

# WLS Family Album

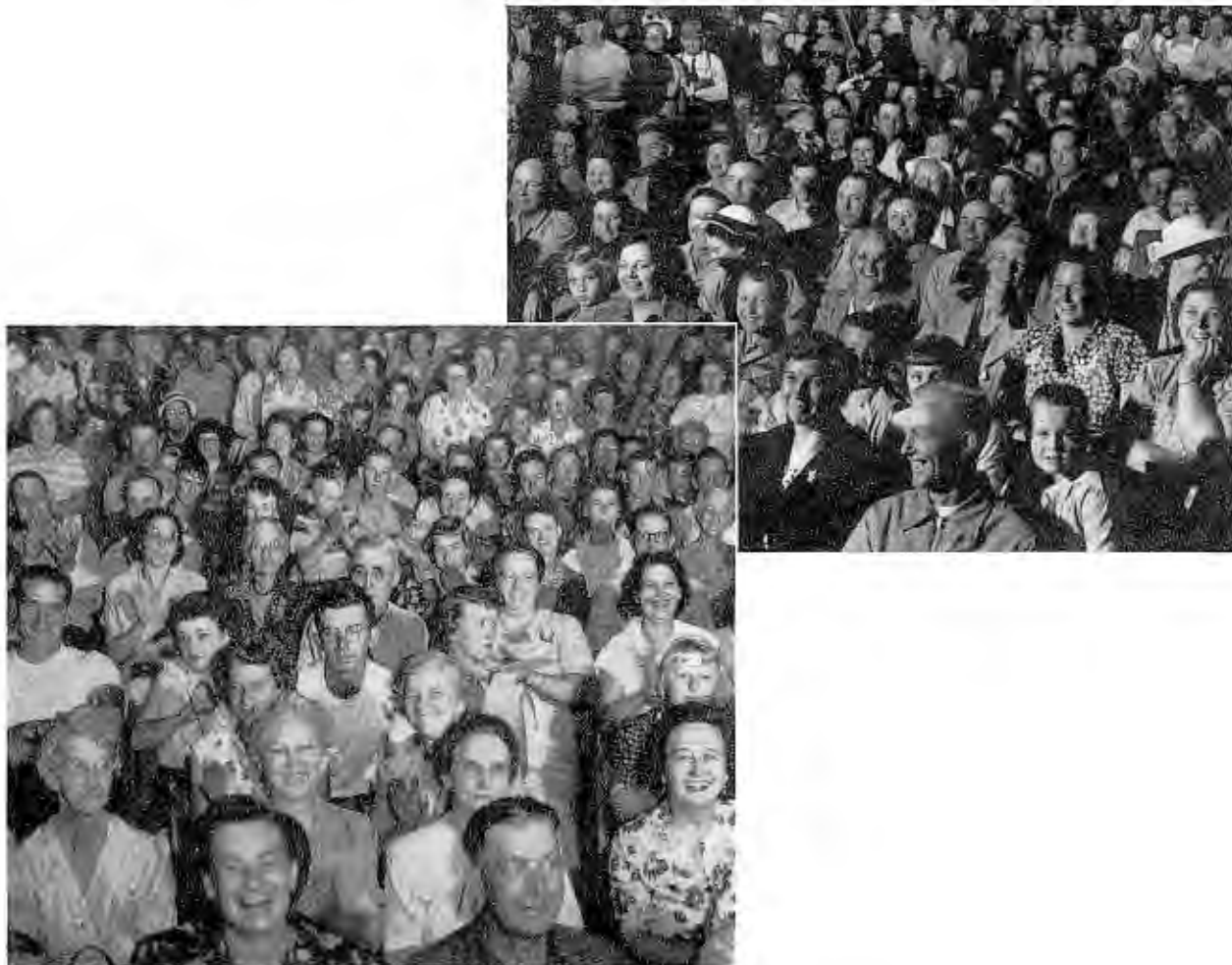
1951



THE PRAIRIE FARMER STATION • CHICAGO



# *WLS* The Family Album



# 1951

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# DEDICATION

THE spirit of friendship and service has been our guide and our ideal, on WLS since its first broadcast in 1924, on Prairie Farmer for 110 years.

No one better symbolizes this spirit than Grace Wilson. She sang on our first broadcast, and through the years, her songs, expressing the depth of her sympathetic and understanding personality, have stirred and uplifted the hearts of our listeners.

To Grace Wilson, as an expression of our deep respect and affection, we dedicate this book.

## THE GIRL WITH A MILLION FRIENDS

AT the age of four years, little Gracie Wilson made her first theatrical appearance at Toledo, Ohio, in a little girl part with the great Richard Mansfield. At the same time, her mother, a successful singer, started giving her piano lessons.

Grace rapidly grew into national success as a singer, and while yet a young girl, had travelled from coast to coast. The famous music publisher, "Uncle" Will Rossiter, using her picture on the cover of a new song, first gave her the title, "The Girl With a Million Friends."

Her marriage to a prominent young surgeon in Chicago was followed by a few years of great happiness.

Her world crashed, upon his untimely death. Picking up the fragments of her life, she determined that the hope of happiness lay in making others happy. Radio broadcasting was just beginning, and she appeared on several of the earliest Chicago stations. She sang on the opening broadcast of WLS, April 12, 1924, and has been associated with the station ever since.

From the joys and sorrows of her own life, Grace has achieved an unusual understanding of others. It shows in every song she sings. Youngsters of a new generation, hearing her, murmur in admiration, "She's got something!"

### Cover Page

The church bell, school bell, farm dinner bell, cow bells, all are used on WLS programs. Pictured together with the Liberty Bell, they symbolize the spirit of American freedom.



53  
11-24  
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46

Grace Wilson



### James E. Edwards, President

Mr. Edwards was associated with Prairie Farmer years before the beginning of broadcasting. His high idealism, coupled with keen understanding of business, sets the standard both for the paper and the broadcasting station.

### Fred W. Orlemann Becomes a Chief

Last summer when a special trainload of Prairie Farmer-WLS folks were at Glacier Park, Prairie Farmer Business Manager Fred W. Orlemann was made honorary Chief E-Ku-sa-wa-ta-ne (Red Shield) of the Blackfoot Indians. To a thousand questions around Prairie Farmer, the answer is "Ask Fred!"



### Glenn Snyder Dictates a Memo

Mr. Snyder, General Manager of WLS, with Ruth Luce, his secretary. A veteran in radio management, he watches every detail of station operations.

### George Cook

Treasurer of WLS, responsible for many details of business management. Says some day he'll operate a grist mill in the Ozarks.



### John Allen

Assistant Treasurer of WLS, signs pay checks, is an amateur gardener, and tells bedtime stories to three children.







