

HELLIE I ARNOLD  
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STOCKTON ILL  
M 3-1-37

# Stand By

MAY 16, 1936



CHICK HURT

Why Is A  
Gag Man?

•  
New Comic



# Listeners' Mike



**LISTENER HAS 70 YEARS' START**

## Has Head Start

... I noticed you celebrated your 12th birthday in April, but I had just 70 years' start of you, as I was 82 on that same day. I was very much disappointed at Pa and Ma Smithers leaving the air and I surely do miss them. But I suppose they need a vacation, and I surely hope they will return to the air in the fall. Their impersonation is just wonderful. Their voices never vary an iota from that "old folks" tone. Hope Henry Burr doesn't take a notion to quit, too. We (my son and I) would certainly miss him. That glorious voice raised in praise of God is certainly comforting on Sunday mornings when one isn't able to get out to church. . . . Would like to write a

letter of appreciation for their persistent and sacrificial bravery to those noble men of Moose River, Nova Scotia, but don't know just where to address it. Thank God for men who evidently consider themselves their "brother's keeper." . . . Mrs. T. M. Olson, Centralia, Ill.



## Our Chief

Many people have written their opinion of the 1936 Album, but none of them mentioned the most thrilling part of it, which is the tribute on page three: "Our Chief, the man whose vision charts our way, whose great heart inspires our ideals." I don't think any more gracious words were ever spoken of any man, and

Mr. Butler should be very happy in his ability to guide, and in the loyalty of his followers. Long may he live to lead you all into still greater deeds of neighborly kindness.—Mrs. F. L. Smith, Fall River, Wis.



## Not Tiresome

... I have been shut in since January and have listened to every program until after lunch. (It's the only station I can listen to that long without finding one tiresome program. . . . Mrs. Frank Stover, Chili, Ind.



## From Another Chili

... Joe Kelly was wrong when he said it would be a punishment to the listeners as well as to him to hear him sing Saturday nights. . . . Mrs. A. W. Beil, Chili, Wis.



## Better Paper

Congratulations on the fine grade of paper you are now using in Stand By. It is a great improvement, making each issue more lasting and better able to withstand the handling each issue must endure. Although I never can see any room for improvement, yet they continue to come. . . . Mrs. Roy Davis, Round Lake, Ill.



## Hey, Ma and Pa!

... I think Pa and Ma Smithers are great and they deserve more praise. . . . Booster, Milwaukee, Wis.

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## STAND BY

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**JULIAN T. BENTLEY, Editor**

May 16, 1936

VOLUME 2

NUMBER 14



The Minstrels: L. to R., Al Boyd, Joe Kelly, Howard Chamberlain, Jack Holden, Possum Tuttle, Henry Hornsbuckle, Paul Nettinga, Phil Kalar, Max Wilson, Wm. Racherbawner, Rene Hartley, Otto Morse (with trumpet), Bill Thall, Ari Wenzel, Bud Gilmore, Chuck Ostler (in rear).

# Why

by  
Bill  
Meredith

# is a GAG MAN?

## This Being Funny Is a Grim and Serious Business

THERE are lots of things that a man may be accused of without taking offense, but should you approach a friend and says: "I say, my good man, where's your sense of humor?—there's no telling what may happen. Wars have started over less. Likewise, it is one of the greatest compliments you can pay anyone. You can say a man is brainy or outstanding in his line or a great executive and he can accept it with a mere nod of his head. But to say "That fellow certainly has a great sense of humor"—well, you've really said something then!

All of which leads up to why I let the writing of so-called funny shows be wished upon me (aside from the fact that I had to make a living!). Reluctant to admit that my sense of humor wasn't great enough to turn out a daily minstrel show, I accepted.

It lead to my undoing. I couldn't

open my mouth without friends expecting witticisms to pour forth. I couldn't listen to a funny story without reflecting, "Yes, I've heard that one before."

I acquired the lowest of reputations—a punster. I couldn't write another "Hamlet" or "American Tragedy" because everything I wrote was received with guffaws whether it was funny or not. And worst of all, I was nameless, a man without a personality, a mere machine that turned out funny material for comedians, a ghost writer with no one to haunt. And as a haunter I didn't have a ghost of a chance. This business of writing something funny is no bed of roses. I couldn't even get the point of the

thorns anymore. In short, everyone laughed when I sat down—and I got stuck!

This funny business is mighty serious. How many actually funny stories do you know—stories that wouldn't offend your grandmother or the youngest child? Five—six—a dozen—two dozen at the most? Well, you're lucky—you'd have enough material to write about one minstrel show!

Take the Morning Minstrels, for example. There are three end men, Swampy Sam, Morpheus Mayfair Manchester and Possum Tuttle. Swampy uses an average of three to five "gags" a day—Morpheus three to five and Possum, an opening gag

(Continued on page 11)

# Fanfare



## George Recovering from Illness

By MARJORIE GIBSON

**G**REETINGS, Fanfare Readers. Well, what should appear on top of the mail in the old wire basket but a letter containing 16 inquiries about our Stand By editor, Julian Bentley, from an interested listener of Springfield, Illinois. So we're going to begin by answering as many of this young lady's questions as we can.

Julian T. Bentley is the editor's real name. His birthday is August 19. He is 5 feet, 10½ inches tall. Likes to swim and fish. Smokes a pipe. Julian is one of the station's early risers. Comes to the studio at 6 o'clock Chicago time and usually works until three in the afternoon and frequently much later.

Has only one favorite color. That's blue. Julian generally wears dark blue. In fact, he has two good-looking new suits. Of course, one is blue, the other one is gray. (Note to Fashion Editor on what the well-dressed young man should wear this spring.)

Julian has dark brown hair and dark brown eyes. He weighs 175 pounds. Has one brother, David Bentley, who is married. All correspondence to Julian, or to any member of the WLS staff, should be addressed to them in care of WLS.

Julian's reading is confined principally to non-fiction, he tells us. Especially likes biographies and current history. In addition to having a splendid command of the English language, he speaks French, Italian, and has studied Latin and Greek.

~\*~

We're glad to say that, as this is being written, George Cook, Assistant Treasurer of WLS, is gradually recovering from an emergency appendectomy which he underwent at the West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park April 30. George had not been feeling well for about 10 days before the operation but had continued to come to work up until Thursday afternoon when he became suddenly very ill and was rushed to the hospital.

Our best wishes to George for a quick recovery.

"Does Joe or John play the high notes when Joe Kelly and John Brown play piano duets?" queries Mrs. E. F. of Rochester, Indiana. John does.

