



Library of Congress Brings Folklore Music To American Public

10,000 Recordings Available

For the first time the folk music of America, a true expression of American life from romantic cowboy to negro spiritual, is now available to all. For many years the Music Division of the Library of Congress has been collecting American folk music. Mr. John Lomax, Honorary Curator of the Library, through a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, has travelled all over the country with portable machinery and has accumulated a collection of more than 10,000 songs on discs. This collection, one of the largest of its kind in the world, was for a time available only to students who were free to come to the library, or to people who could afford expensive copies. Now, with a complete sound laboratory for duplicating phonographic recordings and for making master recordings which can be pressed and distributed, the National Library is able to bring directly to schools, colleges and the public its wealth of cultural materials.

Field Recordings Excellent

These recordings, made in the field amongst such varied groups as mountain ballad singers, negro prisoners, cowboys, work gangs as they lay the railroad tracks, and sailors as they chant their ballads of the seas and canals, are as acoustically good as the commercial recordings of classical music and drama now available to the public.

Portable Recorders Provided

Six portable field recorders provided in the Carnegie grant will be loaned to qualified students of folklore who wish to record and study the music of their own regions.



Naval Veterans Learning Radio Production While Convalescing at St. Albans Hospital

Out on Long Island, the staff of St. Albans Hospital for wounded naval personnel is doing an inspiring job of morale building. In addition to being provided with excellent medical care, men are, in many cases, regaining lost confidence and are being fitted for post-war jobs in fields they never could have entered but for the opportunities offered while they were convalescing.

New York University Pioneers in Recording

Audiodiscs Aid Speech Class

Audiodiscs are used extensively in the speech department of New York University's Washington Square College. Prof. Arleigh Williamson, head of the speech department, has been using recordings as an integral part of his program for over thirteen years and is enthusiastic and keenly interested in its further development in teaching techniques.

Permits Careful Analysis

His department was, Prof. Williamson believes, the first to make use of recording and also the first to use its facilities in ways differing from the more stereotyped. For example, instead of the usual private session in which a student makes a recording to chart improvement in speech, the student actually talks to the class while recording. This gives both instructor and student a chance to analyze the psychological effect of an audience on the speaker's breath control, enunciation, voice timbre, tone, etc.

(Continued on Page 4)

Becoming Professionals

One of the most successful programs was organized five months ago when the Educational Services Dept. started its first "Radio-Dramatic" class under the very able direction of Wave Lt. Marianne Heaney, USNR. Attendance to this class is entirely voluntary and is organized on the basis of a workshop. Anyone who wishes to learn or to contribute is welcomed. Among its members are boys with or without experience, but all are interested in the radio aspects of writing, announcing, directing, acting or producing.

Jobs Being Offered

Much of the knowledge the class is gaining is through its more experienced members. For among these "professionals" which the class has been lucky in having at different times—are experienced producers, singers, and recordists. Tremendous advances have been made during the four months the "workshop"

(Continued on Page 4)



Two American Broadcasting ace newscasters at their mikes . . . George Hicks (right) and H. R. Baukhage (left).

American Broadcasting Co. Finds Recordings Essential Aid To Foreign News Service

The American Broadcasting Company relies heavily on the use of records in transmitting its overseas pick-ups to the network. An important reason for this is the fact that atmospheric conditions change sharply without warning — even during a fifteen minute program. An important news story, coming from overseas, can be completely lost to American listeners due to a change in atmospherics at the time of reception.

Saves Circuit Time

Another vital factor is the time element which can by no means be ignored in these days when other networks, the Army, Navy and Allied Military governments need the overseas circuit. By using recordings, transcribed here in New York at Musak, the American Network can pick up its overseas correspondents on the circuit at a time when the demand is not too heavy. Thus, during the early morning hours, or late at night, American correspondents can broadcast direct to the New York newsroom with a minimum of delay and difficulty. The recordings of these pick-ups are quickly made and can be played over the air while the news is still fresh.

Full Public Acceptance

The management of the American Broadcasting Company's newsroom does not feel that a "transcription" in any way lessens the effect or the importance to the listening public. The average listener does not snap the radio dial button or twist it to another station if he is told that the broadcasting coming up from abroad is a transcription. Fur-

ther, American officials hold that by judicious use of recordings they can comb out the unnewsworthy reports and keep the broadcasts more interesting.

