RADIO GENTRE

MOKO

WABY

ALBANY

SCHENECTARY

RADIO CENTRE WOKO & WABY ALBANY - TROY SCHENECTADY

Dear Listeners:

We are very proud of the fact that you invite us into your homes daily through your radios. We try in every way possible to merit the confidence you have in us and to improve the service we offer you.

This Album is dedicated to YOU — in appreciation of the friendly reception we have had. We hope you will enjoy seeing the faces of those whose voices you already know, and many of us others who work behind the scenes.

Cordially,



Harold E. Smith

HEN radio was in its infancy Harold E. Smith was one of the few who really foresaw to what heights it would grow and carefully prepared for the future. Evincing an early interest in radio communication, he soon qualified as a "ham" operator and acquired a station of his own at Peekskill. Broadcasting entertainment opened a new field to Harold Smith. A violinist of real attainments, he had played all over the United States and at that time was concertmaster of the Hippodrome Orchestra. Soon he acquired Station WOKO, then located in New York City, moving it to Peekskill, and thence, for a wider field, to Poughkeepsie, New York. The transmitter, after careful experimentation, was situated atop Mount Beacon, 1500 feet above sea level and the station assumed the slogan, "The Voice from the Clouds."

Still wider fields were sought by Mr. Smith and his far-seeing eye looked toward Albany, the Capital of the Empire State. To think something, dream of it a short time and then move to its accomplishment — that is how Harold E. Smith works. So February, 1931, saw the establishment of WOKO in the Hotel Ten Eyck at Albany, and its affiliation with the Columbia Broadcasting System. To bring additional service to Albany radio listeners, in 1934 he brought WABY to the city and negotiated its affiliation with the NBC Blue network.

His most recent contribution to Albany stands on Elk Street — the beautiful new Radio Centre, embodying all the technical advances in radio art and a fine decorative scheme. From this location WOKO and WABY will continue to serve the Capital District.

Mr. Smith as general manager of the stations knows every department of the broadcasting situation. He is a radio engineer of note and a musician who demands the best in program performance.

The next development in radio, television, has already had Harold Smith's attention. While WOKO was at Poughkeepsie, a television experimental station on Mount Beacon under his direction conducted some very successful tests.

All around qualifications fit the subject of our brief sketch preeminently as an ideal station owner and executive.

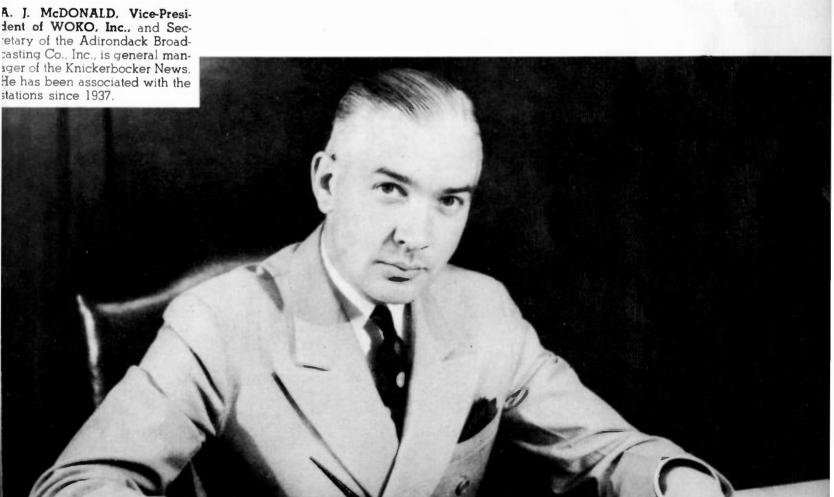
The office of Harold E. Smith in Radio Centre.





Officers

RAYMOND M. CURTIS, President of WOKO, Inc., and Vice-President of the Adirondack Broadcasting Co., Inc., has been associated with Harold E. Smith in radio since 1925. Watching the station grow from its small beginning, he has always been interested in keeping it among the leaders in progressive development.





