

The New

WKBN

R A D I O S T A T I O N

PERSONALITIES



YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO



The New
WKBN

PERSONALITIES
YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Compiled and Published by
NATIONAL RADIO PERSONALITIES
Peoria, Illinois
Litho in U. S.
Copyright, 1939



WARREN P. WILLIAMSON, JR., PRESIDENT

WARREN P. WILLIAMSON, JR., PRESIDENT

The possessor of an unusual combination in radio executives—training, experience and foresight in both operating and technical phases of the business—that describes Warren P. Williamson, Jr., president and general manager of the WKBN Broadcasting Company.

His interest in the mechanics of radio, (then known as wireless) began in his sixth year of school, 1912, even before he had reached his "teens." At the age of 12 years, he received his initial license to operate under the call 8KT and as a result, probably became the first amateur wireless operator in the Mahoning valley.

The attraction of the new means of communications increased with the years, through his early scholastic terms, into special training at the Dodge Institute of Telegraphy and ultimately to a license as a first-class commercial government operator. About that time the government intelligence division enlisted his special qualifications for army duty on the Mexican border. Honorably discharged a year and a half later as Master Signal Electrician, he visioned the future opportunities in radio and acted to increase his knowledge through further study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at the Universities of Michigan and Wisconsin.

Upon completion of his college courses, he spent three years in the Employment department of the Republic Iron and Steel Corporation, obtaining the practical contacts which were to prove so valuable later on. But never once did he neglect his interest in radio—if through no other medium than his amateur station 8AXJ.

His first venture into private business came with the organization of the Radio Electric Service Company, later expanded to combine radio service with the sale of radios and electrical refrigerators. Public interest in radio and its facilities was continually mounting and with it, a typical question . . . "Why didn't Youngstown have its own radio station?" Mr. Williamson gave the answer in 1926 and the station met with success from the start.

So much so, in fact, that after four years it was incorporated, with Mr. Williamson devoting his full time to its operation and disposing of his other interests. And since that time, following a well-planned program, WKBN has kept abreast of the field in a steady march of progress to provide its listeners with the best possible facilities in entertainment and service.

All of WKBN's achievements speak eloquently of the ability and courage and foresight of its president and general manager. Naturally, he plays an important part in the social and civic life of the community. Outside of his business, his home and family, his only other interest, is his hobby—candid photography.

Message

We've been so busy during the past two years, building a new transmitter and completing new studios that we haven't had as much time as we'd like to visit with all our friends. Of course, it isn't transmitters or new studios or microphones which make a radio station. It's people, personalities—the folks you come to depend on day after day to bring you the best in radio entertainment and service. All things put together, we thought this would be an appropriate time to get better acquainted—a sort of celebration. So we're coming to you in this Personalities album, saying a personal "hello" to each and every one of you and promising to keep faith—to continue always to keep in mind a bigger and better WKBN for you, our listeners.

Warren P. Williamson, Jr.

EXECUTIVE—Designed for convenience and dispatch, this neat, compact office provides the workshop for WKBN's general manager. In addition to his duties as guiding executive of the station's program activities, Mr. Williamson also keeps a knowing finger on its technical endeavors.





CANDID PREVIEW

While Photographer Bob Spratt adjusted his lights and lenses to register the scores of photo studies which appear in this album, the candid camera of General Manager Williamson was clicking into its film, a unique collection of the same subjects in his best "odd-angle" style. Herewith, is a typical sample of the hobby handicraft to tell its own story and with it, a "preview" of the complete range of "WKBN in pictures" presented in the remaining pages.

Studio Luxury

Modern beauty, efficiency and convenience are combined in a striking manner in WKBN's new studios and office suite, covering a major portion of the Youngstown YMCA building third floor. No series of photos could effectively tell the story of the \$20,000 expansion program which added two broadcast studios, introduced new lounges and reception rooms, installed all the most modern conveniences and, in general, put the WKBN home far in the lead among radio stations of its size. The office suite includes the newest equipment for a complete transcription and record file, announcer's offices, engineers' quarters, sales offices, executive offices and the general staff and continuity divisions. The entire suite is air-conditioned.

Few radio stations, too, can boast the almost phenomenal progress of Youngstown's friendly station. In addition to its new studios—its new transmitter building and transmitter equipment, it now takes the airways with a power increase which spreads its listening area to an even greater degree—truly, an outstanding series in the milestones of progress.

Above
Simplicity—An immediate impression of the striking beauty of the new WKBN studios greets visitors at this specially-designed entrance. An unusual decorative combination is achieved through the use of natural walnut wood, walls of pale aqua and trim of satin-finished aluminum.

Right
Reception—Simplicity again strikes the keynote in the design and furnishings of the WKBN reception lobby, photographed during a typical work-day, with Hostess Catherine Sherman accepting a delivery from a messenger while a trio of callers awaits appointments.



Left
Lounge—This comfy visitors' lounge in the inner offices of WKBN is available for visitors or special conferences. Attractively furnished in the modern manner, it affords welcome respite from the hectic office routine.





Entrances—Efficiency and modern decorative beauty are combined in this photographic study of the new WKBN studio entrances. The entrance to the main studio "A" (at the left) does not appear in the photo. Satin-finished aluminum panels trim the circular glass door openings, giving the effect of a stream-lined ocean-going steamer. Concealed lighting adds to the attractiveness of the general scheme together with the unusual speaker-cabinet from which is monitored all programs. Note wall lights to indicate use of respective studios.

Appointments—Charming Georgia Davidson conducts the affairs of the program department from this well-appointed alcove fronting the studio entrances. Floor covering of deep maroon, upholstery to match and the same theme of walnut wood-trim, maintains the effective simplicity.





AUDITION OBSERVATION
 —When visitors desire to watch broadcasts in progress, the new WKBN studio arrangement affords the privacy of this sound-proof audition room as seen from Studio "D" with Paul B. Davies, general secretary of the Youngstown Y. M. C. A. and several members of his staff, intent on the message of the announcer at the microphone. Note microphone in observation room which permits communication to the studio, also convenient microphone.

OPERATIONS PANORAMA—The immensity of the WKBN studio facilities becomes apparent in this photo taken from the main studio, "A" with the engineer on duty in the control room, through the glass paneled windows into Studio "D" on the opposite side, where Announcer Charles Lake stands at a microphone.



STUDIO ARRANGEMENT—A photographic composition giving a limited idea of the efficient arrangement of the four WKBN studios. This view from Studio "D" shows Announcer Albert Dowling through the sound-proof glass window in Studio "C" with Chief Engineer Bernard Wilkens standing at the equipment racks and Engineer Percy Pennock at the control console. A portion of Studio "A" may be seen through the window, (background control room).



J. LOTHAIRE BOWDEN Station Director

The veteran of the WKBN staff, a personable young man with an abundance of natural ability, practical experience and training in most of radio's requisites, and a vigorous ambition to utilize every possibility in the yet unexplored radio field—that's J. Lothaire Bowden, better known to his friends and associates as "Dutch."

He joined the WKBN staff in October, 1928 and since that time has served in practically all divisions of production work. For some of this period, he was dividing his time as teacher of English and Public Speaking in Youngstown schools, a post he held for 8 years. His first job was in the accounting division of the Erie railroad and later for two years, he managed an insurance agency. At the same time, he was taking a post graduate course in the Youngstown Y. M. C. A. law school.

For background, there was a course in music at Hiram college where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1925. During his grade and high school days, he studied elocution extensively—won state honors for declamation and extemporaneous speaking; captained the debating team two of the four years during which he was a member, and appeared in frequent dramatics.

Many of WKBN's present successful policies are the result of his initiative and understanding. He has completely reorganized the various divisions of work and through an exhaustive study of WKBN's service expansion, has been able to build up this important component part of radio to its current importance in community life.