~\*~

Betty Eleanor Liggett of Chicago asks. "When and where was Rocky born? And has he any brothers or sisters?" Rocky Racherbaumer, bass singer of the Hometowners, was born in Hoylton, Illinois, on November 23, 1914. Rocky has a little brother, Milton, 10 years old. He has no sisters.

~\*~

Barbara Cole of Kewanee, Illinois, writes that she heard a strange voice on Merry-Go-Round on Saturday afternoon, April 25, singing "I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen," and she is wondering just who the stranger was. That's who he was—The Stranger, Bill McCluskey. Bill is appearing with one of the road shows as master of ceremonies.

~\*~

Tom Corwine numbers among his souvenirs a copy of a program sent him by a Chicago listener, of an hour's entertainment which he gave on a Sunday afternoon at a Methodist Church located on Ashland Avenue in Chicago. The program bore a picture of Tom and the numbers which he used that afternoon. It was dated 1908.

~\*~

## Sol Still in Jail

Rimrock, Ariz.

**D**EAR JULIAN: Something went wrong with the bunkhouse radio Saturday night and the Barn Dance program kept fading out or else when it didn't do that it crackled and roared so Bill Putt who is a sort of jack-leg inventor of an anti-snoring device tinkered with it

quite a spell which of course done no material good and Shadrack Snoots got to arguing and scuffling with Wampus Gollyhorn, Bill's ornery cousin, which added to the clamor and done no good either so far as Joe Kelly and his program or the rest of us who had gathered to hear it were concerned. Al Fish our deputy sheriff and Cactus Ben stepped in to quiet down the kids and in the ruckus what followed all four of 'em fell over onto the radio and Bill Putt and the whole works went down horse de compact. So if you've got any more free radios around WLS better send one out to the bunkhouse that will work on direct current or a battery or something pretty quick as the one we borrowed from the main ranch house when the boss wasn't looking may not be long in our midst and the bunkhouse will be a lonesome place without our radio which it's liable to be at any minute.

Petunia Dogsinger sent in a song of her own composure for Patsy Montana and the Hilltoppers to sing, and Missouri Gollyhorn sent one too, he



also being a virtuoso, and they've been getting up at 4 AM to listen to Smile-A-While in hopes of hearing their tunes immortalized, and they think they have but ain't sure. All the cowboys are composing songs and music right and left and no tellin' when one might turn out to be one somebody could sing.

Solomon Powder is still writing letters from Cottonwood where he has been since the lion hunt and can't get home. Contrary to our hopes instead of the lion hunters bringing jack into our midst they needs Jack to get home on. So far nothing have ben done about Solomon and his dogs miss him. One of his hounds gave a lecture on insomnia that lasted most 'all last night.

ARIZONA IKE.

# Flashes

**A** PROGRAM including a contest between champion jumping frogs, the description of a Spanish fiesta and re-enactment of gold rush days in California will be heard over NBC-Blue at 3:45 p. m., CST, tomorrow, Sunday, May 17.

The broadcast will originate in Angel's Camp, California, county seat of Calaveras county, immortalized in Mark Twain's story, "*The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.*" An NBC microphone will be placed in an arena containing 40 of the jumping croakers for a word picture of the championship event. It's a feature of the annual "Forty-Niners Days" in Angel's Camp.

During the program NBC announcer Don Thompson will take his microphone into the "Bucket of Blood," an old-time saloon and dance hall, for some music from a honky-tonk piano. Thompson also will describe the Spanish fiesta.



The address of Governor Alfred M. Landon of Kansas to the graduating class of the high school he attended in Attica, Kansas, will be broadcast over the NBC-Blue network at 8:00 p. m., CST, Monday, May 18.



Postmaster-General James A. Farley will make the principal address at the 41st annual memorial services of the Jewish War Veterans in the United States, to be held in New York Sunday, May 17. Farley's speech will be heard over NBC-Blue at 9:05 a. m., CST.



Columbia's Voice of Experience, who will advise you on most any problem, will switch to NBC May 25. He'll be heard Monday through Friday from 9:45 to 10:00 a. m., CST, and on Sundays from 11:00 a. m. to 11:30 a. m., CST.



May 4 marked the beginning of a new weekly series of Hoosier Hop programs to originate from the Fort Wayne studios of WOWO for the Coast-to-Coast Columbia Broadcasting Network. The time is 1:30 to 2:00 p. m., CST.

## NEXT WEEK

What's all this about the Chicago Cubs starting their winning streaks after attending the Saturday night National Barn Dance show at the Eighth Street Theatre? We wanted to know, too, so Stand By sent Jack Holden out to Wrigley Field to find out. You'll read all about it next week together with some pictures that definitely put Uncle Ezra in the minors. His swing is bad or his beard gets in the way or something.

Secretary of Commerce Daniel C. Roper will be heard over NBC-Blue speaking before the Philadelphia Commerce, Monday, May 18, at 6:30 p. m., CST.



**THEIR FAVORITE** radio station is — two guesses. L. to r., Kathie Lou Safford, 9, and Genevieve Safford, 6. They're Program Director Harold Safford's daughters.

During the past two months, members and officers of the Illinois Home Bureau have been sharing their valuable experiences with the Homemakers' Hour audience. On Friday afternoon, May 22, Mrs. Ray Pierce of Watseka, Illinois, will speak on 4-H Club Activities. All mothers of girls of 4-H club age will be interested in Mrs. Pierce's talk.



Four NBC broadcasts from the National Socialist Convention in Cleveland are on schedule between May 23 and 25.

Leo Krzycki, chairman of the National Executive Committee of the National Socialist Party, will deliver the keynote speech of the convention Saturday, May 23, at 10:00 a. m., CST, over NBC-Red.

An outline of the party platform will be broadcast at 3:00 p. m., CST, on Sunday, May 24, over NBC-Blue. If possible, this program will originate on the floor of the convention hall during the actual adoption of the platform by the delegates.

Nominating speeches for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates will be heard Monday, May 25, over NBC-Red at 2:30 p. m., CST, and the nominees will make their first public address from a banquet at the Hotel Allerton the same evening at 8:30 p. m., CST, over NBC-Blue.



The National Congress of Parents and Teachers held their 40th annual convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, May 11-15. On Monday afternoon, May 18, Mrs. Walter Buhlig will speak during Homemakers' Hour on "Echoes from the National Convention."