Executive Personnel

Left

DEUEL RICHARDSON, Assistant Manager.

The place of young men and alert minds in this growing radio industry is commendably exemplified in "Rich". A combination of a solid business background, imagination, enthusiasm and native executive ability forms the base to support responsibility ordinarily allotted to older men. After graduation from Cornell University and a period of business training, "Rich" became associated with our radio company while it was still located in Poughkeepsle, N. Y. He has just passed the three-decades mark; is active in sports; hobbies in firearms.

Below-

JOHNNY LEE, Studio Manager

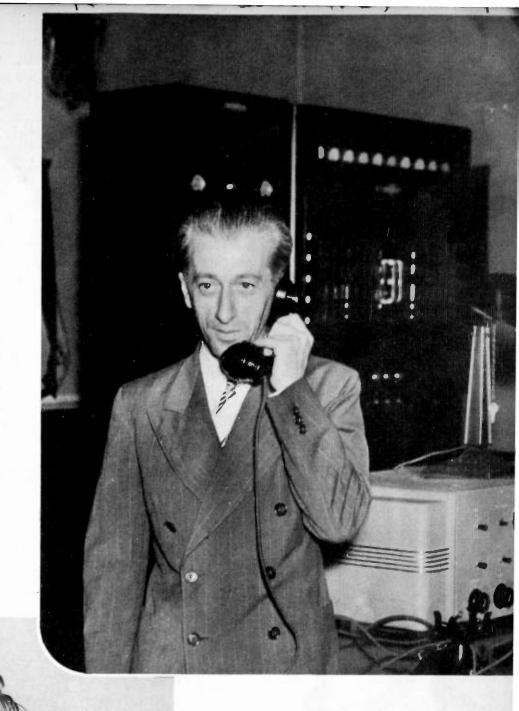
Once upon a time there was no commercial radio, so Johnny wanted to become a chemical engineer . . . except that he found that people paid real money to those who could play a piano and sing. The sharps and flats flew and carried our studio manager into dance band work, vaudeville, song plugging for leading music publishers, and thence, finally, into radio entertaining. Johnny is another youthful radio chief, supervising continuity, production, publicity and program direction for us. Four-year-old John Robert, Jr., may inspire his big-hearted tendency.

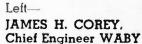




ONORATO A. SARDI, Chief Engineer WOKO

From the country of radio's founder, Marconi, comes WOKO's technical director, "Al" Sardi. Forty years ago "Al" had little concern for wireless, or, for that matter, this country, where he was to locate with his parents. After a while the idea of telegraphic signals traveling from point to point without wires intrigued him . . . and he was stuck in radio. A complete course and graduation from the RCA Radio Institute followed and then "Al" found himself as a radio operator aboard ship. In 1929 our company obtained his services and the Sardis settled in Albany.





It's pretty hard to keep one's mind on work when there is a brand-new boy at home who is hooting for the old man and will soon attain the ripe age of six months... but Jim manages somehow. You see, Jim has always managed "somehow". He "managed somehow" to start out this business of making a living as a signal maintainer for the N. Y. C. R. R., and then things became not so good and he "managed somehow"



Lett-

ELLIOTT GOVE

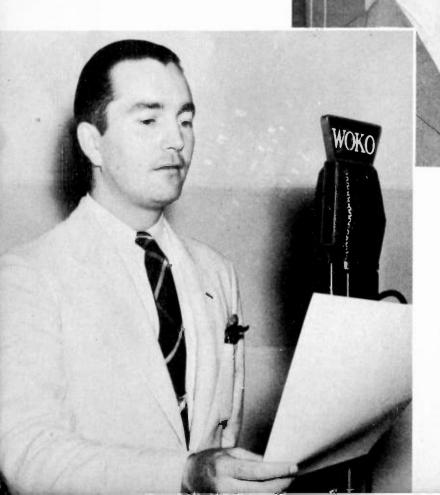
To an operator an announcer can become the lowest type of animal if he (1) works too close to the "Mike", and (2) takes hold of the "mike" pedestal — Our Man Elliott is a frequent culprit. He's a swell guy, otherwise, however. Easy to get along with, "Govie" usually receives forgivenness from the operators. In 1936, upon graduation with a B.S. degree from Syracuse, he became a credit investigator—until he found a radio job at Auburn, N. Y. He came to Radio Centre in the summer of 1938. Elliott is a fiend for candid cameraing and tenderloin medium-done.

