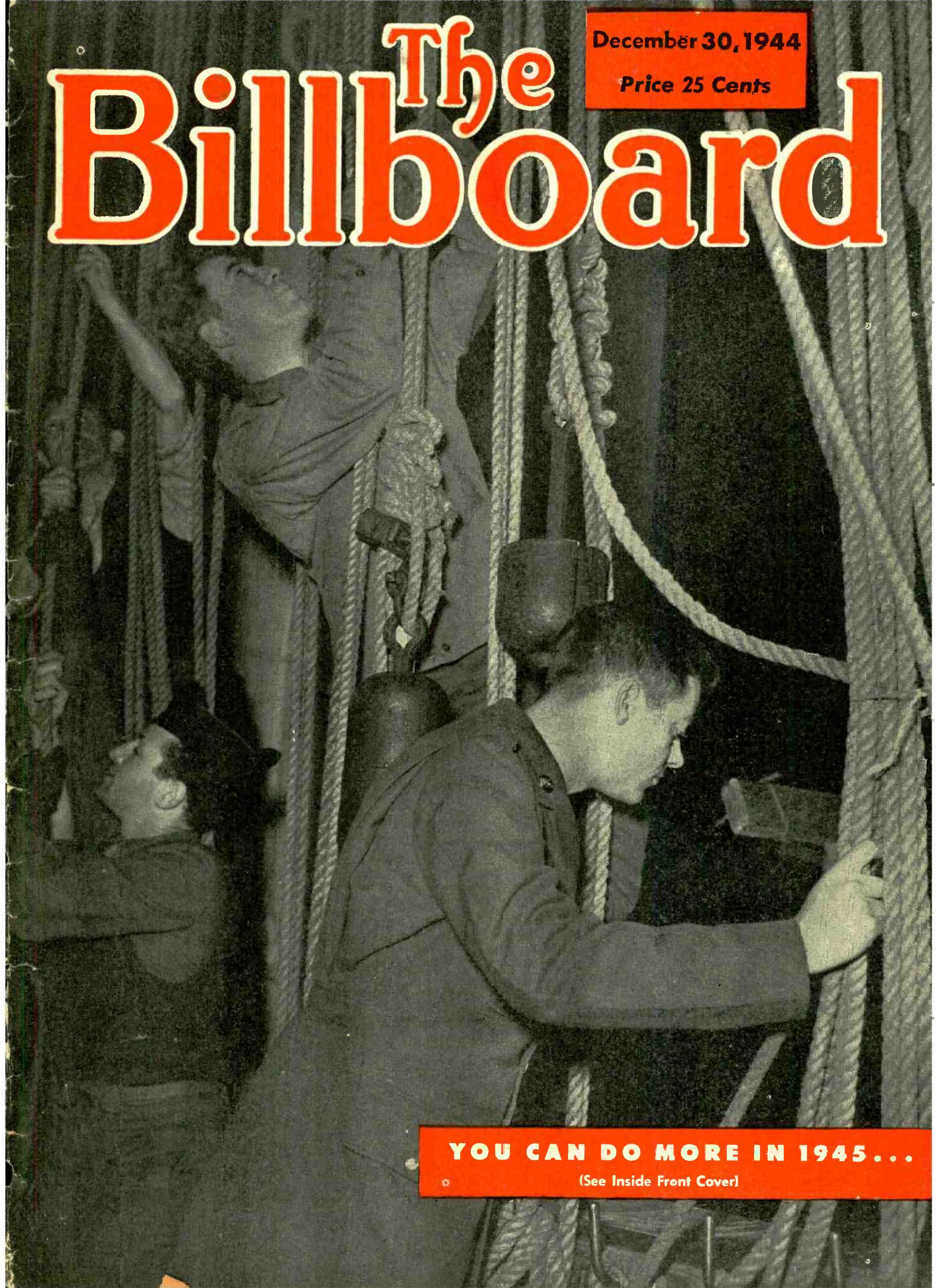


The Billboard

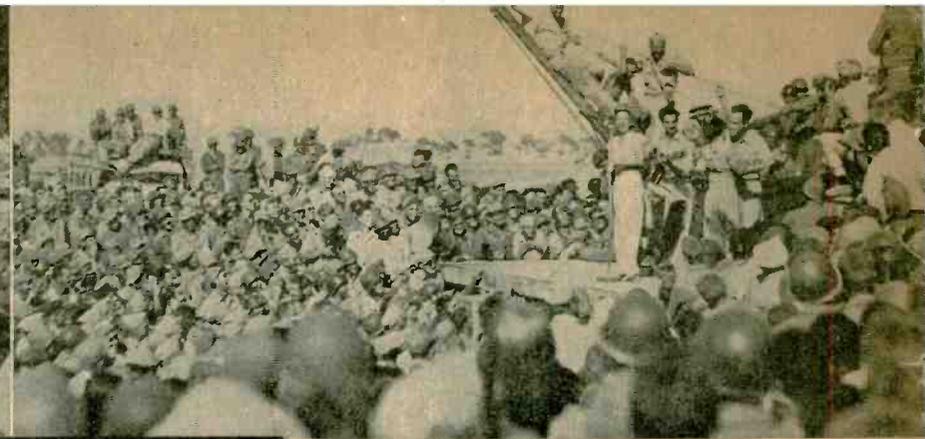
December 30, 1944

Price 25 Cents



YOU CAN DO MORE IN 1945...

(See Inside Front Cover)

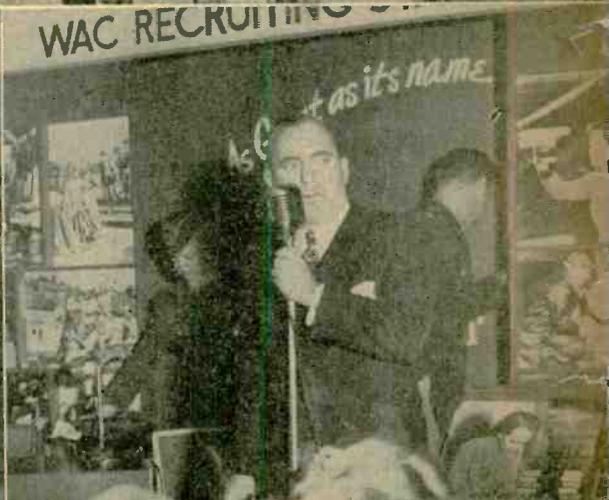
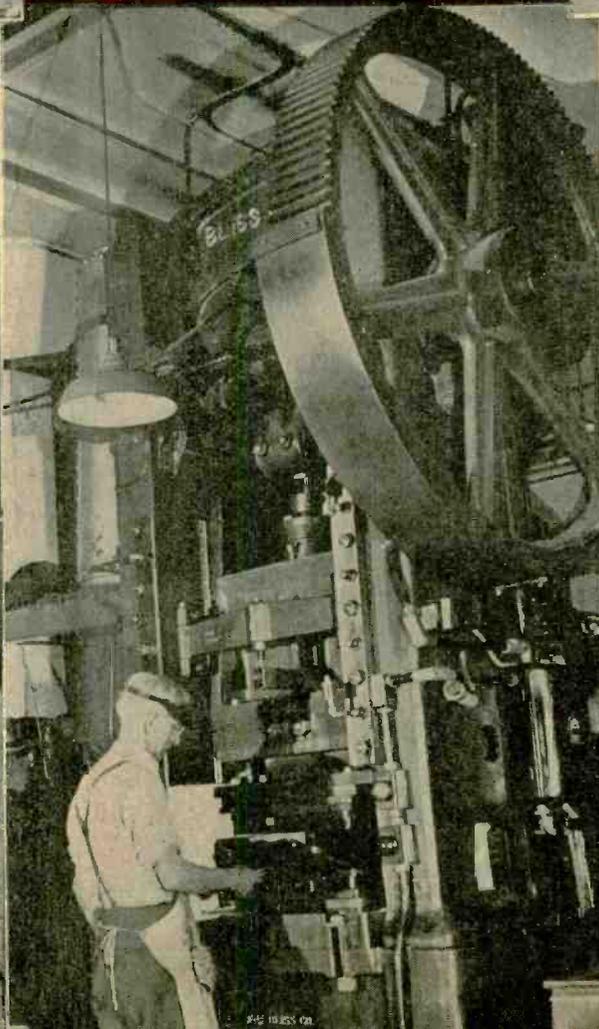


THE curtain is going up on a New Year, and many military experts are predicting that it is the final curtain for the Axis powers, or at least the Hitler half of the act. We wouldn't know. But we do know that there's a vast job to be done in this coming year. All the people of show business know it too. Despite the outstanding job the entertainment industry has done in every phase of the war effort, show business knows it can do more in 1945. It will do more by every means at its command. And not only will show people themselves do more, but through their influence with Mr. and Mrs. America, show folk will stimulate and increase public contributions to the war activities illustrated here and to every other victory measure.



...YOU CAN DO

MORE IN 1945.



Legit Has New Thunder in Germany

NATA To Get Own % Demand Despite ARA

Going Ahead, Says Shelvey

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The National Association of Theatrical Agents, major percentor org in Chicago, will get a clause permitting commission-splits any way the members want it—despite the action last Monday (18) of the Artists Representatives' Association, the other big agent org, in sticking by the 10-5 arrangement.

ARA met Monday night and, with only nine members dissenting, voted to preserve the 10-5 divvy set-up as is. This action, in effect, was a challenge to AGVA to give the other organization a different kind of deal.

Matt Shelvey, national head of AGVA, yesterday (22) said that the union will not be bound by ARA's action. The Chicago bunch will be pacted to a "Rule B" contract similar to ARA's—but NATA will also get a clause allowing its members to split any way they desire, said Shelvey.

Among the other important actions taken at the ARA conclave Monday night was a vote to raise the org's annual assessment on members from \$50 to \$70 for full members, and from \$25 to \$35 for associates. There was vocal opposition to the suggestion for the increase, made by ARA leaders, but the proposition carried on the basis that it will be used to make up deficits. There is a possibility that some of the new funds will go to I. Robert Broder, ARA attorney, who, it is reported, has been seeking NATA GETS OWN % on age 14

War Need Cuts Overseas Transit For CSI Units

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Demands from the armed forces for the materials of war are resulting in a drastic cut in shipping space for USO units going overseas, according to Larry Phillips, Camp Shows, Inc., official.

Phillips says the hold-down on space began about a month ago and may continue for two or three months more, so CSI has suspended formation of additional overseas units because that would result in actors on the payroll who were not able to do their work.

Meanwhile CSI is adding eight more hospital units in January for domestic use. Total number of hospital packages is now 20 and will grow, says Phillips. U. S. Service Camps on the Victory and Blue circuits are now seeing USO units once a month. Hospitals get them every two weeks.

Memo to Our Readers

There's No Advertising in This Issue

For the second year we are skipping *The Billboard* traditional Christmas and Holiday Greetings issue, skipping it so that we can bring you, in 1945, a few of the new features that will make your showbusiness trade paper more and more vital to your business and professional life.

To our advertisers, who made this issue possible by graciously foregoing their usual space, we owe a deep debt of gratitude. It is our intention in the year to come to repay those who have co-operated with us by increasing many fold the intensity of readership, which even now tops anything achieved by a trade paper.

Thanks for everything.

THE BILLBOARD.

Allocation Set, IARC Scans Draft; Release Soon

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Allocations are just around the corner and can be expected by the industry in the very near future, possibly within a matter of weeks, unless there is a last minute hitch. This was the word from unimpeachable sources close to the FCC today.

A tentative draft has already been made and submitted to Inter-Departmental Radio Activity Committee. It now awaits a few last minute minor changes to be ready for announcement.

One hitch that may develop is the failure of the Senate to confirm Paul Porter as FCC chairman. Story here is that Porter would like to be inside before allocations are announced and has expressed this sentiment to the commissioners. Porter, it is thought here, will probably not get into the job permanently until January, when Congress re-convenes and his nomination can be acted upon. However, he may act during his "interim" appointment.

Info Closely Guarded

While speculation on allocations is as hot here as elsewhere, few of the smart industry leaders are sticking their necks out attempting to predict for home offices where tele or FM will go. Fact is that allocations has been one of best guarded Washington secrets and FCC can take credit for preventing leaks thus far.

Important point for the industry to realize is that it comes third and last in FCC allocation reckoning. Government services come first and emergency next. Commercial, while catering to the greatest numbers, still can't claim to be as important as SOS, plane, police, fire fighting and others. FCC had to take these points into consideration in determining channel assignments.

It Looks Like "Dual"

Tele allocations, biggest point of dispute in industry, seems likely to be solved by Jett "dual" plan, according to best sources here outside FCC. Fact that FCC questions at hearings were along "dual" plan lines, coupled with fact that

both CBS and NBC sources privately admit that this is about the best solution, lead most here to put blue chips here.

Radio Technical Planning Board proposals seem to be the best bet elsewhere on spectrum as far as the industry is concerned, altho here again some usually good sources were making predictions far afield from RTPB. FM, for example, is slated for 88-108 mc., far above anything contemplated by industry, according to one source here.

Tele's Best Chances Up

Tele, likewise, is said to have a better chance to go up, simply, and if for no other reason, than that the lower channels are already crowded. Few of the smart boys were sticking their chins out today, however.

When the report is ready and published it is expected that the FCC will permit filing of "briefs" by all interested. A "discussion" period of possibly several weeks will follow an announcement before the final allocations are determined and assigned, it is expected.

Ontario Reported Mulling 10% Tax On All Amusements

OTTAWA, Dec. 23.—Ontario government is reported to be considering the levy of a 10 per cent amusement tax, probably starting next April, to help meet additional cost of recently announced policy of paying half the over-all cost of education in the province.

It is estimated the tax would bring the province \$2,500,000 yearly. A previous provincial amusement tax was dropped in 1937.

Pick-Up Cast Does Top Job

Many see show for first time and love it—gang triples in brass

By Lou Frankel

(Whose Weekly Commentaries Are Heard Over WNEW and Other Stations)

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY WITH SIXTH U. S. ARMY, Dec. 19.—This is the Odyssey of a legit troupe of which all of showbiz must be proud. There are no names in the outfit, altho one day there will be at least two stars from the organization. Everyone is a volunteer or in uniform or just out of uniform. It's the sort of thing that confounds professional showbiz, yet its success only proves the strength of the entertainment profession.

Bi-National Actors

Their organization is called the Anglo-American Players. Anglo-American literally is what they are—three USO-CSI gals, a WAC corporal, a Yank lieutenant, a Yank private, two British army veterans, one RAF vet, one ex-London cop and a 64-year-young character woman.

The Britishers and the director have had considerable experience on the London stage; the Yanks are all what New York would classify as junior Equity members.

Like all good things, they came about the hard way. Two of the CSI gals came (See G.I.'S GET LEGIT on page 19)

Henie Revue Clicks In Detroit; Record Gross, \$397,945

DETROIT, Dec. 23.—Sonja Henie revue closed a record-breaking 17-day engagement Sunday (17) at Olympia Stadium, grossing \$397,945.65 compared to \$376,620 for the same number of shows in December, 1943. Gross was the highest ever set for an amusement attraction, other than sports, at Olympia, as well as probably the highest for any single show in the Motor City.

Attendance was 204,786, slightly under last year's figure of 207,340, with the increase in gross caused largely by the heavier amusement tax, as well as some slight re-scaling of prices on certain seats. Attendance record contrasts strikingly with the eight-day engagement in January, 1942, when the Henie show grossed \$150,000, and the seven-day engagement in January, 1943, when the show again grossed around \$150,000 on 95,000 admissions.

Week-End Shows Sell-Outs

Sale of seats was concentrated largely on week-ends, the first time this factor, typical of most Detroit amusement-going, has been seriously noticed at Olympia. Result was nine sell-out shows over the week-ends, with some dropping off during the middle of each week.

Upstate business and spectators from more distant points were present only in small numbers this year, altho this show has usually drawn many. Adverse weather and tightening of local transportation have been contributing factors to the drop.

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Oops, We're Sorry

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Last week's issue of *The Billboard* carried a story stating that Bookie Levin had been signed as exclusive commercial radio representative of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The name should have been W. Biggie Levin, one of Chicago's leading radio program bookers. Bookie Levin is a Chicago agent.

Spots on Way Out at Most Stations

Death, Self Inflicted

CBS paved way, nixing catchers and hikers, Blue and others see light

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—One of radio's top sources of revenue, local spots and national, seems headed towards a fast and unannounced death on most stations, according to web and agency execs here. Recent series of net and stations' decisions, culminated, for the time being, by the Blue's edict cutting nighttime spots off two of its O&P outlets, WJZ, New York, and WENR, Chicago, as well as the rumored elimination of spots on the Westinghouse stations, seem to underline industry's realization that spots have been oversold.

Producing between 20 and 25 per cent of the average station's income, spots, in the opinion of radio biggies, have been done to death by too much selling, as well as the realization that in the case of spot-carrying segs, at least, sale of one-quarter-hour program brings in more dough than five announcements. On smaller outlets, particularly in small markets, the closing commercial, plus the hitch-hike, plus the spot, plus the cow-catcher, plus the opening of the next show adds up to five commercials in a row. And at times more than one spot is used between the regular shows. These policies have alienated listeners, it is (See *Spots On Way Out* on page 8)

"Results" Without 'Em, So Det. Symph Expands Half-Hour

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 23.—The time formerly occupied by *Results Incorporated*, airing from here, is being taken over by bank-roller of Detroit Symph, stretching the time from half to a full hour. Teeing off October 7 over Mutual, *Results* has been airing here from 6-6:30 (PWT), following Detroit Symph in the 5:30 slot. Don Lee says that *Results*, which has been a sustainer, will have to be ditched because of no available time. It was a New York Mutual deal in the first place, to be produced in Hollywood, and it is up to the Eastern office to make further arrangements, if any, for the airer. Show featured Lloyd Nolan and Claire Trevor.

When the program was first launched trade here felt that Mutual was trying to make a pitch for "whodunit" fans. Talk here was that if show grabbed good rating it would be moved into better time spot.

Linkletter Out of "What's Doin'"; Sked Bringing in Ward

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 23.—Art Linkletter is dropping out as emcee of the Blue's afternoon strip, *What's Doin'*, *Ladies*. Because of heavy radio and pic schedule show has been originating in San Francisco Monday thru Thursday and here on Fridays in order for Linkletter to be on hand for *People Are Funny*. Airing is now moving from San Francisco for permanent pitch here. Linkletter, who is being replaced by Perry Ward, is starting his new CBS show, *G.E. House Party*, and is also penciled in for part in the Jack Skirball film version of *People Are Funny*.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23.—Miriam Orr has resigned her post as assistant traffic director at WJW, effective December 25, to join Ruthrauff & Ryan ad agency in Chicago.

Francisco Quits OCIAA, Joins JWT As V.-P., Director

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Don Francisco resigned Thursday (21) as assistant co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs to become a vice-president and director of J. Walter Thompson agency. He will join the New York office of JWT February 1.

Francisco has been associated with the Office of Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs since November 1, when he took a leave of absence from his job as president of Lord & Thomas. When war was declared he resigned from the agency. Main duties in OCIAA had been the supervision of radio, motion picture and educational activities.

Swing the Thing Goes From WGN To Mutual Net

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—*Swing's the Thing*, heard locally on WGN for the past year, will be heard on the Mutual Network, of which WGN is the Chi outlet, starting January 4.

Swing show has been sponsored on WGN by the Brach Candy Company and is being signed up for the net in line with the company's plan to increase national advertising as it increases its distribution. Altho program will be heard on Mutual only from Pittsburgh to Omaha, starting January 1, it is expected that the candy company will eventually buy the Coast-to-Coast Mutual net soon as its distribution is set up across the country.

The Brach show, which will be aired under a 52-week contract, with a 13-week option, will be heard Thursdays from 9:30 to 10 p.m. (CWT). It will continue to originate at WGN and will use a 20-piece orchestra led by Robert Trendler, as well as the singing of the Dinning Sisters and Skip Farrell.

Web Heads Present Year-End Statements

(Statements By NBC and Mutual Will Appear in The Billboard Next Week)

CBS

By Paul W. Keston, Executive Vice-President Columbia Broadcasting System

Until our fortunes on the battlefields of Europe have swung finally in our favor, cheery forecasts for the coming year at home are difficult at best.

There is, however, only one possible conclusion to this war-peace with victory. We at CBS, fully conscious of our individual and company obligations in wartime, are also aware of obligations and opportunities that lie ahead. With this in mind, we believe broadcasting can do things today that will recognize, clarify and help to solve certain of our post-war problems. We believe decisions can be made today that will hasten tomorrow's peacetime development.

For these reasons we have offered to the industry in 1944 specific proposals concerning three major divisions of post-war broadcasting—television, international short wave and FM. We intend to continue the same "peace-ward thinking" in 1945, in the conviction that it may be of greater assistance than we now realize in the rehabilitation of men and the repayment of sacrifices now being made in our behalf.

New Bracken Show Eyes Seg Held for Canova

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 23.—Proposed Judy Canova ailer is in the on-again, off-again stage with a new comedy stanza, headed by Eddie Bracken, likely to take its place in the Saturday 7-7:30 p.m. spot over NBC. This time has been held for the Canova show on a deal between Ted Bates Agency and Sherman-Marquette for Colgate.

Carlton Alsop, of S-M, has been in town for several days getting things smoothed out for the Canova take-off, originally skedded for January 6. Entrance of the Bracken show, which is a package, into the deal has thrown the works out of gear.

Alsop signed Earle Ebi as producer for the Canova stanza. Ebi handed in his resignation to J. Walter Thompson Agency, where he has been handling the reins on the Edgar Bergen show. Previous to this he produced the Sinatra and RCA shows for JWT.

In the event that Bracken takes over the Saturday night slot, the Canova show will be forced to move to CBS for a Tuesday night airing. However, talk is going around that asking price of the Bracken show is steep and that bank-roller may not care to put out that much dough for an untired ailer.

To date no replacement has been set for Canova's old slot.

KSO Skedded To Go CBS

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—KSO, Blue-MBS affiliate in Des Moines, will shortly tie up with CBS, according to reliable trade sources. The 5,000-watt, 1460 kc. station will join Columbia shortly after the first of the year.

KSO's affiliation with CBS will fill the hole left in the Des Moines market by the alliance with Blue, which was announced last week by the Cowles station there, KRNT.

Garland Deal Cooking; 15G Holds 'Em Up

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 26.—Deals are cooking for a Judy Garland show packaged by Wayne Griffin, of Berg-Allen Agency. Several bank-rollers have been nibbling but asking price of \$15,000 will keep all top-drawer sponsors out of the pic. Format has been set and will follow usual pattern with Miss Garland as emcee, a dramatic bit and top guest stars. Griffin says that he would like to get a Sunday spot for the show but will take another day if the right buyer came along.

Church Yells on Pigskin Cancel Of Fosdick Seg

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Several church groups and a number of Blue affiliates have unleashed off-the-record blasts at the Blue for knocking Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick off the air in order to carry the professional football play-off game last Sunday (17), according to reliable trade sources. It is understood that the web broke a long-standing policy when it aired game.

For some years the Blue has been offered the pro play-off, but refused because of Fosdick. This year, under the new management, it took the battle and the protests. Thus far, it is said, no steps have been taken to remedy the action and it is felt that the situation is one that is best left alone.

Goodrich Marx Groucho for Comedy Show

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Goodrich Rubber Company, thru Batten, Burton, Durstine & Osborn, is eying Groucho Marx for a top budget comedy show skedded to hit the Blue air within two months, according to the trade. It is understood that BBD&O is completely sold on Marx and has the sponsor nearly convinced.

William Morris Office, Marx's booker, wants writers Allen Pearson and Bud White, who developed the idea of using the actor to be in on the show. Understood that Walter Tibbals, of BBD&O, left last week for Akron to consult with Goodrich on the deal.

Harold Lloyd Show to N. Y.

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 23.—Harold Lloyd's *Old Gold* ailer moves to New York for three broadcasts after the first of the year, with first broadcast skedded for January 7. Fred Allen has been signed for the January 21 show, starring in *The Showoff*. Other plays to be aired in New York are *Nothing But the Truth*, and *Lady Eve*. Jim Andres, of Lennen & Mitchell Agency has gone on ahead to get things set. He will personally produce the show. Move is being made to inject some New York talent into the ailer.

clients and agencies as well as the presentation of good commercial programs.

We are confident that on the Blue, in 1945, we shall be able to do our share in presenting to the American radio audience the best possible entertainment, news and interpretation; and we shall aim to move forward the goals and standards set so high by our older and respected competitors.

Baseball Getting Nixed by Webs

FCC Report Spotted By Nix on Option

FM-Tele Ruling Seen

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Radio industry's interest in forthcoming FCC report on "practical effect" of its chain broadcasting regulations was heightened this week by FCC denial of permission to NBC to option additional evening time of affiliates where less than three hours permitted in a.m. is taken. Prediction here is that, in addition to its report of survey now nearly completed, FCC may hand down "Magna Carta" for FM and tele at same time. Need for complete tele-FM rules is emphasized by fact that more than 325 FM applications are now on file with FCC in addition to score or more tele petitions.

Since last June, FCC has been pouring over program logs of more than 900 outlets for "representative" April week, seeking to determine effect of "anti-monopoly" ruling of June, 1943. Results are being tabbed and will be publicized shortly.

FCC will probably come forth with recommendations of its own for amending its chain ruling, it is believed here. But "amendments" will probably not be in direction of "relaxing," as industry hopes, but rather for tighter control. Burton K. Wheeler, potent Senate radio "czar" on the Hill, believes rules should be tighter and will push FCC in this direction.

NBC this week sought amendment of Section 3.104 of FCC chain ruling. It asked that time not used under three-hour option between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. be opened for option above three hours permitted between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.

On denying request, FCC declared: "One purpose of regulation 3.104 was to leave 14 of the 35 evening hours in each week free of network option, in order to foster the development of local programs. It appears, however, that even under the present regulation your network now sells to commercial sponsors some 7 1/4 of the 14 evening hours reserved from option; and that, even without an option, you are still able to deliver to advertisers substantially the entire network, with only a handful of stations substituting local for network programs."

Blue and Mutual Talk to Oboler

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Both Blue and Mutual are currently dickering with writer-director-producer Arch Oboler to do a series of sustaining dramatic shows. It is understood that Oboler would prefer to work on Blue but may take MBS if the dough is big enough.

Hubbell Robinson, program v.-p. of the Blue, huddled with Oboler last week to discuss the series which, if it goes to Blue, will be called *Oboler of the Blue*. At the same time Phillips Carlin, Mutual's program v.-p., definitely wants the series.

Oboler is also interested in other radio work in addition to the series which he will probably begin within two months. Among the possibilities discussed is the Philco show.

Cowles' WHOM Moving Into Old NBC Building

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—WHOM, Cowles indie here, moves into the old NBC building, 711 Fifth Avenue, as soon as materials are obtained thru the War Production Board. New location will include WHOM studios, offices and Cowles' national sales department. Station is currently located at 27 West 57 Street, New York.

2 Chi Admen Say Better E. T. Spots Needed, Not Abolition

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Controversy as to whether or not stations thruout the country should follow the suit of WWJ, Detroit, and abolish transcribed spot acceptances was resurrected here this week. Two representatives from local agencies got up at a meeting of the Chicago Radio Management Club to uphold in no uncertain terms the case of e. t.'s, stating that the hoopla about transcribed spots was "a tempest in a teapot." The two defenders, I. J. Wagner, of the Ollan Advertising Company, and Norm Hayne, of Ruthrauff & Ryan, claimed what was needed was more judicious programing and production of spots rather than an arbitrary abolition of all of them.

Wagner, who makes plenty of the musical and novelty type of spots in his shop (this week he went longhair and made a series using a Chi Symp harp-ist) stated that there were plenty of more important things to be cleaned up in radio before the problems of spot airing were given all the attention they have received in the last few weeks. In line with this reasoning another member of the club said that the spot controversy was being used by the trade as a smoke screen to hide its ills in other quarters.

Proper Timing Needed

Wagner contended nets and stations ought to see to it that spots are programed at the proper time. He said that much of the public distaste for transcribed spots has arisen as a result of programing too many of them in too short a time. As one member of the club put it, "If you eat too much cake, no matter how well it is prepared, you'll get sick."

Again the agency boys raised the old

Blue Plans Stock Sale; Cowles Bros. Said To Be Buying

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Blue web is currently mulling over new fiscal plans to add to the net's dough reserves, with sale of additional stock first on the agenda.

Understood that a small number of common shares will be offered to Blue department heads and larger amounts to outside buyers. It is not yet known whether the stock will be put on the open market or simply sold to bidders already selected.

Trade says that there is some truth to the rumor that the Cowles brothers, who last week brought three stations into the web, will be on the buying list.

WENR Next Blue Outlet To Ban Nighttime Spots

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Further proof that the Blue Network policy to cancel all commercial station break announcements, except time signals, between the hours of 7 and 9 p.m. was adopted to give stations more time to advertise the net's shows was seen here this week. New evidence came to light when Roy McLaughlin, manager of WENR, Blue owned-and-operated station here, announced that on January 1 the outlet would begin airing plugs for Blue shows in the time made available by recent cancellation of commercial station breaks.

When WJZ, New York, canceled commercial breaks during the same time period a few weeks ago, it immediately adopted the practice of replacing the canceled breaks with net plugs. WENR is

cry that station announcers cannot be trusted to read live spots with enough sales punch. Announcers made so many spot announcements they deliver them as they would say, "Please pass the butter," the agency men argued.

Bill McGuineas, sales manager of WGN, did not allow the agencies to plead a complete case of innocence. He claimed that stations in the past have tried to tell agency execs certain transcribed spots could not be aired and have met strong objection. His contention was that agencies should see to it that better spots are made and should co-operate with stations by admitting that the airing of some spots would be harmful to their advertisers.

Conversation Piece: Philly's New Radio Broadcasting Corp.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Local radio scene, plenty excited over *The Evening Bulletin*, town's most powerful newspaper, taking over the operation of the indie, WPEN, now gazes quizzically at the prospect of a new radio firm stepping into the local picture. Cloaked in secrecy as to its origination, a new combine to be known as the Crescent Broadcast Corporation, is being set up here. New firm, it was disclosed, will apply today (23) for a certificate of incorporation.

It's not known whether new corporation plans to buy an existing local station or seek FCC permission to establish a new outlet. However, the Crescent combine aims to engage in radio and television broadcasting. Samuel Feldman, localite, is attorney for the new outfit, and in seeking the State charter, sets forth that the company is being organized "to construct, acquire, operate, conduct, manage, sell, lease and mortgage radio and television broadcasting stations, including networks thereof; also studios, equipment, machinery and property of any kind incident thereto."

WJW Asks for Gripes

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23.—WJW, local Blue Network outlet, has come up with a novel sales campaign for the public. Local newspaper ads asking people to write on a post card what they like or don't like about WJW. Gimmick of stunt is to create better all-round listening. Contestants are being offered \$6,600 in War Bonds. Station is running five 80-inch ads in *The Cleveland Press*. Campaign started December 14 and by the next day the station was swamped with over 1,000 post cards in the first mail. There has been no tapering off since then.

the second Blue station to adopt this policy. It is expected that eventually all the o-and-o Blue stations will be in line, and then, some trade figures say, Blue will try to sell the policy to its affiliates.

Breaks Go Rest of Day

WENR is still allowing commercial breaks during the rest of the broadcast day, but it is giving them the close once-over, those not in good taste are not aired. From 7 to 9 p.m. the outlet will have 10-word time signals and 15-second plugs for Blue shows about every half hour.

Recently, in line with its new policy on station breaks, WENR stopped airing all spot announcements that advertised deodorants, laxatives and diuretic products.

MBS No Like Sportairers

It's a base on balls for indie contract chasers this coming season

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Radio outlets for baseball will shortly become even scarcer than they have been in the past as a result of no-ball game policies that Mutual's new management is putting into effect. At the present time the web is accepting no new affiliates with baseball contracts, is asking stations with affiliation agreements coming up for renewal to drop them and is urging its other outlets not to carry the games.

Ball games are hell on web skeds and it is felt that the immediate cause of MBS' action is an elaborate plan for daytime programing to replace the present MBS hodgepodge. Right now there are few web shows on Mutual by day. It is expected that the baseball dictum is part of a plan to clear time for soapers and audience participation programs so that the net can collect some of the loose afternoon advertising coin.

B. B. an Indie Spot Plum

At the same time the edict will give to indie stations an even heavier sports plum, since it cuts nearly all the web affiliates away from baseball. Previously NBC, CBS and the Blue decided that baseball slices too much time out of the day for about four months a year, and the uncertain length of the games makes programing too tough. Consequently the rich contracts will fall to the indies.

There is, the trade feels, no cause for the suspicion that football, too, will be eliminated by the webs. Football has greater national interest than baseball and, coming on Saturdays, does not cut the Monday-thru-Friday skein.

Baseball, however, will become the indie's plum, and local salesmen are already starting out with contracts under their arms.

Field & McCormick No Play, So WSAI Stays Out of MBS

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Contrary to the prevailing theory in the trade, Mutual did not lose the WSAI, Cincinnati, affiliation because Col. Robert McCormick, of WGN and *The Chicago Tribune*, nixed his publishing and political opposite number, Marshall Field, owner of WSAI, according to one top web exec. He claims that the real reason was just the reverse. Field nixed McCormick.

It is understood that Publisher Field, whose papers, New York's *PM* and *The Chicago Sun*, make it a habit to damn McCormick every morning before breakfast, felt that it would be inconsistent with his position to tie in with a web in which his rival has a large interest.

Sorry

The story in last week's issue of *The Billboard* regarding the resignation of John McKay as press chief of the National Broadcasting Company is a source of deep regret on the part of the publisher. Idle rumors have no place in these columns. This is especially true in stories such as this one where those rumors had already been proved entirely baseless.

According to NBC officials, McKay's association with the network was a pleasant and most satisfactory one, and his resignation was a source of deep regret to his network colleagues. McKay resigned recently to become advertising and promotion manager of King Features Syndicate.

THE HOOPERATINGS FOR 1944

Based Upon Programs That Made the "First Fifteen" During the 12 Months of 1944 and the Relative Standing of Each Show Every Time It Was Rated
 The programs are listed in order of their combined ratings for the year. Bob Hope, who achieved more firsts than any other broadcast, is No. 1. Fibber McGee and Molly, who held down the No. 2 slot in most ratings, actually doing better than a "two" average, is second. Bob Burns, who made the ratings only once and then only as No. 13, is the final program listed, No. 47.

PROGRAM	JAN. 15	JAN. 30	FEB. 15	FEB. 29	MAR. 15	MAR. 30	APR. 15	APR. 30	MAY 15	MAY 30	JUNE 15	JUNE 30	JULY 15	JULY 30	AUG. 15	AUG. 30	SEP. 15	SEP. 30	OCT. 15	OCT. 30	NOV. 15	NOV. 30	DEC. 15
Bob Hope	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	D-Day	Vacation	NB	Vacation	—	1	1	1	1	NB	1	2	
McGee & Molly	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	D-Day	1	—	NB	Vacation	—	—	—	—	2	NB	2	1
Edgar Bergen	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	4	6	D-Day	Vacation	NB	Vacation	1	3	2	5	NB	9	5		
Lux Radio Theater	6	NB	6	5	4	6	9	5	6	9	D-Day	3	2	NB	Vacation	3	4	7	4	NB	3	7	
Davis & Haley	5	6	7	7	6	8	12	6	8	4	D-Day	2	—	NB	Vacation	2	7	5	●	NB	8	6	
Jack Benny	8	4	4	8	9	3	6	7	5	12	D-Day	Vacation	NB	Vacation	—	—	4	7	NB	10	4		
Walter Winchell	14	10	8	6	5	5	4	13	10	13	D-Day	10	1	NB	8*	9*	5	2	3	3	NB	12	3
Mr. D. A.	10	8	12	11	7	10	7	8	9	15	D-Day	6	3	NB	1	2	4	5	NB	8	NB	4	10
Take It or Leave It	12	13	14	14	12	9	8	9	11	7	D-Day	9	4	NB	9	1	8	6	10	15	NB	NB	12
Screen Guild	12	●	13	10	8	13	10	10	12	8	D-Day	4	7	NB	3	10	6	8	6	11	NB	6	9
Bing Crosby	7	11	10	12	15	15*	14	15	●	11	D-Day	8	5	NB	S	S	S	S	S	S	NB	7	8
Aldrich Family	4	5	5	3	11	14	11	12	7	5	D-Day	11	6	NB	Vacation	12	●	●	●	NB	15	14	
Abbott & Costello	11	7	9	9	10	11	13	11	13	10	D-Day	Vacation	NB	Vacation	—	—	●	6	NB	5	15		
Morgan & Brice	9	9	11	13	13	S	S	S	S	S	D-Day	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kay Kyser	15	12	15	15	●	●	15	14	15	14	D-Day	12	9*	NB	10*	6*	●	11*	8	●	NB	●	11
Hit Parade	●	15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	8	NB	2	3	●	10	11	14	NB	●	●
Fred Allen	●	14	●	●	14	12	●	●	14	●	D-Day	●	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eddie Cantor	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	13	—	NB	Vacation	—	—	9	9	NB	13	13	
Mr. & Mrs. North	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	13	NB	5	●	11	14	14	●	NB	●	●
Red Skelton	●	●	●	●	7	5	4	3	3	3	D-Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phil Harris (2d half hour)	(Kay Kyser's Summer Substitute — — — — —)										14	NB	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Hildegarde	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	14	●	NB	●	●	●	●	●	10	NB	●	●
Album of Familiar Music	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	10	NB	13	●	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Bandwagon	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	●	●	12	●	NB	●	●
Bob Burns	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	●	●	●	●	NB	14	●
Burns & Allen	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	●	12	●	●	NB	●	●
Can You Top This?	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	13	15	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Dinah Shore	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	●	●	●	●	NB	11	●
Dr. Christian	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	●	●	13	●	NB	●	●
Dr. I. O.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	12	●	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Ed E. Horton	(Summer Replacement For Joan Davis — — — — —)										D-Day	●	12	NB	●	12	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Frank Morgan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	10	●	15	●	NB	●	●
Frank Sinatra	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	14	●	13	●	●	NB	●	●
Heatter (MWF)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	7	15	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Heatter (TT)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	14	8	13	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Heatter (Sun)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	15	●	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Gracie Fields	(Summer Replacement For Edgar Bergen)										D-Day	●	11	NB	●	4	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Kaltenborn	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	9	9	●	12	NB	●	●
Jimmy Fiddler	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	15	NB	●	●	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Lowell Thomas	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	7	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Man Called X	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	6	7	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
March of Time	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	14	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Mayor of the Town	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	11	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Charlotte Greenwood	(Summer Replacement for Bob Hope — — — — —)										15	●	NB	●	●	●	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Thanks to the Yanks	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	11	●	●	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Palmolive Party	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	15	●	●	●	NB	●	●
Truth or Consequences	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	D-Day	●	●	NB	●	●	●	●	●	13	NB	●	●

* indicates that the program rated is a substitute.
 S indicates that the program aired during the period rated was a substitute and did not make the "First Fifteen."
 NB indicates that the program was not broadcast during the period rated due to a special event.
 — indicates the program was not on the air at this time.
 VACATION indicates that the program was off the air for the summer or for illness.
 ● indicates that the program for this period did not make the "First Fifteen."
 0 indicates that the program was not skedded to broadcast at this time, it being either canceled or shifted to another sponsor or sked.

Dep't Store Video To Sell Air Time?

Macy's Going To Try WABD for Retail Selling

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Macy department store will shortly sponsor its first tele show with RKO doing the production. Program, which Tom Hutchinson will handle for RKO, will be on the DuMont station, WABD.

General format will be much like a radio's women's program, with a shopping tour thru Macy's the gimmick. Called *Tele-Shopping With Martha Manning*, it will have little straight entertainment, depending on Macy merchandising to sell the goods.

Exact date is not set, but it is expected that the show will preem around the end of January.

Zenith Granted H-F Video Okay

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Zenith Radio Company, Chicago, became more firmly entrenched this week in the ranks of those who are advocating the development of television in ultra-high frequencies. The firm has been granted a FCC permit to construct an experimental video station which will transmit a picture in the 450 to 1,000 megacycle spectrum.

Zenith, which is now working in collaboration with CB on the development of a receiver to pick up the high frequency video picture, will not be assigned its frequency until later, FCC said, but it is known that the firm applied for the No. 3 channel in Chicago at 488 megacycles. CBS already has applied for the No. 1 channel in Chicago at 460 megacycles, and because of the nature of transmission in the very high frequencies, the No. 2 channel must be occupied by a station in another city, possibly Milwaukee.

Zenith To Keep No. 1

Zenith, however, will keep its present No. 1 channel in the lower television bands. NBC has applied for this channel, too, and this week a spokesman for Zenith reaffirmed the company's policy that it will fight NBC tooth and nail for the lower channel.

Unlike CBS, which is having its New York ultra high-frequency video transmitter built by Federal Electric Company, Zenith will construct its own experimental station. After their new station is built, Zenith engineers intend to experiment in the transmission of color video.

DuMont Gets a Notice on 35mm. Projection Stuff

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—DuMont's station in New York, WABD, is having more union trouble. On the heels of its agreement with IATSE to cover stagehands and prop men, the projectionists' union is now moving in to handle 35mm. stuff.

Sam Cuff, manager of the station, was served with a notice that he would have to use a licensed projectionist on the 35mm. pix skedded for a special show in honor of the TBA conference. It is understood that the complaint was submitted by the union. As a result Cuff was forced to put on a licensed operator. (New York City laws say that people handling 35mm. nitrate film must be licensed by the city.) Previous DuMont projectionist had an application in but had never picked it up. The old operator was non-union, but the new men will have to be members of the org.

Non-licensed, non-union men can and are being used on 16mm. It's legal for that size.

REVIEWS

CBS

Reviewed Thursday, 8-10 p.m. Style—Newscasts, forum, chorals, participation. Sustaining over WCBW, New York.

Only one thing new this evening was the CBS amateur choral group singing Yuletide favorites. The other programs, the tele-news, the *Opinions on Trial* and *The Missus Goes a-Shopping* were all in the tested groove. How pictorial an *Opinions* session can be with a serious subject, is to be questioned. The broadcast on "self determination of small liberated states" got very, very heavy indeed, and while good for the ears wasn't too hot on the eyes. Also someone in the studio became a little careless on this, and at the conclusion permitted one camera to catch another—and the end of the sets which threw the illusion right out of the window.

Also there were many times between shots when the black level remained far longer than was necessary. A constant flow of movement, color or light is essential if the attention of the viewer is to be held 100 per cent.

The one new show, *Christmas Carols*, was camera-wise n. s. h. This was due to the fact that the singers assembled like a group of high school graduates, and on most of the close-ups you saw, besides the soloist, half an eye, a headless torso or worse. Television choral work requires that the singers be so placed as to permit the cameras taking closeups without lots of little cut-ups of bodies appearing here and there. Also, when a choral group sings a song, which musically jumps from one section of a group to another, the group should be arranged so that the camera can jump with the music. This wasn't done with this choral presentation, the different voices not being set in sections but distributed thruout the entire group.

As yet neither WCBW nor WRGB (Schenectady) have solved the problem of how to make a chorus anything but a lot of people who look funny with their mouths open. That's okay—with the correct songs—but not for most of choral tunes. *Joe Koehler.*

Balaban & Katz

Reviewed Thursday (21), 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Style—Drama, news, cartoon, variety. Sustaining on WBKB, Chicago.

Tonight WBKB again demonstrated a couple of video techniques that pointed the way toward what should be done to make video production worthy of electronic potentialities. The two signposts of the future consisted of a use of the kaleidoscope as a bridge in a dream sequence and as a very effective replacement for the ordinary type of cloth stage curtain and the use of cartoons to illustrate a poem.

The cartoons were used to illustrate the reading of an Oden Nash poem, *The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus*, and were presented by the WBKB staff in an effort to find the type of material that could be used during set changes separating portions of an evening's video program. Jean Nimitz, of the WBKB staff, drew the cartoons with white ink on blue paper and they were then photographed and made into slides. Thirty-three individual cartoons were drawn and photographed.

Miss Nimitz had her reading of the Nash poem transcribed. As the transcription was read the slides were shown. The effect was entertaining. With this technique the WBKB staff used only one camera (the one on the slides), leaving the other studio cameras free and permitting the staff to change studio sets.

The kaleidoscope was used as a bridge in a G.I.'s dream; an original drama by Loretto Pagels, of the WBKB staff, and following Johnny Confer and Hitous Grey as soldiers of an island outpost. As one of the two began to dream about past Christmases, the kaleidoscope was used as a flashback bridge. First, the scene on the island, then the soldier talk-

(See B & K on page 8)

NBC

Reviewed Friday (22), 8:30-8:45 p.m. Style—Music, film. Sustaining over WNBT, New York.

The Radio Corporation of America presented a sock 15 minutes of tele entertainment over WNBT, Friday night, that bodes well for future stanzas. RCA didn't try to do too much in its first sponsored video show, but that which was tried was done almost to perfection.

The show started with WNBT's new moving station break. It then dissolved to a film of a family sitting around one of the new RCA 18 by 24 receivers on which were the words "RCA presents." Film camera then dollyed right into the screen and dissolved to a trick photomontage of old newsreel clips, which in turn, dissolved to the title *The World In Your Home*. At that point, sound conked out but came back in again with the announcement of artist credits.

First seg was a musical bit by the dual pianists Seamen 1/c Wittemore and Lowe, U. S. Coast Guard, who did two numbers, a Prokofieff prelude and a special arrangement of Strauss waltzes. Pianistics are not the best possible subject for a visual medium, particularly when the medium is equipment handicapped tele, but NBC's directors and cameramen did well. The first few minutes were monotonous because of a static pic in which there was no variation from one-set long-shot. This was made even worse by the flare at the corners of the screen, a fault that can be eliminated by keeping dark objects in the center of the pic. In this particular case, the flare could have been eliminated by using grey, rather than black pianos.

In the latter moments, the director of the program taught what should have been a good lesson, to some of his over-enthusiastic, angle-crazy colleagues by using only two other takes several times. Both of them, however (and here is where the lesson comes in), were carefully selected and executed to integrate with the music. Instead of trying a number of shots on the air in the hope that one or two would be good, he set them in advance and used them to advantage. One was a fine, sharp close-up of the head and hands of one of the pianists and the other was a sock keyboard close-up.

Program ended with a Walt Disney film about malaria-carrying mosquitos. *Marty Schrader.*

DuMont

Reviewed Tuesday (19), 8-9:30 p.m. Style—Drama, educational. Sustaining on WABD, New York.

By today's tele standards, Storm Agency's *Uninvited Guest* was well made psychological drama. Well acted, well written, well set, well produced and well directed, it came off with a smoothness that is rare in one of Ray Nelson's productions.

There was no one outstanding fault that could be singled out. There were, in fact, nearly no faults. The denouement (concerning a suspected ax murderer who is really a great guy) generated the proper amount of tension and unobtrusive camera work didn't distract from the plot. There were no spectacular pix, but the cameras were in focus 99 per cent of the time and followed performers without a single slip. Credit DuMont's crew and Director Nelson.

Kid actor, Alastair Kyle, turned in a convincing performance, as did Rolly Beston, John McCarthy, Steward Nedd and Announcer Dan Ferris. And a deep bow to Amanda Randolph for her fine bit in the role of the maid. Elinor Lenz's scripting was neatly done, as was the simple set. This was the sort of show that should be regular video fare; not sensational but consistently good. Separate commercials were for Tintex Dyes.

Bob Emery's *Video Varieties* was de-

(See DuMONT on page 8)

Store Show No Air Program?

Difference of opinion on air-pic merchandising, but agreement tele will sell

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Department store video—intra-tel will be the local tele station's best time salesman in air pic fledgling years, in the opinion of tele experts now considering merchandising problems. Men like Paul Chamberlain, of General Electric, say that jeep systems will provide department stores with the initial push towards video time-buying.

The general idea, as expounded by Chamberlain and others like him, is that store managers, with intra-tel systems in their stores, will soon realize that they could hit a vaster audience by broadcasting—using their stores as remote points—than get within the building. Tele men say that the cost of broadcasting from the store, using a local station's transmitter, will be small because talent and production expenses are much less for the jeep show. Ad managers, they point out, will not be content to reach a few thousand people a day when they can hit 100,000 in a half hour for comparatively little more dough. Consequently, it is their opinion that local stations will profit a-plenty from intra-tel.

Store Stuff Nixed for Air

On the other hand, smart merchandisers believe that the theory of the low cost show direct from the store is a phantasma. As one exec expressed it: "To do a point-of-sale show requires an entirely different technique from that required by air selling. On the point-of-sale your program will be straight merchandising. It will depend on demonstrations, sales talks and all the other techniques that we now use when the customer is present.

"However, that doesn't go on the air. The best program men believe, and with great truth, that you must have entertainment to sell outside the store. Within the building you have the problem of selling an interested customer. In most cases he wouldn't come in unless he were interested. On the air you have to generate the initial interest. To create the desire to buy, you have to provide entertainment. Consequently, the merchandising show in your store will not sell on the air.

Dual Programming?

"As a result," he continued, "you will, if you want to use the local station, have to dual-programize your shows. The expense will be double and the whole operation becomes much less economical because of the need for double crews and double equipment."

The solution to the problem, it is said, is store shows on the air at night (as Macy's will shortly do at DuMont—see story elsewhere in this section for details) and sock merchandising by day thru intra-tel. In that way, only one studio and one crew will be needed and the cost materially reduced. . . . Merchandise managers are certain to use both.

Harman Gandering NEA Newspaper Cartoons for Video

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 23.—Hugh Harman is looking over the newspaper cartoon field on New York trip for possible television subjects. But is confining his activities to Steve Slesinger, who handles all strips for NEA. Harman already has two subjects ready for tele film, *Hollywood Merry-Go-Round* and *King Arthur*. Both subjects will use animation and live characters.

Bremer To Convert Theater Into Video, FM and AM Studios

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 23.—Bremer Broadcasting Company has completed plans for conversion of the huge Mosque Theater here into a series of television, FM and AM studios, according to Frank V. Bremer, technical director of the company and founder of Station WAAT. The org is holder of Allen B. DuMont Laboratories, Inc., priority No. 5 for the construction of a television station.

The stage of the theater will be wired for television broadcasts and will have 3,500 seats, the largest live audience capacity for television so far. The AM facilities of WAAT and FM Station WAAW will also be moved into the Mosque building which the Bremer company purchased last October 15 for \$450,000. It cost \$3,000,000 to build. The organization plans to invest \$150,000 for air conditioning the building.

As a first step toward converting the building to studios the company is seeking permission from the proper authorities for the erection of a 300-foot tower. The building's foundation was originally planned for a 17-story building. It is now a five-story structure to which a sixth story will be added, allowing ample weight capacity for the tower.

The Mosque houses an 84 by 75 foot ballroom, a 70 by 60 foot Masonic Lodge room, 35 feet high, which will later be converted into a television studio, a night club, Frank Daley's Terrace Room in the basement and considerable office space now occupied by the Naval Procurement Bureau.

WOL Next Cowles' Station To Go to The Blue Network

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—WOL, Cowles Washington outlet, will be the next on Cowles list to go Blue, according to reports here, altho WMAL, present Washington Blue outlet, maintains that no such deal is in works.

Merle Jones, WOL manager, and other Cowlesmen here are sitting tight saying nothing on the report that they will follow other Cowles outlets into Blue, but despite their silence the report was current in good channels here this week.

Report is that it is only a matter of contract termination. WOL now holds Mutual for Washington, while *The Evening Star's* WMAL has a Blue franchise. Story here is that Cowles and Blue have already come to agreement on switch here and that the deal figured in the original contract that turned two Cowles outlets from CBS to Blue.

Should the deal go thru as reported it would be Cowles' first big splash since acquiring WOL and assigning top-bracket Merle Jones to station managership. Radiomen here have been waiting for Jones' first move to make self and WOL felt locally and predict that the switch to Blue will be it.

Reports that WMAL would lose Blue were current here months ago. Only at that time it was WINX, *The Washington Post* outlet, that figured in the speculation.

Phil Rapp Returns To Frank Morgan Seg

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 23.—Phil Rapp goes back as head writer and director on the Frank Morgan show January 3. He formerly did scripting on "Baby Snooks" routines when Fanny Brice was paired with Morgan.

When Rapp takes over as head writer, he will replace Frank Gill Jr. Al Kaye, Coast head for Benton & Bowles, continues to produce, with Wayne K. Griffin, of the Berg-Allen Agency, looking after Morgan's interests.

This makes Rapp's first radio job since breaking with Fanny Brice last year. He has just finished scripting new Danny Kaye pic for Sam Goldwyn. During his hiatus from radio, he also did libretto for Shubert musical to star Milton Berle.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Jimmy Costello, who left *Camel Caravan* to pick up nitery dates, returns to the air show mid-January. He goes back after completing current live-week stand at the Swan Club here.

Goodwin Signs With Sinatra; Exclusive Contract Blows Up

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 23.—A verbal buzz bomb was handed Young & Rubicam this week when Bill Goodwin notified them that his so-called exclusive contract with Lever Bros. for Burns and Allen show had blown higher than the proverbial kite. He has signed for the new Frank Sinatra show, which tees off in January for Max Factor.

Thru his agent, James Saphier, Goodwin stated that he had an oral agreement with Burns and Allen to receive first featured billing, greater participation in the show as an actor, more publicity and greater prominence in the bally. Goodwin says that Burns didn't like the set-up and as a result the asserted provisions of his exclusive deal were not fulfilled. Saphier claims all the above elements were paramount when Goodwin signed the exclusive deal.

In case Lever Bros. attempt to parry his new assignment on the Sinatra show

legally, Goodwin will invoke AFRA code of fair practice, which involves arbitration. Goodwin today stated that he is willing to continue as speller for Burns and Allen, but only on a non-exclusive deal. Contract with the Sinatra show gives him first featured billing. Also he will not handle the straight plugs.

DuMONT

(Continued from page 7)

voted entirely to an interesting but impractical experiment Tuesday night, an attempt to put dialog on a disk and have the actors work in pantomime. As is the case with almost all video experiments, there is a strong tendency to rationalize mistakes and hope for the best. Here, however, it is impossible. The elimination of studio noise, which, we presume, was the reason for the waxing, is not a great enough advantage to compensate for the strained, unnatural, zombie-like performances that result. And besides, the best way to end studio noise is to tell the crew to shut up, and better equipment would do away with the rumble of a panning camera.

Emery's program, a very bad play about Christmas and a Scrooge-like character, reminded this reviewer of an American remake of Serge Eisenstein's *Potemkin*, in which clips of the powerful mutiny scene were integrated into studio shots made here. The Eisenstein shots were originally made in silent days, but the actors were speaking Russian. The American pic dubbed in English dialog and the result was a horrible mess. Emery's play gave the same unreal effect. The performers were off-times off-cue, and they were unable to do the job really well because of the psychological difficulty of opening one's mouth and saying nothing as well as the tendency to overact when one element of the drama is missing. Acting in silent films followed the romantic, rather than the realistic school for almost the same reason, but modern audiences have been conditioned to realism. The old school of gesticulation and mugging strikes them as absurd.

Emery's idea was tried once before by Bud Gamble, with much better results because he used a minimum of dialog, and that only to intro dancers. Ray Nelson did the same thing with *Rhythm*, but there was no talk at all in that exclusively dance show.

The New School's educational feature on how to print from a silk screen, as if anyone ever would want to know, was a batch of the worst sort. It was poorly acted, badly written and produced. Everything went wrong, including out-of-focus shots, head cutting, failure to follow participants, dropped cues, obnoxious personalities and other clinkers too numerous to mention in these days of paper shortages. The most important thing in tele or any other medium is to use professionals for jobs requiring ad-lib chatter. No dice here.

Marty Schrader.

B&K

(Continued from page 7)

ing about his dreams of things gone by, then kaleidoscope, and finally the introduction of the scenes about which he was thinking. It was very effective and pointed the way to a video dramatic bridge that will not lose attention.

The scenes he remembers consisted of his singing in a night club, watching girls dance and finally a fashion show, altho no connection between these three could be seen. The producer made a mistake in introducing multiple-subject matter, but the kaleidoscope was used well again here. After each model came out and showed her stuff there was a shot of kaleidoscope and the following girl seemed to be coming from behind the pattern.

Other portions of the program consisted of the reading of the news by Fran Weigel and Lee Phillips' Magical Mysteries. Fran has a style of delivery that calls for a response of friendliness and confidence in his audience, but he makes the mistake of reading only instead of using map and chalk talks. Magical Mystery by now has become old stuff at WBKB. If Phillips used a theater effect with an audience from which he could draw members to use as foils in his tricks, it would help and give his show a newness absent for a long time.

Cy Wagner.

Dep't Stores Worry About Video Staffs

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Department store use of television, especially in its intra-store phases, will be held up for many years in the post-war era if broadcasters and schools do not start at once to train video personnel. This has become apparent as a result of inquiries made here and in the East by *The Billboard*, which in its investigation talked to some of the top department store execs in the country.

Officials of Macy's department store chain gave the first indication of this possible development this week while on tour of inspection of the General Electric video studios in Schenectady, N. Y. After the tour they said they were very much impressed by the apparent ways they could use video, by telecasting to the public at home, by using television for display purposes inside stores, to attract passing street crowds and also to train store personnel. But they said that altho they were impressed by present equipment and technical development they still were very worried about how they could obtain sufficient know-how personnel to run their video staff. Particularly in the writing production and promotion advertising were they afraid that by the time they were ready to start their post-war video campaigns they could not have the people to do the job.