## Harold Safford

WLS Program Director Harold Safford has had numerous titles, but is proudest of all to be five times a grandfather. Only grandson, shown here, is James Michael McConnell, whose mother is Kathie Lou, father is athletic director of junior college, grade and high schools at Washington, Iowa. The Safford's oldest daughter is wife of Rev. Earl Karnahan, Methodist pastor in Honolulu. They have three daughters. Son Bill, wife and daughter are in Los Angeles. Youngest daughter, Genevieve, is a senior at Illinois State Normal.

Harold has been in every phase of radio since broadcasting started. Is now President, Illinois Broadcasters Association, and serves on numerous advisory councils for radio.



## Grace Cassidy

Always knows who goes on what program, and what date and time. Everybody always asks Grace. She knows the answers.



## Kathryn Brady

As Continuity Editor she must scan thousands of words of script, for accuracy, good taste, and pronunciation.

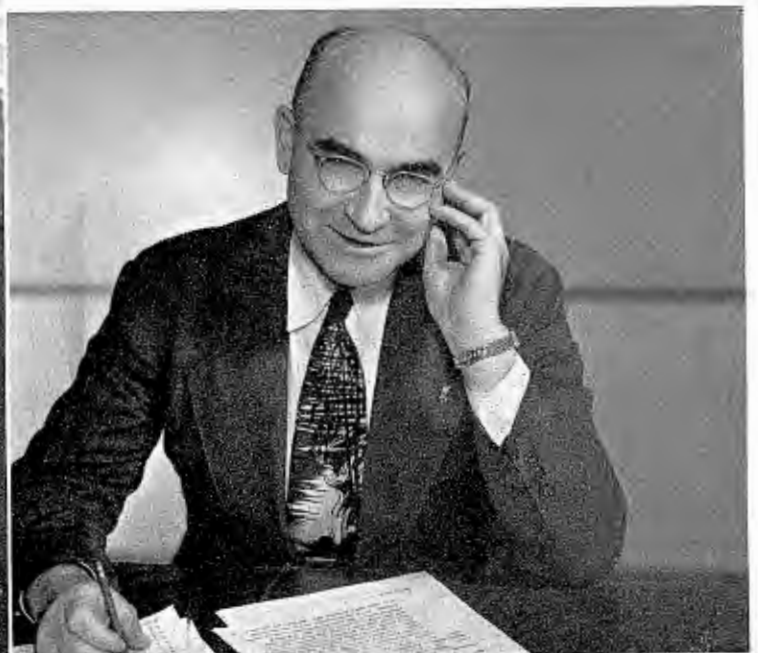
## Al Boyd and Betty McCann

Of various executive responsibilities, Al's most interesting is managing work of Christmas Neighbors Club. With Secretary Betty McCann, looks over record of Club gifts to a hospital through the last 15 years.



## George Biggar

Chuckling over a funny Barn Dance routine, which is his special responsibility. Known as an "idea man," he has originated many important programs. With a few years away at other stations, has been with WLS over a quarter century.





### Paul C. Johnson, Editor, *Prairie Farmer*

Farmer, country editor, University teacher and Extension Editor, native of Minnesota. Known for his broad understanding and wise judgment.



### James Thomson, Managing Editor

Came to *Prairie Farmer* from the Illinois Agricultural Association. It is his responsibility to watch the thousand details involved in putting out every issue of the paper. He is in daily touch with the field editors, and receives a vast number of reports from the national and state capitals, from experiment stations, and from farm organizations. Tacks on the map show locations from which reports are received during each month.



Here are some of the folks who make *Prairie Farmer*, in one of the frequent staff meetings. Seated, left to right, Della Loui, Wisconsin Field Editor, Paul C. Johnson, Editor, Arthur C. Page, Associate Editor, Gladys Skelley, Home Editor. Standing, left to right, Ralph Yohe, Service

Editor, Max Gwin, Artist, James Thomson, Managing Editor, Keats Vining, Michigan Field Editor, Chet Randolph, Live Stock Editor, Maynard Bertsch, Indiana Field Editor, Richard Albrecht, Illinois Field Editor. Their work appears in every issue of *Prairie Farmer*.





**Gladys Skelley, Home Editor**

Gladys came from Iowa, experienced as a teacher and newspaper woman. Works with a Research Staff of over 200 farm housewives. Often speaks before Home Economics groups.



**Mr. and Mrs. W. E. (Bill) Renshaw**

Bill is Indiana Manager of Prairie Farmer, personally known to thousands of farm folks. Office in Indianapolis. An enthusiastic flyer, promoter of the "Flying Farmers." Mrs. Renshaw travels with him often.



**Mollie Feldman, Protective Union**

In these files of Prairie Farmer's Protective Union are detailed reports on thousands of confidence games, fakes and frauds which have been studied and exposed through many years. Some of the oldest of these rackets are still used to fleece the unwary. The regular column in Prairie Farmer is written from these experiences.



**Ralph Yohe, Service Editor**

Born on a Southern Illinois farm, graduate in agriculture at Illinois. Last year spent eight months overseas. Inset shows head-dress he wore while in Arabia.

**Max Gwin, Artist**

(Right) Draws many of the funny little cartoons in Prairie Farmer. Laid out the pictures for this Album.







### Dick Albrecht, Illinois

Dick Albrecht, (above) is Illinois Field Editor of *Prairie Farmer*. Born in Bureau County, Ill., graduated in agriculture at the state university. Travels thousands of miles a year in the state.



### Della Loui, Wisconsin

Thousands of Wisconsin farm families claim personal acquaintance with *Prairie Farmer's* Wisconsin field editor. She works out of Madison. If her car can't get through snowdrifts in winter, she's liable to show up on snowshoes—but she gets there.



### Maynard Bertsch, Indiana

Shown with the whole family, at home in Indianapolis. Mrs. Bertsch, son Larry, and daughter Linda. *Prairie Farmer's* Indiana office is on the State Fair Grounds, and from here, Maynard Bertsch covers every corner of the state, visiting hundreds of farms, attending meetings, taking pictures and writing reports.

### Keats Vining, Michigan

Keats Vining, (right) works out of Grand Rapids, Michigan, as field editor. A veteran in newspaper and radio work, he reports everything agricultural from the Wolverine State.





## Our Pastor, Dr. John W. Holland

Since 1933, Dr. Holland has been full-time pastor at WLS, conducting the daily Morning Devotions, closing each Dinnerbell Program with a religious message, conducting the Little Brown Church of the Air every Sunday morning.

Dr. Holland was ordained in 1905, and served as pastor in a number of churches, small and large, before coming here. Few men have had such broad experience and understanding of life. Thousands of listeners write in for copies of his sermons.

He has written and compiled a number of books, the latest, "Your Dad and Mine," recently off the press.

