BADIO

STATIONS

Personalities

1939

EVANSVILLE

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PERSONALITIES

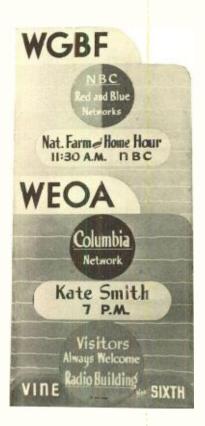
at

WGBF

WEOA

Evansville, Indiana

The Stations With Many Sriends



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MESSAGE

The ether waves are public property and the measure of value of a broadcasting station is the public service it renders. The people have a right to claim the best in entertainment, in information services, in education, and in assistance in times of emergency. This is the goal which WGBF and WEOA have set for themselves and the successful growth of our stations is proof that the Evansville area appreciates the radio service it receives. The fact that both major networks have sought outlets in Evansville is further recognition of both the worth of the Tri-State territory and the high standing of its stations, and all of us may well be proud of this tribute. Both WGBF and WEOA pledge themselves to a continuance of the best in public service with confidence that they will merit and receive the same splendid public support in the future as in the past.

cheuerfeich

WGBF-WEOA HISTORY

EVANSVILLE'S first radio station WGBF was inaugurated in 1923 with 25 watts power by the Finke Furniture Company. In 1928 Evansville on the Air, Inc. was organized to take over operation of this station and soon the power was boosted to 500 watts with a subsequent increase in daytime power to 1000 watts. An important step in the development of the station was taken when the National Broadcasting Company selected WGBF as an outlet for its Red and Blue Networks.

As radio became more and more an integral part of our life the need for another station in Evansville became evident and in 1936 the Federal Communications Commission authorized Evansville on the Air, Inc. to build and operate WEOA. WEOA operates on 250 watts daytime and 100 watts at night and is affiliated with the Columbia Broadcasting System. Thus both major networks distribute their programs over Evansville transmitters.

The present quarters at 519 Vine Street have been occupied since March, 1933, and in keeping with this ever changing and ever developing modern business, the quarters used by the studio and technical departments are constantly being improved and "streamlined."



Executives

MARTIN L. LEICH . . . Business Manager

Soon after he obtained his A.B. degree at Dartmouth College in 1932, Martin Leich joined the staff of Evansville On The Air, Inc. He was born in Evansville, October 18, 1911 and is the son of Clarence Leich, general manager of the corporation. He graduated from Wheeler Grade School and Central High School, both of Evansville and recalls that his first job was that of salesman and demonstrator for Dawn Cigarettes, Inc. He declares he has no hooby, unless it might be tennis, his favorite sport Universida.



PAT ROPER . . . Program Director

Since the age of six years, Pat Roper has been playing the piano. Besides the multiple duties as program director, she serves as studio accompanist and organist. Born in Hardinsburg, Ky., February 4, 1902, she attended Louisville Girls' High and University of Kentucky. After finishing school she took up theatrical career. First job, as organist at Empress theater, Owensboro, Ky. She was playing vaudeville piano at the Grand Theater when the advent of the talkies turned her to radio—that was 10 years ago. Work now includes arranging and producing Variety Show—a job she has had since the initial performance. The wife of Dr. H. F. Roper, since July 25, 1937. She likes to crochet—is making a tablecloth. Thinks radio is wonderful.

GUY R. CRECELIUS . . . Sales Manager

The present ambition of Guy Crecelius is to own a lake full of bass, which makes it obvious that fishing is his favorite sport. He entered the radio business in January, 1931 and has been there ever since. He thinks its "nice work if you can get it." The listeners know him best for "that Crecelius laugh" but his real forte is selling—incidentally, it was his first job. Born in Riceville, Ind., October 5, 1887. Is married, likes to listen to the radio, favorite food is steak, favorite color is blue, owns a dog and a pet parrot, Loretta. Says he has no "faults" but "lots" of unusual habits.



Personnel





Elizabeth W. Ames, stenographer, better known as Betty. Native of Willow Hill, III., married September 24, 1938. Employed at WGBF-WEOA two years. Has no hobbies but likes to read. Favorite food is tuna fish salad.



Left: Marion Huck. continuity writer studied piano for 14 years. First life amb tion was to teach French; now wents to write plays. Possesses A.B. degree. First job was selling records in music store. Worked in Evansville library for four years. Played in string trio as first racio job. Member of staff for five years. Weather is no obstacle to avorite sport, horseback riding. Confesses she has "too many" faults but be ieves her redeeming virtue is a sincere lixing for people.

