

We Pay Our Respects To —



JOHN HAROLD RYAN

IF THE DEGREE of "Oracle of the Adding Machine" or perhaps "Bachelor of the Burroughs" were added to professional nomenclature, John Harold Ryan would qualify magna cum laude, with an extra yard of gold braid.

For to Harold Ryan the adding machine is what a sextant is to the mariner, a slide-rule to the engineer. He attributes his success as a broadcaster and a business man to the revelations of the galloping digets, and he has taken many an industrial hurdle because of what the figures proved to him.

Formally, J. Harold Ryan is vice-president and treasurer of the Fort Industry Co., the West Virginia Broadcasting Corp. and the Monongahela Valley Broadcasting Co. Translated into call letters, this means he is active general manager of WSPD, Toledo, his home town, and supervising director of WWVA, Wheeling, W. Va.; WMMN, Fairmont, W. Va., and WLOK, Lima, O. In the industry he is the Ryan end of the Storer-Ryan interests, which control these stations, and also hold minority interests in WALR, Zanesville, and KIRO, Seattle. George B. Storer, president of the companies, is Harold Ryan's brother-in-law.

Because he is a practical broadcaster, rather than an impresario, Mr. Ryan recently was elected director for the Seventh District of the NAB, comprising Ohio and Kentucky. Last year he was president of the Ohio Broadcaster's Assn., one of the strongest of the State units.

On Sept. 8 genial, soft-spoken Harold Ryan enters his 55th year. The last dozen of those years he has spent as a station operator, though he probably had not planned it that way. The oil business was his primary interest, and the purchase of the first station by the Storer-Ryan group in 1927 was to promote and advertise the oil business, as a secondary operation. But the radio tail soon wagged the dog, as it often has done, and broadcasting became the major interest.

It was in 1925 that brother-in-law Storer returned from Cleveland with a new idea in marketing gas and oil. Service stations would be erected adjacent to railroad sidings, with gasoline purchased in tank car lots, and the savings thereby passed along to the consumer. In 1927 the Fort Industry Oil Co. was formed to expand these operations. Stations were maintained in Cleveland and Toledo. The owners, in seeking methods to promote their product, decided to use radio. The arrangements were started with the then local station, WTAL. Not long after they were consummated, the Storer-Ryan group owned the station.

So close was the gasoline tieup that the call letters of WTAL were changed to WSPD, connoting the trade name of their product "Speedene" gas. Radio looked good, and in 1928 WGHP was purchased in Detroit. After operating the latter for three years, it was sold to the King-Trendle interests in 1930, and they have been operating it as WXYZ with success, particularly in program innovations.

Against the backdrop of radio, the gas business lost its glamor. In 1931 the gas stations were sold, and the firm looked around for new radio fields to conquer. WWVA was purchased, and placed under the guiding genius of Mr. Ryan. In 1932 George Storer located at Detroit and built CKOK, which became CKLW, just across the river in Windsor, Ontario, but several years later disposed of it to Canadian interests. In 1935 WMMN was purchased, and in the fall of 1938, the FCC approved transfer of WBLY, now WLOK, to the Storer-Ryan group.

Harold Ryan is as much a part of Toledo as his station. As a youth he attended the old Central High School in that city, and then enrolled at Yale, from which he was graduated in 1908. A diligent student, he won the coveted Phi Beta Kappa key. His fraternity, Beta Theta Pi, became a major extracurricular activity—an interest he

Personal NOTES

JOHN M. DOLPH, for the last two years assistant general manager of the CBS Pacific Network, with headquarters in Hollywood, has resigned that post effective Sept. 1 to return to the advertising agency field. After a brief vacation he will announce his new affiliation. He has been in radio seven years and was producer of the *Fred Waring* show and *Sunday Evening Hour* for N. W. Ayer & Son. He later became Pacific Coast sales manager of CBS before assuming his present network office two years ago. Before coming into radio he had been with N. W. Ayer & Son as copy writer, assistant copy chief and manager of service.

FRANK S. LANE, veteran manager of WDOH, Chattanooga, has resigned to become director of the new WSPB, Sarasota, Fla., authorized for construction to a group of Chattanooga businessmen July 13 [BROADCASTING, July 15].

JOE SPADEA, station representative, was slightly injured in an auto accident at Gaines, S. C., Aug. 18 when his car was forced off the road by a truck during a heavy rain and crashed into a way-side gas station. He suffered cuts and bruises but continued to Atlanta by rail.