Theory Okay But Not Facts

One official said that he realized that, theoretically, personnel could be developed between now and the war's end for their post-war video demands. But, he said, in his travels around the country he did not see enough training campaigns underway. He said that department store video personnel demands would in themselves be tremendous, and would be over and above the needs of broadcasters. This, he said, led him to believe that there would not be enough to go around when the department stores were ready to go to work with video post-war, if present video training programs were not stepped up.

A top-ranking Macy exec from the South confirmed this opinion. He said that he would be willing to go to work with video right now if he could get the equipment; in fact, he said, he had been looking around for a man or woman who would start planning for him at once the possible uses of video. As yet, however, he has not been able to find any one. If, he asked, he could not find even one video trained employee now, how could he find the many he would need to conduct large television activities after the war.

Chi Brow Wrinkled, Too

In Chicago feeling of department store execs was similar. Those questioned would not be quoted, but they all admitted they were convinced television would be just about their most important advertising medium after the war. They said, too, that they had been looking around right now for personnel that could start video planning for them on the ground floor, but as yet they have been entirely unsuccessful. Most of them felt that they would not entrust their video work, particularly intra-store, to outside production orgs or advertising agencies. They want to have their own people handle video but where they will get personnel for their organizations they don't know.

Eight Air Firms Seek Philly Video Outlets

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Eight Philadelphia companies now have on file with the Federal Communications Commission applications to operate television stations here. They are Bamberger Broadcasting Service Company, Seaboard Radio Broadcasting Corporation, WCAU Broadcasting Company, WDAS Broadcasting Station, Inc., Pennsylvania Broadcast Company, Westinghouse Radio Stations, Inc., WFIL Broadcasting Company and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, a division of Triangle Publications, Inc.

All but *The Inquirer*, local morning newspaper, operate radio stations. List of applicants includes the four network outlets plus two indies—WIBG (Seaboard) and WDAS. Altho WIP (Pennsylvania) is the Mutual station, Bamberger seeks a tele outlet of its own. At present, Philco's WPTZ is the only tele station in operation here.

Y&R Sets Flackery Build-Up for Rogers

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Young & Rubicam is prepping a new promotion stunt to bolster the fast fading Roy Rogers' show, which will use the Rogers movie fan clubs to try to build listeners. Gimmick is a four-page mag which will be sent to the 5,000 or so kids who are in the clubs, plugging the radio angle thru pix and text.

General pitch will be a plea for letters to sponsor and station. Kids will also get autographed pic of the cowboy yodeler. Also in the wind is a book, reprinting in story form the dramatized tales that are put on the air.

Understood that Republic studios are coming in on the mag deal, supplying mailing lists and other data, in an effort to have radio help sell Rogers films.

SPOTS ON WAY OUT

(Continued from page 4)

said, and once the audience is gone there can be no advertisers.

Programs which are built to carry spots may also be eliminated, it is said, not because they have reduced audiences, but because they are actually an uneconomical way of handling business. At one small city station the cost of a Class-A quarter hour is \$64. The cost of a Class-A time spot of 200 words or less is as low as \$13. That means that five spots have to be sold into 15 minutes in order to equal the revenue obtained from the sale of one-quarter-hour show.

More \$\$ in Programs

"We have realized," said one station brass hat, "that we can make more money, sans aches, if we sell time segments, not spots, in carrying shows. Selling five advertisers means five times as many calls by the salesman, expense accounts five times as great, and when you multiply those five sponsors by the number who buy announcements around the clock, you can count on several more men. Of course, shows like participating women's programs won't be eliminated. But we're trying to get rid of a great many poorly produced carriers that are aired only to get that business."

CBS, of course, has already taken steps to end cow-catchers and hitch-hikes with its now famous edict. WABC, the co-station in New York, has not carried spots for the last 10 years and there is strong talk of dropping them off other co-stations. The Blue has taken the steps mentioned above. As yet there has been no talk of spot elimination at Mutual, but the trade feels that Ed Kobak, said to have had a hand in the Blue decision, will get around to it after he solves some of his more pressing problems. WEAJ, the NBC outlet in New York, does not use spots except after 11 p.m. and in a few participating shows. Other NBC M&O (managed and owned) stations have used a few of them, principally because they are almost all top outlets and not in need of spot biz. WWJ, Detroit indie, started along the road that many indies will be taking by decreeing some weeks ago that all spots would have to be live. It's easier programing to handle live spots without lousing up the airtanes.

Leeds Adds To ASCAP-BMI Flames

Yule Rum and Cola

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Couple of the music shops around New York last week had the Andrews Sisters recording of *White Christmas*, or so the label said. However, when the tune was put on the machine it turned out to be their new label, *Rum and Coca-Cola*.

Disk execs say it's not an uncommon error.

A Palladium Set For New York City Says Roseland Op

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—New York will have a Palladium similar to the one in Los Angeles after the war, according to Lou Brecker, operator of the New York Roseland and co-owner of the Palladium.

Brecker has already leased a site in the Times Square area and plans to erect a building that will cost \$1,500,000. It's understood that the same policy of using name bands and serving food and liquor will be followed, with building to hold around 10,000 payees. Los Angeles Palladium holds around 9,200.

Partner with Brecker will be David L. Loew, of Loew's, Inc. Brecker is co-owner of Palladium, with a "few" other stockholders.

GAC Gets Brooks' New Band; Dough May Be Masters'

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—New Randy Brooks' ork is signed with General Amusement, band going into rehearsal in a couple of weeks. Brooks was with Les Brown for past year, but left five weeks ago. Agreement with the leader when he joined stated that he would exit end of '44 to form his own outfit. Understood that Eddie Masters, music attorney, may put dough behind the band. (Masters was involved in the recent Johnny Long fray in which the AFM cut Masters' contract from 10 to two years altho allowing him his 10 per cent. AFM recently passed rule allowing personal managers no more than 5 per cent of gross.)

Brooks at one time was supposedly set to go out with Jack Robbins, music pub, backing, but that deal has apparently fallen thru.

Pix-Disk Okay for Pub Exploitation Use in Office

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—For first time since the AFM put the kibosh on disks over two and a half years ago, pubs are going to get the advantage of disks made from sound tracks for exploitation purposes.

Prior to ban, pubs got numerous records taken from sound track, done by the artist in the pic. They used them in the office to help sell the song to visiting firemen. Re-use of pix disks came about thru Harry Link, Feist-MGM exec, who applied to AFM union here for permission to use them again.

Union went to Pat Casey, labor relations man for motion pix producers, who in turn went to West Coast musicians' union. Now pubs are going to get anywhere from 5 to 10 sound-track disks of all tunes. They're not to go out of the office and can't be used on radio, etc. Feist is going to use them on such pix as *Anchors Aweigh*, *Week-End at the Waldorf*, *Harvey Girls*, *Ziegfeld Follies*.

When ban went into effect union also put clammer on use of pix disks as exploitation medium.

G.I.'s Get Key To 802; Door Open to Vets

No 6-Mo. Clause, or Anything

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Local 802, AFM, will waive all transfer restrictions for honorably discharged vets of World War II and will admit ex-members of other locals of the AFM to full membership upon the establishment of bona fide New York addresses. Org will also welcome vets who have not been previously affiliated with the AFM.

Instead of the customary six-month waiting period, ex-servicemen tootlers may join 802 by payment of the regular \$50 initiation fee and will immediately be eligible for all membership benefits. The restrictions imposed by the local prohibit a transfer member from accepting a steady engagement for three months and impose another three-month wait before the musician can join 802. That won't hold for ex-G.I.'s.

Move is unprecedented in the org that has never encouraged out-of-town AFM members to enter the New York fold. Members of 802, as a matter of fact, submit resolutions before every April by-law meeting urging more stringent transfer restrictions to protect the jobs for the New York musician. Musicians point to the unemployment in their ranks in normal times and stress that an enlarged membership tends to make competition keener and the burden of care for the unemployed greater.

In Line With Union Policy?

According to Secretary William Feinberg, action is in line with policy adopted by several trade unions in the entertainment biz. The unions feel that the ex-serviceman should have every opportunity to get back into the swing of things. Any impediments placed in his way by a trade union might encourage an anti-union feeling that could not but adversely affect the organized.

Union agrees that an influx of musicians from all over the country can be expected. Many small-town tootlers liked New York when they visited it while traveling on a G.I. ticket. The old line, "How can you keep 'em down on the farm," is probably prophetic in this instance. They will want to settle here and 802 will make it easy for them to work right away.

It is moot what reaction may be forthcoming from 802's rank and file. They may resignedly accept the move in the spirit of aiding the discharged vet. On the other hand, the issue might easily become a political football. Matters of less import have been used by opposi-

802 Strike Against Cafes, Hotels Await WLB Review

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The strike threat against the Cafe Owners' Guild and the New York Hotel Association made by Local 802, AFM, is being held in abeyance. William Feinberg, secretary of the musicians' union, stated this week that a decision to pull tootlers out of night clubs and hotels will be withheld for a reasonable length of time pending action by the National War Labor Board in Washington on the local's appeal for a rehearing.

Both sides in the controversy over wages have now filed appeals for a review of the case. COG is dissatisfied with the raises granted to the musicians, and Local 802 is seeking to have retroactivity begin October 2, 1943, instead of February 22, 1944.

Union is steamed up at the COG and the NYHA for having refused their original demands and thus forcing the matter to become a dispute case which has

Screen Song-Selling

By Paul Secon

Carolina Blues

(Columbia)

Shapiro-Bernstein music firm makes its entree into the film tie-up field with a double-barreled tune in a thin pic. Tune is, of course, *There Goes That Song Again*, which is now on some seven disks and gets plenty of spread in the film. It's on during the opening credits and is heard at various times, including an interpretation by Harry Babbitt, featured vocalist with Kay Kyser. It's Kyser's film, what there is of it, and he makes plenty of the tunes given to him.

Besides *Song Again*, Sammy Kahn and Julie Styne have turned out *Poor Little Rhode Island*, *You Make Me Dream Too Much*, *Thinkin' About the Wabash* and *Beebe Is the Man Who Knows*. First two names are commercial commodities and get good play, but they're simply place and show to *Song Again*. Georgia Carroll, Kyser's fem singer, does *You Make Me Dream Too Much* in bang-up style to help it along. Story of *Carolina Blues* is that of a AA tune in a BB film.

French Rights Levy Repped

Am-Russ, too, may go to radio rights org if Paine Group fail to come thru

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—In its second foreign music deal within the past month Leeds Music this week added fuel to an ASCAP-BMI fire which may turn into a four-alarm blaze. New deal gives Leeds exclusive U. S., Central American and Mexican rights to five French catalogs: Vianelly, Maillochon, France Music, Carlton and Raoul Breton. All pubs are owned by Breton. Catalogs, en masse, contain somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000 copyrights and include scores from many of France's top ballets and musical comedies, such as *La Rekschachi*, *Un Divertissement Chez Madame*, *L'Oiseau Bleu*, *Les Caprices de Mariane* and *La Cagnotte*. Many of the tunes have also been recorded for Victor and Columbia as well as Continental diskers by such top names as Jean Sablon, Josephine Baker, Jose Iturbi, Lily Pons and Jascha Heifetz.

5,000 New BMI Tunes?

Inflammable quality of the deal, however, is not in the strength of the catalogs so much as in the American Performance Rights set-up. Breton in making the deal insisted performance moola be collected thru Broadcast Music, Inc. So there is little doubt but that BMI will add the 4,000 to 5,000 French works to its lists. This, blended with American Performance Rights situation re Am-Russ deal pacted last month, whereby Leeds is the sole licensor, representative and U. S. copyright holder on all works of Russian composers, makes a real high-test concoction. Am-Russ deal is little understood, even in allegedly hep music circles. For some years now and at the present time, Russian music has not been copyrighted in the United States simply because Yank and Soviet governments haven't gotten around to making reciprocal trade agreements re music. Pubs consequently have looked upon practically the entire Soviet output as public domain material and has accordingly indulged in practices which in other cases would be labeled pirating. Leeds, as Soviet rep, intends to stop such carryings-on and expects American Performance Rights Society, to which Russ material is assigned, to support it 100 per cent in its efforts to stamp out allegedly illicit usages. This 100 per cent support, of course, means financial as well as moral backing in litigations which may arise.

ASCAP Offered AM-Russ

Since Leeds is ASCAP firm, Am-Russ material was offered to ASCAP immediately after the Leeds Soviet deal was closed, but offered with the 100 per cent support proviso. ASCAP is mulling the deal and has until around the first of the year to make up its mind, according to Leeds. Should ASCAP fail to meet Leeds' request for 100 per cent support, BMI is certain to be given a crack at the Russian material, and it's understood that Sidney Kaye, Merritt Tompkins and the rest of the BMI-ers wouldn't spare the bucks in full support of practically any kind of a deal Leeds suggests. It was reported in *The Billboard*, as far back as four months ago, that BMI has been waving a six-figure check in front of Lou Levy in an effort to persuade him to set up a separate BMI firm. And BMI has proved thru numerous deals whereby it helped set up band leaders, radio musical directors and disk jockeys in the pub biz (all covered in *The Billboard* in past six months) that it's ready, willing and able to lay the big money on the line.

ASCAP Biggies Split

As this issue of *The Billboard* goes to press, ASCAP biggies are split on how far they ought to go in attempting to snare the Russ material. Some ASCAP

(See LEEDS ADDS on page 11)

Plants Alone Don't Deliver the Disks

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Indie disk manufacturers now shopping around for pressing machines to put out disks probably won't be able to make commercial records even if machines are found. Typical case is that of Nat Abramson, WOR feature record exec, who opened his own plant in Long Island last month, only to discover that the government wanted all his production for OWI disks.

It's understood from brass sources that new plants opening in the near future will probably have to turn their resources over to OWI and other government disk biz. Known that at least half a dozen indies are now scurrying about getting ready to put out their own products.

tion groups in the org to woo support away from the administration.

In any event, the lifting of the transfer restrictions will be a boon to the tootler who belongs to a smaller local in the AFM and who always wanted to come to New York but could never finance the long wait between application and full membership.

dragged on for 14 months. The local had asked that the stretch between dance sessions be shortened, that musicians be paid for doubling on instruments and an increase up to the 15 per cent ceiling permissible in accordance with the "Little Steel" formula.

802 Wants Earlier Date

The contention of 802 is that retroactivity should begin on the date of the case's certification rather than an arbitrary date set by the WLB. In the rehearing, the employer groups are expected to fight the union's demand for use of the earlier date in paying back money.

A couple of weeks ago the amount of back money owed musicians under the original decision was estimated by union spokesmen to be about \$400,000. By the time a final decision is handed down the figure will be upped considerably.

Outs Contest Legality of 802 Voting

State Charges In AFM Letter

Honest Ballot Association is said to have nothing to do with voting

By Wanda Marvin

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Defeated candidates for Local 802, AFM, officialdom took their first official step Thursday (22) to bring about a nullification of the union's December 7 election. A letter was sent to James C. Petrillo, AFM prexy, asking that the election be set aside and that a new election be ordered. Letter was signed by a member of the local. Represented its entire opposition to the Blue Ticket (Administration), tickets having banned together to have the election count and conduct declared illegal. One thousand dollars is said to have been collected in small amounts from interested musicians to retain Barent Ten Eyck, of the firm of Spence, Windels, Walsler, Hotchkiss & Angell, Wall Street attorneys.

The letter sent to Petrillo is in part: "The bi-annual election of officials of 802 took place December 7, 1944. This election was conducted contrary to the by-laws of the local and consequently is nullity.

"Unless immediate steps are taken by you, the candidates who ostensibly were elected at the election illegally will take office January 1, 1945. A brief statement with regards to the facts of this election are as follows:

"The by-laws of the local, Article 6, Section 3, provides that 'the bi-annual local elections shall be conducted by the Honest Ballot Association of New York, which latter organization shall have power to appoint supervisors, inspectors, watchers and tellers, count the number of ballots cast for each candidate and upon completion of the count forward a copy of the results thereof to the executive board.'

"This election was not conducted by the Honest Ballot Association, nor did the Honest Ballot Association forward a copy of the results thereof to the executive board. What really happened was this:

"The union officials knowingly dealt with an impostor, who held himself out to be an official of the Honest Ballot Association, and it was under the supervision of this impostor that the election was conducted. The election results were furnished by this individual to the officials of the union. . . .

"Interviews with officials of the Honest Ballot Association resulted in categorical denials by them that the Honest Ballot Association participated in any manner in this election. In fact, they deny having any knowledge that an election was conducted by the local and that a claim was made that the Honest Ballot Association was conducting the election.

"At this time may I refer you to William R. Chadbourne, of 70 Pine Street, New York, the president of the Honest Ballot Association; also to Monroe Percy Bloch, of 27 William Street, New York, counsel for the Honest Ballot Association.

"Pending the preparation of a formal petition which will be submitted to your office within the next few days, I most respectfully urge upon you to look into this matter at once and take whatever steps you may feel necessary to preserve the status of the local and to protect the rights and interests of the membership."

Petrillo Hands-Off Expected

Petrillo is expected to take a strictly hands-off stand in the controversy, but the member who sent the letter did so as a matter of form to cover the group he reps in accordance with Federation law. The org's by-laws specify that no legal action of this nature can be taken until

(See Outs ?? Legality on page 13)

Outgoing 802 Trial Board Chairman Plans April Battle

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Max Arons, outgoing chairman of the Trial Board of Local 802, AFM, has drawn a number of resolutions concerning important phases of the music biz for vote in April at the org's annual by-law meeting.

Resolutions, which must be submitted before January 30, concern changes in scale and conditions on dance jobs—both single and location, commercial radio and audition record sessions. Remote broadcast payments and voting machines for local elections and theater minimums also come in for attention.

One resolution would channel the \$3-per-man-per-remote-broadcast into the pockets of the musicians involved instead of into the union's treasury, as is the practice now. Arons says that the wages of the men would be raised from \$12 to \$15 a week. He says that the remote charges which are supposedly paid by the employers are in many instances actually paid by pubs, another variation of the old payola. Steps should be taken, he believes, to rectify this situation and police the biz to prevent same.

Remote Dough to Sidemen

Tho the remote dough would be paid to the musician, Arons says it should be held in escrow by the union until the termination of the engagement to prevent any chisel on that score.

Commercial radio dates would be secured for the musician. Now they are considered single engagements and as such the musician never knows from date to date whether he has a job or not. The insecurity should be eliminated, Arons believes, since it is used as a weapon by some leaders to intimidate sidemen.

The present payment of men on a session basis in cafes, hotels and night clubs should be done away with and the hourly rate substituted. Such an arrangement governs these jobs for musicians in Chicago.

Hotels would be obliged to hire local bands for at least six months of the year to be permitted to use out-of-town crews the rest of the time. This restriction obtains in Cleveland, Buffalo and other cities.

Theater minimums would be raised. Since 1921, according to Arons, the minimum number of men in musical comedy and legit houses has remained unchanged. The 16 in musical and the

four in legit theaters is too small he claims. He would raise the numbers to at least 24 and 7 respectively.

All recorded auditions for live radio programs would pay musicians the e. t. price. He hits the \$4 scale now prevailing, claiming the disks are too often used commercially without the musician being paid the proper scale. He would police such audition waxings, check use, and jump rate from \$4 to \$18 an hour,

No Maestro Disks By Freddie Martin

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Freddie Martin's Maestro Record Company is not going to release his disks that he made for the company during the AFM ban, Coast sources say. Disks that will be scrapped will be those he made with his own band, altho other artists' disks, including Georgia Gibbs' waxes for Maestro are coming out. There was a tiff for a while between Martin and Victor, to whom he's under contract. Victor execs here say they never gave Martin permission to disk, altho Martin claims that he received word that he could make disks since he was in 1-A at the time and wanted to have a few records out.

With scrapping of Martin's sides, Victor will now release a couple of new disks he cut for them since the ban was lifted. These were said to held up until the above matter could be cleared up.

Swing Street Back To Name-Ork Policy

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—New York's 52d Street is going back to big-band policy after the raft of small combos at the spots that line the mecca of jazz dens. Jay McShann, with 15 men, goes into the Downbeat Club, January 8, spot that recently played Eddie Heywood's group. Art Tatum is doing a single there now.

McShann, colored band, is getting about \$1,650 at the spot. Same place, under name of Famous Door, played Count Basie and Charlie Barnet a couple of years ago, but since then has stayed away from big bands.

Chi Bookers Going Batty Over New Year's Eve Music Rates

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Talent bookers around town are going slightly nuts these days trying to find bands and other musical units to work for a reasonable figure for the many New Year's Eve dates to be filled. Musicians are asking hitherto unheard of prices.

Most sidemen are asking \$50 for the night, while leaders are demanding at least \$100. Trios that formerly could be had for \$35, are now asking \$175. One booker had a date 250 miles out of town, for which a house was willing to pay \$1,000 for a seven-man outfit. So far, he hasn't been able to get anyone to take the job.

They've Had Good Year

It's not that there is a great shortage of musicians. They have had such a good year, the trade says, that they don't feel like working on New Year's Eve and won't budge from their fire-places unless Mr. Morgenthau himself makes an offer.

Examples of good prices being turned down could be cited without a halt. One booker offered a band, that was formerly paid \$600 a date out of town, \$1,200 for N. Y. E. The leader said maybe, provided he was given transportation, room and board. The only thing for which he

did not ask was a room with southern exposure.

As a prolog to this asking of unreasonable dough for New Year's Eve, the bookers point to another development that has been taking place here and thruout the Middle West. Such things as union scale for overtime and classification of men into A and B categories for the purpose of having the B boys receive less than the A is a thing of the past. Men who formerly received \$2 an hour overtime are now being paid between \$5 and \$8 for each 60 minutes they put in after hours. Class B musicians are receiving Class A dough, and, strangely enough, some of the spots, and particularly the bill payers for club dates, are not raising a stink.

By now the bookers have become accustomed to being turned down except for the best offers. They're used to it. But Jack Russell, of Mutual Entertainment Company here, had a turndown the other day that he still can't believe. This turndown, in fact, made him wonder if musicians have lost religion in the process of grabbing for dough. It was on an offer from a church that was willing to pay a violinist \$25 for an hour and a half's work at a Christmas Eve midnight mass.

Tunesters Yearn For Own Plugger

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—With major pub houses tied up to legit and pic tunes, many top writers around town see the possibility of banding together and starting tunes themselves, with the help of a paid song plugger. It's not a new idea, that of a tunesmith hiring a plugger to get his tune started so that a pub might become interested. However, the field has so narrowed, according to many writers, that many are said to be thinking of tossing their dough into a hat, hiring an expensive prof. mgr. to get their songs around.

Of course, it's not known in the case of where more than one songwriter is involved, whose song would be worked on first, but writers say that's a point that can be worked out later. Writers today try and start their own songs by getting leaders to both make up new tunes and possibly record them, if they can. However, song writers note that it's far more feasible to put the plan on a systematic basis, hire a good man and get tunes started to point where a pub will be willing to shell out shekels.

Berlin Hot Town Nixed by Nets

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Barton's *There'll Be a Hot Time in the Town of Berlin* has been banned by NBC and Blue net (CBS couldn't be reached for comment) until "conditions are more favorable to the Allies." According to the net execs, this is the first time that a song has been banned on account of world events. Ban became effective Friday (22) and resulted from the German current counter-offensive.

Tune got plenty of air build-up via Crosby plugging on his show. Singer also disked the tune with Andrews Sisters for Decca.

Disks Growing Again To Be Plug Stuff; "Rain" Newest Proof

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Power of a disk plug is really seen in case of *Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall*, Roberts-Fisher tune which is pubbed by Sun Music, Decca subsid. According to the records, the tune has not been heard on one major plug, but already it's sold 250,000 copies and over a half million disks. Topper is that on strength of sales it's been picked for the music department store racks, which almost automatically insures it of close to 100,000 more sheet sales.

Sun's *You Always Hurt the One You Love* also had big disk and sheet sale, altho tune had few net plugs. And there's a tune around now titled *Rum and Coca-Cola*, which has an Andrews Sisters disk (Decca), and which has been barred from nets because of the word rum in the title. However, pubs feel that such tunes won't need net plugs to sell the song, that a good disk will be sufficient.

In fact, pubs see the trend, altho it's plenty in the future, of almost leaning more on disks than on commercial radio for results.

Fem Payola?

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.— Song pluggers, well versed in the ways of "giving" for plugs, are currently taking a burn at a sustaining radio warbler who's making it a point of asking for favors in return for doing a tune. Boys are used to shelling out for plugs, but not for a gal's "requests" for things she'd like to have. Her taste is said to be pretty expensive.



PART 1—The Billboard Music Popularity Chart

Week Ending
Dec. 21, 1944

SONGS WITH MOST RADIO PLUGS

The following are the leading songs on the basis of the largest number of network plugs (from New York outlets WJZ, WEAF, WABC and WOR) for the week beginning Saturday, December 16 and ending Thursday, December 21. Position in the list is no indication of a song's "most played" status, since all songs are listed alphabetically. The total number of times a song has appeared in the chart is in the Weeks to Date column. Compilation is based upon data supplied by Accurate Reporting Service, with plugs per tune omitted by The Billboard. (M) Song in legit musical. (F) Song in film musical.

Wks. to date	TITLE	PUBLISHER
3	After Awhile	Starlight
12	Always (F)	Berlin
8	Confessin'	Bourne
21	Dance With a Dolly	Shapiro-Bernstein
2	Don't Ever Change	Morris
9	Don't Fence Me In (F)	Harms, Inc.
6	Don't You Know I Care?	Paramount
4	Evelina (M)	Crawford
1	I Didn't Know About You	Robbins
29	I Dream of You	Embassy
5	I'll Be Home for Christmas	Melrose
19	I'm Making Believe (F)	Bregman-Vocco-Conn
17	Let Me Love You Tonight	Robbins
15	Magic Is the Moonlight (F)	Melody Lane
3	More and More (F)	T. B. Harms
1	Please Don't Say No (F)	Feist
1	Santa Claus Is Coming to Town	Feist
1	Sleigh Ride in July (F)	Burke-Van Heusen
7	Strange Music	Chappell
7	Sweet Dreams, Sweetheart (F)	Remick
2	Take Me in Your Arms	Mills
8	There Goes That Song Again (F)	Shapiro-Bernstein
2	This Heart of Mine (F)	Triangle
14	Trolley Song (F)	Feist
11	Twilight Time	Campbell-Porgie
8	Waiting	BMI
24	What a Difference a Day Made	Marks
19	Whispering	Miller
11	White Christmas (F)	Berlin
1	Wonderful Winter	Bourne

Lucky Strike HIT PARADE

CBS, Saturday, December 23, 9-9:45 p.m. EDT.

Wks. to date	POSITION	TITLE	PUBLISHER
Date	Last Wk.	This Wk.	
8	1	1. The Trolley Song (F)	Feist
4	2	2. Don't Fence Me In (F)	Harms, Inc.
2	3	3. White Christmas (F)	Berlin
2	4	4. I'm Making Believe	Bregman-Vocco-Conn
2	7	5. There Goes That Song Again (F)	Shapiro-Bernstein
3	6	6. I Dream of You	Embassy
10	5	7. Together (F)	Crawford
9	8	8. Dance With a Dolly	Shapiro-Bernstein
19	9	9. I'll Walk Alone (F)	Morris

And the Following Extras: Oklahoma, Chicago, Tico Tico and I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SHEET MUSIC BEST SELLER SOURCES:
Atlanta: Cable Piano Co. Boston: H. N. Homeyer & Co. Chicago: Carl Fischer, Inc.; Gamble Hinged Music Co.; A. C. McClurg. Cincinnati: Song Shop; Willis Music Co. Denver: Charles E. Wells Music Co. Los Angeles: Morse M. Freeman, Inc. New York City: Music Dealers' Service, Inc.; Ashley Music Supply Co.; Walter Kane Music Corp.; Carl Fischer, Inc.; Music Sales Corp. Phoenix, Ariz.: J. J. Newberry Co. Pittsburgh: Volkwein Brothers, Inc. Portland, Ore.: Irving Sklare Music Co., care Meier & Frank Co. San Antonio: Southern Music Co. San Francisco: Pacific Coast Music Jobbers. St. Louis: St. Louis Music Supply Co.

HARLEM HIT PARADE SOURCES: Rainbow Music Shop, Harvard Radio Shop, Lehman Music Company, Harlem De Luxe Music Store, Ray's Music Shop, Frank's Melody Music Shop, Davega-City Radio, Inc., New York; Richards Music Shop, Bernard Record Shop, Brooklyn; Groove Record Shop, Melody Lane Music Company, Metropolitan Music Shop, Wright Music Shop, Chicago; Klayman's Music Shop, Cincinnati; Smith's Record Shop, Atlanta; Birmingham Vending, Birmingham; Radio Shop of Newark, Newark, N. J.; Gary's Record Shop, Richmond, Va.

BEST SELLING SHEET MUSIC

This compilation is based on weekly reports received from leading sheet music jobbers and dealers in important sheet distribution centers in the United States. (See sources below Lucky Strike Hit Parade.) Songs are listed according to their popularity nationally, with the sectional listings to the right. (M) Song in legit musical. (F) Song in film musical.

Weeks to date	POSITION			NATIONAL				
	Last Week	This Week		East	Mid-west	South	West Coast	
4	1	1	1. DON'T FENCE ME IN (F)....	1	1	1	4	
			Harms, Inc.					
10	2	2	2. THE TROLLEY SONG (F)	2	2	3	1	
			Feist					
8	3	3	3. I'M MAKING BELIEVE (F) ..	3	4	2	5	
			Bregman-Vocco-Conn					
2	8	4	4. THERE GOES THAT SONG AGAIN (F)	5	10	9	—	
			Shapiro-Bernstein					
14	4	5	5. DANCE WITH A DOLLY	8	5	5	2	
			Shapiro-Bernstein					
7	7	6	6. I DREAM OF YOU	6	9	8	8	
			Embassy					
10	9	7	7. WHITE CHRISTMAS (F)	4	3	6	3	
			Irving Berlin					
12	5	8	8. TOGETHER (F)	9	7	7	6	
			Crawford					
11	10	9	9. ALWAYS (F)	10	6	4	9	
			Berlin					
23	6	10	10. I'LL WALK ALONE (F)	—	8	10	7	
			Morris					

Other Sheet Music Reported in Best Selling Lists by Sections

EAST: *Let Me Love You Tonight?*—Robbins.
WEST COAST: *It Could Happen to You* (F)—Famous.

"HARLEM" HIT PARADE

Following list of most popular records in Harlem is based on sales reports from the leading race music stores. (See sources below Lucky Strike Hit Parade.)

Weeks to date	POSITION	TITLE	RECORD COMPANY
Date	Last Wk.	This Wk.	
10	1	1. Into Each Life	
		Some Rain Must Ink Spots and Ella Fitzgerald	Decca 23356
14	3	2. Gee, Baby, Ain't I	
		Good to You? ... King Cole Trio... Capitol 169	
7	6	3. I'm Making Believe (F)	Decca 23356
		Believe (F) ... Pvi. Cecil Gant	
11	2	4. I Wonder	Giltedge 500 CG1
33	5	5. Cherry Red	
		Blues ... Cootie Williams ... Hit 7084	
10	4	6. I'm Lost	Excelsior 2986
20	9	7. You Always Hurt	
		the One You Love. Mills Brothers .. Decca 18599	
21	7	8. Hamp's Boogie-	
		Woogie ... Lionel Hampton .. Decca 18613	
2	10	9. I Don't Mind	Victor 1598
5	8	10. It's Only a Paper	
		Moon ... King Cole Trio .. Capitol 20012	

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL BEST SELLING RETAIL RECORD SOURCES:
Atlanta: Cox Prescription Shop, Beverly Hills, Calif.: Martindale's, Birmingham: Norlen's Radio Shop; Louis Pizitz Dry Goods Co. Boston: The Melody Shop. Bridgeport, Conn.: Gilman Music Store; Howland Dry Goods Co.; Whiting Radio Service. Buffalo: Music House. Butte, Mont.: Dreibelbis Music Co. Chicago: Goldblatt Brothers; Hudson-Ross; Lyon & Healy; Marshall Field; Rose Record Shop; Sears-Roebuck & Co.; Wurlitzer's. Cincinnati: Song Shop, Steinberg's, Inc.; Willis Music Co.; Wurlitzer's. Denver: Century Music Shop; The May Co.; Charles E. Wells Music Co. Des Moines: Davidson Record Co.; Des Moines Music House. Ft. Worth: Kemble Bros.' Furniture Co. Hollywood: Music Shop; Music City; Hollywood House of Music. Jacksonville, Fla.: Butler's Record Shop. Los Angeles: The May Company. Louisville: Stewart Dry Goods Co. Miami: Richard's Store Co.; Burdine, Inc. Milwaukee: J. B. Bradford's Music House; Morton Lines Co.; Broadway House of Music. Newark, N. J.: G. & R. Record Shop; Radio Shop of Newark. New Orleans: Louis Grunewald Co., Inc. New York City: Center Music Store; Liberty Music Shop; Galey Music Shop; Rabson's Music Shop; R. H. Macy & Co.; Abraham & Strauss, Inc.; Broadway Melody Shop. Philadelphia: Downtown Record Shop; Alex A. Gettlin; Highpoint Record Shop. Pittsburgh: Volkwein Bros., Inc. Portland, Ore.: Meier & Frank Co. Raleigh, N. C.: C. H. Stephenson Music Co.; Joseph E. Thiem Co. Richmond, Va.: Gary's Record Shop; Walter D. Moses & Co.; Corley Record Co. St. Louis: Aeolian Co. St. Paul, Minn.: Mayflower Novelty Co. Salt Lake City: Z. C. M. I. Gramophone Shop. San Antonio: Alamo Piano Co. Washington, D. C.: George's Radio Co. Westwood, Calif.: Music Shop.

Leeds Adds Fuel to ASCAP-BMI Fire

(Continued from page 9)

toppers feel it is vital that org get Soviet stuff and are willing to make the kind of a deal Lou Levy is asking, while others (and among them are powerful members of the dechis and policy-making ASCAP board) who say "Nuts, the stuff has always been public domain and why should Leeds get anything out of it?"

In the meantime Lou Levy and Leeds-men have swung into action with both the French and the Russ material. Top writers have been called in and have been kicking around many of the tunes in the Breton catalogs, with the idea of doing American lyrics to them in the same manner Yank wordage was grafted to *Besame Mucho*, *Amor* and more recently *My Heart Sings*. Latter ballad, incidentally, is Breton tune, French-tagged

M'Ami, Jack Lawrence has already English-worded a Breton number called *Serenade Portuguese*, which has been Yank-titled *Whispering Pines*, and Don Raye, Jimmy Eaton, Ray Levine and Harold Rome are making with the pencil on others.

Leeds Sets Diskings

With the Soviet deal, Leeds has already received signed license agreements from Columbia and Victor. The latter disked *Piano Concerto* by Khatchaturian with Koussevitsky and the Boston Symph, while Columbia made a six-side album of Prokofieff's *Violin Sonata* by Szigeti. A radio network is set to ink a Leeds license for use of a new composition by one of the Soviet's top composers. And Lou Levy, presently on the Coast, is busily working with the filmers for recognition of Leeds' right to license Russ material.

ASCAP Sends a Letter

Whether or not ASCAP finally winds

up with the Russian Performance Rights control, whether it is able to alter the picture on the French deal, it is definitely aware of the gravity of the situation. Last Friday (15) they sent a letter to all members in which they set forth a list of conditions with which members must comply in issuing licenses independently of the society. Condition No. 5 read:

"No member of the society may grant or assign to persons, firms, corporations or enterprises, including Broadcast Music, Inc., the right to license or assign to others the right of public performance for profit in their respective copyrighted musical compositions of which performance rights are owned or controlled by the respective members of the society, and all such grants or assignments of the right to license or assign to others are prohibited."

Regardless of this and the other conditions set forth in the ASCAP letter, Leeds intends to make BMI deals unless

ASCAP gives it what it considers a fair deal.

BMI's activities in the other channels mentioned earlier in this report have already come up for discussion at several ASCAP board meetings, but so far no action other than the letter of a week ago has been taken.

The trade looks for further action soon, since renewal of ASCAP licenses with the radio nets is coming up in the not too far away future, and if BMI is in too strong a position the senior agency may be in for tough negotiations, to say the least.

Cootie Williams to Apollo

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Cootie Williams goes into the Apollo Theater here January 12. He and his ork were originally skedded to go into the Paramount December 27 with the Gale package, Ink Spots and Ella Fitzgerald, but after the Ink Spots' case went to court the booking was canceled.



PART 2—The Billboard Music Popularity Chart

Week Ending
Dec. 21, 1944

BEST SELLING RETAIL RECORDS

This compilation is based on weekly reports received from leading retail record stores in key retail cities. (See Sources in Part 1.) Songs are listed according to their popularity nationally with the sectional listings to the right. Record backing the hit record is in italic. (M) Song in Legit Musical. (F) Song in Film Musical.

Weeks to date	POSITION NATIONAL			East	Mid-west	South	West Coast
	Last Week	This Week	Rank				
6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
6	2	2	2	3	2	2	7
10	3	3	3	2	—	—	2
2	—	4	4	5	7	4	—
1	—	5	5	—	3	9	5
1	—	6	6	—	6	3	—
1	—	7	7	6	—	—	4
1	10	8	8	—	4	—	10
19	9	9	9	—	—	—	3
12	4	10	10	7	10	—	9

EAST: *Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall*—Ink Spots and Ella Fitzgerald, Decca 23356; *Angelina*—Louis Prima, Hit 7106; *What a Difference a Day Made*—Andy Russell, Capitol 167.

MIDWEST: *Dance With a Dolly*—Russ Morgan, Decca 18625; *The Trolley Song* (F)—Vaughn Monroe, Victor 20-1605; *Tico Tico* (F)—Ethel Smith, Decca 23353.

SOUTH: *Dance With a Dolly*—Evelyn Knight, Decca 18614; *Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall*—Ink Spots and Ella Fitzgerald, Decca 23356; *You Always Hurt the One You Love*—Mills Brothers, Decca 18599; *I'll Walk Alone* (F)—Dinah Shore, Victor 20-1586; *Dance With a Dolly*—Russ Morgan, Decca 18625.

WEST COAST: *Always*—Gordon Jenkins, Capitol 125; *Cuban Sugar Mill*—Freddie Slack, Capitol 172.

MOST PLAYED JUKE BOX FOLK RECORDS

Special reports received from The Billboard representatives last week show the Folk records listed below are currently the most popular Folk records on automatic phonographs thruout the nation. These reports stem from all the country's leading operating centers and are averaged together.

Weeks to date	POSITION		
	Last Week	This Week	Rank
7	1	1	1
18	2	2	2
7	5	3	3
—	—	4	4
12	4	4	4
21	—	—	—
7	3	4	4
3	5	4	4

MOST PLAYED JUKE BOX RECORDS

Going Strong

Reports received from The Billboard representatives and based on information given by leading juke box operators last week show the records listed below are currently receiving the most play on automatic phonographs thruout the nation. These reports stem from the country's leading operating centers and are averaged together. Thus only records that are distributed nationally will show up in the guide. Listed under the title of each most played record are the other available recordings of this number.

Weeks to date	POSITION		
	Last Week	This Week	Rank
6	1	1	1
9	2	2	2
8	3	3	3
10	4	4	4
3	8	5	5
21	7	6	6
4	6	7	7
5	9	8	8
3	10	9	9
10	17	10	10
11	—	11	11
31	11	12	12
2	15	13	13
7	5	14	14
9	15	15	15
1	—	16	16
14	13	17	17
1	—	18	18

Coming Up

Reports received from The Billboard representatives last week, and based on information given them by leading juke box operators, show the records listed below are gaining in popularity all over the nation.

1. LET ME LOVE YOU TONIGHT—Woody Herman (Billie Rogers) Decca 18619
2. I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS—Bing Crosby Decca 18570

Territorial Favorites With Juke Box Operators

The following records are reported as favorites in various territories as indicated in reports to The Billboard from leading Juke Box Operators.

- ROBIN HOOD—Tony Pastor (Detroit) Victor 20-1607
- I'LL FORGIVE YOU BUT I CAN'T FORGET—Roy Acuff (Erie) Okeh 6723

ADVANCE BOOKINGS

BILL BARDO: Bill Green's Casino, Pittsburgh, until Jan. 11.
COUNT BASIE: Hotel Lincoln, New York, Dec. 20-Feb. 11.
DENNY BECKNER: Blue Moon, Wichita, Kan., until Dec. 31.
RAY BENSON: Plaza Hotel, New York, Jan. 18 (indef.).
TINY BRADSHAW: Last Word, Chicago, until Feb. 28.
LES BROWN: Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, until Feb. 10.
CAB CALLOWAY: Sherman Hotel, Chicago, Dec. 31-Feb. 1; Regal Theater, Chicago, 2 (week); Orpheum Theater, Minneapolis, 9 (week); Orpheum Theater, St. Paul, 16-19; Colonial Theater, Dayton, O., March 2 (week); Pounce Theater, Cleveland, 9 (week); RKO-Keith, Boston, 22.
FRANKIE CARLE: Orpheum Theater, Minneapolis, Dec. 28 (week); Orpheum Theater, Madison, Wis., Jan. 9-10; Orpheum Theater, Omaha, 12 (week); Capitol Theater, New

York, 25-Feb. 14; Palladium, Hollywood, March 20-April 30.
BENNY CARTER: IMA, Flint, Mich., Jan. 6; Sanley Theater, Utica, N. Y., 12-14; RKO-Keith, Boston, 18 (week); Adams Theater, Newark, N. J., 25 (week); State Theater, Hartford, Conn., Feb. 2-4; Earle Theater, Philadelphia, 9 (week); Loew's State, New York, 22 (week).
CARMEN CAVALLARO: Palmer House, Chicago, until Jan. 24.
REGGIE CHILDS: Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, until Jan. 18.
CHRIS. CROSS: Claridge Hotel, Memphis, until Jan. 18.
BERNIE CUMMINS: Commercial Hotel, Elko, Nev. (indef.).
JIMMY DORSEY: Adams Theater, Newark, N. J., Dec. 28 (week); RKO-Keith, Boston, Jan. 4 (week); Frolies Club, Miami, 16 (3 weeks); Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, Feb. 12-April 7; Capitol Theater, Washington, 12 (week); Sherman Hotel, Chicago, May 11-June 7.

TOMMY DORSEY: Capitol Theater, New York, until Jan. 11.
GEORGE DUFFY: Ansley Hotel, Atlanta, Dec. 28 (indef.).
SONNY DUNHAM: Tune Town Ballroom, St. Louis, until Jan. 8; Frog Hop, St. Joseph, Mo., 3; Sherman, Omaha, 14; Corn Palace, Mitchell, S. D., 15; Neptune, Sioux Falls, S. C., 16; Prom Ballroom, St. Paul 17; The Terp, Austin, Minn., 18; Amber Club, Madison, Wis., 19.
DUKE ELLINGTON: Downtown Theater, Detroit, Jan. 5-11; Auditorium, Jackson, Mich., 12; Philharmonic Hall, Hollywood, 17; Golden Gate Theater, San Francisco, 31.
SHEP FIELDS: Palace Theater, Albany, N. Y., Dec. 28-Jan. 3; Trianon Ballroom, South Gate, Calif., 19-22.
CHUCK FOSTER: Blackhawk, Chicago, until Jan. 9.
GLEN GRAY: Adams Theater, Newark, N. J., Jan. 18 (week); Palace Theater, Akron, Feb. 2-5; Palace Theater, Columbus, O., 6-8; Circle Theater, Indianapolis, 9 (week); Chicago Theater, Chicago, 16 (week); Orpheum Theater, Omaha, 23 (week); Hotel Pennsylvania, New York, April 9-June 3.
WILL HAUSER: Lakeside Park, Dayton, O., Dec. 30.
WOODY HERMAN: Paramount Theater,

New York, Dec. 27-Jan. 16; Adams Theater, Newark, N. J., Feb. 8 (week); Meadowbrook, Cedar Grove, N. J., 15 (2 weeks); Sherman Hotel, Chicago, March 16 (4 weeks).
ERSKINE HAWKINS: Metropolitan Theater, Cleveland, Dec. 29-Jan. 4; Regal Theater, Chicago, 5-11; Paradise Theater, Detroit, 12-18.
EDDIE HOWARD: Aragon Ballroom, Chicago, until Jan. 18; Terrace Room, Newark, N. J., Feb. 2 (4 weeks).
LOUIS JORDAN: Auditorium, Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 30; Auditorium, St. Louis, Jan. 1; Club Ball, Washington, 5 (2 weeks); Town Barn, Buffalo, 22 (2 weeks); Metropolitan Theater, Cleveland, Feb. 16; Royal Theater, Baltimore, March 23 (week); Apollo Theater, New York, 30 (week); Howard Theater, Washington, April 13 (week); Paradise Theater, Detroit, 27.
STAN KENTON: Orpheum, Los Angeles, Jan. 9 (week).
LLOYD LA BRIE: Talk-of-the-Town, Peoria, Ill., until Jan. 2; Pla-Mor Ballroom, Kansas City, Mo., 3-24.
CLYDE LUCAS: Lakeside Park, Dayton, O., 31; Circle Theater, Indianapolis, Jan. 5 (week).



PART 3—The Billboard Music Popularity Chart

Week Ending
Dec. 21, 1944

RECORD POSSIBILITIES

These records and songs show indications of becoming future nationwide hits in juke boxes and over record retail counters. Selections are based upon radio performances, sheet music sales, information from music publishers on the relative importance of songs in their catalogs and upon the judgment of The Billboard's Music Department.

RUM AND COCA-COLA Andrews Sisters . . . Decca 18636A

New calypso catcher-oner is handled in right taste by the sis team. It's not too sophisticated and musical background is in keeping with simple quality of song. "Rum and Coke" phrase is a nifty, and altho tune has been barred from nets, this one will sell plenty. Other side is "One Meat Ball." It's flashy and right for juke.

DON'T YOU KNOW I CARE? Duke Ellington . . . Victor 201618A

This is a juke must. It's Duke's own tune, and one of the most commercial sides Ellington has ever turned out, and it'll do big. Lyric opener is nicely handled and easily understandable. Disk is prime for beer tables or home sets. Ellington's reverse is another one of his own, "I'm Beginning To See the Light," a bouncy thing that will augment home sales.

MORE AND MORE Tommy Dorsey . . . Victor 20-1614A

T. D.'s record is first out on Jerry Kern tune from Deanna Durbin's film, "Can't Help Singing." Tune is a singable one and Dorsey's horn does all right. Clearer lyric would have helped make this a better disk, but it's still a potential winner. Reverse, "You're Driving Me Crazy," is a powerful backer for counter sales.

POPULAR RECORD RELEASES

(From December 28 thru January 4)

- A MAN'S A MAN FOR THAT . . . Earl Robinson Keynote 538
- A NIGHT IN CENTRAL PARK . . . Sir Lancelot-Gerald Clark's Caribbean Serenaders Keynote 544
- BEAT OUT DAT RHYTHM ON A DRUM . . . Gladys Swarthout (Jay Blackton Ork) Victor Red Seal 10-1128
- BLUE HARLEM (12") Ike Quebec Quintet Blue Note 37
- DON'T YOU KNOW I CARE? . . . Duke Ellington (Al Hibbler) Victor 20-1618
- ENCORE ALBUM Continental 22
 - 1. Mazurka in C Sharp Minor. 2. Prelude No. 1 (C Major)—Andor Foldes Continental C-5032
 - 1. Polka From the "Golden Age" 2. Dance Fantastique—Andor Foldes Continental C-5033
 - 1. Prelude in B Flat Major. 2. March From "The Love of the Three Oranges"—Andor Foldes Continental C-5033
 - The Maiden With the Flaxen Hair—Andor Foldes Continental C-5032
 - Three Waltzes by Brahms—Andor Foldes Continental C-5031
 - Valse Oublee by Liszt—Andor Foldes Continental C-5031
- EVERYTIME WE SAY GOODBYE . . . George Paxton Hit 7121
- I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOU . . . Lena Horne (Horace Henderson Ork) Victor 20-1616
- I DON'T STAND FOR THAT JIVE . . . Bonnie Davis (Bunny Banks Trio) Savoy 5512
- I DREAM OF YOU Jimmy Dorsey Decca 18637
- I DREAM OF YOU Frank Sinatra (Axel Stordahl Ork) Columbia 36762
- I'M BEGINNING TO SEE THE LIGHT . . . Duke Ellington (Joya Sherrill) Victor 20-1618
- I WONDER Pvt. Lloyd Thompson (Herbie Fields Ork) Savoy 5512
- JOHN HENRY Josh White Keynote 541
- LOVE HAS COME MY WAY . . . The Four Clefs (William Chapman) Bluebird 34-0719
- MAGIC IS THE MOONLIGHT . . . Jimmy Dorsey Decca 18637
- MORE AND MORE Tommy Dorsey (Bonnie Lou Williams) Victor 20-1614
- OKLAHOMA SELECTIONS PART 1 (12") Introduction; Oklahoma; Oh, What a Beautiful Morning. Boston "Pops" Ork (Arthur Fiedler, Conductor) Victor Red Seal 11-8742
- OKLAHOMA SELECTIONS PART 2 (12") Surrey With the Fringe on Top; People Will Say We're in Love. Boston "Pops" Ork (Arthur Fiedler, Conductor). Victor Red Seal 11-8742
- ONE FOR MY BABY Lena Horne (Horace Henderson Ork) Victor 20-1616
- ONLY ANOTHER BOY AND GIRL . . . George Paxton Hit 7121
- RIGHT AS THE RAIN Gladys Swarthout (Jay Blackton Ork) Victor 10-1128
- SATURDAY NIGHT (Is the Loneliest Night in the Week) . . . Frank Sinatra (Axel Stordahl Ork) Columbia 36762
- SOFT WINDS (12") Art Tatum Trio Asch 452-2
- STRANGE FRUIT Josh White Keynote 541
- SWEET DREAMS, SWEETHEART . . . Shep Fields (Meredith Blake) Bluebird 30-0833
- THE HOUSE I LIVE IN Earl Robinson Keynote 538
- THE LOVE I LONG FOR Vaughn Monroe (Vaughn Monroe) Victor 20-1619

(See Pop. Record Releases on page 41)

POPULAR RECORD REVIEWS

By M. H. Orodener

GEORGIA GIBBS (Maestro Music)

The Trolley Song—FT; *V. Wish You Were Waiting for Me*—FT; V.

Still another platter trade-mark to make its bid from West Coast quarters, and it's a vocal scoop scored by Arthur Schwartz's Maestro Music label in bowing with Georgia Gibbs. It's crystal-clear and diamond-bright when Miss Georgia gets under a lyric and cuts a note. No mumbling or the need of heavy musical background to make a glossy coating. Gal has it all in her pipes, and gives out with an infectious rhythmic lilt that makes you listen intently. Nor is her vocal charm all in the singing. Diction is impeccable and her phrasing of the wordage makes for stellar selling of the song. With generous and attractive musical support from the full-bodied studio band, Miss Gibbs looms as an important item for any label. Song material also goes a long way in making her preem plater a must-have. Sings "The Trolley Song" in spirited fashion and brings out all of its melodic content. When she wraps her pipes around Bob Russell's "Wish You Were Waiting for Me" ballad rich in tune and lyric, it's the kind of song selling that makes strong men weep.

Once they get an earful of Georgia Gibbs, these sides are a cinch to overshadow most of the other stickers on the phono selectors.

PVT. LLOYD THOMPSON-BONNIE DAVIS (Savoy)

I Wonder—FT; *V. I Don't Stand for That Jive*—FT; V.

Already a song rage in Harlem quarters, Pvt. Lloyd Thompson's swooning of Pvt. Cecil Gant's "I Wonder" ballad stacks up as a pre-sold side. A sentimental love ballad that is mood-inspiring, "I Wonder" threatens to build as big as "If I Didn't Care." Once the major firms take cognizance of the song's race popularity and its wide possibilities, it's a cinch to crowd out the hit parade leaders. Pvt. Thompson's soft crooning is in the Harlem tradition, with the mood heightened by the tenor sax blowing of Herbie Fields, sitting in with a rhythm section to make it a Herbie Fields Quintet. Contrasting, mated side brings back Bonnie Davis for a Harlem jive ditty in lively jump fashion, "I Don't Stand for That Jive." Gal sings it convincingly as a hot hymnal, with effective musical support from the piano, bass and guitar comprising the Bunny Banks Trio. Appeal of the song and its rendition, however, is strictly limited to race levels.

For the race locations, Pvt. Lloyd Thompson's singing of "I Wonder" is a natural for the nickels.

HAL MCINTYRE (Bluebird)

I'm Making Believe—FT; VC. *I'm In a Jam With Baby*—FT; VC.

Switching to the Bluebird label to get the advantage in song selection, the smoothly polished and highly rhythmic music of Hal McIntyre, highlighting his alto sax sorcery, makes the spinning rich in listening and dancing appeal. With Ruth Gaylor for the chanting, which is something to occupy the attention, McIntyre turns in a plus performance for his first sides under the Bluebird banner. It's sweet music fashioned for the ballad dandy "I'm Making Believe," with the rhythmic urge pronounced more strongly for the blues ballad "I'm In a Jam With Baby."

It's easy for the phono fans to take to Hal McIntyre's presentation of "I'm Making Believe," particularly with the song on a high popularity level.

(See Pop. Record Reviews on page 41)

FOLK RECORD REVIEWS

(Hillbilly, Race, Cowboy Songs, Spirituals)

By M. H. Orodener

HOOSIER HOT SHOTS (Decca)

The Barn Dance Polka—FT; V. *This Is the Chorus*—FT; V.

From their new movie, "National Barn Dance," the Hoosier Hot Shots ring the bell with a resounding smack for two of the songs from the screen score. Striking a rich comedy vein is "This Is the Chorus," a loony lullaby about a song to which there is nothing but the tune. The boys sing out the comedy lyrics in unison, bringing forth plenty of chuckles for the lively chant. Side is sure to kick up plenty of fun for the fans. "The Barn Dance Polka" is a lively opus with the vocal trio providing the lyrical invitation to join in a polka at the barn dance. As ever, the four boys bring out plenty of music with their slide whistle, auto horn, teaspoon knockers and washboard. Both sides, but particularly "This Is the Chorus," will catch plenty of coins in the music boxes.

ELTON BRITT (Bluebird)

I'm a Convict With Old Glory in My Heart—FT; V. *The Best Part of Travel*—FT; V.

Elton Britt turns in a swell weeper, tailor-made for the crying character of his voice, in "I'm a Convict With Old Glory in My Heart." It's a soulful ballad of the lad who must remain behind the iron bars while his buddies go off to the wars. Considering Britt's handsome clik with "There's a Star-Spangled Banner Waving Somewhere," plenty of enthusiasm should attend this spinning in spite of the fact that the story content is kind of dated in this year of war. Slowing down the tempo, he sings it even more sympathetically for the sentimental "The Best Part of Travel," sobbing out how the greatest joy in travel is in getting home again. Guitars, fiddle, clarinet, trumpet and bass provide the musical accompaniment in adequate portions to set off his Western singing style.

Outs ?? Legality Of 802 Election

(Continued from page 10)

all recourse of appeal to the Federation has been exhausted.

The opposition group will probably wait a reasonable length of time for Petrillo's reply before taking steps to secure an injunction to force a new election. In the meantime, if the officials who have served for the past two years are frozen by court order to their positions, it will make little difference in the cases of two board members who ousted Blue candidates. But in the case of Max Arons, trial board chairman, who bolted the Blue to defy the administration in general, and Jack Rosenberg, prexy, in particular, it is another matter.

Ten Eyck, the lawyer retained by the "losers" in the election, has a long record as an investigator, having been Thomas

E. Dewey's chief assistant when the governor was New York's State district attorney. The barrister was conspicuous in headline cases of racket busting and was instrumental in convicting many racketeers during his stint with Dewey.

If the union opposition group can prove its contentions relative to the HBA, dozens of elections in various trade unions all over the city conducted by Abrams may be affected.

It is known that Jacob Rosenberg, prexy; William Feinberg, secretary, and Harry Suber, treasurer of 802, were in conference with Harry Steeper, Petrillo aid at the org's national office Thursday (22). The trio adjourned to the office of the local's attorney, Joseph Brodsky, later the same day.

While the opposition was seeking ways to upset the "ins," the victorious Blue Ticket members celebrated at Rogers Corner Wednesday (21) night. Administration spokesmen, when queried on the election situation, refused comment, in-

Two-for-One

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Dorsey Brothers really got together for T. D.'s appearance at Capitol Theater. Latter opened Thursday (21). As band rises in pit, J. D., who just finished stint at theater, is flashed on screen and gives out with a little spiel about how the Brothers Dorsey have taken over the Cap. Topper is J. D.'s looking down at the pit and saying to his brother's ork, on the rising bandstand, "Come on up, boys."

dicating that until they are served in the matter they have nothing to say.

The national office of the Federation also refused to talk. Apparently both the officials here and the local administration are awaiting word from Petrillo, who is in Chicago.

Fomeen Organizes Ork; Waxes for Seva Records

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Basil Fomeen, band leader-accordionist, organized a new band and started cutting for Seva Records this week. Leader recently returned from a 16-month overseas tour with USO Unit No. 99. He entertained solo in Africa, Italy, Burma, India, China and along the Persian Gulf.

