

Closed Circuit

\$50 !!

THE WGN, INC., FAMILY LETTER

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ENGINEER BOB BAIRD WINS TOP PRIZE IN EMPLOYEE CONTEST

Bob Baird, radio engineering supervisor and veteran member of the department, won the top \$50.00 award in the recent National Radio Month contest conducted among WGN, Inc., employees and their families. The other winners were:



\$10.00 CASH AWARDS

Charles M. McConnell, Transcription
Jim Harden, News
Jack Taylor, Announcer
David Taylor, Personnel Supervisor
Bill Thompson, Radio Sales

\$5.00 CASH AWARD

Denise Marie Hanlon, Daughter of Jim Hanlon
Hilton Remley, TV Transmitter Engineer
Robert L. Sibold, Engineering
Leonard Baldy, Traffic Copter
Chuck Garner, Public Relations
Felix Kubik, News
Eddie Hubbard, Announcer
Jack Brickhouse, Sports Director
Carlyle Stevens, TV Operations
LeRoy Olliger, TV Operations

Each week CLOSED CIRCUIT will publish one of the winners, starting with Bob Baird's story in this issue. Meanwhile, Public Relations is using the stories collected in this contest to start a permanent file and record of amusing radio stories as related by members of the staff.

Congratulations to all winners in this contest and a hearty thanks for participating in this unique feature of our National Radio Month observance.

BOB BAIRD'S MOST AMUSING RADIO STORY - WINNER OF FIRST PRIZE!



"Back in the 30's WGN originated the most popular kid show in the nation, Little Orphan Annie! Every week-day at 5:45 PM kids in every State of the Nation sat glued to their radio to see what would happen to Annie, her friend Joe Corntassel and faithful Sandy. One night something did happen on Annie's show that wasn't in the script!

From Studio 3 our first show went "live" to the East coast and was recorded at this time for release one hour later for Chicago and Mountain time stations. Later again for Pacific coast listeners. Our Organist was Len Salvo, Sound Effects LeRoy Olliger and Lloyd Knight, Announcer Pierre Andre and yours truly the Engineer.

The cast would leave after the first show, leaving the WGN crew to put on the repeat shows via recording. To do this, we would repeat the opening and close with live organ and live commercials and then insert the show portion in the middle.

One night, after a most hectic time for Annie and her friends, battling savage natives in the Congo, a trip in a balloon that crashed on a rock shore, a fight with a sea monster that came ashore to do them harm plus several other small items, the show finally ended. Our Sound Effects crew had done a noble job, there wasn't an inch of floor space that wasn't covered with broken glass, crushed strawberry boxes, broom straw, water, torn scripts, sand and gravel plus dozens of noise-making devices! All in all, a lovely picture of utter confusion and shambles in an otherwise beautiful Studio. Having won the battle, the Sound boys retired with the Cast.

One hour later, Salvo, Andre and myself were standing by, waiting for the cue from Master Control to start the second show. The studio door opened and in shuffled our house-man, carrying his broom and dust pan. As the clock hands approached 5:45 he slowly walked over and stood behind Pierre, poised at the mike and ready to scream his nightly announcement "It's Orphan Annie time!!" He surveyed the debris, leaned against his broom and slowly shook his head. Then, just as the red light went on to start the show, our hero tapped Pierre on the shoulder and commented, "Sandy ole poop every night, eh Andre?"

Just another little "extra added service" WGN always tried to give our listeners!"

* Translate POOP to S---!