

The Famous

WOWO

HOOSIER HOP



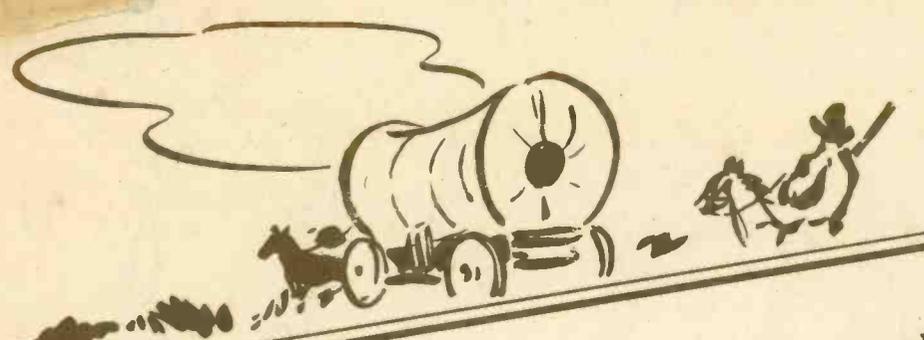
*Every
Saturday
Night*

BLUE NETWORK - COAST-TO-COAST !!

RURAL
RHYTHM
FAVORITES

FORT
WAYNE

Souvenir Program



The famous Hoosier Hop on WOWO was created from traditions that have established this section of the midwest as TYPICAL America.

Over 150 years ago the first community social affairs were held within the wooden stockades of the old fort. Hoosier Hospitality was the ringing keynote of entertainment in those days, just as it is in Indiana today.

Poets caught the spirit and wrote of the freshness of the Indiana hills, and the mellowness of its moon. Songwriters eulogized the winding Wabash and the stalwart sycamores. As enduring as those sycamores themselves are the melodies which have come down from those earlier days.

And, keeping alive the spirit of this Hoosier hospitality the HOOSIER HOP was established as a feature of WOWO in 1932. CBS thought well enough of it to give it a half-hour a week on the network for many months, and from its ranks came some of today's stellar western and Broadway stars.

On July 17, 1943, the Hoosier Hop was revived as a studio broadcast with a cast of about 15 people. Shortly after, the cast was augmented and when it went into the Shrine auditorium in Fort Wayne on October 6th, a full cast of THIRTY people played to a capacity crowd of over 4,000 people.

Since that time the Hoosier Hop cast has appeared at fairs, bond rallies, civic functions, and even played for private wedding and house parties. It belongs to Hoosierdom—it's Hoosierdom's own contribution to American entertainment.

On May 5th, 1944, the Hoosier Hop established its claim to national fame when it went on the Blue Network, coast-to-coast for a full fifty-five minutes of rural rhythms, and traditional American folk music.



The Famous Hoosier Hop

A Saturday Night Feature of The Blue
Network—Coast to Coast

Master of Ceremonies	- - - - -	Don Bush & Fred Oliver
Blackhawk Valley Boys	- - - - -	{ Pete Fall George Arthur Andy Anderson
And Their Sweetheart	- - - - -	- Penny West
DOWN HOMERS	- - - - -	{ Guy Campbell "Shorty" Cook Ken Roberts Lloyd Cornell
Old Man of the Mountain	- - - - -	- Fred Oliver
Uncle Fezz	- - - - -	"Skeets" Cross
Don and Helen, Sweethearts of Song	- - - - -	{ Helen Bush Don Bush
HARMONY TWINS	- - - - -	{ Judy Herrell Jen Herrell
Happy Herb	- - - - -	Herb Hayworth
The Nation's Ghost—Coast to Coast	- - - - -	"Skeets" Cross
Indiana's Favorite Baritone	- - - - -	Howard Ropa
National Square Dancers	- - - - -	Themselves

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO THE FOLLOWING:

Produced by	- - - - -	Eldon Campbell
Assisted by	- - - - -	Carl Vandagriff, Fred Freeland
Engineer	- - - - -	Roxy Burley
Promotion	- - - - -	Hilda Woehrmeyer
Newspaper Publicity	- - - - -	Amy Scharf
Radio Publicity	- - - - -	Marge Roemer
Personnel Management	- - - - -	Harry Smythe
Scenery	- - - - -	David Fisher
Script	- - - - -	"Skeets" Cross



Blackhawk Valley Boys

Realistic renditions of cowboy songs and romantic Western ballads have made the Blackhawk Valley Boys one of the most popular "Hoosier Hop" groups. Connoisseurs of harmony, they are also adept at original novelties. The personnel of the group includes Wee Penny West, Pete Fall, Handsome George Arthur, and Andy Anderson, two keyboard accordion wizards. They derived their name from the Blackhawk Valley in Illinois, home of the early Winnebago Indian tribe.



Don and Helen

Take a harmony duet. Place them on some six major radio stations and two networks. Have them start out as strictly a business proposition and then cook up a romance. Season these ingredients with a spoonful of hard knocks and you'll likely get a finished product that resembles Don and Helen. Known and loved as "The Sweethearts of Song," Don and Helen make their songs a vivid reflection of their personalities. They choose the melody "Two By Four For Two" as their theme because it is an expression of a happy life together.



Judy and Jen

One of the most beautiful sister teams in radio, Judy and Jen, are affectionately known as "The Harmony Twins." Versatile as well as talented, they have performed not only with Western and hillbilly bands, but also with dance orchestras. Both are rabid baseball fans. They dress alike, and both are just five feet three inches tall. They have sung together since early childhood.



Guy Campbell

Shorty Cook



The Down Homers

Ken Roberts

Loyd Cornell

It so happens that these members of the "Hoosier Hop" are four of the ablest and most experienced performers in radio today. Headed by Guy Campbell, able emcee and violinist, with Shorty Cook, guitarist, who also plays "Cecil," comedy character; personable Ken Roberts, bass player and harmonica virtuoso; and Cowboy Loyd Cornell, handsome singer and guitarist, each one a star performer in his own right, and as a group they are what can be termed only as terrific! They claim—and rightly—that they can handle ANY string instrument.



Howard Ropa

When Howard Ropa, famed baritone of the WOWO "Famous Hoosier Hop" announced his marriage over a coast-to-coast hook-up in 1940 he promptly received hundreds of congratulatory messages from all over the U. S. and Canada which is just one indication of his nation-wide popularity. However, radio has not been Howard's only attachment to the field of music. He has taught voice for years, and has appeared on frequent occasions as Master of Ceremonies throughout the Middle West. Daytime, he's on duty at General Electric.



Skeets Cross

A talented young fellow who vowed he would never be caught near a stage, and ended up a top flight comedian is "Skeets" Cross. One night he was drafted out of a theatre orchestra pit to replace a drop-out in the show and he displayed such unusual ability that he was off to a brilliant start as an entertainer. Particularly adept at dialect roles "Skeets" has brought down many a house with his vivid comedy. In radio for 8 years, his prime hobby is script writing. He has a flare for collecting jokes, likes good literature, and his favorite sport is fishing. "Skeets" also plays the part of "Uncle Fezz" famous philosophizing character role on the "Hoosier Hop."



Andy Anderson

Nationally, considered one of the top flight accordion aces in the barn dance business, Andy Anderson is a modest, retiring sort of fellow. But when he appears before a "Hop" audience or on a personal appearance he lets his accordion talk for him. Not only an outstanding accordionist, he is also a capable organist and pianist. He is married, has two cunning youngsters and likes nothing better than to take the family fishing or swimming.