We asked him to turn to the text from which he has preached most often in his 45 years of ministry. It was in Chapter I of Paul's Epistle to the Romans: "I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise." \* \* \* "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."



# FARM PROGRAMS

Since WLS first came on the air in 1924, it has given major attention to serving needs of farmers. As a result, a vast audience of farmers depend on this station for markets, farm news and comment, and news of farm organizations and rural communities.



**Arthur C. Page**

Farm Program Director of WLS, and Associate Editor of *Prairie Farmer*. Active in radio since 1923, conductor of Dinnerbell Program more than twenty years. Boasts five grandchildren.

## Randolph

Below, Assistant Farm Program Director Chet Randolph. From an Iowa farm, graduate of Ames, he is also Live Stock Editor of *Prairie Farmer*. Hobby is square dance calling.



**Romaine Benner**

Secretary of the Farm Program Department. In the studio for every Dinnerbell program, listens to every remote, keeps a daily diary noting every speaker, subject, and organization. From Elkhart County, Indiana.

## The Larry McDonald Family

Every morning at 5:45, you hear Larry with the first news broadcast, followed at 6 AM by the Bulletin Board, with farm news. Also heard Tuesday evening in "Field Editors' Roundup" and "I See By the Papers." Larry was born in Peoria County, Illinois, his wife Betty in Stark County. The children shown are Judy and Tommy, and now there's another, Laurie Jean.



**Al Tiffany**

Heard daily at 11:30 with "Farm World Today" and numerous other programs. A student of live stock marketing and of merchandising methods, and incidentally quite a bit of a philosopher.



**Bill Morrissey**

Broadcasts live stock markets daily, direct from Chicago stock yards.



**Burlingham**

Broadcasts brief and pungent commentary on farm news. Name is Lloyd, but usually called "Doc." He's pointing to location of his farm in McHenry County, Illinois.

**Bisson**

(Left) Veteran grain market reporter, formerly with USDA, F. C. Bisson gives daily grain market report.



**Swanson**

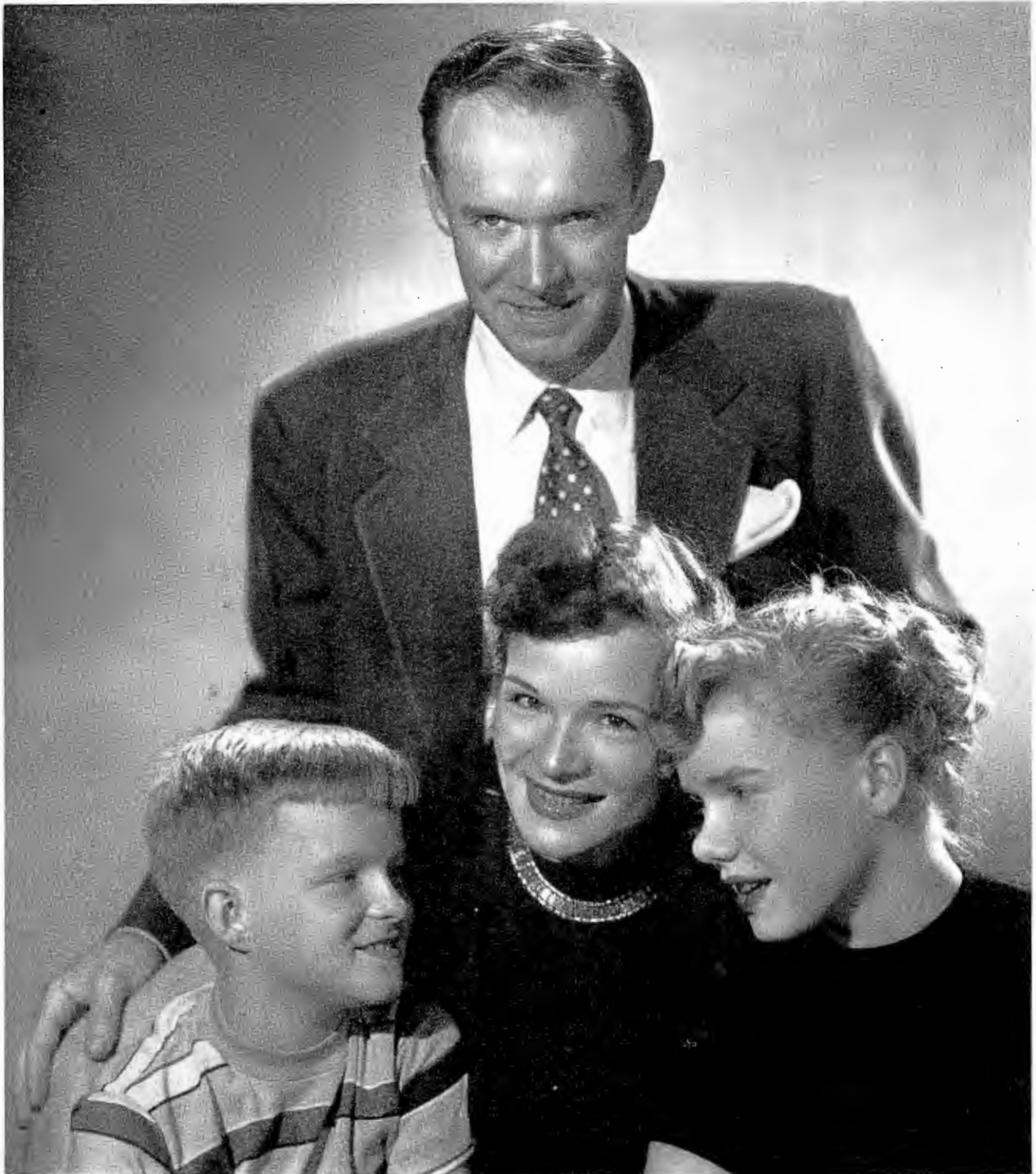
(Right) Every Saturday, Dave Swanson, manager Producers Live Stock Association, gives "Trends and Possibilities of the Market."



**Weather**

Long ago recognizing the importance of weather information to farmers, WLS began giving special attention to complete forecasts. Weather forecasters are on duty constantly at Chicago office, and are connected by direct wire to WLS. You may know the voices of those on duty when this picture was taken. L to R, they are, Charles Johnson, Leonard Snellman, Sam Bromberg, Don Percy.





### Lulu Belle, Scotty and Their Children

Here are Mr. and Mrs. Scott Wiseman, and their two children, Linda Lou and Steve. Many listeners remember when they first met at WLS, Lulu Belle a gay fun loving singer, still in her 'teens, Scotty a serious minded young man who had worked his way through college with his ability to play guitar and five-string banjo, and sing old folk songs.