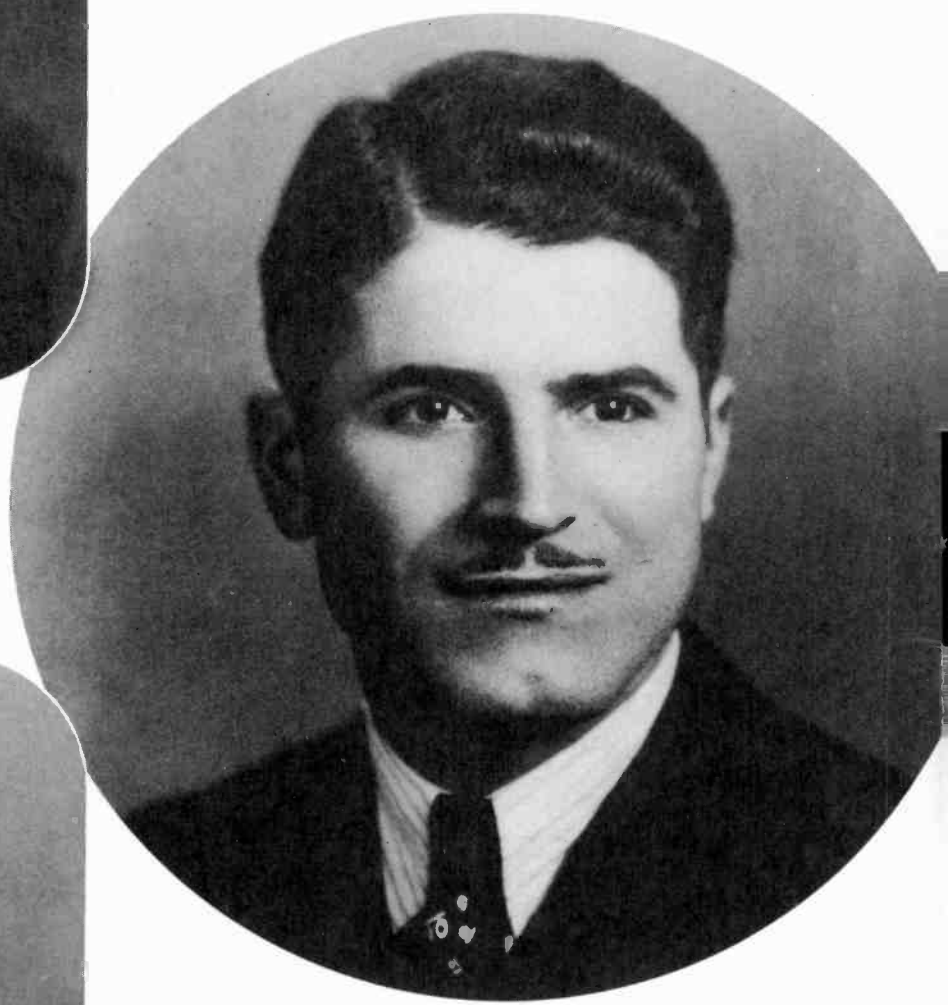
He is best known to listeners for his dramatic interpretations and his "Hour with the Poets." He's married, has no particular hobby, works "All over the clock" and when he has time, likes to indulge in golf, hunting or fishing.

ORINATION—From this office, like the center of an imaginary spiderweb, emanates all of WKBN'S programs, in one form or another. At the extreme right is the special Transradio teletype printer on which is received a steady flow of vital news-happenings from all parts of the world. The huge book on the table is used to schedule each program for its specific time during the broadcast period, sometimes months in advance.





GEORGIA DAVIDSON—Program Director
Eastern training obliterated her Texas accent and equipped her in speech and dramatics, then a natural course to the dramatic staff at KDKA, Pittsburg. Joined WKBN October 1, 1935. Her first job was that of newspaper writer and she has been employed also as fashion model, playground director and camp councilor. As a child, she wanted to be a missionary in the tropics so she could wear boots, white breeches and a pith helmet. Now she wants to earn enough money to travel extensively. She has studied and played violin since she was four years old but declines to display her musical talents before a microphone. As a hobby, she lists "collecting publishers, rejection slips." She likes to cook, work in the garden and attend symphony concerts. She was born in Pittsburg, attended Westminster college; Wichita Falls School of Fine Arts and Carnegie Institute of Technology. Listeners know her best for her parts in radio dramatics.



ANTHONY ROSS—Production-Announcer →

Auditioned for place in chorus group scheduled to make WKBN debut. Liked radio so well, he took up announcing. That was October, 1934. Still at it. Born in Campbell, Ohio, August 20th, 1910, still resides there. Possesses B. S. degree in education, also Master of Arts. Originally wanted to be electrical engineer but now hopes to become good speech teacher and "good" announcer. Modesty is obvious, continuously strives for perfection, reads extensively, favorite sport is hockey and favorite food is spaghetti. Known among radio friends as "Tony." Believes Orson Welles is tops as radio artist, Ronald Colman in movies. Conservative, quiet, friendly—and unmarried.



WAYNE JOHNSON

Production-Announcer

A friend dared Wayne Johnson to take a radio audition as a hymn singer. He got a job, an accompanist and a wife. Was born in Kenton, Ohio, August 10, 1904, attended high school there, business college in Fort Wayne, Ind., and later Ohio Northern University. First job was teller in Lima, Ohio bank. Worked as vocalist-announcer at WJW, WHK, WJAY and announced Great Lakes Exposition before job at WKBN, July 1, 1937. Original ambition was to be an orchestra leader but he plays no musical instrument. When not at work, likes to "putter around the house and work in the yard." Plays golf, baseball and likes travel. Is aware that he's stubborn, hard to serve in restaurant but soon recovers composure—doesn't hold a grudge. Married in Cleveland, July 7, 1935.

Albert H. Dowling—Production-Announcer
 Had been active in Little Theater as organist-writer. When job as newspaper dramatic-music reviewer expired, turned to radio as outlet for combined interests. Employed WLBW, Erie, Pa., WBEN, Buffalo, N. Y. and WLEU, Erie before joining WKBN staff April, 1938. Native of Erie, born June 6, 1890. Studied organ, harmony composition 6 years. Has traveled abroad. Boyhood ambition was to be blacksmith, now hopes to achieve niche in radio. Theater is still his hobby, his favorite pastime is hiking and he'll hike any distance for a good steak. Confesses he has "plenty" of faults and assumes that friends will disclose his redeeming virtues. Addresses microphone as if talking to one person.



Don Gardner—Sports Reporter

Accepted a challenge to share sports knowledge with radio listeners—that was in June, 1932. Has continued in that role ever since. Full name is Donald McKenzie Gardner, Youngstown native, born December 11, 1905. Received A. B. degree Columbia University, 1928. Has worked in 5 valley steel mills—currently teaches Latin in Princeton Junior high school. First job was grocery delivery boy. Has an ambition to be big league sports announcer. Claims he is uncrowned city pinochle champ—likes football as a spectator; confesses he is dilatory and seldom on time but believes these faults offset by willingness to come to immediate aid of a friend. Is undisturbed at microphone.

CHARLIE LAKE—Production-Announcer

When "talent scouts" failed to discover Charlie (not Charles) Lake, he considers he "bluffed" his way into radio. Notwithstanding, his first job was announcing at KOY, Phoenix, Ariz., and his record of experience includes assignments at WBNS, Columbus, Ohio; WTOG, Savanna, Ga.; WQAM, Miami, Fla., and WLW, Cincinnati before he came to WKBN, January 1, 1939. Besides his announcing talents, he also qualifies as a radio pianist and has been playing for air audiences since he was 16 years old. Born in Galveston, Texas, September 24, 1912; was introduced to Ohio through scholarship at Wesleyan. Doesn't care for "fancy" clothes, proclaims an inexplicable indifference towards the almighty dollar, will argue or eat (mostly eat) at the drop of a hat. Once did Charleston exhibitions.



Programs



Above
THE HISTORY BOOK—A devotee to a hobby which has won him acclaim as an authority on Lincolniana, Bryan Wade, clerk of Youngstown's Board of Election Commissioners, now enlightens WKBN listeners each week with an interesting discussion on the little-known events of history.