Below-

TIP CORNING

You may believe that announcers can see nothing but good in their work. Plenty of self-confidence is important, but they know their shortcomings. For instance, Tip will tell you that he frequently starts talking before he has thought of what he will talk about. He's a good "egg", though, noted for his "funny hats", snail's pace dressing time, agility with trap drums, ambition to lead a band, experience as an interior decorator (no remarks), and his charming bride—established, May 1939. Programs: "Money For Words", "Man On the Street" and Kiddies' Show.

Announcers



Left-

SHERB HERRICK

It's a good name — John Sherburne Herrick, Jr. — but too long for practical broadcast purposes. It would take the last five minutes of a program to identify the announcer. So "Sherb" it is — and "Sherb" it was who started announcing on Notre Dame University's radio station while in college, and came back home to follow it up. In between, however, there were the two years with the New York State Conservation Commission. Sherb's specialty is baseball reporting, although he does a bit of plain and fancy "dramer" on occasion. Great day, girls! He's single. Fatten him on pork chops.





EDWARD P. MARTIN

The Polish Varieties Program keeps Mr. Martin up to his third rib in radio. But radio has not been his sole enterprise since he left his birthplace in Schenectady to seek his fortune. In Detroit he was president of a commercial motion picture company and engaged in both Polish and American newspaper work. His idea for a Polish program for the Capital District was inspired by similar work in the Motor City, so home he came. One might expect polka addiction from Ed, but his terpsichorean forte is the tango. All people are interesting to him, and so are foods of all types.

WILLIAM WINNE

It's quite natural that Bill should have wanted to be an actor . really, quite natural after childhood training in elocution until "The Charge of the Light Brigade" shook the house;





Into the automatic teletype machine in Radio Centre pours the accounts of events throughout the world . . . from six in the morning until one o'clock the next morning, day after day, this printer ticks out words that have come from next door, across the continent, around the globe — notification of history being made within a moment of the occurrence.



Nothing in radio has become so indispensible today as news . . . not opinions nor bias reporting, but honest deliniation of what is happening in a world waivering between civilized advancement or savage self-

destruction. This is radio's greatest contribution to the American idea of Liberty . . . Freedom in thought and expression.

Below-

Editing by Forrest Willis, your Socony News Announcer, is a necessary step of rapid evaluation of each item to go out to your loudspeakers. News that concerns you most directly must come first . . . repetitous material must be deleted to conserve the ever-binding seconds allowed for the report . . . your news is arranged for greatest clarity.



Left-

Into the air rides the word picture of happenings that are withheld from even those people whose homes are the scenes of action—but where the democratic idea is smothered by a totalitarian censorship. A clear, concise, unprejudiced report is the principle of all news from Radio Centre. Even vocal inflections must be curbed to avoid influencing listeners by an inference of right or wrong.

Left-

FORREST WILLIS, Socony News Announcer

A "double-barrelled" approach to radio brought Forrest Willis into our organization. The first barrel was his ability to entertain at the piano; the second, his career as a lawyer. Forrest still practices law in Albany, and in the course of legal service to our company he had an opportunity to face a microphone—with the result that he was retained in his current position. For a number of years he did a song and piano program on the air—although his training comprised exactly 1½ lessons. He has little time to spare, and even that little is devoted to one Forrest L. Willis, Jr., a hale and hearty six-year-old.



