



Printed World Radio History

But, at the first hint of a permanent relationship he's off to another. That is, until he met

Marion Galloway. Nobody in the family knows her but his father. And at last, from his

looks, he is ready to take a girl seriously—with Claudia like a good twin consoling him.

was no estrangement when the picture was snapped. Ob-

viously, too, the break-up might be expected to have a

disturbing effect on even a cool-headed young man. And

Paul is far from being that.



## Leaves in the Barbour album\_\_

"ONDER what a typical American family thinks about? . . . Is there any such thing as a typical American family?"

Carlton Morse, radio writer, was wondering in 1932. His method of answering the questions was unusual. He picked out a group of people who, in his opinion, *might* be members of a typical family. A father, a mother, three sons, and two daughters. All of them real people. All of them interesting people. They weren't actually members of the same

family. But they were certainly the right types and they were about the right age. Mentally, he put them all under the same roof, and waited to see what happened.

What happened proved fascinating to radio listeners on the Pacific Coast. So much so that strictly on a public demand basis, more and more radio stations were added to the chain broadcasting the program, until now, under the sponsorship of Tender Leaf Tea, it is reaching the whole country.

Morse seldom writes more than one episode in advance, the reason being that he wants to see how the members of the family behave in the situations as they develop. If the actors feel that they are behaving naturally, he is satisfied. If he puts them in situations where they feel strange—where they have to "act"—he changes the direction of the plot.

So—what does the typical American family think about? What does it do as a result of its thinking? Is there any such thing as a typical American family? Are the Barbours it?

FANNY BARBOUR (played by Minetta Ellen) finds herself in the role of buffer and interpreter between her husband and her children. Her background is conventional, "oldfashioned," but her sympathies are with the eager, searching spirit of the children. She has but two ambitions-to be a good wife and an understanding mother. But simple as these seem, before bedtime she's often dead

tired-even if she doesn't

admit defeat.

PAUL BARBOUR, the eldest son (played by Michael Raffetto), met and married an American war nurse while flying at the front. Two weeks later, she died. The same week, Paul was shot down, and must walk with a cane for the rest of his life. He came out of the war bitter against the older generation for bringing on the war. He has learned to laugh at himself and the world, but all these years he has been "difficult," unable to adjust himself to routine.

CLAUDIA BARBOUR (played by Kathleen Wilson) eloped with Johnny Roberts while in college. Eight months later they quarreled and Johnny disappeared. The next she heard of him, he had been wounded fighting with the rebels in China. Claudia and Johnny's parents went to China and nursed him back to health. Then, when they were ready to sail, Johnny came down with pneumonia and died overnight... Out of this ill-fated marriage Claudia received two rewards—a comfortable fortune, and, more important, her little daughter, Joan.

PAUL'S STORMY SOUL finds a quiet anchorage in his little adopted daughter, Teddy (played by Winifred Wolfe). She has been in the family about a year, but has established herself firmly. She is really a cousin of Betty Carter, the girl friend of Jack (played by Page Gilman). But everybody has forgotten that, so much a Barbour has she become.

HENRY BARBOUR (played by J. Anthony Smythe) is a conscientious business man of moderate fortune. An idealist, a sentimentalist, firm in the conviction that a good father will have a good family. His greatest problem is trying to apply his old-fashioned conventional standards to his modern children. It is the ancient conflict between the old and the new, and as usual that younger generation seems somehow to get its way.

