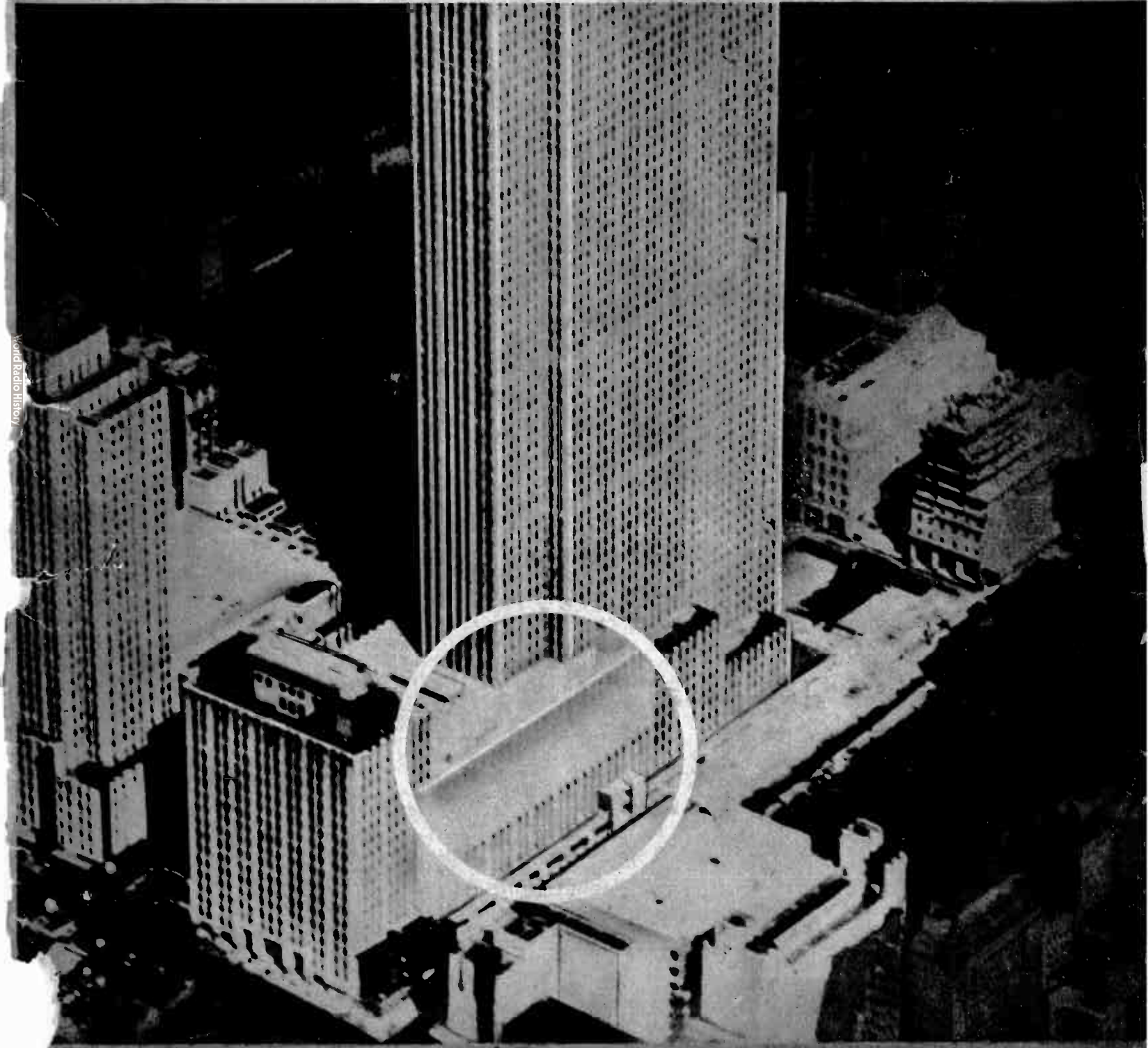


RADIO ANNOUNCERS



NEW HOME OF THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING CO., INC.

Circled in the center foreground is the NBC studio section in Radio City.

Watch Out Folks

Don't miss the next edition of this Magazine.

The many popular Announcers heard over the

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM

will be pictured exclusively in the next issue of
"RADIO ANNOUNCERS" that will soon be
on sale at newsstands throughout the country

RADIO ANNOUNCERS



1934

NOTE

This magazine presents to the Radio Audience pictures and short biographical sketches of Radio Announcers heard over the National Broadcasting Co., Inc., network of stations only. In most cases those pictured here are regular staff announcers. The list is incomplete, however. The arrangement is by sectional groups and then alphabetically by name. The New York group leads, followed by Washington, Chicago, and San Francisco.

In the next edition of this publication the Radio Announcers heard over the Columbia Broadcasting System will be pictured.

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(left)

FORD BOND

NBC Announcer, New York

When Ford Bond, National Broadcasting Company announcer, was a schoolboy, he carried his books and report card home one June a boy soprano, and returned that fall a rich tenor. They predicted a great musical career for him. Since he was thirteen years old, Ford Bond has earned his own way as a musician. He wasn't forced to, either. His father, J. C. Bond, is president of the Bourne & Bond Co., wholesale and retail sporting goods, of Louisville, Ky. Although the southern boy had begun the study of piano at the age of five, and vocal work with a boys' choir at seven, his parents wanted him to be a doctor. As a matter of course, he went away to medical college in Chicago after graduating from the Louisville high school. But the medical student didn't love the work as he should, and spent most of his time on music instead. At nineteen he was director of choruses and glee clubs. Music even carried him into the industrial world, when he found himself in the unique position of musical representative for a southern manufacturing company. At twenty-two he went to Alexandria, La., and there directed the community chorus and church choir. Then radio "got" him. He joined the staff of WHAS in Louisville, associated with NBC, as an announcer. He became director, first of the studios, then of music, and lastly of general programs. Then he looked for new worlds to conquer. He came to New York in January, 1930, and began all over again as an announcer, this time for NBC's network programs. He is still at it. Although fifteen different churches in New York have invited him to sing, he accepted only one offer. That was the Marble Collegiate Church. His parents are still living, and he has two brothers.

HOWARD CLANEY

NBC Announcer, New York

(right)

Howard Clane, member of the NBC announcer staff was born in Pittsburgh, April 17, 1898, and received his grammar and high school education there. In Pittsburgh he also attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology. In the World War he was a member of the institute's R. O. T. C. unit and was under orders to embark for France at the time of the signing of the Armistice. While studying at Carnegie Institute of Technology during the World War, many of the artistic courses were eliminated from the curricula and Clane, in desperation, selected engineering as his major. Then, when the full curricula was restored, he studied architecture, sculpture, painting and drama. Clane later studied drawing and painting at the Art Institute of Chicago and served a short apprenticeship under a recognized sculptor. His interest in these subjects was probably inherited from his parents. His mother, the late Mary J. Clane, did some painting, and his father, William J. Clane, is a successful building contractor. But it was a whim of fate which gave him his initial chance on Broadway. One day, visiting in New York, he accompanied a friend, the latter an actor, to a Broadway booking agent's office. While Clane was seated in an outer office alone the booking agent approached. "Do you want to see me?" the agent asked. Clane was a bit surprised but answered "Yes." And subsequently, by reason of that chance meeting, Clane secured a part in "A Man of the People," by Thomas Dixon. In years to follow he played in numerous productions. Clane owes his present position in the broadcasting world to the late Gerald Stopp. It was Stopp who first recognized his talents in the broadcasting studios. It was not until 1930, after Clane had severed his connection with the NBC dramatic staff, that he took an announcer audition.



(right)

NEEL ENSLEN
NBC Announcer, New York

Neel Enslen, NBC announcer, was born in Delphos, Ohio, and was graduated from Ohio State University before launching the successful musical career which led him to the New York studios of the National Broadcasting Company. From Ohio State he went to the University of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music, and is the possessor of degrees in both piano and voice conferred by the Bush Conservatory, Chicago. It was at Rochester U. that Enslen met Miss Beatrice Kneale, later to become famous in "My Maryland" and still later to become Mrs. Enslen. On the campus at Rochester was begun the radio romance, before either had ever given radio a thought as a possible outlet for their musical abilities. Enslen was one of the first twelve singers selected by George Eastman to form the nucleus of his American Opera Company. The chosen few were paid a salary from the start, in addition to receiving additional musical training free of charge. Not only was Enslen's rich baritone groomed for the operatic stage, but the entire group received an intensive course of instruction in dramatics by Ruben Mamouhan, later of the Theater Guild, New York. During his service with the American Opera Company in Chicago after graduation, Enslen's greatest success was scored in the role of Escamillo in "Carmen." He branched out on his own in Chicago, teaching piano and voice for a while, and later scored again with the Schubert show "Princess Flavia." He came to New York City in February, 1929, for further musical study and to sing in many of the most important churches—among them Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick's Park Avenue Baptist Church. In May of the same year he was granted a radio audition at the studios of the National Broadcasting Company, where he was one of the very few ever to qualify as an announcer without previous radio training of any sort. His success in the latest enterprise was indicated when he was assigned to evening programs of NBC in September. In December he was married to Miss Kneale in the New York Municipal Building. They live in uptown Manhattan, overlooking the Hudson River.



(left)

MILTON J. CROSS
NBC Announcer, New York

He's big and easy going and slow talking. In a place where everybody is always in a hurry and where the peak of activity is never far from madness he is the one calm spot in the center of the storm. Nothing seems to get him excited. Nothing seems to hasten his pace or his speech, yet he always gets everything done in time and he is never late on any appointment or assignment. That's Milton J. Cross. Though the award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters medal made him a super-announcer in the world of broadcasting, it did not make any difference to Cross. He was born in New York City about 33 years ago. Before he saw a microphone he had obtained an interesting background of musical experience. Though nominally a Presbyterian, he sang with the Paulist Choristers and toured the country with that organization. Cross went all the way to Newark for his radio debut. He sang and his voice was liked. When the station grew and the services of a second announcer were required, Cross got the job. Little has been written of the home life of the announcer. Most announcers' wives will tell you there is no such thing, but Cross manages to spend most of his spare time with his family. When WJZ became a key station of the NBC, Cross automatically became a member of the NBC announcing staff and now is the senior announcer in point of service. His name has been associated with the most famous broadcasts on the air, and there is a constant demand for his services. His winning of the Diction Medal in 1929 now is radio history. He doesn't have any special hobbies, because he hasn't time for them. In constant demand for personal appearances as a concert artist, he has little spare time outside of his broadcasting work. He does enjoy collecting nice things for his home and one of his treasures is a clock carved into the shape of a microphone from a block of anthracite coal. His ambition is to continue as a good announcer and soloist, and he hopes eventually to be able to spend more than one evening a week with his family.



ALOIS HAVRILLA
NBC Announcer, New York

(right)

Alois Havrilla, NBC announcer and bass vocalist, was born in Pressov, Austria-Hungary, of Slovakian parentage. During his infantile days in the old world he lived in a Hungarian community and came to the United States when four years old. The family settled in a Slovakian community of Bridgeport, Conn. In the Connecticut city Havrilla received his elementary education, attending a school where his native language was spoken. When Havrilla was only seven years old, James Baker, an old English music master of the Bridgeport Trinity Church, heard him sing. He had a beautiful alto voice, with a range of three octaves, a variety among boys. Baker immediately began tutoring him. One year later Havrilla sang an alto role in Handel's "Messiah." His music teacher, who gave him a place in the Trinity Church choir, also taught him the English language. Havrilla decided to follow civil engineering as a career. But he continued choir work at Trinity Church until sixteen years of age in addition to working in civil engineering. During adolescent years Havrilla was bass soloist at many Bridgeport churches. In the course of his career he met Miss Marion Munson at the Universalist Church of Bridgeport. They married September 28, 1928. His wife is a descendant of John Howland, of Mayflower fame. Their only child Constance Howland Havrilla, was named after the distinguished ancestor. When the United States entered the world war, Havrilla tried to enlist in seven different branches of the service, each time being rejected because of poor eye sight. In 1923 Havrilla began a public school music course at New York University. Later he appeared as soloist with Percy Grainger, at a Carnegie Hall musicale, and first met Graham McNamee. He also became acquainted with Elliott Shaw, baritone, who suggested an announcer position at WJZ. Havrilla was later given an offer by WJZ, then a small station, but declined. Immediately he succeeded in obtaining the only singing part in Dillingham's production of "Hassan," and later played in Dillingham's "Madame Pompadour." After finishing his studies at New York University, he accepted a teaching position at Briar Cliff Manor, N. Y. Remaining there only eight weeks, he secured an offer and joined the announcer staff of WEA.