Ted Weems, his orchestra and his entertainers will join the Fibber McGee and Molly program over NBC-Blue each Monday at 6:00 p. m., CST, beginning June 15.

Weems replaces Rico Marchelli, whose orchestra has been heard continuously on the program for almost two years.

## SHAVERS' NOTICE

A guaranteed double-edge razor blade (for Gillette type razors) for a penny. Yes sir, and when we say they are good, we mean it.

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100 blades; gold plated razor; styptic pencil—all for \$1.25 postpaid.

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PLANERT'S

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# "Ad Lib!"



By JACK HOLDEN

May 5

**H**OME tonight and at my desk. Had a real day today but can't tell you about it because if I did it would spoil a story you'll read soon. A letter from two listeners who want to know why I do not mention Jean Louise in my column. I've mentioned Donnie a few times so why not the little girl? All right. I'll tell you of one of her cute little tricks. Tonight at dinner she heaped a spoonful of mashed potatoes and threw them across the table. Her aim, though, was a little off and she missed her brother by inches.

#### At's Tough, Rocky

What is more wonderful than leaving a crowded, noisy city for the farm, out at Grandma's, and sneaking a few hours peaceful sleep in the

old feather-tick bed upstairs? That's what I did last Saturday night after barn dance.

If you notice a dejected note in Rocky Racherbaumer's voice this week its all because that new car of his is ruined. A fast taxi crashed into the side of Rocky's chariot the other night and put a permanent wave in one side of it.

#### Ken Likes WKY

A letter from Ken Wright, formerly of the Novelodeons. Ken says listening to the barn dance makes him a bit homesick for the gang, but he's very happy with his new position as organist for WKY, Oklahoma City.

On the wall in front of me . . . a piece of Tapestry Jean and I picked up in the Arabian village at the World's Fair. Happy memories. What

times we had over there. Today the grounds are barren and desolate. A Chinese pagoda still stands . . . that is all. It's the one building I didn't visit during the fair, and every time I see it I seem to have a funny feeling that I should go over and try to see what's inside.

Every 15 minutes tonight I've been changing programs on the radio set. I'm partial to orchestra music tonight. My favorites have been played, too. "Auf Weidersehn" and "Lilac Time."

#### Big Stuff, Holden

The soundest sleeper at WLS is Red Foley. While he was snoozing in a big chair out in the back room yesterday I borrowed Salty Holmes' knife and succeeded in cutting the shoe laces of Red's shoes without disturbing his peaceful slumber in the least. Finally when Red awakened, he started for Studio A and nearly stepped out of his shoes. Salty was seen with a knife so he got the blame.

It was my pleasure to introduce that grand old player of baseball the other night at the barn dance. A great pitcher . . . Jack Quinn. You know him. I remember once when just a youngster I chased him all over Navin field in Detroit after a game to get his autograph, but I couldn't get to him. I haven't given up yet, and the next time he comes to the barn dance I'll make it, I'm sure.

Am looking forward to next Sunday. With Mr. and Mrs. Henry Burr, we're driving to Zion to see the Passion play.

Salty Holmes isn't driving his car to work as fast as he used to. Ask Salty . . . he'll tell you why.

I hear Jean Louise's doll squeaking. She must be rolling over on the doll in her bed.

#### Sprig Has Cub

I wonder how my four-footed friend Commander is tonight. In Stanton's barn munching hay or carrying some other amateur rider over a moonlit bridle path.

Eleven o'clock, the house asleep, a violin coming in softly over the air, the tap in the kitchen sink of dropping water, a breeze of spring coming in through the window, and I wonder if there's anything in the refrigerator.

Wish I were sleepy. Guess I'll take a stroll down on the lake shore. A turn-down hat, a suede jacket, house slippers, a curve-stem pipe, a full moon and the waves of Lake Michigan. A half-hour of that combination should induce sleep . . . shouldn't it?

~\*~

#### Official Song

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia's effort to select an official New York City anthem will be aided on Monday, May 18, in a special NBC-Red network program featuring songs about New York. The program will be heard from 3:00 to 3:30 p. m., CST.



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Eau de Cologne

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Enclose 10c for Packing and Handling

**P-s-s-st Men!**—Surprise your wife or best girl . . . it's swell after shaving, too.

\*Enclose a Dime for Handling and Postage

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# CHIC COTTONS FOR COOLNESS

... to say nothing of practicality! That's what present-day cottons are primarily ... practical. They're simply swell to wear while you're doing housework or putting in the garden, and yet ... they're smart to wear all during the day. (That gives them double usage.) Their silhouettes are designed along slim lines, their colors are well chosen and becoming. (That makes them delightful to you.) They come in a raft of varying weaves. (That gives you enough to choose from, so—you're satisfied.) They're mostly vat dyed and pre-shrunk. (You know they'll last.) They launder easily and will stand innumerable tubbings. (That, in the summer, is nothing short of a blessing.) And, above all, to get all this you do not have to pay a lot. To prove this we have selected typical styles to be found at \$1 and \$1.95. There are hundreds and hundreds at both these prices.

Large figure ... Striped sheer cotton. Cool, summery, slow to show soil. Grand shades of red, brown and blue with white. Sizes 34 to 40 ..... \$1

Left figure ... Charming dotted seersuckers. Pale pink with blue dots, white with blue dots. 14 to 20 ..... \$1.95

Center figure ... Unusual print. White bow. Blue, red with white; brown pattern on pale green. 34 to 40 .. \$1

For further information concerning these frocks write to Shari, Care of Stand By.

—SHARI



# Cake Decorations are Fun - - - and Easy

**S**ERVING cake for a crowd? If you want to be sure of success, follow these two rules. Use a recipe you know is a good one and make only one regular size recipe at a time, if you depend upon hand power to mix it. If you double a recipe, the chances are you may tire while making it and your cake will not do you justice. You can save time by measuring the ingredients for two or more cakes at one time, but mix them separately.



Mrs. Wright

The best butter cakes require considerable energy expended on them but be sure you you put it at the right place—that is, in the creaming of the butter and sugar. To have a fine crumb and one which will stay moist for a satisfactory length of time, the butter and sugar mixture must be creamed together until it is light and fluffy and so smooth that no sugar crystals are apparent, which means that the sugar is dissolved. I have found several ways to accomplish this more easily:

### Do Not Melt Butter

First, have the butter softened, but not melted before you start to cream it, by allowing it to stand at room temperature for a few hours—or overnight if you plan to make the cakes early in the morning. Second, cream the butter and sugar together first and allow them to stand while you are measuring the remaining ingredients. The sugar can be dissolving during this time. Third, use very finely granulated sugar as it dissolves more readily than coarse sugar.