Facsimile . . . The Newspaper of the Air

WOKO now delivers your printed newspaper through the air! Detailed stories, clear reproductions of news photographs, substantiation of the bulletins you hear on WOKO and WABY will be received and printed in your home by the split-second process of "facsimile"—radio's latest contribution to news dissemination! On this page we try to sketch the steps of "facsimile" so you will understand "the newspaper of the air".

Edward Healey has been appointed edior of WOKO's facsimile service. Just as on a regular newspaper, news of the world, or local items, are checked and corrected the minute they arrive at Radio Centre.

The news copy then goes to the "Varioyper", a machine that spaces typewriten copy so that the margins are even as n type-set newspaper stories. Henry aked sets up the copy on this machine n long strips ready to paste in pictures and run through the facsimile transnitter.

Thus, from this editorial and transmitting room in Radio Centre WOKO has inaugurated another progressive phase of radio broadcasting—'WOKO Facsimile"... your newspaper of the air.

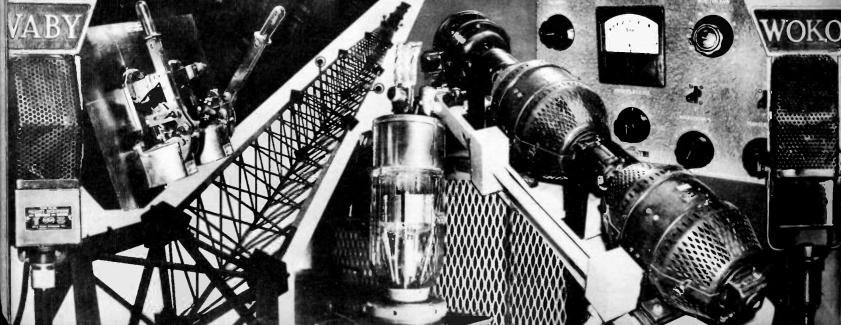


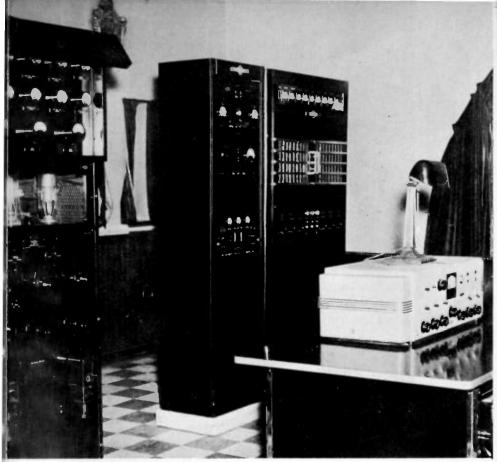
O. A. Sardi, Chief Engineer, inserts the copy into the facsimile transmitter. The black scanning head, in front of the strip of copy, converts any printed, sketched or photographic material into electrical tone signals like the impulse you receive on your radio broadcasts. The scanner, a photocell, moves from left to right across the paper. Variations of reflected light effect the volume of the signal as it goes into the air, just as you hear loud and soft tones from a voice.

At home, your receiver picks up the signal from the air, just as your radio does, but instead of making a sound through a loudspeaker, a small stylus with a needle point "records" the tones on another strip of paper, making the loud tones blacker than the soft ones. Thus, line by line your news from the air is printed before your eyes, and removed from the machine as shown by receptionist Ruth Leffler.





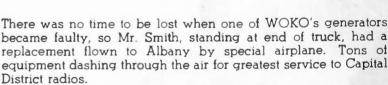




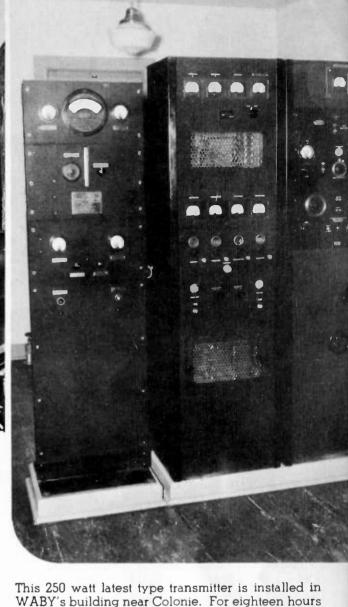
Inside the WOKO transmitter building on the opposite page, is the 1000 watt transmitter, itself. Through the facilities shown here you receive programs from WOKO from 7 a.m. until 2a.m. on 1430 kilocycles.