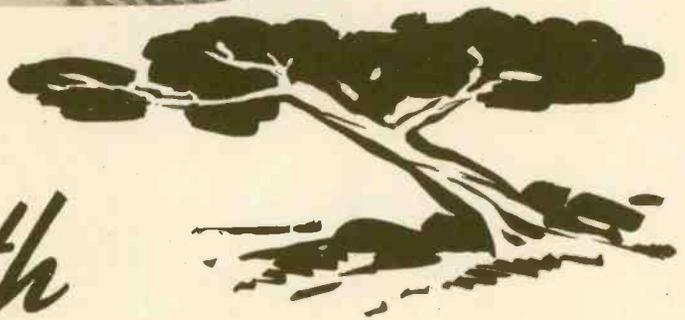
Penny West



Though she is one of the busiest entertainers of the WOWO "Famous Hoosier Hop" Penny West still has time for her many and interesting hobbies, such as enamel painting, sewing, athletics, and designing many of her own costumes for "Hoosier Hop" appearances. Penny says that her greatest thrill was when a fan named a baby after her. Her rich voice and expressive personality lend themselves equally well to hillbilly ditties, Western ballads, popular melodies, and sacred hymns.



Herb Hayworth



Story teller, vocalist, and gagster, Herb Hayworth, "The Old Hoosier" himself, is known and loved for down-to-earth, "homey" entertainment. Born in Southern Indiana Herb is a veteran of show-business and of radio from its infancy. He just started his fifteenth year on Indiana's most powerful broadcast station and is well known to millions as "Happy Herb." Famed for his large repertoire of songs, Herb's capable showmanship and kindly wit have made him one of radio's most beloved personalities.



Pete Fall

Pete Fall is hillbilly tradition in himself. Strumming the guitar on two regular radio shows when he was only 11, Pete was an accomplished hillbilly artist when most youngsters his age were still playing with mud pies. Pete is the business manager of the Blackhawk Valley Boys and under his direction they have averaged at least three shows a week on the road. A devotee of hunting and fishing, Pete's greatest ambition is simply to make a secure living at the work he loves, and to build a future for two charming daughters.

George Arthur

Possessing a rich, romantic baritone voice, George Arthur has sung in clubs, with Western bands, and radio, and is now one of the star personalities of the WOWO "Famous Hoosier Hop." Considered one of the handsomest entertainers in the barn dance field, George is also one of the youngest Western singers in the country. His hobbies and favorite sports are baseball, hunting, and fishing.





Fred Oliver

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A natural showman, Fred Oliver's beaming smile, his friendly chatter, and his yodeling ability have made him one of the most popular Hoosier Hop personalities, and fit him well for his role as emcee. Fred's father was a fiddler, and his mother a talented singer, so showmanship just came "natural" to him. In addition to emceeing and yodeling, Fred sets a lot of rhythm with some fancy maneuvering on the bass. He is married and the father of four children.



Dear Neighbors:—

May we take this means of thanking our thousands of Loyal "Hoosier Hop" fans and our millions of Saturday night listeners, from Coast to Coast, who have made this Program possible.

It has been your generous and fine support, this first year, that has made our dreams come true. Especially, do we wish to acknowledge our thanks to those who inspired its printing—men and women in our armed forces who have written telling us how much they enjoyed this touch of home, even in the foxholes and on the waters of the seven seas. To them we'd like to dedicate this book, as well as to the thousands of loyal patrons who have faithfully attended our performances at the Shrine Auditorium and our Studios in Fort Wayne.

We will keep trying, in the future, to bring you the best, in entertainment, each week, in order to warrant your continued support.

May we remind you that every member of the "Hoosier Hop" is available, as a single act, or in groups, for your Community entertainment. Farm Bureaus, Church Affairs, 4-H Clubs, Civic Organizations. In fact, whenever you think of entertainment, please think of WOWO and the "Hoosier Hop" organization. We are ready to serve you, at all times, with your Community Enterprises.

Again, may we extend a warm handshake to all of our friends.

Cordially,

Hoosier Harry Smythe.