Spend most of your energy on the creaming process if you want a really good cake but don't beat a cake too much after you add the baking powder. If your cakes have tunnels running through them, have a hump in the middle, or have a very smooth crust which browns with difficulty, then look to your beating. These are

By  
**MARY  
WRIGHT**

definite signs of too much beating after adding the baking powder.

Have you ever been guilty of making this statement? "I don't see what ever is the matter with my cake today—and I took special pains with it, too, because I wanted it to be extra good." Those "special pains" probably included an extra good beating and there lies the story of your near failure.

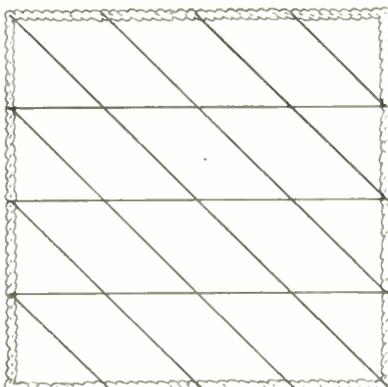
Here is an inexpensive plain cake recipe with a good flavor, which is not so rich you might have difficulty with it. You'll find several other tested cake recipes in previous Stand By numbers.

### LARGE PLAIN CAKE

3 c. all purpose flour	1½ c. sugar
or 3¾ c. cake flour	3 eggs
3½ tsp. baking powder	1½ c. milk
½ tsp. salt	2 tsp. vanilla (or half lemon)
¾ c. butter	

Cream butter well, add sugar gradually, continuing to cream until light and fluffy. Add well beaten egg and vanilla and beat again. Sift flour once before measuring, and then sift three times with baking powder and salt. Add flour alternately with milk, a small amount at a time. Pour into cake pans lined with wax paper and bake in a moderate oven (375° F.) for about 25 minutes.

This cake will make three layers, nine inches in diameter or eight inches square. Bake this cake in square or oblong pans and cut into diamond shapes as indicated below. In this way you can have unusually attractive diamond and triangular shaped pieces.



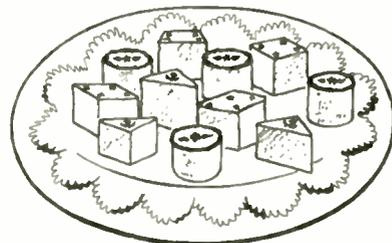
An 8 x 8 inch layer will make 12 diamonds and 8 triangles, using a ruler 1½ inches in width as a guide.

You may ice the cake before cutting, or if you wish the pieces iced on all sides, ice them after cutting. In either case, you can improve their appearance by decorating the individual pieces simply with different colored decorative icing after the regular icing is dry.

Decorating cakes can be easily accomplished if you select a simple design as is shown in the accompanying

drawing. A little practice will make you quite expert.

Another most attractive form of serving cake is the so-called snowballs. For this, bake the cake in sheets only about one inch thick when baked. Cut in inch squares when cool, roll in your favorite icing and again in shredded coconut which has been cut fine. If you are carrying out a color scheme, color the icing



and roll in white coconut. The color will be most alluring peeping through the lacy coconut. These cakes will be tiny and dainty, just right for teas or to accompany ice cream for a dinner dessert. The cake recipe given will make 192 snowballs, if all squares cut are in good condition.

You'll find this frosting an attractive yellow in color and of a most delicious flavor. If you wish a white frosting, omit the egg yolk and decrease the sugar accordingly. A cooked icing also makes an excellent background for decorating cakes.

### ORANGE BUTTER FROSTING

¼ c. orange juice	1 egg yolk
Grated rind of one orange	1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. lemon juice	3 tbsp. butter
Grated rind of ½ lemon	3 c. confectioners sugar

Combine fruit juice and grated rind and allow it to stand while you are getting the other ingredients ready. Sift the sugar to remove any lumps. Combine the egg yolk, salt, softened butter and the sifted confectioner's sugar. Strain the fruit juices to remove the grated rind, and add to the sugar mixture until it is of the right consistency to spread. You may not need quite all of it. Beat until smooth and spread on the cake. This is enough for a two-layer cake.



### YUM! YUM!



LULU BELLE shares a banana with some young friends at a Chicago Boys Club entertainment.

## LOOK!

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## Kentucky Mikeman

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By CHICK HURT

**W**E HAD a microphone in our house 'way back before radio was ever thought of. That was when I was a little fella and used to play a guitar and my father was an old-time fiddler. About 22 families down home in Willowshade, Kentucky, had those new-fangled telephone contraptions, and we had all four-party lines on a switchboard in our house.

Some one of the neighbors would give us a ring on the call bell and ask Dad and me to play for them, and pretty soon all the neighbors would be listening in. We'd stand in by the telephone and play for hours.

My grandfather bought me my first guitar at a public sale and he gave a dollar for it. That was the one I learned to play on. I couldn't 'a been much more'n five years old, goin' on six, because I wasn't in school yet.

The other day somebody asked me if I ever rode a horse and I just laughed. Why, my grandfather used to boost me up on a horse's back and hold me on before I was old enough to sit up there by myself. We never figured that ridin' a horse was exercise or sport. It was just a way to get around the country; about the only way we had, too, except for walkin'. My grandfather used to have a lot of mighty fine Kentucky saddle horses. But he never raced 'em or showed 'em. He worked 'em and rode 'em, and every one of 'em was a pet. I used to like to get astride of his fastest ones and ride around the hills.

Some few years back my older brother and sister and I, we used to sing in a trio. And then I met up with Jack Taylor. And he and his cousin and another fella and I got

up an outfit and called ourselves "The Big Four." That musta been nearly 15 years ago, and we used to play for old-time dances and such down in Kentucky.

Then I came up to Illinois and didn't see Jack for about 12 years. First I worked on a farm near Fairbury, and then I went to Kewanee and worked in a factory there for awhile. I was a motorcycle cop in Kewanee for a couple of years, but not long enough to get flat feet.

About that time I organized a jazz band in Kewanee and Harry Lloyd—the movie actor's cousin—played the trumpet in it. My first radio job was with the Hawaiian Serenaders of Kewanee and we played on WHBF at Rock Island.

Jack Taylor was livin' in Harvey, Illinois, then and we got together and decided to organize a hill-billy band, somethin' like The Big Four used to be down home. So we got ourselves auditioned at WOC, Davenport, and were hired. That's when I started playin' a mandolin instead of a guitar, and now about all I play is a mandola and a banjo.