CLIFFORD ATKINSON, formerly head of the commercial department of KWOC, Poplar Bluff, Mo., has been named head of sales at KWOS, Jefferson City, Mo. The new sales staff includes Bob Dello and Robert Coleman, former newspapermen.

HARRIS EMMERSON, formerly of the business office at WAPI, Birmingham, Ala., has joined the sales staff.

FENTON W. EARNSHAW, executive of Earnshaw Radio Productions, Los Angeles, after six months in Mexico, has returned to his California headquarters.

has maintained. He was Ohio district chief of his fraternity for several years after graduation and now is treasurer of the Covington Trust Assn., Yale's alumni group of Beta Theta Pi. He has an unbroken string of attendance at the fraternity's national conventions, dating from 1907.

After graduation, Harold Ryan returned to Toledo to enter his father's business, the Arbuckle-Ryan Co., at that time manufacturers of agricultural equipment and railroad supplies. Upon his father's death he became treasurer, a position he retained until its dissolution in 1928. Following the war the lines in which the company was interested had nosedived, and active operations were ended in 1925. It was then he embarked in the gasoline business that proved a direct route to broadcasting with his brother-in-law.

In addition to his radio operations, Mr. Ryan is director and executive committee member of the Ohio Citizens Trust Co., a Toledo financial institution, and director of the Standard Tube Co., manufacturers of steel tubing in Detroit, of which Mr. Storer is president. His civic activities include membership in the Toledo Chamber of Commerce, the newly-organized Advertising Club of Toledo and the Rotary Club.

JAMES B. ROCK, assistant manager of Westinghouse's radio broadcast department under Walter Evans, on Aug. 12 married Miss Henrietta C. Thames, of Jacksonville, Fla., a graduate of the University of Florida. The ceremony took place at the Little Church Around the Corner, New York. They will make their home after Sept. 1 at 1015 Morton St., Baltimore.

JOHNNY CREWS, former manager of KHUB, Watsonville, Cal., has been named manager of KYOS, Merced, Cal. Marion Walker has been named manager of KHUB.

BOB CONVEY, president of KWK, St. Louis, on Aug. 3 became the father of a baby girl, Sharon Kay Convey.

HOWARD FOLEY, formerly of the sales staff of KTAT, Fort Worth, has joined the sales department of KGKO, Fort Worth.

FRED BUGG, formerly general manager of WTMC, Ocala, Fla., has been named general manager of the new WTSP, St. Petersburg, Fla., for which a construction permit has been granted by the FCC. WTSP will operate on 1370 kc, with 100 watts night and 250 watts day.

MAYNARD MARQUARDT, manager of WCFL, Chicago, has returned to his desk following a tonsillectomy.

M. H. (Pete) PETERSEN has resigned as general manager of KPNF, Shenandoah, Ia., and has not announced his future plans. Edward Heaton, of the KPNF sales staff, has also resigned and has announced no plans.

H. R. McLAUGHLIN, who recently resigned as manager of CJRC, Winnipeg, and CJRM, Regina, was presented with a sterling flask inscribed with the names of the station personnel at a recent farewell party.

A. B. SCHILLIN, vice-president and sales manager of WAAT, Jersey City, has been given a five-year contract renewal as of Aug. 1.

MAJ. EDWARD A. DAVIES, sales vice-president of WIP, Philadelphia, sailed Aug. 23 on the *Queen Mary* for France to participate in dedication Sept. 5 of a new war memorial at Verdun.

The Ryan hobbies are far from ordinary. His home in suburban Toledo, where he resides with his wife, the former Frances Storer, is a veritable treasury of rare first editions. Genealogy is his forte. He is now tracing descendants of the Capetian kings, who ruled France from the 10th century. He has ferreted out 8,000 descendants, with five centuries yet to go. A hiker of extraordinary ability, he can walk the legs off many a younger fellow. At school a chief source of relaxation was his mastery of bridge-whist. As a contract player today he has few peers around Toledo.

A remarkably keen man, combining exact memory with mathematical accuracy, keen insight and wise judgment, Mr. Ryan has endeared himself to his employees. Far from being straight-laced, he is congenial, interested in others, witty, and appreciates a good story.

Recently a group of WSPD salesmen were engaged in an "If-I-had-a-million" session. A staff veteran observed: "I would turn it over to Mr. Ryan and say, 'Here's a little something for you to play with'. It's the safest investment I know of." And Mr. Ryan probably would take it up with the oracle of his office—the adding machine.