

Mountain Music Moves Into Manhattan With Barn Dance

Juke box demand for hillbilly music on upgrade in New York City following trend thruout nation—broadcast and barn dance draws capacity crowds

(Continued from page 16)

body wants simple, understandable music. He says that New Yorkers have reacted like people in other sections when they have had a chance to hear good rural rag. Policy of station has been to include two hymns on each of its programs, such as *The Old Rugged Cross* and *In the Garden*. Easterners are coming around to an appreciation of these and go in for the shouting hymns also.

They Buy Records

One incident that convinced WOV biggies that New Yorkers wanted backwoods music was the reaction to the transcription of *Cool Water*, written by Bob Nolan and sung by Texas Jim Lewis, backed by the Lone Star Cowboys. The first time it was aired requests poured in for information about the song, a simple lament type of tune. The radio audience has expressed disappointment that there are no commercial recordings to be had. Arnold Hartley, station program director, had to insert an announcement that no disks were available to cut down on the mail load.

Station's decision to launch the hillbilly programs, both recorded and live, was based on the conviction that New York was ready for the type of music that has paid off handsomely in other parts of the country.

The *National Barn Dance* on WLS, Chicago, has become that station's right arm. WLW's *Boone County Jamboree*, Cincinnati, is one of this 50,000-watters' top shows. *Grand Ole Opry*, on WSM, Nashville, is also well established as a paying proposition. WOV's program is patterned after these hillbilly hit shows and looks like a natural.

Snag has developed as Local 802, AFM, ruled after the initial airing of the new program that the broadcast cannot originate in Palm Garden or a spot other than a regular studio. Station is attempting to iron out that wrinkle and emulate other outlets by charging admission to the broadcasts and letting the customers square dance afterwards. In the meantime *Broadway Barn Dance* will continue whether or not the broadcast is aired from the hall.

Layman Cameron, emcee of WOV's show, was with WLW, Cincinnati, and WOAI, San Antonio, where he saw hillbilly exploitation. Cameron deserves credit for putting the *Barn Dance* over with a bang. He keeps the show at peak of fast entertainment and calls the square dancing.

Gully-Jumper Julie-B, Eddie Smith, Paul Anthony and Johnny Newton are featured in the vaude entertainment portion of the program, with special guest stars such as Elton Britt, Chester and Lester Buchanan, Bill Brenner and the Circle-B Rangers and Chuck and Ellie Story.

Hillbilly Nitery Does Okay

WOV's pioneering with hillbilly entertainment in the East is similar to the

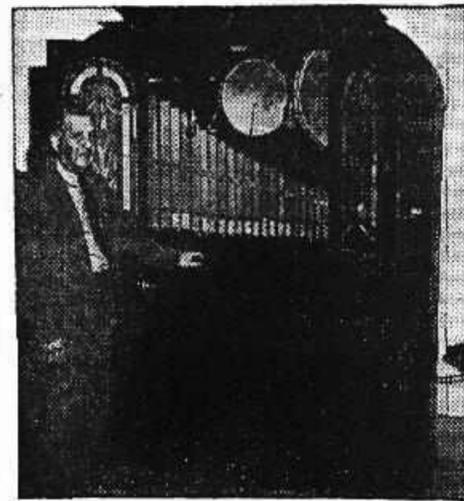
Village Barn's (New York nitery) 14-year successful operation with the hip-and-holler boys. During that period a galaxy of country talent has appeared, including Mack McCrea and Trio, the Lone Star Cowboys, the Barn Cut-Ups, (See *Mountain Music* on opposite page)

Phono Biz To Take Giant Strides, Says Oldtime Op

LOS ANGELES, July 15.—Ask Arthur D. Osborn what he thinks of the future of the coin operated music business and he can give you an answer by recounting the progress and development of the music business over the past 50 years.

In expressing an opinion on the introduction of new coin-operated machines in the post-war era, this Los Angeles operator who is approaching his 79th birthday, foresees great advancements in the development of coin machine design and mechanics.

His belief is that the post-war era will find juke boxes playing the public's nickel pick on a spool of wire or roll of tape instead of the what will then be regarded as cumbersome disks. During his half century of music experience he has garnered a knack of visualizing the next step to be taken on the way to improved juke recording. Thru the years he has built an impressive collection of old music boxes from automatic pianos with single and double violins, to a mechanical "canary."



ARTHUR D. OSBORN, for 50 years a music machine operator, is shown standing near one of the old pianos in his collection of antique coin machines that were popular years ago.

His hobby and his business is wrapped up in the study of coin operated music machines and he goes about his work with the preciseness of a skilled physician and surgeon and calmly dissects any mechanical problem confronting him in figuring the intricacies of the modern machines as well as the antiquated devices which are his hobby.

Impressive Collection

Osborn likes to talk "shop." In his place on West Pico here he has the shop lined with old music boxes.

One of the outstanding items is a Swiss music box which is a musical unit as well as a writing desk. Made of walnut and inlaid with maple and rosewood, this imposing unit is certain to attract the attention of anyone, regardless of their particular interest in music or antiques. Resembling a piano in appearance and size, Osborn likes to tell of its history.

The music box part has nine gold-plated bells and was made by Samuel Troll Fils in Geneva, Switzerland. There are four cylinders 22 inches long con-

Juke for Warship

PASADENA, Calif., July 15.—"Give us a juke box with plenty of jive!"

That was the unanimous choice of the crew of the U. S. S. Pasadena, according to an announcement made today by City Manager C. W. Koiner following his return from the East where he delivered a check for \$1,000 to be used by the crew of the newly launched war craft for purchase of anything they desired.