While we were playin' out there, George Biggar heard us and asked us to come to WLS. We were here for about a year when Patsy joined up with us and she's been with us ever since. We went to New York in September, 1934, and played on WOR.

After we'd had a good vacation, fishin' and swimmin' and lyin' on the beach down there at the ocean, Mr. Snyder came to New York and asked us if we didn't want to come back to Chicago. And we did, so we came back last fall.

Yes, I'm married. My wife comes from Kewanee and we been married nine years last March. I'm just a little fella—stand 5 feet, 10½ inches, and weigh 210 pounds. That's always the way with high tenors. Look at Morton Downey. My eyes are gray and I wear a cowboy hat, but it's got



Chick Hurt autographs a Family Album for some young friends while Salty Holmes, Jack Taylor and Tex Atchison look on.

hair underneath it. There were 35 candles on my birthday cake just the other day—May 11, to be exact.

Somethin' I like to do in my spare time is write songs. "Back to My Home in the Mountains" is the only one that's been published so far. But I just finished a new one that we're goin' to start playin', called "Will I Ride the Range in Heaven?"



### Flowery Barn Dance

The flowers that bloom in the spring, tra-la! will be celebrated at the National Barn Dance network broadcast tonight, Saturday, May 16.

The Hoosier Hot Shots will lead off with "Apple Blossom Time," Otto and the Novelodeons will offer "Narcissus" and "The Little German Garden," and Uncle Ezra and the Hayloft Band will give "The Flower Garden Ball." Verne, Lee and Mary will tell about being "Knee Deep in Daisies," and Henry Burr, the Hayloft Octette and the Orchestra will present "Jeanine."

The Maple City Four will sing "Old Man Sunshine" and "Down in the Old Cherry Orchard." Lulu Belle will sing a novelty, "The Boys Can Whistle, But a Girl Must Sing." Sally Foster and the Octette then will sing "White Azaleas," and Max Terhune, Hoosier Mimic, will produce some imitations of birds and bees to fit in with the spring picture. Lucille Long will sing "Roses of Yesterday," and the Hoosier Hot Shots will tell about "Where the Black Eyed Susans Grow."



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# The Latch String

By CHECK STAFFORD

**H**OWDY, Folks. The good old sun is shining, some sparrows are chirping about near our office window ledge and below us, we see two pigeons having a big time splashing in a puddle of water on the roof. But few autos are passing and traffic clamor is stilled. Church chimes sound in the distance. It is Sunday.



Sunday was Mother's Day. Some cynics say it has chiefly been a publicity stunt to sell flowers or boost the sale of candy but we say turning the whole country's thoughts in veneration to the best friend we have, or had, is of the greatest good. In its observance, this day brings happiness



that can never be measured in dollars. While the day was celebrated in houses of worship, both in the city and in the little old country church, with fitting tribute, the best way is to make her a visit if possible or send a gift or message as reminders we haven't forgotten. If her hands are folded in the long sleep, one wears a white flower. Fortunate are we who wore a red carnation Sunday. Too many of us have forgotten those childhood days, when Sunday morning meant scrubbed hands and face, wearing our "Sunday best" clothes.

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SKRUDLAND

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With our penny for class, we journeyed to the countryside church. She was so proud of us then, remember? She always was and forever will be.



Perhaps her kindly eyes may be somewhat dimmer now and there may be furrows in those once pink cheeks, or time may have scattered snow flakes on her patient head, but her understanding, warm heart still goes out to us, through thick or thin—ups and downs and sickness or health. She would reach lower and and go farther for us than anyone on this earth. If she still lives in the cottage "back home" and you forgot Her day, write her now. None of us can make amends for our neglect, but we can bring sunshine to her with a nice, long letter written to "the best mother in the world."



Someone asked us just what we could possibly find as news facts this time of year 'mongst the folks of farm and small towns. Well, along about this time of year there are lots of facts city cliff dwellers today will recall, when they lived down near Kokomo, up at Oshkosh, or back on the farm in Iowa, that were annual spring news items. Folks were running out of cellar supplies of potatoes and apples—and eating eggs three times a day . . . Mother was scheming to get the kitchen papered . . . dandelion greens were on the bill of fare . . . busy Dad went to bed early and got up the same . . . Mother's butter and egg money had to stretch out to include graduation dresses for sister . . . it always seemed like the folks had you planting longer garden rows each spring . . . you had to learn your "Piece" for last day of school . . . the first circus bills adorned the old blacksmith shop . . . you had watery eyes from grating horseradish for Mom . . . it was too cold yet to go barefoot . . . the neighbor boys had the mumps . . . you had to help whitewash the chicken house . . . and life was just an awful, old grind. Yes, there was lots of news. Just little, every-day things, but they were about home. How many of us wish we could live those days over. We

would do more and differently, for Dad and Mother, bless 'em. We little realized their burdens, their sacrifices.



This is the time of year when rhubarb furnishes the timber for some mighty good pies. Speaking of pies, did you hear the one about the young bride's first attempt at baking pies? The young couple lived in a tiny apartment and she was to bake "him" a surprise pie for the evening meal. When he came in from work he saw a large, long pie and asked with wide eyes "What's that?" She blushed, and said, "Honey, I just couldn't get any SHORTER rhubarb at the grocery."



As we finish this column, the Sunday Little Brown Church program is closing and visitors file past our desk on their way out. There are two freshly-shaved, clean-cut aged men we've seen many times here before. Next comes an elderly crippled lady, assisted by a younger woman who we imagine is her daughter. A group of three young couples follow, nodding us a sunny "Good morning" . . . matching the bright sunshine outside. Our church is over. Come again folks, you're always welcome.



## Olympic Boxing

The "battle of the Olympic giants," to determine the amateur heavyweight boxers who will represent this country at the Olympics, will be broadcast from the ringside at the Chicago Stadium over the NBC - Blue network from 8:30 to 9:00 p. m., CST, May 20.

The Chicago battles will be the final bouts in the Olympic elimination series.



## ELMER



"Them guys that set endurance records ain't got nothin' on me."

## Why Is a Gag Man?

(Continued from page 3)

and a routine of about three or four—an average of 10 to 16 a day. Multiply that by six, and you'll get an idea of a week's supply and again by 52 for an entire year's supply—in round figures, close to 5,000 gags! Which in anybody's language is a conglomerate galaxy of buffoonery. And that for one show alone!