Ray Lee Jackson



Ray Lee Jackson

(left)

BENNETT GRAUER
NBC Announcer, New York

Because movie heroes are tall men, Bennett Grauer is a radio announcer instead of a flicker idol. When Grauer was graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1930, he decided not to return to motion picture acting because his short stature would limit him to villain and juvenile roles, which he did not relish. "I'll be hero or nothing," he said to himself, and sought radio dramatic auditions with the National Broadcasting Company. Grauer failed in the auditions. Dejected, he started to leave the building, resigned to motion picture villain roles, when a friend told him there was a vacancy in the announcing staff. With characteristic enthusiasm, Grauer dashed down to the office of Patrick Kelly, supervisor of announcers, stated his business and a few minutes later had an audition. Kelly selected him out of several hundred applicants and the next day Grauer went to work. He has developed into one of radio's most lucid extemporaneous announcers and an excellent master of ceremonies on informal programs. Grauer was born in Staten Island, June 2, 1908. Six years later his family moved to the Morningside Heights section of Manhattan. Ben attended Public School No. 10, later went to Townsend Harris Hall, and then to City College, where he received his B.S. degree in 1930. On the stage Grauer took juvenile roles in "Betty at Bay," "May Time," (for a two year run) the revival of "Floradora" at the Century in 1922, a revival of Maeterlinck's "The Blue Bird" in which he was Tytyl, and the Theatre Guild's "Processional" in 1925. He took part in Griffith's motion picture "The Idol Dancer," produced in Florida, and then starred in "The Town that God Forgot." As a result of this success he made an extensive personal appearance tour throughout the East. Through these years of theatrical work, Grauer pursued his scholastic studies. At City College he justified his stage background by becoming dramatic critic of the school paper and editor-in-chief of the literary magazine. He wound up in a blaze of glory by winning from a field of 200, the 1930 Sandham Prize for Extemporaneous Speaking.



Ray Lee Jackson

(left)

GEORGE HICKS NBC Announcer, New York

George Francis Hicks yearned for a life of adventure. He wanted to go places where things happened, so he determined to study for the consular service at Washington, D. C., and then see foreign lands. To attend the consular school one needs money and Hicks decided that the best method of procuring ready cash was by working. Once he had been granted a radio audition in his home town, Tacoma, Washington, and had been told he possessed a good talking voice. In the Nation's capital Hicks wrote every radio station nearby asking for an announcer's job. Nothing came of it. He then applied in person at the NBC Washington studios. Two announcers had just left. Another was needed immediately. Hicks was selected from among two hundred applicants and assigned to duty at once. That was in 1927. The next year he joined the New York staff of the National Broadcasting Company. He is regularly assigned to announce special events and has covered many outstanding broadcasts. Hicks is serious, conscientious and enthusiastic. When he is assigned to a special broadcast he usually stays up half the night before studying the subject. He is six feet tall and weighs 160 pounds. He is single. Hicks was born under the shadow of Mount Tacoma in the state of Washington. Much of his boyhood was passed on Puget Sound where he learned, among other things, salmon fishing. He attended school in Tacoma and participated actively in athletics. He went a year each to the University of Washington and Puget Sound College. In the meantime he worked in logging camps, saw mills, shipyards, as truck driver and at other tasks. One day he found school had grown tiresome and he asked the captain of a freighter for a job. The captain employed Hicks and two hours later he sailed for the East coast. He left the ship in New York and went to Washington, D. C., to visit relatives. Then he returned to Tacoma, entered school for a time, then shipped to Alaska as clerk on a freighter. After many experiences above the Arctic Circle he decided to try consular service and so went to the national capital again. Radio followed.

JOHN W. HOLBROOK NBC Announcer, New York

(right)

John W. Holbrook, New York announcer of the National Broadcasting Company was awarded the 1931 radio diction medal by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Holbrook, 27-year-old Bostonian, and one of the youngest announcers, received the medal at the third annual award meeting of the academy in New York. Hamlin Garland, chairman of the academy's radio committee, made the award in the presence of President Nicholas Murray Butler and other members. Garland said Holbrook's voice combined "the best of English english and American english" and commended his taste, pronunciation, grace and authority in its use. "In making our third award, we have found a decision more difficult for the reason that the general level of announcers has risen," Garland added. He announced that the committee recommended honorable mention to David Ross of the Columbia Broadcasting System; William Abernathy of the Washington, D. C., division of NBC, and Sen Kaney of the Chicago division of NBC. Holbrook, although born in Boston, and formerly on the staff of WBZ, the Boston Westinghouse station, was educated in Toronto and Quebec. He was graduated from Bishop's College School, Lennoxville, Que., in 1926, and entered the broadcasting field three years ago. He joined the National Broadcasting Company in May after winning network recognition during his announcement of nation-wide broadcasts originating in Boston. "A throng of cultivated young men have demanded recognition," Garland said. "The number of university graduates has multiplied and the managers appear to be increasingly aware of their responsibility to the home circles into which the voices of their staff penetrate." Garland declared the Anglo-American standardization of English speech by the microphone and the talking screen could not be stopped. "The question which should concern us is whether this standardization is proceeding along the right lines. The radio is even now the chief educative factor in this process. If standards are to be universally adopted, it is important that they should be fine." Garland's address and Holbrook's response were broadcast on NBC network.



Ray Lee Jackson



(left)

EDWARD K. JEWETT
NBC Announcer, New York

Edward K. Jewett was born in Yokohama, Japan, in 1904. Though he lived there for only six years following his birth, he still recalls memories of the Orient, and to this day he has a fundamental knowledge of the Japanese language. His father was in the silk business in Japan when Ted was born, and also serving the unique capacity of Danish consul to Yokohama. In 1910, Ted came to this country for the first time, and settled with his parents in Plainfield, N. J. He attended day school in Plainfield until the age of fourteen, and then became a student at Morristown School, Morristown, N. J., a preparatory high school. His education was furthered at Princeton University, where he entered in 1922. All during his school life, he displayed a special attraction for elocution and public speaking. His earliest ambitions were to become an actor or a statesman. He didn't give radio the slightest thought until after he had left Princeton in 1926, and was in the silk business with his father. It took him four years to decide against a business career. For some time before however, he had been studying the meteoric growth of radio. The more he studied, the greater the fascination this remarkable advance in the world of science played on his imagination. Finally, in 1926, he definitely made up his mind to forego the silk business, and cast his lot in some department of radio. He sought out the National Broadcasting Company with a view to becoming an announcer. His first attempts were frustrated, but that did not discourage him. For many months Ted's overtures were futile. At last, in June, 1930, his efforts were rewarded with a position on the NBC announcing staff. His success with NBC has been exceptional. Announcing is a recreation to him. He says so. Ted's main characteristic lies in his power of mimicry. Between programs, he whiles away the minutes in the announcer's room amusing the other announcers. He can imitate any and all of them to perfection. Motorboating is one of his dearest hobbies. He is very fond of organ music. He still has a mental picture of his birthplace in Japan. Some day he's going to make a trip back there.

Ray Lee Jackson

KELVIN K. KEECH
NBC Announcer, New York

(right)

High lights in the life story of Kelvin Kirkwood Keech, National Broadcasting Company announcer, reads like a travel guide to romance and adventure. Keech wandered far for the material which constitutes his background as one of NBC's ace announcers. Romance found him in foreign lands. Adventure was his companion at war. All of these things came to Keech because he heeded the call of wanderlust. It was a call which first he heard in the land of his birth - Hawaii. It led him from an intended career as chemical engineer to the bright lights of Continental capitals. A rather battered ukulele, one of Keech's prized possessions, has accompanied him since as a school boy he came to the United States to attend Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa. The war found Keech a radio engineer in France. After the Armistice he and some of his buddies organized a jazz band. The "White Lyres," as the organization was known, saw much of Europe's famous watering places. Keech ran "face first" into romance in the old-world capital of Constantinople. He met a young Russian girl. The girl could not speak English, and while Keech knew French and a smattering of Japanese, Portuguese, Chinese, and native Hawaiian, he knew no Russian. It being love at first sight - a little thing like conversation could not halt romance. They were married. Then came London. Strumming the strings of his ukulele, Keech won his way into the hearts of Britishers. He played over station 2LO of the British Broadcasting Company. He also won the distinction of being probably the only radio artist to have Royalty as a student. The student was none other than the Prince of Wales. In 1928 Keech, with his young bride, returned to the United States. He participated in several radio programs and obtained an audition with NBC. Before the microphone he suffered a violent attack of "mike" fright, despite his long broadcasting experience. A second audition, weeks later, however, won him a place on NBC's staff of announcers.



Ray Lee Jackson

PATRICK J. KELLY
NBC Supervisor of N. Y. Announcers

(right)

Sailor, marine engineer, opera singer, musical comedy star, and radio announcer—these are only a few of the high spots in the colorful career of Patrick J. Kelly, the young-faced, gray-haired man of 42 who controls the destinies of the 21 New York announcers of the National Broadcasting Company. For the past three years, Kelly has been supervisor of announcers of NBC. He was himself an announcer for a year and a half before his promotion. Pat was born in Australia and was educated in private schools in Sydney. But instead of immediately going into a profession, the zest for adventure led him to ship as a seaman and for several years he plowed the seven seas before the mast. Then he passed an examination and got his ticket as a marine engineer. During his sailor days, Kelly studied music and developed his voice, and after a few more years in the engine rooms of liners he took time off to complete his musical education in New York. His voice, a dramatic tenor, won the approval of Fortune Gallo, who placed him in leading roles with the San Carlo Opera Company. This varied experience, which included being shipwrecked three times, would satisfy the ordinary man, but Pat Kelly managed to crowd in a few more diversions to satisfy his craving for action. He was one of the best boxers in the Royal Naval Reserve. He learned to fly and became an enthusiastic aviator. When he married Yolan Poszanyi, of Budapest, who speaks seven languages, he developed his linguistic ability so that he could hold his own in conversation with her and with her parents, who are at home in eleven tongues. He composes and writes lyrics, and fills in his spare time summer and winter with boating and skiing. The welfare of his 21 NBC announcers, and seeing that they are assigned to programs into which they "fit" to their own greatest satisfaction, is the part of his work that gives him the most concern. "There are plenty of headaches connected with the technical supervision of programs," says Kelly; "but shucks, a job wouldn't be any fun if you didn't have some trouble once in a while!"



(left)

CLYDE KITTELL
NBC Announcer, New York

Selling Bonds has lost its fascination for Clyde Kittell, NBC announcer. Kittell, son of a minister, thought he wanted a business career but after a successful trial in advising investors of the soundness of his offerings, he decided that radio broadcasting with its close association to music, its greater novelty and the opportunity of talking to many people, offered a stronger appeal. Mr. Kittell is a native of Albany, N. Y., the son of the Rev. Dr. James Shepard Kittell, executive secretary of the board of domestic missions of the Reformed Church in America. He was educated in the Albany Academy and early began a business career. As he progressed in business, however, he pursued his studies in music. He studied voice with Alfred Y. Cornell and piano and organ with Dr. Frank Sill Rogers, continuing his organ studies with Oliver Herbert. Through his vocal studies he developed an exceptionally pleasing tenor voice which he uses in operatic or oratoria work. He can also perform successfully the whispering tenor with jazz background. Alfred Hallam coached him in conducting orchestras and choruses. With all this training he brings to radio exceptionally broad musical talent. In actual experience he has performed in nearly every musical capacity from bass drum in a symphony orchestra to chime playing at Chautaugua, N. Y.

(right)

WILLIAM WARNER LUNDELL
NBC Announcer, New York

William Warner Lundell, NBC radio announcer, was born in Minneapolis, Minn., on November 28, 1900. At the age of twelve, he organized a concert orchestra of ten children, hired a hall, arranged the program, and played the violin. He was graduated from the University of Minnesota with a B.A. degree and a Phi Beta Kappa key. He received a Bachelor of Theology degree from Harvard, where he continued his musical career in the Glee Club. After Harvard came a period of study in Paris, followed by extensive travel through Europe, the Far East and South America. While he was wandering, he wrote special feature articles for New York and Boston newspapers. Later, he worked on the Boston Herald and also preached in a suburban church. Lundell's initial radio experience was in Boston over station WBBA. He was the first man to do an interview from earth to airplane in 1929. His work as chief announcer for the Massachusetts Bay Tercentenary celebration in 1930 attracted the attention of the National Broadcasting Company, and he joined the NBC staff May 15, 1931. Lundell has a profitable hobby — electrical appliances. Before finishing high school, he had invented a device which accomplishes the work of twenty operators in electric lamp manufacture. He never rides in a train if he can fly, and likes to tell his friends yarns about the time he was a guest of the British Navy for a month aboard the aircraft carrier Eagle. He is married and lives in New York.