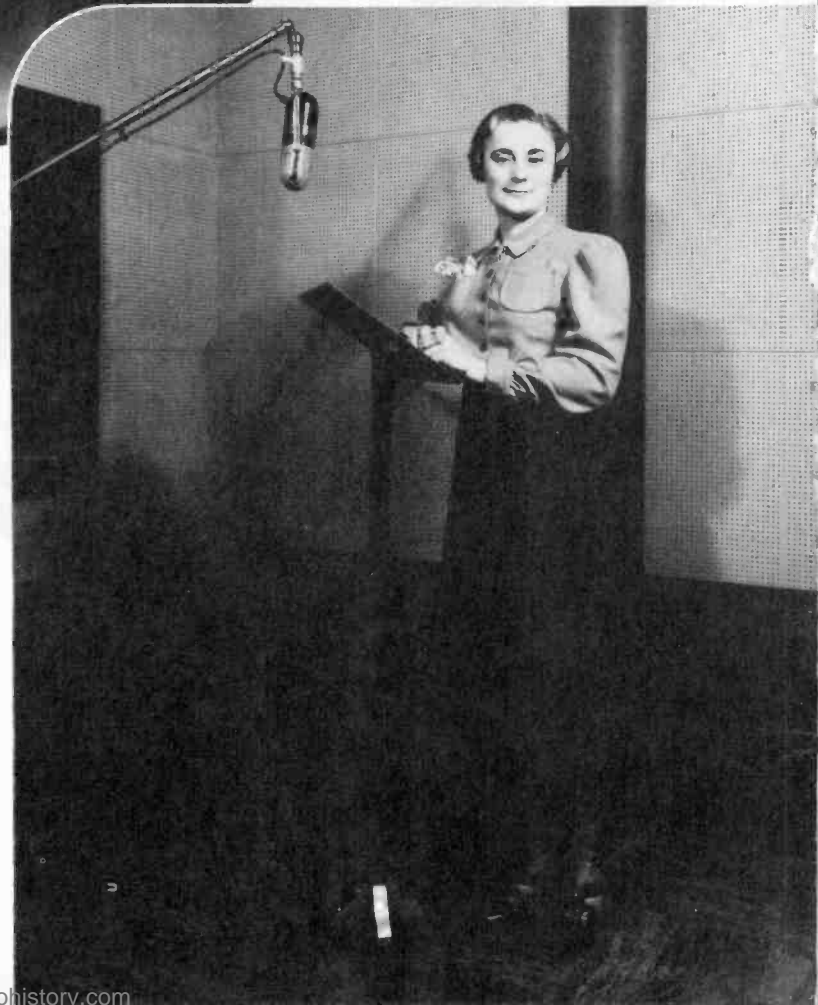


Above
The Friendly Advisor—Under this appealing title, Dr. Frederick B. McAllister of First Baptist Temple, calls upon his vast knowledge of human nature to present a dignified discussion of problems of the home and fire-side as sought by troubled listeners.



Below
Medical Talks—Current health problems are discussed in the regular weekly series of broadcasts presented by the Mahoning Valley Medical Society and in which practically every member of the profession has appeared during the long duration of the program. Dr. Claude B. Norris is president of the group.

Federation Hour—Mrs. Clarence J. Goldthorpe (center) president of the Youngstown Federation of Women's Clubs, who has been prominent in arranging the series of programs covering all phases of the organization's scores of endeavors. Below is Miss Emma Pauline Cook at a WKBN microphone presenting one such program, a specially adapted one-act play.





Left
"Y" Time—Among the numerous civic groups which flourish with the cooperation of WKBN is the Youngstown College Radio club, shown during a recent broadcast. Included in the group are: J. Harold Campbell, director; Paul R. Dean, president; and Joseph V. Seefried, William W. Watson, John Kennedy, Peter J. Zurrow, Gertrude Madison, Margaret MacGoogan, Ruth Wilcox, Frank Stewart, Beryl Dent, Alfred DelFraino, Sturgis Carbon, John Schume and Bill Acks.

Trumbull Schools—Approximately 7,000 children in Trumbull county schools listen to WKBN each week for the regular series of special broadcasts presented by their classmates. The photo (right) shows the glee club of 30 voices from the Leavittsburg high school with Dorothy Fuller, vocal instructor and Charles Lowry, county superintendent of music. The photo below was taken during the presentation of an educational drama by the school's dramatics club, under the direction of Milford Murphree, instructor.



Above
D. A. R.—One of the numerous civic groups with which WKBN cooperates consistently, is the Daughters of the American Revolution. The accompanying photo shows Mrs. Ormund H. Munger, regent of the Mahoning chapter, as she appeared in a recent microphone address.



Left
Morning Altar Service—The broadcast day's inaugural program, appropriately titled "Morning Altar Service," arranged by J. Ernest Shaw, Director of Religious activities at the Y. M. C. A., and presenting individuals and groups from all denominations. The photo shows a typical program group, vocalists at the right, speakers at the left, all from the Wesley Foundation at Kent State University. Rev. Walter C. Eyster, Minister for Students is shown with Mr. Shaw, in the center.



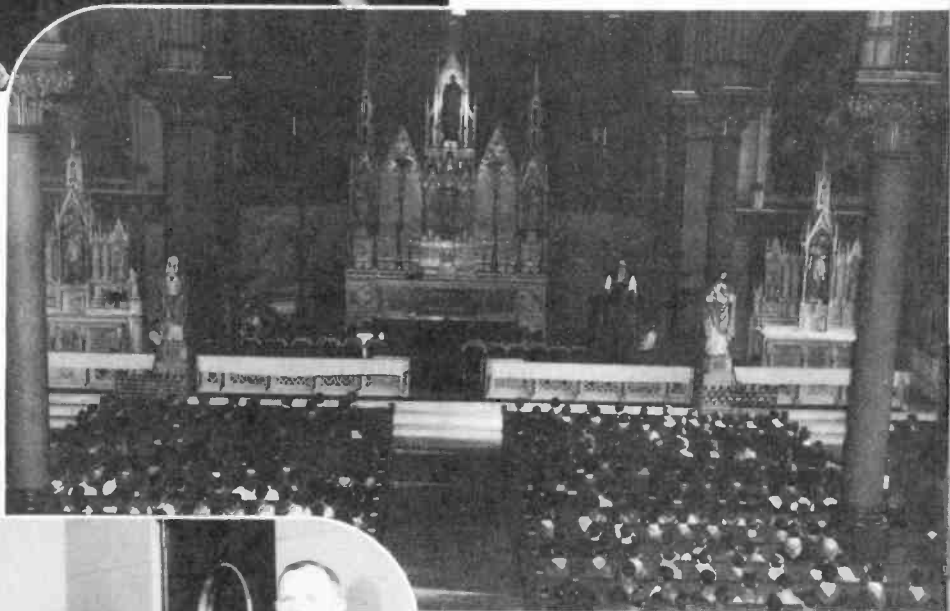
Neopolitan Melodies—One of the outstanding WKBN features, presenting string interpretations of famous Italian classics as offered by John Ambriolia, announcer; Alfred Lane, Piano; Joseph Hubert, cello; Michael R. Pucci, violin and director, and 14-year-old Madeline Pucci, soprano.



Polish Hour—Music of the homeland and the native language make the Polish hour, one of WKBN's most popular regular Sunday morning features. Those heard on the program, shown in the photo, are Edward DeLong, Harry L. Joyce, Fred Kiefer, Myron DeLong (vocalist) Nick Cappiello, Sam Labrie and Joseph Habuda, Polish announcer.



Left
Stars of Tomorrow—Talented youngsters, many of them destined for fame and fortune, appear each Sunday in a special WKBN feature. The photo shows one of the youthful programs in progress with 12-year-old Margaret McKinney, tap dancer, at the microphone. Janet Ferguson, pianist, is at the left; Dutch Bowden conducts the program while Director Georgia Davidson looks on.



Right
The Holy Hour—Showing the interior of St. Columbia's Catholic church, on West Wood street, Youngstown, from which originates the regular Sunday evening 5 to 5:30 p. m. Vesper Hour service.



Left
Tambouritz Music—Members of the "Dr. Ante Starcevic" tambourita orchestra, appearing in the regular weekly Croatia hour. First row, Frank Bestic, Peter Zugcic, Joseph Zugcic, Rudolph Brajdich; 2nd row, Nick Novacich, Stephen Paulin, Joseph Bestic, Paul Kohut, Philip Zugcic and Mark Tomcic, leader.



Children's Chorus—These 60 children from the New Waterford high school sang in mixed chorus in one of the frequent Columbiana county school programs. At the extreme right is Miss A. Minnetta Esterly, supervisor of music for the school. Announcer Johnson is at the extreme left.

Is that So?—This is the question confronting contestants in a weekly quiz feature conducted from Auditorium studio. The questions cover such subjects as grammar, history, geography, spelling, and arithmetic. The photo shows a portion of the audience and on the stage, a group of contestants with Tony Ross, conductor and Dutch Bowden as announcer.

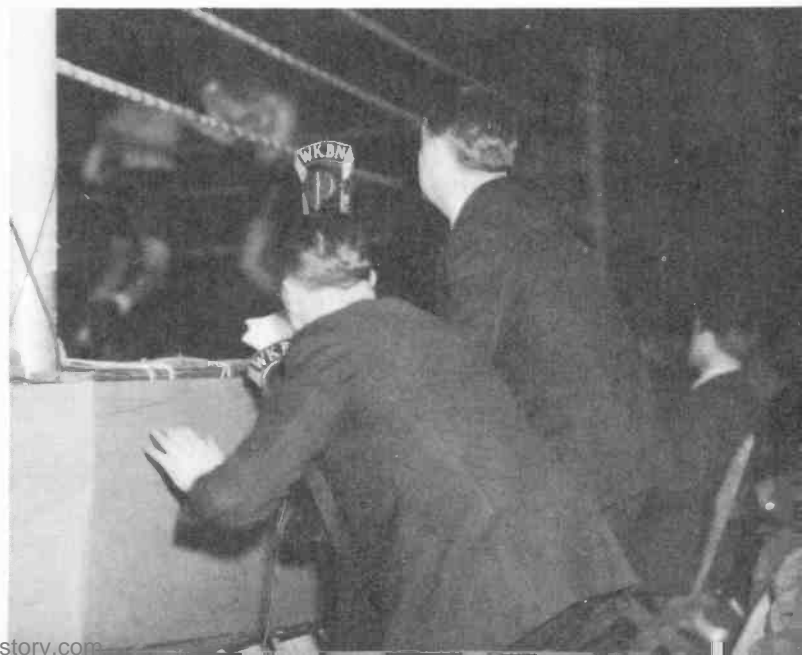


Nu Elm Ballroom—A typical scene at the Nu Elm ballroom during one of the many WKBN broadcasts from this popular entertainment center. The photo shows Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra, with Vocalist Edythe Wright at the microphone.

