



World Radio History

The KWTO DIAL

10c

DEC. • 1949

560 KC **KWTO** 5000 Watts

THE DIAL

Vol. IX No. 5

\$1 per year 10c per copy

Paid circulation during 1948-49 has averaged over 12,000 monthly, notarized.

The Dial is published the first of every month and serves radio fans in more than 100 counties in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as former Ozarkians in other states who are old friends of Radio Station KWTO.

If the numbers 12-49 appear after your name on the address label at the top of page 20, your subscription expires with this issue. Address correspondence and renewals to Editor of The Dial, care of KWTO, Springfield, Missouri. The Editor will be happy to answer your inquiries about past and present KWTO personalities and fill your requests for pictures you'd like to see in The Dial.



★ MEET RAY MERRIOTT

He really likes getting up early in the morning—got used to it when he opened a 4 a. m. announcing shift in Shenandoah. Clinton-born Ray was raised in Kansas City, married a Lamont, Mo., girl there.



★ HAIL AND FAREWELL TO NEW YORK-BOUND CONTEST WINNERS

You heard, on a Saturday morning What's New program last month, the airport interview taking place in the above picture between Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Patton of Baxter Springs, Kan., and Assistant Program Director Joe Slattery. Mrs. Patton was a

second-place winner in one of the weekly Kroger contests. With Al Stone (center) transcribing the proceedings, the Pattons told Joe how thrilled they were to be on their way via American Airlines to spend an excitement-packed weekend in New York.

CONTEST

MAYBE YOU'RE THE LUCKY SUBSCRIBER!

It's waiting for you at Maytag Sales and Service, 305 E. Walnut in Springfield—the gleaming "dream range" that is first prize in our Dial "Lucky Subscriber" Contest. It has a super-sized oven, a broiler you can take right to the table, porcelain burner bowls that are cleaned with the simple flick of a damp cloth, and it's worth \$240!

Here's KWTO at 606 St. Louis St., waiting to play host in late January to the winner and a relative or friend, to take them right into the studios for their favorite programs. And just up the street is the beautiful Kentwood Arms Hotel, where the winner and his or her guest will dine and have a suite for the night.

Don't get so busy with holiday preparations and excitement that you forget to enter the contest, to compete for these wonderful winner's prizes, and for the other desirable awards. You may also win:

Second prize, an \$80 Zenith Radio, 7-tube AM or FM, offered by Max Van Hook, Four States Distributing Co., 700 E. Brower . . . Third prize, a \$33.75 Bulova Watch from Shirk's Jewelry Co., 312 St. Louis St. . . . Fourth prize, Sunbeam Pop-Up Toaster, worth \$30, from Ozark Motor and Supply Co. . . . Fifth prize, a year's supply (24 cans) of "sealed-fresh-to-open-fresh" Yellow Bonnet Coffee from Springfield Grocer Co. . . . Sixth prize, $\frac{1}{4}$ ton of Lipscomb's 26% Hog Supplement . . . Seventh, eighth and ninth prizes of \$10 cash . . . Tenth, 11th, 12th and 13th prizes of \$5 cash . . . And five runner-up prizes consisting of autographed portrait photos of the stars of any KWTO program these winners select.

And one thing more, before we repeat the rules: As an added contest feature, you may order **The Dial for 13 months for the usual price of 12 months—just \$1.** And in order that those who receive Dial subscriptions as Christmas gifts may have plenty of time to enter too, the contest runs until Jan. 15, 1950.

1. Contest is open to every paid-up Dial subscriber and members of his or her family, but the limit is one entry per person.

2. All entries are the property of The KWTO Dial.

3. Entries must be postmarked not later than Jan. 15, 1950, and the winner will be announced in the February Dial.

4. Complete this sentence in 50 words or less: "I like to listen to KWTO because . . ." Mail your entry to Dial Contest, care of KWTO.

5. The Rev. Carl Stillwell, Business Man-

★ SPONSORS; PROGRAM NEWS

The Goodwill Family has a new 6:45 a. m. sponsor on Tues., Thurs. and Sat.—the Globe Department Store, 217 E. Commercial, and is now heard at 2 p. m. instead of 7:30 a. m. Sunday for Sunway.

Phillip Morris brings us a "small but mighty" network program, a commentary by Walter Kiernan of Information Please fame at 5:25 p. m. every weekday afternoon. The title: One Man's Opinion . . . The Hormel and Co. Girls' Chorus, formerly heard Saturday mornings, has been moved by ABC to 5:30 Sun. afternoons.

General Mills, which already sponsors a number of KWTO programs including Jack Armstrong and the Betty Crocker Magazine of the Air, brings us yet another program via ABC, Modern Romances, heard at 9:30 p. m. Mon. through Thurs. and featuring Gold Medal Flour.

New spot time buyers include Wolf Milling Co., makers of Wolf's Premium and Southern Lady Flour . . . Lower Tea Co., makers of Sassafras Tea Extract.

Consolidated Drug Co. now sponsors a Chuck Bowers show from 3:15 to 3:30 . . . Henry J. Taylor comes back on the air for General Motors at 7:30 p. m. Mon. nights.

Once again Tuesday night's famous America's Town Meeting is sponsored locally by Southern Missouri Trust Co.

A GIFT THAT LASTS

Almost any KWTO fan would be pleased to receive an envelope with a Yuletide bell on the flap, these words, "A Christmas Gift for You" printed above, and—inside—this card, printed in red and green:

With every Good Wish for a Most Merry Christmas, The KWTO Dial is sent you for one year with Season's Greetings.

A Dial subscription, ordered as a gift for a friend or relative, is a Christmas present that will keep coming every month for 13 months. Just send \$1 to Dial Editor, care of KWTO, your name will be filled in and the gift card mailed, and the subscription will start with this issue.

ager of Drury College, Springfield, will be in charge of judging, which will be based solely on sincerity and originality. It will not be based on neatness, penmanship, spelling or grammar. No entries in rhyme will be accepted.

We've kept the contest easy to enter so, that all our subscribers and their families, whatever the age, may have an equal chance. You may be one of the lucky 18!

INSIDE AT THE STUDIO . . .

NEWS AND DOINGS OF
KWTO PERSONALITIES

Chuck Bowers, recalling his bills last Jan. 1, says he has a new lay-away plan—he's going to lay himself away until Christmas eve to keep from spending too much . . . **Chuck, Doc and Selby Coffeen** are still talking about the fine time they had at the Bolivar square dance Nov. 25 . . . **Junior Haworth** has his second new car in less than a year, and needs it since he does most of the "hauling" on Goodwill Family personals . . . Among their recent trips: To Berryville, where the Business Women fed them royally after the show; to the Fort Wood Theater, along with **Zed and Bob**, to help raise iron-lung funds; to St. Paul, Ark., Rudd, Pea Ridge, Birch Tree and Willow Springs.

* * *

The **Carter Tribe** has been so busy with personals that **Mother Maebelle**, according to "Pop," hasn't made homemade light bread but twice since they got settled in their new home . . . **June** curled up on the stage for a nap behind the curtain before they played at the Stoutland school carnival, and felt so bright afterwards that the whole family wrote a new song, "Put On a Smile," on the drive home, with **Chet Atkins** strumming guitar accompaniment in the crowded car . . . According to **Anita**, the hamburgers, cake and coffee their sponsors fed them after the Bruno, Ark., personal Nov. 8 "tasted better than turkey dinner, we were so hungry" . . . At Berryville in late October, at Lutie, at Greenfield and at Summer-ville, they drew such crowds they had to play two shows. Most fun, said **Helen**: "The Red Star customers at La Russell, where we played Nov. 5. They were all so friendly."