Ray Lee Jackson

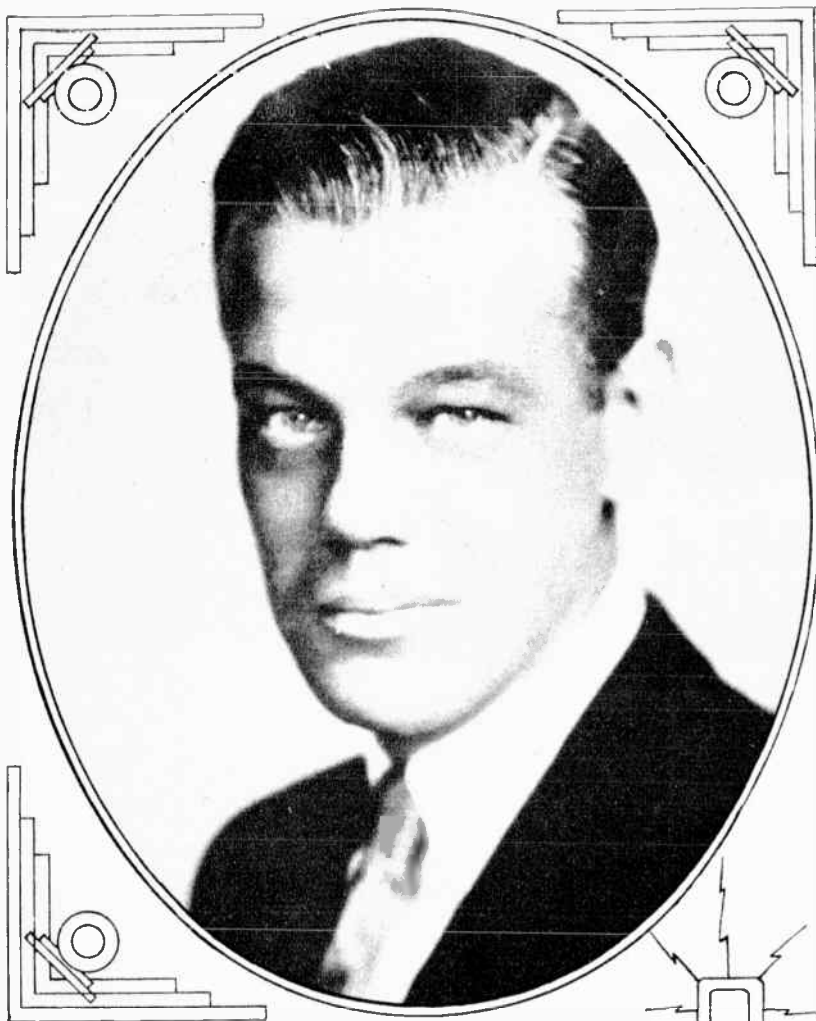
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GRAHAM McNAMEE
NBC Announcer, New York

Graham McNamee today is conceded one of America's best known radio announcers, and the dean of his profession. But if you ask McNamee what it takes to become popular before the gilded "mike"—and be able to call notables by their first name—he will shake his head in despair. McNamee went into radio as a temporary occupation until he could obtain sufficient bookings as a concert artist to keep the wolf from the door. He has traveled across the continent to spend two hours describing a college football game. He once came near exhaustion keeping America's radio audience informed as to the doings of their delegates at the drawn-out Democratic National Convention of 1924. Each time the NBC has broadcast the running of the Kentucky Derby—Graham has been at the microphone. It was his voice that described Lindbergh's triumphant return from Paris after his trans-Atlantic flight. Again all America listened to the versatile announcer as Richard E. Byrd returned to New York after his Antarctic expedition. Stay-at-homes welcomed his description of the inauguration of President Hoover. During his twelve years of broadcasting, McNamee estimates he has used more than seven times the maximum number of words in the dictionary. And seldom has his pronunciation been challenged. During his talks with kings, queens, cardinals, football captains, presidents, prize-fighters, and what-have-you, it is estimated that more persons have heard his voice than of any other man alive. McNamee made his first "broadcast" from a Washington, D. C., hospital on July 10, 1889. Boyhood found him in a choir, and with such promise he continued his study of voice past the amateur stage. Concert artists were not so much in demand, so Graham obtained a job as a salesman. He soon found himself in New York, not too well supplied with money. Then he took up jury service at \$3 a day. One day during the court's noon recess he chanced to pass the old studios of WEAJ at 195 Broadway. He decided to save 50 cents which he would spend at lunch and look over a broadcasting studio. It was then that one of the world's greatest radio personalities started on the proverbial ladder to success.



Ray Lee Jackson



(left)

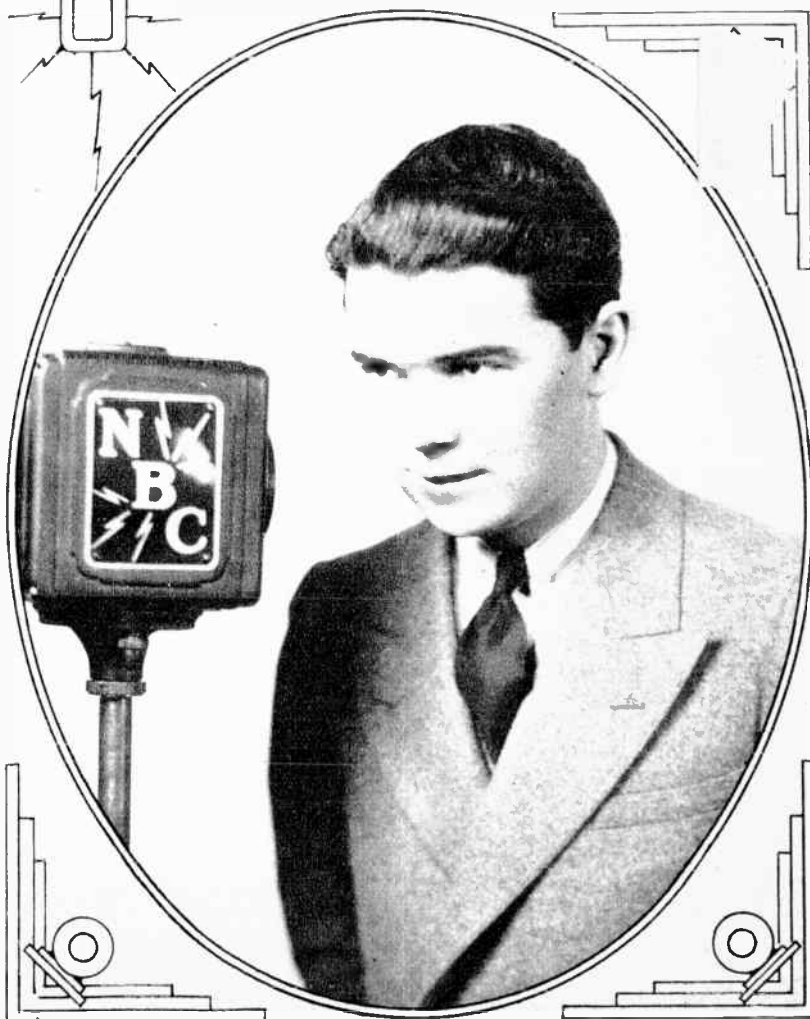
JOHN MAYO
NBC Announcer, New York

who has recently joined the local NBC announcing staff, was born in Providence, R. I. While in school he studied piano and singing, and was a "boy basso" at minor entertainments and small motion picture theatres. At Brown University Mayo joined the National Guard battery of field artillery. He was then ordered to Mexico in the Villa trouble which made it impossible for him to return to school. When the United States entered the World War he gave 14 months service overseas in the Air Corps. After the war Mayo went from the oil fields of the Southwest to a Chemical Compounding Company in New York, trying his hand in various fields of work and finally joined the radio profession. At a studio performance one night John mentioned to a featured actor in the broadcast how much he liked the entire atmosphere and surroundings. An audition resulted several weeks later, and that was his beginning. Since then he has covered virtually every conceivable radio feature from studio and remote commercial programs to pageants, parades, fires, contest inaugurations and races, and broadcasts from dirigibles, planes and crows' nests of battleships.

CHARLES O'CONNOR
NBC Announcer, New York

(right)

Charles O'Connor, youngest announcer of the National Broadcasting Company staff, has a most promising future. Only twenty-three years old, he already has displayed versatility and style that might be the envy of more experienced broadcasters. He won his spurs on one of the saddest and most difficult assignments ever faced by an announcer—the Lindbergh baby kidnapping case. O'Connor was born in Cambridge, Mass., June 10, 1910, and his parents immediately planned for him a law career. Through the passing years as a student in Cambridge schools and for one year at Boston College, Charles showed no disposition to take up legal studies, despite his marked ability to declaim, debate, recite and act, first demonstrated publicly at the age of five years. He was an all-round athlete. Instead young O'Connor turned to dramatics and for two years toured throughout the East with a stock company. Then he jumped over the footlights into the broadcasting studios, in January, 1931, finally landing with WBZ, NBC associate station in Boston. Last November he followed the trail of five former WBZ announcers and was promoted to the network headquarters at New York. O'Connor has demonstrated an unusual facility at extemporaneous announcing on special broadcast events programs, notably Mayor Walker's Beer Parade, Toscanini Fund Concerts, and the S. S. Manhattan speed trials. Along routine lines he is identified with the Women's Radio Review, Cheerio's program and other daytime features. In his acting days O'Connor declined a scholarship to the American Laboratory Theatre in New York City because he preferred practical work with stock companies. He did play one summer as a professional at Mariarden, Daniel Frohman's theatre colony at Peterboro, N. H. O'Connor is huskily built, has chubby features, black hair and brown eyes. He is five feet, eleven inches tall and weighs 168 pounds. The announcer makes a hobby of clothing and dresses smartly with a predominance of brown. He admits having once been a suit model, but not for long. His secret ambition is to improve the general quality of radio programs, contemporary drama and all motion pictures. In lieu of that he'll be satisfied with announcing more and bigger special events.



HOWARD PETRIE
NBC Announcer, New York

(right)

Howard Petrie is known almost exclusively to his friends as "Pete." Besides being the tallest of National Broadcasting Company announcers, he has the deepest voice. He was born in Beverly, Mass., in November, 1906. His earliest recollections are fishing along the Atlantic coast. Until he was nine years old, his family lived in so many coast towns of Massachusetts, that he cannot remember them all. When he was nine years old his family finally settled permanently in Somerville, Mass., which he calls his home town. The announcer's early inclinations were toward a vocal career. Between the ages of nine and fourteen, he sang in the choir of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, in Boston, commuting every Sunday from Somerville. During his high school years he was a member of the school glee club and the debating team, and took part in the high school plays. After being graduated from high school in 1924, he worked for a Boston bank. In his off hours he studied voice in the New England Conservatory of Music and sang bass in the quartet of the historic Meeting House Church, in Dorchester, Mass. His entry into broadcasting was sudden. One day in the summer of 1928 a friend, connected with WBZA, in Boston, commented on the tonal quality of his voice, and suggested the possibility that it might be adapted to radio. Announcing seemed to attract him more than anything else, so he asked his friend to secure an audition for him as an announcer. The audition proved satisfactory and he was invited to do part time announcing for the remainder of the week. Soon after, he was given a position on the permanent announcing staff of WBZA. He remained with this station until June, 1930, when he came to NBC. Petrie's hobbies are few. He likes horseback riding and the theatre. He has traveled extensively through England and Scotland, and hopes to see the rest of the world some time. His pet grief is rushing into a studio on a hasty assignment, without time to raise the announcer's "mike" to suit his rangy height.



Ray Lee Jackson



Ray Lee Jackson

(left) **FRANK K. SINGISER**
NBC Announcer, New York

Visitors to the announcers' room of the National Broadcasting Company might notice a studious-looking young man with a high forehead, thinning blond hair, blue eyes that look out from behind a pair of thick-rimmed glasses, a pleasant smile and a more pleasing voice. His appearance tallies almost exactly with the popular conception of what a young theological student should look like. And that's just what he is—a young theological student and one of the youngest radio announcers in the country. When he was nineteen he was graduated from Brown University with an A.B. degree and a few weeks later he got a job as announcer at WGY in Schenectady, New York. He came to NBC from WGY in the spring of 1929 and remained as announcer until the Fall, when he entered Harvard Law School. He gave up his law studies after three months and enrolled as a student for the ministry in the Newton Theological Institute in Massachusetts. When his first-year studies were completed he returned to the microphones of the National Broadcasting Company. Singiser's voice has been heard announcing many important NBC programs, including the General Electric Hour, the General Motors Hour, and "Roxy and His Gang." Singiser is the son of a Baptist minister. He was born in Montevideo, Minn., and three years later moved to Pennsylvania. When he was five years old his father accepted a call to become pastor of the English church at Rangoon, India. The boy went to school in India for five years and returned with his parents to San Francisco. He happened into radio announcing quite by accident. After graduating from college he walked into the offices of the General Electric Company and asked for a job—any sort of job. He was given a microphone test and a few weeks later began his microphone career at WGY. The young announcer remained at that station, writing radio dramas, and directing programs as well as announcing them, until he came to the National Broadcasting Company in May, 1929. At WGY he announced the special short-wave broadcasts to Admiral Byrd and the members of his expedition in Little America. Singiser has few hobbies outside of his studies. Horseback riding is his chief form of recreation.