Waxing sked at Seva calls for four sides of South American dance music, four of Fomeen's own tunes and lyrics and four marches dedicated to the USSR. Al Menconi, pianist, who was with Fomeen's original band at the St. Moritz Hotel here for several seasons, is featured in the new set-up, as is Walter Gonsalvis, drummer, who recently played the Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro.

Hot Talent War Brewing On Chicago's South Side

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—A battle for the black and tan night club trade on Chicago's South Side is expected to burst forth into hot and heavy warfare in the next few weeks.

The principal ammunition to be used will be high-priced talent, some of it better than has been found on Chi's South Side in many a year.

The battle lines were first drawn when the boys who now own two of the most popular Side spots, the Rhum Boogie and the Club De Lisa, heard that a new spot, the El Grotto, was to open December 22.

They immediately began to shop for top-notch talent to meet the new com-

petition. Charley Morrison, quickly booked in Red and Curley, one of the top Negro acts in the country. Red and Curley are at the Rhum Boogie now, and it is said that in a few weeks they will be followed by Buck and Bubbles, another Negro top-notch act.

At the De Lisa the Berry Brothers were booked in by Johnny and Mike De Lisa last week to meet the expected competition from the El Grotto.

The Grotto's talent, unusual in its quality for a Chicago Negro night spot, will consist of Johnny Bradshaw's orchestra; the Charloters, singers; Jessy E. K. Scott, tap dancer; Olive Brown, blues singer; Johnny Taylor, comedian; Rosita Lockhart, shake dancer; Dorris Woods, singer, and the 10 Ziggettes line. Ziggy Johnson, well-known night club impresario, will produce the El Grotto's show and act as its emcee.

Review

LeRoy Gentry

(Reviewed at the 1111 Club, Chicago)

A very unusual cocktail lounge pianist is LeRoy Gentry, now being featured at this spot on Chicago's far north side. Gentry is unusual because he can play with an excellence far above the usual caliber of cocktail lounge pianists, everything ranging from the classics to the blues.

A student of Massie and Lillian Boyuslawski, Gentry has given many classical concerts, but he has also appeared with Fletcher Henderson and Fatha Hines. Tonight his repertoire ranged from the *Scherzo in B Flat Minor* by Chopin to his own blues composition, which he has tentatively titled the *Harmon Blues*.

His finger technique during all numbers is clean and smooth, altho firm and fast. In addition to this he has a way of feeling out the mood of the clientele, so that he never plays the classics when they will not be appreciated. And he doesn't play blues, boogie-woogie or jazz when he sees that his audience appreciates something heavier and classical. Consequently, when reviewed, he stopped playing a classical number when he noticed his audience was not paying enough attention. From there on he had the crowd with him all the way.

Also on the current bill at the 1111 Club are the Nino Rinaldo instrumental trio, but it's Gentry the patrons go to hear.

Cy Wagner.

Off the Cuff

Philadelphia:

BERNICE ALLEN alternating with the Triatones at Wilson's Lounge Bar, Philadelphia. . . . NELLIE MARSHALL at Chateau Renault, Atlantic City. . . . WALT TAYLOR TRIO at the Cumberland Musical Bar, Philadelphia. . . . THREE ACES AND A QUEEN and Jerry Pinto's Trio return entertainment policy to the Melody Inn, Philadelphia. . . . GEORGE GAITER at the Erin Club, Atlantic City. . . . EDDIE ROLD back as manager at the Hotel Majestic Musical Bar, Philadelphia.

Midwest:

CONSTANCE DUIN ork and the Merry Widows will open at the Plains Hotel, Cheyenne, Wyo., January 8. . . . MONIA KARSON, who has been at this spot for the past year, will disband her ork to take a rest. . . . FREDDIE REID opens at the Custer Hotel January 2, then moves to the Lawrence Bowl, Chicago, for one year. . . . AL DUKE to open at the Primrose Club, Newport, Ky., January 12. . . . JEAN KAMERSON at the Sportsmen's Club, Indianapolis. . . . DUCI KEREKJARTO opens Eau Claire Hotel, Eau Claire, Wis., January 2. . . . JOHNNY KAAIHUE opens at the Jermoy Hotel, Scranton, Pa., January 8. . . . HOWARD LEROY held over at the Legionaire Club in Omaha. . . . ART SANDERS, pinch-hitting for Pud Brown until the first of the year at the Riviera, Chicago. . . . RAY BROWN TRIO current at the Sportsmen's Club, Peoria. . . . MARJIE LOIS opens January 2 at the Club 39, Richmond, Ind. . . . STEVE FODER TRIO at the Wigwam Lounge, St. Paul.

Mutual Grabbing Exclusive Book Deals in Midwest

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Talk of the night club trade here, more and more these days, concerns the way in which the Mutual Entertainment Agency has been sewing up the booking of acts in many of Chicago's night spots and cocktail lounges.

One of the most surprising things about Mutual's history, the trade says, is that the office was founded only a few months ago, in April of 1944, and since then has booked 52 spots in the Midwest with talent on such long-term contracts, that they have what is tantamount to exclusive booking rights there.

In Chicago, Mutual, which is run by J. J. Levin and Jack Russell, has just about exclusive booking rights for about 28 spots.

According to Levin and Russell, the reason they have been able to get so many spots are manifold. For one thing, Levin came to the organization with 12 spots already signed up in the Midwest.

Russell has long been one of Chicago's top bookers and had many acts under his wing when he got into the Mutual deal.

But most important factor contributing to their success, the two say, has been their practice of finding new talent and building it with coaching and professional advice.

This has enabled them to win the confidence of the night spot owners and has given them an "in" with the owners and thus has made talent see that to be in the Mutual stable is to be on the inside with the owners.

The list of spots in which Mutual books talent is very long. Mutual has talent booked in spots all around town. They have their boys and gals for example in The Three Deuces, Mocambo Club (the Old Colony Club), Town Casino, Graemere Hotel, in some of the spots in the Martin Chain, Dome of the Sherman Hotel, Little Club, Silver Frolics, Rose Bowl and many others.

They have even branched into radio and have booked the Art Van Damm Trio for its present program on NBC.

L'il Johnny's Lit in Phila

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Newest of the musical bars bowing on the midtown scene is Little Johnny's, which lighted up December 22 on the site of the former Hitching Post Tavern. Little Johnny takes its name from one of the owners, familiar figure around town in the interests of Philip Morris Cigarettes. Joe Silver also associated in the operation of the spot. Ann Rubert, piano vocals, is first in.

La. Gov. Keeps Prof. Name

BATON ROUGE, La., Dec. 23.—James Cockrell, professional musician now in the armed services, has been enjoined from using Gov. James H. Davis's professional name, Jimmie Davis. The Louisiana governor announces that he has obtained the injunction against Cockrell from the Chancery Court of Hinds County, Mississippi. Cockrell is also prevented by the order from using the governor's monicker either as an actor or composer. The decree found that the complainant, the Louisiana governor,

Plenty of Jaynes?

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Talk about the man-power shortage, evidently some people are finding that there is a woman-power shortage, too. Jayne Walton, gal canary for Lawrence Welk, who just returned from a three-month set of one-nighters and a stint at the Roosevelt Hotel, Washington, had announced that she was going to be married and would be giving up the business. While on the road Welk auditioned 610 gals to try to fill the opening—but had no success. Coming to Chi for his umpteenth engagement at the Trianon, which he started Christmas Day, he was without a fem singer. Jayne agreed to stay until the stint was over February 4. Welk is now set to continue his search and is ready to audition Nos. 611, 612, 613, ad infinitum.

Krupa Sets 35-Day Concert-Dance Sked, Getting 3G Per Date

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Gene Krupa will do a 35-day concert-dance tour, starting April 1, 1945, in Omaha. Band will get \$3,000 guarantee, against 60 per cent on dates, with sked already set up for Lincoln, Neb.; Kansas City, Mo.; Tulsa, Okla.; Oklahoma City and Houston to follow Omaha date.

The \$3,000 figure is more than Krupa got on his one-nighters earlier this year, latter paying \$2,000 against percentage. On these, Krupa didn't fare so well but it's figured that with the combo dance-concert idea, as done by Tommy Dorsey some time ago, he'll do okay.

Krupa is flying from Des Moines to Grand Island, Neb., next week, and from there to Roswell, N. M., thence to Clovis, N. M., and then to Hollywood by army air transport. He's playing army camps and being flown all the way.

After concert stint in April, Krupa will probably do a New York hotel location spot and play the Capitol Theater here.

Dailard Will Turn Over Mission Beach To Finley on Jan. 3

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 23.—New arrangements have been worked out whereby Larry Finley takes over Mission Beach Ballroom, San Diego, January 3 instead of New Year's Eve from Wayne Dailard as was originally scheduled. Move was made by San Diego city council at the request of Finley who didn't want to step into hot spot at midnight deadline on New Year's.

Finley will close the ballroom for a month for redecorating, and plans reopening with top bands, February 3. He snagged Billy MacDonald, former maestro and booker with Frederick Bros. as manager of Mission Beach and also his other ballroom, the Ratliff. New management will do all their booking with Frederick Bros., GAC and William Morris, Finley stated.

Hollywood Atmosphere

Novel idea to hypo the bobby soxers is being tried out by Finley. He will put an oil painting of film star on each of the 36 pillars in the ballroom, hoping to give the spot a Hollywood flavor. Ada Leonard and ork, who opened at Finley's Ratliff Ballroom, came in sans music library and seven instruments. Baggage was lost somewhere between Kansas and San Diego. Music store was opened up at 9 o'clock at night in order to get mutes and necessary instruments. Library was borrowed from the Consolidated Aircraft Radio ork for the opening. Ada Leonard played to 1,964 patrons at \$1.25 for men and 75 cents for women.

first used the name in connection with writing and singing of songs and that the name had come to be understood by the public as designating him. The order specifically did not enjoin Cockrell from using his full name, James Davis Cockrell or Jimmie Davis Cockrell.

Downbeat Buys Tatum at \$1,150 And 2G Advance

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—One of the biggest deals to hit 52d Street finally came to a boil this week when Art Tatum was sold as a single to the Downbeat, run by Ralph and Joe White. The keyboarder, who will work in the spot 12 weeks, will pull down a juicy \$13,800 for his end, which is the largest figure guy has collected since he left swing street to play out-of-town spots. Unusual angle is that \$2,000 cash was put on the panel head by White before he could sign the contract.

Deal was put over the fire by Walter Hyde, lounge talent seller for the William Morris office, a couple of weeks ago. There was a lot of dickering back and forth. First deal called for \$1,000 flat for Tatum, but after deal was almost closed it fell thru when White, op of the Downbeat, couldn't see his way clear to put up any cash guarantee that money would be paid. There was more dickering until the figure not only rose to the \$1,150 finally agreed upon, but also the \$2,000 cash in advance.

Now with Tatum due to open here February 5, Downbeat has jumped its talent nut to about \$2,300. For with Tatum room has bought the Loumel Trio and Benny Morton's (6) ork, which brings the figure up to the \$2,300 mark.

After the keypounder closes, Coleman Hawkins goes into the room also on a 12-week deal. Latter was inked to a \$900 figure, but with him two other acts will be added, which will raise the nut to \$1,750 a week.

One of the features of both deals is a clause in the contract which says that if present ops of the Downbeat sell the club before or during the engagement of either Tatum or Hawkins, the new owners will have to honor the contract.

Walter Hyde, who negotiated both deals, leaves for the Chicago office January 15 to build up and head the Morris Lounge Department in the Midwest.

NATA Gets Own % Deal Despite ARA

(Continued from page 3)

ing an increase in his \$2,000 yearly retainer.

A new board of governors was elected at the meeting. This comprises William Kent, Jack Davies, Nat Lefkowitz, Nat Kalcheim, Charlie Yates, Milt Krasny, Miles Ingalls, Eddie Smith, Eddie Riley, Sam Berk, Herman Fialkoff and Leon Newman.

Ingalls, Berk and Davies are new to the board, replacing Sol Tepper, Charlie Miller and Lester Laden.

Partial Insurgent Victory

The appearance of Miles Ingalls on the board marks at least a partial victory for the insurgent bloc in ARA, which cast the nine votes opposing retention of the 10-5 split. It is known that Ingalls was a member of the rebel group which planned to try to force a change.

Shelvey says that AGVA will give NATA what it wants, not only because this organization is asking permission for a different kind of split but because agent bodies in Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, Boston and Los Angeles are demanding the same thing. Every fee-splitter's organization except ARA seeks a different type of split, says Shelvey, and numerous complaints are coming in to the union from performers whose bookings out of New York are blocked.

What effect an agreement between AGVA and NATA would have on the rebel group in ARA is now problematical. Leaders of the bloc say they went as far as they could at the Monday meeting and are afraid of making the divvy a last-ditch battle. They say that they dare not risk offending the big offices because they have to buy acts from them or sell them acts, and they maintain that it is the representatives of the big agencies in ARA who are the staunchest supporters of the 10-5 arrangement.

Diam. Horseshoe in 6th Year

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe begins its sixth anniversary this new year. During that time club has had six shows and has attracted more than 3,000,000 customers.

Foreign Vaude Market Doubtful

Much-Touted Florida Boom Looks Like Washout So Far; Transportation Aches Grow

OPA Grabbing Cars for Suspicious Gas

MIAMI, Dec. 23.—If the first two weeks are any indication, the widely heralded Florida night club season has fallen thru the cellar because of transportation difficulties. The situation is so bad here that Rep. Pat Cannon, of Miami, has intervened with the authorities in an effort to get them to lay off.

Night club openings are big, but thereafter the most conspicuous thing in the hot spots is the area of white tablecloths. Many old-timers are expecting a brutal season.

OPA Declares War

One reason for the shortage of patrons is the fact that the Office of Price Administration has opened a war on out-of-State drivers coming down for a sun-burn. Cars are being picked up if their owners can give no good reason for being here.

All gasoline for civilian purposes may be frozen here and most local people are not using their cars. They are taking taxicabs for shopping purposes, with the result that soon there will be no gas for cabs, either. There are no oil barges or tank cars coming into this area. To top everything, a lot of car owners here were caught short with A-13 gas coupons which expired December 21.

Another major difficulty is the seeming impossibility of would-be frolicers

Philly Ops Take It on Chin for New Year's Eve

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23. — Bottom dropped out of the nitery biz for New Year's Eve when the State Liquor Board nixed any relaxation of the existing Blue Laws which keeps the watering places closed all day Sunday until 7 a.m. Monday. Only a handful will open for a special turkey dinner and, if the crowd warrants it, put on a floorshow after midnight. However, the other nitery ops are sitting tight. They have in mind New Year's Eve, 1939, when for a time the city made a pretense of staying legal, then blew wide open as the night wore on.

Horace A. Segelbaum, deputy attorney general, detailed as legal adviser to the State Liquor Control Board, is studying the question of whether it will be legal for licensees to provide ice, soda or ginger ale to patrons who, quite obviously, have something on the hip.

One hotel entertainment manager said: "There will be a lot of Philadelphia money spent in New Jersey and in New York." As a result, niteries and road-houses on the Jersey side are booked heavily for the eve, and all are naming fat cover charges.

At Neil Deighan's, outside of Camden, N. J., the tab will be \$10 a couple for a turkey platter, the usual noisemakers and favors and a chair to sit in.

Weber's will charge \$5 per person for dinner and all the fixings.

Brown's Log Cabin will charge \$3.50 without the show or dinner, and Nick's Town Tavern cover will include novel-ties. Official closing hour is 3 a.m. Monday. But because of a difference in closing hours in various Jersey townships, Fred's Rustic Tavern will be open until 5 a.m., at a \$3 cover charge per couple.

The Pennsylvania Railroad will operate its regular Sunday schedule to carefree Manhattan—two trains every 60 minutes between Philadelphia and New York.

to obtain train reservations for this area. This is probably the main reason for the gloomy picture here.

And it is gloomy. All hotels on the beach front north of 23d Street are waiting for vacationers to come down to claim their reservations. A group of hotels south of Lincoln Road, just released by the army, are dying for biz. Conditions in the hostleries are so bad that desperate ads are appearing in the local newspaper offering rooms for as low as \$2 a day—with bath.

Glass Hat Plans To Expand by Moving Bar to Next Bldg.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Belmont Plaza Hotel, op of the Glass Hat, has bought the firehouse next door and will convert it into a bar. Rooms above the hook and ladder outfit will be used for executive offices and dressing rooms. The bar, now situated in the Glass Hat proper, will be dismantled and moved into the firehouse.

The question of when the conversion will take place has not yet been settled. For one thing the fire-eaters are still in occupancy, tho they are skedded to move to new quarters after the first of the year. Biggest problem, however, is to get material, with WPB permission, with which to renovate new premises. Rebuilding may solve acoustics problem for the spot, which has had trouble with its p. a. system and noise coming from the bar.

Boys in the Front-Line Press Room Get Night Club De Luxe

By Lou Frankel

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY WITH THE NINTH ARMY, Dec. 23.—A new night club had its premiere up here last week. As yet the joint is unnamed. There is a tug of words between the supporters of Barney's Beaucoup Bistre and Barney Billingsley's Beanery. Actually it's not a joint. While there is music and food, there are no drinks, and the only gals are two crow waitresses.

But it is a night club and it is an event. Up here within spitting distance—if you're Paul Bunyon—of the Nazis, a pre-war correspondent for *The Billboard*, one Barney Oldfield (now a major in charge of this press camp), rounded up an octet of local musicians to provide some music with dinner. To everyone's surprise the tootlers brought class to the event and were booked on a thrice-weekly schedule—pronounced "schedule" by the British.

Nitery Milestone

Since the G.I.'s and officers staffing this press camp are all men with action records, since the correspondents are all men of rep and renown . . . with the exception of this novice—when it comes to showing their individual noses into hot spots, and since it's just the screwy sort of thing a bunch of Yanks would do, the nitery is a milestone.

It's important for a couple of more reasons, too. The music wasn't bad; in

Success Story

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. — An agent here is having trouble with his best comic.

The other week the guy opened at an out-of-town theater and sent a wire to his agent saying, "I did terrific here. Don't book me next week."

D. C. Night Life Off as \$-Boys Await Solons

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Club ops here are singing the blues, and it's all because business has gone off sharply since November 7, when F. D. R. won a fourth term.

Some ops profess to see a tie-up between the two events. They claim that a lot of the pressure boys, big spenders usually, have folded their tents and gone since Roosevelt won.

Another maybe factor in business drop here is fold-up of Congress. Night biz usually follows legislative turns here, and opening of new sessions, when bills are being poured into the hopper and lobby hopes are high for action, usually sees a round of spending.

Since November 7 the 78th Congress has been written off by the boys who are holding back awaiting for the 79th session. It is thought the first-term reps will provide a fresh crop for the persuasive lip-and-tongue men whose business it is to see that legislation is moulded and bent to the desires of pressure groups.

Some ops are even wondering if word has been passed quietly to the gold-braders to spend less time in night spots, more at their desks. Fact is that less braid than usual is seen hereabouts lately, tho big pushes in Pacific and Europe may be sufficient to send the boys home late without night club stopovers. Whatever the cause, biz is off here.

Money Values The Bugaboo

Allen insists overseas will make up for biz drop here in post-war years

By Bill Smith

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The widely-expected post-war general business slump has showbiz doing a loop trying to figure what end of the horn it will come out of once the shooting is over. One portion of the trade looks for no more than a slight dip which, it says, will be more than made up by a pent-up demand for talent from foreign countries.

Others are not so optimistic. They argue a big demand won't mean a thing unless foreign ops can pay off with something more than bales of fancy engraved paper. They feel that currency differences and fluctuating money exchanges will put the performer behind the eight-ball. Only by paying acts dough which is tied to the U. S. dollar or the British pound sterling can Americans take off-shore dates. And with the war still far from over there's not a foreign country that can even talk about currency stabilization.

400 Acts a Year

On the optimistic side, Charles Allen, who formerly sold acts to London, the Continent and Australia when he was part of Curtis & Allen, looks for big things. London, he points out, formerly bought between 400 and 500 acts a year. After they played London they were routed thruout Great Britain and then all over the Continent.

Of this number, he says, fully 75 per cent were American. Of course, most of the acts which played the Continent were non-talkers. But here, too, he insists, they'll be a change.

This change he attributes largely to the USO units that have played in spots which never had shows and never knew they existed. Up and coming money people in these regions are already putting out feelers for acts when the war is over.

As an example, he cites Cairo, Egypt and Capetown and Johannesburg, South Africa, which are making inquiries thru American commercial attaches for New York connections in showbiz.

Australia Another Source

Another ripe source which he sees is Australia. Before the war the country down under used about 50 to 100 acts a year. Traveling conditions were bad. An act taking an Australian date spent two to three weeks on a ship before it could start working and making money.

After the war, he feels, traveling time will be cut to four days with Clipper service, giving the act more dough. Also in that country, he says, the pent-up demand for acts is "terrific." The USO and even G.I. shows have given the people there a taste for American acts which he considers dynamic.

Prices Up

Where prices are concerned he is equally optimistic. He doesn't see any reason (See *Foreign Vaude Market on page 18*)

Lights Out, In the Mood, Stardust, I Walk Alone, Begin the Beguine, Sweet Sue, Music for Mitzzy (Dutch tune), Lily Marlene and Some of These Days.

For some of these tunes score an assist to the army's Hit Kit; for the rest score the usual ability of entertainers to come up with the tools required by their trade.

Getting orchestrations, even just piano copies, reeds, mutes and strings, is a problem these days. But, somehow, they keep going. In fact, they lent so much class to the occasion that Frank Graham, of *The New York Times*, sent a message to the "proprietor's" table.

His message: "Would Mr. Barney stop by our table and have a drink with us . . . and please bring the drink."



Hotel Waldorf Astoria, Wedwood Room, New York

Talent policy: Dance bands and floorshow at 12:30 a.m. Owner-operator: Hotel Waldorf-Astoria; direction, Lucius Boomer; publicity, Ted Saucier. Prices: \$2 couvert after 10:30 p.m.

The Waldorf goes into the holiday season with a bill of distinction customary in this room. Annamary Dickey is starred and Volkoff and Milada are featured.

Miss Dickey looks like what she is—a poised and accomplished singer in the operatic style. She possesses the grand manner, yet is not overbearing; she has a sweet and cultured voice, yet she presents a repertoire of pops, standards and semi-classics. And she knows how to put herself and her wares across. When caught at the opening Wednesday night (20) she was called back for five encores.

Of all the tunes performed her soft soprano voice fitted most suitably the *Together, Always, Trolley Song and Irish Lullaby* numbers she sang. *Trolley* won her a sock reaction. *Irish Lullaby*, as sung by Miss Dickey, is a gentle and memorable thing.

Volkoff and Milada are an exasperatingly interesting team. Physically the couple are the personification of what a dance team should be, and they are costumed in fine taste. Technically they are dancers of the first order, and they know how to project themselves. On all the major scores—except one—they have the makings of one of the most brilliant teams to be seen anywhere. Yet for two-thirds of their act at the Waldorf they score only mildly where they should come across like a torpedo.

The fault is clearly in the choreography of their first two numbers, with which they open the program. Why they did it is hard to say, but they ante with what is nothing more or less than ballet-sized ballroom dances full of conventional lifts, spins and minor-league leaps. This hackneyed stuff buries the fact of their great skill, a fact which becomes apparent only in their third number. They close the show after Miss Dickey with a gypsy dance, and while this too has a few ballroom-flaws in it, it is nevertheless a superb piece of dancery and with it they alter completely the mild reaction of the first two numbers. Crowd sends 'em away with a top hand. More of such routines will put this team into the top bracket where it belongs. Biz good at the opening. Leo Reisman's ork (15) does a good job behind the performers and for patron hoofing. Mischa Borr's band relieves.

Paul Ross.

Beachcomber, Miami Beach

Talent policy: Dance bands and floorshows at 8:30 and 12. Management: Sam and Joe Barken. Prices: From \$1.50.

Redecorated and furnished lavishly, this spot which has experienced many vicissitudes in the past, broke into night life with an all-star revue Thursday (21) which promises to stay a long time.

Dorothy Dorban Dancers, 10 gorgeous fems in glamorous costumes, open the show, with Montoya doing the vocals. Montoya a Latin queen of song, scores.

Bob Dupont makes juggling look easy, making the bouncing balls behave from all positions. He slings Indian clubs over the heads of customers and for a wow finish consumes an apple while tossing it, a plate and a stick. Loud applause for this one.

Louis Gomez and Beatrice, Mexican terp artists, have no peer in their adagio offering. This team works tirelessly and are very liberal with encores, their grace and daring winning the approbation of customers who yell for more. They stop the show and beg off, exhaustion preventing more.

Georgie Price, headliner, closes the show. He starts with Ed Garden's laugh song, *Leave Us No Longer Pretend*, then goes into his *Blackbirds, Bye Bye* and follows up with impressions of Al Jolson singing *April Showers* and Eddie Cantor doing *Susie*. Follows with his Hitler burlesque, and no one does it better. His income tax blank opera bit is a scream. Price worked 22 minutes.

Chorus's boat number in which they turn their dresses into sail boats scores heavily.

Arthur Warren and ork play the show with good results, and rumba band provides dance music. Larry Berliner.

NIGHT CLUB REVIEWS

Hotel Netherland Plaza, Restaurant Continentale, Cincinnati

Talent policy: Dance band and floorshows at 1:30, 8 and midnight. Management: Max Schulman, hotel manager; Richard Elsnex, catering manager; A. Bratfisch, headwaiter; Toni Lamare, sommelier; James Mason, captain, and Amy V. Pace, publicity. Prices: Dinners from \$2; drinks from 40 cents.

This smart dine, dance and show spot, which pioneered with tank icers some half dozen seasons ago and has played to bonanza business with them since, cracked with its second revue of the new season Tuesday (12), and the press and Netherland Plaza patrons are agreed that it's one of the slickest and brightest ice items ever uncorked here.

Still bearing the label of W. Carl Snyder, of the Frederick Bros.' office, and produced by Marjorie Fielding, the new edition is solid with good principal talent, tasty lighting, appropriate music and the finest and most colorful array of wardrobe ever sported by an icer here. The last-named is a valuable asset to the new layout.

This is Miss Fielding's second effort here and it tops her first try by a wide margin. With three replacements, the six-gal Lovely DeCers line is a vast improvement, especially as far as face and figure is concerned. Virginia Walter, one of the new line members who contributes a bit of jitterbugging early in the show, has the looks, form and ability to put her in the principal ranks soon.

Show comprises three numbers, a doll routine, with the DeCers toting doll skaters attired the same as they; a romantic setto done to Johann Strauss's *Emperor Waltz*, and a colorful Mexican number that sends the revue to bed with a flashy and dashing finale. The chorines and all principals work in each routine.

Adele Inge, of course, takes top honors with her masterful meanderings on the steel blades. Long a favorite here, she again stamps herself as one of, if not the best small-tank performer in America. She accomplishes with ease that most others in her same class don't even attempt. Each of her numbers brought continuous applause thruout the running. Handsome team of Howard Bissell and Jerry Farley, old faves here, returns for this show to replace DePauw and Payne. They give the icer a distinct hypo. Jack Roach holds over to contribute a goody share to the proceedings.

Norman Ruvell and the stately Mildred Stanley handle the singing chores excellently. Appear singly and in duo to weave the show's continuity and are well received. Miss Stanley displayed a vastly improved voice over her last showing.

Bert Farber, almost as much a part of the icer as the skaters themselves, put his ork boys thru their usual solid show paces. They keep the patron dancers happy, too, with a good brand of terp material.

Present at the opener were Miss Audre, who designed the show's costumes; Anne Elliott, who executed them, and the latter's assistant, Ella De Lacey, all of New York. W. Carl Snyder, head of Frederick Bros.' Chi office, was also on deck.

Bill Sachs.

Bismarck Hotel, Walnut Room, Chicago

Talent policy: Dancing and floorshows at 7:45, 9:45 and 11:30. Management, Otto Eitel; production, Edward Beck; publicity, Allan Edelson. Prices: \$1.50-\$2.50 minimums.

With all of the stellar attractions that are in Chicago for the holiday season, it is difficult to say one is better than the other, but this show will rank in the top drawer, headed by that superb dancer, Talia; that individualistic puppeteer, Arthur Nelson, ably supported by Art Kassel and ork, with Gloria Hart and Jimmie Featherstone vocalizing in top form.

Gloria Hart sings two songs in the No. 1 spot, *Dance With a Dolly* and *I Want To Get Married*. Both scored well with a capacity crowd. Jimmie Featherstone sings *You Always Hurt the One You Love* and *I Dream of You*. Both made a hit.

Arthur Nelson is one of the most un-

Edgewater Beach Hotel, Marine Dining Room, Chicago

Talent policy: Dancing and floorshows at 8:30 and 10:40 p.m. Owner-operator: William Dewey; manager, Philip Weber; publicity, Dorothy Hild. Prices: 50 cents to 75 cents cover charge.

New holiday show at the Edgewater would go over only in a conservative plush hotel dining room. It is nothing for the average night spot. It is a show designed for the more sedate type of patron, and because many of the room's entertainment seekers fit into this category it was well planned for this trade.

Unlike many hotels, the Edgewater designs its shows for its year-round inhabitants and steady clientele. It has no desire for the raucous. Featured on the current bill, designed and produced by Dorothy Hild, are Demare and Denice, ballroom dancers; The Imaginators, ballet dancer Rosemary Deering, the Dorothy Hild Dancers, Sharkey the Seal and Emil Vandas' orchestra.

When the night show was reviewed Sharkey was absent because he was detained by a snowstorm. Show opened with a production number featuring the line dancing to the hit tunes from *Snow White*. This dance was first presented in London to commemorate the opening of the Disney cartoon movie. It's graceful and uses many ballet techniques. Clever ending had the girls rearranging their gowns so that each looked like a dwarf character from the movie.

Demare and Denice, by now known as one of the top ballroom teams in the country, were next, doing difficult work to the accompaniment of waltz, tango and rumba music. It was remarkable the way Demare threw Denice around in violent movements that still were smooth and graceful. At all times the team danced with restraint and sophistication. They had to come back for one encore and, judging by the applause of the audience, could have come back for more. If they had returned for at least one more and had not responded to applause in a manner that was cold and haughty they would have gathered more friends.

For their spot on the program The Imaginators went thru their old routine imitations of top records, such as Glenn Miller's *Juke Box Saturday Nite*, Merry Macs' *Pass the Biscuits*, *Mirandy*, and the Andrew Sisters' *Sonny Boy*. If these boys expect to maintain in the future the excellent reputation they have garnered so far they had better start thinking up some new routines.

The program, which is short and must be because shows are only a half hour apart and patrons are expected to stay for both, ended with another production number in which ballet dancer Rosemary Deering was spotlighted. *Star Dust* was the theme to which the line danced while Miss Deering did ballet steps around them. Blinking lights, set to go on and off to the tempo of the music, were worn in the elaborate presentation costumes of the line in this number, adding to the impression that no expense had been spared to make the show the acme of high-priced class entertainment for the conservative set.

Dancing Emil Vandas' orchestra played music that was attuned to the general tempo of Edgewater Beach entertainment. Most of his stuff is of the dreamy, smooth melodic type. Jitterbugs will find little to interest them in the next few weeks at the Marine Dining Room.

Cy Wagner.

usual puppet acts in the business. His figures are original and routines are out of the ordinary. He did lifelike people with little men and women, among which were his classic drunk, a skeleton, a hula dancer and ice skater. Everything was executed with precision.

Talia was magnificent with new costumes and routines presented in her own style. A stellar performance in the terpsichorian art. Changing hats and changing costumes on stage for each new dance, Talia gave a well-received performance. Included were a gypsy dance, French can can, Portuguese dance, modern boogie and a Hawaiian number.

Kassel gave excellent support all the way. Show should draw large crowds for every performance. Robert Menders.

Leon & Eddie's, New York

Talent policy: Floorshows at 8, 10, 12 and 2. Dancing continuous. Owner-operators: Leon Enken and Eddie Davis; produced by Sidney Sprague; publicity, Dorothy Gulman. Prices: \$3.50-\$4.50, minimums.

For the yule season L. & E. preemed *Happy Holidays* Tuesday (19). New offering follows the familiar groove and relies on holdovers for its punch.

Fresh starters are Ballard and Rae, June and Martin, the Moore Sisters (3) and the Appletons (3). Mark Plant is back on a return date.

June and Martin, on early, are a nice-looking pair of taps-terpers. Kids first do a tango in cleat-tempo, then a jitterbug item, both full of spins, kicks and leaps. Second number is the better one and nets them a nice mitt. Youngsters are little rough in execution, but should develop into okay dance team in time.

The Moore Sisters, said to be making their professional debut, are three young misses in cowgirl costume doing a kind of Western hillbilly act. When caught sang *Ai-Ai-Ai* and *Winkin' at Me* in close harmony, accompanying themselves each on a guitar. Kids are okay in the looks department and get a moderate response for their efforts. Varying their routine away from the Mountain William medium would lend more effectiveness to the act.

Ballard and Rae, man and woman, are a rough-and-tumble pair working around the idea of a drunk and his woman, mixing blows, kicks, tumbles, water-squirts, hair-pulling, and so on. Man is plenty agile and woman is not far behind him. Their hi-jinx yank a few laughs and a nice hand.

The Appletons, two women and a man, are another knockabout act, this time in the apache vein. Business is a rough-house involving chairs, table, waiter's trays, knives, barrel, gun shots, kicks and punches. For those who like this kind of entertainment act holds lots of punch, for the team works well together, shows good sense of timing and ensemble work. Crowd when caught responded heartily.

Mark Plant is a big personable guy whose singing is not so good. Initial number, *White Christmas*, was below par. *A Winged Victory* medley, in he-man manner, was better. He got a fair hand.

Joey Adams, emcee and hold-over comic, joined Plant's act to sing that now-familiar *Sonny Boy* talking-singing-gag routine. With Adams perched on Plant's knee and doing a sock comedy job, number is a riot. Adams is the best thing in the current show—an ingratiating emcee, an adroit spieler, a nimble ad libber. At the show caught he performed that feat so many agents talk about—knocked a patron off her chair thru laughter. Whether much of material—very, very blue in spots—would go (See *Leon & Eddie's*, N. Y., on opp. page)

Seen's Believin'

DETROIT, Dec. 23.—The agility of Paul Hartman, of the dance team, won him a local pugilistic rep, tho partly thru mistaken identity.

The act was interrupted the other night by three male hecklers who had been tiffing at the Statler Terrace Room. One of them made a pass at Hartman as he left the floor. The latter ducked, and the drunk flopped to the floor.

The trio was more or less quietly induced to leave, but stayed in the lobby, waiting for Hartman, and mistook a newcomer who came in for the dancer. He proved the better man and knocked out two of them, while the third fled.

People around the lobby credited the latter victory to Hartman, while his earlier ability to duck gave patrons the impression he must have floored the would-be assailant.

Funny part of the incident was that witnesses, and ultimately a reporter for *The Detroit Times*, mistook Hartman's standard disappearing milk trick for real. He had tossed the vanishing "milk" in the general direction of the trio during the magic part of his act, and the paper solemnly reported he had poured a pitcher of ice water over one of the trio.

Loew's State, New York

(Reviewed Thursday Evening, Dec. 21)

To give the Christmas show the proper send-off, stage proceedings open with a soft *Silent Night* by pit band, while snow is seen softly falling on a scrim featuring an old-fashioned coach scene. As scene dissolves and scrim goes up, the words "Season's Greetings" appear on the drop.

Antaleks and their standard pole-balancing routine open. Group (three gals, two lads) open fast and keep moving all the way. The two lads take turns in holding the pole, either on shoulder or while lying on back, while the three girls do their stuff aloft. Walked off to good applause.

In No. 2 is Terry O'Donnell, one of the handsomest warblers around. On looks alone he gets a response. O'Donnell is well built, sports a blond head of hair and a fetching grin. But if he's sock on looks he's far from it in the voice department. Does okay with show tunes but falls down on current pops. For one thing, he presses too much and has a tendency to turn schmaltzy on such stuff as *I'll Walk Alone*, in which he almost sobbed. For another thing, he gestures around in too stuffy a fashion. Boy's tenor isn't bad, but stage and mike work shows lack of experience.

The Three Swifts do a pleasant enough job with their Indian club and chatter routines. Their bits get appreciative chuckles time and again and they walk off to fair applause.

Harris, Claire and Shannon (two boys and a girl) work on a deep set, with a small, gold-covered platform upstage from which the male explains various dance routines. The trio has a smooth act and knows how to sell with authority. Since last caught in a nitery trio has developed into one of the best looking dance novelty acts in the biz. Their smooth in-time terps show plenty of skill and win good receptions. For final number group steps to drums (incidentally, pit skin-beater does a great job here) with some lovely rhythmic glides and sharp breaks interrupted here and there by graceful spins, in which both gals are whirled around at the same time by partner. Finished to a good hand.

West and Lexing, next to closing, drew plenty of yocks with their *Donkey Serenade*, hoke number, and Lexing's falsetto, "Hello, There" and "Watsa Matter Wichoo?" Since last caught at the Strand pair hasn't shown any improvement. Bald-headed bits may be funny at first, but unless developed into something more won't move them ahead far. Team gets its biggest laughs on appearance. West is a tall, thin guy; Lexing is a pint-sized baldy who always gets picked on. If guys want to move up they'd better get some new stuff to show. Appearance alone isn't enough.

Eddie Heywood, on last, does a pleasant job with his hand stuff. The six guys in the ork can handle their instruments, but seldom are they permitted to work together. Group opens slowly and trombone comes down front for a couple of muted choruses, followed by muted trumpet, who also does at least two choruses. Then the sax takes over and finally the piano. Latter style was particularly in evidence on *I'll Be Seeing You*. If boys would cut their shine stuff and give out with more ensemble work they'd get over better with a sitting audience. On *Save Your Sorrow* boys did a somewhat better job. The slow, soft rhythm they peddle so nicely made for fine listening, but as in preceding numbers the choruses are again too plentiful. For the walk-off outfit backed Heywood beautifully while he sold his trade-mark, *Begin the Beguine*. Piano stuff on this tune was lovely.

Pic, *Marriage Is a Private Affair*. House half full. *Bill Smith*.

Strand, New York

(Reviewed Friday Evening, Dec. 15)

Christmas show at the Warner's vaude-ry is an all-Negro affair made up of Lionel Hampton's ork and Two Zephyrs, dance team. Show is short, running less than 40 minutes, but it's packed full of dynamite all the way. Hampton is probably one of the best b. o. attractions in the country today, including white, and he's certainly the best money-maker in colored band field. When caught, the reason why is apparent. Guy has that money-come-hither way about him and no mistake. Pic with him is WB's *Hollywood Canteen*, exploited well. Combined show should do tremendous biz.

Hampton's forte is Hampton. His band

VAUDEVILLE REVIEWS

Chicago, Chicago

(Reviewed Friday Afternoon, Dec. 22)

This week the bill at the Chicago is nothing sensational. There were only three encores during the entire performance, but it was competent, of high professional content and gave the patrons enough top-notch entertainment for their money.

Altho Johnny Long and his orchestra received the top billing, the most popular act in the show was put on by Bob Evans, ventriloquist. He has an unusual ventro routine because he is adept at the sophisticated repartee, not smutty, and he does a very fine job of making his dummy sing in a high soprano voice that is always on key and is done with ease in spite of the fact that singing is one of the hardest things a ventriloquist can do. He was forced to come back for an encore.

Long's orchestra carried on in their usual smooth fashion with music that was so well arranged that the hot stuff was played in a manner that was not hard on the ears of patrons who do not care for jitterbug material.

Long's brass section is unusually mel- low and does not sound too loud or hard. Such numbers as *Shanty in Old Shanty Town*, *White Christmas*, *Jingle Bells* and even a solid hunk of jive were all well balanced in orchestration.

Particularly well done was the orchestra's rendition of *White Christmas*. Here the melody was passed back and forth from the reed section, the saxophones, trombones and trumpets in a manner that proved the orchestra had put in a lot of effort to make it smooth.

Long's vocalists, Tommy Morgan and Mary Lou Wilson did good work on the *Jingle Bells* duet. Morgan's singing *I Dream of You*, *Don't Fence Me In* and his encore of *I Don't Want to Love You* were much better than did Mary Lou's singing of *The Trolley Song*. This we attribute to the fact that altho Morgan is a ballad singer who makes the girls sigh, he has a powerful, well-trained baritone voice with force seldom found in the vocal cords of a pop singer.

Altho they got an encore, the Two Chords' work was not up to the caliber of the rest of the show. Often in their vocal imitations of orchestras they were off key. Sometimes they were not in time with the orchestral accompaniment. The latter may have been the orchestra's fault, however.

The portion of the bill that seemed to be the most unusual was the acrobatic stunts of the Five Taylorettes, an act of high professional experience tho its members are all children.

If fate is kind, the Taylorettes ought to be able to stay together for years and become one of the best acrobatic acts in the country. House three-quarters filled for vaude and pic, *And Now Tomorrow*. *Cy Wagner*.

Roxy, New York

(Reviewed Wednesday Evening, Dec. 20)

When the current flesh show was in the talking stage, management may have wanted to run as kind of prolog or tribute to the army air force to tie it in with its flicker, *Winged Victory*. But either somebody slipped or there was a compromise. For instead of a tie-in with the pic, the stage presentation is a big plug for *The Trolley Song*, latter tying, via production, the AAF. Result is neither fish, fowl nor good red herring. Acts are badly spotted, and consequently suffer. Sets are beautiful, but unfortunately so little happens in front of them the whole thing adds up to a yawn.

A couple of off-stage voices open with a combo of *White Christmas* segueing into Gounod's *Ave Maria*. Curtain parts on a snowy street scene and tune now becomes *The Trolley Song*. Scrim goes up and a big red trolley is on stage and Roxettes prance around it in belled snow costumes. Tune is plugged to a fare-the-well as the gals shake with the bells in time. Then Ben Yost lads take over with some more of *The Trolley Song*. The gals then lie on their backs (*See Roxy, New York, on page 22*)

is sock, his vibe playing musically sens- sash, but his general enthusiasm and stage informality is his selling point. He's a great showman and whether he's doing his bits consciously or not, everything

(*See Strand, New York, on page 22*)

Capitol, New York

(Reviewed Thursday Evening, Dec. 21)

Tommy Dorsey's first appearance on the Main Stem since last Christmas marks his first appearance at Loew's Capitol, hitherto appearing at Paramount down the street, and he'll do plenty biz for that theater by virtue of his name drag. He's given plenty of time on-stage, show running nearly an hour, and outside of two acts, the Bernard Brothers and tapster Bill Bailey, Dorsey and his entourage make for the payees. Entour- age it is, for his ork almost overflows in- to the pit, numbering 30 musicians, plus four gal singers, the Sentimentalists. It looks like Carnegie Hall has come to B'way.

That the show fails to impress lies in one direction. T. D. never dominates which he should from beginning to end. Payees come to plunk their dough down to hear the king of the trombones and they walk out with D. giving out fully on only one tune, *Body and Soul*. That's a corker, opening with a specially writ- ten vocal entree for the gal singers and sliding into Dorsey who makes with *Soul* like only Dorsey can. Fiddles be- hind him (10), five trumpets, three trombones, five sax, a tuba, harp and four rhythm instruments—including Buddy Rich on drums and Jess Stacy at the piano—give that tune the old T. D. stamp. It would have made an ideal opener, but stacked way back it's given a bad shuffle in the musical deck.

Dorsey fans who've come to hear his band will get plenty of that, for they open with two disk faves, *Git It* and *Song of India*, latter with strings added. (They aren't on the record.) *Git* is solid, with trumpets battling each other, but the No. 1 spot is where Dorsey should have stepped into the spotlight. From then on he should have guided the go- ings-on, tied them up into a neat pack- age. Again, if Dorsey were to intro tunes between times, to remind folks that they were diskers and get his personality into the show rather than just blow his horn it would make for a warm stage pres- entation. The way it is now, it races thru, impersonally and leaves audience conscious of Dorsey's ork on stage, but that's all.

He's blessed with fine instrumentalists around him, and kids with fine voices, but in many cases wrong type of ma- terial is used. *Sentimentalists*, four gals with fine voices, do *Sunny Side of Street* and *Don't Fence Me In*. Both are stand- ard, and need an added kicker for stage presentation that wasn't there. They're also in on finish with *Trolley Song*, which is well done, but is definitely not finale material. Freddie Stewart, male vocalist, and Bonnie Lou Williams, a duo with fine fine voices, join in and give it a well rounded rendition. Stewart, lad who did a single at Para recently, has fine timbre, but hasn't quite mastered control as yet. His pitch is off at times, but he's got plenty of quality. His tenor handling of *Too-Ra-Loo-Ra*, etc., is ideal for him. He's not quite sold on pop ballads. Miss Williams has plenty of quality but just fails to land 'em in the aisles. Voice is true and likeable and gal is a looker.

Interspersed at two points are Bernard Brothers, clever pair of lads who make with the face and the open silent mouth with the phono behind. Boys are doubling from local nitery, the Blue Angel, and do their standard routines, the Andrew Sisters, Crosby and Mary Martin duo and broad take-off on Si- natra. They're versatile, switching from subtle and sly interp of Crosby-Martin to almost slapstick version of F. S. However, it's now apparent that deliber- ate errors on part of performers working with disks gather big laughs. When they fail to come in or come in ahead of time, it gets ha-ha's. But for vaude au- dience brothers' facial mannerisms while "singing," which must be seen close-up to be really appreciated, never really sock home. Guys get many laughs but punches come spotty.

Bill Bailey, colored tapster, has stage difficulties because the bandstand leaves him little if no room to work in. He uses his regular pattern of fine steps as a background to patter that gets gig- gles. However, his material isn't too hot, and he'd do better to either get socko stuff or concentrate on his dancing, which is way up there in return value. Bailey, who's a really fine artist, misses one point here. He's got a great band behind him and could use them for sock musical material to which he could real-

Oriental, Chicago

(Reviewed Friday Afternoon, Dec. 22)

This week's show is one that is mem- orable. Headed by Harry Cool, Steve Evans, Shea and Raymond, the Four Sid- neys and the Six Willys and backed by Ray Lang's ork, this is the best that this theater has offered in a long time.

The ork takes up after a community sing with a two-third house of enthusi- astic people. Opening bit is *White Christ- mas*, the audience chiming in. First on the bill are the Four Sidneys, a cycle act made up of three gals and a man, doing very tricky routines on a small stage space. This act is not the run of the mill. The act presents a good ap- pearance and perform like clock-work.

Harry Cool took the second spot and stopped the show dead in its tracks. After singing six songs he had to bow off from the pleading whistles, screams and cheers of the ticket buyers. He sang *There Goes That Song Again*, a medley of *I Dream of You* and *A Million Dreams Ago* and others. The crowd was begging for more, and Cool had to bow off. If ever a show was stopped this was it.

The rest of the show was excellent. Shea and Raymond did a soft-shoe song and dance that had the audience rolling.

Steve Evans, emcee, did several impres- sions, including his famous drunken foreigner and a series of impressions on the laughers of the crowd.

The last spot was taken by the Six Willys, juggling act, that presents a very good appearance with three gals and three men. Their costumes are good and the routines are far above average. The one weak point was the ending.

Pic, *Carolina Blues*.

Robert Menders.

Henshaw Show Gets "Unfair" Listing In Acts' Pay Claim

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Bud (Uke) Henshaw, his two partners and his traveling show, *Heads Up, America*, were put on the national "unfair" list this week by AGVA until Henshaw—or some- body—antes up about \$500 in back pay owing performers when the show folded in Birmingham two weeks ago.

Henshaw was at the AGVA office yesterday (22) in connection with the "unfair" rap against him. His conten- tion, according to union officials, was that one Jack Maggert, a Kansas stage- hand, and his partner, had attached the receipts, thus stopping payment to the actors.

The Billboard is in receipt of a letter from eight of them. The note claims that "Henshaw walked out with all the money for the show, leaving 16 people flat broke, stranded." It is signed by Wilkins and Wilkens, Chambers and Blair, Beverly Cretcher, E. A. Bailey, Alex Simmons and Jeane Long.

Matt Shelvey, head of AGVA, yester- day said Henshaw's "unfair" rating will prevent his further operation until the performers' claims are satisfied.

However, he added that the actors were themselves to blame for the situa- tion because of their failure to notify the union when they were signing on with Henshaw. Had notice been given AGVA, Shelvey said, the union would have obtained a bond from Henshaw before allowing the show to open.

LEON & EDDIE'S, N. Y.

(Continued from opposite page)

elsewhere is another question. Tony Canzoneri, also held over, works with Adams in a giggle-getting bit.

Sherry Britton, final holdover, wiggles and half peels her sinuous body, but results are negligible.

Line of Sidney Sprague girls (7) go thru three fair routines and do passably. Costumes are shoddy. Reaction is okay.

Art Waner's ork (5) is murder in the show-cutting department, providing a brand of accomp which the show would be better without. *Paul Ross.*

ly go-it. However, he works mostly with a piano background, only utilizing full ork for walk-off.

Dorsey's drummer, Buddy Rich, is in for a specialty, knocking himself out and maintaining fact that he's one of best skin-beaters around. Jess Stacy did a boogie, while T. D. leaves little doubt that he's A-1 trombone man—when he plays. *Paul Secon.*

Stem Grosses Again Sad But Strand Sets Record

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Pre-Christmas theater biz on the Stem has never been a world-beater. And this year is no different.

A cut in grosses of almost 50 per cent in the last week of the old runs as compared with the takes when bills preemed was not unusual.

But if cash register results brought long faces on the street, the Strand was able to set a house record for its week before Christmas showing.

Radio City Music Hall (6,200 seats; house average, \$100,000) counted \$114,000 for its initial week with Gaudier's Steeplechase, the *Nativity* spectacle and *National Velvet*. Opener usually brings in \$125,000.

Roxy (6,000 seats; house average, \$75,000) bowed out with a bad \$39,000 for Jimmy Savo, Mildred Bailey, Pearl Primus and *Something for the Boys*. Opening weeks of this show brought \$60,000 followed by \$48,000. New bill has Nicholas Brothers, Jack Durant, Gil Maison and *Winged Victory*.

Paramount (3,664 seats; house average, \$75,000) in its fourth week of a five-week run with Glen Gray, Andy Russell and *And Now Tomorrow* fell to \$57,000 from previous week's \$65,000. First week's take was \$93,000 followed by \$75,000 and \$65,000, respectively.

Capitol (4,627 seats; house average, \$55,000) slipped to \$46,000 with Jimmy Dorsey, Henny Youngman and *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo* for its fifth and final week. Show opened with a rousing \$85,000, followed by another \$85,000 and then \$68,000 and \$52,000 for succeeding weeks. New show has Tommy Dorsey, the Bernards and *Music for Millions*.

Strand (2,779 seats; house average,

\$45,000) pulled \$63,000, a new record for a pre-Christmas week, for Lionel Hampton, Two Zephyrs and *Hollywood Canteen*.

Loew's State (3,500 seats; house average \$25,000) slipped another notch to \$20,500 for Lee Castle ork, Dean Martin, Cookie Bowers and *Kismet*. Previous week's take was \$21,500. New bill has Eddie Heywood ork; Harris, Claire and Shannon; West and Lexing, Three Swifts, Antaleks and *Marriage Is a Private Affair*.

San Fran Has Plenty To Be Happy About

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—Pre-Christmas week had little or no effect on box office at the two vaudeville houses here.

Golden Gate (2,850 seats; house average, \$27,000; prices, 45 to 95 cents) did \$20,000 week ended Tuesday (19). Although gross was below average, it was a good figure for the fourth week of Beatrice Kay, Lebrac and Bernice, the Three Samuels and Dave Apollon and His Filipino Boys. Held over a fourth week was the pic, *Princess and the Pirate*.

Warfield (2,680 seats; house average, \$25,000; prices, 45 to 85 cents) made it \$25,500 week ended Monday (18) with a new stagework featuring Fred Sanborn, Wally West, Kay La Rond, and Bar and Estes. Pic is *National Barn Dance*.

Foreign Vaude Market Doubtful

(Continued from page 15)

why a standard \$500 act can't get the same kind of dough abroad once the demand starts rolling.

"American bookers," he says, "who think they can cut prices after the war will have another think coming. A guy who has gotten the taste of real dough isn't going to take any cut. And he won't have to lay off, either. The whole world will want him if he wants to get out of the country for a couple of months."

But that is one side of the picture. The other side is not optimistic.

None At All

Sol Shapiro, who formerly sold acts to London thru Harry Poster, then William Morris rep, doesn't see any foreign showbiz pickup at all. First of all, he says, people of those countries will be worried about buying something to eat and re-building their bombed areas.

Their first interest will be necessities and not amusements.

Assuming those are taken care of, foreign theaters just can't afford to pay the kind of dough American acts are accustomed to, he says. The biggest London house, for example, is the Palladium. House formerly ran on a two-show-a-day policy, for six days, and in its palmy era never grossed more than \$24,000. House used to buy names but the bulk of its talent was local. The Elephant and Castle, a pic and vaude spot with 4,000 seats, ran three shows daily. But its talent nut seldom exceeded \$2,000 a week and most of it went to British performers.

In after-dark spots money was better. But it was only the American names who could take it down. The Cafe De Paris, for example, had the American names who could take it down. For example, Harry Richman and Morton Downey and several name bands. Their salary was about the same as what they received in this country and in some instances a little better. But once acts were thru in the British capital their money days abroad were over.

If they were sight acts they could go to the Continent. But there, too, the spots that could afford to pay were limited. France, for example, never paid real dough. And during the franc debacle, no act would take a French date unless the op paid in either pounds or dollars. The shore resorts, like Monte Carlo, were big

Detroit Strong Despite Holiday; "Vanities" 23G

DETROIT, Dec. 23.—Level of box-office figures remains satisfactorily high for pre-Christmas weeks at the Hughes-Downtown Theater (2,800 seats; house average, \$23,000).

Earl Carroll's *Vanities* drew an average \$23,000 last week, with a revival, *Topper*, on the screen. Figure was slightly under the \$24,000 figure set by George White's *Scandals*, the second week the house was open, in May.

Lionel Hampton drew a gross of \$32,000 the week before, with *Three of a Kind* on the screen. This was highest gross reported for the theater in three months.

Hampton's gross, however, will probably be surpassed by Gene Krupa's band on the current bill this week. Krupa opened strong and estimated gross for week is \$35,000.

House is switching its appeal from stage to screen for the first time since opening for the week of January 19, when *The Princess and the Pirate* is skedded. Despite the strong box-office value of this film, the management has booked a solid stagework to go with it, including, Martha Tilton and the Rockettes. Indicating that they will continue to rely strongly on flesh, despite an occasional sure-fire pic booking. Film is expected to last about four weeks, with change of stageworks weekly.

Carter, Cole Trio Mild 21G in Cleve.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23.—Current pre-Christmas theater slump has shown no exception at the Palace Theater here. To top it off, weather has been below freezing all week and there has been no sign of let-up.

Layout offers Benny Carter band co-featured with King Cole Trio in an all-Negro revue. On screen, *Strange Affair*. Estimated gross is \$21,500.

Artie Shaw's new band opened Friday (22). Management is putting on big flack campaign via street car ads, window cards, radio programs, department store windows, etc. Shaw has always been a big fave here.



ROUTES

Acts • Units • Attractions

Explanation of Symbols: a—auditorium; b—ballroom; c—cafe; cb—cabaret; cc—country club; cl—cocktail lounge; h—hotel; nc—night club; p—amusement park; ro—roadhouse; re—restaurant; t—theater; NYC—New York City; Phila—Philadelphia; Chi—Chicago.

(Routes are for current week when no dates are given)

A

Abbott-Mazzone Dancers (Latin Quarter) NYC, nc.
Adams, Joey (Leon & Eddie's) NYC, nc.
Allen, Lee, Trio (Syracuse) Syracuse, N. Y., h.
Ames, Jimmy (Slapsy Maxie's) Hollywood, nc.
Antaleks, The (State) NYC, t.
Arren & Broderick (Stevens) Chi, h.

B

Bagley, Eleanor (Duane) NYC, h.
Bailey, Bill (Capitol) NYC, t.
Ball-Java Dancers (Sarong Room) Chi, nc.
Bannister, Georgiana (Savoy-Plaza) NYC, h.
Barbary Coast Boys (Latin Quarter) Detroit 25-Jan. 3, nc.
Bart, Jan (Old Roumanian) NYC, nc.
Barry, Gloria (Kelly's Stable) NYC, nc.
Batie & Tuffy (Chicago) Chi, t.
Beatty, George (Carman) Phila, t.
Bela, Sziga (Zimmerman's Hungaria) NYC, nc.
Belasco, Frankie (Club Morocco) Chi, nc.
Belmont, Dale (Duane) NYC, h.
Bento Bros. & Rita (Majestic) Paterson, N. J., t.
Bernard, George & Gene (Capitol) NYC, t.
Bertay Sisters (Adams) Newark, N. J., t.
Birdland (Carman) Phila, t.

In Short

New York:

THEODORE, out of the army with a medical discharge, is back dancing with his old partner, Denasha.

HANLON AND CLARK doing offshore for six months. . . . DONNA DAE opens at the Copacabana, January 18.

GYPSY MARKOFF current at Casino Russe. . . . JOSE MELIS, Juilliard scholarship winner, current at La Conga.

JACKIE MILES set for a return date at the Roxy in March, and the Beachcomber, Miami, January 18.

MILTON (DOC) BENDER has joined Bill Robbins' office to produce musical comedies. . . . DEMAY AND MOORE and Bob Douglas at the Versailles again.

BILLIE HOLIDAY at the Spotlite. . . . GINA JANNIS at the Village Barn. . . . SAMMY BIRCH due at the Ruban Bleu next month, replacing Irwin Corey, who's on the Edgar Bergen radio show.