* * *

Eatherham Hobbs singing "Gooseberry Pie" and nine-year-old **Jarrett** playing "Mississippi Sawyer" are in a close race for audience favoritism on all **Lonnie** and **Thelma** personal appearances. At the Oakland Pie supper, with **Goo-Goo** along, "we had more people outside than inside," Thelma said. "They fixed up a wonderful box for us—sandwiches, fruit and coconut cream pie. Lonnie would say if it was better than I make, so it must have been" . . . The largest crowd they ever had was at Mr. Gott's Bradleyville Theater, and they had to play two shows to get them all in. "We played Bradleyville two years ago," Lonnie said. "Maybe that was why" . . . Fun for Jarrett at the Spokane Consolidated School carnival, where Thelma expected him to be interested

in the selection of the queen, and instead he was fascinated by the boxing exhibition. Sportscaster **Don Dailey** promises excellent coverage of basketball news for Ozarks area fans. He has sent questionnaires to 200 coaches in the region, will "spotlight" one team each week on his 6:15 p. m. program.

★ COVER STORY

Rhea Beth Bailey, daughter of Bill and Louise, and June Carter were the first Ozarkians to tell their Christmas wishes to the merry Sears-Roebuck Santa Claus, Marion Blankenship. They look pleased with their presents and his promises, don't they?


Santa Claus and George Earle talk to youngsters in Sears' Toyland every Saturday afternoon at 2, and the transcribed interviews are played back over KWTO at 7:30 every evening between now and Christmas.

(It makes a full Saturday for versatile George Earle, darling of the ladies at his 9 a. m. Breakfast at Keller's broadcast, where lovely gifts are given away, darling of the shoppers at 12:45 for Meek Lumber Co., and idol of the small fry when the crowds troop to Sears in the afternoon.)

No Cover Contest this month—we want you to concentrate on our Lucky Subscriber Contest. But we have three November winners to announce: Ovel Stroud of Hermitage, a year's subscription; Mrs. Ora Bybee of Stockton and Mrs. E. A. Wheeler of Gerster, three months' extensions.

★ NOVEMBER CROSSWORD PUZZLE

B	O	B	W	H	I	T	E	F	A	B
A	R	E	A	O	R	T	A	E	N	E
B	A	R	E	R	O	S	P	E	E	D
O	C	E	A	N	N	T	A	L	L	Y
O	L	A						E	E	B
N	E	V	A					A	R	D
E	N							T	S	
F	A	G						T	A	P
O	G	R	E					U	S	T
L	E	E	R	Y	T	I	N	T	E	R
G	S	S	E	U	D	E	A	S		
E	V	E	L	A	R	G	E	R	I	O
R	A	T	L	I	N	D	A	K	E	N



SPRINGFIELD GIRLTO BE MARRIED ON
"BRIDE-AND-GROOM"

John Nelson's Bride-and-Groom, a 1:30 p. m. feature over ABC-KWTO, is always a thrill to those who are romantic and young in heart, whatever their ages. However, KWTO fans will find it especially exciting on Dec. 13 when 23-year-old Ellen Walker, pictured right, becomes the bride of Paul Gatts on the program.

Paul is former radio operator-navigator of the Assembly of God trans-oceanic missionary plane, The Ambassador, having made all its trips but the first—flights to the Azores, England, France, India, French West Africa and Brazil. Ellen is a graduate of Springfield High School and Central Bible School, attended Draughon's Business College here, and has been living in Springfield with Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rich, 2214 S. Kings, helping in their home until her wedding plans were completed.

But if you think it will be especially interesting to attend the Bride-and-Groom wedding of someone you know all about, someone from right here in the Ozarks, listen to Ellen:

"It is wonderful for us for many, many reasons," she sparkles. "We have friends all over the United States who will be able to hear from us in that way. Paul is already in Los Angeles, and plans to attend Don Martin's School of Radio Arts there after we're married, so I was going there anyway. That's why we wrote in to see if we could be on the program."

Both Paul, a Bedford, Ill., boy and son of an insurance salesman, and Ellen, daughter of a missionary, who spent her first 13 years in the Belgian Congo, have trained for missionary work and hope to do broadcasting at foreign stations. At 13 she went to Peru with her father and foster-mother, then took two years of high school in Texas, finishing in Springfield. She attended Bible Schools in Minneapolis and Lakeland, Fla., before returning here for a third year at CBS. Her parents are in Cuba.

"Do you wonder," she says, "that we love to travel, especially since Paul was in the merchant marine during the war?"

In addition to the beautiful wedding gown furnished by the Bride-and-Groom program, the flowers, the service in a lovely chapel, Ellen and Paul can look forward to many Bride-and-Groom gifts. In addition to a set of Gorham Sterling silver, diamond keep-sake rings for each of them, and a week-long honeymoon at some famous resort, they may receive such presents as Haliburton luggage, a Kelvinator, a Tappan range, a



Hoover cleaner—even (Ellen hopes) a trailer. "That," she says practically, "would certainly solve our housing problems."

Ellen will tell, on the program, the story of her bridal veil, and in these words: "Once when Paul was going to France, but before he had proposed, he asked what I'd like him to bring me. I suggested a Spanish mantilla, explaining that mantillas were made of delicate lace, and that some girls even used them for wedding veils . . . But you know," she protests, "I honestly wasn't hinting."

"When Paul came back he handed me a box, which I thought contained a mantilla. Instead, it was yards and yards of exquisite French illusion bridal veiling. And was I embarrassed!"

The Dial would like to be able to give you, too, a picture of the Compton, Cal., girl who will probably be Ellen's maid-of-honor, and of the groom. What's he like? Ellen's soft voice takes on a lyrical note. "Quite tall—over six feet—with blond, curly hair, blue eyes . . . soooo nice!"

★ OZARKOLOGY

Lonnie says he was always pretty impressed with the argument that "all things come to him who waits," especially since it sounded like an easy way to live, until he heard an old hillbilly argue differently. "Maybe it's true," said the hillbilly, "that if a feller coasts along and lives right all the things he wants git around to him after while. But looks to me as if they're mighty likely, when they do git there, to be plumb wore out!"

A FARM CHRISTMAS

BY C. C. KELLER
COUNTY AGENT

When your editor asked me to bring you a short article on "Christmas on the Farm," I thought it would be more or less easy to do, but the more I think about it the more difficult it is!

I would like to establish with you our Ozarks idea of Christmas. Someone said that Christmas is bounded on the north by happiness, good wishes, Oyster Lake and the Isthmus of Cranberry Sauce; on the east by Turkey Peninsula and Ocean of Goodies; on the south by Mince Pies, Jellies and Cakes; on the west by Pleasant Words from which it is separated by the Mountains of Cheerfulness. The capitals of Christmas are Peace and Goodwill on the Christmas Tree River.

There was no Christmas until we had Christ, whose love and a desire to help others were given to the world to make it a better place in which to live. Ever since that Christmas almost 2,000 years ago we have known that the most valuable people in the world are those who help others. There is no Christmas without love. There is no Christmas without giving. We think of happiness at Christmas time, and remember, too, that we can't get happiness ready made. We must make it for ourselves and others.

There is something about the Christmas season that makes living just a little more worthwhile for all of us. It makes us stop and think just a little more about the mystery of life and all of the mysteries that go with it. But when I think of Christmas on the farm, I get a little more of the true spirit and meaning of Christmas than I do thinking of Christmas in the big city. On the farm there is less of an air of celebration and good time, more of the real spirit of humility.

Since that Christmas almost 2,000 years ago there's something about the cattle shed that reminds us of that the city was too busy to receive the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings. His birth in that cattle shed has taught us that castles are poorer than cattle sheds if there is no spirit of Christmas. We learned, too, that a tomb was just a mockery of hope before Christmas changed death into birth. Because God sent His Son to be born in a borrowed manger, the atmosphere of the farm has been just a little richer and just a little finer than the castles in the city which then, and today, have little time or room for the spirit of our Master. Christmas means

a little more to farm people than it does to the people in the city.