(left)

CHARLES B. TRAMONT, Jr.
NBC Announcer, New York

Charles B. Tramont, Jr., a member of the announcers' staff of the National Broadcasting Company in New York City, left his studies at St. Louis Medical College to enter the radio field. It was at the age of twenty-three, when he chanced into the studios of a station at Buffalo, N. Y., his native city. Tramont was outwardly enjoying a summer vacation away from his arduous medical studies, but he was without work and married. Youthful medical student that he was, Tramont quickly took the opportunity to compete with 49 other prospective announcers for a position. He was one of two successful candidates. His medical studies soon became a dream of the past. The lure of broadcasting, its infinite variety and the opportunity afforded, persuaded Tramont to change his profession. He soon became widely known on the air and was rewarded with a position at the NBC New York studios two years later. He married Miss Evelyn Hooper of Farmersville, N. Y. in 1925. All through his high school and pre-medical days, young Tramont delighted in modern romance languages as a study, and in dramatics as a student activity. In high school he won Sir Wilfred Grenfell's "Lure of The Labrador" for his efficiency in the romance languages, and by a coincidence he recently met Sir Wilfred in the NBC studios in New York. Tramont speaks Spanish, French and Italian, but, with a bit of irony, remarks that French, the language of his ancestors, is the most difficult of the three, despite his parentage. Tramont was in the Adirondack mountains the summer of 1930 for his vacation, the first opportunity he ever had of enjoying the invigorating mountain air. But by another bit of irony he was called back, after only two days, to conduct Rex Cole's program entitled "Mountaineers." Radio is Tramont's work and recreation. After his long hours in the studios, Tramont retires to his home and turns on the radio. He likes to broadcast a program going over WGR at Buffalo. He is always quite sure that his mother, Mrs. Charles B. Tramont, Sr., is tuning in.

(right)

LYLE VAN
NBC Announcer, New York

Lyle Van, who gets up bright and early to romp and sing with the Don Hall Trio during their early morning quarter hour, is in reality Lyalle Dennison Van Valkenburgh. The same young man, whom Cheerio has dubbed "the perfect youth," was born on September 10, 1904, in Troy, New York, of parents who came from their own town of Valkenburgh, in Holland. With no particular ambition but to get out in a hurry, Van attended prep school in Baltimore, Md. While there he began his musical training and became a soprano soloist in the boys' choir of Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Baltimore. Through school, at the age of nineteen he became imbued with the get-rich-quick idea and journeyed to Key West, Florida. In the great boom, however, he lost not only his own money, but that of his friends as well. Stranded in the Keys, he got an appointment as deputy marshal for the Department of Justice in Florida and chased bootleggers for two years. During his trips to and from the Federal Prison in Atlanta, he met a friend in radio, and by sheer accident was engaged to sing over Station WSB, Atlanta. Again he abandoned art for the business end of radio and opened a retail shop of his own. When that didn't flourish as successfully as he anticipated, Van accepted the post as Program Director of WGST, in Atlanta. After a year he came to New York for an NBC announcer's audition, and has been on the staff since August 1932. His present regular assignments are the Don Hall Trio and Cheerio, Betty Crocker and the Mystery Chef. Van has an engaging personality, a rare sense of humor and still cherishes the ambition to sing. He is exactly six feet tall—weighs 175 pounds—has blue eyes—reddish brown hair and sparse mustache. His favorite sport is golf. Still reveling in his single blessedness.





Ray Lee Jackson

(left)

JAMES WALLINGTON NBC Announcer, New York

For eight months James Wallington, as announcer for WGY in Schenectady, read messages and news which were broadcast by short wave to the men confined on the ice of Little America. He was aboard the S.S. Relief, which carried a broadcasting group nearly a hundred miles to sea to send to a waiting world a word picture of the expedition's approach to New York. Born in Rochester, Wallington attended the public schools there and later went to the University of Rochester for three years. He began his public career during school days as a singer, being a member of the high school glee club and baritone in a number of Rochester churches. In the university he sang with the glee club and organized a quartet which appeared locally and in many Eastern cities. The quartet sang in Ned Wayburn's "Chatterbox Revue" at the annual Society Show in Rochester. Wallington also studied at the Eastman School of Music. He soon decided that he never could be more than a mediocre singer. Before entering college he had gone to Auburn Theological Seminary, but two months there convinced him that he was not destined for the ministry. He next began a pre-medical course, but that lost its interest, and he decided to major in English and music. During his last year at Rochester University he sang with the Rochester American Opera Company, the first opera company to sing entirely in English. Next he completed his college course at Union College and then became a traveling salesman for a furniture firm. While in Schenectady he was told that the General Electric Company was looking for a radio mechanic. As radio had interested him, he applied. An announcer was wanted, not a mechanic, so he asked for the announcer's position. After an audition and three weeks of coaching Wallington appeared as a staff member. New York had always been Wallington's goal. He obtained an audition at the NBC studios, passed it and was taken on the staff. He quickly jumped into the spotlight. Wallington is only twenty-four years of age but appears to be older. He is over six feet tall, has blue eyes and light brown hair. He was awarded the 1933 radio diction medal by the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

DON WILSON NBC Announcer, New York

(right)

Don is a native of Colorado, having moved to Denver at the age of 2 years from his birthplace in Lincoln, Nebraska, but the past six years in California have made him the equal of any Native Son in geniality and friendliness. Nearly three inches more than six feet in height, and tipping the scales at a graceful 215, he has a personality in proportion, being given to broad grins, hearty chuckles and handshake like the grip of a vise. Wilson was called from his job as chief announcer for station KFI in Los Angeles to cover the big football games broadcast over National Broadcasting Company networks each Saturday during the season. He looks, acts and talks like a football man. He played guard on the University of Colorado football team for four years, and since 1927 he has broadcast every important game on the West Coast and is the confidant and friend of all the famous coaches and players who have been developed in that hard-hitting football Conference. Previous to taking up radio as a career, the NBC sports authority was a salesman in Denver, and probably many a Timid Soul signed on the dotted line after one look at his bulk. While exploiting the virtues of his brand of drugs, oil, gasoline and coal, Wilson joined with two fellow salesmen to form a harmony trio. They were so successful at singing that they gave up selling and toured the Mountain States with ample financial profit, gradually working West into California. An advertiser who heard them in San Francisco put them on the air for a year, and then Wilson and one of his pals struck South to Los Angeles. They continued to put on programs there for more than a year, and then Don took a job as announcer at KFI. During the past four years he advanced to the post of chief announcer at that station, and became well known to sports fans on the Coast for his brilliant broadcasts of athletic events. Don covered the Olympic games in Los Angeles, and also described the recent rowing regatta. The bulky announcer is said to have the fastest eye-to-microphone delivery in existence, having the ability to see, analyze and put into words a play almost as quickly as it takes place.



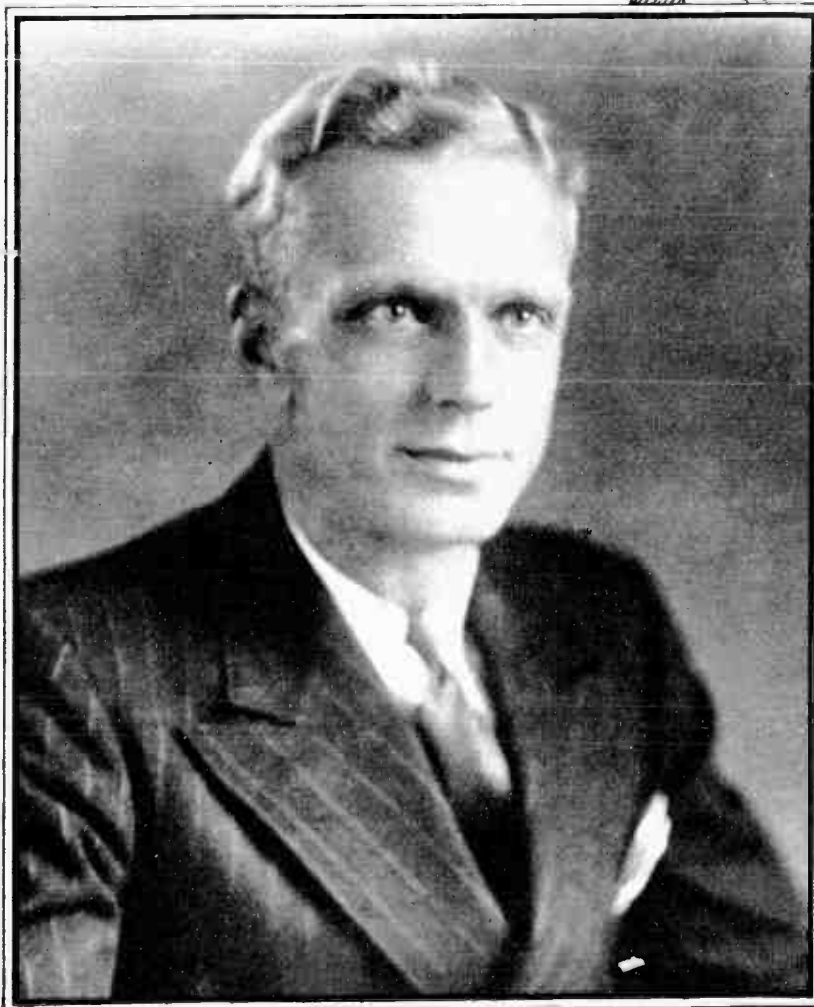
JOHN S. YOUNG
NBC Announcer, New York

(right)

John S. Young, NBC announcer, takes his radio very seriously; sees in it an interesting and worthwhile career; prefers to work on programs of a serious nature. This work recently brought him an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from St. Benedict's College, at Atchison, Kansas, the fourth such degree conferred by that institution in its seventy-five years of existence. Young was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1903, and studied at Yale under George Pierce Baker and William Lyon Phelps. He was first heard through the microphone in 1925, at WBZ in Boston, and has been in radio ever since. In Boston his work on programs of the Boston Symphony and in announcing football games, brought him to the attention of the National Broadcasting Company, and he accepted an invitation to join that organization's announcing staff in 1928. The honorary LL.D. was conferred upon him primarily for his work on such broadcasts as the weekly Catholic Hour, the inaugural broadcast of Pope Pius, the broadcast of Cardinal O'Connell from the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, the world-wide program inaugurating the Holy Year, and others of a similar nature. Young's voice is known in Europe as well as in America. In the early days of trans-Atlantic broadcasting he was heard on experimental programs sent out by powerful short-wave stations. He also was the official announcer on the special programs which the NBC short-waved to Admiral Byrd and his expedition to Little America at the South Pole. Young probably has introduced more world famous singers and musicians over the air than any other announcer in radio history, and is extremely proud of his huge collection of autographed photographs, given to him by these celebrities in appreciation of his cooperation on their programs. In spite of his long experience before the microphone, Young says that he is always conscious of a slight nervousness when he is on the air. Nevertheless he is an expert extemporaneous speaker. He also speaks very clearly at high speed. He plays the violin, piano, guitar, banjo, ukulele and vibraphone, speaks French, German, Italian and Spanish; thinks a professional and domestic life can run together smoothly but isn't married; has no preference between blondes and brunettes; likes movies; goes to bed at 2:00 a.m., and gets up at noon.



Ray Lee Jackson



(left)

WILLIAM L. ABERNATHY
NBC Announcer, Washington, D. C.

The field of entertainment was not new to William L. Abernathy when he joined the National Broadcasting Company staff of announcers in Washington in September 1930. As a director and member of the Lotus Quartet, Abernathy was heard frequently over Detroit radio stations in the early days of radio, and later as a member of several musical comedy companies, he appeared on the stage in theatres in more than a score of cities throughout the country. Abernathy was born in Petersburg, Va., in 1894, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John T. Abernathy. He graduated from grammar and high schools in Petersburg, and later attended a business college in the southern city. Leaving school, he obtained a post in the freight rate department of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway in Petersburg, keeping this job for two years. In Detroit, Abernathy organized the Lotus Quartet, rehearsing and singing at night, working in the daytime. This was the first quartet which Station WWJ, of Detroit, one of the country's earliest radio stations, broadcast. In 1925, encouraged by his success in quartet work, Abernathy decided to go on the stage. He left Detroit for New York, where he joined the new Shubert production of "The Student Prince." In the fall of 1927, he obtained a dramatic part with "The Love Call." He was with this show for ten weeks. Later in the same year he took the part of Sergeant Greene, in "My Maryland." Abernathy's biggest thrill in the show business came in the latter part of 1927 when he was given several parts in Hammerstein's "Good Boy" which opened on Broadway. He was with this show 23 weeks. In 1929 Abernathy joined "Rio Rita," but this time he was in the business end of the company. He left this show in April 1930, and came to Washington where he established his home. He joined the NBC staff here in September of the same year. After several months with the NBC here, Abernathy organized the Radiotone Quartet, which has since been heard in more than 100 programs over Station WRC.

ARTHUR MORTON GODFREY

NBC Announcer, Washington, D. C.