Most recently they have been achieving nationwide fame through a number of new songs. One of the best known, "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You," is typical of these

lovable youngsters. Scotty was very ill in the hospital. Lu sitting by his bedside holding his hand, impulsively murmured those words, "Have I told you lately that I love you?" Scotty's mind clung to those precious words, and as he was recovering his strength, he wrote the song which now has won nationwide fame. Together they have written about 100 songs.

And Lulu Belle, irrepressible comic on the stage and before the microphone, at home is a devoted and thoughtful wife and mother.

## Bob and Marguerite Atcher

Here is the "top-hand of the cowhands" in his own home grounds. The picture was taken when Bob and his wife were on a riding trip in Arizona, where the giant cactus made an interesting background.

Bob was born in Kentucky, but moved with his parents to North Dakota, when he was a small boy. There, during his growing years, he lived and worked with horses. His father dealt in hundreds of horses, and breaking them to ride was a daily chore. One time, knocked unconscious on an overhead corral timber, he fell into the chute and a wild mustang came down on his chest with both feet, breaking half a dozen ribs.

He has made well over 300 recordings, and many million of them have been bought. Single records have sold over a million apiece.

Bob has an unusually fine voice, a quiet manner, and is a delightful friend. He has thousands of "fans," but none more enthusiastic than his wife, pictured above.



## Music Library

Few people outside radio, comprehend the extreme care required in checking all music played or sung on the air. There are copyrights, publishers restrictions, changes in arrangements or words, all of which must be carefully watched. Whenever you hear any piece of music on WLS, you may be certain the Music Library has given a specific Okay for its use on that particular day.

The two girls at the left, Hazel Rosenthal and Arlene Carstens Balch, have complete information at their fingertips, concerning many thousands of musical numbers. Phoning in from a remote broadcast, we ask whether some song can be used, and in half a minute or less Hazel or Arlene has the answer.





### The Jack Stilwill Family

Jack is one of radio's most experienced and capable announcers. Has been a program director, was a Lieutenant in the Navy, and is an interesting and resourceful Master of Ceremonies. Shown here, his wife Jeanne, and their son Rickey.



### Jack Brinkley

Every evening except Saturday, and every Sunday morning, Jack handles the WLS microphone. Takes part in "Aunt Rita's Childrens' Hour" and helps read the funnies, as well as announcing the Little Brown Church of the Air. Was radio editor and newspaper reporter while in high school in his native Virginia, started on NBC in 1928, announcer and character actor on numerous network shows. With his wife, Maxine, and 12 year old Susan, lives in Indiana. Son Johnny is with U. S. Air Force in Okinawa. Jack has his own recording business, is one of radio's most experienced announcers.



## Jack Holden Family

Jack Holden started announcing on WLS in October, 1931. He had started in radio in Detroit in 1927. His first training was for the ministry, and he served for a short time as pastor in a small town in Michigan. Even as a young lad, he had that same deep booming voice.

Sometimes Jack has written beautiful poetry, including words for the song, "A Prayer for Peace." Few men on the air put so much heart-felt understanding into a program.

Shown here, Mrs. Holden, who is Christine, "The Little Swiss Miss," known to listeners for her sweet singing and yodelling. Their son is named after his father, John Haviland Holden, and seems to have inherited both the charm and good looks of both sides of the family.



## Hal Culver Family

Veteran of many years on WLS microphones, Hal used to do considerable singing. Has been heard early and late, from Smile-A-While to midnight on Saturday. Hal grew up in a parsonage, son of a minister. Shown in the picture, Mrs. Culver, Margaret, and their son David. The two dogs in the picture were puppies last year, and we still don't know their names.



# THE WLS

## Margaret Sweeney

A favorite School Time program has been "The Magic Harp," and Margaret plays the harp introduction. She is highly skilled with this difficult instrument.



## Herman Felber, Director

Herman (above) has been director of the WLS Orchestra many years, and now boasts of being a grandfather. His father was a musician, and Herman was giving concert recitals with violin, when he was five years old.

# ORCHESTRA

## Charlotte Chambers

One of the outstanding young violinists of Chicago, Charlotte Chambers also teaches a good many youngsters the mysteries of this classic instrument.



## Theodore DuMoulin

Listeners during the early years will remember the name "Teddy Du Moulin" (left) as one of the first musicians on the station. Manages business problems of the orchestra, and is one of Chicago's foremost cellists.



## Joseph Rullo

The brass section sits in the back row, comes out strong in the Sousa marches. Joe (right) has played in various outstanding musical groups. Not quite sure whether that's a cornet or trumpet, but Joe could play either one.



## John Brown

John, (left) who started to be a singer, has played piano on WLS many years. One famous stunt, Grace Wilson sang from a plane cruising over Chicago, John played accompaniment from the Eighth Street Theatre stage.



## David Chausow

Dave, (right) sits in the front row. Like all violinists, he is always practicing between programs, keeping his fingers nimble. Many of the violins used are very choice, with distinguished history, and Dave can make them sing.



### Lou Klatt

Lou (Aloysius) Klatt can play piano, bass, rarely drums, or direct, equally well. His mainstay is the accordion, for he used to manufacture them. Uncle of the Klein boys, Augie and Ray.

### Ted Morse

Better known as "Otto" (right). Believe it or not, this solemn face hides one of the gayest comic spirits in the place. For here also sits darling "Little Genevieve" of the National Barn Dance!



### Tom Moore

Tom (left) is a good trombone player, but being from Tennessee, he's most expert on such matters as corn bread, hominy grits and black-eyed peas. Can play almost any instrument.



### Gaston DuMoulin

Brother of Teddy. Gaston (right) played for many years in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Occasionally takes over the baton as acting director of our orchestra.



### Emilio Sylvestre

At his best improvising background for one of our soloists. Born in Valencia, Spain, he learned music by the "solfeggio" or "do, re, mi" method. Loves to talk to visitors in Spanish.



### Walter Lewis

Walter (right) is quiet, but knows how to get sweet music out of that tricky wind instrument. Can also play the fife just like the "spirit of '76." Has been with WLS many years.



### Fred Vopatek

In Fred's hands (left), the string bass is no more just an umph, but becomes a lively instrument that enriches the harmony of the whole band. Has been here, off and on, a long time.



### Roy Knapp

Shown here with a pair of cymbals, Roy plays anything from drums to vibraharp and chimes, and in a pinch can do a fair job with piano, doesn't shrink from a violin. An irrepressible clown.







### The Donald (Red) Blanchard Family

Here is the one and only "Red" Blanchard, comic extraordinary, Honorary Mayor of Pittsville, Wisconsin. And here is Sally, the amazing wife he talks about, and Donald Junior is "all ten" of their children. Red is MC of Smile-A-While, and is heard on numerous other programs. Plays weird musical instruments, and is just as funny off the air as when giving a performance.