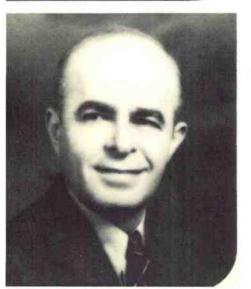




Truman L. Hutchinson, advertising solicitor, announces city court broadcast. Originally wanted to be a baseball player. Now wishes he could retire. Is 44 years old, a bachelor. Worked for Evansville newspaper 7½ years. Is left-handed, born Friday, 13th, but is not superstitious. Philosophy is "smile when you feel like crying." Likes ham and fried potatoes.

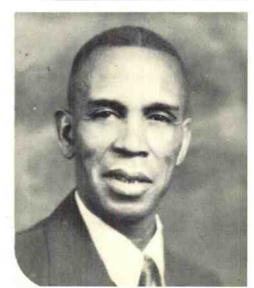
Pauline S. Blaksley, bookkeeper, had an original ambition to be a school teacher. Her first job was stenographer for a packing company. Born in Evansville, November 13, 1913, started working at stations February 8, 1936. At present job three years. Favorite pastime is talking about her daughter. Likes to read and watch wrestling matches. Goes for sweet potatoes.





Arthur H. Schroeder, wanted to be a lawyer—but spent ten years as electric crane operator before he took up radio work as collector 8 years ago. Born in Evansville, February 8, 1897. Likes weird stories and good cigars—says they "go together." Favorite pastime is sight-seeing and for food, he'll take fish.

Philip Vaughn, custodian and caretaker at WGBF-WEOA.



Program Features





Guest appearance with Drifting Pioneers spurred Lorene Smith into radio. Now she's known as the Hoosier Sweetheart and has been entertaining listeners with her guitar and songs, for the past two years. There was a time when she wanted to be a nurse—now she wants to be a network radio star. For a while, she sang with dance bands. Her hobby is collecting music of all kinds. Favorite sport is skating—ice or roller. She likes to have her own way—and she has it with pork tenderloin sandwiches.

As a movie usher, Eddie Martin tried to harmonize with the screen voice of Tany Martin. The manager decided Eddie could be heard by a larger audience if he tried radio. That's what Edwin Noris Martin did. As a matter of fact, he made his first radio appearance in Evansville at the age of 9 years. Now he sings and plays the piano as "The Bakery Boy." Also plays guitar. Wants to earn \$1,000 weekly as radio star. Likes to listen to their mistakes. Tries to write songs. Thinks radio is "the coming thing."



The Singing Cowboy and his troupe with Hubert Chambers announcing. That's the maestro, with light ten-gallon hat, in the center. Look out for that harmonica player's pistol.

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From rightful success on the Sunday Night Variety show, the Drifting Pioneers moved upward toward national radio fame and are now heard regularly from WLW, Cincinnati where they are featured in several programs.

Below: Nope, it's not the "Black Knight"—it's that "Mysterious Piano Person" who plays just about any musical number listeners can think of. Some say the pianist wears that strange costume during each program. At least no one has been able to discover his identity.



Below, three lovely lassies, the Evrard sisters, Lorraine, 20; Louise, 19 and Mary Kathryn, 14. Lorraine plays the piano, so does Mary Kathryn and Louise has studied clarinet. They have been singing on the Evansville stations since July, 1937. Their joint hobby is keeping a scrap book of movie stars. Although all can read music by sight, they sing entirely "by ear." Given first radio program after single audition.





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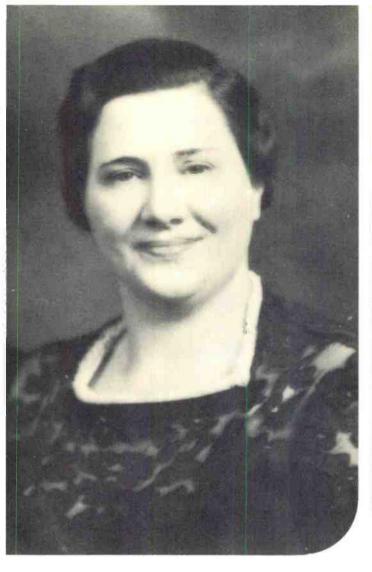
Professionally, Marion Jones; to friends, "Pete;" in real life, Mrs. Kenny Boultinghouse. Listeners in the Evansville area have heard her vocal talents since February, 1935. Best known for whistling specialties. First ambition was to be a nurse, now she wants to be a good wife—and stay in radio. She collects china dogs—owns a live one, Ching Toy. Fears that she is too "gullible," moody and inclined to put off until tomorrow, what should be done today.