The cattle shed on the farm at Christmas time has far more of the meaning and the true spirit of Christmas than electrically lighted places of entertainment in our cities, their parties, their crowds, their false excitements, their fancy foods. Christmas arrangements on the farm are just a little different too, to what they are in the city. Children on the farm begin planning early in the fall how they might make their "gift" money for Christmas. They look forward to Christmas as a vacation with fewer chores and more time with their families, since they do not have and enjoy the easy vacations that city children have. It means more time to visit with the neighbors, more time to be together with loved ones. Farm people look forward to being together more during the Christmas holidays than any other season.

If you would find, in Christmas, the richest possible rededication to the values, the verities, the sentiments that really matter, visit a manger, a sunlit hilltop, a quiet empty church. Then share with friends and strangers alike the loving peace, and the generosity, you would find in Christmas on the farm.

MEDITATIONS

BY AL STONE

Al Stone selects, to share with you this month, this verse by James J. Metcalfe.

Dear Lord, as long as I may live
I want to do your will
And overlook no promise
I am able to fulfill.
I want to be Your servant in
Whatever way I can,
Especially in everything
For every fellow man.
I want to glorify Your name
Wherever I may be,
By always offering the world
The best there is in me,
Because I owe so much to You
For what I have today
That it is far beyond what I
Am able to repay.
And so the best that I can do
Is not to take a rest
Until I know, Dear Lord, that I
Have given You my best.

THE SPOTLIGHT . . .

LONNIE AND THELMA ARE
FINALLY CLOSE TO HOME

"I'm no musician," Lonnie Robertson protests. "I'm just a fiddler."

"I'm no singer," Thelma Robertson tells you. "I'm just an accidental voice."

And there you have one clue to the success of one of radio's best-loved family teams: Modesty.

The farm boy from Long Lane and the farm girl from Lutie were brought up the old-fashioned way—church on Sunday, chores mixed with weekday school and play; respect for older folks, kindness to neighbors. The sturdy, simple virtues were a part of their childhood educations: "Work hard, do what you can to bring pleasure to others, and if you're successful, don't go puttin' on airs . . . Don't go settin' yourself above other people. It ain't only the rotten apples that fall off the tree."

This was the pattern of their bringing up. These are the qualities in them that you recognize immediately, instinctively, when they blend their voices in the sweet old harmonies of "Gathering Flowers for the Master's Bouquet," or some ballad each learned as a youngster and both still sing in the same plaintive way.

Even to those who have never met them, the personalities of Lonnie and Thelma are not difficult to imagine. You can picture her as she sings—blue-eyed, with soft, ash-blond curls, a pretty, gentle face, smiling always and laughing often except when she approaches her radio work and the long, long hours of practice and rehearsal she puts into it. And you can see Lonnie—grinning over a breakdown that brings all the old play-party echoes from his magic fiddle; singing a hymn earnestly, reverently; planning programs with Thelma in intense concentration, careful to read each line of fan mail and fill each request, but especially requests from radio friends who are older, ailing, and lonesome for other days.

You can imagine them with their child, Jarrett Jackson Robertson, named for Lonnie's father and Thelma's father, Jackson Jones, and now 9 years old. While Lonnie, in the living room of their new cobblestone and brick home at 1950 S. Fort, gives Jerry a lesson in "fiddlin' by ear" or listens to his violin practice of "readin' music," Thelma is busy in the kitchen making sugar cookies for a school party. Ever since Jerry started in the first grade, his parents have been active in the Parent-Teachers' Association.

"Last year in Pittsburg I was room mother," Thelma relates, "and I know I

made enough cookies, for all those school affairs, to fill a silo!"

Lonnie adds a thoughtful word: "Jerry has sung with us off and on since he was two years old. He went on the air that first time in Shenandoah at KMA and sailed right through 'When My Blue Moon Turns to Gold' from start to finish. He goes on all our personal appearances. He's part of our radio life and we like to be part of his school life. It makes for a closer family."

If you had told little Thelma Jones, back in the early 20's, that she had a future in radio, she'd probably have said, "What's that?" and then laughed heartily. She was a good student, with time out for milking the cows and playing with dolls and, later on, for baseball and basketball. Her father ran a country store in Lutie, the family lived on a farm nearby, and Thelma went on to Gainesville and Ava to finish high school after two years at Theodosia. She graduated and returned to the little schools in her home neighborhood—Lutie, Theodosia, Salem and Barefoot—as a schoolmarm, and Lonnie met her there when he went home to Long Lane to visit an ailing sister, Mrs. Della Griffith, in 1930.

A future in the entertainment world seemed just as remote to Lonnie when he was a youngster. His father, finest old-time fiddler in Ozark County, passed away when Lonnie was 13 and the family of six, including two older brother and sisters, moved to St. Joseph, Mo. Lonnie had inherited his father's fiddle and his talent, had enjoyed his tutelage, and was already playing for barn dances around the countryside.

"Fiddlin' was fun," Lonnie says, "but it had nothing to do with the serious business of earning a living. At 14 I joined my older brother and worked on a pipeline crew in Oklahoma. The next year I went to work for Swift and Co. in St. Jo and hustled beef for 10 years. I still don't understand how I hit radio—or vice versa."

Lonnie played occasionally for Ralph Foster's old St. Jo station on the Saturday night "barn dance" program, and met Al Stone and George Earle in those early radio days in the 20's. Then he got a sponsored Sunday program on KFEQ.

He was glad for the training as well as the extra pocket money when he lost his packing plant job in the depression lay-offs, but still wasn't making enough as he describes it, "to keep fiddle and bow together," so he moved on to a radio job in Yankton,

(Continued on page SIXTEEN)

RECIPES

HOLIDAY IN MOOD

"Mother Maebelle" Carter says, of this recipe for Peanut Butter Roll: "You'd never know from looking at my lean girls how much they dote on sweets. Christmas is always a busy time for us, with hardly enough moments free from programs and personals to fix all the goodies they like, so I frequently fall back on this peanut butter candy. It needs no cooking, and it really is delicious."

The procedure:

Put the whites of two eggs (unbeaten), 1 teaspoon of butter and 1 teaspoon of vanilla in a bowl. Add enough powdered sugar, a little at a time (Maebelle isn't sure how much) to make a stiff dough, about the consistency of biscuit dough. Roll it out on a dough board, spread with peanut butter, and roll up as if making a jelly roll. Keep in ice box and slice as needed.

Dixie Parker calls this recipe "Lennie's Pet," because, as she explains, "it's his favorite sweet-tooth treat. He recently wrote Mae, his wife, that if he could be served this pie for Christmas dinner, it would be worth driving all the way from Washington, D. C. It always, he added, gave his Christmas dinner a happy ending."

Incidentally—Dale, Dale, Jr., Jean and Jackie are right fond of it too, as well as Lennie Aleshire.

LENNIE'S MINCEMEAT PIE

Make a single crust for a 9-inch pie. Combine 2½ cups prepared mincemeat, 1½ cups finely cut tart apples and ¼ cup cider, and place in pastry-lined pan. Bake in hot oven (400 degrees F.) about 30 minutes. Top with fluffy hard sauce, which has been cut in the shape of stars if desired. Recipe for the sauce:

Blend together ⅓ cup crisco, 1 teaspoon vanilla, ¼ teaspoon salt, ¼ cup cream (or pet milk), 1 cup sifted confectioner's sugar. Heat ingredients until creamy. Place in a shallow pan which has been lined with wax paper, chill, and keep in refrigerator until ready to use.

And here is May McCord's favorite holiday recipe one for

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Take 12 full-grown months, pick them free from all old memories of bitterness, rancor, hate and jealousy. Cut them into 31 parts. Don't attempt to make up the whole batch at once. Prepare them a day at a time as follows:

INQUIRING REPORTER

Bettie Low: What is your favorite Christmas song, and do you associate it with some event or experience in your childhood?