Sports Action—Here's the press box at South High Stadium with Don Gardner, sports announcer and Wayne Johnson at the Microphones. Al Hardy and assistants are at the controls. From this observation point originates many sports broadcasts of stadium events, to find their way into the homes of WKBN listeners.



Boxing Show—Wherever there is action you will find the WKBN microphones as indicated in this photo at the ringside at Rayenwood auditorium during the 1939 Annual Golden Gloves boxing tourney sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Dutch Bowden and Don Gardner are dishing it out.





Italian Musical Gems—A string quartet under the direction of Michael Ficocelli and featuring the lovely soprano voice of Isabella Rozzano, heard each Sunday. All the favorite Italian compositions with a generous variety of popular selections are included.



Art Activities—Trends in art activities in Youngstown are discussed in an interesting weekly program by Joseph G. Butler, III, president of the Butler Art Institute. On occasions, Mr. Butler introduces prominent local and visiting artists and critics.

Parent-Teacher Council—Mrs. John R. Sickinen, president of the Youngstown Parent-Teacher Council, poses before a WKBN microphone as head of one of the many civic groups which shares the facilities of the radio station in all of its community endeavors.



Italian Echoes—The musical masterpieces of native Italy highlight the regular "Italian Echoes" program, a weekly native language feature. Those in the group include: Harry Joyce, clarinet; Fred Warnock, drums; George Martinko, cello; William Carroll, cornet; Guiseppe Vernucci, announcer; Alberto Reardon, violin; Vincent Delle Fave, vocalist; Albert D'Orsi, piano; Stephen Napolitano, base and Joe Martinko, leader.

WKBN Concert Ensemble—A versatile musical group heard regularly in special concerts is the WKBN ensemble. Bert Reardon is director and Harry M. Dunspaugh, extreme right, is guest conductor. They were photographed during an Auditorium broadcast.





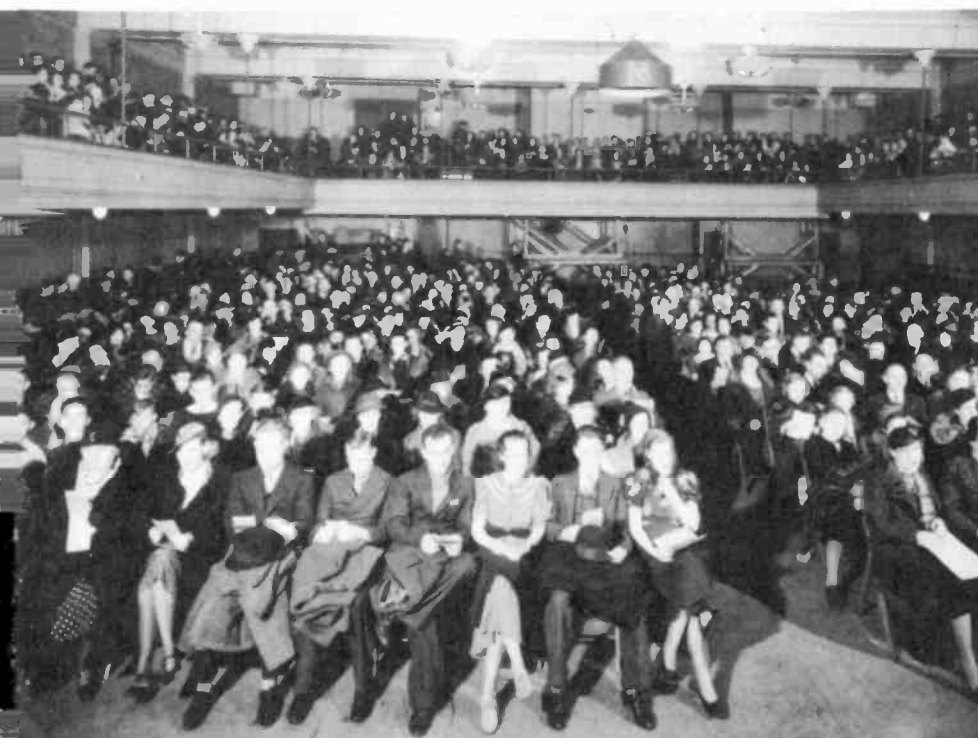
Canal Booster—Congressman Michael Kirwin speaks before joint meeting of Kiwanis club and Youngstown Real Estate Board promoting Great Lakes to Ohio River ship canal. WKBN listeners also heard the address.



Music Appreciation—Dr. Henry V. Stearns, dean of the music department of Youngstown college and minister of music at First Presbyterian church, associated with the Youngstown Symphony orchestra, who was featured in a series of enlightening radio discussions on the understanding of symphony music.



Variety Show—An imposing array of hopeful amateurs, gathered on the stage at Central auditorium for one of the regular WKBN Amateur Variety show performances. In photo above at the microphone (left) are Ray Pugh, sponsor, Willie Dunn, announcer and Rosy Rosewell, master of ceremonies. At the right is Dave Williams, song leader, and in the accompanying photo, below, a view of the audience during one of the Williams-conducted community sings held in connection with the program.



Homemaker—An unusual photographic study through a studio window panel, disclosing Georgia Davidson at the microphone during one of the newly inaugurated Homemaker Hour series.



Purple Sage Riders—Featured on early morning programs with their lovable music of the western prairies and mountains. The photo shows the artists "on the trail," leader Harry V. Wood, Roy "Whistling" Rodgers, Tuscon Slim Lunde, Cody Red and Smoky Mountain Sue.

Right
Accordion Singer—Louis Thomas combines his talents as vocalist and accordionist, the result is an unusual radio program which wins for him the title "Accordion Singer."

Below
Vocal Variety—Esther Huber and her sister-accompanist, Mary, presenting regular programs of vocal varieties, have won a warm spot for themselves in the hearts of Mahoning Valley listeners. They are shown during a broadcast.



Below
The Washingtons—Thrice weekly, Mr. and Mrs. Charles N. Washington, gospel singers, appear before the microphone, presenting a program of familiar hymns. They are shown discussing arrangement of a broadcast program.



Hayden Quartet—Four youthful masters of the violin who appear in regular broadcast concerts. Left to right in the photo are Harold Levoff, Shirley Myerovich, Rosella Myerovich and Olga Parfenchuk with their accompanist, Elva Myerovich and Director Alvin Myerovich, standing.



Left

Mozart Trio—An informal pose by members of this well-known radio string trio, left to right, Betty Beckerbach, Olga Parfenchuk, Elva Myerovich, accompanist and Irving Hotimsky.



Above
Hawaiian Melody Boys—Music in the manner of the South Seas by a group of talented artists, Joe Luscre, his brother Tony and Frank Yarnevich, provides a pleasing variety in the WKBN program schedules.

Left
Poet of the Piano—Dick Lynch, versatile pianist, whose distinctive instrumental interpretations of popular ballads, entertains WKBN listeners each week.

Projects



SLUM CLEARANCE—Youngstown achieved nation-wide fame as the United States Housing Authority's choice in which to open its war on slums. The occasion was observed with appropriate ceremonies, attended by numerous nationally-known guests, and was described to WKBN listeners and a nation-wide network. The photo strip shows (A) the first two-room shack doomed to destruction; (B) a part of the crowd assembled for the event; (C) (D) (E) Nathan Strauss, U. S. Housing Authority Administrator; Senator Robert A. Bulkley; Mayor Lionel Evans and W. Edgar Leedy, chairman of the local project, speakers, and (F) the frail shack as it collapsed when the work of demolition was started. Paul L. Strait is director of the Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority now replacing this and other demolished structures with a modern low-cost housing project.

Dance Orchestra—One of Youngstown's currently popular dance orchestras, abreast before the microphone with its leader Charles James at the extreme right.



Maestro and Maiden—Wick Mackey, orchestra leader, ponders admiringly while posing with his vocalist, pretty Betty Hodgson. Both orchestra and songstress have been heard on frequent WKBN broadcasts.



Accordian Band Contest—This array of accordian artists appeared on the stage of the Warner theater and before WKBN microphones in a special Wurlitzer contest. Paul Rosselli, instructor, directed this group, the Youngstown Accordion band.





