



CROSSING a quiz contest with a man-on-the-street show, KROW, Oakland, Cal., has developed *The Question Wheel* under sponsorship of Money-Back Smith, local department store [BROADCASTING, May 15]. The program is conducted by Bert Winn (left), who lets quizees pick their own questions by spinning the numbered "question wheel" in the background.

### Farms From Fans

TEXAS OWENS, singing ranger of WLW, Cincinnati, at the moment is spending part of his vacation inspecting three farms willed to him during the last six years by listeners. Owens in 1934 inherited his first farm, located near Crab Orchard, Neb. The second is on the outskirts of Kansas City, and the third near Paris, Cal. All were bequests made by air fans while he was on network shows out of KMBC, Kansas City. Since coming to Cincinnati some 10 months ago he has received cash gifts totaling over \$300.

IN addition to pickups of special features, including addresses of President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull, during the Eighth American Scientific Congress, held in Washington May 10 to 18, by all three national networks, NBC and CBS independently presented special features to the Congress. NBC presented the NBC Symphony Orchestra, directed by Arturo Toscanini, in a special concert at Constitution Hall on May 14, and later Gen. James G. Harbord, chairman of the board of RCA, addressed the Congress. CBS participation was highlighted May 16 with a preview broadcast of its new *School of the Air for the Americas*, to start in October as a regular shortwave program for Western Hemisphere countries.

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THREE-MINUTE newscasts have been started four times daily, in addition to four daily 15-minute newscasts on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. national network, to take care of additional war news. CBS uses Canadian Press news bulletins prepared by the cooperative newspaper-owned press association for an annual \$20,000 fee. There has been a considerable increase in recent weeks of locally sponsored newscasts on Canadian stations using Transradio Press and British United Press services.

WCBS, Springfield, Ill., has completed plans for a special broadcasting studio on the grounds of the Illinois State Fair to be held in August. Last year WCBS originated more than 75 remotes during Fair Week. Contracts for 35 programs have already been received by the station. WCBS also has arranged a trade deal with five local theatres for screen trailers advertising the station's feature programs. Theatres will use spot announcements.

WESX, Salem, Mass., has announced that on June 17 it will open a new remote studio at Lynn, Mass. The WE-equipped studios, to be located in Central Square, will be managed by George Carey, of the present WESX staff.

CHILDREN of members of Congress displayed their talents during the annual *Congressional Children's Program*, originated May 19 for NBC-Blue by WMAL, Washington. The program, originated from Congressional Women's Club and was directed by Mr. and Mrs. Claude Ward, who conduct the weekly *National Children's Frolic*. Music for the program was furnished by the U. S. Marine Band.

L. B. WILSON, president and general manager of WCKY, Cincinnati, on May 18 ordered a stepup in news tempo on the station whereby all sustaining programs would be cut for news flashes where importance warrants. WCKY announcers also are given special training in giving war news bulletins briefly during station breaks. Foreign broadcasts cut out by commercial programs are transcribed for rebroadcast in the next available period on the station.

WBIG, Greensboro, N. C., early in May carried a series of 10 special programs during National Music Week on which appeared 1,260 local school children. The programs included studio presentations as well as remote pickups from local college and high school auditoriums.

AS AN extra-curricular activity in English, history and dramatics, local high school students are participating in writing, directing and producing a series of three historical plays based on the life of President Andrew Johnson, a Raleigh native, to be heard on WPTF, Raleigh, N. C. The plays are under general supervision of Ralph Burgin, WPTF dramatic director.

BROWN U, Providence, R. I., on May 17 announced addition of a new course in fundamentals of public speaking for 1940-41, to be conducted by Dr. Henry Lee Smith Jr., young Columbia U linguistic expert heard on MBS as conductor of *Where Are You From?*

WMBD, Peoria, Ill., proclaimed May 17 as "Lilac Day" and was rewarded with more than a truckload of the flowers. Staff members spent the day delivering the lilacs to city hospitals and shut-ins.

NEW five-weekly half-hour morning sustainer, *Blue Network Varieties*, was started May 20 on NBC-Pacific Blue network with Peter Potter, screen and radio comedian, as m.c. In search of a better title, the network is offering 10 sets of chimes for best ones submitted. In addition to Potter, the daily program features Ben Gage, singing announcer; Martha Tilton, singer; Skitch Henderson directing a novelty instrumental group, and guest talent. Myron Dutton is producer of the series.

MBS for the second consecutive season will broadcast the Daniel Guggenheim Memorial Concerts by the Goldman Band twice weekly from Central Park, New York, starting June 19. Dr. Edwin Franko Goldman will conduct, assisted by his son, Richard.

MAUDE BENNOT, believed to be the only woman director of a major planetarium, is conducting the weekly *Exploring Space* programs, fourth group of CBS educational astronomical broadcasts, from the Adler Planetarium, Chicago. The series replaces *Men Behind the Stars*, which featured William H. Barton Jr. of the New York Hayden Planetarium.

KATE SMITH, whose noonday CBS programs sponsored by General Foods Corp. are broadcast from her New York apartment on Park Ave., is having a special studio built at her Lake Placid home, from which she can conduct her programs this summer.

ON A PURELY experimental basis, WOR, Newark, has set a new program policy with the start May 23 of a weekly program of recordings by Tommy Dorsey's Orchestra, Thursdays, 9-9:30 a.m. Heretofore WOR has only aired electrical transcriptions when programs broadcast were not live. The Dorsey program, titled *Midnight in Morning*, is the only one scheduled for a month's presentation and is not available for sponsorship. George Hogan is the announcer.

KGNC, Amarillo, Tex., has invited pupils of local and rural schools in its listening area to make educational tours through its studios. Rural students come regularly each week, while local pupils visit, with teachers.

WEEKLY *Sports School*, featuring outstanding personalities from all fields of sports, starts June 1 on NBC-Red, with Bill Stern commentator conducting from the Academy of Sports at the New York World's Fair.

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