BETTY SAUNDERS appearing at Village Vanguard. . . . ARLENE CLAIRE and Phil Dennis working at the Cotillion (See IN SHORT on page 21)

buyers during the season, but the others were strictly small time.

Reich Same

In Germany the trouble was the same money. The Reichmark wasn't tied to any basic currency, so the pay-off was strictly a gamble. And even if everything was okay there was only one large house in Berlin, the Scalla, which could afford to buy acts for real dough.

If acts take the Schlesinger Circuit to South Africa they might get a little more dough. But there, too, it was names who collected. Molly Picon, for example, was a big hit there. But most other names didn't go that far south and the performers who did seldom collected the kind of money American acts were accustomed to getting in the U. S.

Others Agree With Shapiro

Other sections of the trade tend to agree with Shapiro's version of the outlook. If anything, they are more pessimistic. In this country, they say, a guy who has a large disk rep, has built up a radio background or has been in a couple of ptx, is a hot attraction and can get almost any kind of dough. Abroad these same guys don't mean a thing. And even if they did, what house or chain can get enough customers, with their small seating capacity, to help them meet the nut, not to say make profits.

In the final analysis the trade agrees that with foreign currency bouncing up and down like a yo-yo, no act is going to go out on a limb for a lot of fancy paper that can't be turned into groceries. And as to when foreign currencies will be stabilized is something for fortune tellers to say.

Besides there is still the war to be fought and nobody in showbiz is an Eisenhower or a Nimitz.

Blakstone, Nan (Casablanca) Phila, nc.
Blaine, Barbara (Glass Hat) NYC, nc.
Blair, Jack (La Martiniere) NYC, nc.
Blair & Deane (Copacabana) NYC, nc.
Bond, Angie (Sheraton) NYC, h.
Bond, Gertrude (400 Club) Fort Worth, nc.
Bright, Patricia (One 5th Ave.) NYC, nc.
Brisson, Carl (Versailles) NYC, nc.
Britton, Sherry (Leon & Eddie's) NYC, nc.
Brown, Ada (Primrose) Newport, Ky., nc.
Brown, Evans (Lido Venice) Andalusia, Pa., nc.
Brown, Red (Hilton) Abilene, Tex., h.
Bruce, Carol (Copacabana) NYC, nc.
Buckwalter, Junior, Marimba Queens (OUver) South Bend, Ind., h.
Burns, Jimmy (Bill's Gay '90s) NYC, nc.
Burns & White (Cotton) Houston 11-31, nc.
Burton's Birds (Lee & Eddie's) Detroit, nc.
Butterbeans & Susie (Primrose) Newport, Ky., nc.

C

Cain, Lorraine (Stevens) Chi, h.
Callahan Sisters (Rio Cabana) Chi, nc.
Cannon, Maureen (Chez Paree) Chi, nc.
Canzoneri, Tony (Leon & Eddie's) NYC, nc.
Carl & Harriet (Royal) Baltimore, t.
Carlisle, Charlie (Bowery) Detroit, nc.
Carlisle, Kitty (Blackstone) Chi, h.
Carnegie, Andy (Tropic Isle) Brooklyn, nc.
Carr Bros. (Earle) Washington, t.
Carroll's, Earl, Vanities (Palace) Columbus, O., t.

Carrol, Irene (Greenwich Village Inn) NYC, nc.

Carroll, Jean (RKO-Boston) Boston, t.
Carson, Beth (Radio Franks) NYC, nc.
Chang, Kathryn Lee (Majestic) Paterson, N. J., t.

Chiro, Armandita (Bellerive) Kansas City, Mo., h.

Chords, The (Chicago) Chi 25-Jan. 4, t.
Churchill, Savannah (Chicago) Chi, t.

Claire & Dennis (Pierre) NYC, h.
Clark Bros. (Primrose) Newport, Ky., nc.
Clemens, Jane (Earle) Washington, t.

Coca, Inogene (Ruban Bleu) NYC, nc.
Cool, Harry (Oriental) Chi, t.
Cooper & Cole (Centaur Room) NYC, h.

Crane, Wally (Adams) Newark, N. J., t.
Credons, The Four (Blackhawk) Chi, re.
Cross, Chris (Stevens) Chi, h.

Cross & Dunn (Capitol) Washington, t.

D

D'Angelo, Pierre & Vanya (Chez Paree) Chi, nc.

Daro & Corda (Charles) Baltimore, 26-Jan. 8, nc.

Dearborn, Janet (Latin Quarter) NYC, nc.
DeMay & Moore (Leon & Eddie's) NYC, nc.
Danna, Roslyn (Madison Room) Cleveland, De Croff, Ann (Astor) Montreal, nc.

Delta Rhythm Boys (Zanzibar) NYC, nc.
Dennis, Ann (Club 18) NYC, nc.
Deyon, Ray (Zimmerman's Hungaria) NYC, nc.

Dja, Devi (Sarong Room) Chi, nc.
Dixon, Gaye (Club 18) NYC, nc.
Drake, Robert, & Jeane (Andy's Log Cabin) Gloucester Heights, N. J., nc.

Duncan Sisters (Sheraton) NYC, h.
Duryane, Candy (Swing Club) NYC, nc.
Dwights, The (Capitol) Washington, t.

E

Edwards Bros., Three (State) Hartford, Conn., t.

Ellis, Doris (18 Club) NYC, nc.
Enrica & Novello (Rio Cabana) Chi, nc.
Errole, Martha (Iridium Room) NYC, h.

F

Faye, Frances (Rio Cabana) Chi, nc.
Featherstone, Jimmie (Bismarck) Chi, h.

Fisher's, Bob, Flyers (Fair) Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 18-30.

Fisher, Hal (Stork) Omaha, 25-Jan. 7, nc.
Fitzgibbons, Lew (Majestic) Paterson, N. J., t.

Ford, Harris & Jones (Howard) Washington, t.

Franks, Charles (Dixie) NYC, h.
Frye, Don (Village Vanguard) NYC, nc.

G

Gale, Lenny (Beverly Hills) Newport, Ky., cc.
Gallant & Leonora (Statler) Cleveland, h.

Gallus, John (Beverly Hills) Newport, Ky., 22-Jan. 4, cc.

Gaines, Muriel (Village Vanguard) NYC, nc.
Gibson, Harry (Spotlite) NYC, nc.

Gilbert, Ethel (Bill's Gay '90s) NYC, nc.
Gilbert, Gloria (Latin Quarter) NYC, nc.

Gill, Jeffrie, & Evan Price (Bellerive) Kansas City, Mo., h.

Girard, Adele (Hickory House) NYC, re.
Glover & LaMae (Mount Royal) Montreal, h.

Gosling, Harry (Bismarck) Chi, h.
Green, Betty (Tony Pastor's Uptown) NYC, nc.

H

Harding, Dan (Terrace Room) NYC, h.

Harrington, Pat (Greenwich Village) NYC, nc.

Harris, Mary (Lounge Cafe) NYC, nc.

Hart, Gloria (Bismarck) Chi, h.

Hartnells, The (Golden Gate) San Francisco 27-Jan. 9, t.

Herbert, Jack (Marconi) Warren, Pa., nc.

Hightower, Marilyn (Copacabana) NYC, nc.

Hilda (State) Hartford, Conn., t.

Hines, Babe (Spotlite) NYC, nc.

Hixon, Hal (Club 18) NYC, nc.

Hodes, Art (Jimmy Ryans) NYC, nc.

Howard, Joe (Glenn Rendezvous) Newport, Ky., nc.

Hurley, Jacqueline (Talk of the Town) Peoria, Ill., nc.

J

Jaxon, Great (Times Square) Rochester, N. Y., 1-14, nc.

(See ROUTES on page 20)

G.I.'s Get Legit Fare in Germany

New to Many But It Clicks

Pick-up cast, real troupers, turn in top job under adverse conditions

(Continued from page 3)

over about six months ago as part of a unit of 11 that CSI brought to England. After they arrived, Camp Shows, Inc., didn't know what to do with them so they were spotted around air fields to act as morale makers. One of these gals, Patricia Sargent, with radio and stock credits in New York and Chicago, cooked up a legit show at her airfield.

Goo-Goo Eyes

Meanwhile, somewhere else in England some gal was making eyes at some brass-hat to get a legit show started. The show got started but that's about all.

Eventually, someone heard about what Miss Sargeant had done and brought her into the company. U. S. Army Special Service assigned Lieut. Leonard Bedrow, out of Chicago legit and radio—he worked *While America Sleeps* on WBBM-CBS—to the unit.

De Marney Directs

Terence De Marney, writer, actor-director in London legit and radio and English version of Orson Welles, came in to direct. When he finished, the cast had two plays, *Three-Cornered Moon* and *Ten Little Indians*, the Agatha Christie thriller.

Cast consisted of Patricia Sargeant; Gloria Claire, whose Manhattan legit credits are topped by *George Washington Slept Here*, with Winifred Willard, 30 years' experience on London stage; Tom Gill, who played David in the English road company of *Claudia*, was with Turgenyev's *Month in Country* in London and had three and a half years in the British Army; John Fitzgerald, who was with the Royal Armored Regiment at Dunkirk and whose London legit credits include Robert Helpmann's *Hamlet*; Alan Adair, three years as RAF tail gunner and three years of legit credits; Richard Carr, physically unfit for armed forces, who joined London Police Department and who played in London company of Steinbeck's *Moon Is Down* and opposite Yvonne Arnaud in *Nutmeg Tree*.

When De Marney asked "Ma" Willard why she wanted to work in this show, she said: "I was in Paris last armistice and want to be there again for this one."

They Played Paris

Then there was Lieutenant Bedrow, and in Paris, where they played at Sascha Guitry's Madeleine Theater, WAC Corp, Selma Chapmond, Texas school-marm and theatrical amateur, and Pvt. Philip Kenneally were added. The latter studied at the Goodman Theater in Chi, played with Michiana Shore Summer Stock outside Chicago, was Golden Gloves lightweight champ in 1934 and welter champ in 1935. It was a versatile



BROADWAY SHOWLOG

Performance Thru December 23

	Opened	Perfs.		Opened	Perfs.
Dramas					
Angel Street (Bijou)....	12- 5, '41	1235			
Closes, Saturday (30), No road tour planned.					
Anna Lucasta	8-30, '44	135			
(Mansfield)					
Saturday (16), Hilda Sims, Canada Lee and Duke Ellington featured on War Bond program by Mutual. Ditto, Roells Lenore, same date, for "Rally Round the Gun" bond pitch. Sunday (17), bond performance netted Morgenthau \$4,470,700 in bond sales. Thursday (21), John Wildberg gave party in honor of Hilda Sims at Gilmore's Steak House.					
Bell for Adano, A.....	12- 6, '44	21			
(Cort)					
Jack Smart plays Santa on Phil Baker's "Take It or Leave It," Sunday (24). Leon Rothier celebrates his 70th birthday, Monday (25). Alexander Grenach and Hal Stone are prepping an experimental Sunday performance of "Merchant of Venice." Freddie March and Florence Eldridge have promised to be in it. Everett Sloane once again will do Scrooge in "Christmas Carol," December 25, CBS.					
Catherine Was Great ..	8- 2, '44	166			
(Royale)					
Closes, January 13. Re-opens at Ford's, Baltimore, January 15, for road tour.					
Chicken Every Sunday..	4- 5, '44	301			
(Plymouth)					
Takes to road January 8 with opening at Pittsburgh's Nixon. Booked hereafter into Detroit and Chi. "Ten Little Indians" will move into the Plymouth from the Broadhurst.					
Dark Hammock	12-11, '44	2			
(Forrest)					
Closed December 12.					
Dear Ruth	12-13, '44	13			
(Henry Miller's)					
John Dall air guests with Ethel Colby, Friday (29). Random House is prepping publication of play, via arrangement with Bennett Cerf.					
Embezzled Heaven.....	10-31, '44	28			
(National)					
Ethel Barrymore back in play and on air sked. Still forced to rest each day, but doing fine job.					
Hand In Glove	12- 4, '44	24			
(Playhouse)					
Moves to Forrest, Monday (25). "Sophie" takes over vacated playhouse on that date.					
Harvey	11- 1, '44	62			
(48th Street)					
Brock Pemberton and Harvey air guested with Margaret Arien (CBS), Tuesday (19). Drumbeater Tom Kilpatrick laid low with flu, Monday (18). Back on job Thursday (21).					
In Bed We Cry.....	11-14, '44	47			
(Belasco)					
Closes Saturday (23).					
I Remember Mama.....	10-19, '44	76			
(Music Box)					
I Remember Mama					
Jacobowsky and the	3-11, '44	330			
Colonel (Martin Beck)					
Kiss and Tell	3-17, '43	748			
(Biltmore)					
Vera Tatum leaves Saturday (23), to join Coast company at Oakland.					
Musicals					
Bloomer Girl	10- 5, '44	92			
(Shubert)					
Bob Lyons leaves for "Central Park" assignment, Monday (25). Ben Murphy replaces him. David Lober takes over for Jack Starr, same date.					
Carmen Jones	12- 2, '43	412			
(Broadway)					
Follow the Girls	4- 8, '44	298			
(44th St. Theater)					
Mildred Fenton replaced Geraldine Stroom and Frances Smith replaced Norma Amigo, Wednesday (20). Others leaving show shortly are June Sittar, Dorothea Pinto and Dell Parker. Ann Mace will take over from June Sittar. Irina Baronova and Jackie Gleason guests at the children's party for Russian War Relief, Saturday (23). Tim Herbert has movie deal cooking.					
Laughing Room Only....	12-23, '44	1			
(Winter Garden)					
Mexican Hayride					
(Winter Garden)					
Imogen Carpenter air-guested with Ella Mason (WHN), Tuesday (19). Kay Crawford (wife of Broderick Crawford) has vacated Mike Todd offices reception desk for a part in "Central Park." Other additions to "Park" roster, which skeds for a preem at the Century Theater, January 25, are Walter Burke, Delma Byron, Watson White and Guy Standing, Jr. Mike Todd has hired Stella Adler to direct his forthcoming "And Never Yield."					
Oklahoma!	3-31, '43	765			
(St. James)					
Lee Dixon out of cast, Wednesday (20), Milton Watson subbed, Thursday (21) thru Saturday (23). Paul Crabtree takes over role, Monday (25). Katharine Hepburn is definitely out of running for lead in Philip Barry's "Foolish Nation." Tallulah Bankhead offered part, but has not said yes to date.					
One Touch of Venus ...	10- 7, '43	511			
(46th St.)					
Final choice of substitute to take over top ballet slot from Ania Alvarez was Sylvia Opart. Latter went in Monday (18). Phyllis Hill had been previously reported to be getting the nod. Matthew Farrar played his last show, Monday (18). Into a G.I. suit the next day. His various bits are being doubled by other members of cast. Vincent Youmans wants Mary Martin to listen to a score for a new musical with the hope of getting her to play the lead.					
Sadie Thompson.....	11-16, '44	44			
(Alvin)					
Dalrymple org as official tub-thumper, Tuesday (19).					
Seven Lively Arts	12- 7, '44	20			
(Ziegfeld)					
Song of Norway	8-21, '44	145			
(Imperial)					
Balleter Jimmy Starbuck out with strained back, Tuesday (19) thru Thursday (21). Sviatoslav Toumaine has been stepping for him. Cast gives itself a sage Yule party, Monday (25). Irra Petina, Bob Shaefer and Helena Bliss will host them with champagne Sunday (31).					
ICE SHOWS					
Hats Off to Ice	6-22, '44	252			
(Center)					
BALLETS					
Ballet International....	10-30, '44	63			
(International Theater)					
REVIVALS					
Gypsy Baron, The.....	11-28, '44	16			
(City Center)					
Little Women	12-12, '44	15			
(City Center)					
Final week begins Monday (25). No evening performances. Eight mats, with two of them offered on Friday and Saturday mornings. Richard Rychtarik has been commissioned to do the sets and Ladislav Czettel the costumes for the new opera company's edition of "La Vie Parisienne." Show comes to Center for three-week stand January 12, prior to tour.					

crew, loaded to the gills with drive and ginger.

They needed it, too. There was an invasion to be mounted and a war to be won and, anyway, camp shows didn't think much of legit units. In addition to official indifference and lack of theatrical savvy, they had to scrounge—that's modern army talk for getting something off the arm—sets, settings, props, costumes, transportation, lights and get on a pay roll.

They Got Everything

Somehow, they attained every objective. Hundreds of other similar groups had done the same thing in showbiz all over the world, but it's doubtful if any one ever did it in wartime under conditions as difficult.

They played in and around England, followed the troops onto the Continent, played everywhere and anywhere with or without scenery, with or without lights.

They carry three pair of auto headlamps scrounged from a British outfit and wired onto auto storage batteries.

They use 'em when no other lights are available.

They travel in two command cars, with a truck carrying their equipment. They have no priority, so every once in a while they don't get where they're going in time to clear the stage, hang the show, set the lights and give a performance on schedule. They always give the show, but sometimes it's a little late.

Once the audience sat and waited for three hours while the cast put the show together and then sat thru the performance. This is nothing exceptional to roadshows which have trouped the hinterlands, but it's something when you're doing it up right behind the fighting fronts, when you're cast, crew, grip and everything all rolled into one. Add to this knocking down your show the night before, sleeping in bedrolls—and not indulging in temperament and not getting any of the gravy normally associated with "being in the theater."

Army's Booker

The show plays where the army books it. On one occasion they gave a show

to an audience that was noisy and restless. No one knew why this one, of all audiences, should be such a dud. Two days later they learned that they had played for a group of Russian, Czech, Pole and other one-time German prisoners, none of whom understood a word of English.

What happens when the audience does understand English even if, as often happens, they've never seen a legit show, is best illustrated by what happened behind the lines when a crump of explosions didn't make newcomers like this correspondent perk up their ears.

The theater was in a former seminary. It was a pretty good theater with stage, grid and space to give the show properly for the first time in many a month. Of course, there was current for lights but there was neither heat nor hot water, and everyone was armed.

Everybody Toots His Own

That's the custom this close to the front. If you've got small arms or side-arms you hold on to them. Then if you

CSI Burn-Up

SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY, Dec. 19.—Front-line units when asked about live shows, always say: "Camp Shows are like Zippo lighters as far as we're concerned. They're all overseas, they ain't here."

Zippo is that wonderful G.I. lighter that never fails. Back home every camp PX says: "They're overseas; you'll get them when you get to London." London says wait till you get to France, and so it goes. Here these guys are up in the fighting lines and still no Zippo lighters and apparently no Camp Shows, either.

Union Wires J. J.: 'You Can't Fire Lawrence'

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Dismissed by uncle J. J. Shubert as head of the Shubert theatrical interests here, Lawrence Shubert Lawrence is still house manager of the Forrest Theater, one of the family chain, and cannot be fired. This position was immediately taken by the Association of Theatrical Agents and Managers, of which Lawrence is a member, in a sharply worded telegram sent to J. J. Thursday (14) and released Saturday (16).

The text of the ultimatum delivered by the union's board of governors was as follows: "The account of the dismissal of Lawrence Shubert Lawrence as house manager of the Forrest Theater indicates that his dismissal by you is a breach of your contract with the union. We will not tolerate any breach by you of your contractual obligations and we demand immediate compliance therewith. The contract between us provides adequate machinery for the settlement of all grievances and we resent your high-handed attempt to breach this agreement."

J. J. Hasn't Answered

Thus far, according to an official of the union in New York, no reply has been received from J. J. nor has Lawrence declared whether he is in or out as Forrest house manager. Neither uncle nor nephew has been available for any statements since news of latter's ouster as general manager here leaked out Wednesday (13). It is reported that Lawrence has opened a "private office" in the Shubert Building, which houses one of the chain's theaters on the ground floor.

However, spokesman for the union flatly stated that Lawrence returned to his duties as house manager of the Forrest Thursday (14), the day the telegram was sent, and is currently functioning in that capacity. "Lawrence's job as general manager," said the union official, "has nothing to do with the case. We are interested only in his status as manager of the Forrest. His contract runs to next Labor Day and cannot be terminated before that date."

Lawrence Could Fire Self

It develops also that Lawrence as an official of the corporation operating the Forrest had the power to hire or fire himself as general manager. Since he signed his own contract, the union contends that it can be voided only by a voluntary resignation acceptable to his employers or by being fired by himself.

Adding to the confusion is the fact that *A Lady of ?*, Shubert musical, which is said to have created the rift between uncle and nephew, skeds a New York preem for early January and with it goes George Oshrin, the show manager, who was named by J. J. to replace Lawrence as general manager here. The fact that Oshrin himself said he was moving with the show led many to believe that the uncle-nephew differences will be patched up.

Guild Asks Dope on Lowe's "Okla." Suit

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Suit started nearly a year ago by David Loew against the Theater Guild was dragged out into the open Monday (18) when the latter filed a motion for a further bill of particulars. Last February Lowe, currently in the army air forces, began the action and filed papers in Supreme Court charging that the Guild had broken a contract with him. He sought \$186,250 in damages.

Lowe claimed that the Guild had made an oral agreement with him in December, 1942, to pay him commissions on any financial backing he obtained for *Oklahoma*, and also to pay him for special services in connection with the musical's production. There is \$30,000 due him on the "special service" count, according to the complaint. The rest is charged as due against profits made by investors he promoted.

The court has ordered Lawrence Langner and Theresa Helburn, of the Guild, to appear for examination before trial. Walter H. Liebman, Lowe's attorney, refused to make any comment.

Betty Field Takes Over "The Turtle" & Makes Role Own

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Betty Field has had one of the toughest assignments handed to her that any actress can get. It is no light thing to step into the shoes of a predecessor who has been voted the top performer of a previous season and into a play that drew similar balloting honors. Monday (18) Miss Field took over officially from Margaret Sullivan in *Voice of the Turtle*. It can be reported that if audience reaction means anything Miss Field has taken the assignment in stride. The pewsitters audibly loved *Turtle* as of yore and likewise took heartily to the new Sally Middleton.

Comparisons, of course, are natural. The creation of any good role by a good player leaves a lasting impression and a follow-up by any substitute, no matter how good, is likely to be measured by that yardstick. It was difficult to watch Betty Field going thru the lines and the business of the Sally Middleton role and not to visualize Margaret Sullivan saying and doing the same things. Sally fitted Miss Sullivan like a glove, and the latter returned the compliment by giving her an ingenuous, muddled charm that built for a lump in the throat as well as a chuckle. Miss Field brings charm to Sally, too, but with a difference. There is a little-girl quality about her reminiscent of *What a Life*. Also, it seems that she doesn't get quite all that's possible out of some of the lines and situations—a little too studied in playing for the laughs that have been previously clocked at a given point. However, these are details which will doubtless iron themselves out with practice.

Likely, the above is unfair to Miss Field, since there is no question but that everybody seeing *Turtle* for the first time was accepting her Sally at face value and liking her exceedingly.

At all events *Turtle* proves itself the sort of durable comedy which can survive a major cast change. The slick Van Druten lines are as happy hearing as ever, altho there seems to be a tendency to juice the tempo for laughs, which takes a bit of the bloom off its original charm of naturalness.

Some of this is the fault of Audrey Christie, who, to say the least, stepped up her performance into high gear. At times it comes over to blow your hair off. It was much better in its original caustically restrained groove. Elliott Nugent is still exactly right as Bill Page. He makes the sergeant the same lovable sort of guy that opened the show a bit over a year ago. From the looks of things audiences are going to keep right on loving everything that he, Betty Field and Audrey Christie do until Alfred De Liagre gets tired of keeping *Turtle* around the stem. *Bob Francis.*

Mask and Wiggers Prep 57th Annual Musical

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—*Hep to the Beat* will be the title of the 57th annual production of the Mask and Wig Club of the University of Pennsylvania, bowing at the Erlanger Theater for one week beginning February 5, 1945.

This year's show will depart from the usual and bring to Mask and Wig audiences a light comic operetta instead of the song-and-dance revue that proved popular as witnessed by the club's long list of continuous successes. With this type of production, the navy's Clay A. Boland is given opportunity to show the versatility of his musical ability that has already made Mask and Wig shows famous. Top tunes for the show will be *Goodnight, Escape Me Never, Out of Sight*, and a swinging *I'll Teach You How To Do the Boogie-Woogie*.

G.I.'S GET LEGIT

(Continued from page 19)

need them in a hurry you've got them. A pot-bellied stove provided the only heat backstage. Running water was non-existent, despite the pretty porcelain sinks, stands and seats. One of the local boys brought in two pails of hot water before and after the performance. Make-up was applied standing around a

mirrored stage prop, which had miraculously not been shattered when the Yanks took the building. The Jerries, who used the place before we got here, had to be driven out by the troops now using it as a rest center.

They're Right Back of Front

Special Service has set up these rest centers right smack behind the front. The outfit holding the line—at the time show was caught this was a quiet spot, which now it isn't—would send back part of its organization for 48 hours' rest, hot baths and entertainment.

The troops seeing this matinee had arrived only a few hours before, had taken hot baths, changed, eaten lunch and then filed into the theater to be entertained. To most of them, *Three-Cornered Moon* was just so much pie in the sky. But it was a show, so they came, put their tin hats under their seats, sat and gabbed and listened to the public-address system. Anglo-American carries its own p.-a. and records for entertainment music.

G.I.'s Heat It Up

By the time the lights went down and the curtain up, the front of the house was warmed by the heat of human bodies. Backstage, the cast had G.I. woollens under their civilian stage clothes.

The first act was interesting. The G.I.'s would move, shift and act puzzled. Not all of them, but enough to show that they didn't know what kind of show this was.

Came the second act and they were quiet and attentive. No longer did they laugh at the wrong lines, nor did they bellow quite so hysterically. The tension behind their freshly scrubbed faces was beginning to ease and the first-timers at a show had gotten the hang of it. They leaned back and watched, they crouched forward with chins in palms and watched, they slumped down with hands over bellies and watched. They laughed and enjoyed themselves; and the cast did one helluva good job.

They Were Good

It can be argued that anyone could do a good show under these conditions, that everything was a natural, just loaded with dramatic dynamite and only theatrical incompetents could fluff. That's just the point: by all that was holy in the theater, these youngsters were nowhere near being ready to give the performance they did give.

Yet, with one exception, everyone was ready and able to do a big-time Broadway show. And Pat Sergeant and Lieut. Leonard Bedrow, doing the leads, were and are ripe for what comes along. Their timing, touch and ability to handle comedy, drama and romance should answer the needs of Max Gordon, Brock Pemberton, George Abbott, Herman Shumlin, etc., for a young pair of thespians able to act. The entire cast was good. They had to be good to hold the audience when late-comers clumped in in their combat boots, noisily clattered their helmets to the uncarpeted floor, and sat back to see what this was all about.

British Yanks

They also had to be good to play Americans. This goes double for the English actors and "Ma" Willard, in particular, who did a bang-up job as the American mother, despite her years in English legit, while Jerry was trying to knock out a near-by bridge and feeling around for troops and supplies. Fittingly, "Ma's" line, "Life is short"—anyone who's seen *Three-Cornered Moon* will remember it—was punctuated by the wham of high explosives.

For an added handicap, Director Terence De Marney was in the audience. He'd come over from London, where he was staging *Appointment With Death*, the new Agatha Christie mystery, to check up and see how the cast was playing the parts. Camp Shows had served notice on the gals—not the rest of the troupe—that they were going off the pay roll, and it was touch and go whether Special Service could figure out a way to put them on the pay roll.

Nor was that all. When they had finished the performance and took their last bow before an audience which was vociferous, they had to strike the set, clear the stage, make room for the Frank McHugh Camp Shows unit, then come back that night and reset the stage for their other show, *Ten Little Indians*, hang it, light it, rewire the lights where required, get some sleep and the next morning run thru the new play.

Tough Row for Softies

I doubt if professional Broadway-softened casts could have done it, day in and day out, as these players did and do and give as crackerjack a performance. But that, after all, is showbiz.

Chi Legit Lights For Heavy Yule Biz

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—Chicago legit theaters are set for a tremendous holiday week with the finest array of attractions seen in local houses in a long time, running the gamut from heavy drama to high-class burlesque. Two openings are scheduled for Christmas night, one representing the start of an ambitious repertory project. *The Waltz King* comes into the Great Northern for three weeks, and at the Civic Repertory Theater *The Glass Menagerie*, a four-people show with Eddie Dowling, Laurette Taylor, Julie Haydon and Tony Ross, has its world premiere. The play was written by Tennessee Williams, and the show is staged by Dowling and Margo Jones, with Alex Yokel supervising the production.

The repertory theater idea was conceived by Ralph T. Kettering, lessee of the Civic Theater, and Eddie Dowling, and, following *The Glass Menagerie*, it is their intention to stage other new plays and to establish a representative civic repertory group.

Two of the Loop's long-run hits are being forced out in a few weeks by previous bookings that cannot be changed. *Oklahoma* leaves the Erlanger January 6 after 60 weeks of capacity business to make way for Helen Hayes in *Harriet, Kiss and Tell*, forced out of the Harris early in the season, must vacate the Studebaker February 5 after 91 weeks of excellent business. It will be followed by a return engagement of *Over Twenty-One*.

Playing to phenomenal business at the Civic Opera House is the Army Air Corps show *Winged Victory*, which had a record advance sale of over \$200,000. It will remain for five weeks, to be followed January 15 by the New Opera Company's *The Merry Widow*.

Mike Todd's *Star and Garter* at the Blackstone is getting a heavy play. *The Voice of the Turtle*, in its 13th week at the Selwyn, is playing to near capacity, and at the Harris, *Ten Little Indians*, is doing well in its eighth week.

Maurice Schwartz, who has been appearing at the Douglas Park Theater in a repertory of Jewish plays, has done very well. He is currently appearing in *The Folk Singer* and on January 5 launches the last play of his local engagement, Jacob Gordon's Shakespearean adaptation called *The Jewish King Lear*.

ROUTES

(Continued from page 18)

Jean, Jack & Judy (Center) Norfolk, Va., t.
Jessie & James (Mocambo) Chi, nc.
Johnny & George (Tony Pastor's Uptown) NYC, nc.

Jules & Webb (Bonanza) Reno, Nev., nc.

K

Karson's, Marla, Musicals (Plains) Cheyenne, Wyo., h.

Kaye, Bebe (Folk's Casino) NYC, nc.

Kaye, Georgia (State) Hartford, Conn., t.

Kellogg, Laura (Stork) Omaha 25-Jan. 7, nc.

Kent, Marsha (Club 18) NYC, nc.

King, Carol (Chez Paree) Chi, nc.

King Cole Trio (Chicago) Chi, t.

King, Karen (Paris qui Chante) NYC, nc.

King, Muriel (Zimmerman's Hungaria) NYC, nc.

Kinsman, Philip (Stevens) Chi, h.

Kirsoff, George (Sarong Room) Chi, nc.

Kramer, Stan (Shoreham) Washington, h.

Krollier, Rudolph (Latin Quarter) NYC, nc.

L

Lane, Larry (Jack & Bob's) Trenton, N. J., nc.

Lang & Lee (Jamaica) Jamaica, L. I., N. Y., 25-27, t.

Laurette & Clymas (Mayflower) Akron, O., h.

Lee, Betty (State) Baltimore, t.

Leonard, Bunny (Folk's Casino) NYC, nc.

Leonard, Ross (Tony Pastor's Uptown) NYC, nc.

Leslie, Dick (Hipp) Baltimore, t.

Lester & Irmajan (Stork) Denver 16-29, nc.

Lester, Jerry (Copacabana) NYC, nc.

Lewis, Ralph (Evergreen) Collinsville, Ill., nc.

Libby, Al & Betty (State) Baltimore, t.

Ling, Jade (Duane) NYC, h.

Long, Bobby (State) Hartford, Conn., t.

Lucky Girls (Henry Grady) Atlanta, h.

Lynn & Larry (Majestic) Paterson, N. J., t.

Lynn, Herby (Cotton) Houston, nc.

Lynn, Rudy (Jimmy Kelly's) NYC, nc.

M

Mack & Desmond (Glenn Rendezvous) Newport, Ky., nc.

Magrill, Rosemary (Zimmerman's Hungaria) NYC, nc.

Mann, Georgie (Primrose) Newport, Ky., cc.

Mapes, Jerry (New Yorker) NYC, h.

Marcus, Doc (La Martinique) NYC, nc.

Mario & Floria (Iridium Room) NYC, h.

Marie, Rose (Chez Paree) Chi, nc.

Markoff, Gypsy (Casino Russe) NYC, nc.

Marlowe, Peggy (Hipp) Baltimore, t.

Marquita (Casablanca Gardens) Brooklyn, nc.

Mathews, Babe (Ruban Bleu) NYC, nc.

Maurice & Andrea (Jefferson) St. Louis, h.

Max & Gans (Adams) Newark, N. J., t.

Melotones, Four (Howard) Washington, t.

Merry Macs (Hipp) Baltimore, t.

(See ROUTES on page 23)

Burlesque Notes

By Uno

BONNIE BOYIA, talker-stripper on the Hirst Circuit, celebrated a birthday December 15 at the Hudson, Union City, N. J. Troupe features Nancy Blaire and Binder and Rosen. . . . ROXY, Knoxville, operated by Dixie Theaters, has Dan White and Mrs. Frank Nickens as resident managers while Nickens is in the service. Policy is a double feature, plus four daily 25-minute stage shows, currently featuring "Webfoot" Watts, comic-producer; Jimmy Doss, straight-emcee; Virginia Watts, chorus producer, and Frances (Doss) Maynard. Others are Wanda Austin, Queenie McArthur, Ida Simpson and Melody Watts. Gus Schultz is ork leader, and Everett Bishop is in his third year as drummer. . . . LILI DAWN, Renee Andre, Walter Brown and Eddie Innis were co-featured at the Howard, Boston, last week. Co-principals were Barbara Claire, Eddie Rector, Grace Gordon, Wilbur Rance, Conny Ryan, Bernie George, Veve Austin, Bert Gilbert and Woolford's Dachshunds. . . . SGT. NED WELSH'S yuletide greetings is ornamented with a Belgian coat-of-arms. . . . WARD GRAVES, former concessionaire in burly houses, now has the program sale with Blackstone the Magician. . . . TANGARA has closed six weeks on the Empire Circuit.

ROSITA ROYCE and her doves move from the Rio Casino, Boston, to McVan's, Buffalo, January 1. After a fortnight shifts to eight weeks of Miami niteries. . . . CHARLIE KEMPER, comic, dug out of burly by Charles H. Allen, has just finished the pix *Hold Autumn in Your Hand* for United Artists and is again Allen-booked for the principal comedy part in a new film for Republic, with two more pictures to follow early in 1945. Bobby Morris, another Allen burly find, is principal funster in *Lady of ?*, which opened recently at the Forrest, Philadelphia. Morris scored rave notices. Allen in the last few seasons has penetrated deep into burly for players for other fields. Burly is still a rich source for talent. . . . TECH. SGT. JOE (REGAN) CIRELLO, former Eltinge chief, is back at Fort Dix after two years overseas. . . . ARTHUR BRYSON booked Melissa Moore, singer, for four weeks starting December 15 at the B. & C. Club, Detroit.

MARION MILLER, Queen of Quiver, back from the Coast, held over at the Casino, Boston, as are Honey Alden, Sue Stone and Ginger Dine.

Stanton Ac't Exec, Winner New Brass At D-F-S Agency

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Dancer-Fitzgerald-Sampe has announced that Carl Stanton has been shifted from director of radio for the agency to the newly created post of radio account executive. Stanton, who will continue to make the New York office his headquarters, will serve in an executive advisory capacity and devote a portion of his time to the development of new programs.

Roy Winner, for many years radio supervisor for the agency, will step into the vacated spot and will be in charge of all radio programs for General Mills, Falstaff and Procter & Gamble in the United States and Canada. Winner will operate out of the Chicago office.

Burly Gets Another Licking

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—Sentences ranging from \$75 fine to one year's probation were doled out to six women performers and operators of the Kearny burlesque show. Manager Andrew Saucier was fined \$75 for staging an "indecent performance" and using "indecent posters" to advertise the show. Jerry Whitney, stage manager, was fined a similar amount. Performers placed on probation were Mitzi Morgan, Pauline Starr, Heather English, Yvonne Marthay, Edith Patty and Helen Sweeney.

Sacco, Chi Booker, Moves

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Tommy Sacco, act booker, has moved his offices from the Butler Building to Suite 1402, 203 North Wabash.

IN SHORT

(Continued from page 18)

Room. . . . BARBARA PERRY out of the Havana-Madrid show for four weeks to work in a picture on the Coast, then comes back.

BILL ROBINSON leaving the Zanzibar show January 25 to appear next day at the Earle, Philadelphia, and starts a vaude tour. . . . DAVEY KARR staying at the Valley Stream Inn, Long Island. . . . SGT. EVERETT C. WERNER, one of eight survivors of a battle in New Guinea which involved 1,400 American soldiers, helping the Cafe Owners' Guild make its bond pitch in local niteries.

MAXIE ROSENBLOOM, a stooge and a gal will shortly be offered for theater dates. . . . MARTHA TILTON comes East for vauders after the first of the year. . . . TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES goes back into the Capitol in near future. . . . BETTY BRADLEY, ex-Chester ork canary, readying material.

NAY EBERLE starts Eastern theater dates January 15. . . . RUSSELL SWANN'S four-week contract at Cotillion Room extended two additional weeks. . . . ELWOOD SMITH opened at Cafe Society Uptown. . . . JOSE MELIS, current at La Conga, goes into Radio City Music Hall in February. . . . HERZOGS move into the Latin Quarter February 4 on a five-week deal.

Philadelphia:

JUNE WALLS takes over the lead at the Embassy Club. . . . PETE RUBINO'S unit held on indefinitely at the Latin Casino. . . . JERRY LESTER signed for a stay at the Latin Casino. . . . GLORIA FRENCH goes to the Casablanca on the Jersey side. . . . NAN BLAKSTONE takes over at Herb Spatola's Casablanca. . . . JACK GRIFFIN takes over the emcee spot at the Beaux-Arts.

JANE PICKENS ushers in a name policy at Herb Spatola's Casablanca. . . . CALAMITIES OF 1945, a group of the town's emsees and comics—Syd Golden, Jerry Silvers, Eddie Black, Al Fisher and Johnny Frisco—have linked forces to form a new nutty floor unit which preems at Sciollo's. . . . COPSLEY AND AYRES make their local bow at the Coronet. . . . *Winter Holiday*, a new ice revue presented by Dorothy Franey, starts December 18 at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. . . . MICKEY ALPERT makes his first appearance in town in years in the new show at Jack Lynch's Walton Roof. . . . BOB KARLL added at the Latin Casino. . . . DIXON AND ELOISE new at Shangri-La. . . . PEARL WILLIAMS at the Little Rathskeller. . . . MARTY BOHN returns to Cadillac Tavern.

St. Louis:

BUD TAYLOR starts a 10-week engagement at the Flamingo Room of Fairmont Hotel. . . . MELBA KAY at Hotel Claridge. . . . JOE KEGAN, 400 Club manager, will entertain patrons New Year's Eve with a number of special acts, including Betty Herbert, formerly Even Steven Girls of Stevens Hotel, Chicago. . . . WALLY VERNON, well known in this section, his former home, inked in at the Club Terrace in East St. Louis, Ill., following which he goes to Talk o' th' Town in Peoria, Ill.

LELIA BAUMAN has increased her line of Baumettes from 6 to 10 at the 400 Club. . . . RUBINOFF and his violin, Melody Mutes and Bill McCune's orchestra currently at the Chase Club. . . . Club Casino is now presenting two floor-shows nightly, at present featuring BERNICE STEVENS.

TOMMY FLYNN at Terrace Room of Hotel Statler. . . . ANDY KIRK, with Moke and Poke, at Club Plantation. . . . MARY RAINES now in her fourth year at the Rathskeller of Hotel Lenox. . . . JOE MILSTEEN TRIO extend their long run at the Rendezvous of Hotel Jefferson. . . . CHARLIE WELLS, formerly publicity director at Club Plantation here, now serving in same capacity at Talk o' th' Town Club in Peoria, Ill. . . . BETTY ELLIS at Crystal Terrace of Park Plaza.

St. Petersburg:

PAUL NEILSON and His Dixieland Band into Larry Ford's Royal Palm Club for a one-month engagement. . . . Also appearing at the Ford nitery is OTIS MANNING, just back from an overseas tour with the USO.

Cleveland:

PETER LUKICH, prez of the local Phonograph Merchants' Association, is open-

ing a new grill here. . . . Clown EMMETT KELLY is the holiday headliner for the Alpine Village. . . . COLLETTE AND BARRY opened the Showboat with their Five Adorables on December 15 for a three-week engagement. . . . EMILE BOREO currently at the Chateau Club. . . . GUS VAN into the Vogue Room for the holiday. . . . WESSON BROTHERS penciled in for the Hotel Statler Terrace Room.

Miami:

MYRA LOTE now at the Drum. . . . LENORE WALTON headlines Ball show. . . . ALAN GALE now a Clover feature. . . . DRISCOL WOLFE replaced John Hale as singing emcee at the Drum. . . . HANK SIEMAN opened at Casa de Baile. . . . JUANITA RIOS at Kitty Davis' indefinitely.

EL CHICO has Tinie Kae, vocalist, who plays her own accompaniment on the piano. . . . FREDDIE BERNARD at Mayfair. . . . BUDDY THOMAS at Kitty Davis. . . . KELVIN AND LYNN singing at Club Ball. . . . Ha-Ha Club has JACKIE MAYE. . . . O'BRIEN AND KAYNE working at Mother Kelly's. . . . JACK OLSEN emcee at Jimmie's.

Here and There:

RENE DARST and Her Swingettes close an eight-month stand at Paradise Beach Hotel, Pensacola, January 1, and will open at the Club Royal, Savannah, Ga., January 23, after a three-week rest. . . . RAE SCOTT, seven-piece fem ork, signed at the Buena Vista Hotel, Biloxi, Miss., first girl to play the spot. . . . MAX COOPER TRIO will move to the new Governor Hotel, Jefferson City, Mo., after the first of the year.

TEX TERRY and Tadpole Doris Jean and Harmonica Pete, rolled into a ditch while en route from Chattanooga to Johnson City, Pa., missing the first two shows, but came out without injury.

FRED CALE QUINTET opened at the Avalon Club, Amarillo, Tex., December 14. . . . JIMMY ALLEN went into the Knobby Lobby Club, Racine, Wis., December 15, for an indefinite engagement. . . . HERB KALOWAYO and His Pearl Harbor Islanders have been held over at the Talk of the Town Club, Peoria, Ill. . . . FLOYD HUNT, now at the Melody Club, Peoria, and Al Silvers have collaborated on a new ditty called *I'm the Guy*. . . . FLORENCE and Her Musical Cocktails open at Shalimar Club, Fort Walton, Fla., January 13. . . . MARJORIE LOIS now at the Sportsmen's Club, Peoria. . . . VIVIAN GARRY TRIO were held over at Kelly's Stables.

Cleve. Owners Take To the Air in Try For Post-War Biz

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23.—Local niteries are making a dash to the radio stations in an effort to grab time for their talent. Last week Station WHK reported line installations in the local Normandie Room and the Wonder Bar.

Other niteries on ether include the Main Street, Cabin Club, Chin's, the Hotel Hollenden, Alpine Village and Hotel Cleveland.

Station salesmen are a little dizzy about the situation and can't understand the sudden interest.

Niteries claim that they already are building post-war trade thru the air waves and feel that radio is the best way to sell, provided entertainment is of decent caliber.

Also, local newspapers have been tight as far as space allotments to niteries go. Now that these spots are broadcasting, indications point to higher priced acts being booked in. Good example is the Barbary Coast Boys at the Theatrical Grill.

Nitery ops using radio report extra biz, but good, on broadcast nights.

Eager Eager for Old-Timers

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Harry Eager, former op of the 5100 Club here, is busy looking for talent for his new Gay '90s Room. Eager is now out searching for old-timers who still have a name attraction value. Old-timers will get top billing and will be backed by a line.

Magic

By Bill Sachs

JANE THURSTON is located in Miami, where her husband, Lieut. Guy Lynn, is an Air Transport Command flight engineer and pilot. . . . BERNARD THE MAGICIAN is stationed at Camp Lejuene, N. C., where, he says, the soldier boys are badly in need of entertainment. . . . HANK HERMOSS, combining magic and comedy, is current at Club Casanova, Detroit. . . . SGT. FRANKIE RUMBLE, who formerly tramped magically under the name of Frankie Gallagher, was a magic desk visitor last Wednesday (20) while on a 12-day delay-en route journey from Yuma, Ariz., to Shreveport, La., from whence he expects to get an overseas assignment soon. He put in a few days, too, in his hometown, Charleston, W. Va., where he was featured Tuesday night of last week (19) with his magic at the Georgian, new nitery, with his Mom and Dad looking on. . . . MILBOURNE CHRISTOPHER V-mails from Belgium: "Recently saw two USO shows with magic acts. In one, Fred Stritt used magic with his emseeing; in the other Dolly Reckless turned and twisted during her dance and produced cigs and silks—then did the razor blades for a finish. I'm still touring with *Broadway in Khaki*, with more than 300 performances in the European war theater to date." . . . PAUL ROSINI took his crackerjack magic and "tiny leetle waltz" into Glenn Rendezvous, Newport, Ky., Friday (22) for a two-week stand. . . . WARREN VAN GORDEN (Van the Magician) is playing theaters and niteries thru Western New York under the name of Delmar. His daughter, Charmaine, is playing niteries with silk magic. Another daughter, billed as Melodie Lane, is appearing with her dad as vocalist. . . . DR. FREDERICK KARR, after a swing along the Fox chain of theaters in California, has his spook opry in the Portland, Ore., area. He plans to head east shortly after the first of the year. . . . DR. HAROLD R. RICE, the "silk king" and national secretary of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Education by the advanced school of Teachers' College of Columbia University. Rice is now professor of fine arts at the University of Alabama. . . . LIEUT. LEE ALLEN ESTES, Safety First Magician of the Kentucky State Highway Patrol, played for the wounded soldiers at Fort Knox, Ky., and Nicholas General Hospital, Louisville, December 14. In the latter spot he did a 12-minute turn in 18 different wards. . . . MAHRA THE GREAT, who recently toured the Aleutians with his hypnotic act, is now presenting his mental act over the air on the West Coast, sponsored by Lux.

Hillbilly Artists Form Own Org

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—With more and more hillbilly units being used and much more attention being given them, a nationwide organization, with headquarters in Chicago, has been formed. It is to be known as the Federation of Hillbilly Artists. It is not a union, but advocates the "promotion of fair treatment of talent and tunes, and the protection of Western hillbilly talent and performers."

To date there are 402 members, including some of top names in that biz. Dick Scott, together with Don Combs, are temporarily in charge until the election of officers January 10. Scott will handle the tune exchange and Combs will work out details of organization.

Shepherd Disposes Of His Stevadora

DETROIT, Dec. 23.—The Club Stevadora, one of Detroit's major night clubs, changed hands last week, with Tufick Moroun, a newcomer to show business, taking over. He formerly operated a gasoline station.

Eddie Shepherd, actor-owner of the Stevadora for the last five years, will take a rest and has no immediate plans. He resigned two months ago as president of the Metropolitan Cabaret Owners' Association but remains as president of the Michigan Table Top Association, over-all organization of the drink dispensers.

Film Clubs for Children Win Success in England

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Roadshowmen who are interested in attracting wider audiences will be impressed by the success of junior film clubs in Great Britain.

Two film companies, Gaumont-British and Odeon, between them run 200 clubs covering a membership of 200,000 children. Aim of the clubs is entertainment, but entertainment which will cultivate children's taste for the best and encourage honesty for its own sake, cleanliness, kindness to animals and good citizenship. There is no political bias in films shown the children, and many of them are specially produced for and acted by youngsters.

Education and entertainment authorities are watching carefully the value and effect of the children's programs. Films are held to be an important medium in combating juvenile delinquency, which may be reduced if children, who like to imitate fictional characters, are shown interesting films where virtues win the day.

Pictures featuring incidents which occur to most children act as a mirror to the audience, according to one observer, and if right is made to triumph on the screen, children are encouraged to act rightly themselves in similar circumstances.

Applications for memberships in the clubs are distributed mostly thru the schools, and children between the ages of 7 and 14 are eligible. There is no cost to the children except a fee of approximately 10 cents for a seat at any performance. The clubs are entirely non-profit-making.

A typical club performance starts with 15 minutes of organ music and community singing, the numbers being

chosen by the children themselves, followed by the playing of *God Save the King*. This helps the youngster to get settled for the film show. Sometimes a comedian entertains.

An advisory council on children's entertainment has been formed, with representatives of many social and youth organizations included in the membership.

It is planned to issue a magazine for club members, to cover items of interest and constructive news on such matters as exploration, hobbies, discovery, invention, adventure and nature study. It will also feature information about children of other lands and foster international friendship between them and British children.

U. S. Wins Suit Against Group Of Film Houses

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—A blow was struck at theater chains last week when the government won in the Supreme Court an anti-trust case against a group of Southern motion picture exhibitors.

The high court upheld earlier convictions of the Crescent Amusement Company and affiliates on charges of violating the Sherman Act by conspiring to monopolize the exhibition of films in numerous small towns thruout Alabama, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The court found that the owners of the amusement firm, thru relatives, controlled theaters in Tennessee, Northern Alabama, and Central and Western Kentucky. Thru these relations they were able to compel major distributors to license films on a non-competitive basis.

Altho the corporations involved constructed the earlier ruling as "practical confiscation" of their property, the Supreme Court upheld a decree finding that the exhibitors broke the law by "creating and maintaining an unreasonable monopoly" of theater operation, "combining its closed towns, with its competitive situations in licensing films," and "coercing or attempting to coerce independent operators."

The high court upheld a decree by the Federal Court ordering dissolution of the combination by commanding the interests to divest themselves of any stock held by the other.

Plugs for Overseas Films

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Material on the motion picture industry's 16mm. gift films to servicemen has been incorporated into 44 different programs of the Keystone Broadcasting System, serving a nationwide chain of radio stations beyond metropolitan areas.

Typical plug, written into the scripts of sustaining shows for this network, reads: "Remember, the next time you view a good movie, the boys and girls in Uncle Sam's uniforms are seeing it, too. The motion picture industry may well be proud of the grand job they're doing as morale-boosters." During the past three months, 176 of these boosts for the industry have been broadcast.

STRAND, NEW YORK

(Continued from page 17)

he does gets yells from audience. Whether it's standing beside the stubby pianist on treble choruses of *Hamp's Boogie-Woogie* and messin' around with a few keys or grunting up front over a hot vibe, the guy's got what it takes and what customers want—showmanship—and, consequently, entertainment by the barrel-full.

He gets a great assist from his sidemen who play right along with him, clap hands in zippy fashion and generally have a good time on the stage, and the payees get that across-the-stage liveliness. It all adds up sock stuff from curtain up to curtain down. Possible flaw in make-up of show is the routine of numbers, with last two tunes featuring Hampton on vibes. Instrument hasn't enough color tone so that guy—even sensash instrumentalist like H.—can make it hold up for two consec

REPERTOIRE-TENT SHOWS

Communications to 25 Opera Place, Cincinnati 1, O.

Watts Unit Set For Kemp Swing

KNOXVILLE, Dec. 23.—Art (Webfoot) Watts, who has had his own stock show at the Roxy Theater here the last several years, has been signed for a swing over the Kempt Time with his *Melody Lane Revue*, opening at the Academy Theater, Lynchburg, Va., January 1.

Show will feature, besides Watts, Virginia Pollard, Jimmy Doss, Melody Watts, the Three Dudes, Frances Louise Maynard, and Curley, John and Jiggs. There will be a line of eight girls and a five-piece ork. The veteran agent, Ches Davis, is fronting.

Jochim Bros. in Okla. Halls

TULSA, Okla., Dec. 23.—Jochim Bros.' Show is making halls thru the Oklahoma sticks with the 3-and-1 show-casters, *Buffalo Betty*, by E. F. Hannan, and *We of the West*, by N. W. Kennedy. Business is reported good. Tom Jochim, now located in Natick, Mass., is expected to join the show soon. There are five Jochim brothers.

ROXY, NEW YORK

(Continued from page 17)

and shake their belled legs to the same tune. But this time everybody in the audience is aware of the No. 1 hit song. If they're not, it isn't the performers' fault.

Then out of the trolley come the Nicholas Brothers, and right away they seemed in trouble. Their sliding splits were okay, but their solid terps didn't register mainly because the Paul Ash musickers and the Nicks couldn't get together. Boys followed with a vocal, *Got a Gal in Kalamazoo*, then finished with some sharp acro splits over four of the gals, walking off to a tepid hand.

In No. 2 spot came Gil Maison, his monkey and dogs. Act got some scattered laughs and a little better reception, but it was by no means a good hand.

Another production followed in which Jimmy Sheridan is draped over a white Steinway, while Ernestine Mercer made with the keys. Tune this time was *I Dream of You*. Set for this was gorgeous. A French Empire motif in front of which house staff, dressed in either flowing Empire gowns or Brooks Bros.' uniforms, depending upon their sex, waltzed politely.

For the clincher came Jack Durant with his standard vocal, *Mystery of Life*, breaking it off midway with *Aw, the Hell With It*. He followed this with some fast chatter which dragged in about every Joe Miller the boys peddle in Lindy's. Some of them got chuckles, others laid eggs with resounding plops. He got his biggest applause when after one of his trick falls he announced, "With more encouragement I'll destroy himself." If his Sinatra, mother-in-law and chocolate routines kills nobody but himself, his knockabout stuff goes over okay.

Final production brings gals and guys back in G.I. and WAC outfits for some in and out marching bits ending with the national anthem.

Long lines outside when caught.

Bill Smith.

pieces. It would be better to end up as they do, hittin' *Flying Home*, a standard, but space other instrumental up toward opening of show. Outside of that, Hampton band and roly-poly pianist, who makes 'em howl as he rocks and plays, all add up to gelt.

Two Zephyrs, dancers who put on slow motion act, get plenty of results, altho act has been seen on the Stem time and again. Lads are clever with their motions and luckily don't overdo any one mannerism or step. Again, they're not on too long and step off, leaving mob wanting more. That's smart. They're robed in outlandish clothes which helps give routine a laughing start. They're plenty okay.

Hampton's vocalists are on for one number each. Rubel Blakely warbles *Don't Take Your Love From Me* in okay fash, while Dinah Washington has aptly chosen *There'll Be a Jubilee*. It's fine for her, and she walks off to big hand. Hampton adds to his other chores by doing a drum specialty that's plenty noisy and again showy. He's got the Midas touch.

Paul Secon.

Rep Ripples

LE ROY KENNETH, who put in 20 years with the old Klark-Urban Company in virtually every capacity, front and back, is now in the T. B. Sanitarium at Largo, Fla., and would welcome a line from old troupers friends. . . . MACK D. FERGUSON, well known in tab, rep and burly circles and on the Empire Burlesque Circuit since September 1, spent the circuit's pre-holiday layoff visiting his friends, Art and Virginia Watts, in Knoxville. Mack resumed with Empire Friday (23). . . . DOUG AND LOLA COUDEN, playing schools with their novelty act, have decided to put in some more time in Eastern Arizona before starting for Texas. They are spending the holidays in Tucson, while reading a new assortment of photos, cuts and advertising for a more ambitious promotion plan for schools which they recently mapped. . . . REPDOM LOST a pair of grand troupers with the recent passing of Frank Urban, of the old Klark-Urban Company, and Henry B. Marshall, former operator of the Marshall Players and stepfather of Mrs. Jack Brooks, of the Jack and Maude Brooks Show. Further details will be found in Final Curtain, this issue.

JESS BAXTER, former tent show operator, is now in the insurance business in Gainesville, Ga., where another extender, Sid Leonard, is operating a colored movie theater. . . . JOHN R. VAN ARNAM, ex-minstrel and tent show operator, is now manager of a chain movie theater in Jacksonville, Fla. . . . JESS OGLE, former tent showman, is operating a 16mm. movie circuit out of Lobelville, Tenn. . . . E. M. CLAY, of Clay's Tent Show, is operating a theater at Hampton, Ga. . . . DOSS AND MAE are playing to satisfactory returns in schools and halls around Laplata, Colo., with their vaude pic unit. . . . BIRD'S ASSEMBLY SHOW is booking school dates in Georgia and Florida to begin after the first of the year. They will present E. F. Hannan's *Sour Grapes*. . . . BELMONT PLAYERS, four people, are keeping busy on auspices dates in the Lawrence (Mass.) sector.

Rogers Yearns for Tent

Italy.

Editors *The Billboard*:

I was connected with various stock and rep shows before taking on with Uncle Sam and my father was an old-time repster. I haven't seen a dramatic flesh show since my arrival in this country and I yearn for a real flesh treat. A kind of traveling *Punch and Judy* is the nearest the natives in small places get to flesh. There is nothing that touches tent rep for intimate entertainment. One feels that he is part of the show even tho he is only looking on.

PVT. HARVEY ROGERS.

Small Tricks

By E. F. Hannan

MANY circumstances have arisen to force traveling tricks to tote less help and smaller casts. Circle shows are down to four people and in most cases doing as well as formerly with seven or eight.

Hall and school shows are operating with three people, and promoters who work pix and flesh combined say the 16mm. pix and one or two flesh performers make the ideal combination. These outfits work in churches for a part of their dates and, of course, the mixture of films and flesh fit nicely in that field.