Anita Carter—My favorite is "Empty Christmas Stocking." It's about a child whose only parent, his father, doesn't have any money, so he steals a doll for his child's Christmas. Upon his capture, a rich man feels sorry for him and pays for the doll, afterwards giving him a job in his factory. His child then had a very merry Christmas. I like it for telling a story of generosity at Christmas time.

Bob White—I've liked "White Christmas" every since I first heard it because I like anything that has to do with a white Christmas—ever since the snowy year I got my first sled. Besides—can you blame me?—I'm always partial to any song with my name in the title.

Chet Atkins—"White Christmas" is my favorite. The reason? Because most of Irving Berlin's songs are always my favorites. I think his tunes are tops. They get so close to what we feel most deeply.

Slim Wilson—All my life I have heard "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," and associated it with family get-togethers during the holidays. That's why it has become my favorite Christmas carol and always will be.

Ray Meriott—"O, Little Town of Bethlehem" is, to me, the loveliest because it's so much about the life of Christ. It always reminds me of the short play "The Terrible Geek." The reason I like to remember this play, I suppose, was because I played the part of the Terrible Geek in High School when I was seventeen.

Into each day put twelve parts of faith, eleven of patience, ten of courage, nine of work, eight of hope, seven of fidelity, six of liberality, five of kindness, four of rest. (Don't omit the rest, for it is like leaving the oil out of the salad.) Add three parts prayer, two parts meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Mix well. Put in about a teaspoon of good spirits (whisper it softly, some might not like it), a dash of fun, a small pinch of folly, a good heavy sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

Put into this all the love you can pour, then mix with a vim. Cook thoroughly in fervent heat. Garnish with several smiles and a nice green sprig of joy. Then serve with unselfishness and cheerfulness, and a happy New Year is a certainty.

This recipe never fails.



REUEL HAYMES' FLASHES IN THE KWTO PANORAMA

Because the holiday season is that time of year when families are closest together, as C. C. Keller reminds us in his beautiful column in this issue of The Dial, we thought it would be nice to give you pictures of as many family groups as possible in our December number. Another you will find is the Al Stone family on page 19.

1. Bunnic and Chuck Hesington have been grateful for the warm days of November that enabled them to put on light clothes and enjoy their backyard with the children. Here they are in the swing with Craig Charles and Bonnie Sharon, a pair of curly-heads that look as angelic as any cherub by Raphael.

2. Don Sullivan often brings his family with him when he comes to Springfield from Kansas City to transcribe his fine 6:15 a. m. KWTO programs for Quisenberry Mills. Our successful Ozarks boy (his home was Gainesville) is a cousin of Thelma Robertson's, by the way. Meet his wife, Lee, and their pert pride and joy, Lenna Beth.

3. Marge Tennis, beauty queen of KWTO wives, whose handsome boys inherited her fine eyes, threatened arson or worse if we printed this picture. "Look at my mouth," she protested. We think it just proves that Marge, as well as Zed, Larry and Jimmy, put heart and soul into their Christmas carols.

4. A familiar scene in many homes besides George Earle's— young Rickie saves his pennies in the super-size piggy bank so he can do his Christmas shopping. Dickie holds baby brother, Royal Brent Wilson, now five months old.



HILLBILLY HEARTBEATS . . . "QUEEN OF THE OZARKS"

BY MAY KENNEDY McCORD

Greetings dear friends:

And a Merry Christmas! This is the season! The happy Yuletide . . . the Feast of the Nativity . . . Christmas! Little lights gleaming from the windows, the smell of cedar and pine, bells ringing, people singing carols, hurrying feet, the spirit of giving and gladness—and maybe a soft white snow sifting down like a homing pigeon. Oh, I love it! I'm like a kid about Christmas!

I wish I had a big fine gift for each one of my dear readers and listeners, for all the loving hearts down in the hills and in the little towns round about. You have been so loyal this year and I thank you for your friendship and letters and cheer. Your letters have had no grumbling, and so much talk of the fine things God has given you and of the good things stored away in your memories—as well as in your barns and storehouses. So much of your love of streams and valleys and sunsets. So much of the sweet simple life, in your letters to me. No agitators and complainers—no pessimism and hatred. And I thank you all for everything, and I wish you the grandest New Year of your whole lives!

In the words of the poet—"I have nothing to give you to remember me by, but the thought of a sunset and a crimson sky. And a road I discovered; an unearthly hush—and a dream that is rooted in more than your flesh. Some night you'll remember, and say, half asleep: 'She gave me no gift, but a memory to keep!'"

I will never quite get used to the city Christmases. I always go back, with a nostalgic memory, to the days of yore, to the old time Christmas in our little towns, and in the hills and on the ridges . . . the home of the black dirt farmer in the river bottoms and the cabin of the tie-hacker down in the valley. I remember the Christmas trees, and nothing will ever stir me like the smell of fresh cedar. We always had a big tree in the Court House or in the church. They went out and cut a fresh cedar and dragged it in with a mule hitched to it, and everybody went . . . and there was always candy from the Sunday School and bags of nuts and popcorn. The tree had tinsel and cranberries strung, and small candles. There was no electricity and trees were very dangerous in that day, because they so often caught fire. I can see those trees now . . . Big wax dolls, horns, handkerchiefs, mittens, skates, and sleds down underneath the tree. And more than anything, I can remember the faces of the children! I can remember the little poor

children from out on the ridges who didn't get so much as some favored child, and when I look back at it now, I realize that it was cruel.

I shall never forget when a big pink-cheeked doll went to a pampered little girl, and oh, the look in the eyes of a thin little child I well remember! The look of disappointment and longing!

We never had trees in the homes. I never had a home tree myself when a child. There was the big public tree, a program, and singing of carols, and then Santa Claus coming in and distributing the gifts. And no matter what you got, it was on that tree. All the personal gifts, even the boy to his sweetheart (the little plush album or the bottle of perfume), the gifts for the old folks, everything was on that big tree, so everybody in town knew what everybody else got for Christmas. Sometimes a bushel of apples or a ham of meat was under the tree and given to someone, maybe the preacher. One time there was a stand of lard for the preacher, I distinctly recall. That was a well greased-up Christmas, but you bet your life nobody gives you a forty-pound stand of lard now! I would love to get even a five-pound one!

I remember the Christmas dances. I was not allowed to go until I was eighteen, but I could go to the "play-parties" where we sang the dances and danced to them just the same. "Skip-to-my-Lou," "Balance Over to Rowser's," "Miller Boy," "Weavely Wheat," and "Jump Josey."

"Four hands 'round and you can't Jump Josey, Rattle up a jinseng, can't jump Josey!"

What a wild excitement and what fun! On Christmas eve, after the gifts, singing and dancing merrily till the wee, small hours, happy as June bugs and gay and merry in a peaceful world. No wars, no bombs, no grief. "No doubtful balance of rights and wrongs, no weary lawyers with endless tongues—" No stock markets and filibusters and scheming grafters. No grabbing for the almighty dollar in a wild hysteria. Just the plain joys and loves and laughter and dreams of a plain people. It was a great day to have lived in, and I wouldn't have missed it for all the froth and tinsel of a synthetic civilization! No, I wouldn't.

I'll be seeing you again next month. The days fly by, don't they? I received a lot of mail and comment about last month's story about the unknown woman who wrote me about "Hands." It touched many hearts.

(Continued on page THIRTEEN)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Joe Slattery

ACROSS

- and 4. Taystee Bread star, who was "Santa Claus" on last December's Dial cover.
- Personal pronoun.
- A fruit drink.
- Pertaining to aircraft.
- Metal.
- Like a reed.
- Certainly (Archaic). (Also "iris" pronounced with a lisp.)
- Negative word.
- Santa Claus' busy day.
- Pronoun.
- Tree.
- Exclamation.
- Questioning grunt.
- June Carter says it's just a little bit of something.
- Meadow.
- Elevated train.
- Room (ab.).
- What you sit down to the table to do.
- Possesses.
- Early morning Newscast sponsor, now featuring a charitable "Christmas Club."
- Inside.
- Dormitory (ab.).
- Tiny particles of matter.
- Where an eagle lives.
- Covered with a greasy substance. (Don't slip on this one.)
- Prefix meaning "new" or "recent."
- To permit.
- Beginner.
- Marshes.

