeling of real friendship such as is felt by every member of the staff toward you.

This is *your* Barn Dance and your patronage has made its great success possible. We are especially happy to observe that those in attendance are of all age groups, young and old. It is with particular satisfaction to find that so many who attend the Barn Dance come in family groups. It is our desire to make the Barn Dance a family entertainment feature in the Tri-State area. It is with this thought in mind that we strive to maintain the highest entertainment standards it is possible to attain.

We will continue to do our utmost to bring you the type of entertainment that you enjoy, and several expansion programs are in mind that will tend to truly make the KDTH Barn Dance, and Melody Mill the outstanding entertainment spot in the Midwest. Once again, *thanks!* And now, it's So-long . . . Good Luck . . . and *see you at the Barn Dance!*

THE BARN DANCE GANG.
Mack and Sandy Productions.

Autographs . . .

Fred Gray

The Sunshine Sister
Jean + Elinor
Mantley

Best O' Luck

Sandy Ford

Wack Ford

Karl Anthony

Ellenworth

Just to a swell
gal as you
are!

Howard O.
your friend

"Skinny" Strader

Best of Wishes

Marilyn Keith

Good Luck

Good Wishes

Uncle Fiddlin

Kay Kody

(Aunt + Cousin) Charlie

Lois Strader
Wife of Skinny

Lots of Luck
Texas

Red

Lots of Luck from the

Barnstormers

Fritz Water

Skinny Ellis

Harb. Grewe

Tex Schudy

Jimmy Scher

Clarence
Johnnie

"Lots of Luck
to you

Doris Schuler

Ruth Elmer
R.E.P. my
Boyfriend
Doris Red

Luck just to you
Danna Snodgrass

Love my
Red
just to you
with luck

Charlie Cain
Nancy Fiddlin