Traffic Safety—Radio proves its value in another community endeavor, the promotion of traffic safety. Traffic Commissioner Clarence W. Coppersmith and his timely traffic talks are heard frequently from WKBN.



Right Harry Butler—Accordion artist who has appeared on numerous occasions as a WKBN soloist, currently a member of the Cedar Trio.



Two Hundred Fingers—One of the most unusual instrumental organizations, the McGiffin Ensemble, appearing at the annual Spring Music Festival on the stage of the Sambaugh auditorium. Miss Helen E. McGiffin's teacher and director. She is shown standing.



Music Center—The Junior Symphony orchestra, its members ranging in age from 8 to 12 years, later graduating to the Senior Symphony group, and both appearing in annual concerts from WKBN. Both are directed by Michael Ficocelli. From these young artists often are chosen future members of the Youngstown Symphony orchestra.

Shy Lockson—Well-known Youngstown musician and leader of one of the city's popular dance orchestras, heard frequently from WKBN.

Soprano—Grace Straw, popular Youngstown soprano, frequently featured vocalist with the Youngstown symphony orchestra and other talented groups.

Air Mail Week—The success of numerous post office endeavors, according to Postmaster A. W. Craver, can be attributed to radio and the cooperation of WKBN. These include Air Mail Week, Christmas mail regulations and sundry postal endeavors.





The Freshest Thing in Town—Otherwise Jonny Lawrence, juvenile radio star and his best girl, Mary Jane. In the accompanying photo are the 25 Youngstown winners (and their friends) in one of the Johnny Lawrence Safety Club contests, as they appeared in the WKBN studios. The club membership now numbers into the thousands.



Tee Rose—Exponent of "rippling swing," this popular Youngstown maestro and his orchestra are well-known to WKBN listeners.



RUTH AUTENREITH ORCHESTRA—One of Youngstown's most popular musical aggregations and long familiar to the microphones of WKBN. Miss Autenreith's exceptional ability as a pianist features the distinctive orchestra music.



Annual Christmas Fund Party—This array of foodstuffs tells only a partial story of WKBN's Christmas fund activities in cooperation with the South Side Merchants and Civic Association. Of it, Arthur Peacock, secretary, says, "With the assistance of WKBN we have been able to provide food supplies, clothing and medical attention to thousands of Youngstown's needy."

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS—Many broadcasts by Catholic organizations of Youngstown and vicinity were presented from WKBN to stimulate interest in the third Diocesan Eucharistic Congress held in Stambaugh auditorium. A colorful scene during the gathering is shown.



The Story Lady—Mrs. Claude B. Norris, in the library of her home, entertaining a group of youngsters with one of her stories, such as she tells with outstanding success to the youthful listeners of WKBN.



Governor's Visit—Governor John W. Bricker, often heard from WKBN, waves a friendly greeting from the auto bearing his party on a recent visit to Youngstown.





Kaleidoscope—A dramatization of American "Milestones" from the Declaration of Independence to the present day, depicting American ideals and institutions, provided the vehicle for the popular "Kaleidoscope" series of programs written by Mrs. Raymond L. Falls and presented to WKBN listeners by Judge Elmer T. Phillips, Court of Appeals, 7th district, Ohio.



Popular Baritone—George Bergman, well-known Youngstown vocalist, is snapped in action before a WKBN microphone.



Social Security—Current regulations and developments in the government's social security plans are brought to WKBN listeners in a series of talks presented by Ed Falhaber, administrative officer of the Social Security Board of Youngstown.



Fire Prevention—Fire Chief Herman Steinforth, leader in fire prevention endeavors, who instituted numerous radio series in this campaign and also cooperates in the regular WKBN feature of daily fire loss reports.



Michael Ficocelli, co-conductor Youngstown Symphony Orchestra.



Albert H. Kindler, president Youngstown Symphony Society.

Youngstown Symphony Orchestra—Representing the ambitions and diligence of its organizers, Michael and Carmine Ficocelli, an outstanding group of more than sixty musicians. The Ficocelli brothers alternate as conductor and concert master. The orchestra's annual concert projects have won wide acclaim, and with other appearances, are heard frequently from WKBN.



Carmine Ficocelli, co-conductor Youngstown Symphony Orchestra.



Premier Octet—Talented vocalists heard often from WKBN. A Masonic group under the direction of T. Herbert Davies.



Dreams Come True—Al and Molly O'Day, personalities in a daily radio feature originated in the studios of WKBN, dreamed and planned the construction of a model home. And in this case, at least, the dreams came true, with the construction of the F. H. A. Electric Home shown in the accompanying photo. More than that, Al and Molly furnished the model home with the most advanced conveniences and appliances. Scores of local merchants cooperated in furnishing the "dream home;" numerous civic

groups added their support and upon its completion, the residence was inspected by more than 10,000 Ohio visitors who had listened to the radio story. Leaders of some of the cooperating civic groups are shown: Mrs. E. T. MacDonnell, past president of the Youngstown Federation of Women's Clubs; Miss Catherine Edmunds, American Association of University Women; Miss Vidla Paroz, supervisor of home economics of Youngstown Public schools and Mrs. Clarence J. Goldthorpe, president of the Women's Federation.



Motion Picture Appreciation—Mrs. Walter Bennett Smith, president of the Youngstown Cinema Club and an active figure in the series of WKBN programs, discussing motion picture standards and appreciation.



Probate Court—A little-understood branch of court procedure furnished the topic for an unusual series of radio talks presented by Judge Clifford M. Woodside of Mahoning County probate court. In addition, he has broadcast on other matters of civic interest and public welfare.



Mayor Lionel Evans—Because of his intense interest in civic and community welfare, there is a continual demand for Mayor Evans' appearance before WKBN microphones, whether it be to speak on subjects of municipal business, or any other community interest.



Civic Chorus—The 200 mixed voices of this unusual musical aggregation, blend in inspiring harmony in the frequent concerts which are carried to WKBN listeners. W. Gwynn Jenkins directs the group, whose members are enlisted from Youngstown and vicinity.



Left
"Y" College—Students of Youngstown College participate in regular programs depicting their scholastic activities. This group includes: Frank Stewart, Patsey Stanley, Paul Dean, Margaret McGoogan and Weber Watson.



Right
Aut Mori Glee Club—Also known as the Masonic Glee Club, under the direction of John Hughes Jones with Novelle Jones Freed, accompanist. This group of talented singers won first prize in glee club competition at Cleveland last year.



Left
Young Bandmen—The 50-piece Antlers Band, B. P. O. Elks of Warren, Ohio, which played for WKBN listeners in several of its special concerts.



Warren Masonic Chorus—Now in its sixth year of organization, heard from WKBN, this male chorus ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Lynn B. Dana, president of Dana's Musical Institute, Warren, Ohio.



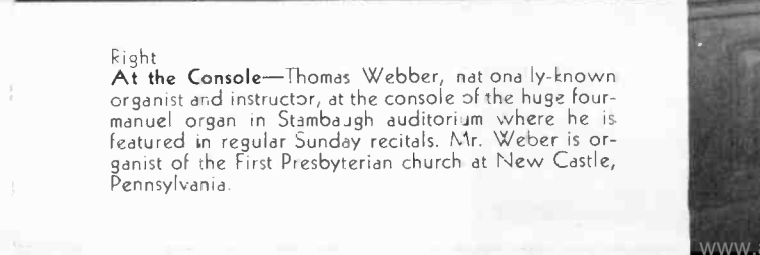
Right
Male Chorus—Under the auspices of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, this chorus of 75 male voices under the direction of W. Gwynn Jenkins, local Welsh choral director, has won wide acclaim. They have sung frequently before WKBN microphones. Among their honors, is that of winner of the 1938 national Eisteddfod contest at Warren, Ohio.



Right
Better Business Bureau—Representing the Youngstown Better Business Bureau as manager and secretary of the Youngstown Advertising club, heard frequently from WKBN.