WOKO-WABY

For special programs which are inaccessible by wire contacts with Radio Centre, WOKO maintains its Mobile Unit truck, shown here broadcasting a street program, from which shortwave station WLEB operates.



each day it maintains a steady broadcast of WABY



There was no time to be lost when one of WOKO's generators became faulty, so Mr. Smith, standing at end of truck, had a replacement flown to Albany by special airplane. Tons of equipment dashing through the air for greatest service to Capital

programs on 1370 kilocycles.



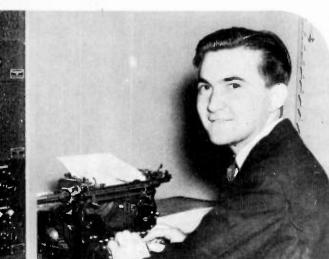


Operators-Albany, New York



Right—KENNETH A. BARDIN went after radio through a correspondence course. His own short-wave station is W2CCP.

Below—A. EDWARD BARENDS, JR., started as a commercial radio operator before he finished school; had his own "ham" set once.



Below—JOSEPH L. DECKER works at radio and then reads and studies radio for relaxation; received his training at RCA Institute.



Below—CHARLES R. HEISLER set his mark for radio work at the age of 14; has stuck to it all the way. Chief interest: his family.





Below—ALBERT H. CHISMARK had been a truck driver, painter and clerk in an haberdashery before radio caught his fancy in 1936.



Below—**HARRY M. HARVEY** spent eighteen years of amateur radio experimentation and operation before he took it up as an occupation.

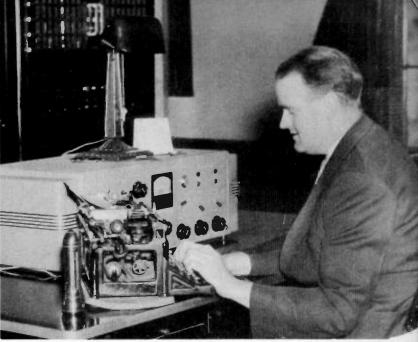


Below—**OLIN H. HERCHENRODER** was a radio service man in Albany until joining our staff in 1937. He's a native of Albany.

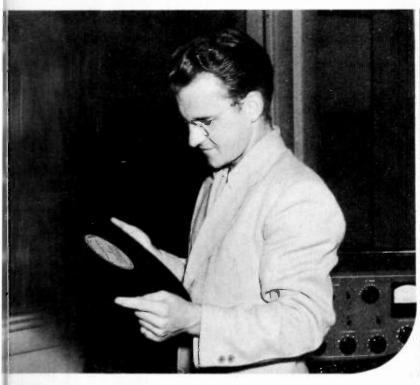




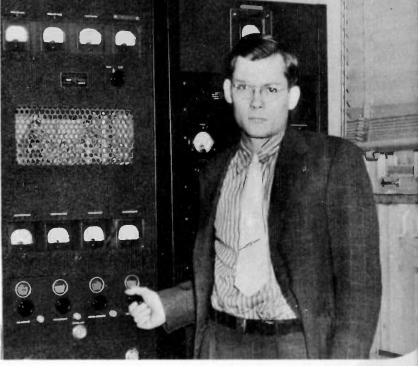
HARRY HULTS, SR., started with us 'way back in 1928; plays a mean harmonica; used to be a carpenteer. Nickname: "Pop".



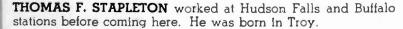
LAURENCE "LARRY" KING came through ship radio operating and a Pennsylvania station to our force in 1933.