Now just for fun—(why must that word keep bobbing up?)—let's discount the jokes that are taboo. Jokes about intoxication are immediately out, which limits the field no end. Double meaning jokes have no place—another supply gone. Jokes about the clergy, church and Sunday School are out. Profanity, of course, is taboo. Bright sayings of the children are hard to adapt, and mother-in-law jokes are generally frowned upon. Now, quick like a train, how many jokes can you think of off-hand that don't fall into one of those classifications? Well, you figure it out and you get some idea of the seriousness of this so-called funny business!

The secret in comedy writing is adapting your material. Listen to the comedians of the air. Notice how many times they use the same jokes or jokes that are terribly old. But you laugh at them because they are funny in the way they are put across. If you were to read one of Ed Wynn's or Eddie Cantor's or Fred Allen's scripts you'd probably find it very un-funny. But told in the style of Wynn or Cantor or Allen they always bring a laugh. It is thinking up new ways of telling old jokes wherein lies the art of gag writing.

Just for fun—(there I go again!)—let's see how the same joke might look if used respectively by Ed Wynn, Fred Allen and Possum Tuttle. For your information the first is Ed Wynn!

**GRAHAM:** Say, have you been down to your uncle's farm recently, chief?

**WYNN:** My Uncle's farm, Graham? Oh, of course I have! And the funniest thing happened down there the other day, Graham! This'll kill you! Oh, it's so silly! I was down at the farm, y'know—it belongs to my uncle, y'see. And he has a horse down there . . . (LAUGHS) . . . oh, it's so silly! He has a horse down there that eats money!

**GRAHAM:** A horse that eats money?

**WYNN:** Isn't that silly? Yes, he eats money! Now listen closely to this, Graham. It's in English, so you'll probably understand it! I know it eats money because . . . (LAUGHS) . . . Oh, I love them when they're silly! Soo-o-o-o-o, I know he eats money because I saw two bits in his mouth! (LAUGHS) Isn't that silly!"

Well, it's silly all right—but it goes over! Now for Fred Allen and Portland Hoffa . . . the same joke!

**PORTLAND:** Mr. Allen . . . Mr. Allen!

**ALLEN:** Now look here, if that's some book salesman, tell them I already have a book!

**PORTLAND:** Helloo!

**ALLEN:** Well, as I live and try to keep my glasses clean so I won't give people dirty looks, if it isn't Portland! What made you so late tonight, Portland?

**PORTLAND:** Oh, papa bought a new horse!

**ALLEN:** A new horse? What's the matter, is papa tired of being the goat?

**PORTLAND:** No, this is really a wonderful horse. Papa says it eats money!

**ALLEN:** It eats money? Get out!

**PORTLAND:** Yes—he says he saw two bits in its mouth!

**ALLEN:** I see—that's a horse of a different collar! Well, I hate to hurry you, Portland, but . . .

**PORTLAND:** I get it . . . tallyho!

And now as Possum Tuttle and Jack Holden might do it on the Minstrel show.

**JACK:** Well, Possum, you're late this morning!

**POSSUM:** Yessuh, but you see, Mr. Jack, Ah saw a funny horse when Ah was comin'

to work dis mornin' so Ah stopped to look at it!

**JACK:** You say you saw a funny horse? What was so funny about it?

**POSSUM:** Well, dis hyar horse, Mr. Jack, was eatin' money!

**JACK:** The horse was eating money? Why that's preposterous, Possum!

**POSSUM:** Yessuh, but he was eatin' money all right. He had two bits in his mouff!

Well, so it goes! And if there's a moral to this little story it might be just this: when somebody asks you to write something funny, think it over carefully before you agree. Maybe if I'd thought it over first, I wouldn't have accepted when Julian Bentley asked me to write something funny for Stand By!

~\*~

## EILEEN



**FRANCES CARLON**, who plays the role of "English" Eileen Moran in Today's Children (WLS - NBC 8:30 a. m., CST).

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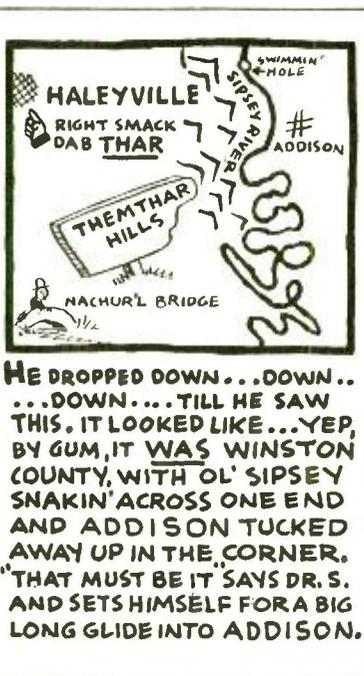
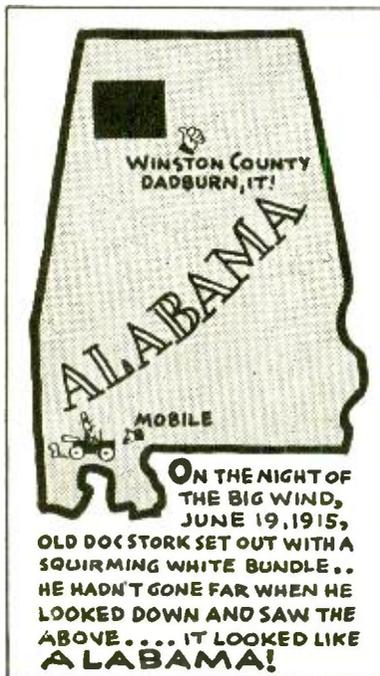
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## (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME)

Sunday, May 17

- 7:00—Ralph Emerson at the Organ.
- 7:30—"Everybody's Hour," conducted by John Baker—WLS Concert Orchestra; John Brown and Glen Welty; Ralph Emerson; Grace Wilson and Hobby Interview; Children's Pet Poems.
- 8:30—WLS Little Brown Church of the Air, conducted by John W. Holland; Hymns by Little Brown Church Singers and Henry Burr, tenor, assisted by WLS Orchestra and Ralph Emerson, organist.
- 9:15—Roy Anderson, baritone; Ralph Emerson.
- 9:30—WLS Concert Orchestra; Otto Marek, tenor.
- 10:00—NBC—"American Pageant of Youth." (Tastyeast)
- 10:30—Newton Jenkins Political Talk.
- 10:45—Policemen's and Firemen's Vocal Contest.
- 10:58—Weather Report.
- 11:00—Sign Off.