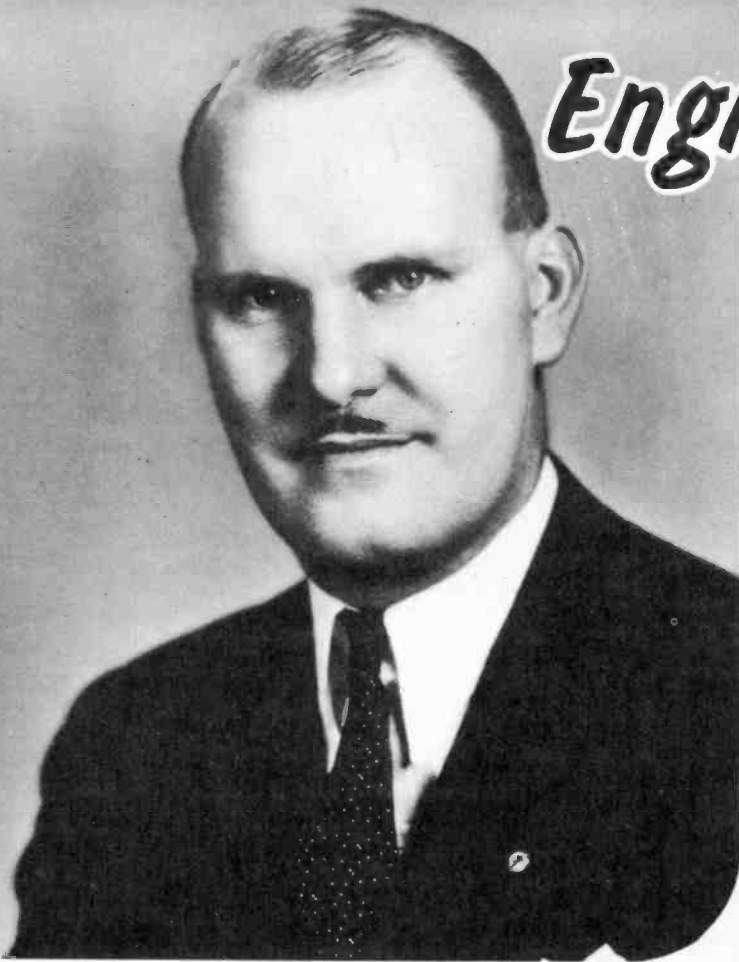


Senators Debate—While several thousand persons packed Stambaugh auditorium to hear the debate between Ex-Senator Robert J. Bulkeley and Senator Robert A. Taft, WKBN listeners heard the entire discussion.



Right
At the Console—Thomas Webber, nationally-known organist and instructor, at the console of the huge four-manual organ in Stambaugh auditorium where he is featured in regular Sunday recitals. Mr. Webber is organist of the First Presbyterian church at New Castle, Pennsylvania.

Engineering Perfection



Bernard T. Wilkens Chief Engineer

His father was an electrical engineer, so radio first became a childhood hobby and then a serious study with Bernard T. Wilkens. Under the patient instruction of his father, practical experience in the pursuit of his hobby and finally, enrollment at the Dodge Radio Institute, he had his introduction to the profession.

He had an original ambition to be a hydro-electrical engineer but his first job was that of a lineman at a steel mill and he has also worked as radio serviceman and journeyman painter. It was while working as a lineman and assisting as student engineer at WMBW in 1927 that he suffered a severe injury. It served to congeal his determination to follow the radio trade.

His radio experience includes service at WCAH, Columbus and WFJC at Akron before he joined the WKBN staff in March 1930 and was appointed its chief engineer 9 months later. Since that time he has supervised construction of practically all the station's technical equipment—an assemblage acclaimed by experts as among the finest, from every standpoint, in the country.

He has operated his own amateur radio transmitter since 1920, at present licensed under the call WBWB. He's an active member of the U. S. Naval Communications Reserve in which he holds the rank of Ensign. He is exceptionally fond of his home and his two small sons, Bernard, Jr., and Joseph, but he manages to find time for his hobby, that of flower husbandry. He reads extensively, likes baseball and prefers to be addressed as just plain "B."

It's a far cry from the crude, home-made 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ watt original WKBN transmitter of 1926, to the present elaborate building and equipment which now dispatches the daily radio programs into the airways. That first transmitter, constructed by General Manager Williamson, operated from a crowded corner on the rear porch of his home.

Today's transmitter, glistening with newness, is rightfully spotlighted in the recently constructed model transmitter building on Sunset boulevard, three miles south of Youngstown's downtown. Besides the actual transmitting equipment, which, incidentally, was designed and constructed almost exclusively by WKBN engineers, the building also contains a completely equipped work-shop, an emergency studio, caretaker's quarters and additional space for future expansion.

One of the most outstanding features about the building is the fact that it was constructed entirely of material and supplies furnished by Youngstown merchants and industry, and that same statement applies to the 360-foot vertical radiator antenna from which the actual broadcast signals emanate.



This equipment rack as it is literally known in the radio profession, actually houses a multitude of mechanical watchmen which function to deliver radio programs to the home receivers with the greatest possible degree of realism. Here the electrical impulses delivered by the microphones, are amplified and reamplified for delivery to the control console or transmitter, where they "go on the air."

Original in design and construction, this control console has been recognized by radio experts as the acme of convenience and efficiency. From this compact unit, a single engineer can conduct broadcast, rehearsal or audition activities in the four WKBN studios simultaneously. An intricate system of switches and relays prevents interruption in any studio during the course of a program. Also provided, are arrangements so that announcers in studios may consult with the engineers without leaving the room. Like most other WKBN engineering equipment, this unit was constructed entirely by the station technical staff.

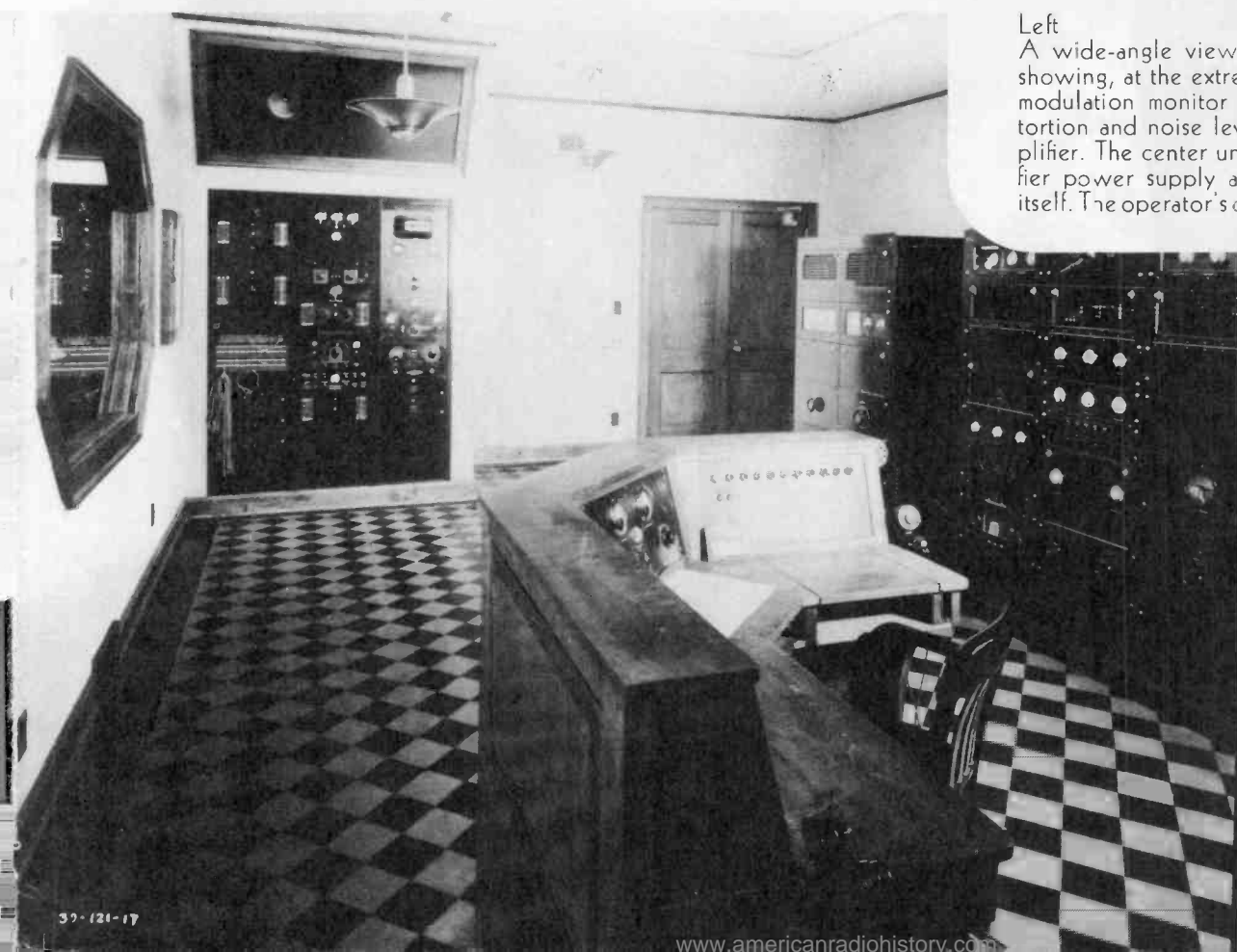




Another innovation credited to the WKBN technical staff is this compact "sound effects wagon." It is so constructed that it may be used to cut or record transcriptions; can be quickly altered to "play back" for audition purposes; can be connected to play transcriptions for broadcast, or can be used to introduce recorded sound effects during studio dramatic presentations. Its specially designed undercarriage also permits its easy transfer from one studio to another. Engineer Carl Lindberg is shown at the unusual machine.