In fact, one performer and a pic outfit will very often carry a full night's entertainment for church and school entertainment. Bookings arrangements are still the biggest hurdle. But there is a definite trend to cut corners, due largely to the scarcity of performers, and about the only way to accomplish such a move is to replace those hard-to-get actors with films.



**New and
Recent Releases**

(Running Times Are
Approximate)

HOW'S ABOUT IT?, released by Walter O. Gutlohn, Inc. Story deals with behind-the-scenes activities of the music publishing business and a poetess who thinks some of her works have been stolen by publishers. Principals are the Andrews Sisters, Grace McDonald, Robert Paige and Walter Catlett. Buddy Rich's band supplies musical specialties. Three reels of short subjects are furnished with the release.

CHIMP'S VACATION, released by Castle Films, Inc., takes Chimp, seen in previous Castle releases, to Florida. He has many amusing adventures and mishaps, climaxed by a bout with a pillow and a vacuum cleaner. Available in two 8mm. versions and three 16mm. versions, including a sound edition.

BACK STREET, released by Swank Motion Pictures, stars Margaret Sullivan and Charles Boyer in the screen version of Fannie Hurst's well-known novel. Miss Sullivan appears as the girl who is content to live in the back street of the life of a wealthy and successful man, sacrificing herself to further his career.

THE FINAL CURTAIN

ADAMS—Richard N. (Hi-Ki), 67, December 17 in Chicago after a long illness. He formerly was with various circuses and carnivals as a concessionaire but of late years had lived a retired life in Chicago. Survived by his widow, Ruth. Burial in Showmen's Rest, Chicago.

ALLEN—Billy, 73, one of the pioneers in the tab show field and who for many years had out his own musical tab shows, at his home in South Gate, Calif., December 2 following a year's illness. Survived by his widow, Josie Bright, and a sister, May Hewey, Jerome, Idaho. Ernest and Bonnie Neller, mentalists and scope workers, were helpful in arranging the funeral which was held at the J. F. Norcourt Mortuary, Long Beach, Calif.

BATES—Otho, 37, formerly with the Schaefer Shows, in a Dallas hospital December 18. Survived by his mother, Mrs. Mary Virginia Bates; two brothers, Chester J., Dallas, and Lester J., U. S. Army, and three sisters, Mrs. Birtis Tucker, Mrs. Kathryn Kelley, Dallas, and Mrs. Juanita Kirkland, Houston. Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Dallas, December 19.

BRAZZI—Stella (Mrs. Harriett Brasor Pratt), 76, internationally known opera singer at the turn of the century, in Brattleboro (Vt.) Memorial Hospital December 16. She had sung with the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York, the Covent Garden Opera in London and toured North and South America and Europe. Survived by a sister and a niece.

D'ARVILLE—Colette, 42, French soprano, at her home in New York December 16. She appeared throughout the United States in opera and recitals and was a featured singer with the Opera-Comique in Paris. In New York she sang in Town Hall, in the Federal Music Theater with the New York Civic Orchestra, and with Giovanni Martinelli at the College of New Rochelle, N. Y. She made her operatic debut in 1931 in Trenton, N. J., in the title role of *Carmen* and was last seen in 1943 in Newark, N. J., with the Newark Opera Association in a leading role in *The Juggler of Notre Dame*. Survived by her parents, Dax, France.

GARNER—Mrs. Lloyd, 77, mother of Bryan (Bronite) Garner, carnival concessionaire, at her home in Durham, N. C., November 27.

GARRISON—Snapper, 75, former circus clown and bicycle rider, in Mercy Hospital, Denver, December 12. He was once in vaude with his late wife, Nellie Elmer Terry, as Elmer and Terry. As a clown he toured with Buffalo Bill's show and Sells-Floto Circus, and for 15 years was employed by *The Denver Post*. He also had been a hotel operator.

GIBBS—Walter A., 63, former owner of the W. A. Gibbs Shows, in Cedar Vale (Kan.) Hospital December 9 after a stroke of apoplexy. He had been ill only a short period. Owner-manager of the shows bearing his name for many seasons, he had been active in show business 24 years.

Survived by his widow, Bertha, and sons, Clarence, Sedan, Kan., and Ralph, serving the armed forces. Remains were taken to Erie, Kan., for interment, with Masonic services there December 14.

KALINER—Hirsh, 91, father of the proprietors of the Club Ball and Little Rathskeller, Philadelphia, at his home there December 12. Survived by his widow Hannah; four sons, Samuel, Max, Joseph and Ben, and three daughters. Services in Philadelphia, with burial in Mount Lebanon Cemetery there December 14.

KENNEDY—Merna, 35, former actress who started her pic career with Charles Chaplin in *The Circus*, of a heart ailment in Hollywood December 20. Survived by her husband, Sgt. Forrest Brayton.

KOHLMANN—Clarence, composer, pianist and organist, at his home in Philadelphia December 13. Some of his works were the operettas, *Moon Maiden* and *Old-Fashioned Charms*.

MCBRIDE—Alfred, 58, former vaude singer, at his home in Philadelphia December 17. Survived by his widow, Mary; two brothers and a sister.

MCLAUGHLIN—Maj. Frederick, 67, sportsman and business executive and husband of Irene Castle, dancer and actress, in Lake Forest Hospital, Chicago, where he had been a patient since June. In addition to his widow, a son, William, and a daughter, Barbara, survive. Services at the family home in Lake Forest.

PATON—Stuart, 61, picture director of early days, at the Motion Picture Country Club, Los Angeles, December 16. Survived by a son, James Paton Cairneroes, music editor at Universal Studios, and a daughter, Lillian, actress.

MARSHALL—Henry B. (Hank), 73, former operator of the Marshall Players, following a long illness in Jacob Lamb Hospital, Clinton, Ia., December 14. He joined the Ringling wagon circus in 1871, when his father was transportation master of the show. At the time a brother was band leader and four other brothers were in the band of the show. He also toured abroad with Buffalo Bill's Wild West. For 17 years prior to 1931 he and his wife operated the Marshall Players thru Eastern Iowa and Northern Illinois. Survived by a step-daughter, Mrs. Jack Brooks, Sabula, Fla.; two sisters, Mrs. Neil Van Atta, Chicago, and Mrs. Frank Kusell, Oak Park, Ill.; and two brothers, William, Los Angeles, and George, Milwaukee. Interment in Sabula.

MOORE—Patrick (Park), 60, concessionaire, for the past two years with the Gold Medal Shows, in King's Daughters' Hospital, Greenville, Miss., recently. Survived by his widow, Marie; a daughter, Patricia, and a brother, Thomas, Hartford, Conn. Interment at Greenville.

NICHOLS—Robert, 51, poet and dramatist and collaborator with Maurice Browne in writing *Wings Over Europe*, at Cambridge, England, December 17. He went to Hollywood in 1924 but returned to England after working with Douglas Fairbanks Sr., on *The Black Pirate*.

URBAN—Frank, 76, partner of the late Harden Klark in the Klark-Urban rep and stock companies, at his home in Baldwin Park, Calif., recently. He was a character comedian, musician and scenic artist, and toured thru the East to St. John's, Newfoundland, and took the first American rep company to Bermuda, West Indies, Panama and Northern South America. Upon Klark's death Urban took out his own stock company. Survived by his widow, Dot Karoll, and a sister. He was a member of the Troupers, Equity and Elks. Interment in Hollywood Memorial Park.

WILSON—Mrs. Louisa, wife of Lindsay Wilson, circus clown, December 17 at her home in Chicago. She had been ill for a long time. Survived by her husband.

WEEKS—Henry B., 64, former vaude performer, in Cooper Hospital, Camden, N. J., December 12 of malnutrition thru using his ration stamps to feed his 20 cats.

Marriages

RAAB-VAUTROT—Lieut. Robert Raab to Yvonne Vautrot, actress, in Los Angeles December 10.

BENEDICT-MORGAN—Gardner Benedict, USCG, and well-known ork leader, to Frieda Morgan, nonpro, in St. Augustine, Fla., December 9.

DE TOTH-LAKE—Andre de Toth, motion picture director, to Veronica Lake, screen star, in Hollywood December 16.

GARDELLA-ROBERTS—Louis Gardella, nonpro, to Lynne Roberts, screen actress, in Hollywood December 16.

GEDDES-HILLIARD—Norman Bel Geddes, theatrical designer, to Ann Howe Hilliard in New York December 20.

RAFFIN-MARSHALL—Phillip Jordan Raffin to Gertrude (Trudy) Marshall, screen actress, in Hollywood December 16.

RICHMAN-DAY—Harry Richman, stage, screen and night club star, to Yvonne Day, dancer, in Miami December 13.

SEIDEL-EISENSTADT—Robert Seidel, of *The Billboard* New York office, to Irma Lee Eisenstadt, formerly with *The New York Times* advertising department, in New York December 2.

WHITE-FINDLAY—Andy White, USMC, formerly in the burlesque, vaude and magic fields, to Lois Findlay in Hawthorne, Nev., December 2.

Births

A son to Gypsy Rose Lee, former burlesque performer, and author of *The G-String Murder*, in Woman's Hospital, New York, December 11. She was recently divorced from Alexander Kirkland, actor.

A son, Thomas Fred, to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. (Googs) Johnson at General Hospital, Wichita Falls, Tex., November 30. Father is a concessionaire with the Harry Craig's Shows.

A daughter, Patricia Ann, to Lieut. and Mrs. Robert Sterling in Los Angeles December 10. Mother is Ann Sothorn, of the *Maisie* pix.

A son, Timothy Michael Sean, to Captain and Mrs. Morton J. O'Brien, in Hawthorne, Nev., December 6. Captain O'Brien is son of M. D. O'Brien, of Loew's Theaters Projection Department.

A daughter, Linda Marian, to Mr. and Mrs. George E. Jones in San Antonio December 9. Father is Elmar the Magician.

A daughter to Orson Welles and Rita Hayworth, stage, screen and radio stars, in Santa Monica, Calif., December 17.

Twins to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Nanni in Philadelphia December 14. Father is branch manager for Capitol Records, that city, and was formerly the Decca Records branch manager there.

A son, Anthony, to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Haftel at the Jewish Hospital, Philadelphia, December 11. Father is secretary of the Cafe Owners' Guild, that city.

ROUTES

(Continued from page 20)

Miles, Jackie (Rio Cabana) Chi, nc.
Mills Bros. (RKO-Boston) Boston, t.
Moore, Betty Jane (Royale) Detroit, nc.
Moore, Phil (Cafe Society Downtown) NYC, nc.
Moore, Berna (Stevens) Chi, h.
Morgan, Patti (Copacabana) NYC, nc.
Morris, Doug (Boston Garden) Boston.
Morrison, Russ (Bismarck) Chi, h.
Moss, Rudy (Weiner's) Brooklyn, nc.
Murphy Sisters, Three (Center) Norfolk, Va., t.
Murray, Jan (Earle) Phila, t.

N

Nadine (Zimmerman's) NYC, re.
Nelson, Art (Bismarck) Chi, h.
Nicholas Bros. (Zanzibar) NYC, nc.
Nilsen, Al (Bismarck) Chi, h.
Norton Sisters (Earle) Phila, t.
Novellos, The (Abe's & Pappy's) Dallas, nc.

O

O'Brien & Evans Duo (Five o'Clock) Manitowoc, Wis., nc.
O'Donnell, Terry (State) NYC, t.
Oehman, Rita (Beverly Hills) Newport, Ky., cc.

P

Patchen, Johnny (Poplanni's) Salt Lake City, until Dec. 31, nc.
Paulens, The (Bismarck) Chi, h.
Pedi, Ralph (Casablanca Gardens) Brooklyn, nc.
Perry, Barbara (Havana-Madrid) NYC, nc.
Peter's Sisters (Zanzibar) NYC, nc.
Petrie, Jane (Biltmore) NYC, h.
Pierson, Dave, Three Toppers, Ray Campbell (Deighan's) Camden, N. J., nc.
Pin-Up Girls, Four (Carman) Phila, t.
Plant, Mark (Leon & Eddie's) NYC, nc.
Princess & Willie Hawaiians (Wagon Wheel) Akron, O., 18-30, nc.
Pringic, Gene (Rice) Houston, h.

R

Rae, Nan, & Mrs. Waterfall (Center) Norfolk, Va., t.
Raft, Tommy (Mocambo) Chi, nc.
Read, Kemp (Red Coach Grill) Hingham, Mass., nc.
Rice, Andy, Jr. (Primrose) Newport, Ky., nc.
Rice, Sunny (Palace) Cleveland, t.
Richey, Jean (Earl, Carroll's) Hollywood, Calif., t, re.
Rimacs, The (RKO-Boston) Boston, t.
Rio & Rita (Via-Lago) Chi, nc.
Roark, Edith (Paris qui Chante) NYC, nc.
Roberta & Gloria (Jimmy Kelly's) NYC, nc.
Roberts, Whitey (RKO-Boston) Boston, t.
Rocco, Maurice (Zanzibar) NYC, nc.
Rochelle & Beebe (Stevens) Chi, h.
Rockwood, John (Jimmy Kelly's) NYC, nc.
Rogers, Danny (Mocambo) Chi, nc.
Rogers, Timmie (Chicago) Chi, t.
Rollins, Bobby (Majestic) Paterson, N. J., t.

Rosini, Paul (Glenn Rendezvous) Newport, Ky., nc.
Ross, Dolores (Greenwich Village Inn) NYC, nc.

Ross, Dorothy (Lexington) NYC, h.
Rowland, Bob & Howard (Carman) Phila, t.
Rubey, Doris (Leon & Eddie's) NYC, nc.

S

Salt & Pepper (Howard) Washington, t.
Sands, Billy (Village Vanguard) NYC, nc.
Sargent, Judy (Mocambo) Chi, nc.
Saunders, Betty (Village Vanguard) NYC, nc.
Schultz Sisters (Indiana) Indianapolis, t.
Sedley, Roy (Club 18) NYC, nc.
Sharon, Nita (Esquire) Norfolk, Va., nc.
Shaver, Buster (Latin Quarter) NYC, nc.
Shay, Dorothy (La Martinique) NYC, nc.
Shea & Raymond (Oriental) Chi, t.
Sidneys, Four (Oriental) Chi, t.
Siemou, Hank (Casa de Baile) Miami Beach, Fla., nc.
Simmons, Hilde (Mocambo) Chi, nc.
Skating Vanities (Pan-Pacific) Los Angeles 25-Jan. 3, a.
Skylar, Sunny (Versailles) NYC, nc.
Slater, Jane (Earle) Phila, t.
Small, Jackie (Paris qui Chante) NYC, nc.
Smiles & Smiles (Penn) Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 28-30, t; (Feeley) Hazleton, Jan. 1-3, t.
Smith, Betty Jane (Maisonette) NYC, h.
Smith, Whispering Jack (Ruban Bleu) NYC, nc.
Stewart, Martha (Copacabana) NYC, nc.
Stuart, Gene (Jack & Bob's) Trenton, N. J., nc.
Sumner, Helen (Ivanhoe) Chi, re.
Sunny, Leo (Shawnee) Springfield, O., h.
Swifts, Three (State) NYC, t.

T

Talia Bismarck) Chi, h.
Taylorettes, Five (Chicago) Chi, t.
Therrien, Henri (Earle) Washington, t.
Thomas, Jimmy (Pennsylvania) West Palm Beach, Fla., h.
Thompson, Johnny (Leon & Eddie's) NYC, nc.
Tops & Wilda (Primrose) Newport, Ky., nc.
Tranger, Don & Alpha (Olympia) Miami 21-27, t.

V

Vine, Billy (Latin Quarter) NYC, nc.

W

Walker, Janice (Paris qui Chante) NYC, nc.
Ward, Michael (Biltmore) NYC, h.
Warner & Cole (State) Baltimore, t.
Warren, Annette (Carter) Cleveland, nc.
West & Lexing (State) NYC, t.
Whitmer, Ken (Capitol) Washington, t.
Williams, Mary Lou (Cafe Society Downtown) NYC, nc.
Willys, Six (Oriental) Chi, t.
Wong, Nee (Temple) Jacksonville, Fla., 27-Jan. 2, t.
Woods & Bray (Madrid) Louisville 18-31, nc.
Woodie & Betty (Stevens) Chi, h.
Wyse, Ross, Jr. (Palace) Cleveland, t.

Z

Zephyrs, Two (Strand) NYC, t.

Ice Shows

Carnival on Ice (Netherland Plaza Hotel) Cincinnati.
Frane's, Dorothy, Ice Fantasia (Benjamin Franklin Hotel) Phila.
Frane's, Dorothy, Ice Time (Adolphus Hotel) Dallas.
Hats Off to Ice (Center Theater) NYC.
Ice-Capades of 1945 (Boston Garden) Boston, 24-Jan. 10.
Kelly, Betty & Eddie, Ice Show (New Kenmore Hotel) Albany, N. Y.
Ziegfeld, Dolores, Fantasy on Ice (The Boulevard) Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y.

Carnival Routes

(Routes are for current week when no dates are given. In some instances possibly mailing points are listed.)

Ark.-La. States: (Broad St. at Hazel) Texarkana, Ark.
B. & G. United: Yoakum, Tex.
Blue Bonnet: Richmond, Tex. 26-Jan. 1.
Expo. at Home: Charleston, S. C.
Lawrence Greater: (Funland Park) Tampa, Fla.
Lone Star: Golden Meadow, La.
Tassell, Barney: Ybor City, Fla.
Toyland: Alexandria, La.
Ward, John R.: Baton Rouge, La.

Circus Routes

Polack Bros.: (Walker Theater) Winnipeg, Man., Can., 25-Jan. 6.

Misc. Routes

Basile, Joe, Band (Circus) Mexico City, Mex., until Jan. 1.
Gouden, Doug. & Lola: School assemblies, Tucson, Ariz.
Darrell (Pantages) Birmingham, Ala., 26-Jan. 1; (Willis) Selma 2; (Royal) Columbus, Ga., 3-6.
Francis, Leo (Elks Club) Lafayette, Ind., 30.
Lippincott: Daytona Beach, Fla., 25-30.
Montague, Duke: Salt Lake City, Utah, 25-30.
Richton's Dogs: Dickson, Tenn.
Stanley, Guy (Schools) Palestine, Tex., 25-30.
Texas Cattle King, George M. Bragg's: Lynchburg, S. C., 25-30; Pampico Jan. 1-6.

Paul N. Denish

Paul N. Denish, 54, in charge of the fair department of the Boston office of George A. Hamid, Inc., died December 12 in Pratt Diagnostic Hospital, Boston, of pneumonia.

He was born in Providence, R. I., July 1, 1890, entered show business at the age of 13 and had a colorful career, which included songwriting for the Leo Feist publishing firm and many others. He was a World War I veteran, having had charge of a unit which entertained armed forces overseas. Upon returning to the States, he entered into a partnership with Louis Walters. Following this he was for many years associated with the Metropolitan Vaudeville Exchange, Boston. In December, 1934, he became associated with George A. Hamid, Inc., as general manager of the Boston office.

Survived by his widow, Anita M. (Altieri); daughter, Marie; brothers, Edward and Anthony, and sisters, Mrs. M. De Petro, Mrs. Mrs. George Mancini, Mrs. Fred Rendine, Mrs. Felix Marando and Mrs. John Troppoli. Services were held in St. Joseph's Church, Belmont, Mass., with interment in Belmont Cemetery.

PCSA ADVANCES BIZ ANGLES

Lift To Revive Coast's Fairs

Outdoor Showmen's Convention is lauded as well-directed effort for industry

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—Discussions of topics pertaining to future outdoor show business on the West Coast marked the first Outdoor Showmen's Convention here December 10-18 by the Pacific Coast Showmen's Association. *What Can We Do to Help Open Fairs?* highlighted the third day, and discussion of present and post-war problems the fourth. Memorial Day exercises, Past Presidents' Night, annual banquet and ball and President's Night were also part of the convention.

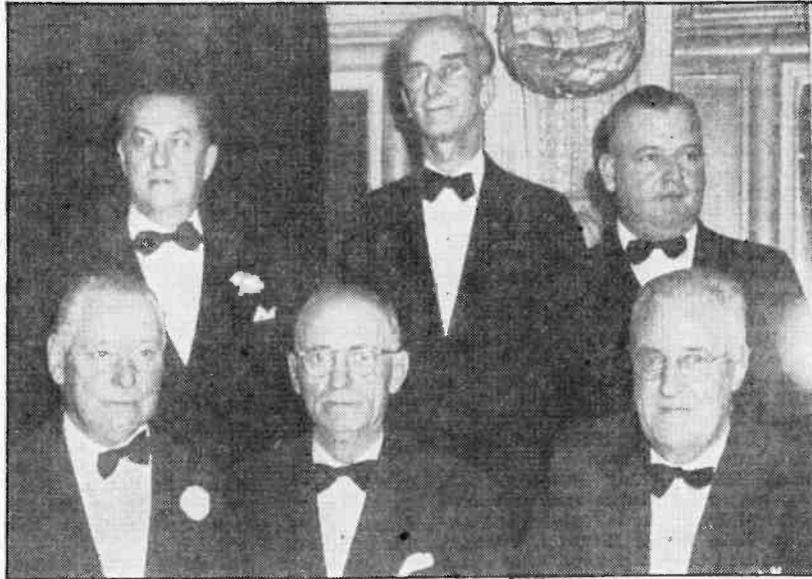
Ed Vollman, Western Fairs' Association president, at the Tuesday session declared himself in accord with such discussions as a means of reviving fairs again on the Coast. Principal speaker of the day, he believed success in re-opening fairs would come from organized, well directed efforts such as the convention offered.

Wednesday's session was headed by William A. Sherwin, PCSA counselor. Principal speaker, William Griffin, legal representative of Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, spoke on future regulations on operation of outdoor shows in the unincorporated territory of the county. Meeting did not get into full tilt, as it was adjourned with a view to securing the State fire marshal for an interview on some of the proposed legislation. (See *PCSA Boosts Industry* on opp. page)

Burke Has Top 28-Week Stand

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 23.—One of the most successful seasons for the Frank Burke Shows, closed here November 15, when last of the concession tops were taken down in Washington Park after a 28-week stand in the big public spot. Besides the Washington Park location, Burke also operated four rides and eight concessions on his lot near the International Bridge to Juarez, Mexico, at Seventh and Santa Fe in June and early July. When the military declared Juarez "off limits" the soldier trade fell off and most of the rides and concessions were moved to the park.

It was the second season the Burke Shows remained off the road, due to labor shortages and lack of dependable rolling (See *Top Stand for Burke* on page 35)



PHOTOGRAPH CAUGHT THE NEW 1945 OFFICERS of the Showmen's League of America during the banquet and ball in the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, December 6. Left to right, seated: E. Lawrence Phillips, second vice-president; Sam Solomon, president, and M. J. Doolan, first vice-president. Standing, David B. Endy, third vice-president; Joseph L. Streibich, secretary, and G. L. Wright, treasurer.

W. R. Geren Buys Sunflower Shows

PARIS, Ky., Dec. 23.—Manager W. R. Geren, Blue City Shows, announced here that he had purchased the Sunflower State Shows from C. A. Goree, Sharon, Kan.

He said he had acquired six rides, trucks and other equipment which he would bring to his quarters in Cortland, Ind., about February 15 for an Ohio opening in early April.

This will bring the total of rides for 1945 season to eight, with six shows and about 36 concessions. Owner Geren, who had planned new blue canvas, has been notified that such new canvas will not be obtainable. So he will not operate as the Blue City Shows, but will retain the title of the past six years, Geren's United Shows. Personnel will remain about the same. Capt. Billy Sells and his performing lions will again be the free act.

Al Wagner Named Colonel

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Al Wagner, owner of the Cavalcade of Amusements, has been notified that he has been made a colonel on the staff of Governor Dempsey, of New Mexico.

Peppers Rides Wreck Damage Busies Quarters

PENSACOLA, Fla., Dec. 23.—After a season reported profitable to all of the personnel, many of whom have signed for 1945, Peppers All State Shows, which closed in Atmore, Ala., November 4, went into spacious quarters here, said H. K. Sumner. Show lost two Monday nights due to highway accidents in which two rides were demolished and trucks practically wrecked. Rebuilding the Merry-Go-Round is the major job. Roll-o-Plane was repaired except for some minor changes in quarters. Priorities were secured for parts for these rides because of the wreck. Quarters are supervised by Manager C. E. Meeker and many showfolks are remaining here for the winter. Tex Allison, who operates the Animal Show, entered a hospital in Montgomery, Ala., for an operation.

E. H. Broome recovered his 1941 Buick in Birmingham, it having been stolen from quarters several weeks ago while he and Mrs. Broome were on a fishing trip with the Peppers. Bobby Sickels (See *Peppers Quarters Busy* on page 35)

Bonanza Area of Southwest, Middle West Will Hold Orgs And Draw New Ones in '45

Still Dates and Fairs Smash Records

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—Without exception all carnivals playing the Middle West and Southwest had a banner year in the territory generally conceded to be a bonanza area. While, of course, business for most shows was far ahead of that of any previous years, isolated reports of some shows having a poor season came from other parts of the country. The geography, climate during the season, carnival-mindedness of residents, free spending of middle classes, convenient moves for railroad shows, splendid webs of highways for truck shows and thickly populated cities, properly spaced, are naturals in this territory. What previously had seemed to be insurmount-

able record grosses were smashed to smithereens all down the line.

A still spring date like that at Grand and LaCiede, St. Louis, is a carnival man's dream, upwards of 25,000 passing thru the gates on single nights, all free spenders. Other large and medium-populated towns in this territory run the Mound City a close second.

In the territory are such big fairs, some suspended during the war, as those in St. Paul, Dallas, Des Moines; Springfield, both in Illinois and Missouri; Shreveport, Topeka, Hutchinson, Lincoln, Indianapolis, Detroit, Louisville, Oklahoma City, Muskogee, Tulsa, Memphis, Detroit, (See *Bonanza Area to Pull* on page 29)

Jones Expo To Add Attractions And Cars in '45

AUGUSTA, Ga., Dec. 23.—E. Lawrence Phillips, general manager of the Johnny J. Jones Exposition, said addition of five 72-foot steel flat cars would necessitate several new shows and rides in 1945. Crew left winter quarters here to join their families for the holidays, with instructions to return January 8 to continue rebuilding. Although nearly all of last year's staff will continue in 1945, several additions will be made for the enlarged show.

Past season was the most profitable year in the history of the organization. Manager Phillips said, and all fair-date grosses exceeded and in many cases doubled previous receipts. Manager Phillips and Morris Lipsky returned to quarters during the holidays and planned a full-scale work program thereafter. Returning from the Chicago convention, Mrs. Hody Jones has visited quarters several times en route to visit her sister, Mrs. Harold (Buddy) Paddock, who is convalescing in the Richmond Hotel here after a recent operation in the local hospital.

In quarters during the holidays are Hal F. Eifort, in the office; M. V. Costilo, trainmaster and ride superintendent; Mr. and Mrs. Danny Boyd, Raymond Johnson and George I. Brown; Ralph G. Lockett, secretary-treasurer, wintering at (See *JJJ Plans Additions* on opp. page)

Sparks Rebuilds For Early Bow

BIRMINGHAM, Dec. 23.—In quarters of the J. F. Sparks Shows here the semis that haul the Wheels are being rebuilt for better efficiency in loading, reported Secretary Robert L. Overstreet. The two Elis are in for complete reconditioning, as are the Octopus and Tilt-a-Whirl. Merry-Go-Round, wrecked late last season, will be ready for opening. Condition of the semi hauling the Merry-Go-Round was such as to necessitate a new trailer. Trucks will be overhauled, some locally, others by the shows' mechanic, James Bowman.

Bingo top has been erected on the stage of the Temple Theater, Birmingham, for Zamora Shrine initiations. Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Sparks went to the Chicago meetings by plane. Bill Dollar, general agent, is on a booking trip. Jim and Joe Sparks are repairing their equipment in quarters. Secretary Overstreet left for the North and will return after the first of the year. Lee Houston, Side Show owner who has his animals and equipment in quarters, plans school dates around Birmingham after the holidays. Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Kirkland, Anniston, Ala., and Tom Fuzzell were visitors.

Season will open here about middle of March for some three weeks. No increase in size is contemplated for the spring season, eight rides, six shows and about 30 concessions to make up the midway.

Fontana Manager for Heth

NORTH BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 23.—L. J. Heth, owner of the L. J. Heth Shows, who returned to quarters here from the Chicago meetings, announced that he had signed Joe J. Fontana as manager and general representative and F. R. Heth as concession manager. He said that he had purchased equipment of Al Latto along with a new ride and funhouse and that the show would be enlarged. He will also add an organized hillbilly show. Work in quarters will start about January 1. A number of fairs have been contracted. In quarters are Tom Billingsley, Charlie Russ, Monroe brothers, Virgil and Mrs. Hultzer, George Spalding, I. W. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd R. Heth and Fred Henon.



WALTER A. GIBBS, former owner of the W. A. Gibbs Shows, who died in Cedar Vale, Kan., December 9, had been in show business 24 years. His death followed a brief illness. Equipment of the Gibbs Shows is being wintered in Erie, Kan.

Parada's Quarters Are Enlarged After Later Okay by WPB

CANEY, Kan., Dec. 23.—Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Swisher, owners of the Parada Shows, are enlarging winter quarters here. An application to the WPB to enlarge present downtown quarters by erection of a building on adjoining property was at first denied. So the management purchased four other buildings downtown. Then the WPB reconsidered and now a building adjoining the original quarters is under construction. All buildings will be retained for separate departments—mechanical, woodworking, painting, building and general repair. Main storage building houses the equipment.

Owner reported one of his best seasons. Rides, shows and concessions will be added. Opening is set for late March, with quarters to open January 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Swisher returned from a trip with several trucks and a new house trailer. Forrest C. Swisher also purchased a new trailer. Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Swisher purchased several five-room modern dwellings here to house the post-war personnel. Hotel formerly operated for this purpose was sold last spring. Visitors have included Curley Wray, Jackie Dale and Bill Mitchell.



SAMMY CORENSON, who has been elected president of San Francisco Chapter, Show Folks of America, Inc., is former owner of the Pacific Coast Shows and is now in mercantile business in the Golden Gate City. The chapter has had great growth in the past year. New officers will be installed January 8.

and especially a proposed new ordinance regulating outdoor shows in unincorporated county territory. In the discussion it was brought out by Harry Mellon, attorney, that the State fire marshal was in the city. Meeting was adjourned to permit LeFors to arrange an interview with the marshal.

Interests Are Represented

Others attending this session included John Lorman, of the Elmer Velare interests; Roy E. Ludington, 1945 PCSA president and manager of the Crafts Shows; Cronin; Eddie Tait, formerly of the Tait-Churchill Shows, Manila; Paul Eagles; George Coe, Arthur Bros.' Circus; George Harvey; Bob Downie, Downie Tent & Awning Company; Al Beck, Tom Heeney; Harry Hendricks, State Highway Patrol; Earl Douglas, Douglas Shows; Krekos; Ted Levitt, California Shows, and J. E. Carpenter, State Chamber of Commerce.

Other events of the convention included Past Presidents' Night, headed by Charles Walpert, Monday (11); annual banquet and ball in the Gold Room of the Biltmore Hotel, Thursday (14), and Bromo Seltzer Day, Friday, followed by a complimentary President's Night.

Banquet Banter

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—The 23d annual banquet and ball of the Pacific Coast Showmen's Association December 14 is being talked as the most successful event of its kind ever staged by this organization. Success of the Outdoor Showmen's Convention indicates it will be an annual event. Ted LeFors needs a Gold Room mike made to order. Even on tiptoes he had trouble reaching it. Mel Smith, toastmaster, arrived just in time, as Walter Trask, of the Walter Trask Theatrical Agency, which booked the show, was all set to go on. Smith did a bang-up job.

Roy Ludington, PCSA's next president, wasn't himself when it came to speaking. He took the nod but begged off with, "We have a lengthy program. I'll try to live up to the record of the outgoing president. What else can I say? What can another workhorse do?" Jimmie Dunn, who was ill, missed first banquet in a number of years. Peggy Forstall, who won a prize for talking, was surprised when it was announced, thus empha-

sizing her modesty. Sam Dolman, who brought in more than 300 members in four years, won a gold life card. Harry Golub, San Diego, announced as the man who had sold more War Bonds in California, declared he had had the backing of his Mission Beach friends. E. W. (Slim) Wells, who left for New Orleans, said he was to bring out a new device along airplane trainer lines. Elmer Hanscom and his wife, Estelle, represented the Heart of America Showmen's Club, Kansas City, Mo., for Prexy Doc Zeiger.

Tries at the Trampoline

Kenneth Shaffer, Morgantown, W. Va., represented the army air corps at the banquet. Joe Krug and Sam Dolman, who took tries at the trampoline on a call for volunteers, got out without breaking up themselves or the trampoline. W. T. (Bill) Jessup was credited as the oldest general agent to attend. Babe Miller was much in evidence, but her husband, Al (Moxie) Miller, was missed. Hort Campbell, grand old man of show business, was in for the 23d doings from San Diego. Earl O. Douglas, Douglas Greater Shows, goes in for boutonniere, using poinsettias. Pat Shanley was out after an illness. Ted Levitt, California Shows, was heralded as the youngest agent. Ben Beno took bows for his visits to 14 war zones and participation in three naval battles as member of the Army Transport Service. He has returned as PCSA custodian. Marylin Rich, Cole Bros.' Circus, on hand for the banquet. Harlan DeWitt, Los Angeles fire department, who attended, has been assigned to nearly every show playing the area in the past two years. The show isn't ready to start until Harry Hendricks, California Highway Patrol, arrives.

Messages of Show Folks, Inc.

Members of Show Folks of America, Inc., sent congratulatory messages. Mary Ragan, No. 1 woman of pitchdom, was its representative. Steve Murphy, back from India and making his home in San Francisco, had a great time. Earl Cooper, who drove Stutz No. 8 on the Indianapolis speedway, and his wife, Jane, were guests of Martha and Baron Long. Some group at tables 7 and 8—Joe and Ethel Krug, Lucille and Sam Dolman, Lucille King, Sis Dyer, Maxine and Mush Ellison, Betty Kilpatrick, Abe Fabricant, Ed and Bertha Harris, Ruth and Lou Korte, Jobie, Edna Kanthe, William and Ruth McMahon, Walter DePellaton and the Bennetts. Harry Lewis made the rounds telling his latest jokes. Some were good. Florence and Lloyd Lusby stayed for the entire event, including added dance periods. Eddie Wakelin arrived late but missed no fun. At the table with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Meyer were Eleanor Frock and eight others. Marlo LeFors applauded loudest when hubby Ted made a brief talk.

Among those attending who also had been at the banquet this year of the National Showmen's Association and Showmen's League of America were Ben Weiss, Paul H. and Mrs. Huedepohl and Gladys and Red Patrick.

SAM ABBOTT.

SLA New Year's Eve Party

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Showmen's League of America is planning a New Year's Eve party for its members. Because of shortage of help the party cannot be held in the Hotel Sherman, and at a meeting of the board of governors, December 18, the committee was authorized to hold the party at the Skyline Club. Tickets will be priced at \$5 plus tax.

With the Ladies Aftermath of the Chi Conventions

By Virginia Kline

SALEM, Ore.—If I could get close enough to any of the showfolk to go back and cut up the recent Chi conventions it would run something like this: Remember that Knight Templar feather hat of Viola Fairly's with the unprintable name? Wasn't it swell that Peggy Reynolds got that new mink coat? Her husband sure is good to her.

Hattie Wagner got a new Persian lamb coat during the week that was a real beauty and those trick jet combs she wore in her high pompadour were something. But I wonder if she really cares as much for any of them as she does for that spotted dog. Ethel Weer already had a gorgeous mink coat, but she got a luscious silver fox wrap, too. Don't some gals have all the luck?

A Green Feather Hat

We almost had to issue public bulletins on the state of Ruth Martone's health the first few days. But at last it was all over and she was all smiles as the doctors told her she was 100 per cent all right. Bill Wendler remarked that if his Sadie went out and bought that blank green feather hat after only two drinks, what would she have bought if she had had a few more? We did have fun at that club the night Gyp McDaniels took my cocktail napkin and had all of the party sign, even the singing bartenders. It was strange that Mrs. Jack Downs always got that good table right in the front at the Celtic bar; her husband looks after her comfort, all right.

Mrs. Carl Lauther bragged that she had a nylon brassiere, but then that was nothing! Gussie Lieberwitz really had a pair of real nylon stockings left and that is almost as hard to believe as that she is a grandmother. Gussie, I mean—not Frances Lauther. Dear Sophia Carlos brought me a precious bottle of Christmas Night perfume from Detroit. She never forgets our old times on the Kline Shows. Meta Eyerly shopped so much and so often that her husband thought she ought to own a share in Marshall Field's. Mrs. Al Baysinger got suggestions from all of us for Christmas presents for her family then all she had to do was try and find them, which was some chore. Midge Cohen brought napkins from the New York Auxiliary for the Los Angeles, Kansas City and Texas club members to autograph and Gladys Patrick had the one for Los Angeles filled before you could ask what time it was.

A Few Long Stayers

Mrs. Lloyd Vogel, of Spokane, planned to get a good night's sleep when she got back home. Bud Cross was in town buying gifts for his family, with Mrs. Eyerly as helper in choosing. Mrs. A. W. Abbott was another helpful gal in getting dancing partners for me at the parkmen's frolic. Billie Wasserman was one of the fortunate gals in the Auxiliary rooms when that marine put on a show. I always miss fun like that, it seems. After the convention was all over there were a few long stayers. Gyp McDaniels, Josephine Hayward, Mrs. Buddy Paddock and Frances Scott helped me while away a few hours till train time. Of course, Gyp had changed from Daiquiri's to Alexanders and Frances thought we were a little light-headed and tried to hold us down. But it was hard not to feel high when it was all over and we could talk it over and really give our friends a going over. It's a wonderful week—that convention—and long may it continue! I, for one, hope never to miss it, and I know there are many more just like me.

JJJ PLANS ADDITIONS

(Continued from opposite page)

home in Ettrick, Va., with his mother, plans to remain there until a few weeks before the opening.

The show train will go into local railroad shops to be repaired, sand-blasted and repainted, and coaches will be re-decorated. Altho added equipment made it necessary for the management to purchase some trucks last season for its transportation, they will be disposed of and the show will return entirely to rails.

Cumbledge Relatives Sought

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—Con Gale Cumbledge, who formerly trouped with Harry D. Webb, Dee Lang's Famous Shows and Dodson's World's Fair Shows, was killed in an automobile accident in Alexandria, La., December 17. Showmen in that city desire to contact some of his relatives and anyone knowing them is requested to contact Tommy Martin, 715 Third Street, Alexandria, La. Cumbledge was an old-timer in carnival biz.

PCSA BOOSTS INDUSTRY

(Continued from opposite page)

isolation. Those attending were presented with facts on proposed regulations and asked for criticisms and suggestions. Initial session was opened by J. Ed Brown, who outlined its purposes. William Hobday, co-chairman, introduced the speaker.

Reconstruction Needed

Vollman, in reviewing the period after Pearl Harbor and telling of problems confronting West Coast fairs, said it would be necessary to reconstruct several of the plants because of changes made to house army and other groups. He expressed confidence in public support and the consequent benefit to wartime morale were the fairs to reopen soon.

C. B. (Jack) Afflerbaugh, secretary-manager of Los Angeles County Fair, agreed, saying 75 per cent of the fairs were desirous of opening in 1945. As to specific numbers, he said they would range from five to 68. S. L. Cronin, circus owner, suggested a well directed campaign be launched with Coast congressmen, with telegraphic contacts giving salient information as to how fairs could build morale and assist in the war effort. It was pointed out that similar goodwill promotion may be discussed at the meeting of the Western Fairs Association in Sacramento, February 20-22. Afflerbaugh said secretaries from Oregon and Washington were expected to join those in California to promote fairs in this section. Tom Heeney said he had contacted fair secretaries in Washington and found them desirous of resuming.

Little Talk About W. F.

Subject of a World's Fair in Los Angeles after the war was given little time. Theodore Rosequist, of the commission, attended but was unable to stay for discussions. Others endorsing purposes of the convention were Joe Glacy and Mike Krekos, past PCSA presidents, and the latter general manager of the West Coast Victory Shows; Tevis Payne, California State Fair, and Roy E. Ludington, O. N. Crafts Shows. Ted LeFors, PCSA president, said resolutions would be drawn covering action of the conference along with mapping of plans for procedure.

Session on December 13 was of interest to show owners, managers, agents and allied outdoor interests. Because of the scope of the meeting, attendance exceeded that of the previous day. Again Brown explained its purpose and turned the gavel over to Sherwin, who introduced Griffin, who reported impending action

Memo to Our Readers

There's No Advertising in This Issue

For the second year we are skipping *The Billboard* traditional Christmas and Holiday Greetings issue, skipping it so that we can bring you, in 1945, a few of the new features that will make your showbusiness trade paper more and more vital to your business and professional life.

To our advertisers, who made this issue possible by graciously foregoing their usual space, we owe a deep debt of gratitude. It is our intention in the year to come to repay those who have co-operated with us by increasing many fold the intensity of readership, which even now tops anything achieved by a trade paper.

Thanks for everything.

THE BILLBOARD.

'45 next.

JOE COREY, concessionaire, visited friends in Richmond, Va., en route to Florida.

MRS. PERCY JONES entered St. Luke Hospital, Kansas City, Mo., for a major operation.

MR. AND MRS. J. R. JONES, Penny Arcade operators, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Stephens in their new home in Crystal River, Fla.

IT was a great year, with many of the rides and the ride help filled to capacity.

JOSEPH SIMA reported good business for his Trained Wild Animal Show in Texas. Daredevil Decker is chief assistant trainer.

EDWARD (SLIM) JOHNSON, Midwest Mercantile Company, is reported still confined to Colonial Hospital, Rochester, Minn.

BILLIE BURKE carded that he was in his second season as emcee and lecturer with Harry Lewiston's World's Fair Freak Show.

THEME song of a fair manager looking for a midway: *I Took One Look at You*.

WILLIAM F. JOHNSON, last season with Turner Bros.' Shows, left St. Louis December 16 for Mexico City on two-month vacation.

L. G. KING, last season with the Joseph J. Kirkwood Shows, will go to New Bern, N. C., soon to join the W. C. Kaus Shows as special agent.

H. (DUTCH) MILLER, former carnival and circus train hand, is employed by the Drive-a-Way Company, Fort Wayne, Ind., where he will be for the duration.

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT L. HETH, visiting relatives in Boise, Idaho, plan to leave there January 2 for St. Louis and points south.

SELF-PRESERVATION is the first law of all shows when their competitors are beginning to grow up.

MILT WILLIAMS, San Francisco wholesale concession dealer and treasurer of San Francisco Chapter, Show Folks of America, is recovering from a serious illness at his home.

AMONG those attending the funeral of Walter A. Gibbs in Erie, Kan., December 14, were Earl Gable, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Capps and George Warren, all of Wichita, Kan.

H. E. WATSON, owner and operator of rides, who died from a heart attack at his home in Arnolds Park, Ia., November 17, had been superintendent of the midway at Clay County Fair, Spencer, Ia.

LINE of poetry which some managers never understood: "Monday dawned lush and pure."

FROM Nashville Mr. and Mrs. James H. Drew Jr., reported they visited Mr. and Mrs. Danny Jessop in Indianapolis, A. C. (Luckie) Hill in Louisville and Lowrie Montgomery, manager of Pee Wee King's night club, in Nashville.

FROM Brunswick, Ga., Paul Reynolds, mechanic and Ferris Wheel foreman on the L. J. Heth Shows for the past six years, penned that he was spending Christmas with his mother and sister and would return to quarters January 1.

WALKER AND COZY, who closed a 10-week engagement with Joe Sorensen's Novelty Show in Little Rock, opened with Coney Island Museum, St. Louis, December 24, presenting magic, mental and musical acts and illusions.

WE have never understood why the career of a showman wasn't irresistible to a managing editor.

CLINT SHUFORD, secretary-treasurer of Hennies Bros.' Shows, underwent a

Conference

WHEN a manager called a meeting of his employees to discuss things that would help to improve his midway, he started by saying that there wasn't anything to discuss—then spent the afternoon discussing it.

MIDWAY CONFAB

Communications to 25 Opera Place, Cincinnati 1, O.

major operation in Missouri Baptist Hospital, St. Louis, December 18, which was reported successful, and he will be in the hospital for about three more weeks.

MANY San Francisco members of the Pacific Coast Showmen's Association, attended the annual banquet and ball in Los Angeles December 14 and returned home loud in praise of the affair and of Convention Week.

BOOKED with the J. R. Edwards Shows, Wooster, O., for the coming season are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Saylor, Temperance, Mich., photo gallery, and Jack Newton, Chicago, sound truck, candy floss and popcorn.

REMEMBER when midways paid off in brass and workmen called themselves "Chinese labor?"

SINCE their barns in quarters, Moultrie, Ga., burned in December a new barn has been almost completed, and work on trailers and animal cages will begin about January 1, reported Manager Walter Lankford, of Lankford's Overland Shows. Show will open in May.

BERTHA (GYP) McDANIELS, operator of the Arcade and Rocky Road to Dublin on the Johnny J. Jones Exposition, who went from the Chicago meet-

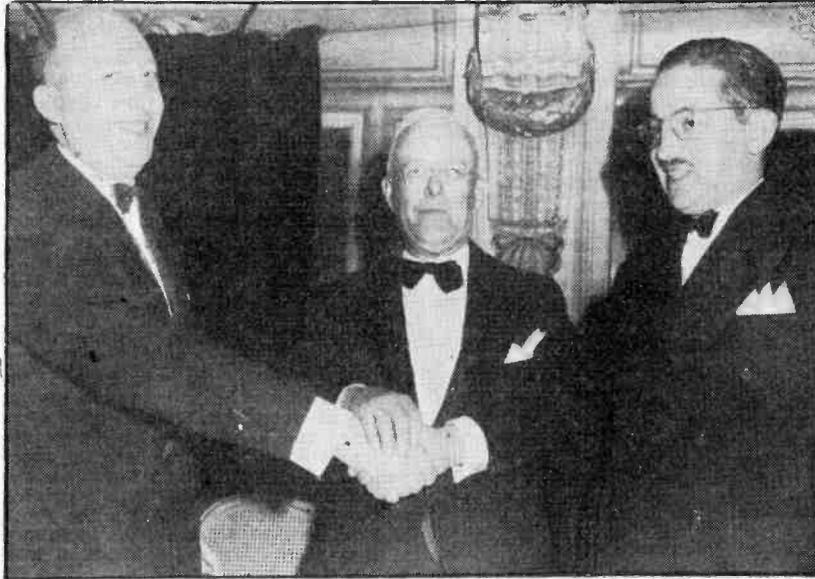
DUE to the shortage special agents are rolling 'em for general agents. General agents are rolling 'em for managers. Managers are rolling 'em for show owners and show owners are rolling 'em for fair managers, which puts tobacco chewing special agents in demand.

FRANK (HAPPY) WARE, past four years with Dick's Paramount Shows and Clyde Smith Shows, is returning to the tab field and will go out with a major carnival next season with a six-girl line and five-piece band. Rehearsals will start January 10.

KARL (HOOPER) SYNREX, former painter on the Mighty Sheesley Midway and last year with Johnny J. Jones Expo Shows, is preparing a new show, Living French Art. Reporting a successful season with the Jones show, he recently fin-

Sans Service

NOWADAYS it's easier to recover the shirt you lost in showbiz during the depression than it is to recover one given to a 24-hour man to have done in the next town.



SHAKING ON IT (whatever it is) are these stand-bys of the Showmen's League of America, snapped at the 32d annual banquet and ball in the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, December 6. Left to right: Morris A. Haft, counsel of the League; Charles G. Driver, chaplain, and Louis Herman, Canadian counsel.

Omen

SIGN that the help situation is improving: Workingmen have stopped yelling, "Hey, you!" at the boss and are now beginning to call him "Mister."—Colonel Patch.

ings to visit relatives in Kokomo and Anderson, Ind., is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Claude R. Ellis, Cincinnati.

R. L. (BOB) LOHMAR, general agent of the Cavalcade of Amusements, was among visitors to St. Louis offices of *The Billboard* December 20, when he passed thru en route to his home in Morton, Ill., where he will spend the holidays.

LOUIS BRIGHT returned to his home in Mount Pleasant, N. C., after having been in attendance during the last illness and death of Roy Gray, pioneer carnival operator, who died in Houston December 5. Associated with Gray 25 years, Bright was his secretary 20 years.

LEE BLAIR, San Francisco, who was a member of the exploitation division of Golden Gate International Exposition and more recently associated with Art Craner in show promotion work, is now director of publicity for the Associated Oil Company, San Francisco.

ished building a five-room home in Augusta, Ga.

SAM LEVINE was among other visitors to *The Billboard* St. Louis offices when he passed thru en route from the Iowa fairs meeting to Little Rock quarters of the Wonder Shows of America, with which he will be next season. Max Goodman, owner of the shows, is spending several weeks in Miami.

M. A. SRADER SHOWS, wintering as usual in Wichita, Kan., reported moving several rides from the barn to the Forum for a holiday party for the Boeing Aircraft factory, rides being in charge of Fred Hamilton. Gabe and Grace King, spending the holidays with friends in Oklahoma City, will return to quarters about the middle of January. Roy and Ada Frear operated their concessions during the Shrine Circus to swell business. Bill Maloney's novelties clicked. General Agent Larry Nolan, in from a swing over the route, turned in some contracts. Mr. and Mrs. Srader and daughter, Patsy, are spending the holidays in Denver as guests of Larry and Madlin Nolan. Pat Patterson, of concession row, has a cafe hitting in McPherson, Kan. Painting and rebuilding will get under way in January and the show will reopen in April, playing its established route.

NOTES from Dodson's World's Fair Shows' quarters, Jacksonville, Fla.: From Fort Meyers, Fla., President M. G. Dodson will soon return to supervise rebuilding. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Perry, in their new home acquired here after the

Carnival Show Played 75c Top, Recalls Darnaby

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—In this era of high-priced shows J. Allen Darnaby, former carnival man and in more recent years promoter of expositions, recalls a carnival show which, more than a decade ago, played at 75 cents top.

"A show such as this had never before been featured with a carnival, and never since that time has there been one, the only show on a carnival midway playing at 75 cents top," says Darnaby. "The cast was lifted from the LaSalle Theater in Chicago and was augmented by several opera principals. Included was the famous Apollo Quartet. It was under the stage direction of Charley Wolfe, former stage manager at the LaSalle. Two shows daily were given, each with a band concert by 40 musicians under the direction of Signor Lombardo. The theater was open air except that the stage was canopied by a canvas roof made to be drawn when weather conditions made a covering necessary.

"The company, under management of Raver and Darnaby, as was the carnival, played out the season and went into theaters, one night and week stands, at a dollar top, and played out the winter season with Harry Strauss, later owner of two of the burly circuit shows, in advance. The following summer it went back under my management as a feature of Parker's White City and played out the season with but few changes in cast.

"The following season the big top built the previous year, seating 3,000, housed the same organization and played independent of associated attractions, doing week stands with the one bill, under the management of Frank Sardam and myself. The show, even as a carnival, had a line of special paper by Riverside Print, paper equaled by few road shows. It played to people who were attracted because of their love of the finer and more artistic offerings the one-night stands seldom saw."

season's close, plan a bigger Cavalcade of Thrills with six drome riders, five lions and a new 110-foot front. Curtis L. Bockus, general agent, on vacation at his home in Lynn, Mass., after January 1 will return for a conference with President Dodson on the '45 route. Joe Carson, grounds custodian of Northeast Florida State Fair here, who underwent a major operation, is out of the hospital. He recently returned from a visit to his sister in Bennettsville, S. C., for the first time in over 25 years. Mr. and Mrs. Henry McCaulley, who plan a visit to Kansas, will return in about a month, so that he can supervise overhauling of the Diesel units. Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Hyland, of the Fly-o-Plane, are here, as is Doc Watson, who will handle the glass house. Art and Ann Detwiler are in quarters, while he is attached to the Naval Air Base in a supervisory capacity, but plans to return to the show.

In the Armed Forces

PFC. ANGUS NEWTON, formerly of Crystal Shows, is overseas with the marines.

STANLEY (BUTCH) PLAS, formerly with the World of Pleasure Shows, has been transferred to a station in the Dutch East Indies.

JAMES M. BAKER, formerly of Moore's Modern, Dick's Paramount and W. C. Kaus shows, is serving in the maritime service.

PVT. ALBERT GREENBERG, formerly with the World of Pleasure and Cote's Wolverine shows, who has been in the army seven months, has already seen service in Scotland, England, France and Belgium.

RUSSELL WAYNE MAY, who was with carnivals before his entry into the armed forces two years ago, wrote: "It's been a long time since I've had a copy of *The Billboard*; in fact, I got my last one in the Panama Canal. Took part in the Philippine invasion and the ship I'm on got credit for shooting down a Jap plane."

Showmen's League of America

Sherman Hotel, Chicago

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Past President Jack Nelson presided December 14, with Treasurer Mike Wright, Secretary Joe Streibich and Past Presidents Edward A. Hock and Sam J. Levy. Board of governors voted the usual Christmas cheer to the shut-ins. A New Year's party will be held, with Mike Wright and Jack Benjamin co-chairman. Mustering-Out Fund committee, started paying awards to members discharged from service, requested that discharge papers be sent in for approval at once. As soon as the committee acts they will be returned. Rule is that no member can donate his bonus award back to regular funds of the League.

Elected to membership were Bernard Allen, Frank Bergen, Art Signor, William C. Senior, E. L. Cobb, Henry Finneral, Dale Pasley, Arthur Concello, Forest Tavernier, Allen E. Hoos, Raymond H. Bueter, E. R. Robinson, Joseph R. McDavid, Kenneth Learman, George A. Hamilton, Charles Lewis, Sam Goldstein, Peter Tavulares, Jack Price, R. H. Tipton, George Hopson, Peter Christian, Charles Magid, J. S. Gottlieb, Charles T. Buell, Sam Lawrence, John R. Ward, Louis M. Riley, Roscoe T. Wade, Samuel J. Solomon, A. C. Stone, Cliff Thomas, M. T. Gordon, Alex Sliskey, Jesse R. Edwards, J. C. Wrigley, Harry F. Harding, Jack B. Newton, Ray Gierach, Milton L. Briskman, Roy G. Valentine, J. M. Savery, W. A. Shafer, Irving Borker, Charles Golding, Joseph Harris, C. R. Schmidt, Frank H. Cavarilla, Emmett W. Slms, William Shelford Sr.

Michigan Showmen's Assn.

156 Temple Avenue, Detroit

DETROIT, Dec. 23.—There was attendance of 91 at the meeting December 11, presided over by President Stahl, supported by First Vice-President Jack Gallagher, Treasurer Louis Rosenthal, Executive Secretary Bernhard Robbins and Secretary Arthur J. Frayne. Edward Moss, chairman of the Children's Christmas Party, arranged thru the American Red Cross Settlement House to entertain 75 underprivileged children on the afternoon of December 24 in the clubrooms. Donations for this from members present totaled over \$400.

On recommendation of directors, the body voted unanimously to convert assets of the building fund into War Bonds. This action, coupled with previous holdings, converts 60 per cent of all club funds into War Bonds. Service committee read letters from Pvt. M. C. (Timmie) Claman, stationed in Belgium; Pvt. Irving (Stash) Rubin, Camp Robinson, Ark.; Pfc. Hyman Elisman, with the Medical Corps in England, and Corp. Charles A. Kalton, in England. Donations to the service fund came from Jake Harris, \$5; Forrest Poole, \$5; J. W. Conklin, \$10; Edward Carton, \$25, and Jack Gilbert, \$35. Two \$100 contributions, designated for the Mustering-Out Fund, came from John Quinn, owner, and Warren Murphy, concessionaire, of the World of Pleasure Shows.

Past President Harry Ross visited, as did William Postlewaite, who purchased several trucks for his express business. Nat Golden, who arrived from New Jersey, reported he was now a grandfather. Addo Riker visited from Nunica, Mich., where he operates a tavern.

Caravans at Holiday Party

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—When Caravans, Inc., held its first Christmas party December 19 in the club, Ashland Building, the room was gaily decorated with holiday trimmings. Decorations were by Esther Weiner and Patty Ann Hall, reported Alice Cady, press. Before the festivities Mrs. Bessie Mossman entertained members and guests at a palmistry booth. Members played some bunco, with gifts for everyone. A lovely handmade rug donated by Frieda Rosen went to Mabel Davis. Other awards went to Pearl McGlynn, Emily Bailey, Mrs. Ross and Joyce Williams Gray. President Jeanette Wall called on Georgia Lewis, Shirley Mendelson, Mrs. Ralph Glick, Grace Lynn, Esther Ross, Clara Ross and Edna Schmitt, who were attending for

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Heart of America Showmen's Club

Coates House, Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 23.—Past Presidents' Night drew capacity attendance December 15. President C. F. Zeiger called the meeting to order and was followed by Past Presidents George Howk, Jack Ruback and L. C. (Curly) Reynolds in the chair. Secretary G. C. McGinnis reported on the club's financial standing. Charles Robert Reger was reinstated. Dave and Irene Lachman sent a check for a \$25 War Bond to be added to the cemetery fund. Donation of \$75 was made to the Red Cross Fund. President Zeiger's War Bond drive for the cemetery fund netted \$200 from L. C. Reynolds, \$50 from Jack Ruback, \$25 from Toney Martone and \$5 each from W. P. Turner, George DuVall and G. H. Roberts. Announcement was made of the transfer of the Tacky Party and ball from the Coates House to the Roof Garden of the Aladdin Hotel, three blocks from the Coates House and well equipped to handle the affair.