Sunday Evening, May 17

5:30 p. m. to 7:00 p. m., CST

- 5:30—NBC—Bob Ripley. (Standard Brands)
- 6:00—NBC—Echoes from the Orchestra Pit.
- 7:00—NBC—Sign Off.

## (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME)

### MORNING PROGRAM

- 5:00—Smile-A-While—Prairie Ramblers and Patsy Montana; Hoosier Sod Busters; Arkie.
- 5:30—Farm Bulletin Board — Howard Black.
- 5:40—Smile-A-While—Cont'd—with weather Report and Livestock Estimates.
- 6:00—WLS News Report — Julian Bentley. (Hamlin's)
- 6:15—"Top o' the Mornin' Crew" with Happy Henry—Daily ex. Sat.—Ralph Emerson; Hilltoppers; John Brown; Weather; Time; Temperature.  
Mon., Wed., Fri.—Hometowners Quartet.  
Tues.—Grace Wilson & Sod Busters.  
Thurs.—George Goebel & Sod Busters.
- 6:45—Mon., Wed., Fri.—Hotan Tonka, Indian Legends; Ralph Emerson, organist. (Ma Brown)  
Tues., Thurs., Sat.—Arkie.
- 7:00—Jolly Joe and His Pet Pals. (Little Crow Milling)
- 7:15—Otto & His Novelodeons.
- 7:30—WLS News Report — Julian Bentley. Hoosier Sod Busters; Bookings.
- 7:45—Morning Devotions, conducted by Jack Holden, assisted by Hometowners & Ralph Emerson.
- 8:00—NBC—Vic & Sade. (Crisco)
- 8:15—Morning Minstrels, featuring Hometowners Quartet; Otto's Novelodeons; Henry Possum Tuttle; Joe Kelly and Jack Holden. (Olson Rug Co.)
- 8:30—NBC — Today's Children. (Dramatic Adventures of a Family)

8:45—NBC—David Harum — serial drama.

9:00—Martha Crane and Helen Joyce in Morning Homemakers' Program; John Brown Hilltoppers; Phil Kalar; Grace Wilson; WLS Orchestra.

Tues., Sat.—Ralph Emerson; Otto & His Novelodeons.

9:45—Mon., Wed., Fri.—The Hilltoppers. (ABC Washers and Ironers)

Tues., Thurs.—Ralph Emerson, organ melodies.

10:00—WLS News Report — Julian Bentley.

10:05—Poultry Markets—Dressed Veal; Butter & Egg Markets.

10:10—Jim Poole's Mid-Morning Chicago Cattle, Hog and Sheep Market direct from Union Stock Yards. (Chicago Livestock Exchange)

10:15—Prairie Ramblers and Patsy Montana. (Peruna)

10:30—"Old Kitchen Kettle"—Mary Wright; Hilltoppers; Fruit & Vegetable Report.

10:45—Mon., Wed., Fri.—Virginia Lee & Sunbeam.

Tues.—Rocky & Ted; Helene Brahm.

Thurs.—John Brown, pianist.

Thurs.—"Trend of the Stock Market"—Addison Warner. (5 min.)

10:00—Mon., Wed., Fri.—Cornhuskers & the Chore Boy.

Tues., Thurs.—"Old Music Chest"—Phil Kalar; Ralph Emerson.

11:15—Mon., Wed., Fri.—"The Melody Parade"—Hometowners Quartet; Sophia Germanich and WLS Orchestra.

Tues., Thurs.—Carson Robinson & His Buckaroos. (Serval) (E. T.)

11:30—Weather Report; Fruit & Vegetable Market; Bookings. (Jamesway) (M. W. F.)

11:40—WLS News Report — Julian Bentley.

## SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 16

6:00—Henry Hornsbuckle; Prairie Ramblers; Patsy; Sod Busters. (Conkeys)

6:15—Hilltoppers & George Goebel.

6:30—Keystone Barn Dance Party, featuring Lulu Belle. (Keystone Steel and Wire Co.)

7:00—Barn Dance Jamboree, featuring Hometowners; Pat Buttram; Max Terhune; Hoosier Sod Busters; Prairie Ramblers and others. (Murphy Products Co.)

7:30—National Barn Dance NBC Hour with Uncle Ezra; Maple City Four; Verne, Lee and Mary; Hoosier Hot Shots; Lucille Long; Henry Burr; Sally Foster; Skyland Scotty; Otto

and His Novelodeons, and other Hayloft favorites, with Joe Kelly as Master o Ceremonies. (Alka-Seltzer)

8:30—Front Porch Serenade.

9:00—Hilltoppers; Possum Tuttle and Red Foley. (Gillette)

9:15—Cabin and Bunkhouse Melodies.

9:30—Prairie Farmer - WLS National Barn Dance continues until 12:00 P. M., CST, with varied features, including Prairie Ramblers; Otto & His Novelodeons; Patsy Montana; Hometowners Quartet; Christine; John Brown; Henry; George Goebel; Hilltoppers; Bill O'Connor; Grace Wilson; Hoosier Sod Busters; Eddie Allan; Arkie; Red Foley; Lulu Belle & Skyland Scotty, and many others.

# WLS DAILY PROGRAMS

11:45—Prairie Farmer Dinnerbell Program, conducted by Arthur Page—45 minutes of varied Farm and Musical Features. Dr. Holland in Devotional Message at 12:40. (12:00—Tues.—“Midwest On Parade”—John Baker, featuring Jackson, Michigan. Wed.—Trip through Meat-Packing Center.

## AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

(Daily ex. Sat. & Sun.)

### (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME)

12:30—Jim Poole's Livestock Market Summary direct from Union Stock Yards. (Chicago Livestock Exchange)  
 12:40—Country Life Insurance—dramatic skit. I. A. A. dramatic skit.  
 12:45—F. C. Bisson of U. S. D. A. in Closing Grain Market Cummary. Special Announcements.  
 12:55—WLS News Report—Julian Bentley.  
 1:00—Homemakers' Hour. (See detailed schedule)  
 1:15—NBC—“Ma Perkins.” (Oxydol)  
 1:30—Homemakers' Hour—Cont'd.  
 2:00—Sign Off for WENR.