Arthur Morton Godfrey, National Broadcasting Company announcer in Washington, was born in New York City in the year 1900. Since that time he has travelled to the four corners of the earth, turning his hand at occupations as diversified as some of them are unusual. Early in life, because of his brilliant red hair, Godfrey was nicknamed "Red" and the name still sticks. Having spent fifteen years in New York, Godfrey decided to see the world. He roamed all over the United States, and worked at more than a score of jobs, the most unusual of which was sales manager for a cemetery. When he was eighteen, Godfrey joined the United States Army. Two years later, he transferred to the Navy where he remained for four years. It was during this latter period that he lived through the experience which has left a vivid impression on his mind. He was stationed at Constantinople for two years and witnessed the burning and an evacuation of Smyrna. He was in a party of American sailors sent into the city to do rescue work and it was here that he was wounded. Coming back to the United States in 1924, Godfrey discovered that he could sing. He had music lessons from his mother as a child. He decided to take up singing seriously, and got work in night clubs and radio stations in Chicago and Detroit. Vaudeville palled in time and Godfrey tried the service again, this time as a member of the Coast Guard. Here his aptitude for radio engineering was discovered and he was selected to go to the Naval Radio Engineering School near Washington. Graduated there he was sent to Curtis Bay, Maryland, to work in the radio experimental laboratory for the Coast Guard. Curtis Bay is close to Baltimore, and in his spare time Godfrey offered his services at a radio station in the city. They were accepted and Godfrey was put on the programs regularly as a singer. Later, he obtained a release from the Coast Guard and joined the radio station as a full time announcer and entertainer. Several months ago, he joined the NBC in Washington.



(left)

EDWIN LEWIS ROGERS

NBC Announcer, Washington, D. C.

Edwin Lewis Rogers, NBC announcer in Washington, is a veteran in radio. He made his first microphone appearance in Philadelphia in 1923, and since that time has been an announcer and singer at several radio stations throughout the country, and has had parts in several musical comedy successes. Rogers was born in Danbury, Connecticut, on June 22, 1902. In that city he graduated from grammar and high schools. Leaving school in 1919, he went to work with the Danbury Electric Company, and later with the Western Electric Company. In 1923, Rogers enrolled for a law course at Columbia University. It was in this same year that Rogers made his first radio appearance, singing at Station WDAR, now Station WLIT, Philadelphia. At Columbia University, Rogers was a member of two quartettes, and both units made frequent microphone appearances over Stations WJZ and WEA. But Rogers did not complete his law course. After three years, he switched to an academic course, getting a B.A. degree in 1927. After leaving the University, Rogers was on the staff of Station WOR and later Station WTIC in Hartford, Connecticut. During his junior year at Columbia, Rogers sang in "The Vagabond King." He went to school during the day, played in the show at night. In his senior year, he was in a double male quartette which sang at the Criterion Theatre. Alois Havrilla, now of the NBC staff, was a member of this group. Rogers was also in the cast of "The Three Musketeers" in 1928.





(left)

FRED SHAWN

NBC Announcer, Washington, D. C.

Fred Shawn, NBC announcer in Washington, has had varied experience in stage, screen and radio. His career as an entertainer started while he was attending Pomona College in Claremont, California, 1925. He organized a college quartette, and the group earned such fame that they were offered a vaudeville contract. Beginning in 1927 they travelled for three years as a Fanchon Marco unit, under the name "Cheer Leaders Quartette." When their contract expired during the summer of 1929, they went west to appear in talking pictures. Returning to New York they joined various Broadway productions "Ballyhoo"; "America's Sweetheart" and "East Wind." At the conclusion of the "East Wind" contract the Quartette disbanded. Shawn then went with the Ziegfeld "Follies," and while playing in Cincinnati was offered a position on the staff of WLW as announcer and soloist. He remained there until the last of December 1932. Shawn was born in Payette, Idaho, November 7th, 1906.

ROBERT VAHEY BROWN

NBC Announcer, Chicago

(right)

Height 5' 11". Weight 140 pounds. Eyes, blue. Hair, brown. Born: December 7, 1904, New York City. Parents were Canadian. He was first of his family to be born in U. S. First ten years of his life were spent in New York, Philadelphia, West Orange, Hasbrouck Heights, Long Island, Buffalo. Father a grain broker. Died when Robert was very young. Mother had studied for concert stage. Robert attended grade school in east. One year at DeVaux Military Academy. Lafayette High School, Buffalo. Two years at University of Buffalo where he studied civil engineering. Professional Experience: Two years with U. S. Engineering Corps. Tried out for job as announcer at WGR, Buffalo, and obtained a position. He did announcing, continuity, program directing. At WLW—from 1928-32—in charge of announcers and did some dramatic writing. Wrote "Tom Martin Yarns," a series of railroad sketches for WLW — their most successful dramatic program. Joined NBC March, 1932. Married: Mary Steele Brown. He met her on her return from Europe where she had studied voice. She re-joined staff of WLW and a year and a half later married Mr. Brown at her home in Lexington, Ky. Mrs. Brown sings on several NBC programs—"Musical Moments," etc. And incidentally: Bob Brown was one of the first radio announcers to broadcast from the air. This he did for the Crosley Company in Cincinnati—broadcasting for Captain William Brock. In 1927 he did a series of programs broadcast from the air—this with the cooperation of the U. S. Army Signal Corps, Buffalo, on WGR. He has done everything on the radio except sing. Held the New York state swimming championship in the 50 yard backstroke event. Home Address: 47 East Division, Chicago.



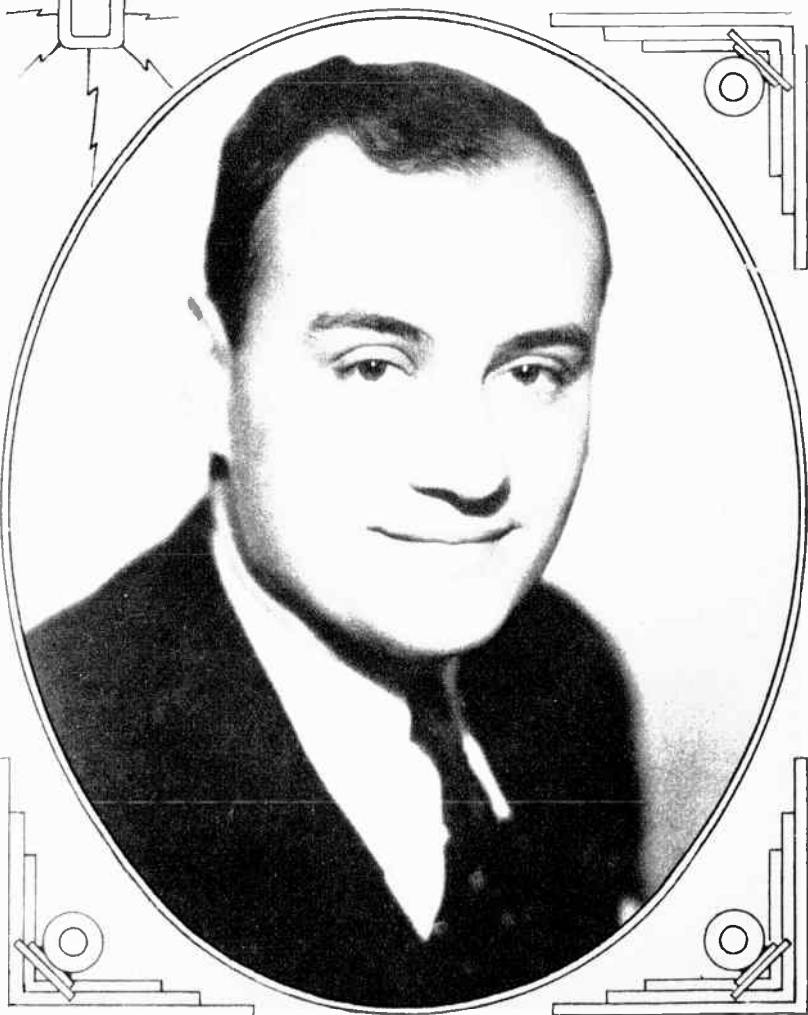


Maurice Seymour

(left)

STUART DAWSON NBC Announcer, Chicago

Stuart ("Stu") Dawson is an NBC announcer now, but he once planned to be a doctor and spent three years in medical school, at Washington University . . . but the war came along and Stu enlisted as a Marine . . . when the war was ended he decided to be a big stock and bond man instead of a medic . . . later directed an art school in Chicago and held a variety of other jobs before breaking into radio back in the dim past of 1923. Stu got his first announcing job by accident at old WHT. Regular announcer failed to appear, and Stu, visiting studio, asked to fill in. He stayed there until 1926. Then to WIBO until 1931, when he moved to KYW as night manager . . . came to NBC in 1932. Dawson was born Feb. 22, 1887, in Springfield, Ill., where he got his schooling. He's quite an artist, doing portraits as a sideline . . . main hobby is sailing boats in Lake Michigan. He's unmarried, five feet, eleven inches tall, weighs 158 pounds and has brown hair and eyes.



Maurice Seymour

PASQUAL GALLICCHIO NBC Announcer, Chicago

(right)

Born, October 27, 1902, Chicago. His father, Antonio Gallicchio, a musician. Italian parentage. Education: Attended public schools in Chicago. Has studied voice and speech with R. E. Pattison Kline, Chicago. Professional Experience: Clerical experience in a bank. For some time a musician playing in dance orchestras in Chicago restaurants and cafes, and the Crawford Theater. Started in radio at WMAQ in charge of recordings in 1929. Very soon began announcing and continued with WMAQ until NBC took the station over in November, 1931. Married: Gladys Walter, Glen Ellyn, May 27, 1933 (the day the World's Fair opened. There seems to be no connection between the two events.) Home Address: 1625 Lunt Avenue, Chicago. Likes: Golf mostly—also handball and baseball. He has travelled over most of southern U. S.

JEAN PAUL KING
NBC Announcer, Chicago

Wrestling, baseball and track served as a foundation for the active existence which Jean Paul King, NBC announcer at the Chicago studio, leads. Sports still take up a good deal of his time, although his announcing schedule is strenuous. Reared in Tacoma, Washington, he graduated from the University of Washington, and his dramatic taste, which he had indulged during his collegiate years carried him into a San Francisco stock company, which in turn lead to radio. He came to the Chicago division of NBC after gaining laurels for himself as a production manager and announcer at WLW in Cincinnati. Previous to that, by three years, he joined the NBC Pacific Division at San Francisco, to become director of radio drama. From there he went to several Pacific Coast stations before becoming affiliated with WLW. Fencing is his forte, although he still maintains a devout interest in other sports. Writing articles for magazines is a hobby with him, and someday he plans to attempt—well, if not the great American novel, at least a good book.



(right)



(left)

CHARLES ALBERT LYON
NBC Announcer, Chicago

Born: Detroit, Mich., March 1, 1903. Parents: Anna Bronson and Geo. Hale Lyon. Two brothers and one sister—Charles is youngest. Education: Grammar School, Detroit. High School—Ann Arbor, Cleveland, Hamilton, Ohio. University of Michigan—1 year. Left college to go on the stage. His mother wanted him to be a dentist, but became reconciled to his real ambition. To get money for a stage career, Charles worked on boats on the Great Lakes. Later signed up on the West Noranias as an ordinary seaman. Went to Germany. Had a job scrubbing decks to get back to New Orleans. Went to Hollywood for a winter with his mother. Played juveniles in "Cameo Comedies." Then went to Cincinnati where he heard Stuart Walker, who was in stock, might give a job to a young and ambitious actor. He became an assistant stage manager for the Walker Company, but soon was playing juveniles. Eliot Nugent and his father were with this company and had just written "The Poor Nut." They were successful in getting a New York producer, and Charles Lyon was put in the cast. He played "Wally Pierce," and the play ran about nine months. Next he was cast in "Down Stream" and "Proud Princess," both of which had short runs. Being broke he worked at Childs', 33rd and Broadway, as a waiter. Then Charles played dramatic stock with Wm. H. Wright in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Bay City, Jackson, Ft. Wayne, Toledo. While between stock engagements, he called on a friend at WTAM. The friend arranged for an interview with Mr. John F. Royal, then manager of WTAM, and Charles was given an audition, offered a job. He declined, saying he had a job on the stage. He was urged to accept the WTAM position as an announcer and actor. However, six weeks later he was offered a stage job in Dayton, as leading man of the stock company. He filled this engagement for 16 weeks, and then went back to WTAM. When NBC took over WTAM, they also took over Charlie. In April, 1931, he was transferred to Chicago, where he has been ever since. He married Irene Ehredt, December, 1932. She had been a hostess at NBC. He is 5' 9½" tall, weighs 142 pounds, has blue eyes, brown hair.