DOWN

- Tree's skin.
- Chemical suffix.
- Blood sucking worm.
- In regard to.
- Spring bulb flower.
- Ox (Scotch).
- Hour (ab.).
- Electrified particle. (Also suffix used in forming nouns.)
- Christmasy precipitation.
- Town in Scotland.
- Father of Jacob.
- Arabian boat.
- Assimilated form of "in."
- Steamship (ab.).
- Largest mammal.
- Morning weather broadcast sponsor.
- Poem.
- Part of a hog.
- Work on lessons.
- Close.



- Bachelor of Arts.
- Make up for.
- This magazine.
- Preposition.
- Ancient city of which Priam was king.
- Arabian leader.
- Negative vote.
- Greek word meaning "equal."
- Born.
- Males.
- Right (ab.).
- Behold!

★ HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

This year, as in the past, many Springfield merchants are cooperating with KWTO to give you the richest possible variety in Christmas programming. In addition to the J. J. Newberry Co. program, Voice of Christmas, every Mon., Wed. and Fri. from 5 to 5:15 until Dec. 23rd, with a final broadcast Christmas day at 4:30, this is the holiday schedule:

The now-famous Little Theater version of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," presented by the Union National Bank at 8 p. m. Christmas Eve. Fadler Produce offering "Mrs. Ostrander's Story" at 8:30 and Kent-Clark Monument Co. the Matthews Quartet at 9:45 the same night. Christmas Day: Knight Oil Co. Christmas Concert, 9:30 a. m.; Herman Brownlow "Christmas Fantasy" at noon; Spradlin Fruit presenting Cote Glee Club at 12:15; Welhener Tent and Awning and Edwards Turkey Hatchery offering "Yuletide Reverie" at 2 p. m.; Claron's Foot Health with "Carols in the Chapel," 3 o'clock; Zale Jewelry's "Christmas Cavalcade of Music," 3:30; Citizen's Bank sponsoring "Christmas at Ozarkanna Corners" from 6 until 7 p. m.

"FAIR AND WARMER" COLUMN OF COMMENT BY C. C. WILLIFORD

On a frosty morning in November the C. B. Binions of Monett, Dorothy Hall and I crossed the bridge at Branson on our way to a final foray with the fish at a favorite spot on White River near Mincy. The air was sparkling clear, and to the east a big November sun was rising with a flaming glory that illuminated the entire landscape.

Along the limestone ledges which skirt the lake across from Branson we noticed a peculiar ice formation, apparently growing on the stalks of certain weeds. Around each of the stalks of this species was a formation not unlike the puff balls of spun sugar we find at Ozarks fairs. But the formation was not cotton candy, but ice—the sheerest, most gossamer ice you can imagine!

A close examination showed that the ice had formed in fantastic ribbons or layers, not unlike those ribbons of pine shavings made by a carpenter's plane. They seemed to originate from a small slit in the bark or skin of the apparently dead weed, forced from the stalk by some mysterious pressure. In many cases the ribbons were two inches in width, some in layers, others beautifully curled, reflecting the morning's light in the spectrum of the rainbow with a nacreous effect, not unlike mother-of-pearl. (Father-of-pearl wasn't around at the time.) At any rate, these strange "ice orchids," as I dubbed them, were of a sheer beauty beyond description.

Next morning I mentioned them on my regular KWTO weather broadcast, and received a score of explanations within a few days from listeners all over the district. Most all my correspondents agreed that the ice formation is found only on an herb known as "dittany," and that the plant and the ice thereon have medicinal properties. I consulted a glossary of medical herbs and found it described as a small aromatic herb of the mint family (*Cunila originoides*), commonly called horsemint.

The "ice orchid" forms only on nights when the temperature is at a certain degree, barometric measure high, and little or no air in motion.

Several letters told of having dittany tea recommended for colds. A Mansfield lady told me not to be afraid of eating the "ice orchids"—that she had eaten many and was 75 years old. Mrs. Zella Brayton of Mountain Grove told of finding the orchids on blackroot, carpenter's square and spice wood down near Little Creek. Others told me that Frostweed or rockrose would also form the ice flowers, called "fairy ice" at Ava.

And one fine old fellow wrote: "Dear C. C.: I heard you telling about them there ice flomers. I've knowed what that there is for 30 years. It is something like swamp-root, and I always take it in the spring for my wife's kidneys. I also maik it into a tee for the flue."

Of all the letters I received, the one that seemed most logical in suggesting why the sap rises from the dead stock is the one stating that "dittany plant contains ammonia." It is well known that the rapid expansion of liquid ammonia into gas produces extreme cold, and that the first manufacturer of artificial ice used this method. Perhaps the ice on the plant is formed the same way, with the exuding of ammonia gas. Still unexplained—what forces the liquid from the stalk? Well, "God moves in mysterious ways, his wonders to perform."

HEARTBEATS

(Continued from page TWELVE)

One man wrote me beautifully about it:

"Two loving and capable hands are living badges of honor. God help the man who is tied to the woman with dainty, manicured, red-nailed hands! Fair-weather hands! Hands that cry out, 'I'll not be with you when the going gets tough! Like silk sails on a ship that are whipped to shreds in a strong breeze that blows the ship on the rocks. It's the coarse, canvas sails that stand up and take it, and pull your ship against a gale into deep water and safety."

And so, goodbye until next month. And here is a wish from the pen of our postman poet, Roy Martin of this city:

**May the old Yultide song
In your heart linger long,
With its old fashioned glad Christmas cheer,
May your pipe dreams come true
And good luck come to you,
And yours be a happy New Year.**

With love,

MAY

"RHYTHM" ON NETWORK

As if KWTO fans needed any reminder that many of our programs are of network caliber—no sooner had Korn's-A-Krackin' run its 4-year course on MBS than American Broadcasting Co., with which KWTO is affiliated, ordered up Shorty Thompson's "Saddle Rockin' Rhythm" for coast-to-coast broadcast at 5:30 p. m. every Saturday. Congratulations Shorty, Sue, Bob, Doc, Zed!

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER



WEEKDAYS AND SATURDAY

5:00 a. m.—Yawn Patrol
 5:45 a. m.—Rev. Hitchcock
 6:00 a. m.—Lonnie and Thelma
 6:15 a. m.—Don Sullivan
 6:15 a. m.—R. F. D. Roundup (S)
 6:30 a. m.—Goodwill Family
 7:00 a. m.—Carter Family
 7:15 a. m.—Yellow Bonnet Show (M-W-F)
 7:15 a. m.—Slim Wilson (T-Th-S)
 7:30 a. m.—Newscast
 7:45 a. m.—Prairie Playboys
 7:45 a. m.—Goodwill Family (S)
 8:00 a. m.—Chuck Bowers
 8:15 a. m.—Bill Ring Show
 8:15 a. m.—Church Page (S)
 8:25 a. m.—Weatherman Williford
 8:30 a. m.—Breakfast Club—ABC
 8:30 a. m.—Jordanaires (S)
 8:45 a. m.—Rev. W. E. Dowell (S)
 9:00 a. m.—Freddie Martin Orchestra
 9:00 a. m.—Breakfast at Kellers (S)
 9:15 a. m.—What's New
 9:25 a. m.—Betty Crocker—ABC
 9:30 a. m.—Farm News, Markets (S)
 9:45 a. m.—Newscast
 10:00 a. m.—Chuck Bowers
 10:00 a. m.—Meet Your Neighbor (S)
 10:15 a. m.—Kitchen Talks
 10:30 a. m.—Guide to Happier Living
 10:30 a. m.—What's New (S)
 10:45 a. m.—Slim Wilson
 11:00 a. m.—Ozark Farm Hour
 11:00 a. m.—101 Ranch Boys—ABC (S)
 11:15 a. m.—Markets
 11:20 a. m.—Farm Hour
 11:30 a. m.—Ark. Conservation Comm. (S)
 11:45 a. m.—Farm Front (S)
 12:00 noon—The Carter Family
 12:15 p. m.—Goodwill Family
 12:30 p. m.—Newscast
 12:45 p. m.—Man on the Street
 1:00 p. m.—Linda's First Love
 1:00 p. m.—Metropolitan Opera—ABC (S)
 1:15 p. m.—Ma Perkins
 1:30 p. m.—Bride and Groom—ABC
 2:00 p. m.—Judy and Jane
 2:15 p. m.—Lonnie and Thelma
 2:30 p. m.—Ladies Be Seated—ABC
 2:55 p. m.—Ted Malone
 3:00 p. m.—Galen Drake
 3:15 p. m.—Chuck Bowers