A close-up of the attractive front entrance to the transmitter building, with its cream-colored brick, translucent glass pillars which are illuminated at night, and special effects in stainless steel metal trim.



Left
A wide-angle view of the transmitter room interior, showing, at the extreme left, the input equipment with modulation monitor and station frequency meter, distortion and noise level guardians and the limiting amplifier. The center unit houses the mercury vapor rectifier power supply and at the right is the transmitter itself. The operator's console is shown in the foreground.

Below—Practical training as Chief Operator S. S. Charles L. O'Connor and S. S. Craigsmere, fulfilling first ambition. Born Stockport, Ohio, honor graduate Coyne radio school. Now 24 years old. Father of two sons. Says present ambition is home. Reasons hobby plus schooling plus job equals living. Is very punctual and yet likes sleeping as favorite pastime. Still retains nickname acquired in ocean service—"Sparks" and still hobbies in amateur radio. Two years at WKBN.

Ralph Sherman



CARL L. LINDBERG

ABOVE—Hobby as radio amateur grew to profession. Manifest interest in radio receivers mechanically as early as 1921. Obtained amateur transmitting license in 1927. Joined WKBN staff, 1930 after obtaining broadcast operator license. Native of Matfors, Sweden. Educated in Youngstown high school and college. Previously worked as mail clerk and time-keeper for steel company. Continues hobby in amateur radio, sharing it with photography. Is member U. S. Naval Communication Reserve.

Below—Wants to own 50,000 watt radio station (some day). At present is satisfied he's on his way. At WKBN controls since April, 1936. Radio was original ambition. Started as hobby. Worked as service manager large Youngstown radio concern for 6½ years. Currently resides in Hubbard, Ohio but was born in Youngstown, October 23, 1910. Is single, hobbies in amateur radio and photography. Would like to travel. Favorite study in school was geography. Thinks radio and television have great future.

John Cherpack



ALBERT HARDY



PERCY L. PENCOCK

Below—Became interested in technical radio as Boy Scout dismantling amateur transmitters, 1913. District sales manager Crosley Radio in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania. Designed Volotone radio receiver, also designed new ultra high frequency receiver for amateurs. Joined WKBN staff January 15, 1939. Born Sharpsburgh, Pa., October 24, 1900. Married, father two daughters. Hobbies in amateur radio. Has played semi-pro football, basketball. Weighs 210 pounds—nickname is "Tiny."

—Original ambition to be electrical engineer. Attended Youngstown high school, college and Ohio State. Born in Youngstown, November 20, 1915. First job was lineman for Republic Steel corporation. Operated amateur station, radio service, experimenting before accepting post on WKBN staff, August, 1937. Still conducts home experiments in radio when not indulging in second-choice hobby, photography both still and movies. Liked military training in school.



Sales

E. E. EVANS, Commercial Manager

His vocal talents guided Emanuel E. Evans into radio in 1928 at station WGBI in his home town, Scranton, Pa. But his original ambitions and scholastic training had pointed toward a business career so it was logical that he should lean toward these outlets in a radio career.

Equipped with the necessary fundamentals through his experience in program work, he returned to his first love as a commercial agent at WHEC, Rochester, N. Y. Later he transferred to WLBW, Oil City, Pa., became its commercial manager and then in 1931, joined the sales staff at WKBN. In March, 1932, he was appointed manager for a large warehouse and hauling company. His selling experience began during his association with the Maccar Sales corporation and later with the Bradstreet branch office in Scranton and an eastern utility with divisions in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Strangely enough, his favorite study in school was chemistry. He has no hobbies—plays some golf and spends all his spare time with his wife and year-old daughter Nancy Elizabeth. He commutes from his home in Poland, Ohio and is known among his friends and associates as "Many."



TULLY FOSTER—Thinks first job was taking care of baby. Lead dance orchestra WOSU; plays sax, clarinet. Deserted entertainment field for sales work. Now likes it better. Joined WKBN, July, 1938. Born January 3, 1914, graduate Dana Conservatory Music and Ohio State University.



W. R. LINK—Prefers to be called "Wally." Native of New York City. Previously employed as news commentator and commercial salesman at WCOL, Columbus, Ohio. Joined WKBN staff, August 22, 1938. First job was in New York Stock Exchange. Married, father of three children.

Personnel



GLADYS WILLIAMS—Bookkeeper. Retiring, unassuming, serious and efficient. Born Portage county, attended school there, also Youngstown Business College. Enjoys reading biographies, serious types literature, prefers educational type radio programs.



CATHERINE SHERMAN — Hostess. Joined WKBN staff December 7, 1936, her first job. Resides at Mahoning County Experiment Farm, Canfield, Ohio. Sister of Engineer Ralph Sherman. Duties include switchboard operation. Collects stamps, roller skates, is absent-minded.



Frances Peterson — Assistant Bookkeeper. Another Youngstown "daughter" who commutes — from Hubbard. Born September 26, 1915. Work includes part time as receptionist. Friends call her "Frannie." Favorite sport is hiking—reads much as pastime.



Right
John T. Donnan—Custodian. Maintains lawn, shrubs and interior of WKBN modern, new transmitter building on Sunset boulevard. Has made study and life-time work of landscape architecture and gardening. Operates own farm on Goldie road. Pitches horse-shoes.

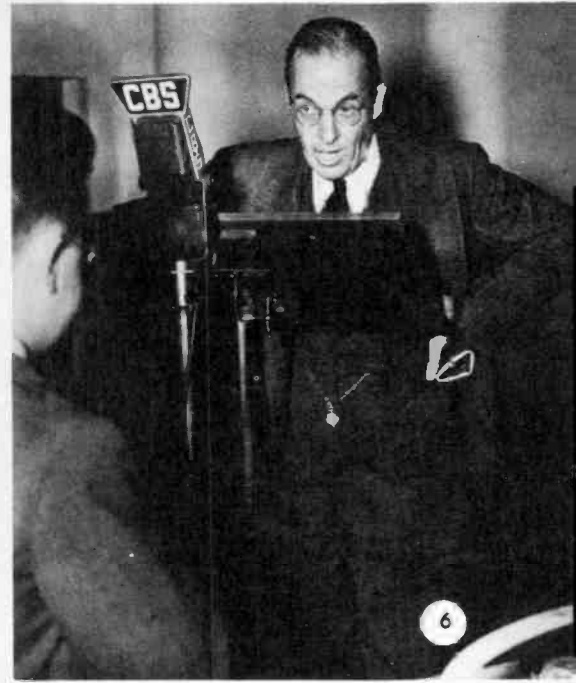


Left
Sally Hovis — Stenographer. Native of Youngstown, now commutes from home in Warren. Member WKBN staff since August, 1935. Functions in continuity department. Hopes to have "lots and lots" of money some day. Can't get up when alarm clock rings.



Right
Robert Link—Maintenance. Followed his father to work one day (November 1938), now comes down regularly. Born in New York City, July 15, 1920. Wants to be radio announcer or professional golfer. Says spring always brings urge to travel.

World's Greatest Radio Entertainers



1. JOSE ITURBI OF FORD SUNDAY EVENING HOUR. 2. EDDIE CANTOR. 3. JIMMIE GRIER. 4. MARY MARGARET MCBRIDE. 5. JOE PENNER. 6. JIM MC WILLIAMS OF ASK-IT-BASKET. 7. KATE SMITH. 8. ARLINE BLACKBURN AS PRETTY KITTY KELLY.