Maurice Seymour



Maurice Seymour

(left)

DON McNEILL NBC Announcer, Chicago

Born: Dec. 23, 1907 at Galena, Illinois. Family moved to Sheboygan when Don was two. Father's name—Harry McNeill, now of Sheboygan. He has one sister. Don is the older. Education: Grammar School—Sheboygan High School—Sheboygan. Marquette University, Milwaukee. Graduated 1929. Editor, college annual, "Hilltop." Humor Editor, "Marquette Tribune." Besides writing, Don is an excellent cartoonist. Drew for college papers and attended Layton Art School while at Marquette. Professional Experience: While in his third year in college, became assistant radio editor and announcer at WISN, Milwaukee. Continued this until graduation. After graduation — radio editor and announcer. Milwaukee Journal, WTMJ. Originated program of "Dinner Table of the Air," symphonic dance music, sponsored by a group of advertisers. The first group sponsored program. Don was toastmaster at the dinner. Did cartoons for radio page on Journal. Held radio editorship and announcing job on "Courier Journal" and "Louisville Times," Louisville, Ky. Station WHAS. While at WHAS, Don and Van Fleming originated a comedy skit called "Two Professors." It went six months on WHAS. Obtained an audition on it at NBC, Chicago, where program sold to Quaker Oats—act was sent to San Francisco for NBC coast chain. Here two years. Brought back to Chicago on NBC—then New York, where did act a few weeks. Back to Chicago. Fleming went to Los Angeles, and Don back to the Milwaukee Journal. Became an announcer for NBC July 1, 1933, Chicago. Married: Kay Bennett of Milwaukee, college girl friend. They were married in San Francisco, Sept. 12, 1931. Home address: 1047 N. Shore Avenue. An apartment. Have dog named "Radio contract." Named so because Don's act while in San Francisco was renewed every 13 weeks, but they were never sure of its renewal. Promised to buy wife a dog if contract renewed again after show had been on about two years. Contract renewed. Result: dog. Nicknamed "Connie" Added: Belongs to Sigma Delta Chi, Beta Phi Theta, Phi Epsilon, Alpha Sigma Tau. Plays piano, flute—and we hate to add—saxophone

EVERETT MITCHELL NBC Announcer, Chicago

(right)

Born: March 15, 1898, Chicago. Father—George Henry Mitchell, now dead. Mother still makes her home in Chicago. Education: Grammar and High School, Chicago. Kent Law School—still attending. Has studied singing a great many years, and began singing in public at the age of 9. His career was handicapped by lack of finances, so at conclusion of high school entered business as a bank clerk. Later became an insurance adjuster. Finally went into concert work. Secured concert engagements with the Redpath Chautauqua and travelled over whole U. S. Also toured with Billy Sunday as an Evangelistic singer. Radio Positions: At conclusion of a concert tour decided to investigate radio opportunities. Had an audition at old KYW one afternoon, and appeared on a program that evening. Later announcer at WENR. Then manager of WENR year and a half. Station taken over by Edition. Mr. Mitchell became chief announcer and program manager. Did a children's educational program. Joined NBC in 1930. Has been on the Farm and Home hour ever since. Home Address: 1304 Carmen Avenue. Married: Mildred Roddoz. of Chicago, June 18, 1921. Height—5' 10". Weight—162. Eyes—Brown. Hair—Brown. And—His hobby is amateur photography. He is a Mason, has a ten year old canary, and a modernistic apartment. He likes to do children's programs.



Maurice Seymour

LOUIS BERNARD ROEN
NBC Announcer, Chicago

(right)

Born: According to his story—on Friday, March 13, 1905—upstairs in the depot at Marengo, Wisconsin. Education: Grammar and High School—Mellen, Wisconsin. College—Lawrence College—two years—course English. Activities—Football, Basketball, Baseball, Music. Plays saxophone, sings—had own dance band for five years. Has had various jobs ranging from railroad telegraph operator to street car operator. While on the job of street car operator in Milwaukee, ran into an old friend, who was program director at WTMJ. Obtained an announcers' and singers' audition and landed a job. With WTMJ as announcer and singer for one year and a half. Was announcer for Columbia Broadcasting System for four months. Became manager of WBEO, Marquette, Michigan. Returned to WTMJ as announcer, singer. Joined NBC in Chicago on May 31, 1933. Married Kathryn Dickinson, Milwaukee, July 4, 1931. Met her at a bridge party, and she played so much better than he did he thought she was "snooty" and never wanted to see her again. Did, however, every night for the week following. One child, George Ingman Roen. Address: 1333 Touhy. Height—6' 1". Weight 185. Hair and eyes—dark brown.

Portrait



(left)

NORMAN ROSS
NBC Announcer, Chicago

Born: May 16, 1896, Portland, Oregon. His mother was a teacher and very exacting in matters of diction. Education: Portland Academy, Portland, Oregon (college prep.). Graduated in 1914. Leland Stanford University. Left in 1917 to join army. Northwestern University Law School—1 year. (At Stanford he occupied the same room Herbert Hoover lived in while at Stanford. Hoover graduated the year Ross was born.) College activities: Football, swimming, weight lifting, hurdles, weight throwing. Professional Experience. After the war he took a trip around the world as a swimmer, and won medals in every port. He was the World's Champion Swimmer for seven years—and has broken more records than any other champ. He has received over 500 medals and cups, which he says his children enjoy playing with. He played in the Olympic Games at Antwerp in 1920. He has had 20 years of newspaper experience. He was sports editor for the *Chicago Daily Journal*, and for a time had his own publicity office, where he handled publicity for auto races, etc. He says that in 1915 he sold aluminum in California—found out he could earn a living by talking to people—and has never worked since. (Until he joined NBC). His first radio job was a rush assignment to cover a World's Series ball game for WIBO. He was called on the phone—and since his voice was okay on the phone, he was hired. He had not seen a World's Series game in years, but he got away with his report and kept the job. In 1933, August 22, he joined NBC. Married: Beatrice Puakilani Dowsett, of Honolulu. He has three children—Beatrice Jean, Donal (spelled right), and Norman, Jr. Height 6' 2½". Weight 240. Hair and eyes—dark. Home address: 7706 Eastlake Terrace.



GENE ROUSE

NBC Announcer, Chicago

Born: July 14, 1896, Boulder, Colorado. He left school early to make his fortune, and consequently has had a variety of experiences. He has been an actor, newspaper man, director of publicity for Fox theaters, and radio announcer. Played stock: O. D. Woodward Co.—Denver. Dubinsky Stock Co.—Omaha, 16 mos. Lake-side Park—Denver. Denham Stock—Denver. Bug Bam-buge—Des Moines, Ia. He got his first radio job be-cause he was fired from the job of sports editor of the Omaha Daily News and told to run the radio station, if he knew how. He did. Here is his radio experience: WNAL—Omaha, 1921-23. WOAW—Omaha, 1923-25. Chicago Herald & Examiner Stations WEBH, WJJD, KYW—1925-31. Joined NBC in Chicago in 1931. He is married and has a daughter, Carol Lee. Home: 6257 Sheridan Road. Height—6' 2", weight, 185. Hair and Eyes—dark. He was one of the first radio announcers, since he started in 1921. He estimates he has broad-cast over 400 fights.

(right)



(left)

HAL TOTTON

NBC Announcer, Chicago

This fellow Hal Totten, knows more baseball players better than anyone else in the business, according to his associates. Totten was the first announcer to begin regular baseball game announcements, way back in 1925, when WMAQ started broadcasting the home games of the Chicago Cubs direct from Wrigley Field. This was in the spring of 1925 and the next station to start broadcasting baseball from the field did not do so until the middle of 1926. And even before that time he began his acquaintance with baseball players for he covered baseball for the Chicago Daily News before he became interested in radio and continued writing in addition to sports and feature broadcasting until 1928 when he went on radio full time. Harold O. Totten was born in Newark, N. J., on July 28, 1901, and attended East Hill and South Hill schools, Ithaca, N. Y. from 1906 to 1912. The family moved to Chicago in 1912 and Hal finished the grades at James B. McPherson school and graduated from Nicholas Senn High School, Chicago in 1920. While he was in High School he played football, baseball and track, was in the school plays and was editor of the "Senn News." After he left High school he attended Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill., where he played baseball and was sports editor of the Daily Northwestern. He also became a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. During his college days Hal was college correspondent of the Chicago Daily Journal and the Associated Press. Then from 1922 to 1924 he worked on the Journal—on the street, the re-write desk and for the last year covered Criminal Court. His work on the Loeb-Leopold case brought him an opportunity to go to the Chicago Daily News, which he did in August 1924, as re-write man. Later he became an educational writer, special writer and manager of the syndicate department. He did his first sports broadcasting in the fall of 1924 on WMAQ, then owned and operated by the Daily News. This was of the University of Chicago football games. In all Totten estimates that he has broadcast more than 1,600 baseball games, which would have put him on the air for approximately 3,200 hours—more than 133 twenty-four hour days. Totten is married and has three young-sters, a pocket size edition of his father—and twin daughters.



(left)

FORREST P. WALLACE
NBC Announcer, Chicago

Born: Chicago—August 23, 1898. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wallace, now of Lansing, Michigan. Education: Family moved about in his childhood. Attended grade school and high school at Alhambra, California. College—Alhambra College—took business course. Professional Experience: Started experimenting in amateur radio work in 1912, before the days of broadcasting. Became Pacific Ocean wireless operator. Joined the Navy in the World War—was wireless operator. In 1921, took up radio broadcasting work in Lansing, Mich. He was chief engineer at WHAL, Lansing Capitol News Station. When this station was sold to the National Guard, he went to Station WABM, Saginaw, Michigan where he was manager, engineer, and announcer. Then to WWJ where he was engineer for two years. Later he became an announcer, program director, and assistant manager, and held this position for 3 years. In Chicago he joined WMAQ as an announcer and remained there 2½ years. He joined NBC in 1931. Married: To Jessie Purches Wallace of Peotcky, Michigan.

Maurice Seymour

GEORGE WATSON
NBC Announcer, Chicago

(right)

Born: November 5, 1900, St. Paul, Minnesota. Father—William G. Watson, sign manufacturer. Education: St. Paul public schools. Two years at the University of Minnesota, where he took a general course. Professional Experience: After leaving college he became a salesman for H. E. Locke, Boston (thread manufacturer). From here he went to Adler-Ika, and then to Proctor and Gamble—being in sales work eight years. He happened into radio work after he was injured in an auto accident, which meant he could not continue with Proctor and Gamble. He went into KSTP in search of a job—just any job—and after three weeks he was added to their staff as an announcer. He held this position from 1929 to 1933, and besides announcing did character acting. He joined NBC in September, 1933. Married: Lillian Orr of St. Paul, January 9, 1931. No children. Hobbies: Mr. Watson is a licensed air pilot, and for three years, while he was located in Memphis, Tenn., flew regularly as a kind of hobby. He has given this up mostly, however, because Mrs. Watson wants him to stay whole. He likes to play golf and to hunt, and goes on hunting trips to northern Minnesota every year for upland game. He is opposed to deer hunting.



Maurice Seymour



(left)

WILLIAM J. ANDREWS

Chief Announcer, NBC, Pacific Division

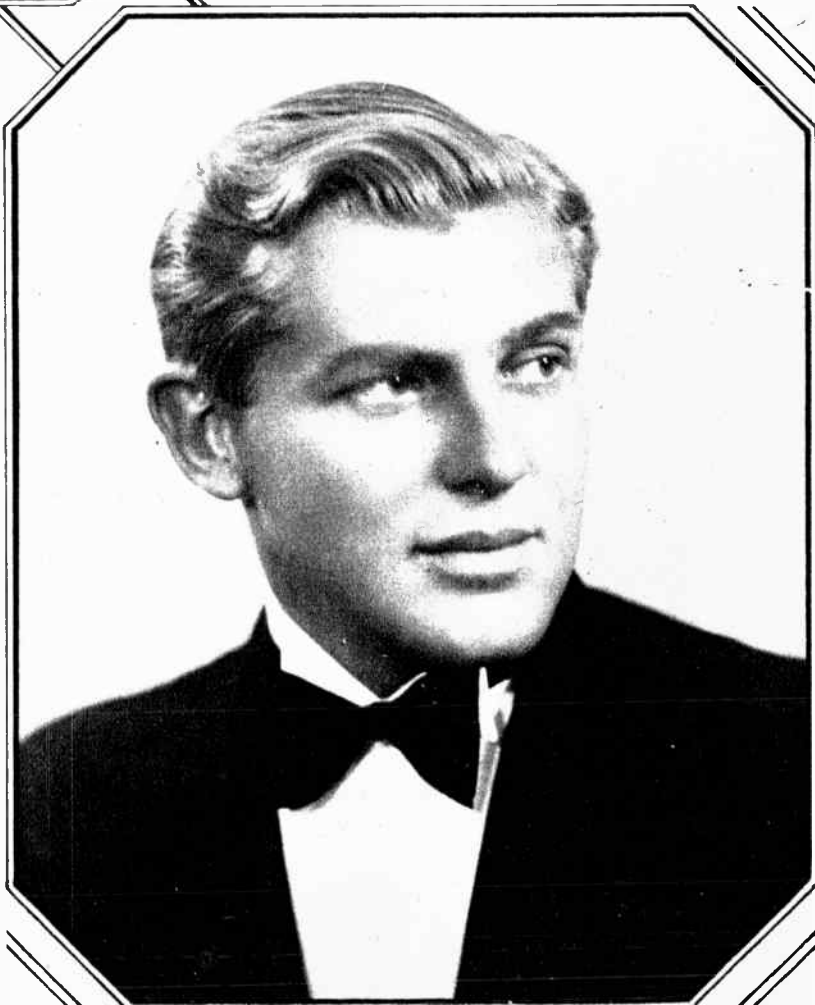
Wherever One Man's Family is heard—and that covers a wide area now that this NBC serial is broadcast transcontinentally—the voice of Bill Andrews goes along with it. A pleasant, friendly voice that holds the charm of simplicity and sincerity, it mirrors the personality of the big broad-shouldered lad who goes about this job of ushering programs on and off the air with the precision and care that marks the man who knows his technical radio as well as its artistic requirements. Still several years away from his thirtieth birthday, Andrews has been actively engaged in some aspect of radio since his high school days, and now, as NBC Chief Announcer of the Pacific Division, he still continues to study in the rapidly expanding field which lies before the microphone announcer of today. William John Andrews, which is the way he was christened, was born in Oakland, California, and educated there. He was much more interested in the experimental side of broadcasting, and when Montgomery Ward and Company offered him a job as radio expert of its radio department, he took it. For a year or so he was a mail order authority on how radio sets worked—or why they didn't work, if that was the case—handling inquiries from all parts of the country and, incidentally, learning what radio set owners liked to hear, as well. From there the step to an Oakland broadcasting station was a slight one. He entered its employ as chief operator and, before long, from pinch-hitting for announcers, he was doing most of the announcing and getting, much to his surprise, his very first fan letters. In 1928, after a brief excursion into another profession—publicity writing for an Oakland theater—he joined the National Broadcasting Company staff. His first program was one sponsored by the Isuan Company, and since then he has been before the microphone almost continuously. He has announced One Man's Family since this Carlton E. Morse serial first went on the air. Six feet, two inches in height, with blue eyes and dark hair, he is one of the few bachelors among NBC announcers of the Pacific Division.