3:30 p. m.—Carter Family
 3:45 p. m.—Cornfield Follies
 4:00 p. m.—Creamo News
 4:15 p. m.—Markets
 4:25 p. m.—Do You Know
 4:30 p. m.—Weatherman Williford
 4:35 p. m.—Everett Mitchell (M-W-F)
 4:35 p. m.—Interlude (T-Th-S)
 4:45 p. m.—Rev. W. E. Dowell
 4:45 p. m.—Tea and Crumpets—ABC (S)
 5:00 p. m.—Voice of Christmas
 5:00 p. m.—Hollis Warren (T-Th)
 5:00 p. m.—Four Knights (S)
 5:15 p. m.—Ozark Newsettes
 5:25 p. m.—One Man's Opinion—ABC
 5:30 p. m.—J. Armstrong—ABC (M-W-F)
 5:30 p. m.—Sky King—ABC (T-Th)
 5:30 p. m.—Here's To Veterans (S)
 5:45 p. m.—Christian Science Program (S)
 6:00 p. m.—Newscast
 6:15 p. m.—Sports Spotlight
 6:30 p. m.—Lone Ranger—ABC (M-W-F)
 6:30 p. m.—Counterspy—ABC (T-Th)
 6:30 p. m.—Shorty's Gang—ABC (S)

SUNDAY PROGRAMS

6:30 a. m.—Pipes of Melody
 6:45 a. m.—Sunday Morning Reveries
 7:00 a. m.—Rev. Hitchcock
 7:30 a. m.—Three-Quarter Time
 8:00 a. m.—Newscast
 8:15 a. m.—Sermons in Song
 8:30 a. m.—May Kennedy McCord
 8:45 a. m.—Al and Lee Stone
 9:00 a. m.—Message of Israel—ABC
 9:30 a. m.—The Southernaires—ABC
 10:00 a. m.—Voice of Prophecy—ABC
 10:30 a. m.—Hour of Faith—ABC
 11:00 a. m.—Guidepost for Living
 11:15 a. m.—First Baptist Church
 12:00 noon—Voice of the Army.
 12:15 p. m.—Cote Glee Club
 12:30 p. m.—Sermons in Song
 1:00 p. m.—Newscast
 1:15 p. m.—Drury Quarter Hour
 1:30 p. m.—Mr. President—ABC
 2:00 p. m.—Goodwill Family
 2:15 p. m.—National Guard Show
 2:30 p. m.—Southern Baptist Hour—ABC
 3:00 p. m.—Cavalcade of Music
 3:30 p. m.—Family Closeup—ABC
 4:00 p. m.—Casebook of Greg. Hood—ABC
 4:30 p. m.—Greatest Story—ABC
 5:00 p. m.—Drew Pearson—ABC
 5:15 p. m.—Monday Headlines—ABC
 5:30 p. m.—Hormel Girls Corps—ABC
 6:00 p. m.—Think Fast—ABC
 6:30 p. m.—Amazing Mr. Malone—ABC
 7:00 p. m.—Stop the Music—ABC
 8:00 p. m.—Walter Winchell—ABC
 8:15 p. m.—Jergens Journal—ABC
 8:30 p. m.—Chance of a Lifetime—ABC

9:00 p. m.—Lutheran Hour—ABC
 9:30 p. m.—Newscast
 9:45 p. m.—George Sokolsky—ABC
 10:00 p. m.—News of Tomorrow—ABC
 10:15 p. m.—Thoughts in Passing—ABC
 10:30 p. m.—Popular Orchestra—ABC
 11:00 p. m.—News, Orchestra—ABC

MONDAY NIGHT

7:00 p. m.—Share the Wealth—ABC
 7:25 p. m.—Scouting the Stars—ABC
 7:30 p. m.—Spotlight on Industry
 7:45 p. m.—Henry J. Taylor—ABC
 8:00 p. m.—Kate Smith Calls—ABC
 9:00 p. m.—Keynotes by Carle
 9:15 p. m.—Speaking of Songs—ABC
 9:30 p. m.—Modern Romances—ABC
 10:00 p. m.—Newscast
 10:15 p. m.—Joe Hasel—ABC
 10:30 p. m.—Gems for Thought—ABC
 10:35 p. m.—Orchestras—ABC
 11:55 p. m.—News—ABC

TUESDAY NIGHT

7:00 p. m.—Challenge of the Yukon—ABC
 7:30 p. m.—America's Town Meeting—ABC
 8:30 p. m.—Basketball Game
 9:30 p. m.—Modern Romances—ABC
 10:00 p. m.—Newscast
 10:15 p. m.—Joe Hasel—ABC
 10:15 p. m.—Gems for Thought—ABC
 10:35 p. m.—Orchestras—ABC
 11:55 p. m.—News—ABC

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

7:00 p. m.—Dr. I. Q.—ABC
 7:30 p. m.—Sherlock Holmes—ABC
 7:55 p. m.—Detective of Week—ABC
 8:00 p. m.—Mystery Playhouse—ABC
 8:30 p. m.—Buzz Adlam's Playroom—ABC
 9:00 p. m.—Salon Serenade
 9:30 p. m.—Modern Romances—ABC
 10:00 p. m.—Newscast

10:15 p. m.—Joe Hasel—ABC
 10:30 p. m.—Gems for Thought—ABC
 10:35 p. m.—Orchestras—ABC
 11:55 p. m.—News—ABC

THURSDAY NIGHT

7:00 p. m.—Challenge of the Yukon—ABC
 7:30 p. m.—A Date With Judy—ABC
 7:45 p. m.—Three-Quarter Time
 8:00 p. m.—Original Amateur Hour—ABC
 8:45 p. m.—Robert Montgomery—ABC
 9:00 p. m.—Author Meets Critic—ABC
 9:30 p. m.—Modern Romances—ABC
 10:00 p. m.—Newscast
 10:15 p. m.—Joe Hasel—ABC
 10:30 p. m.—Gems for Thought—ABC
 10:35 p. m.—Orchestras—ABC
 11:55 p. m.—News—ABC

FRIDAY NIGHT

7:00 p. m.—The Fat Man—ABC
 7:30 p. m.—This Is Your FBI—ABC
 8:00 p. m.—Ozzie and Harriet—ABC
 8:30 p. m.—The Sheriff—ABC
 8:55 p. m.—Champion Roll Call—ABC
 9:00 p. m.—Gillette Fights—ABC
 9:30 p. m.—American Sports Page—ABC
 10:00 p. m.—Newscast
 10:15 p. m.—Joe Hasel—ABC
 10:30 p. m.—Gems for Thought—ABC
 10:35 p. m.—Orchestras—ABC
 11:55 p. m.—News—ABC

SATURDAY NIGHT

7:00 p. m.—Challenge of the Yukon—ABC
 7:30 p. m.—Visit With Santa Claus
 8:00 p. m.—Treasury Show—ABC
 8:30 p. m.—Hollywood Bylines—ABC
 9:00 p. m.—National Barn Dance—ABC
 9:30 p. m.—Hayloft Frolic
 9:45 p. m.—Shamrock Hotel Orch.—ABC
 10:00 p. m.—Newscast
 10:15 p. m.—Tops in Sports—ABC
 10:30 p. m.—Popular Orchestra—ABC

YOUR STARLORE

... BY OPAL PORTER

December is a hallowed month. Each year at this time the Christmas spirit revitalizes and fills our hearts to overflowing as we join in Yuletide festivities and sing the old, old favorites, praying fervently that "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" will strike a responsive chord in the hearts of all who hear it. We need a spiritual baptism; we need to be born again—born of the spirit.