President Zeiger, who had returned from the SLA banquet and ball in Chicago, presided December 8, with Secretary G. C. McGinnis present and Treasurer Harry Altschuler absent. J. O. Greene was elected to membership. The president's War Bond sale for benefit of the cemetery fund netted one \$25 bond purchased by Ellis White.

Ladies' Auxiliary

Nellie Weber, second vice-president, presided, with 26 members present at the December 1 business meeting. Trixine Clark was appointed warden. Jerry Ann Jewell, Geraldine Ray and Lillian Hook were voted into membership. Clara Zeiger donated the door prize, which went to Ann Calander. Thelma Cantrell received a telegram during the meeting from the Red Cross, stating that her sister, Jane, known by many members, was being held in a German prison camp.

The acting president named as a committee to nominate officers for 1945 Mal Hart, Ann Calander, Jess Loomis, Dorothy Hugo, with Edith Moon as chairman, and this ticket was posted: President, Peggy Reynolds; first vice-president, Jess Nathan; second vice-president, Billie Grimes; third vice-president, Trixie Clark; treasurer, Hattie Howk; recording secretary, Lorreta Ryan; corresponding secretary, Ruth Martone.

At a social meeting December 8 bingo was played and the evening's award, donated by Rosa Lee Elliott, went to Jess Loomis. Door prize, donated by Mrs. Strong, was taken by Harriet Calhoun. Birthday song was sung for Leola Campbell and Dorothy Morphew. Refreshments were served. Bazaar was held in the hotel lobby December 13 and 14.

the first time. Lunch was served in buffet style. Members extended to Mrs. Ray Oakes wishes for speedy recovery of her husband, who is in Alexian Brothers' Hospital.

Membership Drive To Cut Cost of Minn. Aquatennial

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 23.—Minneapolis Aquatennial Association has opened its 1945 campaign with a goal of 200 firm members and 1,000 individuals. At the annual meeting Arthur Randall, membership committee chairman, outlined the drive which calls for firm memberships of \$100 each and individual enrollments of \$10 each to underwrite a 1945 \$30,000 operating fund.

D. W. Onan, association treasurer, said the Aquatennial expands and increases the greatest single cash income in Minnesota—the vacation industry. Average annual cost of the festival has been \$96,000, about 20 cents per person in Minneapolis on a per capita basis. Included in expense is a \$30,000 investment in Theodore Wirth pool, scene of the annual *Aqua Follies*. Onan said future cost per capita would be reduced to about 10 cents.

Lone Star Show Women's Club

1928½ Elm, Dallas, Tex.

DALLAS, Dec. 23.—The club, now five years old, has installed new officers at a turkey dinner arranged by Ed Hogan, manager of Elks' Club. Mrs. Inez Griffith was toastmistress for the fifth year. Frank Holiday, past president of Texas State Elks' Association and past exalted ruler of Dallas Lodge of Elks, gave a talk on unity and what showfolks are doing for America. Club's Christmas party was set for December 18 in the clubrooms. These officers have been elected for remainder of 1944 and for 1945: Mrs. Helen Reese, president; Mrs. Sally Murphy, first vice-president; Mrs. Louis Hickman, second vice-president; Mrs. Viola Fairly, third vice-president; Mrs. Ed Hogan, secretary-treasurer, and Mary Honey Vaughan, chaplain and chairman of the Sunshine Committee. Members made cakes, cookies and candies for Ashburn Veterans' Hospital, McKinney, Tex.

DALLAS, Dec. 23.—President Alyne Morency presided December 4 and Flo Durrett acted as secretary-treasurer. Spacious new clubrooms are now completely furnished. At the monthly dinner November 28, 116 were present. All members have brought Christmas boxes for veterans in Ashburn General Hospital. Mrs. Eddie Vaughan returned after six weeks in California.

National Showmen's Assn.

Palace Theater Building
New York

Ladies' Auxiliary

Monthly card party for benefit of the Bess Hamid Sunshine Fund, hostesses being First Vice-President Dolly McCormick and Second Vice-President Ethel Shapiro, December 6, was a financial and social success. During a Chinese supper a pair of nylons went to Flora Elk and door prizes of Chinese evergreens to Edna Thompson and Edna O'Rourke, donated by Mollie Spitz. Member Dode Allen, Chicago, was at the Hotel Commodore here. Vi Lawrence, on the road, donated toward the kiddies' fund, and Emma Steinberg, on the road, to the Sunshine Fund. Afternoon of December 23 was the time of the kiddies' Christmas party; evening, open house; December 27, social evening and box lunch party.

MR. AND MRS. PERCY MARTIN informed that they finally decided to give up the road, having sold their home in Crystal River, Fla., to Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Stephens and bought a one-story two-store brick building in Ocala, Fla., where they will move their mercantile business. Stephens had the Arcade on the Strates Shows the past season.

Regular Associated Troupers

730 South Grand Avenue,
Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—Board of governors on the afternoon of December 12 completed business of the year and presented some innovations for 1945. By unanimous vote, initiation and dues were raised from \$7 to \$15. This action was deemed essential to curtail increasing membership; otherwise larger quarters would be necessary by the end of 1945. Building fund was dissolved and money collected ordered refunded to donors, as the organization did not deem it advisable at this time to place obligations on the club for such an undertaking. A definite amount was set for each member in service, as a Mustering-Out Fund, to be given after the war.

Gold cards were ordered presented to all past presidents, including Lucille King, founder and first president; Estelle Hanscom, second president, and Babe Miller, third president. Floral offerings were ordered sent to all showmen's organizations at their annual banquets and balls during 1945. New Year's Eve was again selected as installation night, with Herb and Violet Sucher, chairmen of the event. Florentine Gardens, Hollywood, will be the setting for the annual banquet and ball January 9, new and old officers to be guests of honor.

Next board meeting was set for January 2 and meeting night was changed from Tuesday to Thursday, with the first 1945 meeting set for January 11, when new officers will take over. January 2 was set as deadline for returns on the napkin and tablecloth campaign originated by Gladys Patricks and which has been a most successful fund-raising program. Elected to membership were Paul and Iola Huedepohl, Mary Ragan, William Jessup, Frank Chiacarelli, Johnny and Eva Miller, Jack Ward, Walter Towers, Milt Williams, Erskine Hester, Marie Ricks and Gladys Forrest. There were 87 members at the regular meeting.

Rocky Mountain Showmen's Club

Milner Hotel, Denver

DENVER, Dec. 23.—Banquet committee reported brisk sale of tickets for the event January 11 in the Albany Hotel. Program is selling fast and profit from the affair will put the year-old club out in front. December 8 meeting had a good turnout. Door prize went to Larry Nolan, who turned it over to the flower and refreshment committees. Charles Brock and Ted Lucky expect to be in from Arizona for the doings. Among members signed on concession row at the stock show are Spot Goodman and Bess, jewelry; Frank Swartz, six booths; Cowboy King, cigarette gallery; Jack and Bob Vreeland, two stands; Ted Kimpell, scales and age; Larry Nolan, photos; Tom Beary, popcorn.



SAM SOLOMON, new president of the Showmen's League of America, acknowledges introduction at the 32d annual banquet and ball in the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, December 6. Seated at the speakers' table is the retiring president, Floyd E. Gooding.

BIG TOPS' SEASON IS SOLID

All Orgs Hit Paying Streak

Rail shows increased to four—Russell on 15 cars —Beatty to have own show

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—Score another red one for the big tops the past season. From reports reaching *The Billboard* all season, nearly all circuses, both rail and motorized, had bang-up tours. They played from packed houses to turnaways on many occasions. Money was plentiful and as a result circuses were patronized in heavy numbers. However, there was a catastrophe during the season, which, of course, put a damper on things for a while. That was the fire on the Ringling circus in Hartford, Conn., afternoon of July 6, in which many lives were lost and a number of persons injured. No lives were lost on the show.

The R-B season was temporarily halted, the show going to Sarasota quarters to rehabilitate, and then re-opened August 4 in the Rubber Bowl in Akron, giving tentless performances in stadiums, fairgrounds, and ball parks for remainder of the season. Tour was cut short, show closing in New Orleans October 8. Despite everything, the Big One had a successful tour. It will again be on the road with all flame-proofed canvas and metal grandstand seats.

Railers to Enlarge

The other two rail organizations, Cole Bros. and Dailey Bros., had long and profitable tours. The former closed in Millington, Tenn., November 12, and the latter in Crowley, La., December 2. Dailey recently bought cars and wagons from Frank West's carnival, the org now having 30 cars. At this time it has not (See *Circus Season Solid* on opp. page)

St. Louis Stores Use Many Clowns

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—St. Louis is one of the most important towns in the United States for the employment of Christmas clowns. Three of the big department stores there used clowns and other entertainment throughout the pre-holidays. This year Scruggs, Vandervoort and Barney used Lou Morgan, clown and comedy bicycle, and also a puppet show. Danny McPride, Ringling clown who died last summer during the show's Chicago engagement, had played the Scruggs store for many years and the kids still were asking for Danny and his dog. Morgan, however, went over nicely.

At the Stix, Baer and Fuller store, Roy Barrett, producing clown, and LeRoy Bartholomew, magician known as the "Mad Hatter," entertained the kids, and at the Famous-Barr store, Otto Griebeling was the producing clown and working with him was Harry Danks, Ringling clown. Also among the entertainers were Paul Zallee, of Atterbury Bros., Circus, comedy juggling; Sunny Burdette, of Monroe Brothers, magic, and Ollie Sandell at the Hammond organ. Ushering at the Famous-Barr was Robert Pashoian, who drove the gilly truck on the Cole show this year, and "Hoffy" Hoffman, Cole Bros.' clown and downtown children's ticket seller, was working in the package room.

Burtis L. Wilson, circus historian, just back from a trip thru the Southwest, reports that he caught Mickey McDonald, clowning at the Brown-Dunkin Company store in Tulsa, Okla., for his 18th year. He also caught Paul Jung, producing clown, at Leonard Bros.' store in Fort Worth. This was Jung's first season at that store and Wilson reports he went over big with the kids. Store gave him a complete show window, advertising him and the Big Show.



MEMBERS OF THE CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY photographed by W. J. Pietschman, CHS, following dinner in the Hotel Hayes, Jackson, Mich., with Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Fisher, of Fisher & Son Circus. Top row, left to right: Don Smith, founder of the CHS; Robert Green, Fisher; Harry P. Bowman, former showman; bottom row: Del Brewer, Leo Lirette, Mrs. Fisher, Ed Meyers and John Young.

CHS Numbers 180; Six New Ones Join

FARMINGTON, Mich., Dec. 23.—The Circus Historical Society now has over 180 members in four countries, United States, Canada, England and Chile, South America. Recent new members are A. Stanley Bird, Middlesex, England, who is secretary of the British CFA; Paul Mason, Dansville, N. Y., Charles P. Fox, Oconomowoc, Wis., Mrs. Fred A. Hodgson, Collingwood, Ont., Harold K. Morris, Pendleton, Ore., and Fay F. Reed, Sioux Falls, S. D.

Edward M. Cripps, Brantford, Ont., has been elected driver of the "Great Britain" bandwagon division in Canada, and Herbert Fursler, of the same city, was elected secretary-treasurer of that group.

James V. Chloupek, Oakland, Calif., is West Coast director of CHS, and is attempting to organize a bandwagon division in that vicinity. All CHS members in near-by States are requested to get in touch with him.

There has been much discussion as to whether the Dolphin Bandwagon, formerly on the Sparks show, actually appeared in the movie, *Chad Hanna*. The writer, Don Smith, remembers this wagon as being in the "opposition" parade scenes, painted red, with light blue center panels and gold or silver figures. Other wagons in this movie are identified with the Gollmar and Christy shows.

WON, HORSE & UPP COMBINED CIRCUS

An Equine and Canine Paradox—The Show With a Leaf of Gold
By Starr De Belle

Hoof and Mouth, Tex.
December 23, 1944.

Dear Editor:

Regardless of this show's knockers, everything is okay with our new railroad show, even tho we haven't been able to get a coach for the actors and musicians to ride in. So far as the bosses are concerned, the set-up is perfect and there has been some talk around the lot that they aren't in the market for a sleeper. Regardless of what other people think about this circus, the co-owners, who drive their cars from town to town, are more than satisfied with it. In the words of J. Augustus Bailey: "They said this show would never go out."

What the actors and musicians were beefing about was that they had to ride on the seats of loaded wagons as they did when it was a wagon show. What we can't figure out is what difference that makes. Is it any harder to ride on a wagon that is loaded on a train than it is to ride one over a country road? The fact that they arrive in town earlier and

Clyde Closes First Half of Tour; Will Reopen Jan. 15

OKLAHOMA CITY, Dec. 23.—Clyde Bros.' Circus closed its first half of the indoor season in Enid, Okla., December 16, according to Howard Suesz, owner-manager. The show opened in McAlester November 20 and had a good season with exception of the Fort Smith (Ark.) date. The Oklahoma City date, under sponsorship of the Lions' Club, was the banner engagement.

Art and Marie Henry are spending their vacation in Gainesville, Tex., and Mr. and Mrs. Hap Eilston went to Houston. The George Hanneford family is spending the holidays at Junction City, Kan., with George Jr., who is stationed there. Charlie Shultz went to his home in Ponca City, Okla., while Gus Kanerva is spending most of his time here.

Sonny Moore and his group plan to spend most of the vacation in Enid while doing some work on the truck and other equipment. Rue Enos, who was injured at Norman, Okla., left with his family for Dallas. The LaZellas are also there.

Harrison Duo, bicycle act, went home to McPherson, Kan. Jimmy Armstrong, midget emcee, is spending his time here. Suesz is covering the territory to be played following the holidays. The show will open January 15.

Tom Gorman Signs With Cronin Show; Casey Has Interest

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Tom Gorman, at one time operator of Gorman Bros.' Circus and until recently district manager for RKO, will be with the Cronin circus when it reopens in Los Angeles next spring. Gorman and Pat Casey, who is understood to have a substantial financial interest in the show, passed thru Chicago Thursday on their way from New York to the West Coast. Gorman will look after Casey's interests.

The White Horse Troupe, with Sunny Bernet as emcee, has been signed for the show for 10 weeks.

Fisher Breaking Acts in Jackson

JACKSON, Mich., Dec. 23.—The F. C. Fisher & Son Shows are in quarters here on the fairgrounds, and preparations are being made for next season. Mrs. Fisher has broke in a four-pony drill and several dog and pony acts. A larger top will be used and new poles for it has been brought from the James E. Carter farm in Northern Michigan.

Management has acquired a power lift which has been installed on a tractor. It will be used in raising center poles and for loading canvas. Ray Cavanaugh has finished overhauling trucks and a light plant will be built. Side Show top will be a 56 with two 20-foot middles. New cookhouse and dressing room canvas has been received. Engagement at the Shrine Theater, Fort Wayne, Ind., was a success, reported H. Reed.

Polack Bros.' Bookings

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Polack Bros.' Circus, playing Winnipeg, Man., next two weeks, follows with dates at Flint, Mich.; Saginaw, Mich.; Hammond, Ind.; Louisville, Cincinnati and Chicago. This will bring the bookings up to March 11. Irv J. Polack states that business has been especially good with the exception of St. Joseph, Mo.

John Carano Is Re-Elected

DETROIT, Dec. 23.—John Carano was re-elected president of Local 94, Billposters' Union. Other officers are Ernest Rooss, vice-president; Matt Kobe, secretary-treasurer; Michael Noch, business agent, re-elected; Elmer Solomon, William Noch and Peter Miglio, trustees.

before unloading to let the wagons pass.

You wouldn't believe it, but the white-collar fraternity are still dissatisfied with the set-up and are still yelping for a sleeping car. They beef when our chute peler, who doubles as train porter, yells at 'em to get up at 5 a.m. and fold their bedding and cots to clear the deck to let the wagons pass. At loading time they beef because they have to stand around the runs, carrying their cots and bedding while waiting for the train to be loaded and the sleeping top to be erected. When they slept in a top on the lot they didn't beef about getting up at 5 a.m. to curry, harness and hitch a team of mules to a wagon and drive them to the next town without their breakfasts. Often they didn't eat until the flag went up at 2 p.m. on the next lot. Under the present set-up they always have breakfast by noon.

According to an old-timer on the show, the best way to ruin overland show people is to give 'em the luxuries of a railroader, and the best way to spoil a good cookhouse waiter is to put a clown make-up on him.

P. S.: During a sleet storm en route here last night, I have just learned, the sleeping top was knocked off the flats when entering a low tunnel. I thought those 30-foot side-show center poles were too high.

With the Circus Fans

By The Ringmaster

OFA

President
THOMAS M. GREGORY
12039 Edgewater Drive
Lakewood 7, O.

Secretary
W. M. BUCKINGHAM
P. O. Box 4
Gales Ferry, Conn.
Conducted by WALTER HOHENADEL, Editor
(“The White Tops,” care Hohenadel Printing Company, Rochelle, Ill.)

The members of Henry Kyes Tent, Springfield, Ill., met at the winter quarters of Carl Amrhein on Lake Springfield, December 13. The cookhouse flag was up at 6:00 p.m. Animals of the menagerie performed on their hind legs. Amrhein performed his thrill act, and many other artists of top billing presented a Cavalcade of Convulsions until exhaustion. Following are the new officers who will serve the coming year: Carl Amrhein, general manager; Fred Reid, ringmaster; Dr. Paul Mahaffey, mail clerk; Mrs. Pearl George, historian; Herbert Georg, movie photographer; Harry Mueller, still photographer.

Member Ayres Davies, Dixon, Ill., now with the armed forces in the Pacific area, found his circus “boot training” with the Russell and Ringling circuses came in handy recently when he decided to build a movie theater for the boys. He picked up two hospital tents, placed them together and added center poles, the original centers serving as quarters. The screen was placed at one end and on the front a small marquee was fashioned from some pieces of old canvas.

Joe Minchin, Paterson, N. J., writes that he caught several indoor dates and visited circus acts playing in and around New York. He saw the Ringling show in nine States the past season and traveled over 3,000 miles. Father Ed Sullivan, national chaplain of the CFA, visited Minchin at Paterson and gave a talk on the circus at a service club there.

Collectors' Corner

By Fred P. Pitzer

292 Madison Avenue, New York City

Here is a query that stumps us. No doubt there is a Cornerite who can furnish us with the answer. The query comes from L. Verne Slout, Vermontville, Mich.:

“The name of the paper in this town is *The Jefferson Jimplecute*. It has been published over 110 years and no one knows what the term Jimplecute means or where it came from. One of the explanations offered is that the paper originally was established and started by an ex-circus performer. They offer the suggestion that Jimplecute was a circus term and he adapted or selected it for his paper's name. The informant intimated that Jimplecute was a term applied to the ornate scroll work on circus band wagons and floats. They say that at one time they used as a decorative scheme on the title line, the drawing of a sort of dragon or some such animal with several tails and many legs which, perhaps, might be a Jimplecute. Your Cornerites might give you the answer to this one.” No foolin', fellas, this is serious!

Jack McCracken, of California, vents his spleen on the big boss. He writes:

“Read in *The Billboard* where Blackie Dillar claims to be the oldest living boss hostler. That is a laugh. To name just a few older than him in age and experience: Jack Posey, Henry (Apples) Welsh, Joe Fish, William (Bill) Fiefield, and Pony Wilson.” After writing that Posey is the oldest, he infers that Welsh is at the Elks' home in Bedford, Va.; Fish is railroading in Spokane; Fiefield is living in New Jersey, and Wilson is in Peru, Ind. Then after throwing out this scallion, he hands an orchid to Sturtevant. Listen:

“I received a copy of *White Tops* and it has a good story in it on old-time boss hostlers and the facts are real all the way thru. Colonel Sturtevant has a world of data on show business. In comparison it is a real laugh to read the phony stuff that Seabrook, author of the series *Passing of the Big Top*, wrote as a circus story. Read Seabrook and then read Sturtevant, check up both articles and then you'd get what I mean.”

WINTERING in Evansville, Wis., is Mrs. Walter S. Gollmar. Her son, Corp. Walter Jr., in Italy, has been in the service going on three years. His address is APO 464, care Postmaster, New York.

Sello Bros. Closes For 2-Week Period

PERRY, Ga., Dec. 23. — Sello Bros.' Circus, Roy Bible, manager, will close today for two weeks and reopen January 8. Season was successful and only three performances were lost due to cold weather this month. Show will have temporary quarters here and several cages will be built for some new animals. Some ring stock will be broke and new starback grandstand and additional blues will be added. Personnel will remain the same with Robert M. Burns, general agent; Charles LaBird's Side Show, and Tim Mix Jr., concert. Will travel on six trucks, with five living trailers.

Mrs. Bible will spend the holidays in Emporia, Kan.; LaBird went to York, S. C.; Joe Shep, Worcester, Mass.; Burns to Kentucky and Michigan. Last named was with three orgs this season. He closed with Wallace Bros. in August as contracting agent; then joined Bailey Bros. as contracting p. a. and on radio until late November closing, following which he joined Sello Bros.

CIRCUS SEASON SOLID

(Continued from opposite page)

been decided on the number of cars the show will travel. Dalley will enlarge, and Cole will go out considerably bigger, five cars being added to its 25.

Art Cencello's Russell Bros.' Circus leased 15 cars, wagons and other equipment from Barney S. Gerety, owner of the Beckmann & Gerety Shows. The Russell title will be retained for the rail show and management will also have a truck show.

Motorized Season Okay

Motorized circuses also had their inning in regard to long and profitable tours, these being Bud E. Anderson, Arthur Bros., Clyde Beatty-Russell, Bailey Bros., Kelly-Miller, Mills Bros. and Monroe Bros. Among other truck shows out were Beers-Barnes, Bradley & Benson, Bond Bros., Bob Dickman, F. C. Fischer & Son, Jay Gould, Hugo Bros., Hunt Bros., Lee Bros., Patterson Bros., Seils-Sterling and Wallace Bros., all making the grade when it came to business. Several months ago Beatty bought the Wallace show from Ray Rogers and is planning on enlarging.

Indoor circuses, principally playlag under auspices, had remarkably good fall tours. These include Polack Bros., Hamid-Morton and Frank Wirth. After first of the year numerous engagements will be played by this trio; also by Orrin Davenport, and from indications all will have winning seasons.

BONANZA AREA TO PULL

(Continued from page 24)

Saginaw, Milwaukee, Beaumont; Jackson, Miss.; Superior, Owatonna, Chippewa Falls, Anderson, Ind. and others. This does not take anything away from those record-breaking fairs in other sections, like Atlanta, Birmingham; Springfield, Mass.; Pueblo, Pomona, Great Falls, Barrington, Brockton, Trenton, Billings, York, Jacksonville, Tampa, the big Canadian annuals and others. But within the confines of this Middle West-Southwest territory are many of the biggest money-making annuals.

Base for Many Shows

Orgs that played this lucrative territory this year included Royal American Shows, Cavalcade of Amusements, Hennies Bros.' Shows, Dodson's World's Fair Shows, Johnny J. Jones Exposition, Bill Hames Shows, World of Today Shows, Reynolds & Wells Shows, Gooding Greater Shows, American Exposition Shows, Alamo Exposition Shows, Greater United Shows, Sunset Amusement Company, John R. Ward Shows, W. G. Wade Shows, World of Pleasure Shows, Joyland Midway Attractions, Gold Medal Shows, William T. Collins Shows, Buckeye State Shows, Happyland Shows, Great Sutton Shows, Byers Bros.' Combined Shows, Fidler United Shows, Mound City Shows, John Francis Shows, Maher's Mighty Midway, Lake State Shows, Toney Martone Shows, Schafer & Wrigley Shows, Rogers Greater Shows, J. J. Colley Shows, Doc Shugart Shows, Skerbeck Shows, Cherokee Amusement Company, Snapp Greater Shows, M. A. Srader Shows, Rogers Bros.' Shows, Star Amusement Company, Dickson United Shows, Fred R. Stumbo Shows, Dixie Belle Shows, Sunflower State Shows, Dobson United Shows, Pike Amusement Company, D. S. Dudley Shows, T. J. Tidwell Modern Midway, Elite Exposition Shows, Tivoli Exposition Shows, Ellman Shows, Turner Bros.' Shows, Parada Shows, Central States Shows, Twin River Shows, W. A. Gibbs Shows, Capell Bros.' Shows, J. J. Page Shows, Bunting Shows, Golden Belt Shows, Golden West Shows, Wilson's Famous Shows, Lone Star Shows, United Exposition Shows, Playland Shows, Hartsook Bros.' Shows, Omar's Greater Shows, Broughton Bros.' Shows, Northwestern Shows, Henke Attractions, Brodbeck Bros.' Shows, Moore's Modern Shows, J. L. Henson Shows, Bodart Greater Shows, Midway of Mirth Shows, Blue City Shows, John McKee Shows, American Beauty Shows, Holly Amusement Company, Lee United Shows, Bee's Old Reliable Midway, McCardell's Midway of Fun, Al Baysinger Shows, Bazinet Shows, Barlow Big City Shows, Baker United Shows, American Beauty Shows, Badger State Shows and Arkansas-Louisiana States Shows.

UNDER THE MARQUEE

Communications to 25 Opera Place, Cincinnati 1, O.

BY the fire?

ZEEK LaMONT is wintering at George Barton's farm and quarters, West Chester, Pa.

ANIMAL trainer Milt Herriott is at his home in St. Peter, Minn., for the holidays.

JACK KNIGHT, Dalley Bros.' Circus, while passing thru Cincinnati last week, gave *The Billboard* offices a call.

UNUSUAL announcement: “There will be no change in rationing for the next ration period.”

GEORGE DAVIS, circus concession man of St. Louis, was a Chicago visitor last week.

AFTER finishing the Shrine circus date at Kansas City, Mo., Chick Yale is taking a rest at the home of Oscar Haas, old-time bar performer, at Sedalia, Mo.

STEVE (SHORTY) BYRD, concessionaire, arrived in Cincinnati last week after a sojourn at Hot Springs. He will be in the Queen City several weeks.

THOSE drop-of-the-hat pushers didn't drop their hats quite so often during the past man-shortage season.

EQUESTRIAN director and big show announcer, Cal Hicks, with Arthur Bros., is taking the baths at Hot Springs, where he will remain until early March.

AFTER playing several dates in South Carolina and Georgia, Tudor Sisters and Avery are now at Rialto Theater, Tampa, Fla.

A. E. (BUCK) WALTRIP, with RKO Radio Pictures, Inc., has been working out of Cincinnati for the past four months.

SOMETHING that can't be measured: The amount of discomfort necessary to make troupers happy in a berth car.

ELECTRICIAN Tex Clarke, formerly with Wallace Bros.' and Hunt Bros.' shows, is making Trenton, N. J., his home.

WHILE in Manchester, N. H., Don Dorsey met a young trouper, James

Shows, Parada Shows, Central States Shows, Twin River Shows, W. A. Gibbs Shows, Capell Bros.' Shows, J. J. Page Shows, Bunting Shows, Golden Belt Shows, Golden West Shows, Wilson's Famous Shows, Lone Star Shows, United Exposition Shows, Playland Shows, Hartsook Bros.' Shows, Omar's Greater Shows, Broughton Bros.' Shows, Northwestern Shows, Henke Attractions, Brodbeck Bros.' Shows, Moore's Modern Shows, J. L. Henson Shows, Bodart Greater Shows, Midway of Mirth Shows, Blue City Shows, John McKee Shows, American Beauty Shows, Holly Amusement Company, Lee United Shows, Bee's Old Reliable Midway, McCardell's Midway of Fun, Al Baysinger Shows, Bazinet Shows, Barlow Big City Shows, Baker United Shows, American Beauty Shows, Badger State Shows and Arkansas-Louisiana States Shows.

See Another Big Year

Most of these shows are fixtures in the territory and probably 95 per cent will again tour it again in 1945. To these will be added some shows from other territories that signified intentions of changing routes in 1945. Max Goodman's Wonder Shows of America, off the road the past two seasons, will go out again and be one of the larger shows playing in this section, while Mel H. Vaught and Peter Kortez, owners of the North American Exposition, will take the enlarged former Sheesley Shows on a trek thru States in this area.

That most carnival owners are looking for an equally big season in 1945 is signified by the fact that almost without exception all of these shows, especially the larger railroad shows and larger truck shows, are adding more rides, shows and concessions.

It seems to be the consensus of all show owners that even though the United Nations win the war next year, the 1945 season will be equally as big as this year, since it will take some time before conditions become normal, and that midway patrons will spend as freely in '45 as they did during this year.

Mitchell, who is in high school in Concord, N. H. He also visited with Joe Beach, Springfield, Mass.

THEN there were the early-day camp cooks who claimed that washing a skillet too often caused the food to stick.

BOB RUSSELL, former clown with Bond Bros.' Circus, advises that he is back in war work at Norfolk, Va. He again will be with the big tops next season.

CAROLYN HENDERSON's Teenie-Weenie Circus played Fort Wayne (Ind.) Country Club December 17 at the annual Christmas party. Unit went into the Shrine Temple there December 22 and 23.

CHARACTER and producing clown, Glenn Pinsky Davis, recently played Strand Theater, Tarrytown, N. Y. He has been engaged by Jimmy Stutz's circus unit which will fill school dates after the holidays. Jimmy Stutz appeared in a tumbling routine and juggling act at the Junior High School, Trenton, N. J., in a Christmas program.

IT will still be possible to earn fame during the post-war days by organizing a circus after the boom has passed.

SGT. AL SWEENEY, Fort Ellis, Tex., former publicity man for Polack Bros.' Circus, is in Chicago on 15-day leave, visiting his wife. Last week Sweeney presented the Atwell Luncheon Club a large circus picture made up of photos and drawings, which has been hung over the club's table in the Hotel Sherman coffee shop, where circus folks gather daily.

AN UNUSUAL display in a show window of B. Siegel Company's store, Detroit, exhibits a bareback rider on a white horse, with the ringmaster, mounted on a revolving pedestal. The beautifully costumed display has attracted much attention during past weeks. Gazing at it, one can almost hear the boys crying, “It's the last time around for concert tickets, folks. And remember, if you stay for the concert, you sit in the reserved seats,” writes Harry W. Cole of that city.

WRAY WILLIAMS, incoming 1945 potentate of Al Chymia Shrine Temple, Memphis, and general chairman of the Shrine circus committee, was a business visitor in Chicago last week and at the suggestion of Vernon L. McReavy, of the Hamid-Morton Circus, visited the Atwell Luncheon Club, where he made the acquaintance of several well-known circus men, among them Dan DeBaugh and F. A. Boudinot of the Ringling show, and R. M. Harvey, general agent of Dalley Bros.' Circus.

HEARD that a doctor, an ardent circus fan, is showing circus movies in his waiting room instead of furnishing the usual magazines.

IN 1934 three men traveling with the Ringling circus little thought they would be working together in one plant, Alcoa, Edgewater, N. J., turning out materials of war 10 years later. They are Ken Hillert, Warren Wood and Happy Newman. Wood, who worked under Bobby Worth and Clyde Ingalls, as ticket seller, is in the paint shop, and secretary of the safety committee for the mechanical department. Newman, who did leaps, is in the extrusion department, as is Hillert, talker and magician.

In the Armed Forces

GLENN J. JARMES, in the amphibious forces in the South Pacific, was in the first wave to hit the beach at Leyte Island.

SGT. NATE K. LEON, 36515062, formerly with the big tops, is overseas. His address is APO No. 17105, care Postmaster, New York.

KEN POLEY, formerly horse trainer with Lewis Bros. and other circuses, is with the 124th Cavalry in Burma. He recently met Jimmie Watts, of Cole Bros.' Circus, over there. Poley's address is APO 218, care Postmaster, New York.

Several Items Stand in Way Of Instantaneous Delivery Of New Devices --- Come Peace

Industry Must Prove Its Essentiality

(Report of William Rabkin, President American Recreational Equipment Association, Read at AREA Convention at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, December 5)

IN THE PAST it has been the custom for the president of your association to report to you the progress of the association for the past year and to elaborate upon plans that have or should be made for the coming year.

Unfortunately, I find myself in a position where such a report is impossible. During my term of office I have not been able to contribute a great deal toward the progress of the association nor have I been able to call upon other members to contribute their efforts along this line. The reason is quite obvious. Every one of us is engaged in the production of war materials and has had to lay aside all his tools and plans for the production of amusement devices.

In lieu of the usual report, I would like to pass some comment upon the outstanding accomplishments of our members during these years of war. I am certain that when the last shot of this war is fired, and final and complete victory is ours, that the members of our association will be able to point with pride to these accomplishments.

From all reports that have reached me, I am quite certain that, even though we are all engaged in the winning of the war, we are at the same time completing our post-war plans. I know that all of our members have their ears to the ground and will come up with new and startling ideas and devices that will make it possible for the amusement park owners to provide the public with amusement devices that will be in tune with the increased tempo of living after the war.

Some of us will find it more difficult than others to convert to the production of peacetime products. Some found it necessary to practically scrap all of their old machine tools and install new

ones so that they might properly manufacture the implements of war. In converting to peacetime activities, these wartime tools will in turn have to be scrapped and replaced with appropriate tools for peacetime manufacture. Those of our members who will find themselves faced with this problem will naturally take longer to convert their plants than those who were able to contribute their share to the war effort without drastically changing the set-up of their factories.

Some park owners are under the impression that as soon as the war is over, or as soon as the War Production Board permits the resumption of manufacture of civilian merchandise, that new devices will be available practically at the snap of a finger. I need hardly point out that this idea is erroneous.

Another factor that might delay the delivery of the first piece of equipment to the park owners is the allocation of raw materials when civilian production is resumed. It is quite obvious that raw materials will first be allotted to those industries that produce the essentials of life. Those who produce luxuries will find themselves far down on the priority list. Whether or not the amusement industry will be able to convince the authorities in Washington that our

(See Rabkin Talks Post-War on page 33)

Price on Balto Council

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23.—Arthur B. Price, owner of Gwynn Oak Park, has been elected a member of Baltimore city council to succeed George H. Fallon, who has been elected to Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of Baltimore. Price is also owner of Lakewood Pool, one of the largest in the city, and owner of Amusement Center, an all-year-round arcade establishment.

FORT WORTH, Dec. 23.—Bill H. Hames, owner of the carnival company bearing his name, has purchased and donated a herd of five brindle gnus to Forest Park Zoo here. The animals have been at the zoo on a "lend-lease" basis two years and were due to leave February 1.

What Amusement Park Owners Expect From Manufacturers

(Address of Edward J. Carroll, owner of Riverside Park, Agawam, Mass., made at AREA Convention at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, December 5)

I AM offering some straight-from-the-shoulder advice, as only thru mutual understanding of our problems can we get results. I am frank to admit that in purely technical problems I cannot sit in judgment, but in the preparation of the proposals I am about to make I have consulted with my superintendent, Vernon Trigger, a qualified engineer.

Some of my proposals may be subject to debate or discussion, but in presenting them I would like to first offer the various recommendations and then discuss them later.

Now for the recommendations
No. 1. Manufacturers should apply sound engineering principles.

Our observation has been that in launching a new ride or device not enough engineering skill has been put into the effort in the beginning to eliminate the bugs. Good engineers are available for consultation, and if this procedure were followed both manufacturer and owner would reap greater benefits.

No. 2. Manufacturers should use as many standardized parts as possible.

It should not be necessary to go to the manufacturer time and again for parts



W. E. FRANKS, veteran outdoor showman, who recently concluded a banner 31-week season, which he described as "the best in my career," at his Playland Park, Macon, Ga. Franks, now looking after his other business interests in Macon for the winter, reports that most of Playland's concession space for 1945 was contracted for before the close of the '44 season. He plans a number of new features and improvements for the 1945 run.

Chi Lincoln Park Visited By 2,000,000

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The war has had little effect on the number of persons visiting the Lincoln Park Zoo, according to a report just issued by R. Marlin Perkins, assistant director, who will succeed Floyd S. Young as director in January.

The report shows that 2,000,000 persons visited the zoo in 1944, just a little less than the number of visitors in peacetime. During the year the zoo purchased 158 birds, seven animals and 113 reptiles, all from North and South America because of war shipping difficulties from other countries. Births at the zoo included 77 reptiles, 59 in one litter of boa constrictors; a water buffalo, five guanacos (large llamas), and two monkeys. Deaths included eight monkeys, a lion, two chimpanzees, three deer, two raccoons and two wolves. Donations of a chimpanzee, a baboon, three coyotes, three monkeys and five raccoons were received.

Purchases included a condor from South America, a baboon, two moustache monkeys, two boa constrictors and 12 iguanas from Mexico.

With the Ladies At the NAAPPB Banquet and Frolic

By Virginia Kline

SALEM, Ore.—Annual banquet and frolic of the NAAPPB, held in Bal Tabarin of Hotel Sherman, Chicago, night, December 7, climaxing the annual convention of that organization and the AREA, was well attended. A good, snappy floorshow was emceed by George Hamid, topped an excellent dinner. After the show the guests adjourned to the hotel Pent House and finished off the evening with dancing and more entertainment with good music.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Batt and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Batt, of Pontchartrain Park, New Orleans, had as their guests Mrs. Harry Batt Sr., and her sister, Mrs. Edna Carrano, also of New Orleans. Mr. and Mrs. Art Briese also were at the Batt table. Mrs. Harry Batt Jr. wore a short dinner dress with scattered black sequins and tiny pink orlich feathers in her hair. Mrs. Harry Batt Sr. wore a long black formal with soft faille yoke of blue. Mrs. Richard Batt wore a V-necked short frock with white flowers. Mrs. Carrano wore black with sheer yoke of cream chiffon. Mrs. Art Briese wore a sequined black gown with a novel arrangement of yellow feathers in her hair.

Mrs. George Schneck, just recently out of the hospital, remained for awhile at the party wearing a full-skirted net model with especially glamorous lines. Mrs. Arthur Abbott was charming in a dramatic black gown with sequin lapels and a draped corsage of red roses. Mrs. Adrian Ketchum, of St. Louis, wore a short black model with white peasant blouse. The newest bride at the event, Mary Rooney Wright, wore a lovely velvet formal in flame with white corsage. Mrs. Blanche Fleming wore white chiffon with gold accessories. Mrs. Bill DeLorbe, looking happy to have her soldier-husband with her, wore red chiffon with a dainty fitted bodice. Mrs. George Hamid wore a stunning black gown with gold scroll highlights and a handsome pink corsage. Mrs. Marian Perry, whom I thought I

(See With Park Ladies on opp. page)

A.R.E.A. News

By R. S. Uzzell

Fred L. Markey, of Dodgem Cororation, buried his father on Saturday (2) and left his home for Chicago the Monday following. Surely he could have been justified in not attending the convention. He not only attended but took a prominent part in the meetings. Such loyalty is rare.

Cecil C. Duffy has returned to Norfolk for his 13th consecutive year at Ocean View. He began under the late Otto Wells, continued for the railway company until present owners took over, and they then contracted with him for his services.

During the past summer amusement park conducted a burlesque show in one of its former ride buildings. They produced it with all of the trimmings—undraped gals and all. This is bound to have a repercussion on the place when present transient patronage is gone and the resort must depend upon local patronage again for support. Such machinations do the park business no good, but furnish our opposition with just the copy they desire.

We missed Messrs. Custer and Vaszin, of Dayton, O., and Norman Bartlett, of North Tonawanda, N. Y., at the recent convention. They each have war work on hand. Let us hope they will be with us next year when we shall return to our Monday night meeting and a dinner meeting if hotel restrictions are removed.

The Eli Bridge Company will produce a new ride for the trade as soon as conditions permit. It has been cooking for some time. Two have already been produced and operated and they know where the bugs are. The next model will be much improved and bear the stamp of Big Eli efficiency. Purposely they have said nothing about it because they are waiting for the green light. They will build the ride themselves.

No one in our membership has the picnic business so well analyzed as Frank L. Danahey, of Kenneywood Park, Pittsburgh. This veteran picnic man, in a park where the picnic has long been

(See AREA on page 33)

NAAPPB Conclave Attracts Around 400

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—In his final report on the NAAPPB's 26th annual convention at Hotel Sherman here, December 5-7, A. R. Hodge, secretary, revealed this week that total registration for the three-day conclave ran slightly over 350.

Total attendance was around the 400 mark, Hodge says, with many who participated not registering for the event.

Ventnor Rebuilding Pier

VENTNOR, N. J., Dec. 23.—Plans and specifications have been drawn for rebuilding Ventnor Pier, which was cut in half by the hurricane September 14. He said minor changes would be made in the plans so as to enable the use of reclaimed Boardwalk lumber to the extent of 90 per cent of the total material involved. Contracts are expected to be let so that work may be begun about the middle of next month and is planned to have Municipal Pier back in use next summer. The section of the Boardwalk between Cornwall and Cambridge Avenues in front of Municipal Pier already has been reconstructed.

Waldameer Roof Gives Way

ERIE, Pa., Dec. 23.—The weight of the snow, which fell during the recent storm that swept over the Eastern States and deposited a layer of 23.9 inches of snow over the Erie County area, collapsed over 80 feet of the roof of the Rainbow Gardens, located in Waldameer Beach Park on the edge of the city. Park officials are now hurrying about town to re-locate Christmas dances. Some of the season's biggest affairs will be affected, including Blue Barrons ork's engagement for the Junior League dance. Park officials estimate repairs cannot be completed before spring.

ARSA and USFSA Voted Into Sports Federation at New York Meet of Biggies

Big Break for Amateurs, Says Nelson

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—At a meeting of the United States Sports Federation (American Olympic Association) at the New York Athletic Club on the night of December 10 the Amateur Roller Skating Association of the United States (ARSA) and the United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA) were voted into the Federation as members.

"This means that ARSA registered amateurs a tremendous stride forward and world-wide achievements in future amateur competitive sports," said Ozzie Nelson, ARSA secretary-treasurer. "The amateur roller sport for the first time in history has been accepted as a participant sport in Olympic and Pan-American games.

ARSA Is Recognized

"The United States Sports Federation recognizes the ARSA as the sole governing body over the roller skating sport in the United States. Therefore, in order for amateur roller skaters to qualify for future Olympic and Pan-American games, it will be necessary for them to compete in ARSA-sanctioned national championships. Only the champions who are approved by the ARSA will be eligible to take part in international competitions.

"Plans are being made for the holding of Olympic and Pan-American games in the very near future. Col. Even Hunter, of the British Army and secretary of the British Olympic Committee, entered a

Six More Operators Join RSROA Ranks

DETROIT, Dec. 23.—Six more rink operators were accepted as members of the RSROA at the semi-annual board of control meeting in Detroit, it was announced by Fred A. Martin, secretary-treasurer of the organization.

The new members are Joseph A. Hofrichter, Sports Haven, Bridgeville, Pa.; S. D. McFarland, Indiana (Pa.) Rink; Joseph J. McNamara, Rollaway, Revere, Mass.; Mrs. Irma L. Hartman, Moonlight Rink, Troy, Ill.; George Mekosh, Jamison Rink, Jamison, Pa., and G. H. Schiefelbein, Rollerade, Toledo.

WITH PARK LADIES

(Continued from opposite page)

was meeting for the first time, but who turned out to be an old friend of Patterson Shows days, wore a graceful black velvet frock with her silver fox wrap and a corsage of orchids. Mrs. W. H. Patrick, of Jantzen Beach, Portland, Ore., sat with the new president of NAAPPB, Paul Huedepohl, and Mrs. Huedepohl and wore a snug-fitting black gown with glittering embroidery of silver beads in a classic pattern from rounded neck line to hem. Mrs. Huedepohl wore watermelon red chiffon with white corsage. Belle Cohn wore cream beige chiffon in a short dinner dress model. Mrs. Bill Wendler wore an Adrian evening blouse of grey and black stripes with a long black skirt and a tiny Schiaparelli model hat in leaf green. Mrs. Edward J. Carrol wore bistro-tinted beige taffeta in a long graceful model with side-draped skirt. Mrs. Alex Moeller, of Waldameer Park, Erie, Pa., wore black with a demure round neckline and an orchid corsage.

Ruth Meyers wore red jersey with the blouse embroidered in fantastic oriental patterns. Mrs. Leonard Schloss wore black with V-neck bodice and a soft orchid corsage. Mrs. Lee Eyerly wore fuchsia embroidered in gold with jeweled aigrettes in her blond hair. Mrs. Harry Illions wore black with tiny medallion gold embroidery. Mrs. George Davies wore black lace which, with her silver hair, made an enchanting contrast. Mrs. Patty Conklin was missed, as she usually brings glamour and fun. However, her husband had to attend another session. The frolic in the Pent House lasted till a late hour and there was no shortage in beverages or entertainment.

World Interchanges of Style Ideas Seen From War Travel

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—Thousands of boys and girls in the United States army and navy are having the opportunity of indulging in their rink avocation in spots in all parts of the world. Ideas left behind by these enthusiasts will no doubt have an influence on the rinks in foreign lands when post-war days permit improvements.

Of prime importance is the interchange of dance steps and figure skating which no doubt will have a part in the probable further development of international style. It is one form of sport and recreation that may be universally uniform.

More Internationalism

When transportation is again normal skaters from foreign lands will travel to the States for an international meet as well as for their own recreational pleasure. Reports from boys and girls now abroad show that there are many excellent skaters in England, Italy, France, Egypt, India, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. As yet no reports have come from Germany or Japan, although they may in the very near future, as the boys and girls enter those enemy lands.

Importance of skating has been recog-

nized by the USO, YMCA and other organizations in their provision of skates and spots for the use of uniformed boys and girls in this country. Its healthful exercise is also recognized by the army in permitting G.I. Joes and Janes to put on special exhibitions and shows at camp recreation halls.

Much Info Is Sought

Another healthy omen for the future of skating is to be found in the large number of requests for information as to the operation of rinks and source of supplies that have been coming from soldiers during the past year. Only factor retarding the advance in physical equipment for rinks today is the war work in which rink manufacturers are now engaged and unavailability of priorities for erection of spots and improvements for them, due to war needs.

OPS EXPECT THINGS

(Continued from opposite page)

tomers is being overlooked. Many owners do not follow a policy of going out into the field to view the other fellow's layout. However, the manufacturer or his representative is in the field to some extent at least and ought to be able to give good, sound advice to the buyer as to proper location so as to obtain greater revenue; proper merchandising and advertising for launching the unit; suggestions for fronts and signs, etc., and whether a ride is apt to get more money if located in a building than in the open; what Johnny Jones or Sam Smith did with the same ride to get better results, etc.

We have had cases where rides were delivered to us on which the manufacturer had even neglected to place a sign giving the ride name.

No. 6. Under the heading of better and more service, I recommend that manufacturers should advise owners and superintendents of the weak spots as well as the good ones in their products.

No one likes to admit errors or defects, yet we know they exist. Why not make the buyer aware of possible breaks for his guide in operation? For instance, seldom, if ever, is the buyer furnished with a lubrication chart calling for specific grades of grease or oil to be used on the ride. This is a simple matter perhaps, but such a chart can be of great value to the operator or crew. Breakdowns are the bugaboo of every owner, and anything that can be done to cut down their number or reduce the time loss means money in the operator's pocket and more money to spend on new equipment.

No. 7. Some of the services suggested naturally add to the manufacturer's cost.

Under the assumption that they do add materially to costs, they come under the heading of good business. Suppose 10 per cent were added to the cost for better engineering, better materials, better designs, better merchandising. The extras would be worth several times that amount in greater satisfaction, more revenue and better and safer operation.

I recognize that in a field where unit sales are limited, naturally the manufacturer is interested in constantly trying to make resales, and great durability might make for fewer sales. However, the point I make is that greater use of the units shortens the life and at the same time provides greater revenue to the owner, and such revenue might be available to the manufacturer of extra or new rides and equipment.

No. 8. It is not a good policy for a manufacturer to set a terrific mark-up on his replacement items.

I recognize the necessity of parts sales to maintain manufacture, but there have been many instances where parts prices have skyrocketed. I have investigated several mark-ups by having parts made right in the local territory, and comparisons have shown as much as a 1,000 per cent mark-up. The sky has been the limit in some cases and I suggest to you that you re-examine your parts price schedule with a view to putting a voluntary ceiling on some of your parts prices.

In summing up, I state again that some of these proposals are open to discussion and debate but I am offering them in the line of constructive criticism. They could well come under the simple heading of "More and Better Service."

Tests in California Bring Out Many Reps

OAKLAND, Calif., Dec. 23.—California Amateur Roller Skating Association's figure and dance tests under United States Figure Skating Association judges, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sackett, Howell Jane, Morgan Doyle and Gratton Phillips, in Diamond Rink here December 10, had representatives from Diamond Rink, International Ramblers, Oakland; Martinez Figure Skating Club, Martinez; Senator Roller Club, North Sacramento; Motor City Club, Placerville, and Del Monte Club, Monterey.

Marie Sudberry, 15, Martinez Club, won first figure test with 134.9 and second with 225. Juanita Smith, professional Diamond Rink, won junior figure with 65 and bronze dance test with 143.2. Paul J. Gilbert, Martinez Rink, was responsible for the meet and birth of the California Roller Skating Association.

R. D. GILBEY, representative of the National Skating Association of Great Britain in the F.I.P.R., is expected to visit the United States in the near future.



EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNITED RINK OPERATORS, which was chosen at the third annual URO convention in the Park Central Hotel, New York, December 4 and 5. Rear row, left to right: Perry B. Giles, Curvecrest, Muskegon, Mich., third vice-president; E. E. Von Hagen, Norwood (O.) Rink, first vice-president; Earl Van Horn, Mineola (L. I.) Rink; W. Schmitz, American-on-Wheels, Elizabeth, N. J.; Orville Godfrey, Arcadia, Detroit; Frank Ferrara, Everett, Wash. Front row, left to right: Wally Kiefer, White Plains (N. Y.) Rink, secretary; W. A. (Bill) Holland, Skateland, Bridgeport, Conn., president; Eugene V. Regalia, Floram Park (N. J.) Arena, treasurer. The 1945 convention will be held at Ed Von Hagen's Norwood (O.) Rink some time in December.

Cincy Area Arena Is Boosted

Carthage Heads Promote Project

All-year use on Hamilton County grounds is part of plan up to commissioners

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—Construction of an arena calculated for all-year use is being advocated by managing heads of Carthage Fair, the pioneer annual held in a Cincy suburb.

Hamilton County Agricultural Society, headed by Myers Y. Cooper, former governor of Ohio and honorary president of the Ohio Fair Managers' Association, is seeking to interest county commissioners in contributing toward the cost of the proposed building, which, observers declare, would fill a great need in this territory.

While no official estimate is said to have been made, it is reported that structure to cost at least \$100,000 is projected.

Carthage Continues Upkeep

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—A request by Myers Y. Cooper, president of Hamilton County Agricultural Society, for \$10,000 for renovation and improvement of Carthage Fair buildings has been taken under consideration by Dr. C. R. Campbell, president; Fred J. Morr and Hobart A. Wehking, county commissioners. They gave \$10,000 for the same purpose last year. The society, Cooper explained, desires to bring the fair buildings into better shape gradually as financial resources permit.

Oregonians To Consider Programs and Transport

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 23.—Dates, post-war improvement programs and transportation problems will be considered at the annual meeting of Oregon Fairs Association in the Imperial Hotel here January 5 and 6, said President Herman H. Chindgren, Molalla, who will preside at sessions and be toastmaster at the banquet on the night of January 5.

Business sessions will be held on both days. Banquet entertainment will be furnished by attractions representatives. Officers besides President Chindgren are Vice-President L. H. Pearce, Directors C. H. Bergstrom, Mrs. Willard Herman, Charles A. Trowbridge and A. A. Geer, and Secretary-Treasurer Mabel H. Chadwick, Eugene.

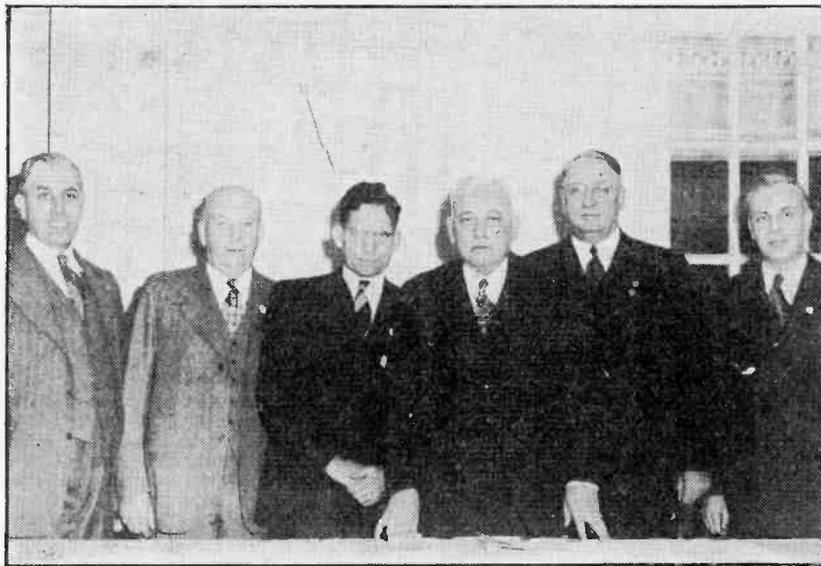
Young Books A. E. Selden Third Time at Ky. State

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Ernie A. Young announced that he had booked A. E. Selden, "The Stratosphere Man," for the third time for Kentucky State Fair, Louisville. He also has booked Selden as feature high act for the 1945 York (Pa.) Fair.

Chi Legion Show to B-C

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Sam J. Levy was notified this week that Barnes-Carruthers has been awarded the contract for the lake front show of Cook County Council, American Legion, for July 4. This is an annual event which draws tens of thousands of people.

PLYMOUTH, N. H.—Union Grange Fair Association re-elected Harry A. Merrill, Plymouth, president. Other officers are: Vice-president, Fred N. Sanborn, New Hampton; treasurer, Harold E. Haley, Plymouth; secretary, William J. Neal, Meredith, now serving as deputy administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration in St. Louis; acting secretary, Mrs. Barbara Neal, Meredith. Lester E. Mitchell was re-elected general superintendent.



OFFICERS AND TWO OF THE NEW DIRECTORS elected at the 54th annual meeting of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions in the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, December 4-6. Left to right: Sheldon R. Brewster, manager of Utah State Fair, Salt Lake City, director; William T. Marriott, manager of Wisconsin State Fair, Milwaukee, director; C. L. Harnden, manager of Saginaw (Mich.) County Fair, vice-president; Samuel S. Lewis, president-general manager of York (Pa.) Inter-State Fair, newly elected president; Herbert H. McElroy, secretary-manager of Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa, retiring president, and Frank H. Kingman, secretary of Brockton (Mass.) Fair, secretary-treasurer.

"You Can't Put an Alibi In the Bank," IAFE Told

By William V. (Jake) Ward

Address of the general manager of Illinois State Fair, Springfield, at the annual meeting of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions in the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, December 4.

CERTAINLY we can all be proud that in very few instances, if any, have fairs taken unfair advantages. Our years have all been years of service. Viewing the situation in its broad aspects, it seems certain next year will find a resumption of a great number of fairs and expositions.

We find the demand for their reopening coming from most every walk of life. These will be faced with a rather difficult problem and by that I mean in obtaining the necessary items toward successful operation, such as lumber, steel, paint and electric fixtures. These as well as those who have operated thru-out the war will be confronted with worn-out and out-dated equipment which must be replaced as soon as possible. Your fair plant and fair are too essential to neglect.

We will find it necessary to go into a rather expensive rehabilitation program, find ourselves in a buyer's market where competition will be very keen. The bidding from abroad will of necessity maintain the high construction costs of today.

On Post-War Fed. Aid

Now let us visualize the possibilities of post-war federal aid. Our government has promised 60,000,000 post-war jobs. Included in this promise is a vast program of public works, which we as yet know very little about. True, this is not a direct promise to fairs and expositions, yet therein lies the promise of federal aid. Now what shall we do about it? We must have a brief ready to present to the new commission as soon as its appointment is made public. Most important of all is that our request must be timed properly and must contain all the facts possible.

"If we could first know where we are and whither we are tending, we could better judge what to do and how to do it." This quotation was made 80 years ago by Abraham Lincoln, when confronted with the post-war problems of the Civil War. I believe post-war aid at the hands of the federal government can

be had and soon, providing we organize and present the case of all the fairs and expositions as a unit at the proper time.

Aid Plan Is Outlined

Now you are interested in just how post-war federal aid will affect your fair. Well, first of all, it is necessary that you indulge in dreaming and solicitation of expert opinions from people who have had experience in the problems that confront us. May I suggest this plan:

1. Decide on your objectives.
 - A. What of the post-war volume of business?
 - B. What employees will be needed? Where are they to be obtained?
 - C. What increase in any money-permanent hours will be necessary?
 - D. Plan necessary changes in your sanitary system.
 - E. What changes and what new construction will be necessary for roads, curbs and pavements?
 - F. What rehabilitation of present buildings will be necessary, what new construction for buildings, etc.?
2. Assign responsibility and work out your organization for carrying out these objectives.
 - A. Plan personnel training classes. Select personnel for ability. From your entire personnel then select an advisory committee to assist in carrying out not only the proposed project but in planning some of your other objectives.
3. Develop the proper procedure, step by step.
 - A. Set up traffic control study.
 - B. Select sites for new buildings. Secure plans for these from experienced architects after consulting with men in the fair world, who have had similar experience. Decide upon types of construction only after definite confirmation can be had on materials available.
 - C. What method of financing is available? Do you have money earmarked for new construction or are you dependent upon legislative grants in your States?