For more than three years, Margie Knapp sang from Evansville's radio stations. She left for New York, October 20, 1936. Since that time she has made a steady climb toward the heights of fame. Appeared in such famous places as Hollywood restaurant; New Yorker hotel; Hotel Astor; Park Central hotel, St. Moritz hotel, 52nd street Yacht club; Casa Manana; Roxy theater, Loew's State theater; guest star with Freddie Rich over CBS; featured for 8 weeks over WHN; screen tested by 20th Century Fox and featured in several Warner Brothers shorts. At present is featured songstress with Lang Thompson and his orchestra.

It's spring-time, regardless of the season, each Sunday afternoon when the chorus of canaries shown, blend their voices with the soft, sweet organ melodies played by Pat Roper.







A consulting dietician professionally, Grace Field is particularly suited for the cooking school of the air which she has conducted for the past four years. Born in Patoka, Ind., attended DePauw University, first job as home economics and music teacher. Would like to travel in present profession. Continuously testing, collecting recipes and concocting new dishes. Drives too fast; likes to entertain; favorite color is red.

All about gardens and gardening—being the radio work of Mrs. Louis J. Korff, "The Flower Lady." She substituted for a friend to make a radio talk and liked it so well she has been saying "Good Morning Garden Friends of the Air" ever since. Born in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky, married in Evansville, February 9, 1922. She trained to be a school teacher—now wants to make a profession of radio. Spends most of spare time in her garden, enjoys sharing flowers with friends Plays bridge and taroc.

A regular feature for listeners in the Evansville area—all the thrill of the swanky Coral room in Evansville's Hotel McCurdy. The Coral room orchestra pauses for its photo.









Training in dramatics is put to good advantage by this school quartet, presenting a radio drama during one of the Tuesday Public Schools programs from WEOA

Right: This interested group of students is taking part in an Evansy le college program. Gaylord Browne, head of the college music department, is conducting the program, in which students discuss important questions of the day

Below: Since the first Sunday after the Evansville radio station was established services at the Agoga Mens' Bible Class have been on the eir This photoshows a portion of the taberhacle assemblace with Henry Day and Rev. J. Frederick Rake before the microphone.







A unique camera study of the Central High School A Capella Choir, featured in the regular Evansville public schools broadcast. Miss Lois Hadley is directing.



Right: During a broadcast of Sunday afternoon services from Rescue Mission. In the photo are Rev. Ernest I. Reveal, Helen Krach, Earl Dixon, organist, Mrs. Reveal, pianist and Clarence Noelting.



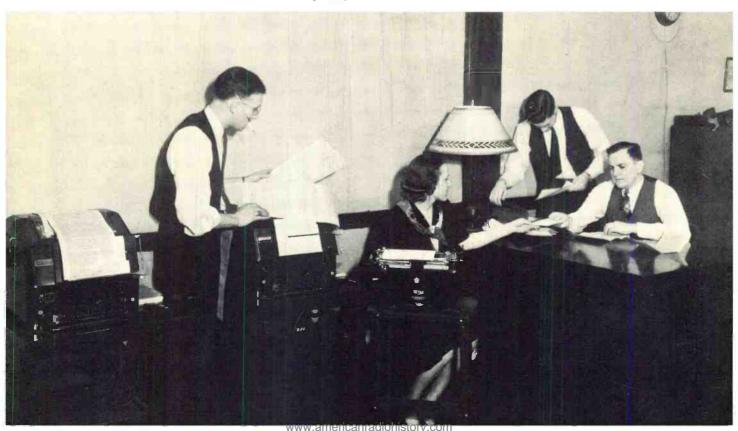
Below: A program for shut-ins, by shut-ins, assisted as they are in this photo by a group of talented nurses. It's the Sunshine Hour broadcast direct from Deaconess hospital solarium. At the microphone are Albert G. Hahn, hospital administrator and Rev. William H. Hawley.