Sagittarians, whose birthday group is November 23 to December 21, divide honors with two of our most honored holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. How fitting that this mental-spiritual Fire sign should rule religion! Jupiter, planetary ruler, is

the spiritual teacher. Listen to the speech of a high-minded Sagittarian, and you'll detect this fine quality quickly. These people live their convictions, and there are none finer on earth. Those of this sign live up to the best of which they're capable.

Theirs is the sign of the higher mind; of higher education. Mental and spiritual growth is their birthright. An inquiring mind keeps them busy studying and analyzing—and out of other people's affairs.

Jupiter in their moneyhouse this year has "given the increase," and many have been catapulted into more lucrative positions.

Last half of 1950 will be more prosperous for them than the first half. Mark time, and move forward with more certainty after mid-June.

Seasons greetings!

THE SPOTLIGHT CONT. FROM PAGE SEVEN

S. D. There, as in St. Jo, radio listeners loved Lonnie's authentic, old-time style, but he still wasn't sure radio was here to stay and left it for a grocery business in Brookline, Mo.

Eight months later, lonesome for the mike, Lonnie teamed up with Roy McGeorge and they built themselves to sky-high popularity—at KFEQ, at WAAW in Omaha, at KFAB in Lincoln and KOAM Pittsburg, with time out for Lonnie to make recordings for Texas Network. Eatherham Hobbs, the elderly wit with the rusty-winch voice and the deadpan yodel whom you hear on the Farm Hour, joined the act somewhere along the line. And it's odd, as one Dial reader observed, how he "follows Lonnie from program to program and station to station."

For the first 12 years of their married life, Thelma was a typical Silent Partner. "Occasionally she'd visit the studio — on pay day," Lonnie teases, but mostly she concentrated on the hearty country meals he likes to tuck away. In 1942 in Kansas City, "just for fun," they made a record together, while two-year-old Jarrett listened from the control booth. At last he turned to the engineer, whom the Robertsons knew, and said,

"They sure are good, aren't they?"

Thelma was disbelieving, but again "just for fun" Lonnie sent the record to KMA, Shenandoah. And they were hired!

"I was thrilled, scared, happy and terrified," Thelma says. "And for the next few months it was work, work, work. We'd put on an early program at KMA, practice all morning, do another show, practice all afternoon and half the night, drinking buckets of coffee. Then came the terrible day when I sang my first solo, 'No Telephone in Heaven.' That's the longest song I know—or it seemed like it that day—and the KMA announcer laughed about the title, and my being so scared. 'What's the matter?' he said. 'Wouldn't anybody answer? Anyway I've never sung it since!'"

After Shenandoah came KWTO for three years, then stations in Virginia, Illinois, Arkansas (Siloam Springs) and Kansas (KOAM) before they returned to Springfield last fall. And do they like being here?

"For a long, long time, on first one station and then another, we've been known as the 'Down Home Folks,'" Lonnie says. "At last we're back where it isn't so far 'down home' but what we can get there weekends."

Lonnie and Thelma have long had a "hideaway"—a farm, between Lutie and

Theodosia, that will be on Bull Shoals lake when the big dam is finished. Like lots of other folks who've worked hard and saved carefully, the simplicity and relaxation of country life means a lot to them. Vacations bring, to Thelma, a chance to keep plenty of fried chicken on hand, fill up the cookie jar, and catch up on her mending. "For Lonnie and Jerry," she laughs, "it's fiddle and fish, fish and fiddle, all day long."

Jerry sings an occasional song or plays a breakdown on their 6 a. m. program for Missouri Hydro Gas on Mon., Wed. and Fri., Willard Tablet Co. Tues., Thurs. and Sat., but he isn't out of Phelps school in time for their Sunway Vitamins program at 2:30 in the afternoon. They are joined by Eatherham on the Farm hour.

Once, when the Robertsons were here before, fans wrote in that they were positive Lonnie and Eatherham were the same. A few days later, to the surprise of some KWTO-ers as well as listeners, Lonnie and Eatherham sang a duet. While the mystery has never been solved to everybody's satisfaction, you can judge for yourself. Do they sound alike? Scarcely at all!

WHO ARE THEY?

. . . NAME THE STARS

Is this little quiz getting easier, or are you Dial friends getting cagier? Dozens have written in, guessing the identities of the KWTO personalities in our last two columns. All right. We'll make them a little tougher. Who are these people who help make the KWTO wheels go 'round? Look for answers in next month's Dial:

1. KWTO has more than one kind of "Man on the Street." One, of course, is George Earle. The other is Ray What's-His-Last-Name?—our City Sales Manager whose contacts with Springfield advertisers bring you many fine programs. You don't see him in The Dial often, but some of you will remember him pictured at Foster's birthday picnic.

2. An eastern lad named Charles, one with a grand sense of humor, was "discovered" for KWTO, by one of its stockholders, when he was guide on a Miami, Fla., sightseeing boat. The Dial once told you who he is.

Answers to last month's teasers: The Robertsons, of course, are our old friends Lonnie and Thelma. "Donald Charles" is our handsome, red-headed collegian, Don Dailey.

LOOKIN' AT YOU

. . . BY SULLY

Perhaps a fellow who was born and spent his early childhood in an Ozarks region town of less than 500 population, back in the late 1890's and early 1900's, missed a lot, but such an environment also had its blessings—especially at Christmas.

In those days, little boys half-past six wore tight fitting knee-pants, usually made from their father's discarded trousers. Those tight knee pants were a nightmare—almost as bad as the full length, fleeced-lined union suits they made us wear, but there was a compensating factor. Short pants automatically made long stockings necessary—stockings that reached four or five inches above the knee—and they came in mighty handy at Christmas.

For the benefit of Dial readers who may not understand, Christmas in the 1890's was primarily for children. Older people, at least in the Ozarks village where I lived, seldom exchanged gifts outside the immediate family circle. The children hung their stockings in front of the fireplace on Christmas eve and Santa Claus climbed down the chimney and filled them with gifts. These presents usually consisted of mixed candies, nuts and fruits, with an occasional toy such as a jointed Bisque doll for the girls, or maybe a set of small dishes—and a Red Clipper wagon or a B. B. gun for the boys.

These memories came back to me last night, as I sat in the front window of my semi-darkened apartment and listened to carol singers in the street below. There was no Christmas tree or lighted holly wreath in my window—only threatening shadows of recent sorrows crouched in the corners of the room, waiting for the bed light to be cut off so they could pounce upon me in dreams.

One expects Christmas carols in cathedrals where the pious kneel to pray, but not from the street—the Trafficway of Life, where souls are crushed, hearts mangled, and blighted ambition becomes the subject of drunken jest.

The carol singers moved farther down the street and I turned away from the window to find that the threatening shadows had disappeared and the apartment was aglow . . . with memories of Christmas in the 1890's.

FROM THE FILES

. . . A DIAL REVIEW

7 Years Ago This Month

Bill Ring returns to KWTO from WMAQ in Chicago . . . Lee George threatens to set a basketball referee-ing record. (Now sports director of KFEQ, St. Joseph, Mo.)