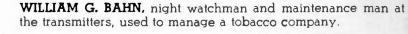


STANLEY J. PAWLIC was into electrical engineering and radio manufacturing up to his ears before he started at WOKO.



MARCEL C. REEDS was a farmer boy who came to the city and made good, after study at Cornell. He raises chickens.















". . . and How We

One year after WOKO was first establish chased by Harold E. Smith, present generoriginal power of 5 watts had been increas to operate with 500 watts. 1928 saw remove mitter 1645 feet above the Hudson, atop Norught the station to Albany, at which to Broadcasting System.

Constant improvement directed by Haro increased to 1000 watts; a new, modern trestudio equipment matches the best in the its own home in Radio Centre. Finally, Wa method of transmitting printed copy at tion in service to people of the Capital Direction.

WA

In 1934, Harold E. Smith saw the need of a trict listeners—one to emphasize local procures to radio fans. So WABY was moved completely modernized. Now, it too, has a Centre, with entirely new transmitter plant 1936 WABY has been a member of the Na

Radio Centre Auditorium





Sales Manager's Office



they Grew"

dn New York City in 1924, it was purl lanager, who moved it to Peekskill. Its do 50 but Mr. Smith obtained permission If WOKO to Poughkeepsie, with trans-out Beacon, and in 1931 the final move neit became a member of the Columbia

1. Smith followed. Day power was issitter was installed in a fine building; d) industry; and now, WOKO occupies Is developing facsimile broadcasting, hotographs via airwaves, a great addi-



a iditional station to serve the Capital Disas and still bring another network's featne Strand Theatre Building in Albany, established in its own quarters in Radio ad latest type studio equipment. Since ical Broadcasting Company.



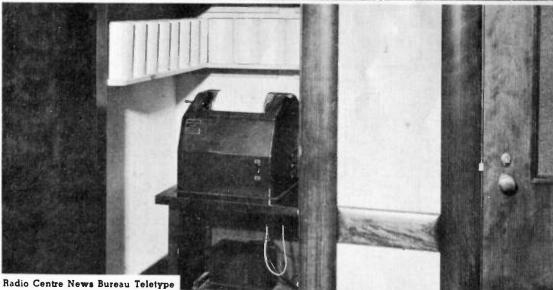
General Business Office









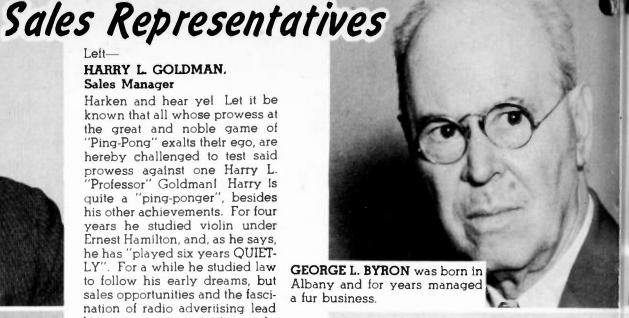








Harken and hear yel Let it be known that all whose prowess at the great and noble game of "Ping-Pong" exalts their ego, are hereby challenged to test said prowess against one Harry L. "Professor" Goldman! Harry is quite a "ping-ponger", besides his other achievements. For four years he studied violin under Ernest Hamilton, and, as he says, he has "played six years QUIET-LY". For a while he studied law to follow his early dreams, but sales opportunities and the fascination of radio advertising lead him into our organization early in 1937. The "Professor" is young, married and native of



RICHARD BERGER started out as a journalist in Alabamy where he attended college.





DAVID MACNAIR was born in Glasgow, Scotland; wanted to go on the stage.







JOHN KELLY sings classic baritone and plays string bass; has broadcast many times.





WILLIAM A. NESSELROTE, called "Bill Rote" for brevity, is an athlete from Ohio.



JOSEPH E. McNALLY is active in church work; wants to become a writer.