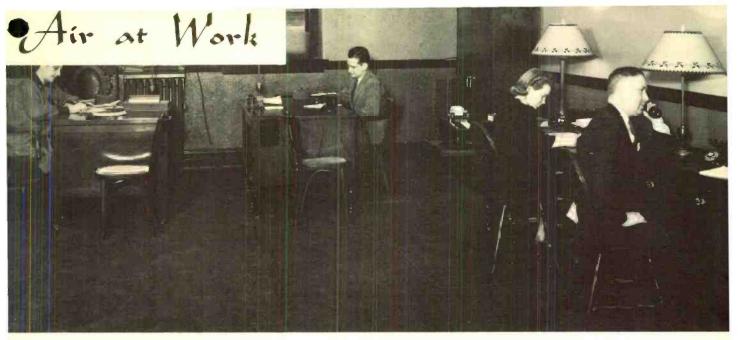




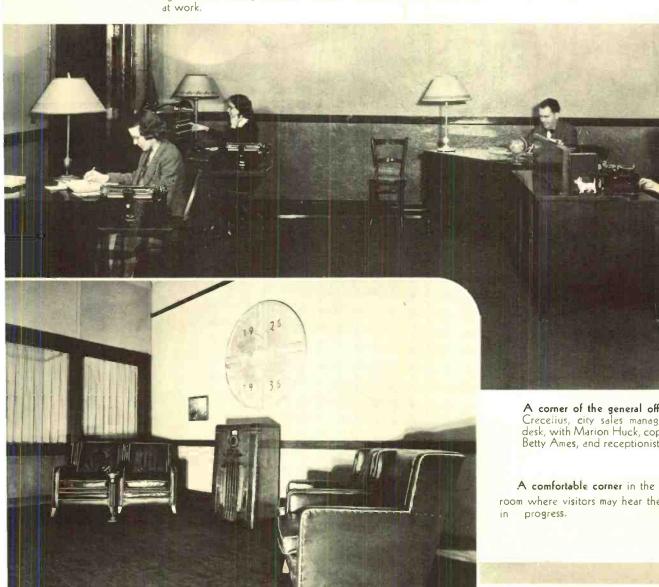
The office of Clarence Leich, general manager of Evansville On the Air, Inc. Mr. Leich is dictating to Stenographer Dorothy Tevault.

A scene in the Transradio news room. Announcer Kenny Boultinghouse is examining some late bulletins. Stenographer Betty Ames is assisting announcers Dale Phares and Merle Dimbath who are preparing background material.





Another portion of the general office, with Program Director Pat Roper, Business Manager Martin Leich, Salesman Truman Hutchinson and Bookkeeper Pauline Blaksley

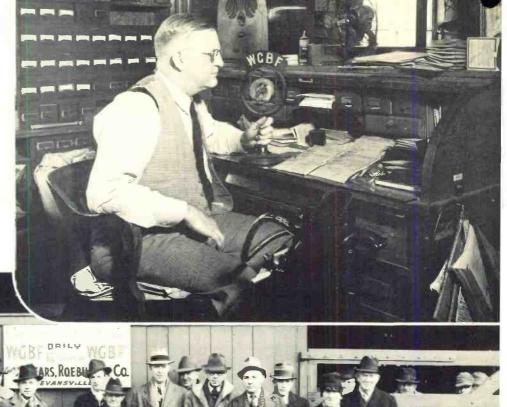


A corner of the general office. Guy Crecelius, city sales manager at his desk, with Marion Huck, copy writer, Betty Ames, and receptionist.

A comfortable corner in the reception room where visitors may hear the programs

Services

Radio is nothing new for Farmer Purce I. He has been using it as a medium of getting his message to rural listeners, longer than anyone east of the Mississippi river. Enjoys huge following.





These stockmen contribute indirectly to the regular livestock market reports from WGBF. In the group left to right are: Edgar Heim, cattle buyer; John Heidt, yard superintendent; Jim Mitchell, commission manager; James E. Cox, president Evansville Union stock vards; C. Currey, yard man; Charles Payne, cattle salesman; Robert R. Fay, general manager; Ollie Keach, commission manager; Julian Weil, buyer; James Alvey, cattle salesman; E. Cooksey, buyer; H. Carrico, buyer; Frank Richardson, salesman; George Heidt, salesman; George Smoker, salesman, Abe Weil and Louis Schmadel. Kneeling, Ed Emge, buyer and Sam Feber, buyer.

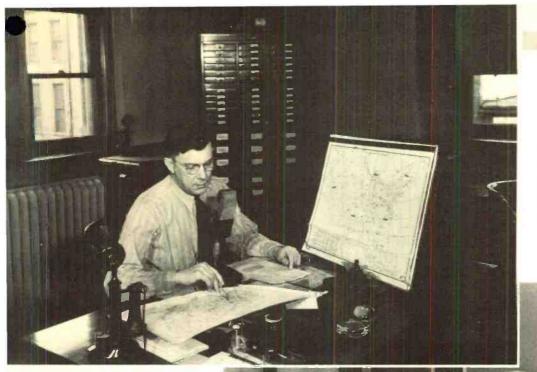
If "Bridget," the cocker spaniel could talk, she'd probably have something to say about the dog food, promoted by her sponsors. As it is—the best she can do is an approving bark when Mr. John W. Burns takes his turn at the microphone.

From Eldorado, III., 80 miles away, Otis A. Carter, chickery operator, presents his own daily quarter-hour of entertainment and trade news.