## Saturday Morning, May 23

### (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME)

5:00-8:00—See Daily Morning Schedule.  
 6:30—Uncle Buster & the Big Yank Boys.  
 7:45—Radio Sunday School Class, conducted by Dr. John W. Holland.  
 8:00—Winnie, Lou & Sally.  
 8:15—Morning Minstrels.  
 8:30—Jolly Joe and iHs Junior Stars.  
 9:00—Morning Homemakers' Program.  
 9:45—Red Foley.  
 10:00—WLS News Report—Julian Bentley.  
 10:05—Butter & Egg Market; Dressed Veal Live and Dressed Poultry Quotations.  
 10:10—Program News—Harold Safford.  
 10:30—“Old Kitchen Kettle”—Mary Wright; Hilltoppers; Fruit & Vegetable Report.  
 10:45—Rocky & Ted.  
 11:00—WLS Garden Club, conducted by John Baker.  
 11:15—Closing Grain Market Summary—F. C. Bisson.  
 11:22—Christine & Henry.  
 11:30—Weather Report; Fruit & Vegetable Markets; Bookings.  
 11:40—WLS News Report—Julian Bentley.  
 11:45—Poultry Service Time; Hometowns Quartet; Ralph Emerson.  
 12:00—Future Farmers Program, conducted by John Baker.  
 12:15—Prairie Farmer - WLS Home Talent Acts.  
 12:30—Weekly Livestock Market Review by Jim Clark of Chicago Producers' Commission Association.  
 12:45—Homemakers' Program. ( See detailed schedule.)  
 1:30—WLS Merry-Go-Round, with variety acts, including Ralph Emerson; Chrstine; Hilltoppers; Eddie Allan; John Brown; Winnie, Lou & Sally; Jack Holden; George Goebel.  
 2:00—Sign Off for WENR.

## HOMEMAKERS' SCHEDULE

(Conducted by Mary Wright)

### Monday, May 18

1:00—Orchestra; Max Wilson, soloist; John Brown; Marjorie Gibson in Fanfare; P. T. A. Speaker.

### Tuesday, May 19

1:00—Ralph Emerson; Hilltoppers; Don Wilson and His Singing Guitar; Helene Brahm; Bill O'Connor, tenor; Marjorie Gibson in Fanfare; Margaret Sweeney, harpist; Book Review.

### Wednesday, May 20

1:00—Orchestra; Paul Nettinga; John Brown; Marjorie Gibson in Fanfare; Virginia Seeds, “Party Games.”

### Thursday, May 21

1:00—Orchestra; Grace Wilson; John Brown; Margaret Sweeney, harpist; Phil Kalar, baritone; WLS Little Home Theatre; Marjorie Gibson in Fanfare.

### Friday, May 22

1:00—Orchestra; Marjorie Gibson in Fanfare; Home Bureau Speaker; “Christine.”

### Saturday, May 23

1:00—Ralph Emerson; Hilltoppers; Skyland Scotty; John Brown; Otto & His Novelodeons; Tommy Tanner; Ken Wright; Christine; Interview of a WLS Personality—Marjorie Gibson; Lulu Belle.

## EVENING PROGRAMS

### (CENTRAL STANDARD TIME)

### Monday, May 18

6:00—NBC—Fibber McGee & Molly. (Johnson Wax)  
 6:30—NBC—Exening in Paris. (Bourjois Sales Corp.)  
 7:00—NBC—Sinclair Greater Minstrels. (Sinclair)

### Tuesday, May 19

6:00—NBC—Eno Crime Clues.  
 6:30—NBC—Edgar Guest in Welcome Valley. (Household Finance)  
 7:00—NBC—Ben Bernie. (American Can Co.)

### Wednesday, May 20

6:00—NBC—Follie Fergere of the Air. (Sterling Products)  
 7:00—WLS—Ford Rhythm Orchestra. (Ford Dealers)  
 7:15—WLS—The Government & Your Family Purse—Martha Jean Ziegler.

### Thursday, May 21

6:00—NBC—Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. (Pittsburgh Plate Glass)  
 6:30—NBC—Good Time Society.  
 7:00—NBC—Death Valley Days. (Pacific Coast Borax)

### Friday, May 22

6:00—NBC—Irene Rich. (Welch's)  
 6:15—WLS—“The Old Judge.”  
 6:30—NBC—Lou Breeze's Orchestra.  
 7:00—WLS—Ford Rhythm Orchestra. (Ford Dealers)  
 7:15—NBC—Music Guild.

## WATCH THIS SPACE

FOR  
 Appearance of WLS Artists  
 in YOUR Community



### SUNDAY, MAY 17

Ypsilanti, Michigan, Wuerth Theatre—WLS National Barn Dance: Lulu Belle; Skyland Scotty; Winnie, Lou & Sally; Max Terhune; Bill McCluskey; Barn Dance Band.

Wallace, Indiana, Wallace Gymnasium—WLS Merry-Go-Round: Joe Kelly; Prairie Ramblers & Patsy Montana; Henry Hornsbuckle; Hoosier Sod Busters.

McLeansboro, Illinois, Capitol Theatre—WLS Barn Dance (1936 Edition): Ramblin' Red Foley & His Band; Tom Corwine; Cousin Chester; Flannery Sisters.

### MONDAY, MAY 18

Cloverport, Kentucky, Arcade Theatre—WLS Merry-Go-Round: Ramblin' Red Foley & His Band; Tom Corwine; Flannery Sisters; Cousin Chester.

### TUESDAY, MAY 19

Loogootee, Indiana, High School Gymnasium—WLS Barn Dance (1936 Edition): Ramblin' Red Foley & His Band; Tom Corwine; Flannery Sisters; Cousin Chester.

### THURSDAY, MAY 21

Phoenix, Illinois, Coolidge School Gymnasium—WLS National Barn Dance: Lulu Belle; Skyland Scotty; Winnie, Lou & Sally; Max Terhune; Bill McCluskey; Barn Dance Band.

Bluffton, Indiana, Grand Theatre—WLS Barn Dance (1936 Edition): Ramblin' Red Foley & His Band; Tom Corwine; Flannery Sisters; Cousin Chester.

### FRIDAY, MAY 22

Algonquin, Illinois, High School Gymnasium—Prairie Ramblers; Patsy Montana; Joe Kelly; Winnie, Lou & Sally; Georgie Goebel; Harold Safford.

**SPECIAL NOTE: Due to unforeseen circumstances the route of the WLS unit featuring Lulu Belle & Skyland Scotty; Winnie, Lou & Sally; Max Terhune; Bill McCluskey, and the Barn Dance, was not completed in time to print it in Stand By! For the announcements on this show, listen to the Booking announcements broadcast every day at 5:30 a. m., 7:35 a. m. and 11:30 a. m., Central Standard Time.**



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