HERBERT LUNDBERG comes from LaPorte, Indiana; fishes for relaxation.



JOHN S. DOYLE aims for the Army Air Corp; he's young and called "Butch".







Right

JOHN H. LIMERICK would like to be a reporter for a radio facsimile station.

Administration

Right-

PEARL BURACK, Accountant

One afternoon in March 1931 Pearl had a moment after lunch so wandered into our station to look around. Wal . . . she met Mr. Richardson, filled in an application and was called to work the next morning. Precision and efficiency are the distinguishing characteristics of this native Albanyan. She likes it so well that she let the kitten out of the sack by asserting that she'd "like to continue working after marriage". That's all we know. Add up your own answer. Pearl whips off a spot of popular piano music, of occasion, for her own enjoyment, and is a pinochler from "way-back".





Left-

Henry Jaked, bookkeeper, earned his first money pushing cars out of flood.

Right-

Annabelle Reed, stenographer, hobbies in amateur dramatics and swimming.

Ruth Leffler, receptionist, started at WOKO as a Kiddies' Show tap dancer.





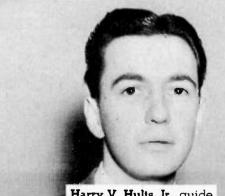
nuity clerk; has been with us since 1931.



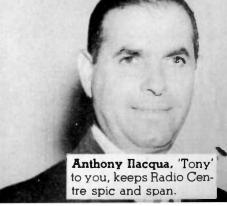


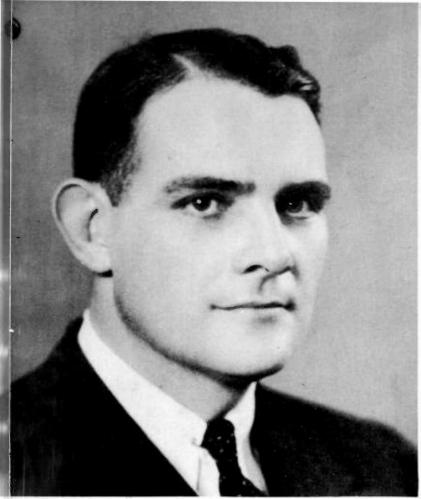


Max Burack who shows people about Radio Centre, was born in Russia.



Harry V. Hults, Jr., guide and receptionist, wants to be an operator.





Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Albany and head of the Albany Ministerial Association, members of which are heard in religious programs over WOKO and WABY.



Rev. H. P. Vieth, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Church, Troy, and president of the Troy Ministerial Association, which presents "Chapel of the Air" from Troy studios Monday through Friday of each week.

Religion on the Air

Dr. Bernard J. Bamberger. Rabbi of Congregation Beth Emeth, Albany, who has been heard many times on WOKO and WABY, either as a studio speaker or from the pulpit of Temple Beth Emeth.

The Rev. William M. Slavin, director of the Catholic Radio Guild of the diocese of Albany, under whose guidance are presented the Sunday afternoon programs, "Current Events From the Catholic Viewpoint", as well as mid-week talks over WABY.







Features

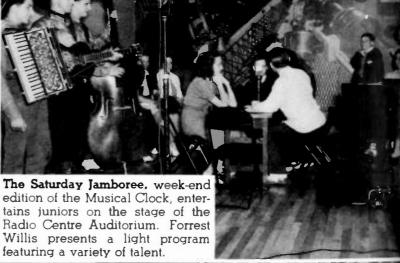
Eight years ago WOKO inaugurated nightly bulletins by the New York State Police. Here Radio Centre manager Harold E. Smith, left, and Capt. Albert Moore of the State Police prepare to start the new series on the air in 1931.

Above-

Today the New York State Police Bulletins, after eight consecutive years, are heard nightly to apprize Capital District listeners of law enforcement through the state. Corporal Fred Johns delivers the news over the WOKO microphone.