After World War I

It will be necessary that this procedure be based upon what we have learned from post-war projects. Federal financial aid after the last war was extended (See "No Alibi in Bank" on opp. page.)

Aid From PCSA

REPORT on plans developed during the Outdoor Showmen's Convention of the Pacific Coast Showmen's Association, Los Angeles, December 10-18, to aid in reopening West Coast fairs, from which the wartime ban has been lifted, appears in the Carnival Department of this issue.

Minn. Seeking Sub For Burned Building

ST. PAUL, Dec. 23.—Minnesota State Fair directors are seeking a substitute center in which to hold the 1945 agricultural show as hope for rebuilding the ag building, destroyed by fire a month ago, dwindles.

There was some probability that the Horticultural Building will be converted to house both ag and horticultural displays, according to Raymond Lee, fair secretary. This, however, has not been definitely determined.

Secretary Lee said directors had signed Ace Lillard's Thrill Show for the 1945 fair. Other attractions will be bought at a meeting in March, he said.

Annuals Making Good Keeping 'Em Down on the Farm

EXCERPTS from address by Russell E. Frost, of Wisconsin Junior State Fair, Milwaukee, at the annual meeting of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions in the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, December 6.

YOU have only to walk thru the barns on your own fairgrounds during fair week to find evidence of how well your fair has answered the challenge of keeping 'em down on the farm. Suppose, in imagination, we visit the hog barns at the Wisconsin State Fair. Hear those porkers squeal! See that bunch of breeders gathered in a knot over there near the weighing pens? There's Louis Dyer, Rex Whitmore, Bryce Bartholf, Ralph Dobson. Every one of those fellows showed at the fair when he was a kid. Rex Whitmore has been president of the Wisconsin Swine Breeders' Association several years. Bryce Bartholf was secretary; Ralph Dobson is now assistant superintendent of hogs at the State Fair.

Exhibitors Start Early

The same story can be repeated in the sheep barn, in the cattle barns, in the poultry show, in the crops building. Go where you will among the agricultural or home economics exhibits and you will find the exhibitors of today were the boys and girls of yesterday.

In foxholes on far-flung battlefronts, on ships tossing at sea, in aircraft zooming thru the skies are young men today who were farm boys participating at the Wisconsin Junior State Fair in recent years. Just as farm boys are doing a grand job on the fighting fronts, so also are farm boys doing a grand job on the farm front, where they are producing food so essential for victory. Yes, Wisconsin is proud to throw the spotlight on its Junior Fair—to give the youngsters of both town and country the break they deserve. Had it not been for the emphasis placed on youth at the fair, it is probable that the continuity of holding our fairs during these war years would have been interrupted.

"Complete Within" Bally

Wisconsin Junior State Fair, as it is known today, is advertised as a "complete fair within a fair." It was organized in its present form seven years ago and was at the time of its inception unique in that it offered boys and girls of both town and country an opportunity to meet and compete in the same classes. For many years previous to this the 4-H Club department had served the interests of youth at the fair. When the Future Farmers of America was organized additional opportunities were made available for it at the State Fair.

In 1938 Ralph E. Ammon, then man- (See Keeping 'Em on Farm on opp. page)

Fair Elections

WEST POINT, Neb.—Rudolph Rabe, Wisner, was elected a member of Cumming County Agricultural Association. Members re-elected are Hans C. Horst, Wisner, and Henry Ropers, West Point.

PORTLAND, Ind.—Jay County Fair Association elected Dr. D. E. Mangas president and superintendent of speed; O. E. Holsapple, secretary-treasurer; Clem Willson, superintendent of concessions.

AVOCA, Ia. — Pottawatomie County Fair Association re-elected as directors I. H. Derby, Harry Pond, Emil Petersen, John Dunlevy, E. F. McKinley, C. P. Blust, C. H. Weinnmann, C. A. Osler and J. W. Davis.

SHELBYVILLE, Ind.—Shelbyville Fair Association elected: President, L. V. Hauk; vice-presidents, Ora Mann, Lowell Pix; secretary, Harry Meiks; treasurer, Walter Hungerford. Roy Adams was named a director at large to succeed his father, the late Jack Adams.

“NO ALIBI IN BANK”

(Continued from opposite page)

only to tax-free organizations, such as townships, counties, municipalities and States. Millions of dollars worth of supplies and equipment after the last war were given to each State in the union. This was divided up among the smaller units mentioned above. Later on, after the war, federal assistance during the depression was extended to communities and organizations that were tax free by the WPA and PWA and kindred authorities. Just what types or channels this federal aid will be presented in remains a question. You must bear in mind that the change in living habits of our post-war lives will cause us to eliminate certain types of entertainment and substitute any new types that are demanded, and you must plan accordingly.

Having developed a working plan and estimates, set in motion the machinery for determining what steps will be most advantageous in securing federal aid. Now, remember the most important move for us to make is to properly time our request to the federal government. One of the greatest problems is not in the unwillingness or lack of desire to plan, but to keep our feet on the ground in planning.

Teddy Roosevelt once said: “The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick men to do what he wants done and self restraint enough to keep from meddling with the ones that do it.”

Survey Based on Form

Here is what you can do to help to assist in this plan for federal aid:

1. Select a committee in your State to handle this program. Have them contact each unit (fairs and expositions in your State) and submit the story. Have each unit fill out a form so that, after an intelligent survey has been made of all the facts of their unit, they may fill it out in detail. It can then be returned promptly to the committee.

Now assemble all of this information for your entire State and forward that to a national committee so that this committee, composed of experienced fair and exposition men, may present the complete facts and figures for the entire United States with the request that the federal government provide the man hours for construction, rehabilitation and redesigning any tax-free unit, providing the tax-free unit furnished the materials, supplies and the sites for the construction and work.

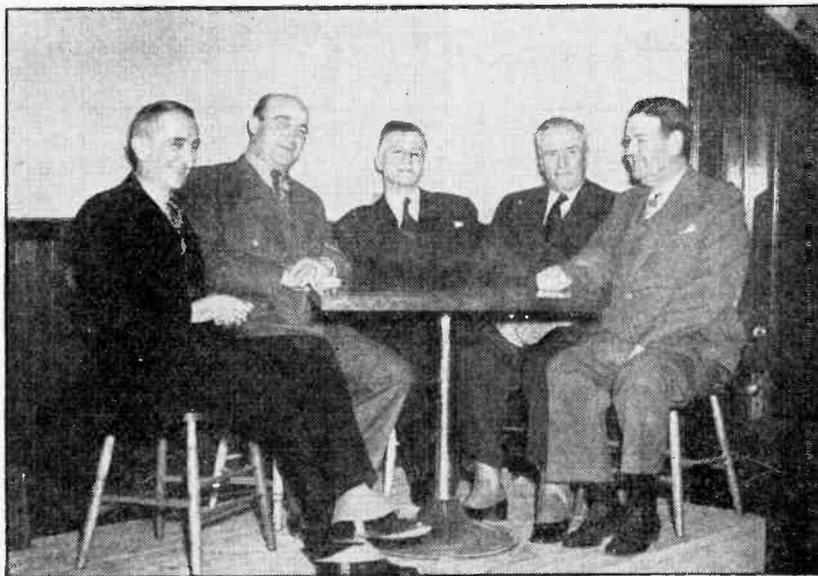
Only our failure to provide a complete plan for the entire United States can cause a plan such as this to be cast aside. Remember, you can't put an alibi in the bank.

KEEPING 'EM ON FARM

(Continued from opposite page)

ager of the Wisconsin State Fair and director of the State Department of Agriculture, conceived, with the help of youth leaders in the State, the Wisconsin Junior State Fair which had in the beginning six organizations affiliated with 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers, Future Homemakers, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Farmers Union Juniors. Today those six organizations are still in there pitching.

Our first Junior Fair premium book in 1938 said this concerning the purpose of broadening the scope of the Junior Fair: “All organizations working with youth have a common purpose—that of developing those problems of conduct and



THESE FIGURES were snapped at the recent “Oyster Party” given for those who helped make the 1944 Quebec Exposition Provinciale the solid success that it was. Left to right: Emery Boucher, manager; Frank R. Conklin, vice-president of the Conklin Shows, which were on the midway; Mayor Lucien Borne, Quebec, exposition president; M. Hunter, of the Dominion livestock branch, and Manager Charles Roe, R. J. Speers Corporation, Winnipeg.

achievement that lead more to good citizenry. Youth should learn to work and play not only within their own group but with other groups. The Junior Fair aims to develop this spirit and to give to the State a picture of the work that is being done in the volunteer non-sectarian youth organizations, both city and rural, within the boundaries of the State.”

Town and Country Meet

When the Wisconsin Junior State Fair was established we made public announcement to the effect that this was the first fair of its kind in the country. We soon received a letter from Ohio, saying that it had a Junior Fair which predated ours by some 10 years. That was true, but its fair differs from our Junior Fair in this respect: Each organization had its own premium classes. The innovation at the Wisconsin State Fair was to have town and country youth meet and compete in the same classes.

Indiana has a most fortunate set-up for its youth fair. So far as we know, Indiana is the only State where the State leader for vocational agriculture and 4-H Club work is one and the same man. Indiana calls its youth fair a 4-H Club Show and gives FFA equal rights and opportunities in showing. Minnesota has one of the finest youth plants in the country on its fairgrounds. At St. Paul, however, it is known not as the Junior State Fair but as the 4-H Club department of the State Fair.

Every State represented in this room should be able to take the floor and boast about the work its State Fair is doing with and for youth.

AREA

(Continued from page 30)

king, has reversed on himself on catering to picnics thru long experience and close contact with them. Harry Batt, of Lake Pontchartrain, New Orleans, confirms Danahey's opinion by not catering to or soliciting picnics. Like department stores, we are going into new higher costs of doing business and cannot give so much away. Herb Schmeck's paper in one of the clinics at the convention is well worth reading again. Herb never talks thru his hat. Parker Beach, of Chippewa Lake, O., gets on the same band wagon. He is in the district where nine parks compete for picnics and which some take at a substantial loss. Cy D. Bond got fed up with them at Erie Beach, Ont., the past season. Frank Danahey says too many picnickers come but once a year.

L. J. Drake, of Silver Beach, St. Joseph, Mich., puts us all to shame. At 82 years, he has bought out his partner for \$100,000 cash and is planning to rebuild and make over his park in modernistic fashion. He remains at the helm as the guiding force with the enthusiasm of a youth. It is an inspiration to talk with him. Here is no tired, old man, but one with vim and go.

AUDUBON, Ia.—Audubon County Agriculture Society closed its books for the '44 season with a balance of \$4,006 and \$2,500 set aside for a new amphitheater.

Coming Events

These dates are for a five-week period.

California

Los Angeles—Gift & Art Show. Jan. 29-Feb. 2. W. C. Klingborg, 1151 S. Broadway.
Pasadena—Rose Bowl Game. Jan. 1. Wm. Dunkerley, 65 N. Los Robles Ave.
San Francisco—Dog Show. Jan. 27-28. Jos. A. Murphy, 1107 Market St.

Florida

Clearwater—Dog Show. Jan. 23-24. Paul W. Saunders.
Jacksonville—Dog Show. Jan. 20-21. Mrs. C. E. Rosenberger, 2905 E. Lakeshore Blvd.
St. Petersburg—Dog Show. Jan. 25-26. Keith L. Meyer, 5500 Second Ave., N. E. St.
Tampa—Dog Show. Jan. 27-28. Frank E. Sheppard, Box 2800.

Georgia

Atlanta—Gift Show. Jan. 22-25. F. B. Steward, Haas-Howell Bldg.

Indiana

North Manchester—Poultry Show. Jan. 10-14. Wayne Little.

Kansas

Topeka—Poultry Show. Jan. 8-12. James R. Cowdrey, 3225 W. 17th St.

Massachusetts

Boston—Poultry Expo. at Garden. Jan. 17-21. Paul Ives, 39 Church St., New Haven, Conn.
Worcester—Grotto Charity Circus. Jan. 22-29. Emile L. Rosseau, 1 Waycross St.

Michigan

Grand Rapids—Shrine Circus. Jan. 22-27. C. H. Hoffman, City Hall.

Missouri

Kansas City—Gift Show. Jan. 21-25. F. Sands, 1610 Dierks Bldg.

New Jersey

Trenton—Agricultural Week. Jan. 22-25. W. H. Allen, 1 W. State St.
Trenton—Poultry Show. Jan. 24-25. L. M. Black, College Farm, New Brunswick.

New York

New York—Dog Show. Jan. 6-7. Foley, 2009 Ransstead St., Philadelphia.
New York—Dog Show. Jan. 14. Iris Bucno, 40 Pelham Road, New Rochelle, N. Y.

Pennsylvania

Philadelphia—Gift Show. Jan. 15-19. George F. Little, 220 Fifth Ave., New York.

South Dakota

Watertown—Grain Show of Northeast S. D. Jan. 17-22. John Noonan.

Texas

El Paso—S. Western Sun Carnival. Dec. 30-Jan. 1. Chris P. Fox, 310 San Francisco St.

Canada

Saskatoon, Sask.—Farm Week. Jan. 8-12.

RABKIN TALKS POST-WAR

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industry is essential and necessary for the maintenance of the morale of the public depends entirely upon how this matter is handled by this association and other organizations interested in our progress.

Speaking for my own field—arcade



Meetings of Assns. of Fairs

Indiana Association of County and District Fairs, January 2 and 3, Hotel Lincoln, Indianapolis. William H. Clark, secretary, Franklin.

Wisconsin Association of Fairs, January 3-5, Hotel Schroeder, Milwaukee. James F. Malone, secretary, Beaver Dam.

Oregon Fairs' Association, January 5 and 6, Imperial Hotel, Portland. Mabel H. Chadwick, secretary, Eugene.

Association of Tennessee Fairs, January 9 and 10, Noel Hotel, Nashville. O. D. Massa, secretary, Cookeville.

Kansas Fairs' Association, January 9 and 10, Hotel Jayhawk, Topeka. R. M. Sawhill, secretary, Glasco.

Ohio Fair Managers' Association, January 10 and 11, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus. Mrs. Don A. Detrick, secretary, Bellefontaine.

Minnesota Federation of County Fairs and State Agricultural Society, January 10-12, Hotel Radisson, Minneapolis. Allen J. Doran, secretary, Grand Rapids.

Massachusetts Agricultural Fairs' Association, January 17 and 18, Hotel Bradford, Boston. A. W. Lombard, secretary, 24 State House, Boston.

Michigan Association of Fairs, January 17 and 18, Fort Shelby Hotel, Detroit. H. B. Kelley, secretary, Hillsdale.

Georgia Association of Agricultural Fairs, January 19, Piedmont Hotel, Atlanta. E. Ross Jordan, secretary, Macon.

South Carolina Association of Fairs, January 22-23, Hotel Wade Hampton, Columbia. J. A. Mitchell, secretary, Anderson.

Western Canada Association of Exhibitions (Class A), January 22-24, Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, Man. Mrs. Letta Walsh, acting secretary, Saskatoon, Sask.

Western Canada Fairs' Association (Class B), January 22-24, Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, Man. Keith Stewart, secretary, Portage la Prairie, Man.

Nebraska Association of Fair Managers, January 23 and 24, Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln. Chet G. Marshall, secretary, Arlington.

Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs, January 23 and 24, St. Nicholas Hotel, Springfield. C. C. Hunter, secretary, Taylorville.

Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs, January 23 and 24, DeWitt Hotel, Lewiston. J. S. Butler, secretary, Lewiston.

North Dakota Association of Fairs, January 26 and 27, Powers Hotel, Fargo. Edward W. Vancura, secretary, Fessenden.

Rocky Mountain Association of Fairs, January 28-30, Rainbow Hotel, Great Falls, Mont. J. M. Suckstorff, secretary, Sidney, Mont.

Virginia Association of Fairs, January 29 and 30, John Marshall Hotel, Richmond. C. B. Ralston, secretary, Staunton.

Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs, January 31-February 2, Penn Harris Hotel, Harrisburg. Charles W. Swoyer, secretary, Reading.

Texas Association of Fairs, January 30-31, Baker Hotel, Dallas. O. L. Fowler, secretary, Denton.

New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs, February 12 and 13, Ten Eyck Hotel, Albany. James A. Carey, executive secretary, Albany.

Western Fairs' Association, February 20 and 21, Hotel Senator, Sacramento, Calif. Tevis Paine, secretary, 4824 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood 27, Calif.

equipment—I am quite certain that at least six months will pass after we receive the green light to manufacture machines before the first device is delivered off the production line. That many new machines will be coming off these production lines goes without saying.

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LETTER LIST

Because of the serious paper shortage, letters, etc., will be advertised in this list only one time. If you are having mail addressed to you in our care, look for your name EACH WEEK.

Mail is listed according to the office of The Billboard where it is held, Cincinnati, New York, Chicago and St. Louis. To be listed in following week's issue mail must reach New York, Chicago or St. Louis office by Wednesday morning, or Cincinnati office by Thursday morning.

Notice, Selective Servicemen!

The names of men in this list who have Selective Service mail at any office of The Billboard are set in capital letters.

Danks Jr., Thos. A.; Darce, John J.; Darling, Jack G.; Darling, Phyllis; DARRROW, John; Davis, Calvin; Davis, Clarence; Davis, Connie; Davis, Mrs. Corinne; Davis, Eric; Davis, Graham; Davis, Jimmie; Davis, Mrs. Jean; Davis, John; Davis, Verman; DAVISSON, James B.; Dawson, Clifford; De Marr, Mrs. Eva; Deal, Mrs. James; Dean, Byron; Dean, Myrna; Dean, Shirley; Dearduff, Roy; Decker, Mrs. Alice; Decker, Connie; Decker, Harry; Decker, Ralph; DECOTEAU, Wm. E.; Delaney, Sam; Delabate, Mr.; Delmar, Vivian; Delmont, Erenchy; Denham, Elbert H.; Denton, Johnny J.; Deshon, Doral; Dewiler, Art & Ann; Dever, Longo; Devine, Jimmie; DeVoyne, W. H.; DICKERSON, Ralph Richard; DICKERSON, Verne Wm.; Dickman, Princess; Dillon, Ellwood; Dixon, Dolly; Doe, Arlene; Dolan, Mrs. Pearl; Don, Rose; Donahue, Jack W.; Donahue, John W.; Donnie, Dan; Donnini, Daniel; Doss, Frank; Doto, Phil; Douglas, Jack; DOWD, James; DOWELL, Clarence E.; Drake, Babe; Drensen, Mike; Drew, Geo.; Drifty, Kid; Driscoll, Bob; DRUCKEN- MILLER, Ervin L.; DRURY, Leo E.; DuBois, Wm. E.; Dudley, Harry G.; Duffey, B. J.; Duffy, Bruce; Duffy, John F.; Dugas, R. H.; DUKES, Roscoe; Allen; DUNAVANT, Jimmie W.; DUNCAN, Alvah B.; Duncan, D. E.; DUNCAN, (Mrs.); DUNCAN, Luther; Dunlately, Jas.; Dupont, Joe; Dunn, Bill; DURANT, Wilfred F.; Dustin, Wm.; Dwire, Dink; Dwyer, Dink; Eames, Amy; Eames, Ellis L.; Earl, M. S.; Earl, Martin; EBARDT, Norman; Eddy, Sam; EDELMAN, Sam; Edema; Edgars, Fearless; Edgar, Geo. B.; EDWARDS, Wm.; EFRIM, Nicholas J.; Ebert, Ferrald; Egberts, Motordrome; ELDER, Charley; ELLINGTON, Jos. Carr; ELLMAN, Mark; Emerson, Bob; Emmswiler, Babe; ENGLAND, Harold Lee; English, W. H.; Erdman, Lee

Esny, Carl; Ethridge, John; Evans, Albert J.; Evans, Jean; Evens, Carole J. (Miss); Ewen, Barbara; Ewen, Ralph W.; Ewen, Larry; EWTON, Jos. M.; EXLETT, Jos.; EYSTED, Benj.; FAGAN, Thos. J.; FAIRCLOTH, James Robt.; Fallon, Kay; Fallon, Margo; Farmer, John David; FAULCONER, Granville D.; Feerer, Evelyn L.; Ferguson, Mrs. Joan; Ferris, Al; Fife, Leonard; Fink, Harry; Finley, Eulin; FINN, Frank; Finn, J.; FINN, Jos. Leo; Finn, Tobe; Finnelly, Dennis; Fissette, Harvey; Fish, Mrs. H. C.; Fisher, Alfred; Fisher, Fred; Fisher, Harry; Fisher, Tom; Fitch, Harry; FITZGERALD, Frank Hiram; Fleet, Chas.; Fleming, Bill; Flynn, Jerry; Fogelman, Sam; Foiden, Harley; FORD, Frank; FOREST, Wilfred J.; Ford, Wm. E.; Forner, Fred; Forrester, Charlie; Forrester, Tex; Forester, Edna M.; Forsythe, F.; Foster, Jimmie; Alice; Foss, John D.; FOSTER, Jack; Foutz, Jack; Fowler, Chet; Fox Camp Shows, Benny; Francis, Roy; FRANK, Tennis; FRANK, Abe; Franks, Buddy; Franks, Jessie; Franklin, Chick; Frankl, G. J.; Fraser, Wm. P.; Frazier, Art; Frederick, James; Frederick, Bennett; Freddie, Don; FREE, Wm. Byrd; FREEMAN, Morris; Freeman, Pete; Freeman, T. W.; Freerer, Jerome; Fremont, Dick; Frezel, Morris; Frey, Betty; Friend, Harry; FULKNER, Robt. Wm.; Fuller, Bill; Fuller, Jos.; Fullmer, Howard; Fulmer, Jim; Gallacher, Frank; Gallie, Helene; Gardner, Bill; Garner, R. B.; CATLIN, Jos. P.; Gaughan, Harry; Gavin, Joe; Gavori, Ben; Geaquinto, Frank; Gearhart, Chas.; Geddis, Geo.; Gee, R. Sol; GEORGE, Mike; GERALD, Fred; Gerber, Joe; Gibson, Curley; Gibson, Hubert; Gibson, Kid; Gibson, Lee; Gifford, Blake; GILLHAM, James; GILL, James Gray; Gillam, Eddie; Gilliland, Homer; GILLISPIE, Girtus; Gilroy, Fred; GLASGOW, Johnny C.; Glassman, Nathan

Glenn, E.; Gloden, Chas.; Glover, John; Golden, Geo.; Golden, Samuel J.; Golding, Charles; GOLDMAN, Louis; Goldstone, Roy; Good, Dan; Goodwin, Michael; Gordon, Harold M.; Gordon, John D.; Gordon, Sam; Gormau, Tom; Gosh, Byron; Goss, Chas.; Graham, Gladys & Red; Graham, Mrs. Margaret C.; Gailer, Frederick; GARDNER, Andrew; Garen, Al; GARLAND, Albert C.; Garam, Red; Grawski, Lawrence; Grant, Al; Grant, Harry; Gratham, Buttons; Gratio, Merle J.; Gravis, John; Gray, Gary; Greagy, Chester; Green, Eddie; Green, Al; Green, Mike; Green, Russell; Greer, Jack; Gregory, Chester; Greyhound, Chief; Greyson, Chas.; Grubbs, Bertha; Grubb, Louis; GUILD, Richard; Gura, Andrew; Guth, Louie; Guther, Jack; Guthrie, Lena; Hagen, G.; Hager, Rayetta; Hale, Dorothy; Hale, Tom; Halin, Esther; Hall, Clayton; HALL, Eugene; Hall, Mrs. Geo.; HALL, John Cecil; HALL, Loran; Hall, Raymond; Hall, Wm. H.; Halligan, Leona G.; Halter, Alice; Hamlin, Bob; Hanaski, Frank; Hannon, Harry; Hansen, C.; Hanson Girl Show, Charmaine; Hanson, Lois T.; Harbaugh, C. C.; Hardin, L. H.; Hardman, Whitely; Hardy, Blanch & Al; HARN, Daniel H.; Harper, Fay & Ray; HARPER, James E.; Harper, Jean; Harper, Whitey; HARRIS, Albert; Harris, Bubbles; HARRIS, Ernest; Harris, Fred; Harris, Harry; Harris, Jack C.; Harris, Jeff; Harris, Jos.; HARRIS, Raymond; HART, Roy Osro; HART, Wayne; Hartman, Henry; Hartley, Bill; Hartley, Helen & Jerry; Hartley, W.; Hasson, Robbie; Hasson, Tom; Hatfield, Jos.; Hawkins, Happy; HAYE, Harold A.; Hayes, Bill; Hayes, Earl T.; Hayes, Ed; HAYES, Kay; Hayes, Mrs. Mabel; HAYNES, James; Head, Bernie; Healy, J. S.; Heath, Hy

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Mathews, Frank; Matthews, Jimmie; H. O.; Matthews, M. H.; Maurice & Andrea; MAXWELL, Charles D.; Maxwell, Jack; May, Harry T.; Meachum, Homer; MEADOWS, Clarence; Meadows, Dewey; Meadows, Estes; Meadows, Theo; MEEKLING, Chas. Karl; MEIKRANTZ, Jos. Francis; Mejia, Migule B.; Mellling, Gordon; Melville, Bert; Menard, Edward; Hector; Mennetti, Eddie; Merritt, A.; Meyers, Bill; Meyers, Bob Gypsy; Meyers, Fred; Miller, Bee; Miller, C. M. Red; Miller, Charley; Miller, Dorothy; Miller, Fred G.; Miller, F. W.; Miller, Geo. & Miller Marks; Miller, Gladys Peggy; Miller, Harry L.; Miller, Harvey; MILLER, John; Lordlow; Miller, Larry Eli; Miller, Ray; Miller, Stanley; MILLEN, Tom; MILLETT, Lawrence C.; Milligan, T. G.; Milsap, Honesuckle; MINOR, Joseph C.; Mitchell, Mrs. Blanche; Mitchell, Frank; MITCHELL, George J.; McCoy, James; Edward; MITCHELL, Miller J.; MITCHELL, Pete; Mitchell, Mrs. Todd; Mix, Allen; Mize, Lee; Mize, Harry; MONAHAN, Edward; Monahan, John; Mondu, Jackie; MONROE, Geo.; Elmer; MONTAGUE, Ivan L.; Montanaro, Dorothy; Montgomery, Bert; Montgomery, Grover C.; Montgometry, Treavor; Montolto, Vincenzo; MCGINLEY, Horace; Geo.; Moore, C. B.; Moore, Eula Mae; Moores, Harry E.; Moore, Jack; Moore, Mickey; MOORE, Wm. M.; Moore, Vera; MOORES, Harry J.; Moran, James A.; Morancy, Percy; Morgan, Mrs. Dorothy; Moran, Evelyn G.; Moran, James N.; Moran, Vera; Morris, Elmer; MORRIS, Jess A.; MORRISON, David; Stanton; MORRISON, Robt. Paul; MORROW, Herbert E.; Morton, Mrs. C.; MORSE, John; Sawyer; MOSHER, Wm.; Mosse, Eddy; Mueller, Mrs. Annie; MUEHLSTEFF, Christian Wm.; Mulcahy, Marie A.; Mulkins, George; Murphy, Frances; Murphy, Lois; Murphy, Walter; Moreland; Murphy, Warren M.; Murphy, Wm.; Allen; Murphree, T. Jeff; Murray, Ernie; Murray, Fred; Mussall, Mrs. Margaretta; Myers, Bob; Myers, Susie; Nabor, Bert; Nail, Chas.; NAUGLE, Michael; Andy; Neal, Ruby; Nelson, F. A.; Nelson, Frank; Nelson, Milton V.; Nelson, Roy; Nettles, H. S.; Nevarre, Gene; Newman, Arthur; Newman, Frank; Louis; Nichols, Robt. H.; Nichols, Green; NICHOLAS No. 13153; John; Nickerson, S. W.; NIELSON, Henry N.; Nold, Carl V.; NORTH, Robt.; Alexander; NOTHSTEIN, Elmer E.; Jas.; Norweather, Henry; Nuthman, Charles; O'Boyle, Thomas; O'Brien, Eddie; O'Brien, Charlie; O'Brien, Dick; O'Brien, Eddie; O'Brien, Joe

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Paulus, Paul
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Perkins, Lonnie
Perkins, Sam
Perrot, Wm.
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Rinehart, Ollie
Ringlin, Geo.
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Roark, Mrs. Marion
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Ruane, Mrs.
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Rump, Tex
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Sanders, Ada Milton
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SCHNEPP, Harold
Schreiber, Harry
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Schultz, T. A. Red
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SCOFIELD, Clifford Marion
Scofield, Ed. Blackie
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Scott, Harold L.
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SCOTT, John Henry
SCOTT, L. E.
SCOTT JR., Thornton F. B.
Screbneff, Wm.
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SEIFERTH, Eugene Eaken
Sutton, Wm. B.
Swafford, Roy C.
Sweizart, Ralph B.
Switzer, Bernard
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Swords Jr., J. D.
SYLVER, James E.
Talbott, Gert
Talley, Gert
Talley, Happy
Tarbes, Henry
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Taylor, Clarence
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TAYLOR, Herman
- Taylor, Howard Ray
TAYLOR, Leander
TAYLOR, Major
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THOMAS, James
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Thomas, L. Louise
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Thomas, Nick
THOMAS, Oliver
Thomas, Pvt.
Thompson, B. W.
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THORSEN, Neils
Thornton, C. A.
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Thrush, Paul
Thrush, Wm.
THURMAN, Robt.
Thos.
Tilghman, Earle
Tilman, Fred
Tilne, Harry
TIPTON, Fred
Tipton, James
Tobell, Mrs. Allen
Todd, Mitchell
Toler, Clyde H.
Tom, Mrs. Rosie
Tom, Walter
TOMB, John H.
Toska, Marie
Townsend, Mrs. C. E.
Townsend, Robert
Tracy, Gilbert
TRANSUE, Durwin L.
TRIMMER, Paul
Triplett, Mrs.
TRUSTEE, Loyd
Turner, Miss E.
Turner, Willie E.
Turney, Doc
Twist, Tom & Tiny
UNDERHILL, Andrew Daniel
UNDERWOOD, Ralph Neal
Unger, Ellen
Urich, Joe
Vader, John
Vagge, Milo
Vagness, K. O.
Valentine, Bill
Vallance, Walter
VALLEGO, Tony
Van Burns, Chas.
VAN CAMP, Arthur John
Van Hoven, B. F.
Van Wie, Mabel
VANCE, Robt. C.
VANN, Daniel
Vantine & Cazan
Varo, Frank
VAUGHN, Hamp
Vaughn, Percy
Vejraska, Mike
Venus, Bunny
Videto, Ken
VILLERS, Charles
Villesponteau, Harry
VINCENT, Carlton
Wade, Carmel
Wade, Tex
Wagner, Mrs. Dee
Wagner, Howard
WAGRAN, George
Waite, Kenneth
Walker, Dorothy
Walker, Harry H.
WALKER, John
Walker, Ervin
WALKER, Martin
Wallace, Bert
WALLACE, Earl
WALTER, Tom
Walters, Ken
Walters, Lee
Walters, Slim H.
WARD, Kenneth
Ward, Lee
WARFIELD, Earl
Ward, Nathan
Warner, George
Warner, Mrs. Jane
Wasko, George
Waske, John
Wasko, Joe
WASSO, Bob
Watt, Slim
WATSON, James
WAY, Jesse Lee
Weatherick, Johnny
WEAVER, Geo.
Webb, E. S.
Webb, Harry
WEBB, Johnnie
Webb, Owen
WEBER, Frederick
WEBSTER, Jas.
Weer, Roy
Weimers, Joe
Weinke, August
Weinmann, Geo.
Weisenberger, Lawrence
Weller, S. E.
WELLS, Joe
Wenick, Morris
Wenzel, Dottie
West, Bess & N. L.
WEST, Chas.
West, Dempsey
West, W. E.
Westbrook, Buster
Western, J. W.
WESTON, Howard
Weyls, Ed
Whalon, Melvin E.
WHARTON, Lee
WHIDDEN, Reed
Whitaker, Wm. E.
WHITE, Jack
White, Thelma
Whited, Eddie
Whitesside, Ambrose
Whittington, Chas.
WIEDEREN, Geo.
Wilde, Vincent P.
WILKERSON, George
Willander, John M.
Williams, Mrs.
Williams, Arky
Williams, Clarence
WILLIAMS, Daniel
Williams, Fat Head
Williams, Fred
Williams, Fred X
WILLIAMS, Gerald
WILLIAMS, G.
Williams, Herbert
Williams, Jack
Williams, Mrs.
Williams, Jeanette
Williams, Moses
WILLIAMS, Slim
WILLIAMS, Sparkey L.
Williams, Ted
Willis, Mary Sue
Wilsie, Cash
WILSON, Bethel
Wilson, Lillian
Wilson, Dime & Connie
Wilson, Fred
Wilson, Perry
WILSON, Douglas W.
WILSON, Ed
WILSON, Richard
Wiltke, Cash
WINNING, Charles
Winrod, E. L.
WINSLOW, Edward M.
Winston, Arnie
Wolf, Jack
Wolf, Vern
Wood, Henry G.
Wood, Mrs. Walter
WOODRUME, Thomas
Woods, Bryan
Woods, Claude
Woods, Doc Harold
Woods, Mae
WOODWARD, Clarence Geo.
Wren, Charlie
Wright, Chas. & Charlotte
Wright, Chas. B.
Wright, Mrs. W. F.
Wunder, Paul
Yacopi, Alfred
Yamanaka, Mrs.
YEAGER, Jas.
Young, John A.
YOUNG, Johnny Red
YOUNG, Nathan
YOUNG, Eddie
YOUNGQUIST, Lawrence Calvin
ZARTARIAN, Max A.
Zell, Bob
Zern, Mrs. Billie
Zimmerman, Bert
Zimmerman, Corky
Zimmerman & Tiny
ZIMMERMAN, Hubert E.
- Weatherick, Johnny
WEAVER, Geo.
Webb, E. S.
Webb, Harry
WEBB, Johnnie
Webb, Owen
WEBER, Frederick
WEBSTER, Jas.
Weer, Roy
Weimers, Joe
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ZARTARIAN, Max A.
Zell, Bob
Zern, Mrs. Billie
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ZIMMERMAN, Hubert E.
- Patrick, Friday
Pelletreau, Jean La
Pelley, Mrs. B.
POSTAK, William
Ramsdell, Lon
RAVELLI, Anthony
Raymond, Emma
Renault, Francis
Richard, Arline
Richards, Harry
Richards, Jean
Richards, Nellie
Rodello, Roy
Rosenberg, Ben
Ross, Abner
RUSSELL, Lewis
Shafer, Mort
Seaman, James
Sheridan, Eleanor
SICARD, Arthur
Sloan, Bert
Stark, Charles
Stergion, Costa
SULLIVAN, Fred R.
Harris, Joseph
Hefferman, Tom
HEISER, Harry
Holmes, Bob
Horless, Arthur
Hornor, Mr. S. O.
Huston, Peggy
Irick, Clark Carlton
Jerome, Paul
Joseph, Sid
Kehulshokui, David
KELLEY, Michael
Kirchoff, Mary E.
Koch, Victoria
LaMar, Ethel
Lawrence, R. R.
Lee, Bonnie
Lee, Thomas
Leger, Armandine
Lester, Hector
LINDSEY, Fred
Long, Rhoda
Macasio, Larry
Maguero, Henriette
Manning, John
Manteaux, Marie
Manucci, Florence
Mariani, James P.
Maye, Billie
McConnell & Moore
McGee, Luke
Merrill, Geo.
Neulemans, Charles
Micieli, Velma
Miller, Curley
Mode, Jean
Murley, Walter B.
Newman, Jake
O'Neill, Tip
Osborne, Peggy
Palitz, Rita
Patterson, J. A.
Rays, Dick
Rays, Monty (Dog Act)
Benham, Richard
Bossier, Tom
Buck, Doris and Buddy
BURNS, William J.
CALAWAY, James Earl
CATES, Charles
CHANDLER, Ralph Wesley
Chaney, C.
Conners, William
Cooper (Uncle Bill)
Crowe, Bill
Crown, H. W.
Collins, Simon D. J.
- Patrick, Friday
Pelletreau, Jean La
Pelley, Mrs. B.
POSTAK, William
Ramsdell, Lon
RAVELLI, Anthony
Raymond, Emma
Renault, Francis
Richard, Arline
Richards, Harry
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Richards, Nellie
Rodello, Roy
Rosenberg, Ben
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RUSSELL, Lewis
Shafer, Mort
Seaman, James
Sheridan, Eleanor
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SULLIVAN, Fred R.
Harris, Joseph
Hefferman, Tom
HEISER, Harry
Holmes, Bob
Horless, Arthur
Hornor, Mr. S. O.
Huston, Peggy
Irick, Clark Carlton
Jerome, Paul
Joseph, Sid
Kehulshokui, David
KELLEY, Michael
Kirchoff, Mary E.
Koch, Victoria
LaMar, Ethel
Lawrence, R. R.
Lee, Bonnie
Lee, Thomas
Leger, Armandine
Lester, Hector
LINDSEY, Fred
Long, Rhoda
Macasio, Larry
Maguero, Henriette
Manning, John
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McGee, Luke
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Mode, Jean
Murley, Walter B.
Newman, Jake
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Chaney, C.
Conners, William
Cooper (Uncle Bill)
Crowe, Bill
Crown, H. W.
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- Jones, Miss Frenchy
Lee
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KNAPP, Glyn W.
Lamb, L. B.
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Levis, Melvin
Lime, Bud
Lipsky, Morris
Lipsky, Ralph
Lynn, John
McAtee, Ellsworth
McCarey, Cecil
Mariah, Dr.
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MOYLAN, Roker F.
Moss, Chuck
Murphy, Mrs. Esther
Oliver, Robert L.
Rose, Louis
Runce, Whitey
Schauck, Frank
(Jersey)
Schoenberger, Emil
Scott, Mrs. Harold
LeRoy
Dewell, Dave
SHERWOODS, Neal Carl
SHUFFELT, Fred
Shuman, Leon J.
Stark, Abe
STOLTZ, Lloyd F.
Sullivan, Blackie
Talbott, Eddie
THALER, Simon
Tuescher, Kathy
WARNOCK, James
Waters, Mrs. Lola
Wauson, P. E.
Wells, Earl
WHITMARSH, Harold L.
Williams, Mrs. Jenne
Worman, Nate
Zerm, Charley
- Jones, Miss Frenchy
Lee
Jernigan, Sgt. Jesse
Kelly, T. W.
KEMP, William
Khouri, Costandi
KNAPP, Glyn W.
Lamb, L. B.
Lauther, Carl J.
Levis, Melvin
Lime, Bud
Lipsky, Morris
Lipsky, Ralph
Lynn, John
McAtee, Ellsworth
McCarey, Cecil
Mariah, Dr.
Matthews, M. H.
Matter, Floyd R.
Mars, R. L. (Bob)
MOYLAN, Roker F.
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Tuescher, Kathy
WARNOCK, James
Waters, Mrs. Lola
Wauson, P. E.
Wells, Earl
WHITMARSH, Harold L.
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Rays, Monty (Dog Act)
Benham, Richard
Bossier, Tom
Buck, Doris and Buddy
CALAWAY, James Earl
CATES, Charles
CHANDLER, Ralph Wesley
Chaney, C.
Conners, William
Cooper (Uncle Bill)
Crowe, Bill
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Aston, James E.
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Goldman, Samuel
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Hart, Edgar G.
Hurricanes, The
Kasin, Andrew
Kemp, W. S. (Billy)
Kehrer, Thomas J.
Lemtry, Mr. H. A. (Whitey)
Littleford, Frank
MARKHAM, Andrew L.
McClanahan, Buck
McGee, Mrs. Christine
Miller, Col. Zask
NICHOLSON, Clyde Archib
Oakhouse, Trudy
Pappas, Theo.
Paul, George
Rings, Ruby
Russell, Mr. W. O.
Schauck, Frank (Jersey)
Smith, Mr. K. E.
Smith, Rex
Swan, Violet
Tiska, Joe
Two Clara
Valdere, Jim
Walkmir, Mr. & Family
Woodward, Ted

**Talkers of PCSA
Will Do It Again
At '45 Convention**

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—The talkers' contest, arranged by J. Ed Brown as part of the Pacific Coast Showmen's Association's initial Outdoor Showmen's Convention, proved so successful that already plans are being made for it to be part of the second annual convention. Not only was the prize list upped from three to six to take care of the large number of contestants but *The Los Angeles Times* gave the event six pictures, two columns of copy and lead in the local section.

With Harry Hargrave in charge, the contest gave opportunity to a list of talkers and would-be talkers to compete with their pitches.

Jack Hughes, the "Blind Observer," who addressed the Memorial Day services on the preceding Sunday in a more serious vein, took the mike to sell oil; Mary Ragan, who was here from San Francisco, pitched her medical book in good fashion to take the lead and walk off with a gold card award. Capt. David (Doc) Barnett, of whale show note, also participated, as did Ted Levitt, of the California Shows, the latter giving the opening for his hula show. Ed Kennedy, scale man, worked on a guess-your-weight angle and Jenny Perry pitched for the Motordrome.

When the smoke had cleared, prizes were awarded to others in addition to Miss Ragan, with Bill Hobday taking second; Peggy Forstall, third; Hughes, fourth, and Dick Kanthe, fifth.

PEPPERS QUARTERS BUSY

(Continued from page 24)
and Rudy Gregrich returned from a visit in Louisiana. Orders have been placed for canvas because some new shows have been contracted.
Staff for 1945 will be Frank W. Peppers, owner; C. E. Meeker, manager; E. H. Broome, business manager; Bobby Sickels, general agent; H. L. Eiler, special agent.
Show will open March 1 with a route about the same as in 1944.

TOP STAND FOR BURKE

(Continued from page 24)
stock. Owner Burke said he would enlarge his Washington Park midway in 1945. The 1944 attendance was 20 per cent above the previous years, with July 4 topping all record days, when 25,000 were drawn by the Army War Show. Pool and zoo also reported record attendance.
A crew including Charley Bloxon, J. J. Combs, Ernest Snyder and Frank Maenza are repainting and rebuilding rides and shows at quarters on West Texas Street. Burke has purchased two well-built warehouses and two lots since he established permanent quarters here in 1942. Show will play the annual Sun Carnival here December 25-January 1 on downtown streets for the third consecutive year. Celebration will be climaxed by a football game when the Second Air Force Superbombers meet an unnamed team in the Sun Bowl New Year's Day. Contract to furnish rides and concessions has been signed by the sheriff's department for the annual Southwestern Championship Rodeo in the Coliseum in March.

**MAIL ON HAND AT
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1564 Broadway,
New York 19, N. Y.

**American Carnivals
Association, Inc.**
—By Max Cohen—

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Reviewing the 11th annual meeting December 4 in Chicago, it is apparent that the most important accomplishment was the continuance of the Public Relations Fund and approval of the membership of the manner in which this activity was conducted during the past year. Next in importance was the consideration of

- Adler, Felix B.
Anderson, Lucille
Appenberg, David
Arnaldin, Miss
Baker, Beulah
Ray, Mary
Bert, Irving
Black, Dan
BLANCHARD, Russell
Blumbers, Philip J.
BONNER, William
Maxson
Booth, Nina
Botter, Harry P.
Braham, Ben Molloy
Mohamed
Britt, Stella
Buchanan
Butler, Howard
Carroll, Dr. J. R.
Casella, Charles
Chanda, and Zeella
Chang
Chase, Mrs. Frank
Cherkoski, Frank
Clifford, Teresa
Cohen, Philip
Collins, Pea Wee
Colvin, Velma
CONLEY, Edward
CONTIWELL, Peter
Cooper, Christine

BUYERS HUNT NEW SOURCES

Goods Freeze Is the Cause

Prospect for new items fades—spot plan will continue but more slowly

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Official reports this week continued to emphasize the seriousness of the recent freeze of civilian production. Officials are also busy still trying to explain exactly what the new steps mean. Newspapers in many sections of the country have co-operated by publishing local interpretations of what the new output order may mean to civilians.

Officials are now talking in terms of next year instead of the first quarter of next year, as was done when the freeze order was first announced. It is well understood that the military news from the European front this week gave moral support to the freeze order and compels the public to face the situation in all of its seriousness. Officials of the War Production Board explain that the new plan is designed to prevent an increase in civilian production until the war situation eases up. It is not intended to reduce the present production of civilian goods. Officials say that the production of civilian goods during the fourth quarter of this year has been at the highest level since the war started. The aim of WPB is to continue the present civilian production level until conditions warrant a change.

A lot of questions have been asked about the continuance of the spot plan which has promised a lot of specialty merchandise items for the public early next year. It is explained that the WPB will continue to issue spot permits, but that all applications will be scrutinized much more carefully than before and that fewer applications will be approved for producing goods. Officials say that spot permits are likely to be issued for some months now only for the production of those civilian items that are seriously needed by the public. This may exclude granting permits to make novelty items unless it is necessary to grant the permits to provide jobs.

Save Man Power

The government agencies here all agree that one of the chief objectives in the freeze order is to save man power for producing essential war goods. Every effort will be made to prevent a transfer of workers to plants that will be making civilian items and also to prevent workers from leaving present war jobs. When permits are requested to make civilian goods, a careful check will be made into the labor supply and whether the firm actually has enough workers unavailable for war work to make the civilian goods.

The government agencies have been greatly encouraged by the solid support which has come in from all parts of the country. It seems apparent that civic and business leaders everywhere appreciate the situation and are willing to offer full co-operation. One of the earliest promises of co-operation came from the Chicago area, which is one of the important war producing sections at the present time. Illinois industry has promised full co-operation with the new program and will attempt to boost its war production in every way possible. Many factories that in former years produced novelty goods are engaged in war work and they will stick to that job. A number of firms that had anticipated beginning the production of small merchandise next year are now not so optimistic about the outlook for producing merchandise.

The WPB plan definitely halts spot plan approvals in about 125 cities, and this complete freezing will continue for 90 days at least. Officials face the problem of trying to encourage the production of enough necessities to supply public needs but at the same time preventing this production from detracting from the production of war supplies. The only

Memo to Our Readers

There's No Advertising in This Issue

For the second year we are skipping *The Billboard* traditional Christmas and Holiday Greetings issue, skipping it so that we can bring you, in 1945, a few of the new features that will make your showbusiness trade paper more and more vital to your business and professional life.

To our advertisers, who made this issue possible by graciously foregoing their usual space, we owe a deep debt of gratitude. It is our intention in the year to come to repay those who have co-operated with us by increasing many fold the intensity of readership, which even now tops anything achieved by a trade paper.

Thanks for everything.

THE BILLBOARD.

encouragement for the future production of novelty and luxury items is that some factories in non-critical areas are already at work on such goods and will continue on it because they have labor supplies.

Wholesalers Worry

The new situation is said to produce a changed attitude in wholesale merchandise circles. For a time many wholesale firms had been looking forward to new goods on the market early next year, and in many cases they have tried to clean out all stocks of old goods. It is now reported in buying circles in New York City that wholesale houses are quite disturbed and that they are anxiously looking for every possible supply of new goods or even old goods to use during the first quarter of 1945. As soon as the final reports on Christmas trade are in from retail outlets, it is expected that many new shortages will be revealed. Some reports say that retail outlets, shortly before Christmas, were cleaned out of their stocks of toys and that those who had any toys remaining simply opened up their stores and almost said "Come and get it" at any price.

Officials here said that when the return to civilian goods actually starts again, the toy trade will be one of the first to benefit. They feel this because toys are easy to make and because it will be one of the quickest ways to get workers transferred back to civilian plants.

The spot plan approvals were also giving some index to what merchandise would be made first. The weekly lists being issued by WPB showed that manufacturers of lamps and lamp shades were getting a good start in their work. In various parts of the country small plants were getting approvals to make gadgets of various kinds, which would have meant an early supply of new merchandise

Surplus Batteries To Test New Plan For Treasury Sales

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The Treasury Procurement Division has announced a new plan under which it will sell some 20,000,000 surplus dry batteries recently withdrawn from sale because of suspected speculation in connection with purchase offers.

Sale of the batteries, the Treasury indicated, will be announced to the trade thru a circular mailed from each regional disposal office to jobbers and established firms which sent in bids on the first offering or which indicated they were interested in battery purchases. All government agencies also will be offered batteries under this arrangement.

The trade price as well as the retail selling price of the 20,000,000 dry cells has been set to conform with OPA ceilings, at 5½ cents to jobbers, 6½ cents to retailers and 10 cents to consumers.

In case of an over sale, allotments will be made, the Treasury said. Special consideration will be given to rural areas, it was explained, as the Treasury wants to supply as many units as possible to small business firms.

There is every indication in Washington that when spot approvals are approved on the regular level again, small merchandise will be prominent in the approvals issued. When civilian goods can be made at the full rate again, the merchandise trade will be one of the first lines of business to feel the new stimulus.

MERCHANDISE TRENDS

By Evelyn Mareneck

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The record holiday gift buying season, which started in September, continued up until the day before Christmas and will be the chief news topic for many weeks. Late reports show that retail outlets were still selling big quantities of goods right up to the very last day. The reporting agencies came thru with their usual statistics on trade this week, but it was understood these reports were merely to fill space. It will be several days yet before official data on the actual trade volume is received. The excise tax reports will be a month or so yet coming in. That record sales in gift merchandise has been set is readily accepted by all without waiting for the official reports.

Retail outlets were too busy this week to even think of the future, but it is understood that wholesale circles are beginning to worry about where they will get merchandise next year. This new concern has been caused by the freezing of new steps toward reconversion, as the government has ordered production of civilian goods to remain at the present levels for some time. Wholesale firms had been looking forward to an increase in the production of new goods early next year under the spot plan. The WPB will go ahead on the spot plan, but very slowly, and production is almost sure

to be delayed for another three months, perhaps six months.

Specialty Uses

The government has developed many special devices for use by the armed forces and no doubt a number of these will prove popular with the public after the war. One of the materials that has been put to many new uses is plastics. Only recently it was reported that a plastic eye shield is being used for protecting the eyes of millions of members of the armed forces against wind, sand, dust and glare. The protective device is made of a transparent sheet of plastic and promises to be very useful for the public after the war. It can be made at a price which will make it an attractive specialty and it may offer some competition to the sun glasses that have been so popular during recent years. The protective sheet is such a help in shielding eyes from dust that it may find wide uses in business. It is now regarded as a "must" for all soldiers in areas where there is dust or glare. The government reports the item can be made for a few cents per unit. It is said to have high visibility, which means that it may be just what the public is waiting for.

Government Surplus

Now that the production of new goods seems to be stalled for some little time

Small Radio At \$6 Swells Talk Of Post-War Biz

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The recent announcement that a post-war radio would be put on the market to retail at \$6 produced various reactions in trade circles. The new set is said to be a four-tube job and will be produced in vast quantities and is expected to appeal especially to the novelty merchandise trade. Leaders in the radio field have been talking up on prices and quality sets but it is understood that the public will still be very favorable toward the midget and table model sets that were so popular before the war.

One factor that will play an important part in deciding the price of these sets after the war is the fact that the public will still be waiting for the higher priced and more perfect models of the future. While they wait for the "dream" radio and television sets, they will buy the small models to tide them over for these future sets. Many people will also find themselves saving money to buy the expensive combination television sets and other new improved ideas in radio and while they are saving money for the big sets they will want one or more small sets to fill in for the time being. Majestic Radio in Chicago has already announced that its lowest priced set after the war will be \$20; before the war this firm had a set for \$15.

This indicates the general trend among the well-known manufacturers of radio, but there will be many new names in the radio field. A recent survey said that already 125 firms had announced that they would be making radio sets after the war. Most of the trade talk is about the big sets, especially combination sets that will be put on the market after the war. But it is well understood that with 125 firms making radio sets, that all of these will have small sets of some kind and this is likely to mean mass production and the very lowest possible prices in order to move the smaller sets.

There is much discussion of the distribution channels for radio sets in the post-war area. Most companies say they will continue their pre-war pattern of distribution; others are looking for new ideas in the distribution field. Group buying organizations will also enter the picture. New distribution organizations are being set up, especially in Eastern cities, planning to use their own trade label after the war.

It appears now that the radio market will be one of the most active fields in the merchandise business, that manufacturing competition will be keen and that the upper bracket sets will be the ones most talked about, but in all this trade activity the novelty merchandise field can look forward to a big supply of the midget sets.

yet, the sale of government surplus goods by the Treasury Department may become much more important to the merchandise field. There has already been some testing of the government surplus sales plans and, of course, criticism has come in. A Senate sub-committee has been investigating the subject and Treasury officials say that no matter how well the sales plan may be conducted there will always be criticism. One sale of soap unearthed the fact that a speculator had even got in and bought a large quantity. The sale of 20,000,000 surplus dry cell batteries is being watched intently. The government is keeping a careful check on who buys these batteries. The plan is to issue regular circular letters to the jobbers in various trades concerned and also to those firms which made bids before the new plan was put into effect. The government promises that the quantity and also the variety of surplus goods announced in the future will be of increasing interest and that in many cases this surplus goods may make up for a lack of newly manufactured items.

INDUSTRY FIGHTS 3d YEAR

Little Rock Adopts Plan To Keep Kids From Playing Games

LITTLE ROCK, Dec. 23.—The city council finally adopted a plan which will penalize location owners and also minors if children are permitted to play pinball games. This is an effort to solve the problem which has been agitating here for several weeks and threatened to upset the city license plan. The situation became unique because city officials were very anxious to keep their license on pinball games for the much needed revenue coming in the city treasury. The games also pay a State license.

When complaints began to come in about children playing the games, city officials sought the co-operation of local newspapers, to get the co-operation of parent groups and school officials in the effort to prevent abuse of the games resulting in adverse criticism. It was reported that cash payouts were being made in a few locations, but most of the complaints were about children playing the games. Police officials tried visiting the locations in an effort to get the owners to enforce regulations strictly.

Police officers found that one cause of complaint was the fact that newsboys would sell a few papers, then run to the nearest pinball game to spend their money. Police tried to find some plan to appeal to the boys against this practice.

WPB Urges Small Motor Mfg. To Meet Civvie Need

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The War Production Board continues to extend its efforts in promoting the production of small motors for civilian use. Altho military needs have increased, WPB officials report that civilian production is being increased slightly also. They hope for still better results early next year. They say that manufacturers should be able to ship several thousand small motors each month for the most essential needs during the first half of next year.

Repair shop owners were advised by WPB to seek suppliers who can fill their orders and to urge them to file an application with WPB each month for allocation of small motors.

Repairmen needing small motors for replacement in refrigerators, commercial refrigeration systems, washing machines, oil burners, coal stockers, pumps, etc., should use the AA-3 rating assigned to them by Controlled Materials Plan Regulation 9-A in placing orders with motor suppliers, WPB officials said. These suppliers include washer, refrigeration or industrial machinery jobbers, electrical wholesalers, motor dealer agencies, factory branches and mail order houses.

Civilian sale of fractional horsepower motors is restricted to the most essential uses, because of the relatively small number available for non-military purposes, WPB officials pointed out. Clarification of procedure to aid both repairmen and suppliers in obtaining small motors follows:

1. Suppliers who have fractional horsepower motors in stock are required to fill repair shop orders carrying AA-3 ratings if the motors are not needed to fill higher rated orders. The buyer, however, must meet the seller's regularly established prices and terms of sale.

2. Suppliers are not permitted to demand an old motor in exchange for a new one as part of the purchase price on orders with AA-3 ratings.

3. Motors may be sold only on rated orders, except when needed for replacement of disabled motors. In such cases the old motor must be taken in exchange, repaired if practicable and resold under similar conditions.

Another unfavorable instance was the case of a 16-year-old boy who had rigged up a wire gadget to cheat the pinball games. He enlisted other boys in his stunt and soon the scheme had spread causing many complaints.

The city and State license law has been in effect a number of years and has proved favorable with the officials. The State tax office issues a monthly report showing the amount of revenue that is received from coin machine licenses all over the State. The city shares in the revenue but the local license is limited by the State law.

New Law Stiff

Under the new council regulation children may be convicted for playing the games and this part of the ordinance is expected to prove unfavorable in the (See Little Rock Adopts on page 39)

Editorial

Taxes in 1945

By Walter W. Hurd

THE coin machine industry is not alone in its anticipation of 1945 as another "Legislative Year," with the possibility of new tax proposals on its machines. A financial journal recently pictured all industry and trades as anxiously watching what new taxes the year may bring forth.

The odd year is designated as a legislative year because at least 44 State Legislatures will be in session some time during the 12 months, most of them convening during the first quarter. The big majority of them will probably finish their sessions during the first half of the year. Thus the legislative story will mostly be told by July 1 of next year.

In addition to the State legislative bodies being in session early in the year, a new Congress will convene in January and add its weight to the volume of legislative proposals that will make news next year. Congress will still have the thankless job of providing revenue to carry on the war and to that extent will have some degree of sympathy from the taxpayers. Due to the seriousness of the war at the present time, there is not much prospect of getting desired amendments in the Federal tax on free-play games, counter machines, etc. But before the next Congress adjourns the defeat of the Axis powers might be far enough along to permit consideration of these tax problems.

Congress may give the vending machine trade cause to worry again, either by proposals to tax the machines direct or proposals to tax goods sold in the machines not already covered by a Federal tax. Some hints have already been heard that proposals to hike the cigarette tax still more might be made. But the shortages of soft drinks, candy, gum, cigarettes and other merchandise is expected to put a damper on new tax proposals and leaders in Congress have also said that no new excise taxes would be passed, according to present plans.