Red has made many personal appearances, and has been seen in person by thousands who visited the Prairie Farmer tent at state fairs. During the war he was in the South Pacific, and he had the unique ability to make his buddies laugh even under most trying circumstances. Sally was formerly one of the square dancers on the National Barn Dance.

### Artists Bureau

Responsible for arranging the hundreds of personal appearances of WLS talent. They really know how to plan an entertainment. Seated, George Ferguson, Georgia Smith, Earl Kurtze. Standing, Paul Aubrey, Dick Kurtze.



# SAGE RIDERS



## Cy Rowley

Old time eccentric fiddler, and you might know from his sad expression that he's a very funny comedian. He was born in Kentucky.



## The Don Whites

Upper left, Don White, who sings beautiful old songs, plays electric guitar. His wife, Mary, from North Carolina, knows all about corn bread and fried chicken.

## The Jimmy Hutchinsons

Center, left. Since this picture, there's a baby boy, James Steven. Jimmy plays guitar, bass, sings and is MC for Sage Riders. Mrs. Hutchinson is a sister of Mrs. Dolph Hewitt.



## The Ray Kleins

Lower left. Ray, brother of Augie and nephew of Lou Klatt, plays accordion. Mrs. Klein was Eva DeZurik, sister to Mrs. Augie Klein and Mrs. Rusty Gill. Their children are Ronnie and Yvonne.

And there you have the Sage Riders, four fine young men you'd be glad to have for next-door neighbors, who do a grand job of entertaining.





### Feature Foods, with Martha Crane and Helen Joyce

After sixteen years, the Feature Foods program, given daily by Martha and Helen, is essential listening for a vast audience of housewives in the middle west. Their half-hour is so informal, runs so smoothly that you might forget how much research, study and preparation is required.

Martha Crane (left, above) is Mrs. Ray Caris. Native of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, she had been a student at Northwestern University when she came to work in the mail room at WLS. Her aptitude for radio, and her keen interest in home-

keeping led her into this work. The Carises have two vigorous sons. The picture showing her sewing on rug rags is perfectly typical.

Helen Joyce, jolly and talkative, boasts of being a grandmother. During the war she led in organizing the Navy Mothers in Chicago. One of the greatest rose growing nurseries of this country has named a new rose garden selection, "The Helen Joyce Rose Garden." The girls interview many famous people on their program.



### The Dolph Hewitts

Pictured above, Dolph Hewitt, the boy from the hills of Pennsylvania, with his wife Ruth and their son "Chucky." Ruth was one of the Johnson Sisters, formerly heard on radio. One of her sisters is a "Hormel Girl," another is Mrs. Jimmy Hutchinson. Dolph's father was a farmer and an old-time fiddler, and the boy's first music was at square dances. He learned to sing while working in the fields and clearing timber. Spent 26 months in the Pacific as a Marine. His recorded songs are making sales records.



### Phyllis Brown

A nice little girl who came to WLS in 1948, to sing quiet little songs. You might think she's sad, judging by some of her songs, but really she's cheerful and happy, and likes to join in the fun of the Barn Dance and numerous other programs.





### Ervin Lewis Family

"From the WLS News Room," Ervin Lewis. With him, his wife Ruth, and their son Jeff who certainly looks like his Dad. Mrs. Lewis was a teacher. Ervin, native of Oklahoma, war correspondent on the front line in the last war, is a thorough student of the national affairs that make news. The news policy at WLS calls for accurate and timely "objective" reporting, in which listeners hear facts without color of personal opinion. The idea is that when folks have the facts, they are quite capable of forming their own opinions.

### Robert Lyle Family

First regular news broadcast in the morning is at 5:45, and Robert Lyle takes over at 6:45, continuing until noon, when Ervin Lewis comes on. Shown here, Mrs. Lyle, Jean, and their two sons Hunter and Bobby. Bob has had long experience with the news, and is particularly well informed in the field of sports.

Three great news services pour world wide teletype service into the WLS News Room, and this material is supplemented by numerous special reports which keep the broadcasts up to the minute on local, national and world affairs.





# SCHOOL TIME

WLS was the first radio station in the world to undertake broadcasting of carefully supervised educational programs for direct listening in the class-room. "The Little Red School House" was first put on the air in 1925.

"School Time," in present form, is in its 15th year. Its programs, under supervision of Educational Director Josephine Wetzler, (left) are prepared with the guidance of an advisory committee including some of the leading school authorities of the middle west. In thousands of class rooms, the daily program at 1:15 is part of the regular class work. Teachers report, "The children love it!"

Below, a broadcast of "Adventures in Freedom," with Russ Reed as Mr. Gordon, Mrs. Wetzler as Miss Smith, Jack Bivens as Rusty. In the control room, William Nelson, producer, and Bill Keller at the controls.



## Rita Ascot

At the left, Rita is known as "Aunt Rita" on Sunday morning Children's Hour. On School Time, in Adventures in Freedom she is Kasia the refugee girl, in the town of Prairieville. Rita has been heard on many nationwide network programs.

## Ozzie Westley

Ozzie arranges music for The Magic Harp on School Time, and numerous other programs. Has been in musical work for years, since graduating from St. Olaf's, and often has written entirely new scores for special programs. He and Mrs. Westley have three children.





### WLS National Barn Dance

Snapped during an actual broadcast, the picture above shows a few of the more than two million people who have attended the WLS National Barn Dance at the Eighth Street Theatre. This program,

given every Saturday night since April 19, 1924, is credited with bringing American folk music and square dancing to its present nation-wide appreciation. Many radio stars of nation-wide fame got their start here. Seats are filled to capacity twice every Saturday night and the rafters ring with laughter.







## At Illinois State Fair, 1950

On the giant stage in front of the grandstand, (below) the whole Barn Dance crew from WLS assembles year after year for the opening night of the Illinois State Fair at Springfield. Every

seat in grandstand and bleachers is taken, for five hours of music and merrymaking. "We just couldn't get the Fair under way without it," say state officials. In past years, capacity crowds also came to see the performance at the Chicago World's Fair and at numerous other famous events.





## First International Square Dance Festival

The greatest gathering of exhibition square dancers ever assembled, was seen in the Chicago Stadium, October 28, 1950. Under the chairmanship of John Drake (see page 36) and with co-operation of the Chicago Park District, youth and recreation leaders of many states set up the plans. Because square dancing is now recognized as one of the most wholesome forms of recreation, they came to learn as well as to show their talents. A "clinic" for study of techniques, was held at the Eight Street Theatre (see page 43).

Unique features of the evening program spectacle: a Canadian set with all the calls in French; sets made up of children recovered from polio, with whom such dancing is part of their physical recovery; sets with a number of blind persons; beautiful costumes—unique callers—a wonderful spirit of friendship from the 20 states taking part. More than 11,000 people attended. WLS announces another for 1951.