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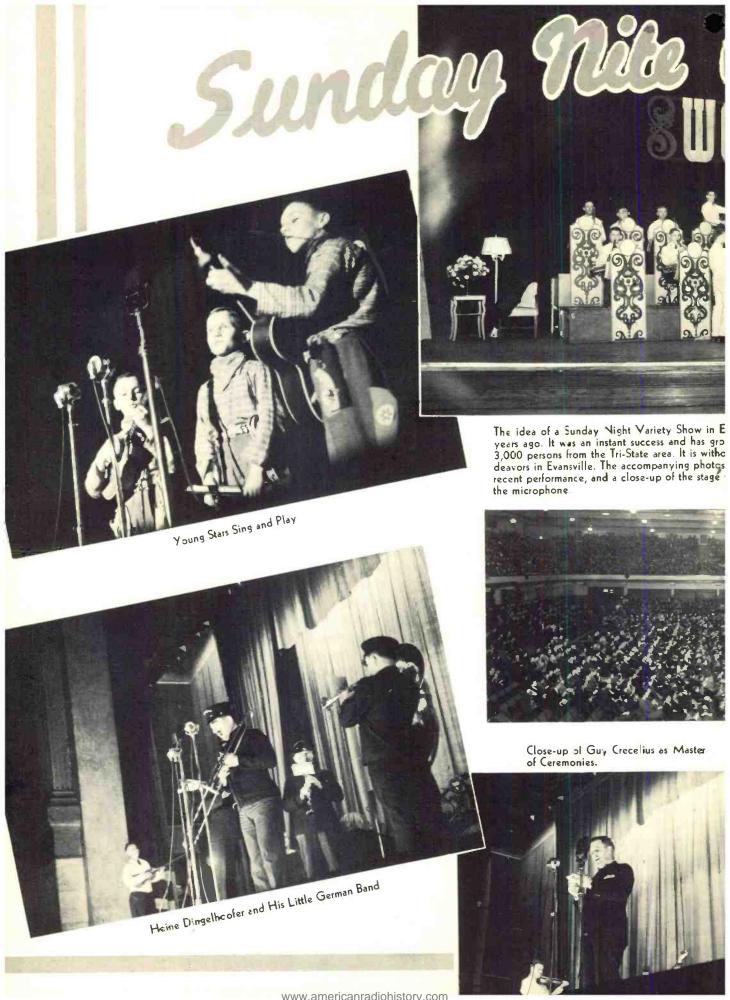
Residents of the Evansville area depend upon the regular weather reports presented by E. E. Unger, U. S. weather forecaster. His broadcasts rank among the leaders in public service

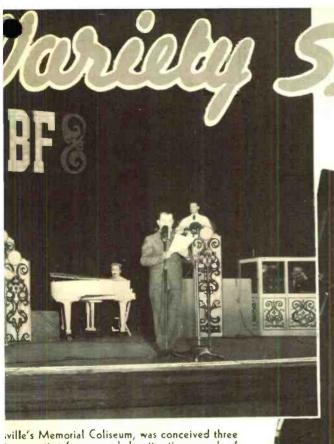
The "Baby Shop Man"—that's what they call Henry J. Schlundt, who broadcasts daily from his office, discussing the problems of infant care.



When the Evansville City Court goes into session, as in this specially posed picture, listeners in the Tri-State area get a dramatic word-broadcast of each case. The stories of witnesses and the pronouncements of the city court judge are featured. Marion J. Rice is the judge and announcer Truman Hutchinson is at the mike.

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iville's Memorial Coliseum, was conceived three in mounting favor, regularly attracting crc wds of doubt, the top-notcher of all entertainment en-wa general view of the huge crowd attending a Rolly Zachary's orchestra and Guy Crecelius at





Baseball in pantomime, Kellens and Wells.



Specialties

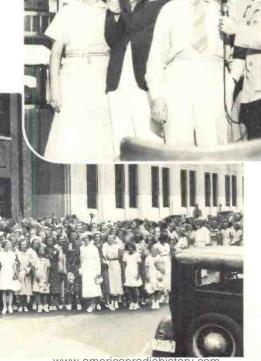
Right: This 25-foot Santa Claus came to Evansville and through an ingenious public address system actually "talked" to youngsters. The "unveiling" and accompanying ceremonies were sent to WGBF-WEOA listeners. Mayor William H. Dress is holding a bewildered youngster while Guy Crecelius at the microphone, describes the proceedings.



Left. Specia distinction for these children, selected as Junior Mayors and Junior First Ladies, from the Tri-State area, to occupy a place of honor, reviewing the Santa Claus parade. "XEOA listeners caught all the color of the gay event. The scene is on the balcony of the Evansville Elks lodge.