During the war, State and city governments have in most cases had ample revenue and surpluses in several cases. But more recent reports

Supports Nation in Mighty War Against Axis Powers

Trade keeps identity during third trying year of war—factories keep at job of turning out war goods—record of 1944 brings many hardships as well as gains

By Walter W. Hurd

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—During the third year of the war the coin machine industry put its efforts into helping win a complete victory and at the same time maintaining its identity as an industry. From the industrial viewpoint alone, the year was a quiet and successful one. Financially, operators were able to make a higher rate of earnings than ever, due to the absence of competition and also because people had plenty of spending money. Manufacturers were kept very busy at war work and distributing firms probably had more troubles than any other special group within the trade ranks.

Certain well-known trends that had begun earlier in the war, continued

throughout the year. Machines continued to get scarcer and repairs were harder and harder to make. Many sections of the industry suffered more and more due to the shortage of supplies, such as records and of merchandise for vending machines. The trade shared in the fortunes of the nation as a whole, such as larger pay rolls and plenty of spending money, and in those hardships which were due to war conditions such as the shortage of gas. The trade joined with other industries in looking ahead to the future, making as many plans as conditions permitted, to work for a bigger and better industry when the war is over.

There are many ways in which a brief review of the year could be published and the following outline is used in this issue simply for its brevity.

1. Arcades

The amusement enterprise known as the "arcade" did not get as much publicity during the year as it did in 1943. Arcades continued to be successful. The expansion movement which had begun earlier did not continue at the same rapid pace. Arcades began to suffer from a shortage of equipment and the same difficulties that confronted operators generally in '44. The organization of operators known as the Arcade Owners' Association continued to function and to keep alive the identity of arcade operators.

2. Associations

Association work during the year was almost at a standstill. Fewer organizations of operators were actually active during the year than perhaps in the last 10 years. The Phonograph Merchants' Association of Cleveland and the Associated Operators of Los Angeles County (Calif.) continued their activities as the two most notable operators' groups. The National Automatic Merchandising Association, representing vending machine operators, continued actively also. A number of other groups met at intervals and were active at certain times but the record for associated work during the year was rather meager.

3. Exports

As the industry looked into the future (See Industry Fights on page 38)

Coinmen Elected to Balto. City Council

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23.—Arthur B. Price, large arcade and vending machine operator here, was elected to the Baltimore City Council as a member from the third district. He succeeds George H. Fallon who was elected to Congress last November. Price is expected to take his seat this week having already been sworn in to office by Mayor McKeldin.

Price operates one of the largest arcades in the city at 21 East North Avenue and also is owner of Gwynn Oak Amusement Park, where he has an arcade. Another of his interests is Lakewood Swimming Pool, where he also has drink vendors on location.

In addition to his amusement interests, he's a member of several fraternal orgs and is a director of the Motion Picture Theater Owners' Association.

Games Okay But Free Plays, Payouts Out, Muskegon Rules

First reaction to Michigan Supreme Court decision—minority report presents strong case for free-plays—ranks with Iowa high court dissent

MUSKEGON, Mich., Dec. 23.—The first reported reaction to a recent decision by the Michigan Supreme Court unfavorable to free-play awards on pinball games happened here. It was just another chapter in a long history involving pinball games and fights with the opposition. The city has a high license tax on pinball games and was anxious to keep the games operating, according to official circles, but when the State Supreme Court decided against free games, the city simply issued an order that operators discontinue the free-play idea.

According to the official view, pinballs may continue to operate if free plays are not offered. Payouts, in general, are also banned under the city regulations. Operators here have co-operated fully with city officials in making their games conform to the recent court decision. The city itself has had more than one court action involving the games and the opposition has caused much trouble in the past. In two previous cases in local courts an injunction had been issued restricting the police department from interfering with pinball games if they were used for amusement only. The court here also decided against the use of free-plays.

City Licensed Games

When the Circuit Court upheld pinball games, the city commission then decided to license them. The fee placed on the games was considered rather high by operators but they have continued in business despite it. According to city reports there has really been no large decrease in the number of games, but the opposition a few months ago raised the hue and cry that pinball was contributing to juvenile delinquency. An official investigation was made and evidence was found that some school children were playing the machines.

The council then looked about for some way to ban the games near schools. Because of the court injunction they could not be banned, however. Local officials continued to study numerous situations and court decisions trying to find some way to prevent the games being placed in locations near schools. The official opinion is that it will be necessary to get some kind of court decision in order to set up a regulation which will stand. For the time being it seems that licensed games will operate as usual, but the local order will prevent the use of free plays.

Strong Minority Opinion

The unfavorable decision handed down by the State Supreme Court was based on an appeal from Port Huron. An operator of 60 games was involved in the test. The decision may turn out to be as important as the famous Iowa Supreme Court decision, altho the majority verdict was unfavorable to "free-plays." In the Michigan case the high court voted 5 to 3 against free-plays. The *Detroit Times* featured a quote from the minority verdict in boldface type, thus indicating that the opinion may

turn out to be very favorable to free-play games just as happened in the case of the minority report of the Iowa Supreme Court.

The majority opinion said that "the skill of the player is a slight factor" in pinball games. It also said that the free-play machine is well recognized as a gambling device.

The minority opinion was written by Justice Emerson R. Boyles, stating that there was no proof in the case that the machines were used for gambling and the evidence indicated they were operating solely for the amusement of the players. The section of the opinion which the *Detroit* newspaper featured in bold type was as follows:

"The mere fact an implement, object or device can be used for gambling does not make it a gambling device," he said.

"Were this not true, it would follow that ordinary playing cards, tables, coins, golf clubs, matches or almost any inanimate object would be a gambling device and subject to confiscation as such."

Juke Biz Highlights Cleveland Biz Year

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23.—Highlight of the coin machine business in the Northern Ohio area during the past year has been the business done by music machines. Despite the headaches resulting from lack of new equipment and difficulty in obtaining records and servicemen, juke ops report a bang-up year. Some of the ops met their repairmen problem by nabbing older men for the job.

As far as pin games go in the Cleveland area, they are still banned for the fourth year and there is little possibility of their returning in the immediate future. Skee-ball and arcade equipment has been getting good play, however, depending on the location.

Games and jukes got good play in the Akron and Toledo areas where games are licensed. Authorities clamped down on pay-outs during the year, however. Akron imposed a juke box license during the year. All operators in the area are looking forward to a bigger year in 1945, especially the juke box ops, since the record shortage shows some signs of abatement.

St. Louis Biz Off '43 Levels Despite Boom in Locations

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—Operators here all claim operation of pin games was slightly off from 1943, but the music men report that juke box play increased terrifically and is still going very big. Business at Penny Arcades was considerably off 1943 levels thruout the year.

The jobbing business here with all of the distributors showed at least a 25 per cent decrease under 1943. This was primarily due to the dearth of new machines or rebuilt ones.

In May of this year the board of aldermen passed a resolution licensing pin games in taverns, opening several thousand additional locations for the ops. However, pin games in the taverns did not get the "take" that was expected, the blame being placed on the fact that in most locations, the players usually play the pin games with the store owners or employees, but it seems that tavern owners and bartenders were all too busy to take part.

1944 Hectic Year for Philly Coinmen But Wind-Up Okay

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—A trolley strike that closed all the taprooms and taverns for a month, inability to secure phonograph records, and now, shortages in cigarettes, were the principal factors that kept 1944 from being a banner year for the amusement machine industry here. With the return of pinball machines to locations last year, resulting from a favorable court decision, the music operators well organized to make for better operations. And with the cigarette houses looking after the needs of the vending machine operators in face of increasing shortages, the year started off in full force, with every indication that it would be the biggest year since the start of the war.

However, factors beyond the control of the operators held business down. And while the year was generally considered a good one, volume business fell far below expectations. Business in all branches of the industry held to high levels until mid-summer when a city-wide trans-

Industry Fights Third Year In Drive Against Axis Powers

(Continued from page 37)

portation strike broke out. With the army taking over the trolley system and ordering all places that sold liquor to remain closed for almost a month before the ban was lifted, music machine operators were hard hit, even harder than the pinball and vending machine operators.

It was estimated that the music machine industry alone suffered a loss of almost a quarter of a million dollars in volume business as a result of the strike. Music operators also suffered much during the year, resulting in only fair collections because of the inability to get the required number of recordings for their machines. It was estimated that almost half of the play of a hit record was lost by the time the operator could get the disks for his machines.

4. Federal

Due to the war, the federal government played a much greater part in the affairs of the industry than would otherwise have been experienced. The federal tax on coin machines continued to attract attention and after the fiscal year ended July 1, the Internal Revenue Bureau made its usual reports of collections in the States and this got big space in a lot of newspapers. Due to increased rates on some machines, the federal government got more money during the last fiscal year than it had during the previous year, and the industry was prouder of this toll because it helped finance the war. Some newspapers tried to use the federal tax data for crusades against the business; aiming its axe especially at slot machines in private clubs. The federal tax data revealed the importance of slot machines in financing private club work.

The War Production Board had much to do with the manufacturing section of the trade during the year. The WPB appointed a special industry committee, and its most famous act, in so far as trade news was concerned, was the "spot plan" beginning August 15. The spot plan permitted manufacturers to apply for permits to make new machines as soon as conditions would permit. The manufacture of several thousand vending machines was actually scheduled under this plan before a new freeze went into effect just before the end of the year.

The Office of Price Administration continued to watch over prices during the year and only one actual case got into court. This involved a raise in the rental price charged for juke boxes for private parties. The OPA did not call a meeting of its industry advisory committee during the year. Operators came into contact with the OPA board directly in gas rationing, having to suffer with other lines of business due to the shortages of gas, tires, etc., during the year.

A new federal slug law was passed during the year and this attracted wide and very favorable attention in the industry. It promises to be very useful to the vending machine trade in the stopping of the cheating of their machines by using slugs.

There are many other ways in which the federal government came into contact with the trade during the year, but

these may be regarded as the chief highlights. Even more encouraging to the trade than the news of the federal slug law was the fact that during the year, the WPB in several ways recognized the industry very favorably. It published an early report, putting the coin machine trade among the most important industries in the country for service rendered in producing war goods. This story was first published in important financial journals and also appeared in *The Billboard* of March 18, 1944. In amending the war control orders to conform to the spot plan, the WPB considered the industry very favorably and first put the vending machine order under the spot plan. Later, the order covering games and juke boxes was also put under the spot plan.

5. Legal Record

The legal record of the industry during the year revealed fewer major happenings than in most years. Few State legislatures were in session and there was a decline in city actions involving coin machines.

The federal tax added still more prestige to amusement machines and as many as 17 States were collecting a tax on one or more types of machines. Hundreds of cities were also licensing various types of machines.

Free-play awards on pinball games proved to be the chief factor in legal contests. In test cases on appeal the year ended with what may be called an even draw. A St. Louis court handed down a favorable decision early in the year which promised to continue the favorable trend on free plays that had started in 1943. In April a Federal District Court, next door to the U. S. Supreme Court, handed down a favorable decision on free plays. But on the (See *INDUSTRY FIGHTS* on page 41)

Ore. Trade Has OK Year Despite New Law and Shortages

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 23.—Oregon operators and distributors of coin machines are winding up a fairly satisfactory year, considering lack of equipment and a new State law taxing pinball games and music boxes which went into effect July 1.

Reaction to condition in the industry varied according to personality of the proprietors, ranging from enlargement of floor space and purchase of property to juggling of locations and removal of machines.

Beer shortage hit the trade hard until the supply improved during the autumn and taverns have been able to fill their needs and remain open so long as manpower was available.

The Jack R. Moore Company found his "about normal" in the operating line, but as a distributor had no merchandise to speak of. Moore, back from the armed service in mid-April, has branched out into a new line. He is head of the Western Skyways, Inc., operating a flying school, complete with instrument flying and a Link trainer, at Troutdale on the Columbia River, about 20 miles east of Portland. During his hitch in the service the biz was handled by J. E. Cussen, his manager.

Portland Amusement Company moved to new and larger quarters, having about twice the floor space for distrib and operator biz. Firm is doing mostly a repair and service business, however.

S. A. Sedlock, who heads his own company, believes when times are difficult the thing to do is to hustle more.

"We hooked up the routes a little," he said, "and we held our own."

Budge Wright, head of the Western Distributors, found biz "not bad," altho the new tax hurt and a few five-ball machines were taken out. On the other hand, as jobber, he found that others were buying his second-hand machines to about even up the bad breaks. Two or three have cleaned out their routes, he said. Wright, however, personally bought the building the firm occupies, and the parts department has been doubled.

Mills Sales Company, Ltd., with headquarters at Oakland, Calif., as jobber and distributor, has been pushing vending machines.

Pin Game Biz Even

Pinball operators reported business only held even during the year, blanning the (See *1944 HECTIC YEAR* on opp. page)

Iowa Trade Racks Up Best Biz Since '41; Optimistic About '45

DES MOINES, Dec. 23.—Business was better in this territory during 1944, far exceeding the last two years. Major trends in Iowa were a consolidation of routes and companies, and a beer shortage that hurt business in rural areas.

At the close of year, operators were optimistic for future pointing to increased flow of records for phonographs, which was noticed in last few weeks, and fertile fields now open due to shortages.

One large operator reported business 100 per cent ahead of 1943, while others placed percentage at 20 and upward.

Bill Doyle, of Superior Sales, said: "Business excellent altho it was harder to take care of it."

Paul Nelson, of Nelson Music Company, "Business ahead of 1943 because of defense locations."

No tax or legal questions arose in Iowa during the past year and newspapers featured teen-age clubs, especially *The Des Moines Register* and *Tribune* which gave the movement much support. Almost every large city in State has such clubs with juke boxes.

Des Moines paper, however, took up a crusader attitude following publication of a list of slot machine taxpayers.

Two large Des Moines operators, Aubrey Gibson and Vern Howard, sold out their phonograph businesses with their equipment and routes being divided among other operators.

At the close of the year Mayflower Distributing Company, Des Moines, had well-laid plans for the postwar period, while Superior Sales also was busy with new building plans and extension of service when the war is over.

George Defrieze Passes

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23.—George Defrieze, 53, secretary of Cleveland Phonograph Merchants' Association, died in Cleveland, O., December 19, following a heart attack. He was also owner of the Accessory Supply Company, a music box supply firm. He is survived by his widow, a son and two daughters.

LITTLE ROCK ADOPTS

(Continued from page 37)

long run, according to some officials. The majority say, however, that it should discourage children from playing the games. The new regulation will also assess fines and possible imprisonment on location owners who permit children to play pinball in their places of business.

Officials expect to enforce this part of the regulation most stringently. One official said that appeals to parents were not very helpful because many parents did not try to teach their children habits of thrift.

Press Co-Operates

Local newspapers co-operated during the time the pinball question was under discussion by giving both sides of the issue, and *The Arkansas Gazette* recently published the following editorial on the new plan:

"Little Rock's new pinball ordinance will have to be judged by results. Not every law whose purpose may seem to make its enactment desirable proves to be enforceable as a practical matter.

"On paper, the measure passed by the city council in response to complaints that Little Rock school children are squandering their lunch money in pinball gambling is drastic. Persons under 18 are forbidden to play the machines, and penalties of fine and imprisonment are provided both for the players and for the proprietors of establishments where playing by minors is permitted.

"But the city has issued licenses for some 500 pinball machines. Obviously, the police could not constantly keep under observation all the places where these hundreds of devices are installed and demand proof of the age of players whose legal right might seem doubtful.

"If pinball gambling by minors is to be checked, it seems that primary dependence must be sought in the voluntary co-operation of the licensed pinball operators."

Vitamin Interests Plan Meeting With Vim-Vigor-Umph

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The vitamin war between certain medical groups and the food industry is expected to assume new interest next month when a meeting of companies in any way connected with vitamins will be held. Leadership in this movement has been undertaken by a pharmaceutical organization, and the plan is to try to enlist even those vitamin manufacturers that have been catering to the grocery trade and the food industry in general.

The purpose of the movement is to bring the two controversial groups together into one organization which will work for the general advancement of the vitamin business. Leaders in the movement say the meeting is one in which there are two groups working on opposite sides. The massive food industry, including the soft drink and candy trade, has been invited to look in on the meeting and join the program. The plan is to form a national organization which will include a general publicity program boosting the use of vitamins. Firms that cater to the food industry or advertise vitamins to the consuming public are said to belong to the proprietary group. The so-called ethical firms are the ones which sell indirectly to the public thru physicians and prescription drugstores. It is this situation which has created the vitamin war and which has indirectly lead to criticism by medical groups of the idea for adding vitamins to soft drinks and candy, in that way providing the consumer with part of his needed vitamins.

Background of War

As reported recently in these columns, this is the background of the real vitamin war and the crucial date ahead is next October 1, which is the date that the Federal Food and Drug Administration has ordered the drug industry, including the ethical manufacturers, to label their products with specific directions on how to use them, unless the products are unquestionably prescription drugs. This new labeling requirement will largely affect the vitamin trade and is expected to reduce the cost of vitamins. The soft drink and candy trade is interested in more economical production of vitamins so that the factors can be added to their products without increasing the price of the items to the public.

L. A. Cig Headaches Solved By Top-Notch Op Servicing

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—The cigarette operator is expecting only one change at this time of the year. It is the year change from 1944 to 1945. When asked what the situation was on cigarette supplies at this time, one operator answered, "terrible." However, the cigarette shortage did not hit here strongly until the later part of June and the operators will do about 85 per cent of what is estimated to be a normal year's business.

A recent cut of 50 per cent by Philip Morris brings the amount of cigarettes of this brand being allowed operators to 40 per cent. The supply at the time of the cut was 80 per cent. Camel is still 80 per cent, when and if you can get them. Chesterfields is 70 and Lucky Strike 70. Prior to a date unofficially set as June 30, Camel was on a rationed basis of 70 per cent. But even then it was "if you can get them." Despite the percentage of supplies that are allowed, the operators in some cases don't seem to be getting them.

Biz Lost on Shortage

Operators have definitely lost business because of the shortage. However, it is one thing sure that no matter who has cigarettes they can be sold. This point is confirmed by the reception given cigarette girls in night clubs.

Russell Collier, of Cigarettes Unlimited, said: "We are getting some brands, but by no means all of them." Collier admitted that the hardest brand to obtain is Camel.

Collier, who uses femme service people, said that one of his employees serviced

K. C. Vendo Co. Nab Fifth Army-Navy "E" Award Star

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 23. — The Vendo Company, formerly manufacturing soft drink vending machines and now making aircraft products for the government, says it has been notified by Robert Patterson, Under-Secretary of War, that the company has for the fifth time been awarded the Army-Navy "E" for excellence of production.

The Vendo firm started in war production in April, 1942, and received the Army-Navy burgee award September 1 of that year and it has since been awarded a star for every six-month period. The present star award has been

accepted with real gratitude by the firm and they have complimented their employees for the excellent results which have been maintained during an additional six months. Officials say that the firm has been notified that a 12-month period must now elapse before the organization would again be considered for honors.

According to officials of the firm, they are now producing air-born signal equipment for the army and navy. According to the local chamber of commerce, there are but 25 other firms in the United States that have been given the award and five stars added. Officials say reports indicate the Vendo concern is the first in the coin machine field to receive a fifth award. This statement was made here without a definite report from Chicago, which is regarded as the center of the coin machine industry in the United States, where it is understood, several firms have been awarded the "E" and additional stars.

Music Up, Games Off But Biz OK for Most Harrisburg Coinmen

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 23.—Coin machine operators in this area report a sustained business during the past year despite material shortages and personnel difficulties.

Music locations have increased, though some operators report a decline in pins on locations, largely because of mechanical difficulties in keeping the machines in operation. A few new operators have established small businesses of the one-man type, operating from their residences, but because of the demand for coin machines the larger firms have not felt any inroads on their income because of this. In fact, several routes had to be curtailed because of lack of service facilities.

Crusades by several newspapers in this area hit the few operators who serviced payoff coin machines. Many of them, however, were owned by the clubs operating them. In all cases private clubs were involved. Internal revenue reports were chiefly the basis of the news stories.

Military personnel provide much of the coin machine income here. Decreased operations of a few near-by installations have been offset by increased activities in other military depots. War industries continue in full operation and provide a very substantial part of the coin machine income.

No decrease in business is anticipated, and all machines in working order are kept busy.

1944 HECTIC YEAR

(Continued from opposite page)

lack of bull business on the lack of equipment, and are biding time until the end of the war and new machines will again be made available. Cigarette vending operators, the only type vending machines still figuring prominently here, fared well until late in the year, when cigarette shortages became widespread, and now every machine remains idle. The year also saw an appreciable number of drink vending machines returning to locations, particularly where cup rather than bottle sales were involved.

Business highlight of the year was that done at the arcades, particularly during the summer. And while few new arcades were opened during the year, those already established reported satisfactory business.

News highlight was in Jack Cade leaving his post as business manager of the Music Machine Operators' Association to return to the distribution field, becoming general manager for the Wurlitzer distributors in Baltimore. Charles Hanon, long associated with the local Wurlitzer distributors, succeeded Cade as business manager of the association.

Tax Problem Looms

As the new year approaches, great concern is expressed by the industry over possible tax levies. While the industry escaped State taxes this year, State mercantile license fees having been repealed by State Legislature the year previous, city council has indicated that it is eyeing the amusement machine industry in an effort to balance the 1945 municipal budget. City council is talking about taxes which would follow the lines of the former State mercantile licenses, and has made it known that it expects the industry to produce revenue, in taxes, of at least \$300,000 a year.

distribution. But as operators know there is nothing that they can do about it.

There has been a change in servicing machines. Where the operators used to make case cuts and use them for transporting supplies from the truck to the machine, this practice has been more or less abandoned. Some are using case cuts, but they are using them over and over. When cases are emptied they are knocked down, stacked, packed and shipped to the manufacturer.

Ops Hit Hard

Some operators here have been hit harder than others, as is usually the case. Some have cut their servicing from two and three times a week to once a week. Others have, as Collier has done, stopped filling machines. Still others have cut down the number of machines to be serviced, storing this equipment in their warehouses. One operator is reported to have 80 machines off location.

What effect this will have on standard brands following the war cannot be predicted at this time. Operators tell that they are certainly grateful for some of the brands that have been brought into prominence by the cigarette shortage. They may or may not feel duty bound to these brands. However, this duty is not expected to amount to very much as an operator must give the location owner the brands that sell.

Doles Supplies

Al Weymouth, of Weymouth Cigarette Service, who is the "biggest operator of the little guys," has been fighting the cigarette shortage just like other operators in this section. He has been doling out his supplies and some time ago dropped to servicing his machines once a week.

One of Weymouth's machines is located in a small cafe in the Hollywood section. A cafe patron asked about cigarettes and the owner told him to come in Tuesday. Tuesday was the day for filling the machine.

Location owners have been telling customers the days on which the machines are serviced. Thru this way the customers line up and buy until the machine is empty. This gives an unfair

Trade & Sale of W. C. Juke Routes Takes Million \$\$\$\$

Across-the-desk deals made thruout 1944 shuts out newcomers in music biz—many routes change hands with neither op seeing machines involved—competition hot

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 23.—More than a million dollars is estimated to have changed hands during 1944 for music machine routes in immediate and adjacent sections of Los Angeles. Practically all of the routes were sold to operators already in the business, but at the same time some new blood has entered the field, too. Route selling has developed into across-the-desk deals with the operator and for this reason the newcomer in the field is finding strong competition. Some routes have changed hands from one operator to another. But these deals are few.

Among the recent trades of operator-to-operator was that of the route of Fred Allen to A. M. Keene, of Keenomatic, Taft, Calif. The machines are located in Kern County and more particularly around Bakersfield.

800 Machines Involved

Perhaps the largest phonograph route to change hands during the year was that of Frank Navarro. Clark Distributing Company purchased this operation. The Navarro operation was set at 800 machines, a figure he set when interviewed by *The Billboard* earlier in the year. It was said that Navarro plans to retire. But this is taken to mean that he will not do so completely, continuing with his Mexico City operation, directing it part of the time from his home here.

Firms that have entered the route selling business include General Music Company, Minthorne Music Company, and Clark Distributing Company.

During 1944, Fred Gaunt, of General, engineered route sales for Roy Jones, who purchased the Tomlinson interest in Visalia. Tomlinson retired and Jones, who had a local route, moved his point of operation from Los Angeles to Visalia. F. B. Carter, a local operator, increased his operating duties by purchasing the music routes of the late A. C. Woodward in the northern part of the State. E. M. Brunetti retired from the music machine business, his routes being purchased by Bob Bard, a local operator.

Newcomer's Tough Start

The newcomer entering the field has two strikes against him when he starts to buy music machine routes. This is not because music machine operators discriminate against new blood but because the selling of routes to established operators is like shooting birds on the ground. As one jobber acting as a broker said, there are deals that are consummated without the selling agent or the buyer ever seeing the machines. Operators who are in the market for routes are pretty much in the know as to what the other fellow owns and operates. Soon as it is revealed that the route is for sale, the interested operator knows what he is getting—and is prepared.

Selling to a greenhorn would not be nearly so easy. Those who have approached selling agents want to know all about the route and the condition of the machine. Since few of the newcomers are familiar with this scale of operation, even explaining to them that the route includes a job is usually waste language. With money free and operators hankering to buy money-making routes, the selling agents feel that they have nothing to lose by giving the newcomer the brush.

Info Given Tho

A spokesman for a firm selling routes had this to say, "If a fellow comes into this office and wants to enter the phonograph operating business, we'll gladly give him consideration. If he wants to see the machines on location, we'll show them to him."

This statement is typical of the dealings that the coin firms offer the newblooders. However, few of the boys with the idea of entering the field have the necessary lucre to take the ride. Most of them are operating with ideas and not cash.

Selling and buying routes on the West Coast is big business. It takes folding money or good financial backing. Established coinmen have one or the other or both. The newcomer maybe has a couple of records, a pocket of needles, and an idea that he can get into Brewsters millions by dangling on a shoestring.

'44 Big for Miami Trade, Juke Box Play Is Strong

MIAMI, Dec. 23.—Operators and distributors here are voicing no complaints over business in 1944. Both report volume equal to or in some instances ahead with the exception of cigarette vending machines which have taken it on the chin heavily during the year. Due to the concentration of military forces here, juke box play has been exceptionally heavy.

There were no tax or legal developments in the city of consequence during the year and none are being proposed at the present time except for agitation by municipalities that State cigarette tax yield of 3 cents per pack be turned over to them on the claim that the needs of the cities are greater than those of the State. Some action may result in the next session of the Legislature but it's doubtful that the move will be successful.

tubes during 1945 it will be lucky. He said the average jobber today is getting about 30 per cent of the tubes he received in 1941.

A tube manufacturer said that civilian tubes are now sandwiched in between government orders. There are also overruns and rejections eating into distribution. He said the military type tubes do not help the civilian shortage. The only way a manufacturer can really aid the civilian situation is to have a chance to produce long runs on one type civilian tube. It is explained, however, that as soon as civilian tubes can be made in quantity again the orders of jobbers on file will be filled first. It is estimated that even when the tube factories can all change over to 100 per cent production of civilian tubes it will require from four to six months to stock the 150 most important types of tubes to supply the civilian market.

Government officials and manufacturers are doing the best they can under the situation and all agree that the war needs must continue to come first. The importance of radar and other electronic equipment in winning the war is well understood by the nation and the tube situation is expected to continue until news from the fighting fronts becomes much more favorable.

'45 Radio Tube Bulk Allocated For Army, Navy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Officials of the War Production Board are still trying to find some encouragement for the public in getting radio tubes next year, but the most recent report is on the gloomy side. Officials say civilians will find it harder to buy radio tubes next year than in 1944. The agency reports a shortage of tubes for use of the armed forces and it is also expected the need will increase still more.

Since there is not much prospect for increasing the production of tubes, the increased needs of the armed forces will have to be drawn from civilian supply. One official said that the civilian supply during the first quarter of 1945 will be much less than the 2,000,000 tubes a month asked for that period.

Civilian Supply Cut

In radio circles a trade leader said that the total number of tubes now reaching the civilian market amounts to less than 1,500,000 per month. Before the war, tubes for replacement only were used at the rate of about 33,000,000 to 36,000,000 per year. The obsolescence of sets and the lack of new radio sets on the market has produced a replacement demand of 60,000,000 to 70,000,000 tubes per year, according to leaders in the field.

Another trade leader expressed the view that if the public gets 18,000,000 new

Brisk Year for Texas Coinmen Despite Plenty of Headaches

FORT WORTH, Dec. 23.—Despite transportation problems, labor shortages, taxes and lack of parts for repairs, the coin machine trade has enjoyed brisk business in Fort Worth during 1944, according to reports from the operators. Altho they termed business good—probably the best in the history of this city when the number of machines now in operation is concerned.

Juke boxes, the operators agree, have led the field as nickel-getters. Pin games probably are next, they say.

This section of Texas is a good spot for coin machines, especially at this time. There are thousands of well-paid war plant workers in and near Fort Worth. The military branches keep a large number of men here and thousands from near-by camps visit the city each week.

Three downtown arcades have done a heavy 12-month business. At times they are packed and usually soldiers represent about half the patrons.

Peanut machines get a big play. Large quantities of peanuts are raised in this section. Peanuts have been plentiful in this area and the quality good.

The cigarette shortage almost put cigarette machines out of business. They are still in use, however, at Consolidated Zircraft plant here.

Mechanic Shortage

"Mechanics have not been available to keep all of our machines operating," declared W. C. Hightower, manager of H. & H. Sales Company. "That has caused our business to suffer." Parts replacements have been slow and hard to get and this has kept some machines out of good location. However, for the number of ma-

chines that we have kept going business has been good."

Five staff members, trained in coin machine business, have gone to war from the Big State Novelty Company, according to Manager Morton Loicana. "This caused a big labor problem," said Loicana. "One expert, he is 55, has been kept by us and that was a lifesaver to our business. We have been lucky to pick up some repair parts but at that they were hard to get."

Loicana said that forgetting the hardships brought on by the war, business has been good.

"The operators, as well as the spots that welcome the machines will be glad when new machines start coming out after we have whipped our enemies," stated Loicana. "There will be a ready market in Fort Worth waiting for the new products."

War Widows Carry On

"War widows" are exclusively carrying on the business of the Star Coin Machine Company, according to the manager, Mrs. Ben McDonald. Her husband is in Alaska with the navy. "I had never worked out a day in my life until my husband went into service," said Mrs. McDonald, "but we are getting by nicely. My assistants, all of whom have been called on to do the work their husbands did before the war, are Mrs. Clifford Cunningham and Mrs. Floyd Adams. We are ready for the output of new machines," concluded Mrs. McDonald. "Our profits would have been greater had we been able to place all the machines where there are spots available."

Considering that parts have been hard

Wired Music Clicking in West. Canada

Op Makes Own Equipment

WINNIPEG, Dec. 23.—Wired music is going over big in this city and fast over-taking automatic coin machine phonographs. Completely cornered by the Winnipeg Coin Machine Exchange, which is only organization in town using them, the market for this type of popular recordings has hit virgin territory, with 12 new locations using machines. The novelty of speaking back and forth and using cataloged recordings has gone over big since the first installation a year ago in January. There are now 20 turntables in action at the central office daily from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.

The machines used are Hostess Wired Music and operated by the Coin Machine Exchange, which also has about 150 automatic phonographs thruout the province of Manitoba. The organization is headed by Marty Morosnick, owner-manager and a veteran of more than 15 years in coin machine business. Only other city in Canada known to operate this type of phono machine is Vancouver, using Teletone and Thadaphone brands—each has 30 tables going.

Because of inability to get new machines or parts a year ago (still can't get machines, even tho embargo was lifted last August) organization built its own sets, with all parts manufactured in Winnipeg under the direction of D. W. Hodge, electrician for Morosnick. Automatic phonographic parts were used, plus ingenious originality—used hotel enunciators in place of lights for incoming calls. The company has now a library of more than 700 records and still going strong. More locations are being sought as new sets, which are compact wall boxes, are being built.

Milw. Residential Taverns Get 2 A.M. Juke Curfew

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 23.—Public agitation over the coin machine question will not let the peaceful citizens of this city get their sleep. More than once during the year the city has been agitated by official crusades against pinball, bingo and other amusements. Twice during the year a pinball test case was carried to the State Supreme Court. At the end of the year it was juke box music that was causing the agitation. The city licenses both pinball and juke boxes, and the majority of the city council strongly favor this license, but certain officials have long been recognized as crusaders against the trade.

Only recently the question of curfew hours on music in taverns came up for much argument and debate before the council. In the business section of the city taverns can have music until 2 a.m. In the residential districts the music in taverns must stop at 12:30 a.m., but complaints were received because of the line of demarcation between business districts and residential districts. On one side of a street the taverns would be in the business district and could keep their music going until 2 a.m., while on the other side of the street the taverns were in the residential district and they had to stop their music at 12:30 a.m. This created a highly competitive situation and even the customers of the taverns in the residential district joined in the complaint that they wanted music until 2 a.m. So the city council had to consider this ticklish question. When it came up for a vote the council voted by a majority of 20 to 7 to allow the taverns in the residential districts to have their music during the same hours that taverns (See Residential Taverns on opp. page)

to get and no new machines are available, the Southwest Coin Machine Company has enjoyed a good year, the manager, B. Pinto, reported.

AMERICAN FOLK TUNES

Cowboy and Hillbilly Tunes and Tunesters

By Nat Green

All Communications to 155 N. Clark St., Chicago 1, Ill.

Texas Tune Tattle

Lou Wayne, well-known songwriter (*Sweethearts or Strangers*, etc.), pens an interesting letter from Beaumont, Tex., from which the following are excerpts: Buddy Starcher, formerly on KMA, Shenandoah, Ia., now at Harrisonburg, Va., recently spent two weeks with me here in Beaumont. Buddy has been radioing for 16 years, is billed as *That Man of Song* and knows about everybody. We had a grand time eating Mexican food and gossipin'. Buddy told me all about his two fine horses, Dawn and Sun-Up, and showed me some pictures of them.

Bruner Recordings

Clif Bruner, who has Clif Bruner and the Showboys on KPAC, Port Arthur, Tex., now has Moon Mulligan, noted piano man, back with him. Moon and Clif have worked together at various times for a number of years. Last October Clif and the boys broke all records in attendance playing a 10-day stretch at the Harvest Club, dance spot, during the annual fair in Beaumont. Just recently Clif and the boys went to New York and cut 12 sides for Decca and made World transcriptions. On the way up Clif, Moon and Buddy Duhon, guitarist and vocalist in the band, got their heads together and wrote a song called *A Mother Gave a Son*. It is a new angle on a war song, was one of the first tunes to go on wax and caused quite a lot of comment among those who heard it. Two tunes also recorded were *Born To Be Blue* and *Snow Flakes*, a hillbilly tune written by Clif and myself.

Opry Units Play Houston

Two units from the Grand Ole Opry played Houston December 6 and 7. I went over there and got to see my old friends, Ernest Tubb, Pee Wee King, Minnie Pearl, Whitley Ford, Chuck Wiggins, Tex Sumner, Becky Barfield, Bashful Short, Oscar Davis and a lot of others. They had nice houses both nights. Mrs. Jimmie Rodgers came over from San Antonio to see the show. Incidentally, she mailed me her book, *My Husband, Jimmie Rodgers*. I've read it from cover to cover and I heartily recommend it. Wallace Fowler, formerly with John Danley's Quartet, now has his own band over at Knoxville. Wallace will be remembered as the writer of *Mother's Prayer* and *I'm Sending You Red Roses*.

Red Foley With GAC

Red Foley, recording cowboy singer who has been featured on WLS for several years, left the station December 16 to go with General Amusement Corporation, which is rapidly acquiring a large list of folk artists. GAC announced last week that it has set up a new department to handle folk artist attractions, with Don Coombs and Dick Scott as co-directors. Foley's farewell to WLS was made in a friendly manner, and he probably will still appear on several of the station's sponsored programs. GAC states that a deal is on for a network show with Foley as the star, and that there are picture contracts in the offing. A theater tour also is being planned to precede the beginning of the new radio show, which will air from Chicago.

Notes of Folk Artists

Several top hillbilly artists were in Chicago last week. Roy Acuff came in from Tennessee to do some recording for Columbia. Smiley Burnette and Rufe Davis also were in town, and Gene Autry, who played the Chicago Horse Show, left for Texas.

Dick Scott, of GAC, has interested a large number of folk artists, songwriters and acts in a federation of Western artists. Scott is a performer in the folk field and believes an association of artists would be beneficial to all. He is temporary chairman of the embryo federation and in a few weeks an election will be held to choose permanent officers.

Estel and Rosa Lee had a bang-up week in Indianapolis recently. After meeting Dub (Cannonball) Taylor and the Milo Twins on Tex Ritter's Hillbilly Jamboree, which was a sellout, they signed a contract for seven weeks in theaters in the South, after which their show, the Arizona Wildcats, will hit the road.

Chart Music has accepted for publication two of Al Sanders' songs, *My Baby Memories* and *Watch the Clouds Roll By*.

Doctor Billy's Tunes in Demand

Doctor Billy (Frank W. Brown), Keokuk, Iowa's, surgeon-poet, songwriter, is composer of *I'm Flying Today Down Tucson Way* and *Swing Along With Jesus*, a Negro spiritual, as well as scores of ballads, hymns, marches and novelties. Injecting a note of realism, the old school doctor hits the keynote of real folk music in songs that are creating much interest and comment among entertainers and listeners. Reports from stations in Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Missouri and Nebraska indicate growing popularity of several 1944 Doctor Billy releases. He is also the author of a book of verse, *Poems of the Heart*, and the proud dad of newscaster Bill Brown, KYA, San Francisco, who is also heard in the *Lies From Tokyo* programs.

Roos Writing Spirituals

Charles and Juanita Roos, two of the nation's prominent writers of American Indian poetry and song, are now giving much attention to other types of American folk tunes. Charles, whose *Indian Dawn* scored sheet music sales over the million mark, is writing successful Negro spirituals and bayou lullabies, while Juanita is collaborating with Bill Boyd on *Beside the Pecos Rio*, a genuine cowboy folk song. She also penned *Song of the Mesa*, with music by Homer Grunn, popular with many Western entertainers and audiences.

Rounding Out Busy Year

Continuing bond-selling appearances, Bill Boyd has scored a new high during the Sixth War Loan Drive. Among recent Texas towns played with his band, the Cowboy Ramblers, are Coleman, Collinsville, Gainesville, Taylor and Mineral Wells. Appearances in Grand Prairie, where he is skedded to open December 28, round out the busiest year of his career. Theater appearances are in connection with showing of *Prairie Pals*, starring Boyd.

POP RECORD REVIEWS

(Continued from page 13)

SHORTY ALLEN QUINTET (Savoy)

Savoy Riff—FT. *Have Yourself a Ball*—FT.

This is another back-room jam session with vibe, tenor sax and a rhythm section for the riding on a riff. It's every man for himself with none standing out on solo to make either of the sides any sort of a gem for the hot jazz fiends. It's hardly the kind of jazz that you have to turn to the records to get, or in most cases, even want to keep.

Little in these sides that might mean anything for the phono fans.

RESIDENTIAL TAVERNS

(Continued from opposite page)

in the business districts could have music.

But there was strong opposition to this vote and even a threat of a mayoral veto. Also, the question of juke box music in locations other than taverns began to come up for agitation. Restaurants, for example, have no curfew on their music and may keep their juke boxes going all

POPULAR RECORD RELEASES

(Continued from page 13)

THIS HEART OF MINE	Vaughn Monroe (Vaughn Monroe).....	Victor 20-1619
TINY'S EXERCISE (12")	Ike Quebec Quintet.....	Blue Note 37
TOPSY (12")	Art Tatum Trio.....	Asch 452-2
TWILIGHT TIME	Shep Fields (Meredith Blake).....	Bluebird 30-0833
UGLY WOMAN	Sir Lancelot-Gerald Clark's Caribbean Serenaders	Keynote 544
YOU'RE DRIVIN' ME CRAZY.....	Tommy Dorsey (The Sentimentalists).....	Victor 20-1614
YOU SHOULD BE SATISFIED.....	The Four Clefs (William Chapman).....	Bluebird 34-0719

night. Altho police officials had received a number of complaints about loud juke boxes, many officials think that by organized co-operation between the police department and operators of locations the juke box music can be toned down so there will not be any complaints. Some expressed the view that the complaints might even be due to general opposition to music in taverns and opposition to the liquor trade in general. No official reports were available to show just how many complaints had been received.

INDUSTRY FIGHTS

(Continued from page 38)

negative side, the Wisconsin Supreme Court twice during the year decided against free plays. Then, just before Christmas the Michigan Supreme Court also handed down an unfavorable decision on free plays. There were other minor issues but these were the important ones.

Juke boxes probably had more important court tests during the year than any other type of machine. The Oklahoma Supreme Court in December upheld the much publicized 10 per cent "grab tax," after it had been declared void by a lower court. Two test cases on the high juke tax passed by Chicago were still pending before the Illinois Supreme Court at the time of this report. The two ASCAP cases involving juke box locations in New York moved up a step on appeal. And Memphis had its legal battle over a special tax on juke boxes which was finally decided by the Tennessee Supreme Court, the verdict being that the city had power to collect the special tax.

The legal service department of *The Billboard* completed 10 years in 1944.

6. Music History

The juke box trade, as a part of the big world of popular music, shared in an eventful year of music history. Most operators will remember the story of the Petrillo record ban as perhaps the biggest single event. This case became a national issue and was finally settled near the end of the year, when all record manufacturers had agreed to pay a special fee on records to the American Federation of Musicians.

In addition to the recording ban, shellac for making records was a problem during the first half of the year. Supplies, became plentiful enough later but labor shortage was a more lasting problem to record manufacturers. During the year possible substitutes and new methods of recording obtained a lot of publicity.

The list of record manufacturers grew by leaps and bounds so that music operators will have many labels to choose

from in the future. Increase in record supply became an encouraging topic among operators toward the end of the year.

Hillbilly records grew to unprecedented heights of popularity. Shortage of tubes and other parts was an increasing problem. An increase in the federal cabaret tax revived this problem in many juke box locations. Industrial music gained in national favor and on a small scale juke boxes were being used.

Teen-age clubs, using juke boxes for music, gained in such popularity that newspapers, magazines and civic organizations were boosting the idea as a solution to a national problem. Business firms began to promote the idea also.

7. Pinball Games

The reportable facts about pinball during the year can practically be covered in the report on court cases involving free plays. Crusades against the games were fewer than in most years, Milwaukee perhaps holding the year's record for sustained drives.

8. Vender Progress

The vending machine trade distinguished itself during the year by getting into action for post-war revival with much more zest than other sections of the trade. It was aided in this progress by the favor of the government. It was generally understood that vending machines would get the first approval for renewed manufacture. Such types as postage stamp and sanitary napkin venders were actually being made during the year. And under the spot plan as many as 50,000 soft drink vending machines had been approved for manufacture as soon as possible. But the schedule for the soft drink venders was frozen when unfavorable war news early in December brought a general tightening of restrictions on the spot plan.

The most discussed topic in the vending machine trade during the year was the ever increasing shortages of supplies. These shortages of the most popular merchandise sold in vending machines practically brought the operating business to a standstill before the year ended. The cigarette shortage became a national problem and naturally was a terrific blow to venders. Fortunately, most newspapers mentioned cigarette machines favorably in reporting the lack of supplies.

The vending machine trade made its most notable contribution to legal progress during the year in fighting the ration token nuisance and also in joining with the telephone and transportation industries to secure passage of the federal slug law. The National Automatic Merchandising Association, an organization of prominent vending machine operators and manufacturers, was a very active group during the year.

The soft drink vending field loomed with greatest post-war promise, and the Wrigley firm probably gave the most direct testimony to vending machines in 1944. The use of coin meters for electrical appliances in the home was a new topic in the service machine field in 1944.

9. General

During the year *The Billboard* featured trade reports from the various centers as a part of its news coverage. While the industry and the nation were at war, it was a common saying thruout the industry that this publication remained as the common meeting ground and one point of contact for the industry as a whole.

Year-end reports from several cities are published in this issue, as a more extended review of the trade during the year. Also, a review of the marvelous record of coin machine plants in turning out war goods is published in this issue.

When the review of another year can be written, let's work together so that it may tell the story of final and complete victory over the enemies of democracy.

New Orleans Ops Lick Parts Shortage; Slots Continue

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 23.—Faced with service department shortages of all kinds, including man power, the business closed a moderately successful year in New Orleans and adjacent territory by sacrifice of worn down equipment for salvaging of badly needed parts.

Patronage was excellent with employment reaching new peaks in this industrial area but operators were forced to limit machines on locations and as parts became scarcer—even cut the less profitable spots. This was particularly true with pin games and consoles.

Slots reappeared late in 1943 and remained on most locations thruout the year altho a bitter fight was waged against their continuance by ministers and daily sheets of the city. Shortages of disks, needles and repair parts, particularly tubes, and high taxation com-

bined to make the going tougher.

Two most interesting highlights of the year was the reorganization of the operators' association here with Julius Pace renamed president, and complaints early in December by local OPA officials that "mint" slots should pay out a package on each nickel in order to maintain required price ceiling on the confect-tions. Most slots in city limits are of the "mint" type.

In adjoining parishes (counties) of Jefferson and St. Bernard, operators have run smoother with slots and consoles favored at best locations and play probably at all-time record. Counter game operators are still in favor of paying high tax and the inability of vending machine operators to get cigarettes, candy and gum have naturally put a crimp in their revenue.

Industry Bats 25% on E Flags

Mirrors Mfrs. Top War Job

National average only 4%—and 'E' Awards tell only part of the story

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—While the coin machine industry as a whole has engaged wholeheartedly in the drive toward victory since the first bomb dropped on Pearl Harbor, the most conclusive evidence of its contribution is the job being done in its manufacturing plants. Operators, distributors and manufacturers alike have and still are buying bonds to the hilt, have actively participated in scrap drives, blood donor campaigns, etc. The War Activities Committee of the National Coin Machine Association has made a nationwide "write a letter to a soldier" campaign its wartime project. Other associations have collected records, games, jukes, etc., for men in service both on the battlefronts and in the hospitals and training centers here at home.

It is the manufacturers, however, who rightfully have earned a cross and palms of their own for the job they have done not only in switching from making equipment for the amusement and service of the nation to turning out the weapons for war; but for efficiently and quietly keeping at their jobs and overcoming obstacles that they had never met before. Today on every battlefield lads who formerly played games, jitterbugged to jukes, bought their favorite brand of cigs from the vender at the corner store, are using the weapons forged by these same firms for the preservation of our liberties.

25% Have "E's"

Today 10 firms fly Army-Navy "E" flags in testimony of their contribution

'E' Flag Box Score

Following firms are coin machine manufacturers listed alphabetically who have won the coveted Army-Navy "E" Flag. Asterisks indicate number of stars flying in each firm's flag.

Arthur H. DuGrenier, Inc.
O. D. Jennings & Company
Lion Manufacturing Company (Bally) * *
Northwestern Corporation
Packard Mfg. Company * * *
J. P. Seeburg Corp. * * *
Stoner Mfr. Corporation * *
Watling Mfg. Company * *
Rudolph Wurlitzer Company
No. Tonawanda Division * *
De Kalb Division
Vendo, Inc. * * * * *

to the war effort. When it is considered that only 4 per cent of all the firms engaged in war work have earned this coveted honor, the contribution of the coin machine industry is all the more outstanding. The coin machine census made in 1941 listed 40 firms engaged in full-time production of coin-operated devices—this means that 25 per cent of the industry's manufacturers have earned the highest production award the country can bestow.

At the present writing, the list of "E" Flag winners and the stars flying in them are: Vendo, Inc., Kansas City, Mo., five stars; J. P. Seeburg Corporation, Chicago, and Packard Manufacturing Corporation, Indianapolis, three stars each. The Rudolph Wurlitzer Company has two stars in its North Tonawanda, N. Y., flag, and the flag for its De Kalb, Ill., division. Other two star winners are Lion Manufacturing Company (Bally), Chicago; Stoner Manufacturing Corporation, Aurora, Ill., and Watling

War Activities Group Has Busy Year With 'Write-a-Letter' Drive

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Since the election of new officers and the reorganization of the War Activities Committee of the National Coin Machine Association, which took place in May of this year, much has been accomplished. Probably for the first time in the history of the business the industry has banded together in one unit for one cause—Victory. Working together solidly, harmoniously, unified for one purpose, the "write a letter to a soldier" campaign has been active and successful.

Officers elected at the time of reorganization last May were Jack Nelson, president; Ben Axelrod, first vice-president; Max Hurvich, second vice-president; Henry W. Seiden, third vice-president; Tom Crosby, treasurer; Earl Reynolds, assistant treasurer, and Jack Kelner, secretary.

The committee includes the following prominent names in the industry: Bill Rabkin, Bill Marmer, William R. Happel Jr., Carl F. Trippe, Mike Munves, J. E. Cobb, C. Todd, J. R. Pieters, I. F. Webb, Nat Cohn, Walter Tratsch, H. F. Moseley, L. D. Morris, Maurice Ginsberg, Frederick Zemke, David S. Bond, Joe Calcutt, Carl F. Hoelzel, Hymie Zorinsky, John J.

Manufacturing Company, Chicago. Flags also fly over the plants of O. D. Jennings Company, Chicago; Arthur H. DuGrenier, Inc., Haverhill, Mass., and the Northwestern Corporation, of Morris, Ill.

Not the Whole Story

Nor do the "E" Flag awards tell the whole story. Many of the firms are engaged in sub-contract work of the most difficult kind and the chances of their winning Army-Navy "E's" are thus materially reduced. Some, too, are engaged solely on army or navy contracts and have won army or navy production awards. Nevertheless, without fanfare, the coin machine manufacturers are steadily and efficiently going about their wartime jobs with a touch of grimness in their determination to make sure that Uncle Sam's fighting men have the best weapons they can produce and plenty of them.

What will this mean when peace comes? It follows naturally that the wartime experience of manufacturers will be reflected in better equipment after the war. Wartime production demands for many of them have resulted in bigger and better plants which in turn will mean greater post-war production capacity. Operators and distributors, too, have come to realize during the war how valuable well-engineered equipment that will stand up means to them. They'll want better equipment and they'll get it.

Meanwhile the manufacturers are dedicated to continuing their outstanding job of producing war materials, as a result if "E" flags are ever awarded to specific industries for war production excellence, the coin machine industry will be front of center, because it's record already is an enviable one with, as was cited above, 25 per cent of its firms already flying "E" Flags and more, undoubtedly, on the way during the year ahead.

Bertucci, Max Glass, Bill Frey, Aaron Goldsmith, Nat Schoen and C. W. Hughes.

Like most organizations the heavy work is carried on by a few, and in this case the work of Jack Nelson, president, and Jack Kelner, secretary, has resulted in most of the accomplishments achieved. Not only have this "pair of Jacks" followed thru to completion the coverage of the coin machine industry, but also its allied branches. Together with this nationwide distribution of posters and letters they have gone a step further in securing for the industry favorable publicity in a manner which has not been done in the past.

Mayors Support Obtained

The mayors of the largest cities in the United States have received letters soliciting their support and they have responded to the cause by requesting posters of the National Coin Machine Association for display in the city halls and other public buildings in the various cities. Posters were also sent to the governors of every State to gain their support in the "write a letter" campaign sponsored by the War Activities Committee.

A quarter of a million posters have already been distributed, and it is planned to have new posters prepared and distributed in 1945 to carry on the good work of this organization and lend the encouragement needed to have letters written to the men and women on fighting front.

"It is interesting to note," said Nelson and Kelner, "that when we first took hold of the work in the organization last May that a great many people were reluctant in supporting the plan because at that time they thought the war would be over in the next 30 or 60 days. Many

Wartime Pay Rolls Help Buffalo Coinmen Ring Up Banner Year

BUFFALO, Dec. 23.—This year was a top one for most Buffalo music ops who, despite shortages of help, disks, etc., cashed in on the wartime spending in this boom town where spending has increased considerably because of defense plant pay rolls. Summer season was one of the best, despite curtailed vacationing, and more people thronged, as a result, to the near-by resort areas. Fall was good and the closing months of the year little short of terrific, and at this writing shows little signs of abating.

Operators, of course, cut down on the number of locations and concentrated equipment on top spots. A few routes changed hands during the year and some smaller ops dropped out of the local picture, but on the whole there were few changes in the operating set-up here during the year. Ops have kept their equipment going by using every trick of the trade, especially in the salvage and adaptation of old parts to keep better

Milw. Coin Staff Gives Blood to Fighters for Xmas

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 23.—Headed by Sam London, employees of the Milwaukee Coin Machine Company, Seeburg distributor for Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, reported in a body to the local blood donor station here on December 19 to donate a pint of their blood as their Christmas gift to the men in the armed forces.

It wasn't the first time that members have given their blood but it was the first for the entire organization as a group to give. Org now plans to make regular visits, London, who heads the firm, stated.

of these same people have since changed their minds like millions of others in the country, and they are now fully aware of the fact that the war is far from over. The need of letters written to soldiers by their family members and friends is more important than ever, according to government officials. Any person having a relative or a friend in the service realizes how important and how much good a letter can be to a man on the fighting front. The National Coin Machine Association needs the help and co-operation of every member of the industry to carry on the work of the War Activities Committee."

Permanent headquarters of the association are located at 2252 West Chicago avenue, Chicago. It is a non-profit organization created to enlist the power of advertising for victory. The officers and committee members receive no compensation for their work and everything is done in patriotic spirit for the cause. The Treasury Department at Washington has approved the application of the association for exemption from income taxes of all contributions.

equipment running. Equipment here got the acid test as for as durability during the year, and may influence post-war buying trends.

Shortage of disks and the poor quality kept juke-box operators biz from reaching an all-time high, but nevertheless biz was good. Vending machine boys, however, had a crimp put in their collections by shortages of cigs, candy, gum, etc.

Distrib Picture

While operators were in their glory, distrib naturally were hit hard with little or nothing to sell. For the most part distrib are hanging on, making a deal here and there, waiting for war to end so that their post-war plans can become a reality. Some firms did a fair business reconditioning equipment, but were hampered by labor shortage.

Mayflower Distributing Company, Wurlitzer outlet, is still active in its swank Delaware avenue offices. Lew Wolf moved to larger quarters during the year and has been concentrating on parts and accessories. J. H. Winfield bought a larger building during 1944 and has offset the distributing biz drop by concentrating on pin game and music operation. Firm has successfully held its organization together and kept up weekly service to all its stops by smart and efficient operating methods.

Make P.-W. Plans

Many of the operators and distrib here are making definite post-war plans. All agree that the demand for equipment will be terrific. Many are hoping to land distributorships, and not solely for coin equipment either. Ben Kulick, for instance, has formed a corporation to distribute Admiral radios, refrigerators and other electrical appliances. He still plans holding on to his music routes, however. Other coinmen have moved into store locations where some already are selling allied merchandise. Most men don't wish to reveal their plans, but there's plenty in the wind.

Memo to Our Readers

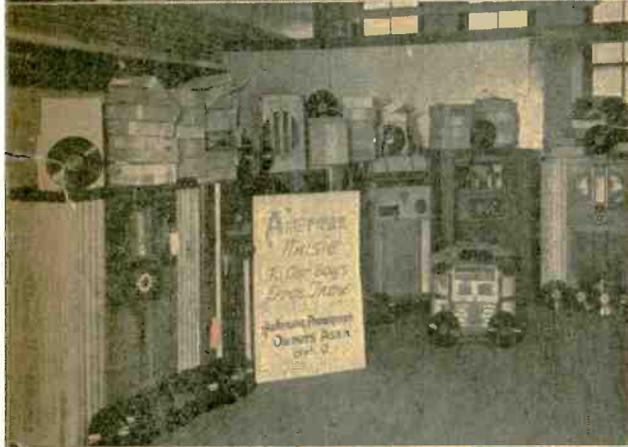
There's No Advertising in This Issue

For the second year we are skipping *The Billboard* traditional Christmas and Holiday Greetings issue, skipping it so that we can bring you, in 1945, a few of the new features that will make your trade paper more and more vital to your business.

To our advertisers, who made this issue possible by graciously foregoing their usual space, we owe a deep debt of gratitude. It is our intention in the year to come to repay those who have co-operated with us by increasing many fold the intensity of readership, which even now tops anything achieved by a trade paper.

Thanks for everything.

THE BILLBOARD.



THIS is a pictorial study of a few of the coin machine industry's many wartime contributions. This American industry, born during the last great depression, grew and first began to thrive in the years before the war. But when all American industry was called upon to fight the war, the coin machine industry responded with a speed and volume of production that amazed even Washington officials, already dazzled by the miracle records of all industry.

The Billboard is proud of its close connection with this great new phase of the amusement world. From the depths of the depression to the industry's pre-war prosperity, from Pearl Harbor to its present day war achievements, The Billboard has had the privilege of serving the coin machine industry.

And in 1945, The Billboard pledges many new and important features designed to service its coin machine readers and advertisers. Through the cooperation of its advertisers throughout 1944, as well as in this unique advertisingless issue, The Billboard is now in a position to devote many more tons of paper to the coin machine department. Thus, throughout 1945 The Billboard will continue to expand its editorial features, make these features available to more industry readers, and (though advertising rationing will continue) there will be more space for advertisers.

To the coin machine industry, for its amazing war record, we extend our congratulations; and for its wholehearted cooperation with The Billboard, we extend our sincere thanks.



**THEY ARE DOING MORE.....
SO CAN YOU!**