## John Dolce

Veteran square dance caller, heard every Saturday night on the National Barn Dance, one of the advisors for the International Square Dance Festival. John has directed training of many groups with the Chicago Park District, and is especially good at teaching beginners.

## Lulu and Cousin Tilford

There's lots of fun on the stage of the Barn Dance which you must see to fully appreciate. You have heard Lulu Belle as she brings her bashful but adoring "Cousin Tilford" to the microphone. And especially you have heard when he attempts to yodel along with her. This is the way they look, a snapshot during an actual broadcast.



## Pause for Coffee and a Sandwich

Those of the Barn Dance crew who have time between scheduled appearances like to gather in a nearby drug store for coffee and a sandwich, or a dish of ice cream, as shown in this informal and unposed picture. You can pick out a good many of them by comparing with other pictures in this Album.







## Arkie

For a long time we never used Archie's real name, Luther Ossinbrink, but everybody knows him better as Archie anyway. With him, his wife Vera. Both wonderful people.

Arkie was a youngster when he first came from the Missouri Ozarks to WLS. He's a few years older, but even younger in spirit and enthusiasm. In recent years, has become an expert auctioneer, just for fun.

Picture at right, snapped at the Barn Dance, shows Jimmie James "helping" Archie sing a song. But the more they pick on him, the more Archie laughs.





### Backstage Group

Above, three old-timers, John Brown, "Uncle" Tom Corwin, Grace Wilson, and two youngsters, Phyllis Brown and Dolph Hewitt. The picture was snapped backstage at the Eighth Street Theatre during the National Barn Dance.

WLS has an unusually large number of people with a record of many years on its staff.

### Maple City Four

Hardest perennial in radio, the Maple City Four continues to demonstrate how to harmonize on sweet old fashioned songs. Left to right, Pat Peterson, Al Rice, Chuck Kerner and Fritz Meissner. They often sing with Grace Wilson, a wonderful combination. The name comes from LaPorte, Indiana, "The Maple City," where the quartet got its start.



# SNAPSHOTS

## Homer and Jethro

Laughing is good for the health, and so Homer and Jethro (right) help keep a lot of folks healthy. These comedy singers came from Tennessee, bringing their own peculiar style, which makes a lot of fun.

## Safford Watches and Listens

Out of sight of the audience, Program Director Harold Safford watches a thousand details, makes a quiet suggestion now and then. Conferring here for a moment with Bob Atcher, "Top Hand of the Cowhands."



## Rex and Little Genevieve

(Below) At the Illinois State Fair, Singing Cowboy Rex Allen brings out darling "Little Genevieve" to sing her song. But as usual, she'll probably finish with a good cry. At extreme left, Captain Stubby, center, Red Blanchard and "Cousin Tilford," right, Cy Rowley with fiddle, and extreme right, John Dolce.







### The Jimmie James Family

You'd never believe that the quiet, well-groomed and dignified looking young man pictured above with his family, could break out into so many kinds of hysterics. Jimmie is a master of comedy, and although the audience screams at his antics, he seems to have more fun than anybody. At the right, somebody handed him a huge firecracker with a lighted fuse. Below, the Sage Riders jump in for a "jam session" as Jimmie plays the banjo.

Incidentally, here's the secret of everybody playing left handed in this group. The artist reversed the picture.

Jimmie's wife is Macel, and the boys are Jimmy and Don..





## Verne Fiedler Family

Member of WLS Rangers (see opposite page), Verne plays guitar and is a skilled musical arranger. If you look sharp, he's in both scenes below. Shown with Mrs. Fiedler and their son Joseph David.

## "Lu and Pappy"

The picture below was snapped during an actual broadcast, with Lulu Belle singing, Scotty whistling and playing the five-string banjo, and the WLS Rangers playing background accompaniment. You can pick out Toby Nix with the violin, and Augie Klein with the accordion.



Another snapshot at the National Barn Dance, shows Don White at the electric guitar, backed up by Jimmie Hutchinson on the bass fiddle, Cy Rowley with the violin, Ray Klein with the accordion. When any individual or group holds the center spot, everybody else pitches in to help.





### Augie Klein Family

Augie Klein (above) with his family. Mrs. Klein is the former Mary Jane DeZurik of the famous yodeling DeZurik sisters. Augie is a brother to Ray Klein, and their wives are sisters. Augie plays accordion with the WLS Rangers. The children are Janice Marie, Richard and James.

### Holly Swanson Family

Known to you as "Cousin Tilford." (Below) An accomplished musician, member WLS Rangers. Mrs. Swanson, Richard, Barbara, and James. Their home had to be specially designed with high doors because of "Tilford's" unusual height. On Page 27, the famous "Cousin Tilford" act, with Lulu Belle.



### Toby Nix Family

Toby Nix (below) also member WLS Rangers, plays violin. Shown here, his wife Ruby, and son Frederick. Real name, Ewing Nix. As to the argument about when a violin becomes a fiddle, Toby can play it either way equally well.







### Ten Buccaneer Fans

Five wives and five daughters who listen regularly, and think the Buccaneers are the finest on the air. Left to right, back row, the wives, Mary Fleming, Ginnie Richards, Glenna Stokes, Eva Lou Fouts, Ruby Walberg. The daughters, left to right, Sandra Fleming, Carol Ann Fleming, Debbie Stokes, Connie Lou Fouts, Toni Walberg.



### Barn Dance Applause

Two million people have seen the WLS National Barn Dance, and the balcony snapshot above is typical of the good times they have there. Square dancing and American folk music, now popular throughout the country, were introduced to the modern generation on these Saturday night WLS programs at the Eighth Street Theatre.

## Buccaneers

These five country boys were in the United States Navy together, came out with many rollicking ideas for entertainment. All accomplished musicians, they throw all inhibitions to the wind and produce amazing and comical effects. However, they also do especially well on serious songs, as shown on their beautiful "Hymn Time" program.

In the picture at the right, first at left, Captain Stubby, above, Tiny Stokes, left at bottom, Sonny Fleming, Tony Walberg, and at the right, Jerry Richards.



## "The Bucs and Half Bucs"

Here is a father and son picture of the Buccaneers. The sons are called the "half Bucs," and there's a question whether they can ever be as ridiculous and funny as their fathers. In the back row, left to

right, Captain Stubby (Tom Fouts), Tony Walberg, John (Sonny) Fleming, Jerry Richards, Tiny (Dwight) Stokes. Front row, Tommy Fouts, William Walberg, Michael Fleming, Ronnie Richards, Larry Stokes.





## Radio Sales

These folks (right) are responsible for radio advertising. Left to right, Charles (Chick) Freeman, Manager, Warren Middleton, A. N. (Pete) Cooke, Ray Betsinger, Joe Kaspar. Front row, Rita Horn Choice, Mildred Noska, LaVerne Carnevale, Dorothy Luce.