Right: Frize photographic studies o radio stars and facilities of the National Broadcasting Company network were placed on display in Evansville attracting a large group of visitors.

Announcer Kenny Boultinghouse is shown interviewing some of the guests.



Left: Four-H club girls of Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois iterally took possession of Evansville when they were awarded a special trip to the city to visit the studios of WGBF-WEOA. The accompanying shoto shows just a portion of the crowd of more than 1,000 of the home-makers of the future.



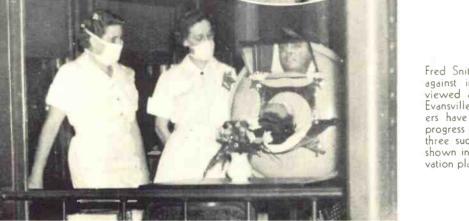
Celebrities

Leit: The world's tallest man—he observed his 21st birthday on Fabruary 22nd. is interviewed by Cuy Crece ius who had to climb atop a chair to bring his microphone within reach of the 8-foot 8-inch giant. Robert Wadlow of Alton, Ill.

Below: Governor M. Clifford Townsend speaks to his constituents from WGBF while addressing the crowds at the arnual Labor Day rally at Boonville, Ind.



Right: Another prominent figure in the public ife of Indiana, Senator Sherman Mintor, is shown at the Boorville Labor Day event. His address was ikewise broadcast by WGBF.



Fred Snite, Jr., famed for his fight against infantile paralysis, is interviewed as his train passes through Evansville enroute to Florida. Listeners have been able to follow the progress of his heroic battle, through three successive interviews. Snite is shown in his iron lung on the observation platform of his special car.



The father of Fred Snite, Jr., tells his story in an interview with Gry Crecelius. The interviews are transcribed and broadcast after the departure of the Snite special train so that those who took part are able to hear themselves. Snite always enjoys his temporary "stops" in Evansville or this reason.



Sports

Leftett's Radio Appreciation Night—the Evansville baseball team's way of expressing its gratitude for the cooperation of "The Stations With Many Friends." Here's the club manager, Bob Coleman, presenting a boxed-gift to Announcer Paul Clark.

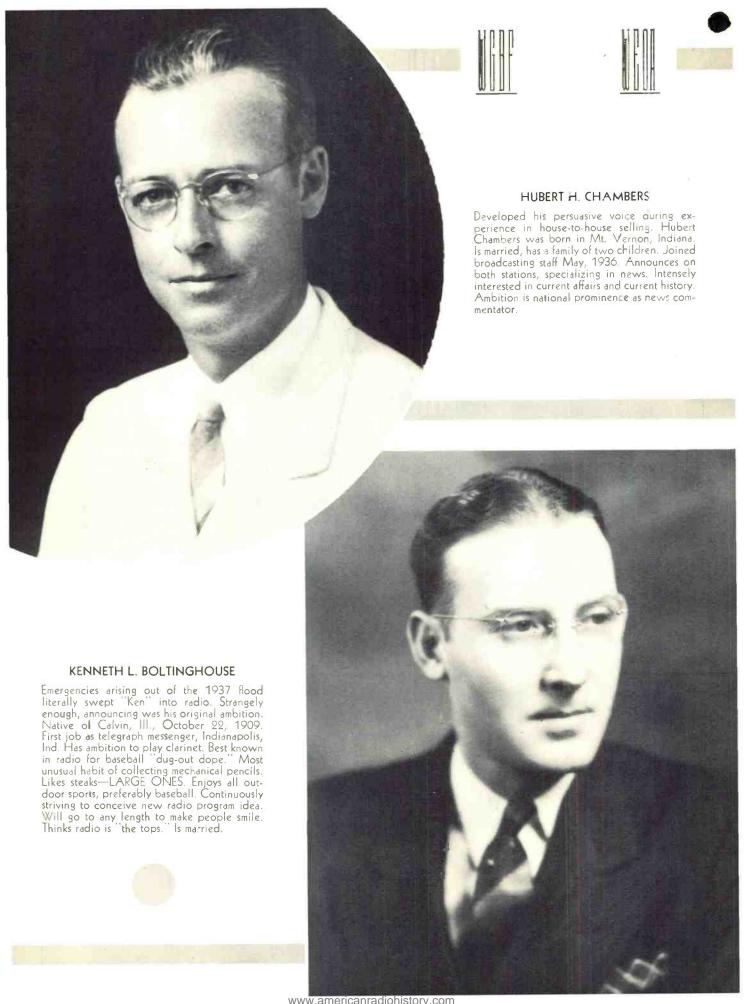
Below: A general view of Dress Plaza, Evansville's new waterfront, showing a part of the huge throng which watched the powerboat regatta and listened to the broadcast description by WGBF announcers.