Whole Nation Heard Hicks

Even those networks who have firm rulings against the use of recordings have been known in many cases to employ news transcriptions. For example, the memorable D-Day broadcast from the Normandy beachhead by American correspondent, George Hicks, was used as a "pool" broadcast by all networks and though the broadcast was not "live," the news certainly was.

Special Broadcasts Repeated

Equally important in the operation of the American newsroom are the recordings made of the "special feature" type of broadcast, as distinguished from regular news broadcasts. A classic example of special feature or special event broadcasting came during the few days following the death of the late President Roosevelt. Recordings were made of all tributes and special programs in honor of our departed leader. Some of these tributes were worthy of repeating, and, in the case of H. R. Baukhage's famed broadcast of Roosevelt's funeral, the record was repeated four times that Sunday.

The American Broadcasting Company has placed an increasing reliance on the use of recordings of its overseas news shows. New York and San Francisco newsroom edition and the correspondents in the field all feel that by careful use of recordings, news dissemination by the American Network can be kept at its high level.



Controlling the Thread

By E. Franck, Research Engineer

When a person first sees a recording blank cut, he is usually fascinated by the thread removed by the stylus. In fact, his interest is often entirely centered on the purple thread spinning from the disc. But for the recordist, whether amateur or professional, this thread action is much more than a matter of curiosity. A recording machine in steady use for one hour will produce more than a mile of thread and the way this thread behaves is of real importance.

Thread Action Indicates Quality

In a good recording blank, the thread has a tendency to "kick" strongly toward the center, thus minimizing the chance of it tangling against the stylus. Equally, in a good blank, the thread is relatively free of static electricity and thus can be easily controlled.

When cutting from the inside out, insufficient thread throw is not so noticeable. If there is static charge in the thread, however, there is danger that a loop will jump to the recording head and cause a disastrous snarl.

When the record is started from the outside, good thread behavior is much more important. If the thread throws in from the stylus evenly, then the cutter, as it reaches the piled up circle of thread, will urge it gently inward and only occasional attention is required to brush the accumulated pile toward the center of the disc. If the throw is uneven, the stylus may hit the corner of the pile closest to the grooves and cause a snarl.

Thread Controls Not Foolproof

There are a number of thread control devices which help free the recordist of thread removal worries. But all of these, including the vacuum system used in most professional installations, need good thread action for best results. For example, in the vacuum system, static charge in the thread can cause sticking either at the nozzle or inside the suction hose. If more air is applied to overcome this difficulty, an annoying noise results which prevents good monitoring close to the recording table. The flow of too much air past the stylus into the suction nozzle will also modulate the grooves and result in a high background noise level.

In the early days of lacquer discs, proper thread action was difficult to obtain. Now, the art of recording lacquer formulation has greatly improved and the right thread behavior can be built into the recording blank.

Recording Hobby Wins Friends and Business

New York Executive Points Out Many Uses

Anyone who considers himself busy should meet Jack Schaflein, president of Stone Wright Studios, Inc. His is one of the biggest art concerns in the United States, where dozens of artists and photographers turn out hundreds of catalog pages for such firms as Spiegels, Montgomery Ward and Chicago Mail Order.

Man of Many Hobbies

In addition to running a business, where working until ten o'clock at night is not unusual, Mr. Schaflein finds time to develop new designs and materials in ceramics. In his home and office are paintings of his own creation that have won many awards, including that of the Royal Academy of Canada. Another hobby is his piano, but while he wasn't asked to admit it, it is evident that the hobby he devotes most time to is recording.

Service Men Head List

Stone Wright has many employees in the armed forces, and to them Mr. Schaflein is constantly sending records. He calls in their friends and cuts records that serve as group messages. When any of the boys are back on furlough, he lets them make recordings to send home.

Office Use

Mr. Schaflein finds that most visiting clients enjoy making recordings more than other forms of entertainment. When friends or clients have birthdays or are away on vacation, he will frequently surprise them by sending his greetings in the form of a record.

Home Entertainment

During quiet business seasons at the office, Mr. Schaflein's portable recorder and playback machine makes many trips to his suburban home, where he has amassed a library of personal recordings. In this library is a complete record of the voice development of his four little daughters. Records of neighbors' children have added to the collection, as have those of parties and special occasions among neighbors and friends. Most interesting is Mr. Schaflein's nature study recordings of wild birds that include the thrush, bobolink and robin.