NELSON CASE

NBC Announcer, San Francisco

Nelson Case, NBC's tall, blond, deep-voiced announcer, has done many things in a life-time which isn't so very long, thus far. He has been a theater-usher, newspaper reporter, radio pianist and singer, and there's a lot of things he hasn't tried yet, he admits, when you find him in a facetious mood—which is practically all the time. Born in Long Beach, California, Nelson is the son of a well-known newspaper editor of Southern California. When Case Senior looked around one day in a picture theater and found Nelson junior acting as aisle-courier, he was so startled that he gave him a job on his own paper. The budding reporter was sent to write a story on a radio station and telephoned his resignation back to his father, together with the news that he had just been engaged as a piano soloist. He was obliged to give up that job when the Case family decided it was time for him to go to college. He was graduated from William and Mary College, Virginia, and immediately became an orchestra leader in vaudeville. He returned to California and he and a "small but noisy band" as he calls it, sailed the bounding main aboard a coast-wise steamer. When that engagement ended, Nelson became an announcer at a Southern California radio station, where he remained until NBC brought him to San Francisco. At William and Mary College, Case met Miss Sarah Lee, auburn-haired descendant of General Robert E. Lee, and also of Ethan Allen. She is Mrs. Case now, and tiny Virginia Lee Case, and Nelson Case III, listens excitedly for daddy's voice on the radio.

(right)



DRESSER DAHLSTEAD
NBC Announcer, San Francisco

Dresser Dahlstead, NBC announcer, became a radio star because he wanted to go to college, and a local radio station in Ogden, Utah, offered him a means of working his way through four years at the University of Utah. "But I almost gave up, the very first time I went on the air," the twenty-three year old veteran of air waves explains today. "I had passed all the voice tests and felt I wasn't afraid of the microphone in the least. My continuity for that very first program had been conned until I was letter-perfect—I could have thrown the script away and delivered it, every word. The occasion was a very formal municipal event on which one of the city's leading business men was the speaker. I was stationed in a booth, and when I got my cue, I did my stuff with what I felt was polish. Every word of that flowery introduction and dignified description of the leading light of the program was accented just right. I said, "Mr. Blank—" in my best after-dinner manner, and sat down in the booth—only to hear a soprano screeching a hotcha number through the air, and was my face red!" It was a mere matter of twisted cues, but luckily for Dresser's future career, he managed to live through it and discover it was no worse than half a dozen other errors that might happen on a remote control job. Dresser was born in Springfield, Utah, and grew up in Ogden. His mother was a musician and Dresser studied violin for a number of years although he has never made professional use of his talent. He came to San Francisco in 1931 and became an announcer at KFI, then joined the NBC staff in 1932. Tennis, golf, swimming and driving are his favorite sports; when he wants to rest, he takes his automobile apart and puts it together again, drives or reads. He is one of the few bachelors on the NBC announcing staff in San Francisco.

(right)



(left)

RICHARD ELLERS
NBC Announcer, San Francisco

He's blond, boyish and as engaging as his voice sounds over the air, so it's no wonder that Richard Henry Ellers, NBC announcer, instantly becomes Dick to everyone who meets him. Young girls and old ones find him equally charming; perhaps his habit of treating the former as if they were sophisticated women of the world, and the latter as if they were dewy young things who needed sheltering, has something to do with that—but men like him, too, for other qualities, sportsmanship and capability. Dick was born in San Francisco, and came to radio, as do so many announcers, by way of the theater. He is a University of California graduate of the class of '24 which contributed a number of the west's outstanding radio stars. He played his first part in a campus production of Shaw's "You Never Can Tell," opposite Bernice Berwin, now one of the coast's best-known emotional actresses, and the portrayer of Hazel in "One Man's Family." In his senior year Dick directed Little Theater productions in Berkeley and worked with Irving Pichel, Sam Hume, Gilmore Brown and other well-known figures, as well as a group of NBC stars including Michael Raffetto and Barton Yarborough. He had his first professional experience with the Glendale Stock Company, then played in motion pictures for a time. He had appeared in radio plays from time to time at Station KGO in the days when Wilda Wilson Church was pioneering in ether drama there, and when he returned to San Francisco he turned back to the microphone. He joined the announcing staff in NBC's San Francisco studios several years ago, and his voice, with its friendly informality, is familiar to all western listeners. Baseball is Dick's favorite sport; if his friends want to find him during baseball season they know they can do so at the Seals stadium. Writing is his avocation; he reviews plays for an Oakland newspaper, and creates short stories and plays for his own amusement. He is one of the few bachelors on the announcing staff.



DAVID ELTON

NBC Announcer, San Francisco

David Elton, member of the NBC announcing staff in San Francisco, was born on Washington's birthday in Salt Lake City, Utah, 1909. "Except for sharing George's birthday I can claim virtually nothing else in common with the father of our country," says David. "Imagine him wanting to be a radio singer or me trying to be either a surveyor or a General!" The tall, charming young NBC announcer is the son of a well-known lawyer in Western Canada, and probably would have studied law also, if he had not begun singing over radio stations while he was attending the University of Utah. He was a member of the KSL staff for four years, and a member of the Ogden choir which has been heard over the air many times. When he was graduated from the university he met the present Mrs. Elton and she, instead of regarding his radio work as he did, as a temporary occupation, told him the opportunities which lie behind the microphone so many times that he took her—and it—seriously at last. He's never regretted it, and his present aim, he says, is to make himself such a topnotch announcer that she won't either. Elton came to NBC in San Francisco from the KDYL staff in Salt Lake. Golf and hunting are his favorite sports, and one of his hobbies is a scrap book collection containing rare copies of every type of poetry. When pressed he admits he sometimes writes verse himself but never for publication.

(right)



(left)

PAUL GATES

NBC Announcer, San Francisco

It's a far cry from a pulpit to an announcer's mike—for most clergymen. But one or two NBC folk have made it—Dr. Laurance L. Cross, pilot of the NBC Crosscuts From the Log o' the Day program, who combines his church and radio duties, and Paul Gates, serious-looking young NBC announcer whose appearance belies a whimsical sense of humor, and who was Reverend Gates for ten years until radio gained what the church lost—one of the most engaging voices on the air today. Paul was born in Binghamton, New York, the son of a family of clergymen in whose footsteps he seemed destined to follow. He was educated at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, and from 1919 to 1929 followed the churchly path of his early background, then decided to turn to another career. He became a bank representative in Oakland, California, then entered the automobile business. One day, because a friend had told him how difficult the sight-reading test which applicants for announcing jobs were given at NBC, he said he'd like to try it. He and the friend visited the studio together—he had the audition—and much to his surprise found himself offered a bona fide job on the strength of it. He joined the National Broadcasting Company staff in 1931, finding he says, just exactly the kind of work he had always wanted to do. The quiet, poised friendliness of his voice is making him an increasingly popular radio personality to listeners who hear him announcing "Stars of the West" and other programs broadcast from San Francisco. Gates is married and has two youngsters. Contract bridge is his favorite form of relaxing after a hard day at the studios, and his most embarrassing memory is of the time when he was about to conclude a program on KPO and a wag in the studios played a practical joke on him, making him literally laugh the station off the air instead of signing off in the usual fashion.





(left)

SID GOODWIN

NBC Announcer, San Francisco

Sid Goodwin, NBC announcer, is one of those veterans of radio whose youthful appearance belies the fact that he has watched the newest art grow from infancy to its present status. He has had experience in every branch of radio, from the technical end to acting and producing radio programs, and now as an announcer, he combines the effect of his varied training with a voice which is one of the best-liked of those heard through the Pacific network. Born in Chicago, Illinois, Sid nevertheless looks upon himself as a true westerner, for his family moved to Oregon while he was still a small child, and he received his education there. At the University of Oregon he was a leader in amateur theatricals, and the day after he left college he was a member of a stock company touring the coast and the northwest. Before he was 20, he had played in vaudeville, pictures and rep shows, and had toured in "The Old Homestead" and "Peg o' My Heart." In his earlier years, Sid was so versatile that it was difficult for him to say long in one profession. He was a newspaper man for a while, covering police, drama and radio news for the Portland Telegram. The radio desk led to an increasing interest in the technical end of broadcasting, and once in it, his dramatic experience proved invaluable. Then he turned to announcing, and it was in this capacity that the National Broadcasting Company brought him to its San Francisco studios. So great is his popularity in the Northwest that the Oldsmobile Company took him back there for several days, to officiate at its "Old Scout" program. Despite the fact that he is usually mistaken for a lad just out of college, Sid is the father of a 15-year old daughter. She and her mother, who is known to western audiences as Fayette Kershaw, a favorite stock leading woman, share Sid's affections with only one other thing in the world—golf. He probably is the most earnest follower of this sport in the San Francisco studios of the Pacific Division.

JERRY KILGORE

NBC Announcer, San Francisco

He was born in Toronto, Canada, was Jerry—he wasn't christened Jeremiah, by the way, but Thorold Hay Kilgore. The elder Kilgore was president of the Huron and Ontario Railroad, and Jerry attended Upper Canada College, which is the Eton of Canada, and got a civil engineer's degree at the University of Toronto at nineteen. A British firm sent him to Mexico City to pursue his engineering career. Later he and his uncle Tom Eck — famed sportsman who inaugurated six-day bicycle races in this country—invested in a theatrical enterprise that lasted two months. To recoup, Jerry decided he ought to study the theatrical business from a more intimate angle and he went to New York. When war broke out, Jerry was one of the first members of his profession to toss grease paint away and seek a uniform. He enlisted in an engineering corps in Toronto, then was transferred to the Fifth Brigade of Machine Gunners, with which he spent four long years overseas in France and England. Thirteen months of this time dragged in hospitals while he slowly recovered from wounds. When he came back to this side of the Atlantic he returned to the stage for a time, then motion pictures claimed him and he directed pictures in the eastern studios. He was in Hollywood on a business trip when he had his first experience in radio. A friend suggested he try out his voice at KFI, and Jerry agreed, just for the lark of it. He was on the air, announcing, that same night, and has been doing it steadily ever since. He joined the NBC staff in San Francisco some two years ago.

(right)



VICTOR LINFOOT
NBC Announcer, San Francisco

(right)

A descendant of Lord Nelson, who takes to the ether waves as naturally as his famed ancestor took to the sea, is Victor Stuart Linfoot, whose pleasant, deep voice is heard on many of the NBC programs originating in San Francisco. Victor made his entrance into the world in London, where the Linfoots lived until he was six years old; then the family moved to Toronto, Canada, where Victor went to school. When he was sixteen the World War broke out and his father enlisted. Victor chafed at the limitations of his age, and ran away to follow his father. He got as far as the Royal Canadians regiment, which accepted him as a bugler, and he was in France, trumpeting merrily with his outfit, when his mother next heard from him. When the Armistice was signed he came home on the Olympic in the first shipload of troops returned to Canada, and shortly afterward was singing on the concert stage and in theaters. Engagements were scarce, so Victor, with characteristic adaptability, went out and got himself a job with the telephone company. He remained in it for two years, continuing his vocal studies at night. During this time he sang before the microphone for the first time. Talking pictures' arrival gave him an opportunity to utilize his beautiful singing voice, and he sang in several pictures, including the "Desert Song," in which he was a member of the Arab quartet. When he joined the National Broadcasting Company's San Francisco staff several years ago he said good-bye to the pictures, and hasn't regretted doing so. He enjoys giving a personal touch to such programs as the Bal Tabarin broadcasts, where he introduces Kay Kyser and his dance orchestra to the ether audience, and he presents a quarter-hour recital over the air himself, once in a while. Away from the microphone he is generally found in the rôle of passive spectator.