Right: WGBF'S microphone on the judge's barge at the Midwest Power Boat Association Regatta of 1938. Guy Crecelius describes the events for the air audience and through a special public address system, for the 50,000 spectators gathered on the shore. General Manager Clarence Leich seated at the right.









Announcers

GEORGE VAN HORN

Began duties WGBF, April 1933 as news commentator. Previously followed varied career. Was ensign U. S. Navy during world war. Had ambition to be a lawyer, first job was bank bookkeeper and now divides time with job as editor Evansville Central Labor Union paper. Known to friends as "Georgie Porgie." Born Valier, Pennsylvania, October 19, 1897. Best known for 1937 flood broadcasts and daily street interviews as Curbstone Reporter. Habbies in amateur astronomy, lectures on Subject. Eats boiled mackerel and stewed kidneys for Sunday breakfast. Admits he is stubborn, absent-minded and occasionally, caustic. But is likewise cheerful and sympathetic for the underdog and oppressed.



Abandoned business career and ambition to be certified public accountant when "pinch hit" appearance attracted nim to radio. Although 5 years on staff, and chief announcer, considers he's still getting experience. Is best known for sports broadcasts, but combines announcing, writing continuity and production. Born in Sebree, Kentucky, July 14, 1907. Is married, likes to work in the yard (when time permits). Saves dimes as a hooby, has an active interest in tennis, passive in basketball. Prefers cherry pie—always ready for an argument—but a redeeming virtue is his dependability. Thinks his pet cat "Teresa" is highly intelligent. A 250-pound voice in a 150-pound frame.



DALE S. PHARES

Appeared originally on radio, Detroit, as vocalist Joined announcing staff Evensville, February 1938. Bornin Shelbyville, Ind. Still attending college, First job was farm hand. Once played the number—cherishes desire for appreciative knowledge of nusic. Became interested in announcing through work in high school broadcast programs. Best known to listeners for Night Civil programs. Says he has no spare time, but manages to hobby in woodwork and collecting pennies. Has no avorticed have to but can't correct habit. Likes to help others—is good to dumb animals.

MERLE S. DIMBATH

Newest member of Evensville staff. Worked previous y at WSMK Dayton. Ohio, his home town. Born there November 26, 1913. Criginal ambition to be printing pressman, then trained in journalism at University of Dayton. Worked in printing plant for two years. Nickname is "Doc" from initial combination "M.D." Reads detective stories in spare time, likes rare roast beef as cooked by his wife. Married for four years, thinks he is considerate to a fault, but has instituted own idea of "Wife-Appreciation" day once a year. Says he is self-conscious and quick to apologize.





AUDIE DAVID RHODES

Scopped at WGBF as booking agent for a string band, liked place so well, he stayed. That was tri Januery, 1931. Divides time now as salesman and announcer. Best known for Billboard program, early morning. Tries to play trap drums. Acrs as agent for several groups of entertainers. Born in Evansville, August 24, 1899. Has 5 canaries, 2 turtles, 3 gold is and dog.







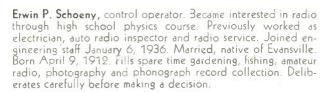
Flood Recollections

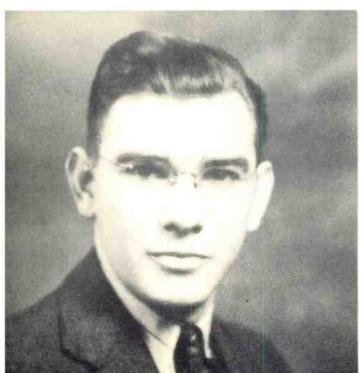
The only surviving evidence of the disastrous flood which swept a portion of Evansville in January 1937 is the lasting recollection of those existing days. Evansville and its residents came but of that experience with a new determination and courage to go forward. There were socres of sizeres such as the accompanying one of Guy Crecelius "clearing" a parlor suite (it's still in use), and socres too like this one of the sand-bagged entrance to the WGBF-WEDA radio building. Summed up simply, even a flood couldn't stop Evansville.

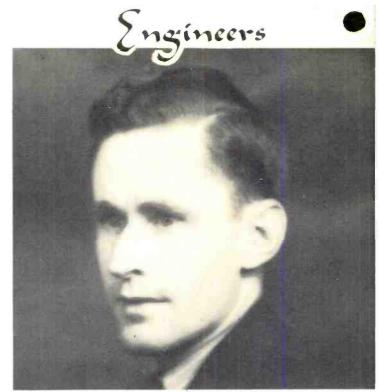




Louis M. Ottman, Sr., control operator, member staff since April 9, 1929. His only job since leaving high school. Born Evansville, November 19, 1912. Favorite pastime is playing with two-year-old son, "Skippy." When not on duty, listens to radio.