Mosquitoes Lured to Death With Recordings

High Fidelity Discs Disclose Secrets of Insect World

Scientists have long sought an effective means of eradicating disease-carrying mosquitoes. At last Dr. Morton C. Kahn, Associate professor of public health and preventive medicine at Cornell University College, has found a revolutionary method of ridding us of these pests. Dr. Kahn has made use of the age-old lure of the "mate-call" in enticing these insects to their death.

He has successfully recorded mosquito sounds, some of which were completely inaudible, others only faintly audible to the human ear, and is able to transmit these sounds in order to call specific varieties of mosquitoes to a destroying mechanism. The electrical apparatus which was used in these experiments was (1) a microphone, (2) an amplifier of considerably more than usual power, (3) suitable band pass filters and (4) a conventional high quality disc-recorder.

Males Are Sopranos!

The variety of these sounds seem to indicate they may be mating calls or calls warning of danger or anger. The tones of each species, however, are so individual that it is possible to distinguish the different species, and the male and female of the same specie. The sounds recorded to date are in the frequency range of human hearing but far below the energy level required for that purpose. Male "voices" so far recorded are higher pitched than the females.



Only One Voice Needed

The most astonishing observation of this experiment is that the noise of only a single female will cause the males of the same species to burst into an answering chorus. As far as can be determined these sounds are produced in three ways -- (1) noises made when the mosquitoes are in flight, (2) the rubbing of the Tarsi against the wing and also certain pure bird-like sounds, the origin of which has not yet been determined. To make these experiments, colonies of the insects are kept in the laboratory and when the recordings are made, the mosquitoes are placed in a soundproof test chamber under conditions of proper temperature and humidity in order to obtain sensitive recordings under a natural environment.

Additional Possibilities

Dr. Kahn hopes that this method may prove useful in the destruction of other insects as well as rats and rodents concerned in disease transmission. A great scientific step forward has been achieved together with new potential uses for the recording disc.



A group of Mr. Schaflein's friends enjoying an "Oklahoma Party." Making recordings was the highlight of the party.

New York University

(Continued from Page 1)

In the speech correction classes, recordings are frequently made of student and teacher speaking together, or two or more students in natural conversation. This encourages self-confidence and allows for a study in comparison.

Aids Radio Training

In the radio course at Washington Square College, which leads to the degree of Bachelor of Arts, recordings are also of great value to both student and instructor. Professor H. M. Partridge makes full use of recording methods in his course in technical problems in broadcasting. Voice recordings for self-criticism are used in the production classes.

Shortens Apprenticeships

Students at New York University have the advantage of the greatest city in the world as their "campus." At Radio City Music Hall, the "Met," and in the legitimate theaters they find unending productions to spur them on to further studies in the fields they hope to enter. Happily the faculty who channel the ability of these young people are awake to the vast potentialities of recordings as a means of acquiring confidence, poise and balanced personalities, qualities which pay big dividends in the highly competitive world of today.

Navy Veterans

(Continued from Page 1)

has been operating. Already some of these boys show real ability, and one of them has been pronounced an announcer's job with a major network.

Helping Red Cross

Recordings are playing a leading role in giving the boys "mike" experience and in helping with speech correction. The first big project of this group was a Red Cross show completely put on by the patients, recorded at the hospital and broadcast over WQXR in New York City.

Active on War Loans

Much of the fine writing of these boys has come out of relating their actual war experiences. They were active in working on a contest for the best script for the last war loan appeal. And they have the huge satisfaction of knowing that even though wounded they can still contribute to the war effort. It augurs well for the fields of recording and radio that after the war there will be so many interested and capable young men available for them.

This Is Your Publication

You Are Invited To Use It
And Shape It To Your Needs

We want this paper to bring you news and information. We also want it to be a friendly little sheet where you will see articles and pictures of yourself—your friends—your customers—and men who are in the same type of business as yourself.

You Are Invited To Help

The sources and interest of any publication depend largely upon the information sent in from its readers. You can help give it the "Personal Touch" we want. Have you had an interesting

ATTENTION READERS!

To be sure you always receive a free copy of *Audio Record*, fill out the enclosed card—no cost—no obligation and mail it to *AUDIO RECORD*, 444 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y.

experience in recording? Have you discovered a new use for recording blanks? A new technique? Have you had an interesting sales experience, or do you know the story of a friend or customer who has? If so, send it in—pictures too. Mail your letters or photos to: Audio Record Editor, 444 Madison Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.



There are no finer recordings than those transcribed on

audiodes

AUDIO DEVICES INC. • 444 MADISON AVE., N. Y.



they speak for themselves **audiodes**