6 Years Ago This Month

Lonnie and Thelma want, in their Christmas stockings, a ton of hay for their hungry cow . . . Mike Dosch stirs envy with a letter written from his farm in North Dakota saying that the pheasants are thick as summer flies.

5 Years Ago This Month

Chief Engineer Fritz Bauer and his technical staff make a "Field Intensity Survey" to measure KWTO's coverage and range at all points of the compass—which involves a lot of riding around the countryside, so they don't mind it . . . Slim's Christmas wish is for Junior Haworth's return from the Army so the old Goodwill Family Group can be reunited.

4 Years Ago This Month

Don Harvey, former announcer, writes from Hollywood that he's Orson Welles' stand-in. (Still in Hollywood and now in pictures.)

3 Years Ago This Month

Chet Atkins, busy-fingered guitarist from Nashville, joins KWTO staff.

2 Years Ago This Month

Reuel snaps George Earle in the midst of one of his imitations at a "Breakfast in Hollywood" party . . . ABC's Ted Malone gives Dial a rosy compliments on his Nov. 17 network broadcast.

1 Year Ago This Month

Chuck Bowers described, in cutlines for his latest picture, as "handsome hybrid of Valentino and Gary Cooper."

BASKETBALL FANS—

KWTO will be your station for the Drury or SMS game-of-the-week through the last of February. SMS games with Guatemala, Emporia, Mo. Valley, Florida, Peru, Neb., Rolla, Pittsburg and Kirksville are scheduled for 8 or 8:30 on these nights: Dec. 6, 12, 19, 21, 28; Jan. 10 and 30, and Feb. 20. Drury games with Florida State, Peru, Neb., Mo. Valley, Central and Ottawa will be carried on these nights: Dec. 20 and 27; Jan. 17, and Feb. 14 and 28.

DEAR DIAL:**QUESTION COLUMN**

Q. How old are the Gamble twins, Wanna Fay Haworth and Chet Atkins? (La V. S., Berryville, Ark.)

A. Violet and Vesta are 25, Wanna Fay 26, Chet 25—rather young to have developed such a remarkable talent, don't you think?

Q. Is Chet Atkins married? Is he related to the Carters? (Mrs. C. E., Jenkins, Mo.; Mrs. T. A. G., Fair Grove, Mo.; Miss D. B., Sleeper, Mo.)

A. Neither Chet nor any of the Carter girls is married, and he is no relation to them. They met and teamed up at WSM, Nashville, which is Chet's home.

Q. How about a large picture of Doc Martin? How old and tall is Penny Nichols? (D. R., Chamois, Mo.)

A. Reuel Haymes, our photographer, promises a new portrait of Doc within the next month or so. Penny is 22 years old and a petite five feet tall.

Q. Where are Sarah and A. P. Carter? (T. S., Low Gap, Ark.)

A. They gave up radio eight or ten years ago and are living back east.

Q. Why does Eatherham Hobbs follow Lonnie from program to program and station to station? (Mrs. R. H., Carthage, Mo.)

A. Isn't that the funniest thing? They do seem to be inseparable, don't they?

Q. What was Mrs. Maebelle Carter's maiden name? (Mrs. A. T., Rector, Mo.)

A. Addington.

Q. What is the name of the Dial Editor? Does George Rhodes have a program by himself since Buster left KWTO? (Mrs. R. H., Carthage.)

A. Her name is Mrs. Jean Lightfoot Kappell. No, George has no solo program. He is heard on the Farm Hour; with the Goodwill Family Mon. through Fri. at 6:30 a. m. for Sunway; Mon. through Sat. at 6:45 a. m. for Busy Bee and Globe Department Store; again with that group at 12:15 for MFA—a pretty heavy schedule without additional programs. He also sings with Goodwill Family Sun. afternoon at 2.

Q. How old are Bill Bailey and Slim Wilson? Why doesn't Pat Evans sing anymore? (Mrs. B. F. M., Green Forest, Ark.)

A. Bill will be 40 in February, and Slim is also 39. Lou says Pat sang off key. Real reason: He thinks that woman's place is in the home.

Q. Where is Luke McNeley? (W. N., Licking, Mo.)

A. KVEK, Atchison, Kan.

PORTSIDE PATTERN

... BY GEORGE EARLE
DECEMBER

Makes no difference how I say it,
Every day in every way it
Rings my sentiments so clearly
Round the world! (Well, that is nearly.)
Yuletide Greetings Everyone!

Christmas is the time for voicing
Heartfelt cheer; for sweet rejoicing!
Rich am I in golden treasure,
I have gems no man can measure—
Silver, sapphires by the ton!
These are treasures that abound
Midst the friends that I have found
And to you, each precious jewel, I'd
Shout my joy at this grand Yuletide!

KWTO'S NIGHTTIME AUDIENCE

Many of you who take The Dial and follow our daytime programs are unable to get KWTO after sundown, when our wattage is reduced from 5000 to 1000. Recent surveys indicate, however, that our nighttime coverage area has enjoyed a marked increase in population in the past few years. With a directional signal KWTO now reaches, at night, 154,271 radio homes in 30 counties, as compared with 64,652 homes for our nearest competitor. These computations are based on 1948 population figures in Standard Rate and Data Service's "Consumer Markets."

KIERNAN'S OPINION

New York, Nov. 14—Walter Kiernan, ABC commentator on One Man's Opinion, at 5:25 p. m. over KWTO, was talking about Mrs. Hadley's shopping for a trousseau for her wedding to Vice-President Barkley. "A groom," he said, "gets his pants pressed and he's ready. But when a girl gets engaged it's hard to tell whether she's getting married or opening a clothing store!"

Q. Is the Haden Family broadcasting on any station? (M. K., Lamar.)

A. No.

Q. Why not conduct an original recipe contest? (Mrs. A. B., Summerville, Mo.)

A. That sounds like an excellent idea, but how could we judge the contest fairly without testing each recipe? Perhaps instead, sometime next year after our "Lucky Subscriber" Contest is wound up, we can run a "Reader's Recipe" every month or so.



★ AL STONE'S FAMILY ENTERTAINS A CELEBRITY—AND VICE VERSA

All Springfield was agog, early in November, over the presence of four famous vocalists from New York, here for the Rogers and Hammerstein concert. While others collected autographs, Al and Lee Stone entertained one of the distinguished visitors, Baritone Thomas Hayward of the Metropolitan Opera, an old friend of Kansas City days. He arrived Nov. 2, day before the concert, and excused himself from several

formal affairs to spend every possible moment with his hosts. Dallas Stone came down from Houston, Mo., to visit his high school classmate. In the top picture Al and Dallas help Hayward (center) struggle with the score for "Carmen," in which he was to sing a starring role at the Metropolitan. In the bottom picture, lovely Janice Stone and Lee join them for a quartet at the piano.

MISS DOROTHY MAE DAVOLT
304 INDIANA ST.
OSWEGO, KANS.

5-50

Sec. 34.66 P.L. & R.
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

Springfield, Mo.
Permit No. 753

Return Postage Guaranteed

Box 1217 SSS Springfield, Mo.



★ THE PORTRAIT OF THE MONTH—THE OZARKS' ALL-TIME FAVORITE

"Give us a big picture of Slim," Dial readers keep writing us. "One big enough to frame." So here it is—the portrait of Slim that comes closest to capturing his good looks, his humor and his naturalness. There's a saying that if you think it's hard to keep your head on a sinking ship, you ought to get in front of a microphone. Slim Wilson's popularity has lasted and loomed ever larger, in his 17 years in radio, be-

cause he has kept his head; hasn't changed much from the fellow who used to hitch-hike from the farm north of Bolivar, in the early thirties, to play radio fiddle with his old Nixa friend and neighbor, Zed Tennis. His homespun baritone has grown richer, his guitar technique more polished, his shoulder a little more stooped from farm work, but his hat size stays the same, even after all the compliments on "Mule Train!"