Fay A. Gehres, technical supervisor WGBF. Born Veedersburg, Ind., October 21, 1904. Attended Indiana University School of Music, played bass drum in university band. Previous experience in Bloomington, Ind., Indianapolis, Ind., Louisville, Ky., and Hopkinsville, Ky., radio stations before joining WGBF, April 1, 1932. Hobbies in amateur photograph and radio. Father of two daughters and one son. Enjoys all sports, likes fried chicken.

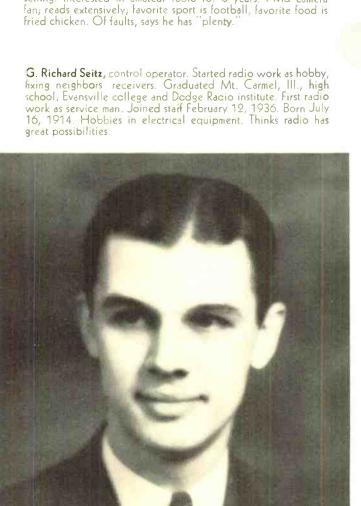
Lowell Seacat, control operator. Studied piano, tuba and bass violin. Original ambition to be entertainer. Shifted to radio mechanics after microphone experience. Born Princeton, Ind., May 22, 1917. Single. Hobby is singing in quartets. Wants to make everyone a friend.



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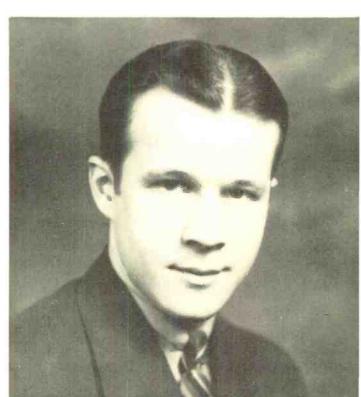
John B. Caraway, Jr., chief engineer WECA, member staff since September, 1934. Previously employed in aerial survey work and selling. Interested in amateur radio for 8 years. Avid camera fan; reads extensively; favorite sport is football, favorite food is fried chicken. Of faults, says he has "plenty."





Walter E. Newman, control operator. Born Evansville, July 4, 1910. Worked as radio service man two years before joining engineering staff April 18, 1937. First job as railroad yard clerk. Decided more future in radio. Plays tennis, likes to go to the movies, is single. Has no hobbies. Not even a dog.

Robert B. Almon, control operator Hails from Princeton, Ind. Born January 3, 1916. Graduated high school, radio institute. Says his ambition is to become expert in radio engineering field. Plays phonograph records as pastime. Enjoys bowling, tennis, football



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On
WGBF
WCOA











1. LUCILLE LONG, NATIONAL BARN DANCE SOPRANO. 2. KENNY BAKER. 3. HORACE HEIDT. 4. THE LONE RANGER AND TONTO. 5. SINGIN' SAM. 6. BUD ABBOTT AND LOU COSTELLO. 7. KALTENMEYER KINDERGARTEN.





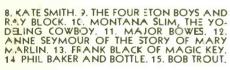
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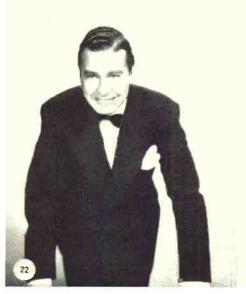








16. DR. WALTER DAMROSCH. 17. PERCY HEMUS, THE OLD WRANGLER, WITH THE RANCH BOYS. 18. RITA ASCOT OF MA PERKINS. 19. DON McNEILL OF THE BREAKFAST CLUB. 20. UNCLE EZRA. \$1. GEORGE 3URNS AND GRACIE ALLEN. 22. PHIL HARRIS. 23. RAY JOHNSON OF GUIDING LIGHT. 24. EDDIE CANTOR.





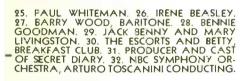




















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33. EDDIE DUCHIN. 34. FRANCES CARLON AS KITTY KEENE. 35. THE HOOSIER HOT SHOTS, 36. JOE E. BROWN, 37. EDGAR A. GUEST. 38. NATIONAL CORN HUSKING CHAMPION-SHIP CONTEST. 39. YOUR HIT PARADE. 40. THE STAR THEATER.