"I found the lads of the crew just like the boys at home," Koiner smiled. "They wanted jive and got it from the best juke-box \$1,000 could buy."

taining two musical numbers. A tattered program which is still in a good state of preservation gives the tunes on each cylinder.

How far back this machine dates, Osborn doesn't exactly know. It was brought to Philadelphia in 1874. When Osborn purchased it several years ago, it was still in good condition. Not a broken tooth or pick had to be repaired. There is a touching story that goes with the music box. When it was moved from a home in Pasadena some years ago, a 92-year-old lady, who had owned the music box, wept as the moving men carted it away. The cylinders that are used with the machine today were made especially for her. Osborn reveals that the original price on the machine was \$3,000. If bought today from Geneva for that price, there would be nearly \$1,000 duty to get it into this country.

Osborn has another Swiss music box at home. It is called the Ideal and was secured after several ownerships; following the World's Fair in 1893. He has been offered \$500 for it and a similar box is on sale at a downtown store for \$800. Needless to say, Osborn would not part with the machine for any sum of money.

Other items in his collection include an automatic harp and a Regina piano with all automatic equipment. Osborn dates the piano back 50 years. He also has on display a Reginaphone which operates a metal disk or cylinder. This machine has a mandolin attachment for accentuation. A Link piano, made in Binghamton, N. Y., about 1915 also claims attention with its marimba and mandolin attachments.

Entered Biz in 1894

Osborn's entrance into the music business dates to 1894 when he met Frank Phillips. The firm of Phillips and Osborn was organized and they purchased five of the first 10 graphophones. These were coin operated and had 11 tubes which 10 listeners held to their ears. The 11th was reserved for the operator so that he could hear if the machine was working. Osborn went from operating these to handling the Peerless piano, a one-tune affair with a drawer which housed the music.

This operator also recalls having been associated with Harry Lavery in Minneapolis. Lavery had a phrenologist machine. A phonograph played only one record and Lavery was given a machine to develop into a model using more than the single record. He made one model using three tunes. About 1900 a machine that would take six records made its appearance.

One time when he was operating the phonographs with listening tubes he made \$7.20 in about two hours in a saloon in Temple, Tex. This cinched the deal for him in this business, and he definitely decided on the music business as his livelihood.

Osborn is somewhat of an inventor and mechanic himself. He made a "Test Lifter or Grip" with the late J. L. Blodgett, a former Wisconsin train dispatcher. There were about 1,600 of these machines made by them.

During the 50 years Osborn has been in business, he has seen many changes. He recalls the first amplified machines of 16 years ago when the records were changed on a paddle wheel contraption.

Victor Sets Re-Release Of 100 Oldies

Many Are Juke Faves

CAMDEN, N. J., July 15.—More than 100 "oldie" records will be re-released by Victor between now and September 1, according to announcement this week. Another hundred records of tunes popular over a long period will also be pressed so that shipments can be made during September.

Many of these are formerly popular juke box records which have been unavailable for some months as pressings were discontinued some time ago.

Among the disks to be re-released are swing classics by Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Tony Pastor, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Bunny Berigan and many others. Hot jazz is represented by such names as Muggsy Spanier's Ragtime Band, Coleman Hawkins's All-Star Octet, Johnny Hodges, Louis Armstrong, Lionel Hampton, Jelly Roll Morton, Fats Waller and the quintet of the Hot Club of France. Ray Noble, Tommy Dorsey, Wayne King, Freddy Martin and Sammy Kaye predominate in the ballad field.

Philly Ops Pick Top Tune for July

PHILADELPHIA, July 15.—Philadelphia Music Operators' Association selected *I'll Walk Alone* as the "Hit Tune of the Month" selection for July. Marking the first song in many months that has the advantage of several recordings, the music association is putting on a major campaign to promote the song, particularly in using a heavy schedule of spot announcements on Radio Station WIP to call attention to the song. The song is from the movie *Follow the Boys* and the No. 1 position in the phonos is being given to the record versions made by Martha Tilton (Capitol), Mary Martin (Decca), Louis Prima (Hit) and Dinah Shore (Victor).

Permo Unveils New Round Point Needle

CHICAGO, July 15.—Officials of Permo, Inc., announced here this week the introduction of a new needle for automatic phonograph operators known as the "Permo Point Round." According to executives of the firm, the needle has been designed especially to meet present wartime operating conditions arising from the use of older equipment with outmoded tone-arms and pick-ups, changes in record quality, etc.

New needle, as the name indicates, has a round point in contrast to the elliptical point on the firm's standard needle. The swage is also thinner to give greater flexibility and compliance and thereby compensate for the permium tip point which is reported harder and more wear resistant than the material used on Permo Points.

The stressing the fact that the new needle will give excellent service, firm is not making any guarantees on number of probable plays obtainable, pointing out that condition of the phono pick-up, quality of records, etc., so affects needle life that any such prediction is impractical. Due to these conditions, firm points out that needle life in one location may produce three to four times the play that it will in another. According to Permo execs, they are recommending to all phono ops that they change needles at each collection call on locations where intake is above \$30, pointing out that such a practice will eliminate needle worries and at the same time keep needle cost to one twentieth of a cent or less per play.

Among the machines he operated, too, was the Seeburg orchestra with piano and drums.

Hot Music!

BRISTOL, N. H., July 15.—John Keller, proprietor of a Mill Street cafe, was awakened in the early morning hours by the playing of some very hot music. His place was on fire. The intense heat set off a juke box in the barroom.

The blaze, which caused damage of \$1,000, not only started the juke box into action but melted the ice in the refrigerator, ruined the bar and put a serious kink into his supply of liquor.

Keller awakened members of his family, led them to safety and then summoned firemen. The juke box alarm prevented possible injury to the family and averted more serious damage to the tavern, firemen stated.