## Mail Room

The three girls below, receive and distribute well over a million of your letters and postcards every year. Every one is tabulated as to where from, and every one moves quickly to the right desk for attention. Left to right, Mildred Burton, in charge, Ingeborg Bunge, Emma Olsberg.



## Publicity

Lower left, John Drake and May Lantz, who handle publicity, and can supply facts about every person on WLS staff. John also was chairman of the committee that planned and managed the First International Square Dance Festival, held October 28, 1950, at the Chicago Stadium.

Below, Don Kelley, long with WLS in Publicity, Promotion and various other work. Away for awhile, but back home again. Used to be a sports announcer.







Above, Prairie Farmer Advertising Department. Left to right, seated, Ben Van Cleve, Sally Kolicius, Manager Vern Anderson, Pearl Ruck de Schel, W. G. Brookman. Standing, Marilyn Krpal, Herbert Horn,

Dorothy Kriz, Dick Scrymiger, Marilyn Soroka Levinson, Walt Brian, Peggy Stewart, Paul Scotte. Prairie Farmer now reaches the most farm homes in all its history of 110 years.



Above, WLS girls, left to right, seated, Mildred Borowiak, Barbara Peck, Janet Rausch, Helen Frederick, Rita Smith. Standing, Dorothy

Auble Hardesty, Kathyne Hockstad, Mildred Fredrickson, Carmen Simonson, Henrietta Stricker, Ella Bauspies, Maryan Christophersen.



Prairie Farmer girls: Seated, Marie Thompson, Mary Ragosta, Ann Gillette, Ann Dietz, Marianne Fingl, Shirley Meyer, Libbie Findlay, Dolores Minaltoski, Gertrude Grosskopf. Standing, Helen Lantz, Grace

Kattro, Margaret Connell, Jean Quigley, Lottie Szacik, Elaine Kultz, Beverly Jacobson, Marlene Goldstein, Caroline Podowski, Celia Uritz. They're wonderful girls, and all keep busy.

## Musical Nettingas

Paul Nettinga is heard every Sunday as soloist on The Little Brown Church of the Air. His wife, the former Helen Jensen, was a member of the original singing trio, Winnie, Lou and Sally, later made many music arrangements for WLS programs. More recently, she is often heard as pipe organist. Their two children are Carol and Paul Junior, and it will be surprising if they do not show musical talent.



## Howard Peterson, Organist

Well known to WLS listeners through his playing of the big studio organ. Heard on services of The Little Brown Church of the Air. Has written numerous musical numbers.

## Pruth McFarlin

Brilliant tenor soloist, heard every Saturday on WLS. Struck by polio in infancy, he has never walked. But he achieved a college degree, a fine musical education, and has won great distinction as a singer. Has made many personal appearances in the middle west.







### The Karl Davis Family

Left, Karl, his wife Jean, and three daughters, Diana Jean, Karleen, and Susan. Karl and Harty Taylor have sung together for many years since they came out of their native Kentucky, now are teamed with "Mac" McFarland, as "Karl, Harty and Mac."



### McFarland Family

Below, Lester (Mac) McFarland, wife Ruby, and three children, Kenneth, Larry and Carol. Bob Gardner, formerly teamed with Mac, has left radio and is in religious work.

### Ninety-Eight Year Solo

Karl and Harty Taylor visit with William Beery of Elgin, Illinois, who was at WLS studio to sing his annual solo, occasion, his 98th birthday. He has been a singer all his life.





# WLS STAFF

No matter how much care is taken in building programs, they must pass under the hands of competent engineers. WLS is proud to have a staff of the most skilled men in all radio, never heard, but always there.



**Homer Courchene**

Chief Transmitter Engineer, the same Homer who used to "pull the big switch" when it was time to sign off.



**Bill Nolan, Bill Taylor**

Pictured (above) as they watch the tape recorder built in control room panel, so any program can be recorded by pushing a button.



**Perfect Listeners!**

These four of the transmitter engineers, working 25 miles out in the country, always listen to WLS programs. They have to! From left to right, Harvey Kohnitz, Clarence Wise, H. R. Rawson, Thurber Bombaugh.

**Dale Shimp, Bill Keller**

For the camera, they are working at the board where lines lead to the stock yards, to the weather bureau, or to some remote broadcast set-up like Indianapolis, Urbana, Madison, or some banquet room in a downtown hotel.



# ENGINEERS

These men, who do routine work day after day, are highly qualified in every branch of radio. In an emergency, any one of them can tear down and rebuild a piece of equipment, or trace out a trouble spot in split seconds.



## Chuck Ostler, Verne Fulton

For the camera, they are making like repairing a balky microphone. Chuck took his training while working here.

## Roy Huberty, Burr Whyland

Burr, seated, was at the controls when WLS first came on the air, April 12, 1924. They're in the Studio A control room (at right).



## Tom Rowe, Chief

We call him that, and we mean it. Chief Engineer Tom Rowe not only knows all the technical answers, but is much loved by everybody.

## Making a Recording

Shown at the left, Charles (Nelly) Nehlsen and Maurie Donnelley. It is necessary to make a great many transcriptions, some from network programs, many of our own programs. Nehlsen (dark suit) is the one who made the famous recording of the burning of the Hindenburg. Modern recording is a work of great precision, with correspondingly high quality.



### Bill Nelson, Producer

Bill heads this important work. A production man hears rehearsals, makes necessary cuts for timing, tries out voices and instruments for distance from the microphone.

### Max Thompson, Turntable

When a transcribed program or announcement goes on the air, Max must be ready to start it on the split second. Looks easy, but it's a hair-trigger job.



### Bill Joyce, Producer

To the announcer or MC (master of ceremonies) the sign Bill is giving through the control room window is always welcome. It means "Okay", as to time and voices.

### Ray Ferris and Lyla Lou

Ray (below) is remembered as member of the old "Chuck and Ray" singing team, and for some years has been a production man. Mrs. Ferris, Lyla Lou, was the subject of a song written by Ray.





## Bill Duane Family

A new announcing voice on WLS late in 1950. Bill had some years of experience on the air elsewhere, but says there's no other radio station quite like WLS. Shown here for the first time, Mrs. Duane (Helen), daughters Kristen, six years old, and Elizabeth, four. Bill is usually heard starting at 5 a.m. with the Smile-A-While crowd.



## Square Dance Institute

Part of International Square Dance Festival last October. Leaders from many states in Eighth Street Theatre, studying methods. On the stage to answer questions, W. L. Monroe, Georgia; Ernest Lee, Canada; Mrs. Fred Putney, Nebraska; Charles D. Snyder, Oklahoma; Ralph A. Piper, Minnesota.