Mirth is the order of affairs as Forrest Willis introduces a Saturday Jamboree guest to the worries and wiles of the irrepressible microphone.





Sherb Herrick and Gren Rand, left to right, your baseball reporters who describe the Albany Senators' games at home and out-of-town.



Gren and Sherb in the broadcast booth during a night game at Hawkins Stadium. The business of maintaining a running account of the game and keeping box score records at the same time, is a strenuous job.



Baseball Reporting



Left-

Looking down on the playing field at Hawkins Stadium, this is the view presented to Sherb and Gren. The screen saves disabled microphones and bruised head when foul flies skid off the bat.

Right-

"Award of Honor to Steve Barath, 3rd baseman. Voted Most Popular Player of the Albany Senators by Radio Baseball Fans of WABY-WOKO". This beautiful trophy will be inscribed with the name of player Radio Centre listeners select by vote.





Above-

"And the night shall be filled with music . . ." as Francis Murphy and the Ten Eyck Orchestra stir up modern melody from the hotel roof.

Right-

"Quik Quiz", the noontime broadcast from north Pearl Street, finds Gren Rand passing out the sponsor's cakes to those who stop to talk.

Features

Below Right-

"Opportunity Knocks"—and Ralph Kanna swims through a flood of daily mail from listeners who try their skill on this popular program.

Below-

"The Voice of Myers" — Eleanor Walter speaks from the results of her shopping tour when she gives her morning buying advice.









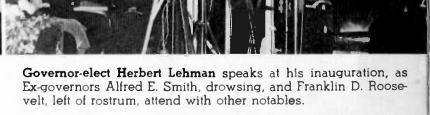
President Roosevelt spoke at the inauguration of Gov. Lehman in Albany, January 1933.

Below-

Albany's Mayor John Boyd Thacher, II, second from left, and Lieut. Governor William Bray, fourth from left, dedicate the marker plaque to Martin Van Buren in Radio Centre broadcast.







Former Governor Alfred E. Smith addresses the nation through

WABY-WOKO at a legislative hearing in the Assembly Chamber.

he liquor repeal hearing for New York State was broadcast by VOKO direct from the Assembly Chambers in Albany, preenting a true report to the entire state.

fovernor Lehman and Mrs. Charles S. Whitman, center and ght, talk to a coast-to-coast audience through WOKO, as Harold . Smith, Radio Centre "prexy" watches from left.







Below-

The Knickerbocker Orchestra, a WPA Music Project, is heard weekly. In this picture the orchestra is presenting a concert at Saratoga Spa.



Below-

Robert McCain, who brings you the "Knickerbocker News", comprising items of local import and interest, directly from the offices of that newspaper.



Features

Left

Mary Ward, publicity director of the Berkshire Summer Playhouse, Stockbridge, Mass., and Albert Ward (not related) set designer describe drama activities for WOKO listeners.

Below-

"Man On the Street" in front of the Troy Theatre in Troy, takes the announcer into the air on both other waves and stilts as he interviews those who stop for a moment.



Below-

"Dick Hartigan at the organ"—a familiar phrase to our listeners—means mellow-toned tunes of all types under the expert hands of Dick at the Radio Centre Hammond organ.





The Saturday Morning Children's program has been a favorite for over eight years. Before the new Radio Centre Auditorium was built it was broadcast from this stage in the Strand Theatre.



owadays the Saturday Morning Children's program originates n the stage of Radio Centre's modern auditorium. Juvenile lent from the Capital District is featured under the direction of alph Kanna, second from right.

arry Appel, market news reporter, addresses his information farm listeners from the State Department of Agriculture each ay. Farmers are kept in immediate touch with demand and rices for their produce.



Human interest stories take the air. Here Harold E. Smith, center, and J. Palmer Harcourt, right, interview aged Grandma Bailey, who rode the first train from Albany to Schenectady in 1837.

Kitty Carlisle, stage and screen star, comes to the WABY microphone to meet listeners in the Capital District, while appearing with a summer stock theatre company near Albany.