World's Greatest Radio Entertainers



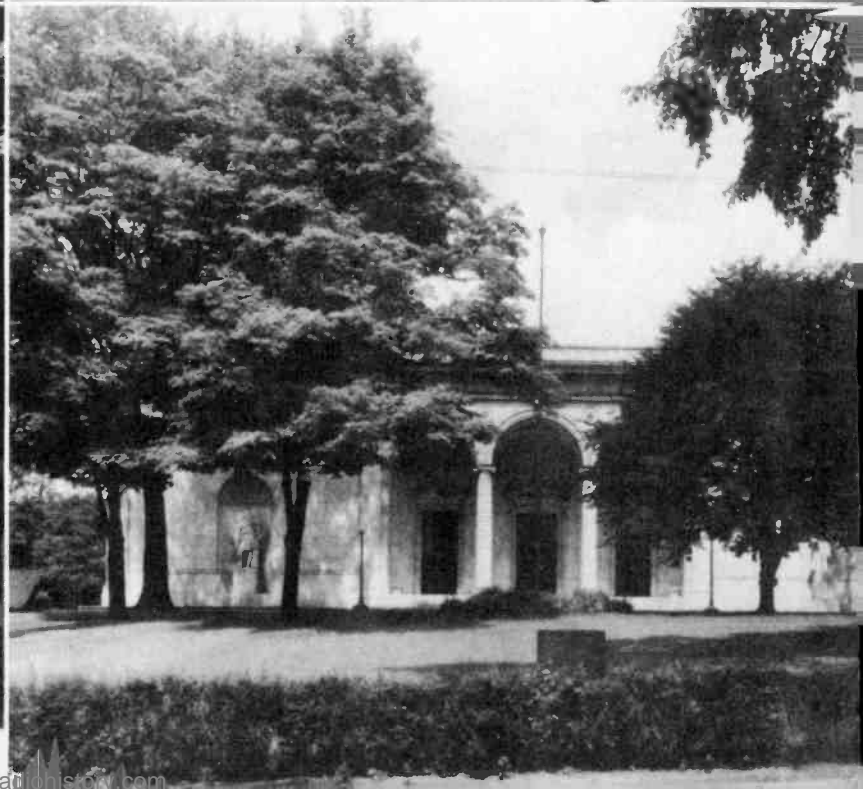
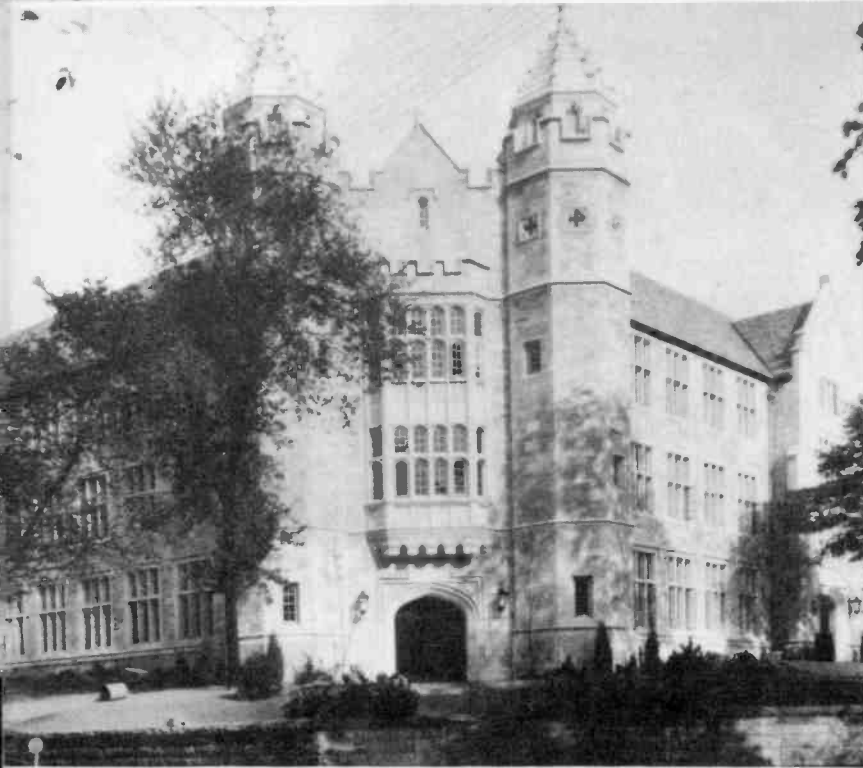
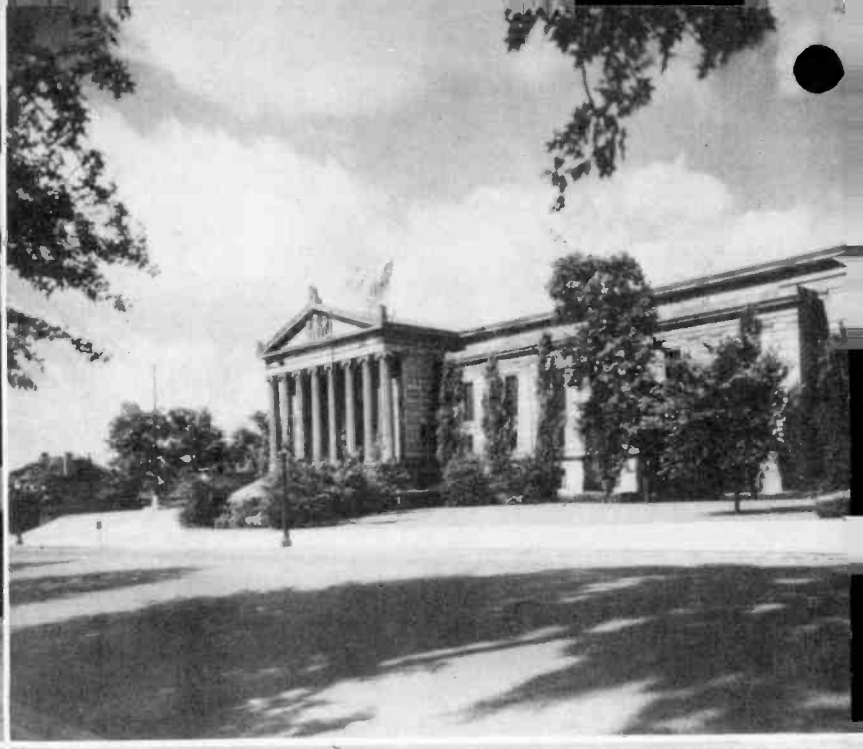
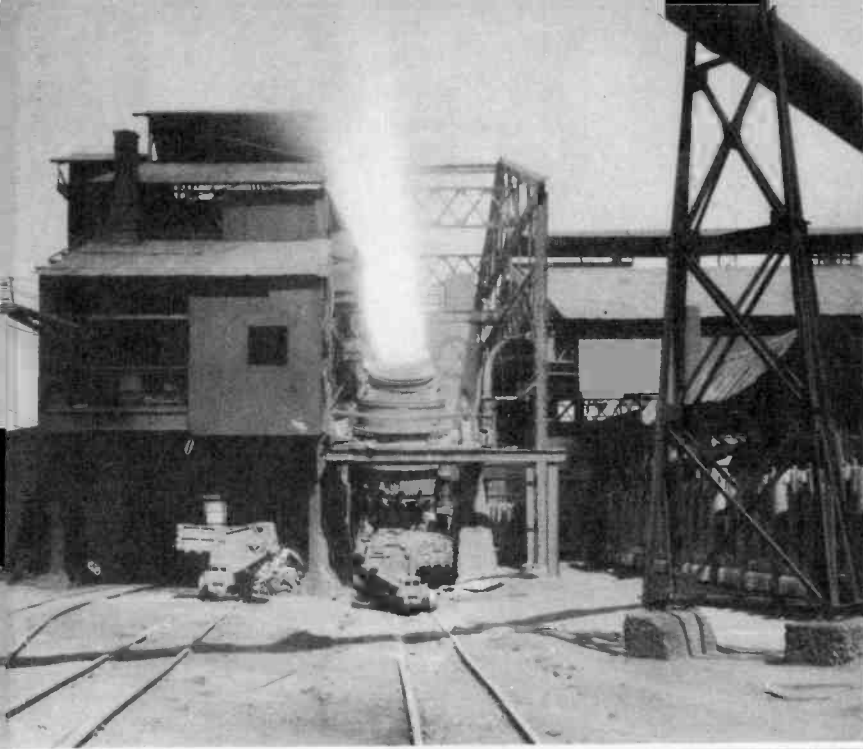
9. RAY BLOCK 10. WALDO MAYO. 11. BERT GORDON, THE MAD RUSSIAN. 12. NAN WYNN. 13. HILLEGARDE OF "RAYMOND PAIGE, 99 MEN AND A GIRL." 14. "SINGIN' SAM." 15. "I WANT A DIVORCE" CAST. 16. MAJOR BOWES.





17. BENNY GOODMAN. 18. GABRIEL HEATTER OF "WE, THE PEOPLE." 19. MARTHA TILTON. 20. RAY COLLINS. 21. COLUMBIA WORKSHOP. 22. ARCHIE OF "THIS IS NEW YORK." 23. JOHN BARBIROLI OF NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC SYMPHONY. 24. ABBOTT AND COSTELLO.







17. BENNY GOODMAN. 18. GABRIEL HEATTER OF "WE, THE PEOPLE." 19. MARTHA TILTON. 20. RAY COLLINS. 21. COLUMBIA WORKSHOP. 22. ARCHIE OF "THIS IS NEW YORK." 23. JOHN BARBIROLI OF NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC SYMPHONY. 24. ABBOTT AND COSTELLO.