## Twelve Foot Skirt

Prairie Farmer carried numerous patterns for swirly square dance skirts. This one, shown by John Drake, Gladys Skelley and George Biggar, is 12 feet around the hem.



# GUESTS

## Governor Schricker Rings the Bell

At the Indiana State Fair we count on genial and understanding Governor Henry Schricker at Dinner Bell Time to ring the historic Indiana bell in Prairie Farmer headquarters. With him, Lieutenant Governor John A. Watkins, who is Commissioner of Agriculture for the state.

## Indiana Rural Youth

Watching a broadcast at Lafayette, a group of Indiana Rural Youth. Each year, Prairie Farmer-WLS meets with the annual gatherings of 4-H Club and Rural Youth, presenting awards for distinguished service in their communities. This work is particularly strong in Indiana.



## Swank

At the left, Oscar Swank, manager, International Dairy Exposition at Indianapolis, invites the public.

## Schenck

Dynamic Hassil Schenck, (right) President Indiana Farm Bureau, speaks for 91,000 farm families.



# EVENTS

## Future Farmers Honor Paul Johnson

At the left, Future Farmer David Lampert from Illinois presents the "State Farmer" award pin to Editor Paul Johnson. This is an honor degree now held by several members of the Prairie Farmer editorial staff. Della Loui, in Wisconsin, is one of the few women ever to receive this award, ordinarily reserved to men.

Every year, Prairie Farmer-WLS brings 20 Future Farmers on an award trip to Chicago, five each from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan.



President Charles Shuman, of Illinois Agricultural Association, representing 176,000 members, and Harry Gehring, President, Knox County Farm Bureau.



Governor Adlai Stevenson of Illinois introduces charming Irene Bittner, "Dairy Dream Girl" of 1950, chosen by dairy interests of the state.



Rex Allen comes back to visit WLS friends. Picture from Republic Pictures, where Rex stars as "The Singing Cowboy." He and Bonnie now have two sons.



## We Meet Such Interesting People

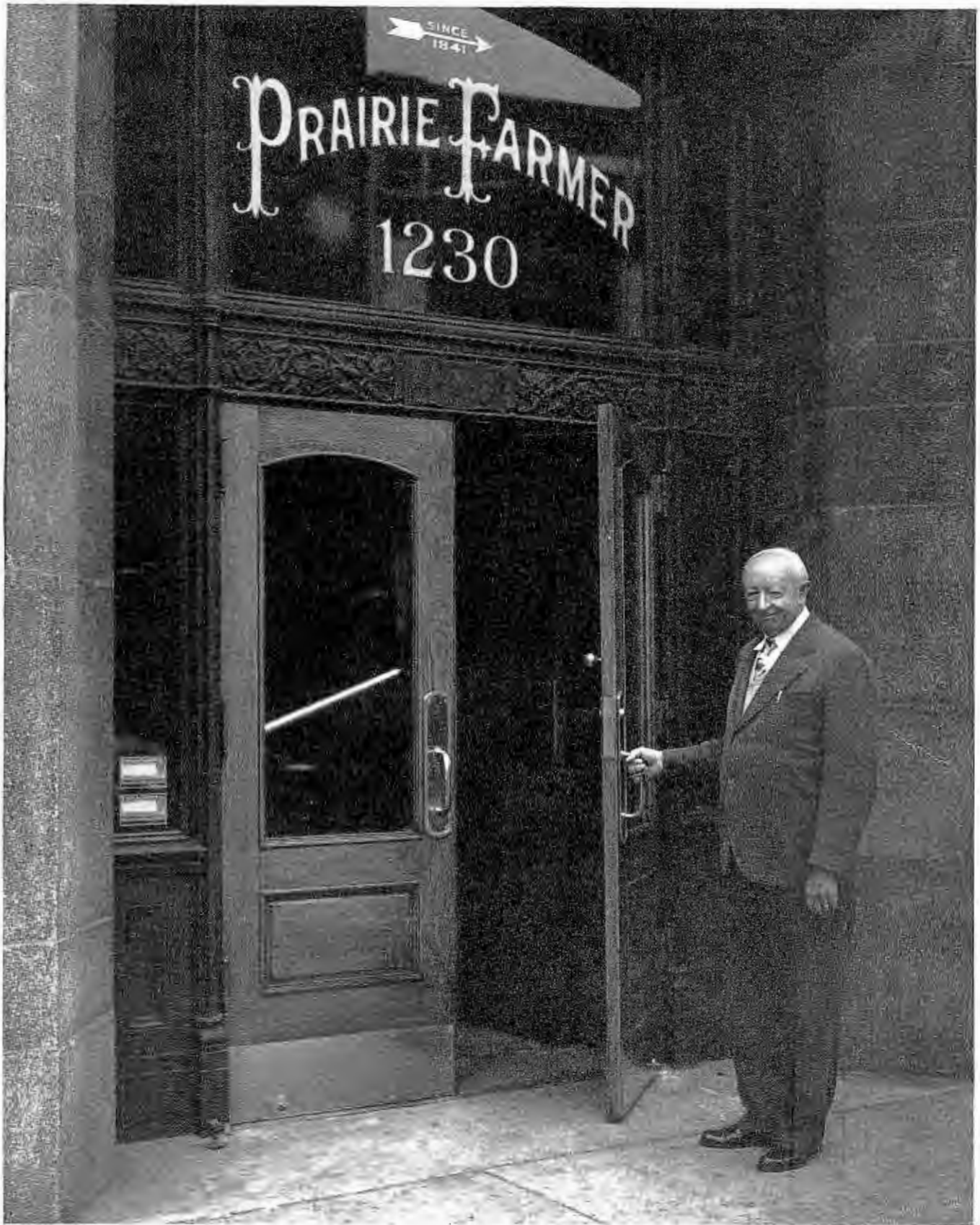


From Denmark, Inge Swensen came to study our agriculture. Escorting her, Charles Wray, Superintendent of Food and Dairy Inspection for Illinois. Chet Randolph hands her a transcription of her interview on Dinner Bell time to take back to Denmark.

Lovely "Alice in Dairyland" (left), the Wisconsin dairy queen, visited in the studio and was on our broadcasts from the Wisconsin State Fair. Her name is Virginia Peterson, and she is from Racine County, Wisconsin.

Every year we go to help celebrate Milk Day at Harvard, Illinois. These are some of the folks who braved the rain in 1950 to come.





### The Latchstring Is Always Out!

We treasure your friendship, and are always happy when you can stop in at the Prairie Farmer Building to watch a WLS program. This is the front door of the Prairie Farmer Building, 1230 West Washington Boulevard. You will be greeted there by Henry Prince—in fact,

he's holding the door open for you right now, and he'll tell you to go right on up to the third floor and make yourself at home. Some folks come at 5 in the morning, and many come for the Little Brown Church service on Sunday morning. We'll be looking for you.

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