(left)

GEORGE NELSON
NBC Announcer, San Francisco

George Nelson, NBC announcer in San Francisco, has real pioneer blood in his veins. His father, a Danish musician, landed in New York with an accordion in his trunk which paid his way clear across the continent to Idaho, where he bought a ranch and became one of the early residents in that section. George grew up on the ranch, and his proudest memory is of the time he was allowed to run the threshing machine all by himself. Music, however, was his chief interest, and his sympathetic parents furthered the youngster's ambitions. He began studying piano and violin when he was five years old and was teaching violin by the time he was in high school. Then the Nelsons moved to Seattle. George's rich basso won him a scholarship course at the Cornish Conservatory there, and he studied voice and drama for several years. He wrote a number of song lyrics and the book of an opera "The Old Music Master" which was produced in Seattle. The opera brought George an offer to join the staff of a Seattle radio station as a singer and announcer. He left it to become chief announcer and station director of NBC station KOMO for two years, and eventually to NBC's San Francisco headquarters, where he is notable for his ability to meet the requirements of almost any type of program. He still sings occasionally on the air. Swimming and rowing and football games are his favorite sports and he reads Shaw, Shakespeare and Ibsen, much. He has a mechanical turn of mind; keeps his own automobile in condition and tinkers with machinery at every opportunity—says it's his way of "resting."



(left)

JENNINGS PIERCE NBC Announcer, San Francisco

The owner of what probably is the most famous speaking voice on the Pacific Coast, was born in Bakersfield, California, and grew up with the firm determination to excel in the world's oldest occupation—farming. Instead of which, fate made him a pioneer and an outstanding star in the very newest one—radio. Station KPO, now key-station of one of the National Broadcasting Company's Pacific networks, was in the process of formation when "JP" as his associates call him was graduated from U. C. in 1923. He was ready to take a post as inspector in the State Department of Agriculture. He had toured the Orient with the U. C. Glee Club in 1920, and was the top tenor of the Golden Bear Quartet, so when the quartet was engaged to sing at Yosemite the following graduation, he postponed entering the State Agricultural Department for a time. Radio still was so new that the radio executive who heard him there asked him to come to KGO for an audition, he was a bit skeptical at first. Then came a second opportunity to join KGO's forces, and this time he took it, becoming a soloist and announcer there. He is the oldest announcer in point of service in the Pacific Division, on NBC, where he was appointed chief announcer shortly after the division was organized. "J.P." is in charge of all the special programs broadcast through Pacific Division stations, contacting interesting personalities for appearance at the NBC microphone, and arranging for broadcasts from important conventions and other events which take place in San Francisco. Pierce still finds time to announce the Standard Symphony Hour and the Standard School Broadcast; the Western Farm and Home Hour, where his expert agricultural knowledge stands him in good stead, and such programs as Little Orphan Annie, in which his pleasant voice sets the scene each night and introduces the audience to the next episode. He has presented to the radio audience most of the world's famous personalities who have visited San Francisco in the last few years. Pierce is a Kappa Alpha Rho and a member of Alpha Zeta.

MARTIN PROVENSEN NBC Announcer, San Francisco

(right)

The Provensen family is Danish in origin. Martin's branch of the family has lived in Odense, Denmark, for several hundred years, and his father Elias Provensen, who is a bishop of the Lutheran Church, lives there today. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, Martin was educated in Des Moines, England, and Denmark, just as fate took him. He came back to Iowa with his family when he had completed grammar school, and attended the State Teacher's College, but not with the idea of becoming a teacher. Music and drama had always interested him more than education or the ministry, and instead of following in his father's footsteps, he chose to go to New York immediately after graduation and seek his fortune in the theater. In 1926 the theater began to feel the first tremors of its own individual slump. Provensen happened to be in Chicago and somebody suggested that radio needed voices and enunciation like his. He dropped in at NBC station WENR, and was on the air a short time after his first audition. Before long he was announcing WENR's most notable programs. Then in 1929 NBC's New York studios called him, and he joined the staff there. In announcing the Christmas program he spoke alternately in English and German—he speaks Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, French, and Italian, also. In 1931 Provensen's health failed and he was sent to the Pacific Coast to recover strength. For months he idled about on Southern California beaches, then paid one visit to San Francisco, and stayed.





(left)

DON THOMPSON

NBC Announcer, San Francisco

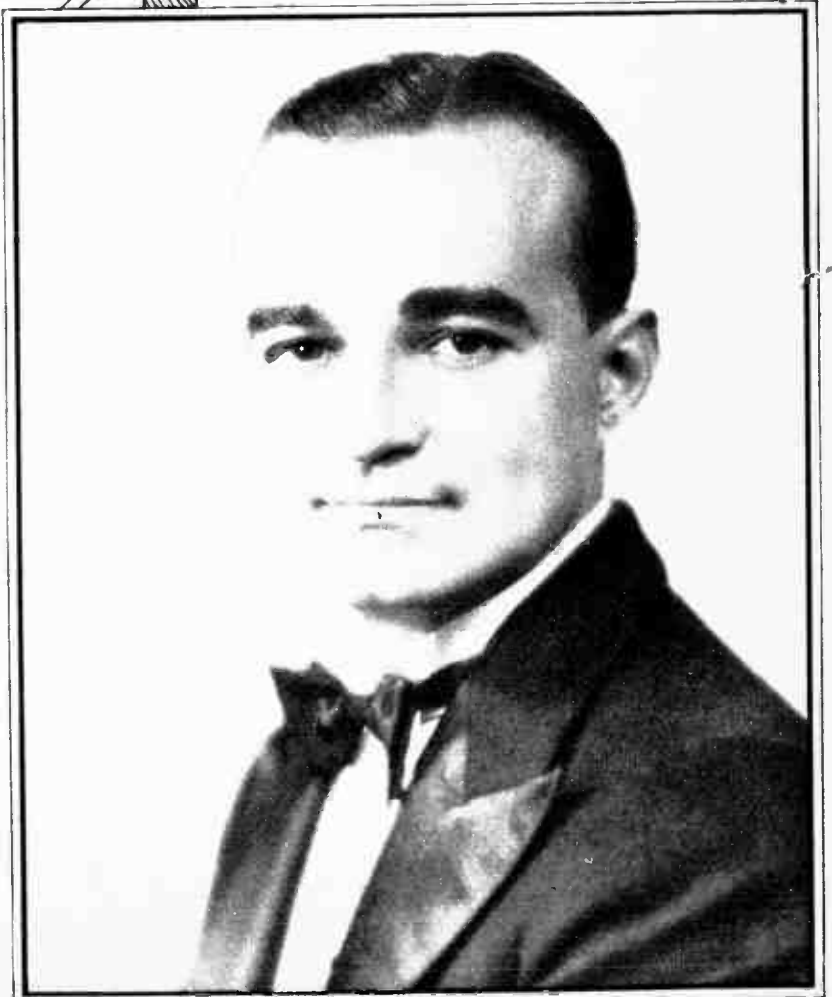
"Don Thompson announcing." Thousands of radio listeners are as familiar with that name and the sound of that voice as they are with the names and deeds of their favorite sports heroes, for Don Thompson has been sketching swift word pictures on air of major sports events in the west for more than three years. The big, dark-haired, blue-eyed young man who is acknowledged the premier sports announcer of the west, has announced an average of twenty football games a year since he first stood in a field booth. He first saw the light of day in Rangoon, Burma. His father was a sea captain and his mother was a medical missionary, in charge of the American hospital there. Don's appearance changed all that, however; the elder Thompson gave up the sea in order to make a home on land for his wife and baby, and the Thompsons brought their young son through the Suez Canal and all the way to Redlands, California, before he was three. In 1920 he matriculated at the University of Redlands, and began a brilliant athletic career that won him eleven letters, and after his graduation, a chance to play professional football at a dazzling fee. Radio offered another channel of endeavor and in 1928 he joined the staff of Station KPQ as a continuity writer and speaker. One New Year's Day, just before San Francisco's famed East-West Shrine game was about to begin, the announcer failed to show up - and suddenly Don found himself in the booth, staring at the microphone. Just to make him feel good, the booth contained also Don E. Gilman, Vice President in charge of the Pacific Division of the NBC, and Graham McNamee. Another lad might have faltered, but Don is one of those humans whose hormones—or something—work faster in emergency. He rose to the occasion, and has been announcing football ever since.

CLINTON E. TWISS

NBC Announcer, San Francisco

Clinton E. Twiss, NBC announcer, has been interested in the entertainment world since his high school days. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, he grew up in Sand Point, Idaho, and he was still in knee breeches when he got his first job as projectionist in a motion picture theater. A few years later he was playing juvenile leads in a stock company which toured the middle west, and learned to use a pleasant speaking voice to best advantage. In 1928 he turned to radio for the first time—but as a technical supervisor as well as artist, for he built the station in Sand Point where he played dramatic parts and announced sports broadcasts. In 1931 he and Mrs. Twiss, whom he first met in grammar school, came to California, and as "Buddy" Twiss he became a familiar voice to listeners of a San Jose station. He joined the NBC staff in April, 1933. Baseball, football, fishing and golf are Twiss's favorite sports. His most startling memory of radio is when he was filling-in on a midnight program at a small station, and because an act failed to show up, was forced to attempt a piano solo. The only piano composition he could recall was "Kitten On the Keys," and he started playing it, sitting all alone in the darkened studio. Suddenly, to his horror, he heard chords other than his own being played on the treble, and keeping his right hand in motion on the keyboard he managed to turn up the lamp—to discover a real kitten who had entered through a high window, stalking majestically up and down the keys.

(right)



ROBERT WALDROP

NBC Announcer, San Francisco

Robert Waldrop, NBC announcer in San Francisco, is a true Californian, the son of a family which dates back to the earliest records of this state. One ancestor was Captain Henry Fitch, the sea captain who guided his vessel through San Francisco's Golden Gate in 1826, and on the other side of the family he is descended from the Bailhaches, great Spanish landowners who settled in lower Mexico before 1820, and later extended their holdings to San Diego. Old Spanish tables and rare hangings are treasured by his mother and sister, as well as some exquisite silver vessels brought from England by Captain Fitch, and said to have been taken from Westminster Abbey by Henry VIII. The young NBC announcer—he's just twenty-four—was born in Eureka, and christened Robert Leonard Bailhache Waldrop. He is a nephew of Uda Waldrop, noted San Francisco organist and composer, with whom he studied for a time. In 1927 Waldrop had his introduction to radio through George Davis of Sherman Clay and Company, San Francisco, and spent four years as Davis' assistant writing continuity and building programs for the Sherman Clay Discovery Hour and similar offerings. It was a natural step from this work to becoming an announcer for the National Broadcasting Company. Waldrop is heard introducing many musical programs originating in San Francisco. His own musical knowledge is sound; he plays piano beautifully and has an excellent baritone voice. Despite which, he looks on music as an avocation and puts in his spare time at a typewriter, on short stories, which he hopes will be his ultimate career.

(right)



(left)

MILTON WOOD

NBC Announcer, San Francisco

If you want to know anything about short story writing, play-writing, logging, dance music, railroads, poetry, tunnel-building, vermin-exterminating, old furniture or acting—ask Milton Wood. This tall, dark young man whose pleasant voice is heard announcing many of the NBC programs which originate in San Francisco came to radio as do many of its stars, by a winding road. Born in Spokane, Washington, he studied law at Reed College, Portland, and of Idaho. After his graduation he settled down to writing plays and short stories, then decided to get some active experience, and spent the next four years mostly in logging camps. He had studied violin, and when his hands were damaged in a logging camp he took up clarinet and saxophone, achieving what he calls "a union card and a flair for coon shouting." The combination brought him an orchestra of his own with which he played coast towns, then became a railroad man for a time. He tells it: "Helped the railroads straighten out the car situation by writing down two or three million figures which, if laid end to end would be a splendid idea. Became poetic, with long hair and short meals. Played roles with Duffy Players in Portland; must have been good, as Duffy Players closed the following week. Built the Cascade Tunnel along with some other people, worked in bank, ran a transit for logging company, exterminated vermin by means of various powders and liquids. Poetry and cockroaches didn't mix so gave up cockroaches. Two months later papered room with rejection slips and gave up poetry." After which, he took up radio, and for the last five years has been one of the most versatile microphone personalities in the Northwest, where his skits and plays won immense popularity as well as sponsors. He was in charge of dramatic production and acting at a coast station when he came to San Francisco and joined the NBC staff as an announcer. Old furniture and rare books are his twin passions; he is an ardent collector of both. Horseback riding and swimming are his favorite sports.



